

clay, sometimes approaching to red clay, except near the water courses, where the land is flat and sandy, especially on the salt water. The lower section of the county is a stiff clay soil, well adapted to the growth of corn and wheat, and if cultivated would produce the finest grass.

The water of the uplands is pure, like that of all siliceous soils ; and in the lowlands it is calcareous.

The fruits and vegetables which require sandy soils and moist air, can nowhere be cultivated with more profit and pleasure than in Somerset and the adjoining counties. The mixed, disintegrated character of the soil, renders it susceptible of improvement to a high degree. Melons, strawberries, cantelupes, peaches and grapes, may be cultivated for the markets, with greater certainty of perfection and remuneration than in any other localities in the State. The fruits will ripen earlier than in the upper counties, while the tender varieties, which are more or less injured by hard winters elsewhere, are protected here by the adjacent salt waters of the bay and ocean.

The location of Somerset and Worcester counties between two large bodies of salt water, tempers the heats of summer with the ever recurring sea breezes, and so far softens the rigors of winter that plants "are not materially affected by frost."

Sweet potatoes of the best quality are grown in this county. They yield in remarkable abundance. As far back as 1850, 120,000 bushels being the annual crop. Wine is manufactured for domestic use from the wild grape. Indian corn and wheat are the principal grains.

The average price of cultivated lands, according to location, improvements and quality, ranges from \$10 to \$30 per acre. Wood land the same price. Farms are of all sizes, from 1500 acres to 40 or 50.

The county is not subject to chills and fevers to any considerable extent. The water power of the county is not used to one-fourth of its extent. Bog iron ore is found in the upper and middle parts of the county, but is not worked.

Banks of "Indian shells" or oyster-lime are abundant, and the marsh muck, which is remarkable for its black color, light porous texture, and large amount of vegetable matter, as well as sea-weed and turf, are employed as fertilizers.

## DORCHESTER COUNTY.

Dorchester county occupies a peninsula lying between the Choptank and Nanticoke rivers, and extends from the Dela-