

MONOGRAPH ON THE COTTON FABRICS
OF BENGAL, BY N.N. NAVERJEE.
BANE

MONOGRA

ON

THE COTTON FABRICS

OF

BENGAL,

BY

N. N. BANERJEE, B.A., M.R.A.C., F.H.A.S.,
Assistant Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.



CALCUTTA:

BENGAL SECRETARIAT PRESS.

1898.

PREFACE.

In accordance with the instructions contained in the Government of India's circular No. ¹⁹/₂₈₋₁, dated 22nd June 1896, a monograph on the "Cotton Fabrics" of Bengal was prepared in each district of these provinces. The present consolidated monograph for the Province has been based to a great extent on reports received from each district, but facts have also been ascertained at first hand by me, and much supplementary matter has been added from personal enquiry and observation. The following works have been consulted:—

- (1) "Textile Manufactures and Costumes of the People of India," by Dr. Forbes Watson.
- (2) "The Industrial Arts of India," by Sir George Birdwood.
- (3) "The Tribes and Castes of Bengal," by the Hon'ble H. H. Risley, I.C.S.
- (4) "Dictionary of Economic Products," by Dr. George Watt, C.I.E.
- (5) "Bihar Peasant Life," by Dr. G. A. Grierson, I.C.S.
- (6) "Ancient India," by Mr. R. C. Dutt, I.C.S.
- (7) Report on the existing "Arts and Industries in Bengal," by Mr. E. W. Collin, I.C.S.
- (8) "Art Manufactures of India," by Mr. T. N. Mukharji.
- (9) "Hand-book of Indian Products," by Mr. T. N. Mukharji.

The information given in the monograph relates to industries that are indigenous. Illustrations will be found appended to the report.

N. N. BANERJEE, B.A., M.R.A.C., F.H.A.S.,

*Assistant Director of Land Records
and Agriculture, Bengal.*

The 7th January 1898.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page.	Para.
I.—Origin, spread and decline of the cotton industry	1—4	1—6
II.—Area under cotton—amount of raw cotton—varieties of cotton	4—6	7—10
III.—Distribution of the cotton industry	6—15	11—58
IV.—Cotton manufacturers—their social and professional status	15—25	59—70
V.—The chief centres of the industry	25—27	71
VI.—Cotton fabrics—their prices	27—35	72—86
VII.—Cotton garments	36—39	87—89
VIII.—Appliances used in the manufacture of cotton goods—processes followed—cost of appliances	39—53	90—110
IX.—Dyeing and printing of cotton fabrics	53—54	111—113
X.—Disposal of goods	54	114
XI.—External and internal trade	54—58	115—145
XII.—Suggestions for improvement	58—61	146—153

APPENDICES.

	Page.
I.—Statement showing the number of persons engaged in cotton industries in each district of these Provinces in 1891	i
II.—Chief centres of the cotton industry	ii—iv
III.—Illustration of a woman working the ginning machine	v
IV.—Illustration showing the process of carding or scutching	vi
V.—Illustration of a spinning axle	vii
VI.—Illustration showing the method of setting the warp	viii
VII.—Illustration of a weaver washing thread	ix
VIII.—Illustration of a weaver working the loom	x
IX.—Vernacular and English names of the principal parts of the weaver's loom	xi
X.—Illustration showing the process of weaving carpets	xii
XI.—Illustration showing the process of weaving Kalm carpets	xiii
XII.—Illustration showing the process of making Newar tape	xiv

APPENDIX I.

*Statement showing the number of persons engaged in Cotton industries
in each district of these Provinces in 1891.*

(Extracted from the Census Report of 1891.)

APPENDIX II.

Chief centres of the cotton industry.

(Extracted from reports received from District Officers.)

District.	Centres of the Industry.
1	2
Burdwan ...	Nelpur, Katwa, Kalna.
Birbhum ...	Villages of Supur, Raipur, and Ilambazar in thana <i>Bolpur</i> , and Alunda and Tantipara in thana <i>Suri</i> .
Bankura ...	Bankura town, Gopinathpur, Barjora, Rajagram, Birsing-pur, Kenjakura.
Midnapore ...	Goalgram, Pathra, Patna Bazar (Town Midnapore), Mohan-pur, Mia Bazar (Town Midnapore), Balarampur, Jali-banda, Nandakisorepur, Amdoi, in the Sadar subdivision. Ghatal, Radhanagar, Iрpala, Narajole, Chandrakona, Kalna, Kunapur, Ramjibpur, Hajipur, Kamarpukur, Kulat, Khrpai, Jaipur, Koipat-Badanganja, Malidanga, Khanakul, Kharsar, Balidewanganja, Rajnagar, Gourhati, Mugra in the Ghatal subdivision, Panchkura, Barkhoda in Tamlik, Charabbarh, Khondrai in Contai.
Hooghly ...	Villages of Khanakul, Kristonagar, Ramjibpur, Myapur in the Jahanbari subdivision, Haripal, Dwarhatta, Atpur in the Serampore subdivision, and Dhaniakhali and Tantibazar in the Sadar subdivision (also French Chander-nagore).
Howrah ...	Some of the villages in thanas Ampta and Bagnan in Ulu-baria subdivision.
Nadia ...	Santipur, Kushtia, Kumarkhali, Harinarayanpur, and Meherpur and Krishnagar.
Khulna ...	Eaksha, Bansdaha in Satkhira, and Phultala in the Sadar subdivision.
24 Parganas ...	Baranagar, Jaynagar, Pankra, Purua, Khorgachi, Santra, and Bhulia.
Jessore ...	To a small extent—all the subdivisions of this district.
Murshidabad	Sadar subdivision— <i>Jellinghi Police Station</i> .—Chakche-tan, Barsabari, Sadikhanda, Dhanirampur, Chuchamora, Faridpur, Nilambarpara, Debipur, Srikrishnapur, Bagan-para, Chaknaraipur, Gowripur, Raipur, Basudebpur, Nowadapara, Chak Ramprasad, Kupla, Shahebnagar. <i>Azimganj</i> outpost.—Romna Etwarnagar, Fatepur, Lokhinathpur, Josh Thikari, Malalipur. <i>Harishpara</i> .—Swaruppur, Dangapara, Sandalpur, Tarti-pur, Nutan Saruppur, Lochanmali, Choa, Joykrishnapur. Kandi subdivision— <i>Khargram</i> .—Nagar, Gopinathpur, Balia, Mahisar, Dhanigram <i>Kaoram</i> .—Sonarundi, Shirpara, Shemulia, Bonwaribad, Ezara, Kogram, Talibpur. <i>Burwan</i> .—Sapaldaha, Kamamoli, Paluti, Jugsarah, Sattara, Kooli. Jangipur subdivision— <i>Suti</i> .—Sultanpur, Gopalganj, Auran-gabad, Nurpur, Fateullapur, Ishpara, Sankarpur, Sadik-pur, Bahadurpur, Aseran.

