the manufacturing plants located here has never been attempted. It might be enlightening but would be of only temporary value because of the constant changes.

The first settlers engaged almost exclusively in the cultivation of the soil. It was not long, however, before manufacturing was established. The Moravian settlement at Bethlehem at a very early period undertook to make themselves independent. In the division of labor, masons, carpenters, weavers, spinners, millers, potters, and farmers were engaged in their special lines. In 1754, 13 years after the founding of Bethlehem, 60 industries were being carried on in the community, with iron bars almost the only product imported.

Agriculture.—In all communities in which the basis of settlement is the search for freedom, agricultural interests are in the beginning the chief concern. Grains must be grown as quickly as possible. Game was plentiful in the Lehigh Valley when the first settlers arrived and the streams were well stocked with fish. Crops were quickly planted. Wheat, corn, rye and potatoes were grown for food and flax was planted to supply material for clothes. At an Indian settlement just north of the present borough of Nazareth peaches and apples were being grown and these fruits were extended to the new settlements of the whites. In a comparatively short time the settlers made themselves fairly independent so far as food was concerned, and the excess grains and hides were hauled to Philadelphia where other necessary commodities were obtained.

The earliest settlements were made in the limestone valleys and along the streams where the soil was rich and the fairly level topography appealed to the farmers. With the rapid influx of population, the more rugged country was occupied.

For the past 150 years there has been little idle land in the lower part of the Lehigh Valley except in limited areas of steep slopes. In the upper part of the Valley where the best forests were found and where the stony character of the soil interferes with cultivation, rather large areas have never been under cultivation.

For a long time the principal crops were wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, timothy, clover, and alfalfa. When the central states became a great granary and the prices of grain were lowered it gradually became evident that the growing of potatoes, especially in the shale areas where the soil is particularly suitable, was more profitable than grain. For many years the potato crop of certain sections has greatly exceeded the grain crops in value.