

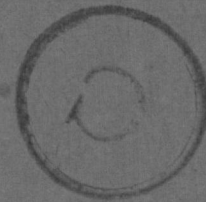
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509-29-3-00.
Educational (1900) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 496

DATED 8. 10. 00

INDEXED.



(11)

Most Grille.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Requesting the D.F.I to offer his
remarks on the suggestion of Mr
Hurstons in his monograph on the
woollen fabric industry, to establish
scholarships in connection with the
carpet weaving industry in the School
of Arts.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C-15-12-98

Educational (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1534

H. E. The Sec.

In connection with
the School of Arts file
with His Sec.

File No. 4

From

H. P.

141 12 98

The Revenue Dept

Orders

No. 4 501 Lris.

The proposal is really
Dr. Duncan's - vide page 4 of the
monograph. It depends on the
continuance of the Carpet-weaving
industry in the School of Arts.
But no orders have yet been
passed on the question of the
reorganization of the School of Arts.

Dated 18 Nov. '98.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Conveying the
of Govt. to Dr. Thurst
for his Monograph
the Woollen Fabric
Industry & directing
the 50 copies submit
the Bd. be distributed
in deicated in the
Communicated to the
Educational Dept.

7/11
15-11-98

The Committee appointed in 1895 to report
on the working of the School considered that
the Carpet-weaving industry should not be
boothed at any rate for the present - vide
page 5 of the monograph. The Committee's
report is now under disposal, having gone
in circulation to H.C. the Governor on 23rd April
1898. Flag B.

Sec^y

12/11/98

Submitted that the
paper will have to lie over
till orders are passed about
the School of Arts.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	359	8-8	98 R
	394	5-4-7	98 hrs
	218	31-2	98 "
	99	3-3	98 R
	75	12-2	98 hrs
	52	26-1	98 hrs

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

653: 19-11-97 hrs

499: 2-8-97

606: 30-5-96

784: 25-9-85

604: 24-7-55

423: 21-5-85

640 : 30.8.94

8-34

USTRY

INDUSTRY

MONOGRAPH

ON

THE WOOLLEN FABRIC INDUSTRY

OF THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

BY

EDGAR THURSTON,

Superintendent, Madras Government Museum.

The Woollen Fabric Industry of the Madras P

THE best woolly breed of sheep in the Madras Presidency is, I learn, the Coimbatore breed—is known in Tamil as kurumbádu, and the non-woolly breed as semmariádu. Woolly parts of the Námakkal and Perambalúr taluks, and of a few taluks of districts adjoining Coimbatore breed, being generally white all over, except the face, is a source of white wool.

The black woolly Mysore breed is met with in the Bellary district and parts of so good as in its Native Province, and the wool frequently degenerates into straggling hair. Sir Mark Cubbon had an experimental sheep farm at Heraganhalli, in the Nagamungala taluk of a European Commissariat officer. Merino rams were imported yearly from Australia, distributed all over the country. The breed of sheep throughout the Mysore Province improved. The wool was sent in bales by the Mysore Government to England for sale, purpose of being manufactured into blankets and serges. The farm was given up in 186 expenses.”¹

Neither the Madras, nor the Nellore breed of sheep furnishes, according to Dr. S for textile purposes. And the Madras breed has the following wide area of distribution: Godávári, Ganjám, North Arcot, South Arcot, Salem, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and T

In six, out of the twenty-two districts, into which the Madras Presidency is sub-di Vizagapatam, Chingleput, Malabar, South Canara, and Tinnevely, no woollen industry is ca

The woollen industry of the Presidency resolves itself, for all practical purposes, (a) carpets and rugs; (b) blankets (kambliis or cumblies). Of these, the extent of the indu former are on the decline; the latter are still extensively manufactured in many districts, a to the same extent as cotton fabrics from the competition of cheap imported articles. Excep petition comes in, the manufacture of blankets is able to take care of itself. And I propo monograph mainly into a review, pirated from various sources of information, of the posi the carpet and rug industry.

There are at the present day, as in the past, four chief seats of this industry—El district, Masulipatam in the Kistna district, Walajanagar in the North Arcot district, a Tanjore district.

As an introduction and guide to the carpet industry, I may with advantage quo report by the Honourable Dr. D. Duncan, Director of Public Instruction, who writes I weaving is carried on, more or less, in seven districts, the cheap seats of the industry be Masulipatam, and Ayyampet. The industry has sadly declined as regards the extent to w and, some think, in the style and finish of the manufactured article. On a recent visit to that the industry had, in recent years, shrunk in extent, and deteriorated in the quality of t several of the principal carpet-weaving establishments, but in none of them did I see anyt favourably compared with the high-class carpets and rugs of Ellore. At Ellore the indust comparative insignificance. This may be due, not to a falling off in skill on the part of th fact that no high-class carpet had been ordered about the time of my visit. There are now c weaving establishments, and carpets and rugs are almost entirely made to order. The i almost exclusively by Muhammadans, who, like this community in most other places, are v no capital, wherewith to purchase the materials, or to maintain themselves during the ti made. Consequently, when a carpet is ordered, an advance of money must be made. Son as Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., have an agent at Ellore, who advances the money required and generally superintends the execution of the work. The carpets are mostly inter market. The approximate annual value of the carpets manufactured at Ellore is Rs. 1, formerly Superintendent of the Madras Government School of Arts, held the Ellore and M high estimation. In his report on the ‘Arts and Manufactures of the Northern districts of th

