

contracts for that part of the route some enter into without money or the certainty of raising it, the contracts - message
-tors, need not have been concerned on that account, if they were willing to receive city stock or state road
certificates; and even if these failed there was still a sufficient security in the state bonds, which were
likely to be sacrificed for this purpose. When I said there was no certainty of raising money, I meant
that there was no certainty of raising it without a sacrifice; and that was precisely the result
to which I was apprehensive, the operations of the company, would lead. It was not my in-
-tention to injure the credit of the company, or to inflict a wound upon its pride; much less did
I desire to depreciate its favour by substituting flattery, to which it had long been accus-
-tomed, for the language of truth. My object was to give a true description of public affairs
to show how the public credit had been paralled out among the internal improvement companies,
and that an immense debt had been gathering round the people like a cloud and was ready to
burst upon their heads. I had never voted for a loan or subscription to any of these works and
had no agency in creating the public debt; but so far as the state had entered into negotiations
with companies or individuals, my enquiry has always been not for what purposes they were
contracted, but how they are to be honourably fulfilled. Upon this principle I voted for a system
of taxation as a member of the Legislature and recommended it at the present session; and this
part of my message has also been made the subject of comment by the Railroad Company.

I will be quite from the report on Exposition, certain passages, that relate to this recommendation,
in connexion with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company

From the report "To carry it (the
canal) to Cumberland, the same authority" (the message) "informs us, will require an additional
contribution of three millions."

"He only submits to that alternative," (that is the addi-
-tional contribution of three millions, and the prostration of the credit of the state) "in case the Gen-
-eral Government shall embrace the proposition to surrender its interest in the Canal to the State
upon condition of the State's completing it to Cumberland. In that event he declares his opinion
that, that the measure must be made though at so perilous a risk."

From the message "But the com-
-pletion of the Canal and the engagements of the company will probably require three millions of dollars
in addition to the sums already advanced; and on the present condition of the Treasury, it is a subject of
-serious consideration, whether so large an addition could be made to the public debt, without unduly
-prostrating the credit of the state. It was made the duty of the Executive, by an act of the last ses-
-sion, to propose on the part of the state, to finish the Canal to Cumberland, on condition of receiving
-a transfer of the stock, held by the General Government in the Canal company; and that pro-
-position has been communicated to the President of the United States. If agreed to by Con-
-gress, it will be the province of the Legislature to provide means for carrying it into effect."

I merely informed the Legislature that my duty, under the cir-
-cumstances, had been discharged, and that if means were to be provided, for carrying the proposal into ef-
-fect, it would be their province to do it and not mine. The exposition accounts to me the impropriety
of telling the Legislature that the measure of the public debt must be made.