

Thirty-ninth Issue]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

ANNUAL STATEMENT

OF THE

*SEA-BORNE*

*TRADE AND NAVIGATION*

OF

BRITISH INDIA

WITH THE

BRITISH EMPIRE

AND

FOREIGN COUNTRIES

IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1905 AND THE FOUR PRECEDING YEARS

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*Compiled in the Office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence*

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VOLUME II.

(ABSTRACT AND DETAILED TABLES OF TRADE AND SHIPPING WITH EACH  
COUNTRY AND AT EACH PORT)



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1906

VOL. II  
CONTENTS

	NG. OF TABLE	PAGE.
<b>I.—ABSTRACT TABLES FOR OFFICIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1904-05—</b>		
<b>Imports of Private Merchandise and Treasure—</b>		
From each Country. Value ... ..	1	2
<b>Exports of Private Merchandise and Treasure—</b>		
<b>To each Country. Value—</b>		
(a) Total ... ..	2	4
(b) Foreign Merchandise } ... ..	3	6
(c) Indian Merchandise } ... ..		
<b>Share of each Province in the Imports and Exports of Merchandise and Treasure. Value—</b>		
Private trade ... ..	4	8
Government Stores and Treasure ... ..	5	9
<b>Trade of the Suez Canal. Value—</b>		
Of each Province ... ..	6	10
With each Country (1903-04 and 1904-05 only) ... ..	7	11
<b>Customs Duty. Gross amount collected—</b>		
At each Port in each Province ... ..	8	12
On Principal and other Articles imported ... ..	9	16
On Articles exported ... ..	10	19
<b>Drawbacks and Refunds. Amount—</b>		
On Principal and other Articles imported and exported ... ..	11	20
<b>Dutiable Articles of Imported Merchandise allowed Free of Duty. Quantity and Value</b> ... ..		
<b>Bonded Goods—</b>		
Principal Articles remaining in Bond. Quantity ... ..	12	27
<b>Imports and Exports of Treasure—</b>		
<b>Gold Coin and Bullion. Quantity and Value—</b>		
From and to each Country ... ..	14	29
Descriptions ... ..	15	30
<b>Silver Coin and Bullion. Quantity and Value—</b>		
From and to each Country ... ..	16	31
Descriptions ... ..	17	32
<b>Gold and Silver Coin and Bullion. Value—</b>		
<b>From and to each Country—</b>		
(a) Into and from British India ... ..	18	33
(b) Into and from each Province (1904-05 only) ... ..	19	34
Trade at each Port. Value ... ..	20	37
Trade of each Province with each Country. Value ... ..	21	46





<b>SHIPPING</b>											No. OF TABLE	PAGE
<b>I.—ABSTRACT TABLES FOR OFFICIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1904-05—</b>												
Vessels Entered and Cleared with Cargoes and in Ballast. Number and Tonnage—												
Into and from each Province	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	237
Navigation <i>via</i> the Suez Canal—												
Vessels entered and cleared. Number and Tonnage—												
(a) Into and from each Province	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	239
(b) From and to each Country (1903-04 and 1904-05 only)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	239
Trade with each Country—												
Vessels Entered with Cargoes and in Ballast. Number and Tonnage											4	240
" Cleared "	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	5	244
Nationality of Vessels—												
Vessels Entered with Cargoes and in Ballast. Number and Tonnage											6	248
" Cleared "	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	7	250
Shipping at each Port—												
Vessels Entered and Cleared. Number and Tonnage—												
(a) With Cargoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	252
(b) In Ballast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	270
<b>II.—DETAILED STATEMENT OF THE TRADE WITH EACH COUNTRY AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS—(1904-05)—</b>												
Vessels Entered and Cleared. Number and Tonnage—												
(a) With Cargoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	286
(b) In Ballast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	294
<b>III.—VESSELS BUILT (1900-01 TO 1904-05). Number and Tonnage—</b>												
At each Port	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	300
<b>IV.—VESSELS REGISTERED (1900-01 TO 1904-05). Number and Tonnage—</b>												
At each Port	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	304

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

### The Nature of the Trade Recorded

The trade dealt with in these Accounts is the trade registered at British Indian ports between these ports and Foreign countries. The trade of British Indian ports with one another and with Indian ports not British is separately registered and shewn in the volume of Statistics of the Coasting Trade. Separate publications are issued recording the foreign trade of the French and Portuguese Possessions in India. The foreign trade of ports in Native States is not recorded. This trade, however, is small owing to the absence of large harbours suitable for ocean-going steamers and to the prohibition of direct transshipment at British ports.

