

tion of the State, have also been successfully worked, a very fine exhibit of the metal obtained from there, in various stages of manufacture, having been made at the late fair. These mines (according to the most reliable information to be obtained) promise in time to be the most valuable ones on the coast. The manufacture of phited ware has also largely increased during the past year, as has been the case with the making of type by our local foundries.

One of the most attractive features of the late Fair in this city was the several exhibitions of California made furniture, from both domestic and imported woods. The workmanship in this line of manufactures showed a much higher style of art than has heretofore been exhibited by our mechanics, while the materials used were of a much more costly character than any previously employed in the trade. The exhibits made by the various houses in this trade in 1869 were remarkable for so new a country, and in fact would do credit to the oldest manufacturing State in the Union.

In the various kinds of metal manufactures, fine exhibits were made in the department in the fair. Brass castings, comprising all the varieties used, from sheathing nails to large brass cannons, made and finished in the highest perfection of the trade, were displayed, as were also bells weighing upwards of one thousand pounds each. The domestic productions in this line now supply fully two-thirds of the entire consumption on the Pacific coast.

All varieties of lead manufacture are made in this city, from shot to organ pipes, of a quality that will compare favorably with the best varieties imported. The total of the domestic manufactures of lead in a metallic state amount to about fifteen hundred tons annually, the crude metal being produced from the smelting of galena ores obtained from mines in this State, Nevada, and Arizona Territory.

During the past year the manufacture of boots and shoes in California has met with serious reverses, and has in large part been abandoned. The main inducing cause of this unfavorable condition of things is the result of strikes among the operatives, for both higher wages and less hours of labor. With the already strong competition from importations from the Atlantic States, this increased cost of domestic production could not be successfully borne, and as a result some of the most important manufacturing for boots and shoes were closed, either from being unprofitable, or in some instances from absolute financial distress. Whether this hitherto prosperous branch of manufactures is to again regain its former importance among the industries of the State depends mainly on a return to at least former cost of production. Most kinds of harness and saddlery are now manufactured in this city, and many qualities successfully hold their own against strong competition with importations from the Eastern States. Most of the leather used is the product of our own tanneries, those of Oregon contributing a large supply. All varieties of trunks and valises are manufactured, although very large importations are made. The fire hose made in this city now supplies the entire wants of the coast, besides a moderate amount which is exported to the Sandwich Islands and other foreign ports. The minor manufactures, such as umbrellas, parasols, furs, etc., have increased considerably during the past year.

The manufacture of blasting and other varieties of gunpowder have been very extensive during 1869, but still encounter the competition of importations. It is believed, however, that the domestic production is gaining ground, and will eventually drive out all others from competition. Giant powder, and Hafenegger powder, both explosives of remarkable power, are manufactured in San Francisco and find a large sale through all the mining sections of the Pacific coast. Lined, as well as castor and other

valuable vegetable oils, are also manufactured in large quantities in San Francisco, the main drawback being the difficulty of procuring a sufficient supply of the raw materials to manufacture from. The production of these grains, etc., is, however, largely increasing, and more especially that of raising flax, the straw of which is finding an extensive and ready market at remunerative prices through the bagging mill lately completed at Oakland. This mill has yet to depend largely upon importations, but only a short time will probably elapse before a full supply will be furnished by our farmers.

WOOL AND WOOL MANUFACTURES.—California is now the largest wool producing State in the Union, her clip of 1869 being estimated at fully eighteen million pounds, mostly of fair average quality. Possessing excellent ranges for feed throughout her entire length, both on the coast ranges and the Sierra Nevadas, with a climate peculiarly adapted for sheep raising, the wool-producing interest already stands third in importance in her list of agricultural products. Another feature which is not shared in by other wool-growing States is the remarkable natural increase of animals, which is estimated at from ninety to one hundred per cent. per annum. The winters, as a rule, are free from severe frost, and many of the diseases so common in other States have as yet not become prevalent. Under these circumstances the wool-growing interest promises to largely increase, and in a comparatively short time bring into use the most remote sections of country.

Wool-growing in Oregon has proved quite a profitable branch of agricultural industry, the climate and grasses being well adapted to the business. A large portion of the clip is manufactured by the local mills, while the surplus is brought to San Francisco for a market. From the extreme moisture of the seasons, Oregon is capable of producing the very finest grades of wool, some of which are unprofitable to raise in California.

The most important increase in manufactures in California during 1869 has been in woolen goods, for making which quite a number of small mills have been erected in the principal wool-producing sections of the State. As a general rule the manufacture of these small mills is confined to the production of blankets, flannels, and heavy cloths and cassimeves, while the mills in San Francisco, Sacramento, and Marysville have a more extensive range and finer products. The mills in San Francisco, (Pioneer and Mission) which are the oldest in the State, produce a great range of medium and fine fabrics, among which their blankets stand pre-eminent in quality over any others made in the Union. The blankets of the Mission Woolen Mills were exhibited at the World's Fair at Paris, in 1867, and were awarded the first premium over all others from the United States, and have also been awarded highest premiums wherever exhibited at home fairs. The total machinery in use in California is now estimated at sixty sets cards, with other necessary adjuncts for manufacturing. The mills of this State in 1869 consumed about four million pounds of wool, and if run at full time night and day would have required six million pounds to supply them. No branch of manufactures has been so generally prosperous since their establishment as woolen mills, although their products have had to encounter a steady and strong competition with importations from the Atlantic coast. California possesses the only manufactory for knit goods on the Pacific coast—the Pacific Woolen Mills, which are located in San Francisco. These mills produce a great range and variety of goods, some of which are claimed to be of finer quality than any produced elsewhere in the United States. The manufactures of these mills are already held in high estimation on the Pacific coast, and are gradually driving out importations.

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