

The following is the coinage of the different mints of Mexico in the years 1855 and 1856.

IN 1855.

Mints.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
Culiacan,	\$144,208	\$737,968	\$882,176
Chihuahua,	17,536	475,500	493,036
Durango,	73,647	609,171	682,818
Mexico,	155,263	4,013,359	4,168,622
Guanajuato,	555,200	4,698,800	5,254,000
Guadalajara,	10,368	633,662	644,030
San Luis Potosi,	—	1,849,795	1,849,795
Zacatecas,	—	3,619,000	3,619,000
Aggregate,	\$956,222	\$16,637,255	\$17,593,477

IN 1856.

Mints.	Gold	Silver.	Total.
Culiacan,	\$279,668	\$658,536	\$938,204
Chihuahua,	10,064	400,000	410,064
Durango,	57,072	533,652	590,724
Mexico,	164,297	4,401,793	4,566,090
Guanajuato,	479,476	4,306,524	4,786,000
Guadalajara,	5,236	556,486	561,722
San Luis Potosi,	—	3,676,000	3,676,000
Zacatecas,	—	3,676,000	3,676,000
Aggregate,	\$995,813	\$18,208,991	\$19,204,804

Coin in circulation.—The ancient tribunal of the consulate in 1805, estimated the amount of money in circulation in New Spain, at something more than seventy-eight millions, which, being compared with the population, gave an average of fourteen dollars per head. Taking this estimate as a basis, and also taking into consideration the prosperity of mining operations, even since that date, with the general improvement in the

circumstances of a class who were formerly in misery, it is not an overestimate to say that the amount in circulation, (1856-'57,) notwithstanding the great annual exportation, exceeds 100,000,000 dollars.

Although this sum is undoubtedly sufficient for all the interior wants of Mexico, considering the small trade carried on in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, the fact that the greater portion of it is in few hands, with the want of confidence and absence of banks of issue, (whose paper in other countries advantageously supplies a circulating medium,) makes it comparatively useless, and tends to show that there is not a sufficient circulation for the wants of the Republic.

Legal exportation of Specie from all parts of the Republic for the year 1856.

Acapulco	\$32,485	Tampico	\$4,415,523
Campeche	130,807	Tabasco	53,841
Guaymas	118,626	Vera Cruz	8,185,023
Matamoras	795,945	Camargo	7,000
Mazatlan	1,331,039	Mier	6,362
Manzanillo	531,469	Piedras Negras	114
San Blas	845,287	Paso del Norte	7,642
Sisal	10,320	Zapaluta	7,540

Total from all the Republic, \$16,479,013

From the conquest of Mexico, in 1521, to the year of independence, 1821, a period of three centuries, during which the Spaniards ruled that country, the business of mining was, in most respects, brought to such perfection that during the space of thirty-five years, in which it may be said this branch of labor has been open to the

science of foreign nations, no very material improvement has been effected on the old system, except in the introduction of steam-engines for clearing deep mines of water. The kings of Spain held the mines of Mexico as royal property, but any citizen of the country was allowed to work them by paying over to the royal treasury one-fifth of the product thereof. The government of Mexico, after she obtained her independence, decreed the mines to be public property, but placed certain limits on the miners, and required a small percentage on their products to be paid into the national treasury. This demand or tax is now relinquished, and any citizen or foreigner can, by the right of discovery, denounce or record the same, and obtain the right to work a certain number of varas free of all tribute. It is believed that the laws of the *mineria* of Mexico are well calculated to develop the mines and favor the miner, and it is doubtful whether any material improvement can be made on the present code.

It is impossible to do justice to a subject of such magnitude and importance as is that of the mines and coinage of Mexico, in our limited publication. We have given many valuable facts drawn from the most reliable sources, but at best they are very incomplete. Statistics relating to this subject previous to the revolution are, doubtless, more complete and reliable than such as we have since; yet, those that come to us from the former period give a general idea only of the vast product of silver in Mexico, and while we have the same general means of judging of their unfailing richness since that epoch, the official data are much less reliable, owing to the

revolutions which have almost constantly prevailed, the occasional destruction of government records, but, more than all else, the general system of smuggling which has, during this unhappy state of affairs, been inaugurated through the frontiers and nearly all the ports in the country.

In exemplification of this latter point, we will enter into an examination of the official table we publish, purporting to give the total specie exports of the Republic during the year 1856, amounting to \$16,479,013.

