

the committee would ask from the Legislature in behalf of the farmers and planters is, that they should not be injured by legislative efforts, to benefit other classes of the community.

The agriculturist, if not oppressed by unwise Legislation, has a certain means of improving his condition and contributing to the general prosperity by increasing the fertility and productiveness of the soil he cultivates.

This seems to be at this crisis well understood, and a spirit of improvement seems to pervade every section of the State. Formerly, systems of agriculture were pursued which tended to impoverish the lands and the owners, instead of making efforts to avert by fertilization the inconveniences resulting from an impoverished soil, looked to emigration as a retreat from their difficulties, where they would find a soil of virgin fertility, to be subjected to the same process of exhaustion by bad culture.

The advantage that must result from improving our lands and discouraging emigration, is now manifested by the better markets for products and the increased facilities of procuring the means of improvement, which have introduced a better system of agriculture, that is rapidly progressive, and the committee conceive any better mode of performing the duty assigned to them, than recommending that our constituents in every part of the State, should be urged to persevere in a well devised course of improving their soil. Among the means of fertilization, lime seems to be the most abundant and the most efficacious, other kinds of manure including ashes, cannot be had in sufficient quantities. And plaster though efficacious on particular lands, cannot be relied upon to restore an exhausted soil. But lime is the most abundant mineral, in nature and experience, the only sure guide has shewn that it acts beneficially, though variously upon all the soils of our State, some soils require and are benefited by larger quantities than others. The quantity which may be advantageously used on different soils, varies according to the best experience we have referred to, from forty to two hundred bushels to the acre; soils which contain sand, seem to require the lesser quantities; but the safer guide on this subject is experiment, none have yet used lime without being abundantly rewarded for the expenditure of money and labor incurred.

When we look to the means of improving the soil, scattered through Maryland in its lime quarries and marl beds and the spirit of improvement that has been awakened among our people, we have reason to hope, in a few years' fertility will be marked upon the surface of the whole State, and that our population instead of seeking an abode in the forest of the west, will be furnished in their native land, with a home as comfortable, and a soil as generous, as can be found beyond the limits of our boundary.

All which is respectfully submitted,

THOS. HOPE, Chairman.

Mr. Spence submitted the following resolution:

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Register of the Land office for the Western Shore, be and he is here-