

the midst of harvest, in very inclement weather, and a line of nearly eleven miles of entrenchments was thrown up in the heart of the county, and filled with fences, trees from the forest, and new mown wheat, and in some cases of buildings torn down for the purpose.

Besides whole crops of standing wheat and corn were trodden under foot, large quantities of old corn, hay and oats were seized and paid for in Confederate trash, which is still a fair equivalent, compared to the meagre allowance, promised thus far, by the action of a majority of the Committee on Finance.

In short, sir, many of our most worthy and industrious citizens, as loyal as ever looked upon the old flag of our fathers; or ever marched to the inspiring tune of the Star Spangled Banner, throughout this terrible struggle of fire and of blood, are rendered almost as penniless, as when they first began the world, and vowed before God and man to cherish and support their wives and little ones; whom a kind Providence has committed to their care.

In view of this brief statement of facts, permit me to add that I am forced to the conclusion that we have not only the constitutional power to make the appropriation asked in the bill, but that it is the solemn duty of the State, to provide this loan at once, for the relief of her injured citizens, and that the Legislature cannot refuse this boon, without sacrificing the honor and plighted faith of the State, to say nothing of the solemn obligation taken by us all, to uphold and maintain the Constitution and Laws thereof.

Allow me further to add that we have already passed a Bounty Law appropriating four million dollars, not directly, but only indirectly for the defence of the State, and two years ago the Legislature appropriated fifty thousand dollars for the relief of families of volunteers, both of which acts were passed, and voted for, by some of the members of the committee, who now see constitutional objections to the bill before us.

And beside all this, the States of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Missouri are each of them making assessments of property destroyed by the armies, for the express purpose, of making appropriations, by their State Legislatures, to pay these claims.

Shall the Maryland Legislature fail to go and do likewise? And if so. Why? Let the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland respond to the question.