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— ADVERTISEMENT —

SILK IS MAKING A COMEBACK

Silk And The Future

A billion yen worth of silk has been shipped abroad since March 19 last year, mainly to the United States but also to England and Australia. Silk was the first export article to go out of Japan after the end of the war. No other fact brings home so clearly the importance of silk in the reconstruction of Japan.

The year 1947 expects to see twice as much silk exported. No other single commodity is expected to assume such a big role as collateral for imports, on which the future livelihood of Japan must inevitably depend.

These facts contradict the idea that sericulture is on the decline. The advent of nylons and other substitute materials was generally heralded as meaning the end of silk. The market, however, has belied this claim, and instead of declining, the demand for silk throughout the world has increased since the end of the war.

The place of Japanese silk manufacturers in postwar peacetime Japan has thus taken on new significance. Air-raids during the war and Zaibatsu dissolution after the war have cut in deeply on the traditional silk industry.

What is being done to revive the industry on a democratic basis? Must exports depend on the stocks on hand without hope of future production? Unknown even to the majority of the Japanese public is the fact that the silk industry has been rearing its head. Silk means civilization, civilization means production, and production depends on producers.

Officials of the big Katakura Kogyo Co., Ltd., give the following picture of the sericulture industry as it stands today and of the plans for the future:

The Problems to be Faced

In view of Japan's peacetime economic outlook, silk manufacturers must keep in mind that what is wanted is not the mere restoration of the former silk industry but a step forward. The silk industry has in its hands the task of serving the world. Antiquated systems of production, bound by tradition, must be discarded and must be made modern.

Something new must be acquired in the mode of production. New Japan requires new ideas on civilized industry. Silk should become the forerunner in the reconstruction of the economy of a Japan devoted to peace.

Cocoons Are the Backbone

Everyone knows that silk comes from cocoons. Without an increase in the production of cocoons, no increase in the production of silk can be contemplated. The measures which have been taken up to now for increased production are only temporary, principally to feed the need for collateral to meet food imports to tide over the hunger crisis. No one should be so short-minded as to regard these measures as permanent. They are, in fact, very primitive, outgrowth of the current social conditions.

The Japanese Government some time ago announced a five-year plan for the reconstruction of the sericulture industry. Details include the following:

Restoration of mulberry plantations and spinning equipment to turn out 238,000 bales in the fiscal year 1950, 273,000 bales in 1951, and 321,000 bales in 1953.

This plan looks ahead, as it should, but it disregards the present needs which are urgent. Along with these far-sighted plans should go short-term plans to breach the current stringent economic situation.

It is necessary, of course, to draw up plans for big mulberry plantations several years hence, including the immediate planting of trees now. Simultaneously programs must be devised to harvest as much mulberry leaves from the existing plantations as possible. Priority should immediately be given for the distribution of fertilizer to these plantations.

The price of cocoons has been fixed at ¥700 per unit, markedly cheap in comparison to other agricultural products. There are many advocates of a raise to as much as ¥2,000 per unit. On the other hand, some quarters are pessimistic of future silk quotations on the United States market. They say that a conservative attitude is necessary to insure the future prosperity of the sericulture industry. Theoretically, both sides have their arguments.

Like rice and coal, however, realistic policies should be enforced, which are likely to produce immediate effects. This means that prices must be adjusted to insure increased production. In addition, such measures as special rewards to manufacturers should be considered. The aim should be a healthy and speedy growth of the industry.

The Japanese Government has already given some consideration to the problem of distributing foodstuffs and other daily necessities to cocoon farmers. Of interest is the argument that taxes on silkworms should be exempted inasmuch that, unlike cereals and vegetables, cocoons have no black market and there is no "invisible" income.

This brings into the picture the question of how best to employ the existing equipment and materials to gain the maximum effect in the reconstruction of the sericulture industry. If there is the realization that a reconstruction of the silk industry is of urgent importance, then some priority should be given to the distribution of equipment and materials needed for manufacture.

The amount of material available in the country after the war has decreased tremendously, lost in the confusion that set in following the termination of the war. A survey of the existing equipment and materials should be made immediately. It would not be too much to say that the whole future of Japan's economy will depend on the adequate employment of these materials. The overwhelming influence of the food problem should not dim the importance of this problem.

Operating Funds Are Needed

Money is one of the bugaboos of industry today. This is a big problem. It is important that any funds be used to the most effective advantage and in reasonable amounts. Like many other industries today, sericulture needs an operating fund to get into action. The post-war Japanese economy, however, makes any accurate forecast of needs difficult, which in turn makes the establishment of any operating fund plan a hazardous job.

There are pitfalls. If a wrong plan is put into effect, a terrible situation will arise. Extreme caution is necessary. Not a moment, however, must be wasted in taking a step.

Along with such key industries as fertilizer and coal, sericulture is already demanding funds for the resumption of operation. Unfortunately to date no unified plan has been drawn up, although some haphazard moves have been made.

Special financial considerations, such as the payment of "silk" cheques and the issuing of new yen, have been made, but none of these steps have "hit the nail on the head."

It is to be regretted that certain financial institutions, which have been dealt economic blows by the current conditions, have assumed a cautious attitude. It is to be hoped that they will in the end extend assistance to the industry at the right moment.

But it will depend on the authorities whether a comprehensive effective plan can be drawn up or not. They should adopt the attitude that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Sericulture And Labor

The majority of the workers in the silk industry is composed of women, and there is no surplus to be seen in the number of women workers. On the contrary, ironic as it may seem, there are not enough women for the industry.

The United States has experienced the same difficulty, that of fully employing its resources and population, resulting in a chronic suspension of the use of equipment and a chronic unemployment. This is a problem that transcends individual or individual organizational interests and becomes of a national character.

Japanese industry is in that state now. The problem of full employment must be solved by the nation as a whole, and not just by management and labor who are continually in strife. The necessity of establishing a plan for full employment by the nation is being keenly felt.

The scarcity of women available for the sericulture industry gives rise to several speculative ideas. More than 80 per cent of the workers in this industry have been women. Thus there has often been suggested a plan to replace women with unemployed men, but in the light of the type of work in this industry, it

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must be admitted with regret that such a scheme is impossible. Some portion of the work, of course, can be done by men, but on the whole, the delicate hands of women are needed to insure the production of superior goods for export purposes.

The scarcity of women workers may be explained to a certain extent. Principally, the reason is the economic independence attained by the farming villages, from which the industry in previous years had drawn its labor. Thus the number of women to leave their native places to become wage earners has decreased. The increase in the price of farm products has made it more profitable for them to stay at home to help in the harvest. In addition, the poor food conditions in other areas have influenced these girls to stay in the farming areas.

In view of these conditions, the need for devising effective countermeasures arises. Attention should be paid to the plan of making spinning mills more pleasant places to work and conveniences should be established to draw girl-spinners willingly. It should be noted that those mills which have taken such steps for the welfare of their workers have ample women labor.

The instance of Henry Kaiser, the American shipbuilder, may well be studied. In keeping with the motto, "No boats, no votes," Kaiser urged his workers to build a great number of ships by giving his workers incomparable good treatment. By such measures, he achieved greater results than others. He has since turned to the automobile field and there is talk that he may surpass Henry Ford in this endeavor. Some people are even advocating him as a Presidential candidate. There is much to be learned from his example.

Silk and Democracy

The manufacture of silk involves a series of big industrial processes, divided into many departments and involving complex and contradictory elements. Thus any democratization of the silk industry means the exclusion of bureaucratic control or any equivalent system. At the same time, any tendency toward excessive monopolistic control or profits should be rectified at once as a matter of course.

No great progress has been made in respect to the removal of bureaucratic control. But it must be noted that with a view toward excluding monopolistic controls, trade unionism has been developing among the workers.

In this connection, the ownership of individual enterprises should be made as democratic as possible without forgetting that in the highly specialized phases of the technical and managerial departments, the skill accumulated in the past should be fully employed.

Study must be made to raise the industry to higher standards, strengthening the international position it occupies.

It is keenly felt that a cultural and scientific advancement of the industry is most urgent. It is being strongly emphasized that all industries in Japan lack in scientific methods, or at best have only inferior methods.

It is no trifling problem to note that the silk industry, expected to be the leader in the restoration of a peacetime Japanese economy, should be so weak. Advances must be made in the fields of social sericultural science, sericultural law, sericultural economics and sericultural administration.

These are the aims of the Katakura silk interests and of the silk industry on the whole. With the others, the Katakura company has great plans for expansion, thereby raising the economic standards of the new peacetime Japan. Silk for Japan—silk for the world. No other item of manufacture has such prospects for elevating Japan to a position alongside the other peaceful nations of the world.

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SECOND CONSIGNMENT OF RAW SILK TO BE SHIPPED TO UNITED KINGDOM

Allocations of 2,000 cases of raw silk to the United Kingdom has been announced by the Foreign Trade Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The silk has been prepared by Boeki Cho, the Japanese government's official Board of Trade, and will be shipped to England in the near future. It is the second consignment of raw silk to the United Kingdom since the war's end. The first shipment totaled 212 cases and 1,000 bales.

Primary use of the silk will be the manufacture of hosiery. Piece goods also will be produced.

An effort will be made to ship approximately 1,000 cases of raw silk to the United Kingdom per month, David Heritch of New York City, textile official in the Foreign Trade Division, said. The current shipment covers December and January. It consists of 1,000 cases of 13/15 denier white silk and 1,000 cases of 20/22 denier white silk, both types ranging in grade from AAA through D.

23 JAN 1947
PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC

BOEKI CHO TO PREPARE SILK SAMPLES FOR SHIPMENT TO UNITED STATES, RAYON SAMPLES FOR AUSTRALIA

Preparation of 5,000 pounds of spun silk yarns by Boeki Cho, the Japanese government's official Board of Trade, for shipment as representative samples to the United States Commercial Company in New York City, has been directed by the Foreign Trade Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The Division also has directed Boeki Cho to prepare for export as samples to Australia 1,000 pounds of 120 denier bright viscose filament rayon yarn and 1,000 pounds of 75 denier Bemberg filament rayon yarn. They are the first sample lots to be allocated to that country from Japan.

Boeki Cho has shipped 2,100 linear yards of silk sifter cloth to Korea upon direction of SCAP. The cloth will be used in textile screen printing and in sifting of flour, David Heritch of New York City, official in the Foreign Trade Division, said.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC
8 JAN 1947

ITEM 14 Output of Spring Silkworm Cocoons Low.- Nippon Keizai Shimbun - 1 Oct. 46. Translator: Z. Konishi.

Full Translation:

The output of spring silkworm cocoons has failed to attain the projected goal of (21,000,000 KAN), 173,670,000 pounds comprising (18,900,000 KAN), 156,303,000 pounds of superior quality cocoons for producing raw silk for export and 17,367,000 pounds (2,100,000 KAN) of medium quality cocoons for domestic use. The production actually amounted to only 79,666,850 pounds (9,655,000 KAN), as was revealed in the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry's announcement on 30 September. This output shows a sharp decrease of (5,86,000 KAN) 48,462,200 pounds or 37.8 per cent as compared with the output of last year. This decrease in the output of spring silkworm cocoons is attributed to the curtailment of silkworms by silk-raisers in anticpation of the decrease in mulberry-leaves production due to decrease of acreage for mulberry-trees and fertilizer shortage. The decrease is also due to unwillingness on the part of producers since the price of cocoons is somewhat lower than other agricultural products.

IMPROVEMENT SEEN NEEDED OF SILK-REELING INDUSTRY

New Spirit Must Be Infused for Vigorous Advance of Pioneer of Economic Reconstruction

By KENTARO KATAKURA

(NOTE: "Silk industry must not not only be revived to the pre-war level but advanced farther than that," states the writer. President of the Katakura Industrial Company, one of the leading silk enterprises of Japan. Writing in the magazine "Economist," Katakura analyzes the present situation and urges scientific progress in Japanese Silk industry. THE EDITOR.)

The silk-reeling industry has now come conspicuously to the fore, presenting many problems for earnest study in regard to its restoration. The purpose of this article is to consider what should be done to ensure its future prosperity. When I speak of the restoration of the silk-reeling industry, it is not simply in the sense of its restoration to its former state. I rather mean its vigorous advance from its old state. The silk-reeling industry has generally been regarded as one of the most conservative, but if it is to be advanced vigorously in future, something like a new spirit must be infused into it. It must be so improved in every respect that it can perform successfully its high mission as the pioneer of the economic reconstruction of regenerated Japan.

To take up the problem of increasing the production of cocoons, to start with, some time ago, the Government made public what is called the five-year plan for the restoration of the silk-reeling industry. According to this plan, mulberry farms, filatures and other connected equipment are to be rehabilitated so that the raw silk production may be increased to 238,000 bales in 1950, to 273,000 bales in 1951 and to 321,000 bales in 1952. It is surely important to plan the creation of new mulberry fields with a view to increasing the future production of raw silk, but a more urgent problem is to increase the output of mul-

How to use the existing equipment and materials of various kinds most efficiently for the restoration of the silk-reeling industry is the next problem calling for careful consideration. Seeing that the rehabilitation of this industry is a matter of urgent necessity, it is only proper that this industry should claim priority in getting the necessary supplies out of the materials to be found in the country. In view of the fact that in the state of confusion into which the country was temporarily thrown after surrender large quantities of materials in stock became dissipated to render the already impoverished sources of supply the more drained, speedy steps must be taken to ascertain the actual amount still available. It is not too much to say that the future of Japanese industry depends a great deal on the amount of such materials which can be devoted to the resumption of production.

Rational Use of Funds

Another big problem is how to make the most efficient and rational use of the funds which will necessarily be limited to expedite economic reconstruction and how to raise the funds requisite for the purpose. It is no easy task to map out in detail a plan for postwar economic reorganization, and accordingly it is admittedly difficult to draw up an infallible scheme for providing the necessary funds. Seeing that there is a danger of a irretrievably grave situation arising from any faulty step taken in this connection, it may be argued that every care and circumspection must be used in attending to the matter, but then the resumption of production is a matter too pressing to allow of dawdling

supply of labor is thus in evidence everywhere in the industrial world.

Labor Situation Good

In the silk-reeling industry, however, there prevails a labor situation much better than in other industries. For a large majority of the employes in this industry are women and there is a shortage rather than an over-supply of women operative at the present time. This actuality might suggest to some minds the advisability of replacing a certain percentage of women operatives by workmen who are rendered superfluous elsewhere, but those who know the nature of the work in this industry will immediately see the unfeasibility of such a proposition. The work essentially requires women's peculiar dexterity in the manipulation of their fingers. The shortage of women operatives in this important industry is due in no small measure to the fact that agricultural districts from which they are largely recruited are now in so prosperous a condition that the necessity for farmers to put their daughters out to work has greatly lessened. Besides, the sharp rise in the prices of farm products has made it more profitable for country girls to follow agricultural pursuits than to engage in factory work. The food shortage in urban districts too operates to make them prefer rural life.

Such being the case, it is very necessary to take appropriate measures quickly to make life at filatures far better than at present so as to induce many country girls into this industry. Even at present, it may be noted that some filatures which have completed all necessary improvements to meet the new situation are adequately supplied with women operatives.

I may here briefly touch on the possible effects of the Government's plan for the suspension of indemnification on the silk-reeling industry. All industries are bound to suffer more or less from this step, but so far as this particular industry is concerned, its reconstruction work is not likely to receive any serious blow from it. The problem of how to maintain the requisite amount of labor after the adjustment of fictitious capital, which is causing a great deal of concern elsewhere, is occasioning

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ing the production of cocoons, to start with, some time ago, the Government made public what is called the five-year plan for the restoration of the silk-reeling industry. According to this plan, mulberry farms, filatures and other connected equipment are to be rehabilitated so that the raw silk production may be increased to 238,000 bales in 1950, to 273,000 bales in 1951 and to 321,000 bales in 1952. It is surely important to plan the creation of new mulberry fields with a view to increasing the future production of raw silk, but a more urgent problem is to increase the output of mulberry leaves from the fields in actual existence. It is consequently strongly urged that the way should be opened for a larger and speedier supply of fertilizer to the cultivators of such fields.

Must Revise Cocoon Prices

The price of cocoons requires a revision too. Compared with the prices of other agricultural products, it is unquestionably too low, and for this reason ,there is a general demand that it be trebled at least. In some quarters, however, such a big increase is regarded with disfavor on the ground that, there being no warrant for too much optimism regarding the future movement of the raw silk quotations in the American market, a more cautious attitude is called for in the permanent interest of the industry. Both points of view, it must be admitted, have much to commend themselves. Anyway, it seems advisable that, as in the case of rice and coal, the adoption of the indemnification formula should be considered, in conjunction with the fixing of the new price, to meet immediate needs, while not neglecting at the same time to elaborate permanent measures for promoting the healthy development of the industry.

As to the supply of food and other necessaries of life to sericultural farmers, the Government has already taken some special steps to meet the wishes of those concerned. It is noteworthy too that, considering that, unlike rice, vegetables, etc., concoons cannot be blackmarketed and that the incomes of farmers from their sales can be accurately assessed by tax officials, exemption of cocoon raisers from taxation is being urged in some quarters.

funds requisite for the purpose. It is no easy task to map out in detail a plan for postwar economic reorganization, and accordingly it is admittedly difficult to draw up an infallible scheme for providing the necessary funds. Seeing that there is a danger of a irretrievably grave situation arising from any faulty step taken in this connection, it may be argued that every care and circumspection must be used in attending to the matter, but then the resumption of production is a matter too pressing to allow of dawdling. The silk-reeling industry, like the fertilizer and the coalmining industries, has actually resumed production and there is a steady increase in the demand for funds. Some facilities have been provided in the direction of financing the industry, it is true, but what has so far been done is hardly up to the mark. It is not altogether unreasonable that in the circumstances prevailing at present the banking organs which are already considerably stricken should be in a very cautious mood, but it is sincerely to be hoped that they will rise to the occasion and will not fail to come to aid at the right moment. As for the Government authorities concerned, they are required to draw up a big plan in the desired direction as quickly as possible. It must be remembered that the best medicine would work bit litttle on a malady after it has advanced too far.

Now, let me consider the labor situation in the silk-reeling industry. Full employment and a higher standard of living are what the working people most sincerely desire, and to bring about such a favorable state of affairs must, indeed, be one of the objectives which new Japan should have in view. Unfortunately, however, the actuality of the situation is decidedly unfavorable for its speedy realization. The equipment for production which suffered extensive damage during the war faces a further diminution through the removal of machinery on account of reparations. Nor is this all. There are a number of unfavorable factors to impede production including a dearth of raw materials, an inadequate production of coal and the defective means of traffic and transportation. Overitems to meet the new situation are adequately supplied with women operatives.

I may here briefly touch on the possible effects of the Government's plan for the suspension of indemnification on the silk-reeling industry. All industries are bound to suffer more or less from this step, but so far as this particular industry is concerned, its reconstruction work is not likely to receive any serious blow from it. The problem of how to maintain the requisite amount of labor after the adjustment of fictitious capital, which is causing a great deal of concern elsewhere, is occasioning little anxiety to this industry in which production is already making good headway and there is little idle labor left.

Question of Democratization

A brief reference may lastly be made to the democratization of the silk-reeling industry. Democratization demands that this industry be freed from all forms of bureaucratic control as far as possible, on the one hand, and be rid of factors tending to foment the monopoly of control or profit, on the other. Little has as yet been done toward the satisfaction of the former demand, but as regards the latter requirement, it is noteworthy that cooperative associations have lately been springing up in the sections of the culture of silk-worm eggs and of silk-reeling in accordance with the provisions of the silk-reeling industry law. This process will tend to diffuse widely the ownership of enterprises, but every care must be taken at the same time to utilize to the full, in the phases of technique and management, the knowledge and experience accumulated in the past and to develop the industry greatly through painstaking researches so as to secure a high place in the world market for Japanese raw silk.

Thus viewed, we feel keenly the need to promote cultural science in the silk-reeling industry. It is now patent that Japanese industry is backward in its scientific side. In the silk-reeling industry, cultural science is more culpably neglected than natural science. It is a serious matter that the industry which ought to be the pioneer of postwar economic restoration stands on weak cultural scientific foundation. It is sincerely to be hoped that a big advance will be made in the spheres of silk social science, silk legislation, silk economy, silk administration, etc.

JAN 3 1947 NIPPON TIMES JAN 3 1947

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ITEM 15 Increase in Price Urgent for Silk Production - Mimpo - 21 Jan 47.
Translator: K. Ueda.

Full Translation:

As our greatest hope is set on silk as collateral export item its production should be emphasized above all others. However, the present monthly production of silk yarn is hardly 8,000 bales whereas the prewar demand was 500,000 bales. There are many factors that hinder the increased production of silk. The low price of silk is the immediate problem and the menace of chemical fibers, such as nylon, is the future one. At a conference of the spinning industry on the 14th, a loud cry was raised for an increase in the price of silk yarn. The current price is 700 Kake (TN: SIC), that is, the price of cocoons that are equivalent to one Kan (TN: 8.3 lbs.) of silk yarn in 700 yen. On the average, the quantity of silk yarn is 14 percent of the cocoons. Therefore, the ceiling price of cocoons is 98 yen per Kan (= 8.3 lbs.) The producers are demanding that the price of cocoons be raised to 2,000 Kake.

According to the investigation recently carried out by the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, wheat or sweet potatoes can be far more profitably cultivated than mulberry trees when the price of cocoons is under 1,740 Kake. Hence it goes without saying that the price of cocoons must be raised before the farmers seriously undertake the increased production of cocoons. There is also a cry for the approval of the increase in silk-reeling costs. The majority of the girls employed in these factories are farming communities, and so they can be employed on more lucrative jobs at home. The raise of wages is the surest means to call these girls back to the silk-reeling factories. The price of silk yarn that is sold to the Overseas Trade Board (BOEKI CHO) is roughly 15,000 yen per bale, of which reeling costs are less than one-third. In order that the silk-reeling factories may resume active operations, an increase in production costs should necessarily be approved. Thus, when the price of silk is raised to a proper level, the immediate question holding back production is solved, but yet one more serious question remains.

In the pre-war days, the demand for Japanese silk was 500,000 bales annually, but now it is reported to have decreased to an annual 230,000 bales. The UNITED STATES is the principle customer. This decrease attests to the fact that silk is being gradually ousted from the market by nylon. Unless some scheme is introduced to attract more American customers by utilizing its peculiar gloss, silk will not rival the durability and practicality of nylon. The present standard Grade A silk is far from satisfactory. Its technical level should be greatly raised in order for it to be a successful rival of nylon. It was formerly said that nylon yarn cannot be made so fine as silk, but this defect has been overcome. At present nylon underclothes cannot absorb moisture so readily as silk, but this defect too will possibly be overcome. Being a chemical fiber, nylon has a possibility of being greatly improved, whereas silk has its limitations. Only low costs of production will enable silk to vie with nylon, but this is the exact opposite to the solution of the present problem. Even if the immediate question is solved, silk is destined to face a life or death struggle in the future.

The final decision was kept back because 1,800 Kake is regarded as too high considering the general price policy and the export price of silk yarn, though these authorities admit that the price should be raised to complete the five-year plan for the increased production of silk. Hence the price was not applied to the summer and autumn cocoons of last year. So long as the price is not decided, increased production of silk is greatly hindered, and the Sericulture Bureau (SANSHI KYOKU) and other authorities concerned are desirous that it be speedily decided. The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry authorities intend, it seems, to decide it somewhere about 1,400 Kake considering the price of rice and that of silk yarn.

On the other hand, sericulturists are prepared to enlarge mulberry fields to the extent of 170,000 Chobu (TN: 425,000 acres) in accordance with the Government's five year-plan for the increased production of silk. And the Agricultural Societies have already lent out 100,000,000 yen to help the planting of mulberry fields. However, as the price of cocoons is not decided as yet, the further enlargement of mulberry fields is in a precarious condition. If the decision of cocoon prices is further delayed, it may be necessary that the program of the first year in the five-year plan be changed.

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ECONOMIC SERIES: 1677 (Continued)

ITEM 15 (Continued)

As to the decision of cocoon prices, the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry worked out a plan of raising it to 1,800 Kake in October last year. However, the plan was examined by the Economic Stabilization Board and other authorities concerned and the finanl decision was kept back because 1,800 Kake is regarded as too high considering the general price policy and the export price of silk yarn, though these authorities admit that the price should be raised to complete the five-year plan for the increased production of silk. Hence the price was not applied to the summer and autumn cocoons of last year. So long as the price is not decided, increased production of silk is greatly hindered, and the Sericulture Bureau (SANSHI KYOKU) and other authorities concerned are desirous that it be speedily decided. The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry authorities intend, it seems, to decide it somewhere about 1,400 Kake considering the price of rice and that of silk yarn.

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ITEM 11 The Sale of Our Raw Silk - (Sub-editorial) - Jiji Shimpo - 29 Jan 47. Translators: Kawanabe & Kuniko.

Full Translation:

According to a foreign report some days ago, the Japanese raw silk, which has been exported, first of all, to the UNITED STATES as collateral is in rather poor demand there. The invention of nylon is the most important reason for this situation. Another factor is the lower quality silk. And then, from the standpoint of the US, it is natural for her to keep within the common world trend of being "frugal first", no matter how great her purchasing power may be. On the other hand, there are some merchants in the US who are making speculative purchases of silk now. We are certain, therefore, that eventually our raw silk will enjoy her prewar position in trade. However, this unfavorable report from the US demands our deep consideration for the present. It may sound like foolish complaining to be thinking of former days, but we have had times in which a two-inch lengthening of stockings for American ladies would have caused a serious shortage in our production of raw silk. JAPAN and the US produced and consumed different materials. Therefore, since the opening of foreign trade in JAPAN, she has never come into conflict with the UNITED STATES. Quite the opposite is true of our trade relations with ENGLAND. Japanese ambassadors to AMERICA used to say, "Your cotton and our silk" for the amity of the two countries, and the Americans did not object to this motto. It was a great misfortune that these two nations had to fight against each other. Before the first World War, NORMAN ELGEL of BRITAIN, said optimistically, "Viewed from international economic conditions, it is a great illusion to think a world war would occur." It is a historical fact now that "the great illusion" he mentioned was his own "illusion". Silk is our greatest hope. We earnestly pray that our hope will not end in a great illusion.

ITEM 12 Artificial Silk Production at a Standstill - Provincial Paper: Shiga Shimbun (Otsu) - 19 Jan 47. Translator: T. Ukai.

Full Translation:

The March crisis will hit all industries, and those whose production process is the most closely connected with basic industry will experience the crisis sooner and more seriously than the others. The artificial silk production has already felt the suspension of pulp production. The plant at SHIGA of the Oriental Rayon manufacturing Company (TOYO REYON SHIGA KOJO) came to a standstill in production on the 15th, and other plants are likely to come to the same condition.

Artificial silk and staple fiber industries consume not only a great quantity of electric power and coal in production, but must have also a large stock of coal for their basic production material, pulp. It is therefore these industries that may anticipate others in facing the crisis. As a means to overcome this, operators are asking SCAP through the authorities concerned for the permission to import pulp. According to the survey conducted by the Chemical Textile Section, Textile Society (SENI KYOKAI KAGAKU SENI BU), pulp stocks on hand on the 15th of January by textile companies are barely enough to keep production activities going, as is shown in the following chart.

KURASHIKI Silk Manuf. Co. (KURASHIKI KENSHI)	1.17 months
ASAHI Spinning Co. (ASAHI)	1.05 months
Oriental Spinning Co. (TOYO BO)	0.94 month
JAPAN Spinning Co. (NICHI BO)	1.00 month
FUJI Spinning Co. (FUJI)	0.61 month
MITSUBISHI Chemical Co. (MITSUBISHI KAGAKU)	0.61 month

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 12 Feudalistic Silk-Reeling Factories - Provincial Newspaper Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Nagano) - 13 Jan 47. Translator: T. Nakano.

Summary:

The silk-reeling industry is a most promising one, and it must be given encouragement. To our regret, however, a deplorable trend is seen in the silk-reeling factories. It is deplorable that the morals of factory workers and girls should be so corrupt. The reason for this is that the management of the silk-reeling industry is more feudalistic than any other industry and it has shackled the women workers both physically and mentally. There are some well-equipped silk-reeling factories, that is, they have superior reeling machines, sanitory boarding houses and good recreation facilities. Some factories are making efforts to improve labor conditions and to develop cultural and recreational programs. However, it is also an undeniable fact that the weakness of factory girls has been taken advantage of and that they have been ill-treated.

Feudalistic ways still remain in the factory; for example, foremen drive the factory girls hard by using psychology peculiar to women, or when factory recruiters try to get girls to work for the factories, they make frequent, unnecessary visits to the houses of the girls concerned. The wage system based on the productive capacity of the worker must not be overlooked along with the feudalistic trend of these factories, for wages are an important factor in shackling the factory girls.

The wages of silk-reeling factories in the past were based on productivity of the worker, and the quality of yarn produceed by the worker. For this reason, most factory girls worked hard to attain a good record. By the outbreak of the war, this wage system was abolished and a fixed wage scale was adopted. After the war, however, since the production of superior raw silk for export is much in demand, the wage system based on the productivity of the worker is again being adopted. By the adoption of this wage system, production will, no doubt, be increased, but it will weaken the unity of factory girls, for they will compete with each other to attain a good record. Favoritism of the managing staff toward some factory girls at the time of calculating the results of their work must also be considered. If the adoption of the wage system based on the productivity of the worker restricts the fundamental human rights of factory girls, then conditions in these factories must be thoroughly investigated.

The actual situation of the labor unions in the textile industry comes up for examination. On the whole, the labor movement in the silk-reeling industry is inactive as compared with those of other industries. This is partly because the majority of factory workers are conservative girls, and partly because of the feudalistic nature of the silk-reeling factories. The workers in silk-reeling factories must awaken to the situation. Otherwise, the silk-reeling industry of JAPAN will never be developed.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

SHIP RAW SILK TO U.K., AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Export of an initial 1,000 bales and 212 cases of assorted grades and sizes of raw silk to the United Kingdom has been reported by the Foreign Trade Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The Division also disclosed shipment of 340 cases of raw silk to Australia and New Zealand.

The shipment to the United Kingdom was the first in a total allocation of 3,000 bales and cases which has been consigned there, David Heritch of New York City, Foreign Trade official stated. New Zealand was allocated 20 cases of 13/15 denier, white AAA and 40 cases of 13/15 denier AA white raw silk, the first to be shipped there since the end of the war. The material will be used in the manufacture of hosiery.

Australia received a third shipment which consisted of 100 cases each of 13/15 denier AAA and AA white raw silk. A fourth shipment of 150 cases of 13/15 AAA and 30 cases of 13/15 Special AAA white raw silk will be dispatched from Kure on or about Jan. 10.

6 JAN 1947 PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC

SHIP RAW SILK TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

HEADQUARTERS BCOF, KURE, Jan. 18--Two hundred cases of raw Japanese silk valued at 75,490 Australian pounds were shipped from Kure today aboard the Merkur. Destined for Australia, which already has received three shipments of silk, are 180 cases. The remaining 20 cases are for New Zealand.

Among 25 officers and 30 others for duty and discharge aboard the Merkur was Lt. M. W. Northcott, daughter of the Governor of New South Wales, who was the first Commander-in-Chief of the BCOF. Lieutenant Northcott controlled the Social Service Branch at BCOF Headquarters during the past six months.

The Merkur was delayed by engine trouble for five days at Kure.

21 JAN 1947 PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

SILK MONOPOLY PLAN SET

System Adopted by Government to Prevent Illegal Sales

The adoption of a raw silk monopoly system, which is to prevent blackmarket sales of silk, has been decided by the Government, and the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry is preparing to draft various laws required to enforce the new plan.

Under which is aimed to turn the entire silk produced for export, the State will directly purchase raw silk from producers and sell it to exporters. If necessary, the Government will enforce the monopoly system to coccons and by-products. At the same time, he State will bear the risk of loss caused by fluctuation of price in foreign markets, and protect the interest of producers.

