

The law passed at Lancaster September 1842 for the sale of the State
interest in the several internal improvement Companies remains a dead letter upon the
Statute book. An offer has been made which the Treasurer felt justified in accepting
in the execution of this law but evidence is done to a proceeding to some extent
of the State, that there was probably no reference at the time to previous legislation
on the same subject. By the 5th section of the act of March Session 1841 Chap.
23, a debt certificate provided was made to keep at the Treasury an accurate account
of the income paid by the city of Baltimore Howard District and the several
counties, and to transfer to them respectively, an equal part amount of the
stock of the State in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, whenever that
Company is prepared to make a dividend of six percent to its stockholders.
The prudence and propriety of such an engagement may well be doubted; but the
sacred obligation of the State to fulfil it, ought not to be questioned. Even in the absence
of such an insuperable obstacle to the sale of one of the public works the time
has not arrived when such a purpose could be consummated without sacrifices
too serious to be encountered.

The last report of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad
Company, which will be communicated, shows a gradual augmentation of their
trade and transportation. During the last year there has been an increase in the number of
passengers transported of 4,762 and in the quantity of produce and merchandise of 58,65,
35 pounds. The amount of trade passing over the road during the year has been greater
than in any former period and exceeds by forty five percent, that of the year immediately
preceding. The steady increase of the trade on the road between Baltimore and Pottsville
may be traced from the fact that the whole amount of transportation in 1839 was four
thousand one hundred and five tons and nine pounds, and during the last year it
increased to the amount of eight thousand six hundred and fifteen tons and three
pounds. The amount paid to the Treasury during the past year by the Company was
\$20,000. This gradual augmentation of the means of the company, and of the amount
of its annual contribution to the Treasury, encourages the hope that the day is
not far distant when its contract with the State will be faithfully complied with
and administered against a serious sacrifice of the State's interest in its stock.

The relations of the State to the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal
Company are not those of a stockholder. Governed by a laudable desire to encourage
the enterprise of our Commercial enterprise, the State loaned to that company its
bonds to the amount of one million of dollars. The annual interest thereon being
at the rate of five percent, and payable in London amounts to \$50,000. This Company
during the past year has paid into the Treasury only ten thousand dollars and
should indebted in the sum of two hundred and two thousand dollars for interest
in arrears. There is reason to believe that the annual receipts at the Treasury
from this company are far short of its means of payment. The last annual report
of the company is not before me. By their report of the year 1843 it appears that their
receipts for that year were \$65,585.38 and that their entire expenditures for salaries