

1864

By the rebel army, it has paid into the treasury during the last fiscal year two dividends of three per cent each on the stock in the main stem of the road and two other dividends of four and a half per cent each on the stock in the Washington branch and on account of capitation tax on passengers over that branch it has paid the sum of \$207,540.57 making its aggregate of payments into the Treasury for that year \$314,512.57 and conclusively showing that besides the incalculable benefits which the trade and commerce of our State derive from its operations and its essential importance to the Government as one of the most important auxiliaries in military movements that the State must always be considered merely in a pecuniary point of view is one of its most remunerative investments.

The Bonds of the State to the amount of one million of dollars issued on account of the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal Companies will become due and payable at the pleasure of the State on the 1st of January 1865 and the obligations of these companies to pay the State the amount of these Bonds with interest and exchange become due on the 1st of January instant.

By an adjustment made between the Comptroller of the Treasury and the representatives of these companies on the 1st of January 1862 under the act of 1860 chapter 372 there appears to be a balance of interest and exchange due from said companies as of 1st of January 1860 of \$183,701.74 since then payments have been made by said companies increasing each year in amount and in the last year amounting to \$90,000 the aggregate however for the last four years probably not much exceeding the current interest and exchange and in that case not reducing the amount due at the time of said statement of accounts. The principal having now become due, I deem it proper to call the subject to your attention.

The Comptroller in his report to me in 1862 refers to the situation of the Maryland and Delaware Rail Road and to representations in reference to it rendering it difficult for him to determine the propriety of further payments by him on its account.

It is also said that this Company has executed to some of its individual creditors a mortgage under which they claim priority to the mortgage given to secure the State's interest on the amount of its subscription and which would seem to be inconsistent with the terms and spirit of the act by which that subscription was authorized. I therefore submit these subjects to your consideration for such action or investigation as you may think they require.

I would also commend to your attention the facts cited in the Comptroller's report for 1863 in reference to the affairs of the ... and Elk Ridge Rail Road Company and the relations between it and