

In sugar, Mexico holds but an insignificant place in the American importation, which showed an annual average, during the past five years, of 3,827,799,481 pounds, Cuba furnishing 46.5 per cent. and Hawaii 7.9 per cent.

We could expand very largely our sugar production and supply this country with almost all of that product, but as sugar is produced in Louisiana and as Hawaii is likely to belong to the United States the protective policy of this country will not allow us to supply the United States with that commodity on a large scale.

Mexico is sending on an average every year, 1,400,000 pounds of wool to the United States. In 1892 she exported but 190 pounds.

The United States takes, annually, an average of 50,493,000 pounds of goat skins, of which Mexico furnishes 3,007,000, or 5.9 per cent. Of other hides and skins the United States imports 167,993,000 pounds, Mexico's share being 4.3 per cent.

The cattle trade of Mexico with the United States increased considerably under the liberal provisions of the Wilson Bill, which taxed cattle with 20 per cent. ad valorem. The following statement shows how large the increase of that trade was under that bill:

CATTLE EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES.

Years.	Number.	Gold Value.
1892.....	1,438.....	\$ 7,740
1893.....	2,597.....	16,376
1894.....	1,469.....	11,857
1895.....	148,431.....	720,864
1896.....	216,913.....	1,481,954

(Fiscal years ended June 30th.)

Mexico has been for at least two years the most important source of supply to the United States for cattle purchased abroad, Canada furnishing, in 1896, cattle to the value of but \$18,902, and the United Kingdom \$6,684. The cattle trade is one in which American, as well as Mexican capital is embarked, but it will be considerably diminished if not completely destroyed under the highly protective tariff.

COINAGE.

In the chapter on Mining I gave a concise statement of the silver and gold coined in Mexico from the time of its discovery by the Spaniards to the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, and it appears from the same that the total coinage of silver amounted to \$3,398,664,400.

According to the report of the Director of the Mint (page 347) on the "Production of Precious Metals in the United States during

the Calendar Year 1895," the last one out as this paper goes to press, the total production of silver of the world from 1493 to 1895 is \$10,345,688,700, the Mexican coinage being over one-third of the whole.

It must be borne in mind that that statement embraces, so far as Mexico is concerned, only the silver coined, and it does not take into consideration the silver used in the arts, which used to be a considerable amount, as almost every well-to-do Mexican had forks, spoons, plates and other table ware and household articles of solid silver. It does not embrace either such silver as was smuggled in bullion, which, considering the large extent of the Mexican sea coast, its scanty population and the general demoralization during our civil wars represents a very large amount. It can, therefore, be safely stated that the production of silver in Mexico, not coined, represents at least from one-fourth to one-third of the amount coined. Therefore, the production of silver by Mexico may be safely estimated at from \$5,000,000,000, to \$6,000,000,000, which is about one-half of the total product of the world.

The following statement shows the amount of silver coined by the several mints of Mexico from their establishment to June 30, 1895, stating the years in which the coinage was made:

COINAGE BY THE MEXICAN MINTS FROM THEIR ESTABLISHMENT IN 1535 TO JUNE 30, 1895.

PERIOD OF COINAGE.	MINTS.	COINAGE.
1868-1895.....	Alamos.....	\$ 22,828,869
1863-1866.....	Catorce.....	1,321,545
1811-1895.....	Chihuahua.....	62,465,756
1846-1895.....	Culiacan.....	46,438,169
1811-1895.....	Durango.....	67,128,366
1812-1895.....	Guadalajara.....	64,127,846
1844-1849.....	Guadalupe y Calvo.....	4,375,062
1812-1895.....	Guanajuato.....	307,364,150
1852-1895.....	Hermosilla.....	19,659,506
1535-1895.....	Mexico.....	2,453,110,110
1857-1893.....	Oaxaca.....	5,761,045
1827-1893.....	San Luis Potosi.....	113,143,358
1810-1812.....	Sombrerete.....	1,551,248
1827-1830.....	Tlalpam.....	1,162,660
1810-1895.....	Zacatecas.....	350,341,499
From 1535 to 1895.....	Total.....	\$3,520,779,189

I give a statement of the production of gold and silver in Mexico in the fiscal years 1879-1880, 1889-1890 and 1894-1895, which shows

a considerable increase in each of those years, and this statement only represents such amounts of the precious metals as were either exported in bullion or taken to the mints, and not the production that is otherwise disposed of.

PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER IN MEXICO IN THE FISCAL YEARS
1879-1880, 1889-1890 AND 1894-1895.

	1879-1880.			1889-1890.			1894-1895.		
	Kilo-grams.	Grams.	Value.	Kilo-grams.	Grams.	Value.	Kilo-grams.	Grams.	Value.
Gold coined.....	772	598	\$ 521,826	360	219	\$ 243,298	807	260	\$ 545,237
Gold exported.....	622	032	420,131	677	524	457,611	6,217	351	4,199,305
Total.....	1,394	630	941,957	1,037	743	700,909	7,024	611	4,744,542
Silver coined.....	587,034	804	24,018,529	594,606	526	24,328,326	675,277	551	27,628,981
Silver exported.....	74,302	310	3,040,079	362,418	697	14,828,361	747,283	490	30,575,104
Total.....	661,337	114	27,058,608	957,025	223	39,156,687	1,422,561	041	58,204,085
Total of gold and silver.....			\$28,000,565			\$39,857,596			\$62,948,627

The following statement gives the exports of the precious metals from Mexico during the same years embraced in the preceding table.

EXPORT OF PRECIOUS METALS AND MINERALS FROM MEXICO IN THE
FISCAL YEARS 1879-1880, 1889-1890 AND 1894-1895.

	VALUE IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.		
	1879-1880.	1889-1890.	1894-1895.
Argentiferous copper.....			
Gold ore.....			59,660
Silver ore.....		6,394,662	10,935,353
Foreign gold coined.....	220,567	13,204	34,887
Mexican gold coined.....	760,683	96,592	164,113
Gold bullion.....	420,132	457,611	4,139,645
Mixed gold.....			
Foreign silver coined.....	314,537	141,033	485,326
Mexican silver coined.....	16,783,317	23,084,489	17,077,119
Base silver.....		1,810	50,866
Silver bullion.....	3,040,079	7,259,959	18,803,876
Manufactured silver.....	581		
Mixed silver.....		368,872	
Sulphite of silver.....		803,058	785,009
Argentiferous lead.....			
Argentiferous zinc.....			
	21,539,896	38,621,290	52,535,854

It may be interesting to state the amount of silver exported and coined in Mexican mints from 1874 to 1896, which is the following:

	EXPORTED.	COINED.
1874-75.....	\$ 16,038,215	\$ 19,386,958
1875-76.....		19,454,054
1876-77.....		21,415,128
1877-78.....	20,853,074	22,084,203
1878-79.....	19,339,151	22,162,988
1879-80.....	20,307,563	24,018,529
1880-81.....	17,774,910	24,617,395
1881-82.....	15,700,704	25,146,260
1882-83.....	28,441,212	24,083,922
1883-84.....	32,242,770	25,377,379
1884-85.....	32,770,900	25,840,728
1885-86.....	29,160,835	26,991,805
1886-87.....	32,642,785	26,844,031
1887-88.....	30,286,247	25,862,977
1888-89.....	37,982,948	26,031,223
1889-90.....	37,912,848	24,328,326
1890-91.....	35,259,131	24,237,449
1891-92.....	46,272,391	25,527,018
1892-93.....	44,303,593	27,169,876
1893-94.....	36,012,950	30,185,612
1894-95.....	36,716,870	27,628,981
1895-96.....	46,722,823	22,634,788
	\$616,741,920	\$541,029,630

The preceding statement gives correct data of the exports of silver from the fiscal year 1874-1875 to the fiscal year 1895-1896, excepting the years 1875-1876 and 1876-1877, which are not included for want of data. The difference between the two amounts for these years is \$75,712,290, showing the large proportion of silver which was not coined, and was exported in bullion.

The following statement shows that the export of Mexican silver reached almost its minimum in the year 1887-1888, and its maximum in the year 1892-1893, with the exception of the last one. The minimum coincided with the first sterling loan negotiated by Mexico; the second sterling loan negotiated in 1890 caused a decrease in the export of Mexican silver coin of 26 per cent., as compared with the previous fiscal year of 1889-1890.

