

# South-Jersey Republican

H. E. BOWLES, M. D., Publisher.

Terms—Two Dollars Per Year

Vol. XIII No. 43.

Hammonton, N. J., Saturday, November 7, 1874.

Five Cents per Copy.

**Insurance.**  
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**Mutual Fire Insurance Co.,**  
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CASH ASSETS, 125,225  
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The Premium Notes required by this Company, are but one-half as large as other Mutual Companies in this District, while the Cash Payment is the same.  
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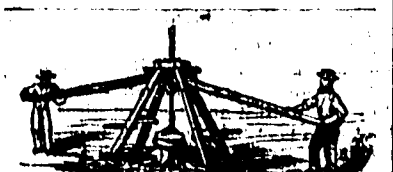
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We propose hereafter to sell our goods at the lowest Cash Prices, and to enable us to do so, we must sell for ready pay. Thankful for past favors, we solicit a continuance of the same liberal patronage that we have had in the past.  
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These Machines are warranted to be the BEST in the market.  
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AGENT FOR THE  
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**Fire Insurance Co.**  
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**Prof. Taylor's Report.**  
It will be remembered that the above-named gentleman was sent from the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, at the solicitation of the Cranberry Growers' Association of this State, to investigate the rot and mold, and ascertain, if possible, the cause and remedy. He labored faithfully, traveling from one bog to another in our State, and rendered valuable services to our cranberry growers. He makes his report to the Department, and in the October number of the monthly reports, his statement is given, a part of which we transfer to our columns. Cranberry growers should preserve it for future reference.

Previous to visiting the cranberry plantations, I deemed it best to make an examination of the healthy and unhealthy vines, their roots and fruit, with samples of the soils in which they grew, and now present a preliminary report of the results of my investigations. I accordingly requested A. J. Rider, Esq., of Atsion, Burlington County, to forward to this Department such specimens as were necessary for my purpose. Two specimens of vines, one healthy the other unhealthy, were in a short time received by the Department, and a specimen of the soil in which each plant grew. An examination of the roots of each vine showed that the one which bore rotting fruit had much larger and darker roots than the other. The peaty muck in which the healthy plants grew had a healthy odor, and was not in a fermenting condition, while that of the unhealthy plant was in a condition of fermentation, and had the odor of sulphuretted hydrogen. A second set of plants was received, with specimens of the soil in which they grew. It was again observed that the vines on which unhealthy berries grew had darker and larger roots than those which bore healthy fruit, and that the soil of the latter was odorless, while that of the former had a bad odor, and was in a fermenting condition. These facts led me to believe that the sour condition of the soil was the primary cause of the rotting of the berries.

On the 22d of July, last, I visited Cranberry Park Station, Atsion, Burlington County, and made a careful examination of the condition of the soil, the mode of cultivation, the roots of the vines, their foliage and fruit, the construction of water-dams, ditches, &c., at that place.

The plantations of the company comprised about one hundred and thirty acres, the greater part of which were set out in 1869. In 1871 there was a light crop, partly rotted, in 1872 half a crop, and nearly all rotted, in 1873 a full crop, and nearly all rotted, only 800 bushels of sound fruit being picked out of a total crop estimated at 10,000 bushels. No fertilizers were used till the spring of 1873, when sand and plaster were applied to the higher portions of the land, a small area being at the same time treated with a coating of decomposed manure. No rain fell after these fertilizers were applied until June 12, when rot began. The seasons of 1872 and 1873 were noted at this particular locality for protracted droughts in June and July.

In the fall of 1873, sixty acres were drained, by cutting ditches about two rods apart, and a coating of sand was spread over the vines. The outlets and feeding ditches were opened to give free circulation of water, as well as thorough drainage. Where foliage was destroyed last year by the vine-worm, there was very little fruit, where plaster was applied, with a layer of sand over it, the vines looked healthy and had new rootlets.

Several other plantations in the same vicinity were examined, including those of Mr. Miller and Mr. Rookwood. I visited Bricksburg, Ocean County, July 24, and made an examination of several cranberry plantations in this neighborhood, commencing with that of Dr. Merriman, two miles southwest of the village. We found the berries very thickly set on the vines where the blossoms had not all disappeared, but traces of the rot were discernible on this plantation. I made a careful examination of the nature of the soil, the roots of the vines, and the degree of acidity of the fruit from the different portions of the bog. Where guano had been applied a marked improvement

of the foliage and roots was visible. In answer to an inquiry made by me whether any of the growers present had given attention to the condition of the soil and of the roots of the vines, a unanimous answer was given in the negative. We visited the plantations of Mr. J. K. Campbell, Rev. Isaac Todd, and Mr. Ferro, all being connected, and forming one continuous plain. This extensive bog was formerly a mill pond. The soil of such places generally found to be very favorable for cranberry cultivation, which proved to be the case in this instance. These three plantations have never failed to produce healthy crops. An examination of the soil proved that the peaty matter, which it principally consists of, was well decomposed. Our attention was directed to one small portion of the pond where about two years ago the berries rotted. I examined the place, by digging up the ground, and found that the soil was not well decomposed, and that the muck was in a condition of active fermentation, giving off strong odors of sulphuretted hydrogen. The roots of the vines here were unusually large, matted, and of a dark, unhealthy color.

We next visited the plantation of Mr. U. G. and E. W. Crane, at Long Swamp, consisting of about thirty acres. This plantation had been recently laid out, and was provided with the latest improvements. The ground here proved generally good, although in some places there were decided indications of sour, fermenting soil. The Darron plantations were next examined. The soil here is of a mixed character, some portions of it proving to be well decomposed and without odor, while other portions were in a state of fermentation. It was observed that the rot was confined to the parts indicating fermenting soil, while the sound berries grew on the well-decomposed soil, which has generally a pleasant odor.

