

Mr. Spencer reported a bill entitled, an act to preserve the ducks in Sassafras, Elk and Bohemia rivers ;

Mr. McKaig reported a bill entitled, an act to change the place of holding elections in district No. 1, in Allegany county, and

Mr. Levering reported a bill entitled, an act to authorise Christian Keener and Isaac Tyson, jr. to close up Asbury street ;

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

Mr. Yellott, chairman of the committee on Grievances and Courts of Justice, to which was referred the bill from the Senate entitled, an act relating to courts of chancery, reported the same with the following amendment.

Amendment proposed :

Insert after the words, "has been," in the second line of the first section the words, "or may hereafter be ;"

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

Mr. Stephenson, chairman of the select committee, delivered the following

REPORT :

The committee to which was referred certain enquiries relating to the Baltimore and Harford Turnpike Company, having submitted a copy of the order passed by this House, to the President of the Company, received his answer in regard to the cost of the road and the price of the stock, and were referred for the other information sought by the order, to the books of the corporation.

From these sources it appears that the stock of said company, is divided into 1252 shares of fifty dollars each. Of this stock there was paid \$43,300, the residue was made up by tolls. By the answer of the President it appears that the market price of the stock for the last fifteen years has been about twenty-eight dollars. Nearly four fifths of the stock is now held by persons who have purchased it within the last ten years, and nearly all of the remaining fifth belongs to the descendents of persons who had factories and valuable real estates to be benefited by the turnpike — and who looked more to the benefit of their property, by facilitating the travel, than to the profits arising from tolls. This road has divided 5 per cent. on its capital for the last fifteen years, which is about 10 per cent. on the price paid by nearly all the present owners for their stock.

It is supposed that the stock would not yield such large dividends if the road was made as required by the charter as it now does on its selling price, but the fact that the company is required by its charter to make twenty miles of road by the first of January, 1846, has depressed the price of the stock, and enabled most of the present holders to purchase at nearly one half of its par value.

By the act of 1836, chapter 199, Baltimore and Harford counties, built a bridge over the Little Gunpowder Falls, on condition