REVIEWS

F. Bradbury

To cite this article: F. Bradbury (1920) REVIEWS, Journal of the Textile Institute Proceedings and Abstracts, 11:2, 32-33, DOI: [10.1080/00405002008631049](https://doi.org/10.1080/00405002008631049)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00405002008631049>

Published online: 25 Nov 2008.

Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)

Article views: 2

View related articles [↗](#)

over in the industry. The calculation used gives an approximate idea of the total trade, and virtually assumes that the importance of the goods manufactured, or the materials, labour, etc., involved in them, is measured by their pre-war values.

The basis taken is the average of the five years 1909-13. Where quantities are available, these have been multiplied by the average prices during that period. Where values only are given in the Board of Trade returns, these values have been adjusted proportionately to other commodities of a similar nature for which quantities are available. The results are as follows, the column headed imports being the net imports (*i.e.*, less re-exports):—

TOTAL WOOL TEXTILE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.
(Tops, Yarns, Tissues, Hosiery, Blankets, Carpets, Etc.)

At average prices of 1909-1913.

(In £1,000's.)

	Exports.	Imports.	Net Exports.
1919	28,390	750	27,640
1918	18,850	—	18,855
1917	31,190	35	31,155
1916	33,335	430	32,905
1915	24,520	1,395	23,125
1914	29,655	6,125	23,530
1913	36,490	8,980	27,510
1912	37,560	8,845	28,715
1911	36,740	8,415	28,325
1910	37,680	8,465	29,215

The year 1910 was the largest on record for pre-war times. It will be seen that this was exceeded during 1916. The total net exports for 1919, however, are practically equal to those of 1913—a fair year; and slightly below those of 1910. The net exports are a more accurate guide than the exports alone, because the demand formerly satisfied by imports has to be met by home machinery, and to that extent depletes the power to export. The figures show that if the home demand in 1919 was equal to pre-war dimensions, the total demands (home and export) on British machinery have been approximately equal to those immediately before the war.

The *actual* value of the exports and imports during the years stated have been as follows:—

WOOL TEXTILE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Actual recorded values.

(In £1,000's.)

	1910.	1913.	1919.
Exports	37,515	37,675	98,290
Imports	8,425	9,205	2,465
Net Exports...	29,090	28,470	95,805

By comparing these figures with the values calculated at pre-war prices, it will be seen that exports of wool textile manufactures generally are 3.46 times the pre-war level, the ratio in the case of tops being 2.78, in the case of yarns 4.30, and in the case of tissues 3.37.

REVIEWS

THE LINEN TRADE OF EUROPE, DURING THE SPINNING-WHEEL PERIOD. By JOHN HORNER, Belfast.
McCaw, Stevenson and Orr Limited, Belfast.
576 pages. 25s. nett.

This is a unique publication, ably written and profusely illustrated by the late John Horner, a foundation member of the Textile Institute, an enthusiastic educationalist, an engineer of high repute, and a person who took a very live interest in everything that related to the textile industry and its development.

The book is the product of many years of careful study, research, experience, and much observation gained in almost every country in Europe. In a word, the production, from start to finish, has been a labour of love. The late Mr. Horner lived to complete what has been practically a life study. No trouble was too great for him in the collection and preparation of the mass of authentic information contained in his work, but, unfortunately, he did not live to see the issue of the completed volume. The actual preparation of the work began with the collection of hand-spinning wheels in various parts of Europe, which, as it gradually grew, induced the author to make the records, obtained by long and laborious search, into what is practically now a history of the linen trade, not only of Ireland, but also of the Continent. Previous important records have been corrected where incidental errors were found to occur, whilst writings of doubtful authority have been discarded altogether.

The work comprises 52 chapters and 576 pages, and contains over 70 illustrations, specially prepared to illustrate the subject matter. About half the book is devoted to the history and development of the linen industry in Ireland, England, and Scotland, and the rest includes much valuable information gleaned from a dozen countries on the Continent of Europe.

The evolution of hand spinning from the single distaff—which from time immemorial served to meet the requirements of the world—to the numerous and most perfect type of spinning wheel, including Leonardo da Vinci's two-spindle wheel is well illustrated, and more perfectly and exhaustively treated than ever before recorded.

The first hand-spinning wheels described are of Indian, Chinese, and Japanese origin, and though to-day large quantities of cotton are imported into both India and China, there are still large quantities of hand-spun and hand-woven fabrics produced.

