

the thought and experience of the best growers. (The men best in all pursuits are found in associations.)

In the autumn of '87, armed with introductions from the Sec'y., Mr. A. J. Rider, Trenton, N. J., Cape Cod, Mass., was visited, and I obtained the information desired. I must here pay a tribute to the Massachusetts gentlemen whom I met, who so courteously replied to my every question and demonstrated their methods, and who since have taken great pains to reply at length to my somewhat frequent letters.

Our bog is situated between hills of sand. The mud which underlies about a foot of turf is from five to fifteen or twenty feet deep. It is well decayed, and as poor as the most fastidious cranberry vine could demand, but we believe, rich in the qualities that make fine cranberries. It is chiefly the deposit of a whitish moss which upon decomposition becomes black. It is as tasteless and odorless as a wet cotton rag. The richer the soil in the qualities that grow ordinary fruits the less will be the chance for success with the cranberry.

We could only ascertain whether there would be water enough to flood the vines in winter, by building a dam about 750 feet long, which we did, proceeding on the plan usually adopted in Cape Cod. A ditch was dug two feet wide extending the full depth of the mud. Boards were then driven down as far as they would go. Stay boards were nailed to them at the top, and the spaces each side filled with fine sand and packed hard. Two rows of turf are piled up three or four feet high, about twelve feet from outside to outside, and leaving a space of six feet in the middle to be filled with sand. Beside making a substantial dam, it serves as a wagon road across the bog. We found this dam held the water, and that the ordinary rainfall upon the watershed around it was sufficient. The importance of deep large ditches has been impressed upon us by all growers, especially where the mud is deep, in order that the water may quickly drain off in the spring, that the May sun may warm the roots and push along the new growth, in order that seasonable bloom may be produced. I was struck with the clean deep ditches cut through the bogs on the Cape. It is a popular error with us that cranberries will grow well in the water. They will not. I believe some of our growers in the Valley are making a great mistake by keeping their bogs too wet. There are

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