

Mr. Burchenal, chairman of the select committee, delivered the following

REPORT:

The select committee, to whom was referred the petition of sundry citizens of this state, complaining of the heavy exactions and grievous inconveniences they meet with, in the navigation of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, have had the subject under their careful consideration, and beg leave respectfully to report that they are satisfied of the fact that great grievances are suffered by our citizens in the navigation of said Canal, that they are compelled to abandon the trade through the Canal altogether, or submit to exactions of double toll, that in many instances the Captains of vessels passing through the said Canal, have been arrested at the locks on the Delaware end of the Canal, for refusing to pay toll, when they had paid the toll required by the charter of the company on entering the canal at the Maryland end thereof, and for such refusal, have been confined in one of the jails of Delaware; that these inconveniences and grievances, have arisen, as your committee have been informed, in consequence of a writ or writs of attachment issued out of some one of the courts of Delaware, at the suit of some creditor of the Canal Company; it would seem to your committee, that any law of the State of Delaware, authorising any process that may operate thus unjustly and oppressively upon our citizens, is in violation of the faith of that State, as pledged in the charter, incorporating the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company. The committee would suggest that the Legislature of Delaware is now in session, or that they are not aware that it has adjourned, and that after the close of this session, it will not be again in session for two years; your committee would therefore recommend the appointment of a joint committee to consist of two members on the part of this house, and such gentlemen as the Senate may appoint, whose duty it shall be to proceed forthwith to the capitol of Delaware, and to urge upon the Legislature of Delaware, the propriety of repealing the fourth section of the act of Assembly of the State of Delaware, passed on the 10th February, 1829, authorising attachments to operate upon the tolls of said company, or of so modifying said section, as to remove the grievance complained of, and that they report to this house the result of their proceedings, as soon as practicable.

All which is respectfully submitted,

THOMAS BURCHENAL, Chairman.