

OCCUPATIONS AND CALLING OF THE MEXICANS.

AGRICULTURE.

THE Mexicans pertaining to the category I am referring to, are employed in agricultural labors, in working the mines, in mechanical arts and professions, and in various branches of manufacture, there now being established in the greater part of the States of the Republic, cotton, woollen, silk, earthenware, glass and paper factories, which will doubtless acquire greater importance in proportion to the depreciation of the value of silver in foreign markets. With regard to agriculture, which is the vital element in all countries, Mexico suffers from the scarcity of population, notwithstanding that the actual production is more than sufficient for the consumption; and there are some articles such as coffee, timber, dye-woods, tobacco, vanilla, etc., which are exported in abundance. If all the country were populated, even in proportion to Guanajuato and its territory, the census of the Republic would reach 58,000,000 of inhabitants, and then agricultural products would be so much greater, that they would constitute an element of enormous wealth.

Within the territory of the Republic there are more than 5,700 "haciendas" (landed estates) and 13,800 farms ("ranchos") and not a few other locations of immense extent. The value assigned to landed property, based simply on its valuation for taxes, is 161,397,311 dollars, the real value of which without any serious error, may be calculated at double the amount or 322 millions of dollars. To be convinced that this calculation is not exaggerated, it will suffice to observe that

in the amount named, each "hacienda" barely represents a value of \$45,000 and each "rancho" of \$5,000, without taking into account that of the streams, grazing lands, orchards and other rural property of less importance. The "maize" which is grown all over the territory, the wheat in the upper tablelands, the rice in the warm and damp sections, the coffee, vanilla, tobacco, sugar and cotton in the hot countries, and many other articles, among which may be mentioned the "agave Mexicano" with its abundant returns, constitute the principal branches of national agriculture, and it may be safely stated that the annual crops produce more than 100 millions of dollars. How immense would be the benefit to be derived by colonists employing their activity and intelligence in making such rich and extensive lands productive, under the influence of a delicious climate and in the midst of brothers and not of enemies, as it has been attempted to make believed abroad!

MINING.

THE metalliferous productions in the whole extent of the Republic are extremely rich and varied, for which reason this country has been reputed as essentially mineral. A considerable part of the laboring population is engaged in working the mines, in the reduction of the ores and in coining silver and gold, and this forms the first branch of our exportation. The want of enterprize, as a consequence of our scarcity of inhabitants, impedes the natural development of mining, as well

as of agriculture and manufactures. The mineral districts that have been discovered since very remote periods, have produced immense amounts of money, and notwithstanding, it may be said that they are yet in their virgin state. The mines of Guanajuato which, without fear of contradiction, are those that have been the best worked and on the largest scale, still present enormous wealth. The soil of the State of Guerrero may be considered, according to the expression of one of our most celebrated mineralogists, as one extensive crust of silver and gold. In Sinaloa, the waters have submerged a rich treasure in the famous mine of "La Estaca." The States of Zacatecas, Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango, San Luis Potosi, Hidalgo, Mexico and Michoacan contain within their mountain ranges inexhaustible riches, and lastly the other States of the Mexican confederation, in every direction offer up to the assiduity of man an abundance of metalliferous deposits. Silver and gold ores are those that are principally worked in the mining regions, although other metals and mineral substances are found in great abundance, such as copper, iron, zinc, lead, magistral, antimony, arsenic, cobalt, amianthus and copers. Sulphur is also met with in large quantities in many parts, and that of the mountain of Popocatepetl is considered as exhaustless. Salt mines are plentiful, such as those of the "Peñon Blanco" in San Luis Potosi; those of the coast of Tamaulipas, the South of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and the Islands of the Gulf of California. The lake of Texcoco and its adjacent lands possess an inestimable supply of carbonate of soda. In every State there exist splendid quarries of white and colored marble; the alabaster at Tecali in the State of Puebla, has attracted great attention and may be advantageously compared for its beauty with the finest marble from the East.

Ways of communication will hereafter be the most fruitful germen of commercial prosperity, by facilitating the working of the extensive coal-fields, platina and quick-silver mines existing in the asperities of the mountainous portions of the country. Among the precious stones, we have the opal of hues as varied and beautiful as those of Hungary, the turquoise, garnet, topaz, agate and amethyst, besides a very

pure rock crystal. There is also a great variety of building stone.

The mineral districts that have been discovered in the Republic, up to the present, are very numerous, but they are in a great part paralyzed, for the causes referred to. Those that are actually working, according to the reports of the introduction of ores at the Assaying offices, are 117. The quantity of ore brought for assay in the period of one year amounts to 487,000 kilograms, of which 360,101 kilograms were reducible by the "patio" process, 99,330 by smelting and 27,569 by the barrel process, the whole representing a value of \$ 19,100,178 15. The real mineral production is even greater than the amount stated, if we bear in mind that in consequence of the law permitting the free exportation of mineral ore, many of the mines do not send their products to the assay office, but export them directly.

