

Propositions are before the Legislature to buy the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which in view of the unpromising condition of that work, and the remote probability whether that interest could ever be made productive, and as also of the continually accruing interest upon the bonds of the Company, the Committee think it a dictate of a sound policy, that some measure should be adopted by which the State would be relieved from this constant accretion of debt, and any sum that might be obtained for this interest invested and set apart to meet the debt of the State falling due in 1890. The Committee are of opinion that an arrangement might be effected which would greatly add to the interest of the State, if authority should be given by this Legislature to some competent and proper Commissioners to sell this interest at a minimum price, to be determined by law.

The Committee would also express the hope that the Legislature will make a liberal appropriation to the commissioners appointed at the Session of 1852, to "revise simply and abridge the rules of practice, pleadings, forms of conveyancing and proceedings of the Courts of this State." The manner in which this duty has been discharged, is best attested by the general approval of their work, and the benefits to be derived from its adoption universally admitted. A codification and simplification of the laws of this State, after a long series of legislation, has been found to be absolutely necessary, and the only means by which we can judge of the great good to be effected, is by a comparison of the result in other States where a wise policy has directed the adoption of a similar measure.

In closing the Report, the Committee cannot fail to express the necessity which has been made apparent to them, of making an appropriation for the enlargement of the Maryland Penitentiary commensurate with the wants of the Institution to carry out the purposes and objects for which it was designed. The Governor in his annual message especially calls the attention of the Legislature to the importance of some early action, and says: "The capacity of the Prison buildings has become wholly inadequate to the accommodation *and safe custody* of the constantly increasing number of inhabitants, and the necessity for enlargement is daily becoming more and more indispensable." The other appropriations asked for, appeal so directly to the wisdom, as well as to the sympathies of the State, that the Committee entertain but little doubt that they will be readily and cheerfully accorded. The House of Refuge, by the liberality of the city of Baltimore and the aid of private citizens, has been erected and