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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE.

New Delhi Branch.

Jan. 1929

Report for January 1929.

Attached

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### General.

Public attention during the earlier part of the period under review was centred on the murder at Lahore of Mr. Saunders, the European Superintendent of Police, whose name was mentioned in connection with an assault on Lala Lajpat Rai, exactly one month after the latter's death. This together with the continuance of terrorism in Bombay and the organisation of hostile demonstrations at the centres visited by the Simon Commission indicates the seriousness of the political situation. The Viceroy, whose original tour programme extended till the third week of January returned to the capital on the 6th January and convened a meeting of the Executive Council, which, according to some press reports, decided upon the re-introduction of the Public Safety Bill in the next session of the Assembly. The nationalist papers infer that the Viceroy's early return was not unconnected with Gandhi's resolution on political advance, to which reference is made in the section of the report dealing with the activities of the Indian National Congress.

Among the distinguished foreign visitors to India this cold weather are General Gouraud, the Military Governor of Paris, Signorina Mussolini, the Italian premier's daughter, and Mr. Geoffrey Dawson, the editor of "the Times".

The Afghan trouble seems now to be slackening a little, as a result of Amir Amanullah withdrawing all his schemes for westernising the country.

The only international organisation which met in India during the period was the Federation of the World Student Christian Movement. The Federation had a very successful conference at Mysore during the first week of December and attracted much publicity.

Special attention is invited to the summary of evidence  
tendered before the Simon Commission by Mr. MacWatters,  
Secretary to the Department of Industries and Labour, and  
by Mr. R.R.Simpson, Chief Inspector of Mines.

Indian labour abroad is dealt with in a series of  
cuttings classified under that name.

P. S.

Since the compilation of the Report,  
news has been received on the 15th instand,  
that Amir Amanullah of Afghanistan has  
abdicated in favour of his elder brother,  
Prince Inayatullah.

### Congress Week Activities.

The 1928 session of the Indian National Congress, -- the premier political body in India -- held at Calcutta under the presidency of Pandit Motilal Nehru was a very momentous one. The Congress session lasted from the 29th December to 1st January, but the whole Christmas fortnight was marked by intense and concentrated political activity. A litter of conferences furnished the prelude to the Congress itself. Calcutta, the venue of this year's Congress, thus became for a fortnight the hub of the political life and activities of the country. Among the more important of the bodies that met in Calcutta prior to the session of the Congress were the All Parties Convention, which was specially convened to pronounce an authoritative verdict on the Nehru Committee Report, the All India Muslim League, the Central Khilafat Committee, the All India Workers and Peasants Conference, the All India Socialist Conference and the All India Social Reform Conference. The Indian Liberal Party held its annual conference, the National Liberal Federation, this year at Allahabad and the Indian Christian Conference was held at Madras.

A knowledge of the political back-ground is necessary to understand the positions of the various political and communal groups and their reactions to the main points at issue. Mr. Gandhi's non-co-operation movement and the successful application of the principle in the Bardoli Satyagraha campaign (no-tax campaign) had revealed for the first time <sup>in a</sup> a tangible form the possibilities latent in the application of such a method on a national scale. The exclusion of Indians from the Statutory Commission, completely ignoring Indian wishes in this respect, had united almost



all Indian parties in opposition to that Commission and created a desire for the framing of a constitution for India by purely Indian agencies. The 1927 session of the Congress held at Madras had ~~empowered~~ <sup>entrusted</sup> the task of framing a constitution to an All Parties Constitution Committee under the chairmanship of Pandit Motilal Nehru. The Committee framed a draft constitution for India, the main points in which are India's willingness to accept dominion status provided it is given early enough and certain new provisions for settling the communal question, e.g., abolition of separate electorates, with special provision for minority representation in the Punjab and Bengal. The draft constitution made by the Nehru Committee was subsequently ratified by the All Parties Conference which met at Lucknow.

Subsequently, acute divergences of opinion arose on two of its most important recommendations. Muslim ~~communalists~~ communalists under the leadership of Sir Mohamed Shafi and Mr. Mohammed Ali expressed dissatisfaction with the removal of communal electorates and demanded one-third representation for Muslims in the Central legislature and other measures for the protection of their communal rights. The concessions to Muslim communalism made in the Nehru Report excited opposition from other minority communities like the sikhs, and Indian Christians, who while against all forms of communal representation, pressed for concessional treatment if the Muslims were to be shown such leniency.

Even more important was the ~~x~~ <sup>a</sup> cleavage of opinion on India's political goal, which as defined by the Nehru Report was to be Dominion Status. The left wing of Indian politicians led by Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Subash Chandra Bose, declared uncompromisingly for independence. This party formed a new organisation

called the Independence League and conducted a whirlwind campaign in the country to popularise the independence ideal. It was in this atmosphere of storm and stress that the 1928 Congress met at Calcutta.

It was thought under the circumstances that the best method ~~■~~ to reconcile ~~conflicting~~ opinion was to hold an All Parties Convention at Calcutta under the auspices of the Congress, before the Congress should address itself to the task. Accordingly, in response to the invitation of the Congress, representatives of almost all communities and schools of political thought gathered at Calcutta. Congressmen, Independence Leaguers, the Indian Liberal Party, the Hindu Mahasabha, the All India Muslim League, representatives of the Sikhs, the Indian Christians and the Parsis, and the Indian communist party were amongst the more important groups that participated in the Convention.

The All Parties Convention had its work cut out for it in the difficult task of reconciling widely divergent views on both the Dominion Status versus Independence and communal questions. Ultimately, after prolonged deliberations during many sittings, the All Parties Convention passed by a large majority Mr. Sen Gupta's resolution that Dominion Status was to be accepted as the immediate political goal of India, though stout opposition to this was offered by the Independence Leaguers. On the communal issue, however, no such agreement could be reached. The All India Muslim League which had sent a delegation of 23 members to the Convention under the leadership of Mr. Jinnah, demanded on behalf of the Indian Muslims, one-third representation for Muslims in the central legislature, but agreed, by way of concession, to the scrapping of communal representation <sup>in the Province</sup> and

acceptance of joint electorates in its stead. These terms which represented the maximum of Muslim concessions on the communal issue, did not meet with the acceptance of other parties in the Convention. The Sikhs, an important minority community of the Punjab, who were prepared to vote against all forms of communal representation, changed their attitude in view of Muslim insistence on special protection and demanded that the Sikh community should also be given communal protection, if Mohamedans were accorded any such preferential treatment. The Indian Christians, who rank next in importance to the Sikhs among minority communities, formulated similar demands to those of the Sikhs. The Hindu elements in the Convention headed by Mr. Jayakar, a prominent lawyer of Bombay, took up the attitude that the communal adjustments of the Nehru Report represented the last word in Hindu concessions in the matter and that they could not further imperil the safety of their community by accommodation of the All India Muslim League's demands as enunciated by Mr. Jinnah. The Convention was thus reduced to a state of stale-mate and even the earnest individual efforts of influential leaders to circumvent the deadlock ended in failure.

The Convention thus registered only a partial success. While it succeeded in defining a common political goal for India it failed to arrive at a suitable settlement of the communal issue. The task was then taken up by the Congress, which began its session on the 29th December. The presidential speech of Pandit Motilal Nehru was an impassioned plea for unity <sup>on</sup> both ~~on~~ the political and <sup>the</sup> communal issues. He warmly advocated acceptance of the All Parties Constitution Committee Report. But the president's appeal notwithstanding, the sessions of the Congress also were

marked by long and acrimonious discussions. It might be mentioned here in passing that the National Liberal Federation which met at Allahabad and the Indian Christian Conference which met at Madras during the Congress week had both endorsed the Nehru Report with minor reservations. The advocates of ~~idm~~ independence again joined issues with the supporters of dominion status, but Mr. Gandhi's personality dominated the situation and secured the ultimate acceptance of the Nehru Report. The other matters that came up for discussion in the Congress were of the stock variety and were dwarfed by the all-important issue of Dominion Status versus Swaraj.

The following is a summary of the more important resolutions passed by the Congress:-

Mr. Gandhi moved and Dr. Ansari seconded "that this Congress welcomes the All Parties Committee Report (Nehru Report) as a great contribution towards the solution of India's political and communal problems; and whilst adhering to the resolution relating to complete independence passed at the Madras Congress, approves the constitution drawn up by the Nehru Committee as a great step in political advance, especially as it represents the largest measure of agreement attained among the important parties in the country:

Subject to the exigencies of the political situation, this Congress will adopt the constitution if it is accepted in its entirety by the British Parliament on or before the 31st December 1929; but in the event of its non-acceptance, by that date or its earlier rejection, the Congress will organise a campaign of non-violent non-co-operation by advising the country to refuse taxation and in such other manner as may be decided upon.

Consistently with the above, nothing in this resolution shall interfere with the carrying on of propaganda in the name of the Congress, for the goal of complete national independence".

Mr. Subash Chandra Bose, leader of the irreconcilables of the Independent party, moved the following by way of amendment to Mr. Gandhi's resolution:-

"(1) The Congress adheres to the decision of the Madras Congress declaring Complete Independence to be the goal of the Indian people and is of opinion that there can be no true freedom till the British connection is severed.

(2) This Congress accepts the recommendations of the Nehru Committee as agreed to by the Lucknow All Parties' Conference for the settlement of communal differences.

(3) This Congress congratulates the Nehru Committee on their patriotic labours and while it does not accept Dominion Status as the basis of the recommended constitution, is of opinion that the other recommendations contained in the report constitute a step towards political advance, and, without committing itself to every detail, generally approves of them".

Mr. Satyamurti, of Madras supported the amendment.

Dr. Besant, (Mrs. Annie Besant, President of the Theosophical Society and an ex-president of the Congress) opposed both Mr. Gandhi's resolution and Mr. Subash Chandra Bose's amendment and put in a strong plea for Dominion Status. She spoke warmly in favour of the British connection and pointed out the dangers of isolation consequent on independence

Mr. Nimbkar, one of the Bombay group of Communists, moved an amendment condemning the Nehru Report on the ground that it allows the bourgeoisie to compromise with British Imperialism, which involves the safeguarding of vested

interests and landowning, feudal, and capitalist classes, and a sacrifice of the interests of the masses, that by recognising the titles of the Indian princes, the Nehru Report proposes to perpetuate an undemocratic system of government, that the Report safeguards and acquiesces ~~in~~ in the exploitation of the human and material resources of India by foreign capital, that it guarantees and allows all titles to private and personal property acquired by questionable means, which perpetuates the exploitation of the masses, that it guarantees the payment of all foreign state debts, that it proposes to place the armed forces of the country under the control of a committee which will at first consist partly of British officers thus depriving the Indian people of their sovereign rights and that it proposes to give the executive powers and powers of veto to the Governor General and the Governors nominated by the King, thus depriving the Indian people of their sovereign rights. He, therefore, moved that the Congress should declare that its aim is the attainment of complete national independence, entirely free from British Imperialism.

The above resolution is important, in so far as it registers the high water-mark of the demands of Indian communists, the most extreme political party in the country. The communist demands, however, met with next <sup>to</sup> no support in the Congress.

The Congress after five hours of prolonged deliberation rejected all amendments and passed Mr. Gandhi's resolution by a large majority. Mr. Subash Chandra Bose's amendment, repudiating Dominion Status and laying down Independence as India's national goal was lost by 973 votes against 1350.

Other important resolutions passed by the Congress were:-

(1) "This Congress reiterates the War-Danger resolution passed by the Madras Congress and wishes to declare that the present Government of India in no way represents the people of India and their policy has been traditionally guided by the consideration of holding India under subjection and not of protecting her frontiers. The People of India have no quarrel with the other nations of the world and they will not permit themselves to be exploited by England to further her imperialist aims".

(2) "This Congress is of opinion that the policy of boycott of British goods should be vigorously pursued, viewing the question not on sentimental grounds but as a pure business proposition". (Carried).

(3) "This Congress directs the working Committee (of the Indian National Congress) to correspond with the leaders and representatives of other Asiatic nations and take steps to summon the first session of the Pan Asiatic Federation in 1930 in India."

