THE MAKING of textiles and clothing is often termed the largest industry in the world. Whether it be shoe laces, Easter bonnets, coolie coats or silk draperies, the industry supplies man and his dwellings with a myriad of textiles fashioned to suit his individual or national tastes in a wide variety of colors, patterns and finishes.

In Germany, textile making still retains certain traits which this ancient craft first possessed: a local quality designed to fill community needs. Thousands of years ago during the lake dwelling period of history primitive man spun and wove cloth to fill family and immediate community requirements. And even yet, a number of individual Germans and many small textile plants are scattered throughout the villages, making cloth from locally-produced wool, drawing upon village labor and filling community needs.

More than 100 years ago, Germany developed an addition to the local craft: large centers of textile production to enter the world export field. Before World War II these plants also were scattered around Germany. Some 373,000 men and women worked in more than 9,300 such factories.

Today, West German textile and clothing firms are scrambling to right themselves in a situation considerably more difficult than that facing many other German industries. The problem dates back to the Hitler years when

This is the third in a series of articles by Mrs. Yahraes, staff writer, describing the postwar development of western German industries. In the above photographs by Holtmann of Stuttgart women are working at the Obernburg rayon factory in Bavaria, one of the most modern synthetics plants in west Germany.

The Chemnitz area, directly south of Berlin in the Soviet Zone, long was one of the main textile centers of Germany. There some of the best German textile machinists were located. Great centers were also in the eastern areas around Breslau, Stettin and Königsberg. Approximately 90 percent of the stocking, 50 percent of the underclothing and 55 percent of the knitting mills were located in what in postwar Germany is the Soviet Zone. Berlin, formerly the center for approximately 90 percent of all women's outer clothing, has fallen in importance due to unique problems there.

The cotton trade, however, is located principally in western Germany with the great ports of Bremen and Hamburg funneling imports to north Bavaria, Augsburg, Wurtemberg-Baden, the Rhineland and Westphalia and plants along the Belgian and Dutch borders. Wool and worsted weaving factories of Aachen, Munich and the Rhineland are world famous, although the Soviet Zone encompasses more than 50 percent of Germany's worsted spinning mills and 60 percent of the woolen cloth weaving mills.
At the end of 1948, there were in the Bizonal area approximately 150,000 persons employed in about 3,000 factories, not including a small number of hosiery and knitting mills.

THE STORY of the West German textile industry since the war has been a series of chapters on the struggle to reconstruct damaged spinning mills, to find skilled operators and to bring in acutely-needed raw materials.

Besides plant damage, much of the textile machinery was of foreign origin and long since obsolete. It was like trying to find parts for a Model-T Ford in factories where only sleek, streamlined automobiles now are made. The only solution was to disassemble some of the machines to form a spare-parts pool. Other kinds of shortages developed: limited coal and power; lack of factory supplies, including belting, leather parts for looms, special woods for shuttles and bobbins, oils, starches, dyes and paper spinning tubes.

Mill managers, casting about for ways to bring their factories back into operating condition, practiced what is known as "compensation trading." Mill supplies, building materials, transportation and even coal were secured in exchange for stocks of cloth and yarn. Factory employees often were induced to work regularly only by promises of cloth and yarn allotments.

Rayon thread being spun (left) and workers buying materials at reduced rates at Obernburg company store (right).

(Photos by B. Holtmann)

W ORKERS IN THOSE early days were difficult to find. Scattered by the war they were hard to bring together again and even when located poor nutrition and home and personal problems cut into their efficiency. New workers also slowed production, for it takes one to two years' training to produce a good textile operative.

As for raw materials, most stockrooms were bare. The cheapest types of synthetics were being used, looked bad when made into clothing and wore even worse.

The first step in digging out of the problem was to make use of stocks on hand. Through STEG (German public corporation for the collection and distribution of usable war material) factories obtained stocks of army goods which could be made into clothing. Allied Army surplus clothing also was made available through STEG for remaking and dyeing. As direct aid to refugees and other people in serious need, relief organizations distributed vast quantities of clothing.

