

in whose direct benefits they have not shared, would long since have amounted to a sum larger than that which they will be allowed to receive. As far back as 1836, \$1,000,000 was pledged and set aside for works of internal improvement on the Eastern Shore; and the revenues of the State have been benefited by accruing interest to nearly double the amount of the original appropriation. The justice which demands that the balances due the several counties should be paid when called for, will, your committee are sure, be acquiesced in by every one of your honorable members.

And here it may not be deemed inappropriate, in view of its great importance to the State, and especially to the city of Baltimore, to suggest the great advantages of a connecting link of 13 miles of rail between Middletown, on the Delaware Road and Elkton, which give all the peninsular counties, including those of Delaware, and ultimately of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, a choice of the markets of Baltimore and Philadelphia, with the advantage of a saving in distance over the present route by Wilmington to Baltimore of thirty miles. The building of this road would measurably atone for the great advantages that have been lost to the State by failure to construct the Eastern Shore Railroad as originally contemplated, from Elkton on the level near the Delaware line, to some suitable point on the bay shore of Somerset county, with connecting laterals to the county towns. This subject receives additional importance from the knowledge that the traffic from all the inland portion of the Peninsula is finding a market in Philadelphia, and the fact cannot be disguised that the affinities of a people go hand in hand with their trade. The people of the Eastern Shore are devotedly attached to their State, and proud of her history, which they have in no small part contributed to make, and the direct interest of Baltimore alone demands that they should not for the want of the trifling sum required to construct this short connecting road, be left in a condition in which they may be constrained by interest to form connections, which even in the remote future may affect their relations and attach them to a people with whom they cannot be supposed to have the same congeniality as for the citizens of their own state. Nothing can be more important to a state than to hold together the different portions of her territory in the bonds of a common interest, and though your Constitution prohibits any measure of relief in the case indicated, yet the fact has none the less significance, and your committee have deemed it of sufficient importance, in anticipation of the enhanced taxable basis of this portion of the State, to call attention to it in the hope, that under the influence of Legislative approbation, sufficient interest will be aroused in Baltimore to lead to the accomplishment of this short but very important