

Mr. Snowden, Chairman on the part of the House of the Joint Committee appointed under Joint Resolutions adopted January, 1876, to examine the affairs of the Southern Maryland Railroad Company, submitted the following

REPORT.

Your Committee, appointed under the Joint Resolutions of the Senate and House of Delegates. adopted on the 31st day of January, 1876, has in compliance with such resolutions examined as fully as possible all the questions concerning which they were directed to inquire.

They submit a complete report of all the testimony taken by them in compliance with the terms of said resolutions.

Under the Act of 1868, chap. 454, Sections 2 and 3, the Treasury officers of this State were obliged, upon the requirement of the County Commissioners of St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles counties, and upon the presentation to the Treasurer of the affidavits mentioned in the Act, to subscribe, as directed by the said Act, and to pay as by said Act, directed the several sums of money embraced in the appropriation made for the benefit of internal improvements in said several counties.

Your Committee finds that the Comptroller and Treasurer performed their respective duties in relation to works of internal improvement in Charles county, and that there has been no complaint whatever made in relation to their performance of said duties in such county.

Your Committee finds that the Comptroller and Treasurer performed in the same manner their entire duty as to the Southern Maryland Railroad Company, which was the work selected by the Commissioners of St. Mary's county, to receive the benefits of the Act to which reference has already been made.

The only question which remains is to ascertain whether the Southern Maryland Railroad Company has properly appropriated the money paid to it by the State by subscription to its stock as provided for in the Act last mentioned.

Upon this point your Committee cannot report fully, because the said Company has refused to produce its books for the inspection of your Committee. It is proper, however, to say, that although said books were not produced, the President of the said Company, as will be seen by reference to his testimony taken by your Committee, while insisting upon and swearing to the propriety of all the expenditures made by said Company of the money subscribed by the State to its stock, has given as his reason for the non-production of