

committee as to the expediency of granting said act of incorporation.

This road, (if constructed,) running parallel, as it does, with the route of the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal, must necessarily tend to divert from the canal, much, if not the greater part of the trade now enjoyed by it. If the undersigned is correctly advised, the tolls collected in the most prosperous years, have been inadequate to pay the interest to the State, on the debt contracted for its construction, and to keep it in repairs; and if the business of the canal is to be diminished in part or in the whole, the treasury of the State will suffer to the extent of such diminution—as the canal is now paying a nett revenue of from \$60,000 to \$70,000 annually. It is well known that the State embarked, many years ago, in a vast and expensive system of internal improvements, and having early exhausted the means in her treasury, was compelled to resort to the expedient of levying onerous direct taxes, upon the land and personal property of her citizens throughout the entire State, to enable her to meet the obligations incurred in the construction of them. These works, traversing, as they do, the northern and eastern sections of the State, the benefits conferred by them, are mainly, if not exclusively, confined to those of our fellow citizens inhabiting the same, while other parts of the State more remote, are entirely excluded from a participation in the benefits so conferred; yet this portion of the citizens of Maryland, have been equally taxed, and borne an equal amount of the burdens imposed by their construction; wherefore the undersigned cannot but believe that while this public burthen is still resting upon the citizens of the State, it would be an act of great injustice to the southern portion of Maryland, for the Legislature to adopt the policy of chartering rival works to those already constructed, and thereby lessen their productiveness, and so perpetuate the present onerous system of taxation for an indefinite period, if not forever. The undersigned would beg leave further to remind the House, that this project was before the last Legislature for its action, and that body doubtless, after having given the subject a due consideration, determined to refuse the application for a charter.

All of which is most respectfully submitted,

F. B. F. BURGESS,

Minority of Committee on Internal Improvements.

Mr. Goldsborough moved to refer said bill to the committee on Ways and Means;

Which was determined in the negative.

Mr. Dail, from the committee on Claims, reported favorably on the Senate bill entitled, an act to provide for the re-