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Report of the Department of
Industries, Assam, for the
year 1939-40

BY

S. L. MEHTA, Esq., I.C.S.,
DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES, ASSAM

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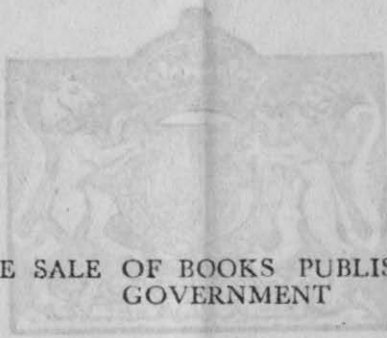
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1941
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SHILLONG
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
1941

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FROM

S. L. MEHTA, Esq., I.C.S.,
DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES, ASSAM,

TO

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE GOVERN-
MENT OF ASSAM, LOCAL SELF-GOVERN-
MENT DEPARTMENT.

Dated Shillong, the 11th September 1940.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year ending the 31st March 1940.

Your obedient servant,
S. L. MEHTA,
Director of Industries, Assam.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES, ASSAM

No. IM 38 486-Ind.

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Director of Industries, Assam

Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year 1939-40

CHAPTER I

Personnel.—Mr. M. Khurshid, I.C.S., held charge of the Department till 5th October 1939, when I took over charge from him and continued till the end of the year in addition to my duties as Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Registrar of Village Authorities, Assam.

Mr. Khurshid spent 61 days on tour during the period he was in charge of the Department and visited the two Technical Schools at Jorhat and Sylhet, the Weaving School at Gauhati, Sericultural Stations at Titabar and Shillong and the Emporia at Gauhati and Sylhet, besides inspection of Weaving and Sericultural works at several important centres including a few private concerns in the province. He also paid visits to some of the Institutions imparting vocational training to our youths which were run by private bodies, and in June 1939 he attended the meetings of the All-India National Planning Committee held in Bombay. I toured for 57 days during the year and attended the meetings of the All-India Industries Conference and the Imperial Sericultural Committee held at Mysore in December 1939. I also visited some of the important silk factories and Industrial Institutions both at Bangalore and Mysore after the meeting of the Imperial Sericultural Committee was over. During my tour I also paid visits to the two Technical Schools at Jorhat and Sylhet and the Emporia at Gauhati and Karimganj and the two Sericultural Stations at Titabar and Shillong. As in previous years I also visited some of the private Institutions and concerns such as the Dibrugarh Electroplating Works, the Oil Mill owned by Srijut Phanidhar Bhagavati, the Barua Press and the Hosiery Knitting Factory at Dibrugarh, Jalali Hosiery Works at Sylhet, the two rice mills belonging to Maulavi Abdul Rezaque and Maulavi Kassimud in Bepari, the Jadoomani Printing Press, the Soap Factory run by a Punjabee named C. L. Duggal at Golaghat, Nohati Girls' Middle English School, Barpeta, Deviram Weaving School, Nalbari, the Nowgong Rice Mills of which the proprietor is Srijut Jiban Chandra Bhuyan and Srijut Lalit Chandra Sarma's "Annapurna Rice Mills" situated at Panigaon and the Sewali Press and the Surya Printing Works at Nowgong and the Jorhat Weaving School and the Leper Colony at Barbheta managed under the supervision of Mrs. Kirby. I also visited the three soap manufacturing concerns, the Laxmi Industrial Works which manufacture rubber stamps and ink and the Assam Sports Knitting Works at Barpeta. At Sibsagar I paid visits to the Polytechnic Institute and the Assam Rubber Stamp Works. At North Lakhimpur I visited the Oil Mill run by a Marwari and a cane manufacturing concern run by a man from Sylhet. I also made general enquiries about the industrial concerns in almost all places I had the occasion to go round.

Rao Saheb N. M. Sundram, L. T. M., Weaving Superintendent of Assam, was in charge of the Weaving Branch and the Government Emporium and Central Stores at Gauhati during the year except for a period of seven weeks from 20th May 1939 when he was on leave and Babu Rash Behari Das, L. T. M., Marketing Officer, Assam, held charge in addition to his own duties. The Weaving Superintendent spent 106 days on tour and

inspected the work of the four weaving parties, Jute and Hosiery Demonstration parties, Weaving and Durrie Weaving Sections of the Surma Valley Technical School, the Weaving School at Gauhati and the two Emporia at Gauhati and Karimganj and generally supervised the working of the schemes for development of hand-loom industries financed out of the Government of India grant. He also inspected the weaving industry in the Sylhet and Tezpur Jails and various other private Weaving Institutions and factories and gave all possible technical advice and directions where needed. He also rendered assistance in the organisation of committees in some of the district and subdivisional headquarters for collection of information on such cottage industries as may have scope for development in those localities. The work of an informal survey of the hand-loom industry as initiated by my predecessor was also entrusted to him during the year under review.

Srijut Ratneswar Dutta, B.Sc., continued as Superintendent of Sericulture, Assam. He was in general charge of the sericultural operations of the province and spent 129 days on tour. He was also entrusted with the informal survey work of the sericultural industry of the province. Since his appointment as Assistant Superintendent of Sericulture in July 1939, Srijut Ramananda Sarma took over charge of the Titabar Sericultural Station and the supervision of the demonstration work of the Upper Assam districts from the Superintendent. He was on tour for 81 days and delivered three lantern lectures on the sericultural industry of Japan.

General features.—The Department of Industries in Assam is, as already mentioned in my previous reports, not in touch with large scale industries such as oil, coal, tea, etc., and therefore its activities were mainly confined to the encouragement of hand-loom weaving and sericulture and to the spread of technical and industrial education of the youths of the province as far as possible.

Including the Weaving section attached to the Surma Valley Technical School at Sylhet there are at present two Weaving Schools in the province besides 27 weaving demonstrators under four weaving assistants for propaganda and demonstration work for the improvement of the hand-loom weaving industry of the province by introduction of improved and up to-date appliances, processes and new designs and patterns. There is also a peripatetic weaving demonstrator for introduction of jute spinning and weaving throughout the whole province. A Hosiery demonstration party consisting of an instructor and a Jugali was also sanctioned by the Government temporarily for five years on an experimental basis and entertained during the year under review for introduction of hosiery industry.

During the year under report the addition of an automobile section to the Surma Valley Technical School at Sylhet was also sanctioned by the Government and the class was opened with 12 students on the roll.

As already stated in the report for the previous year the Government of India sanctioned a grant of Rs. 25,255 for expenditure during 1939-40 for development of hand-loom industry in the province and the following schemes were continued. The actual expenditure on these schemes amounted to Rs. 19,014-7-0. It is gratifying to note that the Government of India have since decided to finance these schemes for a further period of two years from 1940-41 and it is expected that some more improvement will be made with this aid.

SCHEME No. I

Re-organisation of the Government Emporium and Central Stores at Gauhati.—The Marketing Officer—Babu Rash Behari Das—with the assistance of the two travelling canvassers did his best to popularise the hand-loom products by propaganda and advertisements. He was on tour for 133 days and attended 9 exhibitions, visited 12 markets and 20 factories and institutions and successfully introduced a number of useful patterns. The goods displayed at the exhibitions found ready sale and many fresh orders were received from all quarters. Some ex-students of our institutions and a large number of co-operative societies were supplied with yarn for supply of woven cloth on payment of weaving charges. The scheme for whole-sale supply of Government requirements for which a contribution of Rs. 20,000 was asked could not be worked out as the Government could not sanction the contribution for financial stringency. The Emporium however somehow managed to continue to supply the requirements of various Government departments as already undertaken as far as possible with its limited stock. As in the previous years it received patronage and substantial help and advice from Lady Reid and Mrs. Dennehy in the introduction of various new patterns and sale of fabrics through the Assam Industries Association. Mr. K. W. P. Marar, I.C.S., when he was the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, helped the department much in arranging a number of meetings with the merchants particularly at Karimganj and induced them to effect sales of hand-loom products with the result that some merchants have since kept a stock of hand-loom products for sale in their shops.

SCHEME No. II

Establishment of a Branch Emporium at Sylhet.—As already mentioned in the report for the preceding year the branch emporium was removed from Sylhet to Karimganj in October 1939 with a view to its working in close contact with the large number of professional weavers in and about the locality and the newly started yarn-purchase and cloth-sale society there. The services of a Weaving Demonstrator have also been exclusively placed at the disposal of the society for improvement of the articles turned out by the weavers for the market.

The Emporium supplied dress materials and other fabrics to the Assam Industries Association and the Indian Red Cross Society and Lady Hardinge Linen League. It also undertook supply of looms, accessories, yarn, colours and chemicals to the weavers.

The sale proceeds of the Branch Emporium which show a slight fall amounted to Rs. 7,587-12-3 as against Rs. 7,972-12-0 in the previous year. The fall is due to sudden removal of the Emporium from Sylhet to Karimganj.

SCHEME No. III

Appointment of two Co-operative Weaving Inspectors.—As in previous years the two Co-operative Weaving Inspectors—one in each Valley continued to do good work. Although the Inspector for the Assam Valley was meant for the whole Valley his main activities had to be confined to the Sibsagar subdivision which is one of the important centres for fine cotton and silk weaving. During the year under report he visited 75 villages, rendered assistance to 21 Co-operative Weaving Societies, organised three new ones, delivered 30 lantern lectures and addressed 25 meetings in the villages by way of propaganda to bring about a new life to the industry by introduction of new patterns with improved methods of weaving. The progress so far

achieved under his guidance is not unsatisfactory. The activities of the Inspector for the Surma Valley were, as in the previous year, also confined mainly to the Karimganj subdivision which is the most important cotton weaving centre in the province and where there is ample scope for further expansion of the industry. He was on tour for 182 days, visited 195 villages, organised three new societies at Karimganj, Silchar and Habiganj of which one at Karimganj needs special mention as it is a society composed of professional weavers only for the purchase of yarn and sale of cloth. It is encouraging to find that in the very first year of its working it has supplied over 2,300 yards of cloth of various patterns to the value of Rs. 973. The yarn for the various patterns of fabrics is being supplied by the branch Emporium at Karimganj. The two other newly started societies, however, did not commence work till the end of the year under review. There are 90 co-operative weaving societies and in all 580 looms are at work in the Surma Valley. The total production of these societies can be estimated to amount to nine lakh yards of cloth roughly to the value of one and a half lakh of rupees. The results achieved so far were quite satisfactory.

SCHEME No. IV

Appointment of a Dyeing Supervisor and a Calico Printer.—To produce fast dyeing of yarn and cloths of various shades and to introduce calico printing throughout the province the Dyeing Supervisor and the Calico Printing Instructor with one operator and a Jugali under each continued to do work as distinct demonstration parties in both the Valleys. The Dyeing Supervisor toured for 300 days, visited 27 villages, 41 schools and factories and conducted about 300 demonstrations in about 320 shades of indenthrene, naphthol, sulphur, acid colours, etc., besides rendering necessary assistance in dyeing of yarn and cloth belonging to the two Emporia at Gauhati and Sylhet. In all he dyed over 5,400 lbs. of cotton yarn, 320 pieces of cloth including Abor and Lushai rugs and bleached 400 lbs. of yarn among other things. The success so far achieved by the two Emporia at Gauhati and Sylhet is partially due to the help they received from the Dyeing Supervisor in the matter of manufacture of coloured fabrics for which there was a great demand in the market.

