

9

P R E F A C E.

At the time of the debates in the Legislature on the scheme of Ottawa preferences, then under consideration, the Government of India promised that a Report on the working of the whole scheme of these preferences would be submitted to Committees of the Assembly and of the Council of State. The Report which follows has been compiled in fulfilment of this promise. It relates mainly to the fiscal year 1933-34, but also touches on the periods from 1st January 1933 to 31st March 1933, so far as the preferences granted by India are concerned, and from March 1932 to 31st March 1933 for the preferences granted by the United Kingdom to India by the Import Duties Act of 1932 in the former country. Altogether the Report consists of four chapters and a number of appendices. The first chapter examines the working of the preferences granted on Indian exports when imported into the United Kingdom. Correspondingly the second chapter examines the working of the preferences which India has granted on imports into India from the United Kingdom and certain British Colonies. The effect of the preferences granted by India on the market prices of imported articles which receive preferential treatment is discussed in the third chapter, while the fourth chapter relates to the representations received from Indian industries which are opposed to certain preferences given by India.

In the introductory paragraphs to each of the first three chapters some of the more important factors, which have to be kept in mind in any attempt to isolate the effects of the scheme of preferences on the trade of each country, have been set forth. Further, the limitations to which the conclusions are subject have also been indicated.

The statistical and other materials, on which this Report is based, have been collected and compiled mainly by the Statistical Research Branch of the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics. The statistics of import trade of the United Kingdom for 1933 as well as certain price statistics were very kindly collected and supplied by the Indian Trade Commissioner, London. From these materials an endeavour has been made to draw only such conclusions as appear justified and reasonable on an impartial examination of the facts. It must be understood, however, that the opinions and conclusions contained in the Report are not to be regarded as an expression of the final views of the Government of India on any particular point.

D. B. MEEK,

*Director-General of  
Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.*

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## CONTENTS.

	PAGES.
CHAPTER I.—Exports from India .. .. .	1—112
Introductory Note .. .. .	1
Wheat .. .. .	3
Rice .. .. .	6
Vegetable oils—	11—24
(i) Castor oil .. .. .	13
(ii) Linseed oil .. .. .	16
(iii) Coconut oil .. .. .	18
(iv) Groundnut oil .. .. .	19
(v) Rapeseed oil .. .. .	22
(vi) Sesamum oil .. .. .	23
Magnesium chloride .. .. .	24
Linseed .. .. .	24
Coffee .. .. .	30
Tea .. .. .	34
Coir yarn and coir mats and mattings .. .. .	39
Cotton yarn .. .. .	44
Cotton manufactures .. .. .	46
Hides and skins—	47—52
(i) Hides, tanned .. .. .	48
(ii) Skins, tanned .. .. .	50
Jute manufactures .. .. .	52
Oilseed cake .. .. .	54
Paraffin wax .. .. .	55
Spices .. .. .	57
Teak and other hardwoods .. .. .	61
Woollen carpets and rugs .. .. .	64
Bran and pollard and ricemeal and dust .. .. .	66
Tobacco—	67—71
(i) Unmanufactured .. .. .	68
(ii) Manufactured .. .. .	69

CONTENTS—*contd.*

	PAGE.
CHAPTER I.—Exports from India— <i>contd.</i>	
Castor seed .. .. .	71
Magnesite .. .. .	73
Sandalwood oil .. .. .	74
Granite setts and kerbs .. .. .	75
Groundnuts .. .. .	75
Lead .. .. .	78
Lac .. .. .	82
Myrobalans .. .. .	85
Broken rice .. .. .	88
Mica .. .. .	89
Indian hemp .. .. .	90
Fruits and vegetables—	93—95
(i) Fresh .. .. .	93
(ii) Dried, salted or preserved .. .. .	94
Iron and steel .. .. .	95
Perfumery .. .. .	95
Beans .. .. .	96
Apparel .. .. .	97
Boots and shoes .. .. .	97
Brass, bronze, brassware and bronzeware .. .. .	98
Copper and copperware .. .. .	99
Fishbaws and sharkfins .. .. .	100
Unscheduled articles—	100—104
(i) Barley .. .. .	101
(ii) Pulses .. .. .	102
(iii) Miscellaneous foodgrains .. .. .	102
(iv) Manures and bones .. .. .	102
(v) Goat skins, raw .. .. .	103
Raw cotton .. .. .	104
Iron and steel (Supplementary Agreement) .. .. .	108—112
(i) Pig iron .. .. .	109
(ii) Steel bars .. .. .	110
CHAPTER II.—Imports into India .. .. .	113—144
Introductory Note .. .. .	113

