

of Virginia passed an act authorising the appointment of a commissioner by the Governor of that State to co-operate with the commissioner to be appointed by the Governor of Maryland to retrace and mark the boundary line between the said two States beginning at the Fairfax stone, and running thence due north to the line of the State of Pennsylvania.

That commissioners were duly appointed by the Governor of Maryland and Virginia respectively to carry into effect the provisions of the aforesaid acts of the Legislatures of the two States, but no efficient progress was made by the two commissioners towards the objects of their appointment, for the reasons as your committee understand; first, that the State of Maryland had made no appropriation to defray her portion of the expenses of the commission, and secondly, that the commissioner on the part of Maryland, doubted his power and was unwilling to enter upon the establishment of the western boundary alone, and before the Virginia commissioner was authorised also to co-operate with him in the retracing and marking the boundary line from Smith's Point to the Atlantic ocean.

The first of these two obstacles to the progress of the commission, has been removed by the act of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1856, chapter 226, which appropriates the sum of three thousand dollars, to defray the expenses of the surveys necessary under the acts passed January session, 1852, chapters 60 and 275, which said sum is made subject to the order of the Governor, to be applied at his discretion, in defraying the expenses of the work required to be done under said acts, "or to such part or parts thereof, as can be completed with the concurrent authority of the State of Virginia."

Your Committee further state their reliable information that a bill is now pending in the lower House of the Virginia Legislature, (having passed the Senate at its present session,) authorising the commissioner on the part of Virginia, to co-operate with the Maryland commissioner in retracing and marking the boundary line from Smith's Point to the Atlantic ocean, as well as the Western boundary line of this State; but lest some further impediments may interfere with the execution of this most important work, or some other doubts as to the powers of the Maryland commissioner, under existing laws, interpose to delay its commencement, your Committee with a view to provide against such impediments and resolve such doubts, and deeming it desirable at once to have ascertained and established the true location of so much of the disputed or uncertain dividing line, as the concurrent authority of Virginia will admit, do herewith report a bill for that purpose.

CHARLES B. THRUSTON, Chairman.