

*Geology.*—The Patuxent formation, consisting of arkosic sands and drab clays, is believed to underlie about the northwestern third of the county. The beds of this formation dip gently to the southeast and pass beneath the overlying Black Creek formation. The latter underlies all the remaining area, with the possible exception of a narrow strip along the southeastern border, where the Peedee formation may be present, resting conformably upon the Black Creek formation. Thin sheets of Miocene sands, clays, and shell marls probably occupying disconnected areas occur resting upon the Black Creek or Peedee beds over about the southern half of the county. Over all older formations is spread a blanket of sandy clays, sands, and gravels, of Pleistocene age, belonging for the most part to the Coharie and Sunderland formations, but in the narrow, lower terraces bordering the larger streams, to the Wicomico formation.

*Water Resources.*—Over the greater part of the county the inhabitants depend upon the basal sandy and gravelly beds of the Pleistocene formations for their chief supply of water for ordinary purposes. The common method of obtaining water is by means of shallow, open or driven wells ranging in depth from 10 to 30 feet. In a number of communities the people are beginning to recognize the value of the underlying Black Creek and Patuxent beds as sources of artesian water, and numerous wells have been drilled into them, to depths ranging from 40 to 225 feet. The communities where deep wells are most numerous are Red Springs, Fairmont, Raynham, and Lumberton. Partial lists of the wells from these and a few other places are included in the table given below. See Plates XL and XLI.

At Lumberton, the county-seat, a number of wells have been drilled, and on low ground near Lumber River some excellent flows have been obtained. But little detailed information has been secured concerning individual wells. The following general information has been furnished by the mayor, Mr. E. K. Proctor, Jr.:

Several wells were sunk in 1896, the depths ranging from 82 to 114 feet. The first was located on the bank of Lumber River at about low-water level, and about 32 feet below the level of the courthouse square. A flow of about 100 gallons per minute was obtained through a 2-inch pipe. This would rise about 22 feet above low-water level. Since this well was drilled a number of others have been sunk within the town limits, located on ground lower than the general level, which flow from 5 to 35 gallons per minute. One well was drilled by the town to a depth of 400 feet, but the water was found to rise no higher than in the wells mentioned above, and in quality it was not as satisfactory.