

in joint stock companies, has the honor to submit the following information, which has been obtained since their annual report was made to your honorable body, but which has reference to a subject which they had under consideration previous to the time at which said report was made.

The State of Illinois has been for some time engaged in the negotiation of a loan for the completion of the Illinois canal, the estimated cost of which is nearly, if not precisely, equal to that of completing the Chesapeake and Ohio canal to Cumberland.

The basis of this negotiation was a law passed by the Legislature of Illinois in the year 1843, authorising a loan of \$1,600,000 to be made on the credit of the canal, and without the guarantee of the State, for the payment of either the principal or the interest of said loan.

The general features of this law were found to be acceptable to those capitalists who were already interested in the bonds of the State, and who agreed to furnish the required amount of funds, if the Legislature would make certain amendments to the law which they indicated, and which did not, in any degree, affect the liability of the State,

Your agents were aware of the existence and general nature of the negotiation above referred to, and were desirous to obtain information of an equally definite character in reference to the conditions on which a loan could be obtained for the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal to Cumberland, and in time to be laid before your honorable body at its present session.

Upon reference, however, to the several laws in reference to State's agents, the majority of said board entertained the opinion, that even the limited expenditure which such an investigation would require if properly conducted, was clearly without the contemplation of the Legislature when the law was passed by which the salary of your agents was reduced to \$100 per annum.

They were, nevertheless, desirous to obtain all the information on the subject above referred to which the circumstances of their situation would enable them to procure—and for this purpose, the undersigned, on the part of your agents, opened a correspondence with several gentlemen who were connected with the negotiation of the Illinois loan.

It was not, however, until yesterday, that the undersigned had a personal interview with any of the gentlemen alluded to.

At that time he had the pleasure of a conference with Mr. Leavitt, of New York, a large capitalist, and an extensive holder of Illinois bonds, and Gov. Davis, of Massachusetts, who is the agent of several capitalists in Europe.

At this interview the undersigned obtained authentic information of the successful termination of the negotiation for the Illinois loan; and he is authorised to say, on the assurance of these gentlemen, that if the bill which has recently passed the House of Delegates