

And be it further resolved, That the committee named in these resolutions shall be composed of the Hons. Senator Applegarth, Senator Moses, Senator Dennis on the part of the Senate, and the Hons. Delegate Grason, Delegate Dryden, Delegate Onley, Delegate Goldsborough, Delegate Broening on the part of the House of Delegates.

Names of
committee.

No. 7.

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, extending from Elk river, in Cecil county, Maryland, to Delaware City, on the Delaware, connecting the waters of the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, furnishes a direct route to sea for war ships of the United States Navy and vessels trading at the ports of Baltimore and the upper part of Chesapeake bay, thereby shortening the distance from Baltimore to European ports and New York and New England seaboard cities two hundred and twenty-five miles, and avoiding the dangerous and tedious route doubling Cape Charles; and

Preamble.

WHEREAS, The speedy acquisition of said canal by the Federal Government for the purpose of widening and enlarging it to accommodate war ships and sea going vessels of the largest size, can be accomplished by a very small expenditure of the public funds compared to the paramount importance of such waters to the large and increasing commerce of Baltimore and the great agricultural sections of the Southwest, the West and the Northwest, all of which finds its nearest and most natural outlet at Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government has expended, and is expending large sums of money to improve and extend the Naval Academy grounds at Annapolis, and from year to year is also increasing the size and importance of the National Capital; and

WHEREAS, The said canal enlarged and deepened would afford the cheapest and most effectual means of defending the cities of Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis on the south side, and Philadelphia, Chester, Wilmington, New York and the New England seaports on the north side, in case of war, by enabling the naval forces of the United States freely and speedily to pass from bay to bay, and enabling our navy to pass up the Atlantic coast by an inland waterway for the defense of said cities when threatened by hostile fleets, and would also enable our merchants shipping to retreat from one bay to the other in case of danger from a hostile fleet; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government is charged with the public defense, and it is its duty to adopt the most complete mode of rendering the Capitol and Annapolis and the great