

open an internal navigation of great extent, from the north west part of the state of New York, to the southern extremities of the state of Virginia.

The particular advantages which the state of Maryland would derive from this improvement, need scarcely be detailed by this committee. They will suggest themselves to the understanding of every reflecting man. In a national point of view, all will concur in the opinion of its importance, and looking to an event which your committee is by no means anxious should soon occur, but, which in the opinion of the committee may reasonably be expected to take place at some distant period, it may be regarded as an object of peculiar interest, as productive of the means of national defence, affording as it no doubt will, a facility of transportation of troops, ordnance and military stores, from one part of the country to the other, the want of which was materially felt during our late war with Great Britain.

Beneficial as it certainly will be to the state of Maryland, the committee have thought it proper to direct the attention of the legislature towards it, but viewing it as an object of national concern, and not alone productive of local advantage, the committee would remark that it is a subject to which the attention of the national legislature should be drawn.

The canal begins at Welch Point on the Elk river, an arm of the Chesapeake, and is to terminate at a distance of twenty two miles, on Christiana river, a branch of the Delaware. At low water the depth of water in Christiana river is nine feet, and in Elk river twelve feet, within one hundred feet from the shore. The tide rises four feet in both rivers. No expensive aqueducts or bridges are to be made, and the principal obstacles have been already overcome. The supply of water drawn from Elk river by a feeder which is now completed six miles in length and three and a half feet in depth, and which is itself a boat canal, united by a lock of ten feet high, to the main canal, is calculated to furnish daily one hundred and forty locks, a quantity sufficient, on an average, for the daily passage of twenty-four vessels. The canal is twenty six feet wide at the bottom, and fifty feet at the water's edge. It is intended for vessels of from forty to seventy tons, drawing seven and a half feet. The banks being intended for towing paths, are twenty feet wide, one of which may be converted into a turnpike road, being raised three feet above the level of the water, and will, by increasing the height of the lock gates one foot, admit a depth of nine feet water in the canal. The expense of digging one mile through rocky ground was \$15,000, and that of digging the same distance through a level country free from obstructions, \$2,300, which gives an average of \$7,650 per mile. The whole length of the canal is about twenty-two miles, and the whole cost is computed to be about \$850,000. These estimates were made at a time when labor was comparatively high; it is presumed they would be much less at the present time.

This information of facts the committee have thought proper to furnish, in order to enable the legislature to form a correct opinion upon the subject.

The fourth & last object to which the committee have directed their attention, and to which they have thought it proper to direct the consideration of the legislature, is the making of a turnpike road from Boonsborough to Hager's town, to join the great national road leading from the latter place to Wheeling, in the state of Virginia. Upon this subject, the committee would remark, that this important object is now likely to be accomplished, in conformity with the law passed at the present session, and which your committee trusts will be carried into full and complete effect.

By order,

TH. W. LOOCKERMAN, Com. Clk.

Mr Orrell moved to re-consider the last message proposed by Mr Chambers, and the question being put; was determined in the affirmative.

Mr Chambers moved to amend the message by adding the following after the words 'eleven o'clock': "The senate have seriously reflected upon the proper course to be pursued by them in the discharge of the painful duty in which you have invited them to participate. They are of opinion that the constitution contemplates a separate and distinct investigation into the subject by each branch of the legislature. That the privilege of the party charged secures to him a distinct investigation before each branch, and that the best mode of insuring to the senate the means of deciding properly on the occasion, requires that the proceeding should be conducted before each branch independently and separately. They therefore respectfully decline the invitation contained in your message."

Which was read and assented to. The question was then put, Will the senate adopt the message as amended? Determined in the affirmative, and it was sent to the house of delegates.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivered a bill to impose and collect a tax upon the estates of deceased persons; a bill entitled, A supplement to the act to incorporate a company to make a turnpike road from the market space in Hager's Town to the west bank of Conococheage, and a bill to ascertain and establish in the third district of Somerset county a proper place of holding elections; which were read the first time and laid on the table.

The resolution for the relief of Adam Showers, was read the second and by special order a third time and dissented from.

Mr Chambers from the committee to whom was referred the bill for the benefit of Thomas I. Par-ey, late of Allegany county, reported the same without amendment, and the bill being read a third time, the question was put, Shall the bill pass? Determined in the negative.

The bill to impose and collect a tax on the estates of deceased persons, was read a second time and referred to Messrs Bowie, Chambers, Orrell, Wootton and M. Kim.

Mr M. Kim from the committee to whom was referred the bill relating to public roads in the counties therein mentioned, reported the same without amendment, and the bill was read a third time and will pass.

The supplement to the act relating to run-away servants and slaves, was read a second time and on motion of Mr Chambers the question was put, will the senate strike out the word "thirty" in the