

“sport” and no little profit to many who then devote themselves to harvesting this crop for the markets. Wine is made with great success, but only in a small way.

BALTIMORE COUNTY.

Baltimore county is bounded on the north by the Pennsylvania State line; south by the Chesapeake bay and Patapsco river, on the east by Harford county and little Gunpowder Falls, and on the west by Carroll county, and ranks as the most populous and in all respects among the most important of the State.

With a surface varied and uneven, but with no portion incapable of agricultural improvement, this county is equal to the best portions of the State for all industrial employments. The rivers and “falls” which traverse it, afford immense water power, and are the sites of milling operations more extensive than is found in any other portion of the Union. The banks of Patapsco river, Gwynn’s, Jones’ and Great Gunpowder Falls and their tributaries, are literally alive with the din of industry, and have long been the seats of a large and flourishing trade.

The soils are thin and rocky, but fertile and well adapted to the production of grains and grasses. An excellent wheat soil is frequent, called “red land;” which is formed from decomposed hornblende rock.

In many parts the cultivation of fruit trees is extensive, and pears, peaches, cherries and apples are produced in large quantities. That part of the county in the vicinage of Baltimore is remarkable for the fine quality and profusion of its garden vegetables.

Wheat is more generally cultivated than any other grain. The price of good land for farming purposes ranges from \$50.00 to \$100.00 per acre. Wood land from \$50.00 to \$75.00. Worn out land from \$20.00 to \$40.00. The average size of farms has been about 150 acres.

In the vicinity of Baltimore city a large trade is carried on in fruits, oysters and vegetables, which are hermetically sealed for foreign uses. This business affords employment to a very large number of laboring women and children.

Iron ore is found throughout the county, bordering on the metamorphic limestones, and is smelted in furnaces at Cockeysville and other places. The ores found are the brown hematite, the magnetic oxide, and the carbonate.

About seven miles N. N. W. of Baltimore is a district called the Bare Hills because of its sterility, which is due to