

## ANSWERS OF MR. FISK.

*Interrogatory.* State whether or not you have as engineer to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, submitted to the Legislature, statements as to the time, when the canal would be completed, and the amount required for that completion, which have not been confirmed by time and experience? If yea, at what time were they made and what were the estimates they contained?

*Answer.* I would respectfully refer the committee for very full and detailed information upon the subjects referred to in this interrogatory, to Maryland Public Document, viz: of Dec. session 1835, to answers of C. B. Fisk to interrogatories propounded by the joint committee of enquiry into the expenditures of the State for Internal Improvements; of December session, 1837, to a letter of C. B. Fisk, dated Feb. 5th, 1838, to the President of the company, and which was laid before the committee of which Mr. Alexander was Chairman; of Dec. session 1838, to a letter of C. B. Fisk dated January 22nd, 1839, and appended to the President's communication to Gov. Grason; of Dec. session 1839, to a letter of C. B. Fisk dated Feb. 27th, 1840, to the chairman of the committee on Internal Improvement of the House of Delegates.

The documents referred to show fully the reasons that in my opinion have caused the canal to cost beyond the original estimates.

The first estimate, a large part but not the whole of which, was prepared under my direction, and upon which was based Legislative action, was that of January 1836. It was the estimate under which was made the "three million appropriation" to the canal, as it is usually called. The subsequent estimates to that one have been all prepared under my direction. The one of December 1838, confirmed by that of 1839, is in fact the estimate now before the Legislature. This estimate as will be seen by the Documents, to which reference is made is larger than the one first mentioned. The reasons therefore, which these documents give in full, are in brief.

1st. The great rise in the cost of labor and provisions almost immediately subsequent to the making out of the earlier estimate.