

Mr. Aydelotte submitted the following correspondence between His Excellency, Gov. Groome and Hons. Isaac D. Jones and Wm. Pinkney Whyte, on the subject of our State Boundary Line.

BALTIMORE, June 8th, 1875.

His Excellency, the Governor:

DEAR SIR:—We beg to thank you for the tender of employment to us, as the counsel to represent this State before the arbitrators, to whom the settlement of the boundary line between the States of Maryland and Virginia, has been submitted by these States.

Upon an examination of the laws passed upon that subject, and the many other documents relating to it, and considering the enlarged demand, made by Virginia, it is apparent, that the work to be performed by the Attorneys, will be very great, not only before the referees, but in preparation of the proper papers for the presentation of the case, and in the search for maps and other evidences of the title in the premises. While the Act of 1874, chapter 295, gives the Governor power to engage the services of counsel; it leaves the compensation to be provided for by a future law. This puts the matter of compensation in the same position as did the resolution of 1870, in relation to the employment of counsel in the cases against the B. & O. R. R. Co., under which Governor Bowie contracted with Messrs. Steele and others for seven thousand dollars to each Attorney, which contract was ratified by the Legislature of 1872, and the money paid to them.

As we are unwilling to take charge of so important a professional matter without some positive official understanding as to fees, we beg to inquire, whether you will be willing to agree upon the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to each of us as a full compensation, and recommend to the Legislature the payment of that sum, as a reasonable amount for the services, loss of time and expenses incurred by us, in the discharge of this professional duty.

As this is a matter of business, you will pardon our precision, but we would not take a less sum for the contemplated service from a private party, neither are we willing to subject ourselves to the humiliation of standing at the Legislative doors, chaffering for a fee. Renewing our grateful acknowledgments of your consideration.

We remain, very truly,

Your obedient servants,

ISAAC D. JONES,

WM. PINKNEY WHYTE.