THE INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION OF AN INDIAN PROVINCE

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LONDON JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, W. 1906 phenomena of an Indian province as one whole. Many interesting studies of particular industrial problems may be found scattered about the official literature of the Government of India, but these are usually incidental to the consideration of a technical question, and cannot, in the form in which they were published, be placed in the hands of students. As far as I know, no attempt has yet been made to examine Indian industry from the point of view of the economist.

I have thought that this book might prove interesting to some European readers who desire to study the industrial organization of India for the purpose of comparative economics. In view of the possibility of having a few such readers, I have added some explanations which are superfluous to Indian students. European readers, on the other hand, will find some facts regarding European industry set forth with a detail which is unnecessary for them. Thus the book has, I fear, suffered from the attempt to address two different classes of readers at the same time.

It was my wish to have dated this book from the Aligarh College, in the prosperity of which I have been so deeply interested for the last seventeen years; but the duties of a member of the staff in a residential college left me little time for private work, and therefore, although I continued to collect material as long as I was in India, I was not able to put it together until I reached England.

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PREFACE

This book is intended primarily for Indian students. My experience has convinced me that in India the study of economics has a tendency to become undesirably abstract, because the industrial facts which are mentioned in English books to illustrate economic theories are mostly taken from European industry, and are, therefore, as remote from the experience of Indian students as the theories they are designed to illustrate. My object in this book has been to review the principal economic facts in the society with which Indian students are familiar, and to show the relation of those facts to the abstract economics which they read in their text-books. I have not hesitated to make copious extracts from official publications, because these are not generally accessible to students. Wherever possible, I have quoted the passages which I adduce as evidence textually, because I believe that the actual words of an original authority are more stimulating than any summary. The advantage which a student derives from extracting for himself the economic moral of a record is lost when the original is digested for him by an officious instructor.

I do not pretend to have anything fresh to say to experts upon such technical subjects as settlement, irrigation, famine relief, etc. My wish has been to insist upon these matters only so far as is necessary to show their economic bearing; that which is new in this book is the attempt to consider the economic

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