9807

INDIA ANALYSED

EDITORS:

FREDA M. BEDI, St. Hugh's College, Oxford B. P. L. BEDI, M.A. (Punjab), Hertford College, Oxford

It is the growing, and not the decaying forces of society which execute the most disquieting problems.

GRAHAM WALLAS

INDIA ANALYSED

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 - V The Reality of the Round Table Conference: F. W. Wilson, Ex-Editor, the "Pioneer," India.

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VOLUME II LECONOMIC FACTS

BY

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Professor of Economics, Fergusson Gollege, Poons

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THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY GANDHI GROUP

IN WHOSE DISCUSSIONS THE NEED FOR THIS SERIES WAS REALISED

F. M. B B. P. L. B.

EDITORS' PREFACE TO THE SERIES

THE AIM of the "India Analysed" series is to give in four volumes a picture of present-day India. The writers, English and Indian, who are best qualified to speak on the subject have been asked to contribute. The books do not seek to press any sectional point of view, but aim at producing a composite picture. Where the views expressed by the contributors differ from one another, it is left to the reader to appreciate the difference of opinion, to weigh the pros and cons as they are given to him, and to judge for himself.

We have attempted to provide an interesting and detailed account of the Indian situation to-day, and the forces that have gone to make it up, but an account that is neither too technical nor lacking in general interest. It is intended first and foremost for the man with an intelligent interest in Indian affairs who is not satisfied with the scrappy and often biased accounts he finds in the newspapers; and secondly for the student who will only find such material by spending time he can ill afford among a pile of Indian journals. The series, in fact, attempts to give an integrated picture of India by bringing together the views of those Indians and Englishmen who can speak with authority.

In Volume I., International, the contributors have between them dealt objectively with the many facets of India's international life: her significance in the complex international situation to-day; her

relationship with members of the British Empire; her position as a member of the League; her importance as one of the rich fields for the activity of the International Labour Office. One chapter in this volume has been devoted to an entirely original line of enquiry, i.e. the discussion of the provisions which must be made in the framwork of the Indian Constitution, while it is yet in the process of being made, which may in the fullness of time enable India to enter into international obligations without constitutional friction. This volume might be called "India in perspective." No study of India has so far been attempted from the international point of view on the lines of this volume.

From the general we come to the particular: from the panorama to the objects in the landscape. Volume II., Economic Facts, is an attempt to depict actual conditions in India to-day. The contributors are, with one exception, Indian, as we have judged Indians themselves most competent to speak of the economics of their own country. We have tried to cover as many aspects of Indian economic life as possible in a short volume: the produce of agritulture and industry, the condition of the peasant and labourer, and the position of India in the world market. One chapter specially deals with the potentialities which India possesses for her future industrial development.

Volume III., Economic Issues, deals with the urgent economic problems which face India at present and will face her in the future: first, internal problems such as the burden of taxation in relation to the social services which exist in India,

and the part which foreign capital plays in the Indian capital market. In the second place, two chapters are devoted to the study of the external issues between England and India, such as the public debt of India, and the effects of linking the rupee to the £ when England went off the gold standard. These are real problems which need careful study by those who intend to follow the course of Indo-British relationship. Thirdly, in view of the predominance of agriculture in India's national economy, the closing chapter of the economic volumes deals with the potentialities of agriculture.

The fourth and last volume (Volume IV., Constitutional) gives an analysis of the Indian constitutional situation. On its historical side, one chapter shows the reader the structure of the Indian constitution to-day, another the relationship of the States with the Crown, the third gives a statement and discussion of the Minorities problem. These chapters make the reader realise the immensity of the problem. The last two chapters show how the British Government has tried to meet the situation. The chapter on law and order describes how the Indian nationalist aspirations were dealt with by extra-constitutional methods. The chapter on the reality of the Round Table Conference shows how the firm hand was supplemented by consultation and efforts at constitutional advance.

We have edited this series in the belief that only by looking at the complexity of India from every side can a true idea of the immensity of the problem be achieved. If our efforts succeed in arousing both Indians and Englishmen to the gravity of the issues which are embittering the relationship of two great peoples, and if this series helps them to have a better groundwork of knowledge with which to tackle the grim problems before them, the work would not have been undertaken in vain.

FREDA M. BEDI, B. P. L. BEDI.

CHART OF INDIAN MONEY AND NUMBERS

Money

1 rupee = 1s. 6d. (present ratio)

trupec = 16 annas

ranna = 12 pics

Numbers

1 lakh written 1,00,000 - one hundred thousand

10 lakh written 10,00,000 = one million 1 crore written 1,00,00,000 = ten millions

EDITORS' PREFACE TO VOLUME II., ECONOMIC FACTS

THE SCOPE of these volumes has already been outlined in our preface to the series. The object of these few lines is to draw attention to the bibliography.

We have compiled the bibliography in order to enable the reader to make a further study of the particular problems in which he happens to be more interested. We have classified the suggested books alphabetically under different sections, but the classification is by no means watertight—it will be found, for instance, that books on "The Manufacturer" are much fewer than those on "The Labourer." But many of the books on labour and industry are quite as important in relation to the manufacturer, and the same is true in the case of the books classified under "General."

We acknowledge with thanks the suggestions sent by Prof. Brij Narain for the bibliography of his chapter.

Moreover, for the convenience of readers outside India, we have found it necessary to give a chart explaining Indian money and numbers.

> F. M. B., B. P. L. B.

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