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- ✓ 1. Conditions and Prospects of United Kingdom Trade in India, 1932-33. By Thomas M. Ainscough. 1933. p. 1-120.
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4. Idto., 1934-35. By D.B. Meek. 1935. pp.207-245.
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- ✓ 3 5. Review of the Trade of India, 1934-35. 1935. pp.246-455.
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- ✓ 4 6. Report on the Working of the Scheme of Preferences resulting from the Trade Agreement concluded at Ottawa between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, 1934-35. pp.456-634.
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- ✓ 5 7. Report on the Sea-Borne Trade of the Bombay Presidency, excluding Sind, 1934-35. pp.636-669.
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DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE

Conditions and Prospects of
United Kingdom Trade

IN
INDIA

1932-1933



(Revised to July, 1933)

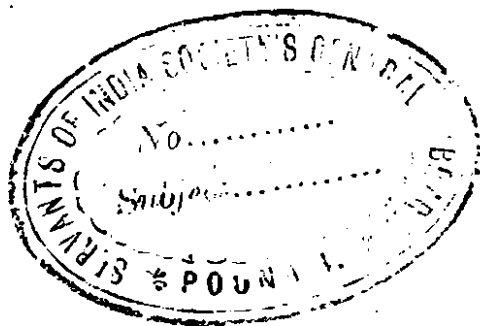
REPORT

BY

SIR THOMAS M. AINSCOUGH, C.B.E., M.Com., F.R.G.S.

H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon

(The previous Report covered the year 1930-31)



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DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE

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To foster British overseas trade, the Department controls the following services of Commercial Intelligence Officers:—

1. IN THE EMPIRE.

The Trade Commissioner and Imperial Trade Correspondent Services.

At the present time there are 17 Trade Commissioners' offices. These are situated, four in Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg); three in South Africa (Capetown, Durban, Johannesburg); two each in Australia (Sydney, Melbourne), India (Calcutta and Bombay—to cover also Ceylon), and British West Indies (Trinidad, Jamaica); and one each in New Zealand (Wellington), Irish Free State (Dublin), Malaya (Singapore) and British East Africa (Nairobi).

The Trade Commissioners have the assistance of Imperial Trade Correspondents at a number of important centres.

There are also Imperial Trade Correspondents in those parts of the Empire to which Trade Commissioners have not been appointed.

The Department is represented in India, Burma and Ceylon by Sir Thomas M. Ainscough, C.B.E., H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner, whose headquarters are at Calcutta; Mr. R. B. Willmot, H.M. Trade Commissioner, Calcutta; and Mr. W. D. Montgomery Clarke, H.M. Trade Commissioner, Bombay.

2. IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(a) The Commercial Diplomatic Service attached to the British Diplomatic Missions.

There are 35 Commercial Diplomatic posts situated in all the more important foreign markets of the world. The members of the Commercial Diplomatic Service are styled "Commercial Counsellors" in the highest grade, and "Commercial Secretaries" in the three lower grades. They are members of the staff of the British Embassy or Legation in which they serve.

The Commercial Diplomatic Officer has general supervision over the commercial work of the consular officers in his area, and with the co-operation of these two services, a complete network of Government commercial representatives is thrown over foreign countries.

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Particular attention has been given to the commercial side of consular work since the re-organisation of the service. In certain countries where no Commercial Diplomatic Officer is stationed the senior Consular Officer undertakes duties of a similar character.

Further information regarding the above services can be obtained on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

Members of United Kingdom firms are urged to call upon the Department's representative abroad when they visit an overseas country. It is also important that they should make a point of their representatives abroad keeping in close touch with the Department's officers.

NOTE.

It should be understood that the views expressed in annual reports are the views of the officers themselves, and are not necessarily in all respects those of the Department.

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COVERING DESPATCH

To the Right Honourable Walter Runciman, P.C., M.P., President of the Board of Trade.

Office of H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India,
"Fairlie House," Fairlie Place,
Calcutta.

July 21st, 1933.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward for your information a Report on the Conditions and Prospects of United Kingdom Trade in India during the Indian fiscal year 1932/33 revised to July, 1933.

The year has been an abnormal one in that the further heavy fall in India's exports was fortunately more than offset by the shipments of gold bullion, which enabled the international balance to be maintained, relieved distress among the cultivators and released a certain amount of purchasing power, which was expended in low-priced imported goods, mainly of Japanese origin.

