

the inlet, which connects it with the ocean, it bears the same name as the inlet, and is there called Chincoteague bay.

The prevailing soil of Worcester county is sandy, mixed with red and white clay. Black "Gum Swamps," are frequent, and afford rich pasturage. In numerous localities, bog iron ore is found in irregular beds, varying from six inches to two feet in thickness, lying just under the surface of the bog or marsh. It is found by probing the ground with iron bars, which sink in the muck, but cannot penetrate the ore. This ore is seldom smelted alone, because of the phosphoric acid it contains, but judiciously mixed with other kinds, the fusibility is increased, and also the smoothness of the castings. The ore contains from 30 to 35 per cent of iron.

Besides the ample supplies of marsh-muck and peat, this county has a large supply of oyster shell lime suitable for agricultural purposes. The "Indian shells" as they are termed, are found in deposits covering an extent of from one to 40 acres, with a depth varying from six inches to as many feet. They are always near the waters edge, on the slope of a hill, and from long exposure to atmospheric influence have become so far disintegrated that they crumble readily, on free exposure to the air, and are in fit condition to apply to the soil without burning or grinding. In many cases these banks are covered with the most luxurious vegetation, and support large trees. From the frequency and abundance of these shell deposits, we may safely conclude that the Indians appreciated an oyster supper as highly as his white brothers.

The average price of good land in this county is \$25.00 per acre. Wood land \$50.00, according to location. Worn-out lands from \$8.00 to \$10.00 per acre, and the average size of farms has been about 200 acres. Some parts of the county are subject to chills, but not more so than any tract of land in Maryland and Virginia where uncultivated swampy districts occur.

There is water power throughout the county, improved only with grist and saw mills. The manufactures are exclusively for home consumption. The productions are corn, wheat, oats, beans, peas, sweet potatoes, flax and cotton. The sandy soil, and the equable sea air, make the cultivation of sweet potatoes a most profitable employment. Those harvested here, are very generally sold under the name of "Carolina potatoes," and command the best prices in market.

The cultivation of fruit as a separate pursuit has recently