

ters pertaining thereto, and particularly to institute and conduct proceedings to protect and promote the interests of the State relating to the several matters aforesaid, and appointing a Joint Special Committee of the General Assembly of Maryland to conduct inquiries concerning the rights and interests of the State of Maryland in the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, growing out of the shares of stock owned by the State therein, and to take any action, or cause the same to be taken, to protect and promote the interests of the State relating to any and all matters aforesaid, and empowering the said Joint Special Committee to employ means and agencies for the performance of its duties and the execution of the purposes of its appointment," etc.

This Joint Special Committee of the General Assembly met in pursuance of the said resolution and conducted the proceedings in accordance therewith. Suffice it to say that much evidence was brought out confirming the position of the State.

On March 27, 1906, an Act was passed by the General Assembly authorizing the Board of Public Works to sell the State's interest in works of internal improvement or in corporations, in which was this proviso: "Provided, however, that in the event that the Board of Public Works shall receive an offer of \$2,500,000 or more for the said 5,500 shares of the capital stock of the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, the said board may sell the said stock at private sale, without advertising for sealed proposals, as prescribed in the preceding section, and without any other or further formality or delay, or in their discretion they may advertise for bids for the purchase of the whole of the State's holdings and interest in the Washington Branch for such time in such mode and subject to such regulations and conditions as they shall see fit to prescribe."

In pursuance of this statute the said Board of Public Works did advertise the State's holdings in the said Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, receiving a bid therefore from the Maryland Trust Company at and for the sum of \$2,500,000. This sale was consummated largely by the enactment of said Joint Resolution No. 1.

Section 3 of Article 12 of the Constitution prescribes that in the sale of the State's interest in all works of internal improvement it