

No. 7.

Assented to
March 10, 1858.

Resolutions, relative to the construction of a new canal, at the Falls of the Ohio River.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Maryland, being deeply interested in the cheap, safe and speedy transportation of their commerce on the Ohio river, they claim the right of expressing to Congress, their opinion on the subject of the proposed mode improvement of the navigation at the Falls of said river; therefore to give force to these opinions collectively, which the citizens individually entertain, the members of the General Assembly, representing the several counties of the State, adopt the following resolutions :

Resolved, That the Ohio river, being acknowledged as the great National highway, under the care and supervision of the General Government, a free and ample mode of conveyance should be provided, and at all times preserved for passage of boats and other vessels, conveying the commerce of the river, around the natural obstruction, known as the Rapids or Falls of the Ohio.

Resolved, That rapid increase of commerce has rendered two canals necessary, for the accommodation of vessels ascending and descending the Ohio river, and this necessity will be greatly increased by the completion of the system of rail roads now in progress of connection with the river, above and below the Falls.

Resolved, That the repair and enlargement of the present canal, would at all times, excepting during the period of very high water, present an obstruction to the passage of vessels, and cause the portage of freight, a distance of two miles, subject to the penalties and regulations, incidental to a corporation, thus suspending navigation through the canal for years, creating daily losses highly injurious to the commercial and manufacturing interests and fatal to the interests of those concerned in the navigation of the river.

Resolved, That surveys and estimates made heretofore, by competent engineers, establishing the fact that the construction of a new canal around

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