

*Soils.*—The soils of this county are mostly of saandy loam, particularly in the north-western section. In various parts are also found the finest quality of “white oak” soils, in close connection with the Black Gum Swamp soils, each highly by admixture improving the other, and in some sections small quantities of red or yellow clay soils similar to those found in other parts of the shore and elsewhere described.

The face of the country, in its lower part, is generally level and flat, in its western portion slightly rolling, and between the Pocomoke River, which running south through it, divides it into two nearly equal parts, and Sinepuxet Bay, a ridge of hills run nearly parallel to the ocean, dividing the waters that flow into the Bay from those that flow into the Pocomoke, in many places commanding a fine prospect of the ocean, and though eight or ten miles distant, within hearing of the sound of its surf.

The means for the improvement of the soil are oyster shell lime in the greatest abundance, and in some sections vast deposits of Indian shell banks.

The climate is very mild, being tempered greatly by the influence of the ocean and other waters contiguous to it, and from the corresponding favorable conditions of the soil it is specially adapted to the production of early fruits and vegetables, which command the highest price in the markets of the north.

The staple crops on improved land flourish here, and from the extreme mildness of the climate, with the existence of early and late pasturage, the raising of live stock may be made a very profitable branch of husbandry,—nothing confirms this more than the fact that on the Islands on its sea shore, large droves of horses of a peculiar breed, called “Beach Ponies” are reared without ever being stabled or fed, they live in a wild state until fit for use, when they are driven into pens, caught, marked and compelled to serve industrial purposes. These horses are handsome and well-formed, have great sagacity,—almost as much as a New Foundland dog—become very docile, are well gaited and have great powers of endurance. They subsist *entirely on the herbage of the Islands till taken up for use.*

A large part of this county is still in its virgin forests, and wild deer are still hunted in them; these forests are principally of pine, and furnish large quantities of the finest lumber, which is one of the staple productions of the county, besides which, on the low grounds great quantities of cypress timber exists, also a valuable article of export.

When the present high, and constantly-increasing prices of lumber is remembered, and taken in consideration with the fact that its sources, or accessible sources of supply are rapidly diminishing, due estimation will be given to the value of tim-