

quent upon an abandonment, cannot, it is believed, have caused an aggregate loss so much short of a million of dollars. On the 7th of August last, immediately upon being satisfied of the fact that the law could not become operative, the board passed an order suspending all the work on the canal. There were, at that time, employed on the line about seven hundred laborers, all of whom have consequently been dismissed, with the exception of two hundred, who are now engaged on the tunnel and the two sections west of it; the contractors on these sections electing to go on with their work, and trust to the justice of the State for payment by future appropriations.

During the past year, the board of directors have pursued a rigid economy; they have curtailed salaries and reduced the number of officers, wherever it could be done without detriment to the interests of the company. No additions have been made to the number in the employ of the company, with the exception of the assistant engineers, rodmen, &c., whose services were necessary to the survey and estimate of the unfinished portion of the lines, in order that the board might know with certainty the amount now required to complete the canal to Cumberland. By an order passed on the 7th day of August last, a copy of which will be found in the appendix, (marked H,) the president was authorized and directed to dismiss these, or any of them, from time to time, as their services could be dispensed with by the chief engineer, and by a resolution of the 17th September following, a similar direction was given to the chief engineer. Owing, however, to the great labor of the duties assigned to the engineer corps, and the minute accuracy with which they were required to make the survey and estimates, the same were not completed until within the last month; and the assistants are still engaged in aiding the chief engineer to project profiles of the work that yet remains to be done, so that the board may have before them an intelligible chart of the unfinished portion of the line, and be able to act understandingly when they are called upon to let out the same under contract. As this final duty is now nearly completed, all the supernumeraries will be discharged in the course of the present month. Those not actually in employ will be immediately dismissed from the service of the company. When all the contemplated reductions in the number of officers are made, as they soon will be, the current expenses of the company, for officers' salaries, will be further diminished by about five thousand dollars.

So much has been written and spoken in relation to the probable productiveness and value of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, when completed, not only to the region through which it passes, but to the State at large, that the undersigned conceives it hardly necessary to add any thing in this place to the various speculations that have been made on the subject. Having recently, however, obtained some valuable information in regard to similar works in the States of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, he deems it