

Although acids are so necessary to the mining districts, there are but two manufacturing establishments producing them. Sulphuric, hydrochloric, and nitric acids are manufactured at great profit, and there is room for many more establishments of the same character.

The rebozos of Tenancingo and the serapes (a sort of multi-colored wrap) of Saltillo and of San Miguel are the best liked.

At Tepic there is a bleachery with an output of sixty thousand yards weekly, which, in conjunction with another establishment at Guadalajara, is aiding the country to take care of itself in this line. A factory for making printed goods is also working well, so that before long all that part of the coast about San Blas should be supplied with home-made goods.

The principal wool-manufacturing establishments are three in the Federal District, making one hundred and sixty-two thousand pieces of cloth per year; three in the city of Mexico, making one hundred and fifty thousand pieces of cloth and carpets; five in the state of Puebla, making five hundred and fifty thousand pounds of wool yearly, serving for serapes, jorongo,



GROUP OF TEHUANTEPEQUEÑAS.

plaid, etc.; three in the state of Hidalgo, producing one hundred and twenty-five thousand pieces of cloth; one in the capital city, and several in the state of Guanajuato, the most important of which, at Celaya, produces about eighty-five thousand pieces of cassimere and cloth and about fifty-five thousand yards of carpet when running, but just now it is shut down. There is also one in Ensenada, which produces very fine goods.

For centuries hammocks have been articles of use and barter in the state of Yucatán, and hammock-making is quite a prominent industry in a republic where so many persons are indisposed to physical exertion, and where the great heat renders it desirable to have a cool and easy substitute for the ordinary couch. Hammock beams and hooks are found in the buried cities.

There are several paper-mills, the production of which is important, as it supplies the principal printing establishments for their periodicals and classic works.

The third great manufacture of the country is pottery, which is carried on everywhere, particularly in the states of Guadalajara, Zacatecas, Guanajuato, and Puebla. Each district has

its special designs in shape and color and its distinctive quality of ware. For instance, in Guadalajara the usual ware is gray, soft-baked and polished, and often quite elaborately decorated in gold, silver, and brilliant colors; from Zacatecas comes red, hard-baked, glazed ware, rudely decorated with splashes under the glaze; Guanajuato produces a dark brown or gray ware having a soft, rich glaze, with ornamentation in low relief; and in Puebla there is made a coarse porcelain with a thick tin glaze. Some parts of the republic produce a curious iridescent copper-glazed ware. For table use the usual ware is heavy, in white and blue; but in the Federal District there are two quite extensive factories making fine grades of porcelain.

There is ample field for the investment of capital in cotton-mills, paper, and other manufactures. Mexican woollens as now made are of superior quality, and thousands of people are refusing to buy the more expensive, but no handsomer, English goods. Tailors are supplying their growing demand at prices less than one-half of those charged for European textures. Mexico is growing more cotton every year, and will soon be able to supply herself without bringing in American cotton; and as the growing and manufacturing are done on the basis of cheap labor and silver money, Mexico may well enter the lists as an exporter of cotton goods.

In this connection it is interesting to know that the first spinning- and weaving-mill in Mexico was built in Puebla, and called "La Constancia." Later, in 1835, another mill was built there, and called "El Patriotismo"; and about the same time another was built at Tlalpam, in the Valley of Mexico, and called "La Magdalena." In 1842 the first attempt at making print cloths was tried in Puebla, but nothing of importance was effected in this line until 1870. Now there is no part of the country that has not its cotton-mills of greater or less importance.

Cotton has for centuries been a staple product in Mexico. Cortez, it is recorded, received many presents from the Indians of cotton cloths of native manufacture. Think of it! cotton cloth was actually made in Mexico years before the United States was occupied by white men!

It must interest all who propose settling in Mexico or investing there to know the conditions concerning the acquirement of land,—where it is to be had, of what owners, at what price, and under what conditions.

Among the many sources of revenue from which the government of Mexico may draw may be reckoned the public lands. At the time of the declaration of Mexican independence the crown rights, which comprised all the territory included within the kingdom at any one period and all additions thereto in the way of conquest, reverted to the republic of Mexico. In 1863, during the presidency of Juarez, there was passed a law which defined very simply the baldios lands, or those lands which have not been destined to public uses by the authorities legally empowered so to do nor ceded by the same to individuals or corporations having the capacity for acquiring them. This law of 1863 enabled any inhabitant of the republic, except certain foreigners, to claim up to about six thousand two hundred and fifty acres of the public lands at the prices fixed by the government tariff and under conditions fixed by the law. This law of 1863 was supplemented by the colonization laws of 1875 and 1883, authorizing the government to grant private parties or companies the right to search for, claim, and survey certain public lands within certain zones or districts to be agreed upon, the private party or company receiving in recompense one-third of all resultant lands or of their money value at tariff rates.

