

the Directors of the Canal Company, but your Committee deemed it to be its duty to continue the inquiry in that direction. After the most searching investigation, no circumstance could be discovered which afforded the least foundation for the charge.

Your Committee, therefore, deems it to be its duty to say that it believes that the accusations made against the preferred bondholders and the President and Directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company was wholly false; and it takes pleasure in testifying to the complete vindication of the good name of those gentlemen in which this investigation has resulted.

Your Committee next proceeded to inquire whether the purchases of material for the use of the Canal Company had been economically made; and whether any officer or employee of the Company had derived any profit from such purchases.

It certainly affords pleasure to your Committee to report that a searching examination into these questions has convinced your Committee that the President and Board of Directors have exercised in their matters a care and economy as scrupulous as could have been practiced by any merchant in the conduct of his private affairs; and that the prices paid, in the absence of all other evidence, would suffice to show that no officer or employee of the Canal Company could possibly have derived any individual profits for such purchases.

Your Committee next examined the books of the Company, and tested them by examining under oath the Collectors of toll on the Canal. They found that the returns made by these Collectors and the books of the Company were in exact accord.

Your Committee next minutely examined the payments and disbursements of the Company, and called for the vouchers of the same. They found these arranged in perfect order, easily accessible, in due form, and all certified by the proper officer of the Company, and by the proper Committee of the Company.

The work of your Committee in conducting its examination has been made easy by the system observed in keeping the accounts of the Company. Your Committee does not hesitate to say that the accounts are kept in a form so clear and intelligible that any accountant can readily test their correctness and that they may safely endure the strictest scrutiny, which may be applied to them.

Your Committee next examined with the minutest care