¹ Shortt's ‘Manual of Indian Cattle and Sheep,’ 1889.

the carpets of the two towns just mentioned: 'Carpets of the superior class, prepared only equal in point of finish and material, and infinitely superior artistically, to the imitations of our jails of the Presidency. There may be a falling-off in treatment of colour, and in the designs of patterns, compared with the finesse in the working of Indian carpets made twenty or thirty years ago; but the blame for this can hardly be attributed to the weavers themselves, and the mischief is not so great. A judicious encouragement of the weavers would soon remedy it. The best patterns are now made to those of old South Indian carpets, which are held up to the disparagement of modern ones. Every cry against the deterioration of Indian carpets, as far as South Indian carpets are concerned, is called for. Aniline dyes are very rarely used, as they are at Warangal and other places in the country. The best seen carpets from the native looms at the three seats of the industry—Ellore, Masulipatnam, and Secunderabad, which are in no respect inferior to old specimens in the hands of connoisseurs in London, and our palaces. I cannot but think that jail manufactures, which are generally altogether of a different design, are passed off as coming from the caste-weavers' looms. The good work, to which the Government pay so much, is very difficult to obtain, and the unbusiness-like habits of ordinary native workmen doubtless re-act

pity," Dr. Duncan continues, "that an industry so highly spoken of should be allowed
 eatens to become extinct. The excellence of the colouring is no doubt due to the fact,
 the enquiries when I visited the carpet-weavers at Ellore, that only native dyes are used.
 colours, viz., white, green, orange, rose, red, black, sky-blue, burnt-umber, ivory-white,
 to Mr. Havell,³ the dyes most used at Ellore are for crimson or red, stick-lac and sappan
 (sappan); yellow, allikaya and turmeric; orange or reddish-yellow, the flowers of the moduga
 combined with turmeric; dark and pale blue, indigo. Other colours are produced by
 [over.] The patterns, I was informed, were brought by Kábul merchants many years ago.
 strictly adhered to, unless customers wish it otherwise; but any sample pattern can be
 of the dyes, and the dyeing of the wool, are done by the women of the family; the
 the men and boys. The weaving is carried on in sheds, which are generally somewhat
 ventilation. The poverty of the carpet-weavers is the chief obstacle in the way of improve-
 , there are, as Mr. Havell says, 'the unbusiness-like habits of ordinary native workmen.'
 demand for the best productions of the looms would tend to ameliorate the economic condi-
 nd, by alleviating the extreme pressure of dire necessity, might, in course of time, permit
 er artistic sense, and greater pride in their work, and a determination to maintain a high
 in material design and finish. At present the poverty of the workers tends to keep ever
 in the immediate money return, which they look to for their labours—a condition most
 nce of workmanship."

has been put forward by Dr. Duncan that, if carpet-weaving is continued at the Madras or ~~these~~ scholarships might be offered yearly to boys belonging to the carpet-weaving ulipatam, and Ayyampet, to enable them to join the School of Arts. On completion of they would mostly return to their homes, carrying with them wider and more accurate a higher manipulative skill, a more intelligent appreciation of the technique of carpet-ment would seem to be well worthy of a fair trial, provided that the lads' parents will ir ancestral home: and their consent to such a measure is by no means certain.

mittee, with myself as Secretary, was appointed to report to Government on the working of Arts. In connection with carpet-weaving, the committee submitted a series of questions to the Superintendent, Mr. E. Holder. These questions, with the replies thereto, were as follows:—

engaged and from. Three men were engaged when the class was first started, one from each of the three towns famous for carpets in South India, viz., Warangal, Ellore and Ayyampet. At present there are two weavers, the Warangal man having left the school in 1892. These men act as teachers to students who do all the weaving as class work. For urgent orders, passed students from the Anjuman and the School of Arts are occasionally engaged on daily wages.

The two maistries are paid Rs. 40 and Rs. 20 per mensem respectively. The extra men employed for urgent work receive from 4 to 6 annas per day. Students learning the work are paid stipends from Re. 1 to Rs. 7-8-0 per mensem, according to progress made and examinations passed.

3. How are patterns selected?

In this, as in all the other industrial classes in the school make their own designs, always keeping in view as examples illustrated in "Oriental Carpets," and the coloured designs in the Kensington Museum, which are sometimes copied, with a modification when specially required by any person.

