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THE COCONUT FIBRE, RAMIE FIBRE, HORSEHAIR AND FEATHER TRADES.

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THE COCONUT FIBRE, RAMIE FIBRE, HORSEHAIR AND FEATHER TRADES.*

Introductory.

The tables on pages 260 to 262 are based on Returns received from firms in Great Britain and Northern Ireland whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the production of coir mats and matting and other manufactures of sundry vegetable fibres, and the cleaning, dressing and preparing of hair and feathers. The number of such separate Returns was 108. About 20 firms to which schedules were sent did not furnish Returns, but these firms for the most part had very small establishments, and included a number which ceased operations in the course of the censal year. On the basis of the information available it is estimated that they did not employ more than 130 persons in all and that their total net output was probably not more than £25,000.

The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1924, 1912 and 1907, comparisons between the results for the three years being subject to the qualifications mentioned in the next paragraph:—

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1912.	1907.
Value of goods made and work done			man at	
(Gross output) Cost of materials used	£'000	2,328	1,714	1,236
Cost of materials used		1,414	1,160	809
Net output	atheoliqu	914	554	427
Average number of persons employed		011	004	441
(excluding outworkers)	No.	4.768	7,068	6,282
Net output per person employed (ex-		1,,,,,	7,000	0,202
cluding outworkers)	· f.	192	78	68
Mechanical power available :-	2	102	76	00
Prime movers	H.P.	2.791	2,525	1,992
Electric motors driven by purchased		2,,01	2,020	1,992
electricity	. ,,	1,687	779	Inot
	"	1,007	110	(not recorded

Qualifications affecting comparisons.—In considering the above table and the other tables in this Report which show figures for the different censal years, the following qualifications should be borne in mind:—

- (1) The comparability of figures relating to value or cost is affected by the changes which have taken place in the general purchasing power of money.
- (2) The Censuses of 1907 and 1912 covered the whole of Great Britain and Ireland, but that of 1924 applied only to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The exclusion of Southern Ireland in 1924 does not, however, seriously affect the comparability of the figures, since the pre-war output in that area was not substantial.

- (3) The Censuses of 1907 and 1924 extended to all firms, however small, but in 1912 firms employing not more than five persons (excluding the proprietors) were merely required to state the average number of persons employed by them in the year. According to the information so furnished, the average number of persons employed in the establishments thus excluded was 85, or $1\cdot2$ per cent. of the number employed by the remaining firms, as shown in the above table.
- (4) The figures for 1912, but not for either of the other two years, include the particulars returned by firms engaged in the manufacture of gas mantles (see footnote, p. 256).

Value of output and cost of materials.—The figures in the above table, representing the value of goods made and work done, are the aggregates of the figures recorded by the firms making Returns, and they involve duplication (i.e., double or multiple records of the same articles by different firms concerned in different stages of manufacture) in so far as goods made by some of the firms formed the materials of other firms in the trade. When this duplication (the amount of which is discussed on page 257) is eliminated, the value of the output in 1924 of the Fibre, Hair and Feather Trades as a whole is found to be between £2,268,000 and £2,328,000. Similarly, when the figure representing the cost of materials used in 1924 is adjusted by excluding purchases of the products of other firms in the Fibre, Hair and Feather Trades, the cost of the materials purchased from outside those trades and worked up into their products is found to be between £1,354,000 and £1,414,000.

Production.

Principal products.—The detailed information relating to production in 1924 is summarised in Table II on p. 260. The following statement shows, for the three censal years, the value and (where recorded) the quantity of the different classes of output, including not only the products manufactured by firms which made their Returns on schedules for the Fibre, Hair and Feather Trades, but also those made by firms whose Returns were furnished on schedules for other trades.

In addition to the goods dealt with in this Report, matting, etc., valued (on a "cost" basis) at £8,700 was produced in 1924 in H.M. Prisons.* In 1907, matting valued at £2,000 was produced by labour employed in philanthropic institutions.

^{*} More briefly referred to, in this Report, as the Fibre, Hair and Feather Trades. † See also the Notes on pp. vi to xiv.