### Explanation of Imports and Exports

The Accounts of both imports and exports are exclusive of foreign merchandise transhipped at ports in India. Indian ports are not transshipment centres for foreign countries to any considerable extent and the trade returns take no account of transshipments. The import tables record the quantity and value of goods landed whether they are intended for home consumption, bonding, or re-exportation. Passengers' luggage which is not dutiable is not included in the imports, but dutiable articles in passengers' luggage are included. Imports and exports from and to foreign countries by parcel post are included, but with certain exceptions the contents of foreign registered letters received and despatched are not included. Imports and exports of gold and silver coin and bullion are recorded separately and are not included in the figures of merchandise. Imports and exports of Government stores are also dealt with separately.

### Quantities and Values

The statements of both quantities and values are based on the declarations of importers and exporters in Bills of Entry and Shipping Bills as subsequently checked by the Customs Officials. The quantity of goods imported and exported is recorded so far as it is possible to do so. In most cases the quantity is recorded by weight, though in certain instances the quantities are recorded by number or by gallons or yards. When weight is the prescribed denomination different units (tons, cwt, lb., and oz.) are specified according to the nature of the various articles and trade practice. The weight recorded is the net weight of the goods, *i.e.*, not including the weight of the covers or receptacles in which the goods are packed. According to the provisions of the Indian Sea Customs Act, the values of goods imported or exported represent:—

- (a) the wholesale cash price, less trade discount, for which goods of the like kind and quality are sold, or are capable of being sold, at the time and place of importation or exportation, as the case may be, without any abatement or deduction whatever, except (in the case of goods imported) of the amount of the duties payable on the importation thereof; or
- (b) where such price is not ascertainable, the cost at which goods of the like kind and quality could be delivered at such place without any abatement or deduction except as aforesaid.

### The Classification of the Trade by Countries

Imports are classified as received from the countries whence they were shipped direct to India. This, when transshipment takes place, means the place of transshipment and not the original port of despatch, except in the case of goods received on a through Bill of Lading. Goods received on a through Bill of Lading are ordinarily credited to the country containing the port at which the Bill of Lading was given. Through Bills of Lading, however, are by no means generally granted. Thus imports are not credited either to the country of production or to the country of original consignment, both of which differ from the country of direct shipment, in the case of merchandise which has its origin or is purchased in one country and is transhipped at the ports of other countries, or conveyed through other countries by rail for shipment to India.

Exports are ordinarily credited to the country containing the port of destination as declared by the exporters in the shipping bills, whether carried there direct or after transshipment.

Special mention must be made of exports to Egypt which until the year 1903-04 consisted to a large extent of rice, wheat, etc., consigned to Port Said to await orders for delivery in ports beyond the Canal. From 1903-04, however, exporters have been required to give information, as soon after shipment as it is obtainable, of the actual destination of these consignments, and as the result of the amended classification the recorded exports to Egypt were reduced by over £5 millions, equal to 85 per cent. The distribution of the exports among European countries is thus recorded with greater exactness, but it is still imperfect, and much of the trade shown as to or from Holland and Belgium is in reality trade with Germany. The distribution of the trade among Eastern countries is, however, far more imperfect; for most of the large trade with Hongkong is trade with China, though some of it is with Japan, the Philippines, and America. And a large portion of the trade assigned to the Straits Settlements is really trade with the Far East. Colombo (Ceylon) and Aden are also *entrepôts* of trade, and a considerable proportion of the goods despatched to or received from those ports represents transit trade.

#### Arrangement of the Tables

In the tables contained in Volume I articles of trade are grouped under the following main heads:—

- I. Animals living.
- II. Articles of Food and Drink.
- III. Metals and Manufactures of Metals.
- IV. Chemicals, Drugs, Medicines, Narcotics, Dyeing and Tanning Materials.
- V. Oils.
- VI. Raw Materials and unmanufactured Articles.
- VII. Articles Manufactured and partly Manufactured.

The sub-heads and items specified under sub-heads are in alphabetical order. A complete list of all the items specified is attached to this note.

In Volume I, the trade in each article with each country is recorded separately when its value is ₹1,000 or more. If the value of the trade with any country in any particular article is less than ₹1,000 it is grouped under one of the heads—"Other British Possessions" or "Other Foreign Countries." A complete list of all the countries the trade with which is separately recorded is attached to this note.

In Volume II, table No. 9, the list of articles follows the classification adopted in the tariff schedules. In tables Nos. 11, 12, 13 and 22, articles are arranged in alphabetical order.

The term "Indian merchandise" comprises all goods which are of the growth, produce or manufacture of India. Indian merchandise is distinguished from British or Foreign merchandise in the declaration of shippers made in the shipping bills from which trade statistics are compiled.