

erals, &c., more particularly as connected with the arts and manufactures. This last course extends over three years.

The free university of Brussels has faculties of philosophy and literature, of science, of law, and of medicine, courses in which are given by ordinary and extraordinary professors and *agregés*. Each student pays annually 15 francs for enrolment, and a fee of 200 or 250 francs for the courses in any of the faculties. The fee for single classes is generally 50 francs. An annual subsidy of 10,000 francs is allocated to the university by the provincial council of Brabant, and the permanent deputation has the right of annually presenting ten youths of the province for gratuitous instruction. A subsidy of 50,000 francs is also allocated annually by the communal council of Brussels. The university is governed by an administrative council, composed partly of permanent members and partly of members chosen annually by the professors of the four faculties and the former students of the university. This council is presided over by the burgomaster of Brussels, who has a casting vote in its proceedings.

The Catholic university of Louvain is governed by a grand rector, nominated and revocable by the episcopal body. A vice rector is also nominated by the episcopal body on the advice of the grand rector. The rector nominates the secretary and other functionaries of the university. The faculties are philosophy and literature, the mathematical, physical, and natural sciences, law, medicine, and theology. The courses of the five faculties are given by ordinary and extraordinary professors and lecturers, nominated by the episcopal body on the presentation of the rector. The enrolment-fee for the first year is 10 francs, and 5 francs annually thereafter. The annual fee for courses in the faculties varies from 200 to 250 francs, except the theological courses, which are gratuitous. It has an extensive library, cabinets of mineralogy, zoology, &c., and a botanical garden. The numbers of the students at each of the universities in 1874 were—Ghent, 222; Liège, 518; Brussels, 580; and Louvain, 909.

A competition takes place annually among the scholars of superior instruction, and at these competitions two gold medals are given in each of the faculties. There are also twelve travelling scholarships given annually, tenable for two years, to such students as have taken their doctor's degree with the highest distinction and wish to travel, to enable them to visit foreign countries; and about sixty bursaries of 400 francs each are given annually to poor students to enable them to prosecute their studies. Besides these there are connected with the universities a number of private bursaries, the management and bestowal of which are in the hands of particular persons or corporations in terms of the acts of foundation.

The special educational institutions of Belgium are of various kinds, and are generally in a very efficient state. They include (in addition to the engineering and mining schools already mentioned) normal schools, military schools, navigation schools, &c., and academies and schools of design, painting, sculpture, music, &c.

There are two Government normal schools for primary teachers, one at Lierre and the other at Nivelles.—the former having twelve and the latter thirteen professors, with a rector each. The course extends over three years, and during the last year of attendance the pupils are exercised in teaching in the primary schools of the town. There are also seven episcopal normal schools, in which similar branches are taught, except that the principles of the Catholic religion are more particularly inculcated. The chief diocesan nominates the rectors and professors. The course lasts for four years. Besides these there are several private normal schools for males and females, one or more institutions for the training of female teachers by each province, and normal

primary sections attached to the middle schools of Bruges, Ghent, Huy, Virton, and Couvin.

Bursaries of 200 francs each are annually given by Government to assist poor students attending the normal schools; and students of promise, who have taken diplomas at either of the Government primary normal schools, may be admitted to the normal school of middle instruction at Nivelles. The course here is for two years. There are also for the training of teachers for the superior middle institutions, the normal school of the humanities at Liège, and the normal school of the sciences at Ghent. Candidates for admission must be young men of superior talents, qualifying them to perform creditably the duties of professor, and they must pass certain examinations. The branches taught in both schools extend over three years. In the school at Liège there are fourteen bursaries of 500 francs each, given to the poorer students, the recipients becoming bound to act as professors in one of the middle schools for five years. There are five bursaries of 500 francs in connection with the school at Ghent.

There is a military school at Brussels for training officers for the army. The number of scholars in 1873 was 129. The courses are divided into two sections; the one, which extends over two years, is preparatory to the second, which also extends over two years, and is divided into special branches qualifying for the infantry, cavalry, or marines. A school has been established in Lierre for the purpose of educating the sons of the military for the army. The course extends over five years, and the pupils generally enter the army about the age of sixteen. They are placed in the army according to their proficiency, some as sub-officers and corporals, others as common soldiers. The pupils in 1873 were 252.

Each regiment has a regimental school for training young men in the army for subalterns, and a number of evening schools for affording the means of education to the soldiery. Attendance at one of these schools is obligatory on all subalterns and corporals whose education is not complete, according to their position.

There is at Messines a Royal Institution for the education of daughters of military men who have died or been disabled in the service of their country. They are admitted from seven to fourteen years of age, and remain till their eighteenth year. They are instructed in branches necessary to qualify them as governesses, teachers, domestic servants, &c., and situations are provided for them on leaving.

