

It is certainly a cause of great satisfaction to your Committee, that in concluding a duty which has been attended with great labor, it is able to say that the State of Maryland, if it wisely uses its power to prevent the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, from being deprived of its proper share of the coal traffic, will within a few years, derive a large annual revenue from that work.

But, as your Committee has said, to ensure this result the Canal must be protected by such legislation as will secure to it the right to its just share of that business, which it was incorporated to promote.

EDWARD LLOYD, Chairman,
B. S. FORD.

Which was read.

Mr. Newcomer submitted the following minority report of said Committee:

The undersigned, a minority of the Committee appointed in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Senate, January 20th, 1876, in reference to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, begs leave to respectfully report, that while he coincides with the report of the majority in regard to the general results attained by the examination made by the Committee, yet he cannot join in the denunciation contained therein of all those who have felt themselves called upon to doubt the policy of the management of the Canal, and the motives prompting some of those who are in charge of the same.

Further, he does not know and cannot believe that the complaints made against the management of the Canal, proceeded from anything else but an honest desire on the part of at least many, to prevent an extravagant or improper use of the revenues thereof.

He also doubts the propriety of advising that the State use its power to prevent the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company from being deprived of its proper share of the coal traffic, inasmuch as this would seem to imply suggestions that legislation should be had to repress, trammel or interfere with other means of transporting coal from the coal regions to the great market where it is in demand. The interests of the people are involved in securing coal at a low rate for their consumption, and should not be prejudiced by any supposed interest that the State may have in any of the great works of internal improvement.

Further, it is not the duty of the Legislature to interfere with legitimate business competition in coal or any other traffic, or to legislate either for or against any corporation but in such a manner as will promote the interests and enure to the benefit of the people of the State; therefore the under-