

duty of selling the works, not at a particular time, but at their discretion. It merely marked out a line of policy to be pursued, leaving them to decide upon the time and the details. But these other propositions to sell go much further than I am willing to go. I was willing to go with the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers) to confine the sale exclusively to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and providing that that should not be sold unless we could get an equal amount of the State debt extinguished. I am opposed to all the other propositions, and in favor of the report of the committee, but I do not care much if that is stricken out. I give notice that if this motion is not carried I shall move the previous question.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I shall vote to postpone informally this proposition, with the view of considering the order proposed. For myself I am opposed to the sale of the State's interest in the works of internal improvements, bank stocks, &c., except the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. That has been an incubus upon the State from the commencement, and I want that sold. I think, as was said by the gentleman from Baltimore city this morning that that never will be a profitable work to the State of Maryland. I think we have invested some eight or nine millions of dollars besides the interest which has accrued, amounting to upwards of twenty millions of dollars, with the interest.

The PRESIDENT. The sterling debt at present exceeds twenty-five millions.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's continued: When I was in the senate, the State received an offer of \$250,000 for the whole State interest in that work, and that was all that was offered. It was referred to a special committee of the two houses at that session. I had the honor of being chairman of the committee on the part of the senate, and of reporting a bill upon the subject. In two days I reported a bill to sell it for \$1,500,000, upon an offer made by a company in Boston. What was only worth three days before \$250,000 had gone up to \$1,500,000, and that only received six or eight votes in the senate. I am for selling the State's interest in that work, and for retaining the State's interest in all the other works of internal improvement. I shall therefore vote for informally passing over this proposition, and for the appointment of the special committee.

Mr. THOMAS. Will my friend from Prince George's allow me to ask him the question, if the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is worthless, or good for nothing, what is the use of selling it? What will he get for it?

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I will answer the gentleman. In his own argument he said that the object of the State of Maryland in making this investment, was not to be benefitted by the investment

as an investment, but to develop the rich resources of the western part of the State. It was a State work. It was for that purpose that the investment was made. I am for putting it into the hands of private capitalists, who will develop the rich resources of the State, who will expend their money upon it, who will be more active agents in the control of this work. I have no doubt that they will make it, in time, profitable to themselves. So long as it is in the hands of the State of Maryland, we shall never make it profitable. It may be because our agents are insufficient, or because the State of Maryland is indisposed to expend further money in the development of this work. I am for putting it into the hands of private individuals, or a private company, for the purpose of carrying out the original purpose of the State in making the investment.

Mr. THOMAS. Suppose, instead of its going into the hands of a private company who would take an interest in it, and develop that canal, the stock being worthless, bringing nothing, should go into the hands of a rival company, who, getting that stock for nothing, could afford to close up the canal—then what?

The further consideration of the 39th section was informally postponed; ayes 33, noes not counted.

Mr. NEBLEY renewed his order for a special committee.

Mr. CUSHING moved to adjourn.

The motion to adjourn was rejected.

The PRESIDENT. The report of the legislative committee is still pending; the 39th article only having been postponed. There are two sections still pending; one submitted by the gentleman from Carroll (Mr. Smith,) and the other submitted by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Thomas.)

Mr. THOMAS. I have another I desire to submit.

The next section, in order was the new section moved by Mr. SMITH, of Carroll, as follows:

Sec. —. The legislature shall make no appropriation, gift, or endowment, directly or indirectly, in aid of or for the use, benefit or advantage of the State Agricultural College, or of its professors, agents or employees, or any of them.

Mr. SMITH, of Carroll. I offered that section upon what I supposed to be satisfactory grounds; but I have received a communication from one of the authorities of that college which puts the matter in an entirely different light. I do not think it would be exactly just at present for me to insist upon the incorporation of that section. I would rather defer it until I obtain more satisfactory information.

The PRESIDENT. The chair will state that he has received a communication from the directors of the college, vindicating the pro-