

surplus of agriculture a matter of small comparative importance, and of manufacture a minor consideration.

But the record of the growth of exports of domestic manufactures does not warrant the assumption that higher wages are an inevitable bar to exportation. Such exportation in the last twenty years has much more than doubled, while the increase of population was only seventy per cent. There is a constant tendency to greater effectiveness of labor by the acquisition of skill, and especially by inventions and ingenious appliances for the saving of labor.

In certain manufactures, in which the cost of labor has been double that paid by foreign competitors, exports have increased beyond the advance in population, in some cases ten, twenty, even thirty fold. This ability to export, notwithstanding the higher rate of wages, is not as yet general, but there is a possibility, yea, a certainty, of gradual enlargement of the list and especially the volume of exportable goods, partly through superior skill, and efficiency of labor, and perhaps in larger part from labor-saving machines and processes, and from the distinctive peculiarities and marked availability for their intended uses in the manufactured goods. The ability to export, therefore, is less a matter of muscle of the mechanic than of inventive power and of cultivated intellect in the forms and adaptations of the thing manufactured. The higher wages may thus be neutralized by the aid of mind far more than of muscle.

An analysis of the facts that illustrate the standard of living in the United States leads to the inevitable belief that the people, the worker in all the hives of industry, the constructive forces of the nation, exist upon a higher plane than those of any other country. The following results of this investigation are presented:—

1. The American citizen is free from the bondage of feudalism, from the domination of kingly or aristocratic mastery, and from the control of caste. He is an independent individual, a sovereign in his own right, voluntarily submitting to laws of his own making, to limitations of natural rights for the general welfare. His aspirations are checked only by a wise judgment of his capacity, and his elevation in the walks of life is limited only by his ability and opportunity. He is the master of his own career and the maker of his own fortune.

2. Inducements to action lead to activity in effort; intense and persistent application causes waste of tissue, of nerve and muscle; and a liberal ration becomes necessary for repair of waste. The opulence of nature makes rich provision for the largest alimentary liberality. Therefore large consumption of all the elements of nutrition is assured, fully fifty per cent more than that of the average in Europe, and more than twice as much as that of the less favored peoples of the world.

3. The variety and abundance of vegetable and animal fibres, by the favor of soil and climate and the energy of man, are no less remarkable than the range of species and ease of cultivation of the grains and fruits. The development of taste and the effort to rise in social life conspire to create an extraordinary demand for clothing, so easy to gratify, and so increased by the facility of its gratification.

4. It is a natural corollary of these facts, as stated heretofore, that "the satisfaction of dietetic and sartorial demands of our people is no more imperative than the urgency of their requirements for home-making and ornamentation." Liberal demands in food and clothing are only consistent with a high appreciation of comfortable housing. Bed and board are indissolubly joined.

5. Such a scale of expenditure presupposes a higher rate of wages, a larger income than that of average peoples. The facts show that our wages are from fifty to one hundred per cent higher than those of the workmen, in their several classes, of the most favored nations, twice as high as the average of certain countries, and three times as high as that of certain others.

6. With seventy acres of land for every farm worker, three hundred and fifty bushels of cereals for each, with abundant industrial or surplus crops, meats, fruits, and vegetables in equal abundance, and markets greedy for the surplus, the farmer is in condition to live and thrive, or know the reason why his profits do not meet his expectations.

7. The question arises, Shall the present standard of living be

maintained? It is a point upon which hang "the future education, enterprise, independence, and prosperity of the people" of the United States. It depends on the industry of the producing classes,—their wisdom in the distribution of their labor towards a production that shall meet their wants. If idleness shall be encouraged, production limited, importation enlarged, and dependence on foreign countries fostered, wages will be reduced, and the ability to purchase, as well as the volume of production, will decline. If the advice of public and private teachers of repressive economy, to buy every thing abroad and sit down in the enjoyment of the luxury of laziness at home, shall become the law of the land, short rations will follow, and high prices will only be abated by the inability of our people to purchase for consumption.

8. If, on the other hand, we determine that there shall be no decline in production, agricultural or other, we must provide for it manfully by our labor, realizing that no nation can live beyond its income, or consume more than it produces.

9. Unless the largest variety of production shall be encouraged, and the highest skill shall be stimulated in the endeavor to meet all the wants of our people by the results of our own labor, it will be impossible to have a surplus for export. The example of Spain and India, in contrast with that of England and Belgium, or of France and Germany, enforces this conclusion. But in view of the fact that high wages must co-exist with a high standard of living, as the history of wages in all countries shows, can we export a surplus produced by high wages? Our experience of the last twenty years shows that our exports of domestic merchandise, produced by the highest wages of the world, have increased much faster than population, some a hundred, some a thousand fold—not because of the fact of high wages, but in spite of it; not so much by the force of muscle as by the creative power of mind. The creations of invention, in the lines of taste and utility, adaptation and expedition, can nullify the obstruction of high wages far more than advance in skill and manual dexterity. It is a matter of time, of determined effort, of high endeavor, to render high wages consistent with large exportation of surplus; but the future will accomplish it, if the present scale of living and rate of wages of the American people shall be maintained.

NOTES AND NEWS.

At a meeting of the Wellington Philosophical Society, New Zealand, Mr. Hulke exhibited a spider that carried its young on its body without web or filament until they were able to run.

—Sponge would seem to be an unpromising material for a sculptor to work upon; but that a work of art may be chiselled, or rather scissored, from it is proved by a life-size statue in sponge now in the sponge department of McKesson & Robbins, wholesale druggists, on Fulton Street, this city. The statue represents a Greek sponge-gatherer standing in the bow of a boat, pole in hand, gazing intently through a water-telescope at a piece of sponge which he is supposed to be endeavoring to secure. The figure is composed of numerous pieces of what is known as leathery potters' sponge, carefully matched as to color, texture, and shape, so that the statue appears to be cut from one large sponge. The artist has done his work well, the face especially being an excellent piece of carving.

—Professor T. Hirsch, reporting for the Committee of the Mechanic Arts of the "Société d'encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale" of France, at the meeting of July 11, states that the committee has analyzed the work of M. Dwelshauvers-Dery, and finds that "the method of calculation proposed by him is at once original, and fruitful of results. In its application to the experiments of Mr. Donkin, its author demonstrates the course to take in computation, and thus facilitates the work of all those who desire to study such questions. It constitutes an important advance in the study of such complex phenomena as those of which the steam-engine cylinder is the seat." The committee proposed very hearty thanks from the society to the author of this work; they were accorded, and the memoir of M. Dwelshauvers-Dery was directed to be inserted in the bulletin *in extenso*.