

INTERROGATORIES, & c

By the House of Delegates,

March 25, 1853.

Ordered, That the committee raised on the subject of the Pilot Laws, have power to send for persons and papers, and examine witnesses under oath, provided that no expense to the State is incurred, and provided this inquiry shall not extend beyond the 5th day of April without further order from this House.

WEDNESDAY, March 31st, 1853.

The committee met. Present :

Messrs. Roberts, *Chairman*, Dent, Weathers, Tall, Parran, Baker of Kent, Fairall.

The following witnesses having been requested by the Court to appear before them, were first duly sworn, and their answers taken in writing to the several interrogatories, as follows :

OATH.

The evidence which you shall give before us, a committee of the House of Delegates of Maryland, to whom was referred a leave to report a bill to alter and modify the present Pilot Law, shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God.

INTERROGATORIES.

No. 1. Do you not believe it necessary to have a well regulated &c. &c., organised corps of competent and skillful pilots, for the protection of the commerce bound to or from our State?

No. 2. Do pilots protect foreign vessels alone, or are not their services often as necessary for the protection of the coaster as the foreign trader?

No. 3. If it is necessary for pilots to be efficient, who should support them, the foreign or the coasting trade? One, or both?

No. 4. Is the coasting trade of more advantage to the State than the foreign trade?

No. 5. Do you think that the present pilot law has a tendency to embarrass foreign commerce?

No. 6. Are not pilots regarded as facilities to commerce, as well as protectors of life and property?

No. 7. Do you not think that protection to foreign trade would conduce to the agricultural interest of the State?

No. 8. Why is it that corn and flour sells so much higher in New York and Boston than in Baltimore?