

The surface of the northern part of the county is hilly, and gives rise to numerous fine creeks which flow in every direction from it. Those creeks which, flowing southward, empty into the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, especially Seneca and Rock creeks, have excellent mill sites. The water is excellent.

The soil, where neglected, is thin and sterile, and in some parts greatly reduced by an exhausting system of cultivation. The few last years have, however, witnessed great improvements in the tillage.

The prices of worn out lands (which are numerous) range from \$10.00 to \$25.00 per acre. Good land under cultivation ranges from \$30.00 to \$100.00 per acre; proximity to market greatly enhancing the value. The price of wood land is about the same as improved land.

The county is finely situated for successful gardening and farming from its nearness to the Washington market, (one of the best in the country,) and from the kindness of the soil and genial temperature. The grass is very fine, and hay is the most lucrative crop, though wheat and corn are largely grown for market.

The Seneca sandstone is worked at extensive quarries at the mouth of Seneca creek. It is easily quarried and dressed, being somewhat soft when first taken out. It has been largely used in the erection of public buildings in Washington, and in the construction of the canal. Near Hyattstown, in the north-western part of the county, a quarry of excellent roofing slate has been opened.

Gold has been discovered in this county, and a mine was opened and worked some fifteen years since; but, as is the case with most gold mines, the pure metal cost more than it was worth. Chrome ore is found and manufactured in the northern part of the county.

The great Falls of the Potomac, perhaps the grandest water-power in the United States, are upon the southern border of this county, giving hope and promise of some grand future in store for it when art and industry shall have further developed its resources.

This county is the residence of many of the most wealthy and influential citizens of Washington city, and will naturally be selected by business men in that city who seek salubrious country residences.

The Chesapeake canal runs the whole length of the southwestern border, and various railroads approach near but do not intersect it. A railroad is projected throughout the heart