

and Ohio Canal, the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, and the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal Companies. In addition, the Legislature was to provide, before the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal could be sold, such laws as should be necessary to authorize the counties of Allegany, Washington, Frederick and Montgomery or any one of them "to create a debt by the issue of bonds or otherwise, so as to enable them, or any of them, to become the purchasers of said interest." All party lines were entirely obliterated during the consideration of the above, and the members voted as individuals.

Another section which was incorporated in this same Legislative Article¹⁸⁰ gave the General Assembly "power to accept the cession of any territory contiguous to this state from the states of Virginia and West Virginia, or from the United States, with the consent of Congress, and of the inhabitants of such ceded territory," and further empowered the Legislature to enact the necessary laws to divide such ceded land into counties, and otherwise make it an integral part of the state. It seems that after West Virginia had seceded from Virginia, there was a widespread belief in Maryland that perhaps portions of this new state or even the whole of it might be induced to consolidate with Maryland. Covetous eyes had also been cast on Loudoun County, Virginia, and also on the Eastern Shore of that state. The provision was in fond anticipation of events which never occurred, but was sufficient to call forth vigorous, and, as usual, vain opposition on the part of the minority, who "protested against the enormity which had been committed in the attempted and pretended erection of this State of West Virginia out of the limits of the State of Virginia." The debate was not of much importance however, and the usual party vote soon carried the provision through.¹⁸¹

In concluding the discussion of the various provisions

¹⁸⁰ Section 48. ¹⁸¹ Proc., 133, 194, 209; Deb., ii, 866-8, 873-6.