The annual coinage is on an average 20 millions and a half of dollars, the whole amount coined since the establishment of the mints up to 1875 being \$ 3,001,237,281 62, as follows:

	SILVER	GOLD	COPPER	TOTAL
In the Colonial period (1537 to 1821)	\$2,082,280,657 41	\$68,778,411 00	\$542,893 37	\$2,151,581,961 81
Since the Independence (1822 to 1875)	797,055,080 77	47,327,583 11	3,272,835 93	\$49,655,319 81
	\$2,879,335,738 21	\$116,105,994 11	\$546,166,229 30	\$3,001,237,281 62

ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

THE favorable disposition shown by Mexicans towards the cultivation of the arts, has attained a considerable progress, if we reflect upon the backward state in which they were found in the early years of the independence. The last industrial Exposition, in spite of the non-concurrence of some of the most important well-doing States, has convinced Mexicans that they can, by themselves, supply all their necessities, without requiring luxury. The printing and lithography can place before the world books and illustrations, worthy of acceptance to bibliographers. Carved work and filigree work in gold and silver yield in little or nothing to similar productions from abroad. The carriages and household furniture made in Mexico, with the exception of silk stuffs, can compete in taste and solid workmanship with the best that can be imported from foreign countries. In the fine arts, both in painting as well as sculpture and architecture, our Academy of San Carlos, reputed by travellers to be the first in America, displays the progress they have acquired. Some of these works will be exhibited to the public at the Philadelphia Exposition. The fabrication of textures as well as all other manufactures has increased astonishingly. Several factories, sugar mills and distilleries are established in the States of Mexico, Puebla, Veracruz, Jalisco, Morelos, Guerrero, Tabasco, Oaxaca and Yucatan: earthenware is made in Guanajuato, Mexico and Puebla; in the State of Jalisco and in the Valley of Mexico there are various paper-mills; also some glass factories in Mexico and Puebla: cotton factories in the greater part of the States: silk-factories in Guanajuato, Queretaro and Mexico. The number of cotton factories in the Republic exceeds 70, the States that may be considered as manufacturing districts being those of Puebla, Jalisco, Queretaro, Mexico and Veracruz.

The data I have been able to acquire regarding these factories, will be seen in the following statement:

STATES.	FACTORIES.	Number of Spindles.	Number of Looms.	Pieces produced yearly.	Kilograms of yarn.	Kilo. of cotton consumed yearly.
Puebla.	Guadalupe	2,100	48	12,500	43,723	92,049
	Santa Cruz	2,100	50	12,500	44,183	92,049
	Constancia	3,780	90	22,500	79,530	165,687
	Economia	2,520	60	15,000	53,847	110,459
	Patriotismo	8,500	200	50,000	174,893	368,197
	Beneficencia	2,000	50	13,000	46,025	92,049
	Mayorazgo	5,250	120	30,000	138,074	266,942
	De en Medio	6,300	150	40,000	124,266	230,123
	Amatlan	1,550	36	9,000	32,217	69,037
	Teja	1,550	36	9,000	32,217	69,037
	Asuncion	2,100	50	15,000	46,025	92,049
Independencia	1,550	36	8,500	34,518	69,037	
		39,300	926	237,000	849,518	1,716,715
Jalisco.	Prosperidad Jalisciense	2,976	90	33,084	24,835	211,712
	Experiencia	792	"	"	41,422	50,627
	Escoba	3,300	69	28,000	285,353	299,159
	Bellavista	5,832	156	24,886	"	138,073
	Jauja	4,768	112	37,992	35,979	329,075
		17,668	427	123,962	387,589	1,028,646
Queretaro.	Hércules	22,000	680	350,000	1,150,615	1,380,739
	La Purisima					
District and State of Mexico.	Magdalena	13,000	376	156,000	167,530	598,504
	Tlalpam	13,000	450	150,000	165,689	603,106
	Tizapam	9,000	176	135,000	105,303	516,394
	Miraflores	7,000	262	108,992	46,046	372,799
	Abeja	1,400	"	"	"	"
	Colmena	4,300	"	"	"	"
		47,700	1,264	549,992	484,568	2,090,803
Veracruz.	Cocolapan	7,000	400	75,000	415,467	429,870
	Libertad	2,000	81	1,944	118,973	"
	Victoria	600	22	"	133,471	"
	Industria Jalapeña	4,028	57	19,992	124,266	"
	Lucas Martin	3,984	"	"	124,266	161,081
	Rosario	1,584	"	"	"	138,073
	Probidad	1,056	"	"	"	67,195
		20,254	560	96,936	914,543	796,219

Besides "mantas" (cotton domestics) in some of these establishments and in other special factories, worked by the most improved machinery, other goods are manufactured, such as diapers, madapollans, muslins, bed ticks, satteens and linen drills, fine and coarse carpeting, counterpanes, fine spun and ordinary kerseymeres, baize and other textures. In Puebla, Mexico, Jalisco and several places in other States, there are silk spinning and twisting factories, whose products, from the fact of the raw material being of superior quality, are preferred to those from abroad, amongst them, stuffs for ladies dresses, handkerchiefs, scarfs ("paños de rebozo") and every kind of lace and fancy trimmings. In Mexico are also manufactured kid gloves, cotton lace and hosiery, braces, cotton and woollen gloves, tape, embroidered ribbons and other articles of a similar kind, which with the exception of the first named, form a peculiar branch of industry among the Indians and some of those condemned to prison.

