

appointed commissioners to consider, devise, and adopt such measures as may or shall be requisite to facilitate and effect the communication, by means of canals and locks, between the navigable waters of Hudson river and Lake Erie, and the said navigable waters and Lake Champlain; and, in case of the resignation or death of any of the said commissioners, the vacancy thereby occasioned shall be supplied by the Legislature, in the manner in which Senators of the United States from this State are directed to be chosen.

2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall choose one of their number to be president of their board, and shall appoint a fit person for their secretary, who shall be allowed and paid such salary as the said commissioners shall deem proper and reasonable; and the president of the said board of commissioners shall have power to call a meeting of the same whenever, in his opinion, the public interests require it; and the said board may adjourn from time to time, to meet at any time and place they may deem most conducive to the public good; and further, the said commissioners shall have power to employ such and so many agents, engineers, surveyors, draughtsmen, and other persons, as, in their opinion, may be necessary to enable them to fulfil and discharge the duties imposed upon them by this act, and to allow and pay the said agents, engineers, surveyors, draughtsmen, and other persons, for their respective services, such sum or sums as may be adequate and reasonable.

3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the said commissioners, as soon as may be after the passing of this act, to cause those parts of the territory of this State which may lie upon or contiguous to the probable courses and ranges of the said canals to be explored and examined, for the purpose of fixing and determining the most eligible and proper routes for the same, and to cause all necessary surveys and levels to be taken, and accurate maps, field-books, and draughts thereof to be made; and further, to adopt and recommend proper plans for the construction and formation of the said canals, and of the locks, dams, embankments, tunnels, and aqueducts which may be necessary for the completion of the same, and to cause all necessary plans, draughts, and models thereof to be executed under their direction.

4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and required to make application, in behalf of this State, to the Government of the United States, and of such States and Territories as may be benefited by the said canals, or either of them, to the proprietors of lands through or near which the said canals, or either of them, may or may be proposed to pass, to all bodies politic and corporate, public or private, and to all citizens or inhabitants of this or any other of the United States, for cessions, grants, or donations of land or money, for the purpose of aiding in the construction or completing of both or either of the said canals, according to the discretion of the several grantors or donors, and to take to the people of this State such grants and conveyances as may be proper and competent to vest a good and sufficient title in the said people to the lands so to be ceded or granted as aforesaid; and, for the purposes above mentioned, it shall be the duty of the said commissioners to open books of subscription in such and so many places as they may think necessary and expedient, and under such rules and regulations as they may from time to time establish; and further, it shall be their duty to ascertain whether, to any and to what amount, and upon what terms, loans of money may or can be procured, on the credit of this State, for the purposes aforesaid.

5. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the said commissioners to make, or cause to be made, with as much accuracy and minuteness as may be, calculations and estimates of the sum or sums of money which may or will be necessary for completing each of the said canals, according to the plan or plans which may be adopted and recommended by them for the construction or formation of the same, and to cause the said calculations and estimates, and all surveys, maps, field-books, plans, draughts, and models authorized and directed by this act, or so many thereof as may be completed, together with a plain and comprehensive report of all their proceedings under and by virtue of this act, to be presented to the Legislature of this State within twenty days after the commencement of the next regular annual session thereof.

6. *And be it further enacted*, That the treasurer shall, on the warrant of the comptroller, pay to the order of a majority of the said commissioners, out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, any sum or sums not exceeding twenty thousand dollars, and for which the said commissioners shall account to the comptroller of this State.

7. *And be it further enacted*, That the act entitled "An act to provide for the improvement of the internal navigation of this State," passed the 8th day of April, 1811, and the act entitled "An act further to provide for the improvement of the internal navigation of this State," passed June 19, 1812, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

STATE OF NEW YORK, SECRETARY'S OFFICE, ALBANY, *November 13, 1816.*

I certify the preceding to be a true copy of an original act of the Legislature of this State on file in this office.

R. TILLOTSON, *Secretary of State.*

14th Congress.]

No. 413.

[2d Session.]

ROAD THROUGH THE CHICKASAW NATION.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE 11TH DECEMBER, 1816.

Sir:

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, *December 5, 1816.*

In pursuance of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 4th instant, I have the honor to transmit the report of the commissioners appointed to mark and survey a road from Reynoldsburg, on the Tennessee river, through the Chickasaw nation. No expenses in relation to this road were to be paid by this Department, except the compensation of the commissioners, who were to be allowed six dollars per day whilst employed on this service.

