

# FROM FIELD TO FACTORY

*An Introductory Study of  
the Indian Peasant turned Factory Hand*

BY

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## FOREWORD

THIS book was originally intended as an answer to a multitude of questions put to me about industry in India by girls and women in the textile factories in one of the large manufacturing towns of Yorkshire. I am indebted to them for their clear questions, their quick insight into the relations between a worker's factory life and his home life, and to their demand that something might be written which they and their friends could buy and read, and so have a more intelligent understanding of their fellow workers in the factories of India.

The progress of Western industrialism in India is a matter of concern to all who are interested in the contact of East and West, whether from the point of view of relations within the Empire, or of commerce and industry, or of the meeting of our different cultures. Students in college continually ask, "Is it not a mistake to take Western industrialism to India?" This book is only an introduction to the big questions which are raised in it. It is hoped that readers will be led through it to study especially *Labour in Indian Industries* by Miss G. M. Broughton, now Lady Chatterji, and *Labour in India* by Miss Janet Kelman. My dependence

on both these books and on Mr Pillai's *Economic Conditions in India* is obvious throughout. Any first-hand knowledge I have had of facts and conditions, as will be seen in the text, is limited to North India, Bengal and Bombay, and is the result of observations due to a persistent interest in what I believe to be one of the most vital questions in India to-day.

If this book can make any contribution to the reality of the partnership of East and West in the sphere of labour and industry it will justify its appearance.

**MARGARET READ.**

*June 1926.*