

in which the State has the legal power to appoint directors, which said directors shall represent the State in all meetings of the stockholders of every railroad or canal company, (other than the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company) in which the State is a stockholder.”

Mr. Syester said the necessity for the amendment grew out of the ambiguity of language in the section as reported by the committee, and which was an exact transcript from the constitution of 1864, out of which has grown so much diversity of opinion and so many different constructions. Difficulties have arisen and a great conflict of opinion has prevailed throughout the State as to the duties of the board of public works towards the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. It is confounding all just and proper distinctions to let the matter rest as in 1864, and he therefore proposed this amendment. The section as reported confers powers upon the directors which are not granted in the charter of the Canal Company. The relations of the State to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad are entirely different, and to obviate the conflict of opinion as to the canal, he hoped the amendment would receive favorable consideration.

Mr. Horsey, of Frederick, said the committee had not been unmindful of the difficulty urged by the gentleman from Washington, (Mr. Syester,) and had therefore reported section 3, which relieved section 2 from all the difficulties spoken of by the gentleman, and the amendment was entirely unnecessary.

Mr. Syester said the third section gave the control of the canal into the hands of the preferred bondholders. A profound interest had been excited in certain quarters on this subject. There were but two contingencies provided where the vote of the State shall be cast, and if this matter was ever brought up before the Legislature it might be assumed that the constitution only provided for the two contingences mentioned, and weak minds might cower under it. To make the matter perfectly clear the amendment should be adopted.

Mr. McKaig moved to pass over the second section informally, which was agreed to.

Section 3 was read, which provides that unless the General Assembly of this State shall otherwise direct by