4. What dyes are used?

Only pure native dyes are used; no aniline dyes. All the is done in the school. White, brown, and sometimes black in natural state. For blue of various shades indigo is used; for green, madder and gall-nuts; for red, stick-lac; for yellow, turmeric, and the *(Butea frondosa)*. The secondary tints are obtained in the order of the primary colours together.

5. Size of carpets made. Any demand for small rugs?

The looms in the school are constructed to weave carpets 3 feet to 21 feet, and of any proportionate length. Very large demand here owing to the costliness of the material, the price Rs. 12 per square yard. For very small rugs too the demand is generally ordered range from 7' x 4' to 15' x 9'.

6. Number and value of carpets manufactured since the industry was started.

About fifty carpets have been completed up to date.

7. Is demand in excess of supply?

This being a class for instruction, and the majority of boys, who, in addition to weaving, have to attend the drawing classes daily, the work turned out is not even half of what could be turned out by a manufactory employing adults. The demand, therefore, is in the case of all the other industries in the school, except pottery,

8. Have any of the weavers gained employment outside the school? If so, where?

No students trained in this class have at any time weavers outside the school. They join the class merely for the which enable them to continue their studies in the drawing certificate and diploma. Most of the students from this class course, have gone out as drawing teachers or draftsmen.

9. Is there a field for skilled weavers outside the school?

Local enterprise, I may safely say, has been completely r
up this industry. The best carpets now manufactured in t
turned out in Vellore and Bangalore jails, so far as texture
design, for illustrations of the best carpets can now be very e
what they do in jails ordinarily is to have a few select pattern
which are repeated over and over again, with slight modification
portion, &c., the work being intended merely to keep the p
men generally put to such work are the "lifers" and "1
constant practice, become really expert weavers, as good in the
as any professional.

The committee noted that no students, trained in the carpet weaving class, had employment as weavers outside the school, but that they join the class merely for the sake of a stipend, which enables them to continue their studies in the drawing classes. In view, however, of the establishment of a school of dyeing, the committee considered that the carpet-weaving class should be abolished, at any rate for the present, and suggested the advisability of attention being directed to the manufacture of small cheap rugs of good design, instead of to the manufacture of large and expensive carpets.

The manufacture of rugs is still carried out on a small scale at Wallajah town district, which was once celebrated for its woollen carpets. At the present day there are weaving establishments, with twenty looms, on which rugs are made, by Muhammad Ali, for export to England. The price of the rugs varies from one to seven rupees, and the better made to order. The rugs are consigned to Messrs. Leighton & Co., Madras, and to Mr. D. J. B. for the following information. The so-called carpets from Wallajah are really rugs. They are known at home as Bangalore rugs. They were originally made at Bangalore, but now they are made at Wallajah, Madras, and other places. There are five qualities, but for export the lowest is the largest demand. And the reason is that the ultimate buyers are the ten-pound-a-week seaside lodging-house keeper. I believe that the weavers adhere to the old patterns, but I give me as great a variety of colours as possible. As regards the dyes, the larger proportion is coal-tar. There is one colour of the latter sort (magenta), which the householder altogether, and the weavers make a very good substitute with Indian red. I should

amounted at the outside to ten thousand, of which perhaps two thousand come from a few for Australia, London takes the lot. Germany, to my knowledge, declines them is no market for them in Paris. The trade has declined in consequence of large speculative home, and sold at prices considerably below cost. So long as London firms can buy on the y would pay here in Madras, orders will be scarce, and the weavers must either be idle, or b not believe that the weavers can produce any better description of goods out of the osal, which are nothing more than the wool and hair procured from tanneries.

f carpet manufacture at Ellore is described as follows in a report received through the vari district:—

cture of carpets forms the chief occupation of many Muhammadans at Ellore and its prepare carpets of various sizes and qualities. Their prices vary from Rs. 3 to Rs. 14 per gest pieces thus costing more than Rs. 1,000. Their size is not limited, but ranges from 1 and 2 to 20 yards in length. The method of manufacturing these carpets is similar to that mufacture, but slightly modified. The loom is arranged in a vertical position between two ams placed four or five yards apart. The beams are made to turn round upon their own of hemp or wool are arranged lengthwise in two rows, their extremities being fastened to ch other in the beams. The upper beam is then rolled on itself, until the threads have es of woollen thread of various colours are suspended on one side of the weaver, so that ut any of them that he chooses. To begin the carpet, he first of all passes one breadth- he two lengthwise rows, and then, taking one of the coloured woollen threads, passes it ound the lengthwise thread, fastens it in an intricate manner, and cuts it. He repeats the ry lengthwise thread, as far as the same woollen thread may be used. Whenever he finds fferent colour, he leaves off the old one, and takes up the thread of the requisite colour. in the art that he can very easily see where he should use a particular coloured thread, so y complete a particular kind of flower. The passing of the wool round the thread, and done so rapidly that it is almost impossible for a bystander to find out in what manner the and fastened to the thread. After one or two breadthwise lines of wool are completed, he ise thread (of hemp), and presses it tight with an iron comb. The process is then repeated. from the bottom, and rises up. The portion of the carpet which is completed is wound a, and, at the same time, the loom, originally wound round the upper beam, unwinds itself. ow process even to those who are well versed in it. The difference in the quality of the rom the pressure to which the strings are subjected by means of the iron comb. The more ise threads are pressed down, the more durable will be the carpet, and consequently the n execute any kind of flower pattern on the carpet.