For about a year the textile industry confined itself to making use of such supplies and turning its dwindling raw materials into clothing and equipment for hospitals, industrial, railroad, Ruhr and other essential workers. Until June 1948, very little of what was produced went to the civil population. Except for sewing thread and mending yarns, the average German had to obtain a clothing "proof of need" certificate — and then begin a search from store to store which often was vain.

T HINGS BEGAN to look more hopeful, however, in 1946 when a trickle of raw materials began coming in. In the spring 10,000 tons arrived. Then, OMGUS made an agreement with the Commodity Credit Corporation by which the US Commercial Corporation would furnish 217,000 bales of cotton, Military Government to pay the money back to CCC in an agreed-upon period of time by selling abroad 60 percent of it in the form of cloth. The remaining 40 percent was to be used for domestic consumption. During this same period, the British Military Government imported 17,000 tons of wool and 15,000 tons of wool besides jute and hemp. Upon these raw materials and the domestic production of synthetics, plus small quantities of cotton and wool sent into Germany by foreign firms for processing and re-export, the textile and clothing industry managed to keep going until the beginning of 1948.

The year of 1948 turned over a new leaf for the textile industry. Cotton, wool, jute and hemp bought with JEIA funds started to flow into western Germany in increasing
volume. Currency reform gave factory owners the stability needed to plan production and train labor for the future. "Compensation trading" ended and production moved toward an ever more normal basis. Imports in metric tons for these first three post-war years were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cotton</th>
<th>Wool</th>
<th>Jute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>37,334</td>
<td>15,100</td>
<td>12,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>33,500</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>5,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Imports of raw materials in 1949/50 are expected to increase about 56 percent over 1948/1949.

As these more immediate difficulties began to clear, another basic problem clamored for solution: the balancing of the industry by establishing whole new sections lost to the East Zone. The worst bottleneck was the shortage of spinning mills in western Germany to supply yarn for the weaving looms. Working at top capacity, West German spinning mills in 1948 processed only 300,000 tons of raw materials, which meant that looms in the Rhineland textile centers could operate at only

40 percent of capacity. Production at this rate would not meet the requirements of the clothing industry and retail textile trade. And, with yarns at such a high premium, the spinning mills sometimes have been inclined to take advantage of the sellers' market by upping prices or producing inferior yarns.

The distribution of stocking factories in Germany is not particularly pleasing to western German women. Until recently, it was impossible to obtain stockings other than those left from the war years or those sold on the black market. As there was very little production in western Germany before the war, it was necessary to

start from the ground up. Some good textile machinists came from Saxony and sketched plans for the making of machines. Most of the few hosiery machines in western Germany are old models imported from the United States, the United Kingdom and Switzerland — a condition which manufacturers find ironical for Germany was one of the first countries to produce hosiery machines.

Within the past year, a south German engineering works con-

structured a cotton machine for making stockings. In Bavaria, Sudeten German firms built the first factories for making knitted stockings. A small plant in Stuttgart also is producing. The small trickles of hosiery now made are of rayon or cotton.

One of the better known brands, produced in Wuerttemberg, is packaged in cellophane like those in the United States, and bears a card inside: "The cotton machines on which these stockings are manufactured arrived from America only a few months ago. Purl-knitted and nylon reinforced at wear points, these stockings meet the most exacting requirements of both appearance and durability ..."

The hosiery mills in the French Zone — approximately 300 — are the best equipped in western Germany. Their handicap has been a severe shortage of raw materials, a condition which is expected to improve due to Marshall Plan imports.
There are certain inefficiencies in West Germany's textile industry which lead experts to predict that Germany will not offer serious competition in the world market for a long time to come. One official points out that the industry's personnel is too heavy — too many executives in proportion to the number of operators make labor costs abnormally high.

Even more important are the inefficiencies in plant organization. The "horizontal" system is most commonly used. Spinning is done in one factory, weaving in another, and the separate finishing processes carried out in yet others, causing considerable waste in time and high transportation costs. In general, weaving plants have no great battery of looms such as found in the US or England. There are many different kinds of looms even within one plant and the average weaver tends only approximately four looms.

