AN OUTLINE OF INDIAN CURRENCY

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FOREWORD.

In this small book I have attempted to present a brief and comprehensible account of the Indian Currency Problem, from before the closing of the mints in 1893 to the end of 1926. The aim of the book is to treat the subject, not as a matter of politics, but as what it really is, namely, an interesting and instructive series of experiments in economics, lasting over more than thirty years.

In view of the recent excitement over the Committee's recommendation as to the ratio, a short chapter at the end deals with this point, but it must not be thought that this is the most important side of the question. If it appears at present to overshadow more weighty problems, it is because it affects directly, though temporarily, the pocket of every one in India, from the millionaire to the ryot, and consequently rouses feelings which are not similarly affected by the other recommendations.

It is perhaps a pity that its political aspect has obscured the fundamentally economic nature of the problem, but this at least has the wholesome effect of focusing public attention on an important matter that as a rule attracts all too little attention. And, though some of the arguments used in the heat of controversy will not bear close scrutiny, they do at least tend to the formation of a public opinion which is familiar with the literature of the problem and is keenly interested in some aspects of its practical working.

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