

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN INDUSTRY

To cite this article: (1921) PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN INDUSTRY, Journal of the Textile Institute Proceedings and Abstracts, 12:2, 43-43, DOI: [10.1080/00405002108630997](https://doi.org/10.1080/00405002108630997)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00405002108630997>



Published online: 25 Nov 2008.



Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)



Article views: 4



View related articles [↗](#)

the agricultural staff available for work on cotton in these areas are submitted, and include provision for an economic botanist and assistants, cotton breeders and the necessary staff for the establishment of a number of seed farms for the multiplication of cotton seed, and also staff for cotton seed distribution. —W. R.

COMBINATION AND INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY

Mr. Percy W. L. Ashley, C.B., Assistant Secretary to the Department of Industries and Manufactures (Board of Trade) lectured on this subject at the College of Technology, Manchester, on Tuesday, the 1st February. He said he was not present to discuss the question of the problem of the relation of the State, as guardian of the interests of the whole community, to industrial combinations, but he was concerned simply with the problem of combination and industrial efficiency—efficiency in production. Industrial evolution had manifested the same characteristics in the great manufacturing countries—concentration of production, development of large-scale production with larger employment of fixed capital, and greater average aggregation of workpeople. The extent of concentration varied with different industries. Though concentration had made considerable progress in this country in the last few years, yet it was probable, and in fact certain, that it had made much less progress here than in the two countries—United States and Germany—which were our chief competitors before the war. Though the process of concentration, integration, and combination had gained considerable ground here, yet there was a strong body of opinion that not nearly enough in these directions had been developed if we were to hold our own in the industrial competition of the future. He urged particular attention to the reports of various committees, prepared during the war, in reference to industries and their prospects under post-war conditions. All the reports urged the necessity of far-reaching organisation, particularly in the direction of large-scale production. There was always the danger, however, that monopolistic or semi-monopolistic concerns would become retrogressive. The whole question of comparative efficiency of large-scale undertakings called for much greater investigation than had hitherto taken place, for there was a good deal of evidence that not unduly small organisations, with private enterprise associated with receptive ideas, could not only maintain but strengthen their position even over greater aggregations of capital and plant. There were notable cases in America where under the larger-scale organisation output had fallen.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN INDUSTRY

On this subject, Mr. W. L. Hichens (Chairman of Messrs. Cammell, Laird & Co. Ltd.) lectured at Manchester College of Technology on the 25th January. In social legislation, he said, there was one danger often overlooked: the claim of the community on the individual must be moral, not obligatory. We had now too many social reformers and too few moral reformers. Freedom of action was just as important as freedom of thought. The term "democracy in industry" was based on the supposed analogy in the political field. It did not follow, however, that the same thing could be applied to industry. There was no logical sequence, the State having no rival in business. There was no justification for the supposition that change from individual enterprise would be accompanied by progress similar to the progress which had been accomplished up to the present time. He believed that under no other system could the results have been gained or maintained. Our industrial system was no mere accident but was the result of age-long experience and continual adaptation to changing circumstances. He hoped we should still witness many changes, but

he urged that the broad principles upon which industry was founded were sane—that industry was based upon services rendered to others. Due recognition must be given to individual rights and individual liberties alike, entitling to reap where sown and then it gave the necessary stimulus to the individual enterprise which human nature demanded. Let the interests of the general public be safeguarded by the imposition of competition, which put an effective brake on the self-seeking of the individual.

ECONOMICAL USE OF FUELS

In the course of a lecture on this subject delivered before the members of the Textile Society, at the Manchester College of Technology on the 4th February, by Mr. James T. Hodgson, A.M.I.M.E., the payment of a bonus which would increase with a reduction in the amount of coal consumed was urged as a method helpful in securing economy in the amount of fuel used in boiler furnaces. It was, however, an essential to success in this direction that the engineer-in-charge should be allowed to participate with the firemen in this bonus, since much depended upon the personal efforts of the responsible engineer in maintaining the different appliances in the most efficient condition. The most satisfactory result of any endeavour to secure the economical use of fuels could only be attained by selecting, in the first instance, thoroughly intelligent firemen, and by recognising that the firing of steam boilers was essentially a skilled craft.

Recent references in the Press to an extended use of liquid fuel for marine purposes had given rise to some enquiry among those concerned with the management of boilers as to whether this method of steam raising might ultimately be generally applied in stationary steam plant practice, but the probability of such a procedure in this country was very remote. The disabilities attending the use of both liquid fuel and pulverised coal were such that there was little likelihood of steam coal being superseded, unless a radical change in the cost took place and a more stable market value was permanently established.

REVIEWS

THE TECHNICAL TESTING OF YARNS AND TEXTILE FABRICS. By Dr. Herzfeld. Scott, Greenwood & Sons, London. 17s. 6d. net.

For many years, this work has deservedly been regarded as a standard work of reference on textile testing. Its revision has lately been undertaken and certain deletions and additions made. Whilst the usefulness of the work has undoubtedly been enhanced by revision, it may be regretted that revision has not been carried further in order to attain the reviser's object—as stated in his note—of bringing the work into conformity with modern knowledge. Doubtless, the differences between manufacturing practice in this country and in Germany, together with the fact that the work is a translation, account for certain shortcomings.

Alterations or amendments in the following directions might with advantage be noted for any subsequent edition which may be published:—

Much cotton yarn is now purchased with a definitely specified moisture content, and the testing of moisture in yarn is carried out to a considerable extent. The author leaves one with the impression that this test is confined almost exclusively to silk, wool and worsted.

On page 39, the term "Artificial Wool" is used for shoddy and mungo yarns. We do not consider this to be a happy application, the term being one which in this country, is applied to a fibre which is not wool but which is spun with the object of being used as a wool substitute.