

REPORT.

The committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred the bill to incorporate the Baltimore, Annapolis and Washington Air Line Railroad Company, respectfully report:

That being fully aware of the great importance of the subject, they were unwilling to determine finally upon their report, until they had heard the opinions of those in charge of the finances of the State, and until they had duly considered all the consequences of the proposed measure.

It is due to the House, that your committee should say, that after a full and careful consideration of the whole subject, they have determined to report against the bill, for the following reasons:

The bill authorizes the construction of a railroad from a point "on the south side of the city of Baltimore, not further west than the Spring Garden bridge, which shall run as near to the city of Annapolis as the inlets of the Chesapeake Bay will permit," and which shall be constructed from this uncertain point to the city of Washington.

Your committee cannot but perceive, from the nature of the country traversed by this route, that the proposed road must, of necessity, cross the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad at some distance from the city of Annapolis. So certain, indeed, is this result to follow, that your committee is obliged to consider the proposed measure, simply as a plan for a new road from the point indicated, on the south side of the city of Baltimore to the city of Washington; and it is in this view that the measure must be considered by the House.

It is, however, impossible that your committee should confine itself to the consideration of the project, as a measure relating solely to the construction of a new railroad between Baltimore and Washington. Unless the proposed road were intended to form a connecting link with another line, it would prove of little practical value to the general interests, which, it has been asserted, it will promote. It is plain to your committee, that the object of the bill is to establish such a connection, and your committee is obliged to conclude that the purpose is to create a new route to Washington, via the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Northern Central Railroad.