The Calico Printing Instructor during the course of his tours throughout the province gave demonstrations in several places and created interests among ex-students, besides rendering necessary assistance to some of the existing concerns in the line. He printed about 1,600 yards of cotton fabrics in 2 to 5 colours of aniline black rapid fast, indigosol, acid basic, indenthrene groups and in direct discharge and resist printing, etc. Aerograph printing was also demonstrated to some extent but this being a new art will take some time to gain popularity among the printers of the province.

As mere demonstration in particular localities for a short duration does not afford proper facilities to the learners a peripatetic demonstration class with 10 students has since been started at Karimganj to see if such a course would produce better results.

Since the outbreak of the present War a considerable amount of difficulty is being felt in the matter of supply of colours and chemicals and the industry is bound to receive a set-back until normal conditions are restored. The Government have, however, since the close of the year under review, sanctioned a contribution of Rs. 5,000 to the Government Emporium and Central Stores at Gauhati for keeping a sufficient stock of colours and chemicals for the use of both the departmental officers and the individual weavers, dyers and printers of the province.

Under the guidance of the local weaving demonstrator the Khasi Co-operative Weaving Society in Shillong made a considerable progress during the year. Its sale proceeds of fabrics of various attractive patterns amounted to Rs. 5,700 as against Rs. 3,210 in the preceding year. There were 14 girls working on the looms provided by the society for the purpose, on piece work and they earned wages to the extent of Rs. 1,277. It is interesting to note that the society introduced about 50 new patterns and earned a profit of about five hundred rupees in spite of its limited area of operation. The society received kind patronage from the public in general and Lady Reid in particular.

The working of the sericultural branch of the department was, as in the previous years, confined to the production of improved seeds in the sericultural stations at Titabar and Shillong and propaganda and demonstrations by 20 temporary seed examiners and demonstrators and 6 permanent demonstrators. Proposals for establishment of two Pat reeling factories and two mulberry plantations were submitted during the year under review. They are under the consideration of Government.

The silk rearers of the province derived much benefit from the working of the scheme financed by the Government of India for improvement of sericultural industry in the province. These schemes were worked at a cost of Rs. 16,596 against the allotment of Rs. 16,428 for the year 1939-40 by the Government of India.

With regard to the spread of technical and industrial education the department has yet to depend mainly on the following three schools maintained by it---

1. The Fuller Technical School, Kohima.
2. The Surma Valley Technical School, Sylhet.
3. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat.

A number of private institutions imparting vocational training to the students were also given small non-recurring contributions out of the provincial budget and the Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund.

During the year under report the soap demonstration classes were held at Dibrugarh, Shillong and Sylhet. Of the three classes courses were completed in the former two while that at Sylhet was over after the close of the year. Classes are being repeated in some of the centres where they were held previously as the demand for such training was still persistent. Along with the training in the manufacture of soap, instructions are also imparted in the manufacture of phenyle, varnishes, scented oil, snow, vanishing cream, etc. The Soap Instructor also visited a number of factories in the province and gave necessary technical advice where his help was sought for.

The Board of Development met only once during the year and made certain recommendations particularly with regard to the question of granting financial assistance to the individual industrialists for introduction of new industries in the province. This matter is still under the consideration of Government. The question of introduction of spinning and weaving in the girls' schools in the province which was also one of the recommendations of the Board is yet pending.

My predecessor, Mr. Khurshid, submitted several new schemes for both improvement of the existing industries as well as introduction of new ones but the following schemes only were sanctioned during the year under report:—

1. Scheme for manufacture of ghee.
2. Scheme for Fish Culture.

CHAPTER II

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES—GENERAL

The most important cottage industries of the province, *viz.*, hand-loom weaving and sericulture have been dealt with separately in Chapters III and IV respectively of this report.

In the absence of the necessary staff for collection of information it is not possible to say anything definitely about the present condition of the various cottage industries of the province which are all on a small scale. The department has not been able to render substantial assistance to the cottage workers and the prospective industrialists to start new ones for want of expert staff under it to advise on several enquiries from different quarters.

The Development Board held during the year seriously considered the question of a detailed survey but as it involves a large expenditure it was decided not to undertake it at present.

During the year under review a few committees were formed in district and subdivisional headquarters for collection of information and for suggesting ways and means for improvement of the existing cottage industries and for establishment of new ones in the province.

As in the past the departmental officers made some enquiries and obtained some details on the following industries :—

Bell-metal.—Up to the present moment this industry is confined mainly to Sarthebari and its adjacent villages in the Barpeta subdivision of the Kamrup district. About 1,000 workers are engaged in this trade and they are known as Kahars. The number of Manipuri families now engaged in this trade in Cachar district stands at about 10 in Kharilpar. Some of the Kahars of the Sarthebari village go in small batches of 6 to 8 workers to the Upper Assam districts, open temporary workshops in suitable centres, work there for a few months and then come back with a good earning. This position has been created by the people in the Upper Assam districts themselves as they have since abandoned this trade altogether. It is a pity, however, that these workers have yet to get the raw materials from their Mohajans who are mostly Marwaris to whom the major portion of the profit goes, and they actually get a small return for their manual labour. To get rid of this situation the Kahars in Sarthebari village have since started a co-operative society among themselves which is progressing well.

Brass work.—A few Muslims known as Morias in the Assam Valley and some Manipuris in the Cachar district are actually engaged in this industry which is in a stagnant condition due to bad finishing and polishing of the articles manufactured by them. As in the case of bell-metal workers the brass workers have also to depend on their Mohajans for the raw materials required for the business and as such here also the major portion of the profit goes to the pockets of the Mohajans leaving a small margin for the workers themselves. They generally manufacture plates, pots and cooking utensils of every-day use.

Ivory work.—This industry is, as before, practically confined only to the two workers in the Barpeta Town. As usual they purchase a small quantity of ivory from the Forest Department and manufacture carved images, bangles, churis, safety-pins, walking sticks, handles, fancy combs, bead necklaces, etc., but due to bad polish the manufactured articles are inferior in quality compared with those imported from outside the province. There is no visible progress in this industry.

Iron Industry.—This industry is confined mainly to the manufacture of agricultural implements, garden requisites and cooking utensils and is carried on on a small scale in almost every village throughout the province. The industry is in the hands of the Up-country men in the Assam Valley while it is a monopoly with a particular section of the population known as 'Karmakars' in the other valley.

Soap Industry.—There are about 80 small and large soap factories run by private persons both natives and non-natives of the province and all these factories are reported to be progressing well inspite of hard competition from Dacca. Some of these factories are manufacturing toilet soap, scented oil, snow and phenyle, etc., on a small scale. As a result of the departmental soap demonstration classes held in different centres throughout the province a number of youths have been trained in the manufacture of soap and it is reported that a fair number of factories have since been started by them.

Manufacture of steel trunk.—There are over 50 steel trunk factories in the province. All these factories manufacture steel trunks, suit cases, buckets, drums, etc., which generally find a market in the locality concerned and are reported to be doing well in spite of high prices of materials due to the present war conditions.

Umbrella Making.—It is an encouraging sign to find that the number of umbrella making factories is gradually on the increase. Umbrella handles are manufactured in large quantities from local bamboos in several places in the Karimganj, Maulvibazar and Habiganj subdivisions. The iron parts and cloth for making umbrellas are mainly obtained from the Calcutta market.

Shoe Factories.—The number of shoe factories in the province is increasing gradually. There are about 40 such factories belonging mostly to Chinese and Up-country men. A few local people have also taken up this industry. These factories manufacture shoes, slippers, suit cases, handbags, etc. The workmanship of some of these factories is quite good. The industry is doing well.

Carpentry Workshops.—There is a large number of cabinet making shops spread all over the province and the number is gradually on the increase. But it is disappointing to find that a good many of these workshops are owned by either the Punjabis or the Chinese. Some of the *ex*-students of our technical schools have also started workshops of their own but in many cases financial difficulties stand in the way of large scale production.

Gold and Silversmiths.—As already mentioned in the report for the previous year there is a large number of gold and silversmiths in the province, but the industry shows no sign of improvement. On the other hand the indigenous workers who are lacking in workmanship and designs are gradually falling to the background.

Cane work.—In spite of fall in the prices of manufactured articles this industry is reported to be doing well. Raw materials required for this industry are available in abundance within the province at a cheap rate. It could make a further headway if some concession in the railway freight for export could be secured from the Railway Companies concerned. The workers generally manufacture baskets, suit cases, chairs, tables, sofas and other furniture which find a ready market both in and outside the province.

Mat-making.—Mat-making is a side-occupation of the agriculturists generally carried on at their leisure time and it is mainly confined to the districts of Sylhet and Cachar wherefrom large quantities of manufactured articles such as *Sitalpatis*, mats, *chatais* and *dharas* are exported annually to the neighbouring province. A large quantity of raw materials is also exported. The condition of the trade is reported to be steady but it has some scope for expansion.

Pottery.—This typical village industry which shows no sign of improvement is carried on by the workers at their leisure time during the particular season of the year as a subsidiary occupation. It is a matter of regret that the local markets are gradually being captured by the traders from Bengal who import articles of far superior quality.

Toys.—As Japanese celluloid and mechanical toys have captured the market, this industry which was confined to the Sylhet district only is gradually dying out.

Combs.—There are about 30 shops carrying on this business in Sylhet and elsewhere in the province on a small scale, but they are not doing well due to bad workmanship and polish of the articles manufactured by them. These shops are mostly owned by Dacca people. The articles are made of buffalo horns.

Printing Presses.—The number of printing presses is increasing year after year. Some work with oil engines and some with electric power but a good many small ones are worked only with manual labour. Some of these presses have secured orders for printing of Government forms and envelopes and are reported to be doing satisfactorily.

Manufacture of ink.—The ink manufacturing concerns are very small in number in the province. Some of the concerns which received Government patronage have not been able to supply good quality of ink used in Government offices and instructions have since been issued to improve the quality.

Rubber stamps.—The Luxmi Industrial Works at Barpeta and the Assam Rubber Stamp Works at Kalugaon in Sibsagar are doing good business. The latter has been receiving orders from Government and other departments.

Rice and Oil Mills.—A large number of rice and oil mills mostly owned by the Marwaris is working in the province. The number of indigenous *ghanis* is increasing gradually and it is reported that the *ghanis* introduced by the All-India Spinners' Association are also producing better oil. It would have been to the advantage of the rice and oil mill owners to run their concerns by electric power where facilities exist provided a specially low rate is obtained for such industrial load from the electrical companies concerned.

