

Trend of Bhutan's Trade during 1907-26: Import

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Introduction

It is logical to expect that quantitative and qualitative changes in Bhutan's export during the period of Ugyen Wangchuck should be corresponded by similar changes in her imports. For one thing, when a country's export grows over a longer period, the accumulation of foreign exchange in that country enables her to import more. Indeed, since both exports and imports, especially their growth and diversification, depend on the changes in the domestic economy (along with changes in the rest-of-the-world), in most cases do we observe simultaneous changes in both these fronts. The present article seeks to assess to what extent Bhutan's import changed during the years of the First Monarch.

The organisation of the study is as follows. While section I seeks to measure the quantitative aspect of change in Bhutan's import during the study period, the following two sections discuss the changes in the origin and composition of her import respectively. Section IV gives the summary.

Section I: Trend analysis for 1907-25

We present the import series for 1907-08/1924-25 in Table 1. For the sake of analysis of Bhutan's import, we consider 3 yearly moving average series for imports.

If we consider the average annual import in Bhutan for the first and the last four years of our study period, the growth rate comes to 11.21 per cent per annum. This is, indeed, a high rate of growth especially in view of longer framework of time.

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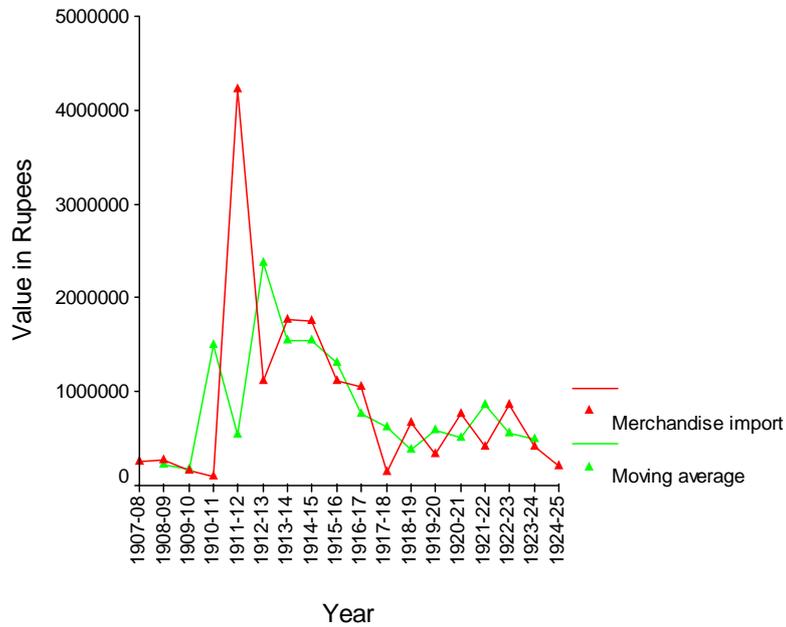
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Table 1: Import trade of Bhutan during 1907-1925 (in Rs.)

(in Rs.)					
Year	Value	3-yearly moving average	Year	Value	3-yearly moving average
1907-08	254,171	-	1916-17	1,044,415	1,005,972.00
1908-09	266,058	225,843.00	1917-18*	859,301	92,634.00
1909-10	155,442	172,345.67	1918-19	674,186	623,231.33
1910-11	93,679	1,492,694.00	1919-20	336,207	590,370.00
1911-12	4,227,103	545,093.67	1920-21	760,717	505,562.67
1912-13	1,119,499	2,370,726.00	1921-22	419,764	860,533.00
1913-14	1,765,576	1,547,105.00	1922-23	860,530	563,083.00
1914-15	1,756,240	1,545,338.33	1923-24	408,955	492,855.00
1915-16	1,114,199	1,304,951.33	1924-25	209,080	-
Total				16,325,122	

Source: Various issues of Accounts Relating to the Trade by Land of British India with Foreign Countries for twelve months, April 1907 to March 1925.

For clear understanding the above series are plotted in Figure 1.



Three separate phases are discernable in this import series, viz. i) the pre-War period of 1907-08/1914-15 (except 1911-12), ii) the War period of 1914-15/1919-20, and iii) the post-War period of 1919-20/1924-25. We have excluded the year 1911-12 from our analysis since import in that year is found abnormally high. The first sub-period, however, shows a steady expansion of Bhutan's import. In rupee terms, its annual rate of growth was 84.42 per cent for seven consecutive years. In this phase, her import touched at Rs.1.76 million in 1914-15 from Rs.254 thousand in 1907-08. It is, thus, clear that Bhutan's import trade gained momentum during the pre-War period.

