the State may derive advantage from its large investment. At all events, the State would certainly profit by that increased property of her people, and that increase of population that would be consequent, on the adoption of any measure that would largely augment the trade of the canal.

The bill we have the honor to report is further intended to relieve, in some degree, a long suffering and patient class of creditors of the canal company. They have now no security for their debts but that which the State may voluntarily offer. Eighteen years ago these creditors, employed by officers appointed by the State, bestowed their labor to give value to an improvement, in which the State felt a deep interest, and had invested a large capital. They have never received payment of either interest or principal of these claims. If these persons had been employed, to work in building a State House or Government House, or any other edifice in which Maryland held a *fee simple* interest, this unjust withholding of the wages of the laborer would never have occurred. And yet it is not easy to discern the difference in principle, between the case supposed, and that which has actually occurred. These laborers worked on a property in which the State was largely interested. They labored at the instance, and under the direction of officers of the State. It was not their province to enquire ,whether the contracts made by those State officers would result in lasting advantage to Maryland. It was not their place, nor was it in their power, to understand how Maryland was to be recompensed for that expenditure, which all branches of the government of the State were then sanctioning. These laborers worked faithfully in the service of the State. They fulfilled their contract. It remains to be seen whether the representatives of the people of Maryland will refuse to allow to those who, under contract with the officers of the State, helped to construct the canal, an opportunity to get, at this late day, a small pittance of the wages of their labor. In support of the proposition to give, to these highly meritorious class of creditors, some security for their claims, we beg leave to invite attention to some past legislation on this subject.

By reference to the sixth section of the act of December session, 1841, chaptor 321, it will be seen, that the Legislature of Maryland encouraged the people of the State to circulate and receive the evidences of debt of the canal company for which, in our bill, we propose to provide. This law of 1841 was enacted to drive out of circulation irredeemable paper that was then circulating. The sixth section of the act declares, that "neither the stock orders of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, nor the paper issued by the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad Company, nor the paper issued of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company shall be considered as within the provisions of the act. And in so declaring, as we have said, the Legislature invited these companies to issue paper of that description, as evidences of