Hosiery.—There are about 9 Hosiery factories in the province. It is pleasing to find that one of our passed students has since started a concern under the name of 'The Pioneer Knitting Mills, Gauhati,' for manufacturing socks, sweaters and sport shirts on a large scale. For want of adequate finance, however, the business of the concern is at present somewhat restricted. The question of an industrial loan for which an application is pending, is being considered by the Government. Another concern to cater for the need of cotton *genjis* has since been started at Sylhet on a large scale and the factory is being run with electric power obtained from the local supply company. The Hosiery class started by the Department during the year under report has already trained 7 students,

Paper making.—The two students trained by the department in the manufacture of hand-made paper at the training school, All-India Village Industries Association, Wardha, are reported to be doing their own business. The Vidyasram at Kulaura and the Silpa Pratishthan at Sibsagar are manufacturing hand-made paper on a small scale.

Cotton ginning.—In Cachar district there are about 8,000 Manipuris and Cacharis doing ginning by country method. Cotton ginning by hand is also carried on to some extent in Garo Hills and other hills districts where cotton is grown.

Electroplating.—The Electroplating Works at Dibrugarh of which mention was made in the report for the preceding year are reported to be doing satisfactory business.

CHAPTER III

HANDLOOM WEAVING

It is a known fact that out of the existing cottage industries of the province handloom weaving occupies the foremost place. Introduction of improved and up-to-date appliances, new designs and patterns and instruction on time and labour saving methods has gone a great way to the advancement of the industry within recent years. With the spread of activities of the Dyeing and Printing Parties entertained out of the Government of India grant the industry has got a new life inasmuch as it has since been able to establish a market for the coloured manufactured fabrics for which there is a growing demand. Besides the four peripatetic weaving parties engaged on propaganda and demonstration work throughout the province, there are two weaving schools to impart necessary training to the youths desirous of learning the art. A number of private schools and institutions were helped with small non-recurring contributions out of the Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund as well as from the Provincial budget to continue their scheme of imparting training in weaving as an additional subject.

Peripatetic Weaving Parties.—The proposal for entertainment of 10 additional Weaving demonstrators submitted during the year is under the consideration of Government. There are at present 27 Weaving Demonstrators under 4 Weaving Assistants in charge of 4 parties at work throughout the whole province. The staff is quite inadequate to meet the growing demands from the public.

It is a noteworthy feature that the hill people are also gradually taking to this industry on improved methods and every endeavour is being made to render all possible assistance to them. Further with the opening of the rural uplift centres under the Village Reconstruction Scheme worked by the Agricultural Department the activities of the Department have increased to some extent and the staff therefore needs strengthening immediately.

The parties visited 1,082 villages and rendered help to 130 co-operative societies, 54 schools, 34 factories and successfully introduced 505 new spindles and looms, 18 warping drums, 30 hand creels, 1 jacquard, 1 dobby, 8 eri-spinning and 19 cotton spinning charkhas besides a large number of healds, reeds, shuttles, etc. They participated in 14 exhibitions and as usual delivered lantern lectures in all of them attracting a large number of crowd everywhere. They also attended the two weaving competitions held in Cachar and Goalpara districts during the year.

A good deal of their time was also spent in doing the work of the informal survey of the handloom weaving industry in the province which was initiated by the department and it will take some more time to complete the work.

As in the previous year the headquarters of the Lower Assam Party remained at Gauhati and its activities were confined to the districts of Kamrup, Goalpara and Darrang. The district of Garo Hills was however added to it and one of the two additional weaving demonstrators sanctioned and entertained during the year under report was sent to Tura as desired by the Government. The party consisting of seven Weaving Demonstrators with a weaving Assistant attached to it visited 353 villages and rendered assistance to 31 societies, 23 schools, 15 factories and introduced 168 fly-shuttle sleys, 2 warping mills and a dobbie and participated in 4 exhibitions in all of which demonstrations were successfully given in the presence of large crowds.

There are 16 silk weaving factories in Sualkuchi with 4 to 12 frame looms working in each. Some new patterns of *saris* brought from Mysore and Madras were successfully introduced in that locality with the result that the demand for their finished products has greatly increased. To give a further impetus to this important industry a proposal for appointment of a designer mainly to guide the weavers in that area has been submitted to the Government and if the proposal is sanctioned there is no doubt that the products of these factories will not only grow in popularity but will get a wider market both in and outside the province. The proposal is under the consideration of Government. Some of the weavers at Sualkuchi have combined together and opened shops and agencies in suitable places for better marketing of their manufactured articles.

The demonstrator at Tura visited 27 villages and introduced about a dozen of looms during the year.

The party with a limited number of demonstrators attached to it has not been able to satisfy the ever increasing demand for their services and the position is likely to remain unchanged until and unless the staff is increased. A proposal for increase of staff is under the consideration of Government.

The jurisdiction of the Upper Assam party extends over the three districts of Sibsagar, Nowgong and Lakhimpur. During the year under report the strength of the party was increased from 6 to 7 demonstrators who were working under the direct supervision of an Assistant whose headquarters were at Jorhat. The party visited 279 villages and rendered assistance to 68 co-operative societies, 10 schools and factories and introduced 220 fly-shuttle sleys, one jacquard and a dobbie and participated in two exhibitions.

The Kaibartas in Sibsagar continued to show exceptional enthusiasm in adopting new processes introduced by the party. There are already about 360 fly-shuttle looms in the Sibsagar centre and it is reported that each loom holder is making a decent income. The party also co-operated with the local branch of the All-India Spinners' Association in producing *muga*, silk and *khaddar*. The good work was started in Majuli particularly among the Miris. In Dibrugarh centre the weaving demonstrator continued to do good work specially in arranging lantern lectures in suitable areas in the interior.

In *eri* and cotton weaving Roha, Nowgong and Gaurisagar are growing in importance and the weavers there are supplying the emporium with various kinds of cloths on orders.

The private weaving schools which are in existence within the area of operation of this party are reported to be flourishing.

The Sylhet party with its headquarters at Sylhet visited 245 villages and rendered assistance to 15 co-operative societies, 14 schools and 12 weaving and dyeing factories. The party also introduced 51 fly-shuttle looms and sleys, 1 jacquard, 7 warping drums, 23 hand creels and a large number of healds, reeds, etc., and participated in 4 exhibitions.

The co-operative Yarn purchase and cloth sale society started at Karimganj during the year under report has been doing well. The society took up the manufacture of cloth as required by the branch Emporium which supplied fast coloured yarn and approved patterns to the members of the society. The weavers who were so long accustomed only to the manufacture of coarse cloths are now able to weave finer *dhutis* and *saris* of various attractive patterns introduced by the party. As already said, the services of a weaving demonstrator have been exclusively placed at the disposal of the society to help the members with instructions to improve the trade in all directions.

The party also successfully organised co-operative societies among the Manipuris, Das and Muslim communities who have shown much eagerness to take up the improved methods of weaving and preparatory processes at Majidhi, Patharkandi, Purahuria, Sundarpur, Kamalganj and other neighbouring villages.

Of the two power loom factories that are in existence in Sylhet and Kalkali the former is doing well since it is run by one of our *ex*-students with experience. Besides these there are other weaving factories in the district, but the one at Debpur run by another *ex*-student of the department is reported to be doing exceedingly well in promptly supplying the cloths of all new and difficult patterns to the Emporium and the Assam Industries Association to their entire satisfaction.

Leno weaving which was introduced last year in Baniachung circle has been a success in as much as the fabrics which are suitable for mosquito curtains and shirtings are in great demand everywhere in the market.

Due to the activities of the rural uplift movement the outlook of the people in the Sunamganj subdivision where weaving was practically unknown, has since changed considerably and there is already a proposal to start a peripatetic weaving school at Pagla under the auspices of the rural uplift Association there. As many as 14 private, aided and Government schools have undertaken to impart instructions in handloom weaving as an additional subject to their students—both boys and girls.

The jurisdiction of the Cachar party which had its headquarters at Silchar as in last year extends over the whole district of Cachar. It visited 205 villages and rendered assistance to 16 co-operative societies, 14 schools and factories and introduced 66 fly-shuttle looms and sleys, 9 warping drums, 7 hand creels, 19 cotton spinning charkhas, 9 *eri* spinning charkhas and a large number of healds and reeds and participated in 4 exhibitions.

The party rendered valuable assistance to the flood-affected people in Assamiyapara in Silchar where a co-operative society composed of female members from the Assamiya community was also organised and 17 fly-shuttle sleys introduced among them successfully. These articles and the yarns supplied by the Flood Relief Committee free of charge as a measure of relief to them and this impetus given by the committee has been of much value in the revival of the industry there. In Hailakandi also 20 fly-shuttle sleys and some accessories and yarn were given to the flood-affected Manipuris who are reported to be working satisfactorily.

There are several small factories in the district and some of them are supplying domestic cloths, shirtings, *chadars*, cushion covers, screens, dusters, mosquito curtains, etc, to the Emporia as well as to the public. Black markin cloth was also manufactured in some of these factories and supplied to several tea gardens in the district. *Lungis* of different patterns are continued to be manufactured and sold mostly in local markets. The weavers do their own dyeing.

In Gunjang the party introduced 4 fly-shuttle sleys and 8 *eri* spinnings charkhas and a warping drum among the Cacharis.

The few private institutions which are assisting the movement in imparting instruction in practical weaving to the youths are reported to be doing well.

The Khasi Co-operative Weaving Society to which a demonstrator is attached, has made a marked improvement during the year. The sale of it finished fabrics amounted to about Rs.5,700, out of which the society earned a profit of about Rs.500. Over 50 new patterns were introduced through the society in which 14 girls—all Khasis—were working under the guidance and supervision of the demonstrator in charge.

Jute Weaving Party.—The peripatetic Jute Weaving Party consisting of one demonstrator and a jugali continued to work as a distinct peripatetic party till the end of December 1939 in Sylhet district. The party visited 40 villages and conducted demonstration in jute spinning and weaving in important jute growing areas such as Tajpur in North Sylhet, and Beanibazar and Barlikha in Karimganj. As such demonstration of a peripatetic nature was not found conducive to tangible results it was decided later on to start regular classes in important centres to train up a number of actual workers in jute spinning, weaving of patterns, dyeing, etc., in a systematic manner. The first centre was accordingly selected at Gulcha near Barlikha where a particular section of the residents known as Kapalis are actually doing rope making of jute and bark of trees by Takku, weaving of gunny bags and money bags on Naga pattern looms. The people themselves erected a shed for the class in which 6 boys were admitted. Some of the elderly people both male and female also attended the class occasionally. In this class jute spinning by improved charkhas, weaving of Ashans, Satranchis, deck chair cloth, bazar bags in various colour schemes in plain, twill and kindred weave on improved looms were taught. The students under training in this class manufactured about 50 Ashans, 40 marketing bags besides some deck chair cloth and Satranchis with the yarn spun by themselves. The party also attended two exhibitions at Tajpur and Beanibazar and gave demonstrations.

As Assam is an important jute growing province there is no doubt that the industry which is a paying one has a large scope for development if its wide-spread introduction can be successfully carried on in future.

Only one jute demonstrator for the whole Province is quite inadequate. Some more jute demonstrators are necessary if we desire quick result in other important jute areas of the Province.

