

of taxes of Prince George's county, further time to complete his collections;

Referred to Messrs. Tuck, Bowie and Maccubbin.

Mr. Welch of Annapolis, submitted the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, great inconvenience is sustained by the register in chancery, for the want of room in his office for the safe and proper keeping of the great seal of the State of Maryland, and being also at great inconvenience for the want of sufficient room to deposit for the safe keeping of the public documents in his office:—Therefore,

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the room adjoining the chancery office, be fitted up under the direction of the Governor, for the safe keeping of the great seal of the State, for holding the sessions of the court of chancery, and for the better and more convenient preservation of the papers and records belonging to the office of the chancery court; provided, this resolution shall not preclude the use of said room by committees, or any other use which the Legislature may from time to time require.

Which was passed the first and by special order the second time.

On motion of Mr. Hearn, laid on the table.

Mr. Hope, chairman of the committee on agriculture made the following report:

The committee on agriculture which was directed by an order of the house, passed on the twentieth day of February 1840, to inquire into the expediency and propriety of paying a bounty on all raw silk which may be produced in this State, have had the same under consideration, and after a careful examination of the subject into which they were charged to inquire, ask leave respectfully to

REPORT:

That in the opinion of the committee it is inexpedient to grant a bounty on the production of silk.

The embarrassed condition of the finances of the State deeply impress upon the committee the strictest husbandry of all the resources of the State. The absolute necessity of a rigid economy impels a curtailment of all expenses not impossibly demanded for the due administration of the government, and an urgent solicitation to avoid the recommendation of any proposition which might tend in any degree to increase the demands upon the treasury, without a strong probability of receiving therefrom a corresponding revenue, seems to be forbidden at a time when the State is almost driven to direct taxation to meet its current expenses. This view alone in the opinion of the committee justifies the conclusion to which they have arrived, but they cannot refrain from expressing their doubts as to the propriety of fostering by a bounty one class of industry and enterprize to the exclusion of others.

Might it not with greater force be urged to grant a bounty to induce the general use of lime and other manures by which the