

**THE INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY
OF INDIA.**

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

FACTORY LABOUR IN INDIA

FACTORY LEGISLATION IN INDIA

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT IN INDIA

HINDUSTANI WORKERS ON THE PACIFIC COAST
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**THE INDUSTRIAL
EFFICIENCY OF INDIA**

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TO MY WIFE

PREFACE

The Industrial Efficiency of India is a study in the productive capacity of India as compared with that of various industrially advanced countries, on the basis of their ability to utilise the natural, human and capital resources under the modern system of production. The object of the study is to ascertain the extent of India's efficiency and to analyse the causes of inefficiency and, further, to outline a scheme for the achievement of efficiency.

As stated in the preface of his books on *Factory Labour in India* (1923) and *Production in India* (1924), the subject-matter of the present treatise had occupied the author's mind for a long time. Deeply impressed in his early youth with the extreme poverty of the people, the author decided to inquire into its causes, and after five years of studies in Agriculture and Economics in the United States, came to the conclusion in 1912 that although over-population and foreign exploitation were among the contributory causes, the fundamental cause of India's poverty was her industrial inefficiency, or in-

ability of the people to make the best use of her potential resources for productive purposes.¹

This conclusion led the author to approach the economic problem of India from the point of view of her industrial efficiency. In 1913, a study in the efficiency of Indian factory labour was undertaken as doctoral dissertation, and although the project had to be given up in 1915 for lack of sufficient data for the purpose, the material thus collected was subsequently published in *Factory Labour in India*. In 1921-2, a study in comparative efficiency of Indian labour was also made in connection with the author's investigation of the condition of Hindustani (East Indian) workers in America on behalf of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, and published in his *Hindustani Workers on the Pacific Coast* (1923).

In the meantime, a study in the industrial efficiency of the nation as a whole was also begun, but for lack of time and means, as well as because of preoccupation with other subjects, the work was postponed. Some of the material collected was, however, published in the treatise on *Production in India* and also in the articles in the *Modern Review* on "Wastage of India's Man Power" (April 1927), and "The Nature of Industrial Effici-

¹ Vide Author's "The Problem of India's Poverty," *Modern Review*, September, 1929.

ency" (May 1927). Since the undertaking of the treatise there have been great changes in industrial conditions in India and a considerable portion of the original manuscript has been revised. Some parts of the present treatises have also been recently published in the *Modern Review*.

In presenting this volume to the public, the author would like to say that he has scarcely been able to produce a treatise which he had intended to write and for which he had waited so long. Besides the limited time and means at his disposal, the author has been seriously handicapped in his work by the lack of adequate and accurate statistics, especially in India, for comparative purposes. He hopes, however, that as in the case of his treatises on labour and production, the present study will open up a new field of research into the condition of India's industrial efficiency, which is of vital importance to the wealth and welfare of the people.

The author takes this opportunity to acknowledge gratefully the generosity and encouragement in the continuation of his work of the Association Sociale et Commerciale des Hindous in Paris. He also wishes to express his gratitude to Dr. Merle Eugene Curti, Associate Professor of History, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, for reading the manuscript. But the author owes

most of all to his wife, whose suggestions, criticism and sympathy have made the completion and publication of this book possible.

RAJANI KANTA DAS.

GENEVA,
September, 1930

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