Schools of navigation have been established at Antwerp and Ostend for furnishing properly educated masters for merchant vessels, where instruction is given gratuitously. Certificates of qualifications as master or mate are given by a jury of examiners. There has also recently been formed at Antwerp a superior institute of commerce to afford instruction, theoretical and practical, in the commercial sciences, the course extending over two years.

A Government agricultural institute was established at Gembloux in 1860 for affording theoretical and practical instruction in agriculture and kindred subjects. There are seven professors and three assistants, and a demonstrative gardener. The course lasts for three years. Students in 1873, 71. There is a similar institution at Ghent, which in 1873 had 31 students. A school of practical horticulture and arboriculture was established at Vilvorde in 1855, which in 1873 had 29 students; the course is for three years. A similar institution at Gendbrugge has been closed since 1871. There is also a veterinary college at Brussels with, in 1873, 84 students. The course is for four years.

The academies and schools of design, painting, sculpture, &c., are divided into three classes:—1. The royal academies of the fine arts, in which painting, sculpture, architecture

and engraving are taught in the most efficient manner; 2. Academies of design established in the principal towns, and giving instructions in designing, architecture, and the principles of geometry and perspective drawing; 3. Schools of design established in all the larger towns for instructing young persons and artisans in the elements of designing and architecture. In 1873 there were 76 such academies and schools in the kingdom, having 9966 pupils.

The Royal Academy of the Fine Arts at Antwerp is principally intended to afford gratuitous instruction in painting, sculpture, architecture, and engraving, and to propagate and encourage a taste for the fine arts. In 1873 there were 1665 scholars. A competition in one of the branches of the fine arts is annually held in Antwerp, the laureate at which receives a pension of 3500 francs annually for four years, to enable him to perfect himself in his art in Germany, France, and Italy. The second prize is a gold medal of 300 francs. The Royal Academy of the Fine Arts at Brussels is an institution similar to that at Antwerp. Instruction is gratuitous, and the vacancies are filled up by competition.

The Royal Musical Conservatory at Brussels is under the direction of the minister of the interior, aided by a commission of seven members nominated by the king, with the burgomaster of Brussels as honorary president. The instruction is gratuitous, and includes vocal and instrumental music, composition, and the Italian language. The number of scholars in 1873 was 529. There are six bursaries of 250 francs, and ten of 125 francs, in connection with this institution. There is a similar establishment at Liège, with (in 1873) 694 scholars. Music, both vocal and instrumental, is much cultivated in Belgium; and musical schools and societies are established in almost all the principal towns and throughout the country. In 1873 there were, besides those mentioned, 108 musical schools and societies, with 7440 members. A competition in musical composition takes place every two years at Brussels, the laureate receiving a pension of 3500 francs for four years, to enable him to study in France, Germany, and Italy. The second prize is a gold medal of the value of 300 francs.

Belgium possesses a great number of learned societies, as the Royal Medical Academy, the Royal Academy of Science, Literature, and Art, &c. The Royal Medical Academy has its seat at Brussels. It is divided into six sections, and has 36 titular and 18 assistant members, with 24 corresponding and an indefinite number of honorary members. Each of the sections has certain branches of medical science assigned to it. The academy answers any questions that may be proposed to it by the Government, upon matters connected with public hygiene, and makes researches in all subjects connected with or tending to advance medical science. Gold medals are given annually for the best essays on prescribed subjects. It receives an annual grant of 20,000 francs from the state.

The Royal Academy of Science, Literature, and Art also has its seat at Brussels. It is divided into three classes, for the sciences, literature, and the fine arts; the first two are each subdivided into two sections, and the last into branches, for painting, sculpture, engraving, architecture, and music. Each class is composed of 30 members, 50 foreign associates, and not more than ten native correspondents. Each class proposes annually certain subjects for essays, to which gold medals of the value of 600 francs are adjudged. The academy receives an annual grant of 40,000 francs from the state. Connected with this academy is a royal commission of history for the purpose of searching for and editing old chronicles and documents tending to throw light upon the early history of the country. There has also just (1875) been instituted by the king a prize of

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25,000 francs (£1000) to be given annually for the best work published on a subject previously announced of interest to Belgium. Every fourth year the competition is to be open to foreigners.

There is a Government inspector-general of science, literature, and art, who has the general superintendence of that department, under the minister of the interior. Under him are two administrative boards, the one for literature and science, and the other for the fine arts.

The Royal Observatory for astronomical and meteorological observations is under the management of a director and three assistants. In the observatory are instruments specially provided by Government for the use of young men desirous of making meteorological or astronomical observations.

