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Example of Notes and a Summary for a Topic from an Article

**Notes**

* Before Factories, products were manufactured in homes on a small scale
  + Work done in cottages of workers
  + Those that spun thread in one set of cottages
  + Weaving in another set of cottages
* Steps in Process of Making Wool
  + Ssheared from sheep
  + Cleaned
  + Carded - brushed to separate fibers and combed to get all fibers parallel
  + Spun (usu. by girls - word “spinster” for unmarried woman comes from this)
  + Yarn woven into cloth (usu. by men)
  + EACH STEP IN PROCESS DONE IN SEPARATE COTTAGES
* Typical home within this system
  + Single room
  + With tools for work done there - carding brushes, spinning wheel, loom
  + Food cooked in same room
  + Ladder to bedrooms above in a loft
  + Window for light and air
* Good aspects of the system
  + Work at own speed
    - Take breaks when need to
    - Prepare meals when need to
  + Children are treated better
  + Someone is always home to look after the children
  + Windows could be opened
  + Tension minimal
  + Products often of high quality
    - Could take pride in your skill
* Weaknesses of the system
  + Production slow
  + Too little finished product produced
  + Time wasted in moving materials from cottage to cottage
  + Cannot take advantage of new source of power - the water wheel
  + Not well paid
* Because a growing population created a greater demand for products, needed a faster system of production
  + Factories
  + Larger coal mines
  + Huge shipping ports
  + Cities to bring together workers

**Summary**

Before factories were built beginning around 1800, products were manufactured in homes on a small scale’ Work was done in the homes (cottages) of workers, with each step done in a different place. For example one home might spin thread, and another home might weave the thread into cloth.

There are several steps done in the process of making cloth, and each of these steps would be done in a separate cottage. First the wool is shorn from the sheep. Then it is cleaned by being carded, meaning it is drawn back and forth between two flat brushes to separate the fibers and get all fibers parallel. Then it is spun, usually by girls in their home. (The word “spinster” for unmarried woman comes from this.) Finally the yarn woven into cloth, usu. by men.

A merchant would buy the wool after it is shorn from the sheep and take it to a house to be carded with the tools necessary to do this. At the end of the week, he would pick up any cleaned wool, drop of more raw wool and pay the worker at that home for the amount she had cleaned. Then he would take the cleaned wool to a house where a spinner lived and drop of the cleaned wool and a spinning wheel. He would return on Friday to pick-up the thread the women had spun and drop of more clean wool and pay her for the thread she had produced. Then he would take the thread to the home of a weaver and drop it off with a loom. He would return on Friday to pick up any finished cloth and drop off more thread and pay the weaver for the cloth he had produced. Thus it was called the Putting out system because all the material was “put out” to different homes. It was also called the Domestic System because “domestic means “at home. Finally it was called the Cottage System because the work was done in the cottages of the workers.

Typical home within this system would have a single room with tools for work done there: carding brushes, spinning wheel, loom. Food was cooked in same room, and there was a ladder to bedrooms above in a loft.

Some benefits to this system were that workers could work at their own speed, and so they could take breaks when they needed to and prepare and eat meals when they needed. Children are treated better than they were in factories, and someone was always home to look after the children. Windows could be opened. Tension was minimal, and products were often of high quality, so workers could take pride in their skill.

Some weaknesses of the system were that production was slow; too little finished product was produced. Time was wasted in moving materials from cottage to cottage. The homes could not take advantage of the new source of power - the water wheel. Finally the workers were not  well paid.

A growing population created a greater demand for products, so a faster system of production was needed. This led not only to factories but larger coal mines, huge shipping ports, and cities to bring together workers.