

with masts and spars, and other rich productions of the forest, and the indispensable articles of salt, to any extent which the wants of many millions may demand.

Pursuing the downward course of the Pocomoke, the committee perceive that it meanders through a large extent of Worcester and Somerset counties, until it debouches in an expanded bay of the same name on the northern border of Virginia, and they have been informed that the difficulties of the shallow water, which interrupt the navigation at the mouth of that river, might be overcome by a canal across the southern extremity of Somerset county.

The committee, therefore, in pursuance of that liberal policy which has distinguished the legislature of this state, with intent to ascertain the practicability and probable cost of the several improvements in contemplation, beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:—

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Littleton U. Dennis, of Somerset county, David K. Hopkins and Johnson Gray, of Worcester county, be and they are hereby authorised to act as commissioners, with powers to employ an engineer and surveyor, at their discretion, if they shall deem the same to be necessary, whose duty it shall be to examine, explore and survey, that section of the river Pocomoke, which lies between the town of Snow-Hill, in Worcester county, and the line of the state of Delaware, and the intermediate country between the said river and the waters of Sinepuxent Bay; also the downward course of the said river, and the country across the southern extremity of Somerset county, with a view to the ascertainment of the practicability and expediency of the several improvements contemplated by the preceding reference; and report thereon, also, that it shall be the further duty of the commissioners to digest and prepare a plan or plans for effectuating the said improvements, and each of them, and to report the same, with an estimate of the cost thereof, to the legislature, at the commencement of their next session; and in the event of a vacancy by resignation, death, or other cause, the governor, by and with the advice of the council, be and he is hereby authorised and requested to fill such vacancy.

*Further Resolved,* That the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the council, be and he is hereby authorised and required, to make such compensation to the commissioners, engineer and surveyor, to be appointed under the foregoing resolution, when they shall have discharged the duties therein prescribed, as he shall deem to be just and reasonable, by an order drawn on the treasurer of the western shore, who is hereby directed to pay the same.