

The resolutions directed your Committee to make the following specific inquiries :

First. * * * Whether the said subscription by the Treasurer of the State of Maryland to the capital stock of the Southern Maryland Railroad Company, was induced to be made by false and fraudulent representations.

Second. Whether the said sum of one hundred and sixty-three thousand dollars, or any part thereof, was induced to be paid by the Treasurer of the State of Maryland, to said Southern Maryland Railroad Company, by false and fraudulent representations.

Third. What disposition has been made by said Southern Maryland Railroad Company, or any officer thereof, of said sum of one hundred and sixty-three thousand dollars.

Fourth. Whether any other stockholder than the State of Maryland is a *bona fide* stockholder of said Company, and what is the best course for this State to pursue in connection with its interest in said Company.

Although these resolutions were passed as early as January 25th, 1876, the Committee has only examined four witnesses, viz : A. C. Tennison and A. A. Lawrence, formerly County Commissioners of St. Mary's county, and Samuel S. Smoot, President, and Hamilton G. Fant, formerly, Treasurer of the Southern Maryland Railroad Company.

A list of witnesses (copy hereto annexed, marked A,) who, in the opinion of the undersigned, could have given most important testimony, was laid before the Committee, who declined to summon most of them, and the Committee resolved to discontinue the investigation against the protest of the undersigned. The Committee failed to procure the attendance of the Comptroller of the Treasury, or of the late Treasurer of the State, the officers entrusted by the law of 1868 with the subscription to the stock of the Company and the payment of the money to the same, and only examined in relation to the charges against the officers of the Company, those very officers themselves.

In view of these facts the undersigned are constrained to report that, in their candid judgment, the thorough investigation contemplated by the resolutions, and demanded by the people of the State, has not been had.

The undersigned, however, from the meagre testimony taken before the Committee, have arrived at the following conclusions :

The General Assembly of Maryland at its Session of 1868, passed an Act (chap. 454) appropriating the sum of five hundred thousand dollars for works of internal improvement in