

INTRODUCTION.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SURVEY.

The state of Maryland, lying midway between the North and South, and stretching as it does from the Atlantic ocean to the crest of the Alleghanies, with the great estuary of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries extending far into the land in all directions, possesses many advantages over neighboring commonwealths. There is probably no state of equal size in the Union that has such a variety of natural features in climate, soils and mineral resources, while its central location and numerous natural highways of commerce and trade render this native wealth of the greatest importance to the material prosperity of the people.

It is but natural that the citizens of Maryland should demand the fullest investigation of these factors which the methods of modern science can command. It was in accordance with this idea that a bill was introduced at the last session of the General Assembly calling for a thorough study of the physical features, including the physiography, geology and mineral resources of the state.

THE BILL.

The bill by which the survey was established is entitled:

“An Act to establish a State Geological and Economic Survey, and to make provision for the preparation and publication of reports and maps to illustrate the natural resources of the State, together with the necessary investigations preparatory thereto.”¹

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That there is hereby established a State Geological and Economic Survey which shall be under the direction of a commission composed of the Governor, the Comptroller, the president of the Johns Hopkins

¹ Laws of Maryland, 1896, Chapter 51.