

where the fault has lain, but the fact speaks for itself, in addition to the facts which our own State furnishes we have only to refer to those of our sister State, Penna. The canals and Railroads constructed by and at the expense of that State, did under political management become so great a burden upon the State that she did in 1851 determine to dispose of them. The works then passed into the hands of private corporators, who have since made them profitable to themselves and useful to the citizens. It is greatly to be regretted that the history of the past furnishes so many conclusive proofs of the failure of Political representation to manage successfully the works of Internal Improvement. It is also to be regretted that the works of internal improvement, originally intended to develop the resources of the States, and increase the wealth and influence of the body Politic must be subordinate to dividend making concerns.⁶²

Once again the commissioners were derelict in their constitutional duty to report to the legislature, and once again the Senate adopted an order requiring such a report. In obedience, the commissioners made a report (the next day) as best they could, noting that, "owing to the disturbed condition of the country, they have found it impossible to obtain such information of the condition of the various works of Internal Improvement in which the State is interested as to enable them to report as required by [the Constitution]."⁶³

That rather perfunctory report was to be the last one made by the commissioners. The nation was in the midst of a Civil War that engendered dramatic changes in Maryland government, politics, and institutions. With respect to the state-financed "works of internal improvements," the focus was changing from prudent management to immediate divestiture. A new entity—a board of public works—was to be created to achieve that end.

62. *S. Jour.* (1864), pp. 301, 356, 383-99; BPW Minutes, 17 February 1864, vol. 1851-83, pp. 140-42.

63. *S. Jour.* (1864), p. 399; BPW Minutes, 8 March 1864, vol. 1851-83, p. 149.