CONTENTS—*contd.*

	PAGE.
<b>CHAPTER II.—Imports into India—<i>contd.</i></b>	
Apparel .. .. .	117
Arms, ammunition .. .. .	118
Asbestos manufactures .. .. .	119
Boots and shoes—all leather .. .. .	119
Brushes .. .. .	120
Building and engineering materials other than iron, steel or wood .. .. .	121
Buttons, metal .. .. .	122
Chemicals and chemical preparations (excluding chemical manures and medicines) .. .. .	122
Cordage and rope of vegetable fibre .. .. .	123
Cork manufactures .. .. .	123
Cutlery other than pruning knives .. .. .	123
Drugs and medicines .. .. .	124
Earthenware and porcelain .. .. .	124
Furniture and cabinetware .. .. .	124
Glue .. .. .	125
Hardware excluding cutlery and electroplated ware .. .. .	125
Instruments, apparatus and appliances and parts thereof .. .. .	126
Leather .. .. .	127
Liquors .. .. .	127
Machinery and millwork .. .. .	128
Aluminium, wrought .. .. .	129
Brass, bronze and similar alloys, wrought .. .. .	130
Copper, wrought .. .. .	130
German silver including nickel silver .. .. .	131
Lead, wrought (excluding sheets for tea chests) .. .. .	131
Zinc, wrought .. .. .	131
Oils .. .. .	132
Oil cloth and floor-cloth .. .. .	133
Packing—engine and boiler—of all kinds (excluding asbestos) .. .. .	133
Paints and colours .. .. .	134
Paper and pasteboard— .. .. .	134—135
(i) Paper .. .. .	134
(ii) Pasteboard, millboard and cardboard of all kinds (other than strawboard) .. .. .	135
Provisions .. .. .	135
Rubber manufactures .. .. .	135
Smokers' requisites .. .. .	137
Toilet soap .. .. .	137

CONTENTS—*contd.*

	PAGE.
<b>CHAPTER II.—Imports into India—<i>concl'd.</i></b>	
Stationery, excluding paper .. .. .	138
Haberdashery and millinery .. .. .	139
Woollen manufactures .. .. .	139
Toilet requisites .. .. .	140
Toys and requisites for games and sports .. .. .	141
Umbrellas and umbrella fittings .. .. .	141
Motor cars .. .. .	142
Motor omnibuses, etc. .. .. .	143
Cycles, other than motor cycles, and parts thereof and accessories .. .. .	143
Carriages and carts not mechanically propelled (excluding railway carriages, trucks, etc.) .. .. .	144
Parts of carriages and carts, excluding rubber tyres .. .. .	144
Preferences granted by India to non-self-governing colonies .. .. .	144
<b>CHAPTER III.—Prices of Imports in India—</b> .. .. . 145—211	
Introductory Note .. .. .	145
Statutory No.—	
162—Fruits and vegetables, all sorts .. .. .	152
163—Cocoa and chocolate .. .. .	153
164—Coffee, canned or bottled .. .. .	153
165—Fish, canned .. .. .	154
166—Fruit juices .. .. .	155
167—Fruits and vegetables, canned or bottled .. .. .	156
168—Milk, condensed or preserved including milk cream .. .. .	157
169—Sago (excluding sagoflour) .. .. .	158
170—Canned or bottled provisions, not otherwise specified .. .. .	158
171—Gums, Arabic, Benjamin, etc. .. .. .	159
172—Natural essential oils, etc. .. .. .	159
173—Natural essential oils, all sorts not otherwise specified .. .. .	160
174—Essential oil, synthetic .. .. .	160
175—Fish oil, including whale oil .. .. .	161
176—Oilseeds, non-essential, all sorts .. .. .	161
179—Ivory, unmanufactured .. .. .	161
180—Apparel .. .. .	162
181—Chemicals, drugs and medicines, all sorts .. .. .	163
182—Carriages and carts, etc. .. .. .	165
183—Cutlery, all sorts .. .. .	166
184—Domestic refrigerators .. .. .	166
185—Hardware, ironmongery, etc. .. .. .	167