During the War period, however, Bhutan's import from British India moved downwards with the rate of deceleration at 16.17 per cent per annum. These downward deviations were checked once the War had been over. From Rs.336 thousand in 1919-20 her import trade increased to Rs.761 thousand in 1920-21 and further to Rs.861 thousand in 1922-23. Falling trend is visible in the last two years of the study period.

The cyclical and random movements in the annual series are, however, removed in the series of 3-year moving averages presented in column 3 of Table 6.1. This series points out that Bhutan's import declined continuously from Rs.2.37 million in 1912-13 to Rs.506 thousand in 1920-21. The War effect is reflected here in 1913-14 itself because of the feature of moving averages. The series, however, further declined to Rs.493 thousand in 1923-24. This moving average series shows that about 7.88 per cent annual rate of growth prevailed in Bhutan's imports during 1907-08/1924-25.

We have fitted time-trend of imports for each sub-period during our study period. The following linear trend model has been tried.

$$M_t = \alpha + \beta t + u_t \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

where, M_t represents Bhutan's merchandise import, t denotes year and u_t is the disturbance term. While the above model is fitted well for the import data of the pre-war period 1907-08/1914-15 as well as the war period 1914-15/1919-20, the

goodness of fit is poor from the viewpoint of R^2 and F statistics when fitted on the data for the post war period. Suppressing the intercept we have tried the following model for the post-war period:

$$M_t = \beta t + u_t \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

and the observed trends for the period has been found significant from relevant statistic.

Model 1 therefore is fitted for the pre-war and the war period and Model 2 for the post war period. The estimated models along with relevant statistics are presented below.

$$\hat{M}_t = -493.467 + 0.259 t \dots\dots\dots(3)$$

(S.E.=106.581)	(S.E.= 0.056)	$R^2 = 0.811$
(t = - 4.630)	(t = 4.637	F = 21.504 (Sig = 0.006)
Sig = 0.006)	Sig = 0.006)	DW = 1.202

$$\hat{M}_t = 472.167 - 0.246 t \dots\dots\dots(4)$$

(S.E.= 67.902)	(S.E.= 0.035)	$R^2 = 0.923$
(t = 6.954	(t = - 6.939	F = 48.157 (Sig = 0.002)
Sig = 0.002)	Sig = 0.002)	DW = 2.320

$$\hat{M}_t = 0.00026 t \dots\dots\dots(5)$$

(S.E.= 0.000)	$R^2 = 0.822$
(t = 4.800	F = 23.037 (Sig = 0.005)
Sig = 0.005)	DW = 2.264

\hat{M}_t represents the estimated value of M in period t

The above estimations do not suffer from the problem of autocorrelation. In case of Equation (3), the Durbin-Watson (DW) statistic is found above the tabulated value of d_u . Against the relevant tabulated value of d_u at 1.036 at 1 per cent level,

its observed value is 1.204. However, in case of Equations (4) and (5), since the observed DW value are found more than 2, we have tested negative autocorrelation for these two Estimations. The values of (4 -DW) are 1.466 and 1.736 for Estimation (4) and (5) respectively as against the tabulated range of 0.390-1.142.

The values of R^2 and F are, however, found highly significant for the estimated time trend of all the sub periods. While R^2 is found at 0.811 for the trend of the pre-War period, 0.923 for the War period and 0.822 for the post-War period, their respective observed F statistics attain the levels of significance at 0.006, 0.002 and 0.005. The estimated relationships are, therefore, highly significant.

The estimated slope coefficients indicate that the import trade of Bhutan annually increased at a rate of 21.58 per cent during 1907-08/1914-15, but decelerated at 25.52 per cent during World War I. A growth rate of 0.05 per cent per annum prevailed during the post-War period. The statistical test based on the Student's t-statistic shows that these estimates are highly reliable.

Section II: Origin of import

Bhutan imported merchandise from two regions, i) Bengal and ii) Assam and Eastern Bengal. Her origin-wise imports during 1907-08/1924-25 are presented in Table 2. This table underscores a slow but steady change in the direction of import trade in Bhutan. The study period starts with a clear predominance of Assam and Eastern Bengal in Bhutan's import trade, and it continued through 1914-15. During this period those regions accounted for 88-95 per cent (save the figure for 1911-12) of the aggregate leaving only 5-12 per cent for Bengal. We have noted that it had been the traditional trend in Bhutan. This trend began to change very rapidly in favour of Bengal since 1915-16. By the end of the study period we find that Bengal overpowered its rivals in competition. In that year, Bhutan's intake was worth of Rs.142 thousand from Bengal as against Rs. 68 thousand from Assam and Eastern Bengal.

This change in the direction of import trade was due to a steadily falling trend the absolute value of import from Assam and Eastern Bengal. Table 2 reveals that imports from those regions fell on the average from Rs.1.13 million in the pre-War period to Rs.631 thousand in the War period and further to Rs.352 thousand in the Post-War period. On the other hand, imports from Bengal exhibited upwardly trend both in the pre-War and post-War period, punctuated by a depression in between. For the three years before the War, the average level of import from Bengal was Rs.116 thousand per annum; and it increased to Rs.171 thousand per annum during the War period. The post-War period witnessed further increment to Rs.179 thousand per annum.

Table 2: Bhutan's merchandise imports from Bengal and Assam and Eastern Bengal

(in Rs.)					
Year	Bengal	Eastern Bengal and Assam	Year	Bengal	Eastern Bengal and Assam
1907-08	28,946(11.38)*	225,225 (88.62)	1916-17	169,511(16.23)	874,904(83.77)
1908-09	15,244 (5.72)	250,814(94.28)	1917-18	177,674(20.67)	681,627(79.33)
1909-10	8,339 (5.29)	148,961(94.71)	1918-19	185,837(27.56)	488,349(72.44)
1910-11	9,372 (10.00)	84,307(90.00)	1919-20	134,443(39.99)	201,764(60.01)
1911-12	9,823(2.32)	4,217,280(97.68)	1920-21	141,167(18.55)	619,550(81.45)
1912-13	134,296(12.00)	985,203(88.00)	1921-22	194,004(46.22)	225,760(53.78)
1913-14	202,632(11.48)	1,562,944(88.52)	1922-23	222,529(25.86)	638,001(74.14)
1914-15	154,849 (8.82)	1,601,391(91.18)	1923-24	197,535(48.30)	211,420(51.70)
1915-16	204,107(18.31)	910,092(81.69)	1924-25	141,282(67.57)	67,798(32.43)
			Total	2,331,590	13,995,390

Source: Various issues of Accounts Relating to the Trade by Land of British India with Foreign Countries for twelve months, April 1907 to March 1925.

N.B. * The bracket terms represent the percentage share in aggregate.

Section III: Composition of imports

Commodity composition of Bhutan's import trade during 1907-08/1924-25 is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Bhutan's imports from British India by commodity classification

Year	(in Rs.)			
	Manufactured goods	Agricultural products	Live Animals	Miscellaneous ²
1907-08	157,446 (61.94) ¹	73,624 (28.97)	-	23,101 (9.09)
1908-09	172,630 (64.88)	81,798 (30.74)	-	11,630 (4.37)
1909-10	99,438 (63.97)	48,189 (31.00)	-	7,815 (5.03)
1910-11	65,273 (69.68)	22,526 (24.05)	-	5,880 (6.28)
1911-12	2,741,055 (64.84)	718,727 (17.00)	480,711 (11.37)	286,610 (6.78)
1912-13	834,497 (74.54)	184,981 (16.52)	74,070 (6.62)	25,951 (2.32)
1913-14	1,320,497 (74.79)	278,990 (15.80)	83,310 (4.72)	65,323 (3.70)
1914-15	1,362,704 (77.59)	256,172 (14.59)	67,631 (3.85)	69,733 (3.97)
1915-16	827,212 (74.24)	170,809 (15.33)	53,951 (4.84)	62,227 (5.58)
1916-17	776,924 (74.39)	162,237 (15.53)	41,828 (4.00)	63,426 (6.07)
1917-18	598,936 (69.70)	148,186 (17.24)	64,798 (7.54)	47,381 (5.51)
1918-19	420,948 (62.44)	134,135 (19.90)	87,768 (13.02)	31,335 (4.65)
1919-20	190,992 (56.81)	111,402 (33.13)	16,559 (4.93)	17,254 (5.13)
1920-21	528,236 (69.44)	143,185 (18.82)	67,629 (8.89)	21,667 (2.85)
1921-22	223,763 (53.31)	153,586 (39.59)	30,110 (7.17)	12,305 (2.93)
1922-23	515,592 (59.92)	166,325 (19.33)	50,593 (5.88)	128,020 (14.88)
1923-24	242,720 (59.35)	129,363 (31.63)	17,431 (4.26)	19,441 (4.75)
1924-25	94,535 (45.21)	72,558 (34.70)	18,297 (8.75)	23,690 (11.33)
Total	11,173,398 (68.52)	3,056,793 (18.74)	1,154,686 (7.08)	922,789 (5.66)

Source: Various issues of Accounts Relating to the Trade by Land of British India with Foreign Countries for twelve months, April 1907 to March 1925.