DEC 2 7 1946 NIPPON TIMES

Sending Silk Samples

Preparation of 5,000 pounds of spun silk yarns by the Board of Trade, for shipment as representative samples to the United States Commercial Company in New York City, has been directed by the Foreign Trade Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The Division also has directed the Board of Trade to prepare for export as samples to Australia 1,000 pounds of 120 denier bright viscose filament rayon yarn and 1,000 pounds of 75 denier Bemberg filament rayon yarn. They are the first sample lots to be allocated to that country from Japan.

The Board has shipped silk sifter cloth to Korea upon direction of SCOP. The cloth will be used in textile screen printing and in sifting of flour.

JAN .. 9 1947 NIPPON TIMES

1ST RAW SILK SHIPMENT ON THE WAY TO BRITAIN

Initial Exports Also Made to New Zealand and Australia

Export of an initial 1,000 bales and 212 cases of assorted grades and sizes of raw silk to the United Kingdom has been reported by the Foreign Trade Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The Division also disclosed shipment of 340 cases of raw silk to Australia and New Zealand.

The shipment to the United Kingdom was the first in a total allocation, of 3,000 bales and cases which has been consigned there, said David Herich, Foreign Trade official. New Zealand was allocated 20 cases of 13/15 denier, white AAA and 40 cases of 13/15 denier AA white raw silk, the first to be shipped there since the end of the war. The material will be used in the manufacture of hosiery.

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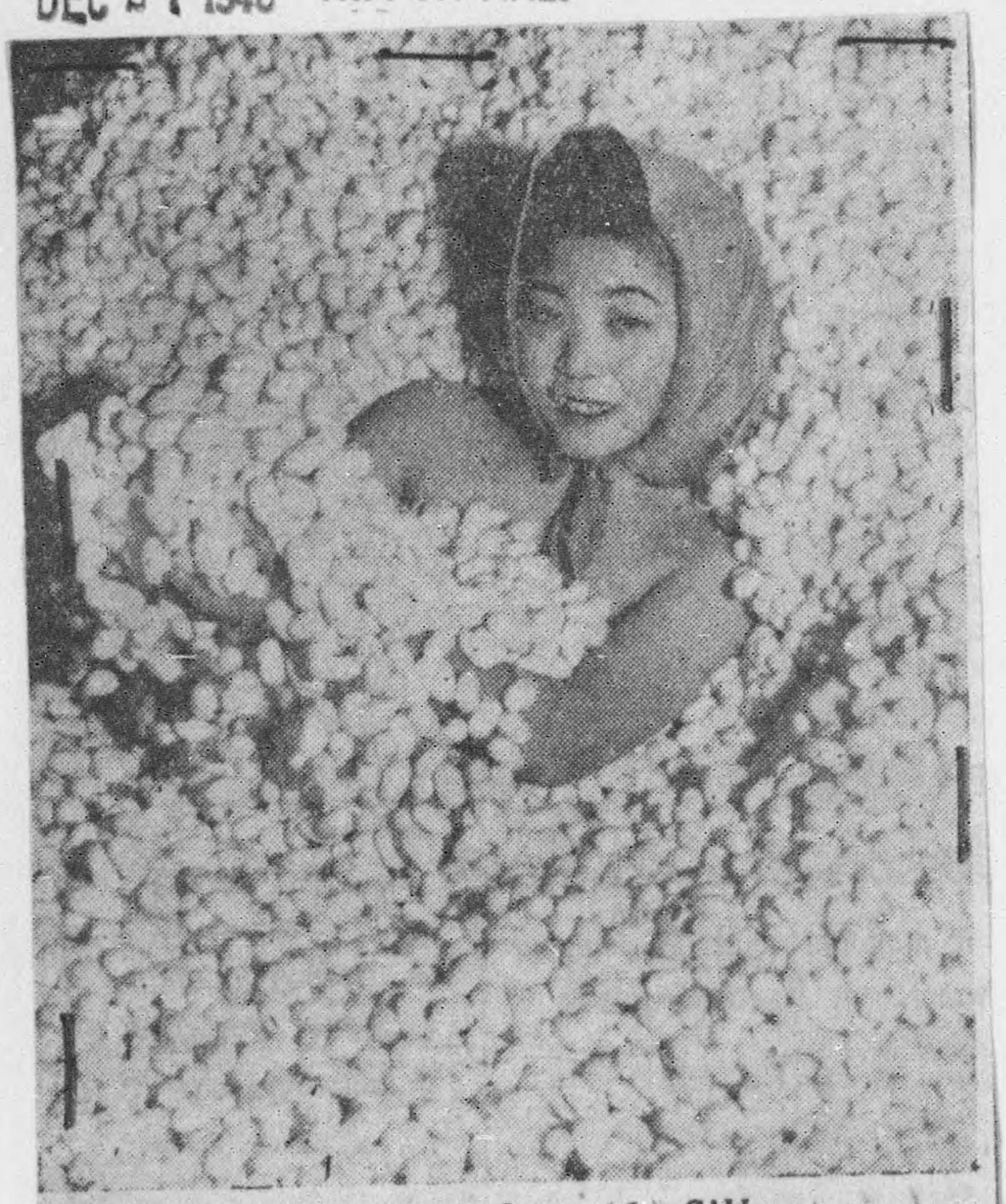
JAN .. 9 1947 NIPPON TIMES



1947's Peaceful Rhythm: (1) Silk

Sun-Acme

Peace has made it possible, once again, for Japanese silk to adorn the shapely legs of women throughout the world.

Although still far behind her prewar production, the Japanese silk industry is fast regaining its prewar level. Once again, Japanese silk is being converted into the thousand-and-one "must" articles for which the world has come to use silk.

(Photo shows a young woman covered with cocoons from which silk is made)

JAN .. 1 1947 MAINICH

Spun Silk Yarn As Samples To US

5,000 Lbs. To Be Shipped; Rayon To Australia Also

Radiopress

TOKYO, Jan. 8.—Preparations of 5,000 pounds of spun silk yarns by Boeki Cho, the Japanese Government's official Board of Trade, for shipment as representative samples to the United States Commercial Company in New York City, has been directed by the Foreign Trade Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The Division also has directed Boeki Cho to prepare for export as samples to Australia 1,000 pounds of 75 denier bemberg filament rayon yarn. They are the first sample lots to be allocated to that country from Japan.

Boeki Cho has shipped 2,100 linear yards of silk sifter cloth to Korea under direction of SCAP. The cloth will be used in textile screen printing and in sifting of flour, David Herich of New York City, official in the Foreign Trade Division, said.

JAN 1 0 1947 NIPPON TIMES

Silk Sent to Australia, N.Z.

Two hundred cases of raw Japanese silk valued at 75,490 Australian pounds were shipped from Kure last week aboard the Merkur! Destined for Australia, which already has received three shipments of silk, are 180 cases. The remaining 20 cases are for New Zealand.

NIPPON TIMES JAN 2 3 1947

Jap Gov't Receives Large Silk Supplies Released By SCAP

Fifty-thousand bales of silk have been released to the Japanese Government by SCAP, it was learned yesterday.

The silk, of a low grade, is slated for repatriates and war sufferers, manufacturers of electric insulation and communications equipment and for food processors.

SCAP directed the Japanese Government to name an agency to allocate the silk and to control the production and distribution of finished products.

JAN 2 0 1947 STARS & STRIPES

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND
Public Relations Office

Press Release: 13:30
17 January 1947

SCAP RELEASES APPROXIMATELY 50,000 BALES OF UNEXPORTABLE RAW SILKS; PRINCIPALLY OLD STOCKS NOW AT MANUFACTURERS

Approximately 50,000 bales of unexportable raw silk, principally old stocks in the hands of manufacturers, have been released by SCAP to the Japanese government for domestic use.

The release includes current and future production of low grade varieties, as well as semi-processed and raw stocks previously frozen in the possession of weavers, knitters and other manufacturers.

"The silk released has been considered by all SCAP authorities concerned to be of such types and so located as to be economically unsuitable for collection for export," Maj. H. S. Tate of Clemson, S. C., chief of the Textile Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section, emphasized.

Investigated Stocks One Year

The marketability of these stocks was "very carefully investigated for a year before the Textile Division recommended releasing them to Japanese authorities," the official explained.

The released amount is also in excess of the quantity needed to meet the contemplated SCAP export program, he added.

The goods will be allocated by the Japanese government where most needed, Robert A. Hickerson, chief of the division's Silk branch, said.

An immediate use will be in the relief of repatriates and war sufferers. The silk also will be allocated to industry for such uses as electrical insulation, food processing and communications equipment.

Comes Under Potsdam Agreement

The action taken not only moves material which is not marketable, the officials asserted, but prevents loss from deterioriation and fulfills provisions of the Potsdam agreement under which the

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Allies are pledged to help restore Japan's peacetime economy.

The stocks released include:

All raw silk of Grade F and below; all grades of 28 denier and 42 denier, and coarser, raw silk, for which there is little foreign demand; all damaged raw silk (stained, insect-marred, etc.); raw silk with defective winding; all "out of size" 13/15 and 20/22 denier raw silk; all douppions, or "double cocoon" silk from which it is impossible to unwind the filaments; hand-relled silk of all grades and deniers; raw silk in open bales in the possession of control agencies and silk companies, and, or, in skein or book form, and all single filament raw silk, known also as "woolen" silk.

Will Allocate Silk Immediately

Officials of the ESS Foreign Trade Division estimate that future exports of raw silk will be largely 13/15 A grade and better or 20/22 A grade and better. Production of Grades B, C, D and E can be utilized in the manufacture of desired export fabrics, they observe.

SCAP has directed the Japanese government to designate an agency to assume responsibility for allocation of the released silk and to control production and distribution of the silk products.

The agency will be authorized to allocate the raw silk immediately but will not be allowed to distribute end items made from the silk until a plan for distribution and rationing has been submitted to and approved by ESS' Price Control and Rationing Division.

After the plan for distribution has been approved, the directive provides, all end items manufactured from the raw silk will be distributed under the Japanese government's rationing system at government ceiling prices. 17 JAN 1947 PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

SCAP RELEASES MORE THAN FIVE MILLION SQUARE YARDS OF SILK FABRICS FOR JAPANESE DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION

Bedding and clothing will be made available to a limited number of repatriates and war sufferers as a result of the release by SCAP of 5,963,306 square yards of silk fabrics to Japanese domestic consumption.

The fabrics which are now held in stock by the Japan Textile Company Ltd., are unsuitable for export because of their narrow width.

Japanese officials have indicated informally to the Textile Division of SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section that approximately 60 per cent of the goods will be used in the production of bedding. Manufacture of approximately 230,409 sets of bedding is contemplated.

This will help fulfil the bedding program for repatriates which is 400,000 sets short of the production schedule, Mrs. Dorothy Edgers of Washington D.C., head of the clothing manufacturing branch of the Textile Division, said.

Approximately 40 per cent of the released material is suitable for use in the production of kimono. The stock includes both outer and lining materials.

Japanese authorities are considering allocating at least a part of the kimono material to young women for their trousseaux, Mrs. Edgers said. She explained that many young girls are without kimono because of the wartime regulation which required them to wear the mompei, or bloomer-type costume.

However, she emphasized that the Japanese government has not yet submitted definite plans for utilization of the fabrics, and allocation plans may be changed in the final program. The SCAP directive releasing the fabrics requires that a detailed plan be submitted before the fabrics are distributed.

SCAP also approved release of other silk products for home consumption as follows: 7,202 children's kimono and women's nagajiban (underwear); 800,570 pounds of silk sewing thread and 33,360 pounds of silk shoe laces.

Release of the thread, which was frozen during 1946, is important to the Japanese because they resew household and wearing apparel after cleaning or washing, the Textile Division official explained. Resewing of the average garment requires two-thirds of an ounce of silk thread, she estimated. A portion of the thread will go to manufacturers of clothing and other textile items.

28 JAN 1947 PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC

The shoe laces also have been frozen during the last year and are being released because there is no export market for them.

THIRD SHIPMENT OF SILK HABUTAE GOES TO STATES

Shipment of 1,551,500 linear yards of silk habutae to the United States by Boeki Cho, the Japanese government's official Board of Trade, has been announced by the Foreign Trade Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The material, which is the third consignment of silk habutae to the United States from Japan since the end of the war, will be sold through the United States Commercial Company.

The first shipment of 236,000 linear yards already has been sold in the American market and the second shipment of 500,000 linear yards recently arrived in the United States, David Heritch of New York City, textile official in the Foreign Trade Division, said.

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PRINT-SAMPLES SUBMITTED

Catalogues Sent to Foreign Trade Division to Boost Export

Designed to solicit export orders for silk fabrics from buyers abroad at a time when Japan is striving to rebuild her war-ravaged economy, the Boeki Cho (Board of Trade) has just delivered four bulky, colorful print-samples catalogues entitled "Story in Print" to SCAP's Foreign Trade Division. it was learned by Nippon Times.

Intended to break the textile circles away from conservative forms and conventions the illuminative volumes, which represent the first attempt of its kind, induce them to design their own fabrics and prints in competition with the rest of the textile world.

In the catalogue are 102 print designs, which serve to replace submission of woven samples, produced by some 100 finest craftsmen of the country. The designs, meant for all modes of modern dresses—whether for daily, dinner, sport or evening wear—, have gleanings of all types of coloring, possessing within them the flowers and the feathery world.

JAN 1 3 1947 NIPPON TIMES

WANT COCOON PRICE RAISED

Producers Present Demands to Agriculture Ministry

A resolution demanding the Government to raise the price of silk cocoons was adopted by more than 800 silk-cocoon producers from the Shinetsu and Kanto Districts at a meeting held in Urawa last week.

The producers also approved another resolution stressing their determination to increase production as well as to improve silk cocoons and to work for the rehabilitation of mulberry plantations.

Following the meeting, representatives of tthe producers presented the resolutions to the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry.

JAN 1 3 1947 NIPPON TIMES

Silk Habutae Shipped to U.S.

Shipment of 1,551,500 linear yards of of silk habutae to the United States by the Board of Trade, has been announced by the Foreign Trade Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section. The material, which is the third consignment of silk habutae to the United States from Japan since the end of the war, will be sold through the United States Commercial Company. The first shipment of 236,600 linear yards already has been sold in the American market and the second shipment of 508,000 linear yards recently arrived in the United States, David Heritch of New York City, textile official in the Foreign Trade Division, said.

FEB 1 1947 NIPPON TIMES

Company Announces Silk Sale

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—The United States Commercial Company announced today the sale through Feb. 14, of 26,735 bales of Japanese raw silk for a total of $26,729,820.

FEB 27 1947 STARS & STRIPES

RAW SILK RELEASED FOR DOMESTIC USE

50,000 Bales of Unexportable Stocks Allocated to Needy And Industries

Approximately 50,000 bales of unexportable raw silk have been released by SCAP to the Japanese Government for domestic use.

Maj. H. S. Tate of Clemson, S. C., chief of the Textile Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section, said, "the silk released has been considered to be of such types and so located as to be economically unsuitable for collection for export."

Some of the silk will go to repatriates and war sufferers, some allocated to manufacturers of electrical insulation and communications equipment, and some to food processors.

The Government was told to designate an agency to assume responsibility to allocate the silk and to control the production and distribution of the silk products. All items manufactured will be distributed under the Government's rationing system at Government ceiling prices.

NIPPON TIMES JAN 1 9 1947

More Silk To UK

2,000 Cases Allocated As 2nd Consignment

Radiopress

TOKYO, Jan. 23.—Allocations of 2,000 cases of raw silk to the United Kingdom has been announced by the foreign trade division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The silk has been prepared by Boeki Cho, the Japanese Government's official Board of Trade, and will be shipped to England in the near future. It is the second consignment of raw silk to the United Kingdom since the war's end. The first shipment totaled 212 cases and 1,000 bales.

Primary use of silk will be the manufacture of hosiery. Piece goods also will be produced.

MAINICHI JAN 2 5 1947

Silk For Down South

Radiopress

KURE, Jan. 21.—Two hundred cases of raw Japanese silk valued at 7,490 Australian pounds were shipped from Kure Saturday aboard the steamship Merkur.

Destined for Australia, which already has received three shipments of silk, are 180 cases. The remaining 20 cases are for New Zealand.

JAN 2 3 1947 MAINICHI

Parachute Cords Released

The Government has been authorized by SCAP to release to domestic industry 479,568 pounds of parachute silk cords in stock. The cords in their present form are unsuitable for export. The Textile Division of SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section reported that the parachute strings will be reduced to thread for use in the production of brocades, men's belts and neckties and cords for obi and haori.

MAR 2 7 1947 NIPPON TIMES

Shipping Silk To England

Allocations of 2,000 cases of raw silk to the United Kingdom has been announced by the Foreign Trade Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section. The silk has been prepared by the Board of Trade, and will be shipped to England in the near future. It is the second consignment of raw silk to the United Kingdom since the war's end. The first shipment totaled 212 cases and 1,000 bales. Primary use of the silk will be the manufacture of hosiery. Piece goods also will be produced.

JAN 2 2 1947 NIPPON TIMES

SILK MAY BE PLACED UNDER STATE RULE TO SPUR RECOVERY

Control of Sericulture Held Necessary for Reconstruction Of Economy

The Government is introducing a bill to the Diet when the legislature reopens after the New Year recess for state control of silk, the Asahi reported. The purpose of this measure is said to be to earmark silk which is Japan's most abundant and highest priced export item, so that it can be utilized for the economic reconstruction of silk.

Should the proposed bill be passed, the purchasing and selling of raw silk, which hitherto has been left to the control of the Sericultural Association and other industrial bodies, is to be regulated by the state which will buy, sell and fix the prices, so that farmers may continue making cocoons regardless of fluctuations in international economy. Another aim sought is to eliminate the profiteering of middle-men.

Outline Is Given

The following is the outline of the bill:

(1) Sericulture is to be controlled by the state so as to restore and stabilize the industry and the supply and demand of raw silk and its prices are to be regulated.

(2) Sericulturists must sell to the Government the raw silk they have produced in accordance with orders, in the same way that rice is being delivered for rationed distribution.

(3) The Government is to sell the raw silk thus obtained to those quarters it designates.

(4) The Government, if or when it deems it necessary, may buy or sell silkworm seeds, cocoons or other sericultural materials.

(5) The Government, if or when it deems it necessary, exchange, process or store up sericultural materials.

(6) The Sericulture Act is to be revised accordingly.

MAINICHI DEC 1 3 1946

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 Sericulture Situation in Nagano - Provincial Newspaper Shinano Nichi-nichi Shimbun (Nagano) - 4 Jan 47. Translator: K. Ueda.

Full Translation:

The five year plan for the sericulture industry is entering upon its initial stage this spring, but the will for industrial activities on the part of sericulturists is very low in so far of the price of cocoons is not decided as yet, and the demand for silk in AMERICA is not encouraging enough. Accordingly, fear is prevalent lest the five year plan should break down in its first or second year if things go on at this rate.

The price of cocoons, which directly influences the sericulturists' will to produce, has not been decided as yet in spite of the desperate demand which the sericulturists repeatedly made to the authorities since August last year to have it raised to more than 2,000 KAKE. To make matters worse, the American market is reportedly very flat, and the majority of sericulturists are feeling much more concerned than they were last year. Consequently, mulberry fields are on a steady decrease.

According to the investigation which the Sericulture Section of the Prefecture Government carried out at the end of last September, as much as 300 CHOBU (750 acres), out of the fields which had been registered as mulberry fields, were converted to other crops. As UEDA, SUSAKA, SARASHINA and others are adjacent to the apple producing center, mulberry fields in these places are being converted to apple orchards. Wheat and barley were sown in the fields totaling about 400 CHOBU (1,000 acres) in the prefecture which had been reserved for planting mulberry saplings at the end of November, directly before the time scheduled for the registration as mulberry fields. Moreover, an increasingly large number of people are cancelling their application for the advance sale of mulberry saplings, and thus the authorities have been completely frustrated in the first year in their plan to increase the area of mulberry fields to 1,720 CHOBU (4,300 acres). It is beyond doubt that the current ceiling price of cocoons is all too cheap, and the disproportion between the price of cocoons and that of other agricultural crops has become so great lately that the farmers have begun to detest sericulture, if for no other motive than the unredeemable production cost.

Supposing the average of 10 KAN (82.7 lbs) of cocoons are obtained with the mulberry leaves produced from 1 TAN (0.25 acres), the income obtained from this area of fields is only 1,000 yen on the basis of the present 700 KAKE. If potatoes are cultivated, 500 KAN (4,135 lbs) will be secured per TAN (0.25 acres), which will amount to 2,500 yen on the basis of 5 yen per KAN (8.27 lbs). Further, if radishes are cultivated after the potatoes as the second crop, the average of 700 KAN (5,789 lbs) per TAN (0.25 acres) will be harvested, and when they are sold at three yen per KAN (8.27 lbs) the price amounts to 2,100 yen. From 20 to 25 apple trees are planted per TAN

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

(0.25 acre) and 1,000 to 1,500 KAN (8.270 to 12,405 lbs) of apples is harvested from a TAN (0.25 acre) of ten year old trees. As the current ceiling price of apples is 25 yen per KAN (8.27 lbs), an income of 25,000 to 38,000 yen will be secured from a TAN (0.25 acre) of apple orchard. Of course, potatoes and apples can be sold easily on the blackmarket, and it is obvious that the actual income is much more.

As for cocoons, blackmarket dealings in them are hardly possible, the price of mulberry saplings for one TAN (0.25 acre) amounts to 3,000 yen, being two and a half to three yen apiece, and the fields yield no fruit for two or three years after planting. No matter how whimsical a man may be, he will not care for such an unpayable job.

The recently calculated production cost of best cocoons per KAN (8.27 lbs) is as follows:

	yen
Capital interest for mulberry fields	21.60
Rent	2.31
Fertilizer	120.71
Wages	87.50
Expenses pertaining to rooms and shacks for sericulture	17.00
Implements	24.77
Mulberry field expenses	39.38
Egg-cards	4.59
Consumption goods	7.62
Public levies	1.965
Miscellaneous expenses	6.50
Total	315.945
Secondary income	25.40
Balance	290.545
Converted into KAKE (yarn quantity 14 MOME (2 oz)	2,075.3 KAKE

As is seen from the above table, the demand of 2,000 to 2,400 KAKE is not exorbitant. It cannot be foretold what price will be fixed when the reported silk yarn monopoly system is enforced, but so long as things go on at this rate, the restoration of sericulture may end in a mere babble of voices.

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ITEM 5 Earliest Fixing of Cocoon Prices Urged - Nihon Keizai Shimbun - 7 Jan 47. Translator: M. Okajima.

Full Translation:

Despite loud cries for increasing cocoon prices, no decision has yet been made. With this half-hearted attitude on the part of the authorities, the projected five year sericultural reconstruction plan will end in a failure, and chances of stirring up the farmers' interest in cocoon production will be lost. The following are a collection of opinions from various quarters:

GUMMA-Ken -

Engineer ONO of the Sericulture Section (SANSHI KA) of the Prefectural Office: Last year's partial payment for the early and late fall rearings is hardly enough to cover the cost when egg-cards and other expenses are subtracted from it. The cocoons have been sold but no prices have been fixed. Under such circumstances, it is only natural that farmers should not comply however hard we may try to pursuade them to increase mulberry plantations under a five year plan. With such an attitude as "the Government cannot be depended upon", farmers pay no heed to the officials. The revenue from one Tan (0.245 acre) is about 1,000 to 1,100 yen at the most. Cocoons have no blackmarket price. From this angle, prices must be fixed as soon as possible.

Mr SERISHITA, head of the Farmers Associations of KIYOSATO-mura: Some of our leading circles triumphantly declare that last year's cocoon production of GUMMA-Ken surpassed that of NAGANO-Ken, and that it was the highest in quantity throughout the country. However, I am informed that as they are notorious for cleverness, NAGANO farmers, concealed the actual quantity, and disposed of their yield through more profitable channels. Since no prices have been decided, those farmers who honestly delivered their product suffered much from the lack of funds at the end of the year. Even if a production program is laid out, their deliveries will, I believe, be much decreased next year. Such being the case, the reported sericultural five year reconstruction plan cannot be materialized. We urge that prices be

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ITEM 5 (Continued)

fixed as early as possible.

Engineer [illegible]SU of the Sericulture Section of the Agricultural Association (NOGYO KAI SA[illegible]SHI BU): Because of there are no official prices, the authorities are now at a loss how to deal with the part payment of 70 yen for the early fall products and 80 yen for the late fall products. Farmers are disgusted with the insincere attitude of the authorities. In such a situation, increased production cannot be expected from those farmers who are already extremely discouraged. When the prefectural authorities estimate this year's production to be increased by 20 or 30 percent, farmers hold a contrary opinion saying that it will be reduced by 20 or 30 percent. At this juncture, we venture to propose the matter be settled by fixing definite prices as quickly as possible. At any rate measures must be urgently taken so that keen interest in the industry may be roused among the farmers.

GIFU-Ken -

Chief HAYASHI of the Yarn Section of the Agricultural Association (NOGYO KAI SENI KA): As compared with the prices for vegetables and other products, cocoon prices are too low. For this reason, those engaged in this industry in this prefecture have often made pleas to the central authorities. It is quite surprising to learn how farmers have lost interest in production. Most farmers persist in abolishing mulberry plantations, declaring that it is no longer possible for them to continue sericulture when prices are fixed so low. It will be impossible to encourage farmers unless prices are drastically raised.

Mr MATSUMOTO, head of the Sericulture Establishment Association (YOSAN JIKKO KUMIAI) of SOHARA-Mura: In GIFU-Ken, the cocoon yield per Tan (0.245 acre) is 12 Kan (97.24 lbs) and the revenue from it is only 1,200 yen. What a difference as compared with other crops! Even sweet potatoes bring a profit of 3,000 yen per Tan when sold at the official price, if the calculated average yield per Tan is 600 Kan (4,962 lbs). Under such circumstances, an increase in production cannot be expected.

NAGANO-Ken:

Engineer ODANAKA of the Sericultural Laboratory: If the Government desires to raise the importance of sericulture , I hereby call upon it to fix such prices as to win approval from the farmers, and I urge the average price be fixed at 1,800 Kake for the minimum.

Engineer MIYAGI of the Sericulture Section of the Prefectural Office: Keen interest was observed among the farmers when they were engaged in summer and fall rearings, because in those days, farmers were convinced that the level of 2,000 Kake at the least could be maintained. However, they are now very anxious about the future. Such being the case, there is actually no demand in mulberry shoots and there are many farmers who cancel former contracts. The importance of sericulture cannot be over-emphasized. Taking, therefore, this opportunity, I earnestly hope that the authorities will fix prices at the earliest possible date.

SHIZUOKA-Ken:-

ISHIDA, chief of the Agriculture and Sericulture Section (NOSAN GYO KA): It is regrettable that prices have not been fixed. It is natural that the farmers should doubt our sincerity. At any meeting I happen to attend, I am asked when prices will be fixed. The production figures are 70,000 Kan (578,900 lbs) which include both the summer and fall rearings. The price of 70 yen per Kan was fixed for the former and that of 80 yen for the latter, and as much as 80 percent of the total has already been paid in cash and the remaining amount is to be paid when increased prices have been fixed. However, it is urgently requested that prices be fixed as quickly as possible in order to encourage the farmers to increase production of cocoons.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 15 Rehabilitation of The Prefectural Silk Industry - Provincial Newspaper Yamanashi Nichinichi Shimbun (Kofu) - 12 Jan 47.
Translator: M. Bokura.

Summary:

All efforts must be exerted to restore our silk industry in order to live up to our title of a silk-raising prefecture. However, the rehabilitation of this industry is not an easy task. Many obstacles stand in the way. Therefore, a conference of silk raisers will soon be held to promote the development of this industry.

During the war, most of our mulberry fields were converted to farm-lands to increase food production. With the end of the war, attention has again turned to the production of raw silk, since it is the main commodity used as collateral goods. Plans to restore the silk industry and mulberry fields and to increase silk production have been brought up. However, the plans are incomplete.

Raw silk heads the list of collateral goods to be exchanged for imported foods. Silk is indispensable to peace time trade. Domestic demand for textiles is another reason why we must increase production, Silk may encounter competition with nylon and rayon in the UNITED STATES, but it will continue to be our chief export commodity.

If this prefecture is to maintain her prestige as a silk-raising prefecture, the various unfavorable conditions hindering the development of this industry must first be overcome and, above all, the silk raisers must be encouraged. Silk raisers must make a living like the farmers. They must not be discriminated against. However, they are not being equally treated, For example, last year, in an effort to increase silk production, the Government promised to raise the price of cocoons, but no action was taken on this issue and the silk raisers would not settle their accounts. Under such circumstances, it is obvious why the farmers do not have any desire to increase silk production.

Many other problems, such as the problems of fertilizers, mulberry plants and increased food rations are also serving as obstacles. Recently, mulberry growers, impressed by the profits of the fruit-growing industry have been converting their mulberry fields to fruit orchards. Before we reproach them for their lack of judgment in not realizing the significance of the silk industry, we must bear in mind that fruit-growing is far easier and more profitable than silk raising.

We have no alternative but to restore and develop our silk industry in order to maintain the name of this prefecture as a silk-raising prefecture. However, the mere enforcement of a plan will not bring any results. The silk raisers must put the plan into practice. Therefore, the prerequisite is to devise a plan which will stimulate the farmers to increase silk production voluntarily.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 4 The Future of Raw Silk - Sekai Nippo - 13 Feb 47. Translators: Kuniko & Nobunaga.

Summary:

JAPAN's foreign trade still depends on raw silk. According to a recent UP dispatch from NEW YORK, Mr JERRY, a prominent American silk trader, has assured us of the future of silk. Meanwhile, another UP dispatch has reported that nylon is being produced increasingly and improvements are being made steadily, and its price, too, is falling gradually. Only in its warm quality is silk said to be superior to nylon. In price, nylon is now only $2.75 per pound, while silk continues to be sold at $4 or $5.

Furthermore, as it is reported, if nylon stockings are twice as durable as others, silk stockings, in actual value, may be far inferior to nylon. If the report is true, this is a great crisis in sericulture. Under such conditions, how can silk retain its demand or find a larger market? Reduction in price may be considered, but it is very difficult for our silk growers to lower the existing price. Nor is it permissible, in this democratic age, to cut down wages of workers or to overwork them.

Mr JERRY emphasized that raw silk must be highly appreciated by the people for its own uses. His criticism of dumping threw a fresh light on the future of raw silk. Since the production of raw silk cannot compare favorably with that of nylon, raw silk will no longer be able to maintain its position as the main commercial commodity of JAPAN unless it serves its own special uses. It is necessary for us, hereafter, to make efforts to win a good reputation from Americans by improving the quality of raw silk and by extending its own special uses. This task is very difficult but possible. Since the problem of raw silk is a vital matter for JAPAN's trade, it should be solved by the united efforts of the Government and the people.

ITEM 3 Mulberry Fields Decrease - Provincial Newspaper Yukan Shinshu (Nagano) - 9 Feb 47. Translator: H. Shindo.

Full Translation:

The prefectural five year plan for agriculture is being seriously impeded by the failure to settle the price of cocoons. Recent reports gathered from all quarters by the prefectural government, indicate almost certainly that mulberry fields have now decreased in acreage by approximately 20 percent of that in early September. The present food situation has necessitated conversion of these fields into food gardens.

In what condition are wheat fields on the other hand? It is worthy of note that they have decreased 4,000 to 5,000 CHOBU (9,800 to 12,250 acres) during the past few years. Although there were 45,249 CHOBU (100,860 acres) in 1944, they were reduced to

(continued)

40,373 CHOBU (98,914 acres) in 1945, thus representing a decrease of 4,000 CHOBU (9,800 acres). When the planted acreage for 1945 was surveyed at the end of the year, it showed a sharp decline of more than 6,000 CHOBU (14,700 acres).

