

efforts have been made by certain Northern Capitalist, Speculators and Politicians acting in concert with the Representatives of Railroads in Pennsylvania, to procure from Congress authority for the making of a new road from Baltimore to Washington. Various propositions have been offered with that view, which have all hitherto failed, and the projectors of the scheme, realizing the difficulties of their position (chief among which is doubtless a very just apprehension that Congress will not readily venture on the more than doubtful power of constructing works of internal improvement through a State without its sanction or assent) seek now, as we have good reason to believe, to avail themselves of the terms used in a charter already existing, and designed, as we have seen for a very different purpose, to effectuate in that way their cherished scheme; indeed among the Contractors who have stipulated with the Baltimore and Potomac Company to construct the road, may be found the names of some of the most conspicuous of those who have sought hitherto Congressional authority for a new Washington road, and others in the same interest are doubtless their coadjutors.

It will not, we presume, be denied by any of the parties to this contract, that the making of a new road to the line of the District of Columbia under the assumed authority of the power given in the Potomac charter, to construct "branches and lateral roads," is the material, if not the sole object of the Contract, and it is to prevent this abuse and perversion of the terms of the Charter, that your Honorable Body is earnestly solicited. under the power reserved by the State, to amend or modify it, so as to interpose and prohibit the construction of the proposed Washington Branch.

The deep interest which the State possesses in the existing Washington Rail Road and which, so long as the management of that road meets as fully as it has heretofore done, all the demands of trade and travel, must challenge her support of it to the exclusion of others, has been conspicuously manifested on various occasions at this time ought certainly to be not less influential than heretofore. The people of the State have for many years endured patiently an onerous tax chiefly imposed upon them by works of this character; such however has been the improvent of our financial condition within the last few years that your predecessors would in all probability have felt justified in abrogating the State tax entirely but for the existence of a gigantic war, the exigencies of which could not be well foreseen.

Now that the war is ended and our financial condition still a subject of just congratulation, our tax payers will undoubtedly look with confidence to an early release from such burdens; but if a corporation contributing as largely to the re-