In finishing work the story is the same. In Germany the quantity produced on each printing machine is approximately one-fourth that in the United States. Plant manufacturers, however, cling to old ways and are reluctant to run their looms on the same textile, thus reducing the number of operators needed.

These inefficient methods have shown up in Germany's efforts to break into the world market. Her prices necessarily have been too high. Taking the German price as 100 (prior to the recent currency devaluation) for a basic cloth, we find Belgium can produce the same material for 75, Switzerland for 73, the United States for 67 and Japan for 65. Until Germany cuts her production costs she will find it impossible to compete on a large scale in the world market.

Germany has specialties, however, in which she has retrieved some of her old prewar customers without great difficulty. German technicians have learned the skill of producing very fine finishes on low-grade fabrics; they have perfected the production of fine printed materials. Old customers on the West Coast of Africa again have asked for regular supplies of cotton goods. Turkey, the Middle East and certain Far Eastern markets again have turned to Germany for regular quantities of low-grade sheeting.

Britain also takes a good share of the exports. For many years the German and British textile trades have been allied: finely-spun Lancashire yarns were bought in Germany to be turned into fine knitwear and glove fabrics, while Britain took Germany's coarse and medium fabrics.

Most manufacturers, however, can't get too excited about how export trade is progressing. Domestic demand for goods is so insistent they fail to look ahead to the time when local markets will be saturated and foreign customers will have found regular suppliers elsewhere. Today German civilian needs still are paramount.

With local demand so great, plant owners have fixed their eyes upon the more immediate market. Often, in better grades of cloth, only low standards of manufacture have been reached and large deliveries have been rejected by important customers because of poor quality. In other instances, late delivery has caused contracts to be cancelled and the goods deflected to domestic markets. It is also true, however, that foreign buyers sometimes have cancelled contracts. These factors, officials believe, are the main cause for export difficulties in the textile industry rather than the world value of the Deutsche mark which often is blamed for keeping foreign buyers away.

Of all the many kinds of factories involved in the clothing and textile industry, synthetics plants are the most modern and the best equipped. This was the only branch of the industry which was allowed an appreciable number of new machines and equipment during the middle and late thirties. In 1939, Germany became

The Obernburg synthetics plant (extreme left), planned recreation and health care for its 3,500 employees (below). Cooperating financially with the US, it also have built attractive living quarters for workers.
KEY HICOG PERSONNEL

Office of the High Commissioner
High Commissioner: John J. McClay, Frankfurt 8100, Bonn 201, Berlin 43481
Assistant High Commissioner: B. J. Buttonweiser, Frankfurt 6139
Special Assistant to the High Commissioner: Lt. Gen. H. A. Gerhardt, Frankfurt 7255, Bonn 200/204
Executive Assistant: Robert M. Walsh, Frankfurt 7148
German Liaison Officer: Gert Whitten, Frankfurt

Office of Executive Secretary
Executive Secretary: James E. King, Jr., Frankfurt 8132
Executive Secretary: Theo E. Hall, Frankfurt 8132

Allied General Secretariat (US Element)
US Secretary: Joseph E. Slater, Frankfurt
Deputy US Secretary: John J. Goley, Frankfurt
Chief, Liaison & Interpreter Section: (vacancy)
Chief, Administrative Section: John Calhoun, Frankfurt

Staff Secretary
Staff Secretary: Eric G. Graton, Frankfurt 8125

Field Division
Director: Col. Gordon G. Teator, Frankfurt
Assistant Director: Elden Cassaday, Frankfurt
Assistant Director: Robert T. Minter, Frankfurt

Office of Administration
Director: Glenn G. Wolfe, Frankfurt 6117/8280
Deputy Director: Albert G. Sims, Frankfurt 8426
Special Assistant: Robert M. Barnett, Frankfurt 8162
Special Assistant: Jack H. Lemon, Frankfurt 8297
Special Assistant: E. T. Wolfe, Frankfurt 8297

