

tral railway company in reference to the rights of the State of Maryland to subject to taxation the franchises and property of the Northern Central railway company, the said company claiming exemption of the same from taxation upon the grounds that among the terms and conditions of the union and consolidation of the several companies by which said Northern Central railway company was formed is one, that the latter should have all the rights, privileges and immunities of each of said companies, which said terms were entered into under the authority given by the Act of Maryland of eighteen hundred and fifty-four, chapter two hundred and fifty, which moreover declared that said Northern Central railway company should have all the powers and privileges expressed in the charter granted by the State of Maryland to the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad company, among which privileges was immunity from taxation.

AND WHEREAS the State of Maryland having, by the act of eighteen hundred and seventy-two, chapter two hundred and thirty-four, and the act of eighteen hundred and seventy-four, chapter four hundred and eight, imposed an annual tax of one-half of one per centum on the gross receipts of all railroad companies worked by steam incorporated by or under the authority of said State of Maryland, and claiming that under said acts the gross receipts of said Northern Central railway company are liable to said tax, have instituted suits to recover the same.

Preamble.

AND WHEREAS the property of said company has been also assessed as liable to taxation for county and municipal purposes.

Preamble.

AND WHEREAS the said company has the right to have the question at issue between it and the State of Maryland carried to the Supreme Court of the United States to be there decided.

Preamble.

AND WHEREAS it has been represented to this General Assembly that what would be the ultimate decision of said question is a matter of great doubt, and it is deemed to be moreover just and proper that an equitable settlement should be made of the mat-

Preamble.