We next visited Butterfly Bridge plantation. Here, a butternut, laid out some years ago by F. M. Todd, Esq., in the best manner, and now belonging to different parties, was next visited. The vines on this plantation rotted in the last season. An examination of the roots showed undecomposed peat, the unhealthy roots, the latter being very large and closely matted. Having stated to the committee of cranberry growers accompanying me that fermenting soil and stagnating water were probably the principal causes of the rot, I was informed that, although my theory was good thus far, there was a neglected cranberry plantation known as the Carey bog, near Bricksburg, the water of which they believed to be stagnant, as it had no visible outlet, but notwithstanding, the soil of the bog had not been affected by the disease. An examination of the bog showed that the water which flooded it was perfectly fresh, being supplied probably by the means of springs, and passing off through the sand. The whole surface was covered with a dense growth of moss and weeds, interspersed with cranberry plants. The cranberry roots were growing in the moss and confined to it. They were short, of a whitish color, and very healthy, and to the depth of eight inches had at one time been spread over the peat muck. I cut through it, and found it to be very pure and free from any odor. This bog very much resembles a wild bog, being wholly neglected. I have also examined the roots of the cranberry plants as found growing in the wild state, and in all cases have found them to be healthy and similar to those. I have this year failed to discover any healthy cranberry vines growing in stagnant water.

I next proceeded to Tom's River. We visited the Berkeley plantation, one and a half miles from Tom's River. This plantation contains about fifty acres of vines, which appeared very promising. They had been planted about nine years. The berries, at the date of our visit were affected slightly with rot. On my first examination of the soil I detected imperfect roots, but no sulphuretted hydrogens. On going deeper the latter was found in abundance at a depth of about two feet six inches. The soil of this plantation is of the variety known in New Jersey as savanna, consisting of sand, with a slight trace of vegetable matter. An analysis

made in the laboratory of the Department shows that the proportions are, sand, 57 parts; peaty matter, 3 parts. Mr. Shreve informed us that a layer of peat about two inches in thickness had been spread over the surface of the bog. From some cause this peaty matter was in a state of fermentation, and its odor very bad. We were informed that gas lime had been spread over portions of this plantation with but little effect. In my opinion, the use of stone or shell quick lime would produce more important results. The water in the ditches was highly impregnated with iron—probably as bicarbonate or iron—which is soluble in water. Gas lime is composed mostly of sulphide of calcium; that is, a mixture of sulphur and calcium. It also contains caustic lime, but in limited quantity. When gas lime is exposed for a considerable period to the action of rain and air, a large portion of the sulphide is converted into sulphate of lime, or land plaster. I consider that, for the purposes required, caustic shell or rock lime would prove more profitable, for several reasons.

We next visited the plantation of Gen. Morris, of Bogville. His vines are only of four years' growth, and the cranberries have rotted each year. An examination of the peat revealed the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen, which was also found in the substratum of the savanna bottoms of this plantation. One half of the plantation was covered with sand, taken from an adjoining cultivated field, the particles of which were very fine, and it probably contained clay. The vines covered with this fine sand were situated in growth—while those sanded with coarse sand, taken from an uncultivated bank near by, were very thrifty and in full bearing. Samples of these two kinds of sand have been procured, and will be analyzed in the laboratory of the Department.

I also visited the plantation of A. T. Plun, of New York, consisting of thirteen acres. The vines appeared healthy and were fruited, although the berries were rotting. An examination of the soil of this bog revealed the presence of fermentation and unhealthy roots. We were informed that the vines last year appeared healthy, and yet the berries rotted so badly that but twenty-five bushels were harvested from thirteen acres.

We next visited a very thrifty bog known as the Shreve plantation, near Tom's River. This bog has always borne fruit free from rot. An examination proved that all the conditions were favorable, the soil being well decomposed and free from odor, and the roots small and healthy in appearance. From this point I proceeded to West Creek, and visited the extensive and highly cultivated plantations of Col. D. R. Gowdy, and also the Eagle Company plantation. I found here good and bad soil, plenty of water, and refreshing, cool breeze blowing over the surface of the grounds, the latter circumstance being of common occurrence. Mr. Gowdy claims to have a very superior short vine, which is known as the "Gowdy vine." He is one of the oldest cultivators in the State of New Jersey, and has been very successful. The land under cultivation at this place is generally good, though I found many spots on it in a state of fermentation.

A diversity of opinion seemed to prevail at this place between Mr. Gowdy and the Eaglewood Company, as to the bearing and depth of ditches and the width of the lands between them. The irrigation of cranberry land is of the highest importance at all times, but especially when the soil is sour. The Eaglewood Company lately ditched their bogs very deep, and on the day of my visit to their plantation I observed that the water in the ditches did not come within eighteen inches of the roots. There were probably about five inches of sand over the peat bottoms. I examined the roots of the vines, and found them taking in pure air, and at a very high temperature. The owner in charge informed me that they had been in this condition for some time, and that having no instructions to fill the ditches with water he was powerless to act. This was probably the condition of about eight acres during the hottest days of August last. The peat of this plantation is several feet in depth (peaty bottom), and is capable of still higher cultivation, owing to the general mellow condition of the soil and its being well supplied with water. I do not consider that the extra expense of these ditches will prove injurious to the vines, provided they are supplied with substantial ditch-gates to enable the person in charge to regulate the height of water in the ditches at will.



1. The first part of the document is a title page. It contains the title "THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and the author "BY JAMES MADISON".

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