In so far as wheat fields have encroached on mulberry fields by about several thousands of CHOBU, it is of course unthinkable that the former have decreased their acreage more this year than last. However, the truth is that wheat fields have shown a decrease as the result of conservative reports by farmers of wheat acreage in consideration of wheat collection. It is noticeable too that such a trend is prevalent in communities that showed bad results in shipments last year.

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ITEM 10 Cocoon Price Problem - Tokyo Shimbun - 17 Feb 47. Translator: T. Mitsuhashi.

Summary:

Although half a year has elapsed since the Government promised to raise cocoon prices substantially, the increase in price has not yet been realized. In view of the fact that the authorities have advocated the retention of the present price of "700 per cent" (98 yen per KAN or 8.27 lbs) at the last governors meeting, there are some fears that the price will be raised to only about "1,000 per cent". even if the price is raised.

A farmer can earn 3,000 to 4,000 yen from one TAN (0.25 A) of land if wheat and potatoes are grown, but the same area of mulberries does not even bring 1,000 yen. The cocoon-raising farmers in expectation of the doubling of the cocoon price, have exerted themselves to increase cocoon crops this summer and autumn by securing mulberry leaves and fertilizers.

However, in view of the poor prospect of a cocoon price increase and the results of the sale of Japanese silk abroad, the cocoon-raising farmers are not only discouraged but have come to distrust the Government. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry expected last summer to raise the cocoon price to "1,800 per cent" (250 yen per KAN) but later considered "1,500 per cent" (210 yen per KAN). It made efforts to increase the price to this level but failed. It is reported that ex-Minister of Agriculture WADA tried his utmost to settle the problem before he resigned.

Farmers meetings regarding the cocoon price problem have been held in succession in various prefectures, and a nation-wide meeting is scheduled to be held in TOKYO on 17 February. The demands of the sericulturists are (1) immediate raising of the cocoon price substantially as promised, (2) granting subsidies to cover the loss (1.2 billion yen) due to the nonincrease in prices for summer and autumn cocoons, and (3) returning of summer and autumn cocoons to the farmers if subsidies are impossible to be granted. If no step is taken to meet this situation, the sericultural industry will decline. Although the Government will tackle this problem shortly, it is questionable whether it will meet the demands of the farmers or not.

The All-Japan Agricultural Association has computed the appropriate price as (1) "1,824 per cent" if based on production costs, (2) "1,901 per cent" if the value of cocoons raised from one TAN (0.25 A) of

ITEM 8 Five-Year Plan To Increase Mulberry Fields - Provincial Paper - Saga Shimbun (SAGA) 26 Jan 47. Translator: H. Sato.

Full Translation:

As a means of rehabilitating production and for preventing an agricultural panic, the farmers are stressing the importance of the silk-raising industry. Farmers in the SAGA district are paying great attention to sericulture as a branch of their diversified agricultural industry.

Since the mulberry field is a primary need for silk raising, the prefectural authorities, the agricultural association, and the women's organizations are endeavoring to increase the production of mulberry leaves. At present, the mulberry fields in SAGA-Ken covers 590 Chobu (1,450 A) and the mulberry leaf crop totals 70,000 Kan (578,900 lbs). The crop of mulberry leaves has decreased by about 90 percent since 1933, when the acreage of mulberry bushes covered 4,800 CHOBU (11,760 A) with a mulberry leaf crop of 830,000 Kan (6,864,100 lbs). This decrease can be attributed to the war time conversion of mulberry fields to food producing fields and to the small demand for silk goods.

It is planned to convert 5,000 CHOBU (12,250 A) of farmland, or about 30 percent of the present 14,300 CHOBU (35,035 A) of farms in SAGA-Ken, to mulberry fields on a five-year plan. It is scheduled that 1,650,000 excellent young mulberry trees, chiefly of the NEZUMI-GAESHI and KUCHIKUMA species, will be planted in 1947, with 7,850,000 young plants to be planted in 1948 and 1949, mainly in the northern part of the prefecture in SHIGA-Gun, FUJITSU-Gun, NISHIMATSURA-Gun, KISHIMA-Gun and OGI-Gun. It is expected that the present yearly silk cocoon output of 70,000 Kan (578,900 lbs) will be increased to 1,000,000 Kan (8,270,000 lbs) upon the completion of the plan, and SAGA-Ken will then be able to make a new start as one of the big silk-raising prefectures in the country.

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ITEM 1 Waning Popularity of Raw Silk - Shin Hochi - 3 Feb 47. Translator: K. Onishi.

Full Translation:

The AP's WASHINGTON telegram states that Japanese raw silk proved so unpopular that the American Trade Corporation, the main source of raw silk supply in the UNITED STATES, had to make a drastic cut in the sale price. Such action on JAPAN's foremost collateral export good serves as a grave warning to the Japanese people who, in spite of their defeat, have been regarding things with too much self-complacency. The handwriting is on the wall as Japanese industry represented by raw silk now faces the world's economic tests.

Since JAPAN's foreign trade was started in the MEIJI Era, our agriculture has been segregated from international competition except for its indirect connection through raw silk quotations in the YOKOHAMA market; farmers could directly judge the trend of the rice market by referring to the daily quotations at KAKIGARACHO, KANDA, and FUKAGAWA. However, JAPAN's agriculture is no longer allowed to remain isolated.

We must get a large quantity of foodstuffs from abroad every year. From now on, Japanese agriculture will have to face international economic competition. If there is a panic in AMERICA, or in any country of the world, it will directly affect Japanese agriculture. In industry, too, the same principle holds true. However, where domestic materials are available, the infinite rise in the costs of production will render exportation absolutely impossible. By saying this we are not threatening the farmers who now rejoice at their hoard of new yen notes. We stand on a higher viewpoint when we interpret the WASHINGTON telegram and give the warning against the danger lying in store.

If raw silk won't do, it may as well be exported in the form of piece-goods or as underwear. One may even say that it should be consumed at home if it does not sell abroad. The role played by raw silk in the past in trade relations between the UNITED STATES and JAPAN has been too important to be casually obliterated.

The telegram suggests that the world's market had undergone a great change during the past 10 years while JAPAN had lost herself in war. We were ignorant as to what was going on in the outside world. Our old idea that talk of exportation always meant raw silk may be no longer practicable in this modern age. Even our topmost export goods such as raw silk are threatened with this waning fortune. Unless all other collateral goods are subjected to careful studies, there will be little prospect of their exportation.

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nylon, the Japan Silk Association, the Japan Art Textile Control Association, the Japan Silk, Rayon, and Staple Fiber Export Guild, and other companies have decided to hold a silk exhibition in TOKYO around April or May under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry at the cost of 5,000,000 yen. These companies will make the American ladies in JAPAN their chief object and will study their tastes concerning silk. They will propagate silk in AMERICA by demonstrating manufacturing processes and by selling souvenirs.

Although Japanese silk was the first collateral good in the exports of reconstructed Japan, the inexpensive but excellent stockings made of nylon, which made remarkable progress during the war, have taken the place of silk and are favored by the American women. In spite of the efforts of the American commercial firms to sell the Japanese silk as high as possible, the price of silk has fallen each time of auction. Silk has become more and unsalable with time, and there were 100,000 bales piled up at the end of last year. Therefore, the American commercial firms are concentrating their efforts on the acceleration of the utilization of Japanese silk by the American textile industries. According to reports from abroad Mr JATORI, famous raw silk merchant, in his speech given in NEW YORK stated that the firm establishment of the position of raw silk in the American textile field was possible only through the expansion of its unique usage. He also said that lingerie, curtains, neckties, and lining were most promising from this viewpoint.

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ITEM 2 Cocoon Value To Be Raised to 1,200 Kake - Nihon Keizai Shimbun - 9 Feb 47. Translator: Z. Konishi.

Full Translation:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has been negotiating with the government offices concerned in order to settle as soon as possible the matter of the revision in the price of silk cocoons, which price has remained unsettled since last summer. Present indications, however, do not warrant optimism.

It was anticipated that the price of silk cocoon would naturally be raised following the increase in the price of rice made last year. If the price remains unchanged, industrial circles will be greatly affected, and the five-year plan for the rehabilitation of the raw silk industry will be impeded. It is expected, therefore, that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will continue negotiations in the hope that the present valuation of 700 KAKE will be raised to about 1,200 KAKE at least.

ITEM 18 Sericulturists Demanding Increase in Cocoon Price - Provincial Paper Saitama Shimbun (Urawa) - 19 Feb 47. Translator: K. Ueda.

Full Translation:

The sericulturists of this prefecture, which ranks third in the nation's sericultural industry, assert that the price of cocoons should be fixed at 2,500 Kake (TN: Kake or Kakeme means the price for a quantity of cocoons from which 1 Kan - 8.3 lbs. - of silk yarn is produced; hence, 2,500 Kake means that the quantity of cocoons which is equivalent to 1 Kan of silk yarn is sold and purchased at 2,500 yen. According to various sericultural conditions, the quality of cocoons produced is not uniform, light or heavy in weight. In the case of the cocoons produced in SAITAMA Ken, if the price of cocoons is fixed at 2,500 Kake, 1 Kan of cocoons is approximately 380 yen, that is, about 6.6 Kan -54.78 lbs- of cocoons is necessary for the production of 1 Kan of silk yarn.).

At the general meeting of Kanto and Shinetsu sericulturists held at URAWA in January, it was decided that the price of cocoons should be fixed at 2,500 Kake, and the parties concerned are endeavoring to realize this decision while the Agricultural Society contends that it should be 2,000 Kake. The grounds for the Agricultural Society's contention are as follows:

On the basis of the production cost for cocoons, it should be 1,712 Kake.

In proportion to wheat to be imported, supposing silk yarn is exported as collateral goods, it should be 2,652 Kake.

On the basis of the price of rice, it should be 1,714 Kake.

It will be seen that 2,000 Kake (280 yen per Kan of cocoons) is appropriate on the foregoing grounds. However, these calculations were made around October last year, and as general commodity prices have risen considerably since that time, the price should be 2,500 Kake, the sericulturists contend.

The sericulturists further assert that the foundation of the three-year plan will be shaken if their demands should be rejected. And the aims will not be attained, that is, in 1949 the acrage of mulberry fields should be 20,000 Chobu (TN: 45,000 acres), 15 Kan (TN: 124.5 lbs) of cocoons should be produced with mulberry leaves from one Tan (TN: 0.225 acre) and the nation's total production of cocoons should be 4,000,000 Kan (TN: 33,200,000 lbs).

The success of this year's expansion program for the sericultural industry depends upon the price of cocoons, and in order to accelerate the realization of the price increase, sericultural circles in this prefecture also sent, on the 17th, representatives to the general meeting of the all-Japan sericultural industry. The representatives are expected to do their utmost to persuade the Government to immediately substantiate its promise to raise the price of last year's summer and autumn cocoons to 1,800 Kake, to return the whole of the summer and autumn cocoons to the sericulturist farmers if the raise in price should be unfeasible, and to abolish control of the silk-spinning industry. As executive committee members, HASEGAWA Yukichi (IRUMA Gun) and TABEI Gihachiro (OSATO Gun) will stay in TOKYO and continue to appeal to various political parties and government agencies.

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ITEM 8 Final Decision Reached on Cocoon Prices - Nihon Keizai Shimbun - 22 Feb 47. Translator: M. Kajima.

Full Translation:

Cocoon prices, which have long been a pending question, have finally been decided. According to the new decision, the price for the summer and autumn rearings of last year are fixed at 900 KAKE

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and that for the spring rearing of this year, at 1,100 KAKE. The cocoon price for 1946 was provisionally fixed at 700 KAKE last March and it was applied to the spring cocoons. However, with the later appreciation of the prices of fertilizers and other articles required for farming as well as labor wages, 700 KAKE was felt to be insufficient to make both ends meet. In view of the situation and because of the emphasis now being placed on the successful execution of the sericultural rehabilitation five year plan, deliberations have been carried out by the authorities concerned and the final decision referred to above has been reached between the Price Board (BUKKA CHO) and the competent Ministry.

The following points have been taken into consideration in fixing the cocoon prices.

1. Since the rice price is well balanced with the prices of farming requirements, cocoon prices have been fixed in proportion to the rice price.

2. The cocoon prices have been calculated on the basis of the sum of the current producer's rice price multiplied by the ratio between the average price for one KOKU (five bushels) of rice and that for one KAN (8.27 lbs) of cocoons for the ten years from 1921 to 1930. The ratio is 0.2272, which, multiplied by 550 yen (rice price), becomes 125 yen (900 KAKE), the cocoon price per KAN for the summer and autumn rearings. With 20 percent in addition to the above price, the price for the spring rearing of this year becomes 154 yen (1,100 KAKE).

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ECONOMIC SERIES: 1723 (Continued)

ITEM 3 Silk Industry In Nagano Ken - Provincial Newspaper, Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Nagano) - 14 Feb 47. Translator: T. Mitsuhashi.

Summary:

Every silk mill in NAGANO Ken is now experiencing financial difficulties amidst the waves of inflation which is far from contributing to silk industry rehabilitation. At the Government's encouragement the majority of the 58 mills, which were obliged to cut operation during the war, have taken great pains to install and repair equipment. Reconverted mills have actually experienced great hardships for their rehabilitation because of the raw material shortage and lack of funds. Yet, the prospects are gloomy due to the unpopularity of Japanese silk on the overseas market and unstable production costs. Enterprisers cannot cover even their own equipment expenses, and the industry is in confusion.

Cocoons: The use of superior cocoons in this prefecture amounted to 2,300,000 Kan (19,021,000 pounds) last year and the same quantity is expected this year. In addition, 800,000 Kan (6,616,000 pounds) of cocoons are necessary from other prefectures, including GUNMA Ken, SAITAMA Ken, and YAMANASHI Ken, but it seems difficult inasmuch as there prefectures are also making efforts to secure cocoons for their own silk mills. These are indications that banks are reluctant to make loans to silk enterprisers despite their need of funds through a possible increase in cocoon price. Accordingly, the agricultural association has decided to make loans to them at a daily interest rate of 1.4 sen (bank interest is 1.8 sen a day).

Fuel: The fuel problem hinges entirely on the increased production of coal. If coal is not supplied to fulfil requirements, silk mills will have to use firewood or lignite. One bale of firewood costs 15 yen on the black market and this causes production costs to increase markedly. The present production cost of silk per bale amounts to 12,138 yen, 1,475 yen of which cover fuel expenses. This proportion is expected to increase in the future.

Labor conditions: About 2,000 workers are engaging in the silk industry here. The disposition of workers is not proportional; some mills are suffering from surplus workers while other mills cannot carry on operation because of labor shortages. Most reconverted mills are experiencing difficulty in recruiting workers, but one of them has succeeded in recruiting workers by issuing award articles such as MESEN (TN: a sort of silk textile) and clogs. All mills, at the approach of graduation, are working toward the recruitment of workers.

Food: Although it seems that the increase of supplementary food ration to workers, from 100 grams to 140 grams a day has eased the food problem, food expenses, which cannot be included in production costs, still amount to a considerable sum, costing seven to eight yen per person. In view of this year's food situation, all mills are making efforts to secure foods.

Personnel expenses: The income of a silk reeler is eight to 10 yen a day, higher than the cotton spinning mills. Labor expenses amount to 2,531 yen or more than 20 per cent of the cost incurred in producing one bale of silk. There is difficulty in obtaining new yen currency to pay wages.

Electric power: Although most silk mills are under the class A, category B, group A, they are suffering from electricity shortage. Working efficiency is greatly affected by it.

Financial relations: The majority of silk mills here, except a few, have no capitalists to back them, and they are finding it difficult to raise funds.

In all respects, silk mills are facing production bottlenecks. The only way to encourage the enterprisers is to permit them to divert by-products into illicit channels, which is an open secret. Government aid to the silk industry is a pending problem.

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ITEM 1 Future of Japan's Silk-reeling Industry - Shinano Mainichi (Nagano) - 25 Mar 47. Translator: H. Sato.(GBS)

Summary:

PART I

JAPAN's silk-reeling industry is at the cross-roads. If it tries to maintain its status quo it is certain to crumble. This industry cannot sidestep democratic revolution. Changes have already begun to be made but the result so far is nothing but confusion. Is the future of the industry utterly hopeless? The answer is yes as long as persons in authority try to maintain the existing state of affairs.

The task facing JAPAN's silk-reeling industry at present is to eliminate feudalism and develop modern industrial practices. It can make long strides by changing itself. It is said that the industry has come to an impasse. Just after the war the general public, obsessed with the fact that the industry was to be earmarked for reparations, remained indifferent to its recovery. But, recently, they have begun to realize that this was a senseless and shallow way of thinking.

The American market, which used to be the sole consumer for JAPAN's silk, is being encroached upon by a formidable rival, nylon. Since nylon is beautiful, durable and moderate in price, raw silk will hardly be able to rival it. Besides nylon, JAPAN's silk industry has another foe. We cannot be indifferent to the development of CHINA's silk industry.

The silk-worm is a subtropical species, and south of the Yangtze River is the very place of its origin. Accordingly, natural conditions there, are best suited to silk-worm breeding. That is why the least troublesome technique is required in

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

sericulture in CHINA. If, therefore, a highly developed technique, like JAPAN's is introduced into Chinese sericulture, its productivity will show an enormous advance. CHINA, as a victorious country, has moved one step toward this direction, and it will be recalled that CHINA demanded silk-worm eggs and young mulberry plants from us. Moreover, in the southern part of CHINA, (e.g. Kwantung Province) there is only a two-month's period out of each year during which silk-worm breeding is impossible, and mulberry tree leaves grow thick all the year round. Despite these facts, JAPAN has maintained a superior position to CHINA up to the present. This must be attributed to the fact that JAPAN's silk industry has exceeded that of CHINA in organization. In other words, JAPAN's silk industry has been developed along more modern lines.

CHINA is reported to have included sericulture in her three major economic policies. We cannot deny the possible advance of CHINA's silk industry. CHINA is also favored by the fact that during the war JAPAN was introducing her advanced technique into that country through the activities of the Central China Silk Industry Company (KACHU SANSHI YUGEN KOSHI).

Moderation in price is the primary condition for acquiring a superior position in the market, whatever the merchandise may be. JAPAN's raw silk has been a very expensive item. It is not too much to say that silk has been treated as a luxury article.

The high cost of production has led JAPAN's silk industry to a crisis. There is no doubt that nylon and raw silk of CHINA, both of which are low in production costs, will drive JAPAN's raw silk from the market.

The high production of JAPAN's raw silk must be attributed to the low productivity of sericulture farmers. Silk-worm breeding farmers were able to produce a small amount of cocoons only at great expense and labor. In addition, the silk industry which depends more upon manual labor than machines, cannot hope to attain parity with modern industry employing advance techniques.

In appearance, JAPAN's silk-reeling industry is a modern business, but actually it has many feudalistic remnants. The reason why it was able to enjoy a great prosperity before the war is that it bought cocoons below cost-price and paid extremely low wages. The silk-reeling industry prospered at the sacrifice of laborers and farmers. There is surely no need to point out how feudalistic, unprogressive and merciless the working conditions of mill-girls was.

The progress of the democratic revolution in JAPAN is now entailing a great change in the existing relations of the silk-reeling industry with the sericulture farmers and mill-workers. No industry will be more severely hit by democratic reorganization than this industry. It is no wonder that the silk-reeling industry which has its foundation in feudalism should sustain the hardest blow since it is the immediate purpose of democracy to eradicate feudalism. Consequently, as long as JAPAN's silk-reeling industry undergoes no change in its historical, social and economic structure, it is bound to collapse.

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ITEM 3 The Future of Silk Trade - Tokyo Times - 1 Mar 47. Translator: K. Nagatani.

Summary:

It is reported that Peter McDERMOTT, chief of Export Section, Economic Scientific Section, SCAP, said in WASHINGTON: "Although raw silk was one of the most important industries in JAPAN, the future of the silk trade is dark. Raw silk is being technically replaced by synthetic fabrics". The people regard the poor demand for Japanese raw silk in America with a feeling of uncertainty, for raw silk has been expected to play an important role in the nation's foreign trade as collateral for imported necessities.

Needless to say, the strongest rival of Japanese raw silk is nylon which has become widely favored by the Americans because of the remarkable progress it achieved during the war. We know very little about nylon. However, it is not difficult for us to foresee the future of this new fabric considering the pre-war rapid achievements made by the synthetic fabric industry in this country. At this juncture, it must be recalled that because of the remarkable increased consumption and production of American rayon following the world panic of 1929, Japanese raw silk was forced to recede from the field of the silk fabric industry and exploit new market in the field of silk stocking manufacture.

It is apparent that the uncertain future of raw silk as export goods does not allow us to become optimistic; however, we need not become too pessimistic. A tangible policy should be formulated in coping with the situation. The policy may be divided into two measures: one related to raw silk and another to create other export commodities to compensate for the decreased export of silk.

Of 84,000 bales of Japanese raw silk exported to the UNITED STATES since the surrender to the end of last December, only 21,031 bales have been sold. The major reason why Japanese raw silk lost the market to nylon and rayon in AMERICA is that raw silk is too expensive. For instance, the price of Japanese silk in its opening sale was nearly twice that of nylon. A pair of stockings cost about three dollars. Accordingly, to meet the situation the production cost of raw silk must first be reduced by increasing the efficiency of the silk industry. At the same time, the nation's textile production plan should be made in consideration of future domestic demands for silk lest there be overproduction of fabrics in the future. In this respect, it is recalled that Mr HAGAGNA, who came to JAPAN immediately after the surrender as textile adviser to General MacARTHUR, warned, "In my personal opinion, indefinite expansion of Japanese silk industry is detrimental. The consequence will be disastrous if JAPAN is permitted to increase silk production and compete with nylon and rayon." Aside from such a price policy, there is need to produce new silk goods of superior quality.

In the second place, to make up for decreased silk demands, a comprehensive plan should be formulated regarding the production of fabrics, such as, cotton, woolen and rayon. A recent London dispatch reported that orders for Japanese fabrics from Southeast Asiatic nations amounted to 40,000 dollars. SCAP has recently recommended the Government to increase our cotton textile capacity to 4,000,000 spindles so as to meet the demands for cotton textiles, domestic as well as foreign. Can we expect the import of Australian wool in the near future? Although the production of rayon is at present deadlocked by lack of materials, rayon is also expected to play an important part in our foreign trade.

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ITEM 4 Measures to Cope With Poor Demand for Exported Raw Silk - Provincial Newspaper Ise Shimbun (Tsu) - 8 Mar 47. Translator: K. Nagatani.

Summary:

Japanese raw silk exported to the UNITED STATES since the surrender to the end of last November valued 1,300,000,000 yen and constituted about half of our total exports. Since this shows how much our livelihood depends upon the silk industry, the development of our silk industry is of vital importance, but, there is a serious obstacle to the future development of this industry.

Of 81,500 bales of exported raw silk, as of November last year, only 20,000 bales have been sold. The remaining 60,000 bales are stored in the warehouses of the American Commercial Company. In prewar days, AMERICA consumed 40,000 bales of silk every month. Needless to say, such marked decrease in demand for Japanese raw silk in AMERICA may be attributed to the remarkable progress made by the nylon industry. Nylon stockings, for example, are about as beautiful as silk stockings. Moreover, nylon stockings wear two or three times longer than silk stockings, and the price of nylon stockings is very reasonable. A pair of silk stockings sold for 3.50 dollars last May, but the price has now dropped to a dollar a pair in some stores. If a pair of silk stockings is to be sold at one dollar, the price of one pound of raw silk must be reduced to three dollars if any profit is to be realized.

At the initial sale of Japanese raw silk after the surrender, the value of one pound of raw silk ran as high as 16 dollars. Since then, the market price of raw silk has gradually dropped until the American Commercial Company has recently fixed the standard selling price of silk between 5.60 dollars and 3.95 dollars. Despite this fall in price, raw silk can hardly compete with nylon which is expected to make further progress with the advance of chemistry, and the cost of nylon is expected to further drop. It is true that exported raw silk was produced during the war and was so crude that it was unfit for exportation, but we can hardly expect that superior raw silk which is to be produced hereafter can be sold at a lower price than the present. With the increased prices of fuel, food and materials, the present official purchasing price of raw silk is too low to cover the cost of production. This is the reason why Japanese silk producers are demanding an increase in the official price, whereas the American market is requesting a drastic cut in the selling price of raw silk.

Since such a superior synthetic fabric as nylon has appeared as a strong competitor of raw silk and is satisfying public demand to a certain degree, the silk industry will be making a serious mistake if it follows the same course pursued in the past. New markets must be found by introducing high class silk goods, silk knitted goods, women's and children's clothes, underwears and silk sheets. The efficiency of the silk industry must also be increased.

In view of a future agricultural panic, however, it is most imperative that JAPAN should decide whether the exportation of raw silk as collateral goods for imported foodstuffs should be continued or whether the mulberry fields should be converted into farming land to cultivate such products as wheat, barley and sweet potatoes.

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ITEM 6 New Cocoon Price Affects Cocoon Raising - Provincial Paper Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Nagano) - 10 Mar 47. Translator: T. Mitsuhashi.

Summary:

With the establishment of a new cocoon price at 1,100 KAKE, an increasing number of cocoon raising farmers in NAGANO Ken, are planning conversion of their mulberry farms into other types of farms since cocoon raising is unprofitable. On the other hand, the farm leaders realizing the slim possibility for a further increase in cocoon price are already planning an appeal for increased supply of necessities and increased retention of products for producers' use. The gathering of silk-worms from the seed-paper this year is estimated at 4,680 kilograms as against the 4,510 kilograms in previous years, but purchase contracts on mulberry seedlings have been cancelled since the season is unsuitable for transplantation. The cancellation amounted to 50,000 seedlings in KAMITA and to [illegible] to 200 CHOBU (490 acres) from 95 CHOBU (233 acres). In addition, permission was asked for 120 CHOBU (294 acres) after the closing day. Some cocoon raising farmers are cultivating vegetables on their mulberry gardens without asking permission at the registration office, in order to receive fertilizers and to evade the delivery of farm products.

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ITEM 20 Adjustment on Katakura Shares Makes Progress - Nihon Keizai Shimbun - 18 Mar 47. Translator: T. Mitsuhashi.

Full Translation:

Because of popularity among operators, the Katakura Silk Spinning Company's shares on unsettled accounts numbered 230,000 at one time in the stock market. However, with the recent trend of popularity to shares in entertainment, cotton spinning, and munitions companies, Katakura shares graduallydecreased. On 15 March they fell to a low record of 80,000. The number of such shares of the Katakura and the Toyo Cotton Spinning Companies (YOBO) is shown below:

Date	KATAKURA	YOBO
4 March	178,920	116,987
5 "	164,750	111,469
6 "	170,713	124,834
7 "	142,683	116,034
8 "	122,043	104,019
10 "	111,123	100,220
11 "	107,683	93,560
12 "	106,130	96,270
13 "	94,793	98,199
14 "	90,180	99,890
15 "	81,780	110,527

There were changes in purchasers and sellers. Leading securities companies, such as the NOMURA and the YAMAICHI, turned from sellers to purchasers. Since reduced silk consumption in the UNITED STATES is a threatening factor, while increased processing cost and the collection of unpaid capital are good factors, prospects for transactions on Katakura shares cannot be predicted.

[illegible] company is $3.00 for first class products, or one third of the price last summer. It cannot be disputed that raw silk, our nations hope for establishing foreign credit, has a gloomy future. We must cease clinging to wishful thinking and establish a practical countermeasure immediately.

According to statistics of Japanese Government, exports from the end of the war to last November amounted to 2,800,000,000 yen, of which silk occupied 1,300,000,000 yen. However, raw silk is in surprisingly poor demand in the UNITED STATES. Only 26,000 bales out of 84,000 have been sold. Furthermore, it is said that the UNITED STATES Commercial Company has about 117,000 bales in stock both in the US and JAPAN. Besides these, our country has tens of thousands of bales available for export. Although there are numerous opinions as to why silk is in poor demand, and speculation as to what the future prospect will be, there has been no definite conclusion established to date. Needless to say, nylon and other synthetic fibers, which have shown remarkable progress in the US since the war have reduced the demand for silk, 80 per cent of which was used by hosiery manufacturers in prewar days. In consideration of this fact, some estimate silk demand to be 40,000 bales at best against 400,000 or 500,000 in prewar days, while others say 100,000 bales. On the other hand, some advise that the silk-raising industry be promoted beyond the sphere of the projected five-year plan of merely raising 270,000 bales anticipated for home use.

As demand always depends upon price and quality of goods, some say sericulture must be made a paying business even at the same price as nylon, ie $2.50 or $3.00 per pound, while some argue silk must be greatly improved so as to surpass nylon in quality.

At any rate, the silk-raising industry now faces what seems to be an insurmountable crisis. To be sure, the Government plan to allow sericulturists to make composite delivery of food and silk, increase their ration or awarding fabric as bonus is well and good, but these are not fundamental remedies to save sericulturists from the present deadlock. We demand a national policy on silk industry to be established immediately by authorities concerned and experts of this industry.

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ITEM 5 Raw Silk Production Upped in February - Nihon Keizai Shimbun - 22 Mar 47. Translator: S. Iwata (GBS).

Full Translation:

According to an announcement made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the output of raw silk in February was 8,252 bales, as against the scheduled production of 7,000 bales. Judging from [illegible] for March is estimated at 10,000 bales. The output of raw silk and subsidiary silk yarn is as follows:

Raw silk	
No 14 (medium)	3,044 bales
No 21 (Medium)	5,074 bales
Others	133 bales
Total	8,252 bales

Subsidiary silk-yarn 33,186 KAN (274,448.22 lbs)
Consumption of cocoons (first class) 397,646 KAN (3,287,523.42 lbs).

The number of factories in operation is 249,85 percent of the number permitted. The number of cocoon-boiling machines totals 33,565, including 26,528 multi-filament machines (81 percent of the number permitted) and 7,037 common machines (81 percent of the number permitted) The number of laborers is 72,130, of which 45,099 are women.

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111.2

JAPANESE COTTON FABRICS, YARN SOLD TO INDIA FOR FIRST TIME SINCE END OF WAR

First postwar sales of Japanese cotton fabrics and cotton yarn to India was announced today by Frank E. Pickelle of Chicago, deputy chief of the Foreign Trade Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The sales amount to 80,000,000 linear yards of fabrics and 8,000,000 pounds of yarn. Negogiations were conducted through the U. S. Commercial Company, federal agency acting on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, which is supplying Japan with the raw cotton used in the spinning of the yarn and fabrics.

Tentative schedules call for shipping of 30,000,000 linear yards of the fabrics in May or June; 50,000,000 yards in June or July; 4,000,000 pounds of the yarn in May or June and the other half of the order in June or July.

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ITEM 3 Five Year Silk Yarn Production Plan Likely to Be Amended - Nihon Keizai - 19 Apr 47. Translator: H. Suzumura. (GS)

Full Translation:

According to an inquiry made by the Silk Yarn Bureau of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, reconstruction of the silk yarn industry is still far from complete, due to the difficulty of obtaining fuel and materials. However, the general condition is improving by degrees. The first year (1946 silk yarn year) under the five-year silk yarn industry rehabilitation plan, as conceived by the Government in January of last year, will end in May of this year. The survey up to the present time shows that during a 10-month period, from June of last year to March of this year, the average monthly output was a little over 8,500 bales, 6.8 percent of the original plan. The monthly output in bales is given below.

(March output is estimated):

	Projected amount	Actual output	Percentage
June (1946)	7,787	6,835	87.8
July	12,076	8,548	70.8
August	12,590	8,361	66.4
September	14,832	8,992	60.6
October	15,494	9,581	61.8
November	16,157	10,018	62.0
December	11,672	9,257	79.3
January (1947)	10,521	5,807	42.2
February	12,099	8,252	69.0
March	13,527	10,000	74.1

According to these figures, November of last year was the peak month, the output exceeding 10,000 bales, but production decreased to 5,807 bales in January of this year. This was due to the coal shortage and the restriction of the electric power supply. In March, however, it is supposed to reach 10,000 bales.

