

for our consideration, there was no difference of opinion in the Committee. In case of resort to legal proceedings to enforce the demands of the State against the Company, the Committee also agreed as to what should be the character of those proceedings. But, entertaining the opinion that the public interests required a different solution for the questions at issue, we have appended two other resolutions setting forth our views in this respect. It will be perceived that the Resolution reported by the Honorable Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, contemplates simply a proceeding at law or in equity, presents no alternative proposition to the Company except an abandonment and withdrawal of its claims, and a compliance with the demands of the State,— suggests and provides for no other solution of the questions at issue.

We are, all of us, aware of the protracted delays, the enormous expense, and the great uncertainties which attend proceedings either at law or in equity, when great interests are involved. If a decision should finally be obtained adverse to the demands of the State, it would probably involve the loss of all that we are contending for, and fail to vindicate the honor and dignity of the State, for it would thereby be proved that the State had been in the wrong. A proceeding either at law or in equity, fails to relieve the necessities of the State Treasury, for it brings no money until various Courts have been gone through and a final decision arrived at. In the meantime, the questions at issue are unsettled, and the State is placed in the embarrassing position of claiming of, and forcing on, the Railroad Company the collection of money, where the State may have no constitutional right to do so, either under the Constitution of the United States or that of the State. And the Company is placed in the like position, in being compelled to make the collections in order to meet the demands of the State, should the decisions of the Courts be ultimately against the pretensions of the Company and in favor of the State, and is at the same time exposed to the odium naturally springing out of the opinion and belief, entertained by many of our fellow-citizens of other States, who look upon the Company as the tax-gatherer of the State, of an imposition unjustly and unconstitutionally laid on the traveling public for the support of the government of the State of Maryland. In addition to all this, while this money is being collected, we are daily inviting proposals to be made to and efforts to be made in Congress for competing air lines and for the enactment of laws by Congress interfering with our State action and legislation. We also acknowledge an equitable claim on the part of a Company which has done and is doing so much to build up the greatness and pros-