

SILK MANUFACTURE IN THE WEST.

It is some time since mining was considered the whole duty of man, or even his chief concern, in California. The more natural and healthful order of things is first, agriculture; second, manufactures; third, mining; fourth, arts and sciences. This has been the order of progress in Utah, the most judiciously settled region in the whole Union. Of late years the Golden State has been rapidly coming over to this simple method of progress, so far as circumstances have seemed to favor. Other new States and Territories are following in the wake, though most of them at a greater distance behind Utah, the grand pioneer in the best method of founding and building up a new community.

Among the two new industries in process of development in California, and as may be expected more or less experimentally, are the making of beet sugar and the manufacture of silk goods of a fine texture. That silk and silkworm eggs of a superior quality can be produced in California and also in Utah is a fact pretty well known, and a never-glutted market for eggs from this part of the world is open and waiting on the continent of Europe.

So far so good, but the next question is, Can not the manufacture of silk into articles of wearing apparel and other useful and ornamental goods be successfully established in these western regions? This is a question which an enterprising company in California has set itself to answer. The progress of this enterprise will be watched with great interest by that portion of the public interested in the development of the resources and in the continued industrial prosperity of the Pacific slope.

An article in the *Alta California* gives some interesting particulars concerning silk culture and manufacture in that State and generally in the Eastern States and Europe. Raw silk is received in the U. S. free of duty, while manufactured silk imported pays an *ad valorem* duty of not less than sixty per cent. Favored by this heavy protective impost, silk manufacture has become a remunerative and flourishing business in the Eastern States, as the following particulars, from the *New York Bulletin*, manifest—

"As yet Patterson, in New Jersey, takes the lead, although the immense factories of A. T. Stewart & Co., at West Hoboken, give promise of successful rivalry at no distant day. About twenty-five years ago, the first silk factory in the United States was established at Patterson. It was then a small village with less than 3,000 inhabitants; but, being favorably located at the Falls of the Passaic, its immense water-power soon gave it some prominence as a manufacturing centre. It now contains a population of over forty thousand souls. This rapid increase of population and wealth is owing almost exclusively to the silk manufactures there established. The following is a list of the silk mills, viz: Phoenix Manufacturing Company, employs 500 hands; Hamel & Booth, employ 500 hands; Ryle Manufacturing Company employs 500 hands; J. H. Booth & Co. employ 250 hands; L. R. Steele & Co. employ 150 hands; Banignon Freres employs 50 hands. These establishments manufacture 625,000 pounds of silk, of every sort, and the average cost of milling is \$1 per pound.

"The factories of sewing silk are these: E. Sanders employs 250 hands; W. G. Watson & Son employ 150 hands; Dunlap & Co. employ 100 hands; Dale Manufacturing Company employs 100 hands; Salter & Butler employ 100 hands.

"These are the factories of ribbons: W. Strange & Co. employ 650 hands; Dexter, Lambert & Co. employ 500 hands; John Day & Co. employ 200 hands; E. Walker & Co. employ 30 hands; B. Weisker employs 75 hands.

"The factories of silk weavers are these: Phoenix Manufacturing Company employs 400 hands; Hamel & Booth employ 150 hands; Meyenberg & Pratt employ 100 hands; W. Strange & Co. employ 150 hands; Baine Manufacturing Company employs 100 hands; Patterson Silk Manufacturing Company employs 100 hands.

"Steam and water are both employed as power; but the splendid Falls of the Passaic present at this point superior advantages. The workmen are, without exception, strangers and foreigners, consisting chiefly of French, Germans, Swiss,

"Children get for wages \$4 per week; women, \$7; men, \$14.

"There are also the following silk-dyeing establishments at Paterson, viz.: C. Greppo employs 70 hands; Lee & Shehan, 35; Worlot & Stettheimer, 70; C. Ling & Co., 25; Jackson & Myers, 10; Fause, 25; Dexter Lambert & Co., 12; W. Strange & Co., 15. At these dyeing establishments not less than 350,000 lbs. of silk are colored per annum.

"Outside of Paterson, which represents just about one-half of the silk manufacturing establishments in the United States, there are also factories at New York and in its environs, and among other places, at West Hoboken, where are situated the celebrated factories of M. Gibernau, and Messrs. Benckardt & Hutton; also those of M. Soleliac et Fils, of St. Etienne, and of Messrs. Cheney & Bros., who for many years have been connected with the great house of A. T. Stewart & Co."