CONTENTS—*contd.*

	PAGE.
CHAPTER III.—Prices of Imports in India— <i>contd.</i>	
Statutory No.—	
186—Electrical instruments, apparatus, etc. . . . .	168
187—Instruments, apparatus, etc., all sorts, other than electrical . . . . .	169
188—Cutch and gambier, all sorts . . . . .	170
189—Paints, colours and painters' materials, all sorts . . . . .	171
191—Earthenware, china and porcelain, all sorts . . . . .	172
192—Furniture and cabinetware . . . . .	173
193—Skins, tanned or dressed, etc. . . . .	173
194—Machinery and component parts thereof . . . . .	173
195—All sorts of iron and steel and manufactures thereof . . . . .	174
196—Metals and manufactures thereof— . . . . .	.. 175—176
(a) Aluminium—circles, sheets and other manufactures . . . . .	174
(b) Brass, bronze and similar alloys . . . . .	175
(c) Copper, wrought and manufactures of copper . . . . .	175
(d) German silver including nickel silver . . . . .	176
(e) Lead wrought and manufactures . . . . .	176
(f) Zinc or spelter or manufactures . . . . .	176
197—Paper including chrome, marble, flint, etc. . . . .	177
198—Haberdashery and millinery, all sorts . . . . .	178
199—Woolen yarn for weaving and knitting wool . . . . .	178
200—Asbestos manufactures . . . . .	179
201—Brushes, all sorts . . . . .	180
202—Building and engineering materials, all sorts, not of iron, etc. . . . .	180
203—Buttons, metal . . . . .	181
204—Coir fibre, coir yarn and mats and mattings . . . . .	181
205—Cordage, rope, etc. . . . .	182
206—Cork manufactures . . . . .	182
207—Glue all sorts other than clarified liquid glue . . . . .	183
208—Oil-cloth and floor-cloth . . . . .	183
209—Packing—engine and boiler—all sorts . . . . .	184
210—Rubber tyres and tubes and other manufactures, etc. . . . .	184
211—Toilet requisites . . . . .	185
212—Umbrellas including parasols and sunshades and fittings thereof . . . . .	186
213—Confectionery . . . . .	186
214—Fish, salted, dry . . . . .	187
215—Ale and beer . . . . .	187
216—Spirits . . . . .	189
217—Unground spices, not otherwise specified . . . . .	191
218—Unground spices, namely, chillies, ginger and mace . . . . .	192