As no claim has been presented to this Department by the commissioners on account of their services, nothing has as yet been paid.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE GRAHAM, *Acting Secretary of War.*

Hon. HENRY CLAY, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

Sir:

REYNOLDSBURG, TENNESSEE, *May 15, 1816.*

In obedience to a commission we had the honor to receive from your excellency, dated the 28th of December last, appointing us to view and survey a road from Reynoldsburg, on Tennessee river, to intersect the Natchez road at some point in the Chickasaw nation, in conformity to a treaty made for that purpose with the Chickasaw nation of Indians, dated the 5th day of August, 1815, we, in company with James Brown and Chigcuttaha, commissioners appointed on the part of the Chickasaw nation, have performed that duty.

The enclosed plat of the road will show the different bearings and watercourses. We have caused the road to be run generally on high dry ground; have opened a bridgeway, caused it to be measured, and the miletrees regularly numbered. The road is level and well watered; but little causewaying and bridging will be necessary to make it as good a road as any in the western country.

We intersected the Natchez road near the south end of the Chickasaw Old Town, distance from Reynoldsburg one hundred and twenty-nine miles. In surveying this road we passed through a rich and fertile country, particularly the waters of the Mississippi and Mobile. The road at present is uninhabited, except twenty-four miles at the south end; the fertility and situation of the country will admit of a number of good settlements on the road for the accommodation of travellers; some of those stands are already marked by the Indians, who intend settling immediately. The advantages arising from this road to the citizens of the western part of Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and the Territories, are obvious; it ought to be opened as soon as practicable.

As Congress is about voting an annual fund for the purposes of internal improvements, we are of opinion none could be better bestowed than the sum necessary to complete this road, as a number of the citizens of the United States are so much interested. We are of opinion that the sum of \$2,600 will be sufficient to make it a good road without any further expenses to Government; and we believe that if the General Government authorizes the opening, it will be done with promptness; but should it be left to the Legislature of Tennessee, their first session will not be before September, 1817, and, as other States and Territories are equally interested with Tennessee, the appropriation to the amount necessary is doubtful.

We have the honor to be your excellency's obedient servants,

THOMAS JOHNSON,
MICHAEL DICKSON.

The Hon. WM. H. CRAWFORD, *Secretary of War.*

[14th CONGRESS.]

No. 414.

[2d SESSION.]

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 11, 1816.

Mr. WILDE made the following report:

The committee of the House of Representatives, to whom was referred so much of the President's message as relates to the subject of a national university, report to the House, as the result of their deliberations, a bill for the erection and endowment of such an institution:

The committee, pursuant to usual forms, might perhaps, without impropriety, regard this as a sufficient performance of their duty, and, after presenting the bill without comment, have left it to find its appropriate place among others, and to receive or be denied consideration, according to the opinion entertained of its consequence and urgency. But the number of communications relative to the subject, which, though they have received attention, seem to have escaped it because they have not been definitively acted on, may possibly expose the House to a censure more serious than that of merely neglecting the successive recommendations of several Chief Magistrates—a censure as injurious as unjust, yet not unbecoming that body to prevent, by making as soon as possible some disposition of a question that ought to be determined on account of its frequent occurrence, even though it should not otherwise be thought particularly interesting.

No room will be then afforded for even supposing the National Legislature indifferent to an object admitted by most persons to be desirable, and by many believed to be now both practicable and expedient. Justice will be done to the representatives of the people, without detracting any thing from executive merit; that confidence which is the chief strength of our Government will be preserved, and public opinion, enlightened by discussion, expressing itself at length decisively on the proposed measure, will either require its adoption, sanction its rejection, or acquiesce in its postponement, until the necessity becomes more obvious, or the difficulties that oppose it can be more easily removed.

Your committee, therefore, have ventured to suggest some of the reasons which recommend the present as a favorable time for investigating, and perhaps also for adopting, the plan they have proposed.

Among these, the prosperous state of our finances, leaving a large unappropriated surplus, the probability of a long continued peace, the flourishing condition of our capital, and the facility with which a portion of the public property within it might now be advantageously disposed of, so as at once to increase the convenience of the city and support the proposed institution, may fairly be enumerated.

Besides, the information heretofore collected has enabled the committee to report at an early period, and it is believed that the present session (though inevitably a short one) will not present so many objects of great difficulty or deep interest as entirely to exclude others of a more tranquil and less obtrusive character, to which it is possible a portion of time might be profitably devoted.

The acquisition of a scientific and literary reputation, not unworthy of their naval and military renown, can never be beneath the ambition of a people, since the most durable of all glory is that of exalted intellect. The world is still a willing captive to the spells of ancient genius; and the rivalry of modern empires will be perpetuated by their arts and their learning, the preservers of that fame which arms alone may indeed win, but can never keep. Any