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SPEECH

OF

HON. H. G. DAVIS,

OF WEST VIRGINIA,

IN THE

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

JANUARY 14, 1879.

BRIEF HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE.

IMPORTANCE TO ALL COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY
THE UNITED STATES.

WEST VIRGINIA RESOURCES.

WASHINGTON.

1879.

HON. H. G. DAVIS

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1880

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1881

IN THE SENATE,

January 14, 1879.

The Senate having under consideration concurrent resolution in relation to the advancement of agricultural interests—

Mr. DAVIS, Senator from West Virginia, said :

Mr. PRESIDENT: I move to take up the concurrent resolution offered by me early in December, in relation to the advancement of agricultural interests.

The motion was agreed to; and the Senate proceeded to consider the following resolution submitted by Mr. DAVIS, of West Virginia, December 4, 1878:

Whereas agriculture is the foundation of nearly all our wealth and it is mainly through the exportation of its products that we are paying off our large indebtedness, foreign and domestic, and have the present large balance of trade in our favor; and

Whereas although about one-half of the people of this country are engaged in agricultural pursuits and all other interests are dependent upon this, our leading and most important interest, commercial and otherwise, yet but little has been done by the General Government to promote agriculture, while other less general and important interests have been largely aided: Therefore,

Resolved by the Senate, (the House of Representatives concurring.) That the committees on agriculture of the respective Houses be, and they are hereby, instructed to consider generally the subject of agriculture, and report, by bill or otherwise, what can or ought to be done by the General Government to better advance, encourage, and foster agricultural interests, and that said committees shall have the power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. DAVIS, of West Virginia. Mr. President, in inviting the attention of the Senate to this resolution and asking its passage I feel that there is no subject of more importance and more moment to the country, none around which so many interests cluster and in which so many center, as American agriculture.

It is a subject so broad, *so national, so universal, so non-partisan, so non-sectional, so far-reaching* in its effects and *important* in its results, that it should at once command the patient attention of all, and in its consideration party feeling and party passion should have no voice.

The country has been, and is, weighed down with a heavy national, State, municipal, and individual debt, held at home and abroad, the interest and principal of which must be paid; business has been, and is, depressed; commerce languishes; confidence is destroyed; almost numberless remedies and suggestions have been proposed to bring relief and restore prosperity, but, in the prolonged stagnation, most all have failed and are distrusted.

This resolution is not brought forward as a panacea for all our ills and the only safe road out of our troubles, but it is claimed that for what has been done in the past to bring relief, and for whatever of light and hope there is ahead of us, the country is mainly indebted to agriculture; and if anything can be done to stimulate and better promote this great national interest, the greatest of all, it will not only continue largely to aid in bringing relief and restore prosperity, but remain a lasting and substantial benefit to the country in the future.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE.

It is impossible to measure, or even estimate, the importance of agriculture to a people. It is the foundation upon which civilization and society rest; the basis and source of the permanent wealth of a nation. No people in history have made substantial progress in civilization, the arts and sciences, and have remained long prosperous, if they neglected agriculture. It is the most universal of all arts, the parent of manufactures and commerce, and the basis of all other industries, and without which all others must decay and perish.

In all countries, its rudest beginnings have marked the first steps in the emancipation of the people from barbarism and their approach to civilization and organized society. This fact is fully established by annually appropriating and expending large sums and sending agents to induce the savage Indian to adopt farming instead of hunting for a living, and when successful much has been accomplished, and the Indian is on the high road to become a good and useful citizen.

Adam was the first agriculturist. We read in Genesis:

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

In the earliest times the Egyptians were devoted to agricultural pursuits, and Egyptian civilization only took form and shape after her people learned to till the soil.

The Israelites were one of the greatest agricultural nations of antiquity: nearly the whole people were engaged in agriculture; it constituted the chief source of their wealth. Nearly every Israelite was a land-owner, and literally sat "under his own vine and fig tree." Noah was a husbandman. Abraham had flocks. Job, in addition to owning large herds and flocks, had five hundred yoke of oxen, with which he plowed. Isaac was a farmer, and Jacob tended flocks and herds. David was a farmer and also a shepherd.

The Greeks, though possessing a sterile soil, gave great attention to agriculture.

ROME AND AGRICULTURE.

In the early history of Rome the people were thoroughly devoted to agriculture, and were proud of it; it was their chief source of wealth. They were a nation of farmers, and it was during the period they paid the most attention to agriculture that they enjoyed the most substantial progress, prosperity, and success. The state allotted to each citizen a certain parcel of land, and he who was not content to own and till the land was deemed dangerous to the state and to society. One could not hold office unless he was a land-owner and a cultivator of the soil; and it is a remarkable fact that the decline of agriculture, more than anything else, marks the decay and dissolution of the Roman Empire. When her people neglected tilling the soil and tending their herds, and depended upon the neighboring provinces for supplies and food, her glory began to depart.

Cato, distinguished as a general, statesman, and orator, found time to write books upon farming. Cicero, the renowned and eloquent orator, prided himself upon his agricultural attainments. The agricultural literature of Rome was unsurpassed in its time, and is only inferior to that of a few nations to-day.

Cincinnatus was a farmer, and after having been chief ruler of his country and one of its great generals, returned to his plow. He was called from thence to save his country a second time, and, having accomplished his high purpose, he returned to it again.

In Spain, under the Saracens, followed by the Moors, agriculture reached a high state of perfection, which has not been surpassed in more modern times. The revenue from it alone amounted to \$30,000,000 per annum more than the combined revenue of all the other monarchs of Europe at that time. During the dark ages, when the Goths, Vandals, and other barbarian conquerors overran nearly all Europe, agriculture was not only neglected and abandoned but it sunk into the lowest condition of contempt. It seemed as if civilization had taken its flight and barbarism was about to claim the world.

WHAT AGRICULTURE HAS ACCOMPLISHED.

About the fourteenth century agriculture revived and the improvement and elevation of the lower and middle classes began, and, with its advance, has gradually gone on all over the world.

Agriculture started England on her high road to prosperity and the commercial supremacy which she has maintained in the world for five hundred years.

Through agriculture a large part of Holland was reclaimed from the sea, and it is now the foundation of her great wealth and prosperity.

The people comprising the great German Empire, one of the most powerful of nations and respected all over the world, are largely devoted to agriculture and are greatly indebted to it for their wealth and power.

It has been the glory of France and the chief occupation of her people for centuries, and through it, though but a few years ago a conquered people and compelled to pay a war indemnity whose figures are staggering, but which was paid in less time than any other nation ever paid so large an amount, to-day her people are proud, rich, and prosperous.

It is agriculture that gives greatness to Russia and enables her to contend for supremacy in European affairs and carry on her great wars.

Belgium and Switzerland, though small, owe their prosperity and importance largely to agriculture.

Indeed, all history attests the fact that where a people have devoted themselves to agriculture they have been uniformly prosperous and progressive, while those nations and the people who have abandoned or even neglected it have declined.

The majority of all people, in all times and ages of the world, from the humblest to the highest, have engaged in agriculture. Presidents, emperors, kings, and nobles have not thought it a condescension to be farmers, but rather an honor and a credit. The greatest names in our history have been those who were practical farmers and devoted to agriculture. We have been from the beginning, and must remain, a nation of farmers.

WHAT WE OWE TO AMERICAN FARMERS.

From the time of the landing at Jamestown and Plymouth Rock, the American farmers have always constituted the advance guard and the largest part of that grand army of progress and liberty which in its triumphant march in the face of dangers, trials, privations, and the cruelty of the savage has gradually subdued forests, crossed rivers, and climbed mountains, until civilization, society, churches, schools, and happy homes have been established from ocean to ocean and from the lakes to the Gulf.

The American farmers have laid the foundation of an empire on this continent, destined, largely through their efforts, virtues, industry, courage, and devotion to free government, to surpass in substantial glory, grandeur, wealth, progress, and prosperity all the nations of this world and the achievements of all history.