Within a few years the lands on both sides of the Paseo de la Reforma, from the statue of Cuauhtemoc up to Chapultepec, were opened for public purchase at moderate prices. Competent engineers were employed in surveying the lots, fixing the boundaries, and so on. The active demand for the lots directly fronting on the Paseo induced speedy building up to the very



gates of the forest of Chapultepec, and made this one of the finest avenues in the world. In Tacubaya lots increased over sixfold in two years.

A very large proportion of the public land of Mexico is fertile, well watered, and in every way desirable. Intending purchasers will do well to buy government lands, as they are cheaper than others and no question can arise as to the title.

A study of the resources of Mexico would not be complete were it to omit the great industry of cattle-raising. This business is carried on in all parts of Mexico,—on the plains of Chihuahua and Durango, in the Bajión, in all the valleys of Michoacán and Jalisco, and in the plains and valleys of the coast. Where rains are insufficient to produce corn crops, as is the case in considerable portions of Chihuahua, Durango, and Coahuila, the grass is sufficient for grazing and even the fattening of stock. Generally, however, thin stock from the northern portions of the republic is fattened on the haciendas in the southern and central portions. Of late years the business of cattle-raising has grown in the states of San Luis Potosí, Tamaulipas, and Vera Cruz, and, though yet in its infancy, is still very important.

Not only is the country well fitted by its climate for the cattle industry, but, with its large unoccupied territories well supplied with running streams and its abundant yield of corn, it would be difficult to find another country so well adapted to compete for the trade of Europe as is Mexico.

In short, in a country with such a healthy climate, such good breeding facilities, such excellent harbor accommodations and good railroad services, the day cannot be far distant when the cattle industry of Mexico will have attained enormous proportions.



## CHAPTER XLIX

## MEXICO AS A WHOLE

**M**EXICO is preëminently the land of mystery of the Western world. It contains abundant traces of a civilization far older than any other on this continent, and, now that a key to the Maya inscriptions has been found, it is reasonable to expect that systematic exploration will result in reconstructing, at least partially, the history of the vanished race, and throw some light on the interesting question of its antiquity as well as of its origin, and with it give us some knowledge of what is now the prehistoric period of North America.

It is scarcely possible to overestimate the importance of the movement now on foot in Mexico to have the archaeological treasures of that country properly explored. A bill has been passed by the Mexican congress to empower American scientists to make archaeological excavations in that country, provided the objects found be divided equally between the two countries. This is a liberal proposition, and will, doubtless, be accepted readily by scientific explorers everywhere.

Among the features of which Mexico can boast are the richest and most productive silver-mines in the world; the cradle of civilization on this continent; the ruins and romance of historic and prehistoric America; the Cholula pyramid,—the Tower of Babel of Indian tradition; the spot where the first known European set foot on this continent, to which he gave his name,—the place, the coast near Tampico, the man, Americus Vespucci; the largest meteorite in the world; the statue of Charles VI. on the Paseo in the city of Mexico, the first and, according to some authorities, the largest bronze ever cast in America, and, according to Humboldt, the finest equestrian statue in the world next to that of Marcus Aurelius at Rome; the stoutest tree on the continent and perhaps in the world, at Tula, one hundred and fifty-four feet two inches in circumference six feet from the ground; Popocatepetl, according to the latest figures, the highest mountain on the continent; the largest American church building, in the Mexican cathedral, and the most beautiful, in that of Puebla; the first pulpit and the first church structure in the New World, at Tlaxcala; and the largest bell in America, and one of the largest in the world, in the Mexican cathedral. This bell is said to be nineteen feet high. The "monarch of bells" in the Kremlin at Moscow is twenty feet high and weighs four hundred and forty-four thousand pounds, but it is cracked and useless, while Mexico's bell is sound and serviceable.

In historic associations and relics of the past there is the same diversity. There are reminders of Diaz, of Juarez and Maximilian, of General Scott and Santa Anna, of Spanish viceroys and Hidalgo, of Cortez and Montezuma, and of the unknown builders of pyramids and palaces that antedate the beginnings of recorded history in America. Among its natural attractions are semi-tropical Orizaba, only eighty miles from the Gulf of Mexico, with its Swiss mountains, mountain-torrents, and picturesque buildings, its Javanese coffee, palms and bananas;