Budget & Finance Division
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Deputy Chief: J. E. DeWeille, Frankfurt 8926
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Chief, Accounting Branch: Albert Tennant, Frankfurt
Chief, Payroll Branch: James M. Hamlin, Frankfurt
Chief, Voucher Section: R. J. Cornings, Frankfurt
Chief, Disbursements Branch: Walter Hart, Frankfurt
Chief, External Audit Branch: (vacancy)

Field Finance Officers:
Berlin: Joseph A. Angotti
Munich: (vacancy)
Frankfurt: Allen Chase
Stuttgart: Milton H. Eshelman
Bremen: C. W. Falkner

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Chief, Visual Presentation Branch: Charles H. Shaw, Frankfurt 8142

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Chief, Regulations & Procedures Branch: (vacancy)

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Chief, Placement Branch: E. F. Armstrong, Frankfurt 8136
Chief, Employee Services Branch: Chester Beam, Frankfurt
Chief, Transactions Branch: Daniel Lenthall, Frankfurt 4870/8216

Reports & Statistics Division
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Chief, Statistical Standards Branch: (vacancy)

Security Division
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Office of Political Affairs
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Deputy Director: Allan E. Lightner, Frankfurt

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Airport Administrator (Frankfurt/Rhine-Main): Richard L. Martin, Frankfurt
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Chief, Governmental Affairs Branch: (vacancy)
Associate Chief, Community Affairs: (vacancy)
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Deputy Chief: Paul P. Roudakoff

Travel Control Division
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Deputy Chief: Jean J. Chenard, Frankfurt
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Chief, Bremen Branch: W. J. Thim, Bremen
Chief, Hesse Branch: Ross Stockley, Wiesbaden
Chief, Wurttemberg-Baden Branch: Frank H. Cornelius, Stuttgart

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Deputy Director: (vacancy)
Chief, Executive Branch: (vacancy)
Chief, Program and Policy Branch: Alfred V. Boerner, Frankfurt 8559

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Deputy Chief: John Riedl
Chief, Community Activities Branch: Lawrence E. Norris, Bad Nauheim 234
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Chief, Governmental Affairs Branch: H. P. Metzger, Bad Nauheim

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Chief, Religious Affairs Branch: Artid C. Olsen, Bad Nauheim 253

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Chief, Personnel Exchange Branch: James Barnett
Chief, Materials & Exhibitions Exchange Branch: James R. Haarstad

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Chief, Motion Picture Branch: Carl Winston
Chief, Opinion Survey Branch: Leo P. Crespi, Bad Nauheim 503
Chief, Press & Publications Branch: (vacancy)
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Chief, Publishing Operations Branch: Raymond Stover, Munich
Chief, Radio Branch: Charles S. Lewis, Bad Nauheim 501/178

Public Relations Division
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Deputy Chief: Jack Fleischer, Frankfurt

Office of Labor Affairs
Director: Harvey Brown, Frankfurt 8266
Deputy Director: (vacancy)

Labor Division
Chief: (vacancy)

Manpower Division
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Office of Intelligence
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Deputy Director: Innis D. Harris, Frankfurt 8500

Reports & Analysis Division
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Strategic Division
Chief: (vacancy)

Office of the General Counsel
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Assistant General Counsel: (vacancy)
Assistant General Counsel: (vacancy)

Administration of Justice Division
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Chief, German Justice Branch: H. W. Weigert, Frankfurt

Chief Attorney
Chief Attorney: W. B. McCauley

Decartelization & Deconcentration Division
Chief: (vacancy)
Chief, IG Farben Control Branch: M. M. Maupin, Frankfurt 8186
Chief, General Branch: R. E. Cotton, Frankfurt 8669

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Chief, German Law Branch: E. H. Schwenk, Frankfurt 8924

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Assistant Chief: W. H. Memke, Frankfurt 8169
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Chief, Lower Saxony (Siebe) Branch: Gerhard Husser, Frankfurt 8973
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Prisons Division
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Director: N. H. Collison, Frankfurt 857, Bonn 206
Deputy Director: (vacancy)