The export of silver bullion has steadily increased since 1872-1873, until it was in 1895-1896 seventeen times as large as in the first named year. During the first fiscal year of those embraced in the above table, the export of silver bullion was 1.4 to 22.6 as compared with silver coin, and in the year 1895-1896 the proportion was 15.3 to 20.5. In the year 1872-1873 the export of silver bullion represented 6 per cent. of

the total export of silver, while in the fiscal year 1895-1896 it represented 20 per cent.

The export of silver ore only began in the fiscal year 1886-1887.

EXPORTS OF SILVER FROM JULY 1ST, 1872, TO JUNE 30TH, 1896.

FISCAL YEARS.	COINS.	BULLION.	ORES.	OTHER FORMS.	TOTAL VALUE.
1872-1873.....	\$ 22,626,065	\$ 1,450,426	\$ 199,596	\$ 8,716	\$ 24,293,803
1873-1874.....	17,021,405	1,217,853	240,769	1,359	18,481,386
1874-1875.....	15,372,254	1,843,523	79,443	3,920	17,299,140
Average in three years.....	\$ 18,339,908	\$ 1,506,934	\$ 173,269	\$ 4,665	\$ 20,024,776
1877-1878.....	\$ 18,120,297	\$ 2,560,859	\$ 19,920	\$ 87	\$ 20,701,163
1878-1879.....	16,366,877	2,650,400	.....	2,812	19,020,089
1879-1880.....	16,783,317	3,049,079	.....	581	19,823,977
1880-1881.....	13,183,955	3,976,879	.....	376	17,161,210
1881-1882.....	11,607,888	3,540,994	10,129	5,079	15,163,990
Average in five years.....	\$ 15,212,467	\$ 3,153,842	\$ 6,010	\$ 1,787	\$ 18,374,086
1882-1883.....	\$ 22,969,584	\$ 4,773,928	\$ 30,105	\$ 113,537	\$ 27,892,154
1883-1884.....	25,999,876	5,311,310	67,815	111,112	31,490,113
1884-1885.....	25,394,262	5,899,297	.....	153,489	31,446,848
1885-1886.....	21,969,958	5,261,502	1,809,873	145,070	29,186,403
1886-1887.....	21,953,759	6,128,239	3,737,883	823,951	32,643,832
Average in five years.....	\$ 23,657,488	\$ 5,474,855	\$ 1,129,135	\$ 269,432	\$ 30,531,870
1887-1888.....	\$ 7,794,245	\$ 4,771,328	\$ 4,547,250	\$ 475,942	\$ 17,588,765
1888-1889.....	22,686,337	6,862,510	7,623,589	830,304	38,002,740
1889-1890.....	23,084,489	7,628,831	6,394,662	804,869	37,912,851
1890-1891.....	17,622,171	7,480,354	8,874,457	1,282,151	35,259,133
1891-1892.....	26,478,376	7,853,757	10,478,264	3,237,116	48,047,513
Average in five years.....	\$ 19,533,124	\$ 6,919,356	\$ 7,583,644	\$ 1,326,076	\$ 35,362,200
1892-1893.....	\$ 27,170,865	\$ 8,126,593	\$ 10,940,750	\$ 9,008,215	\$ 55,246,423
1893-1894.....	17,386,338	7,881,897	9,023,596	11,119,345	45,411,176
1894-1895.....	17,077,119	18,803,876	10,935,353	835,875	47,652,223
1895-1896.....	20,377,663	26,345,160	10,885,479	1,138,245	58,746,547
Average in four years.....	\$ 20,502,996	\$ 15,289,381	\$ 10,446,294	\$ 5,525,420	\$ 51,764,092
Total in the twenty-two years.....	\$ 429,047,100	\$ 143,418,595	\$ 85,898,933	\$ 30,102,151	\$ 688,471,479
Average for the twenty-two years...	\$ 19,502,140	\$ 6,519,027	\$ 3,904,496	\$ 1,368,279	\$ 31,294,158

MEXICAN GOLD EXPORTS.

Our production of gold used to be very small for reasons already given, but the present high price of that metal is increasing considerably our output of the same.

