

these coal companies for the purpose of connecting their respective mines with the common means of transportation exceeds 100 miles. The amount of coal annually exported to the seaboard and other markets, is from 800,000 to 1,000,000 tons. This could be increased one-half if adequate facilities of transportation were afforded.

The region from which the coal is mined lies between Davis mountain on the east and Savage mountain on the west, and is twenty miles long with an average breadth of four and a half miles. George's creek runs through this tract and its name is sometimes given to the coal mined there. The available quantity of coal contained in this single valley, after making the usual deductions for waste and loss is estimated at 4,000,000,000 tons.

Experience has demonstrated the very great merit of this coal. It is bituminous, burns readily with a clear bright flame and leaves but little ashes. It is especially adapted to the purposes of the blacksmith, giving a quick fire with intense heat. It is the best coal in use for producing steam, and the supplies which will be needed for ocean steamers, for locomotives and steam machine shops throughout our seaboard, must increase year by year.

Besides the coal field of the valley of the George's creek there are two other coal fields known by the names of the Youghiogany and Meadow Mountain coal fields. The first embracing an area of 250 and the last of 150 square miles. The coal of these fields has been ascertained to partake of the same general characteristics as the Cumberland coal, but it has been little explored and only opened for local uses. These coal fields will probably remain unimproved until capital is more abundant and the population more dense, so that the expense of making roads and railroads will be shared by a public to whom it is a benefit.

Unsatisfactory means of transportation has been the great obstacle with which the proprietors of the various mines of Allegany county have been obliged to contend. Confined to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and these works being constantly threatened and repeatedly broken, the boats upon the one and the rolling stock of the other often destroyed; the wealth of Allegany for the last four years has had but a precarious outlet; but it cannot be long restrained. Either, safe transportation with cars and boats sufficient for forwarding the products of the mines, must be furnished, so that a market may be reached through these avenues, or they will soon make themselves a channel northward and reach their market over the great lines of the Pennsylvania roads.

Doubtless the agricultural and manufacturing interests of this county will always be subordinate to the mining interests,