

OILSTONES AND WHETSTONES.

PRODUCTION.

The value of the production of this class of abrasives in 1898 was the largest ever recorded, amounting to \$180,738, an increase of \$30,768 over that of 1897, and \$24,857 more than 1895, the year of previous maximum production. The product in 1898 consisted of 969,215 pounds of oilstones and water whetstones (against 846,000 pounds in 1897); 140,000 pounds of shoemakers and kitchen rubstones (a decrease from 240,000 pounds in 1897); 1,500 pounds of razor hones; 28,000 pounds of marble-cutters' rubstones; 150 gross of tablestones; and 25,242 gross of scythestones (an increase from 18,000 gross in 1897).

The rough material from which our oilstones, etc., are made is obtained from various localities in the United States. The finer grades of oilstones are made from two grades of novaculite quarried in the vicinity of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and known, respectfully, as "Arkansas" and "Washita" stone. Fine-grained sandstone, called "Hindustan" or "Orange" stone, from Orange County, Indiana; Lake Superior stone, quarried in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and a similar material, known as Labrador stone, from Cortland County, New York, and chocolate stone, from Lisbon, New Hampshire, are used for whetstones. Scythestones and rubstones are made from Indian Pond and Lamoille stone, quarried in Grafton County, New Hampshire, and Orleans County, Vermont; from Berea, Ohio, grit (which also furnishes grindstones), and from some of the Indiana sandstone.

In the following table showing the value of the production of oilstones, whetstones, scythestones, etc., since 1891, the values given are

for the finished stones, that being the first condition in which the product is marketed:

Value of oilstones, whetstones, etc., produced in the United States since 1891.

Year.	Value.
1891.....	\$150,000
1892.....	146,730
1893.....	135,173
1894.....	136,873
1895.....	155,881
1896.....	127,098
1897.....	149,970
1898.....	180,486

From 1880 to 1890, inclusive, the product and value of the rough stone has been published in these reports, exception being made in the case of the output for 1890, when the value for the unfinished product was given for the novaculite of Arkansas, and in all other cases the value of the finished stones is quoted. The annual production from 1880 to 1890 was as follows:

Product of oilstones and whetstones from 1880 to 1890.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	
1880.....	420,000	\$8,000
1881.....	500,000	8,580
1882.....	600,000	10,000
1883.....	600,000	10,000
1884.....	800,000	12,000
1885.....	1,000,000	15,000
1886.....	1,160,000	15,000
1887.....	1,200,000	16,000
1888.....	1,500,000	18,000
1889.....	5,982,000	32,980
1890.....	69,909

IMPORTS.

The following table shows the total value of all kinds of hones and whetstones imported since 1880:

Imports of hones and whetstones since 1880.

Year ending—	Value.	Year ending—	Value.
June 30, 1880.....	\$14, 185	Dec. 31, 1890.....	\$37, 454
1881.....	16, 631	1891.....	35, 344
1882.....	27, 882	1892.....	33, 420
1883.....	30, 178	1893.....	25, 301
1884.....	26, 513	1894.....	26, 671
1885.....	21, 434	1895.....	32, 439
Dec. 31, 1886.....	21, 141	1896.....	50, 588
1887.....	24, 093	1897.....	34, 485
1888.....	30, 676	1898.....	30, 856
1889.....	27, 400		