

such works of improvement as shall be of generally admitted importance, is presented to every mind by the examples furnished by other States and the spirit of the age.

Should it be deemed expedient for the Government to aid the introduction of capital from abroad, even if done upon the credit of the State, to be applied to the construction of Rail Roads, Canals, or such other works of internal improvement, as will give a useful impetus to the industry of our citizens together with satisfactory assurance that the advancements would be fully repaid either in money or in benefits to the whole people; such a course would doubtless be within the constitutional power of the Legislature.

The seal of popular reprobation has been placed upon the doctrine of having Internal Improvements by the National Government incorporated into the policy of the Federal Administration. This doctrine cannot receive the sanction of those who desire to see the operations of the Federal Government restricted to the few general purposes of foreign and domestic policy, for which it was instituted. The States, and the States only, in their exercise of distinct sovereignty, are the guardians of the sectional improvements, which the interests of their respective populations designate as desirable. In most of the States, if not in all, it is a question of policy, and not of power, whether such works as have been alluded to, shall be executed at once, by directing the energies of the local government to bear upon them, or be left to wait the tardy struggle, which individual enterprise might be induced to make, for the sake of securing their advantage.

In this State I conceive it to be a question of policy exclusively, and within the decision of the Legislature.