

From this same point is now supplied a variety of granite (Syenite) one of the most permanent of all building materials, whether for exposure in the air or water. Iron ore also abounds in some parts of the county, with a good quality of Kaolin (porcelain clay) from which earthen-ware of good quality is made, and from the coarser varieties a good quality of fire brick.

*Soils of the upper portion of Cecil County.*—These consist of red and white isinglass soils, clay, loam and shaley soils, and are of various degrees of fertility and excellence; the clay soils are exceedingly productive in wheat, the grasses and corn. The same may be said of the alluvial soils on the banks of the streams, particularly in reference to corn. The intrinsic character of the soils in all parts of the county except in a narrow belt in the chrome region, is good; they respond well to proper cultivation and manures, produce fine fruits and vegetables, and in addition to the general markets of Philadelphia and Baltimore, have a good home market at the numerous manufactories existing in every part of the county.

Much of the land is well adapted to grass, and large quantities of stock-cattle are annually fattened, principally for the Philadelphia market; the location and soil being particularly favorable to this branch of husbandry. The face of the country is undulating, in some sections hilly with fine building sites. It is very healthy and offers desirable residences to men of capital and taste. All the luxuries of the Chesapeake Bay, quiet and retirement, with full and free intercourse with a chain of great metropolitan cities can be commanded from this county.

The county town is Elkton, at the head of navigation on Elk River, and immediately on the P. W. & B. Railroad.

This portion of the county is well provided with transportation, having the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad on its whole southern border, and the Susquehanah river and Port Deposit Railroad on its western border. The Philadelphia & Baltimore Central Railroad is also in process of construction in the north-western portion of the county, and will furnish excellent transportation to a section now enjoying this benefit to a sufficient extent.

Its central portion is only distant a few hours (two or three) from the great cities of Philadelphia and Baltimore, and has the choice of Railroad or tide-water steam navigation.

The population of this county are industrious, thriving and very intelligent in their callings; many immigrants have lately come in here from the North, and in addition to the material advantages which have accrued to them, have also enjoyed the hearty kind welcome characteristic of our State.