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Chairman and Deputy Chief, Production Branch: A. F. Marshall, Essen
US Member and Deputy Chairman, Finance Branch: J. S. Jones, Essen

Combined Steel Control Group
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Deputy Chairman and Chief, Production Branch: (vacancy)
Chief and Deputy Chairman, Reorganization Branch: Werner Naumann, Dusseldorf

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Assistant Controller: Norman Olmick, Frankfurt

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Chief, Public Finance Branch: A. M. Hillhouse, Frankfurt
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Chief, Currency & Credit Branch: Richard C. Leonard

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Chief, Agricultural Production Branch: Sam Williams, Frankfurt 8026
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Chief, Transportation Branch: William Fagan
Chief, Communications Branch: E. H. Merrill

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Chief, Records Branch: Walden Thorson, Frankfurt 8006
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Chief, Field Liquidation Branch: Gerald M. Strauss, Frankfurt
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Deputy Chief: William G. Daniels
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Chief, Reparations Restitution Branch: Frederick Draper
Chief, External Assets Branch: Herbert Soorier

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Acting Chief: Mark Edwards
Chief, Reports Branch and Assistant Chief of Division: A. J. Cefaratti
Chief, Statistics Branch: Charles K. Nichols, Frankfurt
Chief, Publications Branch: Robert W. Hewetson, Frankfurt

Trade & Payments Division
Chief: Henry C. Conrad

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(US Element)
Deputy US Commissioner: Col. E. F. Thomson, Berlin

Industrial Division
Chief: Francis L. Mayer, Berlin 86 45 60

Military Division
Chief: (Vacancy)
Chief, Prevention of Militaries Branch: Lt. Col. J. M. Bradley
Chief, Material and Technical Branch: (Vacancy)

Secretariat
Chief: Richard A. Steele

Scientific Research Division
Chief: Carl H. Nordstrom

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Judge: J. A. Sedillo
Judge: M. Robinson
Judge: C. Fulghum
Judge: T. H. Goodman
Judge: Justin Harding
Judge, 1st Judicial District: R. L. Guthrie
Judge, 2nd Judicial District: J. A. Sabo, Berlin
Judge, 3rd Judicial District: Dewitt White, Marburg
Judge, 4th Judicial District: F. J. Cohn, Frankfurt
District Judge, 5th Judicial District: Dillon Hartridge, Heidelberg
Presiding Judge, 6th Judicial District: J. O. Duvall, Stuttgart
District Judge, 7th Judicial District: H. H. Lyon, Augsburg

INFORMATION BULLETIN NOVEMBER 1949
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Land Commissioner: Murray D. Van Wergener, Munich
Deputy Land Commissioner: Clarence Boldt, Munich
Assistant to Deputy Land Commissioner: (Vacancy)

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Chief, Operating Facilities Branch: (Vacancy)
Chief, Reports Branch: Thomas Coad, Munich

Intelligence Division
Chief: Don Shen, Munich

Economic Affairs Division
Director: Paul S. Nevin, Munich
Acting Chief, Food & Agriculture Branch: William Danks, Munich
Property Adviser: William Harrigan, Munich
Finance Officer: Joseph Bartos, Munich

Labor Affairs Division
Chief, Labor Affairs Division: Franz G. Lorius, Munich
Assistant Adviser: Abe Kramer, Munich

Legal Affairs Division
Land General Counsel: Leonard J. Gans, Munich
Assistant Counsel: Eleanor G. Raynor, Munich

Political Affairs Division
Director: (Vacancy)
Deputy Director and Chief, Public Safety Branch: A. D. Sims, Munich
Chief, Political & Government Branch: John P. Bradford, Munich

Public Affairs Division
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Chief, Cultural Exchange Branch: Kenneth MacCormack, Munich
Chief, Education and Cultural Relations Branch: R. G. Dawes
Public Health Adviser, Public Health & Welfare Branch: Robert Hood, Munich
Chief, Information Services Branch: James Clark, Munich
Chief, Public Relations Branch: Jack Caldwell, Munich

