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INDUSTRIES OF CUBA.

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY OF THE ISLAND REVIEWED.

Land Owners, Formerly Cattle Grazers, Are Now Successful Planters-Fruits and Vegetables Are Fine-Sugar and Tobacco.

Agriculture, which is the main industry of Cuba, has been given the most careful attention in the United States census report, which has but recently been issued. There are several chapters in the bulky volume which have been devoted to the subject of agriculture with interesting and valuable results. Special schedules were prepared for the taking of census statistics from the plantations. Even so the greatest difficulty was experienced in procuring accurate statements, since the majority of the farms had been abaudoned throughout the war and were still unsettled. Traveling over miles of rough country the census enumerators found everywhere devastation and ruined 1898 4.091,456 homes, still deserted and uncared for. Tending to complicate matters also was the fact that many of the plantations had been divided into small patches of ground in order to avoid the taxes levied even on the smallest subdivision of ground at the rate of \$5. The majority of the tenants resulting were but of temporary residence and were able to give almost no information concerning the land and its productiveness. The schedules which were after much work returned therefore are somewhat defective. Previous to the last war there were in Cuba 90,960 plantations, farms, orchards and cattle ranges, which were valued at 220,000,-900 pesos, or about \$200,000,000. The only manufactories were those produc-

celving such prices as might be established by the crown for each crop. In later years the tobacco monopoly was sold to private companies and was again resumed by the crown in 1760. Finally in 1817 by a royal decree the trade and cultivation of tobacco were declared free on payment of a tax by each planter equivalent to one-twentieth of the product. Since that date the taxes have varied, but have usually been very high.

The average production of tobacco, in bales, in 1894-5 was in the neighborhood of 560,000 bales of fifty kilos, or 62,000,000 pounds of leaf, valued at \$22,000,000. Of this amount nearly 40 per cent was retained for home consumption and used in the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes, and this is about the proportion with normal crops, Since 1895 the crop has been as fol-

1897 375,000 1899 220,000 1898 88,000 1900 460,000 The amount of the exports to the United States during those years is thus given:

Value. Pounds. 1897 4,410,073 \$2,306,067 6,916,360 1899 8,102.974 9,704,331

Except for cigars and cigarettes the numerous forms in which tobacco is used are not manufactured in Cuba. Tobacco is raised as an article of commerce in but four of the six provinces of Cuba, Pinar del Rio, Habana, Santa Clara and Santiago de Cuba, although there is no question but that it could be advantageously raised in the other two.

One of the industries which is now practically dead, but which was formerly the source of wealth and fame to the island, is coffee raising. It is one of the industries for which a great future is promised, since it is known that for richness, flavor and the productive capacity of the trees the coffee of Cuba



CUBAN NATIVES AND PLANTATION EQUIPMENT.

ing cigars and the sugar mills producing raw sugar, molasses and rum.

Cattle-Raising Formerly General, In the early days of the Island cattleraising was the principal industry, agriculture being very generally disrefenced and almost unguarded, like one great wild country. The chief agricultural products of Cuba are now tobacco and sugar, with some fruit-raising, which of late years has depreciated owing of California. At present there is scarcely more coffee raised than is required for hom use, although the soil and climate of the eastern provinces are particularly adapted to coffee-raising, and it is believed that the industry will again be revived. It is likewise believed that the growth of fruit for exportation will receive a new stimulus and that Cuba will rival California in the raising of limes, lemons, oranges, olives, pineapples and many other



AGRICULTURE IN CUBA.

fruits and vegetables. Oranges will grow in any part of the island and are unrivaled for their delicacy of flavor and amount of juice. The largest of the banana farms are in Porto Principe and Santiago, from where they were shipped in large quantities to the United States before the war. The growing and preparation of sugar and tobacco for the foreign market are the largest and richest of Cuba's industries. Statistics for the years from 1893 to 1899 for the production of sugar are as

tons of sugar had it not been for the war." United States the Main Market. chaff the warder while Statistics showing the distribution of in his musical efforts. the crop for the year 1897 is a fair estimate of all preceding years. They

are as follows: Exported to Nassau.....

For many years the tobacco trade of Cuba was a crown monopoly, with a royal office and warehouse at Havana and branch houses throughout the provinces. In these storehouses the planters could store their tebacco, re-

is not surpassed by that of any other West India island or by South America.

History of Coffee Production. In the years 1843 and 1846 violent hurricanes visited Cuba and seriously damaged the coffee crop. Owing to garded. The land was held in great these disasters the increased coffee open ranges, privately owned but un- trade of the East Indies and South America and the larger and more certain profits of sugar cultivation, the coffee industry of Cuba rapidly declined and by 1850 the amount exported was but 192,060 arrobas. The cofing to the almost universal fruit-grow- fee plantations were converted to other uses and the trade in coffee practically disappeared. The world's estimated coffee crop of 1900 is 15,285,000 bags of 1344 pounds each. Of this amount Cuba is c edited with 130,000 bags, not enough for home consumption. A consideration of these facts may result in the revival of this important industry, which, under free institutions, it is believed will regain its former position among the agricultural resources of

The raising of stock, which used to be one of the important resources of the country, is no longer of any importance. excessive taxes having driven the landowners into other branches of farm production There are, however, few better countries for stock-raising than Cuba and future promises are bright for those who again undertake it.

A Quaint London Custom.

which is observed every evening during term in the walks of the Middle Temple of sounding the call that warns members of the inn that it is time to dress for dinner in the hall at six. The custom is as old as the Middle Temple itself, where it alone exists.

At about five-thirty p. m. the warder on duty emerges from a side door of the hall with an old-fashioned cow horn, richly ornamented with silver, and, commencing in Fountain court, blows a sustained blast on it, which he repeats in New court, Essex court, Brick court, Pump court, Elm court and at the entrance to Crown Office

the horn blowing except small boys and ticket porters, who occasionally chaff the warder while he is engaged

Moved by Electric Power. A house in Wellsville, Ohio, was re cently moved by electric power taken from a trolley line. The house was being moved along the street where there was an electric car line. Two cars were hitched to the house by a rope. and it was quickly pulled to its new destination.

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The finest place in the city to obtain first quality cigars, tobacco and smox-ers' articles is that of Rosenthal & Budd, at 287 and 2871 Washington street, between Fourth and Fifth. Give these genial dealers a call when you wish anything in their line. Telephone Main 75.

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Oregon Phone Main 497... row. The whole operation lasts about ten minutes, and when it is over the 1893 815,894 1896 225,221 1894 1,054,214 1897 212,051 1895 1,004,264 1898 300,000 407 South J Street warder, who is a kind of beadle in Call or Write plain livery, returns the horn to the MICHAEL J. BJORN & LOUIS J. BJORN The report contines: "We could have butler's pantry. Nobody seems to take any notice of ground that year more than 1,100,000 PROPRIETORS