

lands and islands, that have been created and modified by an agency more powerful than their own; nor is it supposed that the waters at both ends of an inlet have an equal, uniform, or permanently different influence; on the contrary, the agency sometimes of one and sometimes of the other is the stronger; and the effects are in each case marked in proportion. If an inlet be taken at first to be formed by the impulsive action of the sea, there will always be required a basin, or a sound, or a mass of insulated water, of sufficient extent to receive, without much modification of the usual momentum of that mass, the quantity of sand which such an impulsive action always brings along with it—in order that the inlet should be permanent: otherwise, the incoming sand fills up to a certain extent, perhaps at once, and, in all cases, sooner or later, the entire basin—thus diminishing the depth and weight, and the velocity of the inclosed water, the chief resisting and cleansing agent. Should the included waters be of great extent in width and depth, the bars which block every inlet will be outside of the inlet, whose landward mouth will be cleared and curved like the proper embouchure of a strong river; and generally, in proportion as the included sound is small, these bars will come in nearer and nearer, up to the point where the sand which forms them fills up the whole basin. This is a subject, however, on which it is not expected that the Commissioners should collate facts or express an opinion: they have only alluded to the essays made in relation to it, to show the efforts which the unfortunate position of the inhabitants of a fertile region compels them to make, to protect their industry and commerce, and the importance which a feasible improvement brings with it to their interest.

Believing then, that there is sufficient ground for objection to a route along the east side of Sinepuxent Neck, the Commissioners have preferred directing the route of the canal improvement up and along the Trap Creek, which they have before indicated as having its mouth on the western side of South Point. This creek, which has, from a short distance above its mouth, a depth of twelve feet, carried for some miles, becomes at length reduced to four feet and a half, and a soft bottom at the point which they selected as the opening of a canal; and from which, across the neck, a line of levels has been run. With regard to the navigation on