

6. From George-town to Frederick-town.
7. From Frederick-town to Sharpsburgh, from thence to Swaringen's ferry opposite Shepherd's-town.
8. From Frederick-town to the mouth of Conococheague through Middle-town.
9. From Baltimore-town to Bell-air, from thence to the Ball-friar ferry.
10. From Montgomery court-house to Elk-ridge landing, to intersect the post road leading from Baltimore-town to George-town.
11. From the Head of Elk to Patowmack, the post road.

That the aforesaid roads should be opened sixty-feet wide, and as straight and direct as the situation of the country will admit.

That a board of commissioners should be appointed in every county through which the said roads are meant to extend, to superintend the said work, appoint skilful surveyors, employ overseers and labourers, to accomplish the said undertaking; that as individuals may sustain injury by opening the said roads, your committee recommend, that compensation should be made for damages they may sustain. Your committee also report, that having viewed the situation of the people of this state, and reflecting on the heavy taxes they at present pay, are of opinion, that these roads proposed to be opened cannot be made as perfect as they require, by immediate taxation of the people, but they think this necessary work should be immediately entered on, and the said roads straightened and opened. Your committee beg leave to suggest, that as the internal communication through this state with the back part of the neighbouring states, would greatly increase our exports and imports, and of course considerably add to the state revenue, they are of opinion that the state should lend the several counties a sum of money for that purpose, to be returned at such time as the legislature may direct. Your committee are also of opinion, that the post road leading through this state from the northward to the southward, should be improved at the state's expence, it being calculated more for the convenience of travellers than for the citizens of any particular county. Your committee would also beg leave to recommend to the general assembly, a revision and alteration of the criminal law, that offenders for petit offences, and not meriting death, should be adjudged to work on the highways, and that the county courts should have jurisdiction thereof. Your committee beg leave further to observe, that if the finances of the state should not be in a condition to admit of the proposed loan, they would propose a tax on the counties through which the roads will extend, to open and straighten the same; that this tax, distressing and troublesome as it will prove, must be submitted to, sooner than the roads should remain in their present impassible situation.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. GASSAWAY, clk.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, December 19, 1786.

**T**HE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Joshua Seney, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Cromwell and Mr. Forrest. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The report on the petition of Simon Nicholls, was read the second time and concurred with.

On motion, ORDERED, That Mr. T. Johnson, Mr. Stone, Mr. Chase, Mr. Paca and Mr. Wright, be a committee to consider and report on the letters from the governor of Virginia of the first instant.

A petition from Henry Hunt, collector of the tax for Calvert county, setting forth, that judgment has been obtained against him for the arrearages of the taxes for 1785, and praying a suspension of any further process, and time to complete the collection of the taxes for 1786; was preferred, read, and referred to the committee appointed on petitions of a similar nature.

On motion, ORDERED, That the petition of Jonathan Hagar, and counter memorial of Daniel Heester, be heard on the fourth Monday in November next, and that any depositions taken, or to be taken, on reasonable notice, be received and read to prove facts on the hearing of the petition and memorial.

RESOLVED, That the treasurer of the western shore be authorized and required to make Simon Nicholls, late collector of the tax for Montgomery county, the following allowances in the settlement of his account, to wit: On account of William Benson, for 218½ bushels of wheat delivered at his mill, the sum of eighty-one pounds eighteen shillings and nine-pence; on account of Charles Cheney, for 69½ bushels of wheat delivered at his mill, the sum of twenty-six pounds one shilling and three-pence; on account of Walter Beall, for 13½ bushels of wheat delivered at his mill, the sum of five pounds one shilling and three-pence; in the whole amounting to one hundred and thirteen pounds one shilling and three-pence current money; and that the several vouchers be delivered to the treasurer, and that he be required immediately to call on the above persons for payment.

Mr. McMechen, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the petitions of the manufacturers and tradesmen of Baltimore and Frederick towns, and other citizens of this state, having considered the subject of the said petitions, the enormous imports into this state, and the circumstances of the manufacturers and mechanics, and their ability to furnish at least a partial supply of many of the most useful manufactures, and the ease with which the land and labour of this state would furnish in abundance victual, and several kinds of products, of which considerable quantities are imported, beg leave to report their opinion, that it will greatly promote the interest, population and strength, of this state, to discourage the