Productive equipment has increased remarkably, there being at present 43,000 reeling machines, or about twice the 23,000 machines in the corresponding period last year. In addition, the coal situation has improved somewhat, and the electric power supply has also taken a turn for the better. However, silk-reeling production is not likely to be increased in proportion to the increase of productive equipment, since silk manufacturers tend to average products, taking into account the prospective cocoon shortage. Consequently, it is feared that the five-year silk yarn industry reconstruction plan may be modified.

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ITEM 13 Silk Products of Superior Grades Favored in Production Program by Aurhorities - Provincial Paper Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Nagano) - 9 Apr 47. Translator: T. Ukai (UG)

Summary:

The authorities will shortly announce increases in the production price of silk, and that producers will receive preferential treatment based upon the quality of goods produced; ie, raw materials and coal allotments will depend in the quality of goods. Informed circles explain that silk of such inferior grades as E, F and C will receive only the minimum price to cover primary costs, while superior grades will be treated favorably so that production will be made very profitable.

The production of grade 14B silk is now underway in 7 factories in the prefecture. But, the other 45 factories producing grade 15B-21B silk will be forced to switch over to the production of superior grades. The MARUKO Silk Manufacturing Company (MARUKO SEISHI) seems to have turned to the manufacture of grade 14B-A silk.

Financial difficulties and inefficient technique must have made it very difficult, for war-damaged factories to continue operation. The only solution for them seems to be an increase in production prices, but, on the other hand they will receive a severe blow through the abolition of Government subsidies. In any case the view that superior grades are preferable and should be encouraged over popular grades, has apparently gained the upper hand.

KOMURA, standing director of the MARUKO Silk Manufacturing Co commented: "The authorities are apparently promoting the production of superior quality silk in view of trends in the USA. This principle is surely justified by the fact that superior grades are fetching as much as $11 a pound, USA."

SEIYA, of the same company stated: "we are at present producing grade 21B-A silk, but in future, we shall have to turn over grade 14B-A silk. In spite of the many technical difficulties involved, we must make a definite effort toward the production of superior grades."

ITEM 5 Common Silk To Be Distributed to Rice Producers and Sericulturists as Incentives - Mainichi - 5 Apr 47. Translator: A. Kawamura. (FST)

Full Translation:

With the consent of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, the Commerce Ministry has recently decided to distribute a large quantity of common silk (MEISEN) and other materials for bed clothes to rice deliverers and sericulturists is summed up as follows:

Special distributions to sericulturists:

One roll of MEISEN (about 12 yards) will be given as rewards to a sericulturist who completes delivery of 10 Kan (82.67 pounds) of cocoons. The authorities will appropriate for this purpose, 1,800,000 rolls of MEISEN which will be manufactured from 15,000 bags of raw silk out of the 50,000 bags approved by SCAP for domestic consumption.

Since this special distribution aims at indemnifying losses due to low prices of cocoons last summer and spring in contrast to other commodities which showed an up-ward tendency, it will be applicable to last year's producers of cocoons as well as those of this year. Collateral goods will also be actually distributed to the cocoon producers sometime this summer. The manufacturing of these items are now being planned.

Special distribution to rice deliverers:

As previously reported, 500,000 rolls of various cloths (80,000 rolls of MEISEN and 420,000 rolls of bed clothes, etc) will be distributed. This MEISEN is part of the stock manufactured under wartime regulations.

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ITEM 11 Rise in Manufacturing Cost of Silk from Stale Cocoons - Nihon Keizai - 14 Apr 47. Translator: S. Kinoshita (FST)

Full Translation:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has provisionally fixed the cost price for silk manufactured from old cocoons at 9,419 yen per bale of 16 KAN (132,048 pounds). This new price is 2.6 times higher than the present 3,676 yen per bale and applies to silk purchased by the Japan Silk Industry Society (NIPPON SANSHIGYO KAI) after 1 January 1947.

Based on the new cost, the purchasing price by the Society of the standard grade silk, which is count 14 medium class "D", will be fixed at 24,275 yen per bale. A breakdown of the price is figured as follows:

Price of cocoon	14,400 yen
Manufacturing cost	9,419 "
Commission for the Society	456 "
Total	24,275 yen

The extra charge of 200 yen for hand reeling will be abolished and the charge of reeling by machine will be raised to 1,000 yen per bale from the current price of 300 yen. Matters relative to brokerage by the Japan Silk Industry Society will remain undecided until it is known whether the Society will continue its existence or not.

The Japan Silk Industry Society's purchasing prices of silk of count 14 medium are as follows:

Grade		Per Bale of 16 Kan	Difference from standard grade
SAAA	No. 94	40,765 yen	16,490 yen
"	93	39,265 "	14,990 "
"	92	38,260 "	13,985 "
"	91	36,885 "	12,610 "
"	90	34,135 "	9,960 "
AAA	89	32,315 "	8,040 "
"	88	31,115 "	6,840 "
AA		28,635 "	4,360 "
A		26,600 "	2,325 "
B		25,560 "	1,285 "
C		24,975 "	700 "
D		24,275 "	0 "
E		23,505 "	770 "
F		22,585 "	1,690 "
G-1		21,925 "	2,350 "
G-2		21,625 "	2,650 "
G-3		21,325 "	2,950 "

ITEM 4 Reconstruct Japan's Economy - Tokyo Shimbun - 9 Apr 47. Translator: K. Hirata. (TK)

Summary:

JAPAN's economic reconstruction calls for radical remedies. For example, JAPAN's raw silk is not selling in AMERICA because of its inferior quality and quantity in comparison to nylon. This indicates that this item ceases to be the top-ranking export of JAPAN, as it once used to be. This is also true of cotton yarn. In short, JAPAN's economic structure must be thoroughly revised.

To this end, adequate measures must be taken, based on JAPAN's condition at present and her natural resources; a permanent and high degree of planning from a nonpartisan standpoint should be accomplished. To speak concretely, JAPAN must adopt the Danish and Swedish method of intensive farming, take advantage of her own circumstances by following the pattern of the Swedish precision machine industry, and learn from the SOVIET UNION's five-year planning. We urge that the Economic Stabilization Board will formulate policies along these lines.

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ITEM 2 Silk Production Thrive in OITA - Provincial Newspaper: OITA GODO (OITA) - 18 Apr 47. Translator: K. Sato. (GBS)

Full Translation:

Since the official quotations of this year's spring cocoons stand at 1,100 KAKE (TN 11 yen for the quantity of cocoons required for 1 MOMME of silk), the price of superior ones comes to about 165 yen per 100 MOMME (13 Ozs) which is an increase of approximately 65 percent over last spring's 700 KAKE, 100 yen per 100 MOMME. Although some farmers in the prefecture are not very enthusiastic about silk production thinking the present price of cocoons is not in accordance with the ever-rising prices of other commodities, producers in general are encouraged by new yen payments and other inducements. Silk production has been carried on in some areas since 15 April, beginning with early silk-production regions facing the sea. Production will be at its height in June.

The prefecture expects to raise 141,000 KAN (1,166,070 Lbs) of spring cocoons, 27,720 KAN (230,244 Lbs) of early autumn cocoons and of late autumn cocoons 90,056 KAN (744,763 Lbs), totalling 24,900 KAN (2,059,230 Lbs) in the 21 producing districts. The allocations are as follows: (Unit — KAN; one KAN equals 8.27 Lbs)

NISHIKUNISAKI	14,490
HIGASHIKUNISAKI	6,080
HAYAMI	2,920
OITA	11,870
KITAUMIBE	7,290
NAMIBE	9,640
ONO	33,200
NAOIRI	1,550
KUSU	1,150
HIDA	20,570
SHIMOGE	14,810
USA	27,670
Total	141,230

ITEM 1 Raw Silk Production Improves - Tokyo Shimbun - 23 Apr 47. Translator: T. Ono (JJY)

Full Translation:

Production of raw silk during March surpassed the expected 10,000 bale mark and reached 10,849 bales, the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry revealed yesterday. According to the Ministry's report, the present improvement in raw silk production is mainly due to a favorable turn in the electric power situation.

The details of the March production are as follows:

14 medium silk	3,318 bales	(30.6%)
21 medium silk	7,250 bales	(66.8%)
others	281 bales	(2.6%)
Total	10,849 bales	

In addition, production of secondary silk yarn amounted to 43,759 KAN (364,658 lbs).

During March 542,393 KAN (4,519,940 lbs) of cocoons were consumed as raw material.

The operating status of silk mills as of the end of March is as follows: number of operating mills - 259 (88.4 percent of total licensed mills); number of operating boilers - 27,775 multiple stream boilers (82.8 percent of total number of workable machines) and 7,298 regular boilers (83.6 percent of all workable boilers); total number of workers - 65,526, including 10,263 men and 55,263 women.

The monthly figures of raw silk production for the first three months of the year are as follows:

January	-	5,807 bales;
February	-	8,252 bales;
March	-	10,849 bales;
total	-	24,908 bales.

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ITEM 6 Silk Reelers Satisfied With Increase In Prices - Provincial Newspaper: Ise Shimbun (Tsu) - 3 Apr 47. Translator: T. Mitsuhashi. (WM)

Summary:

Silk to be exported to the UNITED STATES is sorted into 12 grades and sometimes 16. Silk produced in this prefecture is classed as superior quality, "Special AAA".

According to its quality and luster, the "Special AAA" is classified by the marks "90 to 94." Old production costs, which silk reeling companies formerly received from the Japanese Sericultural Industry Association (NIPPON SANSHIGYOKAI), were 8,250 yen per bale for "93", 7,600 yen per bale for "91", and 6,750 yen per bale for "90", all representing about 40 percent of the purchasing prices of the Association. These costs have remained unchanged since they were fixed last April. When the costs were set the manufacturers could make profits, but with various expenses increasing two or three times the former levels, the industry has been hard-pressed since last September. Their January loss was 100,000 yen or 400,000 yen at the highest.

Now that the costs have increased three fold on the average and they are retroactive from January, silk reeling companies are greatly relieved.

There is now the problem of cocoon prices. Sericulturists are opposed to the new unofficial prices of 900 Kake (TN: 9 yen per 10 MOMME or .08 pounds) for summer and autumn cocoons and 1,100 Kake (TN: 11 yen per 10 MOMME) for spring ones. They have pleaded with the authorities to increase cocoon prices, but the problem rests with the adjournment of the Diet. In view of effects on sericulturists, the development of the problem is being watched with keen interest.

With the approach of the cocoon gathering season, the Mie local office has decided to encourage cocoon raising in groups by granting subsidies in order to stabilize cocoon raising and to improve quality. All sericultural executive associations will act jointly to gather more than 1,000 grams of cocoons in one place. Since this practice will save labor and fuel, many sericulturists agree to the plan. However, in each town and village the attempt is blocked by the lack of suitable places for cultivation of cocoons.

ITEM 11 Spring Silk Cocoon Program Set - Jiji - 29 Apr 47. Translator: Z. Konishi. (GBS)

Full Translation:

In view of the fact that increased production and collection of spring silk cocoons is the key to the Government's five-year rehabilitation program for the silk reeling industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has decided on its program to increase spring silk cocoon production and collection for 1947. In connection with the increased price of silk cocoons previously decided on, the program will call for an increase in production efficiency and reduction in production costs as well as the fulfillment of silk cocoon collection quotas. Appropriate concrete programs for each separate region will be discussed at a conference to be held on 1 May in TOKYO. The conference will be attended by officials from all over the country.

The main points of the program are:

1. Each silk raiser will get a roll of silk cloth in return for delivering 10 KAN (82.67 pounds) of superior quality silk cocoons raised in summer or autumn of last year or in spring of this year.
2. Hitherto, each silk raiser was allowed to use up to 10 percent of his output or up to four KAN (33.04 pounds) of pierced dupion cocoons (TN: a double cocoon, made by two silkworms) for domestic purposes. However, with the abolition of this restriction, silk raisers will be allowed to retain all pierced dupion cocoons for domestic use, effective from spring of this year.

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ITEM 1 Raw Material Conditions of Yamanashi Silk-reeling Industry - Provincial Newspaper: Yamanashi Nichinichi Shimbun (Kofu) - 9 Apr 47. Translator: K. Ueda (WM)

Full Translation:

This prefecture has been given the task of producing 813,000 Kan (6,723,510 lbs) of cocoons in 1947. This is a considerable decrease compared to last year's 1,200,000 Kan (9,924,000 lbs). A sharp decrease in the production of cocoons is expected because the demand for silk has proved to be very low. Moreover, the price of cocoons has not been raised satisfactorily, with the result that sericulture farmers have become pessimistic.

In view of the bitter experiences of last year arising from the shortage of raw cocoons, silk-reeling factories are trying to encourage production in areas which are adjacent to them. At the same time, the factories have started to teach mulbery growers how to supply themselves with mulberry saplings. They plan to stimulate production of high-quality cocoons by doubling the number of experts to instruct sericulturists. The Silk Industry Section (SANSHI KA) of the prefecture has decided to allot 813,000 Kan (6,723,510 lbs) of cocoons to the silk-reeling factories as mentioned below. Six hundred and ninety-five thousand Kan (5,747,650 lbs) or 87.7 percent has been allotted to the factories in the prefecture and 97,000 Kan (801,890 lbs) or 12.3 percent to those outside the prefecture.

Note: Fractions below 1,000 Kan are omitted.

By this allotment, an average of 310 Kan (2,564 lbs) or 350 Kan (2,895 lbs) of cocoons per cauldron will be reeled on the average. If KOFU SANSHI and the Gunze Factory at CHUJO should incur too much delay in their reconstruction, the allotments to these factories will be taken over by the Government and supplied to other factories to help in balancing the supply of cocoons.

Factories outside the prefecture which have had allotments are the FUJINOMIYA (SHIZUOKA Ken), and the MASUZAWA, KYUKO and SHOEI (NAGANO Ken). The Tokyo factory of the Gunze Company and one other have had no allotment this year, though they did have last year. The allotment of cocoons produced in this prefecture to factories outside the prefecture is 3.4 percent less than last year and no quota has been made to this prefecture as part of the supply adjustment scheme, which was 17.7 percent last year. Therefore, it may be said that silk-reeling in this prefecture is in a more favorable situation than last year so long as the production of cocoons is maintained.

It is probable, however, that the silk-reeling industry will be confronted with a shortage of cocoons again this year because there are no cocoons left over from last year. Such being the case, the silk-reeling factories plan to get as many of cocoons as possible for the purpose of readjusting the amount held by factories as is now being done by the government, thus stimulating the will to produce on the part of the sericulturists in their own districts.

The silk-reeling factories in the prefecture have been able to tide over the material shortage with 95,000 Kan (786,550 lbs) held by the Silk-reeling Industry Association (SANSHIGYO KAI), and it is expected that there will be a fresh supply of 181,000 Kan (1,496,870 lbs) from FUKUSHIMA, GUMMA and SAITAMA prefectures. Even with this, material will still

(continued)

be lacking, and another 200,000 Kan (1,654,000 lbs) for May and June will be sent from the aforementioned prefectures.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ECONOMIC SERIES: 1815 (Continued)

ITEM 9 Silk Industry Outlook Not Pessimistic; Demand Will Increase - Magazine: Toyo Keizai Shimpo (Weekly) - 12 Apr 47 Issue. Translator: W. Takashima. (WM)

Summary:

People say sadly that the silk industry of the country will be sluggish in the future because of the depression of the raw silk market in AMERICA. Since the termination of the war, 84,475 bags of raw silk have been exported to AMERICA and sold at public auction. Seven auctions have been held to date, but results have been disappointing. There was a demand for only 26,289 bags (about 31 percent). Such a result, I believe, comes from the popularity of nylon goods, in which great progress has been made.

The efficiency of nylon and other textile industries has been remarkably increased, and the production cost of nylon is lower than that of silk. Before the war, raw silk was used chiefly for stockings in AMERICA. Now, however, manufacturers choose nylon instead of raw silk, for nylon stockings look well and are low in price. The silk industry of this country therefore cannot expect much from the future demand in the American market.

However, I think that pessimism is unnecessary. The industry should be encouraged because the demand will not decrease either in the foreign or the domestic market. In my opinion, the result of the seventh public auction does not infer a decreased demand in the future. Details of the bidding were as follows:

(Unit - Dollars per pound)

Description	Selling Price	Lowest Bid
SP.3A	11.60	5.60
3A	9.45	5.30
2A	8.35	5.00
A	5.09	4.85
B	4.70	4.70
C	-	4.55
D	4.42	4.40

The table shows that high-grade silk such as SP.3A, 3A, etc draws high bidding and that the actual selling price is usually higher than the minimum bidding price and that the sales are not slow.

Moreover, silk can be used for underwear and other items. A famous American merchant said, "Raw silk merchants have to compete with nylon and find a new market for silk, but they are optimistic. Underwear, linings, ties, curtains, and ornaments will provide new uses for silk." This suggests our future course. We have to select and improve the quality of silk and try to extend the market.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ECONOMIC SERIES: 1815 (Continued)

ITEM 9 (Continued)

If we may judge from an aggregation of various news items, the annual demand in AMERICA will not decrease to less than 70,000 or 100,000 bales. In addition, ENGLAND, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, FRENCH INDO-CHINA and NEW ZEALAND are probable markets for it. The demand from these countries will be from 20,000 to 50,000 bags a year. Manufactured silk goods are also of importance and will be exported to these areas.

The industry has further cause for optimism in the matter of prices. The average silk price in the American market is four dollars and forty cents a pound. If computed at the rate of one dollar to 80 yen, a bag of silk will bring 43,600 yen in the Japanese market. Nylon is two dollars and fifty-five cents a pound. Even if we presume the silk price to be equal to the nylon price, it will still be profitable for the industry.

Furthermore, silk is indispensable to a country lacking in clothing material. I consider that the annual domestic demand will reach one million bags in the near future. People prefer silk goods however high their price may be.

Thus, we may conclude that the future of the industry is still hopeful, that the annual demand will be from 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 bales, and that the Government should offer more encouragement.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(B) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ECONOMIC SERIES: 1830 (Continued)

ITEM 3 Production Of Silk Yarn Increasing - Provincial Newspaper: Shinano Mainichi (NAGANO) - 18 Apr 47. Translator: H. Suzumura. (GBS)

Full Translation:

Production by the 56 silk yarn factories in NAGANO Ken has shown an upward tendency as a whole and appears to have somehow tided over the so-called "March crisis" in spite of the immense difficulties caused by the shortage of funds. However, the factories revived since end of the war are faced with immense obstacles due to faulty equipment and unskilled reeling on the part of female workers, etc. In addition, the gravest concern of every factory is the fact that the main direction of consumption is still unknown.

To be more concrete, all silk yarn factories are suffering from severe shortages of glass and cement, especially after these were designated as priority materials.

Manufacturers Suffer from Lack of Funds

As regards funds, for manufacturers in this prefecture who are without personal support from financial circles, the current soaring inflation is a hard blow. For instance a certain factory is eating up its own capital to stave off the present emergency. However, the fact that production costs were fixed at 24,275 yen for medium D 14 and medium A 21 of the standard types proved favorable to all factories because they are laying great stress on the production of good quality silks. The prices for different grades vary greatly enabling the manufacturer to raise funds more easily in proportion to the quality of yarn.

An additional 1,600 workers are required for 56 factories. In February 281 workers ceased working, and in March 462 others continued to leave work. As this trend is likely to increase with the approach of the farming season, factories are making strenuous efforts to detain reel workers.

Slight Increase in Fuel Supply

The supply of coal has become a little more favorable. In March 2,079 tons of coal arrived corresponding to 80 percent of the allotment. This is an increase of 1,500 tons over the 515 tons received in February. Moreover, electric boilers which were not fit for use during February consumed 395,300 kilowatts. Thus the fuel problem is mainly solved for the present.

The above factors increased production during March. Consumption of fresh cocoons was 307,000 KAN (2,538,890 pounds) and dried cocoons 122,300 KAN (124,421 pounds), showing an increase of over 110,000 KAN (909,700 pounds) in fresh cocoons, more than 4,000 KAN (32,800 pounds) compared with February. The output of silk yarn was 9,619 KAN (79,589 pounds) of type 14, and 29,324 KAN (243,109 pounds) of type 21, 651 KAN (5,383 pounds) of other kinds, and 9,317 KAN (77,051 pounds) of subgrade silk yarn, showing an increase of 1,756 KAN (14,570 pounds), 11,137 KAN (89,537 pounds), 116 KAN (962 pounds) and 3,968 KAN (32,834 pounds), respectively.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

Clothes Sold One By One To Make Living In 'Dry Onion' (Peel And Cry) Existence

"Strip tease" is becoming fashionable in Japan too. Not in the form of entertainment but from dire necessity.

Every day by the hundreds, the people of Japan, especially salary and wage earners, are finding it necessary, in order to exist, to disrobe, one by one, whatever little extra clothings they have to sell on the blackmarket.

The Japanese have their own words for this "strip" form of making two ends meet. One of them is "Dry Onion" existence—meaning "the more you peel, the more you cry."

Secondhand Dealers Profiting

Dealers in secondhand clothing, however, are reaping enormous profits from this situation. Buying at extremely low prices from the suffering public who must have immediate cash, they are making from 400 to 500 per cent profit.

A visit to any one of the thousand-and-one secondhand clothing stores in any big cities of Japan and looking over their well-supplied stock in hand would more than substantiate the fact of what a thriving business it is. This holds true for not only dealers in secondhand clothing but any secondhand goods.

As a result of the situation, two types of dealings in secondhand goods have cropped up.

One is the outright purchase of goods from sellers and then selling them at big profits, and the other of handling these goods on consignment and then getting a set commission, usually 10 per cent, for making the sale.

Consignment System

The consignment system is usually operated by large department stores or other stores of repute. This system, of course, is more advantageous to the sellers as it brings in better prices but the public is reluctant to take advantage of this system as it takes time, is troublesome, and is never good for immediate cash.

In such cities as in Kyoto, official prices have been set for secondhand articles but whether the official tagging of prices is being strictly followed or not is very doubtful.

Views Of A Keeper

In this respect, a keeper of a secondhand clothing shop in the blackmarket nest in Umeda, Osaka, says:

"Setting official price on a merchandise and selling at official price are two different matters. In cities where official prices are set, the shopkeepers will put an official price tag on the article, yes, but you can bet your last dime that purchase at such a price would be impossible. Just try it if you don't believe me."

Further questions put to the shopkeeper revealed that most of the people who visit his shop are salarymen. Underwear and underclothes sell best, he said. Suits, overcoats and luxurious kimono are—not so good.

MAINICHI FEB 2 6 1947

MILITARY UNIFORMS RECOVERED IN DRIVE

Textiles Diverted Into The Blackmart Also Retrieved In Nationwide Campaign

Recovery of 1,087,300 pounds of yarn in a drive to retrieve military uniforms and textiles diverted into the blackmarket, was reported yesterday by M.S. Diamond of Oakland, Calif.; chief of the Enforcement Branch of the Price Control and Rationing Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The campaign was launched March 15 by agents of the Home Ministry. Final report on the drive will be submitted to SCAP by May 25.

Other former military goods recovered in the drive to date, according to preliminary reports from all but six prefectures, include 175,462 pieces of clothing, 83,395 yards of broad-width cloth, 230,425 yards of narrow-width cloth, 10,650 pounds of wool and 14 bales of rayon. The goods will be distributed through official rationing channels.

Tokyo and Hokkaido are among the prefectures which have submitted interim reports.

NIPPON TIMES MAY 2 1 1947

SCAP Order Limits Spindles Capacity Of 'Big 10' Firms

To Prevent Monopoly By Restricted Concerns, Make Room For Others

SCAP this week limited the spindle capacity of the so-called "big 10" Japanese cotton spinning companies to the number of spindles which the Japanese Government reported they owned on January 31, Radiopress reports.

The action aims at preventing the "big 10" from retaining a virtual monopoly in the cotton spinning industry.

The directive requires the 10 restricted concerns to cancel all outstanding orders and contracts for new spinning machinery, as a means of preventing their utilizing the productive capacity of the machinery manufacturing industry to the extent that facilities are not available to independents who might wish to enter the cotton spinning field.

The SCAP policy is to foster the growth of independent spinning companies. Future production of spinning machinery will be made available only to indspendent cotton spinning companies which are not on the list of restricted concerns or affiliated with, or controlled by, restricted firms.

The directive does not prevent the "big 10" firms from purchasing and using spare parts and replacement units necessary for the operation of their present spindle capacity but stock piling and excessive accumulation of such equipment are forbidden.

At present, nine small independent concerns own 130,426 spindles as compared with 3,687,018 owned by the big 10 firms. The allowable total under the interim rehabilitation plan for the cotton textile industry is 4-million spindles.

SCAP is instructing the Japanese Government's textile bureau to issue a public invitation to independent spinners who may wish to enter the cotton spinning field to apply for permission to purchase, instal and operate the remaining 182,556 spindles of the 4-million total.

The "big 10" companies were the result of amalgamations formed during the war by the Japanese Government, it was observed.

The companies with their approved inventories are as follows:

Dai Nippon Boseki K.K. 462,532, Toyo Boseki K.K. 523,192, Shikishima Boseki K.K. 373,664, Daiwa Kogyo K.K. 368,680, Kurashiki Kogyo K.K. 315,852, Daiken Sangyo K.K. 429,840, Kanegafuchi Kogyo K.K. 415,426, Fuji Boseki K.K. 325,280, Nisshin Boseki K.K. 287,976, Nitto Boseki K.K. 184,576.

MAINICHI APR 1 5 1947

SPRING BEGINS WITH MILADY'S HATS

These smiles can't conceal the eager preoccupation with which these girls are trying on the new spring models at a millinery shop on the Ginza.

APR 1 0 1947 NIPPON TIMES

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

RAW SILK PRODUCTION GOOD

Increase of 849 Bales Over Goal In March Disclosed

Raw silk production during March throughout the country aggregated 10,849 bales, an increase of 849 bales over the goal, according to an announcement by the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry yesterday.

Waste silk totaled 43,759 bales. The total number of operatives reached 65,526, or 10,263 males and 55,263 females.

Cocoons required for the manufacture totaled 542,393 kan (one kan equals 3.75 kilograms). There were a total of 259 filatures, equipped with 27,775 special reeling-machines and 7,298 ordinary machines.

NIPPON TIMES APR 24 1947

Raw Silk Leads Japan Export List To States

By PVT. EUGENE MARTEN, Staff Writer

Raw silk, green tea and textile goods still lead the parade of Japanese exports to the United States, so report representatives of the Japan Foreign Trade Institute in Tokyo, an organization established by SCAP for handling Japan's imports and exports.

The exhibit now being held by the institute displays 5,000 or more articles, many of which were manufactured with the express purpose of competing with American goods on American markets. It has been ascertained by the representatives that many of the objects could compete successfully with United States manufactured products but because of the poverty of materials and techniques necessary for such manufacturing, the output of such items is relatively small.

As a result, prewar exports still lead the list with the major item being raw silk. The present and future exporting of this raw material will furnish the Japanese with the necessary American money that is needed to finance the importing of other raw materials necessary for the cultivation and development of the production of such manufactured exportable goods.

Total To Increase

Records show that 30,000 bales of raw silk were sent to the States last year. The institute representatives believe this year's total will be far greater even considering the fact that the American market isn't so good as before the war.

Other items in order are green tea, textile goods, miscellaneous goods and food provisions. The food provisions include mainly agar-agar, dried mushrooms and other Chinese dishes especially exported for use by the Chinese in America.

Items to be exported to China, Korea, Manchuria and other neighboring countries differ greatly from that of those to the United States. Textile goods are first with light machinery, agricultural implements, home remedies, food provisions (mushrooms, dried fish, etc.), leather goods and ceramics following in that order. It is also noted in the reports that many other varied objects are also sent to these countries.

Imports More Important

However for economic stability of a trade system, imports are needed more than exports, the official representatives believe.

Japan Foreign Trade Institute officials further declared that raw materials are likewise needed urgently to make it possible for the exporting of manufactured goods. Leading the raw materials is cotton imported from the United States, wool from Australia, lumber from the United States and oil from any country willing to export it to Japan.

It has been officially declared that such goods are a necessity because the Japanese are dependent on such raw materials if they are to become a manufacturing nation and a nation with stability.

APR 1 1947
STARS & STRIPES

Raw Silk Price Hiked

The Government Price Board has decided to raise the official purchase price of raw silk to ¥24,275 from the present ¥15,100 per bale of white 13:15 denier D. The new price will be enforced on raw silk which has been bought by the Japan Sericultural Industry Association on and after January 1, this year.

NIPPON TIMES MAY 14 1947

Jap Silk Exporters Finding Poor Market Due To Lack Of Demand

By PVT. EUGENE MARTEN, Staff Writer

The export of raw silk from Japan to the United States has come to a complete stop because of the lack of demand by American manufacturers; so state official representatives of the Japanese Board of Trade, the government organization whose prime business is the handling of business pertaining to Japanese international trade.

Silk, formerly unquestioned champ of the exports, comprised 73 per cent of the exports between the period of September 1945 and August 1946. The raw material managed to hold its lead until recently when its shipping was wholly and completely brought to an abrupt halt.

The reason for this sudden fall was credited to the extremely bad market for the commodity in the United States. Manufacturers hold it to their advantage to produce nylon and rayon goods instead of those made of silk because American women maintain their wartime preference for such materials and products.

Take, for example, the use of silk in the manufacture of hosiery. Prior to the war, silk was the chief raw material in the making of hose and 20,000 bales of the raw material was needed to satisfy the manufacturers' demand for a single month.

The war with Japan made it impossible to secure sufficient material for the continued production of the silk hosiery so manufacturers turned to nylon. Today the nylons are the preference of the American women who refuse to change even though silk hosiery can be sold for about the same price as the nylons.

At present the stock of raw fiber in the warehouses in the States is moving at only about 2,500 bales per month to the various types of manufacturing plants according to reports released by investigation committees of the Board of Trade. This total is eight times less per month than that of the amount used for only one silk hosiery manufacturer before the war.

Other than the huge amounts stored in America, there are a reported 60,000 bales of raw silk in Japanese stockrooms awaiting the possible future export of such goods to the States. However, officials believe there is little possibility of such action because of the great surplus already in American hands for which there isn't an apparent demand.

Representatives of the board further stressed that research is needed to find a new use for the fiber if its future export is desired. The research will have to produce a use for the product in which no other known product can offer competition in regard to serviceability and application.

Until such research can produce a new use, green tea, textile goods, minerals, miscellaneous goods and other products will have to bear the burden of weight in the exports of the Japanese.

STARS & STRIPES APR 12 1947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

THIRD SHIPMENT OF JAPANESE RAW SILK SENT TO UNITED KINGDOM

111.1

Shipment this week of 1,000 bales of Japanese raw silk to the United Kingdom aboard the British ship Medon was reported today by the Foreign Trade Division of SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The goods comprise the third postwar shipment of raw silk to England. Previous shipments totaled more than 3,000 bales.

Scheduled for shipment June 10 from Kure to Australia and New Zealand are 265 and 20 bales, respectively. Previous consignments have been made to both countries.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC MAY 23 1947

-0-

SILK EN ROUTE TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

111.1

HEADQUARTERS BCOF, KURE - The River Mitta, which sailed from Kure, British Commonwealth Base, this morning for Australia, carries 285 cases of raw silk for Australia and New Zealand. The Australian consignment consists of 265 cases and New Zealand's 20 cases.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC MAY 29 1947

-0-

REPROLUCTIONS OF TREASURED JAPANESE SILK TEXTILES SHIPPED TO UNITED STATLS FOR EXHIBITION AT MAJOR MUSEUMS AND ART SCHOOLS

111.1

Reproductions of the treasured silk textiles in the Shosoin (repository of art treasures and cultural records) at Nara, Japan, have been shipped to the United States, and are now being exhibited in major museums and art schools throughout the country, SCAP's Civil Information and Education Section announced today.

The materials were sent to the U. S. through the U. S. Commercial Company. They are being exhibited by the American Federation of Arts to interest American museums, art schools and private collectors in purchasing historical examples of Japanese art.

