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Title: Questionnaire Prepared by Richard Rush

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SGO BY RICHARD RUSH

THE House of Representatives having, at the last Session of Congress, passed a Resolution, that "the Secretary of the Treasury cause to be prepared a well-digested Manual, containing the best practical information that can be collected, on the Growth and Manufacture of Silk, adapted to the different parts of the Union, containing such facts and observations in relation to the Growth and Manufacture of Silk in other countries, as may be useful, and that the same be laid before Congress at the commencement of their next Session:" the following Queries have been prepared, with a view to aid in obtaining, in part, the means of complying with the Resolution. Answers to all, or any of them, are respectfully invited, from such enlightened and patriotic Citizens as may have it in their power to furnish them. The Answers to be transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, on or before the first of December.

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1. What efforts have been made in the State of *Connecticut*, if any, and at what periods of time, to raise Silk?
 2. Whence was the Silk-worm obtained? Is this insect a native of *Connecticut*; and, if so, in what respects does it differ, if in any, from the Oriental or foreign Silk-worm? Are there any varieties of this insect known in *Connecticut*? Please to describe whatever kinds there may be.
 3. Does the Mulberry flourish in *Connecticut*, in its different varieties; what soil suits it best; is the White Mulberry an indigenous tree? If not, has it been found to thrive as well in the United States as the Red and Black Mulberry? Which of the latter is indigenous, or, are both?
 4. Does the Silk-worm feed as well upon the Red and Black Mulberry as upon the White? Is there any other leaf or plant known in this country upon which it does feed; and, above all, will it yield Silk of equal quality when fed upon any other leaf or food, as upon that of the White Mulberry?

5. Be pleased to state the best methods of raising and multiplying the several species of the Mulberry tree; how it is propagated; how old it should be before transplanting; what particular modes of treating it are required; the age at which it should begin to furnish food for the Worm; whence trees or cuttings can be obtained for transplantation; the price per hundred; how many trees should be planted on an acre; and would it, or would it not, be profitable to cultivate the Mulberry, for the purpose of feeding the worm, in the form of a bush or shrub?
6. What quantity of raw Silk ought to be produced from an acre of full-grown Mulberry-trees, planted and reared in the best manner? How many Silk-worms are required to produce a pound of raw silk? What quantity of raw Silk can be produced from an acre of Mulberry-trees by other modes of cultivation than the full-grown tree?
7. Be pleased to state, as much in detail as may be in your power, the methods of treating the Silk-worm, with a view to raising the best silk, and in the greatest quantity; embracing, particularly, the habits of the insect, as to appetite, cleanliness, position, or accommodations, whilst the cocoon is forming; the species of twig or branch on which it is best that it should be spun; temperature, and degree of light most favorable to the insect, and all other circumstances which may affect its health and strength, and its capacity to yield a perfect cocoon; also, a description of the process, of forming the Silk by the insect until the cocoon is completed; the best modes of treating the cocoon, and of obtaining the silk; and how far the labor of females, children, and old men, may be usefully employed in the culture of Silk?
8. What difference, if any, exists between the Chinese and Italian or Spanish Worm; which country is reputed to produce the best insect, and what particular part of the country?
9. Does the climate of *Connecticut* admit of raising Silk with full advantage in the open air; or is it best that the insect should always be housed?—if the latter, what size and form of building or apartment is best fitted to its operations? If the Silk be raised in the open air, is any shelter, and of what kind, required, as well from the rays of the sun as from wet, and to protect the insects from birds and other animals that prey upon them?
10. Is there reason to suppose that in some parts of the United States, the climate may admit of more than one crop of Silk being raised from the Silk-worm, in the course of the year, as ⁱⁿ Asia? How will this inquiry apply to *Connecticut*?
11. Have lightning and thunder been found to affect the Silk-worm in our climate, and how far, if at all?—Has any insect of our climate, or animal of any kind, been found to prey upon or injure it, beyond those that are known to do so in other climates?

12. What is the greatest quantity of Silk that has been raised in the State of *Connecticut* in any one year;—into what articles or forms has it been manufactured—and have the manufactured articles been consumed at home or sent abroad—and where;—where has the raw Silk been sent when not wrought into manufactures?
13. What prices have the raw or manufactured Silks commanded in the market of the United States, as compared with similar articles imported from Europe, China, or the East Indies? What progress has been made, in the drawing, spinning, and twisting of sewing Silk in any part of *Connecticut*? Have its strength and evenness been equal to the French, English, or Italian sewing Silk? How have we succeeded in the coloring or dyeing? All information on this head will be acceptable.
14. Will you be pleased to describe, with as much particularity as may be, the machinery most approved for winding off the Silk from the cocoon;—for forming it into organzine or thrown Silk; and for manufacturing Silk into all its different forms, (including velvets) whether for clothing, furniture, or any other purpose? If within your power and convenience to add a sketch or drawing of any or all of the above machinery, it would be acceptable.
15. Describe the difference in the quality of the Silk produced from all the different varieties of the Silk-worm, and annex, if in your power, a drawing (colored) of all the varieties of this insect in its moth and other states. Is the insect brought from abroad supposed to degenerate in the United States, and if so, to what causes is it imputed, and how are they best to be obviated? What are the proper rules to be observed in the choice of eggs, in the choice of cocoons for seed, and in the choice of the insect for laying eggs?
16. If Silk has been raised at any periods heretofore in *Connecticut*, but not at present, what are supposed to be the causes that have led to its discontinuance?
17. Please to state any other facts or circumstances that may bear upon the objects or spirit of the resolution above referred to of the House of Representatives of the United States, though not specially comprehended under any of the foregoing inquiries.

RICHARD RUSH.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, 29th July, 1826.

12. Will you be pleased to describe, with as much particularity as you can, the nature and extent of the injury to the silk produced from all the silkworms of the species mentioned in the bill, from the cause or causes mentioned in the bill, and how are they best to be prevented? What are the proper rules to be observed in the choice of eggs, and in the choice of the insect for laying eggs?

13. Describe the diseases in the quality of the silk produced from all the silkworms of the species mentioned in the bill, from the cause or causes mentioned in the bill, and how are they best to be prevented? What are the proper rules to be observed in the choice of eggs, and in the choice of the insect for laying eggs?

14. Will you be pleased to describe, with as much particularity as you can, the nature and extent of the injury to the silk produced from all the silkworms of the species mentioned in the bill, from the cause or causes mentioned in the bill, and how are they best to be prevented? What are the proper rules to be observed in the choice of eggs, and in the choice of the insect for laying eggs?

15. Describe the diseases in the quality of the silk produced from all the silkworms of the species mentioned in the bill, from the cause or causes mentioned in the bill, and how are they best to be prevented? What are the proper rules to be observed in the choice of eggs, and in the choice of the insect for laying eggs?

16. If silk has been raised at any period heretofore in but not at present, what are supposed to be the causes that have led to its continuance?

17. Have there been any other facts or circumstances that may bear upon the subject of the silk industry in the United States, and especially connected with any of the foregoing inquiries?

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

R. R. R.

RICHARD M. SMITH

Treasurer Department, 20th July 1862