

Question. Did you introduce the bill that passed?

Answer. Yes, sir, I will state to the Committee the facts in the case: The members of the City Council have, in the City of Baltimore, and in the public papers, been charged with numerous things.

Mr. *Blakistone*. I hope the witness will be confined to his examination.

*The Witness*. I only claim the right to make an explanation, either now or after.

*The Chairman*. You can have that opportunity.

By Mr. *Blakistone*. Question. At whose instance did you introduce this bill?

Answer. At the instance of Mr. Thomas H. Gardiner.

Question. Is he the Clerk of the Criminal Court of Baltimore?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Question. Did you apply to Mr. Travers for the use of his name?

Answer. I did.

Question. Did you apply to any others of the grantees?

Answer. Yes, sir, to Mr. Browning and to Mr. Sumwalt.

Question. Did you apply to Mr. De Goe?y?

Answer. No, sir.

Question. Why did you apply to them for the use of their names?

Answer. I must give a long answer to that question to answer it.

Question. I wish to know how it was that you, a member of the City Council, called upon these gentlemen for the use of their names to go into this bill?

Answer. There had been a great number of bills before the Council, and I was met every evening by persons on behalf of one or the other of these bills. I paid but little attention to them, as they paid but little regard to, or had but little advantage for the citizens of Baltimore. Some of the men I had no personal regard for. Mr. Gardiner is a personal connection of mine. He spoke to me about a railroad bill, and said he had a notion to offer one himself, as everybody was offering them. I said, "Tom, why don't you do it? If it is the best one I will give it my support, if it suits my views in every way." He said he would get one up, and asked me if I had any friends to be put in the bill as corporators. I said—no, I did not know of any. The next day I happened to step into Mr. Browning's office, superintendent of the Telegraph Co., opposite the Sun Building, and Mr. Travers happened to be in there at the time. He was an old friend and acquaintance of mine from my boyhood up. Mr. Gardiner had said, there were Philadelphia capitalists who were desirous to invest their capital in any good bill that was passed. He told me they were here ready; that they were business men, interested in railroading every way, had plenty of capital, and he was satisfied if they were allowed to use their names in any road that passed the Council, it would be carried out in good faith, and there would be no humbugging about it. I said that was precisely what we wanted; and if we could be assured by these parties that they would do this thing right, that was all I wanted. I was under the impression then, and I supposed he thought, that Philadelphia capital would back up any bill that would pass the Council.