

pointment, viz: Mr. Bryan's, is attributed to his declining to give bonds.

I have already stated to the committee, that the President soon after Mr. Bryan's removal, represented to me that the appointment from the first had been regarded as a temporary one. I now further state, that Mr. Bryan soon after it was held, related to me a conversation between the President and himself, which was in substance on the part of Mr. Bryan, that he had only partially arranged for his bond, and asking whether he should go on to complete his arrangements before the payment of another estimate. The reply of the President, as I understood from Mr. Bryan, was—Mr. Bryan you need not trouble yourself further about your bond, as your appointment is merely a temporary one. This conversation between the President and Mr. Bryan, as narrated to me shortly after its occurrence by the latter, is the more distinctly in my recollection, as it was substantially confirmed by the subsequent conversation between the President and myself, which has been given to the committee.

The President says: "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 two being considered incompatible."

Shortly subsequent to the removal of the lock-keeper referred to by the President, because he was a superintendant, the Board appointed a lock-keeper to be superintendant, which individual now holds the two offices. The superintendant removed was a competent and faithful officer, and was not a lock-keeper. If in any case the duties of the two offices are incompatible, they are so in that last referred to—as the lock-keeper has the use of the water at his lock for a saw mill as a compensation for his services. It requires great care where the feeding water around a lock is thus used to prevent its interference with the navigation, by causing irregularity in the height of the levels. The individual referred to is not superintendent of the division upon which his lock is, which by no means lessens the incompatibility of the duties. This removal and