

EAST INDIA (TRADE).

TABLES

RELATING TO THE

TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA

WITH

BRITISH POSSESSIONS
AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1907-08 TO 1911-12.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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EXPLANATORY NOTE.

The following tables are an abstract of the Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India with Foreign Countries for 1911-12 issued in India in two volumes.* Values are expressed in pounds at the rate of 15 rupees to £1, this rate having been maintained since January 1898 with but slight variation.

The trade dealt with in these accounts is the trade registered at British Indian ports between these ports and foreign countries. The foreign trade of ports in Native States is not recorded as this trade is small owing to the absence of large harbours and to the prohibition of direct transshipment at British ports to Native States.

Foreign merchandise transhipped at Indian ports is excluded from the accounts of both imports and exports, as Indian ports are not transshipment centres for foreign countries to any considerable extent. The imports include goods landed, whether they are intended for home consumption, bonding or re-exportation, and such articles in passengers' luggage as are dutiable. Articles received from and despatched 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 Government stores are dealt with separately.

The figures represent the quantities and values declared by importers and exporters in Bills of Entry and Shipping Bills, as subsequently checked by the Customs Officials. The weight recorded is the net weight, *i.e.*, it does not include the weight of the covers or packing. 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.

For the purpose of levying import duties the Government of India fixes tariff values of goods subject to such duties. These values are revised from time to time.

Imports are classified as received from the countries whence they were *consigned* to British India, not as in the corresponding volume for 1910-11 and earlier years, as received from the countries whence they were shipped direct to India. The country of consignment is defined as "that from which the goods have come, whether by land and sea or by sea only, without interruption of transit save in the course of transshipment or transfer from one means of conveyance to another." Thus the countries whence goods are consigned are not in all cases the countries of actual origin of the goods, since goods produced in one country may be purchased by a firm in another country and thence despatched, after a longer or shorter interval, to India. In such a case the second country would be the country of consignment, to which the goods would be credited in these Accounts.

Exports are credited to the country of *final destination* as declared by the exporters in the Shipping Bills, whether that country possesses a sea-board or not, not as hitherto to the country containing the port of discharge as declared by the exporter in the Shipping Bills, whether carried there direct or after transshipment. The country of final destination is defined as "that to which goods exported from India are intended to pass, whether by sea and land or by sea only, without interruption of transit save in the course of transshipment or transfer from one means of conveyance to another." In the corresponding volume for 1910-11 and earlier years, exports destined for countries which possess no sea-board, such as Switzerland, were credited to the country in which the port of discharge was situated.

* The volumes can be obtained in this country from the Agents for the sale of Indian Government Publications.

