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Interrogatories submitted by the Committee of Internal Improvements to Col. Charles M. Thruston and Samuel M. Semmes, Esq.

What are the mineral resources of Allegany county?

What means have been employed for the developement of those resources?

Will you give a history, as far as you are able, of the companies or associations which have been formed in Allegany county, for manufacturing and other purposes?

If the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was completed to Cumberland, what advantages, in your opinion, would grow out of it to the State at large? Would it be a source of revenue, and to what extent?

What evidence or data can you furnish to show that the demand and consumption of coal will be equal to the great quantities which the Allegany mines can supply, and which can be transferred by means of the canal?

Could there be made a slack water navigation from where the canal is now completed to Cumberland?

If there could be, what would be its probable cost?

Would not a slack water navigation answer all the purposes of a canal?

Give any other information on this subject that you may deem useful or interesting to the committee.

Col. Thruston and Mr. Semmes are respectfully requested by the committee on internal improvements to furnish the information desired in the above interrogatories.

The joint answers of Charles M. Thruston and Samuel M. Semmes to the interrogatories propounded to them by the internal improvement committee of the House of Delegates of Maryland.

In answer to the 1st interrogatory we say, that the mineral resources of Allegany county consist chiefly in iron and coal, for, although by no means limited to them, yet they so far exceed all others in quantity and value, that it will be sufficient to limit ourselves to these minerals in our answer.

The coal measures under-lie more than 100 square miles of surface, having great abundance and varieties of iron ores distributed throughout. The coal lies in 5 concentric strata, from 10 to 3 feet in thickness. There are several thinner strata, but they are not here taken into the account. These strata are almost of perfect uniformity in thickness and quality. Indeed, so uniform is the formation, that the contents of each stratum over the whole mineral district may be computed with mathematical precision. Thus, if we assume the surface which the coal measures under-lie to contain only 100 square miles, these miles rendered