

formed,<sup>18</sup> its members rapidly increased, and in 1668 the capital amounted to 22,000 livres. Eight directors were appointed, at salaries of 12,000 livres a year, to conduct the manufacture, and the company held its sittings in the Hôtel de Beaufort at Paris. The first distribution of profits took place in October 1669, amounting to 50 per cent. upon each share. In 1670, a fresh distribution took place, and 120,000 livres were divided among the shareholders. That of 1673 was still more considerable. In 1675, the ten years' privilege ceased, the money was returned, and the rest of the profits divided. Colbert likewise set up a manufactory at the Château de Madrid, built by Francis I., in the Bois de Boulogne. Such was the origin of point lace in France.

The difficulties met by Colbert in establishing his manufactories can only be estimated by reading his correspondence; in which there are not less than fifty letters<sup>19</sup> on the subject. The apathy of the town authorities and the constant rebellions of the lace-workers, who preferred their old stitch, were incessant sources of trouble to him, but eventually Colbert's plan was crowned with success. He established a lucrative manufacture, which brought large sums of money into the kingdom,<sup>20</sup> instead

tant à l'éguille qu'au coussin, en la manière des points qui se font à Venise, Gennes, Raguse et autres pays estrangers, qui seroient appellés points de France." In a subsequent arrêt (15 Oct. 1666) it is set forth that the entrepreneurs have caused to be brought in great numbers the best workers from Venice and other foreign cities, and have distributed them over the above-mentioned towns, and "qu'au moyen de l'application que l'on y a portée, il se fasse en France des ouvrages de fil si exquis, qu'ils esgellent, mesme surpassent en beauté les estrangers." Bibl. de la Cour de Cassation.

<sup>18</sup> Talon, "secrétaire du cabinet," was one of the first members.

We find by an arrêt, 15 Feb. 1667, that this patent had already been infringed. On the petition of Jean Pluyers, Paul, and Catherine de Marcq, "entrepreneurs de la Manufacture Royale de toutes sortes de points de fil," that notwithstanding the prohibition of previous arrêts, the merchants continue to sell and

many to wear, "par une license qui ne peut être permise," other points, old or new, than those made in the royal manufactory, the king renews the prohibition. Arch. Nat. Coll. Rondoneau.—Nov. 17 of the same year appears a fresh prohibition of wearing or selling the passements, lace, and other works in thread of Venice, Genoa, and other foreign countries (British Museum), and, 17 March 1668, "Itératives" prohibitions to wear these, either new or "commencé d'user," as injurious to a manufacture of point which gives subsistence to a number of persons in the kingdom. Ibid.—Again, 19 Aug. 1669, a fresh arrêt in consequence of complaints that the workers are suborned and work concealed in Paris, &c. Arch. Nat. Coll. Rondoneau.

<sup>19</sup> See "Correspondance administrative de Colbert," published by Depping.

<sup>20</sup> Colbert said to Louis XIV.: "There will always be found fools enough to purchase the manufactures of France, though France should be prohibited