

RAILWAY RATES POLICY

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INDIAN RAILWAYS.

PREFACE

Transport is a vital factor in the material welfare of modern society. The structure of trade and industries in particular is determined by the efficiency and sufficiency of the transport facilities available. Of the different transport agencies, railroads have played an important part in determining the economic and social development of a country. The utility of a railroad system to the community depends largely upon the nature of the rate structure.

In the pages that follow, I have attempted to portray in broad relief the more important features of the Indian railway rates policy in the light of modern railway practice. It provides an introduction to the detailed study of "Railway Rates with special reference to Trade and Industries," which I published three years ago. I hope that the essay will provide a proper basis for an informed discussion of our rates policy. It is hardly necessary to reiterate that the railway rates policy is of great importance to this country at the present stage of its economic development, a period of industrial transition and economic re-birth. Rates policy will play an important part in shaping the industrial structure of India, more so because India is a sub-continent, where goods need means of transport, like those of canals and rivers, are relatively scarce. Hence there is an imperative need for a proper understanding and appreciation of the railroad rates policy.

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