

**THE SILK INDUSTRY AND TRADE; A STUDY
IN THE ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION OF
THE EXPORT TRADE OF KASHMIR
AND INDIAN SILKS, WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO THEIR UTILIZATION IN THE
BRITISH AND FRENCH MARKETS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649290390

The silk industry and trade; a study in the economic organization of the export trade of Kashmir and Indian silks, with special reference to their utilization in the British and French markets by Ratan C. Rawley

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

RATAN C. RAWLLEY

**THE SILK INDUSTRY AND TRADE; A STUDY
IN THE ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION OF
THE EXPORT TRADE OF KASHMIR
AND INDIAN SILKS, WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO THEIR UTILIZATION IN THE
BRITISH AND FRENCH MARKETS**

95154

THE SILK INDUSTRY AND TRADE

95154

A Study in the Economic Organization of the
Export Trade of Kashmir and Indian
Silks, with Special Reference to their
Utilization in the British and
French Markets

BY

RATAN C. RAWLLEY,
M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.),

CARNEGIE RESEARCH FELLOW

AND INVESTIGATOR IN INDUSTRIAL ECONOMICS

London

P. S. KING & SON, LTD.

2 & 4 GREAT SMITH STREET, WESTMINSTER

1919



HD
9910
15
R3
cop. 2

PREFACE

THE present volume is intended to be an elementary introduction to my *Economics of the Silk Industry*. It embodies the results of an inquiry into the organization of the export trade of Kashmir and Indian silks, with special reference to their utilization in Great Britain and France. In undertaking this work, my principal object was to discover the exact requirements of the silk market and to present a general analysis of the facts to the interested parties. In doing this, I have pointed out a new source of supply for the consumer of raw silk and a new outlet for the producer. If India's resources of silk are to be developed on a commercial scale, they must find an outlet. The results of personal investigations outlined in this work clearly show what this outlet ought to be.

The inquiry was conducted mainly on commercial and economic lines, and covered nearly all the principal silk centres in this country and in France. It is gratifying to note that everywhere my investigations met with success, and almost all the manufacturers, merchants and brokers showed great interest in the subject.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all who helped me in my investigations. I am particularly obliged to Professor Lefroy, whose perfect knowledge of the Indian silk industry I used in formulating the lines of my inquiry. Sir Frank Warner, the then President of the British Silk Association, gave me valuable information with regard to the different aspects of the British silk industry.

During the course of my tour in England and Scotland I visited nearly every silk factory and saw the various

processes of manufacture in order to get an idea of the qualities of raw materials used in making silk fabrics and other silk goods. In this connexion, I have to express my thanks to Mr. J. Wheeldon, Managing Director, Messrs Brockelhurst & Sons, for his kind assistance and the particular interest he took in my mission. I am much indebted to Mr. James Dishley, of Messrs. Sir Thomas and Arthur Wardle, Leek, and Mr. Shorter, of Messrs. Wardle & Davenport, for their valuable help in supplying me with information concerning the Leek Sewing Silks Industry.

My thanks are also due to Mr. Frank Farrell, M.Sc., Managing Director, Messrs. Grout & Co., Yarmouth, and Mr. F. C. Hinde, of Norwich, for showing me the different departments of their factories. Mr. J. Sugden Smith, of Messrs. John Hind & Co., Bradford, took an active part in my investigations and very kindly introduced me to other manufacturers in the Bradford area. Mr. Richard Snow, of Messrs. Windley & Co., Nottingham, gave me useful information regarding the utility and commercial value of Bengal raw silks.

In Scotland, Messrs. W. Anderson & Co. and Messrs. Caldwell Young & Co. furnished me with particulars concerning the requirements of the Scottish silk industry.

In the Spinning Section, I am deeply indebted to Mr. A. J. Solly, of Congleton, and Mr. P. W. Metcalfe, of Messrs. Clayton Murgatroyd & Co., Halifax, for their kind assistance and supply of useful information concerning the utility and commercial value of all kinds of wastes.

With regard to my inquiries in France, I have first to thank the Secretary, Revenue and Statistics Department, India Office, for obtaining special facilities from the French Government through the Foreign Office. His Majesty's Ambassador in Paris was informed of my visit, and the late Sir Henry Austin Lee, Commercial Attaché to the British Embassy, very kindly made all subsequent arrangements for my tour in France. In addition to his kind help, Sir Henry showed great interest in this investigation, which he considered to be of great industrial importance to the silk-producing and silk-manufacturing countries. The

French Government granted all possible facilities for my work and due to this my inquiries met with success.

My special thanks are due to Mr. Edward Vicars, the British Consul General at Lyons, and Monsieur Morel, Vice-President, Lyons Chamber of Commerce, for cordial assistance and valuable help in arranging a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and also in introducing me to the leading members of the Lyons silk trade. I have obtained useful information from Mr. Vicar's Annual Reports on The Trade and Commerce of the Consular District of Lyons. I am also indebted to Monsieur Testenoire, who showed me the Lyons Conditioning House, and explained to me the nature of processes involved in the conditioning of silks.

At Marseilles, I received useful information regarding the sale of cocoons and reeling from M. Nicollerat, Director, Messrs. Chabrières Morel & Co., and their expert, M. Burle.

I have to express my thanks to several other members of the British and French silk trades; to so many, indeed, that I am sure I shall be forgiven if I do not quote in full the long list of their names.

I must, however, acknowledge special thanks to the Secretary of the Silk Association of America for kindly allowing me to reproduce two diagrams from the pamphlets issued by the Association. He has also kindly provided me with literature which has been of considerable use to me.

In the final preparation of this work, I have been greatly helped by Professors A. J. Sargent and W. R. Scott, both of whom have always aided me with their counsel and criticism. Mr. A. C. Mason very kindly read the whole of the manuscript before it was sent to the publishers. I offer my hearty thanks to all who have thus assisted me in my work.

In conclusion, I beg to acknowledge my hearty thanks to the Executive Committee of the Carnegie Research Trust and the Secretary of State for India, for their very valuable assistance, without which it would have been impossible for me to carry out my researches.

I have treated the results of my investigations in different

chapters of this book and have divided the subject according to its aspect and importance. In order to make the subject interesting from a practical point of view I have not adhered to the strict economic terminology, for which I hope I shall be excused. I believe that an inquiry conducted on practical lines in Japan and America would be very useful, not only to the Indian silk industry but also to the British silk-manufacturing industry.

R. C. RAWLLEY.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE,
CLARE MARKET, W.C.
April, 1918.

INTRODUCTION

It is a well-known fact that silk has now ceased to be exclusively an article of luxury. A rise in the standard of living in almost every civilized country of the world has produced a visible change not only in the form of dress but also in the materials used for that purpose. Some years ago silk was considered to be an article of great value and was meant only for the upper classes of the community, but now, though its value as a textile fibre is still the same, its use is becoming more widely spread than ever before. Silk fabrics are no longer a luxury, they find an important place among other articles of dress and are now used by nearly all classes. This growing demand for silk fabrics naturally creates a demand for raw silk and results in an extension of the silk trade.

In addition to its great utility in fabrics, silk plays a still greater part in medical and electrical sciences. Its strength and elasticity make it particularly suitable for surgical purposes, and as a non-conductor of electricity it surpasses every other fibre used for making electrical cables. Surgery on the one hand and electrical science on the other are both passing through a stage of advancement, and it is, therefore, certain that silk will be used more and more for scientific purposes in the future.

It is evident that the demand for raw silk is rising every year both in the world of art and in the world of science. With every increase in demand there is a corresponding increase in consumption. This increase in consumption is, to a certain extent, balanced by an increase in production. But speaking generally, one may say that the rate of increase in consumption is greater than the rate of increase in pro-