

MONDAY, March 6th, 1865.

The House met, and was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Davenport.

Present at the call of the roll the following members:

Messrs. Frazier, (Speaker,) Anderson, Angel, Bartell, Brown, Buhrman, Cairns, Cook, Cronise, Cummins, Dean, Eavey, Everhart, Fooks, Fawcett, Garrison, Handy, Hodson, Hoffman, Hynes, Jamison, Keefer, King, Kirk, Lee, of Queen Anne's, Lusby, Malone, Miller, of Washington, Mules, Nairne, Parker, Pennington, Pilkington, Poteet, Rider, Rinehart, Robinson, Shaw, Sherry, Showacre, Silver, Smith, of Allegany, Smith, of Dorchester, Smith, of Frederick, Soper, Stone, Tarr, Tull, Usilton, Wardwell, Watkins, Williams, Willis, Wilson, Ziegler—54.

The proceedings of Friday were read and approved.

The Speaker laid before the House the following in answer to an order of the House:

OFFICE OF THE BALTIMORE AND HARFORD

TURNPIKE COMPANY,

*Baltimore, March 3d, 1865.*

W. R. COLE,

Chief Clerk:

*Sir:*—In answer to your note of the 27th February, containing an order of the House of Delegates, I have to say in reply, that by the charter of this company, the Legislature authorized a rate of toll which was then supposed would enable the company to declare dividends of ten per cent. to the shareholders, reserving the right to reduce them if that rate of toll would make the dividends more than 10 per cent., and authorizing the company, if they did not suffice to give the shareholders 10 per cent. to raise the toll in their discretion, to such rates as would give the shareholders such dividends.

The rate has never been altered, and since January, 1861, the dividends have not amounted to an average of one per cent. a year; but during the past year, finding that the receipts of the road were not sufficient to meet the increasing prices for wages, for laborers, and for cost of lumber for bridges, and materials for the road, the gate keepers endeavored to collect a slight advance from travellers on the old rate, merely to keep the road up, and without any expectation of getting enough for any dividend, however small.