

Alleghany county on the west. A spur of the Blue Ridge, named Elk Mountain, is comprised in this county, between which and the Blue Ridge on the east, is included a very charming and beautiful valley, whose qualities are but faintly expressed in the name of "Pleasant Valley." These mountains do not need "distance" to "lend enchantment to the view," but afford, whether far or near, the most beautiful and picturesque scenery, and at the same time yield very large returns for the skillful cultivation bestowed on them to their very summits. The surface of the country is rolling with large but not abrupt hills.

The soils of this county are very fertile, being for the most part of the very best class of clay limestone soils, with occasional varieties of shaley soils, all susceptible of high and easy improvement. The agriculture of this county is in a highly improved condition and as a result, large crops of wheat, rye, oats, Indian corn and all the crops and vegetables and fruits suited to the latitude, are produced of fine quality and in great abundance.

The live stock has been improved with the best and most approved foreign breeds, and the care, skill and attention bestowed on this branch of husbandry has met with most gratifying rewards. The abundance of clover and the other cultivated grass crops, afford means for a large supply of dairy productions, which alone are sources of handsome profit.

There are numerous quarries of most excellent limestone for agricultural improvement in various parts of the county, and some also of the kind used for making hydraulic cement, which is furnished to a considerable extent from this county. There is also considerable quantities of good iron ore, also good brick clay in almost every locality.

This county has long been famous for the distillation of whisky, the excellence of which has been attested by good judges in every section of the country.

This county has very extensive water-power on the Potomac and its tributaries in almost every neighborhood. This has been improved to a large extent with flour mills and other manufactories. The brands of flour from this county have always borne a high character.

The price of land varies from twenty to two hundred dollars per acre, and when all of its advantages are considered, these rates are very far below those fixed on similar lands in Northern and Western States.

The dwelling-houses, and farm buildings are well constructed by the generality of farmers, and agricultural enterprise is quite a characteristic of the people—judicious economy, with kindness and generosity are strongly marked in the practice of the people of the county of Washington.