^{*} Such production falls within the scope of the Report on Public Utility Services, which forms part of a separate volume.

assess the set techniques		- to the second		f and the	
	144/200	1924.	ni Juli	1912.	1907.
Output sold or added to stock, and work done.	Returned on schedules for the Fibre, Hair and Feather Trades.	Returned on schedules for other trades*.	Total.	Total.	Total.
Coir:— Mats and matting (Th. sq. yds.) Other manufactures (ex-	Selling value. £'000. 437 (2,519)	Selling value. £'000. 42 (253)	Selling value. £'000. 479 (2,772)	Selling value. £'000.	Selling value. £'000. 247
cept cordage) (cwts.) Other fibres and bristles, prepared and dressed:—	(5,000)	(7,000)	17 (<i>12</i> ,000)	(not separately recorded)	
Fibres and bristles for brushmaking Fibres and bristles for	122	03 <u>10</u> 40	122	122	70
other purposes	164	19	183	SO SVIII	33
TOTAL — FIBRES AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF	730	71	801	392	350
Hair:— Hair, cleaned or dressed Hair, curled Hair seating and cloth of hair mixed with other	400 546	2 15	402 561	377 342	219 338
fibres	269	18	287	179	173
TOTAL—HAIR	1,215	35	1,250	898	730
Feathers or down, purified or dressed	318 11	_4	322 11	165 (not separately recorded)	167 (not separately
Work done on commission or for the trade	2†	5†	7†	6†	recorded)
TOTAL	2,276	115	2,391	1,461	1,249
* Including the C				4	

^{*} Including the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades, Furniture Trades, Hardware Trades, and Artificial Flower and Ornamental Feather Trades, the Reports on which form part of other volumes.

† Amount received for work done.

Other products.—In addition to the products enumerated above, the schedules for these trades showed an output of other products (including ramie yarn and manufactures) valued at £52,000 in 1924, £343,000‡ in 1912, and £27,000 in 1907.

Work done for the trade or on commission.—Firms that made their Returns on schedules for the Fibre, Hair and Feather Trades stated

that they received £2,000 for work done for the trade or on commission. As the Returns contained no record of any payments made by firms in these trades for work given out, it appears that the £2,000 in question represents work done for merchants or for other firms outside the Fibre, Hair and Feather Trades.

Value of output free from duplication.—The gross output value of these trades (£2,328,000) includes a quantity of hair seating and cloth of hair mixed with other fibres, valued at £114,000, the hair used in which was probably purchased from firms who included it in their Returns as cleaned or dressed hair. The value of this hair, estimated at £60,000, may thus be duplicated in the gross output value. The value, free from duplication, of the output of these trades in 1924 may, therefore, be estimated as between £2,268,000 and £2,328,000. The corresponding estimate for 1907 was between £1,176,000 and £1,236,000.

Cost of materials used.—The cost of materials used by firms making their Returns on schedules for the Fibre, Hair and Feather Trades was returned as £1,414,000 in 1924, a sum which, by the exclusion of purchases of the products of other firms in the same trades, may be reduced to £1,354,000; the corresponding net figure for 1907 lay between £749,000 and £809,000.

Net output.—The net output in 1924 of the firms making their Returns on schedules for the Fibre, Hair and Feather Trades (whose gross output was valued at £2,328,000) was £914,000, that sum representing, without duplication, the total amount by which the value (at factory) of the aggregate output exceeded the cost (at factory) of the materials used.

The net output per head of persons employed (excluding outworkers) in the censal year 1924 was £192, which compares with £78 in 1912, and £68 in 1907.

Exports and imports.—Owing to differences of classification, coir mats and other manufactures of coir (except cordage, cables, ropes and twine) are the only classes of goods for which a comparison can be made between the figures of production and those of exports and imports. The particulars for 1924 are shown in the following

table :-

	Production.	Exports.	Net imports.
Kind of goods.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.
Coir mats and matting	Sq. yds. 2,772,000	Sq. yds. 167,000	Sq. yds. 3,741,000
Other coir manufactures (except cordage, cables, ropes and twine)	Cwts. 12,000	Cwts. 900	Cwts. 1,300

The imports of coir mats and matting largely exceeded the quantity produced and retained in this country, while the average value of the imported goods was much lower than that of the British product, being only 2s. 1d. (c.i.f.) per sq. yd. as compared with 3s. 5d. (at factory). The average value of the British exports was 3s. 3d. (f.o.b.) per sq. yd.

[‡] This amount includes a sum of £224,000, being the value of the output of incandescent gas mantles in 1912. In 1907 the output of incandescent gas mantles was included in other products of the Heating, Lighting, Ventilating and Sanitary Engineering Trades, while in 1924 it is shown separately in the Report on the Jute, Hemp and Linen Trades, p. 163.

The quantity of coir mats and matting available, from the production and imports of 1924, for use in the United Kingdom was 6,346,000 sq. yds., of which 2,605,000 sq. yds., or 41 per cent., were of British manufacture, and 3,741,000 sq. yds., or 59 per cent., were imported. The exports in 1924 of British-made mats and matting were just over 6 per cent. of the quantity made in that year.

