

MULES.—These animals were formerly used in great numbers for packing goods in the mountainous regions, anterior to the construction of roads, and are still, but of another variety, used largely as freight teams. The first were the Spanish mule, imported from Mexico, Peru and Chile; and the latter are the much larger animal raised of American stock, and very valuable, usually worth from \$200 to \$400 per head. The last Report of the Surveyor General gives the number at 23,071.

NEAT CATTLE.—The rearing of cattle was formerly the great business of the country, but it is not now so extensively prosecuted. The original Spanish stock, which covered the plains with wild cattle upon the advent of the Americans, has been rapidly exhausted by the slaughter—often wanton and wasteful—neglect and drought. To supply their place, many hundred thousand head have been driven from the Valley of the Mississippi to California, the most of which have gone to the shambles. Of late years, greater efforts have been made in the rearing of such stock, and with the vast resource of pasture at command, hopes are entertained that the State may supply the home demand in that product of which she was once an exporter. The climate is most favorable for all kinds of stock, and disease is almost unknown. The succeeding Agricultural Fairs for several years, continually growing in importance and interest, have given pleasing proof of the advance making in the improvement of the stock of neat cattle. Durhams, Alderneys, Devons and other favorite breeds, were exhibited in large numbers and of very fine quality. The number of neat cattle reported in the State in 1873, was 814,212. Notwithstanding the great area of our grazing lands and the productiveness of cultivated fields, whether in grass, grain or roots, much of the beef of the country is imported from Nevada and even from the plains of New Mexico and Texas.

Marin County leads largely in the products of the dairy, having made in 1873, 2,312,493 pounds of butter, and 43,000 pounds of cheese. Here are some of the largest and most complete dairies in the world, at one of which, upward of 3,000 cows are milked, though distributed in bands under the charge of separate parties. The cows are milked twice daily, and turned out day and night to feed. Hay is provided and fed in stormy weather. The production of butter is at the rate of one to one and a fourth pounds per diem for each cow, or about two hundred pounds per season, selling in San Francisco at from thirty to fifty cents per pound. The favorite stock here is the Short-horn mixed with American, the Devons proving poor milkers. The grazing is a rich bunch grass, kept fresh and verdant by fogs of the ocean, but nutritious when dry. The proportion of cows to acres on the ranches devoted to the purpose is about one to seven. This business, that has given great wealth to those who have pursued it in an energetic and enterprising manner, and while large quantities of butter and cheese are imported, invites others to enter upon it. The system also prevails where the capitalists owning the land, cattle, building and all implements necessary for the business, farms out the different dairies to those who do the work, at a rental of \$30 per cow per annum. The other counties leading in the business are Sonoma, San Mateo, Sacramento and Plumas, the aggregate manufacture being, according to statistical report of 1873: 5,321,469 pounds of butter, and 1,343,782 pounds of cheese.

California, although importing largely of both these products of the dairy, still exports some butter successfully to the great cities of the east, the fine quality and the early grass of our spring-like winters enabling our dairymen to obtain remunerative prices for their choice products. The best localities for the dairy are on the coast, and in the high and pleasant valleys of the Sierra, where are thousands of square miles of fine grass lands, watered by pure and sparkling streams, yet unoccupied, and most favorable for the rearing of stock and the manufacture of butter and cheese.

HOGS.—Swine were a tabooed animal under the Mexican rule in California, and no story can be told of porcine romance of the olden time. Pork has always been a high-priced article on the Pacific Coast, and less attention has been paid to this than any other stock, although the profits attending its rearing have always been large. The number of hogs reported in 1873 by the Surveyor-General was 215,531. Pork is a favorite food with the Chinese population, and is consumed largely in the many forms in which it is prepared by all classes of people. To show the anomalous condition of husbandry in California, it is but necessary to point to the large quantities of bacon, hams, lard, etc., imported at high rates, while the food suitable for making pork is sold at low rates for export.

POULTRY.—No more profitable branch of husbandry can be pursued in California than that of the raising of poultry. From the pioneer days of '49, when eggs were sold for two dollars each and chickens for an ounce, to the present, the market has never been overstocked, and prices have always been high. Many farmers have to thank their thrifty housewife, who, maintaining the poultry yard, by that means carried the family over the distress of dry seasons when the crops proved failures. But the great profits have not induced many to engage largely in the enterprise, and even now eggs are brought by rail from the states of the Mississippi Valley to the San Francisco market. Eggs are sold at from 25 to 50 cents per dozen, chickens at from 75 to \$1 each, turkeys at from 25 to 30 cents per pound, geese at from \$1.50 to \$3 per pair, and ducks at about half the rates. Such prices are not paid in other parts of the world, and indicate how profitable is the poultry yard to the farmer of the Golden State.

BEES.—The honey bee was introduced in California subsequently to the acquisition of the country by the United States, and it has spread wonderfully. Apiaries are established in every section of the State, and "bee trees" in great numbers are found in the neighboring forests. The season of honey-making lasts from February to the closing of the dry season, the bees storing chiefly during the summer. A great variety of trees, shrubs and flowers furnish the feeding ground, and "Orange Flower honey" is an attractive and common brand.

SHEEP.—The growth of wool has proven one of the most profitable branches of industry pursued in California. The range is extensive, the stock healthy, the increase rapid, and the prices for wool and mutton high. Under these circumstances, it is not strange that great fortunes have been made. The production of wool is rapidly increasing, the report of 1868 showing a clip of 15,049 pounds; in 1869, 3,402,364, and the census of 1870 reports a clip of 11,391,743 pounds. The yield in 1873 was 30,649,497, and in 1874 about 38,000,000, an increase of over seven million pounds to a year. The usual price of wool is in the neighborhood of 25 cents per pound, or an aggregate return to the State of \$9,500,000. The counties most largely engaged in the business are along the coast, south of the Bay of San Francisco, though in all the counties sheep are raised, but generally in large bands, and not in the small flocks which so greatly aid the farmer in other countries. The original stock was the small Mexican sheep, but this has been so greatly improved that Merino now predominates. Other fine breeds have been introduced, greatly enhancing the value of the stock; some Cotswold, attaining a weight of four hundred pounds, and furnishing a fleece of the very finest wool, weighing eighteen pounds. This breed thrives exceedingly well in California, even better than the common stock, and is excellent for its mutton, as well as valuable for its long, fine and heavy fleece. About 4,000,000 pounds of the wool shorn in California is manufactured here, and the balance exported. The woolen goods of this State, particularly blankets, have obtained a high reputation in the East, whence, and to the mining region of the interior, large quantities have been sent.

ANGORA GOATS have been reared quite extensively, though chiefly in mixed breeds, being crossed with the common goat, as the most inexpensive way of obtaining a flock of this fine-haired animal. They are very hardy, and thrive well upon the sparse herbage of the foot-hills. The wool of the Angora has not yet made a figure in the market, the skins tanned with the hair on being the most marketable.