The *Alta* very pertinently asks, "Why should not California enter the list?" A question that may also be applied to this and adjacent Territories, but especially to this, noted, as it has always been, for the bee-hive industry of its inhabitants. So far as California is concerned, it is urged that she has the advantages of a genial climate, cheap labor, and cheap living, the labor of that State, according to Messrs. Gauthier, being now quite as cheap as that of Lyons, owing chiefly to the devastation caused by the late war, and the consequent enhanced cost of living in France.

The following considerations are presented in this connection—

"First—The United States consumes at least one-fourth of all the silk goods manufactured in Europe, being on an average of \$40,000,000 per annum.

"Second—The United States produce only one-tenth of what they consume.

"Third—In silk-factories the work is generally light, fit more for women and boys and girls, than for men; hence, large factories in this city would afford employment for a large number of unemployed persons, ensuring cheapness. But even if this were not so, labor here is cheaper when engaged in large establishments than in the Eastern States.

"Fourth—The salubrity of our climate, insuring the best quality of raw silks for manufacture, is an additional fact of great importance."

Lyons is the great seat of silk manufacture in Europe. That city and for fifty miles around it is a perfect bee-hive of silk factories. The Lyons manufacturers keep constantly \$50,000,000 of capital invested in raw silk, the best coming from Italy. The usual price is \$9 per pound, but the figures were raised by the late war to \$10. Lyons uses 9,000,000 pounds of raw silk annually, bought on 100 days' credit at that city, and the annual product of the Lyons' looms is worth about \$120,000,000, in the manufacture of which 10,000 operators are employed in dyeing, and 20,000 girls are engaged in reeling at fifty cents per pound.

The Franco-American Silk Manufacturing Company of California are stated to be all men of capital, old citizens, men of enterprise and integrity, among them being found the following names—Edward Martin, cashier of the Hibernia Bank; Gustave Touchard, President of the Union Insurance Company; Joseph Godchaux, silk importer; Phillip Meagher, of the late firm of Meagher, Taaffe & Co.; and M. Eugene Gauthier, silk Manufacturer, late of Lyons. The corporation is based upon a capital of \$500,000, divided into 5,000 shares of the par value of \$100 each, although it is not proposed to call in more than 15 or 20 per cent. of the par value of the stock, and with this sum of paid up capital the company expect to have the looms running within six months of the date of incorporation. The best machinery of the newest patterns is to be purchased in France, where it can be had on reasonable terms, and with extended credit if the company desires it. Under such favorable circumstances the company expect to realize 75 per cent. profit on their investment, which is far ahead of those of mining, or even of loaning money at two per cent. a month.

If these things can be done in California, can they also not be done in Utah? If not, why not? That's the local question; and

Correspondence.

MARSEILLES, Dec. 23, 1872.

Editor Deseret News:

Our route from Paris to Lyons lies through a beautiful and interesting country, abounding in orchards and vineyards, many of the latter being very extensive. The District of Burgundy, so much celebrated for its excellent wines, embraces an area of 224,223 acres, all in vineyards. These vines are trained upon stakes three feet high, being more thickly set than is commonly practiced elsewhere. Their yield differs according to the soil and quality of the vine, some yielding as high as one thousand gallons per acre. Immense quantities of these Burgundy wines are transported annually to foreign countries. They are highly prized by amateur consumers, being considered superior to most other wines in point of flavor and delicious quality. The price of the genuine Burgundy wines where they are manufactured will average about one dollar per gallon.

The value of these products, in this district is, annually, in the neighborhood of ten millions of dollars. We were told that the longest duration of the finest wines capable of preservation, does not exceed twelve or fifteen years from the season they are made; after that time they decline instead of improving. Some, however, may be kept twenty years, but such wines are considered of an ordinary quality.

Wine in France is a common beverage, as much so as cider in our Eastern States. It is always placed upon the tables, and all are supposed to be judges of its merits, and to require its enlivening influences.

