

1858

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REPORT.

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*To the General Assembly of Maryland:*

The Commissioners of Public Works beg leave to report to your Honorable Body, in November last the terms of office of two of the Commissioners expired, and their places have been supplied by the election of others.

Owing to this circumstance, the present board has had little opportunity to consult each other (in relation to cardinal points) upon the manner in which they shall execute the duties confided to them by the Constitution of the State.

In reference to certain matters, however, they are wholly agreed, and they wish to call the attention of the Legislature to them, in order that it may understand the principles which will govern them in the discharge of their duties.

They are of opinion that the public works of this State were alike intended to develop the resources of the State, and to earn a revenue for the investments made by the State in them; they will, therefore, favor such rates of tolls as will maintain the revenues of the several internal improvement companies, at a standard of profit corresponding with that enjoyed by similar works in other States; believing that the upholding of this standard will not be a burden upon those who use these improvements as a means of transportation.

The people of the State, who do not enjoy the advantages of neighborhood to these improvements, contributed equally with those who do enjoy that advantage, to their construction. They are entitled to have those works so managed as to yield *revenue*; for in that revenue alone can they look for relief from the heavy taxation, which these improvements have made necessary, any other policy would create serious and reasonable discontents.

The Commissioners of Public Works, however, do not in-