Hosiery Demonstration Party.—During the year under report the Government sanctioned the entertainment of a Hosiery Demonstration party consisting of an Instructor and a Jugali. The staff was actually entertained in November 1939. The original idea of giving house to house demonstration was abandoned as it was thought impracticable for the spread of the industry which is a new one. It was therefore decided to start regular classes in important centres to train up a number of people who are likely to take to this industry.

A class was accordingly started at Gauhati for the first time with 8 students on the roll on 23rd January 1940 and instructions were imparted on both theory and practice. They were taught the art of manufacturing hose, half-hose, tennis socks, cotton sweaters, sports shirts, etc., with coarse and medium counts of yarn-grey, dyed and fancy. Out of the 8 students admitted to the class 7 came out successful at the final test held in June 1940. The next class is since being held at Sylhet.

The Instructor with the students in the Gauhati class also rendered assistance to the Pioneer Knitting Factory recently floated at Gauhati in fitting up the machineries purchased by it.

GOVERNMENT WEAVING INSTITUTE, GAUHATI

There was no change in the staff of the Institute which consists of one Head teacher, two assistant teachers, one Textile designer, one Weaving Mistress and one Silk Instructor.

On the first April 1939 there were 23, 16 and 5 students on the rolls respectively in the Elementary, Advanced and Silk Weaving courses. In the female section there were only 10 girls. From the advanced course 15 students appeared in the Final Examination held in May 1939, of which 14 came out successful. Of these successful students 4 joined the Silk Weaving course in the same institution in November 1939 and one has been supplying orders of the Emporium at Gauhati, while there is no information as to the employment of the rest. All the 23 students in the elementary course appeared in the annual examination held in May 1939, but 21 were declared successful and 18 of them joined the advanced course.

There were 5 students in the Silk weaving course in the beginning of the year, but two left the institution in the middle of the course. The remaining three students however completed the full course successfully and one of them is reported to have started weaving at home. Out of the 10 girls in the female section only three completed the prescribed course of one year successfully and they are also reported to be doing weaving at home.

The new session of the Institute commenced from the 16th July 1939 with 18 students in the advanced course, 25 in the Elementary course and 14 girls in the female section. In the Silk Weaving course which commenced its session from November 1939, 5 students were admitted. One special student was also entertained for a short course training in dyeing and printing which is not generally taught in the Institution. Out of the 18 students in the advanced course 5 were awarded competitive scholarships. In September 1939 two more passed students of the weaving section attached to the Surma Valley Technical School were also admitted into the advanced course for further training with stipends from the Government. At the end of the year the total number of students on the roll of the Institute stood at 53 as against 54 in the preceding year.

Of the total number of 14 students residing in the hostel three were Muslims and the rest Hindus.

Besides warping, twisting, winding, reeling, ginning and testing machines, etc., there are several looms at work in the Institute workshop which suffers badly for want of sufficient accommodation. The proposal for additional accommodation by construction of a separate workshop for the female section was not accepted by Government for want of funds.

-During the year under report the institute produced as many as 70 different patterns in the course of training of the students and there was a great demand for its products.

In the Dyeing section attached to the Institution 1350 lbs. of yarn, 50 pieces of Abor rugs and 20 pieces of piece goods were successfully dyed in various shades.

To bring about an improvement in silk weaving for which there is enough scope in the province it is necessary to instal a Silk Throwing Plant for the silk weaving section of the Institute which will also serve the needs of the individual silk weavers in the province and a proposal for the purpose will be submitted for inclusion in the budget for the year 1941-42.

The total expenditure of the Institute amounted to Rs.18,123-2-0 as against Rs.19,347-12-9 in the previous year. The sale proceeds of fabrics manufactured in the Institute including dyeing charges, etc., amounted to Rs.1,104-4-0 as against Rs.1,835-12-0 in the preceding year.

There were four sittings of the Managing Committee during the year under report.

CHAPTER IV

SERICULTURE

Srijut Ratneswar Dutta, B.Sc., Superintendent of Sericulture, held charge of the Sericultural work of the province throughout the year. He was on tour for 129 days and supervised the work of the two Sericultural stations at Titabar and Shillong and the works of the cellular seed production, demonstration, propaganda, extension of silk-work food plant areas, improvement in reeling and spinning, etc., in the districts of Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Darrang, Kamrup, Goalpara, Sylhet and Cachar. As in previous years the working of the schemes for production of disease-free (Cellular) seeds involved a great deal of additional work on him.

Titabar Sericultural Station.—Prior to the appointment of Srijut Ramnanda Sarma, Assistant Superintendent of Sericulture, the charge of the Titabar Sericultural station and the field work of the Lakhimpur and Sibsagar districts remained with Srijut Ratneswar Dutta, Superintendent of Sericulture till July 1939, when the former took over charge of the station as well as of the demonstration work from him, and continued till the end of the year under review. The Assistant Superintendent of Sericulture was on tour for 81 days and rendered technical assistance to the village rearers, the seed examiners and demonstrators in production of disease-free seeds for expansion of the silk industry in the province. He delivered three lantern lectures in some of the important silk-growing centres of Sibsagar subdivision on the sericultural industry of Japan.

The total area of the Farm remained unchanged at 70 bighas of land rented from a local Mauzadar and tea planter.

The 'Som' trees in three bighas of land which were infested by mosses and other parasitic growths were found unsuitable for muga silkworm rearing and therefore they were uprooted and the area was covered with Ricinus plants during the year. Similarly some old mulberry tree in a bigha of land were replaced by new cuttings planted in the bush system. Another plot of mulberry trees was pruned down and manured for healthy foliage.

The areas under different kinds of food plants stand as follows :—

I. Muga food plants	(a) Som (<i>Machilus Odoratissima</i>)	29	bighas.
	(b) Sualu (<i>Tetranthera Monopetela</i>)	10	„
	(c) Chapa (<i>Michelia Oblonga</i>)	1	„
	(d) Mezankori (<i>Litsea Citrata</i>)	2	„
II. Eri food plants	(a) Castor	...	11 „
	(b) Keseru	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ „
III. Mulberry silk-worm food plants.	(a) Medium trees	...	2 „
	(b) Bush plantations	...	6 „

Four bighas of "Som" area and two bighas of Sualu area were properly pruned and manured with rotten cowdung. Some of the gaps in the Sualu area were also filled up with new plants during the year.

A nursery of Som, Sualu and Mazankori seedlings was made to meet the requirements of the farm as well as the individual sericulturists in the villages.

Eight bighas of the old castor area were as usual, properly cultivated and manured with rotten cowdung and silkworm litters and fresh castor plants grown on it.

During the year under report the Farm supplied 21,400 mulberry cuttings, 100 Som seedlings, one seer of Som seeds and 9 lbs. of castor seeds all free of charge to the sericulturists of different localities in the province through the departmental staff of demonstrators and seed examiners.

The following broods of silk worms with the result noted against each were raised at the station during the year under review :—

Species and varieties of silk worms	Whence procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I—PAT						
A.—Univoltine Races—						
French yellow..	Shillong, 1st generation.	10	1,385	April	24.9	
French white ..	Ditto	10	1,458	April	29.2	
Assamese white	Nowgong, 18th generation.	15	1,500	April	11.0	
French white × Assamese white.	Shillong, 1st generation.	5	700	April	16.0	
Ditto ..	Ditto	10	1,100	March	16.0	

Species and varieties of silk worms	Whence procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I.—PAT— <i>contd.</i>						
B.—Bivoltine						
Race :—						
Japanese white	Shillong original.	50	7,600	April	14.8	
Ditto	Shillong, 1st generation.	40	6,490	May	13.0	
Ditto	Ditto	70	8,000	May	13.2	
Ditto	Ditto	45	3,600	Oct.	13.0	
K.—Nichi, 107×						
Assamese Surupat	Chanapatna, 1st generation.	5	1,500	Nov.	15.0	
C.—Multivoltine						
Races :—						
Assamese white	Titabar, 13th generation.	80	12,720	April	8.0	
Ditto	Titabar, 14th generation.	40	7,250	June	8.9	
Ditto	Titabar, 15th generation.	100	19,750	July	8.0	
Ditto	Titabar, 16th generation.	180	18,250	August	7.5	
Ditto	Titabar, 17th generation.	50	5,500	Sept.	9.0	
Ditto	Titabar, 18th generation.	50	6,000	Nov.	Not recorded	
Ditto	Titabar, 19th generation.	20	1,000	Feb.	7.5	
Ditto	Shillong, 2nd generation.	70	20,560	May	7.5	
Ditto	Shillong, 3rd generation.	25	5,080	June	8.0	
Ditto	Shillong, 4th generation.	60	12,000	July	8.0	
Ditto	Shillong, 5th generation.	150	25,200	August	8.0	

Species and varieties of silk worm.	Whence procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I-PAT— <i>concl.</i> C.—Multivoltine Race— Assamese white	Shillong, 6th generation.	70	7,500	Oct.	9.0	
Ditto	Shillong, 7th generation.	30	3,000	Nov.	Not recorded.	
Ditto	Shillong, 8th generation.	40	5,000	March	Ditto.	
Assamese Greenish white.	Titabar, 8th generation.	70	16,900	May	8.5	
Ditto	Titabar, 9th generation.	25	4,500	June	9.5	
Ditto	Titabar, 10th generation.	100	11,050	July	9.0	
Ditto	Titabar, 11th generation.	120	22,000	Sept.	10.0	
Ditto	Titabar, 12th generation.	100	14,225	Oct.	10.0	
Ditto	Titabar, 12th generation.	20	2,000	Dec.	Not recorded.	
Ditto	Titabar, 14th generation.	2	50	Mar.	„	
Assamese Sarupat (Moria race).	Sipajhar, 1st generation.	10	400	Feb.	7.8	
II—ERI						
Eri-White	Titabar, 3rd generation.	50	6,000	April	Not recorded.	
Ditto	Titabar, 4th generation.	80	7,000	June	„	
Ditto	Titabar, 5th generation.	40	4,332	July	„	
Ditto	Titabar, 6th generation.	45	5,500	August	„	
Ditto	Titabar, 7th generation	30	3,000	Oct.	„	
Ditto	Titabar, 8th generation.	15	1,900	Dec.	„	

Species and varieties of silk worms	Whence procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
II—ERI— Eri—White ..	Titabar, 9th generation.	60	7,500	March	Not recorded	
Ditto	Kathiwar, 1st generation.	17	1,700	Sept.	..	
Ditto	Kathiwar, 2nd generation.	25	2,000	Oct.	..	
Ditto	Kathiwar, 3rd generation.	50	2,000	Jan.	..	
Ditto	Sapatgram, 9th generation.	20	2,150	May	..	
III.—Muga— Muga ..	Panbari, 1st generation.	500	14,050	June	..	
Ditto	Palasbari, 1st generation.	105	500	Sep.	..	On account of the hot and humid weather conditions, the eggs did not hatch properly.
Ditto	Gharphalia, 1st generation.	291	7,000	Feb.	..	
Ditto	Rangjuli, 1st generation.	260	5,400	March	..	

The total yield obtained from the three different species of silk worms and the number of layings reared were as follows:—

Species	Layings reared	Yield obtained	Remarks
Muga	1,156	26,950 cocoons	
Eri	452	43,282 ..	
Pat	1,676	253,768 ..	