The exports of gold from Mexico in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, amounted to \$5,800,000, as declared by the Mexican Bureau of Statistics, but even this statement is not correct, as it needs the following additions, shown by experience and reliable authorities: about 15 per cent. for gold exports made without any return, 2 per cent. for undervaluation, 0.5 per cent. used in the arts in Mexico, 1 per cent., possibly more now, with the increasing prosperity of the country, retained in the banks, 2 per cent. in circulation, making a total of 20.5 per cent. to be added to the official return, which brings up the produc-

tion of gold in Mexico to \$6,989,000 for the year 1896 and even this figure is considered very low.

Mexican Gold Exported to the United States.—The United States is our principal market for the gold we produce.

The following statement furnished to me on February 6, 1897, by the Director of the Mint of the Treasury Department of the United States, contains the imports of gold bullion, ore and coin into the United States, as reported by the Collector of Customs, from 1891 to 1895, and from the fiscal years ending June 30, 1892, to June 30, 1896.

“IMPORTS OF GOLD BULLION, ORE AND COIN FROM MEXICO INTO THE UNITED STATES AS REPORTED BY COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

YEARS.	ORE.	BULLION.	COIN.	TOTAL.
1891.....	\$ 222,088	\$1,192,183	\$ 367,015	\$ 1,781,286
1892.....	711,672	1,714,440	380,711	2,806,823
1893.....	507,647	1,566,728	265,315	2,339,690
1894.....	673,583	1,064,721	38,376	1,776,680
1895.....	997,221	2,435,296	34,217	3,466,734
Total.....	\$3,112,211	\$7,973,368	\$1,085,634	\$12,171,213

“For additional information see *Report on Production of Precious Metals*, 1894, page 248, and the same report for 1895, page 289.

“Yours, R. D. Preston,

“Mint Bureau, February 6, 1897.”

“IMPORTS OF GOLD ORE, BULLION AND COIN FROM MEXICO INTO THE UNITED STATES AS REPORTED BY COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30.	ORE.	BULLION.	COIN.	TOTAL.
1892.....	\$ 246,849	\$1,336,593	\$ 542,499	\$ 2,125,941
1893.....	886,284	1,923,565	300,012	3,109,861
1894.....	502,023	1,210,757	116,823	1,829,603
1895.....	810,066	1,635,852	36,835	2,482,753
1896.....	1,108,839	2,826,327	72,482	4,007,648
Total.....	\$3,554,061	\$8,933,094	\$1,068,651	\$13,555,806

“Treasury Department, Mint Bureau, February 6, 1897.”

Mr. Preston completed the above information with other data obtained from private parties in the following manner: communicated to me in a letter dated, February 6, 1897, enclosing the two preceding statements.

“I would add, for your information, that from returns received by this Bureau, from private refineries, and the deposits of foreign bullion at the Mints and Assay

Offices of the United States during the calendar years 1894 and 1895 the amount of gold credited to Mexico was reported to be as follows :

1894.	
Reported by private refineries as extracted from Mexican ores and bullion.....	\$2,360,765
Gold bullion deposited at the United States Assay Office at New York....	735,787
Deposited at the Mint at San Francisco.....	290,713
Total.....	\$3,387,265

1895.	
Gold extracted from Mexican ores and bullion by private refineries.....	\$3,843,783
Gold deposited at the United States Assay Office at New York.....	560,775
Mexican gold bullion deposited at the United States Mint at San Francisco	504,745
Total.....	\$4,909,303

The preceding official data from the United States Treasury Department was not complete, as will appear from the following table prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the Mexican Republic :

GOLD EXPORTED FROM MEXICO TO THE UNITED STATES.
CALENDAR YEARS.

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Gold ore.....	\$ 16,700	\$ 100,595	\$ 113,548	\$ 5,767	\$ 87,695	\$ 324,305
Coined.....	53,769	45,290	91,936	177,089	100,421	477,505
Bullion ¹	497,400	279,699	99,415	1,006,152	4,368,898	6,851,564
Mixed ¹		126,184	257,701	144,515		528,460
Cyanide.....					31,231	31,231
Sulphite.....					3,026	3,026
According to information from Mexico.....	\$ 567,869	\$ 551,768	\$ 562,660	\$1,933,523	\$4,600,271	\$8,216,091
According to information from the United States	\$1,781,286	2,806,823	2,339,690	1,776,680	3,466,734	12,171,213
Differences.....	+\$1,213,417	+\$2,255,055	+\$1,777,030	-\$ 156,843	-\$1,133,537	+\$3,955,122

FISCAL YEARS.