formation, bearing on the subject of the Ellore carpet industry, was elicited in the course Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. Four primary patterns are, at the present time, being shipped rs from the Firm of Messrs. Maple & Co., viz., Ashan Khány, Parsey Khány, Gulbundi Gopal Rao Khány. The demand is greatest, in the English market, for the two first. indigenous dyes are used. Sometime ago the Superintendent of the Vellore Jail asked Co. to ascertain how the beautiful Indian red vegetable dye was made. The information as the preparation of the dye was said to be a secret process, handed down, like that of the liqueurs, from generation to generation. Carpets with an Indian red centre look like silk, uality. The different qualities of Ellore carpets, now manufactured, are as follows:—

Rs. 6-8 per square yard, delivered in Madras.
on, Rs. 10 per square yard.
hibition, containing 144 stitches to the square inch, Rs. 12-8 to Rs. 15 per square yard.

carpets averages from 7' x 4' to 30' x 20'. The so-called white centre of the carpets (creamy) white, the former being the darker. [As Mr. Dresser points out, "if the ground e, it is almost impossible that it look well. When I make this assertion, I am often dinn carpet which I so much admire have white grounds. This is a mistake. Some of ds, but not pure white. They have light creamy-grey, or green-white grounds, but not ariety of tone altogether alters the case."] At the present time there is a demand for the

jumphul border by all orderers of carpets. The Ellore agent has revived four old patterns, v numbers, but without specific names. Nearly all the carpets are made on an imported foundation. Occasionally a cotton foundation is used. A carpet on a hemp-twine founda happens to get wet. The carpet weavers at Masulipatam imitate the Ellore patterns, but and the workmanship is indifferent. They put them on the market at a cheaper rate, The twine is mixed with 'jute' from the Bombay Mills, and mineral dyes are used. So Arbuthnot & Co. executed an order for ready-made Masulipatam carpets at the instance of Boston. But the result was not a success, as the carpets wore badly. One effect of co carpets is said to have been that the hereditary weavers receive advances of money from manufacturers, and it is then difficult to get any work out of them, as the rates are so low.

The demand for Ellore carpets seems to be fairly well maintained, as Messrs. Ar them annually to the value of about 1½ lacs of rupees. Messrs. V. Robinson & Co. ha with a Muhammadan agent, who is under engagement with Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co with carpets.

Writing concerning the woollen carpet industry at Ayyampet, Mr. Havell says: Tanjore district was once an important centre for the manufacture of the woollen mats or district is famous, and about ten years ago 107 families were employed in the industry. only are engaged in it. The patterns and colours of the carpets now made are, as far as the few examples available, not so good as those to be found in old carpets; but this is pro than the cause of the decline in prosperity, which is owing to native preference for infe factures. These carpets do not appear to have ever found favour in the European marke colours, which are very bold and striking, do not suit the taste of those who, in their painf anything vulgar or in bad taste, fall back on the so-called 'aesthetic' muddiness of col pattern."

At the present day I learn, in reply to enquiry made through the Collector of Tanj are engaged in the carpet industry at Ayyampet. The sizes of the carpets are 6' x 3', and they cost from ten annas to a rupee per square foot, according to the quality. On used. White wool of superior quality is obtained from Vriddhachalam, and of an inferior Black wool is obtained from villages on the north side of the Coleroon river. The artisans of the industry to absence of demand for articles of native manufacture, which have been cotton articles made in other places and in jails.

During the preparation of this monograph I interviewed Mr. Kája Hussain Sahil the carpet industry in Madras city. He was originally taught carpet weaving at the When the manufacture of carpets was abandoned at that institution, he took over the learnt their trade at Bangalore, and started in private practice. He finds that he is stead is thinking of winding up his business. He has very little custom among Europeans, and who buy cheap mats in preference to cheap woollen rugs. A rug, 3' x 6', will cost Rs. 3; and of the same size, Rs. 7. A good carpet, 15' x 20', will cost Rs. 400. He purchases from Bangalore, and dyes the wool at his own premises. He employs both indigenous ve mineral dyes. The latter, in his estimation, are most effective, as they are at first bright vegetable colours are more permanent. He showed me a sample of a big carpet with "a and wide creamy-white border, made with wool dyed entirely with country dyes (indigo, lac, &c.), which afforded a very favourable contrast to a rug ruined by a dreadful European

For the following note on the manufacture of woollen carpets at the Centrel Jail, V to the Acting Superintendent Mr. G. Cloney.

