

should be forever prohibited from receiving back, in the shape of similar works, to be made for its convenience and benefit, some remuneration for its large outlays. He hoped his amendment would be adopted.

Mr. BLAKISTONE said, he should vote against the proposition of the gentleman from Somerset. (Mr. Crisfield,) and he, (Mr. B.,) would briefly assign his reasons for so doing. Ever since the first appropriation had been made for works of internal improvement, the promise had been held out to the people, that when those works should have been completed, they would confer immense benefits upon the whole people—that every portion of the State was to be ornamented with school houses—and that there would be money enough to defray the expenses of the government, and all local expenses, without the necessity of sending the tax-gatherer round to collect the taxes. If the proposition of the gentleman from Somerset should be defeated, it was his, (Mr. B.'s,) intention to offer an amendment to carry out in good faith this expectation. So far as his section of the State was concerned, there was no need for internal improvements. They were blessed with canals, natural canals, rivers and streams sufficient for all their purposes. They had a direct communication with Baltimore—they had a direct communication with the District. They wanted no roads and canals, and the only benefit, if any, which they were to receive from the works now constructed, would be from the revenues they would yield after the public debt should have been paid.

According to the proposition of the gentleman from Somerset, (Mr. Crisfield,) the whole of these revenues, contrary to the pledge of the State, might be diverted by the Legislature to purposes which might be in conflict with the interests of certain portions of the people. His, (Mr. B.'s,) plan was, that after the debt was paid, the stock of these internal improvement companies, so far as pledged at the time of the appropriation, should be given to the counties in proportion to the sums they might have paid into the State treasury for the redemption of the State debt.

His second proposition was, that after the State debt should have been paid off, or if the sinking fund should be sufficient to meet the debt as it became redeemable, it should be the duty of the Legislature to appropriate the surplus revenues among the several counties and the city of Baltimore equally, having a just regard to the amount paid into the treasury by each, and taking into consideration the advantages and disadvantages resulting to each from the works of internal improvement, after deducting so much as might be required to meet the current expenses of the State and to provide for any sudden exigency that might arise. This, he thought, would carry out the good faith of the State to the people in every portion of it.

If a provision should be engrafted on the organic law, giving power to the Legislature to appropriate to purposes of internal improvement, in any section of the State, a fund which had been pledged for the specific use of the people

of Maryland, it would produce feelings of dissatisfaction and discontent, not to be quelled by the eloquence of gentlemen here, or by their high-sounding appeals to the patriotism of the people beyond these walls. Their confidence in those to whom they had entrusted their interests and their destinies, would be irrecoverably lost. And if it were not for the intense vigilance and jealousy with which the people, guarded the honor of the State, and for the love which, as her own children, they bore her, they would almost feel justified in declaring that they would not pay at all. But he would not go so far as to say that they would do *that*. For however badly this Convention might behave, he did not believe that the people could be induced to follow their example. [Laughter.]

Mr. B. then read his amendment, (which will be found in a later portion of the day's proceedings.)

Mr. CRISFIELD. The gentleman from St. Mary's, (Mr. Blakistone,) complains that the adoption of my proposition would be a violation of the public faith—that the proceeds to be derived from these public works are pledged for purposes of education. Will the gentleman tell me what portion of these revenues are pledged, and whether he, himself, in the amendment he indicates, does not propose to establish a new rule of distribution which sets at naught the very pledge to which, I suppose, he has reference?

Mr. BLAKISTONE. I allude to the tax law of 1840. The last section of that act is in the following words:

Chapter 23, Session 1840 and 41.

Section 64. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the treasurer of the Western and Eastern Shores respectively, to keep an accurate account of the moneys that are paid into the treasury by the city of Baltimore, Howard district, and the several counties in this State, under the provisions of this bill; and the said city, district and counties respectively, be authorised, through their corporate authorities, levy courts or commissioners respectively, to commute the sums of money so paid by them into the treasury, into so much of the State's stock in the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, as may equal the amounts respectively paid by them, whenever the said canal company shall be able to pay six per cent. upon the said stock, and the treasurer of the Western Shore is hereby directed to cause the necessary transfers of stock to be made to the said city, district, or counties respectively, and they shall be considered stockholders in said canal company, and thereafter be entitled to receive the dividends that may accrue on the amounts of stock so held by them respectively.

Now, (remarked Mr. B.,) I want to carry this law fully out, and not to authorise the Legislature to divert these funds to any purpose whatsoever.

The question was stated to be on the substitute of Mr. CRISFIELD.

Mr. DORSEY said, he was in favor of striking out the amendment of the gentleman from Harford, (Mr. McHenry,) as now amended, because, however much he, (Mr. D.,) might have been