

Forty-second Issue]

ANNUAL STATEMENT
OF THE
SEA-BORNE
TRADE AND NAVIGATION
OF
BRITISH INDIA 47649
WITH THE
BRITISH EMPIRE 273
AND
FOREIGN COUNTRIES

IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1908, AND THE FOUR PRECEDING YEARS TO WHICH
ARE APPENDED THE ACCOUNTS OF THE TRADE OF THE FRENCH
AND PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS IN INDIA

Compiled in the Office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, India

VOLUME II

(ABSTRACT AND DETAILED TABLES OF TRADE AND SHIPPING WITH EACH COUNTRY AND
AT EACH PORT AND THE TABLES RELATING TO THE TRADE OF THE
FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS IN INDIA)



CALCUTTA
SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA
1908

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Nature of the Trade Recorded

The trade dealt with in these Accounts is the trade registered at British Indian ports between these ports and Foreign countries. The trade of British Indian ports with one another and with Indian ports not British is separately registered and shewn in the volume of Statistics of the Coasting Trade. The foreign trade of ports in Native States is not recorded; owing to the absence of large harbours suitable for ocean-going steamers and to the prohibition of direct transshipment at British ports, the total amount is small. The trade of the French and Portuguese possessions in India is recorded in separate sets of tables in Vol. II, the trade of the latter being for the year ending 30th June 1907.

Explanation of Imports and Exports

The accounts of both imports and exports are exclusive of foreign merchandise transhipped at ports in India. Indian ports are not transshipment centres for foreign countries to any considerable extent and the trade returns take no account of transshipments. The import tables record the quantity and value of goods landed whether they are intended for home consumption, bonding, or re-exportation. Imports and exports from and to foreign countries by parcel post are included, but with certain exceptions the contents of foreign registered letters received and despatched are not included. Imports and exports of gold and silver coin and bullion are recorded separately and are not included in the figures of merchandise. Imports and exports of Government stores are also dealt with separately.

Quantities and Values

The statements of both quantities and values are based on the declarations of importers and exporters in Bills of Entry and Shipping Bills as subsequently checked by the Customs Officials. The quantity of goods imported and exported is recorded so far as it is possible to do so by weight, but in certain cases number, gallons, or yards is the denomination employed. When weight is the prescribed denomination different units (tons, cwt, lb, and oz.) are specified according to the nature of the various articles and trade practice. The weight recorded is the net weight of the goods, excluding the weight of the covers or receptacles in which the goods are packed. According to the provisions of the Indian Sea Customs Act, the values of goods imported or exported represent:—

- (a) the wholesale cash price, less trade discount, for which goods of the like kind and quality are sold, or are capable of being sold, at the time and place of importation or exportation, as the case may be, without any abatement or deduction whatever, except (in the case of goods imported) of the amount of the duties payable on the importation thereof; or
- (b) where such price is not ascertainable, the cost at which goods of the like kind and quality could be delivered at such place without any abatement or deduction except as aforesaid.

The Classification of the Trade by Countries

Imports are classified according to the countries whence they were shipped direct to India. In the case of transshipment, the goods are credited to the place of transshipment and not the original port of despatch, except in the case of goods received on a through Bill of Lading, which are ordinarily assigned to the country containing the port at which the Bill of Lading was given. Through Bills of Lading, however, are by no means generally granted.

Exports are ordinarily credited to the country containing the port of destination as declared by the exporters in the Shipping Bills, whether carried there direct or after transshipment.

Thus goods made in France and shipped to India from a port in the United Kingdom will ordinarily be credited to the United Kingdom and not to France, and much of the trade shown as to or from Holland and Belgium is in reality trade with Germany. The distribution of the trade among Eastern countries is, however, far more imperfect; for most of the large trade with Hongkong is in reality trade with China, and to a less extent with Japan, the Philippines, and America. A large portion of the trade assigned to the Straits Settlements is really trade with the Far East. Colombo (Ceylon) and Aden are also *entrepôts* of trade, and a considerable proportion of the goods despatched to or received from those ports represents transit trade.

In all tables where trade is shown according to countries, the countries included in the British Empire have been grouped separately from Foreign countries.

Arrangement of the Tables

In the tables contained in Volume I articles of trade are grouped under the following main heads:—

- I. Animals, living.
- II. Articles of Food and Drink.
- III. Metals and Manufactures of Metals.
- IV. Chemicals, Drugs, Medicines and Narcotics, Dyeing and Tanning Materials.
- V. Oils.
- VI. Raw Materials and unmanufactured Articles.
- VII. Articles Manufactured and partly Manufactured.

The sub-heads and items specified under sub-heads are in alphabetical order. A complete list of all the items specified is attached to this note.

The province of Eastern Bengal and Assam was created in October 1905, but the trade returns did not differentiate that province from Bengal proper until April 1906. Consequently, for years prior to 1906-07, the trade of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, which is really the trade of the port of Chittagong, is included with that of Bengal.

Volume I. The trade in each article with each country is recorded separately when its value is Rs. 1,000 or more. If the value of the trade with any country in any particular article is less than Rs. 1,000 it is generally grouped under one of the heads—"Other British Possessions" or "Other Foreign Countries." In the present volume for the first time a separate record is kept of the trade of the "Ports on the Atlantic" and "Ports on the Pacific" under Canada and United States of America; "Northern" and "Southern" Ports under Russia; "Free" and "Other" Ports under Denmark, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Roumania; "Ports in the Levant and Black Sea" and "Ports in the Persian Gulf" under Turkey, Asiatic; "Muscat" and "Arabian Ports other than Muscat" under Arabia; and also of each of the sub-divisions of Australia and of certain countries in Africa. The minimum of Rs. 1,000 has not been observed in the case of these countries and sub-divisions.

Continents and countries have been re-arranged and a complete list of all the countries the trade with which is separately recorded is attached to this note.

Volume II. In table No. 8, the list of articles follows the classification adopted in the tariff schedules, in tables Nos. 10, 11 and 12, articles are arranged in alphabetical order, and in tables Nos. 20 and 22, articles are grouped under the seven main heads. In all the tables the countries included in the British Empire have been grouped separately from Foreign countries excepting in tables Nos. 4, 21, and 22 where geographical arrangement within the Continent is followed.

The term "Indian merchandise" comprises all goods which are the growth, produce or manufacture of India. Indian merchandise is distinguished from British or Foreign merchandise in the declaration of shippers made in the shipping bills from which trade statistics are compiled.