

vicinity prove that these deposits may be considered inexhaustible. The quality of the iron is excellent, and it is produced at as low a cost as any in the State.

The line for the proposed extension of the Western Maryland Railroad to Hagerstown must cross this range of ore and give increased facilities, as well for smelting the ore as for exporting it to distant furnaces

In former days hematites were extensively mined in the vicinity of the Point of Rocks, on both shores of the Potomac River. There are ample supplies of ore at these localities, which should attract the attention of those desiring to establish or maintain iron works.

#### *h. Hematite in Washington County.*

In this county we find hematite at several localities near the western base of the South Mountain. For a long period the supplies were obtained from mines or ore banks near the Potomac River for Antietam Furnace, whilst Mount Etna Furnace was supplied from the same range near the Pennsylvania line. The name of pipe ore and other local names are applied to the hematites of this region, and iron of very superior quality was produced from them.

In the vicinity of where the Potomac passes through the North Mountain there are some important deposits of hematite, from some of which ores are obtained for the Green Spring Furnace.

The original furnace at this point, which is about one mile from old Fort Frederick, was erected about the commencement of the Revolutionary War. It is at present owned and worked by the Messrs. Roman. The metal is of a very superior quality, and is produced at as low cost as at any furnace in the State.

There are no known deposits of iron ore in Washington county westward of those in the vicinity of the North Mountain, or at least none existing in available quantity. In Meadow Branch valley and the adjoining ridges in Berkely county, Virginia, a few miles south-east of Hancock, there are indications of an extensive formation of iron ore, which I partially explored some years since for the owners. There is evidence sufficient to induce the belief that it will prove to be a regular stratum occupying many square miles, and it probably lies in the old red sandstone (No. 17 in the table). The geological position of this ore is similar to an important bed of ore which has been extensively mined for the Hopewell Furnace, in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and the surface indications have an exceedingly favorable appearance. This formation crosses our State a few miles east of Hancock, where our territory has a width of but one and a half to three miles, and the formations being contiguous to the Potomac valley, have been destroyed to a depth below the posi-