The Royal Museum of Brussels, for the reception of objects in natural history belonging to the state, is under the direction of a council of five members appointed by the king. There is also a museum of industry, containing models and plans of machines used in arts, manufactures, and agriculture. Annexed to this museum is a school where instruction is given gratuitously in the construction of such machines. It possesses a chemical laboratory, library, &c. There is also a royal museum of wax instruments at Brussels, and in 1870 a royal botanic garden was laid out for aiding in the study of botany and horticulture. The royal museum of painting and sculpture is under the direction of a commission, composed of a president and six members nominated by the king, and charged with the collection of works of ancient and modern masters for the museum. A triennial exhibition of works of living artists, Belgian and foreign, in painting, sculpture, engraving, architecture, and lithography, is held at Brussels. There are similar exhibitions held in Antwerp, Ghent, Liège, Bruges, &c. The geographical establishment at Brussels has a considerable collection of books and maps, a garden, a herbarium, collections of rocks, lava, fossils, &c.

Besides the libraries belonging to different societies, Public associations, &c., there are a number of public libraries in Belgium. The principal of these is the royal library of Brussels. It contained in 1871 about 301,500 volumes, 22,221 manuscripts, 53,556 engravings, and 19,517 medals and coins. This is the only library that receives copies of copyright works. The public library of Ghent is connected with the university. It has 80,000 volumes and 600 manuscripts, besides pamphlets, &c. The Liège public library has 68,000 volumes, about 26,000 pamphlets, and 430 manuscripts. The public library of the Louvain university is the most ancient in Belgium, and is particularly rich in works of ancient history, theology, and literature, including Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and Oriental. These libraries are open daily for consultation, and in almost all of them volumes are lent out at the discretion of the conservators.

The archives of Belgium contain a great number of interesting and valuable documents connected with the history of the country. These are carefully preserved, classified, and catalogued. The general archives of the kingdom at Brussels contain upwards of 100,000 documents, and the archives of Antwerp upwards of 70,000. Those at Bruges, Ghent, Liège, Mons, Namur, Tournay, Hasselt, and Arlon are ancient and important. The archives of the city of Bruges, at one time the grand commercial entrepot of Europe, contain a number of valuable papers bearing upon the events of which this city was the theatre in the Middle Ages. Unfortunately, they do not go further back than 1280, the previous documents having been all destroyed by an extensive fire in that year.

The benevolent and charitable institutions of Belgium are numerous and open to all. The duty of supporting

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them falls in the first instance upon the commune, afterwards upon the province, and finally, in case of necessity, upon the state. They are divided into three classes:—(1.) Those affording assistance or an asylum to the poor in case of age, infirmity, disease, want of work, &c., including dispensaries, foundling and maternity hospitals, deaf-mute and blind institutions, &c.; (2.) Those more particularly designed for the prevention and suppression of vagabondage and beggary, as depôts of mendicity and reform schools; and (3.) Those specially intended to foster a spirit of independence and foresight among the working classes, as savings-banks, and assurance and mutual assistance societies.

Every town of importance and many of the rural communes have hospitals for the aged, infirm, and indigent. Asylums for incurables are also numerous, but much less so than the former. Farm hospitals have been established in the rural communes of the two Flanders, where the inmates contribute by work to their own maintenance. They form small agricultural colonies of old people and children, mutually assisting each other. The products of the farms generally suffice for their maintenance.

Foundling hospitals are established in Antwerp, Brussels, Louvain, Bruges, Ostend, &c. The children generally remain only for a short time in the hospitals. They are pensioned out to inhabitants of the rural communes till their twelfth year, at which period the wardship of the hospital terminates. Inspectors are appointed to visit the children quarterly, to report upon their physical condition, see that they are attending school, &c. There are maternity hospitals at Brussels, Louvain, Ghent, Liège, Bruges, Nieuport, and Tournay, in several of which courses of midwifery are given. Maternity societies for aiding females with money, medicine, &c., are formed in many of the towns. There are a number of lunatic asylums, which in 1873 had in all 6801 patients, of whom 5024 were paupers. A colony of lunatics has been formed in the commune of Gheel, province of Antwerp, where, under the direction of a permanent committee, they are pensioned out among the inhabitants, and generally employed in agricultural labours. There are also a number of institutions for the education of the deaf and dumb and the blind.

To prevent the misery, and frequently the crime, arising from the want of employment among the working classes, charity workshops have been established in Ghent, Liège, and other towns. These are accessible to all workmen without employment and in poor circumstances. The able-bodied are paid according to their work, and the aged and infirm according to their necessities. The workshops of apprenticeship and improvement are intended not only to supply work to the unemployed, but principally to initiate the people in the exercise of new or improved branches of industry, and to instruct the young men in some trade or profession by which they may be able to gain an honest livelihood. They have been found of great benefit to many of the poorer classes who would otherwise have been brought up as vagrants and beggars. The apprenticeship generally lasts from four to six months. Similar to these are the manufacturing schools, intended principally for girls, where they are employed in the manufacture of lace, &c. These are supported partly by the state and partly by the province and commune, but many of them are private. In 1872 there were of these institutions—29 communal, 144 private but subject to inspection, and 294 non-inspected. The total number of persons was 26,739, of whom 1067 were in communal establishments, 9649 private inspected, and 16,023 non-inspected; 25,565 were females and 1174 males.

