

SEVENTY-SECOND DAY—EVENING SESSION.

Convention met at seven o'clock; 101 members present.

On motion of Mr. Wilkinson, the Convention resolved itself into committee of the whole (Mr. Dent in the chair) on the third section of the report of the committee on public works, relating to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

Mr. Motter said if he was to consult his personal feelings he would not waste the time of the Convention, but would preserve his habit of silence, but should he now remain silent, under the grave and important interests involved in the proposition now under consideration, he should deem himself derelict to his duty.

The boldness of the proposition was all that gave it any influence. It was insulting in its nature to the people of the State. If it was presented as a separate proposition it would not be entertained for one moment. What were they asked to do? If he understood it, this Convention was proceeding on the principle that the people alone should designate the repositories of power. If the people are not to do this, then your whole theory is false and rotten at the foundation. The Governor and Comptroller are selected by the people, and the Treasurer by the Legislature, the people's representatives, and these three compose the board of public works, to whose care are committed the public works of the State.

This proposition says that these, the people's representatives selected for their public work and ability, are not competent to take charge of the public works. Who are these people that come up here and place themselves before these public functionaries. They are what are called the bondholders, and they were asked to take from the control of the public officers a work reaching an interest of \$27,000,000 and hand it over to them. These lobbies were filled with men of the highest position who were here to take the power and patronage out of the hands of the State. Who are these bondholders, what are their peculiar merits, that they should ask that the State of Maryland, interested to the amount of \$17,000,000, should give up the control of the work to those who were nominally interested to the amount of \$4,000,000? It is a mistake to suppose that the canal company is indebted