Gold and silver lace work and wire-drawing is carried on in a large scale, in every branch of this department, and of a superior style of workmanship and excellent quality. To conclude, in every town of any importance, there may be observed a great advancement in arts and manufactures.

COMMERCE.	
1,300	1,300
1,400	1,400
7,000	7,000
176,132,000	176,132,000
150,000	150,000
167,230	167,230
12,000	12,000
12,000	12,000
22,000	22,000
1,300	1,300

THE Mexican United States maintain mercantile relations with England, France, the United States of America, Germany, Spain and the Island of Cuba, Belgium, Italy, Central America, the United States of Colombia, and the Equator. According to the annual Reports the value of the impor-

tations may be estimated at 29,000,000 of dollars, in the following form :

Cotton and cotton goods,	\$ 10,500,000
Groceries, wines and spirits,	5,000,000
Articles free of duty,	3,300,000
Hardware and ironmongery,	2,100,000
Miscellaneous,	2,000,000
Linen and hemp goods,	1,400,000
Woollen goods,	1,400,000
Mixed goods,	1,400,000
Silks,	1,000,000
Earthenware, porcelain, glass and crystal ware,	600,000
Drugs and Chemicals,	300,000
Total.	\$ 29,000,000

This amount is imported from the following countries :

England,	\$ 10,200,000
United States of America,	7,500,000
France,	4,780,000
Germany,	3,800,000
Spain and the Island of Cuba,	1,400,000
United States of Colombia,	1,200,000
Central America,	100,000
Italy, Belgium, and American Republics,	20,000
	\$ 29,000,000

The exportation amounts to 31,000,000 of dollars, as follows :

Gold and silver coin,	\$ 24,000,000
Ores and minerals,	1,800,000
Carried forward.	\$ 25,800,000

Brought forward	\$ 25,800,000
Hides and skins in general,	1,800,000
Henequen, Ixtle and cordage,	1,000,000
Timber and dyewoods,	1,000,000
Coffee,	600,000
Vanilla,	400,000
Cochineal,	300,000
Cattle,	200,000
Tobacco,	150,000
Orchilla,	130,000
Fine pearls,	110,000
Caoutchouc or Indian-rubber,	100,000
Sarsaparrilla,	90,000
Wool,	90,000
Sole and upper leather,	80,000
Indigo,	80,000
Jalap root,	80,000
"Coquito" (a small cocoanut),	50,000
"Frijol" (beans),	40,000
Cotton,	30,000
Mother-of-pearl,	25,000
Starch,	25,000
Wheat,	20,000
Other agricultural and industrial productions,	100,000
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	32,300,000

These exports are made to the following countries:

England, to the amount of	\$ 12,550,000
United States of America,	12,000,000
France,	5,000,000
Germany,	1,500,000
Spain and the Island of Cuba,	800,000
Central America,	100,000
Italy and Belgium,	50,000
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	\$ 32,000,000

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

As the grade of civilization of any country is principally to be inferred from its development in public instruction, I cannot close this chapter without explaining the progress made in this important matter. Señor Don José Diaz Covarrubias, the present Sub-secretary of the Department of Justice and Public Instruction, has just written and issued to the public a luminous book under the title of "Public Instruction in Mexico," in which abound the most conscientious remarks, demonstrating the increment acquired day by day in this element of such vital importance to universal progress.

The principle of obligatory education having been admitted, it is now in force in the greater part of the States of the Republic, penalties having been decreed for those who contravene the law and rewards for those who voluntarily observe the same, a stimulus which cannot fail to contribute towards the accomplishment of so praiseworthy a determination. Primary instruction in the schools of the Republic consists of the following branches: Reading, writing, Spanish grammar, arithmetic, tables of weights and measures, morality and good manners, and moreover in the girls' schools needle-work and other useful labors. In some of the States the study of geography, national history and drawing are also obligatory, whilst in the schools that are not supported by the Government, notions of algebra and geometry, elements of general and natural history, ornamental and lineal drawing and the French language, are taught.

The number of primary schools in the whole of the Republic reaches 8,103 instead of 5,000 that existed in the year 1870. Of the number referred to, according to the work of Señor Diaz Covarrubias, 603 are supported by the State go-