

statement of the natural advantages of each county, and will not only be of value to the residents, but likewise to those who are looking for homes in the state. These reports will be accompanied by large scale topographic maps which will show at a glance by the colors and symbols introduced all of the natural resources of the county. This method of treatment has been pursued in some of the other states with excellent results, and has many practical advantages in a state like Maryland over the publication of section sheets which ignore the county lines.

THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION OF ROAD MATERIALS.

There is perhaps no subject to-day which is more demanding the attention of enlightened commonwealths than the proper construction of roads. Much consideration has been given this subject by experts, who have found that if the money now expended annually by the several states was properly applied, a system of permanently good roads could be gradually constructed in place of the temporary make-shifts now in vogue. The importance of proper highways to all classes of citizens cannot be too forcibly dwelt upon, but this is neither the time nor the place to go into the discussion of this important question. It is desirable, however, that attention should be called to the fact that good roads can only be built with proper materials, and that it is most essential that the various rock formations within the state should be studied with a view to their use in this direction. Although some rocks may be shown to be better than others, questions of transportation have to be considered, and in each section it is necessary to discover the most available local materials. After the various rocks have been tested by well-known methods and their availability determined, it is then important to show their distribution so that the road commissioners of each county may know where to obtain them with the least expenditure of time and money. There are few ways in which the Geological Survey can be of more direct service to the state than in giving advice regarding the proper materials for road construction, and it is the intention of the State Geologist to give this subject his careful attention as the work of the survey proceeds.