

supplies and material furnished to said company since the year 1877, some of whom have reduced their claims to judgment, while others hold only open accounts, all of said debts being still owing and wholly unpaid; and

WHEREAS, A large majority of said claimants are poor persons, to whom the loss of their claims would be a great hardship, and it is but proper that the State of Maryland should, as far as possible, protect and save them from this loss; and

Preamble.

WHEREAS, Said canal company is also indebted to various persons for labor done and materials furnished in and about the building and construction of said canal west of dam No. 6 to Cumberland, prior to 1877, which said persons reduced their claims to judgments and have revived the same from time to time, so that the same are now valid and subsisting claims against said company; and

Preamble.

WHEREAS, Said judgment creditors would equitably be entitled to a lien in the nature of a mechanics' lien on the works of the company which their labor and means constructed, and said recent labors are equitably entitled to priority in payment of their claims over all lien holders of all kinds, and it is but just and right that the State of Maryland should recognize these liens and priorities and protect said creditors so far as it can, therefore, be it enacted as follows:

Preamble.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the State of Maryland does hereby waive all its liens by way of mortgage or otherwise, upon all property and the tolls and revenues of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, in favor of all claims against said company for work and labor done and material furnished in, upon and about said canal for said company between January 1, 1877, and January 1, 1890, and also in favor of all valid and subsisting judgments against said company now on record in any court of law or equity in this State, or upon the dockets of any of the justices of the peace thereof, but nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver by this State of its liens in favor of any claims against said canal company for labor done or materials furnished said company prior to January 1, 1877, unless the same were or had been reduced to judgments which were valid, subsisting and unpaid at the date of the order of the court placing the property of said canal in the possession of the trustees now holding the same.

Waiver of State's liens upon C. & O. Canal.