

Brought forward..... 219,485,459 \$ 103,825,153

GRAPE VINE PRODUCTS.

Grapes.....	„	4,221,662	373,478
Wine.....	Hectolitres.	10,479	197,029
Spirits.....	„	4,011	682,844

MAGUEY PRODUCTS.

Spirits.....	„	292,602	4,041,955
Pulque.....	„	3,113,990	4,931,575
Henequen.....	Kilograms.	68,388,915	8,388,792
Ixtle.....	„	8,162,985	15,170,612
Linseed.....	„	726,340	37,610

Value of principal Agricultural Products..... \$ 137,649,858

X

COLONIES.

The colonization laws authorize the Government to colonize the country either by direct action or by means of contracts with private companies, granting to the colonists various privileges and exemptions, such as selling to them the lands they require at a low price and on long time, allowing them also to pay by annual instalments, the first of which would come payable two years after the settlement of the colonies. They also grant an exemption for 10 years, from military service and from all classes of taxes, except municipal taxes; also an exemption from the payment of import and interior duties on all the provisions, agricultural implements, tools, utensils, building materials, second hand furniture, animals for work or for breeding, that may be destined for the colonies. They also enjoy an exemption which is personal and intransferable, from the payment of export duties on the products of their farms, besides premiums and special protection on the introduction of a new cultivation or industry.

This law also authorizes the Government to concede Mexican naturalization and citizenship to the colonists and to advance them the necessary sums for their transport and maintenance as well as for the purchase of the agricultural implements and material with which to build their houses.

The Government being desirous of attracting to Mexican territory, colonists from abroad, it made several attempts to

establish different colonies, and in virtue of the authority granted to it, contracted the transport of a large number, to whom it conceded the privileges and advances above mentioned; but it afterwards altered this system, providing the colonists with their passages from the port of departure to that in which they land, and selling them a specified area of land at a low price payable in long periods, besides granting them all the privileges and exemptions which are specified in the liberal laws of the country.

In different districts of México, especially in the frontier States and on the coasts of both seas, an industrious and intelligent colonist can find ample resources for his well being and prosperity.

In Chihuahua, Sonora, Coahuila and Tamaulipas, there exist enormous areas of very fertile land, where the water which is so indispensable to agriculture, is not as scarce as it is in the interior States of the central table land. On the slopes of the Cordilleras, the lands are extraordinarily fertile, with an abundance of water and a climate both temperate and healthy; these districts offer the most splendid future to colonists, especially if they cultivate the tropical fruits proper to the districts. In these parts they do not find the drawbacks which are common to the districts near the coast, such as the endemic diseases which there prevail and which especially attack the persons who are not acclimated. Nevertheless, we have to note that for many years a prosperous French colony has existed in Jicaltepec on the banks of the Nautla River, showing that even in the hot country successful colonies can be formed, when the colonists settling in it lead a temperate and orderly life.

The colonization of the fertile lands on the coast is capable of producing the very best results, if it is carried out with individuals brought from other countries with a climate more or less similar to that of our maritime regions.

On account of the scarcity of water, the lands favorable to

colonization in the interior of the country are rather scarce, and those which are found under favorable conditions belong to private parties, whilst in the other zones we have an immense area of waste lands, which can easily be obtained by a special law on the matter or under the general colonization laws. By the first process, every inhabitant of the Republic is allowed to acquire by denouncement and without prejudice to the rights of third parties, up to 2,500 hectares of land, with the only restriction, that if they are citizens of the nations on the same boundary they shall not be allowed to purchase any lands within any of the frontier States. Under the second of these laws, any person who has been duly authorized by the Government, to survey waste lands with the object of colonizing them, is granted a third part of lands so surveyed.

Every two years the Department of Fomento publishes a tariff of prices under which the waste lands will be sold.

The European colonies which have been established within the Republic, are the following:

The first and oldest, was colonized with French people in Jicaltepec in the State of Veracruz, near the port of Nautla and in the torrid zone. The principal resource of this colony, consists of vanilla which is here produced of a very superior quality. Other Europeans, mostly Italians, have settled in that neighborhood and have dedicated themselves largely to the same cultivation. Number of colonists 700.

This colony extends for 5 or 6 leagues on the banks of the River Palmar or Nautla, divided in three groups; Jicaltepec, San Rafael and Zopilote.

