

new and more self-reliant system of labor such arrangements will become almost universal.

In the portions removed from tide-water, the cereals, wheat, corn &c., are the staple products. In the southern portion, flax and cotton (and upon the whole "Shore" wool) to a limited amount have always been raised. This is done chiefly for home consumption, and only about in sufficient quantities to meet the wants of the people. The cotton is ginned with the fingers; carded with the hand cards—so generally obsolete in the *active* world—and spun by hand, all in the most primitive manner.

The draught labor of the farms is performed by mules, horses and oxen; the mule here, as everywhere, being found most hardy, capable of performing great labor, and of being kept more economically than any other animal performing the same amount of labor. The prevailing breeds of both horses and oxen are diminutive in size but very active, and are believed by intelligent residents to do more work and last longer than the heavier and stronger animals sometimes brought there from more northern States. The little oxen are seldom used for plowing, but for the general hauling of a farm are very valuable. They are gentle and easily controlled, and their customary gait is a sort of dog trot, into which the heavy draught oxen used in other parts of our country could be forced only with great difficulty.

The soil and surface combine to render the labor of road making very slight, and probably no part of the country has so good roads at so little expense. The chief drawback in that respect hitherto has been the numerous creeks and streams that intersect the whole region, and which hitherto have not been provided with any suitable ferries or bridges, so that a long storm at any season would lay an embargo upon travel by the ordinary and shortest routes from point to point. This difficulty of course may easily be removed.

The custom in hiring labor, both male and female, has been to make annual contracts during the christmas holydays for the ensuing year. No obstacle however exists to such change of custom as the new system of labor may require, and the convenience of employer and employed will of course control the future.

No where are melons and sweet potatoes raised in greater perfection than in the sandy portion of the Eastern Shore, when those sands have been enriched by the abundant marls of the same region. This application at the same time increases the crop, and so improves it that they readily command from a half dollar to a dollar a barrel more than those not so produced. Lime is also used with the happiest effect upon these soils, and its free use, coupled with improved gen-