

## The Indian Cotton Industry in 1889.

Cotton spinning in India, destined later to become such a thorn in the side of the Lancashire industry, does not date back further than 1851, when a company called the "Bombay Spinning and Weaving Company," was organized, and a mill built. Notwithstanding the advantages of cheap labor and abundant supplies of raw material, the industry developed slowly at first, and it was not till the year 1861 that the Indian mills had increased to the number of one dozen, containing 338,000 spindles, and with an estimated annual consumption of 65,000 bales (3½ cwts. each) of cotton. From that time, however, the rate of progress became more rapid, till on June 30th, 1879, just eight and twenty years after the building of the first mill, we find their number given as 56, with a spindle total of nearly one and a half millions. This was a remarkable advance, but the expansion of the last eleven years throws it entirely into the shade. The return of June 30th, 1889, estimates the number of mills at 124 and the spindle power at 2,763,000. Thus in a period of a little more than a decade the Indian cotton industry has increased by 121 per cent.

The effect of this important industrial development, as far as our own Lancashire spinners are concerned, is perceptible rather in the markets of the extreme East and of Africa than of India itself. More especially is it in the rapidly growing export of Bombay yarns to China and Japan that the pinch of competition makes itself felt. But while the exports to these countries show an increasing rapidity of development, those to other ports have advanced but slowly, and the despatches of yarns up country, from Bombay by rail, have not only fallen away but have been surpassed by the receipts for export from the up-country mills. This goes to show that the spinners of the interior are turning their attention more and more to the production of yarns and less to piece goods. What the increase in the China trade has been will be best seen from the following figures.

In the year 1877 the export to China of Bombay manufactured yarns was 28,516 bales of 100 pounds each. A not inconsiderable total. In 1888, however, it amounted to no less than 234,071 bales. Still more remarkable are the figures of the exports to Japan. Only 142 bales of Indian yarn reached that country in 1877, but in 1888 the total had swollen to 52,697 bales. The comparatively cheap freights for Indian yarns and their adaptability to the Chinese and Japanese manufactures, especially in mixing with native yarns, are the principal causes of this increased trade. It is even said that, as far as China is concerned, the continued large import of Indian twist is steadily decreasing the trade in raw cotton, as the former can now be laid down in Hong Kong relatively cheaper than the latter. In Japan, however, it is likely that Bombay spinners will meet next year with severe competition from local manufactures. Throughout Japan there are at present twenty-two spinning mills, containing 102,600 spindles in operation, with 60,000 more which will be brought into effect very shortly. There are also eleven mills in course of construction, aggregating 79,000 spindles. The whole of these mills are erected with a view to ultimate extension, so that in the near future a very formidable competition will exist against the imported article.

Progress in the manufacture and export of Indian cotton piece goods has not been quite so remarkable as in the case of yarns, but is nevertheless sufficiently encouraging. Within the last eleven years the exports of grey and bleached goods have more than doubled, the increase being from 41½ to 88½ million yards. The trade in dyed goods, on the other hand, shows little expansion. The weight of all the exports of piece goods in the eleven years has increased from 1½ to 2½ million pounds. In 1888-9 the principal importing countries were the East Coast of Africa, China, Ceylon, and Singapore. Of these markets China is that which develops most rapidly, especially of late years. In 1886-7 she took 3,275,700 yards of Indian piece goods, while in 1888-9 her requirements exceeded 14,000,000 yards.

The following statistics, extracted from A. F. Beaufort's able work on Indian cotton, to which we are indebted for the main facts of this article, show very clearly the growth of the Indian textile industry and its relative importance at the present date. The proportion of spindles in Great Britain to those of the whole world was for the year 1886, 53.23 per cent.; in Continental Europe it was 28.46 per cent.; in the United States 16.04 per cent.; and in India 2.27 per cent. In 1889 the proportions had shifted as follows: Great Britain, 51.51 per cent.; Continental Europe, 28.54 per cent.; United States, 16.79 per cent.; India, 3.16 per cent. Within the last six years, therefore, the relative importance of Great Britain in the cotton textile industry has declined 1.72 per cent., while that of Continental Europe has increased .08 per cent., that of the United States .75 per cent., and that of India .89 per cent. More than half of the lost English percentage has thus been transferred to India, and that country shows also a more rapid proportional increase than any other, surpassing by .14 per cent. the progress made by the United States.—*British Trade Journal*

### At Jasper House.

The *Edmonton Bulletin* of Dec. 14 says:—"D. E. Noyes leaves this week for the White Mud lake, on the Jasper House trail, with the balance of W. Gordon Cumming's trading outfit. Mr. Cumming, who is now at his ranch—the Quora—south of Calgary, will not return north this winter. During their late trip west Cumming and Noyes crossed over from the Jasper House trail at White Mud Lake to the Smoky river, the main tributary of the Peace river east of the mountains, striking it at the site of anciently abandoned H. B. post called Grand Cache, about 180 miles north of the White Mud lake. It was the intention to prospect the Smoky for gold, but the season was so late that it was impossible to make more than a hurried examination. This showed gold in fine dust, but did not prove whether or not it existed in paying quantities. It also showed indications of coarse gold and of gold bearing quartz where the course of the Smoky lies within the mountains. Mr. Noyes brought with him some beautiful specimens of crystallized quartz. There are a number of hot and cold sulphur springs on the Smoky, and deposits of mica and asbestos are spoken of. Mountain trout are very numerous in the small tributary streams, and large game is fairly plentiful. The Indians have killed a large number of moose, and Cumming and Noyes

killed a number of mountain sheep. Mr. Noyes proposes to bring down the heads by sleighs during the winter. The Indians are well provided for this fall and there was every prospect of a mild winter. No snow had fallen at the foot of the mountains, and there has been no cold weather up to the time of leaving for Edmonton. Mr. Noyes believes that the climate along the foot of the mountains is warmer in both summer and winter than at a distance east. A few grains of oats and barley sown last spring near the Jasper House grow well and ripened fully. A grass exactly resembling Timothy grows wild and luxuriantly; and humming birds are numerous, while at Edmonton they are very rare. In winter there is seldom any snow in the Jasper valley and it is never more than an inch or two in depth. A wild vegetable grows in that region which almost exactly resembles the potatoe. The tubers are not large but they are prized as food by the Indians. The Jasper house Indians range within a radius of about 150 miles from that point, north to the Smoky and south to the Brazeau, coming east to trade at Lake St. Ann, or going to the west side of the mountains at Tete Jaune Cache. They number about 40 tents or perhaps 500 souls. They are not Indians properly speaking, being descended from Iroquois brought from eastern Canada many years ago by the Hudson's Bay company to act as hunters and voyagers. These Iroquois inter-married with the white and half-breed employees of the same service, and their offspring have since inter-married to some extent with the Crees and Stonies. But the present band are still called Iroquois. They do not consider themselves Indians, however, the present generation all having more or less white blood. Their territory is covered by Indian treaty No. 6, and they therefore claim to be entitled to receive scrip as half-breeds. Although leading an Indian life they have never come into the Indian treaty and say that they will not, as they prefer to stand upon their rights as half-breeds.

### Boom in Rubber.

Since our last issue rubber has jumped up 12 @ 13c per pound, owing to active speculation in Brazil. From March to September the advance on raw rubber was steady, from 67c for new fine Para to 96c, the highest point reached. Since then the decline has been rapid. On October 1 it was 90c, by November 1 it had declined to 84c, on December 1 it reached 70c, and December 21 it touched the lowest point at 65c. Then on the morning of that day the speculators at Para began to buy all the rubber in sight, and prices were advanced at once. The London market has advanced as rapidly as the American, and new fine is quoted at 39d, with a strong upward tendency. Manufacturers were expecting rubber to decline to 60c and under. Although they were but lightly provided with stocks, they have been waiting for the market to touch bottom before obtaining a year's supply. During the last four months their supply has not been more than a week ahead of their needs, and they have not turned out the quantity of goods this year that they have in previous years. The consequence has been that the demands now made upon them are more pressing than ever before, and they are compelled to pay whatever prices dealers may ask.—*Bradstreet's*.