

claims for sacrifices of property sustained by the contractor in consequence of the stoppage of the road.

They have allowed no interest on any of the claims, and as the result of their examination of the claims thus conducted, they have arrived at the conclusion that there is now justly due from the State to the petitioner, the sum of eleven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven dollars.

They, therefore, beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the commissioner of loans of the State of Maryland, be and he is hereby authorised and directed immediately to issue and deliver to Malachi Duval, late contractor for the construction of the Eastern Shore Rail Road, certificates of debt of the State of Maryland, to the amount of eleven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven dollars, which certificates shall bear an interest of six per centum, per annum, payable semi-annually, at the loan office in the city of Baltimore, and to be redeemable in fifty years from the date thereof, and to be issued in denominations of from one hundred to one thousand dollars, at the election of said Duval.

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Gantt, chairman of the committee on agriculture, to whom was referred the order of the house, directing them to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of State Geologist and Topographical Engineer, delivered the following report:

The committee on agriculture, to whom was referred the order of the house, directing them "to enquire into expediency of abolishing the office of State Geologist and Topographical Engineer," have had the same under the consideration, and a majority of your committee beg leave to report:

That it has been a subject of no little regret and surprise that, from the first establishment of the office of Geologist, an unceasing and relentless opposition has been manifested, not merely to the officer but to the office itself.

A portion of the community, for whose benefit the office was, in part, created, and whose interest it is the peculiar province of your committee to protect, have participated, to some extent, in this opposition, caused, if not from a misapprehension of the duties of that officer, from a disappointment in the manner in which he has discharged those duties. The extensive field in which he was obliged to labor, rendered it impracticable for him to make so minute an investigation into the peculiar soils of every section of the State, as the interest of the agriculturist required, and which would have been in his power to have executed, had not the office of Topographical Engineer been so intimately connected with, and dependent upon the labors of the Geologist. Whilst the State of Maryland has, with difficulty, sustained the office of a single Geologist, her sister States, though commencing this great work long after Maryland, have progressed with becoming energy, almost to completion: re-