	1891-1892.	1892-1893.	1893-1894.	1894-1895.	1895-1896.	TOTAL.
Gold ore.....	\$ 31,280	\$ 145,785	\$ 55,799	\$ 8,880	\$ 160,555	\$ 402,317
Coined.....	41,259	74,798	121,915	150,544	147,081	536,497
Bullion ¹	474,156	115,642	116,994	3,687,872	4,608,959	9,003,623
Mixed ¹		271,913	256,547			528,460
Cyanide.....					80,947	80,947
Sulphite.....					31,332	31,332
According to information from Mexico.....	\$ 546,704	\$ 608,138	\$ 551,255	\$3,847,305	\$5,029,774	\$10,583,176
According to information from the United States	2,125,941	3,109,861	1,829,603	2,482,753	4,007,648	13,555,806
Differences.....	+\$1,579,237	+\$2,501,723	+\$1,278,348	-\$1,364,552	-\$1,022,126	+\$2,972,630

¹ From the 1st of July, 1894, the "Bullion" includes the value of the gold contained in the mixed ore.

This instance shows how difficult it is for the commercial statistics of both countries to agree, even when the merchandise is entered with the same value in both as in the present case.

RAILWAYS.

The following table contains a list of all the railways, exclusive of the tramways, built in Mexico up to October 31, 1896, prepared by the Department of Communications of the United Mexican States :

OFFICIAL STATEMENT MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OF THE RAILROAD MILEAGE IN OPERATION ON OCTOBER 31, 1896.

(1) The initials at the beginning of each line of this table stand for the gauge of the railroads ; S. for standard, N. for narrow, and B. for both.

NAME.	DATE OF CONCESSION.	LENGTH.	FROM AND TO.
(1) S. Mexican.	Nov. 27, 1867	292.50	Mexico to Veracruz and Apizaco to Puebla.
S. Mérida to Progreso.	Jan. 17, 1874	22.65	Mérida to Progreso.
N. Hidalgo.	Feb. 2, 1878	92.43	Tepa to Sototlan, Tepa to Pachuca and San Augustin to Tepa.
B. Veracruz to Alvarado.	Mar. 26, 1878	43.75	Veracruz to Medellin and Medellin to Alvarado.
N. Mérida to Peto.	Mar. 27, 1878	68.97	Merida to Ingenio de Sta. Maria.
N. Interoceanic from Acapulco to Veracruz.	Apr. 16, 1878	489.74	Mexico to Veracruz, Mexico to Puente Ixtla by Morelos and branches of Virreyes to Libres and San Nicolas.
N. Puebla to Izucar de Matamoros.	May 6, 1878	52.39	Los Arcos to Cholula, Cholula to Atlixco and Atlixco to Matamoros.
S. Mexican Western.	Aug. 16, 1880	38.48	Culiacan to Altata.
S. Mexican Central.	Sept. 8, 1880	1,877.15	Mexico to Paso del Norte, Silao to Guanajuato, Irapuato to Guadalajara, Aguascalientes to Tampico, San Blas to Huastemba and Guadalajara to Ameca.
N. Mexican National.	Sept. 13, 1880	1,056.16	Mexico to Laredo, Acambaro to Patzcuaro, Matamoros to S. Miguel, Mexico to Salto, belt tramways from suburbs of Mexico called La Colonia extension to Salto.
N. Mexican National Construction Company.	Sept. 13, 1880	88.30	Manzanillo to Colima and Zatecas to Ojo Caliente.
S. Sonora.	Sept. 14, 1880	262.40	Guaymas to Nogales.
N. Mérida to Valladolid.	Dec. 15, 1880	67.53	Merida to Valladolid and Progreso to Conkal.
N. Tlalmanalco.	Feb. 3, 1881	16.56	Tlalmanalco to Chalco and Amecameca.
N. Mérida to Campeche.	Feb. 23, 1881	97.80	Mérida to Campeche, Campeche to Calkini and connecting line with the railroad from Mérida to Progreso.