The following quantities of cellular (disease-free) seeds were produced in the Farm for use in the Shillong and Titabar stations and for supply to the demonstrators, the seed examiners and the public. The well-built, and best cocoons were, however, used as seed and the poorer ones were, as usual reeled into silk. The *Muga* and *Pat* silk obtained was sold at the rate of Rs. 14-0-0 per seer:—

Muga	12,180 seed cocoons ...	
Eri	467 and	6,756 layings.
Pat ... ..	...	31,896 ..

The cut cocoons of *Eri*, *Muga* and *Pat* were supplied to the demonstrators who sold them to the village spinners for spinning them into yarn in pedal spinning machines introduced by the departmental demonstration staff.

The station supplied large quantities of disease-free layings and seed cocoons to the places both in and outside the province as shown in the table below:—

Name of places	Kind and quantity supplied					
	<i>Muga</i>		<i>Eri</i>		<i>Pat</i>	
	Layings	Seed-cocoons	Layings	Seed-cocoons	Layings	Seed-cocoons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lakhimpur District	700	..	450	..
Sibsagar	3,000	2,530	..	17,580	..
Nowgong	500	500	..	9,500	..
Darrang	1,500	100	..	1,150	..
Kamrup	4,000	360	..	1,005	..
Goalpara	1,040	..	410	..
Sylhet	280	..	..	..
Cachar	150	..	..	..
Lushai Hills	200	..	..	..
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	10	..	100	..
Bihar	180	..	467	..	..
Orissa	210	..	..	..
Bombay	30	..	25	..
Rajputana	190	..	..	..
Gujrat	4	..	..	..
Total	9,180	6,304	467	30,220	..

In the absence of a separate staff and necessary equipment it has not been possible to take up any research work in the station. But the following simple experiments which are in progress and the results of which are yet to be seen were, undertaken during the year.

1. Manurial experiments on Mulberry and castor, the foodplants of *Pat* and *Eri* silkworms with Ammonium Sulphate, Lime and cowdung to study their comparative effects on the vegetative growths of the plants.

2. To evolve high silk yielding varieties of silkworms by selective breeding of the indigenous races of mulberry multivoltine silkworms.

Species and varieties of silk worms	Whence procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
II—ERI— Eri—White ..	Titabar, 9th generation.	80	7,500	March	Not recorded	
Ditto	Kathiwar, 1st generation.	17	1,700	Sept.	„	
Ditto	Kathiwar, 2nd generation.	25	2,000	Oct.	„	
Ditto	Kathiwar, 3rd generation.	50	2,000	Jan.	„	
Ditto	Sapatgram, 9th generation.	20	2,150	May	„	
III.—Muga— Muga ..	Panbari, 1st generation.	500	14,050	June	„	
Ditto	Palasbari, 1st generation.	105	500	Sep.	„	On account of the hot and humid weather conditions, the eggs did not hatch properly.
Ditto	Gharphalia, 1st generation.	291	7,000	Feb.	„	
Ditto	Rangjuli, 1st generation.	260	5,400	March	„	

The total yield obtained from the three different species of silk worms and the number of layings reared were as follows:—

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	Layings	Seed-cocoons	Layings	Seed-cocoons	Layings	Seed-cocoons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lakhimpur District	700	..	450	..
Sibsagar	3,000	2,530	..	17,580	..
Nowgong	500	500	..	9,500	..
Darrang	1,500	100	..	1,150	..
Kamrup	4,000	360	..	1,005	..
Goalpara	1,040	..	410	..
Sylhet	280	..	..	..
Cachar	150	..	..	..
Lushai Hills	200	..	..	..
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	10	..	100	..
Bihar	180	..	467	..	..
Orissa	210	..	..	..
Bombay	30	..	25	..
Rajputana	190	..	..	..
Gujrat	4	..	..	..
Total	9,180	6,304	467	30,220	..

In the absence of a separate staff and necessary equipment it has not been possible to take up any research work in the station. But the following simple experiments which are in progress and the results of which are yet to be seen were, undertaken during the year.

1. Manurial experiments on Mulberry and castor, the foodplants of *Pat* and *Eri* silkworms with Ammonium Sulphate, Lime and cowdung to study their comparative effects on the vegetative growths of the plants.

2. To evolve high silk yielding varieties of silkworms by selective breeding of the indigenous races of mulberry multivoltine silkworms.

3. Comparative study of the quality of cocoons produced by the Japanese and the indigenous methods of rearing.

The total sale proceeds of the Farm including recovery of an outstanding sum of Rs. 52-11-6 amounted to Rs. 357-4-3 as against Rs. 547-7-3 in the previous year.

Shillong Sericultural Station.—The station has an area of about 20 acres and in addition it has got a small plot of land measuring about 2 acres belonging to the military authorities which the department has been utilising with their permission. During the year under report 6 acres of mulberry and one acre of castor area have been terraced to avoid washing off by rains of the manures and the soil on the top of the hilly slopes. The entire terraced area was also manured with rotten cowdung. The mulberry bushes were all properly pruned and watered during the winter. The vacancies caused during the process of terracing were duly filled up with new mulberry cuttings.

This year also the rearing season commenced from the end of March and ended by October. The rearing and seed cutting houses, appliances and layings were, as usual, thoroughly disinfected before the commencement of the rearing season. The bivoltine and univoltine *pat* silk worm eggs were incubated for uniform hatching.

The following broods of silkworms were raised during the year with the results noted against each :—

Species and varieties of silk worms	Whence procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons (in grammes)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PAT						
A.—Univoltine— French White ..	France, 7th generation.	65	17,884	May	38.40	Incubator used for hatching.
French yellow..	France, 13th generation.	15	4,634	May	39.44	Ditto.
Assamese Barpat	Titabar, 1st generation.	3	410	April	10.10	Ditto.
French white × Assamese Barpat	Shillong, 4th generation.	5	962	April	19.60	Ditto.
B.—Bivoltine— Japanese white..	Titabar, 27th generation.	12	3,181	April	13.68	The race is beginning to take multi-voltine character in Assam climate.
Ditto ..	Titabar, 28th generation.	400	109,397	July	19.12	
Ditto ..	Titabar, 29th generation.	100	35,195	Sept.	14.64	

Species and varieties of silk worms	Whence procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PAT—concl. C.—Multivoltine. Assamese white..	Titabar, 1st generation.	50	6,856	May	8.36	
Ditto ..	Titabar, 2nd generation.	110	18,162	July	8.48	
Ditto ..	Titabar, 3rd generation.	50	10,215	Sept.	6.60	
Ditto ..	Titabar, 4th generation.	200	44,800	Oct.	7.80	
Assamese Greenish White.	Titabar, 1st generation.	10	430	Aug.	10.50	
Ditto ..	Titabar, 2nd generation.	22	2,041	Oct.	9.59	
ERI Assamese White	Titabar, 1st generation.	10	1,437	July	Not recorded.	
Ditto ..	Titabar, 2nd generation.	20	3,500	Oct.	„	

The yield obtained from the broods and the total number of laying reared were as follows:—

Species	Layings reared	Yield obtained	Remarks
Pat	1,042	254,167	
Eri	30	4,937	

The following quantities of cellular (disease-free) seeds were produced in the Farm for use both in the Shillong and the Titabar Farms and for supply to demonstrators and seed examiners as well as to the public interested in the industry:—

1. Univoltine French White	...	...	665 layings.
2. Univoltine French Yellow	...	...	1,455 „
3. Assamese Barpat	...	...	5 „
4. Univoltine Hybrid (French White × Assamese White).	...	...	315 „
5. Bivoltine Japanese White	...	...	16,769 „ and 750 seed-cocoons.
6. Multivoltine Assamese	...	...	10,725 „
7. Eri White	...	...	585 „
Total	...	...	30,519 „ and 750 seed-cocoons.

It may be noted that of the three acclimatised foreign races the seeds of the Japanese Bivoltine race are in greater demand among the village sericulturists.

The station supplied the following disease-free layings and seed cocoons to the places named below :—

Name of places	Kind and quantity of seed supplied		
	Pat	Eri	Remarks
Nowgong	1,950 layings ...	100 layings ...	
Palasbari	620 " ...	...
Kamalabari	1,800 " ...	...
Jhanji	3,350 " ...	...
Charing	2,400 " ...	...
Jaluguti	3,315 " ...	...
Gaurisagar	3,980 " ...	320 layings.	
Sipajhar	2,300 " ...	150 "	
Jorhat	2,100 " ...	...
Bihaguri	950 " ...	...
North Lakhimpur	710 " ...	...
Raha	2,390 " ...	...
Dibrugarh	75 " ...	...
Nalbari	100 " ...	...
Sapatgram	175 " ...	...
Kokrajhar	130 " ...	...
Golaghat	800 " ...	...
Kampur	150 " ...	...
Rangjuli	155 " ...	...
Borjoha	1,265 " ...	...
Sibsagar	800 " ...	...
Boko	35 " ...	...
Titabar	234 " and	15 "	
	750 seed cocoons.		
Gauripur	75 " cocoons	...	
Dumdooma	60 " ...	...
Mysore	15 " ...	...
Total	29,934 " and seed cocoons.	585 layings.	

The cocoons that were left after selecting the well-built and the best ones for seed purposes, were all reeled into silk by the farm staff. During the year under report the farm produced more than 16lbs. of first quality raw silk in pedal Ashibami and Madras type reeling machines, and sold the same at Rs. 14-0-0 per seer. There is always a brisk demand for farm reeled raw silk from all quarters.

The sale proceeds of the station amounted to Rs. 317-6-0 as against Rs. 194-10-0 in the preceding year.

Sericultural Demonstration and production of Cellular (disease-free) seeds.—As in the previous year there were 29 temporary seed examiners and demonstrators and two sericultural supervisors to supervise their works under the scheme financed by the Government of India which has been in operation for over 4½ years.

Besides this staff there were 6 other permanent demonstrators maintained by the Provincial Government for development of the sericultural industry in the Province which has a large scope for improvement and expansion. All these officers were, as in the past, engaged in production of Cellular seeds of *eri*, *muga* and *pat*, in giving instructions to the rearers on improved methods of reeling and spinning, in supervising the broods of silkworms in the model rearing houses, in disinfecting the houses and the appliances in introducing disease-free seeds, time saving appliances and rendering such other assistance as was required of them. Twenty-two selected deserving rearers were given aid in kind for construction of model rearing houses from the Government of India grant allotted for the year 1939-40. The total number of model rearing houses in the province thus stood at 185 on the 31st March 1940. Although the Government of India grant continues for one year more, *i.e.*, till 31st March 1941, it will not be possible to give any such aid to the rearers during 1940-41 due to the reduction of that grant.

