

vast importance to the State of Maryland. The House is aware of the extent to which she has embarked in a general system of internal improvements, none of which, whilst unfinished, can produce the beneficial results anticipated from them. But the successful completion of any one of these works would, as the committee believe, infuse new vigor and energy in all the rest, and hasten the period when the State may be rescued from the depressed condition under which so many of her most important interests have so long languished. The road in question is one which may be said to have reached the very eve of completion, and will at once open a communication both with the western waters and the lakes of the north. But independently of these considerations, the State has a deep pecuniary interest staked in the success of the road. Besides the loan of \$1,000,000 made to the company, she is a stockholder to the amount of \$1,000,000; and it is therefore most unquestionably her policy to hasten the completion of the road, by every mode which other and more important considerations may not prohibit.

With these views the committee regret that the financial condition of the State, forbids their recommending a direct advance in either of her means, or credit even to the full extent which might be necessary to accomplish the desired object, unless the General Assembly should deem it advisable to appropriate to that purpose so much of the surplus revenue received from the United States, as would be sufficient—But if this be not done, although the State may not under existing circumstances, give any direct aid to the company, yet the committee trust that it is still in her power to adopt measures, which will as effectually produce the same desired result. Under the provisions of the act of 1834, chapter 241, not only is the whole line of road from Baltimore to York pledged to the State, as security for the loan of \$1,000,000, but the whole of the nett revenue arising from the road is to be paid over to the treasurer, until it shall have so accumulated as to form a sum which in his opinion is a sufficient sinking fund, to provide for the redemption of that loan, without the authority of the State therefore, the company cannot effect any loan, but if the State, will allow them to borrow upon the security of their works, the committee believe that they could do so—As it is of moment to the State, that the road should be completed, unless she is prepared herself to provide the means, the committee cannot hesitate in recommending that the lien which the State now holds, should be waived, so far