

RAILWAYS IN MODERN INDIA

By the same Author :

**RAILWAY RATES IN RELATION TO TRADE AND
INDUSTRY IN INDIA**

LEATHER INDUSTRY : ITS TRANSPORT PROBLEM

KATHIAWAR PORTS

INDIAN RAILWAYS

RAILWAY RATES POLICY

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RAILWAYS IN MODERN INDIA

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TO
MY GURU
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CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	ix
I. THE PLACE OF RAILROAD TRANSPORT IN THE GENERAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM	1
II. EVOLUTION OF INDIAN RAILWAY SYSTEM AND FINANCE ..	46
✓ III. POST-WAR DEVELOPMENTS IN RAILROAD FINANCE ..	83
IV. GROWTH OF RAILWAY RATES POLICY IN INDIA	131
V. CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS	191
VI. RAILROAD REGULATION: RAILWAY BOARD	222
VII. RAILROAD REGULATION: RAILWAY RATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE	236
✓ VIII. CO-ORDINATION OF RAIL AND ROAD TRANSPORT	264
INDEX	283

PREFACE

THE STUDY of modern commercial policy shows that present political and economic chaos in which the world finds itself is largely due to the faulty economic policy adopted by the leading industrial countries. They developed their industrial structure with the aid of aggressive protectionist economic policy and have tried to preserve their economic supremacy by obstructing the industrial development of backward countries. Further, they have erected Imperial economic blocks. Economic Imperialism has divided the advanced countries into two blocks : "haves" and "have-nots". The policy of economic 'autarchy' was, therefore, adopted by the countries without, or with inadequate, Imperial possessions in order to make their national economic structure invulnerable from external political and economic forces and aid the reorganisation of their industries on the war basis.

It must be admitted that reasoned nationalism can alone provide a firm basis for internationalism. Rational nationalism must therefore receive due recognition. Advanced countries must be prepared to give up their aggressive nationalism and help the backward countries to build up their industrial system on most efficient lines. International economic relations based on reciprocity between all countries, which have been permitted full latitude to build up their economic system on sound lines, will alone secure most efficient utilisation of the economic resources of the world and a firm basis for world peace. The backward countries, to secure a most efficient utilisation of their economic resources, will have to formulate their economic policy with utmost care and caution. Transport policy is an integral part of the economic policy of every country ; it must effectively serve to promote the national economic interests.

India is an industrially backward country, awaiting a fuller and most efficient utilisation of her economic resources in the interests of her nationals. To secure a more effective utilisation

of natural resources, the Government of India will have to formulate a broad-based economic policy, calculated to promote a rapid and efficient economic development of the country. The industrial and commercial policy will definitely have to foster the growth of Indian trade and industries at the highest pitch of efficiency. In this scheme of economic reconstruction of India, a carefully thought-out national railway policy will play an important part. In short, a proper economic policy, intended to secure a most efficient utilisation of national resources, will help to improve international economic relations and enable the people of every country to realise what Winston Churchill calls "their just and true inheritance". In the following pages, therefore, an attempt has been made to study the nature and working of Indian railway policy in order to find out the directions in which it needs improvement, so as to secure a rapid and efficient economic development of this country.

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INDEX

Acworth, W. M. .. 15, 82, 152, 196, 197, 203	Fenelon, K. G. 10, 44
Acworth Committee .. 41, 42, 56, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 98, 100, 163, 164, 168, 169, 170, 229—32, 239—40, 246, 253—54	Finance :
Bell, H. .. 46, 61, 131, 132, 143	British capital 51—53
Block rates 163	Contribution 126—29
Bombay Port 149—50	Depreciation Fund .. 96—97, 121—25
Branch lines .. 74, 79, 97—98	Grouping 117—20
British Rates Advisory— Committee 240—41, 246—47, 259	Guarantee system .. 46—57
British Rates Tribunal .. 241—42, 248—49, 258—59	Reserve Fund 95—96, 125—26
Clark, W. L. 16	Separation of Railway Finance 86—92
Classification of Goods .. 196—221	State and Private .. 67—82
Classification in America .. 207	State construction .. 57—67
" " Britain .. 211—13, 214—16	Gauge 54, 60—61
" " India .. 204—14	Ghose, S. C. .. 41, 132, 144, 155, 156, 157, 159, 164, 227
Commodity rates .. 201—03	Gordon, C. 137, 152
Determination .. 196—201	Grant, J. P. 57
Simplification .. 217—21	Grupp, G. W. 21
Clearing House 101	Guarantee System 50—51, 53—54, 55—58
Competition of Markets .. 13—14	Hardinge, Lord 47
Contribution 126—30	Hartington, Lord 65
Co-ordination of Transport 44—45	Huddleston, G. .. 138, 143, 147
Rail and Road .. 264—81	Imperial Gazetteer 54
Cotton, A. 140	Industrial Commission .. 154, 236—237
Cromer, Lord 69	Interstate Commerce Com- mission :
Dalhousie, Lord 47—50	Constitution 242
Danvers, J. 134, 142	Cost 245
Davidson 51	Functions 249—53
Dickinson Report 92—94	Procedure 256—58
Dutta, R. C. .. 52, 55, 139, 145, 146	Job Analysis 110—13
Earnings and Expenditure 102—04, 107—10	Johnson, E. R. 7, 21
Eastman, J. B. 275	Laing, Sir 53, 57
Edgworth, F. Y. 13, 17	Lawrence, Lord 58—59

