

the purpose of education, as hereinafter may be provided, to or for the use of any association or corporation, or for or on account of any work of internal improvement, but after the payment of the public debt as provided by law, the revenue which may accrue from the State's investments in works of internal improvement, may be appropriated to the improvement of existing, and the construction of additional works."

Mr. C. said, he had yesterday given notice of his intention to offer this amendment, and he now offered it, because, as the matter now stood, it appeared to him, that the legislature would be precluded from giving any aid to the improvement of the internal condition of the State, and from assisting the development of her resources.

He wished it to be distinctly understood, that no gentleman was more opposed than he was, to increasing the public debt. He saw no necessity for it. No new debt, in his opinion, ought to be contracted; except some great emergency, as the public defence for instance, should require it, and it was not likely that such an emergency would arise.

But he thought the ordinary revenue of the State, derived from that system of *indirect* taxation now in force, and which must for reasons other than financial, be maintained, with that derived from our investments, other than for works of internal improvements, was quite sufficient for the ordinary expenses of the government and should be so applied. He could see no good reason why the revenue to be derived from the State's investments in works of internal improvements, after the payment of the public debt, should not be applied to the improvement of the works already constructed, and to the construction of new ones where the public interest may require.

Improvements were greatly needed in his own section of the State. His constituents had been severely taxed on account of the works already constructed, and had secured no direct benefit from them; and more than one half of the State was in the same condition. He was not willing to preclude his constituents from all hope of advantage from their large expenditures, by withholding from the legislature all power of appropriation for this object. He hoped that at some time, far distant though it might be, his people would be compensated, at least in part, for their contributions, by having the navigation of their rivers improved, their swamps drained, and the facilities of inter-communication increased.

But, he added, he did not intend to inflict a speech on the Convention; the general subject, he thought, had been sufficiently discussed, and he would trouble the Convention no further than to ask that his amendment might be read before the vote was taken.

The amendment having been recorded,

Mr. SOLLERS remarked that he had but a word to say. He understood that the sense of the Convention had been expressed yesterday distinctly and emphatically upon this proposition. He could not imagine any thing more dangerous than this very amendment of the gentleman from

Somerset, (Mr. Crisfield.) If there ever was an accumulation in the treasury, (a matter problematical in his opinion,) arising from the revenues received from our works of internal improvement, he did not desire to see them appropriated to works hereafter to be made. If there was one single question upon which the judgment of the people had been passed, it was that the Legislature of the State was never again to be permitted to contract another debt for any such purpose. If there was one reform which they had demanded, it was this: He warned the Convention to take heed what it did with this proposition, introduced as it was for the purpose of defeating the action which had yesterday been deliberately taken.

Mr. CRISFIELD said he could not conceive by what process the gentleman from Calvert, (Mr. Sollers,) could arrive at the conclusion just announced, that this was a project for the creation of additional debt. The amendment declared, in the most distinct terms, that no debt should be created for internal improvement, or for the use of any association or corporation, except for the purposes of education. The purpose of the amendment was, and its effect will be, to prevent the creation of new debts; and he really was surprised to hear a different object and effect attributed to it. But while he desired to prevent the increase of debt, he did not desire that those portions of the State, which had not yet received any direct benefit from the vast sums which had been expended on works of internal improvement, should forever be precluded from enjoying any of the fruits of those expenditures. If these works fulfil the promises of their projector, large revenues will come into the treasury from that source; and he would ask what is to be done with the money after the payment of the public debt? It will not be required, and ought not to be used, for the ordinary expenses of the government. Must it lie idly in the treasury? Was it to remain as a fund on which politicians might speculate? He hoped not. There had been quite enough of folly and extravagance, to say nothing of corruption, already in the management of our affairs. Let us, as far as possible, remove all temptation out of the way of those who may hereafter be called to administer them.

The improvement of the social condition of the people, and the development of the numerous sources of wealth which abound in every quarter of the State, are objects worthy the patronage of the State, and next after the education of her people, should claim the attention of the government. Here were purposes highly useful and beneficial, and quite sufficient to absorb all the revenue which will be received from the source referred to; and he hoped the Legislature would not be prohibited from devoting it to them. And this amendment too, he would add, addressed itself quite as strongly to the justice of the government as to that wise and liberal policy which should actuate it. As already remarked, a large part of the State, without any direct advantage to itself hitherto received, has contributed equally with the rest to pay for these works, and it would be exceedingly unjust if it