The American-wide exhibition tour is being made after a successful first showing at the Nelson Gallery of Art in Kansas City, Mo.

Laurence Sickman, formerly with the C. I. & E. Arts and Monuments Division, and now curator of oriental art at the Kansas City gallery, reported that the textiles received "an enthusiastic reception."

Mr. Sickman added that the Japanese firms who retained their skilled weavers kept alive an unbroken art tradition, making it possible for Americans to study an important phase of Japanese culture that is almost unknown in the United States.

Eleven of the 33 textiles in the exhibition are reproductions of ancient fabrics preserved in the Shosoin since 756 A.D. Others are copied from fabrics used in the dedication in 752 A.D., of the great bronze Buddha at Todaiji.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC

MAY 15 1947 -0-

111.1 Open market prices of raw silk decreased considerably during April. Standard grade (42 denier silk) now selling only slightly above ceiling price of 6200 won per kwan (.121 pounds). 5 MAY 1947

Daily Review Corp

111.1 Raw silk production for 1946 for all filatures except those in Kyongsang-pukto, 447,570 pounds of domestic and exportable grades. Approval given 20 May for ¥ 113,000,000 loan to producers of silkworms and mulberry seedling through provincial sericulture cooperative units. Present stocks of cocoons and raw silk will be held as collateral. 28 MAY 1947

Daily Review Corp

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

MRS. MACARTHUR OPENS SILK FAIR

The silk fair for Allied personnel, being held at the Shirokiya Department Store, was opened yesterday by Mrs. Douglas MacArthur. The affair, one of the most elaborate events to be staged by Japanese mercantile trade since the war's end, was highlighted by a fashion display of western styles.

SILK FAIR IS OPENED BY MRS. MACARTHUR

Exhibition Held For Allied Personnel to Stimulate Textile Trade

By The United Press

Mrs. Douglas MacArthur cut the silk tape and opened the Silk Fair of the Japan Silk Industry yesterday afternoon at a prevue showing attended by approximately 200 invited guests at the Shirokiya Department Store.

The fair, which is being held for Allied personnel in an effort to stimulate silk trade, is the first affair of its kind ever held in Japan and one of the most elaborate events to be staged by Japanese mercantile trade since the beginning of the occupation.

Shown at the fair were thousands of yards of silks, the value of which was estimated by a fair official at more than 2,000,000 yen.

To fashion-hungry American women, some of whom have been out of the United States and away from the fashion world for more than two years, the highlight of the show was a fashion display of western styles.

Mannequins, many of them Japanese movie stars or aspiring starlets, showed the gowns which were executed by designers who have found an ever-increasing demand for their products from former service-women, who arrived in the theater without civilian clothes, dependents and civilian workers who found that skirts had been lengthened since their departures from the states.

Three Top Showers

Machi, who recently opened a swank shop in the Imperial Hotel Arcade, Maki and Romo, three of Tokyo's better known stylists, were among the top showers.

Styles attracting most attention were crepe afternoon dress adapted from a special kimono material of hand-stenciled swirling waves on black by Machi, a mother and daughter duo in washable plaid was shown in beach dresses with hemline ruffles. Matching ruffled parasols completed the ensembles. And a georgette printed crepe afternoon dress with a cowl neckline done by Romo.

Yards of rainbow colored crepes, matelasses, satins, brocades and georgettes were shown. Among satins attracting most attention were hand embroidered with gold and silver threads. Yusen printed crepes which had been especially adapted to 36 inch materials from century-old designs like that used in the Machi creation were also

(Continued on Page 2)

Silk Fair Is Opened By Mrs. MacArthur

(Continued from Page 1)

acclaimed.

In other display rooms were sample tapestries from the sixth century woven by silk producing countries. All phases of the silk industry were covered in displays and demonstrations.

One show room was devoted to dress and costume kimono.

Beginning tomorrow the fair will be open to the general Allied public from 10 to 4, until May 27. Daily fashion shows will be held at 11 and 2:30. There will also be an award of door prizes.

NIPPON TIMES MAY 21 1947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

Mrs. MacArthur Opens Silk Fair

TOKYO, May 20.—Amid a galaxy of silk and color, the silk fair was officially inaugurated on the third floor of the Shirokiya Department Store, Nihonbashi yesterday with an opening ceremony at 2 p.m.

A large number of Japanese and Allied guests headed by Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, wife of the Allied Supreme Commander attended. Taking a pair of scissors handed to her by a small Japanese girl in colorful kimono, Mrs. MacArthur at five minutes past 2 o'clock snipped the pink tape stretched across the entrance to the third floor of the department store, officially opening the much-awaited fair.

Following the opening, Mrs. MacArthur, accompanied by American Army officers and their wives, proceeded along the show stages one by one which trace the production of silk from cocoon to the stages where show girls modeled the latest silk styles.

(Photo shows Mrs. MacArthur cutting the tape.)

STARS & STRIPES MAY 21 1947

Tip To Kyoto CID Reveals Hoarded Silks; 61 Arrested

KYOTO May 27—The 22nd CID, investigating a tip that silk cloth and silk thread was being hoarded in the Mineyama district, silk industry center, Kyoto prefecture, in violation of SCAP regulations, discovered 60,000 yards of silk cloth and 8,000 pounds of thread.

The investigation, begining over four months ago, has resulted in the arrest of 61 Japanese nationals.

An agent of the CID at the beginning of the investigation, was offered a bribe of one million yen by a member of the tango textile controlling association, to halt the proceedings. The bribe was accepted and turned over to the provost marshal, First Corps, to be used as evidence in the coming trial of the Japanese.

STARS & STRIPES MAY 27 1947

Silk Blackmarketing Ring Smashed; Bribe Reported

KYOTO, May 28.—Members of a vicious silk blackmarketing racket, 61 Japanese nationals were nabbed by the local 22nd CID for violation of SCAP regulations.

Local military authorities got wind of shady operations in the Mineyama district of Kyoto prefecture four months ago. Careful investigation finally led to the discovery of 60,000 yards of silk cloth and 8,000 pounds of thread.

One CID agent was offered a handsome bribe of ¥1-million by a member of the Tango Textile Control Association to halt the proceeding at the outset of the investigation.

The bribe was "accepted with due courtesy," but turned over to the I Corps Provost Marshal. It will serve as valuable evidence in the forthcoming trial.

MAINICHI MAY 29 1947

Silk Shipped To Anzacs

Raw silk totaling 285 cases were shipped from Kure to Australia and New Zealand Thursday.

MAY 31 1947

NIPPON TIMES

11 Japan Softball

Silk, Glamour Fabric Through The Ages, Will Head Japan's Post-War Exports

3,000 Years Of History Behind Silkworm's Product

THE fabled riches of the Orient have excited the imagination of Western man since the dawn of history and have inspired innumerable journeys of exploration and discovery. Alexander the Great, Marco Polo, the Crusaders, Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and unnumbered other adventurers whose bones have bleached on Persian plains or rotted in hulks of sunken ships, expended blood, toil and treasure in their quest of the teeming East with its spices, precious jewels, and costliest of fabrics, silk!

Silk has been associated with ease and luxury since its discovery more than 3,000 years ago. Legend has it that one day a dainty little Chinese empress named Lei-tsu was strolling in her garden when she came across a white cocoon on the branch of a mulberry tree. Idly thinking of her regal responsibilities, no doubt, she plucked the little cocoon, turned it in her hands and felt its soft texture.

As she rolled it between her fingers, a strand became loosened and unwound a bit. Unravelling it further, Lei-tsu wound the silken filament around her fingers and marveled at its softness and strength. She wondered if many of the threads twisted into single strands could be used to make a fabric as soft and light as a cloud.

The little empress was the wife of powerful Huang-ti, who governed in China around 2600 B. C., and she became "patron saint" of silk. In her gardens she began the production of silk, gathering women to work with her in caring for the worm. They dis-

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDC # 775015

As she rolled it between her fingers, a strand became loosened and unwound a bit. Unravelling it further, Lei-tsu wound the silken filament around her fingers and marveled at its softness and strength. She wondered if many of the threads twisted into single strands could be used to make a fabric as soft and light as a cloud.

The little empress was the wife of powerful Huang-ti, who governed in China around 2600 B. C., and she became "patron saint" of silk. In her gardens she began the production of silk, gathering women to work with her in caring for the worm. They discovered the secrets of unwinding the cocoons and making silk thread from them, and how to weave, dye and embroider garments of the material. From the empress's craft, the production of silk spread through China, where it was a jealously-guarded secret for many centuries.

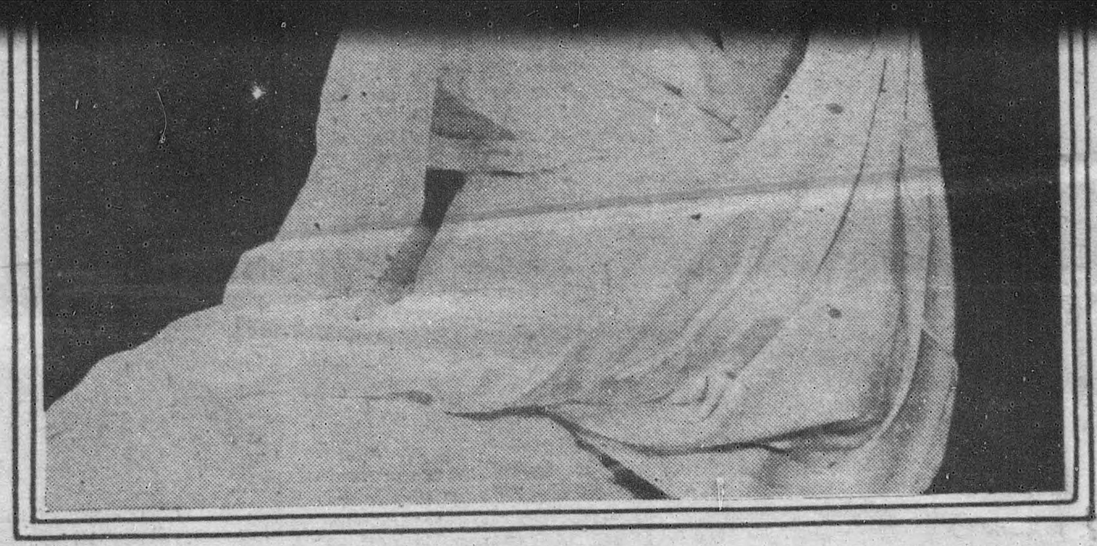
As many nations have learned, a big secret is hard to keep, for there are always traitors within the gates. Another legend relates that a Chinese princess on a journey to India smuggled out silkworm eggs and seeds of mulberry bushes in the lining of her headdress.

References to silk are found in the Sanskrit literature of India as early as 1000 B. C. Indian silk, however, is said never to have been developed to as high a point as in China and Japan because of religious scruples about killing the silk moths. The Indians allowed the moths to escape from the cocoons, thus breaking the threads. The fabric which can be made from silk obtained thus are coarser, such as pongee and tussah.

Knowledge of silk production was first introduced to Japan about 300 B. C. by Korean craftsmen who were trained in China. Skilled women workers from China were also imported to train Japanese women, and a temple was later erected to them in honor of their efforts. Since this time the Japanese have rivalled and later excelled the Chinese in the production of the fabric.

From India, knowledge of silk spread slowly throughout the Middle East in Old Testament times. In Damascus, a process of weaving designs into the fabric, which is applied to linen as well as silk, was invented. Biblical scholars believe that in the book of Amos there is a referance to "damask" silk.

Aristotle, the famous learned man of Greece, mentions silk in one of his works,



Fair charmers throughout the ages have cherished the richness of Oriental silks for their finest gowns. No maharani of India clad in her sari could wear a more beautiful fabric than this American beauty who is draped in enough Japanese satin to provide trousseau for a dozen brides.

and his pupil Alexander the Great must have encountered it on his journeys of conquest which led as far as India. The Greeks first raised and wove silk at a later date on on the island of Cos, from which the gauzy fabric known as "Cos vestis" was exported to Rome. The aristocratic and dissolute beauties of the capital must have loved the filmy stuff for wear during the hot summers, to judge by the many references by Roman writers to the shocking way in which the Grecian silk revealed their shapely figures!

The demand for the limited supply of silk in clasical times was such that it was worth its weight in gold. Justinian, a famous emperor who ruled the later Roman empire in Byzantium, established a monopoly over the weaving of silk. He struggled to start production there of the raw material, which was being imported from the Far East. About 550 A. D. another smuggling incident in the long history of the precious goods occurred, when some Persian monks brought silkworm eggs to Justinian concealed in a hollow cane. Ingenious creatures, these Orientals!

In Italy during the Renaissance, Florence, Milan, Genoa, and Venice all became famous for their silk fabrics. The history of this valuable material from the 15th century to recent times is filled with repeated struggles by Westerners to successfully establish the cultivation of silk in various countries, at first to circumvent the exorbitant cost of importing the raw material oveland by camel caravan, and later for nationalistic reasons.

The many unsuccessful attempts in Western countries to rival Japan in silk production have proved that it can profitably be undertaken only where there is low cost labor working long hours at peak efficiency in modern factories.

Rayon goods developed in the United States gave Japanese silk considerable competition in the decade before the war, but silk was always preferred for quality fabrics. In 1939 Japan produced over 80 per cent of the world's raw silk, with China, the Near East, Europe, and South America accounting for the rest.

Silk is now being exported from Japan through the U. S. Commercial Company, which under SCAP takes foreign orders and directs Japanese mills in the quantity of their production. After the peace treaty is signed, though, export will take place through normal commercial channels. Japan will not be allowed to restore her steel mills to their pre-war capacity in order to insure against future aggression; therefore, export of silk must pay for a large share of imports of machinery and fuel.

MAY 25 1947 STARS & STRIPES

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ITEM 12 Frost Damage To Mulberry Fields Estimated at 120,000,000 Yen - Nihon Keizai - 21 May 47. Translator: K. Suzumura. (UG)

Full Translation:

This year's weather has been unfavorable for crops owing to the cold spell in the latter part of April and the late frost which inflicted widespread damage. An investigation by the Silk Yarn Bureau of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry revealed that the severest damage dealt to mulberry trees was that incurred by frost on 14 May.

The damage extended over 29,900 Chobu (73,255 acres) of mulberry fields, which means the loss of 13,630 Chobu (33,393.5 acres) or 810,000 Kan (6,698,700 pounds) of cocoons (valued at 122,000,000 yen). The most severely affected districts were the KANTO area, KYUSHU and SHIKOKU. An additional supply of fertilizer and young spring silk worms are likely to be distributed to these districts.

ISHIKAWA, NIIGATA, SHIGA, TOTTORI and WAKAYAMA Prefectures sustained no damage in contrast to other prefectures which suffered to a greater or lesser degree. The following is the extent of damaged areas in those prefectures most severely affected:

IBARAKI Ken -- 186 Chobu (455.7 acres)
TOCHIGI Ken -- 338 Chobu (828.1 acres)
SAITAMA Ken -- 3,435 Chobu (8415.75 acres)
CHIBA Ken -- 420 Chobu (1,029 acres)
KANAGAWA Ken -- 1,185 Chobu (2,903.25 acres)
KYOTO Fu -- 847 Chobu (2,075.15 acres)
OKAYAMA Ken -- 384 Chobu (940.8 acres)
EHIME Ken -- 371 Chobu (908.95 acres)
KUMAMOTO Ken -- 1,394 Chobu (3,415.3 acres)
KOCHI Ken -- 272 Chobu (666.4 acres)
KAGOSHIMA Ken -- 257 Chobu (629.65 acres)
GUMMA Ken -- 3,363 Chobu (8,239.35 acres)
SHIZUOKA Ken -- 309 Chobu (757.05 acres)
AICHI Ken -- 1,026 Chobu (2,513.7 acres)
OITA Ken -- 326 Chobu (798.7 acres)
MIE Ken -- 368 Chobu (901.6 acres)
FUKUSHIMA Ken -- 849 Chobu (2,080.05 acres)

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ITEM 3 Low Interest in Silk-Raising - Provincial Paper: Yamanashi Nichinichi (Kofu) - 24 May 47. Translator: T. Ono. (WM)

Summary:

The future of the silk industry is of great concern to YAMANASHI Ken, which is one of the major silk producing prefectures. However, we cannot deny that at present interest in silk-raising is low in rural areas.

This situation has various causes, including uncertainty of the industry's future, low purchasing price of cocoons, shortage of food, and reduction of mulberry acreage.

However, in view of the economic importance of the industry as the source of the most valuable collateral for imports, we believe that some appropriate measures should be planned immediately to stimulate this industry.

The current poor demand for Japanese raw silk in the UNITED STATES could be fatal to the industry. It will take a long time to change this situation.

Aside from problems inherently related to international trade, we will discuss the subject as it affects domestic problems, and try to find a way to promote the silk industry.

According to silk growers, the primary reason for their loss of interest in silk-raising is the low price of cocoons. The Government's actual purchasing price for cocoons was far below the price promised at the beginning of the silk-raising season last year. As a result, silk growers have lost confidence in the Government's policy. It is probably no exaggeration to say that at present no one takes the Government's promises seriously. The next reason is the reduction of mulberry acreage which was enforced by the Government during the war. The situation has become worse due to the shortage of fertilizer and the food crisis.

In view of the necessity of reviving agriculture in this prefecture, promotion of the silk industry is of prime importance. We hope that the Government will re-examine its past policy and will adopt immediately appropriate measures to reassure the silk-growers.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 14 Sale of Raw Silk and the Future of Silk Industry - Provincial Paper: Ise Shimbun (Tsu) - 17 May 47. Translator: I. Kuniko. (DD)

Summary:

The future of JAPAN's silk industry appears gloomy, because the demand for raw in AMERICA is very low. The amount of silk sold on the American market during the last 10 months up to April, was only 28,400 bales. This figure is less than the monthly consumption in prewar days. The cause may be attributed to the development of and the demand for nylon in that country. Nylon is said to be stronger and more durable than silk. It cannot be expected, therefore, that American manufacturers will abandon the use of nylon for stockings, in favor of silk.

To produce 750,000 bales of raw silk yearly as in prewar days, and to make the silk industry the backbone of JAPAN's economy, once more may end a mere dream. However, we must not hold a pessimistic view of the silk industry merely because its future does not look too bright at present. There are now 56,000 bales of raw silk in stock in AMERICA and 72,000 bales in JAPAN ready for export. Furthermore, it is estimated that 273,000 bales of raw silk will be produced in 1951. It is feared that JAPAN will find it very difficult to sell raw silk. However, to conclude that even by that time JAPAN will have more silk than she can export or use domestically, is hasty.

Let us look at the sales-price of the United States Commercial Companies. The result of the seventh auction shows that special 3 A silk was sold at 11 dollars per pound, or two times higher than the standard price of five dollars. Even second-grade silk was sold at the standard price. According to a report from AMERICA stocking manufacturers did not buy raw silk at former auctions because they cannot compete with nylon manufacturers unless the price of raw silk is less than three dollars per pound. Meanwhile, the seventh auction shows that first-grade raw silk was sold higher than the standard price. This indicates that the future of our silk industry may be brighter than expected.

Furthermore, it must be borne in mind that American silk manufacturers are placing their hopes on other silk products besides stockings, such as shirts, linings, curtains, neckties, and various ornaments of silk; for in the making of these goods silk is superior to nylons. It may be due to the coarse silk produced during the war that raw silk did not sell so well during the past 10 months. If efforts are made to improve the quality of raw silk or lower its price, its demand might be increased two or three times. Furthermore, raw silk is expected to be exported to BRITAIN, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA and other countries, though their demand may not equal that of the UNITED STATES. Domestic use can also be expected to increase greatly. Even if the exportation of raw silk to AMERICA decreases, JAPAN may be able to consume 100,000 bales a year for domestic use. It is proper, therefore, that the Japanese silk traders should do their best to improve the quality of silk or to reduce its price.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 Measures to Encourage Increased Production of Silk - Provincial Paper: Chiba Shimbun (Chiba) - 17 May 47. Translator: H. Sato. (WM)

Full Translation:

The price of cocoons produced in the summer and autumn of 1946 was fixed at 900 KAKE (TN: KAKE a technical term in silk trading; the unit used in calculating the price of cocoons). The price of cocoons produced from 1947 spring silk-worms is apparently to be fixed on about 1,100 KAKE. However, there is a wide difference between the price based on this rate and the price asked for by sericultarists, which is impairing their interest in production.

In view of the fact that raw silk is one of the important collateral goods, the prefectural authorities of CHIBA Ken are making plans to encourage a more enthusiastic attitude among sericulturists. The project is to cut production costs by having the JAPAN Sericultural Association (NIHON YOSANGYO KAI) distribute a subsidy of 1,200,000 yen. Measures for increased production and delivery of the 1947 spring cocoons are as follows:

(1) Increased production of farm-made fertilizer.
(2) Diversification of farming by introducing cattle farming.
(3) Promotion of co-operative sericultural operations.
(4) Diffusion of methods of improving cocoons.
(5) Establishment of women's sericultural groups (YOSAN FUJINHAN).

The subsidies given above will be granted, through sericultural executive unions (YOSAN JIKKO KUMIAI) or agricultural associations, to silk-raisers who carry out these plans.

Beside the above, the following secondary measures will be taken.

(1) Certain silk goods will be redistributed. Last year, to reward silk-raisers who delivered summer and autumn cocoons, one TAN (11 yards) of MEISEN (common silk cloth) was distributed for the delivery of ten KAN (82.7 pounds) of cocoons, and sewing thread for quantities up to ten KAN. Similar special distribution will be made for the delivery of this year's spring cocoons.

(2) Restrictions on the private consumption of waste cocoons will be removed beginning this year.

(3) As in the case of staple food, three KAMME (24.81 pounds) of nitrogen fertilizer and 2.5 KAMME (20.68 pounds) of phosphate fertilizer (from January to July) will be distributed for each TAN (0.25 acres) of mulberry field.

(4) In addition to the above, one KAMME (8.27 pounds) of nitrogen fertilizer will be distributed after August.

(5) Special distribution of SAKE and tobacco will be made.

(6) Additional rice will be rationed to silk-raisers who do not have reserve rice or who receive rice rations on an equal footing with general consumers for acertain period of time.

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ITEM 1 Prompt Action Can Prevent Frost Damage to Mulberry Trees - Provincial Newspaper: Saitama Shimbun (Urawa) - 9 May 47. Translator: T. Ukai. (GBS)

Summary:

The recent frost seems to have done much damage to cocoon raising all over the prefecture.. The KUMAGAYA Prefectural Sericulture Experimental Station (KUMAGAYA KEN SANGYO SHIKENJO), commented: "The IRUMA and HIKI districts seem to have suffered the most from the frost, but we have already decided on measures to guard against a decrease in cocoon yield. Some mulberry leaves have turned black, but silk-growers should not cut boughs of mulberry trees, simply because of this, since the leaves will regain their freshness. It is important for silk-growers to consider their expected cocoon yields and decide on their necessary supply of mulberry leaves.

"A record of frost damage in 1930 shows the following figures:

	Mulberry Leaves 80% Blackened	Mulberry Leaves 100% Blackened	Percentage of Blackened Leaves Which Later Revived
Later percentage After 30 days	70%	36%	23%
40 "	74%	51%	30%
50 "	72%	53%	47%
60 "	80%	58%	53%

"Accordingly, silk-growers should observe the following instructions:

1. Mulberry trees should not be cut down.
2. Twigs should not be trimmed, except those with boughs entirely damaged.
3. Fast acting fertilizer should be supplied (night-soil will do if nitro-lime is unavailable). The recovery of mulberry trees is generally supposed to be quick, so silk-growers are recommended to supply fast acting fertilizer as soon as possible. Those who have ordered specific species of silk-worms need not cancel their orders.

"The increased production of mulberry trees hinges naturally upon the endeavor of individual silk-growers. Their united efforts alone can make up for the damage they have received from the recent frost."

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ITEM 1 Raw Silk Price Increased - Mainichi Shimbun - 6 May 47.
Translator: K. Sato. (FST)

Full Translation:

The price of raw silk was set in March 1946 at 15,100 yen (purchase price of one bale of white, No. 14, Category D by the Japan Silk Industry Association). However, because of the boost in the price of cocoons, fuel, labor and other necessary materials, the Price Board has decided to raise the purchase price of silk in the above category, reeled off 900 Kake cocoons, by 60 percent to 24,275 yen. This decision will be applicable retroactively to raw silk sold to the Japan Silk Associatin after 1 January 1947.

This new price, 24,275 yen, consists of the price of cocoons, 14,400 yen; the commission to the Agricultural Association, 456 yen (four yen per KAN (3,75 kilogram) of cocoons, and the reeling and selling charge, 9,419 yen. An additional 775 yen will be paid for raw silk processed by equipment bought and revived after 11 October 1945.

I PRESS SUMMARY

A BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE HIGHLIGHTS
IN TODAY'S NEWS

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

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SILK-QUEEN of Fabrics

111.1 SS Pacific 21 May

By JANICE E. ROBB

The pictures you remember from your seventh grade "joggerfy" book spring vividly to life at the Silk Fair presented for Allied personnel in Tokyo through Tuesday afternoon by the silk industry of Japan. It's not open today, but there's still Monday and Tuesday from 10 to four on the third floor of the Shirokiya Department Store, next to the Tokyo Commissary.

The entire process of sericulture, or raising of silk, goes on before your very eyes. First, there's a tray of tiny eggs, and next to it a tray on which minute worms are hatching. Then there's a tray of juicy (to the silkworm) mulberry leaves all chopped up, which on closer inspection reveal quantities of the tiny worms. After that you see successive trays on which the worms grow larger and larger until finally they become ugly white caterpillars about three inches long.

At this stage, the Japanese women put them on a tray covered with rice-straw frames. The silkworms crawl around on the straw, exuding silk filaments from tiny openings on either side of their heads, and finally get themselves all wrapped up in a cocoon of the stuff. There is quite a bit of downy waste material left outside the cocoon in this process, which is carefully saved.

Inside its cocoon, the worm is trying to turn into a **Bombyx mori,** or silk moth. Very few of them ever succeed, but they try anyway. In the process, the chrysalis shrinks away from the cocoon until it rattles around when the cocoon is shaken. That is the crucial point. If steps are not taken immediately, the moth will develop and eat its way out of the cocoon, thus cutting all the precious silken strands.

The next thing on the program is killing the chrysalis, which may be done by a number of methods, including steaming them and suffocating them in very hot air.

After the poor thing is dead, the machine age rears its loathsome [illegible] plunged into a very hot bath

flourescent lighting.

"Yuzen," or the Japanese art of hand-painting on silk, is on exhibit in another corner of the fair. The fabric is stretched on a light wooden frame, and the artist draws the pattern with a blue washable paint made from "tsuyukusa," a flower. Rice-paste is applied to each line with a kind of pastry-tube. The various colors to be used are then painted in. A steam bath removes the paste and the blue lines. Then, if the fabric's background is to be other than white, rice-paste is applied all over the design to protect the colors. With a large brush the material is painted all over in the next step. Another steam-bath sets the dye, and the whole piece is washed in the running water of a stream, which removes the rice-paste. Perhaps the cloth is to be dusted with gold here and there, and if so, a stencil is used to apply it at this stage. Often designs are outlined in gold or silver thread, so embroidery is the final step in this elaborate process. A kimono made this way lasts for generations, and at present prices costs around 30,000 yen for the outer material alone, not counting the stitching and lining! Before the war 2,000 yen was the top price.

Top attraction of the whole exhibit as far as the ladies are concerned, though, is the style show, in which ten of Japan's loveliest display glamourous silks of the Orient in western gowns.

Reminiscent of Alix, the great Parisian designer of the 30's who was noted for styles with Grecian influence, is the first model. Silk jersey in the warm color of desert sand is beautifully draped in an evening dress with a wide red belt studded with nailheads, the hem caught up in harem fashion. Slippers and purse are made of red satin to match the belt.

A beautiful black and white hand-painted print by the Daihiko atelier of Tokyo furnished inspiration for the second model. The bodice used the print on one side, white crepe on the other, with a [illegible] A small black hat made of satin ribbon and

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The next thing on the program is killing the chrysalis, which may be done by a number of methods, including steaming them and suffocating them in very hot air.

After the poor thing is dead, the machine age rears its loathsome head for the first time. The cocoons are plunged into a very hot bath again in a small tub on one end of the reeling machine and some brushes set on a revolving disk are lowered into the water. They whirl against the cocoons and remove outside waste material.

The delicate fingers of girl workers find the ends of the threads from five cocoons, unraval them slightly, and twist them into a single strand. Raw silk has a slightly sticky covering and the reeling process makes full use of this property of silk. The cocoons bob gently up and down in hot water as the machine unwinds them and reels them again. The machine at the fair is a Matsuzawa model, and Mr. Matsuzawa himself is there to explain all about it to visitors. Twenty skeins are wound at once on each side of the machine and one girl tends each side. Apprentices serve one year with an experienced operator learning all about its workings.

The five-ply silk filament which results from this reeling process is only one-sixth as thick as human hair, but is very elastic and strong. Each skein is tested on a special machine for its "agglutination," or how many times a knife-edged device can be run over it before the strands will part. Very fine silk can stand one hundred trips of the knife back and forth before severing. Do you wonder that parachutes are made from silk?

The skeins of raw silk are then twisted up and packed in bales for export, or else processed for weaving. The raw silk is far too fine to go directly to a loom; first, it must be "thrown," a term derived from an Old English word meaning "twist." The silk is soaked in warm, oily soapsuds to soften the natural gum. The skeins are placed on reels again, twisted in different ways, depending on what type of silk fabric the thread will be used in, and wound onto bobbins.

Throwing is not shown at the Silk Fair, and weaving is also omitted except for one worker who is making brocade on a hand loom. This is a fascinating process to watch—the man's skilled fingers swiftly moving his thread in and out and operating the pedals with his bare feet, while with typical Japanese incongruity he works under

with a kind of pastry-tube. The various colors to be used are then painted in. A steam bath removes the paste and the blue lines. Then, if the fabric's background is to be other than white, rice-paste is applied all over the design to protect the colors. With a large brush the material is painted all over in the next step. Another steam-bath sets the dye, and the whole piece is washed in the running water of a stream, which removes the rice-paste. Perhaps the cloth is to be dusted with gold here and there, and if so, a stencil is used to apply it at this stage. Often designs are outlined in gold or silver thread, so embroidery is the final step in this elaborate process. A kimono made this way lasts for generations, and at present prices costs around 30,000 yen for the outer material alone, not counting the stitching and lining! Before the war 2,000 yen was the top price.

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A beautiful black and white hand-painted print by the Daihiko atelier of Tokyo furnished inspiration for the second model. The bodice used the print on one side, white crepe on the other, with a slim skirt of the print. A small black hat made of satin ribbon and black accessories completed the costume.

Finale of the style show was a cafe-au-lait brocade evening gown modeled by Miss Hideko Takamine, Toho star. The skirt was draped at the waistline in a butterfly effect, and it was worn with a short buttoned jacket which covered a strapless bodice.

Another "style" show is presented each morning at the fair for the ladies when the art of dressing a Japanese bride is demonstrated to the twanging music of the koto. A young girl, demure and pretty, comes onto the stage in a pink kimono, attended by three older women. Practically before you can say "obi" she is down to her "nagajuban," (Japanese for slip) an interior kimono. She is then dressed in a gorgeous white brocade kimono with an obi of a very similar design in white tied in a huge butterfly bow. The "furisode" or long sleeves worn by young ladies, of her wedding kimono are lined in gorgeous scarlet silk. An "uchikake," or long brocade coat lined in crimson, which is worn only by brides or ladies of high degree, goes on over the wedding regalia. This particular bride does not have enough hair to dress in the old style, so the "shimoda," or unmarried woman's headdress is placed over her own hair which her attendants have neatly put in a net. Over the shimoda, which she will wear for the last time, is adjusted the "tsunokakushi," or "horn-concealer," the traditional cloth worn by Japanese brides. The "hakoseko," or small purse which slips into the obi, completes her costume and she is all ready for the neighborhood visit accompanied by her mother and trailed by all the local children which precedes a Japanese marriage.

