

**THE AMERICAN COTTON
INDUSTRY: A STUDY OF WORK
AND WORKERS, CONTRIBUTED
TO THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649046300

The American Cotton Industry: A Study of Work and Workers, Contributed to the Manchester Guardian by T. M. Young

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

T. M. YOUNG

**THE AMERICAN COTTON
INDUSTRY: A STUDY OF WORK
AND WORKERS, CONTRIBUTED
TO THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN**

THE AMERICAN COTTON INDUSTRY

A STUDY OF WORK AND WORKERS, CONTRIBUTED
TO THE *MANCHESTER-GUARDIAN*

LIBRARY
LESLIE AND STANFORD JUNIOR
UNIVERSITY

BY
T. M. YOUNG

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
ELIJAH HELM, M.A.
SECRETARY TO THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LONDON
METHUEN & CO.
NEW YORK: CHARLES SCRIBNERS' SONS

1902
F.

P R E F A C E

THE publication in volume form of this imperfect study of the American Cotton Industry affords the Author a welcome opportunity publicly to thank those friends in England and in the United States who assisted him in his investigations. Nothing could exceed the liberality and courtesy with which American manufacturers and others admitted him to their mills and talked to him of their business, knowing, as they did, that everything they said and disclosed might be 'used against them.' This debt of gratitude he cannot himself hope to repay; but if any information in this book should prove to be of value to English manufacturers, he hopes that they will consider it a gift from America, and return it in kind when American manufacturers come to England upon a similar errand. The Author can say without affectation that any merits which his book may have are due to these American and English friends, and that its many shortcomings are due to himself.

MANCHESTER,

July 31, 1902.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION, by Elijah Helm, M.A., Secretary of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce	xi-xvi

CHAPTER I

Fall River, Massachusetts—Climate and water-power—Extent and variety of manufactures—Mixed population—Trade-unionism—Massachusetts factory laws and public holidays—The Fall River 'Ironworks'—Mill construction and insurance—Cost of buildings and machinery—English and American looms—Taxation—Wages and distribution of labour—Labour-saving <i>versus</i> cotton-saving—Quality of American print-cloth	1-13
---	------

CHAPTER II

New Bedford—From whaling to cotton—A typical fine-spinning mill—Electrical warp-stop motion—Electric driving—Wages for fine spinning and fancy weaving at New Bedford—Cost of ring frames—Fine spinning and fancy weaving at Fall River—Ingenious machinery and elaborate fabrics—A Lancashire weaver's experience—An older mill—Bad atmosphere—An odd spectacle	14-20
--	-------

CHAPTER III

A Rhode Island mill—The Northrop automatic loom—A magnificent weaving-shed—134 weavers to 2,000 looms—'Half-timers' and child labour—Work and wages—The loom-shops at Hopedale—The Queen City mill, Vermont	21-26
---	-------

CHAPTER IV

- Lowell, Massachusetts—The Merrimack River and its services—Comparative production of spindles in Massachusetts and Alabama—A drawing-in machine—Warping: a Lancashire contrast—The 'Standard List'—Six tapers to eleven machines—Automatic and semi-automatic looms—Comparative production and weaving prices—Loom-fixers and their work—Overseers—Workmen's homes and working mothers—An economic curiosity - 27-33

CHAPTER V

- Manchester, New Hampshire—A 'garden city'—Gigantic mills—Water-power and coal—Freight rates to Boston and New York—Wages at Manchester—'Unions' and 'ginghams'—A mill boarding-house—Middle-class comfort and cheap food—Lake Massabesic - 34-41

CHAPTER VI

- Maine—Successful competition with Lancashire—Magnificent waterfall—Smokeless soft coal: consumption and cost—Systematic 'time-cribbing'—Mule-spindles and rings—Piece rates and earnings—Sheetings, drills, and jeans—Percentage of imperfect cloth—Best climate for weaving drills—Mill boarding-houses and cottages—Migratory labour—Brunswick and Lisbon—Cheap power—The 'Harriman' automatic loom—Warp stop-motions and the quality of warps—An experiment that failed—A singular community - 42-52

CHAPTER VII

- The South—Conflicting opinions on Southern competition—An old Moravian settlement in North Carolina—The industrial awakening—An ingenious warp-dyeing machine—A journey into the wilderness—The 'accommodation' train—Cooleegee—A new mill village—Modern machinery and low piece rates—Southern weavers and the Northrop loom—Wages at Cooleegee—'No labour laws, no schools'—Cost of a Southern mill - 53-63

CHAPTER VIII

- Rapid growth of the cotton industry in the Charlotte district—Charlotte to Columbia—White children at work, black at

CONTENTS

ix

	PAGE
play—Columbia, South Carolina—A magnificent cotton mill and its cost—Difficulty of obtaining competent labour—Why negroes are not employed in the mills—Wages at Columbia—A country mill in South Carolina—Wood fuel—Day and night shifts—Children 'always falling asleep'—Indirect employment of very young children—The Harriman loom and its cost—A weaver in fifty-six mills—His opinion of the Harriman loom—The chain gang and its counterpart	64-75

CHAPTER IX

Augusta, Georgia—Municipal power canal—The King Mill labour dispute—A well-informed Baptist minister—His version of the quarrel—Character of the operatives—Visit to a strike commissary—The men's version—A determined resistance—The plan of campaign—Camping out by the Savannah River—The end of the strike—Work and wages at Augusta and the Horse Creek—The Enterprise Mill—Insurance and taxes—Raw material and freight	76-88
--	-------

CHAPTER X

Atlanta and its associations—'Up-to-dateness'—A race riot—A prosperous country mill—A mill at Atlanta—Dear power—The Northrop loom for drills—Wages at Atlanta—Cheap cotton—Attachment of employés—New Orleans—Louisiana factory laws—Climate of New Orleans—Manufacture of blue denims and cottonades—Liquid fuel—Dyeing lint cotton—Arrangement of carding engines—Piece rates and earnings—Low freight to New York—Workmen's dwellings	89-98
---	-------

CHAPTER XI

Cotton-planting in Louisiana—Planter and tenant farmer—Fertility of the Mississippi Delta—Maize on cotton plantations—Taxation of land and stock—Cost of producing a bale of 'benders' cotton—Finance—Anomalous transport charges—Bad packing—Character of the plantation negro—'Craps'—Negro wages and budgets—Superstition of the negro—Limits to the American cotton supply—An old planter's opinion—Scarcity of labour—Wanted, a machine	99-105
--	--------