(4) "This Congress sends its warmest greetings and its hearty congratulations to the people of China on their having attained full and complete freedom".

(5) "This Congress sends its warmest greetings to the peoples of Egypt, Syria, Palestine and Iraq and its assurances for their emancipation from the grip of Western Imperialism".

(6) "This Congress welcomes the second World Congress of the League against Imperialism to be held next year and authorises the Working Committee to appoint a delegate on behalf of the Congress."

(7) "The seventh resolution sponsored by Mr. Gandhi defined the future programme of action of the Congress. The main planks of Congress policy as defined by Mr. Gandhi and passed by the Congress were :-

(1) To carry an intensive campaign inside and outside the legislatures to bring about total prohibition of intoxicating drugs and drinks,

(2) Vigorous boycott of foreign cloth by advocating and stimulating production of handspun and hand-woven khaddar,

(3) specific grievances wherever discovered and where people are ready, shall be sought to be redressed by non-violent action as was done recently at Bardoli,

(4) The disabilities of ~~women~~ women are to be removed and they are to be invited and encouraged to take their due share in nation building,

(5) Measures shall be taken to rid the country of social abuses,

(6) It will be the duty of all congressmen who are Hindus to remove "untouchability" and help the so-called "untouchables".

(8) The 8th resolution condemned the Trade Disputes Bill and the Public Safety Bill and criticised the arrest at Tharia of Mr. Johnston, the fraternal delegate from the League against Imperialism and asserted that those measures were clearly intended to crush the Indian labour movement.

(9) The next resolution recorded the Congress' determination to continue the boycott of the Simon Commission and advised the people of places that are to be visited by the Simon Commission to organise hartals and mass demonstrations and to disobey all orders of Government prohibiting such activities.



References to I.L.O.

The Pioneer of the 22nd December 1928 reprints the substance of two articles which appeared in the "Spectator" and "The Nation" criticising the attitude of the British Government to wards the Washington Hours Convention.

... ..

The Press Communiqué issued by the Delhi Branch of the I.L.O. about its organisation and functions has been published in all the leading papers. The communiqué emphasised the desire of the I.L.O. to get into closer touch with the employers' and workers' organisations in India and with other bodies interested in the study of social and economic problems. Special attention was drawn to the fact that the I.L.O. has now become a world centre of economic research and information and it was pointed out that Indian economic interests will have much to gain if they avail themselves of the I.L.O.'s co-operation in their efforts to improve economic conditions in the country. As example of the I.L.O.'s interest in Asiatic labour problems reference was made to the enquiries on Asiatic labour, coloured labour, industrial conditions in the Indian States, etc., which the I.L.O. has now in hand.

(The Hindustan Times, 16-12-1928  
The Pioneer, The Times of India,  
The Statesman and the Hindu of 19-12-28,  
etc.)

... ..

A London Reuters telegram of 6th December 1928 referring to Col. Woodcock's question in the House of Commons whether £ 4000/- was spent by the Imperial Government to embellish the new building of the I.L.O. was published in all the papers.

... ..

*for has done  
us a good  
turn - quite  
unintentionally*

The more important dailies published a communique of the New Delhi Office issued in reply to a resolution submitted to the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon regarding the inadequate time allowed to Indian industrial associations for an expression of opinion on questions taken up for discussion at the International Labour Conference. The communique explains the procedure adopted by the International Labour Conference and summarises the agenda for the two conferences of 1929.

(The Hindustan Times of 24-12-1928 and other papers).

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 12th December 1928 has an editorial paragraph on the desirability of Indian non-officials leading the Indian delegations to the Geneva Conferences.

... ..

Another editorial note in the same paper (17-12-1928) refers to the establishment of the Indian branch of the I.L.O. as a recognition at Geneva of the claims of Indian labour. It adds that the opening of a branch office of the I.L.O. in India is a source of great gratification to all Indians.

... ..

The Indian Labour Review of December 1928 publishes fairly long editorial paragraphs about the I.L.O. branch in India. It recommends all industrial organisations in India to get into speedy touch with the New Delhi branch of the I.L.O. (A copy of the Indian Labour Review is not sent herewith, as it is taken in at Geneva. The references are to pages 52-54 and 95-96 of the Indian Labour Review for December 1928)

... ..

The Hindustan Times Lajpat Rai annual (December 1928) has a long article by the Director of the New Delhi branch on Lala Lajpatrai's work at Geneva. The occasion is taken incidentally to explain from Lala Lajpatrai's own quotations the function of the International Labour Organisation.

... ..

All the more important papers publish the speeches delivered at the annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce insisting that only Indians should be chosen to represent India at the Geneva Conferences. These cuttings are classified under "Industrial Organisations".

... ..

Relations between Central and Provincial  
Governments in labour legislation.

The Hon. Mr. A. C. MacWatters, Secretary to the Department of Industries and Labour in the Government of India, examined by the Simon Joint Free Conference on November 27, 1928, stated that certain subjects which were not suggested by the name of the Department, such as Posts and Telegraphs, Stores Purchases, and the Public Works Department were also administered by his department. In the matter of the Irrigation Department, which was a provincial reserved subject, the Government of India exercised some direction and control through the Department of Industries and Labour. Explaining the relations between the central and provincial governments with regard to industries and labour legislation, he said that certain branches of this kind of legislation, as, for example, those dealing with electricity, settlement of disputes and industrial insurance, were within the domain of the provincial governments, whereas in certain other branches it was the Central Legislature which enacted such legislation. The Government of India Act provided a list of subjects which were to be legislated for by provincial legislatures and another list of subjects over which the Central Legislature retained control. But in either case the provincial or the Central Government had to obtain the previous sanction of the Governor-General before it could take into consideration such legislation. The Governor-General, again, has the authority to declare the development of industries a central subject, though it figures in the list as a provincial transferred subject, if he thinks it expedient in the interests of the public. It was under this authority that the iron and steel industry

and the manufacture of steel rails and railway wagons were taken over by the Central government. Mr. MacWatters pointed out as an instance of an attempt by <sup>the Central</sup> ~~provincial~~ government~~s~~ to legislate on <sup>provincial</sup> ~~central~~ subjects, the action of the Bombay Government in trying to introduce a Trade Disputes Bill in that presidency. Permission in this case was refused as the central legislature was contemplating an all-India measure. A case in which such permission was granted was where the provincial governments were allowed to legislate with regard to the construction of factories. The Burma Government has already passed a law on this matter. Reviewing labour legislation, Mr. MacWatters cited the various Acts and said that the Government of India are considering a proposal to eliminate women and children from underground work in the mines in a number of years. India's record with regard to the Washington Hours Convention was a good one. Factory inspection was carried on under the provincial administrations and reports are sent to the Central Government. Mr. MacWatters did not consider it an unsatisfactory arrangement that the Acts of the Central Government were enforced by the provincial governments. With regard to India's relations with the International Labour Organisation, he replied to a question put by Lord Burnham, that India would not be content to remain in the category of backward industrial countries. The High Commissioner for India has a permanent place on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. India could not make an advance on the question of hours of labour unless the present conditions of labour were materially improved. Among the provincial governments, Bombay has a Labour Office, Madras has a Labour Commissioner and Bengal also has an officer to study labour conditions. The Government of India takes

responsibility for seeing that the law is carried out with regard to any Convention to which they have agreed; and usually such laws are executed to the Government's satisfaction. Proceeding, he stated that there were nine factory inspectors who worked under a chief inspector of factories. In cases of serious accidents, special boards, with magistrates as chairmen, were appointed to investigate the causes of the accidents. Public opinion as represented by members of the legislature is awakening to the necessity for ameliorating labour conditions. He admitted that the Central Government had opposed a measure for prohibiting employment of women for a certain period before and after maternity. Major Attlee and Mr. Hartshorn took a keen interest in examining Mr. MacWatters and elicited that, in some parts of the country, wages were unduly withheld, and that the central government were in correspondence with provincial governments to see whether Central legislation was desirable. The Government of India are directly responsible only for British India and have no power to enforce the principles of the International Labour Conventions in Indian States. This limitation has been accepted at Geneva. Mr. MacWatters agreed that one nominated labour member in the Indian Legislative Assembly was not sufficient. There was no labour representative in the Madras and United Provinces Legislative Councils, though Madras had special representation for the depressed classes. Consultation with the trade unions, whenever necessary, is carried on through the provincial governments, and he agreed with Major Attlee that it was rather a drawback that the Central Government is in touch with labour conditions only through the provincial governments; but the Hon. Member and the Secretary in charge

of the Central Department of Industries and Labour visit the chief industrial areas once or twice a year, particularly Bombay and Calcutta. Factory labour was hardly distinguishable from the great mass of agricultural classes, though to some extent it is becoming permanently settled in the cities. Mr. MacWatters considered that it will not be desirable that the provinces should have different laws for their factories' boilers, but that there were other subjects like sickness insurance and wages, where provincial legislation might be more suited to local conditions. In the matter of legislation about industrial housing, it is very unlikely that the Central Legislature should pass any useful measure of a general character. It should not therefore refuse sanction for provincial legislation. Sir Arthur Froom pointed out that the Merchant Shipping Act of India is far more advanced than that of most European countries. Continuing, Mr. MacWatters expressed himself in favour of creating a Ministry of Communications which will include railways, roads, and posts and telegraphs, so that commerce and industry can once again make a proper combination. This was a matter of redistribution of portfolios and of internal organisation of the Government of India. The Advisory Committee of the Department of Industries and Labour has members having intimate knowledge of labour conditions. It met once at Dhanbad, the mining centre, but, for a meeting called at Bombay, the witness found it impossible to get the members together. The industrial conferences formerly convoked by the Government of India consisted purely of Government Directors of Industries and the Ministers in charge. To encourage the development of Industries, the Government were carrying on and co-ordinating research, and having periodical industrial

surveys. The provincial governments had passed the State Aid to Industries Act, but they have not been always successful so far. The development of industries would help to solve the question of unemployment among educated Indians. At Geneva the Government promised to consider the question of minimum wages, but there has been no serious ventilation of views on the subject in India until quite recently. For 7,515 factories in 1927, there were only 46 factory inspectors. It is a matter within the control of the provincial governments and the Central Government have only to exercise general superintendence and direction. In reply to a question from Mr. Hartshorn whether the department prepared statistics about output, number of employees, cost of production, and profit and loss on industry as a whole, Mr. MacWatters replied that it had nothing so complete but that it did get some returns. This concluded the examination of the witness.

(The Hindustan Times of 29-11-'28 and  
all papers).



Industrial Disputes.

The situation in Bombay has, if anything, taken a turn for the worse after the events referred to in my last report. Sporadic ineffective strikes are constantly occurring and the discontent among the workers does not show any signs of appeasement. A complicating factor in the situation is the rivalry between factions in the labour group. On the 12th December, Mr. Nimbkar, one of the extremist labour leaders, was violently dealt with by a crowd of workers and had to take refuge in the police station. On the 13th December a serious collision occurred between a mob of mill strikers several thousands strong and a police picket on guard duty in the mill area, which resulted in 4 persons being killed and about 50 injured. An emergency meeting of the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association was called to consider the situation and it was resolved to appoint a deputation to wait on the Governor exhorting the Government to take drastic steps to re-establish peace and order in the mill area. When this news got abroad, the workers attempted to mob the vice-chairman of the Bombay Millowners' Association. An Associated Press telegram of the 17th December reported that about 20000 men were idle on that date. As a reply to the millowners' deputation, the Girni Kamgar Union with an estimated membership of 75000, is reported as having organised a Labour Defence Corps of 1600 members to protect their interests. On the 31st December a weaving master of the Pearl Mills was assaulted to death by the infuriated mill hands. On the 2nd January, an employee of the Burma Petroleum Company of Sewree, (a suburb of Bombay), 1100 workers of which have been on strike from the 7th December as a protest against

the retrenchment measures adopted by the Company, was assaulted and killed as a black-leg by the strikers. On the 3rd January Mr. S.A.Dange, another communist labour leader, was set upon by a band of angry workers. Other acts of lawlessness were also of frequent occurrence. The strike in the Burma Petroleum Company at Sewree is still continuing and picketing is being resorted to.

