

dition of the principal so to be raised by loan; secondly to the execution of such other plans of improvement, as the legislature may hereafter sanction, and thirdly to constitute a fund to be distributed equitably for the support of free schools throughout the various counties of the state.

These great objects are thus presented to our consideration under new and most favourable circumstances. The legislature has often heretofore manifested a wish that the contemplated improvements should be executed, and it would seem, that substantial pecuniary aid has been withheld, solely on account of an actual or supposed inability to render it without a grievous increase of taxation. It is now made plain that the finances of the state are in a condition to enable it, without any augmentation of the public burthens, to foster these works to the amount recommended by the committee.

This great obstacle removed, and the question reduced to a single point, a confident hope is indulged, that in this enlightened body, the number will be small of those who will refuse to employ the surplus treasure of the state, in works so eminently calculated to advance her growth in population, the prosperity of her people engaged in the pursuits of commerce, manufactures and agriculture, and her political standing and character as a member of the union.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order,

Isaac Hines, Clk.

Also a bill, entitled, An act for the promotion of internal improvement. And a bill, entitled, An act to create a board of public works; which were read.

On motion by Mr. Barnes, the following order was read:

Ordered, That one thousand copies of the report of the committee on internal improvement, and the accompanying bills, be printed in octavo form, for the use of the legislature and executive.

On motion by Mr. Williams, the following was added:

Provided, That such number of copies shall be printed and ready for distribution on or before the 15th inst. The order was then adopted.

On motion by Mr. Millard, the following resolution was read:

Resolved, That the governor and council be and they are hereby authorised, to cause the public laws which may be passed during the present session of the legislature, to be published in two newspapers in the city of Annapolis, two in the city of Baltimore, two in Frederick county, one in Washington county, and two on the eastern shore, provided the cost of publication shall not exceed the sum of fifty dollars for each newspaper.

On motion by Mr. Dalrymple, the following message was read, assented to, and sent to the senate:

By the House of Delegates, Feb. 10, 1826.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

We propose, with your concurrence, to proceed this day at 12 o'clock to the election of a register of wills for Calvert county. Messrs. Jeremiah M. Baden, George Wilkinson, and Samuel S. Hodgkins, are put in nomination by us, and Messrs. Dalrymple and Stevens, are appointed on the part of this house, to join such gentlemen as may be named by your honourable body, to examine the ballots and report thereon.

By order,

J. Brewer, Clk.

On motion by Mr. Duvall, the following message was read, assented to, and sent to the senate:

By the House of Delegates, Feb. 10, 1826.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

We propose, with the concurrence of your honourable body, to close this session on the first of March next.

By order,

J. Brewer, Clk.

On motion by Mr. Teackle, the bill to authorise the excavation of a canal in Somerset county, was withdrawn for amendment.

Mr. Merrick reports said bill as amended, which was twice read by special order, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Gough delivers the following report: