terested good-will, we are continually receiving evidences that our citizens have been highly delighted with the happy means which the Legislature, Your Excellency, and the Government have so wisely adopted to develop the commercial, agricultural and mineral resources of the country, and the mechanical, scientific and intellectual capacities of the people. Great praise is due to the exhibitors that they have all been satisfied with their awards, whether small or large, thus evincing their honest purpose not to vie with each other for considerations of present gain, but to provoke each other to more active industry and better works, and to develop the wealth and natural resources of our common country with a patriotic zeal and devotion only to promote her best interest and highest happiness. Probably on no other occasion in the history of our race have there been such abundant evidences at one time of the capacity of our people for self-support, self-government, and true independence. Not only animal and vegetable food and raiment, but many of the luxuries of civilized life are now produced in profusion from our own soil. Truly a new era has dawned upon our nation, and the finger of Providence points us to a higher, happier and brighter destiny.

COTTON.

Cotton, sugar, coffee, which give fair promise of soon becoming the principal staple products of our country, were some of the articles that claimed our special attention. The lateness of the dry season prevented the maturity of the crops, and the severer competition which otherwise would have followed. There were more than a dozen specimens of cotton, but only one that in weight reached the amount required by the law. Those lots which were less than fifty pounds were the best ginned and cleaned, exhibiting several qualities, some of a coarser and finer texture, some a long and silky staple. We regret that our limited knowledge of testing these qualities would not enable us to recommend with certainty only the best marketable specimens. There were some good specimens exhibited from stalks of American seed planted seven and eight years ago, the same trees producing good cotton for eight successive years. Other specimens of cotton were shown from American seed planted last year. But the principal lots were of native African cotton, and several twenty-yard pieces of cotton cloth were manufactured by our citizens from this kind, as well as many socks and stockings. Mrs. Martha Rix, formerly Mrs. Zion Harris, showed some very fine specimens of silk cotton socks, made from the cotton of the large silk cotton-tree, which grows wild in our forest from eighty to a hundred feet high.

This is perhaps the first time that any one has attempted to apply this product to any practical purpose. Of the common stock of African cotton there are several varieties, from which the native population of the interior manufacture annually many thousands of country cloths, which they constantly bring to our market for sale or exchange, thus showing that less than a hundred miles interior, large quantities of cotton are grown by native industry, which by a little effort on the part of our merchants and capitalists might be thrown into our market in the raw material for exportation. We think that it has been fully proven the last year, to the satisfaction of the Americo-Liberian population, that cotton being indigenous to this part of Africa, and perennial for seven or eight years, may be grown to an indefinite extent in any part of our territory. The only point next to settle to ensure success is, whether we can obtain cheap labor and cheap goods so as to afford a good article of well ginned and marketable cotton at five or six cents per pound. The growing of

cotton as a staple product, we regard as of primary importance; we shall not only recommend it as an experiment to all our population, but contribute our individual quota next year to the national stock.

SUGAR.

The article next in importance exhibited were several fine specimens of sugar from the banks of the St. Paul's. Our farmers in this article already emulously vie with each other in producing fine qualities. The success of sugar growing has ceased to be a question. It only remains for our planters to obtain small and convenient mills, and adopt some system of cheap manual labor, to enable them to produce an unlimited quantity of good sugar.

It has been supposed that in this climate sugar would not keep, but some of our farmers, to test the matter, exhibited fine specimens that were manufactured from the crops of last year. The two steam sugar-mills on the St. Paul's River, if the toll be not too high, have at least ten times the amount of labor that they did the last year. And we have every reason to believe that the crops of Montserrado county, if no sugar or syrup should be exported, would yield enough to supply all the demands of home consumption; while, at the lowest estimation of progress, the same demand may be met the next year, and fifty per cent. exported.

COFFEE.

Our superior Liberian coffee was also well represented by specimens from the Agricultural Committee. This produce seems to flourish equally well in all the counties. But the largest crops, at present, are produced in Grand Bassa county. Many of our citizens in Montserrado county have thousands of coffee-trees, but they have not yet attained that age and maturity which those have in the leeward counties, nor are we yet certain that our clay and loomy soil on the banks of the river is so well adapted to the growth and yield of coffee as the sandy soil of Bassa and Sinoe. But the representations that your Committee have seen show that there is a very large yearly increase of this product, and that the probability is strong that in a very few years we may hope to supply our home demand, and to export largely to other countries.

TOBACCO.

There were exhibited also some specimens of tobacco of a very good quality, raised and cured at Careysburg and on the St. Paul's River; besides this, we have seen other specimens cured in Liberia that could not be distinguished from some of the best we import from America. As tobacco is one of the kings of Africa, it has been a question with many whether it would be a wise and sound policy for the Government to encourage its growth. Those who profess to be judges say that the segars exhibited, manufactured from the Liberian tobacco, were a very good article.

RICE AND VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

The yield of rice and cassava the past year appears to have been most abundant; every farmer seems to have a large supply for his own use, and a surplus for sale. If only half of such crops should be planted from year to year, such a scarcity of bread-stuffs as we had the year before last could hardly ever again occur.

Arrowroot, ginger, cocoa, eddoes, yams, beans, peas, corn and corn meal, sweet potatoes, and many other vegetables, were well represented, while there were representations at the Fair, and from the Agricultural

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