

or any part thereof, and the same to alter at their pleasure; provided said tolls shall not exceed ten cents per ton.

Public commercial highway.

SEC. 11. *And be it enacted*, That all vessels shall be free to navigate said canal upon equal terms; and said canal, when so constructed and opened for navigation, shall be and remain a public commercial highway, open to all vessels upon terms of the most exact equality, and no higher tolls, by any name or device whatsoever, shall be charged upon or collected from citizens of any State than are charged or paid as through tolls.

Power to connect with any other canal.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That for the purpose of securing the complete opening of the ship canal, so as to connect the waters of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, the said company shall have power and authority to enter into such contract or contracts, upon such terms and conditions as may seem proper and expedient, with any other corporation or person or persons whatsoever having authority to cut or make any canal or canals in the State of Delaware, in order that a connection may be made with such canal or canals, and the object and purposes of this act be now fully carried out: and thereupon, on such connections being made, that the said continuous canal or canals, and all and singular, its and their appendages and appurtenances, may be used and employed by the said company so far forth, as the authority of this State may extend, to give any needful power thereof, as if such other canal or canals lay wholly within the limits of this State, and such contract or contracts as aforesaid were made with the full approbation of the General Assembly of Maryland.

Carry passengers.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the said company shall have power and authority to purchase or hire, or build and construct, steamships of such capacity as may be desirable for the purpose of towing vessels through the said ship canal, or for carrying freight or passengers from any port to any port through the said ship canal, or for carrying and conveying passengers or freight that may be transhipped at either of the termini of said ship canal upon such vessels, or for carrying and conveying passengers and freight for transshipments through the said canal upon other vessel or vessels; and the