

vernor Philip Francis Thomas again called their attention to the subject, and renewed, in a modified form, "the suggestions heretofore made by his immediate predecessor," Governor Pratt, and then recommended the "creation of a Board of Public Works, composed of two persons, one of whom to be taken from the Eastern and the other from the Western Shore," in which he says:

"This board should be authorized to act in the place and stead of the agents and directors, now appointed, with full and ample power to represent, control, manage and direct the interest of the State, etc., etc."

But, (Mr. J. said,) he would read that part of the message to which he desired to call the attention of the Convention, as being especially applicable to the question now under consideration. It would be found in the message of Governor Thomas, December session, 1849, page 23 and 24 of that message, as follows:

"When the great and important ends to be accomplished by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, are adverted to, when it is considered that by its agency, the boundless mineral resources of western Maryland are to be developed and brought to a market, that its revenues, an immense debt of seven millions of dollars, contracted for its construction, and now weighing heavily upon the property of the people, ought to be cancelled; that an annually accruing interest of \$371,625, is to be met; that \$3,645,943 75 of arrears of interest are to be paid, and that, before a dollar can be applied to these objects \$127,500 of its yearly profits, are first to be appropriated to the payment of the principal and interest of preferred debts, can it be doubted that a system of the most comprehensive powers, executed by agents of sagacious intellect, enlarged experience and persevering energy, with a constant devotion of time and labor, are indispensable to the attainment of such results. After mature reflection, I have considered it proper to renew, in a modified form, a suggestion heretofore made on this subject by my immediate predecessor, and I now recommend the creation of a board of public works composed of two persons, one of whom to be taken from the Eastern, and the other from the Western Shore, to be elected by a direct vote of the people at the time and places of electing a Governor, and to continue in office for the term of three years. This board, should be authorized to act in the place and stead of the agents and directors now appointed, with full and ample powers to represent, control, manage and direct the interests of the State, whether as stockholder or creditor, or both, in all joint stock companies incorporated for purposes of internal improvement, with an annual salary to its members, sufficient to enable them to devote their undivided time and attention to the duties of their office.

"The control of the State over this and other works of internal improvement, has been heretofore exercised, through a board of agents, and by directors appointed by the two houses of the

legislature. By the act of 1832, chapter 319, the Governor with the consent of the council was required to appoint three agents to represent the State at the meetings of the stockholders of all joint stock companies "incorporated to make roads and canals, and to vote according to the interests of the State in all the proceedings of said company or companies," the act also providing that their compensation should be the same "as is allowed to members of the General Assembly, including itinerant charges, during the time necessarily occupied in the discharge of their duties." By chapter 155 of 1840, the number of the agents was enlarged to five, the mode of appointment changed, and the additional duty assigned them to "keep a correct journal of the proceedings of said stockholders in general meetings assembled, and report the same to the legislature, with such remarks therein as may seem to them expedient;" and by a subsequent law, their compensation was reduced to one hundred dollars, each, per annum. The directors on the part of the State are without emolument, their duties being the same, as those performed by private directors, in similar corporations. The nature and extent of the duties assigned by law to the State agents, and the limited salary allowed them, insufficient as it is to pay the ordinary itinerant charges attendant upon the exercise of the trust reposed in them, are considerations ample of themselves, in the absence of the overwhelming proof afforded by past experience, to show that the existing system of control, is inherently defective, and that the time has arrived, when a change of that system is imperatively demanded."

After referring to these extracts, which Mr. J. considered a sufficient answer to all the sacrifices which had been made, and which were entitled to the highest consideration, he did not intend at this time to occupy further the attention of the Convention.

Governor Thomas recommended a board of public works of "two," Governor Pratt of "one or more." The report which Mr. J. had submitted, recommended three, one from the Eastern, and two from the Western Shore. The vast amount of interest which the city of Baltimore has in all the works of internal improvement in the State, Mr. J. said, he thought entitled her to at least one of the members of the board, then one from the western, and one from the Eastern Shore; all interests in the State would be represented; this might be accomplished by the report of the committee which recommended the appointment of three.

The gentleman from Frederick [Mr. Thomas] had proposed a substitute, by providing for four members of the board of public works. Mr. J. thought the manner in which the State was proposed to be districted, from which the members of the board were to be selected, was perhaps the best plan, and under present impressions he felt disposed to support it. He was the more induced to adopt this course, because of the great experience the gentleman had on all