

How has the State been applying the means derived from its credit for the last few years? Immense sums have been borrowed, and are now, under your laws, about being borrowed to increase her commercial facilities, by means of Rail-roads and canals. How are these immense loans secured to the great capitalist who loans this money? By the faith of the State. Upon what capital is the faith of the State based? Upon the value of the real estate of her citizens principally. Who are these citizens? The impoverished farmers and planters—for aid to whom you have been now invoked. What will be the effect produced by a judicious application of part of those means to the improvement of your lands—to double aye treble the States capital, the basis of her credit? Let then the means of the State be so applied, say your committee emphatically.

The only question then is—how are these means to be applied.

The petitioners themselves, have in the opinion of your committee, suggested the best course to be pursued by the legislature. Our great staple *wheat* has failed for a number of successive years, and will not in all probability for many years succeed again. Can a new one be introduced to supply its place? Your petitioners propose two—which your committee believe are likely not only to supply the loss of the wheat crops—but probably far to surpass it in value, even in its most auspicious times. The experiments that have been tried in this country for the last fifty years, prove incontestably, that the climate and soil are adapted to the growth of the mulberry for the manufacture of silk—a crop which if any credit is to be given to the statements of men of high character in this country, as well as in Europe, is more profitable even than cotton. The Italian mulberry introduced into this State previous to the revolution, is now so thoroughly acclimated, that it is among the hardiest of our trees. There is probably, no member of the legislature to whom this fact is not familiar, and if there should be one, he can satisfy himself by a short walk into almost any field in the environ of this city.

The Silesian or sugar beet, is also presented by the petitioners as another crop worthy the patronizing care of the State.

The sugar beet is only a variety of the common garden beet, and is said to be equally hardy. There is no one ignorant of the adaptation of our soil and climate to the