

**SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL
AND LABOR STATISTICS FOR
THE STATE OF MAINE 1902**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649057580

Sixteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Industrial and Labor Statistics for the State of Maine
1902 by Commissioner of Industrial and Labor Statistics

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Cover @ 2017

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COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR STATISTICS

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AUGUSTA
KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT
1903

INTRODUCTION.

The work of the Bureau during the past year has been largely devoted to the investigation of important industries and to ascertaining the development and extent of trade unionism in the State.

Among the important industries of Maine is that of the manufacture of granite, an industry that is carried on to a greater or less extent in nearly every county. The fact that there are about one hundred and fifty quarries, about fifty being in active operation, shows that the amount of work required for this special investigation was necessarily very great. This investigation shows that this industry is in a prosperous condition. Maine now occupies the leading position among the states of the Union as a granite producing State, having gone ahead of Massachusetts which heretofore has led in this industry. Brief but interesting articles upon the manufacture of artificial stone, a novel enterprise not generally known by the public, and on the manufacture of brick by machinery and the lime industry are included in this report.

Efforts have heretofore been made by the Bureau to obtain statistics relating to trade unions, but with slight success. The commissioner is glad to be able to report that much greater interest and readiness to answer the questions asked by the Bureau has been manifested the present year. The unions have largely increased in numbers, membership and influence, and nearly every trade is represented. While it cannot be claimed that the exhibit made in the report is complete and fully accurate, owing to changes which have been constantly going on during the progress of this investigation, yet it will be seen that trade unionism in Maine has become an important factor in its industrial conditions.

Other features of the report are a compilation of returns from the assessors of the cities, towns and plantations, of factories, mills and shops for manufacturing purposes, enlarged, completed, or in process of erection during the year 1902; an article relating to the railroads in the State; cotton and woolen industries; and agricultural and other statistics compiled from census bulletins.

An extended description of Rumford Falls, the phenomenal development and growth of which, owing to its great water power, has attracted the attention of the country, is published in the report and will be found of great interest.

The report of the Inspector of Factories, Workshops, Mines and Quarries is published in this report in accordance with the provisions of the law.

The conditions of labor during the past year have been quite satisfactory and but few labor disturbances have taken place within the State. Labor has been in great demand and employment at good wages the prevailing rule.

The commissioner desires to express his obligations for faithful services rendered him in the prosecution of his work by his efficient clerk, Major C. J. House, and special agent, Francis Wiggin.

THE GRANITE INDUSTRY OF MAINE.

In her magnificent granite quarries the State of Maine has an inexhaustible resource of wealth. It is no exaggeration to say that Maine has granite enough within her borders to supply all the cities of the world with building and paving stone for many centuries to come. The work of fifty years in some quarries in the State has hardly left an impression, while there are countless sites for quarries that have never yet been operated. Like marble or slate, granite becomes of better quality the farther it is removed from the surface; hence, the longer a granite quarry is worked the more valuable it becomes.

Granite may be defined as a crystalline granular rock, consisting of quartz, feldspar and mica, and is usually of a whitish, grayish, or flesh-red color.

Gneiss differs from granite in having the mica arranged in planes, so that the stone breaks readily into large slabs or flags.

In syenite, hornblende takes the place of mica, so that the rock is composed of quartz, hornblende and feldspar. The granite in Island Falls is really syenite. Much of the granite in York county is syenite, as is also part of the red granite of Washington county and Mount Desert island.

It is somewhat difficult for the amateur to distinguish true granite from gneiss, neither is it essential to do so, for both are fitted for the same purposes. The beautiful Hallowell granite is really gneiss, and there are many other quarries of what is known as granite that a geologist would call gneiss. Granite is a general term, however, applied indiscriminately to all three varieties.



YORKTOWN MONUMENT, YORKTOWN, VA.
Built by the Hallowell Granite Works, Hallowell, Maine.

THE ORIGIN OF GRANITE.

The origin of granite remains in doubt and geologists are divided now as of old in regard to the question. The preponderance of opinion at the present time seems to be that granite is a metamorphic rock, that is, a rock that has been formed from other rocks, possibly from shales and sandstones, under the influence of heat and pressure. The heat must have been sufficient to render the original materials so plastic that the primal structure of the rock was wholly obliterated, and then new crystalline masses were formed out of the fused mass. It is not now considered that granite was a primeval rock but that it has resulted from changes in other rocks.

Professor Hitchcock supposes, in the case of granite, an aqueo-igneous fusion, or the combination of a moderate heat with water or steam, and by this view a large proportion of granite rocks may be only metamorphosed schists. One thing is certain, whatever its origin, no rock in the earth's crust is more useful to man than granite. It embellishes and beautifies his haunts while living, and it renders attractive the grounds where sleep the dead.

PERSONAL INVESTIGATION.

The special agent of the bureau of statistics, to whom the collection of data in regard to the granite industry was assigned, visited all the larger quarries and the more extensive granite cutting plants in the State and had personal interviews with the operators, besides observing the extent of the quarry, the color, quality and texture of the stone, the facilities for handling the product and placing it on board vessels or cars for transportation. The agent was received most courteously by all operators and workmen and his questions, both printed and verbal, were fully and freely answered.

To facilitate the gathering of essential facts in regard to the granite industry, a blank was prepared containing the following questions:

1. Name of company or corporation,.....
2. Location,
3. When organized,.....
4. Capital invested,.....

5. Value of production during the last fiscal year,.....
6. Whole number of employes,.....
7. Number of quarrymen.....; stone cutters,.....;
paving cutters,.....; blacksmiths,.....;
common laborers,.....; other workmen,.....
8. Description of product,.....
9. Number of hours of labor per day,.....
10. Average daily wages of quarrymen,.....; stone
cutters,.....; paving cutters,.....;
blacksmiths,.....; common laborers,.....;
other workmen,.....
11. What is the market for your production,.....
12. Do you consider your quarry practically inexhaustible,.....
13. What State legislation, if any, would benefit the granite
industry,
14. Are your employes union or non-union,.....
15. What effect on the amount of production does the reduction
of the number of working hours have,.....
16. Is the granite industry, as far as your plant is concerned, in
as prosperous a condition now as in former years,.....
17. Please give a list of noted residences, public buildings,
monuments, etc., built of granite from your quarry.
.....

This blank list of questions was sent by mail to all granite quarries in the State so far as their location could be ascertained, except those visited by the special agent; and although the returns received from such were not so full and complete as those from quarries visited by the agent of the bureau, yet they were in the main very satisfactory. In all, sixty-three returns were received, fifty from quarries in operation and thirteen from those not in operation.

The directory which follows gives a list of 152 quarries in the State. This would indicate that there were 89 from which no returns were received, but these are generally small quarries which are either shut down at the present time or are furnishing small quantities of granite for local use. Those heard from practically cover the granite business of the State.