

year and to settle at that time only.

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Lorain Spencer Esq.

Very Respectfully
Yours S^t Serv^t
Cornelius McLean
Secretary of State

Hagerstown Aug. 28th 1839.

S^t Sir,

Your favor of the 26th Instant has been received, and I have examined the law of 1832 - ch 310 -

I find that the first section authorized the appointment of three persons to represent the State at the meetings of the stockholders of joint stock companies, and to vote therein according to the interests of the State - I had succeeded in finding the law, before I last wrote to Annapolis; and I supposed meetings of the stockholders, to be specified, because it was only in them that the representation could take place, in such a way as to make the act of the representation bind the principle (the State) -

The second section provides for compensation during the time "necessarily occupied in the discharge of their duties" - If it be the duty of an agent to obtain such information, and do such acts, as are required to enable him faithfully to execute his agency, then it appears to me, that the 2^d section is broad enough to allow compensation for the time occupied in that duty as well as any other - I am sure the Gov^t and myself will not disagree with regard to the principle, that it is the duty of the agent to know something of the business he is engaged in - I say it of course, with great deference and respect for the opinion of his Excellency, that I cannot understand how the law can be so construed as to allow compensation for the time occupied in going to & from the meetings, and exclude it with respect to time occupied in any other thing, properly connected with the business -

It is not however a matter of any great consequence - I had been informed by my colleagues and others, that my construction was the one, which had been acted upon by the Government - At least I had understood them so though they did not speak positively - At the best I presume, that any professional, or other business man, who leaves remote parts of the places of meeting, and who attends to the duties, must make pecuniary sacrifices - The Gov^t has no doubt given such