The industry was apparently introduced about the year 1874, and worked at viz., two looms for the manufacture of rugs about 6' x 3' and 7' x 4'. So far as can be as was first taught to the convicts by a professional Muhammadan carpet-weaver from Ellore were derived from sample pieces of Carpets of various designs—Ashan Khány, Ramach Kashmir Khány, Srinivasarow Khány, Salar Jung Khány, Gopalrow Khány, &c.—

WOOLLEN FABRIC INDUSTRY OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

At the present day there are 32 looms, which give employment as follows :—

g warp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
wool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
thread	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
yawing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
wing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
g	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24

Total ... 135

since prisoners are employed in the industry. The spinning of the wool is done by female (non-convict) foreman (maistry) is engaged to instruct the convicts in the technique of the Burmese, and other long-term prisoners, trained in the industry, act as instructors. The at present can turn out a carpet 21' in width, and of any required length. The sizes of the ed out are 21' x 15', 21' x 14', 10' x 8', 14' x 14', 15' x 12', 12' x 13', 7' x 4', 6' x 3', sizes specially ordered. The price ranges from Rs. 7 to Rs. 15 per square yard according to ure. Waste wool carpets, made from bits of cast-off wool, which would otherwise be dis- annas per square yard. The carpets are sold in England and the local (South Indian) as at one time a purchaser, but has now ceased to be so. The annual outturn and sale- at eighteen years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Number of carpets and rugs.	Sale-proceeds.	Remarks.
		RS. A. P.	
...	...	10,514 12 8	
...	...	12,038 1 0	
...	...	14,659 0 0	
...	...	12,893 0 0	
...	...	7,174 12 0	
...	...	9,277 0 0	
...	...		
...	169		137 rugs.
...	156		113 "
...	59		18 "
...	86	5,646 0 0	44 "
...	...	9,344 6 10	
...	183	6,501 10 0	131 rugs.
...	86	7,742 4 0	42 "
...	137	11,186 10 0	
...	111	10,999 15 4	
...	98	8,068 12 0	

in receipts during 1897 is explained by the release of prisoners in commemoration of the

the fabrics is at the present time stationary. Ellore and other factories are competing with the Mysore mills, and the Mysore mills are competing with the Mysore mills. [The Mysore mills complain, *per contra*, that the jails are competing against them.] From Messrs. [The Mysore mills] it would seem that they are overstocked, and Indian carpets do not to-day command the prices they did some years ago.

cotton fabrics of jail manufacture, I gather that the convict artisans are credited with

(Carpets,' Mr. Vincent Robinson gives an illustration of a modern Indian carpet which, he says, is one of the types which the system pursued. At the Indian jails is gradually driving from the probability that, twenty years hence, any of the ancient characteristics will remain. Already the system is employing prison unskilled labour to make clumsy imitations of an ancient art manufacture.

THE WOOLLEN FABRIC INDUSTRY OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY

has had the most disastrous effects. In a few years, the work for which India has been has been of such material advantage to the Native population, will have passed away revival."

Writing concerning the decline in the carpet-weaving industry and other branches Havell⁶ attributes it largely to "the spread of European education and ideas, which lead many of Natives to throw aside their national dress, and decorate their houses in a pseudo-European style with Brussels carpets and ill-designed furniture, and either to look upon all Native art as beneath the condescending benevolence to supply the workmen with designs culled from the patterns of European manufacturers. In this way the Native industries have suffered as much by European competition or from any other cause."

Summing up his views concerning the carpets of Southern India, Mr. Havell's pamphlet entitled 'Madras Carpets' (1886); "Madras carpets have lately fallen into disrepute as good carpets as ever have been made could be turned out, if a healthy demand gave so much work to the weavers. Very possibly the carpets which were, until lately, largely manufactured in Madras are still made to some extent, have passed for genuine Native productions. [The products of the weavers.] It is but fair to state that in Madras Jail carpets the colours are from the same materials as are used by the caste weavers. But it is absurd to suppose that the system of convict labour can result as satisfactory as that accomplished by the skill and taste, partly hereditary and partly acquired by practice from the earliest childhood, of the Native caste weaver, who is not forced, under duress and under fear of pains and penalties, his allotted daily task. What this system can do at its best is shown at the last Calcutta Exhibition. The jail carpets exhibited in the Hyderabad Court are not anything which has been before attempted in the direction of outrageous colouring and design. The carpets made in Madras Jails are, however, generally at the respectable level of mediocrity, and are oriental in character, but they are rather heterogeneous, including some borrowed from Indian silk carpets, many Cashmere and Punjab designs, generally unsuited to the quality of the wool, and Madras patterns, and others very debased."

Though it would be ambitious to hope that a monograph such as the present one, like its predecessor on the Madras cotton fabric industry, by one who is primarily a naturalist, would have a practical result, I have published the recorded opinions of those possessed of the necessary knowledge with the voice of authority. And, as a sympathiser with the hereditary weavers, who in the process we have lately passed through, have to seek the protection of the Government, I would put my voice on behalf as against the long-sentence convict, who is not born a weaver, but becomes one. Far be it from me to wish that convicts should be treated in the manner depicted in 'Nesam'. But I do wish that the convicts, while kept usefully employed, should be employed only in such a way as to be above all suspicion of coming in conflict with the interests of honest folk, whose traditional rights should be protected.

Turning now to the woollen industry other than carpets, which has an industrial aspect. In the Trichinopoly Jail an extensive woollen weaving industry is carried on, at which the Superintendent, Mr. R. Shubrick, has favoured me, contains much interesting weaving process carried on, like the industry in the hands of hereditary Native artisans, will reproduce it in its entirety.

There are now four kinds of woollen article made in this jail, viz., blankets for the N for convicts, jhools for the Remount Depot at Hosur, and mops for British troops. The w from Bangalore, and is not shorn wool, but what is known as chunam wool, i.e., wool from th animals, which is removed from the skin in tanning. It is much cheaper than shorn wool, it is removed from the skin makes it very inferior to shorn wool in appearance, feel, and t (lime) removes all the natural oil from the wool, and this accounts for the hard feel of th here. I have tried to re-oil the wool by giving the spinners small quantities of gingelly (S put on the fingers, through which the wool is passed in spinning. The oil was certainly us being swallowed wholesale. I then tried dipping a milled blanket in oil and setting the was expensive, and increased the weight of the blanket greatly, but preserved it against arrival, is teased to free it from knots and impurities, such as dust, chunam, and sto

machine consisting of a wooden drum studded with rows of nails, which is made to revolve in a wooden frame. After passing through this machine, it is handed over to men to be bowed, being like a paddle, with a piece of stout cat-gut string across from end to end. The bow is held in the right hand, and grasped with the left hand by the man seated on the ground, in such a way that the bow is held over the wool and underneath his left arm. He then strikes the cat-gut with a wooden mallet held in his right hand, and makes it spring backwards and forwards in the wool. It is very slow and tiring, besides being unhealthy. If the wool is at all bad, the workshop is full of fine chunam dust. To keep it out, the weavers cover their mouths and nostrils. An expert will give 20 lb. of well-teased wool, ready to be spun, for the liberal, if monotonous jail rations. In bowing there is a wastage of from 25 to 33 per cent of the quality of the wool. After bowing, the wool is taken to the spinners, and spun into fine jail-made spinning wheels. It cannot be called hard work, but it is distinctly unpopular with the men, who say it is woman's work.

Processes have been the same. But the treatment of wool destined for military blankets and that of wool intended for jail blankets. The manufacture of blankets for the Native army was started by Mr. Gadsden, Superintendent of this Jail, in 1893. The first blankets were made in two narrow

This join was the weak point, and it was soon found possible to weave the blanket in one piece. The spun wool is warped on pegs, and fitted on to a country pit-loom with no treadles, and through gearing fitted into a wooden frame, which the weaver works with his hand, after passing the wool through the warp. The strands are forced close together by a wooden beam, and on at a time, as the strain of the wool with more, and the constant unrolling of the bundle of wool. The warps are made about $14' \times 6\frac{1}{2}'$ according to the size of the blanket required. When taken off the loom, is a very transparent net, not at all like a blanket in appearance. The blanket is made very much narrower, but somewhat longer than the blanket warps. The starch used is made of crushed tamarind stones. On removal from the loom, the blanket is steeped in boiling water, and then rubbed on a rough coir (cocoanut fibre) mat, suspended between supports, and on either side in pairs. The blanket is rolled up, and the men rub it backwards and forwards, matting, keeping it wet with hot water all the time. The process lasts about four hours, and the blankets. The superfluous wool is rubbed off, the blanket shrinks, and is no longer transparent. It is then ready for sale. The standard size used to be $8' \times 5'$, with a weight of $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Different sizes, different regiments having their own size and weight.

Jhools are milled and stretched like the military blankets. When dry, two pieces are sewn together, and bound with cotton khaki-coloured tape. The jhool industry was started by Mr. Gadsden for the present ordinary military blanket, weighing $6\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 8 lb. of spun wool are allowed. It varies according to size and quality, the black wool blanket costing more than the grey, and blankets for regiments, and the general public, are from Rs. 2-6 to Rs. 2-10, and for grey from Rs. 1-8.

The pattern of jail blanket was brought by the Inspector-General of Prisons from the Yerrowda Jail, a grey woollen weft, woven into a cotton warp on an English loom. These blankets are made in two sizes, $3\frac{1}{2}' \times 6'$ and $6' \times 2\frac{1}{2}'$. In weaving them, cotton twist is used for the first and last two inches of the warp, and 3 of the smaller, in a day. The price to the Jail Department is Re. 1 and 11 annas, and the convict pays Rs. 1-8 retail, and Rs. 1-6 wholesale, for the larger ones.

At present 100 men, mostly long-sentenced, are employed in the woollen industry, and 294 men, mostly convict maistries and work overseers under the direction of the workshop warder.

