

ment of the ship channel already opened, to facilitate the easy ingress and egress of Ocean steamers of the heaviest tonnage, trading with this market. I am satisfied, from similar appropriations in other States, with not half the claim to public utility, that persistent and persevering efforts on the part of our Representatives in Congress must sooner or later establish the great value of this improvement in a national point of view, in connection with our Naval Marine, besides contributing to the general prosperity of the State of Maryland.

### IMMIGRATION.

The first Annual Report of the Commissioner of Immigration will shew the operations of that Department during the past year.

Much important information has been collected and distributed by the officer in charge, both at home and abroad, showing the prominent commercial advantages of the State of Maryland.

The Commissioner has availed himself of the Report prepared by order of the House of Delegates, in 1865, on the resources of Maryland; the Report of the Comptroller, showing our financial condition, and the Report of the State Board of Public Instruction, all of which he has distributed throughout the Northern and Eastern States, from whence immigration chiefly flows. This has been attended with good results, but not to the extent that he could have anticipated from the multiplicity of letters addressed to him, attributable, it is believed, to the unsettled condition of our national affairs. He has also made a vigorous effort towards securing a direct immigration from foreign countries, and particularly the German States, of the agricultural classes. In this he has had to contend with settled prejudices, and a general preference for the Western States, owing to the efforts for a number of years of agents from these States, aided by a free command of capital. A great amount of valuable information has been collected and distributed in the German language, with promise of a good return. He has already had the promise of hearty co-operation from abroad, and in one of the letters received from his German correspondents, he has been notified that a number of families with a capital of from \$600 to \$1,500 each, are preparing to leave in the spring for a permanent settlement in Maryland.

The arrivals in Baltimore since March last have been 9,299 immigrants, mostly destined for the West. These have all been visited on their arrival in port.

Through the agency of this Department exclusively, 178 were induced to change their destination and remain in Ma-