Wages in 1924.

Under the Census of Production Act, 1906, the powers of the Board of Trade to require information do not extend to particulars of the amount of wages paid, and, consequently, no information on this head was secured in connexion with the Census of 1924. As a result, however, of the voluntary enquiry undertaken by the Ministry of Labour into wages and hours in the United Kingdom in 1924, information was obtained as to the total wage-bill of a group of firms in the Fibre, Hair and Feather Trades which made Returns both to the Ministry of Labour and to the Census of Production office. According to the Census records this group of firms employed, in the week ended 18th October, 1924, 2,416 operatives out of a total of 4,307 operatives for the trades as a whole, and their net output totalled £545,000 out of an aggregate of £914,000 for the trades as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £195,000, representing about 36 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on pages 261–2. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year together with those relating to the two previous censal years. For the purpose of this comparison, the average numbers of operatives of each sex returned for 1924 have been divided between the two age-groups in the proportion shown by the data relating to the week ended 18th October.

Average number			М	Males.		Females.		d females.	
	ing outwork			Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
One of the last of	1924.			2 th 189					- ugou.
Operatives Administrativ	re, etc.			282	2,007	548 36	2,326 133	830 74	4,333 435
TOTAL				320	2,309	584	2,459	904	4,768
	1912.			The same					7,100
Wage earners Salaried	1	::	::	457 23	2,732 386	924	3,909 41	1,381	6,641 427
TOTAL	4.000			480	3,118	929	3.950	1,409	7.068
	1907.		3000	9-6-3-0-s		2.2			.,000
Wage earners Salaried			9.0	430 36	2,572 327	737 8	3,349	1,167	5,921 361
TOTAL	2.	•••		466	2,899	745	3,383	1,211	6,282
Average numb	er of outv	vorke	rs:-						
1924 1912				1	9		55		64 83
1907					1		19		20

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 90 above the average, in May, to 97 below the average, in February (see Table IIIB, page 261).

Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV, page 262. The following table sets out the particulars for the three censal years relating to the capacity and kinds of *prime movers*, and the capacity of *electric generators* installed.

The latest with the latest the la		1924.	STREET, S	1912.	1907.
Power equipment.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.	Total.
PRIME MOVERS:— Reciprocating steam engines Gas engines Petrol and light oil engines	H.P. 1,147 1,111 19	H.P. 114 92 6	H.P. 1,261 1,203 25 257	H.P. 1,277 1,167 } 19	H.P. 1,324 620
Heavy oil engines Water power	257 45		45	62	48
TOTAL	2,579	212	2,791	2,525	1,992
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :-	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by— Reciprocating steam engines	129	_	129	87	15
Gas engines	424	32	456		
Petrol and light oil engines Heavy oil engines	66		66	305	12
Water power	2		2		
TOTAL	621	32	653	392	27

The capacity of *electric motors* installed in 1924 and in 1912 was as shown below:—

TES CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF	September 1985	1912.		
Electric motors.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.
Driven by— Electricity generated in own works Purchased electricity	H.P. 605 1,625	H.P. 68 62	H.P. 673 1,687	H.P. 410 779

Corresponding information was not required for 1907. The total number of Board of Trade units of electricity purchased for power and lighting purposes in that year was returned as 241,000.

Machinery Equipment.

In response to a request for voluntary information as to the kinds and numbers of machines at factories at the end of the year 1924, firms who produced 95.5 per cent. of the total output of coir mats and matting, and 68 per cent. of the total output of hair seating and cloth of hair mixed with other fibres furnished the following particulars of the mat and matting looms and hair cloth looms installed at their works:—

Kind of machines.	In use.	Idle.	Total.	Percentage idle.
Mat and matting looms (power)	157	39	196	19·9
	440	369	809	45·6
	656	150	806	18·6
	182	222	404	55·0

TABLES.

I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales and N. Ireland*.	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output) Cost of materials used Net output	£'000	1,963 1,219 744	365 195 170	2,328 1,414 914
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	4,184	584	4,768
ing outworkers) Mechanical power available :—	£	178	291	192
Prime movers	H.P.	2,569	222	2,791
electricity	,,	1,039	648	1,687

^{*} In order to avoid the disclosure of particulars relating to individual firms, the figures for Northern Ireland have been combined with those for England and Wales.

