

ber. And now, the Senate is so constituted that the members in that body, representing less than one-third of our population, can prevent the passage, or repeal of laws, against the sense of the other members of that body, representing the other two-thirds of the population, and the entire House of Delegates united.

At the time of the election of my predecessor, the agents and directors of the State in the several joint stock companies were by law to be appointed by the Governor, subject to the confirmation or rejection of the Senate. This mode of appointment had prevailed during the existence of the old Constitution, while the minority had uninterrupted sway. This power is now not only taken from the executive, but from the House of Delegates. The present agents and directors of the State were appointed by this law at December session 1840, to continue in office until their successors should be chosen by concurrent vote of the two houses. They have been continued in office since without re-appointment, as the House of Delegates and Senate have never concurred in the election of their successors, and it is not probable they will speedily do so.

The interest of the State is very large in the companies incorporated to make roads and canals. The power of those companies is very great to effect the well-being, the happiness and prosperity of the people. Through their influence over the Legislature, an enormous public debt has been contracted. In the exercise of their authority, the whole currency of the State has been repeatedly deranged. Their incomes and disbursements exceed largely, the ordinary revenue and expenditures of the State, and in fact they constitute an *imperium in imperio*, sufficiently powerful to justify a people jealous of their rights, in insisting upon the subordination of their governments to the only sovereign power in the State, the popular will signified through its immediate representatives. It is most respectfully submitted for your consideration to determine, whether this law of December session 1840, ought not to be repealed, or at least remodeled so that the authority with which the Senate is now clothed, may be placed in the House of Delegates, or in the Legislature, to be exercised on *joint* ballot, to guard against its employment for any other purposes than those promotive of the great public interests involved. It cannot be expected that all parties, and all classes can be harmonized in support of any system of taxation that may be devised, if the whole people are to pay, and the minority alone, to manage and expend all the public revenue.

Letters will be communicated which have been received from the Treasury Department of the United States, giving information as to the distributive share of this State of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands. From them it will appear, that the distributive share of Maryland is \$15,187.84, and that the claim of the United States on account of interest due on Maryland bonds held in trust for certain Indians, is \$19,483.81, and that the Treasurer of the United States has retained the whole fund, and still has an unsettled demand for \$4,296.27.