

official favor. The board of public works are remote from the spot; they know not how the business is managed; they get no additional compensation for the duty of selecting these officers, and after that is over they are apt to think that their work is done.

Who would think of providing that the State of Maryland should appoint the president and directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad? What had carried that great work through the difficulties which had beset it from its foundation and during our late unfortunate civil war? What but the fact that there sat at the helm a man of energy and sagacity; not that the State might not appoint a man of energy and sagacity, but a man who, with his friends, had millions of interest in the road; it was this pecuniary interest, this mainspring of human action, which caused a hawk's eye to be kept on every inlet and outlet. This was the kind of element that he desired to introduce into the canal. The State of Virginia had recognized the necessity of this, and now proposed to sell all her public works to private parties.

The question was not as to the right of the bondholders to come here and ask to be put in possession of this work. They had no such right. The State of Maryland alone had the right to say where the management should be put, and the question with them was under what management could this work be made a paying concern. This was the policy which would conduce to the true interest of the State of Maryland. Who were these bondholders? One was Mr. Corcoran, one Mr. Bayard Smith, one that far-seeing banker at Baltimore, Geo. S. Brown, and another a Mr. Allen of New York, and there are others. It may be said that if the work is given into the control of these gentlemen they would appoint officers to subserve their own interests. Granted. What are their interests? To make the canal yield a revenue above its expenses; and what is to be done with the surplus? To go into the Treasury of Maryland to be applied as a sinking fund.

Mr. Gill fully concurred in many of the views of his colleague, (Mr. Carter.) It was their duty, if possible, to extricate this great work from all connection with the political parties of the day. This, and the proposition that it was necessary to give permanence and stability to