II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock.	England and Wales and N. Ireland†.	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
TO I SHE TOTAL TO SHEET AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE P	Selling value.	Selling value.	Selling value.
Coir :—	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
Mats and matting (Th. sq. yds.) Other manufactures (except cordage) (cwts.) Other fibres and bristles, prepared and dressed:—	437 (2,519) *	*	437 (2,519) 7 (5,000)
Fibres and bristles for brush-making Fibres and bristles for other purposes, Hair:—	122 160	-4	122 164
Hair, cleaned or dressed	390 203	10 343	400 546
Feathers or down, purified or dressed Waste products Other products	269 * 11 52	*	269 318 11
TOTAL	1,962	364	2,326
Work done on commission or for the trade	Amount received.	Amount received.	Amount received.
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)	1,963	365	2,328

^{*} In order to avoid the possible disclosure of particulars relating to individual firms, only total figures for the United Kingdom can be given in these cases.

† See footnote to Table I.

‡ Less than £500.

III.—Employment.

A.—Numbers employed in week ended 18th october, 1924 (EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

	Mal	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
Kind of staff.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	
England and Wales and Northern Ireland:—* Operatives	282 34	1,965 264	427 34	1,802 119	709 68	3,767 383	
TOTAL	316	2,229	461	1,921	777	4,150	
Scotland:— Operatives Administrative, etc.†	1 4	50 38	113 2	490 14	114 6	540 52	
TOTAL	5	88	115	504	120	592	
United Kingdom:— Operatives	283 38	2,015 302	540 36	2,292 133	823 74	4,307 435	
TOTAL	321	2,317	576	2,425	897	4,742	

^{*} See footnote to Table I.

B.—Operatives employed in one week in each month of 1924 (EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

England and Wales and Northern Ireland.* (Annual average: Males, 1,958; Females, 1,843; Total, 3,801.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th	1,990	1,796	3,786	July 19th Aug. 16th Sept. 13th Oct. 18th Nov. 15th Dec. 13th	1,938	1,863	3,801
Feb. 16th	1,969	1,766	3,735		1,894	1,875	3,769
March 15th	1,940	1,860	3,800		1,941	1,855	3,796
April 12th	1,980	1,865	3,845		1,965	1,802	3,767
May 17th	2,001	1,855	3,856		1,967	1,866	3,833
June 21st	1,965	1,855	3,826		1,946	1,855	3,801

Scotland. (Annual average: Males, 49; Females, 483; 10tat, 552.)								
Tan. 12th	46	413	459	July 19th		47	512	559
Feb. 16th	49	452		0			503	551
March 15th	50	458		Sept. 13th		49	483	532
April 12th	49	483		Oct. 18th	••	50	490	540 528
May 17th	47	520		Nov. 15th		51 52	484	536
Tune 21st	47	519	566	Dec. 13th		04	101	000

United Kingdon	n. (Ann	ual avera	ige: Ma	les, 2,007; F	emales, 2,326	3; Total	, 4,333.
Jan. 12th	2,036	2,209	4,245	July 19th	1,985	2,375	4,360
Feb. 16th	2,018	2,218	4,236	Aug. 16th	1,942	2,378	4,320
March 15th	1,990	2,318	4,308	Sept. 13th	1,990	2,338	4,328
April 12th	2,029	2,348	4,377	Oct. 18th	2,015	2,292	4,307
May 17th	2,048	2,375	4,423	Nov. 15th	2,018	2,343	4,361
June 21st	2,012	2,380	4,392	Dec. 13th	1,998	2,339	4,337

^{*} See footnote to Table I.

[†] Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

C.—Number of outworkers at two specified periods in 1924.

Country.		January.	Wilderson	July: 100 July: 100			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
England and Wales*	9	56	65	10	54	64	

^{*} No outworkers were recorded in Scotland or in Northern Ireland.

IV.—Mechanical Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	England and Wales and N. Ireland*		Sco	tland.	United Kingdom.	
200 1 0021 1 200 10	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.
PRIME MOVERS:— Reciprocating steam	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
engines Gas engines Petrol and light oil	1,034 1,069	79 75	113 42	35 17	1,147 1,111	114 92
engines	19 257 30	6 —	——————————————————————————————————————	Market Despera	19 257 45	6
TOTAL	2,409	160	170	52	2,579	212
ELECTRIC GENERATORS:— Driven by— Reciprocating steam	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
engines	129 424 66	32 — —	_ _ _ 2		129 424 66 2	32
Тотац	619	32	2	1	621	32
ELECTRIC MOTORS:— Driven by—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Electricity generated in own works Purchased electricity	605 1,019	68 20	606	42	605 1,625	68 62

^{*} See footnote to Table I.