

proper consideration of the opinion of the Court could be had, a bill was prepared to levy a tax on the business of coal mining in this State, for State purposes, which would be free from the objections urged against the former Act, and was introduced in the Senate, but owing to delays in that body, the bill, after its passage there, did not reach the House of Delegates until within the last two days of the Session, when, under the Constitution of the State, a concurrence of two-thirds of that body was necessary in order to ensure its consideration and passage. The requisite two-thirds vote not being attainable at that late day, the bill failed to be considered by the House of Delegates, and was thus lost. I propose to call the attention of the Legislature to this subject at the next Session, and to urge its passage, believing that such an enactment is demanded by a large majority of the people of the State.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

The Act of 1874, chapter 469, appropriated \$100,000.00 for the purchase of suitable grounds and the erection of suitable buildings for the "State Normal School," and the Board of Public Works were directed to purchase the ground for the site, and contract for the erection of the necessary buildings thereon. The same Act authorized the issue of \$100,000.00 of bonds of the State, to be disposed of, to raise the means to carry the provisions of the Act into execution. The Board, after examining a number of properties offered to them for the purpose, selected what they considered an eligible site at the corner of Townsend and Republican streets, in the City of Baltimore; employed Frank E. Davis, Esq., an architect highly recommended, to make the plans and specifications, which, when submitted to them, were carefully revised and completed, so as to limit the expenditure to the amount appropriated, and after advertising for proposals as directed in the Act, the Board have put the building under contract with a responsible builder, William H. Allen, Esq., and the work is now in progress, and is to be completed before the first day of September next. The whole of the loan was taken at par for the Sinking Fund of the State, and the amount thus raised for completion of the building.