

of the public. For the purpose of such investigation the commission is authorized to employ such engineers, experts and other assistants as may be necessary. Such investigations shall be prosecuted with diligence and thoroughness, and the results thereof reported to the legislature at each regular session. Such valuation shall show the value of the property of every such corporation as a whole, and the value of its property in each of the several counties and municipalities within the State of Maryland. Every such valuation shall be so made and ascertained by the commission that as far as possible it shall not disturb the value of bonds of said corporation issued prior to April 5, 1910.

Every such corporation shall furnish to the commission from time to time, and as the commission may require, maps, profiles, contracts, reports of engineers and other documents, records and papers, or copies of any and all of the same in aid of such investigation, and to determine the value of the property of such corporation used for the public service, and every such corporation is required to co-operate with the commission in the work of the valuation of its property in such further particulars and to such extent as the commission may reasonably direct. The commission shall thereafter, in like manner, keep itself informed of all extensions and improvements or other changes in the condition of the property of the said corporations and ascertain the fair value thereof, and from time to time, as may be required for the regulation of corporations under the provisions of this sub-title, revise and correct its valuation of the property of such corporations. To enable the commission to make such changes and corrections in its valuation, every corporation subject to the provisions of this sub-title is hereby required to report currently to the commission, and as the commission may require, all improvements and changes in its property and to file with the commission copies of all contracts for such improvements at the time same are executed.

Whenever the commission shall have completed the valuation of property of any such corporation and before such valuation shall become final, the commission shall give notice in the manner prescribed in this sub-title for the service of a copy of an order upon such corporation, to the company or companies owning or operating such property, stating the valuation placed upon the several lines of roads or classes of property of the said company used by it for the convenience of the public, and shall allow the company or companies a reasonable time in which to file a protest of same with the commission. If no protest is filed within such time such valuation shall become final. If notice of contest is filed by any such corporation, the commission shall fix a time for hearing of the same, and shall proceed as promptly as may be possible to hear and consider any matter relative and material thereto which may be presented in support of said protest. If after hearing any contest of such valuation, under the provisions of this sub-title, the commission is of the opinion that the tentative valuation is incorrect, it shall make such changes as shall make the same a fair valuation of such property and shall issue an order to make such corrected valuation final. All final valuations by the commission shall be *prima facie* evidence