The author expresses a lament when he views the possible destruction of the picturesque domestic industries of primitive spinning and weaving, but the picture he conjures up is robbed of its charm, when it is considered that the hand spinners and weavers only earned a bare pittance by strenuous labour and long hours. The transition from the distaff with spinning wheel to the single spindle and wheel, in turn followed by the introduction of the flyer and bobbin to the single spindle, which has remained throughout all the developments of spinning and

twisting to the present day, is well treated. Interesting records are given of the invention conceived by Johann Jürgen about 1536, which was an epoch-marking period since it enabled the spinster to double her output of spun yarn, and to produce a better thread. Leonardo da Vinci evidently and independently solved the same problem even before Jürgen, but no use was made of it. The brilliant inventor simply tossed it aside once the struggle had been overcome and the problem solved.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Irish are reported to have made much flax into yarn and exported it in great quantities. The foundation of the Irish linen trade was laid by the Earl of Strafford, who declared that Irish women were bred to spinning, and the Irish earth was apt for bearing flax. He purchased £1,000 worth of Dutch seed because, incidentally, he found the change was good, and also purchased and erected six looms from which he anticipated much employment, profit, and a mighty business. He expended £2,000 of his own fortune to encourage the linen industry, though his enthusiasm and the methods he employed to enforce his ideas outstripped his discretion. The Irish spinning wheel is of Dutch origin. No reference to the linen industry of Ireland would be complete which did not make some reference to Louis Crommelin, one of the fugitives from France on the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Mr. Crommelin was a native of Picardy—a district celebrated for the production of fine linens. Crommelin, having fled to Amsterdam, came under the notice of King William III., who engaged him to oversee the culture, preparation, and manufacture of flax in Ireland. Crommelin, in an essay, later, observes that William III encouraged him to come over to Ireland and further the linen manufacture there. He brought with him about 70 persons, who settled in and around Lisburne, where they laid the foundations of a more extended linen trade in Ireland. In this enterprise, Crommelin invested a sum of about £10,000. The book records in a very interesting and authentic manner the successful efforts made by Crommelin and his associates to establish and propagate the "flaxen" manufacture in the North of Ireland.

A full description is given of the linen trade in Ireland during the period of the Linen Board of Ireland, which began in 1711 and closed in 1828. Three years later, mechanical spinning was introduced, and this invention practically supplanted wheel spinning, except for the finer sorts, which were wheel

spun until the introduction of wet spinning, when the death-knell of wheel spinning as a commercial enterprise was sounded.

Much interesting information is given with respect to both private and Government enterprise to foster and encourage the culture, growth, and preparation of flax, the preparing and spinning of yarns, and the manufacture of linens, both during the hand wheel spinning period and the subsequent introduction of power spinning machinery.

The records from the misty past of flax culture and manufacture in England, until the advent and influence of cotton, is fully and interestingly considered. In like manner, the same may be said of Scotland and the flax-producing countries of Europe.

Mr. Horner's collection of spinning wheels, with illustrations and descriptions, is perhaps the best on record.

The volume is in every way a desirable production, and should find its way into every library and technical institute, and will be found a most useful book of reference for all interested in flax and linens and other contemporary yarns and fabrics. —F. BRADBURY.

SUBJECT LIST OF WORKS ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRIES AND WEARING APPAREL, INCLUDING THE CULTURE AND CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY OF THE TEXTILE FIBRES IN THE LIBRARY OF THE PATENT OFFICE. (Patent Office, 25, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., 1919, 334 pages, Price 2s.).

Anyone acquainted with the resources of the Patent Office Library will admit that a subject catalogue of the Library is in fact a complete bibliography of the particular subject. So, textile technologists, students, and those interested in all or any particular branch of the industry, will find in this little book a complete and lucid guide to the bibliography of textile industries in all the branches. Users of the Library have their task of search rendered easy by marks indicating the location and shelves. Different typography in the list indicates whether a work is a monograph or is in the nature of references to works, generally of a composite nature, certain chapters or sections of which alone relate to the heading under which the reference appears. The value of the book is further enhanced by a chronological order of arrangement of entries under subject headings, which enables a student to trace the history of a subject from its source to its final development in the latest treatise. The work is an admirable example of indexing and is adequately furnished with cross-references. —J. B.