industry. There are no cocooneries in the region or in the State. Owing to the great number of laborers required and the difficulty in raising the white mulberry trees, it has been found impossible to compete with China, Japan and Italy where there is an abundance of cheap labor. Therefore nearly all the silk produced today comes from China and Japan.

The silk industry began here by using real silk alone and some mills even yet confine their entire operation to the silkworm product. Many, however, have substituted wholly or in part the manufactured material, long known as "artificial silk" but now termed "rayon."

Pennsylvania is the largest silk and rayon manufacturing State in the country, with over 500 weaving, throwing and hosiery mills within its boundaries. This industry is the third largest industry in the State, manufacturing about 65 percent of all the silk and 35 percent of all rayon consumed in the United States. There are about 250 mills in the Lehigh Valley (Northampton and neighboring counties) area, which is about half of the mills in the State. However, owing to the greater capacity of these mills, the Lehigh Valley makes about 75 percent of the total silk produced in Pennsylvania. Bethlehem and Easton rank high as silk-producing centers.

The principal reasons for the silk industry centering in the Lehigh Valley area and eastern Pennsylvania are steady, efficient labor, largely women, comparative freedom from labor troubles, cheap and reliable power, and proximity to New York where most of the raw silk is obtained, and the finished product is distributed.

Lumber and Lumber Products

The lumber industry started in the region about as early as any activity. Hewn logs were first used but it was not long until sawmills were built along the streams. Combination grist and sawmills were built in some localities.

The lower part of the Valley never produced much good lumber. At an early date pine logs from the region about or beyond Blue Mountain were floated down the Lehigh River for building houses in the lower part of the Valley. Great quantities of excellent pine lumber were cut in the region of White Haven and eastward. Scarcely any virgin timber remains and the second growth has yielded comparatively little lumber. The hardwoods have been cut and sawed into lumber but the entire production of local lumber is small in comparison with the quantity consumed. Manufacturers of wooden articles are varied. The furniture factories are most numerous.