

tion contests this session before the General Assembly of Maryland, as may be proper; the several claims arising therefrom to be sworn to by the claimants severally, and to be audited and recommended by the Chairman of the Committee on Elections.

Which was read.

On motion of Mr. Vandiver, it was

Ordered, That Mr. Brooke be excused from attendance on this House for three days, being called home by important business.

Mr. Naill submitted the following

#### JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland holds, as a preferred stockholder, three hundred thousand dollars in the stock of the Annapolis & Elkridge Railroad Company, under their charter, the Act of 1836, chapter 298, Sections 8 and 9;

And whereas, It is represented to this General Assembly that the said Company, or certain persons undertaking to act for them, have illegally issued 400 coupon bonds of the said Company, at the par value of \$400,000, and have attempted to secure the said bonds by a mortgage of all the property, rights, credits, claims and franchises of the said Company, which mortgage is now on record; and have also sold, hypothecated, delivered or otherwise disposed of most of the said bonds for the use and benefit and for the purposes of the Baltimore and Drum Point Railroad Company, who have undertaken to control the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad Company, and not for the use or benefit or purposes of the A. & E. R. R. Co., but tending to the ruin thereof, and to the loss of the interest and preferred stock of this State therein, unless prevented by law; therefore,

*Resolved, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Attorney General of this State be and he is hereby authorized and required to institute such legal proceedings as he may deem necessary to prevent the consummation of these illegal acts hereinbefore referred to, and generally to protect the interest of this State in the said A. & E. R. R. Co., and to that end, if necessary, to have all the right, title, claim and interest of this State on that Company by a decree of competent jurisdiction, sold at public sale, under the Act of 1872, chapter 425, Sections 3 and 4, or otherwise.*

Which was read a first time.

Mr. Briscoe submitted the following leave:

That leave be granted to the Cecil delegation, to introduce a bill to transfer the State's appropriation of \$68,000, from