In this table, it will be perceived that the specie export of Guaymas is stated at \$118,626. Any one acquainted with the trade of that place, and the manner in which business is transacted, would give \$2,000,000 as the more probable amount of specie exported from that port in 1856. The same with Mazatlan, the specie export of which port in 1856, is given as \$1,331,039. We have the authority of Mr. Conner, the American Consul now residing at that port, for stating that nearly this amount was exported to San Francisco alone, which, doubtless, formed nearly the whole amount legally exported, while the principal amount, counted by millions, was *smuggled* off to Europe in *British men-of-war*. So it is with San Blas and Acapulco, and in fact, to a greater or less degree, with all the ports in Mexico, Vera Cruz and Tampico, from their proximity to the centre of power, being the only ports which make any fair show of their specie exports, as well as imports of merchandise. This system of smuggling is well exemplified by the late cruise of the English sloop-of-war *Calypso*, as related in the *NEW YORK TIMES*, Oct. 29th, 1859.

ENGLISH SMUGGLING IN MEXICO.

(FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES.)

"A few weeks since, the report came from Aspinwall that one and a half million of dollars in Mexican silver, brought to Panama by the *Calypso*, had been forwarded to England.

The *Calypso* is an English sloop-of-war sent out to the Mexican-Pacific coast to protect English interests. This vessel has been mousing along that coast for the past six months, and it must be said that she has been remarkably fortunate in her mission, having smuggled out all the specie in that part of Mexico destined for foreign ports, and defrauded the Mexican Government out of a very large amount of duties.

The *Calypso* commenced receiving specie at Guaymas, and proceeded down the coast to Navachista, Altata, Ajiavampo and Mazatlan, in all of which ports she collected \$2,000,000. From thence the *Calypso* proceeded to San Blas and one or two small ports below, where she received \$3,000,000 more, making the sum total of her receipts \$5,000,000.

The export duty on this silver, according to Mexican law, is five per cent., but by the connivance of the foreign traders in the country interested, and this English man-of-war, the entire amount of \$5,000,000 was, by the most disgraceful clandestine manœuvres, smuggled on board, and the payment of the sum of \$250,000 as export duty avoided. It seems incredible that England, claiming to be the most powerful and just nation on earth, should year after year detail her ships-of-war to

the Pacific coast, there to carry out a degrading and disgraceful system of smuggling, by which the Mexican nation is robbed of the little it has wherewith to pay the national debt.

The *Calypso* having gathered up all the specie on the Mexican-Pacific coast, sails for England, and touching at Panama, lands \$1,500,000 for shipment *via* the Isthmus, and only reports this amount as being on board. The captain forwards his receipts for the amounts remaining on board, which receipts pass with almost the same currency in England as bank-notes, and the *Calypso* takes her course homeward round the Horn.

This sum of \$5,000,000 thus smuggled out of the country on board the English man-of-war, belongs to foreign traders on the Mexican-Pacific coast, and forms their remittances for goods purchased in Europe, said goods having been smuggled into Mexico by these foreign traders, (for the most part under the protection of English consuls and English men-of-war,) and the Mexican Government thus defrauded of the *import* duty thereon.

This English man-of-war, it is stated, committed an overt act in her illegal proceedings.

The *Calypso* was lying off a secluded cove, or small harbor, somewhere in the neighborhood of San Blas, on the Pacific coast, ready to receive such specie as should be clandestinely brought off to her in launches. A small armed vessel, of the Mexican coast service, proceeded to this locality with the intention of frustrating the plans of the smugglers. To this end she fired across the bows of one of the launches freighted with silver, and ordered

them to close their illegal proceedings; upon which *the Calypso* fired into the Mexican vessel, and ordered the captain thereof to desist, or he would sink his craft. The Mexican was obliged to obey, and the *Calypso* completed her smuggling operations without further molestation.

Thus it appears that an English sloop-of-war not only violates the revenue laws of Mexico—a country with which she is at peace—but sustains such violation with her guns. This single act on the part of the *Calypso*, if perpetrated against a powerful nation, would constitute a perfect *casus belli*, and would infallibly be so treated. And if Mexico refuses to pay one dollar of her English debt, until England puts an end to her nefarious system of smuggling into Mexico, and makes amends for the past, she will be sustained in such refusal by the unanimous sentiment of the civilized world.

The cruise of the *Calypso*—smuggling out of the country specie or bullion received by foreign traders for goods smuggled into the country—is but an illustration of the manner in which the English have conducted business on the Mexican-Pacific coast for the last twenty-five years. What country could ever rise to a respectable standard among the nations of the earth, that is obliged to submit to such a wholesale system of plunder as this? What earthly reason is there why Mexico should not substantiate the facts, and, year by year, deduct from English claims the amount of which she is thus defrauded by English officials? It is a deep and shameful wrong that England is thus perpetrating towards Mexico. The treaty now pending between the

United States and that country, has a very important bearing upon this point. It will, in fact, if consummated, entirely break up that combination of trading and smuggling officials which has so long controlled that portion of the Pacific coast, and give the business to the Americans, to whom it legitimately belongs, and in whose hands it will be systematized in conformity with the laws of the country, and increased a hundredfold.”

