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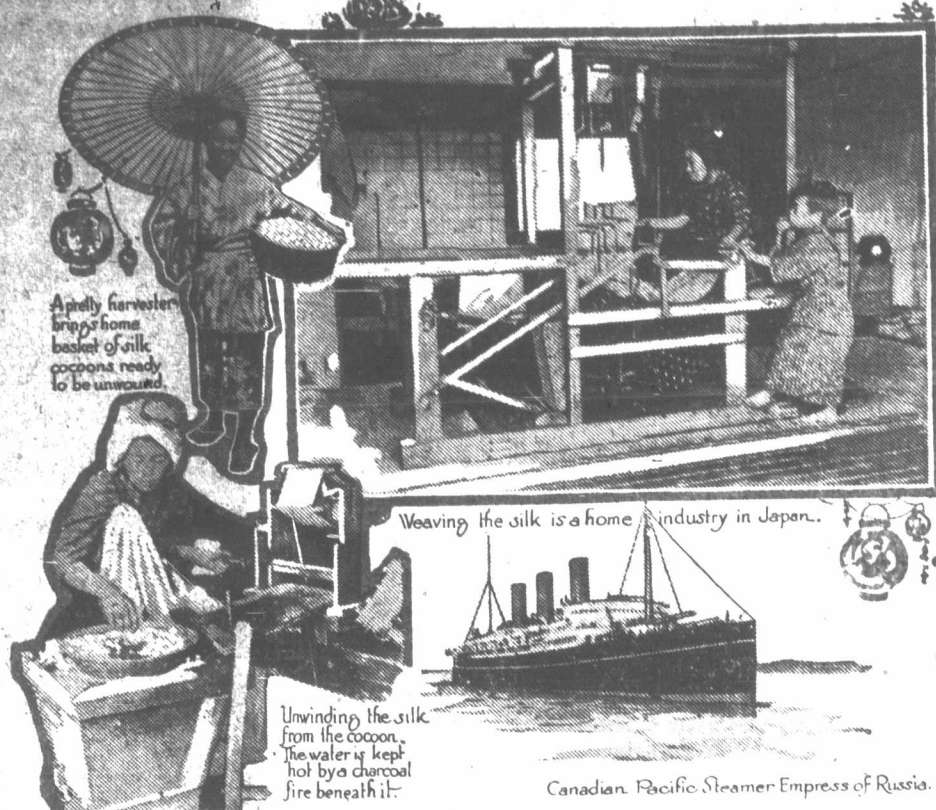
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The Silk Worm and His Product



A pretty harvester brings home basket of silk cocoons ready to be unwound.

Weaving the silk is a home industry in Japan.

Unwinding the silk from the cocoon. The water is kept hot by charcoal fire beneath it.

Canadian Pacific Steamer Empress of Russia.

JAPAN has a monopoly of the silk industry of the Orient. The Japanese have achieved this triumph as the result of an early appreciation of the value of organization and standardizing, and by reason of their skill in perfecting a raw silk adapted to high power American machines. Silk is the chief Japanese export.

The silk worm therefore is the special pet and pride of the Japanese people, and all thought and care is devoted to making his surroundings such as will conduce to his comfort, health, and happiness. This is no slight task. At least 4,000 years of breeding for silk alone has told on his probably once robust constitution, and the silk worm is now a temperamental little fellow, subject to devastating epidemics and greatly influenced by atmospheric changes of an unfriendly nature. It is only fair to say, however, that while with us he devotes his little mind entirely to business and wastes not one of the comparatively few moments granted him in this life. He comes into the world as a tiny pink egg accompanied by five or six hundred brothers and sisters, and for a few days rests in the dark of small trays covered with paper in which tiny holes are made. On emerging from the egg his attention is attracted by the bright lights of these pin-holes. He climbs up to enquire what they mean, and working his way through them, finds himself betrayed into a world of toil and trouble, as many a human being has been and will continue to be as long as bright lights glow.

The only thing he brings with him is a first class appetite, and the mulberry he loves must be chosen with tender care in order to work up his strength to the task of producing a fine strand of silk. For about a month he devotes his entire attention

to meals, which amount to a practical continuous performance, with the exception of three or four short periods during which he changes his skin to one that more comfortably conforms to his fast increasing bulk. At these times care is taken to keep him from disturbing noises, although modern writers on the subject do not state that he is inspired to greater effort by music served with his meals. If not, it is perhaps because Oriental music would more favor distraction than the contemplative calm most conducive to the silk worm's task of putting on weight.

Having become a full-grown silk worm, he sets about the serious business of life, the spinning of the cocoon and eight to twelve hundred continuous yards of silken thread. This takes three or four days, and in most cases, his life shortly afterwards ends in hot water, as might be expected of one so early showing a predilection for bright lights. The hot water enables the silk farmer to easily unwind the cocoon into a skein of glossy, golden colored, raw silk all ready for the mills.

A few of his relations are picked out to carry on the good work, but even for these life has few joys. It is a long sleep of several months, an emerging from the cocoon as a winged moth that cannot fly, and the immediate setting about the business of laying another five or six hundred tiny eggs. When that supreme task is completed the little life goes out, probably tired of a world in which most of the fun has to be got out of eating, and its first few weeks of life are swift. There are a dozen processes of washing, weaving and coloring through which it must go, and the less time that these processes take, the better. A train load of silk repre-

sents a great amount of money. The interest on its value, and the premiums on its insurance total up tremendously. That is why every effort is made to get the finished product into the dealer's hands at the earliest possible moment.

A record in the transshipment of silk from Japan to New York was recently made by the C.P.R. On April 29, the Canadian Pacific steamer "Empress of Russia," left Yokohama carrying in her cargo 3,000 bales of silk for New York. Two minutes later the "Bay State," another Pacific liner, left a near-by dock with 1,600 bales of silk bound for the same destination. It was a race across the Pacific Ocean and the American continent, and silk and shipping men of two continents watched for the result. On arrival at Vancouver the "Empress of Russia" silk was placed on a special train, which was ordered to make all possible speed to New York. The silk was delivered there at 5:20 p.m. May 12, while the cargo of the "Bay State" was not delivered until 7:30 a.m. May 15, the Canadian Pacific through time from Yokohama to New York having been 62 hours and 1 minute faster than that of the rival line, and a record established. Despite the fact that it was a 17 car train, the time consumed between Vancouver and Prescott, Ontario, was only 3 days, 17 hours, and 57 minutes. Canada's fastest regular passenger train is the C.P.R. "Transcontinental Limited," which runs from Montreal to Vancouver in 82 hours, and from Toronto to Vancouver in 88 hours, leaving both cities daily. The shipping of this silk has definitely settled the supremacy of the Canadian route as the quickest to and from the Orient, and means much to the future trade of Canada.

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