Manufactures of the State

When the topic of manufactures in the United States is brought up, Connecticut moves to the front, and at once comes into her own. The genius of American industry finds probably its greatest display in that State. Its people not only know how to make, but how to use and with extraordinary facility. Its towns are invariably mill towns. More black smoke arises to the sky in the square mile there than in any other State of the Union, and in the short afternoon, as twilight descends into darkness, there are no more brilliant sights than the glowing thousands upon thousands of lights from the valley factories of Connecticut. The unobtrusive outlines of the great buildings are lost, and the glowing lights make a fairylike effect which tells a story of industry more pictureque than any "boom of industry" in the daylight can proclaim it.

It is a fact of great significance that at one time in 1900 more than 35 per cent. of all the manufacturing establishments in Connecticut, of which 557, or 53.4 per cent., were what we called "hand-trade" places. These hand-trade shops, however, produced only nine per cent. of the manufactures of the State. In these 10,000 establishments of various kinds there was invested a capital of nearly $115,000,000. The gross value of the products for 1900 of these establishments was the enormous sum of nearly $825,000,000. Of this production, $417,000,000, was made up of materials in a partly manufactured form, leaving the sum of $408,000,000 as the net or true value of the State's manufacturing products, equalling about 60 per cent. of the capital employed.

The total wages paid for labor in 1880 were nearly $515,000,000, or, in round numbers, 60 per cent. of the net income. These figures indicate at once a condition of great prosperity for mill-owners and wage-earner alike. Out of their share of the $808,000,000, or $125,000,000 on a capital of $113,000,000, the mill-owners had to pay for raw material, for repairs, and maintenance of plants, and for interest on capital, besides salaries to themselves and clerks and the expenses of distribution, leaving the balance for net profits. What the percentage of this profit was, of course, is not known, but it is safe to estimate that it was simply an equitable distribution of the results of work with the manual laborers employed.

It may be worth while to note, while the matter of wages is under consideration, that 150,000 men employed in the State's factories in 1900 earned $25,000,000; the 42,000 women earned $15,000,000, and the 3500 children employed earned $650,000. The amount paid in clerks and officials engaged in manufacturing was $12,000,000 in round numbers.

There are eleven industries in which ten years ago Connecticut led the rest of the United States, and the indications are that the State still holds its primacy in these fields. They are the manufacture of ammunition, balls, rolled brass and copper, brass casting and finishing, bronze ware, clocks, cornets, cutlery and edged tools, hardware, plated and deformities, sizes, needles and pins. In addition to this the State ranks sixth in the great textile industry of the country, being exceeded in the output only by Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island, and New Jersey.

Before one considers what the presence in these eleven industries means to the State it is well to dwell for a moment on a remarkable showing disclosed by research into the industrial development of the commonwealth. That is the fact that out of the 10,000 active manufacturing establishments of the State only fifty-six were idle during the year 1900. This represented a capital of $1,500,000, out of a total of $115,000,000. The larger number of idle establishments, in as is
The making of bricks and tiles. There were 1,853,000 of these, but the capital involved was only $91,000. The largest amount of capital invested in any industry is in the brick-making industry. In 1906, 4,251,000 were established in the State for the manufacture of bricks. The average capital invested in each establishment was $1,200.00, and the capital was invested in furnaces, machinery, and equipment. The output of bricks is estimated at 4,251,000,000. The total value of the output of bricks is $2,000,000,000.

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bemonn the sad condition of all those who work in mills. Intelligently observed, and the condition of savings-banks' deposits, always increasing, shows that there is much thrift in the State, and that class prosperity, or even poverty, as it is understood here in this country, is absent.

The wage-earners of Connecticut are really prosperous and contented. That is what makes the commonwealth the highly developed community it is. That is what gives it its rank in the chain of States. Given up, as it is, almost wholly to manufacturing, if it were true that wage-earners are down-trodden and slaves of the money power, Connecticut would be the most miserable State in the country. The condition of its people shows that all these assertions of demagogues are not true.

Take a simple mill community of Connecticut and see what the actual condition of the operatives is. There is the silk industry of the Cheney's at South Manchester, near Hartford. These mills employ as many as 2,500 persons, and the number of homes occupied by the operatives equals nearly 1,000. The place is like a park in some respects. How do the working people fare? Read what the Hartford Courant said of South Manchester on July 12, 1883:

When the machinery stops and the mill doors open, and the hundreds of men, women, and children pour out, you see the group of pleased faces and bright eyes. But a crowd of hearty, cheerful-looking people who have reason to be happy. None of the employees, living at a distance, ride home where work is sure, and foreign-stitlers at South Manchester, accustomed to see the narrow red and blue-dyed mill-boys' dresses, cannot resist their self-satisfaction at the operative's "civility, frankness, and cheerfulness.

The system prevails by the arrangement over the houses of the operatic villages, so far as it goes, simply to promote the general welfare. They are planned so as to keep the general air about the village free and healthy, and the girls' rooms are all admirable to the children, since it is guaranteed to the neighborhood. The houses are family single houses with garlands attached. Each is light and...