

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1883.

## INDIAN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The estimated expenditure of the financial year 1882-3 was £68,174,000. The chief items of comparison and difference between the estimate of the previous year, 1881-2, and this arose, in the first place, from a considerable reduction of expenditure, £287,000, and an increase in revenue by £2,000,000; that is, in productive works, miscellaneous credits, savings in stores, and a reduction in the cost of the army, &c. It may not be out of place to notice that the cost of the Afghan War up to the present time has been £21,000,000. Of this large sum India has paid no less than £16,000,000. The Egyptian War also creates a charge upon India, which reduces the surplus. But the estimated decrease in expenditure for the year will amount, on the whole, to £3,475,000, after allowing for an additional—

Charge for State Railways, of	£575,000
Irrigation and Navigation Works	266,000
Public Roads and Other Works	1,068,000
Law and Justice	143,000
Collection of Salt Tax	275,000
Land Revenue	184,000
Telegraph Service	138,000

and other minor matters, and thus enabling the Government to reduce the Salt Tax 30 per cent in Bengal and 20 per cent in other provinces.

As to the progress of public works in India, during 1881 there were 726 miles of new railway completed, the total length of line sanctioned being now nearly 12,000 miles. Several of the new lines were promoted by private companies, but most of them had received assistance from the Government in one form or another. It is believed the time has come when companies would undertake to raise the necessary capital without the assistance of Government. Several native princes had undertaken to make the attempt, and had expressed a general desire to bring their estates into communication with India at large. The total capital expended on railways was £134,200,000. The net revenue in 1881 was £6,930,000. The gross receipts were £13,000,000, the working expenses £6,773,000; and, taking all the railways together, they had paid last year £5 3s. per cent on the capital, and without taking into consideration the loss of capital in previous years. In 1890 only 3,500,000 persons travelled by railway in India; in 1881 there were 52,000,000 passengers. The sum received for the conveyance of passengers and goods in 1880 was £586,000; in 1881 the sum was £13,725,000.

Comparing the taxation of 1857 with that of 1882, and taking the figures of the principal items, we have—

	In 1857.
Land Revenue	£17,720,000
Excise	1,000,000
Salt	2,680,000
Stamps	620,000
Customs	2,090,000
	£24,110,000

A total of £24,000,000, raised twenty-five years ago, on five principal items.

	In 1882.
Land Revenue	£22,449,000
Excise	3,411,000
Salt	7,213,000
Stamps	3,328,000
Customs	2,290,000
	£38,691,000

Thus it will be seen there was an increase of no less than £14,500,000.

## TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA.

Large as was the trade, however, by comparison with previous years, it is still very small in comparison with the population. This amounted, by the census of 1881, to 254,541,210, and the totals of the trade therefore give a result per capita of the population of less than 5½ rupees. Including the totals of the external land trade (that which crossed the frontiers of British India), the proportion per capita of the population is only just about 5½ rupees. In comparison with any European country, and indeed even in comparison with Ceylon, this is a singularly small proportion. But no fair comparison can be made with any European country, and when the condition of the mass of the people in this country is considered, their abject poverty, their almost complete ignorance of the wants and requirements of people in other conditions of civilisation, it must be admitted that the volume of trade, small as it is by comparison with other countries, is satisfactory and even surprisingly large. In the past five years the proportion of free and dutiable merchandise has been as follows—stated in rupees:—

	Free.	Per cent.	Dutiable.	Per cent.
	Rs.		Rs.	er cent.
1876-7	3,48,49,083	9.80	31,04,22,683	90.20
1877-8	4,40,85,154	11.21	34,91,74,876	88.79
1878-9	6,80,67,013	18.61	29,75,94,934	81.39
1879-80	11,20,14,088	28.19	28,54,07,604	71.81
1880-1	17,26,21,679	34.31	33,04,68,664	65.69

Of the aggregate sum of Rs. 33,04,68,664, representing the value of dutiable imports, those from the United Kingdom amount to Rs. 26,25,43,315. Thus out of the whole imports of merchandise, no less than Rs. 41,29,26,348 represent the value of imports from the United Kingdom, being 82 per cent, or more than four fifths of the whole.

The following table shows the proportion of the whole trade which came to and left India via the Suez Canal during the last five years:—

	Whole trade.	Via Suez Canal.	Per cent.
	Rs.	Rs.	
1876-7	1,13,32,05,395	60,24,32,596	52.88
1877-8	1,26,25,29,685	68,38,07,191	54.16
1878-9	1,09,77,70,842	53,39,08,753	48.61
1879-80	1,22,06,89,086	63,03,32,313	51.64
1880-1	1,38,10,86,571	81,17,58,763	58.78

The trade with the United Kingdom, constituting as it does 56.47 per cent of the trade of India with the world, is fairly representative of the general condition of Indian trade in the year. From England is received almost all those great articles which constitute the bulk of its imports—coal, cotton goods, liquors, metals, salt, and woollen goods; and to England is sent full cargoes of cotton, wool, jute, indigo, tea, coffee, oilseeds, hides, wheat, and rice, which comprise the bulkiest and some of the most important articles of the export trade of India.

The imports of merchandise from the United Kingdom during the year

far exceeded in value those of any previous year, and indeed they equal the aggregate imports from all countries into British India in any previous year. The figures give evidence of the continued activity of trade, an activity which raises some apprehension that business is being overdone.

