

Mr. Bradley, from a select committee, reported the following bill :

A bill entitled, An act to add the following section to Article 17 of the Code of Public General Laws, relating to widening and straightening the public road from Beaver Dams, via Slider Sparks' shops, to the public road from Church Hill to Ruthsburg, near Patrick's Branch ;

Which was read the first time.

On motion of Mr. Kimmel,

Ordered, That the Senate meet every night, at 7½ o'clock, for the purpose of acting on local bills.

Mr. Goldsborough, of Dorchester, submitted the following

MINORITY REPORT.

The undersigned, members of the Committee on Judicial Proceedings, to which the bill passed by the House of Delegates to authorize proceedings in the Courts to ascertain whether the President, Managers and Company of the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike have not incurred a forfeiture of their charter, having dissented from the decision of a majority of the committee, beg leave to present a minority report.

The testimony before the committee established beyond all doubt, in the opinion of the undersigned, that the company has failed, for many years past, to keep the road in good order and repair, whilst they have continued to exact the same tolls as when it was in its best condition, and it was made equally manifest that the revenues of the company, which are less than \$3,000 per annum, are wholly insufficient to pay the salaries of its officers and keep the road in repair.

The company contended that there is a sufficient remedy furnished by the 26th section, which provides for a proceeding before a justice of the peace, and a fine upon the Superintendent of the road in the first instance, and upon the President and Managers, in case of continued neglect ; but the undersigned are of opinion that the long continued neglect of the company to keep the road in repair, and the admission made before them by its representatives, that this remedy has often been resorted to, are, of themselves, proof that it is inadequate, *in practice*, to compel the company to put and maintain the road in the order required by the charter, or in a condition with which the public ought to be satisfied.

The proposed bill does not, of course, vacate the charter of the company, but simply authorizes a proceeding, in the na-