

fed upon their farms, or measure the supplies consumed in their families, or the roots and grains fed to their stock, we must be prepared to find the census returns of these items founded upon estimates more or less approaching the truth, according to the soundness of judgment or systematic habits of the person answering the inquiries. Manufactures conducted methodically, and limited to the consumption of a few kinds of material, and the yielding of few kinds of product, are liable to but few difficulties in obtaining their statistics, the principal of which arises from the fact that the inquiries are made at a season of the year when the accounts are not posted up. The period which they embrace, extending through parts of two years, renders comparison with statistics for the civil year inconvenient and liable to error. The greatest difficulty incident to the procuring of manufacturing statistics, arises from the mixed and complicated character of the business, which may in one place embrace many distinct pursuits that elsewhere are reported separately. A furnace for reducing iron from the ore, may, for example, be connected with an iron foundry, smith shops, machine shops for working wood and metals, and the manufacture of a great variety of articles, which, as they are conducted together, will defy the most patient attempts at analysis, in assigning to each its due proportion of labor and capital. For this difficulty there can scarcely be hoped a remedy, and the science of statistics must, in many cases, be content with a general statement of values, and a very comprehensive plan of classification.

Inquiries of a historical character have been in some census schedules, but generally without satisfactory result. However desirable it might be to ascertain the date of establishment on a general retrospect of operations, this information often requires an amount of investigation or a search after absent records, that must be left to the local historian, rather than be imposed upon the Census Marshal. Of a still more objectionable and wholly impracticable character, would be inquiries implying professional education or special qualifications, such

as those relating to geology or natural history, which, to be worth anything, must be obtained by skillful persons, carefully instructed and generally familiar with the subject. There is constantly a tendency to the introduction of special inquiries into the census, to supply information that may interest a small class, but would prove of little general utility.\* They may perhaps, of themselves, be important, but in general, should be ascertained by investigations made for the particular purpose, by those whom they especially concern.

Respectfully yours,

FRANKLIN B. HOUGH.

ALBANY, March 8, 1859.

RUSSIAN AMERICA.

	1854.	1855.
Revenue—Products from sale of furs	\$568,563	\$564,689
“ “ other articles	258,415	268,060
Total .....	\$826,978	\$832,749
Expenses of administration in Russia and the colonies.....	\$400,362	\$424,435
Assurances, cost of freights and duties paid .....	277,759	259,457
Total .....	\$678,121	\$683,892
Russian population, Jan. 1, 1856.....	9,725	

SURINAM AND THE DUTCH WEST INDIES.

In 1854 the population of Surinam consisted of:—

Free.....	13,793	viz.,	Males, 6,990	Females, 6,803
Slave.....	38,545	“	18,313	“ 20,232
Total ..	52,338	“	25,303	“ 27,035

and contained 256 plantations, on which were residing 924 free, and 32,524 slave persons. Of these 91 were sugar, 52 coffee, 15 coffee and cocoa, and 32 cotton plantations.

The sugar exports were, in the year named: to the Netherlands, 22,055,108 lbs.; to North America, 4,654,276 lbs.; and to other places, 6,376,634 lbs.—total, 33,083,018 lbs., valued at 2,333,763 gulden. The molasses exported was:

\* In preparing the schedules for the New York State Census of 1855, the Secretary of State received suggestions in some instances strikingly illustrative of the above statement. One correspondent wished inquiries about the kind and quantity of timber; another, the number of sheep slain by dogs, and others, subjects quite as foreign as these to the legitimate objects of the census.

to North America, 672,919; and to other places, 277,193—total 950,112 gallons, valued at 190,022 gulden. The rum exported amounted to 94,408 gallons, valued at 57,424 gulden; coffee, 66,618 lbs., 140,553 gulden; cocoa, 194,254 lbs., 33,719 gulden; and cotton, 677,705 lbs., 219,036 gulden.