Field Operations Division
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Deputy Director: William Moran, Munich

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RO Munich: George Godfrey
RO Munich: Chester Wright
RO Rosenheim: William Keen
RO Traunstein: William Garlock
RO Garmisch: Franz Egger
RO Freising: Leo Emerich
RO Ingolstadt: Birger Berg
RO Berchtesgaden: Edward Schoening
RO Starnberg: John Milby
RO Fuerstenfeldbruck: Thomas McAnally
RO Wellheim: George Abel
RO Dachau: William Rubin
RO Pfinzenhofen: Fred Mahner
RO Erding: Russel Wickman
RO Aibling: Frances Schillig
RO Altoetting: Richard Van der Haar
RO Miesbach: Robert Scharmer

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RO Regensburg: Sidney White
RO Passau: John Mey
RO Straubing: John Lawrence
RO Cham: Vincent Hurst
RO Amberg: Joe Hackett
RO Landschut: Bertel Armbarger
RO Eggenfeld: Carl Hansen
RO Tirschenreuth: Frank Gates
RO Neustadt: John Raymond
RO Eichenbach: Thomas McMahon
RO Neumarkt: Einer Marsh
RO Burgiengenfeld: James Lipman
RO Waldmannshofen: Elmer Gilley
RO Kelheim: Evan Owen
RO Leoting: Allen Willis
RO Regensburg: Eduard Garrison
RO Degendorf: John Groeley
RO Wolfsheim: H. P. Thomsen
RO Vilsbiburg: Harry Mullin
RO Vohenstrau: Carlson Parker
RO Rottenburg: George Stringer
RO Pfarrkirchen: Walter Sheets

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RO Nurenberg: Nathan Preston
RO Bayreuth: Donald Root
RO Coburg: Francis Lindman
RO Hof: Alexander Warshall
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RO Ausbad: Clarence Hulon
RO Erlangen: Noal Jacobs
RO Reut: Sherman Ehrlich
RO Nails: Rudolph Mendel
RO Kornach: Lynn Keck
RO Kulmbach: Thomas Jadroz
RO Pegnitz: William Bossemayer
RO Neustadt/Aisch: Gerald Bartz
RO Gunzenhausen: Yale Richmond
RO Rothenburg: Gerald Foley
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RO Eichstatt: Dana Waterman

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RO Aschenfels: Frank Rossborough
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RO Neustadt: Daniel Miller
RO Hofheim: Raymond Fogg
RO Kissingen: Herman Frankel
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RO Augsburg: Herbert Hart
RO Kaufbeuren: Theodore Zadra
RO Rombach: Joseph Montgomery
RO Schiltshofen: John Huston
RO Neuburg: James Johnston
RO Dillingen: William Pinney
RO Neu Ulm: Gordon Franklin
RO Illertissen: John Jonsen
RO Memmingen: Donald Angers
RO Fuessen: James Barka
RO Landsberg: Albert Frye

Land Commission Bremen

Land Commissioner, Capt. C. R. Jeffs (USN), Bremen
Deputy Land Commissioner & Executive Officer: Joseph L. Payette, Bremen

Administrative Office
Administrative Officer: R. L. R. Marshall, Bremen

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Chief, Finance Branch: William H. Goghring, Bremen
Chief, Industry Branch: Osborne Taylor, Bremen
Chief, Maritime Section: L. R. Smith, Bremen

Intelligence Division
Chief: D. Harksins, Bremen

Labor Affairs Division
Chief: W. E. Northey, Bremen

Legal Affairs Division
Land General Counsel: R. W. Johnson, Bremen
Assistant Counsel: R. M. Donnini, Bremen

Political Affairs Division
Chief: C. P. Oakes, Bremen

Public Affairs Division
Chief: Duncan MacBryde, Bremen
Chief, Cultural Exchange Branch: H. Y. Edwards, Bremen
Chief, Education & Cultural Relations Branch: James E. McDaniel, Bremen
Public Health & Welfare Adviser: John Wells, Bremen
Chief, Information Services Branch: Richard Akelrad, Bremen
Chief, Public Relations Branch: Howard Calkins, Bremen

NOVEMBER 1949
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RO Bremerhaven: Edward Morone, Bremerhaven

Land Commission Hesse
Land Commissioner: James R. Newman, Wiesbaden
Deputy Land Commissioner: Francis E. Sheahan, Wiesbaden

Administration Office
Administrative Officer: (Vacancy), Wiesbaden
Reports & Statistics Officer: Robert A. Irving, Wiesbaden

Economic Affairs Division
Chief, Industry Branch: Stanley H. Sisson, Wiesbaden
Chief, Food & Agriculture Branch: James Hathcock, Wiesbaden
Chief, Finance Branch: Donald Spigler

Intelligence Division
Chief: R. H. Cunningham, Wiesbaden

Labor Division
Chief: Glenn Garrett, Wiesbaden

Legal Affairs Division
Land General Counsel: Ernst Ansbach, Wiesbaden
Assistant Counsel: Stanley H. Gaines, Wiesbaden

Political Affairs Division
Chief, Dale Noble, Wiesbaden

Public Affairs Division
Chief, E. K. Neumann, Wiesbaden
Chief, Cultural Exchange Branch: Joseph A. Horne, Wiesbaden
Chief, Economic & Cultural Relations Branch: Leroy Vogel, Wiesbaden
Chief, Public Health & Welfare Branch: H. Bonning, Wiesbaden
Chief, Information Services Branch: Arthur Reef, Wiesbaden
Chief, Public Relations Branch: H. A. Rhodes, Wiesbaden

Field Operations Division
Director: Samuel R. Combs, Wiesbaden
Deputy Director: David Rosendale, Wiesbaden
RO Frankfurt: Harold P. Radigan
RO Frankfurt: Emil Jaillon
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RO Darmstadt: Robert A. Goeltz
RO Marburg: Charles S. Lloyd
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RO Bergstrasse: Charles F. Blackman
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RO Oberlahn and Dill: Robert B. Ruthman
RO Alsfeld and Lauterbach: Donald D. Muntz
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RO Hersfeld and Huenfeld: George P. Moore
RO Biedenkopf and Frankenberg: James P. Boyle
RO Waldeck and Wolschke: (Vacancy)
RO Wittenhausen: James A. Goodnight
RO Rothenburg and Melsungen: Franklin N. Grove
RO Eschwege: Foster E. Perry
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INFORMATION BULLETIN
NOVEMBER 1949
the third largest producer of rayon filament yarn; the second largest producer of rayon staple fiber, and her population used more rayon products than any other country. In western Germany, synthetics plants today are up to 80 percent of their capacity with an output of approximately 10,000 tons per month.

People quickly recognized the qualities to be found in rayon. Production spurted ahead ever since its discovery and many improvements have been made in its quality. World production in 1939 equaled that of wool and was more than 20 times that of silk.

ONE OF THE LARGEST, most modern rayon plants to be found in western Germany is a factory at Obernburg, on the Main river. The plant began operation in 1924. It was built in Obernburg because the Bavarian government recognized that this northern section of Bavaria, with the Spessart hills on one side and the Odenwald on the other, was an extremely poor region. Plots of land were small and the earth was not fertile. A large part of the male population emigrated each generation because opportunities for an improved standard of living did not exist.

The rayon factory brought prosperity to Obernburg. It drew workers from the whole region and now boasts better homes and a higher standard of living. Since the war, the company has made special efforts to improve conditions for the 1,400 expelled among its 3,500 workers. Through a program financed by the plant and the Bavarian government a project is underway which will give 179 families new homes. Other housing developments built before the war are kept in repair for plant employees.

The Obernburg plant turns out 30 tons of rayon yarn a day for textiles and tires, only 10 tons less than during the war. Although the demand for tire yarn has slackened, that for textile yarn has remained comparatively steady since 1946. Before the war, a large part of its yarn went into stockings whereas today only a small portion goes into rayon stockings produced in Württemberg.