Blankets for use in barracks by British troops. They are made out of waste wool cut-off from the ordinary country spinning-wheel. The strand is spun again. It is then cut into lengths of about 12 inches, and run on to an iron four-spindle. A sufficient number of strands have been threaded on, the spike is fitted into a bamboo handle, and the blanket is ready for sale. The industry, which is an excellent one for old and feeble people, was started

on release, given small sums according to rule, but these sums do not depend on the

The subjoined table shows the outturn and sale receipts of the different woollen articles since 1893.

	1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
	Number sold.	Amount realised.	Number sold.	Amount realised.	Number sold.	Amount realised.	Number sold.	Amount realised.
Blankets	450	Rs. 1,125	2,565	Rs. 6,236	2,953	Rs. 7,419	2,771	Rs. 6,771
Jhools	392	1,860	294	1,395	126	605	140	616
Blankets for convicts	..	..	..	..	..	..	* 200	..
Mops	..	..	..	..	* 578	484	* 616	..

* Indicates the number actually turned out during the year.

For the following summary relating to the Native woollen blanket industry, I am indebted to reports received through the Collectors of the various districts, in which the industry is carried on.

Górávari.—Coarse blankets are manufactured in 12 villages of the Ellore taluk, Bhímavaram taluk, and 1 village of the Tanuku taluk. Blankets are also made at the Rajahmundry ordinary country pit-loom, with grey wool obtained from Bangalore.

Bellary.—In the Bellary District Manual (1872) it is stated that "cumbles are exported, and the rugs made in the Kúdligi taluk are in great demand, and are sent to all parts of the district. They are manufactured of various qualities, from the coarse elastic cumbly used in packing about six annas, to a fine kind of blanket, price Rs. 6 to 8. In former times a much finer kind was made from the wool of the lamb when six months' old, and cumbles of this kind sold for 10 annas. These are no longer made." Coarse blankets are at present made in 193 villages, the weavers being Kurubas, who obtained the wool locally, sun-dry it, and spin it into thread, which is treated with a paste of tamarind seeds. The weaving is carried out as in the case of an ordinary cotton cloth, the piece of wood hollowed out on one side.

Kurnool.—Blankets are manufactured in 39 villages of the Pattikonda, Nandikotkur, and Nandyal taluks. Sheep's wool is beaten and cleaned, and spun into yarn with hand spindles. The thread used for the blankets is mutaka, or coarse cumbles used as blankets by the poorer classes, the thread used for the finer blankets is with a gruel made of tamarind seeds before being fitted up in the loom, which is generally the case of jadi, or cumbles of superior quality used as carpets, no gruel is used before they are taken off the loom, the weavers spread them out tight on a country cot, pour boiling water over them and rub them well with their hands until the texture becomes thick and smooth.

Anantapur.—Coarse blankets are manufactured in 144 villages as follows:—A. Hindupur taluk 26; Kalyandrug taluk 36; Penukonda taluk 18. The wool, after shearing, is carefully sorted according to its colour. The thread is prepared, like cotton, on a small loom, the weaving carried out on a loom of very simple design.

Kistna.—Both carpets and blankets are made in the town of Masulipatam, and to a considerable extent, in the Gudivada taluk. The Tahsildar of Nuzvid, in several villages, where the blanket-weaving industry is carried on, gives the following descriptive note: The sheep, of which the wool is used, are first well bathed before shearing. If the wool is not all of the same colour, the different colours are picked out, and piled up separately. This being done, each separate pile is beaten with a bit by bit, with a light stick of finger thickness. Then the cleaning process is carried out in the same way adopted by cotton-spinners, but with a smaller bow. Then the wool is spun into yarn on a small wheel, a thin short piece of stick, to near the bottom of which a small flat, circular, or square weight is attached, so as to match the force of the whirling given to the stick on the man's thigh. When the yarn has been prepared, a paste is prepared of tamarind seeds, which can be easily prepared. The paste is prepared either with kajagaddalu or tamarind seeds, when the former is used, the process of preparation of the paste is as follows:—

(a) **Kajagaddalu.**—This is a weed of spontaneous growth, generally preferring sandy soil. It has a bulbous root, sometimes as large as a water-melon. The root is boiled in water,

WOOLLEN FABRIC INDUSTRY OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

ed whilst it is still hot. The root is then reduced to a pulp by beating in a mortar with water. The pulp is mixed with water, to make it sticky and applied to the yarn.
nd.—The seed is split in two, and soaked in water for several hours. The outer covering d, and is removed. The seeds are beaten into a flour of fine consistence, and boiled until necessary consistency. It is then made into a paste with water, and applied to the yarn.