There are three depôts of mendicity or workhouses in

the kingdom, at Bruges, Hoogstraeten, and Reckheim. In 1873 they contained 1819 persons. A reform school was founded in Ruysselede in 1848 for male vagrants and mendicants under eighteen years of age. It contains about 500 members, employed in cultivating a large farm of 128 hectares. At a short distance is a similar institution for 400 girls and infants, between two and seven years of age. There is also a similar school for girls and infants at Beernem.

In each commune is a *bureau de bienfaisance*, for assisting the poor with money, food, clothing, &c., and, where there are no hospitals, providing them with medical attendance and medicines. It also contributes to the maintenance and education of poor children, foundlings, deaf-mutes, and lunatics. There are also *Monts de Piété*, or charitable institutions for lending money to the poor upon the security of pledges, in twenty of the larger towns. *Caisse de prévoyance*, both general and special, and mutual aid societies—to succour the members in sickness, pay their funeral expenses, and aid their families—are numerous.

The judicial system of Belgium consists of courts and tribunals of various kinds, as the court of cassation, the courts of appeal, and of assize, tribunals of primary instance, of commerce, &c. The court of cassation or annulment sits at Brussels, and is divided into two chambers, the one for civil and the other for criminal matters. It is composed of a president-general, a president of the chamber, and fifteen councillors. It decides upon appeals against judgments pronounced in the other courts and tribunals in contravention of legal forms. There are three courts of appeal: one at Brussels, for the provinces of Antwerp, Brabant, and Hainaut; another at Ghent, for the two Flanders; and a third at Liège, for Liège, Limbourg, Luxembourg, and Namur. In the capital of each province is a court of assize, composed of a councillor, deputed from one of the courts of appeal, who presides, and two judges chosen from among the presidents and judges of the primary tribunal, where the court is held. Crimes, graver misdemeanours, political offences, and abuses of the press are judged by the courts of assize. In each judiciary arrondissement is a tribunal of primary instance, judging in misdemeanours belonging to the correctional police, in civil matters, and in commercial affairs where there is no commercial tribunal. The number of judges varies from three to ten in each tribunal. Tribunals of commerce are established by law in several principal towns. They judge definitively in civil matters of not more than 2000 francs, but above that sum their decisions are subject to appeal, as in the tribunals of primary instance. In several of the manufacturing towns are councils of *prud'hommes*, composed of master tradesmen and workmen. They decide in all questions and disputes arising between masters and workmen. For all criminal and political cases, as well as offences of the press, trial by jury is established. The jury is composed of twelve persons chosen by lot from a list of thirty. Justices of the peace and judges of the tribunals are chosen directly by the king. The councillors of each court of appeal, and the presidents and vice-presidents of the tribunals of primary instance in its district, are chosen by the king from two double lists of candidates, the one presented by the court of appeal, and the other by the provincial council. The councillors of the court of cassation are named by the king from two double lists, the one presented by the senate, and the other by the court of cassation. The judges are appointed for life, and cannot be suspended or deposed but by a judgment. They cannot hold any salaried office under the Government, or, at least, must perform the duties of it gratuitously. The duties of public minister at the court of cassation are exercised by a procurator-general, and two advocates

general; and by a royal procurator with substitutes before each of the tribunals of primary instance and courts of assize and appeal.

Councils of war are held in the chief place of each province, with the exception of Limbourg, which is joined to Liège, and of Luxembourg, which is united with Namur. They decide in crimes and misdemeanours committed in their provinces by the military of a rank not higher than captain. The military court for the whole of Belgium has its seat at Brussels. It is composed of five members, one of whom is a councillor of the appeal court of Brussels, delegated annually to preside; the rest are general or superior officers chosen by lot every month. All officers of a grade superior to that of captain are amenable to this court. It also decides on appeals from the provincial or other military courts.

Besides the ordinary police, there are commissaries of police, royal procurators, *juges d'instruction*, &c. The commissaries of police, and in the communes where these are wanting the burgomasters or delegated aldermen, are specially charged with searching out and proving all contraventions of the police laws. The royal procurators are charged with discovering and prosecuting for all offences coming within the jurisdiction of the courts of assize or the correctional tribunals of police. There is at least one *juge d'instruction*, or examining judge, in each arrondissement who is specially charged with the collection of evidence, and with bringing the culprit before the tribunal. There is a council chamber composed of at least three judges, including the *juge d'instruction*, for the preliminary examination of culprits.