We passed many towns famous in history for memorable battles fought in their vicinity, or stirring events which have occurred within their walls. Fontainebleau, about forty miles from Paris, is remarkable for the great battle fought in Feb. 1814, in which the allies were signally beaten by the French under Napoleon. We stopped but a short time at this place.

We passed many elegant mansions, beautiful country seats, chateaux and towns—some of the latter very antique, embracing ancient castles and fortifications crumbling to pieces, or lying in ruins. We also passed many lovely vales encircled in the distance by low ranges of picturesque hills covered with vineyards and olive orchards, the latter still clothed in rich green foliage. Among these romantic hills, here and there a beautiful villa appears, with its white chapel surmounted by a modest, graceful tower.

We reached Lyons on the evening of the 19th, distant from Paris about 300 miles.

Lyons is the second city of France, with a population of about three hundred and twenty-five thousand. It is celebrated for its silk manufactures: in quality and variety they are considered superior to any others in the world. In the city and vicinity there are over 31,000 silk looms. Immense numbers of laborers are employed in the business. We visited some of these establishments and were amused and interested in witnessing the skill and ingenuity manifested. Portraits, groups of people and also landscapes were woven in silk with as much accuracy in delineation of face and figure as when done by the most skillful artist with paint and brush. We purchased a few specimens of their weaving, including exquisitely beautiful handkerchiefs, portraits of eminent personages, George Washington, M. Thiers, and other distinguished individuals. We showed the proprietor of the establishment a photograph of President B. Young, and on his proffering to weave the portrait, President Smith made an arrangement to have a supply in readiness on our return from Palestine.

We engaged carriages and drove through the principal streets, park and suburbs of the city. We saw remains of walls, fortifications and buildings constructed in past ages by the Romans, together with other objects of curiosity and historic interest. We had a splendid view of the hills of Savoy and also of Mont Blanc, one hundred miles distant, clothed in perpetual snows.

We left Lyons by train, on the 21st, enroute for Marseilles. We passed through many towns and cities of great antiquity, celebrated for remains of architectural relics, attesting their former greatness and

splendor. In the town of Arles is a vast amphitheatre, supposed to have been built 1,800 years ago, now lying in magnificent ruins. It is 459 feet long, and 338 feet broad. It had 43 rows of seats, and could accommodate 25,000 people. The walls, to a considerable extent, are broken down, together with some of its towers. In former years, during the wars, it was occupied as a fortress.

In several parts of this ancient town, the ground is strewn with Roman relics, entablatures, broken down columns, &c. We arrived in Marseilles, about 200 miles distant from Lyons, in the evening, and stopped at the *Hotel du Louvre et de la Paix*—a very fine establishment.

This city contains 300,000 inhabitants, and is considered the finest seaport in France. Its harbor is formed by an inlet of the sea, extending into the heart of the city, covering an extent of seventy acres, and will accommodate 1200 vessels. We found numerous objects of interest and attraction. No finer trees can be found in any city of Europe—they are broad and many of them bordered with ornamental trees. The park is extensive, and the public garden and promenades, are romantic and enchanting to lovers of cultivated nature. To fully enjoy the smiling sun and balmy air of beautiful Marseilles, and also to avail ourselves of an opportunity for gratifying curiosity and gaining information, we perambulated the city. The garden and parks were ornamented with rich and costly shrubbery, grass plats tastefully encircled with flowers, gravel walks with beautiful borders, ornamental trees trimmed into varied forms, flowers exhaling sweet fragrance around grottos, fountains and cascades.

On one side, at a short distance from the city, lies a vast landscape commencing with rising hills covered with terraces of equal width planted with olive trees and vineyards, rising in regular gradation one above another, like rows of seats in an amphitheatre—beautiful country seats here and there dotting the summits of these hills fringed with gardens and groves of the orange and lemon tree loaded with golden fruit. These ranges of hills continuing one above another, roll away in the distance into lofty mountains, and still onward until their towering peaks are mantled in perpetual snow. Before us stretching far off beneath the encircling horizon, in calm and sweet repose, slumber the blue waters of the Mediterranean, whose broad bosom is whitened with sails from every land and clime.

We shall long remember our stroll through the parks and garden of Marseilles, and along the sunny shore of the beautiful Mediterranean. LORENZO SNOW.

BEAR RIVER CITY, JAN. 24, 1872.

