**Храмкова Л.**

**TEXTILE INDUSTRY**

Cultivated silk is found to be the finest, most elastic and most durable of all natural textile fibres. The filament of silk is stronger that steel wire of the same diameter and can be considerably stretched without breaking**.** Its remarkable strength in comparison with its diameter permits of a very strong, light and durable fabric being made.It is especially priced for its brilliant luster, elasticity and beauty**.** Silk a produced by the silkworm in spinning a cocoon. The worm changes its color to a semi-transparent pink and from a hole in its lower lip the silk thread begins to appear**.**Then by a waving motion of the body the worm gradually envelopes itself in a cocoon of silk which is drawn out in a double thread, slightly twisted, and covered by silk gum.Once the silk worm starts spinning it never leaves off until the silk exhausted. The total length of silk given out is approximately 500 yards. On enveloping itself in the cocoon and on giving out its silk, the worm commences to change from worm to chrysalis, and then to moth. This takes about two or three weeks.After being fully formed, the moth eats its way out of one end, dries its wings in the sun, then flutters about. On leaving its cocoon the moth lays its eggs on a leaf and dies.The eggs hatch into silkworms and the process begins again. In breaking its way through the end of the cocoon, the moth cuts the silk thread in thousands of places, making it impossible to reel it off. The cocoons are therefore gathered as soon as they have been spun, and then the insect inside is killed either by steam or by hot air.This must be done very carefully in order not to spoil the silk. The process is known to be a very important one, the silk filaments are reeled off the cocoon into hanks.The cocoon are steeped in hot water to be kept at constant temperature .This softens the silk gum and sets the fibre free. Before reeling off the outer covering is brushed away and the end of the silk thread is found.Owing to their great fineness the filaments of at least six cocoon must be reeled off together.Cotton is a most important vegetable fibre used in the textile industry. The cotton fibre is a soft substance growing around the cotton seed.When the seed are ripening, their fibres spring out of the burst boll and are picked manually or mechanically. Having been picked, cotton is mechanically cleaned and separated from the seeds before it is subjected to further treatment.

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