The Silk Fair is being held through Tuesday at the Shirokiya Department Store next to the Tokyo Commissary. Dressing the Japanese bride is shown at 11:00 A.M. daily, and the Western style show takes place at 2:30.

The Silk Fair committee has been advised by Mr. R. A. Hickerson, Chief of the Silk Branch, Textile Division, ESS; and Mrs. Dorothy Edgers, Chief of the Clothing Manufacturing Group of the same division.

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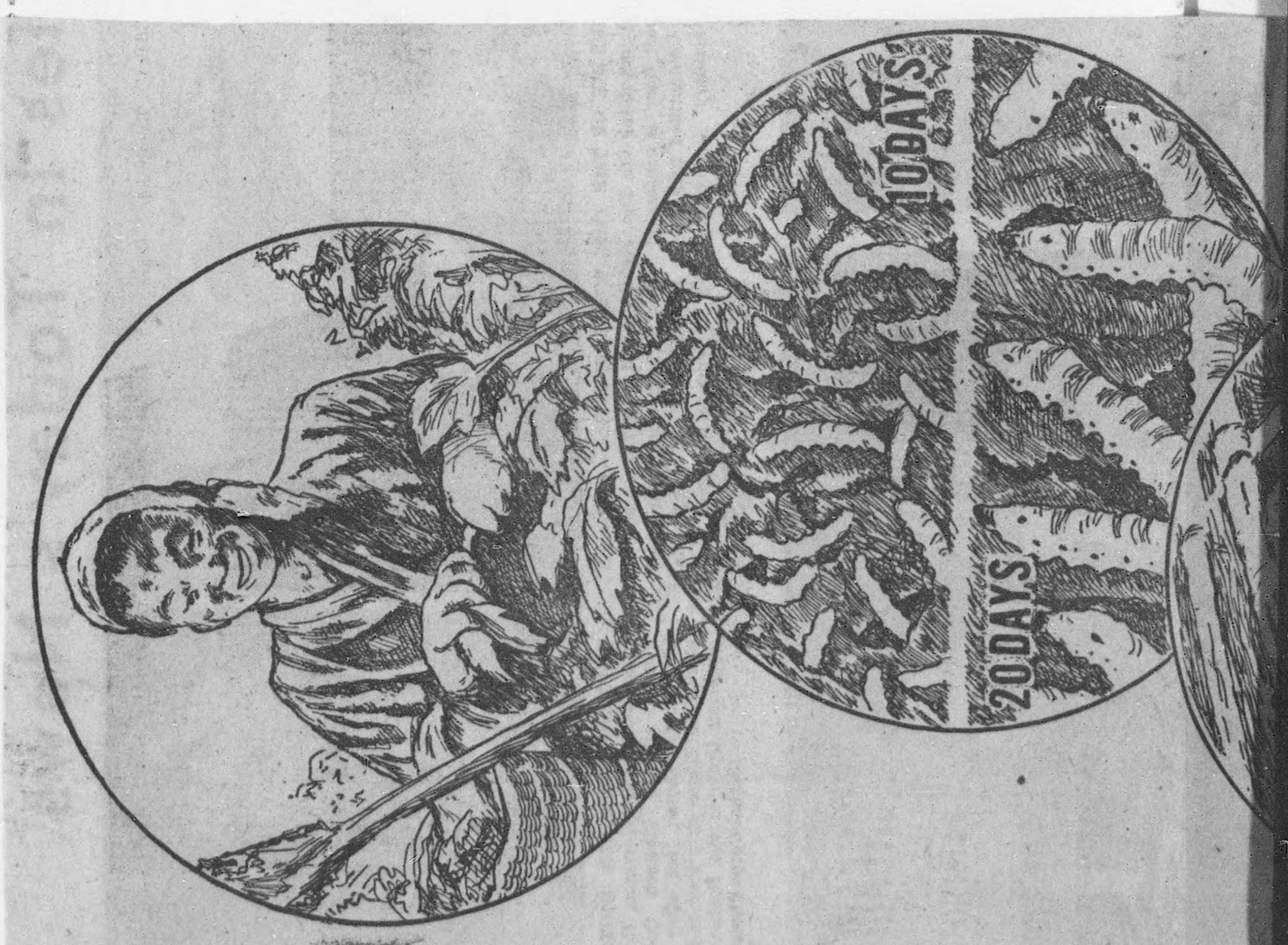

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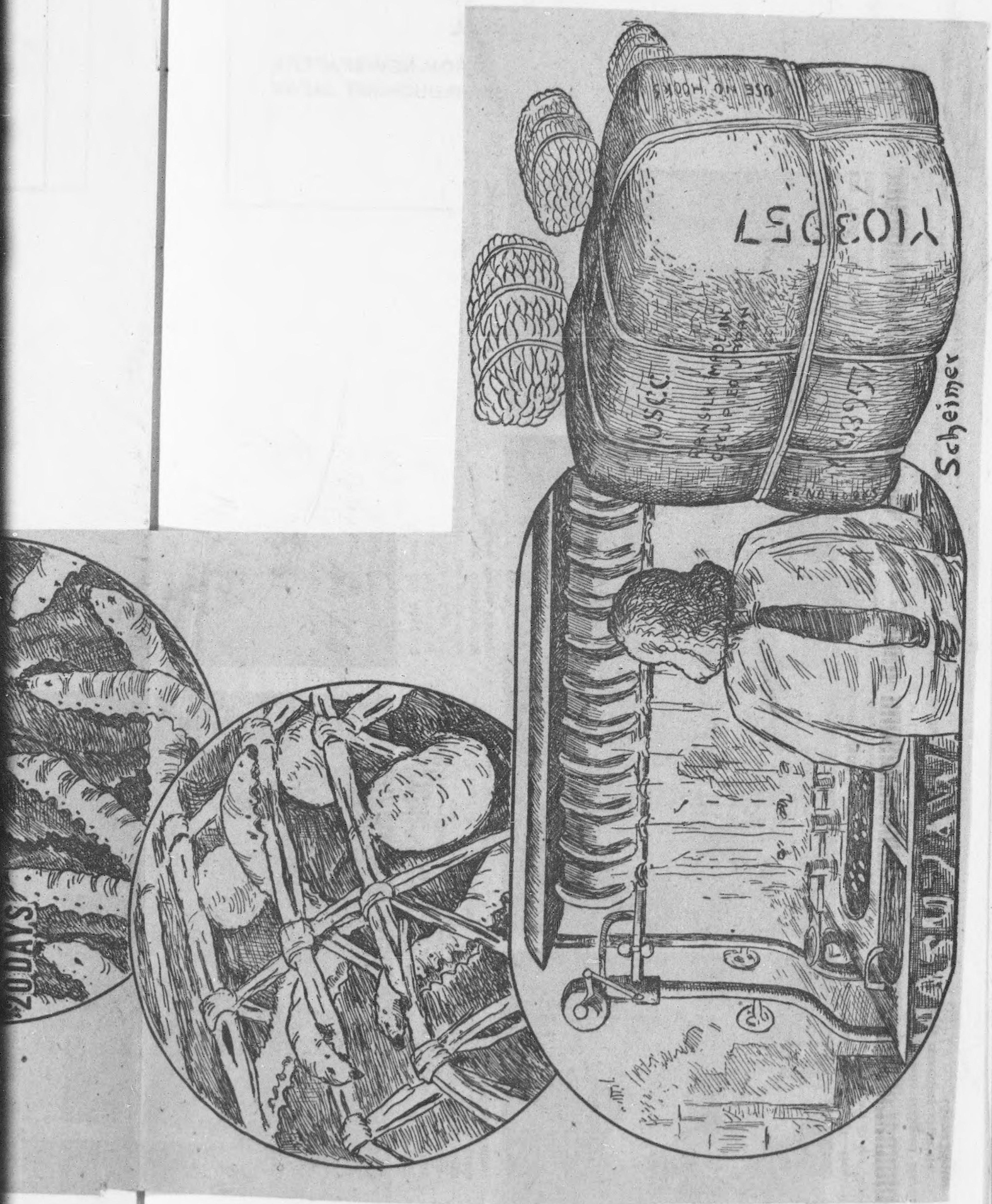

Hideko Takamine, charming movie star, models a gold brocade strapless gown.

Black damask is adorned with gold hand-embroidery in this cocktail-hour frock.

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Rich beige satin with a blue floral design makes a luscious strapless, while a hand-painted print furnishes inspiration for a smart afternoon dress.

Posing before a wall exhibit of silk, five models display the designs of leading Tokyo couturiers.

Ruffles predominate in a novelty mother and daughter summer fashion of washable plaid silk.

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ITEM 10 The Sericultural Industry - Magazine: Nogyo Asahi (Monthly) - May 47 Issue. Translator: M. Takagi.

Summary:

Since the termination of the war, the opinion has frequently been heard that the time is ripe for revival of JAPAN's sericulture industry. However, the fact is that we will run short of raw silk in the latter part of 1948 due to the decrease in mulberry farms and cocoons.

Our sericultural industry has hitherto been managed as a subsidiary to the agricultural industry centered around a semi-feudalistic land ownership system. Therefore, a fundamental reform in this respect is essential for the rehabilitation of this industry.

Furthermore, there remains the problem of how the industry can compete with the artificial silk and sericultural industries of foreign countries. There is every reason to fear that our sericultural industry will lose out to the nylon and artificial silk industry of the UNITED STATES, and the sericultural industry of CHINA, when their products appear on the world market in the future. For these reasons and because the Government has stressed this industry, on the grounds that it can absorb more labor than other industries, state protection and encouragement should be provided. As stated before, the future of this industry is dark. New spheres may be openned through revolutionary improvements in the field of technique, but this cannot be expected under an old-fashioned organization. Ultimately, , the fate of our sericultural industry, now facing a turning-point, depends upon a reform in the field of management.

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8,252 Bales of Silk Produced

A total of 8,252 bales of raw silk and 33,186 kan (one kan, 8.27 lbs.) of silk by-products were produced in February, according to an Agriculture and Forestry Ministry announcement.

MAR 2 7 1947 NIPPON TIMES

Silk Cloth Scraps Released

Release of 51,715 pounds of silk cloth scraps for Japanese domestic consumption has been approved by SCAP. The scraps will be used to make bias tape and detachable shirt collars, the Textile Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section, reported. They previously were cut into odd shapes for the manufacture of parachutes.

NIPPON TIMES MAR 1 2 1947

USCC Announces Plan To Sell Japan's Silk

By THEODORE KOSLOW

NEW YORK, May 16 (INS)—The United States Commercial Company is expected to announce details of its projected promotional campaign to find new markets for Japanese silk within the next two weeks.

It is understood that a recognized advertising agency will handle the drive which is intended to broaden the use of silk in the United States as as part of the move to put the occupation of Japan on a self-sustaining basis.

Informed sources have revealed that the American Government, through the USCC now has 56,000 bales of Japanese silk in this country and 60,000 bales in Japan available for export, without markets to send them to.

The widespread use of nylon and rayon has wiped out a considerable portion of the once profitable American market for silk.

One report going the rounds in trade circles was that the contemplated promotion drive would be a tax on each bale of silk to provide a fund of $300,000 a year.

STARS & STRIPES MAY 1 7 1947

Third Raw Silk Shipment Sent to United Kingdom

Shipment this week of 1,000 bales of Japanese raw silk to the United Kingdom aboard the British ship Medon was reported Friday by the Foreign Trade Division of SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

The goods comprise the third postwar shipment of raw silk to England. Previous shipments totaled more than 3,000 bales.

Scheduled for shipment June 10 from Kure to Australia and New Zealand are 265 and 20 bales, respectively. Previous consignments have been made to both countries.

NIPPON TIMES MAY 2 4 1947

Silk Industry Fair To Display Styles Of Japan, America

A Silk Fair sponsored by the silk industry of Japan will be held for occupation forces personnel and their dependents May 20-27 on the third floor of the Shirokiya Department Store, Ginza and Avenue "W" (next door to the Tokyo Commissary).

Each morning at 11 A.M. traditional wedding kimono, as well as everyday Japanese garb, will be modelled. A special feature will be a demonstration of how the kimono and obi are put on over the nagajuban, or inner kimono. Each afternoon at 2:30, the models will show Western clothes, which have been made by Tokyo dressmakers according to latest American fashions.

The fair will have a large section devoted to sericulture in which the raising of silk from egg to finished material will be demonstrated. English-speaking Japanese girls will guide visitors through the exhibit. Bolts of beautiful fabrics wil be shown in another section of the fair, as well as gorgeous kimonos. A 1000-year old brocade kimono, loaned by the Nara Museum, will also be on exhibit.

STARS & STRIPES MAY 1 6 1947

Silk Shipment To England

Shipment this week of 1,000 bales of Japanese raw silk to the United Kingdom aboard the British ship Medon was revealed today by the Foreign Trade Division of SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section.

STARS & STRIPES MAY 2 3 1947

Fair To Be Held At Shirokiya To Promote Silk Knowledge Among Allied Personnel

TOKYO, May 16.—A silk fair will be held on the third floor of the Shirokiya Department Store, Nihonbashi, from May 20 to 27 for the purpose of promoting practical knowledge about silk among military and civilian personnel of the Occupation Forces.

The fair will be jointly sponsored by the Japan Sericulture Association, the Japan Textile Association, the Japan Silk Exporters' Association, the Japan Silk and Rayon Yarn and Cloth Exporters Association, the Japan Export Textile Goods Association, and the Japan Industrial Art Objects Co., Ltd., supported by the Commerce, Agriculture, and Foreign Ministries.

Prior to the formal opening, an opening ceremony will be held on May 19 at 2 p.m. with Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, Mrs. Robert L. Eichelberger, and high ranking officers of the Occupation Forces and also Allied correspondents invited to attend.

The fair will start from 10 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. every day.

MAINICHI MAY 1 8 1947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 13 Government Will Finance Purchase of Cocoons - Tokyo Shimbun - 8 Jun 47. Translator: Z. Konishi. (UG).

Full Translation:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry estimates that a total of 1,600,000,000 yen will be needed to buy up spring cocoons for the current year. Because the agricultural associations, which hitherto financed these purchases, are now suffering from financial difficulties, the Ministry has decided with the consent of the Bank of JAPAN to take the following steps.

Agricultural associations will hereafter finance only those short-term loans needed to collect cocoons from producers. Backed by the Bank of JAPAN, city banks will finance purchase funds for silk manufacturers with bills endorsed by the Japan Silk Association (NIPPON SANSHI KYOKAI) and certified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. In certain instances, however, special consideration under Standing Rules on Loans (YUSHI JUNSOKU) shall be recognized.

ITEM 5 Novel Processed Silk Goods Developed to Overcome Nylon Competition - Nihon Keizai - 14 Jun 47. Translator: R. Aoki. (WM)

Summary:

Now that the future of our silk export industry is threatened by various competitive products, silk processors in KYOTO are conducting experiments in new silk goods for export. The following article deals with experiments on flat silk cocoons and lacquered silk nets.

A silk company in KYOTO which has been experimenting on the production of flat cocoons ever since 1942 has at last started producing on a large scale. The company entrusted the culture of silk worms (3,000 grams in terms of silkworm eggs) to about 180 farmers in the area of FUKUCHIYAMA (KYOTO-Fu). The silk worms finished spinning their cocoons on the 5th or 6th of this month. The new principal of producing flat cocooning is that instead of using straw nests for individual worms, about 500 worms are put on a flat frame measuring about one by two meters. Here the worms will finish spinning in about three days. Special care must be taken to have them spin the sheet evenly. The product can be utilized as mosquito netting in trains or steamships.

This material now costs about 44 yen per square yard in the case of rayon and 70 yen if it is manufactured from silk. The maker hopes to export it as material for helmets, handbags or for interior decoration.

Lacquer from FRENCH INDO-CHINA is said to be most suitable, and the Foreign Trade Board would like to barter the finished product for lacquer.

ITEM 14 Spring Cocoon Production in Gumma and Saitama Falls Below Estimates - Tokyo Shimbun - 8 Jun 47. Translator: T. Ukai. (UG).

Summary:

GUMMA Ken: Spring cocoon crops will be put on the market about 12 or 13 June, although shipments are delayed owing to the cold weather and humidity. The goal of 1,300,000 Kan (10,751,000 lbs) will be impossible to fulfil, and the total spring crop in Gumma Prefecture will be about 1,000,000 Kan (8,270,000 lbs).

This condition is ascribed to the complete destruction of over 1,000 Chobu (2,450 acres) of mulberry fields by frost and hail, on two occasions when silk-worms were in their early stages, and to the fact that many silk-growers had given up caring for the younger worms. The cultivated species are Nos 108 and 110 which seem to be of good quality.

SAITAMA Ken: It is now time to pick the silk-worms and let them spin cocoons. Damaged by frost, the growth of mulberry trees was disappointing and the total crop in SAITAMA Ken is estimated at 600,000 Kan (4,962,000 lbs) or about 30 percent less than the goal of 930,000 Kan (7,691,100 lbs). After the deduction of the silk-growers' own supply, about 500,000 Kan (4,135,000 lbs) is expected to be delivered to the Government.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 Plans Laid for State Silk Monopoly - Tokyo - 6 Jun 47.
Translator: K. Sato. (TK)

Full Translation:

With a view to starting a new distributing organ to cope with the dissolution of the Japan Silk Industry Association which has hitherto been in charge of control of silk, the Administration Bureau of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, following continued deliberation, has decided on its policies. In view of the international scope of the industry, the Silk Control Bill, the Silk Control Special Accounting Bill, and a bill providing for revision in the Silk Industry Law will be presented to the Diet; state monopoly of raw silk will be enforced; and wholesale and direct purchase from the producers will be effected. Preparations are being made toward these ends.

The objective of these draft bills is to eradicate black market of raw silk in the hope of shipping the total production overseas as export, and also to improve the quality. Another aim is that the Government, in an effort to protect producers, will cover the losses brought about by the changes in the market price. The attitude of new Agriculture Minister HIRANO toward this problem should be observed.

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1st Cocoon Transactions

HAMAMATSU, Shizuoka, June 1. —The first transactions in spring cocoon this year will be conducted at the Nakase sericultural plant, Hamana-gun, Shizuoka prefecture, June 3.

The quotation of cocoons produced in Nakase, Kitahama, Akasa and Konoguchi villages seems likely to be fixed at ¥165 per kan (3.75 kilograms).

MAINICHI JUN 4 1947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

Foreign Traders See Silk Heading Japanese Exports

Lack Of Dollar Exchange To Restrict Imports To Foodstuffs, Materials

Silk fabrics, light metal manufactured items, handicrafts, chemicals, drugs and general line merchandize were listed by foreign trade experts here as most likely to comprise the bulk of articles exported in coming months from Japan.

Officials emphasized, however, that private trade does not mean trade will be unrestrained to the extent it wil be possible to walk along the Ginza and buy items such as mentholatum, tinned chocolates, or American toothbrushes, as is the case in the Philippines. Because of a lack of essential American dollars for exchange and because of more pressing necessities, imports to Japan will continue, it was said, to consist of vital foodstuffs, petroleum products, fertilizer, medical supplies and industrial raw materials.

Japanese businessmen greeted the announcement with jubilation. Typical was the reaction coming from a lacquerware merchant who said the opening of trade channels was the most cheering news to reach Japan since the surrender.

A dealer in handicraft materials defined trade as the "life blood" of Japan, and said he hoped the opening of trade channels constitutes a prelude to an early peace, after which "genuine recovery" can begin in earnest.

STARS & STRIPES JUN 1 0 1947

Silk Output Increases

Raw silk production during May totaled 10,749 bales, an increase of 320 bales over the previous month, according to an announcement made by the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry. The May production has brought to a total of 46,086 bales the amount of raw silk produced since January, this year.

NIPPON TIMES JUN 2 3 1947

Semi-Silk Stockings Invented In Japan

MATSUYAMA, June 24 (Kyodo News)—A new semi-silk stocking, reputed to be more durable than America's famed nylon stocking, has been invented by a paper manufacturer of Tsumatori Village, it was claimed here today.

The new product is manufactured out of fine paper threads and ordinary silk threads and is said to stand at least 60 washings while retaining a lustrous appearance.

The inveintor, head of the Matushin Paper Company, said he was planning mass production for export to the United States.

STARS & STRIPES JUN 2 4 1947

Silk Revival Fete

YOKOHAMA, June 10.—In commemoration of the first anniversary of the reopening of the silk conditioning house, a Silk Revival Festival was held here yesterday under the joint auspices of the Export Trade Union and the Silk Yarn Association.

Following a brief address by the chairman and vice-chairman of the festival, entertainment such as light music, traditional Japanese dancing, popular songs, and vaudeville were enjoyed by the invited guests.

MAINICHI JUN 1 1 1947

1st Cocoon Transactions

HAMAMATSU, Shizuoka, June 8.—The first transaction of spring cocoon in Shizuoka prefecture was held at the Nakase plant of the Shizuoka Prefectural Silk Co., Nakase, village, Hamana-gun.

On the opening day, a total of 525 kan (one kan equals 3.75 kilograms) of white cocoon were handled, the quotation being ¥165 per kan.

MAINICHI JUN 9 1947

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MORE THAN 4,000 POUNDS OF RAW SILK INSPECTED DAILY BY KOREAN GOVERNMENT IN EFFORT TO IMPROVE INDUSTRY

HEADQUARTERS XXIV CORPS, SEOUL, KOREA--As part of the program to improve Korea's silk industry, more than 4,000 pounds of raw silk are being inspected daily at the Government Silk Conditioning House, Lee, Hoon Koo, Department of Agriculture Director, announced today. All raw silk reported by filatures in April have already been inspected and graded.

This silk will be allocated by the Department of Commerce to vested silk mills for refining. About 15,700 pounds of 14-denier exportable silk from Taejon Kunai are now on hand in the warehouse.

-0- PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC JUN 16 1947

(over)

APANESE RAW SILK SHIPPED TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

HEADQUARTERS BCOF, KURE--Carrying 288 cases of Japanese raw ilk for Australia and 20 cases for New Zealand, the Merkur sailed or Australia this morning from Kure. This is the seventh con- ignment of Japanese raw silk shipped to Australia since the essation of hostilities.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC JUN 19 1947

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325 TONS OF RAW SILK PRODUCED IN KOREA DURING '46

HEADQUARTERS XXIV CORPS, SEOUL, KOREA - Raw silk production including both domestic and exportable grades from all silk produc- ing establishments in South Korea, totaled 325 tons for 1946, Lee Hoon Koo, Department of Agriculture Director, announced today. He said that 98 tons of silk were produced during the first four months of 1947.

JUN 6 1947 PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

October production raw silk 9,581 bales, largest since end of war. Percent increases over previous month were: production 6.5, operating basins 5 and workers in filatures 3.5. Production shift from 20/22 to 13/15 denier continues. 34 percent of silk produced was 13/15. Grades of silk improved with average quality 20/22 silk reeled A grade in October compared with D in September while 13/15 continued A grade. Conditioning houses reported following comparisons for October and September respectively: classified and tested 19,188 and 12,699 bales, stocks 75,238 and 70,518 bales, coal deliveries 9,295, and 9,354 metric tons and coal consumption 14,107 and 9,423 metric tons.

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ITEM 1 Urge Manufacture of Silk Goods for Mass Consumption - Nihon Keizai - 21 Jun 47. Translator: K. Ueda. (WM)

Full Translation:

The following is the ninth installment of the roundtable conference sponsored by Nihon Keizai Press entitled "The Focal Points of the Emergency Economic Measures." The participants were: HIRANO, Rikizo, Agriculture and Forestry Minister; TOHATA Seiichi, professor at Tokyo University; SUDO, Hideo, member of the House of Representatives affiliated with the Liberal Party; ENJOJI, chief Editor of this paper; and HARIU, head of the Economic Department of this paper.

The Press: What is the opinion of Professor TOHATA about the possibility of an agricultural crisis and what measures should be taken in connection with Japanese agriculture in anticipation of such a crisis?

TOHATA: The answer to that varies according to the meaning assigned to the word "crisis". Some question may be raised if you mean fluctuations of business conditions. In the case of post-war JAPAN, the sphere of economic activity has been drastically reduced, and this will constitute a serious crisis.

An abundance of 100 yen notes falls into the possession of farmers who are dazzled by their present fortunate situation. From the standpoint of the sound development of agriculture, there has never been such a critical time as the present. Farming implements are wearing out with use, no fertilizer is to be had while the soil becomes increasingly unfertile and fodder is not supplied for cattle.

In my opinion, if the situation is viewed objectively, this is the greatest crisis that the nation has ever experienced. Farmers are not fully aware of the real nature of the situation, because of the abundance of 100 yen notes which gravitated into their hands by the so-called "famine price" of agricultural products, which has enabled them to pay off their long-standing debts.

This is one phase of the crisis, and another is expected to emerge when low-priced commodities flow into the country in pre-war quantities. I think it would be desirable for JAPAN to receive an abundant supply of agricultural products from abroad. But what can be exported in exchange for low-priced agricultural products from foreign countries? Even if we send all our available goods, they will not be sufficient to pay for imported goods.

I do not anticipate that our farmers will be ever oppressed by an overflow of foreign agricultural products. I suggest that

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industries be promoted for bringing Japanese agriculture out of its present difficulties. Development of industries would furnish the nation with employment and increased production of fertilizer and farming implements would result.

Although industrial reconstruction is necessary to prevent an agricultural crisis, in order to reconstruct industries, collateral export goods must be produced with materials supplied from overseas. The fate of Japanese agriculture would be still more miserable if her industries were not revived, and revival of industries will permit foreign products to be imported in increasing quantities. So long as the nation's agriculture remains as it is, a crisis will be inevitable.

It is believed at present that both farm-land reform and agricultural reform are indispensable as measures to cope with the panic. It is not a future problem; it is a problem which we must face now. Unfortunately, most people do not realize this.

The Press: Speaking of collateral export goods, what policies will the authorities take concerning silk yarn?

Agriculture and Forestry Minister: The question of silk yarn is closely associated with that of American nylon. It is agreed that silk yarn of superior quality will be purchased within certain limits, but the American market is not capable of absorbing the total Japanese silk output. In other words, the UNITED STATES will buy a limited quantity of high-quality silk yarn.

TOHATA: So long as we concentrate on hose of superior quality, the market will be limited, but a new market will be exploited if we put silk yarn to other uses such as men's and women's underwear, and employ simpler techniques so that they may be sold more cheaply.

Agriculture and Forestry Minister: That may be true, but I cannot say definitely. Nylon has been improved so remarkably that Japanese silk goods cannot compete with it, except for special articles, and we are convinced that there is no possibility of their being sold in large quantity. In consequence, the Japanese silk industry will be restricted, and it would be advisable to formulate plans in anticipation of this fact. This is my opinion concerning the future of the Japanese silk industry.

The Press: Does that mean that you are going to alter previous plans for the silk industry?

Agriculture and Forestry Minister: It may be argued that silk culture being carried on unsystematically in all parts of the country could be more profitably converted to other lines of industry, leaving silk raising exclusively to such specialized districts as NAGANO and YAMANASHI.

SUDO: I suggest that, instead of making silk raisers convert to other industries, they should continue to produce cheap silk yarn by utilizing a less costly process, then clothing materials for domestic consumption can be supplied in a larger quantity and the exportation of cotton fabrics will increase.

Agriculture and Forestry Minister: What I have been talking about is whether there is hope for the production of silk yarn as an export item. The utility of silk as a textile source for home use will require further technical study.

TOHATA: Formerly, people were made to believe that silk was a luxury clothing item, but if it is to be used by the general public, not only will it contribute to the solution of the domestic clothing problem, but it will also find a far wider market overseas. At any rate, the Japanese silk industry is in need of reform. I am told that only five dollars per bale need be paid to cotton pickers in the UNITED STATES if picking machines are used. Wages for pickers constitute the greater part of the price of cotton and now, by the use

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

of machines, it has been cut considerably. When the price of cotton fabrics and yarn come down, that of silk may be expected to follow suit. Then we should endeavor to reduce the production cost of silk to maintain a fair margin of profit. Otherwise, the Japanese silk industry is destined to collapse. This is why the silk industry should be made to produce great quantities of items to be made available to the common people. Heretofore, the industry has maintained a high position, but now it must cater to the needs of the general public. In other words, the industry must drastically change the nature of its products in order to overcome the difficulties. As the Minister said, the market for silk has been cut drastically; recovery must be effected by adjusting its operation methods.

III POLITICAL

ARTICLES OF POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE FROM
NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES PUBLISHED
THROUGHOUT JAPAN

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III POLITICAL

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RADICAL REFORM SAID NEEDED IN JAPANESE SILK INDUSTRY

As long as Old Production Setup Left Unchanged, There Is Little Hope for Prosperity

By MATAYOSHI HATAMURA

(NOTE: It is a matter of absorbing interest for those concerned whether Jspanese raw silk will be able to compete successfully with synthetic fibers in the world market so that it can be exported in sufficiently large quantities to pay for the country's essential imports or whether the future holds out much hope for Japanese sericulture. Analyzing the structure of sericultural management in this country in his article contributed to the May Number of the "Nogyo Asahi" (Agricultural Asahi), Mr. Matayoshi Hatamura, formerly a professor of the Tokyo Textile College and an expert at the Agricultural Experimental Station of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, concludes that so long as the old structure of production is left unreformed, there is little hope for the restoration of Japanese sericulture.—THE EDITOR.)

When the war was over, we heard optimistic views expressed in many quarters as to the speedy revival of the silk-reeling industry, but events have hardly justified this optimism. Although nearly two years have elapsed since the termination of the hostilities, the industry is still far from restored to the normal. In view of the fact that silk was the staple article for export before the war, one is naturally prone to think that now that the war is over the silk-reeling industry will be quickly restored to its former prosperity, but this is too optimistic a view to take.

It is noticeable that the sericulturists themselves are in no optimistic mood. These people reduced the scope of their business by degrees during the war, and a fairly large number of them actually gave up their sericultural work altogether. Knowing, as they do, the prevailing condition of sericulture, they cannot possibly be so sure of the speedy recovery of the silk-reeling industry. Those who indulged in sanguine prognostications were a section of the people who find their livelihood menaced by the decline of the silk-reeling industry, such as the Government officials concerned with the silk-reeling business, office-holders of the sericultural associations, silk-reelers and writers for silk journals.

It is, of course, undeniable that raw silk has an important part to play as a commodity to be exported to pay for imported foodstuffs, but the importance of this role has rather been exaggerated by these interested people.

Pre-War Setup Explained

The pre-war silk industry in this country, insofar as it concerned the export of raw silk, was made up of silkworm-egg raisers, sericulturists, cocoon brokers, silk-reelers, silk wholesalers and silk exporters. Of these composite elements, cocoon brokers and silk wholesalers need not claim our attention here, as their days are numbered at best. As to silk-reelers of limited means, unable to stand the strain of violent fluctuations in the silk market, they gradually gave way to big capitalistic owners of filatures such as the Katakura, the Gunze and the Kanebo, while, on the other hand, silk exporters went on expanding their business through the adroit exploitation of the Government's aid which they enjoyed from the beginning, and this silk export business was virtually monopolized by a few big capitalists including the zaibatsu of Mitsui and Mitsubishi.

Fluctuations in silk quotations affected silk exporters little, for it was so contrived that any loss resulting from fluctuating prices be put on the sericulturists generally through silk-reelers. Big silk-reelers had many sericulturists under their sway, through special contract guilds, and they could so arrange that about 50 per cent of the cocoons supplied to them should be of the quality specifically desired by them.

In Servile Position

The sericulturists affiliated to the special contract guilds were very docile to the big silk-reelers concerned. They even looked up to them as though they were their benefactors. So little awakened were they that they could not see the anomaly of their position of servitude.

