

a proceeding would be unpleasant, to me, and to them, and would lead to endless controversies. I will state the facts in the case and the principles upon which I have acted, without reserve, and apprehend, that, in so doing a satisfactory response, to the enquiry of the house, will be given. There were, when a change was made by the stockholders in the direction in June 1840, in the employment of the Canal company, 118 officers, whose annual compensation amounted to \$70,635,75. There are, now, in the employment of the company 61 officers, at an annual compensation of \$36,500,00. From these facts, it will be perceived, that, 57 offices have been abolished. The survey to ascertain the practicability of crossing the Alleghenies, with the canal, west of Cumberland, was arrested, and those engaged in it were discharged; from a belief that the stockholders of the company, had not and would not speedily have, the means to construct a canal beyond the eastern base of the mountains. Of the officers engaged on construction, between Dam No. 6 and Cumberland, 47 have been discharged. If an appropriation had been made, at the last session of the Legislature, the services of many of these officers, in my opinion, could have been dispensed with. In the absence of such an appropriation, much of the work in progress was abandoned, and as several contracts were completed from time to time, the directors considered it to be their duty, to diminish the number of officers under pay. In doing this, they were obliged to perform an unpleasant duty, in selecting those who were to be continued in service. In discharge of that delicate duty, the undersigned, feels entirely confident that the board have done exact justice to all concerned, and have consulted, especially, the best interests of the State as a stockholder. On the line of unfinished canal, no person was removed from office to create a vacancy, except in the case of Mr. Bryan, who declined to give the bond which the regulations of the board makes indispensable. On that part of the canal which is finished, a change has been made, by removal, in four lock-keepers, against three of whom misconduct was alledged and believed to exist.

As they are not personally known to me I have judged of them from representations of others, in whom I placed confidence. The other lock-keeper was removed because he held, and now holds, the office of superintendant, the duties of the