

The policy of Maryland in the early portion of the last century, and prior to the present Constitution, was one of encouragement of internal improvement. The people of Maryland are now demanding that the State return, to some extent, to the former policy of improving the highways. Good roads are demanded, and ways and means must be provided by the State for that purpose.

SUPERVISION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

The financial institutions in Maryland which have been organized under the laws of the State, and those of other States which have been authorized to do business in this State, such as savings institutions, trust companies, building associations, State banks and corporations authorized to receive deposits, should be under the supervision of a special State official, clothed with ample powers, such as are conferred upon superintendents of similar institutions in other States.

The importance of such control and supervision can be fully realized when it is known that the savings banks of Baltimore city alone hold the deposits of at least 141,000 persons, amounting to about \$70,000,000, not to mention the thousands who are depositors with trust companies, building associations, State banks and other corporations. The greater number of these depositors are working men and women, whose scanty savings are placed for safekeeping in these institutions. The State owes a duty to these depositors, and should devise additional means for guarding their money. Legislation should be maturely considered creating such an office and vesting in the Governor power to require that the incumbent faithfully performs his duties.

His excellency, Governor Smith, has in his message, transmitted to the General Assembly, set out in a clear and comprehensive manner the present condition of the affairs of the State. I congratulate him and the people upon the splendid showing he makes as the result of the wise, able and economical conduct of the public business during his administration, and I heartily commend to you, Senators and Members of the House of Delegates, the measures he recommends,