In 1925, this Survey published a report on the Mineral Resources of the Allentown Quadrangle in which the economic mineral products in that quadrangle were described. This quadrangle embraces a large part of Northampton County so that a report on the economic geology of the county necessitates considerable repetition. Such a procedure, however, seems desirable inasmuch as this atlas is now out of print and copies are not obtainable. Portions are taken literally from this atlas with little or no change, and without using quotation marks and references.

Northampton County contains deposits of both the metallic and non-metallic economic minerals. Iron ore is the only one of the metallic variety that has ever been of any consequence, although some prospecting has been done for both copper and manganese. The non-metallic products, on the other hand, are varied and constitute an extremely valuable asset. The cement rocks, limestone and slate have been utilized to such an extent as to make this district outstanding in the mineral industries of the State.

Iron Ores

Although the iron ores of Northampton County are not being worked at the present time, they have been of the greatest importance in the economic development of the region. For nearly 100 years the mining of iron was an extensive industry in this section and only within the last few years has it ceased entirely. The manufacture of iron and steel, which began when the iron mines were in active operation, still continues to be one of the principal industries of the region, even though all the ore used now comes from Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey, Cuba, Chile, Sweden, Greece, and other places. The closing of the mines is due to several causes, among which the most important is the improvement of transportation facilities, which permits higher-grade ores from other regions, that can be procured in great quantities at low cost, to compete with the local ores. The imported ore is also of more uniform grade and can be obtained regularly in any quantity desired. Though the ore in some mines was practically exhausted, this condition does not apply to the greater number of the deposits.