The annual productions of this district are very considerable, as can be seen by the following table:

2,000 vanillas at \$ 50 per thousand.....	\$ 100,000
2,500 quintals of tobacco.....	30,000
4,000 quintals coffee at \$ 10.....	40,000
Carried forward.....	\$ 140,000

Brought forward.....	\$ 140,000
2,000 head of cattle at \$ 25.....	50,000
10,000 fanegas of corn.....	20,000
2,000 barrels alcohol.....	20,000
Sundries	100,000
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	\$ 360,000

COINS.

The second colony which is called "Manuel González," is situated in Huatuxco, one of the healthiest regions in the temperate zone in the State of Veracruz. It is composed of 115 Italian and Mexican families, who are occupied in the cultivation of coffee, tobacco, sugar-cane, white mulberry, yuca, grape vines, cotton, rice, corn, beans and some fruits, 609.

The third colony is "Porfirio Diaz," in the municipality of Tlaltizapan, in the district of Juárez and State of Morelos. It is formed of 76 families which are mostly Mexicans, with a few Italians. This colony cultivates corn, beans, sugar-cane and rice, besides breeding a large number of cattle. Number of colonists, 293.

The fourth colony is "Cárlos Pacheco," situated in Tlatlauquitepec of the State of Puebla, and is placed in a very healthy locality, although within the hot zone. It is colonized by 44 Mexican and Italian families, who cultivate the same class of crops as the preceeding colonies. A few Italian families have settled in Teteles within the cold zone where they cultivate cereals and ramie, 137.

The fifth colony is called "Fernández Leal," and is established in the cold zone, in the district of Cholula in the State of Puebla. This colony contains 82 families, who are occupied in the cultivation of corn, wheat, beans, the breeding of cattle, and the making of cheese and butter, 407.

The sixth is denominated "Diez Gutiérrez," and is situated in Ojo de Leon, district of Ciudad del Maíz and of San Luis Potosí. The climate is temperate and very healthy. The pro-

ducts of this colony are corn, beans, potatoes, chick peas, chile, tobacco and different fruits, principally peaches and figs. They also breed large numbers of horned cattle and horses. The colony is composed of 63 families, mostly Italians, and their number reaches, 277.

In the neighborhood of the Capital and within the municipality of Tacuba, the "Aldana" colony was formed with 52 Mexican and 60 Italian colonists, who are occupied in the cultivation of corn, alfalfa and vegetables for market, as well as in the breeding of stock, 112.

Besides the "Porfirio Diaz" colony, the following were established in the State of Morelos;

San Pablo Hidalgo with 54 Mexican families, in the Municipality of Tlaltizapan, 213.

San Rafael Zaragoza in the same Municipality, with 133 families, 440.

San Vicente Juárez in the district of Morelos and Municipality, of Ayala. Twenty-six families, 101.

All these colonies were established in virtue of the laws on the subject and have given the best results, as is proved by the colonists having paid all the advances made by the Government.

Besides these colonies which were originally established by the Government at the time when colonization was first started, the following have also been founded with a remarkably prosperous result.

IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.

The "Cárlos Pacheco" colony, which includes the towns of San Cárlos, Ensenada de Todos Santos and Punta Banda. It is formed of 106 Mexican, American and other families, their principal occupations being agriculture, tanning, canning, flour-milling and the cultivation of fruits, such as peaches, pears, apples and different kinds of grapes.

The crops of this colony during the year 1891, were as follows:

Wheat, kilograms.....	730,209
Barley, ".....	141,359
Corn, ".....	242,284
Beans, ".....	165,183
Potatoes, ".....	135,822
Onions, ".....	20,194
Fruits, ".....	146,850
Grapes, ".....	250,680
Fodder, ".....	587,393

The number of colonists is 529.

The "Romero Rubio" colony, is situated in San Quintín and contains 27 kilometres of the Peninsula Railroad which starts from that port in a northerly direction. It is formed of 14 Mexican, American and other families, and numbers 73.

The "Tecape" colony is situated on the frontier and is formed of 59 families which are occupied in agriculture, their annual products being as follows:

Barley.....	Kilograms,	55,230
Corn.....	"	57,531
Wheat.....	"	11,966
Beans.....	"	5,983
Lentils.....	"	2,991
Potatoes.....	"	1,150
Chile Peppers.....	"	1,841
Wheat and Barley straw.....	"	276,148

The colonists number 351.

