

Other turnpike companies with roads leading out of the city, found it necessary to do the same, and were advised by counsel that they had the right so to do, in which opinion the counsel of this company concurred.

The very high prices of produce obtained by farmers now, makes an increase of toll a mere trifle to them; and many of them, recognizing the honesty of the claim, and the importance of sustaining a useful public highway, pay it cheerfully whilst others refuse.

Legal proceedings are about to be instituted to try the right of the company to charge an increased rate sufficient to keep the road up. If the Courts decide that the company has no such right, and the present state of things continue, the road must in progress of time go down and be abandoned.

Very respectfully, yours,

JOHN S. GITTINGS,

*President.*

Which was read and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Also, the following:

BALTIMORE, March 4th, 1865.

*To the Honorable*

*The House of Delegates of Maryland:*

In compliance with a resolution passed by your Honorable Body at this session, "ordering the President and Directors of the Baltimore and Yorktown Turnpike Road Company to report forthwith to the House of Delegates, by what authority they have increased their tolls on said road," (which order was not received until Wednesday, March 1st, by the said President and Company.) Report, That owing to the high price of material and labor at this time, the Company found it would be impossible to keep said road in proper condition for traveling at the former rate of tolls, and therefore consulted their counsel, I. Nevitte Steele, Esq., as to their right to increase said tolls, who advised them that they had the right under the 29th section, of the Act of 1804, chapter 51, which gives this Company the right to increase tolls until they would yield dividends of 10 per cent., which right they have not exercised until now, when, for the causes above stated, they found it would be impossible to keep said road in proper order, much less to declare dividends, notwithstanding the increase of tolls. At no time since the road was finished, have they been able to declare a dividend of six per cent., and for the last twenty years and upwards have not averaged a dividend of more than one per cent. During several years