	Rs.
1876-7	29,75,24,433
1877-8	32,21,13,034
1878-9	28,91,21,358
1879-80	32,04,25,476
1880-1	41,29,26,348

All the principal articles in the import trade exhibit an increase both in the quantities imported and in money value.

Aden produces nothing itself, but it is a convenient dépôt for goods from the neighbouring African and Arabian shores. Imports consist chiefly of gums, ivory, precious stones and pearls, provisions, spices, and wax, and some European goods, such as cotton goods and metals, perhaps unsaleable things originally sent from India and returned. Imports both of ivory and spices are declining, probably because it is more convenient now to send them direct to Europe than to ship them to Bombay.

Imports for the last five years:—

	Rs.
1876-7	11,60,709
1877-8	16,10,462
1878-9	10,10,710
1879-80	8,61,524
1880-1	8,89,410

There is a considerable re-export of foreign merchandise to Aden, consisting to the extent of one half of Manchester goods, the value of these amounting during the year to Rs. 4,08,279 out of a total of Rs. 8,16,906. The other articles which comprise the remaining half are many, but none of any importance separately.

It is hardly possible to say how much of the recorded trade with Egypt is really trade with that country, and how much of it only transit trade via Alexandria and Suez. The following are the figures of the whole trade for the last five years:—

	Imports.	Exports (Indian Goods).
	Rs.	Rs.
1876-7	4,80,962	43,77,721
1877-8	4,24,607	57,00,756
1878-9	4,21,096	33,56,520
1879-80	3,01,035	91,03,963
1880-1	4,17,545	1,37,47,363

There is nothing especially prominent amongst the imports, except raw silk and apparel, and even these are of no particular consequence. There is a small import of salt from Egyptian territory in the Red Sea, but the trade certainly seems to be on the decline.

## THE EXPORT TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

The trade with Australia deserves particular attention, not only because the total value of exports increased from £16,990,935 to £21,377,931, or 26.3 per cent, but also because this is by far the highest total value ever recorded. In four previous years—1874-5-7 and 1878, the value ranged between nineteen and twenty millions sterling; but, on the whole, prices were higher then than during 1881, consequently the increase in the bulk of our shipments to Australia must have been even greater than would appear from a comparison of values only. South Australia is the only colony which has not shared in the general prosperity, and taking the percentage of increase of the others rather than the gross value, the order of precedence would be Queensland, New South Wales, New Zealand, Victoria, Tasmania, and West Australia.

**Cottons.**—Cotton yarn was exported in 1881 to the extent of 254,939,900 lb., valued at £13,165,053, against 215,544,800 lb., valued at £11,901,623 in 1880, 18.3 per cent more in quantity, but only 10.6 per cent more in value. There is a falling off shown in the shipments to Russia and British India, but large increases in those to Germany, Belgium, Italy, Roumania, and Turkey. The shipments during 1881 were, however, far in excess of those of 1880, and although it cannot be said that the value increased in a proportionate ratio, yet it amounted to more than that of any previous year. The total quantity being 4,777,273,300 yards, valued at £59,103,921, against 4,495,645,000 yards, valued at £57,678,084, an increase of 6.2 per cent in quantity, and 2.5 per cent in value.

Miscellaneous cotton manufactures in 1881 largely increased in value, and amounted to £6,820,557, against £5,984,349 in 1880, or 13.9 per cent. Of this sum £2,380,610 is accounted for by lace and patent net, of which £1,181,443, or nearly 50 per cent, was sent to the United States; and £2,312,314 by thread for sewing, which was principally shipped to Russia, Germany, Holland, United States, the various South American States, British India, and British North America. Including yarn, the total value of cotton manufactures exported amounted to £79,089,531, against £75,564,056 in 1880, an increase of 4.7 per cent.

**Woolens.**—Woolen and worsted yarn in 1881 increased in quantity from 26,464,300 lb. to 29,731,400 lb., or 12.3 per cent, but the price declined so much during the year that the value decreased from £3,244,740 to £3,225,696, or 3.6 per cent. Woollen cloths were exported to the extent of 55,679,400 yards, valued at £7,552,654, against 50,000,200 yards, valued at £6,736,721, the increase in quantity being chiefly to Belgium, Chili, Peru, British North America, and India. Flannels increased from 6,697,800 yards to 9,027,900 yards, and the total value of woollen and worsted goods (exclusive of yarn) amounts to £18,128,756, against £17,265,177, an increase of 5 per cent.

**Coals.**—Coals, cinders, and patent fuel were exported to the extent of 19,587,063 tons, valued at £8,785,950, against 18,719,971 tons, valued at £8,372,933, an increase of 4.6 per cent in quantity and 4.9 per cent in value. No large increase or decrease is shown in the case of any particular country, and with regard to coals, &c. taken by steamers for their use on their voyages to foreign countries, the quantity has increased from 4,926,076 tons to 5,227,588 tons, or 6.1 per cent.

**Machinery and Mill Work.**—This important article of export increased in value from £9,263,516 to £9,960,210, in spite of the fact that shipments of steam-engines to Russia fell from £286,623 to £193,824, and of other descriptions of machinery from £1,670,049 to £907,664. Much larger quantities of the former description were sent to Germany, Spain, Egypt, the United States, Brazil, British India, and Australia, and of the latter to Belgium, France, Brazil, British India, and Australia.