

It will be seen, by reference to the ninth section, that the act is not to take effect until after it is accepted by this Company, and such acceptance is duly communicated to the Treasurer of the Western Shore of Maryland. Up to this time, consequently, the Board could take no definitive measures for complying with its provisions; but, in anticipation of the favorable action of the Stockholders, we have, ever since the adjournment of the Legislature, been actively engaged in making arrangements to have its requirements fulfilled, and are flattered with the belief that at a very early day after the law receives your sanction its preliminary conditions will be satisfied.

When the clause requiring a guaranty for the through transportation of not less than one hundred and ninety-five thousand tons of tonnage per year for five years, dating from the end of six months next after the completion of the canal to Cumberland, was inserted in the bill, apprehensions were entertained that the requirement might prove fatal to its availability, inasmuch as individuals and private corporations are seldom known to assume upon themselves responsibilities that are to enure to the common benefit; but the enthusiasm with which the measure has been received by the stockholders of the incorporated companies of Allegany county, by the people of the Potomac counties of Maryland and Virginia, and by the citizens of the District cities, has dissipated all doubt and apprehension on this subject.

It is now sufficiently ascertained that the guaranties will be given, and securely given; *and this cause of apprehended weakness will then be converted into a source of strength.* The guaranty will not only operate as a sort of collateral security for the bonds that may be issued for the completion of the work, but, being executed for small amounts by numerous responsible parties, making, in the aggregate, the quantity stipulated for in the law, they will bind by the strong motive of self-protection nearly every important trader at each extremity and along the line of the canal to the canal interest, and induce all to take a lively and active part in augmenting its trade. In this way the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which is already so highly appreciated by all who are within the range of its operations, will acquire additional claims to the popular favor and support.

After the guaranties are executed and approved by the Governor of this State, and the agents representing the State in this Company, or a majority of them, the Board will then be empowered to avail themselves of the operative provisions of the law, and to issue the bonds of the Company for the completion of or raising the means to complete the canal to Cumberland.

According to the provisions of the law, the Board of President and Directors are invested with the discretion either to borrow money on the bonds of the Company at their par value, and make contracts to have the work done, payable in cash, or, with the approval of the State agents, to enter into a contract or contracts to have it executed and paid for directly in the bonds secur-