- Localisation of industries** .. 2—3
Locklin, D. P. .. 2, 3, 5, 7, 197,
 199, 201, 203, 280
Mackay Committee .. 78—79, 228
Marshall, Alfred 9, 20
Massey, W. N. 53, 54
Mayo, Lord 59, 137
Mehta, N. B. 41, 46, 52, 81, 87, 133,
 147, 223, 228
Migration of industries .. 3
Miller, S. L. .. 7, 10, 17, 197, 201,
 208
Mitchell-Kirkness Committee 30, 37
 268, 269, 270, 276, 278
Mobility of labour 9—10
Morison 140
**Nature of Railway Trans-
 port** 11—17
Passenger fares .. 133, 137, 139,
 144, 152, 162, 165, 166,
 171—85
Pearse, Col. 134
Phillimore, J. 19
Pigou, A. C. 9
Place Utilities 1—2
Pope Committee .. 106—07, 110
Priestley 161, 163
**Public Accounts Com-
 mittee** 114—15
Rail and Air Transport .. 42—44
**Rail and Road Co-ordina-
 tion** 264—81
 Future policy 278—81
 **Machinery of regula-
 tion** 274—75
 **Need for road trans-
 port regulation** .. 268—70
 Objects of regulation. 270—74
 Regulation in India 275—78
 Spheres of activity. 265—68
Rail and Road Transport .. 19—40
 Competition in India .. 33—40
 " .. U. K. .. 22—33
Rail and Water Transport. 40—42
Railway Board .. 222—35
**Railway Depreciation
 Fund** 96—97, 113—14, 121—25
**Railway Rates Advisory
 Committee** .. 100—01, 236—63
 Acworth Committee .. 237
 Composition .. 239—46
 Functions .. 246—53
 Mehta's views 238
 Procedure .. 253—59
 Work 259—62
Railway Reserve Fund, 95—96,
 125—26
**Railway Retrenchment
 Sub-Committee** 243
Randel 137—38
Raven Committee 94—95
Rates for goods traffic. 185—94
Retrenchment Committee .. 86
**Retrenchment Sub-Com-
 mittee** 104—06
Ripley, W. Z. .. 197, 202
**Road and Rail Traffic Act
 of 1933** 32—33
Robertson .. 76—78, 79, 81,
 161—62, 225—27
Rowe, L. C. 16
**Royal Commission on Trans-
 port** 29—30
Salter Committee 30—32
Sanyal, N. 64, 79, 133
**Separation of Railway
 Finance** 86—92
Shrinivasan, K. .. 163, 223, 224
State construction .. 57—67, 69
**State and Private construc-
 tion** 67
State management .. 98—100
Strachey, Sir John .. 65
Taussig, F. W. 14
Tiwari, R. D. .. 3, 67, 143, 172, 218,
 220, 271
Transport and Consumption 8—9
Transport and Distribution. 6—8
Transport and Exchange .. 5—6
Transport Co-ordination .. 44—45
Vakil, C. N. .. 52, 53, 65, 73
**Wedgwood Committee Re-
 port** .. 33, 217, 218, 219, 220,
 221, 245—46, 255, 263, 264, 268,
 273—74, 276—77, 279, 280
Weld, W. E. .. 140, 162
William, S. C. 9
William, S. G. 13