

sentiment of all men, at this day, that she was compelled to do so, as the only means of relieving her people from direct taxation; and I suggested that, as it is to be done, "it were well it were done quickly;" that every year's postponement entails upon the State or company the loss of half a million of dollars; that the canal company is at this moment totally destitute of available funds; that seven hundred laborers are at work upon the unfinished line of the canal, many of whom have received no pay for at least six months; and that if this law failed to give relief, they must be discharged without pay, and without any ability on the part of the board of directors to promise them payment, with any certainty of being able to comply.

All these considerations, and many others, were urged upon the Treasurer, but without effect. He expressed and manifested much regret at the responsibility which the Legislature had, without his knowledge, imposed upon him; but stated that, as it had been done, he felt bound to construe his powers strictly. He considers it his duty to require such bonds and security, under both the 10th and 12th sections of the act, as will ensure a compliance with their provisions; or, in case of failure, payment of the penalties, to the full amount necessary for the fulfilment of the conditions. He is of opinion that the bonds of all the companies, and liens on all their property and possessions, are not sufficient for this purpose, under their present encumbrances, the amount of which, although repeatedly called for, he is now for the first time informed of; and he proposes the following as his *ultimatum*:

*First.* That, under the 10th section, he will be satisfied with the estimates of engineers in the employ of each of the companies named in the law, as to the probable cost of the construction of their respective railways, and the amount of the estimates shall determine the penalties of the bonds, respectively; that, under this section, he will require corporate bonds and liens upon their property.

*Secondly.* That, under the 12th section, he will require bonds in the penalty of \$1,200,000, together with liens upon the possessions of the companies, and additional security sufficient to secure the payment of the whole amount stipulated for. The additional security, he says, may be either personal or corporate. He mentioned banks by way of illustration.

The Treasurer stated that it was with regret he felt constrained to make these requirements, which he was sensible must prove fatal to the law; that, since the act of 1835, he had been in favor of the speedy completion of the canal to Cumberland, and he was aware that every postponement must be attended with loss and additional burdens. He said, however, that all these considerations were for the Legislature, and that he felt bound to pursue the limited and specific authority with which he had been invested, without being at all influenced by them. In conclusion, he said he derived some consolation in the stand he had taken, from a firm