The mining colony of Santa Agueda was founded by the Boleo Company, and is fully described in the chapter on mining, under the heading of Lower California.

The colonists number 3,722.

STATE OF COAHUILA.

"Nacimiento" colony, in the district of Monclova, and Municipality of Muzquiz, containing 490.

STATE OF CHIHUAHUA.

There are five colonies established in this State, with American, English, Danish, Scotch, Mexican and other families.

The following are the names and populations of the colonies:

Las Palomas with.....	145
Juárez.....	543
Díaz.....	727
Pacheco.....	311
Dublan.....	492

Ascension, with families brought back from the United States, 2,294.

STATE OF DURANGO.

The colony at Tlahualilo, contains 18 families, with a total of 69.

STATE OF SINALOA.

The colony of Topolobampo is one of the most remarkable, for its developement and prosperity. The colonists have planted 1,300 orange trees, 400 figs, 200 grape vines and many other fruit trees, besides giving due attention to their agricultural labors and to the cultivation of corn, beans and vegetables. They have built a canal 12 kilometres in length and 7 metres in depth, with a capacity of 16,000 hectolitres per minute at a cost of \$ 200,000. They have cleared a very large extent of land which is dedicated to agriculture. They have established shoe and tin plate factories, lumber-mills, planing-mills, and flour-mills. The houses, which are built of brick and

stone, are comfortable, as well as the buildings which have been dedicated to public purposes, such as custom-house and rope-walk. The colony possesses a small printing office, a fortnightly news-paper, school for boys and girls, a club and Lyceum in which lectures and concerts are given every Saturday.

There are 83 families in the colony and the total number of colonists of all nationalities amounts to 464.

STATE OF MÉXICO.

A sericultural colony has been established in Tenancingo, the inhabitants of which cultivate crops of tomatoes, beans, wheat and sugar-cane. It is formed of 20 families with a total of 80.

STATE OF CHIAPAS.

The colony of "Nejapa" in Soconusco, and Municipality of Tapachula, contains ten families with a total of 35.

STATE OF SONORA.

The Oaxaca colony in the district of Moctezuma contains 69 families, with a total of 314.

Total number of colonists, 13,977.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Those which have been adopted in this Republic are of the French decimal system

	Mexican measures.	Metrical measures.
Lineal.....	1 Vara Mexican.....	0.838 metres.
	1 League [5,000 varas]..	4190 "
Superficial.	1 Square vara.....	0.702244 square metres.
	1 Fanega.....	35.662 " "
	1 Caballería of ground...	427.953 " "
	1 Sitio de ganado mayor.	17.556100 " "
Capacity...	1 Cubic vara.....	0.588480472 cubic metres.
	1 Carga, dry measure....	181.629775 litres.
	1 Cuartillo, liquid.....	0.506162 " "
Weights....	1 Pound.....	0.46024634 kilograms.
	1 Arroba.....	11.506159 " "
	1 Quintal.....	46.024634 " "

XI

MINING.

Nature has richly endowed this country with metallic deposits of all kinds and throughout its whole extent, and innumerable mining undertakings have worked with more or less fortune in the extraction of these minerals, some of them, with enormous profits. If these works had always been carried out with the necessary intelligence and economy, the results of their exploitation would have been enormously increased, because the riches extracted from the principal mining districts are not to be compared with those which are known to be still held in the interior of the mountains.

It is well known that from the State of Sonora to that of Oaxaca, over an extent of country covering 2,000 kilometers N. W. to S. E. there exists a metalliferous zone which includes most of the mineral districts of the Republic, and in which the most important mining centers are found in Zacatecas, Guanajuato and Pachuca.

This zone includes the following, which may be considered the principal mining districts:

In Sonora.—Arizona, Zubiata, Jamaica, Cobre, San Antonio, Bronces, San Javier, Aigamé and Alamos.

In Chihuahua.—Batopilas, Cerro Colorado, Jesus María, Cosihuiriac, Concepcion, Magurichic, Guazapares, Urique, Guadalupe y Calvo, San Francisco del Oro and Hidalgo del Parral.