The prisons are of three kinds—(1), central prisons; (2), houses of surety; and (3), houses of arrest. The central prisons are—(1), the central penitentiary at Ghent for different classes of criminals; (2), the penitentiary at Louvain, on the solitary system, for prisoners condemned to more than one year's imprisonment, except those condemned to imprisonment for life; (3), the penitentiary and reformatory for young criminals at Namur; (4), the penitentiary and reformatory at St Hubert for young delinquents belonging to the rural population, acquitted but put at the disposal of Government; (5), the branch penitentiary and reformatory at Namur for young criminals and young delinquents, acquitted, belonging to the town populations. The number in the prisons in 1873 was 1568, in the reformatories 751. The houses of surety are established in the capital of each province, where there is a court of assize, and the houses of arrest are in the capital of each arrondissement, the seat of a court of primary instance, where there is not already a house of surety. In these houses are confined the prisoners whose term does not exceed six months if the prison is a common one, and three years if on the solitary system. The number of prisoners in these prisons in 1873 was 2437. In connection with many of these, schools, workshops, and circulating libraries have been established. The prisoners are employed in various kinds of work. Those condemned to compulsory labour receive no remuneration, but those condemned to solitary or correctional imprisonment receive a part of the produce of their labour, which in the case of the latter is frequently applied in mitigation of their punishment. Premiums are also given for good conduct, zeal, and progress in their labours.

Since 1830 the agricultural state of the country has been much improved. A superior council of agriculture is specially charged with the promotion and superintendence of the agricultural interests of the country; and in each of the provinces a commission of practical men is nominated to encourage the introduction of improvements in the different branches of agriculture and report annually upon

the state of agriculture in their provinces. Every five years a grand agricultural exhibition of horses, cattle, agricultural implements, and produce is held in Brussels, at which a number of gold and silver medals, &c., are given as prizes. Local exhibitions are also held frequently in the various districts.

The agriculturists above twelve years of age, including female servants, form one-fourth of the entire population. Females are extensively engaged in agricultural work, being, to the males as 61 to 100. In 1866 the number of horses was 283,163; of cattle, 1,242,445; sheep, 586,097; swine, 632,301. To improve the breeds of horses a Government stud of stallions is maintained at Tervueren.

The cultivated land of Belgium amounts to 2,663,753 hectares, or 6,582,123 acres, of which 1,339,795 hectares are in the hands of the proprietors, and 1,323,958 are let to tenants. In West Flanders four-fifths are in the hands of tenants; in Luxembourg nearly five-sixths are in the hands of the proprietors; and in most of the other provinces about one-half is let to tenants. The land is divided into numerous and mostly small patches (nearly 600,000). Of these 43 per cent. do not exceed 50 ares; there are 12 per cent. not exceeding one hectare, or 2½ acres, 29 per cent. not exceeding 5 hectares, 7½ per cent. not exceeding 10 hectares, and less than 8 per cent. of greater extent. The Belgians, particularly in Flanders, are averse to the introduction of improvements in their agricultural operations, and their implements are generally rude and clumsy. Their lands are, however, cultivated with great care and are very productive. Of the cereal crops rye is the most extensively cultivated, and forms an important article of food for the working classes. Wheat and oats are also extensively cultivated, the former particularly in the provinces of Hainaut, Brabant, and West Flanders. Comparatively little barley is raised. Hops, chicory, tobacco, rape and other oleaginous plants, hemp, flax, madder, beet, &c., are common. Of these the most extensively cultivated is flax, principally in the two Flanders. Tobacco was much more extensively grown a few years ago than at present; it is now almost entirely confined to the two Flanders and Hainaut. The chicory plant is principally raised in Hainaut. The cultivation of beet for the extraction of sugar is continually increasing, and numerous establishments have been formed for its preparation. The leguminous plants, pease, beans, and tares, are used principally as fodder for cattle; the most common are beans. The beet root is even more extensively cultivated as fodder than as an industrial plant, particularly in the provinces of West Flanders, Liège, Hainaut, and Brabant. Potatoes are largely grown in all the provinces; and, next to potatoes, turnips are the most extensively cultivated of the alimentary roots. The fallow ground, formerly considerable, is now only of small extent, being principally sown in fodder crops. Clover is the principal fodder crop. The number of hectares occupied with the principal crops in 1866 were—wheat, 283,542; oats, 221,743; rye, 288,966; barley, 43,617; beans, 24,263; pease, tares, &c., 13,645; potatoes, 171,397; flax, 57,045; colza, 26,412; beet root for sugar, 18,074; turnips, carrots, &c., 28,806; hemp, hops, chicory, tobacco, &c., 13,775. Vegetable gardens occupied 37,329; meadow, 365,805; fallow, 53,891.