It is a good sign to find that the social prejudice which was rather a barrier to the widespread rearing of mulberry silkworms among certain sections of the sericulturists in the Assam Valley villages is gradually getting slackened as a matter of fact mulberry plantations and rearing of silkworms on an experimental measure have already been taken up by some of the village people of all castes including Brahmins, Kaibartos, Ahoms and Kalitas. It is also an encouraging feature to find that the industry which was so long confined to the uneducated villagers only is being taken up by a section of the educated people as a subsidiary occupation. During the year under report not less than 50 families in Boko, Rangjuli, Kokrajhar, Sapatgram and Gauripur have planted sufficient number of mulberry cuttings supplied by the Department in their own spare plots of land adjoining their dwelling houses, and it is reported that some of them have produced little quantities of silk in the spring crop. The demonstration staff also successfully introduced the use of pedal spinning machine in place of Taku specially among the *eri* growers of Kamrup and Goalpara districts.

At Kokrajhar a demonstration silkworm food plant garden has been started on an acre of land given free of rent by the Bijni Raj Ward's Estate and if the experiment proves a success it will be an eye opener to the tribal people of that locality and its neighbouring villages.

At the instance of the Subdivisional Officer, Goalpara, an attempt was made to introduce *eri* culture among the immigrants from Mymensing in and near about Lakhipur by posting a demonstrator there temporarily but unfortunately the experiment did not prove a success, particularly because of the fact that the area is a low-lying one and more than two crops cannot be raised annually.

The demand for *eri* seed from outside the province increased considerably. The model rearers of Palashbari and Sapatgram supplied disease-free seeds to the extent of 5,956 layings and 1,200 seed cocoons to Orissa and Tripura during the year under report.

The sericultural branch successfully organised demonstrations with the help of the village sericulturists in the shows and exhibitions held for display of cottage industries and agricultural products in different places such as Musalpur, Barnagar, Belilecha, Patacharkuchi, Jhanji, Koliiani, Sibsagar, Jagadispur, Tajpur, Beanibazar and Lalabazar. Medals, certificates and cash prizes were awarded to those who could show special merit in spinning and reeling in those exhibitions.

The following table will show the kind and quality of work done by the district staff:—

Name of operator's circle	No. of Model rearing houses under control	No. of layings distributed	Quantity of cellular seeds produced in the circle	Plantation of mulberry cuttings	Appliances sold during the year	Villages visited and surveyed	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 Bihpuria ..	..	3,530	3,140	..	19 <i>Charkas</i>	27	
2 Dibrugarh ..	3	12,808	12,215	440	6 ,,	30	
3 North Lakhimpur ..	8	22,876	22,260	1,371	6 ,,	16	
4 Sibsagar ..	7	2,533	2,060	2,069	7 ,,	9	
5 Gaurisagar ..	21	13,280	3,805	3,544	6 ,,	12	
6 Charing ..	7	14,830	9,130	1,590	2 ,, and 1 <i>Muga</i> reel	20	
7 Jhanji ..	12	10,382	4,107	2,860	3 <i>Charkas</i> and 4 <i>Muga</i> reels	32	
8 Jorhat ..	11	12,347	6,447	3,615	13 ,,	21	
9 Golaghat ..	6	7,245	2,448	1,106	9 ,,	22	
10 Kamalabari ..	8	14,242	4,441	3,553	7 ,,	24	
11 Kampur ..	..	255	105	..	6 ,,	6	This new centre opened from 21st January, 1940.
12 Raha ..	14	5,095	1,655	350	4 ,,	9	
13 Jaluguti ..	14	21,670	16,784	235	4 ,,	15	
14 Borjoha ..	13	7,263	3,300	650	7 ,,	12	
15 Nowgong ..	15	10,838	3,766	535	11 ,,	19	
16 Bihaguri ..	11	6,076	2,695	2,300	19 ,,	30	
17 Sipajhar ..	11	10,961	8,237	1,816	12 ,,	39	
18 Palasbari ..	7	14,448	6,818	2,870	29 ,,	26	
19 Boko Lakhipur ..	..	4,309	9,052	1,025	28 ,, and 1 <i>muga</i> reel	42	The Demonstrator worked for 6 months at Boko and 6 months at Lakhipur during the year.
20 Rangjuli ..	2	15,585	11,651	620	37 <i>Charkas</i>	13	
21 Nalbari ..	1	5,230	4,304	1,350	14 ,,	25	
22 Kokrajhar ..	3	3,263	2,365	1,406	32 ,,	44	
23 Sapatgram ..	2	2,009	1,141	1,513	7 ,,	13	
24 Patharkandi ..	..	2,975	600	..	5 ,,	35	
25 Hailakandi ..	1	350	100	1,621	1 ,,	27	
26 Maulvibazar ..	..	320	220	..	2 ,,	34	
	177	224,720	142,846	36,439	296 ,, and 6 <i>muga</i> reels	562	
During 1938-39	155	142,032	135,937	23,545	255 ,, and 10 <i>muga</i> reels	400	

Besides the mulberry cuttings planted, 1,856 Sum, 183 Sualu and 321 Keseru seedlings were planted and about one and a half maund of castor seeds distributed among the sericulturists of the province.

The quantity of Cellular seeds produced and used in the province during the year was approximately as follows:—

Titabar Station	38,652 layings	12,647 seed cocoons.
Shillong Station	30,519 „	750 „ „
District Staff	142,846 „	...
Total ...	212,017 „	13,397 „ „

Owing to the sustained efforts of the sericultural officers in popularising scientific methods of rearing and the use of microscopically examined seeds the demand for disease-free layings has been on the increase year after year.

Accumulated surplus stocks of Assam's *muga* waste and open *eri* cocoons which were so long being spun on Taku and pedal machines by the villagers, were sent to the Mysore Spun Silk Mill and it is reported that several hundreds of maunds of spun *muga* and *eri* yarn are already being used by the silk weavers of Sualkuchi and mill spun *muga* yarn is getting popular in this province.

The weather conditions during the year under report were quite good for silkworm crops in the Lower Assam districts, but they were not favourable in the Upper Assam districts. The unusual heat combined with a high degree of humidity and untimely rain damaged the *muga* crop in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts.

An informal survey of the existing condition of the sericultural industry in the province was undertaken by the Department for which the demonstration staff had to spend a considerable amount of their time.

CHAPTER V

MISCELLANEOUS

The Government Emporium and Central Stores, Gauhati.—Rao Sahib N. M. Sundram, L. T. M., Weaving Superintendent, Assam, continued to hold charge of the Emporium throughout the whole year except for a short period of 7 weeks when he was on leave. During his absence Babu Rash Behari Das, L. T. M., Marketing Officer, Assam, was placed in charge in addition to his own duties. The staff of the Emporium consists of one Manager, one Assistant Manager and a Chaukidar as before.

During the year under report the Emporium received another contribution of Rs. 1,000 out of the Government of India grant for development of handloom weaving industry in the province and both the Marketing Officer and the Travelling Canvassers entertained under the scheme rendered valuable assistance in introducing new patterns, attending to the enquiries, checking accounts and above all effecting better sales by taking out cloths to the various parts of the province. They also popularised the products by actual propaganda and advertisement by attending some of the exhibitions held during the year.

As already mentioned in the report for the preceding year the Emporium continues to supply the requirements of fabrics of some of the Government departments as far as possible with its limited resources and stock.

Although the Emporium successfully introduced various new designs and attractive patterns in the past as well as during the year it is unfortunate that it could not keep a sufficient stock to meet the growing demands from the public.

Six new Co-operative societies were supplied with sleys and accessories to the value of Rs. 532-12-0 under hire-purchase system. About 400 patterns have been so far standardised and some of the fabrics were regularly displayed at the Assam Industries Association at Shillong. Fine Dhutis, Saris (cotton and silk), fancy shirtings, door screens, mosquito curtains, Rejais, table cloths, bed-spreads, Abor rugs (dyed) Muga and Endi chaddars were some of the specialities of the Emporium.

The total sales of the Emporium including that of its branch which is at present located at Karimganj amounted to Rs.30,345-3-1 as against Rs.26,165-12-3 of the previous year. The increase is mainly due to execution of a few orders for supply of looms and accessories for rural uplift work towards the close of the year.

The Emporium successfully participated in 9 exhibitions and the exhibits displayed were very much appreciated by the public.

CHAPTER VI

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Industrial loans.—Industrial loans to the extent of Rs.600 only were issued to the following parties during the year for the purpose noted against each :—

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Babu Prodyut Kumar Sen
of Barohal, Sylhet. | Rupees 500 towards capital for
working his <i>ghanies</i> . |
| 2. Babu Sanyas Chandra Das
of Mewa, Sylhet. | Rupees 100 for purchase of yarns
looms and accessories. |

It is a matter of regret to mention that out of the total provision of Rs.15,000 for the purpose of granting industrial loans for development of cottage industries in the province loans to the extent of Rs.600 only could be issued allowing the balance to lapse. As in previous years applications for such loans were large in number but they had to be refused mostly for inadequate security. The recommendations of the sub-committee appointed for the purpose of revising the existing rules are yet under the consideration of the Government. Rigidity of the existing rules should be relaxed if people are to benefit from industrial loans.

Out of the total recoverable balance of Rs.13,406-1-9 on 31st March 1939, a sum of Rs. 4,587-9-9 was recovered during the year under review leaving a balance of Rs.9,418-8-0. In some cases the Department had to take recourse to coercive measures for the recovery of small amounts of loans due from the defaulters.

During the year under review an advance of Rs.5,000, free of interest was also made to Srijit Nidhiram Das of Panbazar, Gauhati for supply of 125 charkhas to the department in four instalments—spreading over a period of two years.

Contributions.—Government contributions to the extent of Rs.1,950 were granted to the following private institutions of the province :—

	Rs.
1. Don Bosco Industrial School, Shillong ...	1,000
2. Assam Polytechnic Institute, Sibsagar ...	50
3. Jorhat Weaving School, Jorhat ...	100
4. Sakti Asram, Fakiragram, Goalpara ...	80
5. Sapatgram Middle English and Technical School, Sapatgram.	30
6. Ramkrishna Sevasram, Silchar ...	50
7. Hafizia Samabaya Bayan Vidyalaya, Silchar.	50
8. Nabakishore Dinonath Bayan Vidyalaya, Silchar.	50
9. Hailakandi Middle English Madrassa, Hailakandi.	50
10. Srinathpur Weaving School, Munshibazar ...	50
11. Banskandi Middle Vernacular Madrassa, Panskandi, Silchar.	40
12. Supatola Weaving School, Beanibazar, Sylhet	40
13. Mohilasangha, Sylhet ...	40
14. Debpur Weaving School, Sylhet ...	50
15. Jogesh Chandra Roy Weaving School, Baniachung, Sylhet.	30
16. Labchand Weaving School, Gopaltilla, Sylhet	25
17. Niharbindu Bayan Balika Vidyalaya, Shellibazar, Sylhet.	25
18. Baniachung Joy Jagannath Weaving School, Baniachung, Sylhet.	40
19. Enathganj Weaving School, Enathganj, Sylhet.	50
20. Adityapur Weaving Institute, Balaganj, Sylhet	50
21. M. Nasibur Rahaman of Sylhet Durrie Weaving School, Sylhet.	50
Total ...	1,950

As the applications for such assistance are on the increase the Government have been pleased to make an increased provision of Rs. 3,000 for the purpose in the budget for the year 1940-41 and it is hoped that the department will be able to give contributions to some more deserving institutions during 1940-41.

