

ports of all the presidents, were the difficulties which were constantly occurring with the boatmen and miners. There was no human being who could look with any degree of complacency on this proposition to hand over to these parties this entire work, without one particle of security as to the condition in which it shall be returned, except the bare, simple condition; that it must be in the same state as now. It was not worth the paper it was written on. But gentlemen say if things go wrong we can come to the Legislature and get it back. But who could expect to get it back with the active influences in the Legislature that would be at work against them? You might as well attack Gibraltar with a pocket pistol as to expect to get this canal back until these parties are paid. To hand over this work to strangers—and he said strangers after all that had been said—strangers to the work, strangers to Maryland. If the Convention saw proper to do it, let them do it, but never let any man who votes for it ever after open his mouth at any encroachments on the rights of others. Every man should hesitate before introducing an element in the State which might be hostile to the proper political interests of the people.

Mr. Stoddert said it was the duty of the State to foster these great works, and after they were completed to hand them over to private control. The canal had been a living ulcer on the body politic, although it had developed the mineral wealth of the State.

The committee then rose and reported progress, and the Convention then took a recess until 8 P. M.

#### SEVENTY-FIRST DAY—EVENING SESSION.

Convention met at 8 o'clock, ninety-two members answered to their names.

The Convention went into committee of the whole on the report of the committee on public works and corporations, relative to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

Mr. Maulsby argued in support of his position, and read statistics to prove that if the canal had been managed after 1857 as in that year, it would at this time be paying the interest on these bonds. Something could and ought to be done to remedy the evil arising from misman-