

above the simple question of finance, which is now presented for the decision of the legislature, the statesman and political economist regards this road as the means of renovating the Eastern Shore, increasing the wealth and prosperity of that portion of the State, and of attaching, within its limits, the wandering population of Maryland. Your memorialists looking to the improvement of the Shore as a matter of sufficient importance to authorise the appropriation of a part of the State's means, would say in regard to the sum given to this road, that, if it were certain it would never return one dollar *directly* to the state, but that its revenues would be equivalent only to its own current expenses, the State ought not, in our humble opinion, to hesitate about its construction. The improvement which would certainly follow its completion, would ultimately bring into the Treasury treble the amount of the interest on the outlay. Your memorialists believe, that the same sum could not be appropriated in any other manner, on the Shore, to produce so much, and so general improvement.

“The Eastern Shore, with a soil naturally of the best quality, with a climate congenial to the growth of almost every plant, with abundant supplies of timber, and ample agricultural resources, is nevertheless far behind in wealth and general improvement, other less fortunate regions. Taken as a whole she may be said to be the portion of the State most favored by nature, yet her people are poorest in reality. While lands in Cecil will readily sell at prices ranging from \$30 to \$60 per acre, lands in Somerset, equally good, or at all events possessing in an ample degree all the essential ingredients of fertility, will not command more than from 8 to \$12 per acre. The great cause of this melancholy state of things, is the want of enterprise and agricultural intelligence in the people; and this is occasioned by their isolated position.— Although entirely agricultural in their pursuits, they are unmindful of the means of wealth that surround them, and know not their use; and if they did, they have not the enterprise to appropriate them. They plod on in the way their fathers did, with this difference only, that the soil is every day growing leaner, and their means diminishing. This can only be accounted for by their isolated condition; the great mass of the people never leave the Shore, and they are rarely visited by any in a mode to produce improvement. In proof that their isolated position is the cause of their supineness, it may be remarked, that as you advance from the southern to the northern extremity of the shore, you find the country gradually to improve; and when you have arrived at the northern end, where works of internal improvement are now in operation, you find the country, with not half the advantages, in point of soil, rapidly improving, and the people all active and enterprising. If the isolated position of the shore be the grand cause of the present depressed condition of agriculture in that portion of the State, as your memorialists sincerely believe it to be, the work they are engaged in offers the readiest and only means of restoration. Open this road: make a great thoroughfare through