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BY THE HOUSE DELEGATES,

March 5th, 1846.

Read and ordered to be printed.

RÉPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE ON

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT,

UPON THE MEMORIAL OF

P. CROWLEY AND JOHN GORMAN,

Praying that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, may be authorized to fund the scrip of said company now held by the memorialists.

The committee on Internal Improvements to whom was referred the memorial of P. Crowley, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to submit the following

REPORT:

The present condition of our various works of internal improvement, is known to all from the annual and supplemental reports which have been returned to his Excellency the Governor, by the respective companies engaged in these works. It is needless for this committee, to take a retrospective view and recount the many obstacles and difficulties which these works, have had to encounter in their onward progress to a successful prosecution. The fact is well ascertained that when they were first projected the grand scheme, was not only thought feasible but certain. Men of both parties, honest in their convictions, believed, looking to New York and Pennsylvania, as examples that the trade, prosperity and happiness of our State, would be greatly increased if these works were entered upon and prosecuted successfully. Owing to the peculiar geographical position of our State, it was likewise thought, that a chain of works leading from the Chesapeake Bay to the Ohio river would be the means of diverting the Western trade from its Northern route, within our own borders, and developing the mineral wealth of certain sections, which otherwise must forever lie dormant. Under these impressions and convictions the State embarked largely in the great work, hoping as all the friends of Internal Improvement did, that their most sanguine wishes might be realized. But time revealed the false estimates which had been made. Unforeseen difficulties, from time to time presented themselves, until those who had been the friends, became the enemies of the whole system. The State after having com-