

“Production of Slate”

In *Scientific American*, Vol. LXIII, No. 8
August 23, 1890, pp. 117

This article, which begins on the next page,
is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

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November 2012

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“The statistics gathered by William C. Day, for the new census, place the total value of all slate produced in the United States in 1889 at \$3,444,863. Of this amount, \$2,775,271 is the value of 828,990 square of roofing slate, and \$669,592 is the value of slate for all other purposes besides roofing.

“As compared with the statements of the tenth census report of 1880 on stone, the roofing slate product of 1889 is nearly twice as great in number of squares and in value.

“Twelve States at present produce slate. A line drawn on the map from Piscataquis County, Maine, to Polk County, Georgia, and approximately following the coast outline, passes through all the important slate-producing localities. According to amount and value of product, the most important States are, in the order named, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Maine, New York, Maryland, and Virginia. In the remaining six States productive operations are of limited extent, and in the case of Arkansas, California, and Utah, of very recent date.

“The twelve States referred to do not include all those in which merchantable slate is known to exist, since discoveries promising good results for the future have been made in a number of other States, among which may be specially mentioned Tennessee, where operations of production are beginning.

“The slate quarrymen of the country, and to a considerable extent the firms operating the quarries, are either Welsh or of Welsh descent, many of them having learned the methods of quarrying slate in the celebrated quarries of Wales.

“The quarries are operated on an average of about 220 days in the year. The idle days are the result of rainy weather and holidays. The first day of every month is regarded as a holiday by the Welsh quarrymen, and no work is every done by them on Saturday afternoons.

“The average wages for the entire country paid to foremen or overseers is \$2.48 per day, for quarrymen and millmen \$1.56, for mechanics \$1.64, for laborers \$1.27, and for boys 76 cents.”