

Annual Message

loans and subscriptions to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, amounting to more than seven millions of dollars, have been the principal causes of the heavy embarrassments in which the State is now involved: and until that work is completed to Cumberland, the interest on the whole investments will continue to be a charge on the Treasury. While it is therefore of the utmost importance to finish the canal, it is evident we have not the means of providing funds for that purpose. It would be unavailing to attempt to borrow money, at present, on the credit of the State, or to force out a new issue of bonds, when those which have already been offered for sale, are rejected in every market.

Reports have been received from the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, the Baltimore and Annapolis Rail Road Company, and the Annapolis and Elkridge Rail Road Company; also from the Directors of the Penitentiary, the Commissioners of Lotteries, and the Topographical Engineer: all of which will be submitted in the course of the present week.

The law which provides for placing indigent deaf and dumb children at the Pennsylvania Institution, makes it the duty of the Executive to report to the Legislature the number of pupils sent from this State and the amount expended in their education. That provision of the law escaped my attention till it was too late to comply with it at the last session. A statement is now given which embraces the whole period from the passage of the law to the present time.

The whole number of pupils have been forty four: of these thirty two have been discharged leaving twelve at the institution who have not gone through their regular courses. The amount of money expended in their support and education from the year 1829 to the first of the present month is twenty eight thousand and ninety three dollars.

Eight pupils have been sent to the institution for instructing the blind, and the amount expended for their support from the first of December 1839 to the present time, is two thousand nine hundred and seventy four dollars. None of these pupils have been discharged.

By a resolution of the last session, the Executive was required to purchase the title of John J. Meyer to a lot on which the State Tobacco Warehouses No. 2 and 3 are erected. Mr Meyer was prevented from acceding to the terms proposed in the resolution by the refusal of his wife to relinquish her rights of dower. Since his death which recently occurred, it has been ascertained that his representatives are unwilling to part with their title.

At December session 1835 a resolution was passed directing the Governor to procure a sword and present it in the name of the State to Captain John A. Webster for his gallant defence of the battery committed to his charge during the attack upon the city of Baltimore in September 1814.

My attention was called to this resolution last winter, and I was then under the impression that it might be carried into effect without any further action of the Legislature. But when I came to consider that the