... ..

At Calcutta, the employees of the Fort Gloucester Jute Mills at Bauria have been on strike now for five months and 6500 strikers in the Clive Jute Mill have now joined them. On the 10th January a clash took place between 10,000 strikers including 500 women and the authorities of the jute mills, ~~but~~ and the situation is now ~~not~~ under control.

... ..

Statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 1928 have now been published by the Government of India. The 35 disputes during the period involved 266,199 men and the number of working days lost is estimated at 15,306,378. 19 of the disputes arose out of demands for higher wages, and 8 were over questions of personnel. Only five of these disputes were successful and 7 partially successful, while 17 ended in failure and 6 were still in progress. Classified by industries, there were 13 disputes in cotton and woollen mills involving 174,793 men and the number of days lost was 12,379,621. 46,146 men were involved in the three railway disputes which caused 572,786 working days. The two disputes in engineering workshops involved 26,400 men and 1,690,400 working days.

... ..

Labour conditions in the Mines.

Important evidence about conditions of work in Indian mines and particularly about the employment of women in mines was tendered before the Joint Free Conference of the Statutory Commission on December 17th at Patna. According to Mr. Simpson, <sup>R.R. Chief Inspector of Mines</sup> there were 270,000 workers employed in the mining industry in British India, excluding Indian States, out of which 155,000 were employed in the Bihar mines. There were 87,000 men and 32,000 women underground workers. In 1922 the Legislative Assembly empowered the Government to take the necessary steps to eliminate women from the mining industry at the rate of ten per cent per year, but Mr. Simpson admitted that Governments' efforts to implement its undertaking had not proceeded beyond the stage of talk. In 1924 when the Mines Act was passed, Government again gave a definite undertaking to bring about the elimination, but owing to practical difficulties as to what form the process of elimination will take, and some opposition from mine owners consequent on the recent depression in the coal trade no action was taken. As an additional reason, Mr. Simpson stated, that the women themselves objected to their being eliminated as the miners worked in family groups and elimination would mean decrease in the total earnings of the family. Mr. Simpson was of opinion that no further legislation was necessary to frame rules for preventing the employment of women and children and that it was a moot point whether Government could restrict their employment in surface work in collieries. The law prohibiting employment of children under 13 years of age was very well observed. Replying to Lord Burnham, Mr. Simpson further stated that the efforts at elimination have been made because of an

undertaking given by <sup>the</sup> Government of India at Geneva in 1921 at the International Labour Conference and not because of any movement in the central legislature.

Giving evidence about the conditions of work, Mr. Simpson said that the hours of work were limited to 54 per week underground and 60 on surface. These rules were enforced as far as possible and some class of workers enjoyed a shorter week. The average pay for a male worker was 15 annas per day, while that of a woman was 7 annas. Witness affirmed that there was no discontent among the labourers, as the wages paid in the mining industry was more than what they earned as agricultural labourers. Regarding the question of the health and sanitation of the workers, Mr. Simpson said that recently a Mines Board of Health had been created, which has greatly improved health conditions in mining areas. As against 2000 deaths from cholera in 1919, during the six years of the Board's existence there had only been 1479 such deaths. The board consisted of nominated officials and elected representatives of both mineowners and workmen and its expenses were met by a levy of Rs. 1-4-0 per 100 tons of coal despatched. Speaking about accidents and casualties among miners, witness said that as against 523 cases of grievous hurt in 1926 there were 680 such cases in 1927. In 1927, 247 persons were killed in mining accidents out of which 30 were women. The law required owners to provide medical aid for the labourers, and in the mining areas there were many hospitals maintained by the owners. A very efficient ambulance corps was maintained in the mining area and the efficiency level was kept up by a rule requiring that one out of every 100 workers should be a qualified "first-aid" man. There were nine inspectors

of mines including the Chief Inspector. In cases of violations of the regulations it was a matter of great administrative convenience that District Magistrates were empowered to initiate proceedings. They had prosecuted a few mineowners for violations of the laws.

(Statesman, 19-12-1928).

... ..

Improvement of social conditions  
in Jamshedpur.

The Board of Directors of <sup>the</sup> ~~Tata~~ <sup>Iron and</sup> Steel Company have decided to adopt the following programme for the next three years in connexion with housing, lighting and water supply in the town. The expenditure now sanctioned will greatly increase the amenities of the town.

The programme sanctioned provides for :- (1) Increased expenditure on the construction of quarters: (2) improvement of the general water supply and house connexion: (3) the completion of the sewerage system and the lighting of the chief main roads, and (4) provision of children's playgrounds, sporting grounds and free cinemas.

The following sums will be spent on the above mentioned objects next year:- Quarters Rs. 7,00,000:  
Water Rs. 2,00,000: Sewerage Rs. 1,00,000: lighting  
Rs. 2,00,000 - Total Rs. 12,00,000. It is proposed to spend a similar sum each year for the next three years.

The maternity benefit promised by the Company will be brought into force with effect from January 1, 1929. The benefit will be the payment of six weeks wages to women who have been confined. The rules under which this benefit can be claimed are being published.

This programme can only be carried out, states Mr. C. A. Alexander, General Manager of the Company, if the Company earns sufficient money. Any recurrence of the kind of trouble through which Jamshedpur has been passing during recent months will make it impossible for the company to carry out its programme.

(Statesman, 29-12-1928.)

Industrial Organisations.Employers' Organisations.The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce.

The second annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce ~~commenced its sittings~~ <sup>was held</sup> at Calcutta on the 28th <sup>and 29th</sup> December 1928. The President, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, in inviting His Excellency the Viceroy to open the proceedings, referred briefly to the history and objects of the movement represented by the Federation, and explained its attitude to the British Government and to British commercial interests in India. He discussed the various difficulties which Indians engaged in trade and commerce had to overcome, and pointed out the directions in which Indian interests required better safeguards.

The Viceroy, in his speech, stated that though India's present trade outlook was favourable, yet depression prevailed in the rice, coal and cotton trades. Low prices, coupled with defective marketing methods, were held responsible for the depression. He then ~~dwelt~~ <sup>dwell</sup> on the ~~valuable~~ <sup>valuable</sup> work done in promoting Indian trade by Sir Atul Chatterji and Mr. Lindsay, and on the proposals now before the Government for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners at Hamburg, Milan and New York, as also at other centres recommended by the Indian Commercial Mission to the Near East and Africa. Apropos to the recent labour unrest in the country, His Excellency remarked that it was difficult to lay sufficient emphasis upon the appalling waste of resources, the set-back to general prosperity, the sufferings and privations of the innocent, the dangerous passions of class hatred and mob violence, which were the inevitable outcome of the conflicts between employers and employed.

He estimated that, during the first nine months of 1928, at least 30 million working days had been lost owing to trade disputes, and that the wages lost amounted to about 45 million rupees, without taking into account the vastly greater losses of the employers of labour, which, in the Bombay Mills strike alone, has been computed at 150 million rupees. He, therefore pleaded for the co-operation of employers in considering what measures may be taken to prevent the recurrence of such a situation. Referring to the Trade Disputes Bill, he said that enquiry into settlement of trade disputes by impartial tribunals must be supplemented by action on the part both of employers and workers on the same lines as those in the British trades and industries, where resort to Government machinery for settlement is regarded as the last line of defence. After reviewing Indian industrial legislation in the past few years, he remarked that great advance has been made in recent years in western countries and new ideas and new methods are being constantly canvassed, so that India may still benefit from western experience. Referring to the Coastal Reservation Bill, he said that he could not bring himself to believe that the Indian mercantile marine will be created merely by legislative action to transfer the profits of the coastal trade from British to Indian shareholders. There was no precedent in the British Empire, or in any other country or empire, for legislation which would reserve the coastal trade. He therefore recommended co-operation and not discrimination as the best means of achieving the objects of Indian industrial community.

Among the resolutions passed at the Conference were the following :-



"The Federation urges upon the Government of India the necessity for re-modelling the Indian Customs Tariff and recommends that a Committee of experts, including representatives of Indian commercial bodies, be appointed to go into the question at an early date."

"The Federation strongly supports the Bill to reserve the Coastal Traffic ~~of~~ India ~~and~~ to Indian vessels, urges the Government of India to encourage the participation of Indian vessels in the overseas trade of the country, and to take early steps to develop the ship building industry in India, and while welcoming the establishment of the Indian mercantile marine training ship "Dufferin" in Bombay, urges that another training ship be stationed for the Bay of Bengal."

"The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce is emphatically of opinion that India should be represented at all International Labour Conferences by Indians only, and always by a full quota of delegates and advisers, and strongly condemns the policy of appointing non-Indians to be her representatives, and urges that the delegation of a country to the Labour Conferences should be national in character." (Moved by Mr. G.D.Birla, M.L.A., and seconded by Mr. R.K.Shanmukham Chetty, M.L.A.).

Another resolution recommended Seth Kasturibhai Lalbhai of Ahmedabad as a delegate and Messrs. R.K.Shanmukham Chetty, (Madras), P. Mukerji, (Punjab), B.Das, (Bihar) and Khan Bahadur A. Chandu, (Burma), as advisers to represent Indian employers at the 12th session of the International Labour Conference, and Mr. Jadunath Ray as delegate and Messrs. H.A. Master Fakirjea Cowasjee, K.C.Neogy, and Sherif Hassan at the 13th session.

Mr. D.P. Khaitan moved, with reference to the economic Conference of the League of Nations, that the Government of India should send full delegations to all International Conferences, the delegations to be composed of Indians only. The other resolutions dealt with the Indian salt and oil industries, the appointment of a Central Jute Committee on the lines of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, and the appointment of an Indian Banking Enquiry Committee. The Federation also passed resolutions establishing ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce, with Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas as president and Mr. D.P.

D.P. Khaitan as Vice-President.

Mr. G. D. Birla, M.L.A., has been elected President of the Federation for the forthcoming year.

(Times of India, 31-12-28 and 1-1-29 and all other papers).

## Workers' Organisation

### The All-India Railwaymen's Federation.

The fifth session of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held at Jharia on the 17th and 18th December 1928, with Rai Sahib Chandrica Prasad in the chair. In his presidential address, the Rai Sahib referred to the growing unrest among the railwaymen resulting in the recent strikes on the North Western Railway, the Bengal and North Western Railway, the Bengal Nagpur Railway, the East Indian Railway and the South Indian Railway and the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway. The refusal of the Government of India to order an enquiry into the long-standing grievances of the men and the policy of retrenchment among the lower staff were, according to him, the reasons for this unrest. The principal grievance of the railwaymen was the victimisation, and it was because the power of the railway officials to victimise union workers was unlimited that railway workers have not been able to freely exercise their right of association. He pleaded for uniform systems of rules relating to the conditions of service in both State-worked and company-worked railways. In particular he referred to the racial discrimination between Indians and Europeans which was a marked feature in some railways. The Railwaymen's Federation stood for the principle of equal pay for equal work, and did not recognise that any race or community had any right to claim any special right or concession. He condemned the Trade Disputes Bill as a reactionary measure, and drew the attention of the Government of India to the fact that the Federation was not consulted about the requirements of the Washington and Geneva conventions on the subject of working hours on Indian railways.

Mr. V.V. Giri, the General Secretary, referred in his report to the increasing recognition the Federation has been gaining from all quarters, and outlined the work done by it during the year under review, especially in the strikes in the Bengal Nagpur Railway, East Indian Railway, South Indian Railway and Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway. He pointed out that, though the Federation has not any direct representation in the Indian Legislative Assembly, it has been its policy to hold the meetings of its general council at the times and places <sup>where</sup> ~~at~~ the Assembly is in session, so as to create an interest in the minds of the members of the Assembly in railway matters. He foresaw that future disputes in the Indian railways will centre round the questions of retrenchment, security of tenure, minimum wages, hours of work and racial discriminations. The resolutions adopted by the Federation condemned the apathy of the Government towards railway men's grievances, and the proposed Indian trade disputes Bill, and protested against the recent instructions issued by the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway regarding recruitment of Anglo-Indians on more favourable terms than Indians.