'-' indicates nil. N.B. ¹The bracket terms represent the percentage share in aggregate. ²Miscellaneous products include precious stones, raw jute etc.

In the aggregate, the manufactured goods are seen to predominate with a share of 68.52 per cent, and the agricultural commodities followed suit. The former's percentage share in total import varied between 45-78 per cent. Across different sub-periods, this dominance structure continued. For the first six years the annual average share is seen to be 66.64 per cent for the manufactured goods, followed in order by agricultural products (24.71 per cent), and miscellaneous products (5.65 per cent). For the last six years again, manufactured goods remained in its prime position, *albeit* a 9.30 per cent decline, and agricultural products survived at the second improving its share by about 4.82 per cent.

These relative positions of Bhutan's imported commodities are clear in the following diagram (vide Figure 2).

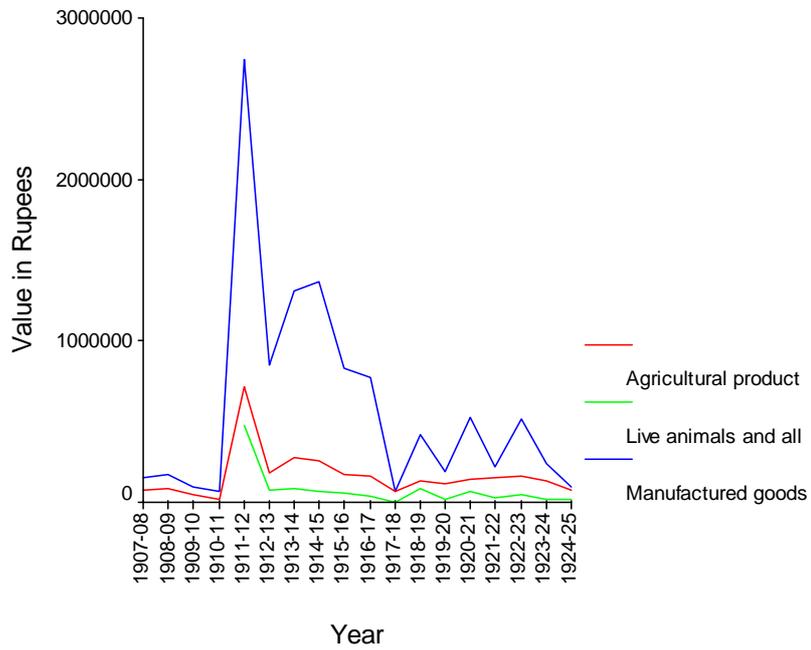


Figure 2. Bhutan's import of agricultural products, live animals and manufactured goods

This primary importance of manufactured articles in the import composition indicates a backward state of the Bhutanese economy devoid of any significant industrial activities. Its gradually declining share in the country's import since 1914-15 might, however, be taken as a signal for her improvement to this end. Only a further study over the subsequent years could confirm whether it was a secular trend of change in the economy.

Product-wise imports of manufactured goods are presented in Tables 4, 5 and 6. While the first two tables accommodate respectively the values and quantities of those articles in this classification that were regularly imported during 1907-08/1924-25, the last one presents both values and quantities of irregularly imported manufactured goods. We note that certain semi-manufactured goods like raw silk and metals are also included in this category.

