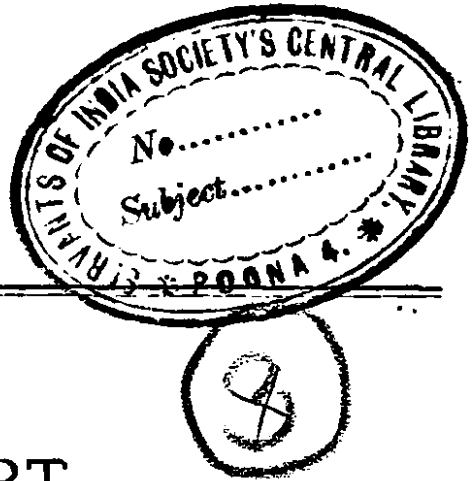


OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.



REPORT
on the work of the
INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER
during 1933-34.

By
Sir H. A. F. LINDSAY, K.C.I.E., C.B.E., I.C.S.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

No. T. 90467.

INDIA HOUSE, ALDWYCH,

LONDON, W.C.2.

13th June, 1934.

*From: The High Commissioner for India,
London.*

*To: The Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Commerce,
Simla, India.*

SIR,

I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, the report prepared by the Indian Trade Commissioner in London on the work of his Department during the year ended 31st March, 1934.

2. In his report of the previous year, Sir Harry Lindsay attempted to estimate the first-fruits of the Ottawa agreement between the United Kingdom and India. In the present report he has continued his estimate of these results and has been able to show that, in some lines of trade at any rate, a considerable advance has been made. This survey of the purchases of Indian raw materials and manufactured products by the United Kingdom has been correlated with general observations on modern trade tendencies, with special reference to the progress of scientific methods and their effect on the disastrous gap still noticeable between the prices which the agricultural producer secures and the prices which have to be paid for manufactured goods.

3. Special attention has been paid in this report to the efforts now being made by various Governments of the British Commonwealth to ensure co-operation, where this is possible, in the fields of economic and agricultural research. In Sir B. N. Mitra's opinion, such co-operation is rendered all the more necessary by the dissolution of the Empire Marketing Board, which occurred during the year under review.

4. In the chapter on Committees and Conferences, Sir Harry Lindsay describes the principal subjects which came up for discussion at the World Monetary and Economic Conference which was held during June and July, 1933. Although critics have expressed themselves as disappointed at the failure of this Conference to reach agreed results, yet there have been indications of practical results in industrial circles, particularly in the direction of schemes of control whereby attempts are made to correlate the production with the consumption of staple products in world markets. There is thus a close connection to be observed between the brief account given of the World Economic Conference in Chapter VIII and the observations offered both by the Indian Trade

Commissioner and by the Minerals Adviser to the High Commissioner in Chapters I and VI on the subject of industrial "planning."

5. Appendix E will bring home to readers in the United Kingdom the main outline of the programme of economic enquiry and research which is already well known in India and which is summarised in a resolution of the Government of India on the results of discussions at the Provincial Economic Conference held at Delhi in April, 1934. In the eleventh paragraph of that resolution (Appendix E to this report), the Government of India record that they have decided "actively to resume the programme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in foreign countries which had been temporarily suspended as part of the economy campaign." The High Commissioner is glad to take this opportunity of recording that Mr. M. R. Ahuja will shortly come to London for four months' training in his office prior to opening a new office of Indian Trade Commissioner at Milan. Like the Indian Trade Commissioners stationed at London and Hamburg, the Indian Trade Commissioner, Milan, will work under the High Commissioner's direct control.

6. It is a source of much gratification to the High Commissioner that during the course of the year the Indian Trade Commissioner received the honour of a Knight Commandership of the Indian Empire to mark the continued excellence of his work. That work has of recent years increased both in volume and complexity, and Sir Harry Lindsay's own enthusiasm has been consistently seconded by the devotion of his staff. Sir B. N. Mitra's thanks are also due to the official and non-official organisations and to the individuals too numerous to chronicle without whose freely-given aid and advice his Trade Department's efforts would be seriously handicapped.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. M. GREEN;

Deputy High Commissioner.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	7
CHAPTER I.—Modern Trade Tendencies	9
CHAPTER II.—Agricultural Products—Foodstuffs	27
CHAPTER III.—Agricultural Products—Industrial Materials	34
CHAPTER IV.—Indian Timbers	40
CHAPTER V.—Lac and Shellac	43
CHAPTER VI.—Indian Minerals	48
CHAPTER VII.—Trade Publicity	53
CHAPTER VIII.—Committees and Conferences	67
CHAPTER IX.—Staff and Acknowledgments	73
APPENDIX A.—Range of Prices of Staple Indian Commodities in the United Kingdom during the last three years	76
APPENDIX B.—Officers of the Trade Department of the High Commissioner for India serving on Empire and Trade Committees in the United Kingdom, March, 1934	77
APPENDIX C.—Chart to illustrate the organisation of the Trade Department	79
APPENDIX D.—Functions allotted to the Deputy Trade Commis- sioner, Advisers and other Officers and Staff of the Trade Department	80
APPENDIX E.—Extracts from Resolution of the Government of India on the results of discussions at the Pro- vincial Economic Conference held at Delhi from 3rd to the 6th April, 1934	81
APPENDIX F.—Report of Mr. E. C. Ryland, C.I.E., on the Bihar and Orissa Cottage Industries Stall at the British Industries Fair, 1934	85

ILLUSTRATIONS.

	<i>Facing Page</i>
Furniture of Indian Silvergrey wood (<i>Terminalia bialata</i>) presented by the Government of India to the League of Nations	16
Sports Goods Section, Indian Stand, British Industries Fair, 1934	24
Front Window of India House, displaying exhibits of Burma Teak	32
White City, 1934—The High Commissioner for India, Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, visits the Stand of the Lancashire Indian Cotton Committee at the British Industries Fair...	40
Indian Cotton Exhibit, Commercial Samples Room, India House	48
Bihar and Orissa Cottage Industries Stall, British Industries Fair, 1934	64