Ten out of the thirteen <sup>affiliated</sup> unions were represented at the Federation.

Tinplate Workers' Union.

A conference of the Tinplate Workers' Union was held at Jamshedpur on the 7th January 1929 with Mr. M. Daud in the chair. It was resolved to register the Union under the Trade Union Act with Mr. Daud as the President.

By far the most important resolution adopted by the Conference was the one demanding (1) a general increase of 25 per cent. in wages; (2) Inauguration of the system of a provident fund, leave rules, holidays for religious festivals, acting allowances, overtime pay according to the Factory Act, bonus, Maternity Benefit and half an hour's interval for eight hours continuous work, all as obtaining in the Tata Iron and Steel Co.; (3) proper housing accommodation; (4) reduction of foreign supervision; (5) six days minimum wages per week; (6) similar rates of wages for similar work; (7) supply of shoes, aprons and water-proofs to workers, and (8) removal of corruption in the matter of appointments.

Another resolution urged that the Union be recognised by the Tinplate authorities.

The All-India Postmen's Conference.

The All-India Conference of postmen and members of the lower grade staff under the Indian Postal Department was held at Calcutta on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd January 1929, Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar, M.L.A. presiding. Mr. N.C. Chunder, in his speech as the chairman of the Reception Committee, pointed out that before the war a postman in England ~~xxxx~~ started with a salary of 23 shillings a week, whereas it has now been raised to 53 shillings a week or Rs. 150 per mensem, while the starting salary of the Indian postman is only Rs. 25 per mensem at the present day. While the English postman has his salary doubled after 14 years service that of an Indian postman does not come up to that level even after 21 years. A revision in their salaries was made sometime ago, but as the president pointed out, and the Conference subsequently affirmed, that revision fell considerably short of the postmen's demands formulated in 1925, and has failed to give satisfaction. Again, not much progress appears to have been made in carrying into effect the Ryan Committee's recommendations in favour of efficient and qualified postmen being appointed to lower division clerkships under the postal department. In the resolutions passed by the Conference, expression was given to some of the postmen's grievances.

(The Servant of India, January 10, 1929).

## Workers and Peasants' Conference

The Hindu of 22nd and 24th, the Hindustan Times of 23rd and 26th December 1928 and other papers give an account of the Workers' and Peasants' Conference held at Calcutta on the 21st and 22nd December 1928. In his presidential address Mr. Sohan Singh Josh of Amritsar condemned the trade union movement as being led by persons belonging to the petty bourgeoisie classes, and explained that the objects of the Workers' and Peasants' movement was to affiliate their organisations with the Trade Union Congress and convert it into a militant body. "They should not expect any benefit from the Geneva International, as it was a mere farce to throw dust into the eyes of the proletariat. They should secure if possible affiliation with the International of Moscow or with the Peasants' International Kristentera (?) because these Internationals were the real supporters of the political, economic and social emancipation of the proletariat, and have shown by their attitude that they have been unceasingly fighting against capitalism and imperialism. We should also keep in mind that the International Federation of Trade Unions (Amsterdam) is a capitalists' organisation. We should, therefore, decide once for all to have nothing to do with it".

The resolutions adopted at the Conference condemned the authors of the Nehru Report, the Independence League and the Capitalist Nationalists, and insisted on freeing the labour movement from bourgeois control. The necessity for continuing the class struggle, and bringing about an agrarian revolution was also emphasised.

The Conference was poorly attended, only 200 being reported as having been present at the first day's proceedings.

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## The Communist Movement.

The Times of India in its issues of the 2nd and 3rd January 1929 publishes an article on "Indian Trade Unions", pointing out the efforts made by communist organisations abroad to capture the Indian Trade Union Congress and generally influence the Indian working class movement. Special interest attaches to this article since this is the first attempt to give an idea of the proceedings of the Executive Council of the All India Trade Union Congress at Jharia and of the machinations of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat and the League against Imperialism. This article refers in detail to the projects of Joshi and Chamanlal in India and Suzuki and Yonekubo in Japan to summon an Asiatic Labour Conference and to the reasons why the communist delegates are opposed to it. Already, two of the more prominent delegates to the Jharia Congress have drawn public attention to the necessity of purging the All India Trade Union Congress of communist elements. (The Hindustan Times of 6th and 7th January 1929, Pioneer of 10-1-29 and Times of India of 7-1-29). That the activities of the communists in India are setting many furiously to think is clear from certain recent utterances. Speaking at the annual meeting of the European Association held at Calcutta on the 17th December last, His Excellency the Viceroy referred to the dangerous implications of the communist philosophy as applied to India. He said that, while there were several directions in which Indian social conditions needed urgent reform, revolution would be too high a price to be paid for bringing about such betterment. "No one with a stake, in the orderly progress of Indian life, can afford to be unconcerned with any such threats to the stability of established institutions, and this question has recently been engaging the serious attention of the



Government. Legislation however can treat only the symptoms and will not of itself remove the root cause of the disease, for Communism takes its origin in social conditions and will always find out the weak spot in which to flourish as noxious weeds will readily find the soil best suited to their growth. And as it will generally find its attack easiest on crowded industrial populations, it is here we have to make our first stand against it. Communism will not hesitate to manufacture grievances where they do not exist; but unless it can lay its finger on real injustice, it is not likely to succeed and much can be done in any country to counter such an attack by employers keeping in close personal touch with those they employ, and seeing that their wages and conditions of life are reasonable. If we are to fight Communism successfully, it will be by employers and the Government giving cause to the masses to believe that they ~~are~~ and not the Communists are the true friends of labour. We must make it plain that even the most philanthropic Communist that ever sought to loosen the whirlwind of revolution enjoys no monopoly of the desire to improve conditions, and that progressive employers can offer a more excellent way by which this may be accomplished. From this point of view, if from no other, it is the duty of all employers, whether public or private, to remember that the workman is a human being, both before he enters the factory and after he leaves it, and that only the industrial system which is careful always to recognise this human side of its business can expect to meet with confidence the challenge of these disruptive influences." (Hindu, 18-12-28, and other papers).

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad in his presidential address at the annual meeting of the National Liberal Federation referred to the existence of a party openly ~~proclaiming~~ proclaiming revolution and destruction of the present structure of society and ownership of property as its goal, and exhorted the Government and all right-thinking men to take all measures to stop its exploitation and misleading of the masses for revolutionary purposes before it is too late. (Pioneer, Allahabad, 2-1-1929). Pandit Motilal Nehru, in his presidential address to the Indian National Congress, struck a somewhat different note. After assuring Indian labour that the Congress has all along identified itself with its cause, he referred to the recent labour disputes in Bombay and elsewhere and said that the "authorities who have stepped in on behalf of the employers have not only raised the communist bogey as an answer to the hungry labourer, who fights for a living wage and for bare decencies of human living, <sup>but have also</sup> ~~and for to have~~ <sup>ed</sup> resort to ~~shooting~~ shooting <sup>and</sup> violence in putting down strikers which must fill our hearts with shame and sorrow. The Congress can no longer afford to ignore these deplorable happenings, and the time has arrived ~~when~~ the Congress should actively intervene and take steps to secure the just demands of labour and take it upon itself to strengthen their organisations as a part of the work of national consolidation". (Pioneer, 2-1-1929).

... ..

A sensational episode of the Congress week was the march of 30000 labour demonstrators carrying communist flags and red banners into the <sup>Indian National</sup> Congress camp on Sunday the 30th December 1928, with the demand that the Congress hall should be given over to them for holding a meeting. The crowd was so unmanageable that after some parleying, the president

had to grant this strange request, with the result that the Congress was held up for two hours. The demands of the demonstrators as enunciated in their speeches and in the literature distributed on the occasion were (1) assistance for the strikers from the Congress in the Bauria mills at Calcutta; (2) a grant of Rs. 25,000 for labour organisations in each province; (3) Committees in every province for mass organisation, and (4) equal seats for labour leaders on the Congress Working Committee.

... ..

Other cuttings in this section include accounts of the 9th session of the Madras Non-Gazetted Officers' Conference (Hindu, 30-12-1928); of the Bengal Peasants' and Ryots' Conference (Hindu, 25-12-1928); and of the All India Socialist Youth Conference (Hindu, 28-12-1928); and also a leading article of the Hindu of 2-1-1929 on the Indian Press Conference.

... ..

Industrial Hygiene.

Among the cuttings on Industrial Hygiene is an article on "Malaria and Health - How to secure greater efficiency in the Mill Industry", by Sir Malcolm Watson, Principal of the Malaria Department of the Ross Institute, where he points out the losses incurred by industrial undertakings employing a high percentage of malaria-stricken coolies. With reference to conditions in the rubber industry of Malaya, he says that estates with a healthy labour population, produced more and cheaper rubber than the unhealthy ~~unex~~ one. The f.o.b. cost per pound in cents for the group which had been healthy was 28.25, while for the group that had remained unhealthy it was 36.03. Further the average yield per acre in pounds for a healthy group was 431.01 and for an unhealthy group 400.30. Another difference which was apparent between healthy and unhealthy estates was that labour did not work less, but worked more, on a healthy estate than on an unhealthy estate, and that labour came more freely to the former group than to the latter. The argument of the employer that he would be made bankrupt if obliged to spend money to make his estate healthy, thus proved to be entirely unfounded. Bombay, according to him, was 20 years behind the Malay peninsula in its attitude towards malaria control.

(The Times of India, 8-12-1928).

The Pioneer of 28th December 1928 summarises "the Report of the Departmental Committee on Disinfection Costs with regard to East Indian Wool", published by H.M. Stationery Office, London.

Women and Children.

All-India Women's Conference.

The third session of the All-India Women's Conference on Educational Reform was held at Patna from the 3rd to the 7th January 1929. The president, H.H. the Dowager Rani of Mandi deplored the present extent of illiteracy among the women as shown by the latest official statistics, according to which out of every 1000 women only 21 were literate. Only 13 per cent. of the total population of women were undergoing instruction in the schools, and in face of these figures the task of spreading literacy among Indian women was a very difficult one indeed. The question of women's educational progress was intimately bound up with their social position and early marriage and the purdah system will disappear only if education made headway among them. She pleaded for equality of opportunities to both sexes and its recognition in all directions in this country.

The Conference passed resolutions recommending the establishment of industrial homes for women, condemned the custom of allowing immature girls to become wives and mothers and supported Mr. Sarda's Child Marriage Bill, and Sir Hari Singh Gour's Age of Consent Bill, urged the extension of the franchise to women in Bihar and Orissa; and appealed to Government to appoint a committee including women ~~to~~ ~~inquire~~ to inquire into the sanitary, hygienic and economic conditions under which women worked, and laid strong emphasis on the prohibition of underground female labour in mines.

The All India Women's Social Conference held at Calcutta, on the 27th and 28th December 1928 dealt with the need for the abolition of the purdah, of the system of early marriage,

the dowry system and the need for widow remarriage and education.

(Statesman, 28-12-1928,  
Pioneer, 31-12-1928).

The Committee of the Madras Vigilance Association has resolved to request the League of Nations, to include India within the scope of the enquiry which it is conducting through its committee of experts, into the international traffic in women and children in the Far East. The Madras Vigilance Association has also resolved to request the Government of India to invite the League's experts to undertake such an inquiry in India.

(Times of India, 8-12-1928).

Maritime Affairs.

Reference has already been made, in this office's special report of the 3rd January 1929 on the annual conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon, to the resolution adopted by the conference apropos of Mr. S.N.Haji's Bill. The Associated Chambers represent the bulk of European commercial interests in India and their action in protesting against the Bill has been further buttressed by a resolution passed by the executive council of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce in London early in December. A reuter's telegram giving the summary of this resolution has been reproduced in the Pioneer of 8th December 1928 and other papers. The Hindustan Times of the 16th December publishes a summary of Lord Inchcape's speech at the annual meeting of the P. & O. Steam Navigation Company condemning the Bill. Indian commercial interests, however, are united in their desire to have the Bill passed into law, as was clear from the resolution adopted at the annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, to which reference is made in another part of this report.

## New Publications

### Factories in India in 1927.

A recent publication of the Government of India\* gives interesting statistical details about the working of the Factories Act in 1927. The total number of factories rose from 7,251 in 1926 to 7,515 in 1927; and out of this latter figure, 160 were small establishments to which the provisions of the Factory Act were extended by Provincial Government notifications, as against 122 in 1926. No such small establishments have been notified by the Government of Burma, though there are about 300 such factories in the Province, as the inspection staff there is not large enough to deal with any additional work that may be thrown upon them; but it is stated that the problem is now under the consideration of the Government.

310 out of 7515 factories working in the year were owned by Government or Local Funds; and of the others, 417 were textile factories, 539 engineering concerns, 1,459 rice mills, 868 tea factories, 211 oil mills, 280 printing and book-binding establishments, 207 saw mills, and 2,244 cotton gins and jute presses. The Bombay Presidency had 1426 factories, followed by the Madras Presidency with 1301, Bengal with 1297, Burma with 940, and the Central Provinces with 704. Assam, which is the main home of the tea industry, had 591 factories, and the Punjab only 546. The other Provinces do not appear to have developed any considerable industrial activity.

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\* "Statistics of Factories subject to the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) for the year ending December 31st, 1927, together with a Note on the Working of the Factories Act during the year. Calcutta Govt. of India, Central Publication Branch, 1928." X



The total factory population has now risen ~~from~~ 1,518,391 in 1926 to 1,533,382 in 1927. In 1923, the figure was 1,409,173. The Government and Local Fund factories employed 144,573 persons, of whom 72,746 were in Railway workshops, 23,603 in ordnance factories, and 13,399 in Printing Presses. Of the other establishments, cotton (spinning and weaving and other) factories employed 342,315, Jute mills 332,119, general engineering works 33,622, Railway workshops 73,686, shipbuilding and engineering 24,292, iron and steel smelting and steel rolling mills 34,571, rice mills 71,693, tea 63,359, printing and book-binding 22,750, cotton ginning and baling 143,306 and jute presses 35,471. Bengal had the largest factory population of any province, (559,759), followed by the Bombay Presidency (381,865), the Madras Presidency (134,074) and Burma (101,353), the other provinces having each only less than 100,000 factory workers. Substantial increases on the past ~~year's~~ year's figures were recorded in both Bengal where, in spite of a further reduction of numbers employed in the Jute mills, there was increasing activity in iron and steel smelting works and allied engineering concerns, and in Madras where the number of factories increased from 1198 in 1926 to 1301 in 1927.

Of the total employed in factories, 1,222,662 were men, 253,158 women, 48,028 boys and 9,534 girls. In the case of boys and girls there was a slight fall from the figures of 1926; but the number of women went up from 249,669 in 1926 to 253,158 in 1927. The Cotton mills employed 64,121 and the Jute mills 54,219

women. There was a very substantial increase in the number of women in the Madras factories, principally in the coffee-curing works, coir rope works and in tea, cashew and ground nut factories. The decrease in the number of children is attributed to the restrictions imposed by the Factory Act and to the increasing efficiency of the arrangements for the certification of children.

27% of the factories maintain<sup>ed</sup> a 48 hour week for men, 14% more observed a working week of 54 hours or less, and 59% observed a longer working week. For women, the corresponding percentages are, 31, 13, and 56. The percentage of factories which limit the hours of work of children to 30 in the week increased from 30 in 1926 to 36 in 1927. The number of factories which were exempted from one or other of the sections of the Act showed a slight increase in the year (4791 in 1927 as against 4601 in 1926), but the local governments are examining the question of <sup>ampl</sup> exceptions at the desire of the central government. In a number of cases, where it has not been found practicable to withdraw the previous exemptions, suitable conditions are being imposed to secure as far as possible compensatory benefits for the employees.

Reported accidents of all kinds rose from 14,866 in 1926 to 15,711, though the number of fatal accidents fell from 270 to 242. Bombay and Bengal are principally responsible for this large increase, which is partly at any rate accounted for by a system of better reporting. The progressive increase of accidents in the iron and steel industry since 1923 is now the subject of special

investigation. The Madras and the United Provinces factory reports trace the accidents to the carelessness and ignorance of the operatives, whereas the Punjab and Burma reports attribute them to "a lamentable disregard on the part of some factory owners for the essential and oft-repeated precautions against accidents" and to "lack of supervision and indulgence in unsafe practices". Progress in the fencing of dangerous machinery is being maintained and managements encouraged to give attention to safety measures. The value of safety posters as an aid in the reduction of accidents is gaining increasing recognition particularly in the railway workshops, and it is interesting to find that the Millowners' Mutual Assurance Association in Bombay has agreed to bear the cost of the preparation of some of these posters for the textile industry.

There was no marked advance in welfare work during the year and the factory owners in some provinces have been unable to incur any considerable expenditure for this purpose owing to the present state of trade depression. Bombay however maintains the progress made in previous years, and six additional creaks were opened during the year in the Bombay mills for the infants of women workers. Some Ahmedabad mills have opened new hospitals and dispensaries and the treatment provided for the operatives is on a liberal scale.

Little progress is reported in the matter of housing, except in the Government of India's Security Printing Press at Nasik Road, where nearly 3000 persons are housed in comfort. In Bombay and Ahmedabad the millowners are rapidly recognising the need of efficient

ventilating and cooling arrangements to ~~xxxx~~ neutralise the trying climatic conditions.

The number of convictions in 1927 under the Factories Act was 1420, but there are continued complaints as to the inadequacy of fines imposed on factory managers convicted of offences under the Act. Some of the provincial reports rightly point out that inadequate fines instead of having a deterrent effect encourage the offenders to defy the law with profit to themselves and to pay willingly the light penalties imposed on them.

The percentage of factories inspected during the year rose from 88 in 1926 to 89, the total number of factories inspected being 6692 as against 6399 in 1926. As in previous years the largest number of uninspected factories were in Assam and Bengal, and it is stated that there are special difficulties connected with the application of the Act to the tea garden factories. In Behar and Orissa also, owing to the absence of an inspector on leave, the number of uninspected factories rose from 50 in 1926 to 140.

## Ahmedabad Working class Budgets

The Bombay Labour Office has published the results of an inquiry into family budgets of the working classes in Ahmedabad in a report\* which gives a valuable insight into the conditions of life of the cotton mill operatives and other manual labourers in the town. For the purposes of the report, three in every hundred families in Ahmedabad were visited, and in all 985 family budgets were collected, out of which 872 were accepted for final tabulation.

An analysis of the families according to income classes shows that the majority of them or 80.85 per cent. of the total have an income of between Rs. 20 and Rs. 60 per month. The income class in which the largest number of families is to be found is "Rs. 40 and below Rs. 50." Of the families considered, 78.67 per cent. were Hindu, 20.18 per cent. Mahomedan and 1.15 per cent. Christian.

The average number of persons per family in Ahmedabad is 4 of which 1.66 are earners and 2.21 dependants. Of the earners 1.25 are men, 0.37 women and 0.04 children. In nearly half the number of cases there was only one wage-earner and in nearly 40 per cent. of the families there were two. The highest number of earners recorded in one family was 5.

In the 872 families considered there were 1,443 workers, 1,090 of whom were men, 320 women and 33 children. It is seen that though in many cases the monthly earnings of individual workers are as low as less than Rs. 6, in the

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\* Report on an Enquiry into Working Class Family Budgets in Ahmedabad. Prepared by the Labour Office, Secretariat, Bombay. Published by order of the Governor in Council. Price - Annas 4 or 5d. Bombay. Printed at the Government Central Press. 1928. pp 48 + v.

majority or 61 per cent, of the cases the earnings vary from Rs. 15 to Rs. 33 per month. No woman wage-earner gets more than Rs. 33 per month, and no child worker gets Rs. 15 per month.

Out of the total of 1,443 wage-earners, 1,049 were employed in cotton mills. The earnings of cotton mill workers appear to be higher than of other workers in Ahmedabad. The income of the family is made up not only of the regular monthly earnings of the workers in the family but ~~it~~ also includes income from certain supplementary sources. Roughly speaking, the Ahmedabad working class family has a monthly income of about Rs. 44-8.

The percentage of distribution of expenditure on the various groups of articles included in the family budget shows that food accounted for 57.90 per cent. of the income, fuel and lighting for 7.04, clothing for 9.45, bedding and household necessities for 1.16, house-rent for 11.74 and miscellaneous for 12.71.

The Ahmedabad worker is heavily indebted. The amount of debt varies from a few rupees to many times the monthly income. The money is borrowed at heavy rates of interest which in the majority of cases vary from 12 to 24 per cent. But higher rates of interest are not uncommon, and in fact in one case the rate of interest reported was as high as 225 per cent.

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
New Delhi Branch

Report for February 1929.

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General.

The capital is now full of politicians and princes who have come to attend the cold weather sessions of the Legislative Assembly, the Council of State and the Chamber of Princes. The two latter bodies commenced their sittings only on the 12th February, but the first has been in session since the 28th January, and already, with the reference to Select Committees of the Public Safety and Trades Disputes Bills, the most controversial items coming up this session have been well started on their way. Though it is difficult to gauge correctly the attitude of the members of the Assembly towards the Government, one seems to sense a certain slackening in the political tension, induced, no doubt, by the conciliatory tone of the Viceroy's opening speech. The non-official members maintain, nevertheless, a certain unity of action in their opposition to the principal measures brought forward by the Government - a unity of action that cuts across party divisions - and it remains to be seen whether the Government will be overwhelmed by the <sup>a</sup>niagra of angry rhetoric which is sure to descend on the House when the above bills come up for final reading. For, the general view of the non-official side is that the Government is making political capital of purely labour troubles which are traceable more directly to economic distress than to the teachings of Moscow; and that both the Public Safety Bill and clauses 15 onwards of Trade Disputes Bill will in their ultimate incidence tend to check political work among the Indian masses and are aimed directly at it. It was curious, but understandable, that capitalists of Indian nationality like Mr. Birla and Sir Furshottandas Thakurdass, were opposed to both bills.



The Geneva organisations have had a fair amount of publicity here during the period under review. There are some occasions when Geneva could do with a little less of publicity. One such occasion is when the Indian Delegations' report on the Geneva Assembly is published in India. Our delegates for the 1928 Assembly have just published their interim report and some Indian newspapers have seized the opportunity to criticise the ~~Geneva~~ Geneva budgets. Their main charges are (1) that the League is a league of Europeans, (2) that so long as India is represented by a non-Indian and an official, she can gain nothing from her association with Geneva, and (3) that there are so few Indians in the Geneva Offices.

... ..

The Afgan troubles are not yet ended, and in the opinion of frontier experts, the situation will worsen before it can improve. There are now two rival kings, Amanullah who has recanted his abdication, and Bachcha Saqao (now called Habibullah Gazi), the rebel leader. Amanullah's elder brother has sought safety in flight. The attitude of the British Government, as enunciated by Sir Denys Bray, the Foreign Secretary, in the Assembly, will be one of complete non-interference.

... ..

## The Legislative Assembly.

On the 28th January last, Lord Irwin opened the cold weather session of the Indian Legislative Assembly with a speech which was not on the whole badly received by the public. A cutting of the speech has already been forwarded to Geneva; and there are some points in it which interest the International Labour Office very vitally. Taking them in the order in which the Viceroy dealt with them, the first is the action the Government of India propose to take on the report of the Hilton-Young Commission appointed last year by the British Government to make recommendations as to the future policy in British Eastern Africa. As there are large numbers of Indians permanently resident in these areas, the British Government have agreed that before any decision is taken they will give the fullest consideration to the views of the Government of India on all matters affecting Indian interests. In addition, arrangements have been made to appoint temporarily an Indian Civil Service officer to the Executive Council of Kenya in order that the Indian point of view may have adequate expression in ~~the~~ discussing the recommendations of the Report.