The period under review is noteworthy if only for the reason that a definite check has been given to the downward trend, which had been almost continuous during the past twelve years of the United Kingdom share of India's imports. This satisfactory change became apparent before the epoch-making trade agreement between the two countries was concluded at Ottawa and ratified by the Government of India, in December, 1932. The beneficial effects of the preferential duties are already beginning to be realised and will become more marked as the economic depression lifts. I am hopeful that the general revival in trade, of which there are unmistakable signs, will be accompanied by a steady strengthening of the United Kingdom position in the import trade of her most valuable market. This, however, can only be accomplished by systematic and carefully planned effort on the part of United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants and a determination to follow up, with energy and imaginative foresight, the fiscal advantages which were secured for them at the Ottawa Conference.

Once again I have pleasure in acknowledging my indebtedness to the Officials of the Commerce, Industries and Finance Departments of the Government of India for their unfailing courtesy and assistance during a difficult year. Special thanks are due to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics and his staff, who have prepared the special tables embodied in the report, to the Chief Controller and staff of the Indian Stores Department and, above all, to the Collectors of Customs for their valuable help and co-operation which has always been so willingly rendered.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS M. AINSCOUGH,
H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India.

PREFATORY TABLES

NOTE.—*The author desires to express his indebtedness to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics for the particulars given in these tables.*

I.—TRADE DISTRIBUTION :- PRINCIPAL ARTICLES

TABLE SHOWING VARIATIONS IN THE SHARES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IN THE IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS, AS COMPARED WITH AVERAGES OF THE PRE-WAR AND WAR PERIODS.

IMPORTS (*in percentages*).

(Sea borne : exclusive of treasure and of imports on Government account).

	1909-14. <i>Average.</i>	1914-19. <i>Average.</i>	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
Cotton manufactures ...	36	35	15	15	20
Iron and Steel ...	7	6	7	5	4
Machinery ...	4	4	9	9	8
Sugar ...	9	10	7	5	3
Hardware ...	2	2	2	2	2
Mineral Oil ...	3	3	6	7	5
Silk ...	3	2	1	2	2
Other articles...	36	38	53	55	56

EXPORTS (*in percentages*).

(Sea borne : exclusive of treasure and of exports on Government account).

	1909-14. <i>Average.</i>	1914-19. <i>Average.</i>	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
Jute, raw and manufactures	19	25	20	21	24
Cotton, raw and manufactures ...	15	16	24	18	18
Food grains ...	21	17	14	13	12
Seeds ...	11	6	8	9	9
Tea ...	6	8	11	12	13
Hides and skins ...	7	8	2	2	2
Other articles...	21	20	21	25	22

II.—TRADE DISTRIBUTION:- PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES

TABLE SHOWING VARIATIONS IN THE SHARE OF THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES IN THE IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS, AS COMPARED WITH AVERAGES OF THE PRE-WAR AND WAR PERIODS.

IMPORTS (*in percentages*).

(Sea borne : exclusive of treasure and of imports on Government account).

	1909-14. <i>Average.</i>	1914-19. <i>Average.</i>	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
United Kingdom	63	56	37	36	37
Other parts of the British Empire	7	9	9	9	8
United States of America ...	3	7	9	10	9
Japan	2	10	9	11	16
Java	6	8	6	4	3
Germany	6	1	7	8	8
Other Foreign Countries ...	13	9	23	22	19

NOTE.—Imports from Germany during the quinquennium 1914-19, consisted mostly of receipts in the early part of the official year 1914-15, and the residue of cargoes of prize vessels imported during the war period.

EXPORTS* (*in percentages*).

(Sea borne : exclusive of treasure and of exports on Government account).

	1909-14. <i>Average.</i>	1914-19. <i>Average.</i>	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
United Kingdom	25	31	21	28	28
Other parts of the British Empire	16	21	14	17	18
United States of America ...	8	12	12	9	7
Japan	8	11	10	9	10
France	7	4	5	5	5
Germany	10	1	9	6	6
Other Foreign Countries ...	26	20	29	26	26

NOTE.—Exports to Germany during the quinquennium, 1914-19, were confined to the early part of the official year 1914-15.

* Including re-exports.

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY

Area—

	Sq. miles.
British India	1,096,171
Native States	712,508
Total	1,808,679

Population Census of 1931—

	271,526,933
British India	81,310,845
Native States	352,837,778
Total	352,837,778

Language for Commercial usage—English.

