DEL-MAR-VA The Peninsula of Plenty

Agriculture



HE three counties of Delaware, nine counties of Maryland, and two counties of Virginia which comprise the Del-Mar-Va eastern shore have a tillable farm acreage of 2,664,371. Of this acreage only 1,005,002 acres are under cultiva-

acreage only 1,005,992 acres are under cultivation on 31,699 farms. The farmer and truck grower on Del-Mar-Va is blessed by a long growing season of from 185 to 210 days every year. He can not only raise a diversity of marketable crops, but of some products he can raise two or three crops in each season. No farm section in America is closer to the richest truck markets in the world. From the southern part of the peninsula the truck grower now delivers his products by motor-van or rail or water within less than twelve hours to such markets as New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, Chester, Trenton, and Newark. By a short water haul the markets of Norfolk and Washington are also available.

There are many sections of America in which farm lands rated at much higher prices than those on the peninsula do not yield anything like a comparable return in dollars and cents.

In his marketing the Del-Mar-Va grower is aided by various cooperative organizations. If he is raising livestock, or running a dairy, his stock can graze on green pastures twelve months of the year while individually or through his marketing organization he obtains a steady monthly income.

The Del-Mar-Va Peninsula leads all other sections east of the Mississippi in the growing of asparagus, string beans, lima beans, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, and turnip greens. At the height of the shipping season, in late March, an average of 125 truck loads of turnip greens, spinach, kale, and broccoli are sent by motor van to the New York market alone each day. The white potato crop from two counties alone brought over fifteen million dollars in 1925; and in some years it has run as high as thirty million dollars. The Peninsula is the greatest melon growing district in the world, the choicest cantaloupes and watermelons.

We met a school teacher from another section of the United States who purchased a small house and three and a quarter acres of land for \$3,750. In his first year he harvested a crop of sweet potatoes for which he received \$1,758. On the same day we met an Illinois farmer who still owns farm lands in the wheat belt of that state, but who wanted to live in a milder climate. After a thorough investigation of available farm lands throughout America, he chose to invest on the Peninsula. For five years he has grown a large acreage of wheat with an average yield over that of his old Illinois farm. He is growing successfully wheat, oats, rye, clover, and alfalfa, and has besides a large acreage devoted to truck farming.

Each season the Peninsula markets more than thirty different farm crops. Best market prices are obtainable. Two of the Produce Exchanges have marketed a total of more than twenty million dollars of agricultural products per year for the last five years. In the past twenty-five years there is not a single instance of an entire crop failure on the Peninsula due to drought.



