

are oats and buckwheat, rye, Indian corn and wheat. The alluvial bottom lands grow principally corn and oats; buckwheat and rye are confined more especially to the mountainous parts of the country, whilst wheat is almost exclusively confined to the clay limestone lands in the eastern part of the county and the Cove in the western part of the county. This county would hold but an inferior rank in the State, had it to depend solely on its agricultural resources.

The grand feature in the resources of this county is its mineral wealth. The mineral resources of this county naturally divide themselves into coal, iron ore and fire-brick clay: either of these would be a great source of wealth to any one county, in this we have them united, and the result is a combination of resources unequaled in any other county.

*The Coal Lands of Alleghany County.*—The main coal field of Alleghany county is embraced between Dan's Mountain on the east, the slopes of Savage Mountain on the west, the Potomac river on the south and Mason's and Dixon's line on the north.

The whole extent of this, called the Eastern Coal Field of Alleghany, is about 30 miles in length on an average of 4 in breadth, making altogether 120 square miles of this coal field in the State of Maryland.

*The Veins of this Coal Basin.*—These amount to about fifteen, many of them, however, have no economical value, and in a report of this kind are no proper subjects for discussion.

The chief veins in the eastern coal field of Alleghany county are, first a three foot vein;—2d, the Big Vein or Fifteen foot Vein, as it has been called;—3d, The Eight Foot Vein,—this is two distinct veins of coal, separated by a bed of fire-brick clay about two feet in thickness;—4th, The Six Foot Vein; 5th, The Forty Inch Vein,—this is about forty-four inches in thickness;—A vein about two feet in thickness,—there are others to the amount of five or six, perhaps more, lying at different depths below.

The veins of coal in this region, which we have to consider as of present importance to the State, are the Big Vein, the six foot vein and the forty-four inch vein. Especially worthy of consideration is the Big Vein, as its coal is that which has given the high reputation to our Maryland coal, that which constitutes, to a great extent, the real capital of most of the corporations in this county, and which must be for a long time the basis for valuable tolls on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. The thickness of this vein varies in different sections of the coal field, being thinner on its north-eastern border, on the extreme edge of which it is about nine feet; at Frostburg its workable thickness is about eleven feet, whilst in the middle and south-western sections, fourteen are claimed by those holding property there. The av-