With regard to the Linlithgow Report on Indian agriculture, the Viceroy announced that, though the bulk of the work on the Commission's recommendations must under the existing constitution fall on the provincial governments, there are some items in it for the carrying out of which the central government in India will have to be responsible. Of these, the most important concerns the establishment of a central organisation for research purposes; and the

central government has now decided to create a Council of Agricultural Research "to promote, guide and coordinate research throughout India, ~~to train research throughout India,~~ to train research workers by means of scholarships, and to collect and make available information on research and on agricultural and veterinary matters generally". The structure of this body will be somewhat different from that outlined in the Linlithgow Report. The Governing Body, the principal executive organ of the Council, will be presided over by the member of the Governor-General's Council in charge of agriculture and will comprise seventeen other members. There will also be an advisory council of 39 members whose function will be to give expert advice to the Governing Body, and submit for its approval programmes of research inquiry. It is expected that the major provincial governments will establish committees to work in close cooperation with these two bodies. As ~~regard~~ regards finance, the Central Government proposes to make a lump grant of Rs. 2.5 millions, to be paid in instalments, supplemented by annual recurring grants of Rs. 725000. These sums will vest in the Governing Body, who will consider all proposals for research, sanction expenditure and allot funds to meet it.

Turning next to labour disputes, the Viceroy referred to the Trades Disputes Bill now before the House, but considered that a more radical solution was needed if capital and labour were to be permanently reconciled. "I have long felt", said he, "that the best way to secure the interests both of employers and employed is for government to undertake a review of the conditions under which labour works and to lend such help as it can in the removal of legitimate grievances. This question has for

some time been under the earnest consideration of government, and I am now able to say that His Majesty has approved the appointment of a Royal Commission during the course of the present year to undertake such an inquiry. Our intention is that the scope of this enquiry should be wide and that it should, with due regard to the economic position of industry in this country, explore all aspects of the problem affecting the conditions under which industrial labourers work". The personnel of the Commission has not yet been settled, but it will be representative and Mr. Whitley, lately Speaker of the House of Commons, has agreed to be its chairman.

The Viceroy then made a rapid survey of the spread of communist propaganda in India, and explained why the Government felt it necessary to reintroduce the Public Safety Bill which was rejected by the Assembly last session and to include in the measure power to forfeit or control remittances of money from communist sources abroad.

Addressing himself to the broader features of the political situation, he emphasised the necessity for friendly collaboration between Great Britain and India and, with a veiled reference to Mahatma Gandhi's resolution at the last session of the Indian National Congress (see this office report for January, page 7 ) declared that "nothing but harm can flow from a threat that, unless a particular condition is fulfilled, which I believe to be mechanically impossible of fulfilment from the outset, an attempt will be made to plunge the country into all the possible chaos of civil disobedience". He reiterated that the declaration of 1917 stands as a solemn pledge of the British people and appealed to all Indians not to lightly impugn the good faith behind that pledge.

On 29th January 1929 the Assembly took up for consideration Rai Saheb Harbilas Sarda's Bill to raise the marriageable age of girls to above 14, and of boys to above 18. The Bill has now been before the House for nearly two years during which period a very large volume of enlightened opinion has expressed itself unequivocally in support of this long delayed measure of social reform. In the course of his speech Mr. Sarda pointed out that there was a remarkable unanimity of opinion among Indian women in support of his Bill, and that the Government had already expressed its intention to support the measure cordially, on the ground that where large communities in varying stages of cultural development were concerned, legislation was the only effective means for ensuring uniform social progress. Some time after this Bill was introduced, the Government had appointed an Age of Consent Committee to report on a closely related subject, and the opinion so far elicited by this Committee have been overwhelmingly in favour of raising the age of consent. In view of this and of the Government's favourable attitude towards the Bill when it came up for consideration last time, it was expected that the Bill would have a smooth passage this time. But on one of the "orthodox" member's moving an amendment for postponement of consideration of the Bill on the plea that the report of the Age of Consent Committee should be awaited, there was a snap division, when the Government members went into the lobby in favour of the amendment. The result is that the Bill has now been laid on the shelf at least for this session by a majority of 53 against 34. The Government have issued a press communique explaining that they adhere to the principle of the Bill and that adequate time should be allotted for its discussion at the next Simla session of the Assembly. The apologia has been very badly received, and a great deal of indignation prevails among reformers' ranks on what they consider the Government's lack of good faith. <sup>See</sup> (The Hindustan Times, 8-2-29 for Mr. Sarda's speech: Pioneer and Statesman, 31-1-29 describing scenes in the lobby. Indian Social Reformer 9-2-29 pages 376-378 for a symposium of Indian press comments).

The Public Safety Bill was taken up for consideration on the 4th February. The Bill aims at arming the executive with considerable discretionary powers for the expulsion of foreign communists from India and for the prevention of the inflow of Soviet money which was being used to foment class-war and revolution in India. It has an interesting history. A bill to the same effect was introduced in the last session of the Assembly, which had agreed to refer it to a Select Committee, thereby agreeing to the principle of the Bill. The Select Committee made material modifications in the Bill, but the motion to consider the report of the Select Committee was rejected by one vote, after the longest debate on which the Assembly had ever embarked.

The determination of the Government to resurrect the Bill in the present session met with the keenest opposition from Indian politicians, who saw in the move an intention to introduce "scare legislation" on the strength of the communist bogey. The Government, on the other hand, as explained by Mr. Crerar, the Home Member, in his introductory speech, saw ample evidences of communistic enterprise in India in the prolonged Bombay strikes, in the recent labour disturbances at Calcutta, in the growth of the Workers and Peasants Party in India and in the sinister activities of the Indian emissaries of the League against Imperialism. (A pamphlet dealing with evidences of communistic activity in India circulated by the Government among the members of the Assembly has already been sent to Geneva). The proposals for open revolution recently

mooted in the Indian National Congress and the wild schemes for repudiation of debts and refusal to guarantee rights of private ownership which <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ finding increasing favour with certain extreme sections of Indian opinion and which bear a verisimilitude to communistic doctrines, further steeled Government's resolve to see the proposed legislation carried through.

The result was a heated and acrimonious three days debate in the Assembly at the end of which Government succeeded by 61 votes to 50, to get the Bill referred to a Select Committee. A remarkable feature of the debate was the fact that the leading employers of Indian nationality completely joined hands with the leading Indian politicians in offering determined battle to the measure. The following extracts from the speeches of Pandit Motilal Nehru, the leader of the Congress Party, and Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, an outstanding leader of the Indian commercial world, will reveal the reactions created by the bill among both the political and commercial classes. Pandit Motilal Nehru said : "The creed of the Congress is to subvert this Government, the present system of government by all non-violent means. There is no harm in the practice of communism. I take this Bill as an attack on Indian nationalism and that it is meant for cutting India off from the outside world". Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas said:- "The commercial community in India believes that the measure has been conceived more for political reasons than to give relief to industry, and the Indian commercial community will be prepared to suffer to any extent rather than allow the executive, by their vote, any power of that nature". The impression left by the debate is of a general sense of distrust of the bona fides of the

government, despite the convincing marshalling of telling facts made by government front-benchers. It is particularly apprehended by the nationalists that the present measure against foreign communists is only the thin edge of the wedge and that more legislation will follow in its wake against Indian communists.

The Indian newspapers ask: "why should India alone saddle itself with such rigorous anti-communist legislation when other countries like the United States, Great Britain, Australia and South Africa which are threatened by the same danger are not prepared to initiate such extreme legislation?"

... ..

X The Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill has been referred to a Select Committee, after an unsuccessful plea from Chaman Lall and another member to widen its scope by the inclusion of ~~employees of the Government~~ and railway contractors' employees among the classes of workers entitled to its benefits. Sir B.N.Mitra on behalf of the Government replied that they had already set the ball rolling in this direction, but that the question of a complete revision of the existing Act may have to be deferred till the Royal Commission on Labour has made its recommendations.

... ..

On the 11th February, the Trade Disputes Bill was referred to a Select Committee after a preliminary skirmish, some members objecting to parts II and III (Section 15 onwards) of the Bill relating to Public Utility Services and the negation of the right to strike. Sir B.N.Mitra was optimistic as to converting the members of the Select Committee to his view.



References to I.L.O.

The Leader of 14th January 1929 publishes the final decisions of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. with regard to the 12th session of the Conference.

... ..

Capital - the leading financial journal of India publishes in its issue of 17th January 1929 a three-column article on "India and the International Labour Office". It appears as a leading article, at the request of the Director of this Office, who wrote it (cutting not sent as it is available at Geneva). The article explains the raison d'être of the I.L.O., describes its constitution and methods of work and gives in brief outline the main functions of the Correspondent's office in India.

... ..

The Pioneer of 19th January 1929 has an article on Young India at Geneva, dealing with the British and Dominion students' Conference held at Geneva and the course of lectures organised by Professor Zimmermann on the work of the League and the I.L.O.

... ..

The Hindu of 26th January 1929 and all papers publish an Associated Press interview given by Mr. Narottam Morarjee, Employers' delegate to the I.L. Conference of 1928, in which he strongly advocates the establishment of an Indian emporium at Geneva, to stimulate Indian trade. A fuller account of the interview is given in the Indian Daily Mail of Bombay (26-1-29) where he is reported as being dissatisfied with "the business transacted at the Conference".

The "Forward" of 2nd February 1929 publishes a Free Press telegram from London of 31st January 1929 that Japanese labour has approved the idea of holding an Asiatic labour conference, six weeks prior to the International Labour Conference at Geneva.

... ..

All newspapers give prominence to an Associated Press interview with the Director of this Office on the proposed Royal Commission on Indian Labour (Pioneer and Hindustan Times, 1-2-1929, etc.)

... ..

The Times of India in its issue of 5th February 1929 has ~~got~~ a leading article on "Labour in Russia", based upon the publication of the I.L.O. on the subject.

... ..

The Servant of India in its issue of 7th February 1929 has two columns on the work of the I.L.O., which is in fact a summary of the press communiqué issued by Geneva, though the editor has taken the liberty of publishing it over the name of the Director of this Office.

... ..

The Hindustan Times and the Pioneer of 13th February 1929 give prominence to a press communiqué issued by this Office on the "Forced Labour" Report.

The Leader (Allahabad) in its issue of 10th February 1929 has a ~~contribution~~ contributed article (by Debenham) on the same subject. The communiqué appears in condensed form in the Tribune (Lahore) of 12th February 1929. It

is expected that other papers will also give publicity to the communique.

The Forward, Calcutta (9-2-29) in an editorial note, says that the Government of India are considering the decision of the 10th I.L.Conference on sickness insurance, and ~~xxxx~~ urges speedy action.

... ..

Unemployment.

All newspapers reproduce an Associated Press telegram about the "Enquiry into Unemployment among Intellectual Workers" which is now being undertaken at Geneva.

(Statesman and Hindu 18-1-29, etc.).

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 20th January 1929 has a leading article on the subject, contributed by the Deputy Director of this Office.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle of 18th January 1929 publishes an editorial entitled "A Welcome Enquiry" on the Geneva enquiry into unemployment.

... ..

The ~~Madras~~ Mail has an editorial article in its issue of 18th January 1929 commenting rather sceptically on the I.L.O. enquiry into unemployment among ~~the~~ intellectual workers.

... ..

The Indian Daily Mail of 19th January 1929 in a short editorial note comments favourably on the I.L.O. enquiry into intellectual unemployment.

... ..

The Strike Situation.

The concluding stage of the Bombay Mill Strike Enquiry was reached in the third week of January, when Messrs. S.D.Saklatwala and R.R.Bakhale summed up the case for the mill-owners and the workers respectively. On 30th January 1929 Mr. Saklatwala asked for an adjournment of the Enquiry Committee on the ground that private discussions between the representatives of the employers and the workers with a view to arrive at a settlement on the standardisation scheme were making satisfactory progress, and that with some more time they might be able to come to an agreement between themselves. An Associated Press telegram from Bombay of 3rd February 1929 reports that agreement has now been arrived at on many points of the standardisation scheme, particularly with regard to the work in the spinning and weaving departments. The proposed cut of 7½% in wages will be placed before the Enquiry Committee as the workers stoutly oppose it. The proposal for the appointment of a permanent Arbitration Board for settling industrial disputes in their early stages will also be submitted to the Committee for approval. The rules proposed provide that all disputes between employers and workmen should be brought before a joint meeting of equal ~~xxx~~ numbers of representatives of the mill-owners and of registered trade unions before the issue of notices of strikes or lockouts.

