

work. This link completed, and the trade over two hundred and ninety-eight and a half miles of rail road, ramified by laterals into a rich and productive country from the main trunk of the Delaware road, will find its natural mart and be poured into the lap of our emporium city. Baltimore must speedily determine whether this trade is worth the cost of this link of a few miles, or when too late lament her supineness, and see it engrossed by the capital and energy of her rival.

The amount necessary to meet the demands on the Treasury, to which we have recurred, will be, as we have stated, \$1,151,000, which can be easiest and most judiciously provided by a repeal of the Bounty Act of 1867, and a re-enactment of the Defence Loan Law of 1865, which it was intended to repeal. This Act of 1867 was passed at a time when the legislative mind was engrossed with other and most exciting subjects, and is of more than doubtful constitutionality. And the demands of the Constitution, as well as the exigencies of the State, require its repeal. The purport of the Bounty Acts, as they are called, of 1864 and 1865, was to create a fund which should be applied to the payment of bounties to soldiers, who volunteered or were drafted under the call of the President of the United States, in his proclamation of the 18th day of October, 1863, and were enlisted prior to the 1st day of April, 1864, as a part of the quota of this State in the military service of the United States, or under the call made by him on the 19th day of December, 1864. The Act of 1865 extended the bounty, thus provided, to those who should be mustered into the service of the United States under all similar subsequent calls. It will thus appear that these Acts made no provision for those who, either as volunteers or drafted men, entered the service of the United States to meet the demands on the State of Maryland between the dates of the 1st of April and the 19th day of December, 1864. For those who were mustered into service during this interval of time, the Legislature, in its too high spirit of liberality, made provision by the Act of 1867, chapter 372. Many of the parties, entitled under this last named Act, presented their claims to the Comptroller, but owing to the depleted condition of the Treasury, none of them were paid; and it now becomes a subject of consideration for this Legislature to determine whether the interests of the State and a proper regard for the economy of her resources, do not require the repeal of this Act. It was entirely a gratuity on the part of the State; she had made no pledge, and had incurred no liability, to the parties who had entered the military service of the Federal Government during this period of time. And although it might be well to reward such services from the abundance of an overflowing Treasury, it becomes those act-