APPENDIX II—*continued.*

District.	Centres of the Industry.
1	2
Murshidabad— concl.	Samsanganj.—Mamrezpur, Arjunpur, Chancharpur, Upar Chanchar, Mahadebnagar, Serpur, Bhabanimati, Mahesh- othali, Kristopur, Joykristopur, Loharpur, Kaghunandan- pur, Samserganj, Moheshpur, Sibtala, Hoglabari, Dhulian, Arupnagar, Polashbona.
Rajshahi	Dewansarai.—Natibarpara, Aermari, Kristopur, Ramnagar, Upar Baninagar, Ramergram, Shahabad, Mohai.
	Villages.
	<i>Thana Tanor</i> 32
	<i>Do. Panchupur</i> 26
	<i>Do. Nator</i> 25
	<i>Do. Baraigram</i> 68
	<i>Do. Lalpur</i> 25
Jalpaiguri	Centres of the industry are not mentioned in the district report.
Darjeeling	Phansidewa.
Dinajpur	Patiram, Gangarampur.
Rangpur	The Kurigram and Nilphamari subdivisions.
Bogra	Chief centres of industry are not returned.
Pabna	Towns of Pabna and Serajganj and the following villages:— Dogachi, Salangah, Radhanagar, Malanchi, Tantiband, Shibarsampur, Barapara, Garadsha, Dubla, Sadullapur, Taraberia, Suganagar, Nischindapur, Dulai, Aminpur, Masanda, Shibpur, Ekdanta, Chakaiberia, Gopalpur, Goneshpur, Solaipur, Jalaipur, Rajapur, Bera, Chatmohar, Nawabpur, Tantibazar, Kaltabazar in the town of Dacca, and the following villages:—Dhamrai, Sabhar, Balati, Bhatarai, Abdullapur, Mireswarai, Demra, Kachpur, Matail, Doga, Manikganj.
Dacca	Nawabpur, Tantibazar, Kaltabazar in the town of Dacca, and the following villages:—Dhamrai, Sabhar, Balati, Bhatarai, Abdullapur, Mireswarai, Demra, Kachpur, Matail, Doga, Manikganj.
ymensingh...	Towns of Kishorganj and Bazitpur.
urdpur ...	The chief centres of the industry have not been returned.
ckergunge...	<i>Thana Ketwali</i> —Madhabpasa.
	<i>Thana Gournadi</i> —Uzirpur.
	<i>Thana Jhalokati</i> —Gabkhan.
Tippera	Also Barisal, Jhalokati, Patuakhali, Bhola.
Nakashali	Centres of the industry are not mentioned.
Chittagong	Information is not forthcoming regarding the chief centres of the industry.
Patna	Hathhazari, Putiya, and Cox's Bazar. Thanas Sultanganj and Alamganj in the city of Patna, and Dinapur.
Gaya	No mention is made of the chief centres of the industry in the district report.
Shahabad	Arrah, Buxar, Sassaram and Bhabua.
Chapra	Chapra Town, Mirganj, Siwan.

APPENDIX II—*concluded.*

District.	Centres of the Industry.
	2
Champanar ...	Champanar, Madhuban, and Gobindganj thanas in the Saran subdivision.
Muzaffarpur ...	<i>N.B.</i> —The chief centres of sale are Muzaffarpur, Berhampur, Damodarpur, and Islampur in the Sadar subdivision and Sitamarhi and Sursand in the Sitamarhi subdivision.
Darbhanga } Monghyr }	Centres of the industry are not mentioned in district report.
Bhagalpur ...	Sadar, Banka and Madhepara subdivisions.
Purnea ...	Centres not mentioned.
Malda ...	Kaliachak, Ratna, Old Malda, and Kaligram.
Sonthal Parganas.	Rajmahal, Pakur, Dumka, Deoghar, and Godda subdivision,
Cuttack ...	The chief centres of the industry are not returned in the district report. In Guinagar and Cuttack town, however, there are many weavers.
Balasore ...	No information has been given in the district report regarding the chief centres of the industry.
Angul ...	Tigiria and Baramba.
Puri ...	<i>N.B.</i> —The chief centres of sale are—Ghoradia, Bannalipur, Nagpur, Nuapalam, Ratanpur, Lingpur, Sarkantar, Bhaliasbari, Narangar, Chhangir, Tangi, Bangi-Tangi, Banpur Bazar, Atharbhag, and Tulsipur, Charchika, and Kalapathar Banki.
Hazaribagh Lohardaga Palameu }	Centres of the industry are not returned.
Manbhum. Singhbhum ...	Dalbhum.