Table 4: Values of imported manufactured goods

Year*	(in Rs.)									
	Raw silk	Foreign piece goods	Indian piece goods	Foreign twist and yarn	Indian twist and yarn	Salt	Iron	Silk	Brass	Other Metals
1907	11,319	71,396	9630	14003	1,065	-	2,875	30,406	15,859	427
1908	17,519	68,042	18820	14,963	1,340	-	5,283	37,228	9,211	138
1909	9,266	36,350	12755	5,264	5,092	-	2,168	11,762	16,242	196
1910	7,560	38,042	444	4,884	-	-	630	8,433	5,150	43
1911	837,004	308,387	136771	483,074	-	222980	257,691	243,588	182,876	440,567
1912	209,021	158,230	27624	46,754	40	50096	11,627	277,679	31,701	18,378
1913	299,084	244,141	45124	80,632	406	90763	36,473	379,419	77,964	32,906
1914	312,260	225,150	46655	81,940	295	52425	35,942	441,764	100,445	35,764
1915	125,346	226,850	41724	49,129	-	21437	28,054	272,544	37,500	13,540
1916	136,281	131,976	36655	67,215	314	20210	26,746	258,779	60,809	18,660
1917	118,574	92,290	23,620	50,697	517	18748	17,772	183,822	63,496	-
1918	100,867	52,603	10585	34,178	720	17285	8,798	108,864	66,182	1,582
1919	52,399	51,955	300	14,568	360	11675	4,401	27,055	18,314	-
1920	94,736	103,167	1404	90,690	380	21148	17,458	95,840	77,000	1,140
1921	45,463	62,369	6375	16,450	-	10508	4,323	50,823	21,092	-
1922	104,825	108,562	12810	103,566	-	20595	16,353	52,397	78,114	200
1923	11,658	111,890	10657	32,100	282	16477	1,552	18,184	24,730	6,033
1924	2,200	44,766	8396	13,255	-	5216	135	5,120	7,080	200
Total	2,495,382	2,136,166	450,349	1,203,362	10,811	579,563	478,281	2,503,707	893,765	569,774

Source: Various issues of Accounts Relating to the Trade by Land of British India with Foreign Countries for twelve months, April 1907 to March 1925

N.B. ‘-’ indicates nil. * 1907 represents 1907-08, etc.

Table 5: Quantities of import of manufactured goods

Year	(in cwt.)									
	Raw silk	Foreign piece goods	India n piece goods	Foreign twist and yarn	India n twist and yarn	Salt	Iron	Silk	Brass	Other Metals
1907-08	40	812	43	257	18	-	373	87	172	2
1908-09	62	915	152	293	23	-	586	106	107	2
1909-10	50	462	169	98	89	-	254	45	252	6
1910-11	25	488	4	83	-	-	60	37	66	2
1911-12	3026	5905	650	8,871	-	65401	21,772	2284	2,297	-
1912-13	805	2455	363	842	1	13907	1,293	747	397	87
1913-14	921	3043	504	1,450	7	19411	2,393	867	1,049	161
1914-15	956	2770	559	1,534	6	12991	2,494	973	973	170
1915-16	380	1533	508	1,013	-	3937	1,743	596	283	63
1916-17	454	1691	448	1,133	4	3380	1,459	887	557	70
1917-18	353	969	247	696	7	2,580	857	543	387	37
1918-19	252	246	46	259	9	2319	243	199	217	4
1919-20	125	264	2	108	1	1616	140	62	82	-
1920-21	187	411	6	680	1	3876	439	124	474	20
1921-22	123	309	25	123	-	1312	132	77	175	-
1922-23	244	513	54	862	-	3336	424	70	536	1
1923-24	23	505	49	245	2	2035	103	48	223	23
1924-25	10	240	41	142	-	901	6	38	59	1
Total	8,036	23,531	3,870	18,689	168	137,002	34,771	7,790	8,306	612

Source: Various issues of Accounts Relating to the Trade by Land of British India with Foreign Countries for twelve months, April 1907 to March 1925

N.B. ‘-’ indicates nil.

Table 6: Values and quantities of import of manufactured goods

Year	Wool		Paint and colours		leather		Chinese and Japanese ware		Oils	
	Rs.	cwt.	Rs.	cwt.	Rs.	cwt.	Rs.	cwt.	Rs.	cwt.
1907-08	466	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1908-09	86	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1909-10	343	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1910-11	87	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1911-12	68,684	1,779	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1912-13	604	5	2,603	10	-	-	140	-	-	-
1913-14	333	1	13,295	104	-	-	19,957	-	-	-
1914-15	70,603	1,791	8,860	227	-	-	21,204	-	-	-
1915-16	-	-	6,305	42	-	-	4,783	-	-	-
1916-17	-	-	4,240	24	-	-	15,039	-	-	-
1917-18	-	-	5,700	14	36	-	8,812	-	-	-
1918-19	-	-	7,160	4	1,431	-	2,585	-	8,108	396
1919-20	-	-	-	-	512	-	800	-	8,653	269
1920-21	-	-	11,200	4	652	-	7,786	-	5,635	264
1921-22	-	-	-	-	384	-	1,042	-	4,934	238
1922-23	-	-	4,165	9	2,954	-	4,140	-	6,911	330
1923-24	-	-	-	-	899	-	115	-	8,143	415
1924-25	-	-	-	-	361	-	-	-	7,806	373
Total	141,206	3,582	63,528	438	7,229	-	86,403	-	50,190	2,285

