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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,—March 10, 1840.

A REPORT

FROM THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS,

UPON THE SUBJECT OF THE

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.

The undersigned, chairman of the committee on internal improvements, begs leave to report, that of all the subjects which have been submitted to the consideration of the committee at the present session of the Legislature, the most important one is the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

The memorial of that company praying an additional appropriation, the memorial of the citizens of Allegany county upon the same subject, and all other matters relating thereto have been duly considered by the committee, and the undersigned begs leave to submit briefly the following views upon those several subjects.

This stupendous work, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, has been in progress since the year 1828, and besides what has been derived from other sources, the State of Maryland has expended upon this enterprize upwards of seven millions of dollars.

If it were now for the first time proposed to embark in such an undertaking as making a canal from Georgetown to the coal regions in Allegany county, every discreet and prudent person would probably condemn such a scheme as wild and chimerical. But the question which is now presented to our consideration, whether or not we shall prosecute the work to completion, or abandon it in its present condition, is a widely different one from commencing it if it were a new project.

An enormous sum has already been expended—a debt has already been contracted, the interest upon which would impose an annual tax upon the people of Maryland, of upwards of four hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.