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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
MARCH 13th 1865
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STATEMENT.

OFFICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL COMPANY,
Washington, March 13th, 1865.

To the Honorable,

Speaker of the House of Delegates of Maryland:

SIR:—The following order has been communicated to me by the Clerk of the House of Delegates:

“Ordered, That the President of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company be requested to forward to this House a statement of the present condition of the work, and its financial affairs.”

In reply, I have to state that the condition of the canal during the past year, has been better than for many years previously; that the transportation upon it was more regular and less interrupted, until the invasion of the enemy in July last, when serious damages were sustained, and the navigation suspended for three months of the most active and profitable portion of the year. It is estimated that the revenues of the company were diminished by this casualty to the extent of \$200,000. When the canal was repaired and again ready for business, it continued active till the close of the navigation by ice.

The great severity of the winter prevented the usual repairs at this season as early as was contemplated, and the recent ice freshet in the river has occasioned considerable damage, which however, it is believed, can be repaired and the navigation of the canal be resumed for active business on or before the first of April ensuing.

It will still require considerable expenditures to place the work in thorough and permanent order, make it reliable for uninterrupted navigation, and afford proper facilities to the greatly increasing trade upon it. This it is proposed to do during the present summer as far as the revenues of the company will admit, consistent with other indispensable obligations.