Belgium is rich in various kinds of minerals, as coal, iron, calamine, &c., which form a valuable source of employment to many thousands of its inhabitants.

The coal may be divided into two great basins. The western basin is the most important, and has an estimated extent of 90,051 hectares (or about 222,400 acres),—75,725 in the province of Hainaut, and 14,326 in Namur. The extent of the eastern bed is estimated at 44,062 hectares,—41,745 in the province of Liège, and 2317 in

Namur. All varieties, from anthracite to the richest gas-coal, are found. In 1873 there were 285 coal-mines in the country, employing 107,902 persons, and producing 15,778,401 tons of coal valued at 337,637,360 francs. The iron districts are the arrondissement of Charleroi, and the provinces of Namur, Liège, and Luxembourg. Besides the iron-mines in Charleroi, Hainault contains a copper-mine, commenced in 1849, and calamine and blende mines. Iron is also found in small quantities in the arrondissements of Mons and Tournay. In Namur the iron ore is rich and plentiful, and constitutes the principal mineral wealth of the province. Veins of lead and zinc are also wrought to a considerable extent. The iron-mines of Luxembourg are much inferior to those of Namur. The principal are those of Durbuy, Ruette, Grandcourt, Halanzy, and Musson. The ferruginous basins of Theux and La Reid are of the greatest importance, both as public works, and from the quantity of ore that they furnish. Lead and zinc are found here almost always in the same bed. Alumiferous schist is common in several parts of the province. In 1873, the different metallic mines yielded 13,952 tons of blende, 28,630 of calamine, 11,280 of lead, 36,651 of pyrites, and 503,563 of buddled iron ore. The number of workmen employed in these mines was 3758. Under the minister of the interior the mines are superintended by a corps of mining engineers; each of the six mining districts has an ordinary engineer, and each of the two divisions a chief engineer. A sub-engineer is appointed over a certain number of mines.

Marble is abundant in many parts of Belgium; and the black marbles, as those of Dinant and Gochene, may rival the finest productions of other countries. There are also numerous quarries of freestone, granite, limestone, slate, &c. The principal quarrying provinces are Namur and Hainault. In 1873 there were 2230 quarries in the country, employing 22,435 men, and yielding the value of 38,353,171 francs.

The number of works in 1873 for the preparation of iron was 331; steel, 3; lead, 7; copper, 6; zinc, 1; alum, 1; glass, 72; and 41,845 workmen were engaged. The value of the iron manufactures was upwards of 246,000,000 francs; glass, 46,000,000; zinc, 38,000,000; steel, 7,700,000; copper, 6,000,000; lead, 4,700,000, &c.

Notwithstanding many vicissitudes, flax, the most ancient, still forms one of the most important branches of industry in the country. In 1866, 57,045 hectares of land were occupied in the cultivation of flax, and a considerable number in hemp. The declared value of flax and hemp yarn imported in 1872 was 10,427,000 francs; of flax yarn exported, 80,904,000; of hemp, 7,155,000: and of flax and hemp cloths, 37,170,000.

Cotton also forms an important branch of industry, which is at present in a more flourishing condition than at any former period. In 1872 the value imported of raw cotton was 57,241,000 francs; cotton yarn, 5,214,000; and cotton cloths, 12,754,000; the value exported of cotton yarn, 6,358,000; cotton cloths, 19,083,000.

The manufacture of woollens forms also as important branch of industry. The wool for this purpose is principally imported from Prussia, Saxony, &c., the native produce being small in quantity and chiefly used in hosiery. In 1872 the value of the wools imported was 160,079,000 francs; yarn, 6,902,000; manufactured stuffs, 23,814,000; exported wool, 10,291,000; yarn, 64,523,000; manufactured stuffs, 44,850,000.

In 1866 the numbers employed in the various flax, hemp, woollen, and cotton manufactures, were 114,547 males and 71,111 females. The chief of the other manufactures are silk, lace, ribbons, beer, spirits, vinegar, sugar, salt, bricks and tiles, porcelain, earthenware, glass, crystal, paper,

leather, ropes, &c. In 1872 the excise duties on beer and vinegar amounted to 15,547,605 francs; spirits, 16,946,225; foreign wines, 4,765,800; and sugar, 7,516,388.

