

legislation can be adopted by you to make the Chesapeake and  
Ohio Canal yield a revenue equal to the interest on the States  
investment. If you should concur with me in opinion, that  
the true interest of the State would require the completion of the  
Canal to a more western terminus than Dam No. 6, it is manifes-  
tly expedient that you should without further delay adopt such  
measures as will ensure the immediate accomplishment of that  
object. If, on the other hand, you should deem it more expe-  
dient to stop the work for the present, at its present terminus, it is  
clearly important that you should embrace the earliest oppor-  
tunity of making such an arrangement with the Baltimore  
and Ohio Rail Road Company as will secure to the Canal  
the transportation from Dam No. 6 of so much coal or other freight  
as will be adequate to pay the interest on the States advances to  
the Canal Company. In making this suggestion on the prob-  
able expediency of an arrangement with the Rail Road Comp-  
any, I am prompted by the difficulties which might at this time  
be encountered in raising the requisite sums to complete the  
Canal. If it be possible for you, by the credit of the Canal  
Company, to raise the amount necessary to finish the Canal, I  
would not hesitate to advise its completion without further  
delay; but if you should find it impossible to raise the  
required amount at this time, and you should think that  
the true interest of the State would be promoted by such  
an arrangement with the Rail Road Company, it should  
continue only until the restored credit of the State will ma-  
ke it practicable to complete the Canal. It is understood  
that large sums received by the Baltimore and Annapolis  
and Susquehanna Water Canal Company, and the Susquehanna and Tide  
Water Canal Company, which rightfully belonged to the State,  
have been applied by those Companies to meet other than their  
engagements with the State. These difficulties can only be  
corrected by a more efficient organization of the supervisory  
power on the part of the State over these corporations.

The present State agents are deservedly esteemed for their  
general worth and intelligence, but as they receive no remun-  
eration for the time devoted to the public service, they are  
expected to exercise a general superintendence only, which  
is wholly inadequate to the protection of the vast interest which  
are in their charge. The State could not fail, in my  
judgment, to derive important advantages by the appoint-  
ment of a board of public works, to consist of not more than  
three persons, who should receive liberal compensation  
for their services out of the moneys to be derived from those  
works, and who should be clothed with full power to  
superintend and protect the interest of the State therein.

The establishment of such a board would induce the