TABLES

RELATING TO THE

TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA

WITH

BRITISH POSSESSIONS AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES,

1899-00 to 1903-04.

Presented to both Kouses of Parliament by Command of Mis Majesty.



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1905.

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

The following tables are an abstract of the Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India with Foreign Countries for 1903-04 issued in India in two volumes. Values are expressed in pounds at the rate of 15 rupees to £1, this rate having been maintained since January, 1898, with but slight variation.

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 Imports include all articles landed, whether they are intended for home consumption, bonding, or re-export.

The returns of Imports and Exports are exclusive of Foreign Merchandise transhipped at ports in India. The trade returns take no account of transhipments.

For the purpose of levying import duties the Government of India fixes tariff values of goods subject to such duties. These values are revised from time to time.

The Imports are classified according to the countries whence they were shipped direct to India, as declared by the importers in the bills of entry, and not according to their prime origin. Thus goods from Switzerland, which has no seaboard, and is not named in the returns, are credited to the countries from which they are shipped. Similarly, Exports are, as a rule, credited to the country of destination, as declared by the exporters in the shipping bills, and not the ultimate destination. Special mention should be made of the large trade with Hong Kong, most of which is trade with China, though some of it is with Japan, the Philippines, and the Pacific Coast of America. A large portion of the trade with the Straits Settlements is really trade with the Far East. Colombo (Ceylon) and Aden are also entrepots of trade, and a considerable proportion of the goods despatched to, or received from, these ports represents transit trade. It is probable that much of the trade shown as to or from, Holland and Belgium, is in reality trade with The Exports to Egypt are not all retained by that country, but consist to a large extent of rice, wheat, &c., consigned to Port Said to await orders for delivery in ports west of Suez. In 1903-4 information was obtained from exporters as to the destination of goods thus consigned for orders, with the result that the Exports to Egypt appear very much smaller than in previous years.

^{*} The volumes can be obtained in this country from the Agents for the sale of Indian Government Publications. In these volumes values are given in rupees.

CONTENTS.

	TABLES	RELATING	TO	THE	TRA	DE	OF	\mathbf{BR}	ITI	SH	IN	DIA.	•
No. o Table													Pag
1	TOTAL TRADE	: Value	-		•	-	•		•	•	-	-	. 4
2	PRIVATE MERC	CHANDISE: Princip	al Coun	tries: I	mporte	g .		-			-	-	- 5
3			1)	F	Се-Ехро	orte		_	-	-	·-	-	- 6
4		-	"		Exports		-	-	_	-		-	- 7
5		Princip	al Artic	eles: Im	ports:	Total	Quar	ıtity	•	-	1		- 8
6			17		- ,,		Valu	-	-		-		- 9
7			97	Re	-Expor	ts: To	otal Q	uanti	ty	_	-	-	- 22
8			**		"			alue	٠.		-	-	- 23
9			"	Ex	ports:	Total	Quan	tity	•	-	-	-	28
10			37		- ,,	"	Valu	-	-	-	-	-	. 29
11		Article	s and C	ountries			Quant	ity a	nd V	alue	-		36
12			"		_	Export		,,			_		- 69
13			"			orts:		"	-		-	-	- 77
14	GOVERNMENT	STORES: Imports	-				-	-	-			-	- 103
15		Exports	(includi	ng Re-E	xports) -	_	-		-	-		· 105
16	TRADE WITH	PRINCIPAL COUNT	•	-	-		al Art	icles :	Qua	ntitie	8 -	_	- 106
17				"	•	-	13		Val		-	-	- 107
18	TREASURE: In	nports from differe	nt Coun	tries -	•	-	-	-	-	-			- 134
19		escription of Impo			_•	•							- 135
20		xports to different		ies -			-	-	-		-		· 136
21	D	escription of Expo	rts			_	•.				-	-	- 137
22		D PORTS : Distrib		Trade	in Priv	ate M	ercha	ndise	-	-	-	_	138
23		r: Gross amount o									-	-	139
24		ssels entered and c								1	-		- 140
25		, ,,	•	"	,					and in	n Ball	last	- ,,
26	, ,			,,		Nation	nalitie	8	٠.	-	-		- 141
27		, entered, distin	nguishin	g Coun	tries	-	-	-			-	-	- 142
28	,	alaarad	11	,,			•	-	-	-		-	- 143
29	,	built at India	n Ports	-		-	_	-	•			-	- 144
30	,	Ct magistana	d at Ind	lian Por	ts -	-	-			-	-	-	- ,,
31		Value of Register				rts, di	stingu	ishin	g Cot	ıntrie	s, &c.		- 145
	ENDIX A.—Cu		-		-	-	•	-	•	-		•	- 146
	ENDIX B.—TRA		•		-	•	-		•	٠	-		- 157
ΙN	dia Office,		•			нон	RACE	WA	LPC	LE,			
114	7 April 19	905.					Ass	istant	Und	ler Se	creta	ry of	State.