Editor Deseret News:

Dear Sir:—The people here are mostly from Scandinavia, and are a peaceable and quiet community, as is characteristic of those nations. They are alive to their religion and enjoying the spirit of the Lord.

We have had frequent visits of home missionaries from the neighboring settlements this winter, and last Monday, Jan. 19th, we had two meetings, which were largely attended by the people, and addressed by Elders J. S. Brown from Salt Lake City; C. D. Fjeldsted and C. T. Larsen, of Logan, Cache Valley; and H. P. Jensen and A. Christensen of Brigham City. Both the Danish and English languages were used, good instruction was given and an excellent feeling existed.

We have a large day and Sunday School here, which proves to be satisfactory to all concerned. Yours, &c., N. P. RASMUSSEN.

SAN FRANCISCO, 30.—The coroner's jury have convicted Dennis Coleman, who beat his wife till she died, of manslaughter. He pleaded in extenuation that she drank to excess and neglected her household duties.

Rain has come, welcome to the farmers, whose fields began to show the evil effects of the recent cold, electrical north winds.

The steamer *Montana* has arrived from Panama, with the Peruvian Embassy to China and Japan on board. The members of the Legation will remain in the city several days.

FOREIGN NOTES.

A French surgeon has now inserted successfully into the skull of his dogs watch crystals, through which he can observe the processes of the canine brain during sleep, indigestion, when influenced by rage and other emotion, and its normal movements. The pack seemed to show no aversion to having an eye set on their inmost thoughts, nor to contributing to science through their sky-lights, and the savan expects to show, as clear as crystal, that the theory that blood tends to the head in sleep is an error.

Statistics show considerable decrease during the last year or two among the Orthodox Dissenters of England, the Presbyterians perhaps excepted, and as to "the poor old Church of England," *Punch* sang years ago that it was "gone to the dogs," and it certainly has been considerably torn to pieces by internal discord of late years.

The *Atchison* papers complain that thieves and burglars are over-running that place, and they are anxiously discussing what they shall do to rid themselves of them.

From 2,000 to 3,000 persons are out hunting buffaloes, and it is estimated that 15,000 buffaloes are killed daily.

It seems to be understood that in boat races in England hereafter coxswains will be dispensed with and the sliding seat will supersede the stationary one.

The *London Spectator* says there is "probably more flagrant perjury committed in the English Divorce Court in any one year than in any other Court in five."

The Italian Government has announced its intention to suppress the practice of duelling by severely punishing duellists. One was recently banished from Italy for a year.

Froude's English friends are berating him for coming here, as his Irish friends are berating him for having come.

It is announced that Dr. Livingstone is entitled to seven years' arrears of salary as British Consul in Central Africa.

A Frenchman cannot talk with his hands tied.

EASTERN NOTES.

John W. Allen, of Garden Plains, Ill., while harnessing a colt, was thrown down and dragged over the frozen ground until life was extinct.

The saloon keepers are lamenting the dull times. They say, some of them, that there is very little doing in the "won't go home till morning" line, and that comparatively few calls are made on them now-a-days.—*Denver Tribune*.

Healthy, wealthy and wise is said to be the young man, Mr. Walter W. Phelps, who owns fifty-one of the one hundred shares of the *New York Tribune*. Besides, says the *Chicago Post*, "he is a member of Congress, and has given other unmistakable evidences of early piety."

In strict observance of the will of Stephen Girard, no clergyman, known to be such, is allowed to visit the college of his endowment. A gentleman of a clerical cut as to appearance once presented his pass to the janitor. The latter, taking him in from head to foot with one glance, said:

"I cannot admit you, sir, you are a clergyman."

"The devil I am," said the visitor.

"You can pass," was the quiet reply.

We do not believe the millionaires do much harm, or spoil society, or deprave taste, or ruin the poor, or even increase the chasm between poor and rich—people must be more on a level to hate each other hard—but we believe that the fascination of their position does in an ever increasing ratio tend to draw the strongest of mankind from the service of the State, from literature, from scientific speculation, into the pursuit of wealth, usually given to such men only when they let their lower faculties prevail. Euclid in our days would not have thought out geometric truth for mankind. He would have made five millions by building works which an average engineer could have built as well.—*London Spectator*.