

R E P O R T .

To the House of Delegates:

The committee appointed to visit the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, between Dam No. 6 and the town of Cumberland, to view the condition of the work, its location and construction, and to report as to the expediency of releasing the State's lien upon the Canal, so as to enable the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company to borrow upon the credit of the company a sufficient sum of money to complete the work to the town of Cumberland; and further, to examine the western portion of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, now used as a feeder to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal from Cumberland to Dam No. 6, and to report as to the expediency of using that portion of the road as a feeder to the Canal—beg leave, respectfully, to submit the following as the result of their investigations.

The committee, availing themselves of the polite offer of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road company to transport them free of charge, left Baltimore on Monday, the 27th of January, and arrived at Cumberland in the afternoon of the same day. On Tuesday, accompanied by a number of the citizens of Allegany county, they visited Frostburg, Lonaconing and Mount Savage, returning to Cumberland on Wednesday about 3 o'clock. The afternoon of that day was occupied in an inspection of the guard locks, embankments and dam of the Canal, in and about the town of Cumberland. On Thursday our examination of the entire line of Canal and Rail Road, between the town of Cumberland and Dam No. 6, commenced; this examination was on horse back and by Rail Road conveyance. On Saturday the 1st of the present month, the committee finished their duty assigned.

The coal mine of the Maryland Mining company, about one mile from the town of Frostburg, the committee traversed and inspected throughout its whole extent; they were afforded an opportunity of seeing to advantage the inside of a coal field of Allegany county, as well as the manner in which the mineral is worked and brought out for use. The opening made by this company is of a vein of ten feet, which at the same altitude is to be found every where throughout the mineral region, and in the southern portion of which region increases to a thickness of fourteen feet.