... ..

The Bombay Riots.

The Sewree Oil Company strike as also the strike in the New China Mill in the same locality are still continuing. All other mills were reported as working at the beginning

of February, but the opening days of February were once again ominous, on account of the fierce riots that have broken out in the city.

According to a Bombay Government communique of 7th February 1929, the occasion for the riots was the rumour that children were being kidnapped by Pathans, of whom there is a large number in Bombay, some employed as watchmen in the mill areas and others who have been employed occasionally as strike-breakers. There is also another reason why the Pathans are anathema to mill-hands, as the former usually conduct business as money lenders in a small way, charging unconscionable rates of interest. There was therefore no love lost between the Pathans and the labourers; and the mill-hands were, therefore, only too ready to partake in the frays that ensued. For nearly a week certain areas in the city were practically under mob control and the military had to be called in and firing resorted to. The riots would not have assumed such dimensions, but for the fact that they soon changed their character and developed into a fight on communal lines between the Hindus and Muhammadans of the city. In spite of all Government's precautions and the curfew order, stray assaults are still being continued and even at the time of writing (13-2-29) the situation has not thoroughly been brought under control. The Times of India in a leading article of 11th February 1929 advocates the introduction of martial law, if as a result of the emergency measures already taken, peace is not ~~xxxxx~~ restored. A Free Press telegram of 11th February 1929 states that many Hindu mill-hands are leaving the city by special ~~xxxxx~~ trains and seeking refuge in the country. The Pioneer of 13th February 1929 estimates the death roll at 120, and the number of the injured at 1000: and

mentions that for the last three days, the conservancy establishment have been too frightened to work, with the result that large heaps of refuse are lying about the streets and epidemics are likely to break out in the city. The Home Member made a statement on the riots in the Legislative Assembly, the newspaper report of which is included in the cuttings. (Hindustan Times, 15-2-1929).

... ..

During the period under review there were considerable evidences of labour unrest in several industrial centres. In the last week of January the tramway workers of Colombo struck work. The stoppage was due to men's demand for a 50% increase in wages and reinstatement of a suspended conductor for which the strikers gave the company a five-minute ultimatum. The strike came to an end on 5th February 1929, when, as the result of an agreement providing for arbitration on the wages demands, the men promised to resume work.

... ..

There was a lightning strike in the Rangopal Textile Mills at Secunderabad (Hyderabad State) when 900 workers suddenly downed tools, On 19th January 1929. As the result of sympathetic handling by the management and a promise to recognise a "union" of the workers the strikers resumed work on 21st January 1929.

... ..

There is considerable unrest among the Tin-plate Co. workers at Jamshedpur, and according to a Pioneer report of 24th January 1929, a strike or lock-out may at any time

come out. Rumours of reduction of numbers, suspension and dismissal of eight machine-shop men and the demand for pay on Christmas day are some of the chief causes of the prevailing unrest. The manager of the company has notified a 50% reduction of workmen on 21st January 1929. The workers have strongly resented the reduction order and are conferring on their future action.

... ..

On 10th January 1929 a labour riot occurred in the Clive Jute Mill at Calcutta, in which the European manager and six Indian watchmen of the mill were killed.

... ..

Successful efforts have been made to organise Delhi labour and in the beginning of January a Mazdur Sabha (Labour Union) was started in Delhi. On 11th January 1929 and 30th January 1929 there were lightning strikes in the Birla Mills at Delhi, which have now been settled as a result of Mr. Birla's sympathetic action.

... ..



The National Christian Council of India, Burma  
and Ceylon and Indian Industrial problems.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

It will be remembered that one of the recommendations of the International Missionary Council in its session of March 24, April 8, 1928 held at Jerusalem, urged all Christian Missions to take an active part in combating the evils arising from the penetration of western economic civilisation into countries which have hitherto remained little affected by it. That the National Christian Council of India has determined to translate this recommendation into practice within its sphere of activity is clear from the following account of a conference held under its auspices at Poona on January 14, 15, 1929 to consider Indian Industrial problems. The object of the conference was to consider the proposals of Miss M.C. Matheson, who has made a careful study of industrial conditions in India, and to adopt a plan of action. The Rev. W. Paton, Secretary to the International Missionary Council at London, was in the chair. The main points in the discussion are reproduced below; and I have to repeat that the information is only meant for the Geneva Office as the Indian Council has not yet sanctioned its publication.

"The Chairman made a statement explaining the purpose of the Conference in the course of which he made mention of the investigation made during the past months by Miss Matheson and her colleagues under the auspices of the National Christian Council and said that their report would be of immense use to Missions and Churches in giving

accurate information about the conditions of industrial workers and also guidance as to the lines of work they could undertake for their betterment.

### Legislative Action.

#### I. Amendments to the Factory Act:

Miss Matheson placed before the Conference certain proposals about getting the present Factory Act amended.

(1) One of her proposals was for reduction of hours of work to a 54 hour week and 10 hour day.

After discussion and careful consideration it was agreed that efforts be made for securing a normal 55 hour week and 10 hour day, seasonal industries being considered an exception.

(2) The second proposal was that efforts be made to secure that no spell of work without a pause be longer than five hours. This was agreed to.

(3) The third proposal that was agreed to was that efforts be made to get the multiple shifts abolished.

(4) The fourth proposal was that work places employing ten or more persons be brought under the Factory Act. After discussion it was agreed that

work places using power and employing ten or more persons on any day in the year should be brought under the Factory Act, bearing in mind that the Washington Conventions have to apply to such places.

#### II. Legislation about Fines:

It was pointed out that at present there was very little control over fines and deductions in industrial undertakings and that we should attempt to have some legislation to remedy this. After discussion it was agreed that we should press Government to accept the principle that fines and deductions should be fair and

reasonable, that they should be recorded in a register and that the Factory Inspector should have the legal right to inspect this register.

### III. Increase of the Inspectorate:

If the proposals made above are to be carried out, it would be necessary to increase the number of factory inspectors. The matter was discussed carefully and it was agreed that Government be urged to increase the inspectorate and that there be a woman inspector at least in each of the large industrial centres.

There was also agreement about using more fully than is done now the clause in the present Act by which "public officers" are empowered to inspect factories.

IV. Miss Matheson brought to the attention of the Conference the practice by which wages agreed upon for working a particular pattern are kept unaffected while the pattern itself is altered.

It was agreed that this matter be investigated.

### V. Minimum Wage Legislation:

A memorandum on the subject by Miss Matheson was circulated among the members and she also spoke from her experience of the working of the minimum wage machinery in Great Britain.

After discussion it was agreed that Government of India should be pressed to ratify the Minimum Wage Convention and that legislation along the lines suggested by the Convention be asked for, without stressing the need of applying it to home trades.

It was further agreed that representations to Provincial Governments be made about the industries to which the Act has to be applied when it comes.

It was also agreed that an article on the subject be

secured and published in the N.C.C. Review and be made available to the public.

VI. Amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act:

Mr. Varadarajulu Naidu made some proposals showing in what respects the Workmen's Compensation Act needed ~~amended~~ amendment.

After discussion it was agreed that the points be referred to the Industrial Committee of the N.C.C. and that opportunity be taken to make representations on this matter when the Act will be coming for revision in two or three years' time.

VII. Legislation on Maternity Benefit:

The need for legislation on maternity benefit was considered. It was agreed that efforts should be made to secure such legislation on this matter as would satisfy as far as possible the Washington Convention.

VIII. Sick Leave:

Mr. Varadarajulu Naidu pointed out the need for legislation by which workmen could get at least twenty days sick leave in a year on doctor's certificate on full or half pay.

It was felt by some that experiments along this line should be tried and experience gathered. After discussion it was agreed that efforts be made to secure such legislation.

Tariffs.

Miss Matheson gave some instance of tariffs which impede the educational and hygienic progress of people. Educational films imported into India have prohibitive tariff. This makes the use of educational films in welfare work among workmen very expensive.

So also tariff on scientific instruments especially microscopes is retarding medical treatment.

It was further mentioned that the special kind of cloth needed for working embroidery and lace was subject to high tariff. If such cloth coming from foreign countries could be imported on less tariff or a rebate allowed on re-import it would help greatly the lace and embroidery industry.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Christian Medical Association be requested to take up the question of tariffs on scientific instruments with a view to get them reduced.

It was further agreed that more evidence on the other matters mentioned be gathered before any action could be taken.

#### An Industrial Welfare Society for India.

Miss Matheson in introducing the subject spoke about the absence in India of any kind of co-ordination in welfare work. For instance, in some places housing plans are worked out; but those in other centres know nothing about them. We in India need an Industrial Welfare Society (on the lines of the one there is in England) to collect information and advise as to welfare matters. The Industrial Welfare Society of England was started by a clergyman, Mr. Hyde, soon after the war. He got several employers interested in it. The society has a staff of experts and any firm which wants information or help can get it. The firms pay a certain contribution for the upkeep of the Society. The standard of welfare work in England has been considerably raised by this Society. It may be possible to have a branch of this Society in India but organised as an autonomous body.

In the course of the discussion the following points were brought out:-

- (1) that Mr. Hyde if invited might be willing to come to India and help in organising a Welfare Society for India:
- (2) that workpeople should be made to feel more and more that they have a share in welfare work:
- (3) care should be taken that welfare work is not used as a rival to trade Union and in this connection it was pointed out that the name "Welfare Society" might be a handicap.

After consideration it was generally agreed that it would be an advantage to have a Welfare Society on the lines outlined above with a clearly defined objective for India and that the question of its affiliation to any outside organisation should only be considered later.

It was further agreed that Miss Matheson and Mr. Nasir be requested to enlist the support of bodies like the Mill Owners' Association and Trade Union organisations for bringing out Mr. Hyde to India for a short period to render help in organising such a society and in discovering suitable men and training them for carrying on the work.

#### Welfare or Labour Supervisors.

Miss Matheson proposed that every effort be made to promote the appointment of Welfare or Labour Supervisors to undertake among other things:

- (1) Direct engagement of labour:
- (2) Property management of lines or chawls:
- (3) Health, educational and recreational work, always safeguarding the direct access of labourer to management as it exists in many places at present.

It was also pointed out that such Welfare supervisors might handle advances to workmen now given through jobbers and that they could also develop adult education activities and the Committee or Panchayat system.

After discussion it was agreed

- (1) that every effort be made to promote the appointment of Welfare or Labour Supervisors as outlined above and that where firms are found willing to co-operate in the appointment of such supervisors, the facts be recorded and definite schemes for promoting such appointments be submitted to the firms concerned:
- (2) that the International Missionary Council and the National Christian Council may be requested to recruit suitable persons for such work:
- (3) that when the proposed Industrial Welfare Society is started in India, one of its functions should be the promotion of the appointment of Labour and Welfare Supervisors in Indian Industrial centres and rendering them help and guidance in their work.

A Training Scheme for Welfare Work Supervisors.

Miss Matheson placed before the Conference the outline of a scheme for training welfare work supervisors, Indian and European, both to meet immediate needs and possible future development of educational facilities in India. This scheme contemplates cooperation between the economics department of some of the Indian Universities with the Universities of Birmingham and Manchester.

Recorded.

The place of Christian Agencies in voluntary work for industrial population.

After a full discussion of this subject the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :-

Resolved

That the Executive of the N.C.C. be requested to appoint a Committee of the N.C.C. which shall work in co-operation with similar committees of the Provincial Christian Councils, to have charge of Industrial Problems in their relation to the Christian Church and Christian Missions. The duty of that Committee shall be to bring to the attention of the Church and of Christian Missions the

urgency of the Call to the Christian forces in India to undertake new types of service in relation to the needs of the rapidly growing industrial population in this country especially as these needs are presented in the report that has been prepared by the Industrial Survey Group of the N.C.C.

