

creeks with deep water, clear beaches and high banks. Many of the dwellings or farm buildings lie immediately on these, and farm products in many places may be taken from the granary, placed immediately on the decks of steamboats and in a few hours landed on the wharves of the great commercial marts. The transportation is of the most perfect kind, by means of the Choptank River and its numerous branches on the one side, with Miles River, Wye River and the Eastern Bay on the other. All of these are deep, navigable, salt, tidal waters.

The internal resources of the county for agricultural improvement are of the first quality, not only as to their richness, but also their easiness of access and very general diffusion. There are shell marls, sea grass and oyster shell lime, the former found of exceeding richness in almost every section of the county, particularly on the Choptank and the various branches of the Tred Haven, and the latter obtained from all of the waters of the county. With these, and ordinary farm resources almost exclusively till late years, the lands of this county have been made equal in production to many of the best sections of the country. With proper additions they will continue to exist equal to any in any section.

The unrivaled water communication will have added to it facilities for speedy transit to Philadelphia and the North by means of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad, which will in a short time be completed to Oxford, a fine, bold harbor. It will traverse the county in a direction from northeast to south-west, and make complete at all seasons, the transportation facilities for this county.

The county is well watered with pure springs and running streams, and is well timbered for all domestic purposes.

The land varies in price according to its degree of improvement, buildings on it and neighborhood; but everywhere can be purchased cheaply, when its intrinsic value is considered. The price of it varies from ten to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre—though frequently the prices do not bear direct ratio to its intrinsic excellence, land in particular neighborhoods selling at higher rates than the same quality brings in other places.

The County town is Easton, pleasantly situated near the centre of the county at the head of Tred Haven River, a mile or two from Miles River, and a few miles from the Choptank, by means of which it has daily communication with Baltimore; and direct communication with Philadelphia.

DORCHESTER COUNTY.

South of Talbot and the Choptank River is the county of Dorchester, pronounced *Dorset*. It is bounded on the North