

## REPORT.

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The Committee on Agriculture, to whom has been referred the petitions of the citizens of various parts of the State, praying legislative aid for agriculture in general, and particularly to encourage the growth of the mulberry and sugar beat, by offering a bounty, for a limited number of years, beg leave respectfully to

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That after attentively considering the statements made by the petitioners, of the impoverished condition of the farming interest of the State, they are but too powerfully impressed with the truth of the picture drawn by them, and fear that a deeper investigation of the subject would but add darker shades to the picture. They fear also, that upon a fair examination, the planters and tobacco growing interest would gain but little by a comparison. For a number of successive years, the almost entire failure of the wheat crop, the great staple of Maryland, has so crippled the farmers of the State, that they are left at this time not only without the means of improving their soil, but almost without the means of subsistence. Instead of the large supplies of small grain furnished for foreign markets by the farmers of the State, the last year presents the melancholy spectacle of a dependence on foreign supplies for domestic consumption. Nor do your committee see, in the prospect of the present year, any thing likely to improve their condition. It is even too probable that in addition to the supplies which will be required for the present subsistence of the people, they may be obliged to depend on foreign importation for their seed.

This state of things has not proceeded in the opinion of your committee from any sudden or unexpected causes,—it has been the result in part of injudicious cultivation of the soil, and of injudicious legislation, or rather from the want of judicious legislative encouragement to the farming interest. The lands of Maryland were naturally fertile—and her climate is particularly favourable to