

HANDICRAFTS AND INDUSTRIES

Industries in Iceland are on a very small scale, though some progress has been made during the last few years. Forty years ago they provided a living for only about 2 per cent. of the population; according to the census returns of 1920 they employed 12 per cent. of the nation (see article on Population, page 17). *Domestic industries* have, on the other hand, greatly declined of late. Formerly almost all the wool production of the country was used in the home manufacture of woollen goods (socks, mittens, knitted jackets, and *vaðmál* or wadmal, a kind of coarse woollen cloth), both for use at home and for the foreign market. There was thus a considerable export trade in knitted ware and wadmal, and some of these articles (e. g. socks and mittens) are still exported, though in very small quantities, and almost exclusively from one district. But the decrease in the sale of these commodities abroad has been accompanied by an enormous increase in the importation of foreign drapery, ready made clothes, and underwear. In recent years attempts have been made at reviving the domestic industries generally, and the societies formed for this purpose throughout the country have organized themselves into a national union (*Samband íslenzkra heimilisiðnarfélaga*). They enjoy a State grant, and have arranged courses in weaving etc.

By far the most common *handicraft trades* are tailoring and carpentry; then come black-smithing, shoemaking, bricklaying, stone masonry, printing and bakers' trades; and net-making (braiding), of late.

Icelandic *manufactures* are still in their infancy, and the enormous water power of the country (see article on Natural Resources, page 9) is as yet for the most part unharnessed. During the last few years a few factories have been established. Among the first of these were the woollen cloth manufactories of which there are 3 at present, two em-