

Wilmington and Baltimore, Baltimore and Washington, and Elk-Ridge Railroads. And last, though not least, inexhaustible supplies of good limestone occur at many places upon the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which can be advantageously brought to tide water. And when that great work reaches the coal region of Alleghany county, the fine coal can be delivered at the limestone quarries on the lower parts of the canal, and at tide water, at exceedingly low rates, and thence can be cheaply distributed among all the counties bordering on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. A considerable lime trade has already sprung up along the canal. The new impulse, thus given, to our agriculture by our public works, will always continue to the mutual advantage of both. Although the embarrassed condition of our finances, growing out of their construction, rests heavily upon us, and is the present cause of much prejudice against them; we think the time is not remote, however, when they will be differently regarded. By the census of 1840 it is shown, that the annual product of the agricultural industry of Maryland, alone amounts to seventeen million dollars; nearly two-thirds of the annual product of the entire industry of the State. The tide of emigration has ceased. Mercantile operations have been curtailed, and capital is seeking permanent investment in the soil. The spirit of improvement manifested throughout the State, with such great facilities to sustain it, and a sure reward awaiting it, authorises the assumption, we think, that the annual product of our industry will be greatly increased—the faith and honor of our State maintained, and the substantial comfort and happiness of our people established.

The Committee respectfully recommend to their agricultural brethren of the State of Maryland, to procure the analysis of such soils, as they may take means to improve by lime, or otherwise; and transmit the same to the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, at the next session of the Legislature, together with a portion of the soil, and its average product per acre, prior to improvement—and to several succeeding legislatures its average product under such improvement—to the end that a basis may be formed upon which an intelligent and profitable system of husbandry may be established.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

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