

INDIANS OVERSEAS

A STUDY IN ECONOMIC-SOCIOLOGY

BY

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PREFACE

WHEN the Hon'ble Mr. G. A. Natesan suggested to me a few months back that I should undertake to write a monograph on **INDIANS OVERSEAS** to serve the special needs of the layman both in India and in emigrant countries, I readily undertook the task as a matter of urgent importance. I was confident that my qualifications for bringing out a monograph of this kind are meagre, but I felt inclined to the view that a systematic survey of this type at the present time is a national duty.

Three years ago I had the opportunity of submitting a Memorandum on "The International Aspects of Indian Emigration" to the Imperial Conference in London. My researches in the archives of the India Office and Colonial Office have helped me considerably in my present work. In the same year, I assisted the Ceylon Indian

Deputation to the Colonial Office as Secretary, and had the opportunity of understanding the manifold detail connected with any such public activity. In 1931 I visited Ceylon and systematically studied the problems of Indian labour in that Colony. I am persuaded to believe that these and other facilities have given me the necessary "atmosphere" in which a study of the type attempted in the following pages should be worked out.

If I could focus the attention of the Government and the people of India, as also of Indian nationals abroad, on some of the urgent problems facing our countrymen overseas and help in their solution, I shall feel satisfied that my labours have not been in vain.

LANKA SUNDARAM.

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