

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company is indebted to the State of Maryland, for stock subscribed, advances made, bonds of the Company, and interest due, to the present time, the large amount of \$19,330,759.73.

The immense outlay made by the State for this great work was intended (with outlays made for other internal improvements for the same purpose) for the development of the coal interests of Allegany county, and the improvement of the western portion of the State.

The property of the whole State has been taxed, for upwards of thirty years, to pay the interest on the debt contracted for the advances made for these works. The people of the State have borne this taxation with commendable cheerfulness, regarding the development of any portion of the State as a matter of general interest to all.

The increase of wealth in that portion of the State, consequent upon the completion of the works for which these heavy expenditures have been made, has been, as was expected, immense; and it is time, in my judgment, that this especial interest should be willing to bear slightly more of the burdens of taxation, which the cost of its development has rendered necessary, and to that extent relieve other portions of the State, some of which have been laboring for a number of years under especial embarrassments. The reasonableness of legislation to this end is so very apparent, that I cannot for a moment doubt, that a provision by which the peculiar productions of this section of the State, would be made to contribute to some extent to recompense the outlay made for their development and promotion, will be favorably considered by those particularly interested. It is but just to the rest of the State, all sections of which have consented for so long a time to bear the burdens of taxation necessary to raise the funds for the completion of the great works of internal improvement, without which, the production of coal could not have been made remunerative, and the immense wealth of that portion of the State could not have been produced, that this particular branch of industry and production should incidentally bear something more of the burdens consequent upon the expenditures for its benefit, than other less favored productions and properties.

I cannot but believe that legislation for this purpose will meet with favor from all the people of the State, including those especially interested in this branch of industry. I suggest to the General Assembly, the enactment of a provision of law to effect this object, and in addition urge it upon what I regard as the true theory