

of the claim of the State of Maryland against the Government of the United States, since their appointment in April last, respectfully report that, immediately upon the receipt of their commission, they commenced the diligent prosecution of their duties.

They found that all the original vouchers, showing the payments made by the State, had been filed in one of the Departments at Washington city, at the time the claim was first made out and presented to the Government of the United States for settlement. Diligent search was at once made for them in all the Departments of the State Government at Annapolis, and also in the Departments at Washington, but without success. What has become of the original vouchers still remains a mystery.

In consequence of the loss of the vouchers, it was impossible to collect secondary evidence of their contents, prior to the 30th of June, 1871, when, under the terms of the Act of Congress, the appropriations for the payment of State war claims expired, and the balance remaining unexpended was returned to the Treasury. As considerable sums are still due to other States, it is understood that a strong effort will be made to induce Congress, at its present session, to pass another act making an appropriation for the purpose of paying these claims.

The undersigned, from the investigation they have given the subject, have no doubt that there is due to the State of Maryland a considerable sum. Unless, however, the original vouchers can be found, the search for which is still continued, it will require considerable expense, labor, and time to collect the proper evidence of the different items of accounts, upon which payments were made by the State, as shown by the checks on file at Annapolis.

The undersigned were informed by your Excellency, when they accepted the appointment, that you were not authorized to contract for any stipulated compensation, and that they must look to the Legislature to fix the percentage upon the amount received. As the labor, time and expense which will be required in the further prosecution of the claim will be much greater than they had anticipated, they think it but proper that the Legislature, at its next session, should pass an act, fixing the percentage which will be allowed them upon the amount received for the State, and if it meets with your views, they would ask your Excellency to recommend such action on the part of the Legislature.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

DANIEL CLARKE,

S. I. WAILES,

Commissioners.