

Thus it is seen, that this company, whose Act of incorporation was passed by the General Assembly of Maryland, of 1867, under the stern *protest* of the Cecil and Harford delegations on this floor, have been, and now are, guilty of the most palpable infractions of the very same Act which they so urgently begged the Legislature of this State to grant for their especial benefit. Such is our opinion.

But we have not relied entirely on our own opinions: these have come to us from the plain letter and reading of the law. We have availed ourselves of eminent legal advice, and upon this we base this report. Such advice warrants us in the conclusion that the Cecil and Harford Counties Boom Company have violated their corporate powers and franchises.

But there is another branch of the subject which we deem it necessary to notice, to-wit: Under the Act incorporating the aforesaid boom company, the said company are empowered to condemn, *generally*, the shores of the Susquehanna River and its neighboring streams. This, our people look upon as a most wanton innovation on the rights of the owners of such shore property: to take away such property against the wish and consent of its owners, for the sole benefit and advantage of a mere private corporation, who for the most part are non-residents of this State, and whose votes control its management, thus to enable the said corporation to monopolize these shores for its own use against all competition, as well as to shut out all others from the use of such shores, either for business or pleasure, seems to be so shocking a violation of the common rights of the people as to warrant the hope and belief that this General Assembly will make haste to correct the abuse.

We have introduced a bill, through our Chairman, to meet this branch of the subject, as well as to correct the violations of law already perpetrated by the Cecil and Harford counties Boom Company, and it was our wish to cover our whole duty in the provisions and presentation of the said bill, but the points to be met and explained were so numerous that we have considered it better to make as full a report as time and the circumstances would allow. Indeed, we have thought it our duty, as a special committee appointed by the Honorable Speaker of this House, to investigate the subject-matter here in contained, and as the representatives of the two counties most interested in the same, to give as full a report of the facts in the case as possible.

This is the "Grand Inquest" of the State of Maryland, and it is to this grand inquest that the people look for pro-