

On the 13th of January, 1836, the reports and estimates presented by the Resident Engineers on the survey from the Cacapon to Cumberland, and the proposals received for the execution of the work, were referred by the President and Directors to a committee of the board, and on the 16th January, the committee made the following report:

The committee appointed to examine the estimates of the Engineers on the cost of the canal from the Cacapon to Cumberland, and the proposals made by contractors for the execution of that work, report:

That these estimates exceed, very far, all calculations heretofore made by this company for the cost of the work. This, it is believed, is owing, in part, to the superior manner in which the specifications now adopted for the work require it to be done; and owing to the high price of provisions at this time, and of the scarcity of hands in consequence of the vast extent of internal improvements in progress, the proposals received from contractors have been unusually high.

Under these circumstances; and having reference to the means now in the hands of the company, your committee recommend that a contract be made at this time for sections Nos. 333 and 334, in the vicinity of Old Town, which are represented to be of heavy work, and requiring much time for execution, and for locks Nos. 54 and 55, required on the Cacapon level; and that the further letting of the line above the Cacapon be postponed for the present; and that the proposals received be carefully preserved, so as to be considered whenever it may be deemed proper to proceed in the letting.

Your committee further recommend, that a plan and specifications be adopted for the tunnel at the Devil's Eye-brow; and that proposals be received, and if a reasonable offer shall be made, that a contract be entered into for its construction: as it is understood that about two years will be required to construct it; and by an immediate commencement of this work the time of completing the canal to Cumberland may thereby be hastened.

Your committee have also considered the letter from engineer Fisk, relative to the work between dam No. 5 and the Cacapon, (not now under contract,) and recom-