Small contributions as shown against each were also granted to the authorities of the following Exhibition Committees for award of prizes, medals, etc., for the best exhibits in the industrial sections only:—

	Rs.
1. Agricultural, Industrial, health and cattle exhibition, Tajpur, Sylhet.	30
2. Haflong Exhibition	10
3. Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, Mutukpur, Sylhet.	30
4. Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, Sahapur, Kamrup.	20
5. Lachit Mela Exhibition, Jhanji, Sibsagar ...	20
6. Bajali Exhibition, Kamrup... ..	25
7. Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, Beani-bazar, Sylhet.	15
Total	150

CHAPTER VII

INDUSTRIAL ENQUIRIES

Some of the numerous enquiries for particulars and advice on industrial and commercial subjects received from both in and outside the province were attended to as far as possible. In many cases, however, the requests could not be complied with for want of expert staff under the Department to collect the information wanted and therefore the help of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India and the Directors of Industries of other provinces was sought for. As already mentioned in my previous reports the Department has no technically qualified expert staff except on weaving and sericulture and as such it has not yet been possible for it to tackle the problem either of starting new industries or of suggesting ways and means for development of the existing small ones scattered throughout the whole province.

The following few cases will give an idea as to the nature of enquiries received and attended to:—

Manufacturer of Indian-made ply-wood, manufacturer of straw board, possibilities of using wood and charcoal gas producers for generating cheap power for motor vehicles, information regarding establishment of umbrella, ice and glass factories, addresses of dealers in delinting machines for removing the very short linters from the cotton seed after it is ginned, Addresses of Petroleum Coys., enquiry regarding possibilities of pulp industry in the province, manufacture of hospital lint and surgical cotton, availability of hides and fat for export, names and addresses of manufacturers of perilla oil, rerolling mills, foundries and subsidiary works using iron and steel, manufacturer of pins, safety pins, tags, nibs, clips, etc., list of woollen factories, names of manufacturers of bows and arrows, possibilities of manufacturing caps, hats, sticks, etc., possibilities of finding a suitable indigenous substitute for the imported flax thread now used for braiding of field telephone cables, manufacturer of sun goggles, manufacturers of raw bristles of wild pigs, names of manufacturers or importers of bakelite, manufacturers of cream and tooth paste and tin, lead and aluminium tubes, manufacturers of paints, names and addresses of starch manufacturers, wooden

heels for ladies shoes, names of factories, manufacturing rubber goods, enquiry regarding existence of large scale biscuit factories, possibilities of manufacturers of rhea fibres, names and addresses of manufacturers of buttons, combs, furniture, fittings, game articles, kraft paper, names and addresses of firms who assemble wireless receivers, enquiry regarding dead rent for mining areas, manufacture of elastic weaving and braiding, enquiry regarding coaltar and coaltar products, enquiry regarding productions of rhino-hide sticks, toys made of rubber, metal and celluloid, etc., etc.

CHAPTER VIII

TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

(1) *Fuller Technical School, Kohima*.—There were 23 students on the roll of the School on the 31st March 1940. As usual selection was made from the principal hill tribes of the district of Naga Hills; but in making admission preference was given to the boys of the poor parents who possess a fair knowledge of elementary arithmetic and who can read and write in English and speak in Assamese to some extent to understand the lessons given in the classes. During the year under report there was considerable competition for admission into the School.

There was no change in the staff of the School which consists of one Superintendent and Drawing Master, one Carpentry Instructor and a Blacksmithy and Masonry Instructor. With a view to improve the efficiency of the staff the Government sanctioned the deputation of the two Instructors to undergo a short course of training for 6 months each to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat and the Blacksmithy and Masonry Instructor came back after training during the year while the Carpentry Instructor was sent to Jorhat on 3rd February 1940.

The School gives a three years' training in carpentry, blacksmithy and stone masonry work according to the revised curriculum. The main object of the School is to turn out practical and useful craftsmen to earn a living independently on completion of the course. Some instruction is also given in Arithmetic, simple mensuration, practical geometry and drawing in addition to the particular subjects taught in the classes. Each student is required to specialise himself in one of the three branches without of course neglecting the remaining two.

The new curriculum of the school was brought into effect from the beginning of the session of the year under report.

All the 8 students of the third year (Final) class passed the final examination held in July 1939—three specialising in carpentry two in blacksmithy and the remaining three in stone masonry.

Some of the passed students are reported to be working as mistries, some are road moherers and some are doing cultivation in their own villages.

Due to the absence of necessary provision of funds in the budget for 1940-41, the proposal for sending out two passed students of the School for further training with stipends in His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat, did not materialise during the year.

The workshop receipts of the School together with Rs.3-8-0 and Rs.162-10-0 representing the income from the sale proceeds of old stores and receipts from other sources respectively amounted to Rs.301-10-0 as against Rs.748-4-6 of the previous year. The fall is due to lack of original work which could not be undertaken partly on account of the deputation of the two Instructors as said above. The total expenditure in running the school during the year was Rs.5,355-1-6 as against Rs.6,283-5-3 in the previous year.

(2) *Surma Valley Technical School*.—Mr. P. C. Dutt, L.M.E., was the Principal of the school through out the year. During the year under review an automobile section was added to the school.

There were 86 students on the roll of the school on the 31st March 1940 as against 106 in the preceding year and they were distributed as follows:—

Mechanical apprentice section	...	...	...	29
Wood working section	...	...	...	17
Weaving section	...	...	...	23
Durrie Weaving section	...	...	...	5
Motor Mechanic section	...	...	...	12
Total	...	...	...	86

Stipends at the rate of Rs.8 each per mensem were awarded to 8 students in the weaving section and 4 in the Durrie weaving section. Besides these there are also two stipends to the value of Rs.10 each per mensem in the weaving section which have been made tenable at the Gauhati Weaving School in the advanced course. Seventeen students, *viz.*, 11 from the Mechanical apprentice section were granted work pay at the usual rate of annas five per each day of attendance.

In anticipation of getting some financial help in the shape of work pay a large number of students took admission, but as the work pay could be distributed only to a limited number of boys, some students who failed to secure such assistance left the school as they were too poor to meet the expenditure of their education. The question of giving work pay to a large number of boys has since been taken up and Government orders are awaited on the subject.

Forty-two students passed the final examination, of whom 7 belonged to the Mechanical Apprentice Section, 4 to the Wood Working Section 22 to the Weaving section and the remaining 9 to the Durrie Weaving section of the school.

It is reported that all the 7 passed students of the Mechanical Apprentice section have already secured employment, 6 in the Assam Oil Company at Digboi and one in a Tea Estate. There is, however, no information available uptill now as to the employment of the passed students of the Weaving, Wood Working and Durrie Weaving Sections. The students hailing from the labouring community do not find difficult to take up the job of an ordinary carpenter, but it is really a problem for those coming from the Bhadrakol class as they are not generally inclined to place themselves in the same level with carpenters while some of them therefore start their own business, others seek for salaried jobs in any respectable workshop.

With regard to the students of the Weaving and Durrie Weaving sections the same remarks as above also apply so far as the question of employment is concerned. The students of the weaving community engage themselves in their own business but those from other communities run about for some salaried jobs. This position will not however improve until factories are established in the province to absorb them, and I would draw the attention of the capitalists to this important problem to find out avenues of employment for our passed students who are numerous by now.

Twenty-three students, all Hindus, resided in the hostel provided for the purpose.

The total expenditure in maintaining the school amounted to Rs.31,211-3-3 during the year as against Rs.29,972-0-3 of the previous year. The increase is mainly due to the opening of the new Motor Mechanic section for which 2 second hand motor cars and a few hand tools were purchased.

The total receipts amounted to Rs.917-3-6 as against Rs.2,267-6-9 in 1938-39 showing a marked decrease which is mainly due to (1) want of sufficient outside work and (2) difficulty in the disposal of the products of the school.

I have to mention with regret that for some alleged grievances there was a general strike of the students of the school during the year. It however ended on our assurance that their legitimate grievances would be enquired into and reasonable demands complied with as far as possible.

The Managing Committee of the school met six times during the course of the year to transact the business of the school.

(3) *His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School.*—Srijut Purna Chandra Chowdhury, L.E., was the Principal of the school throughout the year except for a period of one month and 10 days from 7th September 1939, when he was on leave and Maulavi A. Q. M. Salehuddin, Lecturer on Electricity and Mechanics remained in charge of the school in addition to his own duties. Srijut Purna Chandra Chowdhury paid visits to the Local Boards' Technical Schools at Nowgong, Tezpur and Silghat.

Effect could not be given to the proposal of opening of the Bell-metal and Electroplating sections for which sanction was accorded during the year under report as it was necessary for the Government to obtain the revised pay of the Instructors approved by the Assembly which met after the commencement of the session of the school from the 16th July 1939. The classes have, however, been opened from the 16th July 1940.

In all 130 applications were received for admission as against 172 in the preceding year. Of the 59 students selected for admission 41 joined the school, but only 33 actually continued till the end of the year. There were altogether 79 students on the roll on the 31st March 1940 as detailed below :—

Higher Motor Mechanic Section ...	...	...	18
Mechanical Apprentice Section ...	...	...	20
Wood Working Section ...	...	...	23
Motor Mechanic Section ...	...	...	18
Total ...	...	...	79

Distribution of students according to community is as follows:—

Hindus	...	...	...	...	...	57
Muslim	...	...	...	...	...	10
Tribal	...	...	...	...	...	11
Scheduled	...	...	...	...	...	1
						—
	Total	...	...	...	...	79

Twelve students of the Higher Motor Mechanic section held stipends to the value of Rs.10 each per mensem tenable for three years out of the Bholanath Borooh Educational Endowment Fund and in addition one student of the Mechanical Apprentice section, six students of the Wood Working section and two students of the Motor Mechanic section also held special stipends at the rate of Rs.12 each per mensem tenable for three years which were sanctioned by the Government for Khasi and Garo boys. Work pay at the usual rate of five annas for each day of attendance was granted to 13 students of the Mechanical and Wood Working sections and a total expenditure of Rs.775-2-6 was incurred on this account during the year under review.

As a number of students leave the school every year before completion of the course due to financial difficulties as in the case of the Surma Valley Technical School, a proposal is already pending with the Government for increasing the number of students to be paid work pay.

The total expenditure on the school amounted to Rs.36,399-14-6 as against Rs.36,057-9-3 in the previous year. Out of this a sum of Rs.29,481-11-0 was met from the Provincial revenues and the balance of Rs.6,818-3-6 from the Bholanath Borooh Education Endowment Fund for the Higher Motor Mechanic section. This expenditure however, includes the cost of training a batch of police Sub-Inspectors in Motor Mechanism and driving and the pay of the Instructors of the Fuller Technical School, Kohima deputed for a short course of training.

The total receipts of the school including the amounts of bills outstanding amounted to Rs.3,063-6-6 as against Rs.2,749-2-9 in the previous year showing a slight increase.

