

personal intercourse between the two great sections of the United States, and to interweave more closely all the mutual interests and affections that are calculated to consolidate and perpetuate the vital principals of union. *And whereas*, it is represented to this general assembly, that the Potomac company are willing and desirous that a charter shall be granted to a new company upon the terms and conditions hereinafter expressed, and that the charter of the present company shall cease and determine.

Commissioners to open books.

SEC. 1. *Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia*, That so soon as the legislatures of Maryland and Pennsylvania, and the congress of the United States, shall assent to the provisions of this act, and the Potomac company shall have signified their assent to the same, by their corporate act, a copy whereof shall be delivered to the executive of the several states aforesaid, and to the secretary of the treasury of the United States, there shall be appointed by the said executives and the President of the United States, three commissioners on the part of each state and of the government of the United States, any one of whom shall be competent to act for his respective government; the said commissioners shall cause books to be opened at such times and places as they shall think fit, in their respective states, and the District of Columbia, under the management of such persons as they shall appoint for receiving subscriptions to the capital stock of the company hereinafter incorporated; which subscriptions may be made either in person or by power of attorney, and notice shall be given in such manner as may be deemed advisable by any one or more of the said commissioners, of the time and places of opening the books.

Proceedings directed. Meeting.

2. And the said commissioners shall cause the books to be kept open at least forty days, and within twenty days after the expiration thereof, shall call a general meeting of the subscribers at the city of Washington, of which meeting notice shall be given by a majority of the commissioners aforesaid, in at least four of the newspapers printed in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, at least twenty days next before the said meeting; and such meeting shall and may be continued from day to day until the business is finished, and the commissioners at the time and place aforesaid, shall lay before such of the subscribers as shall meet according to the said notice, the book containing the state of the said subscriptions; and if one fourth of the capital sum of six millions of dollars should appear not to have been subscribed, then the said commissioners, or a majority of them, at the said meeting, are empowered to take and receive subscriptions to make up such deficiency, and may continue to take and receive such subscriptions for the term of twelve months thereafter; and a just and true list of all the subscribers, with the sum subscribed by each, shall be made out and returned by the said commissioners, or by a majority of them under their hands, to the board of public works of this state, to the governor and council of the state of Maryland, to the secretary of the state of Pennsylvania, and to the secretary of the treasury of the United States, to be carefully preserved; and in case more than six millions of dollars shall be subscribed, then the sum subscribed shall be reduced to that amount by the said

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