In 1850, 2165 sailing and steam vessels, of 314,797 tons, entered Belgium; in 1860, 3780 vessels of 667,287 tons; in 1870, 5658 vessels, of 1,575,293 tons; and in 1872, 6134 vessels, of 1,878,106 tons. Of the last 3082 were steam vessels, of 1,158,484 tons. In 1850 the number of vessels that left Belgium was 2214, tonnage 235,745; in 1860, 3959, tonnage 694,225; in 1870, 5406, tonnage 1,534,513; and in 1872, 6241, tonnage 1,907,530. Of the last 3081 vessels, with 1,169,254 tons, were steamers. The numbers and tonnage of vessels entering from and leaving for different countries in 1872 were as follows:—

INWARDS.		OUTWARDS.			
Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.		
England.....	3176	843,779	England.....	4178	1,214,979
Russia.....	444	178,371	Sweden and	544	124,354
Sweden and	638	155,597	Norway.....	121	94,700
Norway.....	173	116,622	United States..	236	79,780
United States..	169	95,575	Germany.....	209	65,013
Argentine Rep.	312	87,785	France.....	148	56,648
Germany.....	218	62,182	Russia.....	44	38,309
France.....	49	50,514	Argentine Rep.		
Chili and Peru					

Expressed in millions of francs the value of the imports in 1850 was 236; of the exports, 263; of goods in transit, 206; in 1860—imports, 516; exports, 469; in transit, 408; in 1870—imports, 520; exports, 690; in transit, 857; and in 1872—imports, 1277; exports, 1051; in transit, 1049. Of the imports in 1872, 315 were from France, 230 from England, 164 from Holland, 158 from the German Zollverein, 80 from the United States, 77 from the Argentine Republic, 62 from Russia, 35 from Uruguay, 24 from Brazil, and 23 from Sweden and Norway. Of the exports 320 were to France, 237 to England, 223 to the German Zollverein, 120 to Holland, 18 to Switzerland, 17 to the Hanseatic towns, 14 to the United States, 12 to Italy, and 11 to Russia. Of the goods in transit 434 were from the German Zollverein, 321 from France, 96 from England, and 92 from Holland; 341 were to the German Zollverein, 245 to England, 237 to France, and 121 to Holland. The values of the principal articles of merchandise imported for home consumption expressed in millions of francs were—wool, 160; grain of all kinds, 126; raw hides, 71; iron ore and cast and wrought iron, 61; cotton, 57; resins, 48; minerals and metals, 47; coffee, 42; wood for building, 41; grease and tallow, 37; silks, 30; horned cattle, 29; oleaginous seeds, 29; woollen stuffs, 23; fermented liquors, 21; oils, 17; machinery, 10. The values of the principal exports were—coal, 85; flax, 80; wrought iron, 69; woollen yarn, 64; raw hides, 53; woollen stuffs, 44; raw sugar, 41; machinery, 39; flax and hemp stuffs, 37; grain of all kinds, 37; flax and hemp yarn, 31; grease and tallow, 25; paper, 21; resins, 21; unwrought zinc, 21; coke, 20; cotton stuffs, 18; glass and crystal wares, 17; wool, 16; candles, 15; butter, 14; arms, 13. The values of the principal goods in transit were—flax and hemp stuffs, 204; wool, 147; woollen stuffs, 102; haberdashery and hardware, 39; silks, 38; cast and wrought iron, 35; cotton, 33; grain of all kinds, 30; coffee, 23; woollen yarn, 20; flax and hemp yarn, 19; cattle, sheep, swine, 18; cotton stuffs, 17; fermented liquors, 16; glass and crystal wares, 16; machines, 13. In 1872 the exports from Belgium to the United Kingdom were £13,211,044, and the imports from the United Kingdom to Belgium £6,499,062.

There are twenty-three chambers of commerce and manufacture established in the principal towns, the members of which are nominated by the king from a triple list of

Manu-  
factures.

candidates presented to him by the chambers. The members of each vary in number from nine to twenty-one, one-third going out annually. They present to the Government or legislative chambers their views as to the best means of increasing the commercial and industrial prosperity of the country, report annually upon the state of their districts, and give useful information or direction to the provincial or civic authorities under their administration. There is a superior council of industry and commerce, composed of two delegates chosen annually by each of the chambers of commerce of Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, Liège, Mons, and Charleroi, one elected by each of the other chambers of commerce, and a certain number of members chosen by the king, not exceeding a third of the others. The president and two vice-presidents are nominated by the king for each session. The council considers matters affecting commerce and industry, and such questions connected therewith as may be submitted to it by the Government.

