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DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

REPORT

ON

SOME ASPECTS OF BRITISH TRADE

IN

INDIA

*During the Fiscal Year, April 1st, 1923, to
March 31st, 1924. Revised to June, 1924*

BY

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LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses
Astral House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W. 1;
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DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION BOARD.

To foster British overseas trade, the Department has developed and 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 13 Trade Commissioners' offices. These are situated, four in Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg) ; two in South Africa (Johannesburg, Cape Town) ; two in Australia (Melbourne, Sydney) ; two in India (Calcutta and Bombay—to cover also Ceylon) ; and one each in New Zealand (Wellington), British East Africa (Nairobi) and British West Indies (Trinidad).

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

In various parts of the Empire in which at present there are no commissioners, there are correspondents with whom the Department deals direct.

The Department is represented in India by Mr. T. Ainscough, O.B.E., H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner ; Mr. W. D. Montgomery Clark, H.M. Trade Commissioner, Calcutta ; and Major R. W. Clarke, H.M. Trade Commissioner, Bombay.

2. IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

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

This service consists of between thirty and forty posts in all, and the officers of the service are stationed 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.

(b) The British Consular Service.

This service has been re-organised. Particular attention has been given to the commercial side of consular work.

Members of British 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.

A handbook giving fuller details of the overseas organization of the Department can be obtained on application at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

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 the views of the Department.

PREFATORY TABLES.

NOTE.—The author desires to express his indebtedness to the Director of 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*).

	1909-14. <i>Average.</i>	1914-19. <i>Average.</i>	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Cotton Manufactures ..	36	35	21	30	30
Iron and Steel	7	6	8	8	8
Machinery	4	4	13	10	8
Sugar	9	10	10	6	7
Railway Plant	4	5	7	5	5
Hardware	2	2	2	2	2
Mineral Oil	3	3	3	3	4
Silk	3	2	2	2	2
Other articles	32	33	34	34	34

EXPORTS (*in percentages*).

	1909-14. <i>Average.</i>	1914-19. <i>Average.</i>	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Jute, raw and manufac- tures	19	25	24	20	18
Cotton, raw and manufac- tures	15	16	19	29	32
Food-grains	21	17	5	13	15
Seeds	11	6	8	9	9
Tea	6	8	7	7	9
Hides and skins	7	8	12	4	4
Other articles	21	20	25	18	13

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*).

	1909-14. <i>Average.</i>	1914-19. <i>Average.</i>	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
United Kingdom	63	56	57	60	58
Other parts of the British Empire	7	9	10	7	7
United States of America	3	7	8	6	6
Japan	2	10	5	6	6
Java	6	8	9	6	6
Germany	6	1	3	5	5
Other Foreign Countries ..	13	9	8	10	12

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*).

	1909-14. <i>Average.</i>	1914-19. <i>Average.</i>	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
United Kingdom	25	31	20	23	25
Other parts of the British Empire	17	21	21	18	14
United States of America ..	7	12	10	11	9
Japan	7	11	16	13	14
France	7	4	4	5	5
Germany	10	1	7	7	7
Other Foreign countries ..	27	20	22	23	26

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

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