

and the incumbents were re-chosen, Robert W. Bowie and George C. Washington dissenting. Thomas W. Veazy, then a member of the Executive Council, and recently the Governor of Maryland, had advised my being re-appointed; and I was told soon afterwards, by himself and others, that a member of the Senate of Maryland, W. T. Wootton, had seen fit to speak to him of that proceeding, in language which had provoked an indignant reply, and a stern vindication of that advice.

At that time an application from the canal company was depending before the Congress of the United States, and another before the General Assembly of Maryland, praying for a grant of pecuniary aid—see its memorial, house journal, folio 48, and Maryland public documents, 1833; and the result of their application was very doubtful, in each case. An elaborate report was, however, presented from the committee of internal improvements, by Thomas Snowden, to the House of Delegates in said assembly on the 25th day of February, 1834, accompanied by a letter from John H. Eaton, president of said company—and a bill proposing to make a positive subscription of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars to its capital stock; and a further equal subscription, contingent upon the grant of additional aid, to the extent of one million of dollars, being given by the government of the United States; which bill being considered and amended, was then passed, and is chapter 239 of 1833. See house journal, 1833, folio 48, 495, 513—also, Maryland public documents, and laws of that year.

On the 11th of March, 1834, when this bill was under consideration, Mr. Pratt proposed to authorise an additional subscription by the Treasurer of the State, of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, to the capital stock of the canal company, contingent upon further subscriptions to the extent of at least two millions of dollars, including the subscription authorised by said bill, one million thereof to be subscribed by the general government, see house journal, 1833, folio 497. But as it was feared that this proposition might defeat the whole bill, and so prevent the immediate grant of any aid by the State, Mr. Pratt withdrew it, by the leave of the house. The company desired to obtain immediate aid, to the extent of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, as a less sum would not satisfy its most pressing wants. On the 12th March, 1834, Mr. Blakistone proposed to aid the company, by guarantying its bonds for one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, subscribing to its stock other one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, and agreeing to convert the sum guaranteed into capital stock, so soon as the government of the United States should subscribe one million of dollars. This proposition was lost, and when the question recurring, on the bill, which offered less present aid, was taken, he and William D. Merrick voted against the bill, in the hope that Mr. Blakistone's proposition might still prevail; but the bill was carried, see house journal, 1833, folio 510 to 512.