The building for the Higher Motor Mechanic section was extended by 830 square feet at a cost of Rs.1,800 for accommodation of the Mechanical Laboratory and the School Library. A separate cookshed for the Christian boys of the hostel was constructed at a small expenditure of Rs.150 only. The Blacksmithy shop was enclosed with expanded metal at a cost of Rs.528.

In the residential quarters occupied by the Principal a bed room and a bath room were added at an expenditure of Rs.425.

Out of 33 students sent up for the final examination held in May 1939, only 22 came out successful. Of these 5 belonged to the Mechanical Apprentice Section, 4 to the Wood Working Section, 7 to the Higher Motor Mechanic Section and the remaining 6 to the Motor Mechanic Section.

As to the employment of these 22 passed students it is reported that as many as 15 have been able to secure suitable jobs for them within the last few months, but there is no information as yet as to the rest.

Information so far collected goes to show that 80 per cent. of students passed out of this institution since its inception in 1927 are already in employment.

During the year under report the school participated in the Industrial and Agricultural exhibition held at Sibsagar.

There were 33 boys in the hostel attached to the school, of whom 20 were Hindus, 3 Muslims, 6 Khasis, 3 Garos and 1 Christian.

The Managing Committee of the school met four times during the year.

(4) *Technical and Industrial Scholarships*.—The following stipendiaries were undergoing training in and outside the province in the Institutions named below :—

The stipends were paid out of the Provincial budget.

(1) Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad	1
(2) Government Hosiery Institute, Ludhiana	1
(3) Batuk Prasad Khetri Industrial School, Benares	1
(4) R. C. Technical Institute, Ahmedabad	1
(5) Government Silk Weaving Institute, Mysore	1
(6) Jagat Knitting Institute, North Gauhati	1
(7) Dibru-Sadiya Railway Workshop	1

The stipendiary in Japan completed his course during the year under report and he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Sericulture, Assam, in July 1939.

CHAPTER IX

WILLIAMSON APPRENTICE SCHEME

The total income of the Williamson Educational Endowment Fund amounted to Rs.6,152-2-5 during the year.

An expenditure of Rs.2,781-1-0 was incurred in training the following apprentices on various technical subjects :—

1. Messrs. Balmer Laurie and Company	1
2. Commercial Carrying Company's Workshop	2
3. Moharaja Cossimbazar Polytechnic Institute	2
4. Government Hosiery Institute, Ludhiana	1
5. Messrs. Burn and Co.	1
6. Dibru-Sadiya Railway Workshop	1
7. Messrs. Allen Berry and Company Limited	1
8. F. M. C. School of Motoring, Calcutta	1
9. Government Wool Weaving Institute, Gaya	1
10. All-India Village Industries Association, Wardha	1
Total	12

The total number of stipends awarded at a time did not exceed the fixed limit under the rules for the administration of the fund.

Contributions to the extent of Rs.2,777-0-0 which includes money order commission were paid to the following private institutions imparting vocational training to the students :—

	Rs.
1. Secretary, Shillong Anath Asram and Women Protection Society, Shillong.	50
2. Secretary Sapatgram Middle English and Technical School, Sapatgram.	50
3. Secretary, Ram Krishna Mission School, P. O. Cherapunji.	75
4. Sister Superior, St. Joseph's Convent for Girls, P. O. Tezpur.	75
5. Secretary, Barpeta Nohati Girls' Middle Vernacular School, P. O. Barpeta.	50
6. Secretary, Matri Mandir, Dhubri	50
7. Secretary, Khara Girls' Middle Vernacular School, Dudnai.	50
8. Messrs. H. W. Kirkby, Barbheta Leper Colony, P. O. Jorhat.	100
9. Secretary, Sakti Asram, Fakiragram	200
10. Secretary, Raghupati Bayan Vidyalaya, P. O. Larama, Athgharia.	100
11. Sister Superior, St. Mary's School, Gauhati ...	100
12. Secretary, Morowa Middle Vernacular School, P. O. Morowa, Nalbari.	50
13. Secretary, Devi Ram Weaving School, P. O. Nalbari.	200
14. Secretary, Balajan Weaving School, P. O. Balajan (Goalpara).	50
15. Secretary, Jorhat Weaving School, P. O. Jorhat	100
16. Secretary, Majuli Weaving School, P. O. Kamalabari.	100
17. Manager, Polytechnic Institute, P. O. Sibsagar ...	200
18. Head Mistress, Dibrugarh Government Girls' High School.	50
19. Secretary, Barapujia Girls' Lower Primary School, P. O. Roha, District Nowgong.	50

	Rs.
20. Secretary, Daputa Girls' Middle Vernacular School, P. O. Bindukuri, District Darrang.	25
21. Secretary, Boralimora Silpa Anusthan, P. O. Behali.	50
22. Secretary, Silghat Technical and Industrial School	200
23. Secretary, Ramkrishna Sevasram, Tezpur ...	75
24. Secretary, Kokrajhar Technical School, P.O. Kok- rajhar.	50
25. Maulavi Md. Tayab Ali, Tezpur	150
26. Head Master, Vidyapith, P. O. Patacharkuchi ...	50
27. Sister Superior, Mazzarello's Convent and Orpha- nage, P. O. Jowai.	50
28. Secretary, Rangafalli Middle Vernacular School, Gauhati.	50
29. Principal, Girish Vidyapith, Palta P. O. Sarupeta	50
30. Secretary, Kokrajhar Girls' Weaving School, P. O. Kokrajhar.	75
31. President, Kampur Government Aided High English School, P. O. Kampur, District Nowgong.	100
32. Secretary, Bihaguri Girls' Middle Vernacular School, P. O. Bihaguri.	50
33. Secretary, Chamata Government Aided High English School, P. O. Chamata.	75
Total	2,750

Sums of Rs.245-0-0 and Rs.50-0-0 were also paid as contributions respectively to the Inspectors of Schools, Assam Valley and Surma Valley and Hill Districts for purchase of books for circulating libraries among vernacular teachers and pupils.

The total expenditure of the fund amounted to Rs.5,885-11-0 during the year as against Rs.5,659-6-0 in the preceding year, leaving a balance of Rs.1,71,497-13-7 which is invested as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
In Government security	1,62,500	0	0
In Shillong Treasury	8,997	13	7
Total	1,71,497	13	7

This fund has been of great help to the public particularly to the unemployed youths in getting technical and industrial education in suitable institutions both in and outside the province.

CHAPTER X

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND MERIT OF OFFICERS

The Deputy Commissioners of Kamrup, Sylhet, Naga Hills and Sibsagar took interest in the management of the technical institutions in their respective districts and my thanks are due to all of them.

Rao Sahib N. M. Sundram continued his good work with his usual commendable zeal and his advice and experience were very valuable to me. I am also particularly grateful to Lady Reid for her advice in the introduction of new designs in textile fabrics and for the interest and help given by her through the Assam Industries Association.

Mr. R. Dutta the Superintendent of Sericulture worked most satisfactorily and the Assistant Superintendent Srijut Sarma has also done good work at Titabar.

The Principals of both the Technical schools did their work creditably.

As before I am grateful to the staff in my office for their consistent loyal work and I record my special appreciation of the ungrudging help I have obtained from my personal assistant Srijut G. C. Sarma.

S. L. MEHTA,

Director of Industries, Assam.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

Resolution on the Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year 1939-40

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Assam in the Local Self-Government (B) Department, No.80-L.S.-G.(B), dated the 27th January 1941.

READ—The Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year 1939-40

RESOLUTION

The Report is mainly confined, as in the previous years, to the encouragement of hand-loom weaving and sericulture and to the spread of technical and industrial education amongst the youths of the province and does not touch the large scale industries which are outside the scope of the Department.

The four schemes sanctioned by the Government of India, *viz.*:—(1) Reorganisation of the Government Emporium and central stores at Gauhati, (2) Establishment of a Branch Emporium at Sylhet, (3) Appointment of two Co-operative Weaving Inspectors and (4) Appointment of a Dyeing Supervisor and a Calico Printer were in full operation. These schemes were originally sanctioned for a period of 5 years from 1936 but have since been extended for two years from the current year and have given very satisfactory results so far. Since the outbreak of the war there has been some difficulty in the matter of supply of colours and chemicals but Government have sanctioned an additional expenditure of Rs.5,000, for keeping sufficient stock of colours and chemicals for the use both of Departmental Officers and the industrial weavers, dyers and printers of the province.

Hand-loom weaving, the most important cottage industry of the province, received considerable impetus through the two weaving schools and the four peripatetic weaving parties which are engaged on propaganda and demonstration work throughout the province. A number of private schools and institutions were helped with non-recurring contributions from the

Williamson Educational Endowment Fund and also from the Provincial budget. The peripatetic weaving parties became so popular that there has been growing demands for more demonstrators and a proposal for the entertainment of 10 additional Weaving Demonstrators is under the consideration of Government. It is reported that hill people are also gradually taking to improved methods of weaving and the department is rendering all possible assistance to them. A notable feature of the year is that since the opening of the Rural Uplift centres under the Rural Reconstruction Scheme people have shown increased interest in the improved methods introduced in this branch of the industry and hand-loom weaving has been introduced in several boys' and girls' schools within the areas covered by these centres. Another interesting feature of the year was the starting for the first time by the villagers themselves of a jute weaving centre near Barlikha in the Karimganj subdivision for jute spinning, weaving of patterns, dyeing, etc. As Assam is an important jute growing province, this industry has a bright scope before it.

As regards sericulture, the working was confined to the production of improved seeds in the Titabar and Shillong farms and to propaganda and demonstration by the seed-examiners and Demonstrators, appointed under the scheme financed by the Government of India. Proposals for the establishment of two *pat* reeling factories and two Mulberry plantations are under the consideration of Government. It is noteworthy that for the first time there were considerable demands for disease-free *pat* layings and seed cocoons from outside the province (Orissa and Tripura State).

As regards technical education there were 54 students in the Government Weaving Institute at Gauhati as against the same number in the previous year. Fourteen students came out successful in the advanced course, out of which 4 joined the Silk Weaving Course and one has become order supplier to the Emporium and there is no information as to the rest. There were 188 students in the three technical institutions in the province, as against 225 at the beginning of the preceding year. Sixty-four students passed from the final examination in the two schools at Sylhet and Jorhat and out of them 22 are reported to have secured jobs in various capacities as against 19 (not 10, as it is regretted, was recorded in last year's resolution) out of 65 students in the previous year. An important addition during the year was an automobile section in the Surma Valley

Technical School at Sylhet. It is regretted that there was a strike of the students of this school during the year. The grievances were mostly imaginary but the principal grievance was as regards the inadequacy of work-pay and the question is under the consideration of Government.

Out of the total provision of Rs.15,000 for industrial loans, loans to the extent of Rs.600 only could be distributed. This was due to the stringency of the rules for the grant of industrial loans, which have, however, been since liberally revised according to the recommendations of the sub-committee appointed by the Board of Development for Industries and it is hoped that with the increased industrial possibilities there will be more demands for these loans in future.

Government are grateful to the Director of Industries for his efficient administration of the department and for the interesting report.

S. GOHAIN,

*Deputy Secretary to Government in the
Education and Local Self-Government Departments.*

