

- a) to exercise a diligent and faithful supervision of all public works in which the state was interested as stockholder or creditor,
- b) to represent the state in all meetings of stockholders,
- c) to appoint the directors in every railroad or canal company in which the state had the constitutional power to appoint directors,
- d) to review the toll rates "adopted by any company" and to use "all legal powers which they may possess" to obtain rates that could prevent an injurious competition with each other to the detriment of the state, and to adjust them to promote the agriculture of the state,
- e) to keep a journal of their proceedings and to make a report to the legislature at each regular session,
- f) to recommend such legislation as they deemed necessary to promote or protect the state's interest in the public works, and
- g) to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

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The convention finished its work and faded into history on 13 May 1851, and, although its product was not particularly popular, little time was lost in breathing life into it. The Constitution was submitted to and approved by the voters on 4 June 1851—barely three weeks after the close of the convention—and it took effect 4 July 1851. The first General Assembly, and the first Commissioners of Public Works, were elected under the new Constitution in November 1851.