Source: Various issues of Accounts Relating to the Trade by Land of British India with Foreign Countries for twelve months, April 1907 to March 1925

N.B. '-' indicates nil.

These tables generate four conclusions. Firstly, Table 4 indicates that excepting three commodities, viz. silk goods, foreign piece goods and brass, all commodities in this group fell continuously over the War and the Post-War period. Their average rates of decline were 7.57 and 11.05 per cent during the successive periods (vide Table 7). Table 7 also indicates that the declining rate was comparatively high for the commodities like Indian twist and yarn (10-12 per cent), iron (8-12 per cent) and other metals (13-17 per cent).

Table 7: Declining rates during the war and the post-war period

Name of the commodity	During War	During Post-War
Raw silk	37.55	58.27
Foreign piece goods	10.52	27.11
Indian piece goods	62.56	68.83
Salt	82.84	28.96
Indian twist & yarn	62.56	68.83
Brass	1.89	12.44
Iron	60.85	55.04
Other metals	82.89	86.93
Average declining rate	46.75	50.45

Source: Computed from Table 4

Secondly, the import of silk products rose significantly during the period of War, viz. at 13.21 per cent per annum. But it could not be sustained during the post-War period when its annual average value decreased annually at 15.20 per cent per annum. Possibly, the trade blockade elsewhere during the War compelled British India to supply more of these articles to Bhutan. Thirdly, the import of foreign piece goods moved in the same direction during the pre-War and the War periods. It rose from Rs.132 thousand per annum during 1907-08/1913-14 to Rs.312 thousand per annum during 1914-15/1919-20. In the post-War period, its average value of import reached at Rs.80 thousand per annum. Fourthly, the import of brass rose by 5.94 per cent per annum during the War period but fell by 7.74 per cent per annum during the post-War period. Lastly, subsequent to 1912, some new products were introduced in the import list of the country. Those were paints and colours, leather, Chinese and Japanese wares, and oils. During 1918-19, these newly introduced articles accounted for nearly three per cent in total import trade. This signifies diversification of Bhutan's import base during the study period.

Agricultural commodities were also an important component of Bhutan's import trade from British India as the country was not in a position to develop arable land in the slopes of the hills. Item-wise the values and quantities of all these imported items are shown in the following table.

Table 8: The values and quantities of import of agricultural products

Year	Spices		Rice-husked		Rice-unhusked		Sugar		Tobacco	
	Rs.	cwt.	Rs.	cwt.	Rs.	cwt.	Rs.	cwt.	Rs.	cwt.
1907-08	18,929	1,295	12,571	1,705	13,750	3,771	8,416	628	19,958	1,382
1908-09	28,104	1,659	5,490	720	11,198	3,502	12,287	1052	24,719	1,323
1909-10	19,689	1,381	3,241	688	5,475	2,304	4,134	390	15,650	802
1910-11	8,578	787	2,012	454	926	385	2,153	221	8,857	528
1911-12	157,602	22,689	30,105	7,671	4,666	1,743	363,633	25305	162,721	8,693
1912-13	88,546	8,854	45,404	11,311	21,624	8,709	3,188	332	26,219	1,156
1913-14	131,309	12,071	80,259	14,005	31,504	9,559	1,761	166	34,157	1,689
1914-15	113,419	12,354	83,668	14,061	26,339	8,332	5,839	430	26,907	1,204
1915-16	69,885	5,719	48,236	7,356	18,362	5,234	10,965	640	23,361	1,039
1916-17	66,759	5,210	45,101	6,919	15,416	4,864	7,713	419	27,248	1,090
1917-18	56,504	4,232	42,468	6,017	12,612	4,429	8,733	535	27,870	1,148
1918-19	46,248	3,253	39,835	5,115	9,807	3,993	9,753	651	28,492	1,205
1919-20	37,457	2,825	34,967	4,564	13,339	3,707	5,917	374	19,772	852
1920-21	59,963	3,421	44,306	5,586	13,444	3,711	5,048	306	20,424	811
1921-22	78,419	4,555	36,032	4,198	12,492	3,890	7,914	533	18,729	842
1922-23	71,708	4,023	40,587	5,307	15,025	4,829	8,265	515	30,740	1,132
1923-24	40,370	2,764	28,129	4,021	19,506	5,746	11,556	612	29,802	952
1924-25	21,413	1,509	18,265	2,128	3,141	962	10,597	673	19,142	709
Total	1,114,902	98,601	640,676	101,826	248,626	79,670	487,872	33,782	564,768	26,557