Monetary unit(s)—

3 pies = 1 pice.

4 pice = 1 anna.

16 annas = 1 rupee.

1 lakh = Rs. 1,00,000

(or £7,500 at 1s. 6d. to the rupee)

1 crore = 100 lakhs

(or £750,000 at 1s. 6d. to the rupee)

} e.g., Rs. 1,45,67,200 = 1 crore,
45 lakhs, 67,200 rupees.

Rate of Exchange (pre-war and current average quotations)—

Pre-war	1s. 4d.
Current. June 30th, 1933	1s. 6d.

Index Numbers—July, 1914 = 100.

Wholesale prices, Bombay. April, 1933 = 96.

Retail prices (food), Bombay Twelve Monthly

Average, 1932 = 104.

Cost of living (working class), Bombay April, 1933 = 101.

Principal weights and measures (other than ordinary metric or British) with British equivalents.

Weights and measures in India vary not only from district to district but also for different commodities within the same district, and though the railways have given a lead to the adoption of a uniform system, the country is so vast that the differences are likely to persist for many years to come. The principal units in all the scales of weights are the maund, seer and the tola, and the standard weights for each of these are, respectively, 82.28 lbs., 2.057 lbs. and 180 grains troy. The tola is the same weight as the rupee. In addition to these weights, there is the viss of 3.60 lbs. or 140 tolas and the candy of 500 to 840 lbs. It is not necessary for the purposes of this volume to detail any variation of the weight of the maund, except those which enter into the export trade. It will be sufficient to say that in any particular city there are probably as many different maunds as there are articles to weigh. The only varieties which need be considered in connection with the foreign trade are the Bengal or railway maund already specified, the factory maund of 74 lbs. 10 ozs. 11 drs., the Bombay maund of 28 lbs. and the Madras maund of 25 lbs. In October, 1913, the Government of India appointed a Committee to inquire into the whole question, and their majority report, which was presented in the following year, recommended the extension of the railway system based on the 180 grains tola, while the minority report advocated the adoption of the metric system. The views of the Provincial Governments on these reports

were obtained and the Government of India in their Resolution dated the 3rd January, 1922, declared themselves in favour of the ultimate adoption in India, excluding Burma, of a uniform system of weights based on the scale now in use on the railways. It has been decided that no new measures prescribing all-India measures of weight or capacity should be introduced at present but that the Local Government should take such executive action as they can to educate public opinion in favour of the standard maund and seer.

In the table below an attempt has been made to present within a small compass the principal weights and measures employed in the Indian export trade.

Principal weights and measures in use in the export trade.

Name of Unit. General.	British Imperial Value.
Tola	180 grains troy.
Seer (Standard or Railway or Indian) ...	2.057 lbs.
Seer (Factory)	1 lb. 13.5 oz.
Viss	3.60 lbs.
Maund (Standard or 40 seers Railway or Indian)	82 lbs. 4 oz. 9 dr.
Maund (Factory)	74 lbs. 10 oz. 11 dr.

NOTE.—For local variations consult "Handbook of Commercial Information for India," by C. W. E. Cotton, C.I.E., I.C.S., 2nd Edition, 1924.

Total Imports—1st April, 1932 to 31st March, 1933.

	Rs.
Merchandise	1,32,58,29,635
Government Stores	2,43,32,879
Treasure	2,99,13,188
Total	1,38,00,75,702

Principal Imports—Cotton manufactures, machinery, iron and steel, sugar, oils, raw cotton.

	Rs.
Imports of merchandise from United Kingdom ...	48,77,16,240
" " " Japan	20,50,17,602
" " " U.S.A.	11,24,52,807
" " " Germany	10,36,88,635

Total Exports.—(Indian merchandise). 1st April, 1932 to 31st March, 1933.

Rs. 1,32,43,56,937.

Principal Exports—Cotton, jute and jute manufactures, grain, pulse, tea and seeds.

	Rs.
Exports of Indian merchandise to United Kingdom	37,55,39,420
" " " U.S.A.	9,75,91,546
" " " Japan	13,94,98,066
" " " Germany	7,99,65,846
" " " France	7,34,98,496

Railway mileage.—31st March, 1932.

Railways owned by the State	45,486
Other railways	12,724
Total route mileage opened for traffic	58,210