Is any thing more needed to expose the enormous contraband traffic that England, through her private citizens and public functionaries, has for years carried on in Mexico, than the preceding statement? The industrial and commercial interests of the latter country, under the combined influences of this oppressive commercial system and incessant revolutions, now lie prostrate and ruined; and it now falls to the lot of the United States to extend a helping hand to the neighboring Republic, and inaugurate a new and reviving commercial policy, the first step toward which is, the opening of rapid and regular communication, by means of mail steamers under government patronage.

The total value of gold and silver legally exported since the conquest down to 1858, a period of 339 years, is estimated by official documents at \$4,640,204,889. This gives \$13,687,920 as the average legal exports of the precious metals per annum, since the landing of Hernando Cortes up to 1858. We cannot regard this statement as having any approximation even to the truth. It is, in fact, absolutely impossible to give any reliable data from which an accurate estimate of the amount of precious metals that has been exported from

Mexico, or in other words, how much gold and silver she has furnished to the world since the conquest by the Spaniards. Irregular or illegal commerce, both in imports and exports, was not carried on in Mexico under the viceroys to the same extent that it has been since the independence of the country, still, there has always been more or less irregularity, and the inducements to conceal the real product of the mines and smuggle specie, bullion and plate out of the country, have been great from the beginning. Our statements relative to the commerce of Mexico, which give at the present time \$54,000,000 as the sum total per annum, are of course made up from data derived from official sources. And while we publish these as the only reliable statements, we do not hesitate to say, that from other equally reliable authority, those official statements, which make it appear that from fifteen to twenty millions of dollars has been the annual specie export from Mexico since she became a republic, are far short of the truth. There is every reason to believe, that the true amount is nearer \$40,000,000, and when we take into consideration the extent of illegal exportations of specie and illegal importations of merchandise, it would be found that the contraband trade exceeds the legal trade, and instead of presenting the present estimate of \$54,000,000 per annum, the facts, could they all be given, would, doubtless, make an exhibit of more than \$100,000,000 per annum. This explains why it is that the official returns make such an exceedingly low exhibit of imports per capita for the Mexican population, as compared with other Spanish American countries, that for Mexico being but

\$3.14, while for Cuba they are \$27.29, Uruguay \$25.86, Chili \$12.70, Brazil \$8.96, and the average of the whole of South America is \$6.13 per capita.

Real Estate.

According to the statistics furnished by Sr. Lerdo de Tejada, based upon the last official statistics presented by the General Office for contributions to the Government, it would appear that the number of estates in the whole Republic amounts to 13,000, the value of which is estimated at \$720,000,000, and that of town property at \$635,000,000, so that the total value of real estate amounts to \$1,355,000,000.

Although the above sums may appear, at first sight, somewhat exaggerated, they are doubtless considerably under the mark, notwithstanding the bad condition generally of property in the Republic. These amounts, of course, comprise the total value of the whole extent of real estate throughout the country, including the house property contained in 26,468 villages and towns of all classes, being the number now existing in the Republic. The latter class of property, in the city of Mexico alone, is worth to-day over \$80,000,000, and that in the other principal cities represents an aggregate capital of from \$250,000,000 to \$300,000,000.

The above figures show the enormous wealth of the Republic at the present time in real estate, which might be doubled or trebled in ten years with facility, could the country be so fortunate as to enjoy internal peace and prosperity during that length of time.

MANUFACTURES.

The principal products of Mexican manufactures are aguadiente, sugar, mescal, (which is made from the juice of the agave,) soap, oil, wine and brandy, delft ware, glass, paper, cotton thread and cloth, woolen and silk thread and cloth, harness and Tuscan cloths, which are made from the fibres of the agave.

The manufactures of sugar and aguadiente are carried on at the private farms of individuals. Mills are used for the former and alembics for the latter. The system followed generally is ancient and very imperfect, but on some estates, the modern improvements and machinery for the manufacture of sugar and the distillation of aguadiente have been introduced. These two articles are chiefly manufactured in the States of Vera Cruz, Tabasco, Yucatan, Mexico, Guerrero, Michoacan and Jalisco. With respect to the manufacture of wine and brandy from the grape, although there are several large vineyards in the States of Coahuila, Chihuahua, Guajalajara, Oajaca, Sonora, San Luis Potosi and Lower California, yet it is only in the two first-mentioned of the above States, and particularly in Chihuahua, where wines and brandies are made in any quantity. In the last-mentioned State 25,000 barrels of wine and 11,600 of brandy were made in 1854.

With respect to the manufacture of cotton thread and cloths, besides the great number of spinning-wheels and looms worked by hand, which are employed throughout the country for the making of checks and other textile fabrics in common use, there are also at the present time

46 large factories, using extensive machinery, in the States of Coahuila, New Leon, Durango, Jalisco, Mexico, Puebla, Queretaro, Vera Cruz and in the Federal District.

