

section 21, the Company was allowed two years to commence and ten to complete the "Metropolitan" road; but under section 22, was declared "*null and void* in the event that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company obtained a charter to construct and complete said road within a time less than prescribed in this Act, and do proceed in accordance with such charter to construct and complete the same."

Thereupon the Baltimore and Ohio did obtain a charter under which they agreed to commence the road "within one year, and complete it within five years from the passage of the Act." There was no possible reason why the road should not have been completed within the five years. But the other Company being estopped, the Baltimore and Ohio now asks an extension of three years, making their limit of time eight years for the construction of a road *free of taxation* against the ten years granted the Metropolitan Company, *subject to State and County taxation, and with their line of road running probably twice as far through the State.*

If any more "*partial legislation*" than this could have been contemplated by the framers of the Constitution when they authorized the exercise of the veto power, I can hardly conjecture what it could be.

I would gladly aid in the construction of *all* railroads in Maryland, provided they are not made *avored interests* to the detriment and injustice of others. And if it shall be the pleasure of the General Assembly to add an additional section to this bill providing for an assessment and payment of taxes to the State and counties through which the road runs, I will sign it with as much pleasure as I have done any bill passed this session.

This was what I intended to have said to the Senate when I returned the bill without my approval. As stated the bill, although hurried through the Legislature with unprecedented haste ten days before, was only handed to me on Saturday afternoon, and the charter expired to day, (Monday.)

Still as the serious objection to the bill was that it conferred valuable franchises, *exempt from taxation*, and "*partial legislation*," which the bill, if it had failed to pass over the Executive veto, could have been amended to provide against, if the Senate had been in session this morning, before the expiration of the charter, I prepared the veto yesterday, (Sunday,) to be sent in early this morning, hoping the General Assembly would concur in the views therein expressed, and subject the capital of the Company to taxation.

The Senate not having been in session this morning, because of the absence of a quorum, and only sixteen Senators having answered to their names at roll call to-night, one Senator less than two-thirds required for a suspension of the