PREFACE

The thesis entitled The Development of Trade in the Madras Presidency" - (1914-1947 A.D) is the outcome of my research work under the guidance and supervision of Dr.K.Kamal Mustafa, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of History and Head of the Department, Government Arts College (Autonomous), Coimbatore - 641 018. The period 1914-1947 marks the significant stage in the economic history of the Madras Presidency witnessing far-reaching economic changes not only in the Presidency but also in India and in other nations of the world. The year 1914 the outbreak of the First World War caused tremendous impact on the trade of India and the Madras Presidency as well. The year 1947 witnessed the end of the old colonial economic policy in India and the beginning of free India’s new economic policy. Thus the period undertaken for research covers a comprehensive study of the British trade policies in its internal and external trade. An honest attempt has been made to find out whether the British Government in India was genuinely interested in developing the Indian trade in general and the Presidency trade in particular or her own.
The thesis has been divided into five chapters excluding introduction and conclusion. The introduction deals with the backdrop of the British Colonial Policy. The first chapter examines the causes of the First World War and its impact on trade in India and the Madras Presidency. The second chapter explains about the inter-war period (1920-1939) and the trade of the Presidency in details. The third chapter gives a succinct account of World War II and its profound effect on the inland and international trade of the Presidency. The next chapter is a discussion on the trade of the Presidency with Sterling areas in respect of its imports and exports. The last chapter evaluates trade policies and problems faced by the industries in the Presidency. The Conclusion is a derivation of the preceding chapters.

The scholar has reviewed to a very great extent the Annual, Fort Nightly and Weekly Reports on trade, which provided every kind of detail to write out the thesis. Equally important and useful have been the government orders available in the Tamilnadu Archives, Chennai. No other source reflects the mind and mood of the Government more than the Government Orders and the notes thereon. Besides, Despatches, Dairies, Minutes, Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and the Council, Letters and Acts were highly useful in writing the thesis. The information they supply is not exhaustive and complete. A few published unpublished
M.Litt and Ph.D theses and some important secondary and tertiary sources have been consulted. Among them mention may be made about the following.

However, none of these works give an indepth study of the topic undertaken for research. The prime object of the thesis is to find out whether the British government willingly or grudgingly or indifferently rendered help to accelerate or to hamper the industrial growth and to examine how the economic or trade policy of the British Government became the roots for the present industrial growth of the Madras Presidency.