

## REPORT.

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The committee on internal improvements, to whom have been referred the several matters relating to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, beg leave to report in part, that with a view of ascertaining the advantages likely to be derived by the State from the completion of the canal to the coal regions in Allegany county, to ascertain the resources of that county, the capacity of the canal for transportation, &c., have had before them the delegation appointed by the people of Allegany county for the purpose of aiding in procuring assistance from the Legislature towards the completion of the canal to Cumberland. The committee propounded to that delegation, consisting of Col. Charles M. Thruston and Samuel M. Semmes, Esq., citizens of Allegany county and gentlemen of great intelligence and unquestionable integrity, certain interrogatories likely to elicit all such information as may be useful and important for the proper action of the Legislature on all subjects relating to the canal. Your committee forbear making any comments upon the answers of these gentlemen, further than to vouch for their intelligence, integrity, and for the correctness of their statements.

The interrogatories propounded to these gentlemen, together with their answers, are herewith submitted, marked A.

Your committee would also submit to your consideration a letter addressed to Samuel M. Semmes, Esq., by J. Pickell, a gentleman of high standing and character, and great experience upon such subjects. The views of this gentleman are entitled to the greatest respect. His communication is appended and marked B.

Your committee have collected with great care, some important facts relative to the coal-carrying canals in England, shewing that all the canals on which iron and coal are transported, yield large, and frequently, enormous profits, whilst those upon which agricultural productions and merchandize exclusively are transported, yield little or no interest upon investments. What is here remarked of canals in England, is also true of canals in this country.

We append, marked C, a synopsis of facts in relation to this subject, which will prove interesting and useful.

We would further submit to your consideration as an important paper, the official report of five engineers of the United States Navy to M. C. Perry, Captain U. S. Navy, showing the superior quality of the Allegany county coal. That report is appended, marked D.