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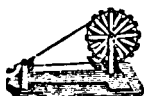
HAND-SPINNING AND HAND-WEAVING

HAND-SPINNING AND HAND-WEAVING

An Essay

By

S. V. PUNTAMBEKAR
and
N. S. VARADACHARI



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INTRODUCTION

It will be remembered that early last year Sjt. Reva Shanker Jagjivan Mehta, the Joint Treasurer of the National Congress, announced a prize of Rs. 1000 for the best essay on spinning. The judges appointed were Sjts. Ambalal Sarabhai, Shankerlal Banker, Maganlal Gandhi and myself. Sixty eight essays were received. After much deliberation, the judges decided to distribute the prize between Professor S. V. Puntambekar at present of the Benares Hindu University and Sjt. N. S. Varadachari. The essay that is now being presented to the public is the result of the joint effort of these two winners who were requested to amalgamate their essays and give a joint production. It is difficult to say how far the effort is an improvement upon the originals. But workers in the vast field of hand-spinning will find ample material in the following pages to strengthen their position and I should be much surprised if the sceptic does not find enough food for reflection.

The authors have applied themselves to an examination principally of the following propositions :—

Are there millions in India who require a supplementary occupation, the majority be-

ing idle for want of it during at least 4 months in the year? .

Is hand-spinning the only supplementary occupation and if it is, can it be easily taken up by the people?

Is it possible to sell Khaddar woven from hand-spun yarn among the people in the teeth of the competition offered by foreign and Indian mills?

The reader will find that the authors have endeavoured to give an affirmative answer to all these important questions. Is it not the duty of every one who wants to see an amelioration in the condition of India's masses carefully to read what the authors have stated and to support the Khaddar movement if they accept their conclusions? Let them denounce it as a waste of effort, if they can dare controvert the facts adduced by the authors.

SABARMATI, }
November 16, 1926. } M. K. GANDHI

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