Rather low yields of the general farm crops are obtained where the soils are farmed.

BERKS SOILS

"The Berks soils are derived from the weathering of thin-bedded shales and shaly sandstones (Martinsburg formation). They have yellowish-brown to brown surface soils, with yellow or yellowish-brown subsoils of heavier texture. Both the soil and subsoil contain varying quantities of shale fragments, and the subsoil usually grades into a mass of broken shale within the three-foot section.

"The Berks soils extend across Northampton County in a band six to ten miles wide just south of Blue Mountain from the Lehigh River east to the edge of the glaciated region, west of Bangor. The soils occupy country of steeply rolling to hilly topography and are subject to serious damage by erosion. They are low in organic matter, the need for that material being their most evident deficiency.

"The shale loam is almost the only type, though small areas of silt loam and loam were found. The soils are farmed to the general crops of the region, corn yielding 30 to 60 bushels, oats 25 to 50, wheat 15 to 25, potatoes 100 to 200 bushels, and hay from three-fourths to 1½ tons per acre. Corn, oats, and potatoes, wheat and grass, is the general rotation. The manure produced on the farm is used, but green manuring is not generally practiced, though it would be beneficial. Lime is used extensively and is of great benefit, especially where the land is to be seeded in clover. All crops suffer severely during dry seasons.

HAGERSTOWN SOILS

"The Hagerstown soils have a yellow or reddish-yellow surface soil and a yellow, yellowish-red, or red subsoil. The soil material is derived from massive limestones (Tomstown, Allentown and Beckmantown formations). The Hagerstown areas occupy gently rolling to moderately rolling lowland belts which lie at elevations of 100 to 200 feet or more below the country occupied by the adjoining shale and sandstone soils. Where the rock has been much folded, the exposure of layers of varying hardness and purity, with different rates of weathering, gives a topography marked by low ridges, with irregular outlines and abrupt changes of slope. The typical topography is that of a rolling depression.

"The soils do not suffer much from erosion, and it is only on the steeper slopes that washing causes any appreciable damage.

"As a whole, the Hagerstown soils are well drained. There are a few areas where artificial drainage would be beneficial, but over most