

Also, returned,

A bill entitled an Act to amend the charter of the Frostburg Water Company, which was incorporated by the Acts of January Session, 1853, chapter 330.

Endorsed, "Passed by yeas and nays."

The following message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, per hands of his private Secretary, Mr. Samuel W. Brooks.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Annapolis, March 24th, 1876.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:

I regret very much, that I am compelled to return without my approbation, House bill 121, entitled "an Act to repeal chapter 221, of the Acts passed at the January Session, 1874, regulating the measurement of Oysters."

This bill was passed by a very large majority of both branches of the Legislature, and it is therefore with some diffidence as to the merit of my own opinions, that I venture to differ from the views of those who sustained the measure.

On broad grounds of public policy, I have for a long time entertained the opinion, that there should be little or no interference on the part of the Legislature with the business interests of the community, except so far as to protect the public peace and morals, and to secure the revenues to be derived to the State.

If one interest, which is special in its nature, can be protected by Legislative enactments, so also can another, and thus the transactions of men may become the subjects of arbitrary legislation, when they could be much more efficiently conducted by those who are directly interested.

Thus in most of the trading centres of this Country, it has become an axiom almost universally accepted, that the attempt to regulate by law, the details of transactions between man and man produce no good result, and that by far the safest course is to leave to the parties interested the regulation of the subject matter in which they deal, uninfluenced by State laws, except so far as to protect the interests of the whole community. It was this feeling that induced the Legislature of 1870, to blot out from our statute books a great number of the laws involving the inspection of various articles of commerce. It was this sentiment that induced the people of New York as long ago as 1842, to provide by Constitutional Enactments, that the Legislature should pass no law which tended towards obligatory inspections, thus establishing the broad principle, that those interested were most