Our liberties were conquered and our Constitution made mainly by farmers, and to them in any and every great crisis we must look for the safe-keeping and protection of both.

As a rule the agricultural classes have always been devoted to liberty, peace, and good order, and the friends of established society and the enemies of disorder, wrong, change, violence, and unjust revolution; they constitute the reserve forces of conservatism in all governments, particularly in ours.

The collection of large populations in commercial centers, by depleting the country, has a dangerous tendency. It is in the cities and these great centers that rings, strikes, frauds, trades unions, centralization, and consolidation are born, fostered, and best flourish, while in the agricultural districts the tendency is in the opposite direction.

EMINENT MEN AND AGRICULTURE.

Washington, called from his farm to command the armies of the Revolution, having gained our liberties and started our Government in its grand experiment, against the unanimous entreaties of his countrymen to remain in public life, returned to his farm at Mount Vernon and superintended it until the close of his exemplary and patri-

otic life, nearly the last act of which was to ride over and inspect his various fields and give orders concerning the same.

In a letter to Sir John Sinclair, Washington said :

I know of no pursuit in which more real and important service can be rendered to any country than by improving its agriculture and its breed of useful animals.

And in his messages to Congress he more than once called attention to the great importance of agriculture.

General Jackson, in his fourth annual message to Congress, (December, 1832,) in speaking of agriculture, says :

The wealth and strength of a country are its population, and the best part of that population are the cultivators of the soil. Independent farmers are everywhere the basis of society and the true friends of liberty.

Another great mind has said : "A virtuous and intelligent farmer has attained the highest estate of fallen man."

Mr. Jefferson, when not attending to his public duties, spent most of his time upon his estate at Monticello. He said that agriculture was the highest calling of man, the surest road and safeguard to a nation's prosperity and liberty.

Mr. Webster, perhaps the greatest constitutional lawyer this country ever produced, was fond of agricultural pursuits, and spent all of his leisure time at Marshfield, where his great mind found ample scope and occupation in attending to his farm and stock.

Mr. Clay, that great patriot of the West, who knew no North, South, East, or West, spent much of his time at Ashland, and while there devoted his great talent to farming; and when permitted to retire from public life he returned to his farm.

That able, pure, and great man, Silas Wright, when he retired from public life, went direct to his farm and gave his personal attention to its management; and the last work of his pen was to write an agricultural address, which he did not live to deliver. It is a proud distinction to agriculture in our country that it numbers among its advocates and followers such names as Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Jackson, Webster, Clay, and Wright.

Napoleon the First said that agriculture was the body and soul of the empire; and, in the height of his glory, he gave the subject much attention and encouragement, and established in France a department of agriculture.

Dr. Johnson remarks that agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.

Prince Albert, a model farmer, said that agriculture was the foundation of the social state.

Gibbon says that agriculture is the foundation of manufactures, since the productions of nature are the materials of art.

THE UNITED STATES AND AGRICULTURE.

The following table presents the number of persons engaged in the different occupations in the United States at the last enumerations :

Population.	1870 (census.)		1878.	
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
Total over 10 years	28, 228, 945	.....	34, 000, 000	.....
Males in all occupations	12, 505, 923	.....	15, 000, 000	.....
Agriculture	5, 922, 471	47. 35	7, 600, 000	50. 66
Manufacturing and mining	2, 707, 421	21. 65	2, 900, 000	19. 33
Professional and personal	2, 684, 793	21. 47	3, 000, 000	20. 00
Trade, commerce, and transportation ...	1, 191, 238	9. 52	1, 500, 000	10. 00

The census of 1870 gives an aggregate value of all personal and real property for that year of \$29,822,535,140.

The agricultural interest being valued at 38 per cent. of all others combined the value of farms and property is \$11,124,959,037.

Value of farms, 1870.....	\$9,262,803,861
Value of farm animals, 1870.....	1,525,276,747
Value of farm implements, 1870.....	336,879,429

Total..... 11,124,959,037

In the United States about half or twenty-three millions of the people are engaged in agriculture. It is the fundamental business of the country, the leading commercial interest, and the most important home industry. We are a nation of farmers, and because of the vast area of our soil and its great fertility we must remain so. Our agricultural products not only support our people, but pay for what we buy abroad; they furnish our greatest source of revenue, and to them we are indebted for the balance of trade now being largely in our favor, and that our bonds and other indebtedness held abroad are so rapidly coming home. Ordinarily upon the results of our crops hinge our prosperity for a given year or period. If the crops are good, business is good; if short, business is dull.

The crops exert a controlling influence upon the moneyed operations of the people at home and abroad. The bankers, manufacturers, and merchants, in fact all classes of business men, watch if possible with more interest and concern the growth and gathering of the crops than the farmer who sows and reaps them. Mr. Jefferson declared that one-half of our old war debt was paid through the products of agriculture, and it is through them mainly that our new war and other debts have been and must be paid. If the farmers for a given year should only raise enough for their own support the consequences to the other classes would be almost ruinous; and if the crops should absolutely fail for a year the ruin and the starvation that would follow would be beyond description.

We have rich gold and silver mines, inexhaustible iron, coal, copper, and lead mines, great salt and petroleum wells, large forests of timber; but none of these, nor all combined, are equal to agriculture. Not only are the people of the United States interested in American agriculture and dependent upon it for support, for revenue, and for prosperity, but the whole world, because America is the granary of the world.

In the United States a more general and better interest is being awakened in agriculture; its importance is fast becoming better understood and appreciated; the people are beginning to learn and understand that mainly to agriculture, now and in the great future, we must look for our prosperity as a nation. It is not so much discredited and abandoned for the overcrowded professions and cities, for mercantile pursuits, and for clerkships now as in times past.

The following figures, taken from official sources, will serve to show what agriculture has done and is doing for the country. An official statement of the Treasury Department, dated January 1, 1879, shows that—

The imports for the twelve months ending November 30, 1877, were.....	\$482,292,984
And for the twelve months ending November 30, 1878, were.....	430,661,998
Decrease of imports.....	<u>51,630,986</u>
The exports for the twelve months ending November 30, 1878, were.....	739,971,739
And for the twelve months ending November 30, 1877, were.....	623,016,613
Increase of exports.....	<u>116,955,126</u>

The exports for the twelve months ending November 30, 1878	739, 971, 739
The imports for the same period.....	430, 661, 998

Exports over imports 309, 309, 741

This is a good showing in round numbers during 1878. We bought \$5,000,000 less and sold \$116,000,000 more than we did in 1877, and we sold \$309,000,000 more than we bought. This is principally owing to agriculture.

The following table, taken from the official report of the Bureau of Statistics, dated September, 1878, speaks well for agriculture:

Statement showing the value and percentage of agricultural products (including products of the forest) exported from the United States for each year from 1850 to 1878.

Year ending June 30—	Total domestic exports.	Total exports of agricultural products.	Percentage of agricultural products to total domestic exports.
1850	\$136, 946, 912	\$123, 825, 808	90.44
1851	196, 689, 718	165, 828, 736	85.69
1852	192, 368, 984	144, 037, 465	74.85
1853	213, 417, 697	176, 589, 418	82.74
1854	252, 047, 806	195, 258, 953	77.48
1855	246, 708, 553	175, 385, 328	71.09
1856	310, 586, 330	245, 091, 084	79.91
1857	338, 985, 065	260, 139, 925	76.75
1858	293, 758, 279	232, 478, 953	79.49
1859	335, 894, 383	258, 449, 990	76.96
1860	373, 189, 274	295, 081, 484	78.61
1861	228, 699, 486	180, 516, 442	82.46
1862	213, 069, 519	160, 821, 597	75.50
1863	305, 884, 998	215, 273, 568	70.36
1864	320, 035, 199	183, 356, 276	57.29
1865	323, 743, 187	207, 232, 749	64.01
1866	550, 684, 277	416, 157, 242	75.58
1867	438, 577, 312	330, 413, 246	75.35
1868	454, 301, 713	319, 004, 531	70.22
1869	413, 961, 115	311, 756, 665	75.32
1870	499, 092, 143	391, 269, 605	79.01
1871	562, 518, 651	397, 963, 220	70.75
1872	549, 219, 718	407, 141, 706	74.13
1873	649, 132, 563	493, 962, 697	76.00
1874	693, 039, 054	550, 043, 638	79.37
1875	643, 094, 767	479, 893, 212	74.63
1876	644, 956, 406	514, 339, 866	81.30
1877	676, 115, 592	517, 737, 998	76.58
1878	722, 811, 815	592, 475, 813	81.98

This statement shows that in 1878 our agricultural products, including forest, were about 82 per cent., and since 1850 they have averaged about 74 per cent. of our total exports.

The annual production and value of cereals for the ten years ending 1877 are given in the following table from official sources:

THE CEREAL CROPS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Statement showing the annual production, acreage, total value, value per bushel, yield per acre, and value per acre of the cereal crops of the United States, from 1868 to 1877, inclusive.

CORN.

Year.	Total production.	Total area.	Total value of crop.	Value per acre.	Av'ge per acre.	Av'ge value per acre.
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Bush.</i>	
1868.....	906,527,000	34,887,246	\$569,512,400	62.8	25.9	\$16.32
1869.....	847,320,000	37,103,245	658,532,700	75.3	23.5	17.74
1870.....	1,094,255,000	38,646,977	601,839,030	54.9	28.3	15.57
1871.....	991,898,000	34,091,137	478,275,900	48.2	29.1	14.02
1872.....	1,092,719,000	35,526,836	435,149,290	39.8	30.7	12.24
1873.....	932,274,000	39,197,148	447,183,020	48.0	23.8	11.41
1874.....	850,148,500	41,036,918	550,043,080	64.7	20.7	13.40
1875.....	1,321,069,000	44,841,371	555,445,930	42.0	29.4	12.38
1876.....	1,283,227,000	49,033,364	475,491,210	37.0	26.1	9.69
1877.....	1,342,558,000	50,369,113	480,643,400	35.8	26.6	9.54
Total...	10,689,595,500	404,733,355	5,252,116,020	.....	.....	.....
Average.	1,068,959,550	40,473,335	525,211,602	49.1	26.4	12.97

WHEAT.

1868.....	224,036,600	18,460,132	319,195,290	142.4	12.1	17.29
1869.....	260,146,900	19,181,004	244,924,120	94.1	13.5	12.76
1870.....	235,884,700	18,992,591	245,805,045	104.2	12.4	12.94
1871.....	230,722,400	19,943,893	290,411,820	125.8	11.5	14.56
1872.....	249,997,100	20,858,359	310,180,375	124.0	11.9	14.87
1873.....	281,254,700	22,171,676	323,594,805	115.0	12.7	14.59
1874.....	308,102,700	24,967,027	291,107,895	94.4	12.3	11.66
1875.....	292,136,000	26,381,512	294,580,990	100.0	11.0	11.16
1876.....	289,356,500	27,627,021	300,259,300	103.7	10.4	10.86
1877.....	364,194,146	26,277,548	394,695,779	108.2	13.9	15.68
Total...	2,735,831,746	224,860,768	3,014,815,419	.....	.....	.....
Average.	273,583,174	22,486,076	301,481,541	110.2	12.12	13.40

RYE.

1868.....	22,504,800	1,651,321	28,683,677	127.4	13.6	17.37
1869.....	22,527,900	1,657,584	21,877,294	97.1	13.5	13.19
1870.....	15,473,600	1,176,137	12,612,605	81.5	13.1	11.72
1871.....	15,365,500	1,069,531	12,145,646	79.0	14.3	10.35
1872.....	14,888,600	1,048,654	11,363,693	76.3	14.1	10.83
1873.....	15,142,000	1,150,355	11,548,126	76.2	13.1	10.04
1874.....	14,990,900	1,116,716	12,870,411	85.8	13.4	11.52
1875.....	17,722,100	1,359,788	13,631,900	76.9	13.0	10.02
1876.....	20,374,800	1,468,374	13,635,826	66.9	13.8	9.28
1877.....	21,170,100	1,412,902	12,542,895	59.2	14.9	8.87
Total...	180,160,300	13,111,362	150,912,073	.....	.....	.....
Average.	18,016,030	1,111,130	15,091,207	83.7	13.7	11.51

Statement showing the annual production, &c., of the cereal crops of the United States—Continued.

OATS.

Year.	Total production.	Total area.	Total value of crop.	Value per acre.	Average per acre.	Average value per acre.
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Bush.</i>	
1868.....	254,960,600	9,665,736	142,484,910	55.9	26.3	14 74
1869.....	288,334,000	9,461,441	137,347,900	47.6	30.4	14 51
1870.....	247,277,400	8,702,395	107,136,710	43.3	21.1	12 18
1871.....	255,743,000	8,365,809	102,570,030	40.1	30.5	12 26
1872.....	271,747,000	9,000,769	91,315,710	33.6	30.1	10 14
1873.....	270,340,000	9,751,700	101,175,750	37.4	27.7	10 37
1874.....	240,369,000	10,897,412	125,047,530	52.0	22.0	11 47
1875.....	354,317,500	11,915,075	129,499,930	36.5	29.7	10 86
1876.....	320,884,000	13,358,908	112,865,900	35.1	24.0	8 44
1877.....	406,394,000	12,826,148	118,661,550	29.2	31.6	9 25
Total ...	2,910,366,700	104,035,393	1,168,105,920	.....	.....	.....
Average.	291,036,670	10,403,539	116,810,592	40.1	28.0	11 22

BARLEY.

1868.....	22,896,100	937,498	29,809,931	130.2	24.4	31 79
1869.....	28,652,200	1,025,795	23,387,909	81.6	27.9	22 79
1870.....	26,295,400	1,108,924	22,244,584	84.5	23.7	20 05
1871.....	26,718,500	1,177,666	21,541,777	80.6	22.6	18 29
1872.....	26,846,400	1,397,082	19,837,773	73.8	19.2	14 19
1873.....	32,044,400	1,387,106	29,333,529	91.5	23.1	21 15
1874.....	32,552,500	1,580,626	29,983,769	92.1	20.6	18 96
1875.....	36,908,600	1,789,902	29,952,082	81.1	20.6	16 73
1876.....	38,710,500	1,766,511	25,735,110	66.4	21.9	14 56
1877.....	34,441,400	1,614,654	22,028,044	63.9	21.3	13 64
Total ...	306,066,091	13,785,764	253,854,508	.....	.....	.....
Average.	30,606,609	1,378,576	25,385,450	82.9	22.2	18 41

BUCKWHEAT.

1868.....	19,863,700	1,113,993	\$20,814,315	104.8	17.8	\$18 68.
1869.....	17,431,100	1,028,693	15,814,265	90.7	16.9	15 37
1870.....	9,841,500	536,992	7,725,044	78.4	18.3	14 38
1871.....	8,328,700	413,915	6,900,268	82.8	20.1	16 67
1872.....	8,133,500	448,497	6,747,618	82.9	18.1	15 04
1873.....	7,837,700	454,152	6,382,043	81.4	17.2	14 05
1874.....	8,016,600	452,590	6,477,885	80.8	17.7	14 31
1875.....	10,082,100	575,530	7,166,267	71.0	17.5	12 45
1876.....	9,668,800	666,441	7,021,498	72.6	14.5	10 53
1877.....	10,177,000	649,923	6,998,810	68.7	15.6	10 76
Total ...	109,380,700	6,340,726	92,048,013	.....	.....	.....
Average.	10,938,070	634,072	9,204,801	84.1	17.2	14 15

Total cereal products of the United States.

Year.	Total production.	Total area.	Total value of crop.
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	
1868.....	1,450,789,000	66,715,926	\$1,110,500,583
1869.....	1,491,412,100	69,457,762	1,101,884,188
1870.....	1,629,027,600	69,251,016	997,423,018
1871.....	1,528,776,100	65,061,951	911,845,441
1872.....	1,664,331,600	68,280,197	874,594,459
1873.....	1,538,892,891	74,112,137	919,217,273
1874.....	1,454,180,200	80,051,289	1,015,530,570
1875.....	2,032,235,300	86,863,178	1,030,277,099
1876.....	1,962,821,600	93,920,619	935,008,844
1877.....	2,178,934,646	93,150,288	1,035,570,478
Total.....	16,931,401,037	766,867,363	9,931,851,953
Average.....	1,693,140,103	76,686,736	993,185,195

This table shows the average bushels and value per annum for ten years, 1868 to 1878, as follows:

Products.	Bushels.	Value.
Corn.....	1,068,959,550	\$525,211,602
Wheat.....	273,583,174	301,481,541
Rye.....	18,016,030	15,091,207
Oats.....	291,036,670	116,810,592
Barley.....	30,606,609	25,385,450
Buckwheat.....	10,938,070	9,204,801

These figures are of great importance and value and show the enormous amount in bushels and dollars of one branch of agriculture.

The following official statement, dated November 14, 1878, shows the amount of our exports exclusively agricultural from 1875 to 1878: *Statement showing the currency value of the agricultural products herein mentioned exported from the United States during the years ending June 30, 1875, to 1878, inclusive.*

Products.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Animals, living:				
Hogs.....	\$739,215	\$670,042	\$699,180	\$267,259
Horned cattle.....	1,103,085	1,110,703	1,593,080	3,896,818
Horses.....	242,031	246,964	301,134	798,723
Mules.....	356,828	224,860	478,434	501,513
Sheep.....	183,898	171,101	234,480	333,499
All other, and fowls.....	47,448	24,617	18,895	46,841
Total animals living.....	2,672,505	2,436,287	3,325,203	5,844,653
Animal oils:				
Lard oil.....	147,384	149,156	281,551	994,440
Neatsfoot and other animal oils.....	12,515	24,498	19,720	17,447
Total animal oils.....	159,899	173,654	301,271	1,011,887
Provisions:				
Bacon and hams.....	28,612,613	39,664,456	49,512,412	51,752,068
Beef, fresh.....			4,552,523	5,009,856
Beef, salted or cured.....	4,197,956	3,186,304	2,950,952	2,973,234
Butter.....	1,506,996	1,109,496	4,424,616	3,931,822
Cheese.....	13,650,603	12,270,063	12,700,627	14,103,529
Condensed milk.....	123,565	118,549	123,801	128,284
Eggs.....	8,743	8,300	8,429	14,880

Statement showing the currency value of the agricultural products herein mentioned, &c.—Continued.

Products.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Lard.....	\$22,900,522	\$22,429,485	\$25,562,665	\$30,014,254
Meats, preserved.....	735,112	998,052	3,939,977	5,102,625
Mutton, fresh.....			36,480	9,272
Pork.....	5,671,495	5,744,022	6,296,414	4,913,657
Total provisions.....	77,416,605	85,528,747	110,108,896	117,953,481
Hides and skins, other than fur..	4,729,725	2,905,921	2,480,427	1,286,840
Tallow.....	5,692,203	6,734,378	7,883,616	6,695,377
Bones and bone-dust.....	132,246	69,159	121,493	78,989
Hair.....	429,598	310,761	338,487	361,348
Total animals and their products.....	10,983,772	10,020,219	10,824,023	8,422,554
Bread and breadstuffs:				
Barley.....	61,408	210,586	708,541	2,565,736
Bread and biscuit.....	610,092	632,580	626,034	730,317
Indian corn.....	24,456,937	33,265,280	41,621,245	48,030,358
Indian-corn meal.....	1,290,533	1,305,027	1,511,152	1,336,187
Oats.....	290,537	588,583	1,150,686	1,277,920
Rye.....	204,590	450,083	1,822,966	3,051,739
Rye flour.....	54,964	39,054	39,672	30,775
Wheat.....	59,607,863	68,382,899	47,135,562	96,872,016
Wheat flour.....	23,712,440	24,433,470	21,663,947	25,095,721
Other small grain and pulse.	804,193	1,136,515	876,665	1,077,433
Maizena, farina, and all other preparations of breadstuffs used for food.....	364,708	707,478	650,206	1,709,639
Total bread and breadstuffs.....	111,458,265	131,181,555	117,806,676	181,777,841
Fruits:				
Apples, dried.....	326,193	67,915	920,292	260,065
Apples, green or ripe.....	722,247	221,764	956,112	386,261
Other fruit, green, ripe, or dried.....	269,632	210,177	268,282	296,310
Preserved in cans or otherwise.....	315,931	327,432	762,344	435,450
Total fruits.....	1,634,003	827,278	2,937,030	1,378,106
Seeds:				
Cotton.....	63,128	69,605	130,062	179,602
Flaxseed or linseed.....	137	257	8	437
Clover, timothy, garden, and all other.....	1,227,750	1,348,750	3,403,685	2,085,887
Total seeds.....	1,291,015	1,418,612	3,533,755	2,265,926
Textiles:				
Cotton, raw.....	190,638,625	192,659,262	171,118,508	180,031,484
Wool, raw.....	62,754	13,845	26,446	93,358
Hemp, raw.....	21,856	8,318	12,182	18,210
Total textiles.....	190,723,235	192,681,425	171,157,136	180,143,052
Vegetable oils and oil-cake:				
Cotton-seed.....	216,640	146,135	842,248	2,514,320
Linseed.....	30,689	23,770	43,435	27,232
Oil-cake.....	5,138,300	5,774,585	4,818,145	5,095,163
Total vegetable oils and oil-cake.....	5,385,629	5,944,490	5,703,828	7,636,715
Miscellaneous:				
Ginseng.....	658,926	646,954	562,268	497,247
Hay.....	110,225	134,017	110,936	141,340
Hops.....	1,286,501	1,384,521	2,305,355	2,152,873

Statement showing the currency value of the agricultural products herein mentioned, &c.—Continued.

Products.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Rice	\$19, 831	\$30, 918	\$78, 112	\$33, 953
Tobacco-leaf	25, 241, 549	22, 737, 383	22, 825, 521	24, 803, 165
Potatoes	522, 182	431, 443	533, 187	541, 593
Onions	51, 259	54, 015	48, 081	44, 522
Other vegetables, raw, prepared, and preserved	169, 325	133, 272	116, 518	138, 509
All other agricultural products unenumerated	791, 197	665, 202	1, 154, 437	1, 251, 534
Total value of miscellaneous	22, 850, 995	26, 217, 722	33, 740, 415	29, 604, 736
Total value agricultural products included in this schedule	430, 575, 923	456, 429, 995	459, 439, 233	536, 038, 951
Total value of exports of domestic merchandise	559, 237, 638	594, 917, 715	632, 980, 854	695, 749, 930
Per cent. of agricultural products to total domestic exports	77.00	76.72	72.59	77.05

For the year 1878 our exports from agriculture alone reached the enormous sum of \$536, 038, 951
 While our entire exports from all other sources, including agriculture, for 1878, amount to 695, 749, 930

Total exports, less agriculture..... 159, 710, 979

This shows that agriculture furnished full three-fourths of our entire exports, and amounted to more in dollars than our imports.

These statements establish the fact that as in the past we have mainly depended upon agriculture, so in the future we must look to it for our support and ability to pay for what we purchase abroad, as also the payment of our foreign debt and interest.

COTTON.

The soil of some of our States is so well adapted to the growing of cotton that we are the chief producer of the world, and must remain so. It constitutes the largest factor in our exports, bringing us since 1865 an average of more than \$200,000,000 per annum, or more than two and a half billions for the thirteen years—which is more than our national debt. Without cotton our foreign trade would have been largely against us. There are good reasons to believe the production will increase from year to year. This large amount is part of the aid and contribution the Southern States bring to us in restoring prosperity to the whole country.

BREADSTUFFS, INCLUDING ALL CEREALS,

constitute the next largest item in our exports, yielding last year \$181,777,841, and an average since 1865 of near \$100,000,000 per annum.

ANIMAL PRODUCTS, INCLUDING CATTLE AND HOGS,

rank next in exports, and amounted last year to \$133,232,575, an average for the last decade of about \$80,000,000 per annum. For this and breadstuffs we are chiefly indebted to the West.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

This is an important farming and agricultural interest which has not hitherto attracted the attention it deserves, and one that is fast growing in our country. It is estimated that last year the total production of cheese was 350,000,000 pounds, and of butter 1,500,000,000 pounds; estimated value of both being about \$350,000,000. This is the contribution of the whole country, and is the leading agricult-

ural interest next to corn, being only one-fourth less in value, one-third more than cotton, and one-seventh more than the hay crop. The exports for 1878 were: cheese, \$14,103,529; butter, \$3,931,822.

The number of cows in the United States is estimated at about 12,500,000—over six times the number in Great Britain, and twice the number in France.

VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statements, also from official sources, show the value of farm products, and exports of the same, as also estimated value of farm animals, and increase in the exports of some of the leading products, for 1876 and 1877:

Value of farm products and exports of the same, and ratio of exports to total production, for 1876 and 1877.

Products.	Total values.	Value of exports to June 30, 1877.	Percentage exported.
Indian corn.....	\$475,491,000	\$43,000,000	9.0
Wheat.....	300,259,000	69,000,000	22.9
Rye.....	13,636,000	1,650,000	13.6
Oats.....	112,866,000	1,230,000	1.1
Barley.....	25,735,000	708,000	2.7
Cotton.....	229,445,000	171,000,000	74.5
Total.....	1,157,432,000	286,788,000	24.8
Potatoes.....	83,861,000		
Hay.....	300,901,000		
Grand total.....	1,542,194,000		

1877.

Products.	Total values.	Value of exports to June 30, 1878.	Percentage exported.
Indian corn.....	\$480,643,000	\$49,365,000	10.3
Wheat.....	394,696,000	122,000,000	30.9
Rye.....	12,543,000	3,082,000	24.6
Oats.....	118,662,000	1,278,000	1.1
Barley.....	22,029,000	2,566,000	11.6
Cotton.....	215,000,000	180,000,000	83.7
Total.....	1,243,573,000	358,291,000	28.8
Potatoes.....	76,249,000		
Hay.....	271,935,000		
Grand total.....	1,591,757,000		

Estimated values of farm animals.

Classes of stock.	1876.	1877.
Horses.....	\$610,000,000	\$600,000,000
Cattle.....	615,000,000	628,000,000
Sheep.....	81,000,000	80,600,000
Hogs.....	171,000,000	160,839,000
Total.....	1,477,000,000	1,469,439,000

Value of agricultural exports.

Products.	1876.	1877.
Animals and animal products.....	\$113,941,509	\$140,564,066
Breadstuffs.....	131,212,471	118,126,940
Cotton.....	200,352,240	183,253,243
Wood.....	21,620,486	23,422,966
Miscellaneous.....	46,079,567	58,652,719
Total.....	513,236,273	524,019,939

The following table gives some of the principal items, showing the increase of exports of 1878 over the year 1877:

Increase in horned cattle	\$2,303,708
Increase in barley	1,857,000
Increase in corn	6,409,000
Increase in wheat and flour.....	53,164,000
Increase in cotton.....	8,381,000
Increase in bacon.....	2,237,000
Increase in cheese.....	1,402,000
Increase in lard.....	4,451,000
Increase in preserved meats.....	1,160,000

These tables speak volumes for agriculture and show a great increase in the last few years.

POPULATION.

France, with an area of 201,000 square miles, has a population of about 36,000,000, or 182 persons to the square mile. At the last census Texas, with an area of 274,000 square miles, had a population of less than 1,000,000, or about 4 people to the square mile, while her soil and climate is equal, if not better, than that of France or any other country.

Belgium, with an area of 11,373 square miles, has a population of 5,336,634, or about 469 people to the square mile, while we have a dozen States with a larger area, equally fertile soil and better climate, with less than 20 people to the square mile.

Germany, with an area of 212,091 square miles, has a population of 42,727,360, or about 200 persons to the square mile.

Great Britain and islands, with a population of 31,628,338, has an area of 121,230 square miles, or about 268 persons to the square mile.

The United States, with an area of 3,603,884 square miles, has a population of about 45,000,000, or 13 persons to the square mile, and if we take the States only and exclude the Territories the population is 22 persons to the square mile.

We have more than 2,000,000,000 acres of land, with a soil and climate unsurpassed and adapted to the production of almost everything necessary to the wants and comfort of mankind, three-fourths of which can be used for agricultural purposes, and much of it, indeed more than one-half, can be purchased for less than the rental value per acre for a single year of the agricultural lands of England, France, Germany, and Belgium.

These figures show that we have ample territory with agricultural facilities to support a population of *many hundred millions*, and then not be so densely populated as the countries above named.

In substantial prosperity and progress, in all that makes a nation great, we must soon take the lead of all other countries; and New York, supported by our vast agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial resources, at no distant day ought to and will be the financial and commercial center of the world as London is to-day.

This prospect should stimulate the encouragement of agriculture and commerce, which must contribute so largely to this result. It must, however, be admitted that, instead of doing so, the tendency and effect of our national legislation has been to encourage other industries and the building up of towns and cities at the expense of the soil, the mine, and commerce.

Several of the countries of Europe are now overcrowded with people, and it is a question whether or not they can long support the increasing population. There is trouble to-day in England and Germany from this source.

Lord Derby, in a recent address made at Liverpool on the subject of the present depression in England, stated in substance, "after much reflection," that England could not afford to pay large sums for food to America and other countries and compete with them in manufactures, and advised as a remedy wholesale emigration to America and Australia.

While we do not want the paupers from other countries, yet we have ample farming lands and room for all persons devoted to honest industry.

TARIFF AND OTHER LEGISLATION AGAINST THE FARMER.

The duty on articles used by farmers averages about 42½ per cent.

	<i>Per cent.</i>
On iron and steel it is from.....	35 to 50
Leather.....	25
China and earthen ware.....	40 to 50
Hosiery.....	35 to 60
Hats, bonnets, &c.....	40
Carpets.....	50 to 68
Salt.....	60
Ready-made clothing.....	50 to 60

The farmer pays the above duties and many more, and the eastern or manufacturing States receive the greater part of the benefit.

Then, again, most all the internal revenue comes from the tax on two items of agricultural products, one produced directly and the other indirectly from the soil.

The revenue from the tax on tobacco in 1878 was \$40,091,754.67; spirits and liquors, \$60,357,867.58—total, \$110,459,622.25; and this comes almost entirely from the Southern and Western States.

In 1877 Virginia paid internal-revenue tax to the amount of \$7,932,220, which is more than twice as much as all the New England States combined paid, and West Virginia paid \$461,030.50, which is more than the States of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont together paid.

The following table shows the receipts from tobacco and spirits in the States named for the year 1878:

States.	Spirits.	Tobacco.	Aggregate receipts.
Connecticut.....	\$270,328 89	\$156,348 63	\$580,335 59
Illinois.....	16,072,539 33	2,829,805 58	19,668,731 32
Kentucky.....	4,866,480 32	1,746,118 21	6,850,614 15
Maine.....	15,217 42	46,356 84	70,695 78
Massachusetts.....	1,055,739 29	693,925 63	2,424,363 77
New Hampshire.....	65,144 06	30,572 51	228,188 11
Ohio.....	10,127,172 80	3,476,501 63	14,770,506 37
Rhode Island.....	39,072 21	63,254 00	246,759 65
Vermont.....	11,752 32	23,243 14	44,339 49
Virginia.....	302,580 21	6,145,442 85	6,501,730 29

This tax is mainly paid by agricultural States, as the above table shows, and falls directly or indirectly on the farmer, while manufactures and other industries of the non-agricultural States are aided by protection at the expense of the former.

So in one way or another the burdens of taxation fall heaviest on the farmer and agricultural interests, against which there should be some relief.

AID RENDERED BY DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS TO AGRICULTURE.

From reliable sources we learn there was expended for the year 1877 by some of the governments of Europe in aid of agriculture the following sums:

Austria and Hungary.....	£1,099,025 or	\$5,495,125
France, for agriculture and commerce.....	110,672,050 francs or	\$20,534,410
Prussia.....	10,459,343 marks or	\$2,612,340
Italy, for agriculture and commerce.....	10,863,981 livres or	\$2,715,995
Russia, for agriculture and public lands.....	18,434,912 rubles or	\$14,826,184
Great Britain.....	£159,118 or	\$795,590
Sweden.....		\$651,737
United States.....		\$174,686

The following appropriations for the years named will be sufficient to illustrate the difference in the amounts appropriated for the various departments of the General Government:

Departments.	1877.	1878.	1879.
Department of State.....	\$1,377,428 43	\$1,353,807 50	\$7,134,325 64
Treasury Department.....	163,015,647 68	159,222,392 61	167,122,213 75
War Department.....	39,251,271 81	4,245,628 00	68,263,792 48
Navy Department.....	13,115,176 55	13,745,422 90	20,684,492 83
Interior Department.....	37,673,054 12	36,674,573 32	38,245,551 74
Post-Office Department.....	6,422,283 49	3,469,045 00	7,295,369 98
Department of Justice.....	3,364,343 31	3,424,950 00	3,918,913 94
Department of Agriculture.....	174,686 96	188,640 00	204,900 00

These figures show how liberally the prosperous and progressive European governments aid and encourage agriculture and how little we do for this great interest. Russia, our great and principal agricultural rival, spends in support of agriculture and in respect of her public lands more than seventy times as much as the United States, and the little Kingdom of Sweden more than three times as much as this great nation.

We have what is called a Department of Agriculture, with a commissioner at its head, whose salary is \$3,000 per annum, and the next highest salary is \$1,900, while there are a large number of employés in other Departments whose chiefs of divisions or heads of bureaus receive from \$3,000 to \$6,000 salary per annum. The salaries of the Agricultural Department are either too low or the others are too high.

In the Senate the Committee on Agriculture is composed of five, while most of the other committees have from seven to nine members. The Committee on Commerce has nine and on Railroads eleven members. Why should not the Committee on Agriculture be made equal to any committee of the Senate? The slender aid we render in the way of appropriations and the attention given to agriculture in Congress indicate that we hold it inferior in importance to industries of much less magnitude and moment. The Commissioner of Agriculture

within the last few years has done well, considering the limited means at his command, and deserves credit. Considering the vast importance of agriculture to the country, the number of people engaged in it, the interests dependent upon and affected by it, it seems to me that it deserves and demands at our hands more attention and substantial aid. There is nothing sectional or political about agriculture, and all parts of the country are interested in it.

AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS.

A large amount of agricultural products are imported which might and ought to be grown within our own borders.

The following table from the Bureau of Statistics shows the amount and value of sugar and molasses imported from 1869 to 1878:

Statement of imports into the United States of sugar, melada, and molasses during the years 1869 to 1878, inclusive.

Fiscal years ended June 30—	Brown sugar.		Melada and sirup of sugar-cane.		Molasses.	
	Pounds.		Pounds.		Gallons.	
1869....	1,229,329,259	\$59,728,008	17,294,314	\$586,013	53,304,030	\$12,011,147
1870....	1,160,460,114	55,655,679	36,161,935	1,258,672	56,373,537	12,888,250
1871....	1,189,155,938	61,249,021	87,113,535	3,296,877	44,401,359	10,192,384
1872....	1,457,294,818	79,129,059	51,673,375	2,066,027	45,214,403	10,627,511
1873....	1,454,124,259	77,953,470	113,670,829	4,722,165	43,533,909	9,901,051
1874....	1,594,306,354	77,459,968	106,952,236	4,424,356	47,189,837	10,947,824
1875....	1,695,726,353	70,015,757	101,768,386	3,313,597	49,112,255	11,685,224
1876....	1,414,254,663	55,702,903	79,702,878	2,415,995	39,026,200	8,157,470
1877....	1,584,162,924	81,187,504	39,461,057	1,654,165	30,188,963	7,808,257
1878....	1,475,480,604	69,642,368	31,520,907	1,123,613	27,490,007	6,764,119
	14,254,295,286	687,724,337	665,319,452	24,861,480	435,834,500	100,983,237

For the year 1878 the value of these imports was about \$77,000,000, and for the nine years named we paid for sugar and molasses the enormous sum of about \$600,000,000.

Nearly if not all of this vast sum paid to foreign countries might have been saved had the overflowed and swamp lands on the Mississippi and other rivers (a large portion of which is especially adapted to the growth of sugar-cane) been reclaimed and the overflow provided against and prevented.

If the half of \$77,000,000 we pay in a single year for sugar and molasses should be expended in reclaiming the swamp lands and preventing the usual overflows of the Mississippi and other rivers it would not only save to the country annually what we pay out for these articles, but restore from ten to fifteen million acres of rich, arable, and most productive farming lands to this and other agricultural uses, now abandoned and utterly useless. How long would France, England, Germany, Russia, or Holland suffer such a vast body of fertile soil to lie idle and go to waste while paying for what might be produced upon it annually nearly a hundred millions of dollars? The power of the General Government to levee the Mississippi River I believe is admitted. This being the case, is not the duty of Congress from an economical stand-point clear in the premises?

The following table shows many other agricultural products imported by our people, many, if not all, of which might be produced at home and save to the United States and its people more than a hundred million dollars per annum:

Statement showing the quantities and values of certain imported commodities entered for consumption in the United States, with rate of duty and amount of duties collected, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1878.

