

sulting to the agricultural interest of these portions of the state from an accurate geological survey or minute investigation of the mineral constitution of its soils, they would not be greater, if so great, as those resulting from the same cause, to other sections by a development of resources applicable to the same, or the kindred interests of commerce and manufactures. There appears to be, however, an obvious propriety in commencing this survey, should the Legislature as your committee think they ought, determine upon prosecuting it to completion, in the region of Tertiary formation, as well, because of the greater facility and dispatch with which the necessary investigations can be made in that region, as because of the greater immediate advantages there anticipated from it; and the comparatively small benefits hitherto derived to that portion of our fellow citizens from the expenditures of public money for purposes of internal improvement. Of the manner in which the gentleman particularly charged with the collection of information and preparations for making a complete map of the state, has so far executed his task, your committee feel that they cannot speak in two high terms of commendation. The map which has actually been commenced and progressed with to considerable extent, promises to be a master-piece in its kind, and will be of great value to the state. The want of accurate geographical and topographical knowledge of our state is felt by all, and by none more severely than those whose duty it is to provide for the improvement and good of the whole. Your committee hesitate not to recommend the further zealous prosecution of works so auspiciously commenced, though they must regret that no sufficient data have been afforded them (most probably because from the nature of things they could not be,) by the report of the Engineers, or otherwise from which they can make any satisfactory estimate of the total cost of consummating the original design. Your committee cannot approve of giving so wide a latitude of discretion in the expenditure of public money to the Executive authority, as the language of the original resolutions would justify, not that they suspect the least improper exercise of that discretion in the present instance, far from it; but they object to it as pernicious in principle and tendency; and as it appears to be difficult, if not impossible, otherwise to apportion by law the amount of compensation to be allowed for the contemplated services, to the actual service to be rendered; your committee would recommend that the En-