Built on the banks of the Main river, the plant receives its raw materials mostly by barge. About 7,000 tons of coal per month come from the Ruhr region, wood pulp from German, Swedish, Canadian and Norwegian sources. Another raw material commonly used in the making of rayon, cotton linters — the short fibers tightly attached to cotton seeds — is imported from the United States and South American countries. A variety of chemicals also are needed.

THE OBERNBURG product goes to looms throughout western Germany. Approximately 35 percent of the materials used in the German textile industry are synthetics. In other countries only 20 percent is used. Usually German plants combine from 25 to 30 percent staple fiber with pure wool and spin them together into yarn. Cotton is also mixed with staple fiber while rayon and staple fiber are blended for certain shirts and coat linings.

There has developed, however, a strong domestic resistance to synthetics. During the Nazi regime Germans had to buy synthetics as the only textiles available. In the last war years and early postwar months poor synthetics were produced and incorrectly mixed with wool and cotton. At times they were not mixed at all. Shoddy merchandise resulted which did not wear well, shrank alarmingly or changed color.

Tired of unreliable materials, Germans strongly resist synthetics, although today they generally are being made from good raw materials and mixed in the proper proportions with cotton and wool. Designers of women's clothing find that although German women before the war bought about four dresses per year, they save their money today and buy only one to two dresses — and those must be in as pure material as the woman can afford. Designers report that today a store can sell a pure-material dress at around DM 150 quicker than a partly-synthetic one for DM 40.

BIGGEST STYLE CENTER for western Germany is Krefeld, near Düsseldorf, where collections are shown each fall and spring. Düsseldorf is becoming the fashion center for middle-priced collections. In the latest Düsseldorf show in which ap

in northern Bavaria has a modern program of employees, more than one-third of whom are ex-
the Bavarian government the plant directors workers (extreme right).

photos by M. Goellner, Frankfurt, and Holtmann, Stuttgart)
approximately 200 designers took part, Berlin models sold better than any others. German women remember the days when all the country turned to Berlin for leadership in designing. Many Berlin firms maintain branches in Hamburg.

Couturiers of the western zones believe even the seamstresses of Berlin are superior. Several send material to Berlin to be made into dresses which then go back to the West German designers.

Although the reputation continues, little else remains of the once-powerful clothing industry of Berlin. War wiped out most of the industry's buildings and machines. Transfer of plants and dismantling took their toll. In spite of these handicaps and the problems involved in four-power government, the industry maintained home workers and processed orders from all zones, keeping as many as 30,000 people employed. Until the end of 1948 West Berlin firms were able to obtain some textile raw materials from the eastern zone by concluding labor contracts. When these were cancelled in November 1948 the factories were almost entirely choked off from raw materials except for small lots from the western zones.

In the eastern sector of Berlin large clothing factories have been placed under trustee administration, some 23 of which have been amalgamated into an administrative company employing more than 3,500 workers. Large quantities of its output go into the making of uniforms for occupation troops and reparation deliveries.

With the ending of the blockade, West Berlin plants have found that their condition has grown steadily worse. The largest clothing plant in West Berlin, for example, finds that credits are not available with which to buy raw materials, and until these raw materials are forthcoming the plant cannot get on its feet again. The plant's assets still are "frozen" in an East sector bank. Several machines have been sold to pay employees. In 1947 the plant had 270 employees, today 80.

In their current desperate situation, plant managers estimate that if credits are not made available by the year's end the industry will go bankrupt and workers will leave the western sectors to find employment in the east sector. An estimated DM 20,000,000 ($4,760,000) is needed to give Berlin a chance to commence working again. Then raw materials could be bought and Berlin could integrate its production with the needs of Western Germany.

Integration is the goal sought by the entire textile industry of Western Germany. And toward it much progress is being made which eventually should lead to a balanced supply of products to fill both home and foreign demands. +END

Sorting (upper), weaving (center) and spinning (lower) wool in Bremen. (Photos by Byers)