

into the condition of the Canal, and into the general policy of its management.

The editor of the Cumberland Times, and several boatmen testified that the Canal was not in as good condition at certain places as it had been in former years; but this testimony was met by overwhelming counter proof. Not only did the Superintendents employed upon the Canal, and Mr. W. R. Hutton, the Civil Engineer, who has been connected with the Canal since 1869, prove that it is now in better condition and repair throughout its entire length, than it has been at any period since the year last named, but a number of those most actively engaged in the business of boating on the Canal, who were familiar with the whole line—shippers on the Canal—and notably Mr. Loveridge, the President of the Maryland Coal Company, gave conclusive testimony to the same effect.

The testimony, indeed, of all these witnesses was not needed. The amount of business done upon the Canal, would have demonstrated that it was in complete working order, even if no witness had appeared to testify to the fact.

Your Committee is of the opinion from facts brought to its attention during the progress of this inquiry, that the hostility in which the charges against the present management of the Canal originated was founded upon an interested opposition to the policy which the Canal Company has pursued; a policy, for which that management is entitled to the hearty thanks of your Honorable Body. That policy has evidently been a single purpose to permit no person to divert to his own use, any part of the proper revenue of the Canal.

Your Committee cordially approve of the policy thus adopted, and is satisfied that your Honorable Body will entirely concur in its judgment. It certainly would be difficult to do otherwise.

From 1850, to 1872, a period of twenty-two years, the net earnings of the Canal, appropriated to the payment of bonded debt, was only \$727,125.37.

From June, 1872, to December 31st, 1875, a period of only three and one-half years, the net earnings of the Canal were \$902,457.88.

No further proof of the efficiency of the present management of the Canal need be given.

Under these circumstances, your Committee submit that the conduct of those, who with all this information within their reach, have wantonly assailed the good names of those to whom the management of this great work has been confided, deserve and ought to receive the condemnation of your Honorable Body, and of the whole people of the State.