

INDIA IN 1917-1918

FOREWORD.

IN this Report an attempt is made to outline some of the more important problems, political, social, and economic, which confront the Administration of India, as well as some of the methods by which these problems are being attacked. The period under review extends from April 1917 to December 1918, the months falling between the end of the financial year (March 31st) and the end of the calendar year (December 31st) having been included with the object of minimising the interval which necessarily elapses between the latest occurrences described in a Report and the date upon which that Report becomes available to the public.

Alike in the spheres of foreign politics, of constitutional reform, and of economic development, this period has been full of interest. It has seen the last desperate effort of the Central Powers: the threatened approach of the war to the borders of India: the rally of the country's resources to the Prime Minister's call. It has witnessed much constitutional activity, both preceding and following the declaration of August 20th, perhaps the most momentous announcement of policy ever made by Great Britain to India. It has seen considerable industrial and commercial activity, side by side with rising prices entailing distress to the poorer classes. Both on account of the magnitude of the changes which it has witnessed, and the importance of the events by which it has been characterised, it will probably rank among the most notable years in the history of the connection between Great Britain and India.

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