The Jammalamadugu Divisional Officer reports that coarse woollen blankets of various red only in the village of Gurjala. The weavers import dark and white wool from the The wool is cleaned, spun into yarn by hand, washed, thrown into boiling water, and dyed (dyes) of various colours—red, yellow, green, black, blue and crimson—with which gingelly areca nuts are mixed to make the colours fast. In weaving, country cotton is used for the woof. The total cost of manufacture of a single blanket is Rs. 3-5-0, and the sale price

lector reports that coarse woollen cumblies are manufactured in 72 villages of the sub- ws:—Kadiri 2; Madanapalle 34; Ráyachóti 5; Vayalpad 31. The Tahsildar of Vayalpad n addition to blankets, a woollen fabric, known as janam, and used for country saddles and red in his taluk. The wool is spread out on a plank or smooth stone, and, after being nd paste and conji, beaten with a stick. Another layer of wool is then added, and the he required thickness is obtained. The average thickness of janams is about 1½ inch.

oolen fabrics are manufactured in seven villages of the Ongole taluk, and consist of coarse ptection against wet and cold by day and night. The weavers go to the frontier villages of he Kistna district, and purchase the right of shearing the goats at the rate of Rs. 12 per The industry is a modest one, for I gather that a weaver turns out annually only 29 38-4-0.

—Coarse woollen blankets are manufactured in sundry villages of the Chittoor, Chandragiri, and in the Kangundi and Punganúru divisions. The weavers are, for the most part, ukets are sold principally to the rural population.

—Coarse blankets are made in 49 villages of the Tiruvannámalai taluk; 27 villages of the villages of the Vriddhachalam taluk; and 3 villages of the Kallakundi taluk. The by Kuruba men and women, and the blankets find a ready sale locally.

except for the carpet manufacture at Ayyampet, the woollen industry is carried on only in ojiappachavadi, in the Tanjore taluk. Wool is purchased from Walajapet, the seat of the North Arcot district, dyed red or yellow, and manufactured into cumblies.

coarse blankets are manufactured to a small extent by Kuruba women in 22 villages of the Palni taluks. The process, from the day of shearing to the completion of the blanket,

—Rough blankets are manufactured in 59 villages, viz., Coimbatore taluk 23; Kollegal taluk 11; Polláchi taluk 6. The sheep are shorn twice a year, in March and September, into white and black, cleaned with a bow, and spun into thread, which is treated with a d seeds and sun-dried.

se blankets are manufactured, mainly by people of the Kuruba class, in the following

uk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30 villages.
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cept a ne Ce tra only coarse blankets are made throughout the district.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

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Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, No. 6344 Mis. dated 31st October 1898:-

Resolution.-

With reference to G.O. No. 1455 dated 24th March 1898, the Board begs to submit 50 copies of the monograph on "Woollen Fabrics" prepared by Mr. Thurston, Superintendent, Central Museum, for distribution as noted below:-

Govt. of India, Rev. & Agricultural Dept.	Copies 10
do Imperial Library	20
Govt. Rev. Dept., for record and transmission to the Secretary of State.	20
Total	50

2. Copies of the monograph will also be distributed to other addresses noted in G.O. No. 1227 Rev. dated 26th March 1896 on receipt from the Press.

--

ORDER thereon No. 4501 Mis. dated 18th Novr. 1898.

The thanks of Government will be conveyed to Mr. Thurston for his Monograph on the Woollen fabric industry.

2. The fifty copies of the Monograph will be distributed as indicated in the Proceedings read above: a copy of the Monograph will also be communicated to the Educational Department with reference to Mr. Thurston's remarks on the establishment of scholarships to enable boys belonging to carpet weaving families to join the School of Arts.

3. The following letter will be despatched to the Government of India.

/ True extract /

W. M. A. S.

for Secretary to G.

To E. Thurston Esq.
the Bd. of R. Sett.

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Arbuthnot & Co. supply a loom at Ellore, to supply them only

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re, only five families 8' x 4', and 10' x 5', ly vegetable dyes are quality from Tanjore. attribute the decline driven out by cheap

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weavers, who had ly losing money, and none among Natives, one of better quality, wool, fine and coarse, getable and imported and attractive, but the "lover" flower device saff-flower, turmeric, dye.

Ellore, I am indebted

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[6. / 76 A.]

200-2-700.

C. No. 1534 of 1898.

NOTE FOR THE SECRETARY.

It is proposed to send out the order placed before closing this long standing affair.

2. The orders of the H.M. & H.L. are not required at this stage. The present Director of P.S. has not expressed his views on the subject, & it is just as well that he should do so.

3. The disliking of the current from those with which it has been connected is ^{most} desirable.

M.P.

4.10.98

C. No. 1534 of 1898

SUBJECT.

sep 8/1000

no. 496 d/8.10.00

FOR ORDERS.

and the director of

This paper has been delayed in connection with other papers relating to the School of Arts. It will now be recorded.

The remarks of the ^{hon.} director of P. S. will be requested on the suggestion to establish scholarships in connection with the carpet-weaving industry.

MA
16/00

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4.10.1800

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6.10.1900

27.9
10/10
1898

When given for copying _____
When copied _____ } 190 .
When examined _____
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____, DATED
190 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.