

The county is well supplied with fencing and other timber. It has many large herring and shad fisheries, with abundance of oysters, terrapins and other fish common to the waters of the Chesapeake.

The land here sells at from five to fifty dollars per acre, the price being varied by the usual governing circumstances. Much of it, of excellent quality, with fair improvements, can be had for twenty dollars per acre. This is very cheap for a productive home, in a good neighborhood, with a good soil and genial climate. Thousands of our countrymen are to-day toiling on worse soils, costing a higher price, with much less of the physical and social advantages than which this county possesses.

TALBOT COUNTY.

This county has long and favorably been known as one of the best, if not the very best cultivated and improved of any of the counties of the State. For a long period great attention has been paid to the breeding of stock and the rational use of fertilizers, and the result is a character for the production of live stock—especially sheep—equal to any part of the country, and a highly improved condition of the soil, naturally not superior to the other counties of this Shore. The basis of this improvement has moreover been almost exclusively derived from its own resources, viz: Shell marl, seaweed and oyster shell lime, derived from the waters, which afford direct and indirect sustenance to a large part of its population. The use of marl and oyster shell lime had become very general in this county when it had been but comparatively little known in other sections of the country. Worn out and naturally poor lands were thus greatly improved, which resulted in corresponding improvement in the breed of live stock and a general diffusion of agricultural knowledge and energy, which, in agricultural matters, has placed this county in a very high position. Very much of this has been due to the influences of the Eastern Shore Agricultural Society—an association of gentlemen, not only the oldest of its kind in the State, but equal to any similar one anywhere in the general intellectual cultivation of its members, their unselfish devotion to and practical knowledge of all that concerns the interests of agriculture. No association anywhere, of the same number, combines more of intellectual or moral worth, combined with the same degree of social refinement, as the Eastern Shore Agricultural Society. Composed mainly of farmers of this county, they can enjoy the satisfaction moreover of having contributed in a very great degree to not only the agricultural, but to the moral and social improvement, not only of their own, but to adjoining counties, and, in some degree, to the whole State.