

Capital by new routes, when such seem to be demanded by the general interests of the nation, it is not proper that such interests should be sacrificed, when no national object can be gained, and no great and useful purpose be subserved.

Indeed, your committee cannot but remark that the bill submitted to its consideration, is calculated rather to impose a new burden upon inter-state commerce, for while the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company is authorized to charge not exceeding five (5) cents per ton per mile on its branch road to Washington, the company which it is proposed to charter by this bill, is authorized to charge 8 cents per ton per mile. And while the fare from Baltimore to Washington is now one dollar and a half for the 40 miles of distance between the two cities, the new company is authorized by the bill to charge six (6) cents per mile for a distance, necessarily longer than 40 miles, owing to the circuitous route, which the new road must take in following the line marked out by the proposed bill.

In conclusion, your committee need only state that up to the present hour, it has been abundantly demonstrated that the existing railroad between Baltimore and Washington, with its double track, and large means of transportation, is able to supply all the needs of the Government and of the traveling community. This it has done in seasons of extraordinary pressure, when it was necessary to meet the greatest military exigencies. The means of communication, which have been thus ample in time of war, will prove more than sufficient on the return of peace. And your committee does not deem it expedient that the war should be made the pretext for making an unnecessary change in the railroad system, which this State has heretofore inaugurated.

Your committee feels that there is less necessity for pressing these views upon the House, because the House has already fully expressed its judgment upon the questions involved in this bill, and in kindred projects. When a bill, similar probably in purpose with that referred to your committee, was before the House of Representatives of the United States, the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland, expressed their views unanimously upon the subject. Your committee, entertaining a clear opinion as to the object of the present bill, while it disclaims all purpose to identify citizens of Maryland, who choose to favor the plan of the new road, with the designs which the bill is intended to effect, deems it necessary only to quote to this House its own resolution, unanimously adopted at the present session, as a sufficient reason for the rejection of this bill.

“Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland, That we do hereby, in the name of the State of