Although there are some of the finer cloths manufactured in these, the principal product consists of thread and brown cottons, or mantas. According to the statistics published by the Ministry of Fomento in 1854 there were 7,274,779 pounds of the former and 875,224 pieces of the latter made at these factories in the preceding year.

In addition to the above a certain quantity of tapes, gloves, stockings and other similar articles, are manufactured in Mexico.

Of woolen manufactures, in addition to the numerous hand-loom in various parts, by which common cloth, frieze, sergas, druggets, blankets, &c., are manufactured, there are at this time, eight large woolen manufactories in the Federal District, and in the States of Mexico, Queretaro, Zacatecas and Durango. At these, fine cloths, cassimeres, carpetings, baize and flannels, and other stuffs are produced, which in price and quality are equal to any imported.

In the capital, and in Puebla, and Guadalajara, there are above 70 silk machines for spinning and twisting silk, worked by hand. The whole number of pounds twisted in Mexico in a year may be estimated at 40,000.

There are eight paper factories established in the District and State of Mexico, Puebla and Jalisco, which produce not only sufficient to supply the press of the Republic, but considerable quantities for other uses. Cotton and the fibre of the maguey are the principal materials used.

There are no certain data by which to ascertain the present annual value of the manufactures of all kinds produced in Mexico. But with due allowance for the great progress which has been made in this branch of national wealth, we may safely put down the sum total of the value of the manufactures of the Republic at \$90,000,000 or \$100,000,000 annually.

Cotton Factories in the Republic of Mexico.

Where situated.	Number of Factories.	Number of power Looms.	Number of hand Looms	Number of Spindles in operation.	Yearly consumption of Cotton.	Factory price \$27 yds. by 7-8.	Cost of Cotton at Factory.	Cost of Buildings and Machinery.	No. of persons employed.	Annual expenses.
STATE OF					Quintals.	per Piece.	Quintals.			
Coahuila . . .	1	40	..	1,300	1 300	..	..	..	..	..
Durango . . .	5	117	..	4 536	4 781	\$5.00	18 to 24	..	..	..
Guajuato . . .	1	..	..	900	950	4.50 to 6.00	20 " 25	..	..	..
Jalisco . . .	5	427	..	18 352	24 350	4.50 " 5.50	22 " 34	..	..	..
Mexico . . .	8	850	584	23 850	21 400	3.62 " 4.00	22 " 28	..	..	..
Puebla . . .	17	498	262	40,548	36 351	3.00 " 4.87	20 " 26	..	..	..
Queretaro . .	1	500	..	7 500	15,000	5.00	..	..	..	..
Sonora . . .	1	60	..	1,924	2 500	5.00	..	..	..	..
Vera Cruz . .	6	509	48	22 444	18 261	3.00 " 4.50	15 " 25	..	..	..
Colima . . .	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total . . .	47	3 001	894	121 354	124 893	..	..	\$7,372,951	10,000	\$1,261,000

In the States of Durango, Mexico, Michoacan, and Oajaca, exist various iron foundries, where the best quality of iron is manufactured.

The following list of the wholesale prices of Iron in the city of Mexico was furnished by the owners of one of the largest Iron Works in the Republic.

Large castings	12½ a 14 cents per lb.
Light "	15 " 17 " "
Small bar Iron (Mexican) under ½ inch	15 " 17 " "
Do. larger sizes, up to 3 inch	12 " 13 " "
Do. very heavy, over 3 inch	15 " "

Sheet Iron, best	13 a 16 cents per lb.
Do. very thin or very heavy	18 " "
Hoop Iron, best	13 " 16 " "
Pig Iron, best gray	5 " "
Do. No. 2,	3¼ " 4 " "

Mexican bar and tyre Iron is preferred to the English for quality. The above prices include the rates for English imported Iron, as well as that made in Mexico. MEXICO, June 26th, 1857.

NATIONAL DEBT.

The total amount of the national debt, at the beginning of 1857, is divided into interior and exterior. The first arises out of sundry obligations contracted under the Vice-Royalty and after the Independence; and the second out of loans contracted in London in the years 1823 and 1824.

FOREIGN DEBT.

The capital of, or amount due under this head, according to the last convention, was £10,241,650, which, at \$5 per pound sterling, is equal to	\$51,208,250
For six dividends due since 1st January, 1853, up to December 31st, 1855	4,608,741
	<u>\$55,816,991</u>

INTERIOR DEBT.

The total amount of this fund, on the 31st December, 1850, after making the deduction prescribed by law, passed on November 30th of the same year, was calculated at \$40,000,000, of which the Junta de Credito Publico had recognized and liquidated the sum of