

dress. And if a single breach in the canal, interrupting the navigation, happened, the whole trade would be arrested and the entire amount of scrip must have become absolutely worthless.— Speaking of such a possible state of things, I expressed the belief, that with the consent of the holders of the scrip, arrangements could be made to pay the interest on the whole of it, until Maryland hereafter, or some other stockholder in the canal company, would agree to make arrangements for its redemption. For that purpose, if no better plan could be suggested, parties could be invited to send the scrip in the bonds of the canal company made payable twelve months after date, money and nothing but money might be received for toll, and by reducing the salaries of officers, and collecting the amount due from stockholders, a sum sufficient could be raised, to pay the interest punctually on the canal bonds, in which the scrip was to be funded, to keep the canal in repair and discharge the judgments on which the holders are threatening to issue execution.

This in substance was said by me in presence of the commissioners at Frederick. It differs essentially from the representation given of my remarks, by the report made to the House, and on that account I have to ask as an act of justice, that this letter may be published in company with the report.

As to the reasons assigned, for not laying before the meeting at Frederick a written report, I do not think proper to say much. It will suffice to say that in that matter too, injustice is done to me in omitting the most important and giving the least influential of the reasons assigned by me for that omission. I stated to the meeting that my communications to the Legislature, together with the reports of the Chief Engineer, copies of which I laid before them, contained all the information I considered essential, to enable them to perform the duties which it was understood they had assembled to discharge. And when called upon to draw out in writing my proposition as to the course which might be taken, to keep open the navigation on the Canal, to give something like stability to the scrip and save the company from absolute bankruptcy, in the event of another adjournment of the Legislature, without making an available appropriation, I declined to do so, saying that I was, and had been for several days, too much indisposed to undertake the task with pleasure.

I am, respectfully yours, &c.

FRANCIS THOMAS.