

political management was not to be denied, but when this work was nominally finished, in 1851, it was not really finished.

It was known that many of the disasters to the canal were due to the breaking away of dams which were not completely finished, and from the embarrassed condition of its finances from its very inception. Even had there been no claims upon it, it would not have been prosperous in its first years. But it had progressed from year to year. When there has been a chance for increased business, the canal has been hampered by its political management. Men have been unwilling to embark their fortunes in it when they knew that the tolls would not be graduated to draw the carrying trade, but in the interests of a rival company which always had and always would compete with it. He proposed, then, to do away with this political management—to give the management to those who had a direct pecuniary interest in it—to let those who lived along the borders, and were concerned in its success, also have a share. It was argued that if the State did this it would be recognizing the scrip debt as a State debt, but this could not be so—the scrip debt was the debt of the canal company. The plan that should be pursued was to develop the resources of the country tributary to the canal to open an outlet for the great mineral wealth of Allegany. Mr. W. argued that under no construction could the scrip debt be claimed as a State debt in consequence of the adoption of his proposition.

Mr. Wilkinson said the object of his proposition was to leave the canal in the hands of the State as now, and declare unconstitutional the act of 1867, which gave these bondholders \$240,000 interest instead of \$120,000, which was all to which they were entitled.

Mr. Wickes considered the amendments obnoxious to every objection which had been urged against the main proposition. The question that devolved on the Convention was to protect the interests of the State. The proposition of the gentleman from Allegany is fraught with danger to the State; not that the gentleman intends it. Who can tell what long accounts will be presented by these contestant parties? Who can tell what plans will be projected and combinations formed to get the control