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Tenth Issue ]

FINANCIAL

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AND

*COMMERCIAL STATISTICS*

OF

BRITISH INDIA



*COMPILED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF STATISTICS*

CALCUTTA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA

1903

**CALCUTTA**  
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## PREFACE

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IN issuing this volume of Financial and Commercial Statistics attention is invited to the summary table which has been added with the object of showing the progress of the country during the last twenty years under the various heads of Statistical data. Since 1880-81, it will be observed, the consumption of salt has increased from 27 to 37 million maunds; the Savings bank deposits have quadrupled; the mileage of railways open has grown from 9,200 to 25,900; the letters, packets, and newspapers transmitted through the post office, as well as the revenue of the department, have more than doubled; and telegraphic messages are now four times as numerous as in 1880-81.

In Industry and Commerce it will be observed that cotton mills have grown from 58 to 201, and jute mills from 20 to 36 in the same period. The production of coal is seven times as great, while the output of petroleum has increased from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  (in 1885) to  $56\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons. Gold, of which the yield was formerly insignificant, now amounts to over half a million ounces. The export of Indian manufactured goods has grown from 60 to 263 million rupees in value, while the total trade, import and export, is now valued at 2,502 million rupees compared with 1,381 million rupees in 1880-81.

This is not the place to draw inferences from these facts; but they do not seem entirely in harmony with some recent theories of the gradual impoverishment of the country owing to the pressure of home charges, the ravages of agricultural distress, or other adverse influences.

*September 23rd, 1903.*

R. E. ENTHOVEN

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