

By the estimates so made, and by the allowance made to Mr. Duvall by the Engineer, which appeared to be both fair and liberal, it appeared that deducting from the aggregate sum, the monies paid him, the amount of the corporate note, and the instalments on his 200 shares of stock thus due and called for, inclusive of the fifth instalment, that Mr. Duvall had been *overpaid* to a small amount.

The sphere of operations embraced by Mr. Duvall, with the exception of a small portion of the road in Somerset County, embraced the first twelve miles on the northern end of the road lying between Elkton and the head of Bohemia river. A good deal of grading has been done in detached places over this distance, and much of the line of the road is yet unsecured by fences. Money to complete these fences and to pay for the right of way over this distance, now promptly and greatly required to secure the contiguous landholders from damage or loss.

In Somerset County, beginning with the southern end of the road, there are several citizen contractors who started with their work soon after Mr. Duvall commenced with his, and with whom the Board have got along without any difficulty whatever, except inability to pay them monthly as their estimates became due. To their credit they have persevered through evil, and through good report, until they have some of them finished their contracts; resolving to wait with the Board until the State instalments long since due could be received. By their experiment it has been found, that although inexperienced in the art of working to the best advantage, the graduation of the bed of the road can be done at a fair profit, when paid for at the rates originally estimated by Col. Kearney.

There are in Somerset County about four miles completely finished in its grading, and there are about seven miles partially or very nearly finished. The work is beautifully and admirably well done—running through a low and almost a perfectly level country, in almost a straight line, is beautiful to look at, and the filling being supplied from a neat, deep and continuous ditch on one side of the road, which lays dry the contiguous low and swampy lands, has effect upon the salubrity of the atmosphere, and the reclamation of a fertile but swampy soil—equivalent in value, perhaps, to the people of the county, to the whole cost of the graduation of the same. The experiments thus made in Somerset County, demonstrate beyond question the advantage of having citizen contractors on the whole line of the road. Men who will not seize upon a temporary difficulty or inability to comply with the strict letter of the contract, and use this as a reason for suspending their work, and a ground for claiming heavy damages,—men who have a permanent interest in the soil and its prosperity, and who from this patriotic feeling, are willing to invest permanently in the Stock of the road all they