Belgium possesses a great number of commercial and financial associations, joint-stock companies for carrying on public works or other enterprises, assurance companies, private banking companies, railway companies, &c. It has eight commercial exchanges, under the direction of Government, namely, in Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, Bruges, Ostend, Mons, Termonde, and Louvain. In 1822 the General Society for the Encouragement of National Industry was formed at Brussels, under a royal charter for 27 years, which has since been extended to 1875 and 1905. It has a social capital of 15,500,000 florins, divided into shares of 500 florins each, bearing interest at 5 per cent. The administrative body consists of a governor, six directors, a secretary, and a treasurer. It discounts bills, receives money at interest, grants loans and advances on titles and other deposits, &c. The National Bank, instituted by charter granted in 1850 and renewed 1872, has its seat at Brussels, and has branches in all the provincial capitals and several other towns. Its capital is 50,000,000 francs, in shares of 1000 francs each. It pays a dividend of 5 per cent. upon the shares, and one-third at least of the profits exceeding 6 per cent. goes to form a sinking fund. The administration consists of a governor nominated by the king, six directors, and a council of censors. The banking operations are superintended by a Government commissary; and a report upon its state is presented to the Government every month. The state funds are deposited in this bank. The Bank of Belgium, chartered in 1835, has a capital of 50,000,000 francs. Its seat is at Brussels. The Bank of Flanders, established in Ghent, has a capital of 10,000,000 francs.

After England, there is no country in Europe where, in proportion to its extent, the roads are more numerous or better kept than in Belgium. They are of three kinds,—those maintained by the state, and those by the provinces and communes. The total length of the two latter cannot be given with accuracy; that of the first is 1187 leagues.

A bill was passed in 1834 authorizing the establishment of a system of railroads, of which Malines was to form the centre, and the line from Brussels to Malines, opened May 5, 1835, was the first railway in operation on the Continent. The Government railways are wrought on account of the Government, and are under special administration. The total length of the various lines of railway in operation in 1873 was 616 leagues (of 5000 metres), of which 125 leagues belonged to the state, and 543 were conceded to others; of the former 117 leagues were double lines. The amount expended by Government in the construction of railways to the end of 1873 was 361,287,299 francs, or £14,451,491.

In 1849 a system of postage was introduced into Belgium similar to that in this country. In 1873 the total number of letters that passed through the post-office was 55,654,859; newspapers, 52,771,524; and packets of printed matter, 25,697,33. In 1860 the numbers were—letters, 23,960,846 newspapers, 26,358,920; and book parcels, 6,668,452.

The first electric telegraph, which was that between Brussels and Antwerp, was introduced into the country in 1846 by an English company. A law passed in 1850 authorized the Government to purchase this, as also to establish telegraphs on all the lines of railway. The telegrams sent out in 1873 were 1,739,817 to different parts of the country, and 676,393 to other countries, besides 153,330 in transit.

For an account of the Belgian army and civic guard, see ARMY, vol. ii. p. 615.

The following table shows the annual income and expenditure for various years:—

	Income.	Expenditure.
1844 .....	198,810,508 fr.	195,185,657 fr.
1850 .....	132,877,187	118,730,904
1860 .....	155,621,571	159,025,377
1865 .....	169,055,072	188,793,737
1870 .....	190,537,002	216,907,800
1871 .....	207,705,993	238,191,223
1872 .....	213,352,689	251,974,513

The details of the revenue and expenditure of the last three of these years, arranged under their several heads, are as follows:—

	REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.		
	1870.	1871.	1872.	1870.	1871.	1872.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Land tax .....	19,176,009	19,272,846	20,258,082	42,680,891	47,628,453	48,765,178
Personal tax .....	12,174,694	12,404,060	13,230,057	4,367,879	4,356,898	4,288,619
Trade licences .....	4,374,797	5,103,814	5,509,728	14,620,711	14,515,530	14,473,638
Rent of mines .....	440,020	528,251	572,377	3,819,005	4,277,056	4,374,445
Custom duties .....	22,057,152	20,339,578	18,943,388	13,179,716	14,056,431	14,714,366
Excise duties .....	29,495,085	25,219,641	27,024,218	39,804,463	51,032,306	59,341,272
Stamp duties .....	39,633,635	44,806,269	49,277,477	59,116,612	44,005,577	39,590,955
Domains, Forests, &c. ....	3,444,497	2,413,004	2,555,137	13,308,096	13,545,257	13,936,198
Post-office .....	4,114,555	5,123,506	4,723,594	946,553	839,598	1,403,490
Railways, &c. ....	41,825,031	57,172,844	58,428,526	25,063,874	43,924,117	51,086,352
Miscellaneous .....	11,839,645	13,486,213	10,970,612			
Reimbursements .....	1,961,882	1,835,067	1,859,493			
Total .....	190,537,002	207,705,993	213,352,689	216,907,800	238,191,223	251,974,513

The public debt of Belgium at the end of 1873 amounted to 966,920,513 francs or £38,676,820. Except the share of the old debt of the Netherlands which fell to it, most of the national debt has been incurred in the construction of railways and other works of public utility.

In the time of the Romans this portion of the Netherlands was included in Gaul, and formed part of that division of it which was known as *Gallia Belgica*. It was inhabited mostly by Celtic tribes, but there were also not a few of German race. The latter were subsequently largely