Commodities.	Quantities.	Values.	Total value and duty combined.
Barley..... bush..	5, 806, 191. 24	\$3, 493, 556 65	\$4, 364, 485 35
Barley malt..... bush..		401, 816 06	482, 179 27
Cork, unmanufactured.....		495, 316 00	495, 316 00
Eggs..... doz..	6, 084, 063. 00	726, 030 01	726, 020 01
Flax:			
raw..... tons..	4, 005. 20	788, 988 00	872, 239 47
seed..... bush..	1, 284, 862. 00	1, 880, 197 00	2, 137, 169 40
Fruits and nuts.....		10, 084, 838 63	13, 322, 675 62
Fruits and nuts.....		546, 732 56	
Hemp, raw..... tons..	21, 325. 31	2, 213, 838 00	2, 695, 329 28
Jute, raw..... tons..	24, 663. 80	1, 100, 011 00	1, 247, 993 81
Melada..... lbs..	36, 691, 376. 00	1, 383, 482 00	2, 071, 445 36
Molasses..... gall..	26, 855, 565. 85	6, 860, 317 33	8, 553, 251 80
Molasses..... gall..	*87, 534. 00	14, 449 22	
Paper materials:			
rags..... lbs..	93, 002, 422. 00	2, 828, 743 65	2, 838, 743 65
other..... lbs..	41, 552, 618. 00	1, 150, 444 00	1, 150, 444 00
Rice, cleaned, uncleaned, & paddy	41, 414, 838. 00	1, 109, 466 01	2, 352, 566 41
Rice, cleaned, uncleaned, & paddy	*6, 063, 514. 00	209, 041 92	
Silk, raw..... lbs..	1, 186, 172. 00	5, 116, 707 00	5, 116, 707 00
Sugar:			
brown..... lbs..	*30, 368, 328. 00	2, 274, 430 38	117, 620, 284 37
brown..... lbs..	1, 552, 875, 112. 00	78, 969, 204 69	
refined..... lbs..	216, 294. 00	16, 866 00	27, 680 70
Tea..... lbs..	65, 366, 449. 00	15, 665, 742 07	15, 665, 742 07
Tobacco:			
leaf..... lbs..	7, 458, 344. 00	3, 909, 061 34	6, 519, 481 70
cigars..... lbs..	551, 056. 31	2, 117, 510 3	4, 024, 540 22
other..... lbs..	172, 834. 00	46, 721 52	133, 829 28
Wine:			
in casks..... gall..	3, 653, 760. 00	1, 874, 859 00	3, 336, 363 10
in bottles..... doz..	326, 920. 00	2, 186, 647 58	3, 190, 793 58
Wool, unmanufactured..... lbs..	39, 801, 161. 00	6, 993, 366 61	9, 709, 762 89
Straw and palm-leaf manufactures		1, 681, 330 01	2, 263, 018 12
Total.....		156, 151, 723 70	210, 918, 125 46

* From Hawaiian Islands.

From the above official table it will be seen that the home value of articles imported in 1878 was..... \$156, 151, 723 70
Value of duty added in 1878 was..... 210, 918, 125 46

This is a large amount of money paid for agricultural products that ought to be produced in our own country. We find by this table we pay foreign countries for—

Sugar and molasses, annually, nearly.....	\$90, 000, 000
Tobacco and cigars, annually, nearly.....	6, 000, 000
Wine, annually, nearly.....	4, 000, 000
Wool, annually, nearly.....	7, 000, 000
Barley, annually, nearly.....	4, 000, 000
Eggs, annually, nearly.....	726, 000

Eggs come in *free* of duty, and the amount paid is so large for so small an article that the following official table is given, which shows quantity, amount paid, and where from:

Quantity and value of eggs imported into the United States during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1878.

Countries.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Dozens.</i>	
China.....	87, 800	\$6, 022
Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island..	1, 096, 963	126, 574
Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and Northwestern Territory.	4, 866, 981	593, 297
Hong-Kong.....	1, 695	100
Mexico.....	210	44
Total.....	6, 053, 649	726, 037

Excluding silk and tea, the successful production of which is yet doubtful, and we pay annually more than one hundred millions for products that might be grown in our own country.

In the face of these figures and facts argument is not needed to show that agriculture is of the first and highest importance to our people and should be properly aided and encouraged.

A nation, like a corporation or individual that lives beyond his income, must in time become poor and in debt. After the war, between 1865 and the panic in September, 1873, we had what is usually called good times, when in fact as a nation we were paying to foreign countries much more than we received from them; that is, our imports were more than our exports, as the following official table will show:

NET IMPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE, COIN, AND BULLION.

Statement showing the total net imports of merchandise, coin, and bullion into the United States, and the domestic exports of merchandise, coin, and bullion from the United States, from 1860 to 1878, inclusive.*

Year ending June 30—	Total net imports.	Total domestic exports.	Excess of imports over exports.	Excess of exports over imports.
1860.....	\$335, 233, 232	\$373, 129, 274		\$37, 956, 042
1861.....	315, 004, 726	228, 699, 486	\$86, 305, 240	
1862.....	188, 902, 263	210, 688, 675		21, 786, 412
1863.....	226, 796, 336	241, 997, 474		15, 201, 138
1864.....	309, 305, 955	243, 977, 589	65, 328, 366	
1865.....	216, 441, 495	201, 558, 372	14, 883, 123	
1866.....	430, 770, 041	420, 161, 476	10, 608, 565	
1867.....	397, 220, 063	334, 763, 005	62, 457, 058	
1868.....	349, 023, 682	353, 135, 875		4, 112, 133
1869.....	412, 140, 841	318, 082, 663	94, 058, 178	
1870.....	431, 950, 422	420, 500, 275	11, 450, 153	
1871.....	513, 033, 809	512, 802, 267	231, 542	
1872.....	617, 569, 017	501, 285, 311	116, 283, 640	
1873.....	635, 407, 636	578, 938, 985	56, 528, 651	
1874.....	572, 080, 910	629, 133, 107		57, 052, 197
1875.....	531, 472, 529	583, 141, 229		51, 668, 700
1876.....	455, 407, 836	575, 620, 938		120, 213, 102
1877.....	466, 265, 045	632, 804, 962		166, 539, 917
1878.....	446, 039, 968	707, 738, 783		261, 698, 875

* Net imports mean total imports less imported merchandise, coin, and bullion afterwards exported to foreign countries, (specie values.)

The above statement clearly shows we paid, between 1860 and 1873, \$439,087,737 more for imports than we received for exports.

In 1873 trade reversed, and has been largely in our favor up to this time. During the five fiscal years between 1873 and 1878 we exported or sold \$659,072,791 more than we imported or bought. This is a good sign, and shows we are winding on and not off; and if we continue

to export largely more than we import, it is only a question of time, which I believe is not distant, when we will be a prosperous and happy people.

Europe, in addition to paying us the large balance of trade now in our favor, according to a recent statement of David A. Wells, expends an average annually of \$1,500,000,000 for war and the support of standing armies, while since the formation of our Government our average expenses annually for these purposes have been about \$45,000,000.

In most of the governments of Europe all young men between the ages of twenty and twenty-seven are obliged to serve in the standing armies, thereby taking seven years of each man's life from useful industries.

If we had no other advantage than these named, we would in time grow rich and Europe poor.

WEST VIRGINIA.

And now, Mr. President, I trust I will be pardoned for turning aside and briefly referring to the State which I have the honor in part to represent, whose mineral and agricultural resources are so great and so varied. They are largely undeveloped as yet, the greater part of them lying dormant; but when the treasures of this mountain State are unearthed, as they must in time be, they will astonish the world. In minerals, such as coal, iron, and salt, West Virginia stands unrivaled, with the one exception, Pennsylvania. In the production of oil, which has become one of our largest industries and one of our most productive sources of national revenue, West Virginia and Pennsylvania are entitled to all the credit.

West Virginia has also agricultural and other resources of which the general traveler, in passing through the State over our principal thoroughfares, has but an imperfect idea. The Baltimore and Ohio and Chesapeake and Ohio, the principal railroads which pass through the State in their search for the lightest grades follow closely the streams in their deeply sunken channels cut through the mountain gorges, and the stranger, seeing nothing, comparatively speaking, but wild, rugged, and picturesque scenery, would naturally have erroneous impressions as to soil, topography, and resources.

SOIL.

Professor Maury, in his work on West Virginia, says that the large proportion of the State is fortunate in having a loam soil, composed of clay and sand mixed in about equal proportions. It may be said to be the characteristic soil of the State.

The "bottom lands" along most of the rivers are widely celebrated for their productiveness. The mountain and hill sides and even the tops are unsurpassed for grazing. Some of the finest and largest cattle sold in the eastern markets are from West Virginia.

Indeed, the State presents great advantages to the successful prosecution of farming and other industries. We are progressing intellectually and morally. There is no State in the Union that has made greater advances in schools within the last decade. Our taxes are about as low as any State in the Union.

COAL.

The coal-fields of West Virginia are, beyond question, the most remarkable in the world. It is in this State that the veins of bituminous coal exhibit their maximum thickness, having in the Kanawha Valley a combined thickness of fifty feet. This State is the only place in this country where cannel coal is found in good quality and paying quantities; and it is said to be fully equal to the best English or Nova Scotia. The splint coal of the Kanawha Valley is one of the best non-coking coals for smelting iron that can be found anywhere. Another advantage our coal possesses is that it is nearest to the seaboard, and consequently the rates of transportation are, or ought to

be, greatly in our favor. The excellent gas and steam qualities of our bituminous coal are known all over the country.

The anthracite coal is confined to an area of about 470 square miles in Pennsylvania, where it alone is found in this country. The production in 1877 amounted to..... 21,323,000 tons. The coal area of West Virginia comprises near 16,000

square miles, with a production in 1877 of..... 1,000,000 tons. While the whole of Great Britain has but 11,900

square miles, with a production in 1877 of..... 134,179,968 tons.

Germany 1,770 square miles, producing in 1877..... 48,337,950 tons.

France 2,086 square miles, producing in 1877..... 16,763,779 tons.

A report made by the engineer department of the United States to the Secretary of War (Ex. Doc. 110, third session, Forty-first Congress, page 49) makes the following reference to West Virginia coals:

It is well known to geological men that the veins of bituminous coal which pervade the entire western slope of the Appalachian chain of mountains have their maximum aggregate thickness in the Kanawha Valley. From a late authentic work on the subject of Kanawha coals the following extract is made:

"The coal fields of the Kanawha region are superior to those of Great Britain or Pennsylvania. They are regarded by eminent gentlemen as the *finest deposit of coal in the world*. The quality of Kanawha cannel is equal to the best English; its bituminous is equal to the best found in Pennsylvania, and Kanawha splint, for smelting iron, is unsurpassed. The veins lie nearly horizontal, and vary from three feet to fifteen feet in thickness; and the aggregate thickness of the various seams in some localities amounts to forty and fifty feet of solid coal."

In the Piedmont or North Branch region the coal is fully equal to that in Kanawha Valley, and some of the veins now being worked are from fifteen to twenty feet thick of pure coal.

SALT AND NAILS.

The salt of the Kanawha and Ohio Valleys has the great advantage of being manufactured very cheaply; and it is a most superior article, as is attested by the preference given it in every market where it has been introduced. I doubt if there is another place in this whole country where salt can be made as cheaply as in the Kanawha and Ohio Valleys. There are over twenty salt-furnaces in the State, with an annual capacity of six million bushels.

West Virginia produces about one million kegs of nails annually, or about one-sixth of the whole amount of cut nails made in the world.

PETROLEUM.

Among the important productions of our State is petroleum. In the past three years, 1876, 1877, and 1878, there were produced in the oil regions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania 34,384,275 barrels or 1,444,139,550 gallons of petroleum, and of this amount there were exported 891,236,235 gallons of the value of \$141,270,198, or an average of about \$50,000,000 per annum. The production of petroleum in 1860 was but 10,542,000 gallons, while in 1878 it amounted to 619,007,004 gallons. The exportation of petroleum began in 1862, and in 1878 it amounted to near 66 per cent. of the entire production, being 407,482,175 gallons. It now ranks as the fifth article of export from this country.

TIMBER AND IRON.

The timber of our State is probably as good in quality and large in amount as that of any State in the Union. Almost every description of timber is found in the State, some of the most important varieties in great abundance.

The iron ore of West Virginia is abundant and varied. There are a number of iron-furnaces and rolling-mills in the State, and they all find a ready sale for their productions, which are of the best quality.

AGRICULTURE.

Though our State has such immense mineral resources, yet a large proportion of her population is engaged in agriculture. Until of

late years, although the soil is rich and gives generous returns, our people have paid but little attention to the raising of agricultural products for exportation. They were content to produce sufficient for home consumption. But now they are becoming more and more interested in the pursuit of agriculture and the development of the great resources of the State. This is evidenced by the interest taken by the people in the different county fairs, and the number of granges in the State. It was at first feared that the Patrons of Husbandry would drift into politics and lose their usefulness, but such is not the case. They are doing a good work in West Virginia. No State has a greater or better variety of soil, and with increased attention given to agriculture, with our climate and proximity to the great markets, it may be predicted that in the near future West Virginia will take high rank as an agricultural as well as a mineral State.

AID TO AGRICULTURE.

The General Government has from time to time found warrant in the Constitution to aid directly and indirectly other industries of minor importance. Then why not seriously take in hand the great underlying and fundamental interest upon which all others depend, and do what may be properly done to promote and encourage it? All other interests and industries in comparison are subordinate and insignificant.

The extremities should not be nursed and nourished and the body and heart remain abandoned and neglected.

There is a feeling in the minds of the people that there is too much political agitation and contention in Congress and out of it; that too much effort is made to gain and maintain party supremacy while weightier matters and the things that make for peace and tend to promote prosperity are neglected.

The country and the business interests want quiet and repose. Progress, success, and prosperity such as never blessed another nation or people are within our grasp; our manufacturing, commercial, and agricultural supremacy in the world is no longer doubtful, but certain and assured if only proper effort is made.

Just to what extent and in what manner and by what methods the great agricultural interests of our entire country may be best promoted it will be the duty upon the adoption of this resolution of the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture to determine, and I have no doubt they will bring to the subject that careful and thoughtful consideration which it so justly merits.

France has very recently appointed through her department of agriculture a commission of able and distinguished persons to examine into the subject of agriculture and to report what should be done to advance and encourage it.

In urging the attention of Congress to agriculture I do not wish to detract from the importance of mining, manufacturing, and commerce. The latter especially ought to be considered by Congress. Between 1850 and 1860 American bottoms or vessels carried fully 75 per cent. of our commerce; now only about 25 per cent. This ought not to be, and a remedy is needed.

CONCLUSION.

Heretofore much attention and encouragement has been given by Congress and the departments of the Government to banks, railroads, tariff, &c., and but little to agriculture, which is the great interest upon which all depends. It is to be hoped there will be a change for the better and that the farming interests will receive more attention and encouragement.

President Hayes said, in his last message to Congress:

The great extent of our country, with its diversity of soil and climate, enables us to produce within our own borders, and by our own labor, not only the necessities but most of the luxuries that are consumed in civilized countries. Yet, not-

withstanding our advantages of soil, climate, and intercommunication, it appears from the statistical statements in the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, that we import annually from foreign lands many millions of dollars' worth of agricultural products which could be raised in our own country.

Mr. President, the world has had many great and able men in state and in war, among them, Alexander, Cæsar, Napoleon, La Fayette, Wellington, Cicero, Burke, Pitt, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Lincoln; not one of these was, nor has the world yet produced, the equal of our great and pure Washington, who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In his eighth message to Congress he said:

It is not to be doubted that with reference either to individual or national welfare, agriculture is of primary importance. In proportion as nations advance in population and other circumstances of maturity this truth becomes more apparent, and renders the cultivation of the soil more and more an object of public patronage. Institutions for promoting it grow up, supported by the public purse; and to what object can it be dedicated with greater propriety?

Here we have in the early days of our Government, when most of the makers of the Constitution were yet alive, from Washington, who did more to give us our liberties and the Constitution we now enjoy than any other man, a direct recognition of the necessity and advantages of and the power and duty of Congress to encourage and foster agriculture.

Mr. President, I ask the passage of this concurrent resolution, and trust it may pass unanimously, as I think it ought to.

Mr. PADDOCK. Mr. President, I do not wish to retard the adoption of the resolution introduced by my colleague of the Committee on Agriculture, but I desire myself to speak briefly to this resolution, and I ask, therefore, that it may lie over for a time.

Mr. DAVIS, of West Virginia. As a matter of course, when the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture requests a postponement, I cannot refuse; but I will say to my friend, who is chairman of the committee of which I am a member, that I hope that at as early a day as practicable, or as may be convenient for him, he will call the resolution up, because if we are to have action upon it during this Congress, it ought to go to the House soon.