The population of the Dutch West India Islands in the same year was as follows:

Islands.	Free.	Slaves.	Total.
Curacoa .....	11,413	5,418	16,831
Bonaire .....	1,570	769	2,339
Aruba .....	2,635	566	3,201
St. Martin (part).....	1,300	1,618	2,918
St. Eustache .....	785	1,071	1,856
Saba .....	1,060	649	1,709
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>18,763</b>	<b>10,091</b>	<b>28,854</b>

—or, according to religious faith, as follows:

Islands.	Protestant.	Catholic.	Jewish.
Curacoa .....	1,922	14,123	786
Bonaire .....	120	2,218	1
Aruba .....	428	2,772	2
St. Martin .....	1,187	100	1
St. Eustache .....	1,623	230	3
Saba .....	1,682	27	..
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>6,962</b>	<b>19,470</b>	<b>793</b>

RAILROADS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Subjoined is a statement of the cost, earnings, etc., of the railroads of New Hampshire, from the opening of the Concord Railroad in 1842, to the present time. It presents a complete summary of the operation of all the railroads in the State, for a period of 16 years. The railroads running into this State, but lying chiefly in other States, are not included—an account of these more properly coming under a description of railroads of other States.

The total aggregate expenditure upon all the railroads in the State at the date of the annual report of the Railroad Commissioners in June last, adding together that for the several years, has been \$158,412,974. The total gross earnings have been, \$16,631,301; the current expenses, \$9,367,459; net earnings, \$7,260,269. Receipts from passengers, \$6,176,991; receipts from freight, \$9,284,760; receipts from mails, etc., \$563,050.

The rate of gross earnings to cost has been about 11 per cent.; net, was nearly 5 per cent. A better result would have been shown, had the railroads lying partially in the State, such

as the Nashua and Lowell, and Boston and Maine, been included. The reason why so few dividends have been paid, has been due to the embarrassed state of the finances of the companies, rather than to a lack of earnings.

RECAPITULATION

Showing the cost, earnings, etc., of the New Hampshire Railroads, from the opening of the Concord Railroad to the present time.

Year.	Length.	Cost.	Gross Receipts.	Current Expenses.	Net Receipts.	Receipts from Passengers.	Receipts from Freight.	Receipts from Miscellaneous.
1843.....	35	\$725,059	\$70,912	\$27,184	\$43,728	\$48,074	\$6,420	\$1,068
1844.....	35	742,223	139,080	68,167	70,913	72,729	65,099	860
1845.....	35	756,444	181,862	82,929	98,913	90,545	90,099	1,186
1846.....	35	779,891	228,479	135,055	109,971	115,469	115,469	3,078
1847.....	35	1,042,718	290,228	176,453	113,774	133,544	141,117	15,568
1848.....	158	4,819,771	494,020	280,143	228,977	218,210	260,780	15,078
1849.....	171	6,764,402	776,932	316,194	416,738	321,200	428,759	17,972
1850.....	320	10,802,640	1,114,160	563,696	550,449	497,183	577,019	39,980
1851.....	393	12,453,732	1,307,123	656,476	562,074	502,227	655,252	49,154
1852.....	440 1/2	16,242,119	1,873,140	869,492	620,545	539,920	606,077	54,348
1853.....	440 1/2	17,064,659	1,873,140	1,069,684	741,366	610,080	1,082,915	60,181
1854.....	531	17,064,659	2,004,716	1,184,108	860,893	660,266	1,180,575	62,787
1855.....	532 1/2	18,205,116	2,009,009	1,071,302	707,696	624,942	1,163,652	66,838
1856.....	538 1/2	18,444,634	1,717,474	1,091,776	637,696	534,749	990,853	54,718
1857.....	539	17,431,961	1,672,152	1,001,237	683,065	547,280	1,004,529	75,360
1858.....	539							
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,825</b>	<b>\$158,412,974</b>	<b>\$16,631,301</b>	<b>\$9,367,459</b>	<b>\$7,260,269</b>	<b>\$6,176,991</b>	<b>\$9,284,760</b>	<b>\$563,050</b>

COAL MINES OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

The production from 10 mines in 1851 was 67,610, and in 1852, 67,404 tons; from 13 mines in 1853, 96,809; from 12 mines in 1854, 116,642; and from 14 mines in 1855, 137,076 tons.