

trains are passing over this bridge. Should there be an automobile, vehicle or person on the bridge during the passing of a train it would endanger the public; in fact, the bridge is not safe.

2. Worcester county has been paying to the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic Railway Company for many years prior to June, 1915, a compensation of \$500 per annum. In June, 1915, the Railway Company increased the rate from \$500 to \$1,200 for a period of one year. We understand from Mr. W. U. Polk, superintendent of the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic Railway Company, Salisbury, Maryland, that this rate will be changed in June, 1916, from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Mr. Polk further stated that he did not think it was the proper thing for Worcester county to assume the taxation of the bridge. He seems to think that the State should construct and maintain a bridge of its own. He also stated that there was considerable dissatisfaction at Ocean City and in this vicinity in regard to the present arrangement.

3. We further understand that the State Roads Commission refuse to recommend the construction of the bridge. In this connection we differ with the State Roads Commission. We seem to think that the construction of the bridge would be the completion of the State road from Salisbury to Ocean City. We contend that in lieu of the fact that the bridge is used universally by people from all parts of the Eastern Shore, which embraces Virginia, Maryland and Delaware territories, and further used by people of Baltimore city and other sections of the State, that the bridge should be constructed and maintained by the State; in fact, we consider it purely a State issue.

4. Ocean City, as you probably know, has a population during the winter of approximately 600. During the summer the population is about 3,000. There is a fair traffic over this bridge during the winter, and a very substantial traffic during the summer months. Ocean City is one of the principal summer resorts in the State of Maryland, and is also one of our very heavy fish markets. The annual amount of business handled at Ocean City is approximately \$1,000,000.

If there is any point upon which the foregoing memorandum has not been sufficiently explicit, or if there is additional information which you desire, it will be our pleasure to furnish it upon request.

Very respectfully,

AUGUSTUS TOADVINE,
President, Associated Merchants' Club.

[Which was read and referred to the Committee on Finance.]