

Potager, with the lower Summit proposed by Briggs in 1823.

The extent of drainage into this lower Summit of the Seneca route from actual survey conducted as above is a surface of something less than twenty square miles — an extent of Country hardly more than one third of what we need, even if we could treasure up all the surplus water of the winter and of the wet season.

The result of this minute and accurate survey is so decisive that in addition to a personal and careful examination of the Country that can be commanded by a Summit at any other point along the Pass-Spring-ridge (having in hand the field notes of Briggs' survey of 1823, that may be fully relied on so far as accuracy of leveling is concerned) we feel called upon to express at once fully and decisively our opinions, and accordingly we do so. — A due supply of water cannot be had on any line of Canal crossing Pass-Spring-ridge. This opinion is sustained in the strongest manner by the experience of the Union Canal of Pennsylvania, on whose works it has been necessary to resort to artificial means of collecting a sufficiency of water for the Summit. — A reference to the Union Canal is unhesitatingly made inasmuch as the Engineer on the part of the State has lately visited that work with the view of obtaining such information as might have a bearing on the subject under discussion. — and we repeat that our calculations of the supply of water furnished by a given extent of Country, that can be made available through the natural flow of streams, and by the aid of reservoirs based upon the experience of the Union Canal, sustain fully and unquestionably the opinion we have already expressed, of the utter insufficiency of water to feed a Canal of the assumed dimensions and capacity, passing thro' Pass-Spring-ridge at any point within the limits of the State of Maryland.

Other routes than across the ridge have been suggested for a cross cut canal exclusively within the limits of Maryland. It has been thought for instance that the waters of the Potomac might be brought down on a high level from the mouth of the river — up the Seneca Valley, thence nearly parallel to Pass-ridge along its southwestern base, around its termination at Hansville upon a route that would pass no Summit but admit of a continuous descent to Baltimore. It has also been suggested to take in like manner the Potomac water from the Great Falls — from the Little Falls or perhaps from some other point higher up and to pass along exclusively within the limits of Maryland without a Summit. — all these plans we pronounced utterly impracticable — we have proved them to be so by actual examination with the level.

A plan has been mentioned for crossing Pass-Spring-ridge of which as yet we have made no mention — that is to gather a certain
drainage