CONTENTS—*contd.*

	PAGE.
CHAPTER III.—Prices of Imports in India— <i>contd.</i>	
Statutory No.—	
219—Tea .. .. .	192
222—Mineral oil which has a flashing point at or above 200°F, etc.	193
223—Vegetable oils, viz., coconut oil, linseed oil, etc. .. ..	194
224—Vegetable non-essential oils, not otherwise specified .. ..	194
225—Boots and shoes composed mainly of leather .. ..	195
226—Cartridge cases, filled and empty .. ..	196
227—Firearms, including gas and air-guns, etc. .. ..	197
228—Chemicals, viz., cadmium sulphide, cobalt oxide, selenium, uranium oxide and zinc oxide .. ..	197
229—Motor cars including taxicabs and aticles, etc. .. ..	198
230—Motor omnibuses, chassis of motor omnibuses, etc. .. ..	198
231—Cutlery, plated .. ..	199
232—Electric lighting bulbs .. ..	199
232-A—Gold or gold-plated pen-nibs .. ..	200
233—Musical instruments and parts thereof, all sorts .. ..	200
234—Wireless reception instruments, etc. .. ..	201
235—Iron alloys, etc. .. ..	202
236—Iron or steel, etc.— .. ..	202—205
(a) Anchors and cables .. ..	204
(b) Hoops and strips .. ..	204
(c) Nails and washers, not otherwise specified .. ..	204
(d) Pipes and tubes .. ..	204
(e) Barbed or stranded fencing wire and wire rope .. ..	204
(f) Expanded metal .. ..	204
(g) Steel cut tacks .. ..	205
237—Steel, angle and tees, if galvanised, etc.— .. ..	205—206
(a) Stainless steel sheets .. ..	206
(b) Steel angle or tees .. ..	206
(c) Steel bar and rod .. ..	206
(d) Steel bar and rod of an alloy .. ..	206
(e) Steel bar and rod of tub steel .. ..	206
(f) Steel bar and rod of bright steel shafting .. ..	206
(g) Steel bar and rod not over 7/16" diameter .. ..	206
(h) Steel bar and rod not over 7/16" side .. ..	206
238—Woollen carpets, floor-rugs, etc. .. ..	207
240—Cinematograph films, not exposed .. ..	207
241—Portland cement excluding white Portland cement .. ..	208
242—Soap, toilet .. ..	209

CONTENTS—*contd.*

<b>CHAPTER III.—Prices of Imports in India—<i>concl'd.</i></b>	
Statutory No.—	
243—Smokers' requisites excluding tobacco and matches .. .. .	209
244—Toys, games, playing cards, etc. .. .. .	210
245—Betelnuts .. .. .	211
<b>CHAPTER IV.—Representation by Indian Industries against the operation of the Ottawa Preferences .. .. .</b>	
	212—216
<b>APPENDIX I.—</b>	
(a) Table of preferences granted to India by the United Kingdom and the British Colonies—	
(i) United Kingdom .. .. .	217
(ii) Ceylon .. .. .	220
(iii) Federated Malay States .. .. .	222
(b) Table of preferences granted by India to the United Kingdom and the British Colonies—	
(i) United Kingdom .. .. .	223
(ii) British Colonies .. .. .	230
<b>APPENDIX II.—Exports from India to the United Kingdom—</b>	
(a) Preferential duties—Scheduled .. .. .	232
(b) Preferential duties—Unscheduled .. .. .	235
<b>APPENDIX III.—Exports from India to the British non-self-governing colonies—</b>	
(i) Ceylon .. .. .	236
(ii) Federated Malay States .. .. .	239
(iii) Straits Settlements .. .. .	241
(iv) Fiji .. .. .	241
(v) Seychelles .. .. .	242
(vi) Somaliland Protectorate .. .. .	243
(vii) Mauritius and Dependencies .. .. .	243
(viii) British West India Islands .. .. .	244
(ix) British Guiana .. .. .	245
(x) Cyprus .. .. .	245
(xi) Sierra Leone .. .. .	246
<b>APPENDIX IV.—Imports into India from the United Kingdom—</b>	
(a) Preferential duties—Scheduled .. .. .	248
(b) Differential duties .. .. .	252
<b>APPENDIX V.—Imports into India from British non-self-governing Colonies—</b>	
(i) Kenya Colony .. .. .	254
(ii) The Mandated Territory of Tanganyika .. .. .	254
(iii) Zanzibar and Pemba .. .. .	254
(iv) Ceylon .. .. .	255
(v) Federated Malay States .. .. .	256
(vi) Seychelles .. .. .	259



X

CONTENTS—*concl.*

	PAGE.
APPENDIX VI.—Position of non-self-governing Colonies in the import trade of British India in each commodity liable to preferential duty .. 257—261	257—261
APPENDIX VII.—Summary of trade enjoying preference .. .. .	262
APPENDIX VIII.—Representation from Mr. Anant Shivaji Desai and others	263
APPENDIX IX.—Letter from Messrs. Jamnadas Bros., Calcutta .. .. .	268
APPENDIX X.—Letter from Mr. Lallubhai Aminchand and others .. .. .	273