Source: Various issues of Accounts Relating to the Trade by Land of British India with Foreign Countries for twelve months, April 1907 to March 1925.

Table 8 reveals firstly that the spices were the most significant article of import in this category sharing about 36.47 per cent of total group import in value. They are followed by rice (husked and unhusked varieties taken together), with a share of 29 per cent. Tobacco and sugar shared respectively 18 and 16 per cent of aggregate agricultural import. Secondly, the import series of different commodities did not move in a given direction. It

should be noted that in the initial years of the study period tobacco was a very important article. Its share in import bill of agricultural products was the highest in 1907-08 and 1910-11, and the second highest in 1909-10 and 1911-12. It, however, gradually fell into insignificance subsequently. While the import value of spices rose by 1.52 per cent per annum during the War period, it decreased annually by 4.90 per cent during the post-War period. The import of rice increased in value in the former duration but decreased thereafter. However, the import of sugar and tobacco fell continuously during the War period and post-War period.

The category of live animals and allied products was, however, insignificant in Bhutan's import composition sharing little over seven per cent of the aggregate. Here provisions are found to be the single largest item although the source has not classified the items that were included in provisions. It is gathered from other sources that it included dry fish in the main. Table 9 reveals that the import of these types of articles was started in Bhutan in 1911-12. Though their value of import was initially as much as Rs.480 thousand approximately, it gradually declined to about Rs.14 thousand in 1924-25.

Table 9: Import of live animals and allied products

Year	Provisions		Living animals	
	Rs.	cwt.	Rs.	no.
1907-08	-	-	-	-
1908-09	-	-	-	-
1909-10	-	-	-	-
1910-11	-	-	-	-
1911-12	480,711	44,081	-	-
1912-13	74,070	3,125	-	-
1913-14	83,310	3,270	-	-
1914-15	67,631	4,014	-	-
1915-16	53,951	2,627	-	-
1916-17	41,828	2,381	-	-
1917-18	43,836	-	580	-
1918-19	45,844	1,780	41,924	3,516
1919-20	11,448	283	5,111	704
1920-21	34,587	1,037	33,042	1,828
1921-22	24,972	763	5,138	493
1922-23	38,735	1,041	11,858	939
1923-24	14,503	1,448	2,928	187
1924-25	13,762	348	4,535	1,091
Total	1,029,188	66,198	105,116	8,758

Source: Various issues of Accounts Relating to the Trade by Land of British India with Foreign Countries for twelve months, April 1907 to March 1925

N.B. '-' indicates nil.

Section IV: Conclusion

This study indicates that Bhutan's import trade grew on an average at 11.21 per cent per annum during the study period. But the performance was not uniform all along. Achieving an annual growth rate of 21.58 per cent in the pre-War period, the import retarded at an annual rate of 25.52 per cent during the War. The rate of growth was 0.05 per cent per annum thereafter.

Among other important findings in this exercise we note firstly that Bhutan's direction of import trade was changed during this period, especially from 1915-16. While earlier Bhutan took the lion's share of her import requirements from Assam and Eastern Bengal, Bengal gradually came into prominence thereafter, and superseded its rival in this respect in the closing year of our study period. Secondly, changes also started taking place in her composition of import that was predominated, owing to the 'primitive' structure of the economy, by manufacturing products and agricultural goods. Our data source has indicated a 9.30 per cent decline in the share of manufacturing products in Bhutan's import during the last six years of the study period. Thirdly, there was also diversification of import base of Bhutan in this duration. A number of new products such as paint and colour, leather, Chinese and Japanese wares, and oil were introduced in her import list in this period. Lastly, imports of all commodities did not move in a uniform direction during different phases of the study period. British India's War compulsions and constraints determined the courses of their movements.