

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAY BOARD

Railways in India

Administration Report for the year

1920-21



VOLUME I
(REPORT)

SIMLA
GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS
1922

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- ✓ (2) Classified List and Distribution Return of Officers of all Indian Railways. Published half-yearly. Price Re. 1.
- ✓ (3) History of Indian Railways, constructed and in progress corrected up to 31st March 1918. Published quinquennially. Price Rs. 1-8.
- ✓ (4) History of Services of the Officers of the Engineer and Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways. Published yearly. Price Rs. 2-8.
- (5) Pocket Edition of the schedule of dimensions to be observed on all 5' 6", 3' 3½" and 2' 6" gauge railways in India. *Out of print, a new edition will be issued as soon as possible.*

TECHNICAL PAPERS.

- (6) Over 200 papers have been published by the Technical Section of the Railway Board's office. The papers comprise—
- (a) Original descriptions of Railway Works and studies of railway problems in India and elsewhere.
 - (b) Reprints of articles from Foreign Engineering Magazines.
 - (c) Reprints or abstracts of reports received by the Government of India on subjects connected with Railways.

A complete list of the papers can be obtained *gratis* from the Chief Engineer with the Railway Board, Simla.

The prices of the papers vary from Annas Four to Rupees Eight.

The books and papers can be bought from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, 8, Hastings Street, Calcutta.

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PREFACE.

IN presenting this report of the Administration of Railways for the year 1920-21, the Railway Board wish to draw attention to an important change from the procedure hitherto adopted. The reports for previous years have consisted of a general survey of the more important events of the year affecting the railway position in India supplemented by a volume of statistical information of working of the lines concerned. The whole publication, though containing matters of great interest to those who were in a position to weigh and appreciate the value of the results exhibited, was perhaps hardly suited as a medium for conveying to the public a true appreciation of the railway position in India and the important significance attaching to the statistical results of working.

2. With the growth of public interest in this matter the Railway Board have, therefore, considered it desirable to alter the form of the first volume so as to make it both a record of the principal events of the year and an explanatory medium of the existing position in the light of the results detailed in the succeeding volume. Each chapter of Volume I, therefore, corresponds to an appendix or group of appendices in Volume II quoted in the heading and includes a short explanation or survey of the existing position supplemented by a summary bringing together in a convenient form the main or more important facts to be deduced from the figures together with a brief reference to relevant events of the year under review.

3. Apart from this change there is one other new feature which may be mentioned. A short introductory chapter has been added giving a brief review of the outstanding facts of the trade, agricultural and shipping position on which railway working so greatly depends, and it is hoped that the facts therein exhibited will be of assistance to the student of railway working in assigning a true value to the results attained.

4. In the pocket inside the back cover of this volume will be found three maps :—

- (i) The special map referred to under the head "Open Line Improvements."
- (ii) A general map of India showing railways open and under construction on the 31st March 1921.
- (iii) A map of railway systems in India, Burma and Ceylon, showing each system in a distinctive colour, prepared by Mr. J. H. Trótt.*

* *Map of Railway Systems in India, Burma and Ceylon by Mr. J. H. Trótt.*—This additional map is included only in copies of the report used for official purposes. It may be obtained by the public, on payment, from Mr. J. H. Trótt, Aligarh, United Provinces, who holds the copyright.

Note on Indian Currency.

For the information of foreign readers of this report who are unaccustomed to the use of Indian currency and units, it may be mentioned that Rs. 1,00,000 is usually referred to colloquially as "a lakh of rupees." Similarly, 100 lakhs constitutes "a crore."

In previous reports when the standard rate of exchange was Rs. 15 to the pound sterling the lakh was equivalent to £6,666 and a crore to £666,666. With effect from the beginning of the official year 1920-21, as proposed by the Currency Commission the standard rate of exchange has been fixed at Rs. 10 to the pound sterling, and at this rate the "lakh" is the equivalent of £10,000 and the "crore" as 1 million sterling.

An anna is a 16th part of a rupee and a pie the 12th of an anna.

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