The weakness of the position of sericulturists was due partly to the fact that they were poor farmers who had only a small tract of land to live upon. Before the war 60 per cent of sericulturists were farmers. That is to say, they followed sericulture as subsidiary to their agricultural pursuit. Most of them used to spend a large proportion of the income accruing to them from sericultural work in fertilizer. They were obliged to take to this subsidiary work in order to make both ends meet.

During the war, the Japanese silk-reeling industry was entirely under the bureaucratic and despotic control of the Government. Big silk capitalists were subservient to the bureaucrats, always ready to act collusively with them. Outwardly, an end was put to this sordid relationship between them after the war, but actually it still survives in a few control bodies newly created.

Nothing short of radical reform of the invidious and undemocratic mechanism characterising the silk-reeling industry can bring real prosperity to the industry. The revival of the industry with all its old inconsistencies unremoved will serve no really good purpose.

The "Japa Silk News" recetly observed in a despondent strain that "The mulberry fields have gradually dwindled in acreage and there is every indication of a marked decline in the production of cocoons, so that an acute shortage of silk-reeling materials is feared to occur in the latter half of 1947." This, indeed, faithfully depicts the prevailing state of affairs, and such a situation is the direct outcome of the hard pressure brought to bear upon sericulturists in the past. Driven by their dire economic needs, farmers were formerly obliged to take to sericulture as their subsidiary business, but now they can afford to turn their backs on it.

This turn of events must be looked in the face. If we recognize the importance of sericulture from the national point of view, we must probe its importance scientifically and carry out the reform and adjusiment of the organism of the sericultural industry in such a manner as is acceptable to sericulturists.

Subsidiary Work

As already noted, Japanese sericulture partakes of the nature of subsidiary work woven into semi-feudalistic agricultural management. It has nevertheless made good progress since the Meiji era in its technical phase. There has been considerable improvement in the method of raising silkworm eggs, in the scientific treatment of these eggs, in the cultivation of mulberry trees ,and in other directions. All these reforms were the result of the efforts made by the farmers with a view to saving labor. But this saving of labor did not lead either to the expansion of production, to the accumulation of sericultural funds or to the enlargement of sericultural equipment. Nor did they result in the development of sericultural business into a capitalistic enterprise.

Sericulture is, after all, farmers' side work of producing a commodity in the shape of cocoons. It forms part of the semi-feudalistic form of agricultural management.

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Has Formidable Rivals

If we want to bring about the true restoration of silk-reeling industry, therefore, our attention must be directed to a radical reform of sericultural management. But this radical reform alone will not put the Japanese silk-reeling industry on a really secure basis. For Japanese raw silk has formidable rivals in synthetic fibre and foreign raw silk to contend with.

The appearance of rayon dealt a decisive blow to the Japanese silk-reeling industry which had been enjoying much prosperity up to the early years of Taisho since the latter part of Meiji. While the Japanese silk-reeling industry was making tardy progress in its technical phase because of the feudalistic character permeating it, the rayon industry achieved such a remarkable progress that it took the Japanese silk interests completely by surprise and left the Japanese silk industry without any effective plan of meeting this competition from rayon. All that it could do was to make a heavier call on farm labor in the sericultural section and to "rationize" the labor of operatives in the silk-reeling sphere. In other words, a further intensification of the feudalistic framework of the industry was the only course it took in coping with the new situation. And now it has an even more formidable rival in the shape of nylon to compete with.

Important Export Item

The production of raw silk as an article for export whereby to pay for imports is now held of special importance from the national point of view. Indeed, for the present-day Japan which is suffering from a shortage of industrial equipment and materials, the silk-reeling industry based on sericulture is one of the industries of which the Government can expect a good deal in ministering to the country's immediate needs. If sericulture is an industry of imperative need for Japan today, then it is only fair that it should be given a position and treatment properly due to it. Since, however, there is a strong likelihood of the Japanese silk-reeling industry being eventually overwhelmed by America's nylon and rayon industries, just as indigo and camphor were outdone by chemical articles, it is incumbent on the Government to be ready with pertinent protective measures to provide against such a contingency. Again, when considering Japan's silk trade with America, we cannot leave out of account a new competitor in the shape of Chinese raw silk.

The silk-reeling industry is by no means peculiar to Japan. It prospered in France and Italy in old times. If Japan's silk-reeling industry once reigned supreme in the world, it was because it could outstrip that of China and other backward Eastern countries by introducing or evolving some improved technique into it and could beat that of advanced European countries by cheap and sweating labor exacted from sericultural farmers. Now China's silk-reeling industry gives every promise of steady development. In the event of the vigorous emergence of China's raw silk in the world market, it is certain that Japanese silk industry will suffer a hard blow.

'Upto Government

If, therefore, sericulture is to be encouraged or pressed forward by all means, it is up to the Government to have some plans evolved at the same time for the smooth conversion of the silk industry at some future date.

To make precautionary preparations for the conversion of the silk-reeling industry is to admit the gloomy future of the industry. That its prospects are anything but bright does not necessarily mean that it will come to grief in the immediate future. Should the State devise appropriate measures to meet all contingencies in time, its liquidation may be effected without a heavy sacrifice of interests. It is even possible that if all those interested in the industry combine their efforts to promote its development in the technical and other phases ,it may be enabled to compete with synthetic fibres or else a new vista may be opened up for it. It cannot be too strongly stressed, however, that the really healthy development of the industry will be impossible unless the old structure of production is revolutionized.

The Japanese silk-reeling industry undoubtedly faces a turning point of greater moment than it has ever encountered in its history, and its future destiny depends a great deal on the reform of sericultural management.

JUL 2 4 1947
NIPPON TIMES

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ITEM 6 Mulberry Bark to be Utilized for Clothing Manufacture - Mainichi - 16 Jul 47. Translator: K. Ueda. (DD)

Full Translation:

The Commerce and Industry Ministry is planning to secure large quantities of clothing materials woven with fiber obtainable from the bark of mulberry trees and wild CHOMA plants (TN presumably a kind of wild hemp). With the co-operation of the Silk Bureau (SANSHI KYOKU) of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, production is now being pushed forward under a five year plan. After the spring crop of silk cocoons is harvested in July, mulberry trees are cut down and peeled, and their fiber is extracted from the bark for spinning and weaving. The acreage of mulberry fields is going to be expanded to 100,000 Chobu (245,000 acres) during the next five years, with the increased production of silk for exportation in view. According to the plan, 320,000 bales of silk and miscellaneous fiber for textiles sufficient to clothe 5,000,000 people are expected to be supplied by the expanded mulberry fields.

Outline of the first year plan is as follows:

1 In 1947, the peel of mulberry trees and CHOMA will be gathered to the extent of 1,500,000 Kan (12,405,000 lbs) and 400,000 Kan (3,308,000 lbs) respectively, and 2,500,000 yards of knitted goods (about 3,000,000 sets of clothings) and approximately 4,200,000 packages (each containing 50 grams) of substitute cotton wool for family use are to be produced from it.

2 With the approval of the Price Board, the former purchasing price of six yen per Kan (8.27 lbs) will be raised to 30 yen, and distribution of bicycles, tires, rubber-soled socks, etc, to those who take leading roles in gathering bark is being contemplated. The Government will designate factories to bear the brunt of the production. In order to gather as much bark as possible, bark gathering promotion councils (SUISHIN KYOGIKAI) will be formed in various prefectures under the supervision of local governments, and agricultural societies and schools will be called upon to co-operate. The Government is contemplating encouraging those who co-operate by furnishing them two yards of woven fabrics for 10 Kan (82.7 lbs) of peel.

ITEM 10 Big Textile Fraud Exposed - Mainichi - 1 Jul 47. Translator: Y. Sato. (WM)

Full Translation:

The Tokyo District Procurator's Office on 31 June charged TSUNODA, Yonehei, 46, acting chief of the Sales Section of the Shirokiya Department, TANI, Ritsuzo, 35, president of the Taiyo Bed Manufacturing Company, and ANDO, Fujio, 44, president of the Ando Clothing Manufacturing Company, with violation of the Price Control Act.

TSUNODA and TANI sold a thousand rolls of rayon material to ANDO at 75 yen per yard (official price, seven yen) since May of this year. They made illegal profit totalling 2,000,000 yen.

This material was part of the 3,500 rolls of rayon material which the Japan Bedclothes Distribution Association had distributed to the Taiyo Bedclothes Manufacturing Company. Procurators TAKAHASHI and KIMURA of the Tokyo Public Procurator's Office are now investigating ten persons who may know the whereabouts of the remaining 2,500 rolls.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 3 Government to Become Sole Purchaser of Silk Yarn - 18 Jul 47.
Translator: K. Hirata. (FST)

Full Translation:

To increase the production of raw silk, which is a chief collateral item for food imports, the Government recently raised the price of cocoons to 360 yen per Kan. Furthermore, it formulated measures, such as the rationing of silk goods, as a reward for farmers delivery.

With the reopening of foreign trade near at hand, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry recently drafted a bill for silk yarn supervision with a view to improving the quality of the item. According to the bill, the Government will become the sole purchaser of cocoons and silk yarns, supervise the selling thereof and adjust the supply and demand and prices as well in an effort to increase exports and thus contribute to the rehabilitation of national economy. The bill is expected to be presented to the current session of the Diet. Thus, the Japan Silk Yarn Association which hitherto functioned as a government agency will discontinue its operation.

The following is a gist of the silk yarn supervision law:

1. Supervision: The Government will become the sole purchaser of silk yarn, sell it, adjust the reserve thereof and the egg cards for export, and purchase and sell cocoons. The operation of the Japan Silk Yarn Association will be discontinued.

2. The selling of silk yarn: The producer must sell all the silk yarn that he produces to the Government.

3. The Government's purchase: Silk yarn for export will be purchased through the special accounts for foreign trade assets. Those for domestic use will be supervised by weavers under a coupon system.

4. Establishment of the special accounts for silk yarn supervision: To supervise silk yarn the expenses required for buying, selling, exchanging and processing silk yarns, egg cards and cocoons will be excluded from the general accounts and financed by special ones.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 Spring Cocoon Delivery Sluggish in Gumma Ken - Provincial Paper: Jomo Shimbun (Maebashi) - 2 Jul 47. Translator: H. Sato. (UG)

Full Translation:

In order to attain a 100 percent delivery of spring cocoons, the prefectural authorities, the Gumma Ken Agricultural Association and other affiliated organizations have instituted a guidance service to cocoon growers. However, since the Government has announced a lower ceiling price on spring cocoons than was expected and restrictions on household consumption have been lifted, cocoon deliveries to the prefecture as of 25 June were only slightly over 60 percent of the goal of 1,200,000 Kan (9,924,000 pounds).

The actual state of affairs is that although part of the 400,000 Kan (3,308,000 pounds) of undelivered cocoons has either been sold in illegal channels or consumed by the silk-growers themselves, most is still held in stocks by silk-growers. The prefectural authorities held a conference on the 2nd at the GUMMA Ken Farming and Sericulture Hall (KEN NOSAN KAIKAN) and invited leaders of the GUMMA Ken Agricultural Association, its county branches, the Sericultural Association(SANSHIGYOKAI), and other affiliated organizations.

As a result of the ensuing deliberation, a decision was rendered to carry out a second cocoon delivery program in NAKAGAWA Mura, GUMMA Gun, and 68 other towns and villages whose delivery records were especially poor, and to adopt every possible measure to collect high quality cocoons as collateral goods.

According to an investigation by technical experts of the Prefectural Office, 1,800,000 grams of silk-worm eggs are needed for the production of 1,230,000 Kan (10,172,100 pounds) of cocoons. Moreover, particularly good results were obtained this year; one gram of silk-worm eggs yielding more than 688 Momme (5,504 pounds) of cocoons. Even so, in NAKAGAWA Mura, GUMMA Gun which delivered fewest cocoons in the prefecture, only 290 Momme (2.336 pounds) of cocoons were obtained from one gram of silk-worm eggs and only 41.9 percent of the quota of cocoon delivery was reached.

Deliveries in the prefecture were slightly over 60 percent of the quota. Furthermore, members of the GUMMA Ken Substandard Cocoon Silk Reelers Co-operative Union (KEN FUKUSANSHI KYODO KUMIAI) will voluntarily refrain from buying high quality cocoons after 3 July to minimize flow of high grade cocoons into black-market channels.

Spring cocoon deliveries throughout the prefecture are only about half of the quota and it is feared that cocoons may be sold at black-market prices or through illegal channels. However, in one town and seven villages in the charge of the YAMADA Branch of the GUMMA Ken Agricultural Association very satisfactory results have being obtained. Against the total allotment quota of 22,100 Kan (182,767 pounds), deliveries as of 1 July reached 22,000 Kan (181,940 pounds). In addition, it is expected that in Fukuoka Mura, where cocoons are later than usual, 3,000 Kan (24,810 pounds) will be delivered by 4 July, so the total will reach around 25,000 Kan (206,750 pounds). It is expected to exceed the allotted quota by some 3,000 Kan (24,810 pounds).

ITEM 6 Strict Control Placed On Dried Cocoons - Nihon Keizai - 14 Jul 47. Translator: S. Iwata (UG).

Full Translation:

Since the blackmarketing of dried cocoons (13,000 to 14,000 yen per 10 Kamme [82.7 lbs]) has had a deleterious effect on the delivery of first grade cocoons, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has decided to control hand-reeling producers through the application of the Silk-Reeling Law. According to this policy, these producers will be given the opportunity to mechanize their silk-reeling by issuing licenses authorizing mechanization. Those refusing to co-operate will be ordered to destroy their hand-reeling machines.

A survey conducted by the Ministry estimates that the production and delivery of spring cocoons for this year should be 7,000,000 Kan (57,890,000 lbs) and 6,500,000 Kan (53,755,000 lbs) respectively, but of this amount some 5,000,000 Kan (41,350,000 lbs) will be blackmarketed.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 Spring Cocoon Deliveries Sluggish - Provincial Paper: Shinano Mainichi (Nagano) - 1 Jul 47. Translator: H. Sato. (DD)

Summary:

Now that permission has been given for low quality cocoons to be used for household consumption, silk-raisers are endeavoring to pick out as many waste cocoons as possible through excessively strict sifting of cocoons. As black-market dealers are buying these waste cocoons at exorbitant prices, shipments are not going according to schedule.

Silk-realers in OKAYA are experiencing great hardship in securing cocoons. The MARUKO factory at SHINYASHIKI dispatched men to SAITAMA Ken to conduct a thoroughgoing investigation of production estimates of 800 silk-raisers, and resorted to every possible means to prevent silk-raisers from selling cocoons out of regular channels. They were finally able to secure 15,000 Kan (124,050 pounds), or 83 per cent of the 17,800 Kan (147,206 pounds) quota.

In the SHIMOI district, the full season for the shipment of spring cocoons is just over. Up to the 28th, 80,000 Kan (661,600 pounds) of cocoons have been collected by the Tenryusha Company. Both quality of cocoons and deliveries are satisfactory. It is believed that the total goal of 15,000 Kan (124,050 pounds) is certain to be attained. This successful result must be attributed largely to various kinds of special treatments afforded silk-raisers, rather than to the tightening of police control. With the understanding of the prefectural authorities, the agricultural association of the county rationed fertilizers (ammonium sulphate and superphosphate of lime) for mulberry fields, SAKE, cigarettes and women's umbrellas.

The spring cocoons delivered in the KAMITAKAI district are of unprecedented high quality, but it is feared that the amount delivered will fall short of the projected goal. This must be put down to the silk-raisers' point of view that it is more profitable to pick out as many waste cocoons as possible through extremely strict sorting than to deliver large quantities by classifying more as good quality cocoons. One Kan (8.27 pounds) of good quality cocoons is priced at 150 yen at the highest, while waste cocoons are selling well at the black-market price of 300 to 500 yen. With a view to securing 4,000 Kan (33,080 pounds) of spring cocoons, the district office (CHIHO JIMUSHO) and the agricultural association are making desperate efforts to stamp out black-market dealers who are profiteering on waste cocoons, but at present it appeares that no effective means for this purpose have been found.

ITEM 5 New Cocoon Price Set at 2,600 Kake - Nihon Keizai - 5 Jul 47. Translator: T. Ukai. (DD)

Full Translation:

In accordance with the revised prices of rice and wheat, the cocoon price has been set at 2,600 Kake, about three times the present price of 900 Kake, by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The rate, in exact terms of the revised rice and wheat prices, should have been set at about 2,250 Kake, 2.5 times the current price, but the present decision was reached by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to ensure the exportation of silk. It is expected that the revision of the price will contribute towards preventing the flow of goods into the black market. The new rate will be applied to this year's spring cocoons.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

SCAP AUTHORIZES RELEASE OF SILK DUPION MATTRESSES AND QUILTS, UNSUITABLE FOR EXPORT, TO REPATRIATES AND WAR SUFFERERS

Release of 5,790 pieces of silk dupion mattresses and 5,285 pieces of silk dupion quilts for distribution to repatriates and war sufferers through official Japanese rationing channels, has been authorized by SCAP.

The Japanese-style bedding, which has been classified as unsuitable for export, will be distributed as part of the 1947 ration.

Bedding production goal for 1947 is one set of bedding for every three households of repatriates or war sufferers. This means a goal of 1,000,000 sets of three pieces each, Mrs. Dorothy Edgers of Washington D. C., chief of the Consumer Goods Branch of the Textile Division, SCAP's Economic and Seientific Section, explained.

Current production is more than 150,000 pieces a month, Mrs. Edgers reported. Production is below the capacity of the industry becuase of curtailed allocations of necessary raw materials.

Other silk products released recently by SCAP for distribution to the Japanese through official rationing channels include:

Nearly 280,000 pieces of silk ready-made shirts, blouses and underwear unsuitable for export.

For approximately 4,000 households burned out in the April 20 fire at Iida City, Nagano Prefecture, 3,154 sheets of silk quilt covers and 4,000 pieces of Meisen cloth.

For babies' mosquito nets and other general domestic uses, 162,000 yards of silk plain lace and rayon-mixed silk articles.

From hosiery production of the last year, 4,000 dozen pairs of second-grade silk stockings held in stock by the Full-Fashioned Hosiery Manufacturer's Association.

At the request of the Ministry of Education, 13,200 yards of warp-knitted silk cloth, produced during the war, frozen since then and unsuitable for export, to be used in the manufacture of 12,000 bathing suits for school athletes.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC JUL 15 1947

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

JAPANESE ORDERED TO MAKE 1,000 BALES OF SILK CLOTH AVAILABLE AT ONCE

SCAP today ordered the Japanese Government to make available "at once" 1,000 bales of silk cloth as replacement for a part of the Japanese army and navy raw silk which was disposed of by the Japanese Army and Navy after the end of the war but before issuance of SCAP instructions as to its disposal.

The Japanese Government reported May 10 that quantities of raw silk and fabricated silk materials which had formerly been the property of the Japanese army and navy had been located. It was stated that they were released for domestic consumption before SCAP's instructions were issued, on Sept. 24, 1945.

"Preliminary investigation of some of the reported cases reveals that a considerable quantity of the subject raw silk has been processed, and is no longer held as raw silk," SCAP stated in a memorandum for the Japanese government.

"Though the quantity so processed exceeds 1,000 bales it is directed that the Japanese Government at this time make available 1,000 bales.....at once for the needs of the occupation as replacement for a part of the Japanese army and navy raw silk which has been processed into forms which are unsuitable for the needs of the Occupation Forces," the directive stated.

SCAP said that disposition of other existing stocks discovered, some of them unsuitable for occupation needs, would be decided later.

SCAP specified the following types of silk to be supplied: 120 bales of grade A, 13/15 denier; 480 bales of Grade A, 20/22 denier; 80 bales of grade B, 13/15 denier; and 320 bales of grade B, 20/22 denier.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC JUL 18 1947

10,000 BALES OF JAPANESE RAW SILK, FORMERLY RESERVED FOR EXPORT, TO BE UTILIZED EACH MONTH BY JAPANESE WEAVING INDUSTRY

It was announced today that plans have been formulated for the Japanese weaving industry to utilize 10,000 bales monthly of Japanese raw silk heretofore reserved by SCAP for export. This step was taken because of the lack of demand for raw silk in Japan's export markets.

SCAP authorities estimate that the Japanese weaving industry will be able to absorb raw silk at this rate of production. It is SCAP's intention to permit no increase in mulberry acreage and raw silk production until the demand for raw silk warrants.

Officials stated that, should silk products manufactured under this program not find ready acceptance in export markets in the quantities likely to be available, domestic textile requirements will be met in part from silk. However, every attempt will be made to produce silk fabrics of such qualities and types as will find acceptance abroad in order to improve Japan's export balances.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC JUL 31 1947

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

Low Silk Demand Hampers Japan's Foreign Trade; U.S. Imports Drop

10,000 Bale Purchase Program Falters; Rayon, Nylon Synthetics Crowd Market

By MORRIS HARRIS

WASHINGTON, July 24 (AP)—The lack of demand for Japanese raw silk is hampering efforts to rebuild Japanese foreign trade.

The scheduled import program of the American Government agency, the U.S. Commercial Co. for import of 10,000 bales of Japanese raw silk into the United States each month has fallen short of that goal because of the refusal of the American consumer to buy that large a quantity of silk. Buyers of other nations also have purchased relatively small amounts.

Buyers Are Few

The U.S. Commercial Co. at present reports its supply of Japanese silk in the United States totals about 50,000 bales. Buyers are few.

Silk imports from Japan have been slowed, but the Government agency is attempting to stimulate consumption. It has arranged with the Silk Guild of the United States, an organization of silk dealers and manufacturers, for a campaign to increase silk consumption.

Synthetics Compete

Main competitor of Japanese silk has been synthetic fibers such as nylon and rayon, although silk from American Government surpluses, and from France and Italy, also compete for the American market.

The U.S. Commercial Co. is maintaining silk prices until January 1, 1948, at present levels. These are: Special Triple AAA $5.60 per pound; Triple AAA $5.30; Double AA $5.00; A $4.85; B $4.70; C $4.55 and D $4.40. These prices are for American-tested silk. Japanese-tested silk is subject to a discount of 15 cents per pound.

STARS & STRIPES JUL 2 4 1947

Japanese Bedding Released

Radiopress

TOKYO, July 20.—Release of 5,790 pieces of silk dupion mattresses and 5,285 pieces of dupion quilts for distribution to repatriates and war sufferers through official Japanese rationing channels has been authorized by SCAP.

The Japanese-style bedding, which has been classified as unsuitable for export, will be distributed as part of the 1947 ration.

MAINICHI JUL 2 1 1947

MOVE BEGUN IN U.S. TO ADVERTISE SILK

Many Difficulties Seen In Way Even If Advertisements Stir Up Demand

By THEODORE KOSLOW
International News Service
Financial Authority

NEW YORK, July 24—The United States Commercial Company and the International Silk Guild expect to name the advertising agency which will handle the silk promotion campaign in the United States within a short time.

This became known following two days of interviews with eight agency representatives who were called in to give their final presentation of how they would contemplate handling the promotion from the advertising and public relations standpoint.

These eight agencies were chosen from a total of forty originally interviewed in Washington.

From other sources it was learned that the advertising agency contract for the promotion will be for one year.

It was understood that interested agencies were seeking to have the one-year contract become effective on January 1, 1948, since they believe it would be at least that time before the promotion was sufficiently underway to utilize the advertising phase.

Expect Million Dollars

Despite the reluctance of the U.S.C.C. and the Guild to announce the actual figures to be expended on the campaign, the agencies seeking the contract expected it to total about one million dollars.

American weavers and manufacturers were watching the progress of the silk promotion program with keen interest.

Although a goodly number of these firms said they had little immediate interest in silk, they were all of the opinion that the campaign would succeed in developing a small but steady market for the fibre.

A number of hosiery executives said they planned to produce a small number of silk stockings in several different lines and judge future activity on the basis of consumer reaction.

Weavers likewise noted that the silk promotion campaign probably could do little toward influencing their decisions directly, but they admitted that consumer reaction would be the determining factor upon future production plans.

The weavers pointed out that they had destroyed or disposed of much of their silk weaving equipment and there was no immediate hope of replacing it at this time.

They also stressed that few mills would be inclined to invest in this type of machinery until there was a proved demand for silk fabrics.

It was further noted that the return to silk weaving would involve the retraining of old employes, as well as teaching new employes the processes involved in the work.

Moreover, many mills expressed reluctance to return to silk, viewing it as unbusinesslike to take the looms away from more profitable goods.

However, industry observers pointed out that if silk prices became truly competitive with other fibers, and the consumer showed a disposition to pay prices which would permit the weaver a sufficient mark up to justify his investment in time, money, and material, it was altogether likely that the manufacturers would seek to reinstrate their silk lines.

JUL 2 6 1947

NIPPON TIMES

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

India Wants To Buy 1-Million Pounds Of Japan's Raw Silk

Deal On Barter Basis With Cotton, Member Of Trade Mission Says

United Press

TOKYO, July 10.—India will buy at least one-million pounds of Japanese raw silk up to the end of 1947, a member of the Indian trade delegation to Japan told the United Press today.

He predicted that a deal through SCAP will materialize within the next week.

Panalal Maneklal Chinai said the price and the quality of Japanese raw silk are "very competitive" compared to silk available elsewhere and that India might buy a larger quantity.

He said India's silk requirement this year is two-million pounds but that purchase from Japan had to be reduced somewhat due to imports from China.

He added that India will pay for the silk more or less on a barter basis with raw cotton.

Chinai also said that 100 silk looms had been offered and that India probably would buy them even though they are not up to India's requirements in width. He said there is a shortage of such looms in India.

MAINICHI JUL 12 1947

State Will Control Sales Of All Silk

Improving Quality, Aim; Bill To Go To Assembly

TOKYO, July 18.—With the reopening of foreign trade drawing near, the Government intends to purchase exclusively cocoon and silk and to place the selling under state control in order to readjust the supply and demand and to enhance the export of silk.

Aimed at improving the quality of silk, the Silk Control Law bill is expected to be introduced by the Agriculture Ministry to the current session of the National Assembly.

In this connection, the business of the Japan Silk Association, which had hitherto been acting as a representative organ of the Government, will be discontinued, it is believed.

MAINICHI JUL 19 1947

SCAP Orders Silk Release

SCAP yesterday ordered the Japanese Government to make available "at once" 1,000 bales of silk cloth to replace quantities disposed of by the Japanese Army and Navy when the war ended and before SCAP instructions for disposal.

STARS & STRIPES JUL 20 1947

SLOW SILK DEMAND IS BRAKE ON TRADE

U.S. Silk Guild To Launch Drive For Increased Consumption In American Markets

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, July 23—The lack of demand for Japanese raw silk is hampering efforts to rebuild Japanese foreign trade.

The scheduled import program of the American government agency, the U.S. Commercial Co. for import of 10,000 bales of Japanese raw silk into the United States each month has fallen short of that goal because of the refusal of the American consumer to buy that large a quantity of silk. Buyers of other nations also have purchased relatively small amounts.

The U.S. Commercial Co. at present reports its supply of Japanese silk in the United States totals about 50,000 bales. Buyers are few.

Silk imports from Japan have been slowed, but the government agency is attempting to stimulate consumption. It has arranged with the Silk Guild of the United States, an organization of silk dealers and manufacturers, for a campaign to increase silk consumption.

Main competitor of Japanese silk has been synthetic fibers such as nylon and rayon, although silk from American Government surpluses, and from France and Italy, also compete for the American market.

The U.S. Commercial Co. is maintaining silk prices until January 1, 1948, at present levels. These are: Special Triple AAA $5.60 per pound; Triple AAA $5.30; Double AA $5.00; A $4.85; B $4.70; C $4.55 and D $4.40. These prices are for American-tested silk. Japanese-tested silk is subject to a discount of 15 cents per pound.

NIPPON TIMES JUL 25 1947

Silk Clothing Released

The Japanese Government has received SCAP authority to release an additional 279,759 pieces of silk ready-made clothing tnrough the 1947 clothing rationing program. The release includes men's shirts, women's blouses, childen's dresses, underwear and blouses. These items will be distributed to appropriate prefectures under the supervision of the Japanese Textile Bureau.

NIPPON TIMES JUL 16 1947

Making Silk Cloth Available

SCAP has ordered the Japanese Government to make available "at once" 1,000 bales of silk cloth as replacement for a part of the Japanese army and navy raw silk which was disposed of by the Japanese Army and Navy after the end of the war but before issuance of SCAP instructions as to its disposal. The Government reported May 10 that quantities of raw silk and fabricated silk materials which had formerly been the property of the Japanese army and navy had been located.

JUL 21 1947

NIPPON TIMES

BUYING JAPANESE SILK

Will Buy About 1 Million Pounds Up to End of 1947

By the United Press

India will buy at least 1,000,000 pounds of Japanese raw silk up to the end of 1947, a member of the Indian trade delegation to Japan told the United Press.

He predicted that a deal through SCAP will materialize soon.

Panalal Maneklal Chinai said the price and the quality of Japanese raw silk are "very competitive" compared to silk available elsewhere and that India might buy a larger quantity.

He said India's silk requirement this year is 2,000,000 pounds but that purchases from Japan had to be reduced somewhat due to imports from China.

He added that India will pay for the silk more or less on a barter basis with raw cotton.

NIPPON TIMES JUL 20 1947

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June Raw Silk Output

Japan produced 9,071 bales of raw silk in June, the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry announced.

JUL 22 1947

NIPPON TIMES

14 SILK HOARDERS GUILTY

Heavy Sentences Given in Kyoto For Violating SCAP Laws

The sentences of 14 Japanese from the Mineyama Silk Industry Center in Kyoto, found guilty of hoarding silk cloth and thread in violation of SCAP regulations, were announced in Kyoto Tuesday by I Corps Headquarters Provost Court.

Those sentenced were Yozo Masuka, two years imprisonment and ¥75,000 fine; Teru Masuda, ¥75,000 fine; Nizo Matsumoto, six months prison term and ¥50,000 fine; Seifi Yamazaki, ¥20,000 fine, Chioko Yamazaki, ¥75,000 fine. Eight weavers were also convicted and each was given six months and ¥75,000 fine. Another Japanese was previously convicted by a Japanese court.

NIPPON TIMES JUL 25 1947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 14 The Breakup of Spinning Combines - Yomiuri - 26 Jul 47.
Translator: T. Mitsuhashi. (GBS)

Full Translation:

Cotton spinning companies, in accordance with the directive dissolving Zaibatsu concerns, will receive orders to liquidate at the end of the month or early next month. Ten companies have negotiated with the authorities and have agreed on the principle that the firms should be split according to types of business. Those mills that are either not equipped with complete production facilities or would find it difficult to carry on independently will be merged. Plans for dissolution have been formed on this basis, and it will mean that 10 companies will split into 42 smaller concerns.

It is feared, however, that this might result in sacrificing the profits accruing from combined management and operation, and the capacity to effect full utilization of raw materials, funds, and manpower. It is also feared that the plan to equip 3,700,000 spindles will not actually get further than the 3,000,000 mark. Capitalists will be faced by many problems in relation to their former shareholders, because old companies are bound to present their property to new companies as part of their capital and this will have to be entrusted to the Holding Company Readjustment Committee (MOCHIKABU SEIRI IINKAI) for dissolution. But, on the other hand, the problem of unemployment will not confront the workers. The program as of 25 July is as follows:

To Form New Companies

According to the program as of 25 July, the Toyo Cotton Spinning Company (TOYO-BO) will be split into four companies which will produce cotton, chemical fibre, wool and silk, and pulp, respectively. The cotton spinning company will absorb the Tokyo Dyeing Company (TOYO SENSHOKU).

The Japan Cotton Spinning Company (NIPPON-BO) will be divided into four companies which will produce cotton, wool, chemical fibre, and cooking oils, respectively.

The Kanebo Cotton Spinning Company (KANE-BO) will be broken up into nine companies which will produce cotton, wool and hemp, general chemicals, shampoo, toilet requisites, timber, machines and tools, and glass fibre, respectively.

Divides into Three

The Kurashiki Cotton Spinning Company (KURA-BO) will be divided into three companies which will produce cotton, wool, and machinery respectively.

The Yamato Spinning Company (YAMATO-BO) will be divided into three companies which will produce cotton, bicycles and spinning apparatus, and lignite, respectively. Two new companies capitalized at 30,000,000 yen and 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 yen will be established to manufacture bicycles and spinning apparatus and lignite.

The Taiken Cotton Spinning Company (TAIKEN) will be divided into one cotton spinning company, three trading companies and one nail manufacturing company.

Becomes Two

The Fuji Spinning Company (FUJI-BO) will be besicted into two companies producing cotton and chemical fibre, and silk, respectively.

The Nisshin Cotton Spinning Company (NISSHIN-BO) will be divided into two companies producing cotton and silk, and paper, respectively.

The Nitto Spinning Company (NITTO-BO) will be divided into nine companies, producing cotton and silk, asbestos and glass fibre, chemical fibre, rubber, salt, fire-bricks, carbon disulphide, fire-proof materials, and lignite, respectively. The Shikishima Cotton Spinning Company (SHIKISHIMA-BO) will be organized into one cotton spinning company.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 4 SCAP Authorizes Silk Release - Yomiuri - 3 Aug 47. Translator: Z. Konishi. (WM)

Full Translation:

SCAP has announced the release of 10,000 bales of raw silk for domestic use. The Textile Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is now drawing up a program for the immediate allocation of this to textile factories and the distribution of finished products to households.

The release of export raw silk is expected to continue for the next six months at the rate of 10,000 bales per month, bringing the total to 60,000 bales.

On this assumption, the authorities plan to deliver 30,000 bales for the manufacture of silk fabrics for exportation. The remaining 30,000 bales will be used principally for the manufacture of socks, sewing thread and patching cloth. A small allotment will also be made for the manufacture of special fabrics such as gold brocade (KINRAN ORIMONO) to perpetuate traditional weaving techniques, fishing nets, and insulation for electric wire. The 30,000 bales of raw silk to be released for domestic use totals approximately 4,000,000 pounds or 0.05 pound per person.

If priority distribution is carried out, war-sufferers, repatriates and babies will be guaranteed a certain clothing supply. Now that the government plan for distributing 1.5 pounds of clothing per person this year, including sewing thread and towels, is expected to be short of the goal, the release of raw silk is expected to alleviate the critical clothing situation.

ITEM 12 Registration System for Textile Dealers Likely - Nihon Keizai - 29 Jul 47. Translator: Y. Bannai. (DD)

Summary:

The Government's plan to register dealers for the distribution of textiles still remains unsettled owing to the opposition voiced by the Economic Stabilization Board, which insists upon the creation of a distribution corporation. However, the registration system will most likely be adopted in view of the following reasons:

(1) In the textile industry, consisting of various processes, sales and purchases are conducted in many stages. Consequently, such a complicated industry cannot be carried out smoothly through the corporation system. Thus, by the registration system, dealers' competition must be preserved.

(2) The early establishment of a distribution organization is now needed to relieve dealers of financial difficulties as well as to supply the nation with essential clothing. However, the enormous demand for business and operating funds cannot be met by the corporation system.

The Government has decided upon companies to be in charge of the Silk and Staple Fiber Section (KEN JIN SEN BU) of the recently instituted Textile Trade Corporation (SENI BOEKI KODAN). One hundred and thirty-four companies will deal in silk and rayon textiles, 45 companies in staple fiber fabrics, and 46 companies in rayon and staple fiber yarn, and staple fiber cotton.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 5 Future of Japanese Silk Exports - Mainichi - 7 Aug 47. Translator: Y. Kuniyasu. (JJ)

Full Translation:

Due consideration must be given to the future prospect of Japanese silk as an export commodity. A SCAP announcement a few days ago revealed that 10,000 bales of silk, which was originally scheduled for export, has been released for domestic consumption. Of course no matter how great a quantity of silk is released for domestic consumption, the amount will never suffice the demand. In other words, JAPAN is presently exporting all of her silk at the sacrifice of her domestic demands. According to the policy of SCAP, an increase in the planting areas of mulberry trees and in the cultivation of silk will not be permitted until silk can be assured of a demand. This definitely shows the present position of the silk industry in the famished economy of JAPAN.

The increased demand for Japanese silk after World War I in AMERICA was caused by a fashion change in which shirts became shorter, necessitating the wearing of longer stockings. However, the present poor market for Japanese silk in AMERICA is not necessarily a temporary phenomenon. Though some change in the present export situation may arise, Japanese cotton material as one of our textile exports is gradually acquiring a promising position on the market. But this does not mean that silk should be excluded as one of our export items because there is ample possibility that silk goods may find a ready market.

Among the silk products, those manufactured for women's clothing may especially be in demand because foreigners seem to attach a souvenir value on them. It is certain that the colorful printed kimonos of the Japanese women now stored away in drawers will become obsolete with changes in fashion, but to the people of Western countries they will have an artistic value, symbolic of Japanese customs.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

MAY RELEASE EXPORT SILK

SCAP Plans 10,000 Bales Monthly To Local Mills as Demand Weak

It was announced Thursday that plans have been formulated for the Japanese weaving industry to utilize 10,000 bales monthly of Japanese raw silk heretofore reserved by SCAP for export. This step was taken because of the lack of demand for raw silk in Japan's export markets.

SCAP authorities estimate that the Japanese weaving industry will be able to absorb raw silk at this rate of production. It is SCAP's intention to permit no increase in mulberry acreage and raw silk production until the demand for raw silk warrants.

Officials stated that, should silk products manufactured under this program not find ready acceptance in export markets in the quantities likely to be available, domestic textile requirements will be met in part from silk. However, every attempt will be made to produce silk fabrics of such qualities and types as will find acceptance abroad in order to improve Japan's export balances.

NIPPON TIMES AUG 1 1947

Japan Weaving Industry Will Get SCAP Silk

Radiopress

TOKYO, July 31.—Plans have been formulated for the Japanese weaving industry to utilize 10,000 bales monthly of Japanese raw silk heretofore reserved by SCAP for export, it was announced today. This step was taken because of the lack of demand for raw silk in Japan's export markets.

SCAP authorities estimate that Japan's weaving industry will be able to absorb raw silk at this rate of production. It is SCAP's intention to permit no increase in mulberry acreage and raw silk production until the demand for raw silk warrants it.

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MAINICHI AUG 2 1947

CLARIFIES SILK PRODUCTION

Hirano States Output Should Be Maintained at Present Level

The present level of raw silk production should be continued and some raw silk can be used for domestic consumption, Agriculture—Forestry Minister Rikizo Hirano told the House of Councillors committee on agriculture and forestry Thursday.

He admitted that Japan cannot expect much of the United States as a raw silk buyer but said he expected a certain quantity will be purchased by that country.

With orders coming from France, India and other Asiatic countries, he stated an export of some 200,000 bales of raw silk is possible.

However, he said conversion of paddy fields and other farm lands into mulberry plantations is unthinkable as the nation is faced with dire food shortage.

AUG 9 1947
NIPPON TIMES

EDITORIAL

Silk Is Dethroned, But . . .

Recent reports regarding the silk trade from New York and elsewhere are anything but encouraging to those who placed high hopes on raw silk as Japan's premier export commodity to the United States.

Briefly speaking, it looks as though Japanese silk has been dethroned as far as popularity is concerned. Its natural lustre, comfort, and durability no longer seem to have that fascination of the past over American women.

If the sale of silk in foreign countries remains as dull as it is today, we cannot help but feel apprehension over the far-reaching effect of such a situation upon the Japanese trade balance sheet although Director Nagai of the Japanese Board of Trade is still optimistic about the future contending that Japan can still sell at least 100,000 bales a year.

At any rate, the day has come when we must think very carefully about the future of silk as the king of exports.

The PIO, GHQ, Far East Command, has announced the decision to turn over 10,000 bales of export silk stock for domestic consumption. It is good food for thought for the Japanese. The realities of the situation is clear and we must look at them realistically.

To be sure, there isn't enough silk to fulfil the domestic demand, how great it may be. Japan has been exporting silk while cutting down domestic consumption to rock bottom.

The fact that the reported policy of GHQ is not to permit further expansion of mulberry acreage and higher raw silk production more than indicates the position of silk in the impoverished Japanese economy.

After World War I, skirts became shorter and stocking longer in the United States. Thanks to this change in fashion, the demand for Japanese silk rose tremendously.

The current decline in demand does not appear to be a temporary one due to fashion transformation. Though there may be slight changes in the future, it now seems that silk has had its heyday and cotton fabrics are facing very bright prospects as Japanese textile export.

This, however, is no reason why Japan should abandon silk as an export commodity. There is plenty of room for export of finished silk products, such as women's dresses and blouses.

And, Japanese silk kimono is recognized as one of the leading souvenirs among foreigners who come to know Japan. The possibility of "tansu export" (exporting kimono that are already in the tansu wardrobes of Japanese homes) becomes interesting.

In all probability, many a gorgeous and colorful women's kimono, now hoarded in the tansu, may get into the hands of foreign friends as souvenirs. Their loss would not worry the Japanese women because they are bound to become out of fashion if put away in the tansu too long but they will be a symbol of Japanese customs and traditions to the foreigner.

MAINICHI AUG 9 1947

SHORTAGES STILL IMPEDE SILK WEAVING INDUSTRY

In 1939, the silk weaving industry of Japan with 350,000 weaving machines, consumed 270,000 bales of raw silk and exported 34,050,000 square yards of fabrics. Most of the exports were broad fabrics, and shipped to British India, China, Manchuria, Kwantung territory, Central and South America, and Africa. But when the export of 420,000 bales of raw silk is considered, Japan has never been a truly silk fabric export country.

The production of silk fabrics last year reached 35,740,000 square yards, and in the first half of this year only 13,870,000 square yards were produced. The export in the first half of 1947 was only 2,070,000 square yards. The main causes for such a radical decline are the shortage of raw silk, auxiliary materials (wax, leather, cardboard, oil, neutral soap and others), and electric power, and difficulty in obtaining operating funds, which resulted in reducing the operation of mills to 30 per cent. Particularly, the shortage of raw silk is fatal to the industry, and thus the industry is now strongly demanding the carrying out of a five-year plan to boost sericulture.

NIPPON TIMES AUG 20 1947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

SILK GANG IS SEIZED BY 1ST CAV. TROOPS

Robbers Steal Goods Valued At 7 Million Yen From Hachioji Godowns

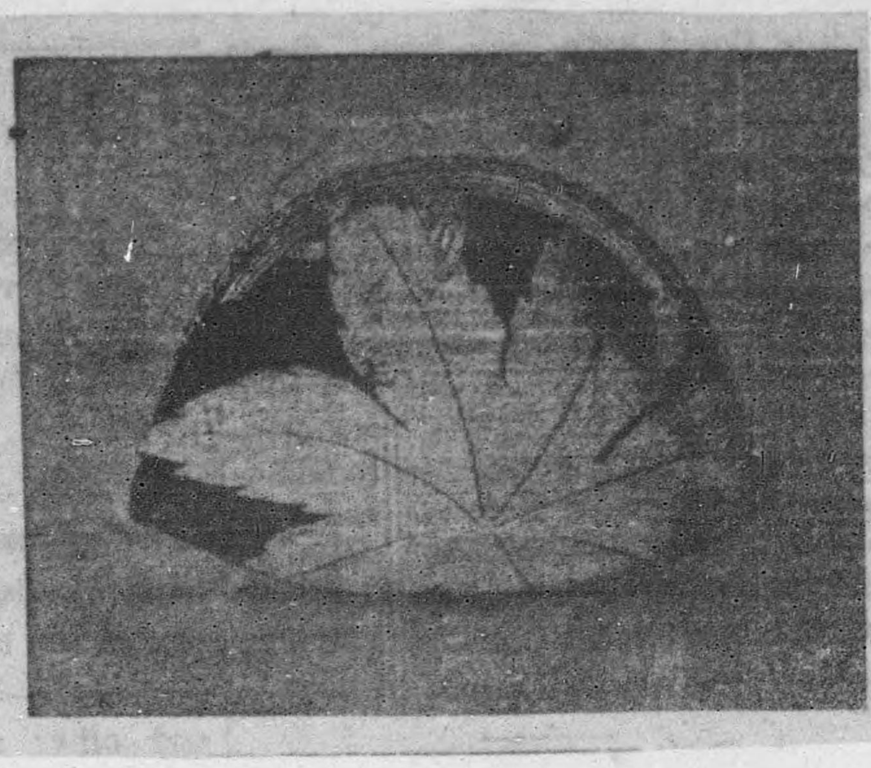
Troops of the 1st Cavalry Division, staging a pre-dawn search through the Hachioji district for a gang of warehouse robbers recently recaptured four truckloads of stolen silk valued at ¥7,000,000 and seized 17 Japanese in connection with the theft.

The looting took place at the silk storage warehouse at Hanbara. Aikawa-machi, Aiko-gun, Kanagawa Prefecture. Four trucks drove up to the warehouse, and, according to investigators, two persons, posing as agents of the CID, told warehouse attendants they were confiscating the silk on orders from the CID.

The custodian of the warehouse, suspicious of the claim, notified Atsugi police. They immediately informed officers of the 12th Cavalry Regiment, who ordered patrols to the scene and threw an armed cordon around the area to intercept the trucks. Of the 131 bales of raw silk thread stolen from the warehouse, the 12th Regiment recovered 123 bales. The 17 Japanese apprehended are in custody of Japanese police at Hachioji.

NIPPON TIMES AUG 19 1947

Nylon have replaced silk as material for U.S. milady's hosiery but it's pretty hard to usurp silk brocade bags . . . vital accessory to evening wear . . . from the place it holds in the heart of every well-dressed woman. In workmanship and sales appeal, here is an item that should lead Japan's export list in quantity and value.



HIDDEN SILK GOODS FOUND IN MITO RAID

$20 Million Worth of Fabrics Hoarded by Spinning Firm; Rice Scandal Unearthed

Hoarded silk fabrics valued at more than ¥20,000,000 were discovered by Mito police recently at the warehouse of the Yaguchi Spinning Company at Mito city. The goods found consisted of 138,000 yards of Habutae, 110 rolls of silk goods and 7,653 kan of silk yarns, reports Kyodo.

Police said that president Katsuzo Yaguchi of the company allegedly purchased these goods in Fukui Prefecture immediately after the surrender for ¥600,000.

The authorities found that there was no indication of the goods having been sold illegally, but, as the company failed to report the goods in possession, the firm is charged with violating the emergency regulations of materials.

NIPPON TIMES AUG 22 1947

CONTROL OVER SILK HANDED TO JAPAN

SCAP Announces Removal of 'Freeze' Ordered at the Start of Occupation

SCAP announced yesterday transfer of its controls over silk to the Japanese Government through removal of the "freeze" ordered at the beginning of the Occupation in September, 1945. Now SCAP will supervise silk controls only to the extent that it generally supervises all distribution in the Japanese economy.

Japanese authorities will determine disposition to both export and domestic markets of all stockpiles and production of raw and mixed silk and their products or any other forms of silk. Controls will be coordinated among the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Economic Stabilization Board.

At present there is a stockpile of approximately 100,000 bales of raw silk in Japan, as well as a stock of more than 100,000,000 yards of silk fabrics. SCAP recently announced a plan for the Japanese silk industry to weave 10,000 bales of silk monthly from the stockpile for both domestic and export use.

At the beginning of the Occupation all silk stocks in Japan were frozen by SCAP on the grounds they comprised valuable assets for export. Principal releases authorized by SCAP since that time have been for export, although there also have been releases for domestic consumption, particularly for industrial uses and as incentive goods.

At the present time production of raw silk has increased to the point where sufficient quantities may be made available both for direct export in the raw state and for weaving in Japan into exportable goods, Robert A. Hickerson, chief of the Silk Branch of the Textile Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section, said.

The Japanese Government now has taken over SCAP's responsibility for setting aside quantities needed for export as raw silk. It also is charged with releasng silk for manufacture of goods specified in contracts made with foreign businessmen by Boeki Cho, the Japanese Government's official Board of Trade. These contracts will be subject to validation by SCAP. The Japanese Government also will be required to fill Occupation needs for silk.

AUG 23 1947

NIPPON TIMES

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 12 Lifting of Cocoon Restriction Has Adverse Effect on Delivery Record - Nihon Keizai - 22 Jun 47. Translator: K. Sato. (TK)

Summary:

Due to removal of cocoon consumption control by sericulturists of their own cocoons, it is possible for silk raisers to use inferior cocoons for their own domestic needs from this year. Since this may aggravate the blackmarketing of cocoons, prefectural governments are resolved to take measures to forestall dishonest dealings by industrialists.

In IBARAKI Ken, the government authorities have decided on various agreements between industrialists to prevent illicit transactions. In spite of such procedures on the part of the prefectural governments, there are frequent illicit deals carried out by some silk growers. For example in GUMMA Ken the delivery of cocoon quotas fell far below the goal because silk growers taking advantage of the lifting of restrictions have withheld a substantial part of their delivery under the pretext that they were at inferior quality. In NAGANO Ken the prospective deliveries of spring cocoons are being put at about 750,000 Kan (6,202,500 lbs) as against the quota of 984,000 Kan (8,137,680 lbs). Moreover, even with the deduction of frost incurred damages estimated at 15 percent of the total, the quota would still be 840,000 Kan (6,946,800 lbs).

On the other hand, the silk growers allege that the poor delivery record is directly attributable to the shortage of fertilizers which adversely affected mulherry leaves. However, regardless of their claim, it is quite apparent that there were many farmers who deliberately produced cocoons of inferior quality to minimize their deliveries.

ITEM 9 Spun Silk Yarn Production Planned - Nihon Keizai - 22 Sep 47. Translator: Z. Konishi. (WH)

Full Translation:

The Silk Spinning Industrial Association (KEMBO KOGYO KAI) has drawn up a silk thread production program for the months of July to September. The program calls for 4,661 bales of spun silk for special purposes, including spun silk thread, mixed spun thread and raw silk thread, and 1,952 bales of noil thread, including staple fiber noil thread, mixed spun thread, ordinary noil thread and spun noil silk thread. The program also calls for 4,750 bales of spun silk thread and 695 bales of noil thread for domestic consumption.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 6 The Destiny of Raw Silk (Letter to the Editor) - Yomiuri - 29 Aug 47.
Translator: T. Unayama. (AH)

111-1

Summary:

Various questions about raw silk have now come to the fore, and the results of many researches in this matter have been announced. However, it seems that the researchers are attempting to turn out raw silk as they do nylon. In these days when a large quantity of nylon is being produced, raw silk is no match for nylon in uniformity of texture, strength, and quality.

Nylon is produced through chemical and mechanical processes; accordingly it is superior in uniformity, quality, and strength. Moreover, its production cost has now considerably lessened. Since raw silk is produced by silkworms, its quality and thickness are diverse according to the climate and the method of cultivating the silkworm. Consequently, uniformity in texture never can be expected, when it is produced in large quantities.

In other words, the producers will resort to unscrupulous means - to pass inspection disregarding the characteristics and the real value of silk. The destiny of raw silk, therefore, depends upon the following measures: In the first place, raw silk should be reeled off according to the respective thickness of the silk fiber produced by each cocoon, whether it may be 13 deniers or 15 deniers. By this method, uniformity of thickness will be secured efficiently. Secondly, out of the products manufactured by this method, only those which reach the fixed standard for export should be shipped off, and the rest, amounting to about two thirds of the whole production, should be exported as textiles. The lack of uniformity in thickness in a small degree will rather add distinction to the fabrics.

In essence, the real value of silk is appreciated in the form of fabrics, and not as raw silk. Thirdly, the effect created by silks should be different from nylon goods. In contrast to the large production of similar nylon goods in large-scaled factories, silk goods should be turned out in minor plants, in order to create various characteristic qualities peculiarly attractive in silk.

Every nation has its own technical skill and unique machines for its use; consequently there are differences of merit and value in the finished articles of various countries. If a new fiber is found, it should be used in a mixed weave with silk. The destiny of raw silk should be worked out in this direction, and, at the same time, the producers should grasp the essense of the textile industry, and alter their course as soon as possible.

(From SATO, Goro, a technician, SHIZUOKA).

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

EDITORIAL

Show Consideration For Foreign Tastes

On August 22, SCAP announced the transfer of the control over silk to the Japanese Government through the removal of the "freeze" order of September, 1945. Consequently, the Japanese Government is now in a position to dispose of the silk stockpile at its own discretion.

The reason behind the move is, as the Commerce Ministry has declared, the unfavorable trend of Japanese raw silk on the world market.

In this connection, a somewhat pessimistic observation regarding the prospects for Japanese raw silk is made in the report of the United Nations dealing with the supply and demand of textiles.

The report concludes that the Japanese Government has set too high a goal for its five-year silk export plan.

In this connection, there is, of course, almost an unlimited demand for silk at home for clothing. In the course of time, prospects for the export of silk will become brighter if proper improvements are made in the weaving and the manufacture of finished silk goods. But even in that case, the question of demand abroad will depend largely upon the level of Japanese prices.

At the present time, watches, clocks, bicycles, sewing machines, cameras, and binoculars are popular Japanese export items.

The dexterity of the Japanese people is the factor behind the popularity of the above-mentioned commodities. From this, it can be inferred that goods for which there is a world demand, rather than products unique to Japan, are the most likely items in the Japanese export trade.

This statement is not necessarily confined to export commodities alone. If we serve a typical Japanese meal to foreign tourists without due consideration for their tastes, we will be defeating the purpose—manifestation of Japanese hospitality.

Regarding music and drama, we would be committing a gross error if we think that all foreigners like Japanese kabuki, nagauta, and joruri.

Writing an impression of Japan, a certain foreign author confessed that he got the intestinal cramps because the Japanese music he was listening to was so funny. He added that it was his worst experience at such an event.

In all likelihood, this experience must be a common one among the numerous foreign visitors. We must learn to be considerate of the tastes of foreign buyers and foreign visitors.

MAINICHI AUG 2 7 1947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

India To Purchase Large Quantities Of Raw Silk, Rayon, Says Chinai

United Press

TOKYO, Aug. 22.—Panalal Manek-lal Chinai, Indian silk magnate and rayon expert with the Indian trade delegation to Japan, said India will buy large quantities of raw silk, rayon, and silk piecegoods from Japan.

He said the quality of these products was "quite satisfactory" and meets Indian requirements. Mr. Chinai said he will impress on the Indian Government to buy these goods.

Depends On Cotton Import

The Indian silk magnate said the exact quantity will depend on the amount of Indian raw cotton Japan buys. He said this is likely to be settled in the next two or three days.

Mr. Chinai, who is India's biggest silk merchant and distributor of raw silk, said India will buy bigger quantities of Japanese silk if prices are reduced to about US$2 a pound. He said this is absolutely necessary to compete with silk from China which is the biggest supplier now.

"Of course, Japanese raw silk is superior in quality," he said.

Will Not Tolerate Competition

Mr. Chinai said, however, India will not tolerate competition from foreign countries which will impair India's silk industry which is in an infant stage.

The quality of Japanese rayon, Mr. Chinai added, is not up to prewar standards due to the lack of imported raw materials and the consequent use of local pulp and chemicals which are poor in quality.

He said, however, he has received assurances from SCAP that future quality will be superior and therefore "I will recommend to the Indian Government to buy these products."

He said SCAP also has agreed to supply 150-denier rayon which India needs most. Until now, Japan has been producing only one standard denier of 12-. He said India's rayon yarn requirements are 75 tons daily.

MAINICHI AUG 2 3 1947

Favorable Outlook Predicted By Silk, Textile Bureau Head

A favorable export outlook for textile goods was predicted by Toshio Suzuki, Chief of the Silk and Textile Goods Bureau of the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

He reported to the House of Councillors Committee on Mining and Industries Friday that Japan has already exported 1,130,000,000 yards of cotton yarn and 15,330,000 pounds of cotton threads since the beginning of this year.

He added that contracts for the exportation of an additional 4,500,-000,000 yards of cotton yarns for this year had already been signed.

"Already 900,000 bales of imported raw cotton have been consumed with only about 90,000 bales on hand. In view of this small stock of raw cotton, textile factories have cut down their operations to 60 per cent for this month," he added.

Referring to the rayon industry, Mr. Suzuki said that only 5 per cent of rayon producing factories were in operation at present.

Meanwhile, Mr. Suzuki said he received the impression from visiting foreign traders that there was a good chance of exporting silk cloth despite the fact that the outlook for the exportation of raw silk was pessimistic.

He added that he expected two-thirds of the silk cloth to be made from the raw silk recently released by SCAP for domestic use may be made available for export use.

NIPPON TIMES AUG 2 4 1947

Silk 'Freeze' Order Lifted By SCAP; Control Now In Hands Of Japan Govt.

Radiopress

TOKYO, Aug. 22.—SCAP today announced the transfer of its controls over silk to the Japanese Government through removal of the "freeze" ordered at the beginning of the Occupation in September, 1945.

Now SCAP will supervise silk controls only to the extent that it generally supervises all distribution in the Japanese economy.

Japanese authorities will determine disposition of both export and domestic markets of all stockpiles and production of raw and mixed silk and their products or any other forms of silk. Controls will be coordinated among the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Commerce and the Economic Stabilization Board.

At present there is a stockpile of approximately 100,000 bales of raw silk in Japan, as well as a stock of more than 100-million yards of silk fabrics. SCAP recently announced a plan for the Japanese silk industry to weave 10,000 bales of silk monthly from the stockpile for both domestic and export use.

MAINICHI AUG 2 4 1947

9,281 Bales Raw Silk Produced In July

Kyodo

TOKYO, Aug. 20.—Nine thousand two hundred and eight-one bales of raw silk were produced in July, the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry announced today.

This brought the total output of raw silk since the beginning of this year to 64,528 bales.

Two hundred and sixty-eight mills were in operation during the period, with the employees numbering 72,-657 men and women.

MAINICHI AUG 2 3 1947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

SCAP TRANSFERS CONTROL OVER SILK TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

SCAP today announced transfer of its controls over silk to the Japanese Government through removal of the "freeze" ordered at the beginning of the Occupation in September, 1945. Now SCAP will supervise silk controls only to the extent that it generally supervises all distribution in the Japanese economy.

Japanese authorities will determine disposition to both export and domestic markets of all stockpiles and production of raw and mixed silk and their products or any other forms of silk. Controls will be coordinated among the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Economic Stabilization Board.

At present there is a stockpile of approximately 100,000 bales of raw silk in Japan, as well as a stock of more than 100,000,000 yards of silk fabrics. SCAP recently announced a plan for the Japanese silk industry to weave 10,000 bales of silk monthly from the stockpile for both domestic and export use.

At the beginning of the Occupation all silk stocks in Japan were frozen by SCAP on the grounds they comprised valuable assets for export. Principal releases authorized by SCAP since that time have been for export, although there also have been releases for domestic consumption, particularly for industrial uses and as incentive goods.

At the present time production of raw silk has increased to the point where sufficient quantities may be made available both for direct export in the raw state and for weaving in Japan into exportable goods, Robert A. Hickerson, chief of the Silk Branch of the Textile Division, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section, said.

The Japanese Government now has taken over SCAP's responsibility for setting aside quantities needed for export as raw silk. It also is charged with releasing silk for manufacture of goods specified in contracts made with foreign businessmen by Boeki Cho, the Japanese Government's official Board of Trade. These contracts will be subject to validation by SCAP. The Japanese Government also will be required to fill Occupation needs for silk.

To assure a definite stockpile of raw silk for export, the ESS Foreign Trade Division has directed Boeki Cho to purchase 30,000 bales of suitable sizes and grades of raw silk to be reserved for export.

When silk was forzen in September, 1945, raw stocks amounted to approximately 45,000 bales. Inventories made under SCAP direction revealed that stocks of fabric at the end of 1945 amounted to 133,000,000 yards. The most suitable types for export were shipped from this stockpile during 1946, and the silk fabric has been re-inspected gradually since then for export possibilities.

Production of silk has expanded from approximately 2,000 bales in January, 1946, to approximately 10,000 bales monthly during the first half of 1947. Fabric production has climbed slowly but steadily to approximately 4,000,000 yards a month, compared with production levels of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 yards monthly maintained during most of 1946.

Prewar production of raw silk reached an average production of 60,000 bales monthly in peak years, while production of silk fabrics averaged about 40,000,000 yards monthly.

PRESS RELEASE – AFPAC

AUG 22 1947

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

111.1 June silk production: raw silk 9,171 bales; silk fabrics in square yards — filaments 3,455,000 and Fuji silk and others 1,166,000. 31 JUL 1947

111.1 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry reports spring cocoon production 58,828,745 pounds. 22 AUG 1947

111.1 SCAP control on raw silk and silk products imposed September 1945 transferred 22 August to Japanese Government. Reservations for export on government-to-government basis will continue to be made by SCAP. 29 AUG 1947

111.1 Japan Raw Silk Industry Association placed under restriction and will be designated a "closed institution" for liquidation by 1 November. Essential functions will be transferred to government agencies or private trade channels. 9 SEP 1947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

111.1 Raw silk production in April reported 87,419 pounds. 2 JUN 1947 Korea

111.1 Raw silk production including both domestic and exportable grades in South Korea totaled 325 tons for 1946. Ninety-eight tons were produced during the first four months of 1947. 8 JUN 1947 Korea

111.1 May production raw silk was 9,970 kwan (1 kwan equals 8.267 pounds) compared with 10,752 kwan produced in April. 18 JUN 1947 Korea

111.1 Raw silk being inspected daily at Government Silk Conditioning House averages 4,130 pounds. All raw silk reported by filatures in April has been inspected and graded.

About 15,700 pounds of 14-denier exportable silk from Taejon factories are on hand. 15 JUL 1947 Korea

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

SCAP ORDERS JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO NULLIFY SILK TRANSACTION

SCAP today ordered the Japanese Government to nullify a transaction in which former Japanese Armed Forces stocks of silk were transferred to the Nippon Kogyo K.K. for 1,203,200 yen. SCAP directed that the silk involved be turned over to the Occupation forces.

The Nippon Kogyo K.K. agreed to the transaction Aug. 16, 1945, and on Dec. 26, 1945, transferred the yen to the Japanese Central Army Clothing Depot in payment.

SCAP explained that it was not considered that the Nippon Kogyo K.K. had been guilty of willful wrongdoing. A Jan. 11, 1946 directive later informed the Japanese Government that attempts to dispose of supplies and equipment of the Japanese Armed Forces between Aug. 14, and Sept. 2, 1945, "did not fall within the spirit of the Potsdam Declaration."

In cases where stocks of the silk have been processed, the Occupation forces will pay for the actual processing and weaving, the SCAP directive stated.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC AUG 1 1947

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U. S. ARMY RECPATURES FOUR TRUCKLOADS OF STOLEN SILK

WITH THE EIGHTH ARMY IN TOKYO--Troops of the 1st Cavalry Division, staging a pre-dawn search through the Hachioji District for a gang of warehouse robbers, recaptured four truckloads of stolen silk valued at 7,000,000 yen and seized 17 Japanese in connection with the theft.

The looting took place at 2 a.m. Aug. 10 at the silk storage warehouse at 4245 Hanbara, Aikawa-machi, Aiko-gun, Kanagawa-ken. Four trucks drove up to the warehouse, and, according to investigators, two persons, posing as agents of the CID, told warehouse attendants they were confiscating the silk on orders from the CID.

The custodian of the warehouse, suspicious of the claim, notified Atsugi police. They immediately informed officers of the 12th Cavalry Regiment, who ordered patrols to the scene and threw an armed cordon around the area to intercept the trucks.

Of the 131 bales of raw silk thread stolen from the warehouse, the 12th Regiment recovered 123 bales.

According to investigators, the 17 Japanese apprehended, who were manning the trucks when they were seized, are laborers who were hired to handle the cargo and drive the trucks, unaware that the operation was illegal. All 17 are in custody of Japanese police at Hachioji. Investigators are searching for others believed to be involved in the case.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC AUG 16 1947

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