

not subverted by it. Nobody's interest is subverted by it, but the interest of those who hold the offices of the company. They do not pay their debts; they make no provision for their debts. Nobody knows exactly how the tools are used. In our county they have contracted for repairs; men have had faith in them, and have gone largely into debt upon the promises of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company to pay; have built their dams repaired their canal, but have never been paid for it. The officers and men who control it seem to absorb all the money, and the outside world gets none of it; it is a miserable instrumentality of corruption and fraud, and the sooner the State gets rid of its interest in it the better. I think we ought to sell the State's interest in all these works, and thereby get rid at one stroke of an immense field of political corruption and fraud. And now is the best time to do it, and the governor, comptroller and treasurer of the State are the proper parties to accomplish this purpose.

Mr. PUGH. I shall vote against the substitute proposed by the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers,) because I prefer a large portion of that offered by the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely.) But I object to the proviso *in toto*, that all the State's interest in or claim against the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the Tide Water Canal, and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal may be sold for the best terms that can be obtained, and at the proper time I shall offer an amendment to strike out that portion of his proposition.

Mr. MILLER. That has already been stricken out.

Mr. RIDGELY. And another provision inserted embracing all works.

Mr. PUGH. What I mean is this: I am opposed to that portion of the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore county, which provides that the interest of the State in all works of internal improvement may be sold upon the best terms that can be obtained by these three parties, or any two of them. That is to say, that they may be sold for what they will probably bring. If they were thought to be worth no more than the gentleman from Washington county (Mr. Negley) supposes them to be worth, they may be sold for very little.

I am opposed to the substitute of the gentleman from Kent, for the reason that I am in favor of the first part of the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore county. But that proposition is not now before the house. When it does come before the house I shall vote for the proposition submitted by the gentleman from Baltimore county, with the understanding that I shall oppose all the latter part of his substitute. And I wish at this time to explain why I commit myself to that limited extent in favor of any proposi-

tion to interfere with the State's interest in the internal improvements of the State.

Mr. CHAMBERS. If the amendment which the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Pugh) says he will in due time offer to the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely) shall prevail, then the point of difference between that proposition and the one I have submitted is this; first, in the one case, the legislature is to act by appointing agencies; in the other, the governor, comptroller and treasurer are to act. But I regard as much more important the interest of the State in the banks; that is the most important interest.

Mr. PUGH. I do not understand that the agents are directed to sell that interest, only to have the power to sell.

Mr. CHAMBERS. If you do not intend them to exercise the power, then it is idle to give the authority to them.

Mr. RIDGELY. According to circumstances. Mr. CHAMBERS. The circumstances now exist.

Mr. RIDGELY. They may change hereafter. The question recurred upon the substitute proposed by Mr. CHAMBERS for the proposition submitted by Mr. RIDGELY.

Upon this question Mr. DENT called for the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

The question was then taken by yeas and nays, and resulted—yeas 15, nays 38—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Belt, Chambers, Cushing, Dent, Duvall, Edelen, Greene, Hollyday, Lee, Mitchell, Morgan, Parran, Schley, Stirling, Wilmer—15.

Nays—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Brooks, Carter, Dail, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Earle, Ecker, Farrow, Hebb, Huffman, Hopkins, Hopper, King, Markey, McComas, Miller, Multikin, Murray, Negley, Nymman, Parker, Pugh, Ridgely, Russell, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Dorchester, Sneyry, Stockbridge, Swepe, Sykes, Todd, Valiant, Wickard, Wooden—38.

The substitute was accordingly rejected. The question recurred upon the proposition submitted by Mr. RIDGELY.

Mr. CHAMBERS. My proposition was rejected, perhaps, because being in the nature of an amendment to an amendment it could not be amended by changing the agency from the legislature to that contained in the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore county. Will it be in order for me to submit substantially the same proposition, with the exception that the parties to make the sale are to be the governor, comptroller, and treasurer, instead of the general assembly?

The PRESIDENT. That will be in order. The gentleman will reduce his proposition to writing.

Mr. CHAMBERS submitted the following amendment to the amendment: