

entitled to. The shortest and most direct communication the Western States can have with Atlantic, is through Maryland. Let us then afford them every facility of intercourse with us, and they will richly reward us by the contribution of their valuable productions, to swell our foreign commerce, at the same time that we shall greatly extend our inland trade, always more important to a country than its foreign traffick.

Notwithstanding the great advantages Maryland will obviously derive from these works they possess more of a national than local character, and we have no doubt will receive the fostering aid of the National Government, which has heretofore been so wisely extended to works of a similar nature, though of minor importance.

Roads and Canals are as essential to the growth and prosperity of a country as arteries are to the health and vigor of the human body. They facilitate intercourse, bring citizens of remote districts together, and thereby remove local prejudices and diffuse wealth and comfort through the land by affording a cheap and easy interchange of the surplus productions of one section of the country for those of another.

You will receive, herewith, Doctor Howard's report of the survey of a route for a canal from the Potomac to Baltimore, and of an examination, of the country towards this city, with a view of connecting it with the proposed canal. The execution of this survey and examination is highly creditable to that enlightened and worthy citizen, and it contains information very desirable to be possessed by both the General and State Governments, which can be resorted to for practical purposes either at the present or any future period. It is very gratifying to observe that the United States Topographical Engineers are so freely detailed on works of this sort. This corps consists principally of graduates from that invaluable Military School at West Point, and were no other advantages to be derived from that highly interesting National institution than the extensive surveys they have been engaged in making through the country, the Republic would be amply remunerated for all the expence attending the establishment.

We regret to have to communicate that the Militia are in a state of great deterioration, and that nothing short of the invigorating hand of the Legislature can make them what they ought to be.

We have been looking to Congress for sometime for a general System, and under its direction considerable