

of the State in all the proceedings of said company or companies," the act also providing that their compensation should be the same "as is allowed to members of the General Assembly, including itinerant charges, during the time necessarily occupied in the discharge of their duties." By chapter 155 of 1840 the number of the agents was enlarged to five, the mode of appointment changed, and the additional duty assigned them to "keep a correct journal of the proceedings of said stockholders in general meetings assembled, and report the same to the Legislature, with such remarks therein as may seem to them expedient;" and by a subsequent law, their compensation was reduced to one hundred dollars, each, per annum. The directors on the part of the State are without emolument, their duties being the same, as those performed by private directors, in similar corporations. The nature and extent of the duties assigned by law to the State Agents, and the limited salary allowed them, insufficient as it is to pay the ordinary itinerant charges attendant upon the exercise of the trust reposed in them, are considerations ample of themselves, in the absence of the overwhelming proof afforded by passed experience, to show that the existing system of control, is inherently defective, and that the time has arrived, when a change of that system is imperatively demanded. When the great and important ends to be accomplished by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, are adverted to; when it is considered that by its agency, the boundless mineral resources of Western Maryland are to be developed and brought to a market; that by its revenues, an immense debt of seven millions of dollars, contracted for its construction, and now weighing heavily upon the property of the people, ought to be cancelled; that an annually accruing interest of \$371,625, is to be met; that \$3,645,943 75, of arrears of interest are to be paid, and that, before a dollar can be applied to these objects \$127,500 of its yearly profits, are first to be appropriated to the payment of the principal and interest of preferred debts, can it be doubted that a system of the most comprehensive powers, executed by agents of sagacious intellect, enlarged experience and persevering energy, with a constant devotion of time and labor, are indispensable to the attainment of such results. After mature reflection, I have considered it proper to renew, in a modified form, a suggestion heretofore made on this subject by my immediate predecessor, and I now recommend the creation of a board of public works composed of two persons, one of whom to be taken from the Eastern, and the other from the Western Shore, to be elected by a direct vote of the people, at the time and places of electing a Governor, and to continue in office for the term of three years. This board, should be authorized to act in the place and stead, of the agents and directors now appointed, with full and ample powers to represent, control, manage and direct the interests of the State, whether as stockholder or creditor, or both, in all joint stock companies incorporated for purposes of internal improvement, with an annual salary to its members, sufficient to enable them to devote their undivided time and attention to the duties of their office. The board should, likewise, be required to meet quarterly at the seat of Government;