

made on this subject by my immediate predecessor, and I now recommend the creation of a board of public works composed of two persons one of whom to be taken from the Eastern, and the other from the Western Shore, to be elected by a direct vote of the people, at the time and place of electing a Governor, and to continue in office for the term of three years. This Board should be authorized to act in the place and stead of the agents and directors now appointed, with full and ample power to represent, control, manage and direct the interests of the State, whether as Stockholder or creditor or both in all joint stock companies incorporated for purposes of internal improvement with an annual salary to its members, sufficient to enable them to devote their undivided time and attention to the duties of their office. The Board should, likewise be required to meet quarterly at the seat of Government, and in order that the Executive may be kept constantly informed of the actual condition of the State's affairs in these corporations, the Governor, for the time being, should be constituted president of the board, with authority to preside at its meetings, and to decide by his casting vote, all questions on which its members may be divided in opinion; and the Secretary of State should also be directed to act as secretary to the board, and charged to keep an accurate journal and record of its proceedings, the whole of which, together with such remarks as might be deemed proper, the board should be required to report to the Legislature, at each successive session. And to the end that the State may derive immediate benefit from the system, I suggest the appointment of two persons for this purpose, either by the Legislature or Governor, who shall continue in office, until superseded by others elected by the people. That the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal can be made available for every necessary purpose no one will question who is at all familiar either with its capacity for the transportation of tonnage or with the region of country from which its principal trade is to be supplied, whether in reference to its fertility, the boundless extent of its coal fields, or the superiority of the coal itself over any other in the world for steaming purposes on land or sea; and I conscientiously believe that a measure (the outline of which has just been given, if adopted, will infuse new energy into its management, and make it, at a much earlier day than otherwise, a large contribution to the public Treasury. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal completed, the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road extended to Wheeling, and the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road brought into connection with the Pennsylvania improvements, in a few years the curse of debt which has hitherto rested on this State, will be evicted into a blessing and Maryland will take her place among the sisterhood of the Union, regret in the alluvial extent of her own native resources, and in the trade and population drawn to her borders from other sections, as she already is, in the intelligence, energy and patriotism of her people.

The reports of the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary for the last two years, containing as they do, much valuable information as to the present condition and future prospects of that prison will merit and doubtless receive your particular attention. From these papers it will appear that for the year 1848, the excess of the expenditure over the income of the

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