That some of the ways in which that Committee would discharge its task are the following:-

(1) that by means of public meetings and Conferences of Indian Christians at various centres especially in the industrialised areas, this Committee with the co-operation of the Provincial Councils and of local Christian leaders in the various areas, shall press upon the Church the call that the needs of the Industrial population bring to every Christian to seek to help these people in the temptations and hardships of their lives by friendship, by an understanding of their needs and difficulties, by voluntary service along educational, recreational and health lines, through the establishment of adult and other schools, by means of lantern and general lectures, by establishing libraries and reading rooms, as also hostels for young people among such workers: also by giving them training in committee work, by the inauguration of Infant Welfare and health education, by the establishment of creches, of troops of Scouts and Girl Guides and similar organisations, by helping to form clubs, by organising games, and musical and other entertainments, by carrying on temperance work, and, in these and other ways, by engaging in voluntary Christian service in the behalf of these classes of the community:

(2) that the claims of this Industrial population and the call to the Church to help them be brought by this Committee to the attention of students in theological and



other Colleges, and in Student Camps and that they be urged to consider how they can give their lives to service of these classes and cooperate with others in such voluntary service whatever their own future careers may be: that at the same time this be brought to the attention of the non-Christian students and that they be invited to cooperate in such service and their responsibility be similarly pressed upon them:

(3) that the authorities in such theological and arts colleges be urged to give an important place in their curriculum of studies to subjects relating to this type of service and that some Arts Colleges be urged to consider whether they can institute courses of training for workers in this department of service:

(4) that arrangements be made for the production of literature in English and the vernaculars, drawing attention to this type of service - especially of study books for young people's classes: and

(5) that the Churches be urged to recognise it as their duty to follow their members to the Industrial areas, and, either by their own efforts or through some other Church or Mission, to endeavour to discharge the responsibility for their instruction in Christian truth and their up-building in general ~~character~~ character in these new and difficult circumstances.

Further (6) that the Committee take measures to bring to the attention of Missionary Societies the need that some at least of them, especially those which have work in areas where large industrial populations are gathered, should appoint members of their mission staff who shall be specially qualified to take charge of work of this kind and to give guidance to the Indian Church, and that in seeking

to arouse interest in this matter in the older churches of the West they invite the co-operation of the I.M.C.:

(7) that such Societies be urged to consider the establishment of centres for the industrial population similar to the Neighbourhood House of the A.B.C.F.M. at Byculla in Bombay where practical instruction shall be given in this type of work to Indian Christian and other young people: and

(8) that plans be made for the establishment at different industrial centres of training schools for workers similar to the Social Service Training Centre in Bombay where men and women, Christian and non-Christian, both those who are themselves actually artisans and others shall be trained for service of the Industrial population.

It was further resolved to recommend to Churches and Missions that, in undertaking and discharging this service of the Industrial population, they should seek in every way possible; consistently with their Christian motive and aim, to co-operate with non-Christians who are actuated by a similar desire to serve and help the Industrial Community.)

... ..

Industrial Organisations.

Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Conference.

The fourth session of the above Conference was held at Perambur under the presidentship of Mr. V. V. Giri, General Secretary of the Railwaymen's Federation. Mr. Giri, it will be remembered, was the workers' representative of the 1927 session of the I.L. Conference. The occasion was remarkable for the notable pronouncement made by Mr. Giri, regarding the Trades Disputes Bill which is at present engaging the attention of the Assembly. Mr. Giri's criticism of the provisions of the Bill is the best answer that has yet been made from the workmen's side to the official presentation of the case.

Mr. Giri said that the Bill rightly evoked opposition, as while it pretended to set up a machinery for inquiry and conciliation of trade disputes, it really aimed at penalising strikes in public utility services, encouraging blacklegs and preventing successful strikes by requiring the employees to give sufficient notice to employers to recruit blacklegs. He ridiculed the argument that the bill was unobjectionable as there were similar provisions in the present English laws on the ground that conditions in India were not analogous and cited in support the absence in India of institutions corresponding to Whitley Councils, wages boards, unemployment, old age and other benefit systems and a strong labour party to influence the policy of the Government. In Mr. Giri's opinion, the Bill to be acceptable must be shorn of the provisions penalising strikes, and amended so that on the application of either of the parties to the dispute, courts of inquiry should deal with trade disputes after the manner of the law courts and give ~~their~~ their opinion on the merits of the case.

Besides, the public should have full access to the proceedings of the courts so that public opinion may influence the attitude of the employees and employers properly.

According to Mr. Giri the immediate task before Indian labour was to put forth a vigorous fight for the recognition of the fundamental rights of the worker, the right to combine, to be granted living wages, and to have decent conditions of service. All service conditions of the employees had to be governed by definite and clear regulations and Mr. Giri insisted that before issuing rules for granting of leave, passes, discharge from service, working hours, promotions and increments, the representative registered trade unions should be consulted. Mr. Giri argued that the guiding spirit of all international labour conventions emanating from Geneva conferences has been that the service conditions of the employees should in all cases be fixed in joint consultation with the employees' organisation and the Government of India, which is a member of the League of Nations, would be failing in its duty if it does not imbibe this spirit of the Geneva conventions and demonstrate it at least on its own concerns such as the railways in dealing with labour problems.

(Times of India, 27-1-1929).

... ..

The Times of India of 25th January 1929 publishes a message to the effect that the plans for holding the next Pan Asiatic Conference at Kabul have been upset owing to the unsettled state of affairs there. It is reported that the sanction of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress has, therefore, been obtained to make arrangements for holding the Pan Asiatic Conference in India.

... ..

Annual meeting of Indian Merchants Chamber.

The annual general meeting of the Indian Merchants' Chamber was held ~~at~~ Bombay on 26th January 1929. The occasion was utilised by Mr. L. R. Tairsee, the president of the body, to make a comprehensive survey of the outstanding questions which affected the trade of the country as a whole during 1928.

A large part of Mr. Tairsee's speech was devoted to consideration of the present labour situation. He strongly deprecated labour excesses, condemned leaders of <sup>the</sup> Tammany Hall type who, in his opinion, were responsible for the undesirable deflection towards violence observable in the labour movement at present, and took to task "the Joshis, Boles, Syed Munawars and Ginwallas" for their apathy in the face of labour's murderous methods. Mr. Tairsee made a strong appeal to the better instincts of leaders of opinion on both sides to come to a reasonable settlement on all outstanding points of difference.

Other points of interest in his speech were his emphatic condemnation of the 1s.6d. ratio, which in his opinion contributed largely to the precipitation of the labour crisis afflicting the country and his unqualified approval of Mr. Maji's Coastal Reservation Bill.

... ..

Native and Colonial Labour and  
Migration.

The Hilton-Young Report is attracting a good deal of attention. Reference is made in the section of this report dealing with Assembly matters to the decision of the Government of India to accede to the request of the Kenya Government to appoint an Indian to the Kenyan Executive Council to safeguard Indian interests in any legislation that may be initiated in this connection. The Hindu's leader in its issue of 2nd February 1929 is representative of well-informed Indian criticism of the Hilton-Young recommendations. Objection is taken in the first instance to "The Young Committee's treatment of mandated areas like Tanganyika as though they are mere colonies of Britain". It is emphasised that such treatment "constitutes a clear violation, of the implied, if not express, terms of the mandate; and India, as a member of the League, cannot be a consenting party to the adoption of the Hilton-Young report". Indian papers as a rule urge that the Government of India should "emphatically repudiate the new move in East Africa as an insult to them, because it involves a monstrous piece of injustice to the nation".

...                      ...                      ...                      ...

### Agriculture.

The agricultural problems of the country have been receiving a fair share of attention in the Indian press. During the period under review two conferences dealing with agricultural and allied questions, were held, the Malabar Tenants' Conference held at Pattambi in South India (Hindu 22-1-29), and the Mirasdars' Conference held at Adu~~l~~thurai (Hindu 21-1-29) both on 20th January 1929.

#### Malabar Tenants' Conference.

The Malabar tenantry had already ventilated their grievances against the oppression of the landlord classes in a memorandum to the Governor of Madras, copious extracts from which are published in the Hindu of 9th January 1929. The main contentions of the Malabar tenants with regard to ~~curtailment~~ curtailment of the landlords' powers for arbitrary eviction and arbitrary increases of rents and renewal fees were fully explained in the Round Table Conference held at Madras on 9th January 1929 between the jenmies' (landlords) and tenants' delegates held under the presidency of Sir Norman ~~Mart~~ Marjoribanks. At the Pattambi Conference of Malabar tenants the following resolution was passed on the main points at issue.

"This Conference requests the tenants' representatives at the Round Table Conference to bring the following points to the attention of the Government:-

(a) in fixing <sup>a</sup> fair rent, a certain reduction should be made for the labours of the tenants:

(b) with regard to the landholders' right of ouster, it is desirable that a period is fixed within which he ~~should~~ exercise his right of bona fide cultivation:

(c) the prior tenant should have a right of pre-emption even if the land is let out after the six years specified in the draft bill:

(d) it is desirable that ~~the~~ renewal fees are spread throughout the twelve years instead of being paid in a lump sum".

(Hindu, 22-1-1929).

... ..

#### Dairy Farming Problems.

The Pioneer of 14th January 1929 publishes extracts from the report of the year 1927-28 of Mr. William Smith, the Imperial Dairy Expert at Pusa. The steady deterioration of the cattle-breeds of India has been engaging the earnest attention of the Government and the cattle-breeding farms at Karnal and Bangalore are doing useful work in this connection. The report stresses the great need for a scientific staff of trained chemists and bacteriologists to cope with the increasing demand made on the Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa for information and advice on matters connected with dairying and cattle-breeding. The crux of the problem, according to the report, is the inability of the Indian cow-owner to sell milk and milk-products at some figure corresponding to the world-value for the same. The report cites for instance that "ghee produced by wasteful and obsolete methods is sold in India at twelve annas per pound, when the world-value of butter fat, which after all is pure ghee, is 250 per cent above this figure. The remedy suggested is the organisation of the Indian ghee and milk-selling industry on cooperative lines so that the milk producer may realise the full economic value of the good milking-cow as a profit-earner. The report states that India is crying out for information on all matters connected with ~~matters~~ of agricultural policy. "The harvest truly is plenty, but the labourers are few".



Small Holdings Bill.

"Back to the land" is the underlying principle of a Bill which Mr. M.R. Karant, M.L.C., is proposing to introduce in the Madras Legislative Council to provide small holdings for persons, especially of the educated unemployed and of the depressed classes, who desire to buy or lease, and will cultivate, the holdings. The idea is to combat unemployment by the creation of a sturdy class of peasant-proprietors imbued with a strong sense of the dignity of manual labour. It is proposed that a small council for each district appointed by the Government should see to the free distribution of small holdings to deserving applicants with the prescribed educational qualifications. The Council will help the holders of lands with technical advice and repayable financial loans. To maintain the integrity of the peasant-proprietor <sup>class</sup> ~~class~~ thus created the Bill stipulates ~~that~~ the holdings cannot be alienated, nor partitioned.

(Hindu, 30-1-1929).

... ..

Co-operation.

The Statesman of 13th January 1929 publishes a statement regarding the success of the cooperative movement in Bengal by Mr. S.K.Lahiri, Secretary, Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society. According to Lahiri the number of co-operative societies of all kinds in Bengal rose from 15000 to 18000 with a corresponding increase in membership. A remarkable feature emphasised by Mr. Lahiri is that "the establishment of co-operative societies in a locality has been immediately followed by a lowering of the rates of interest". The spread of the co-operative ideal and a better appreciation of the economic principles underlying it by the Bengal villager has brought about a number of reforms in the village polity, not within the scope of work of the societies. Thus it has been noticed that there has been a marked decrease in civil litigation among members of societies. Other incidental benefits are the lessening hold of the habits of drinking and smoking on rural populations. Several night schools have been started by societies organised by the rural reconstruction department of the Vishwabharati at Shantiniketan of which Dr. Rabindranath Tagore is the founder-President. During 1927-28 considerable headway was made in connection with the cooperative marketing of agricultural produce with the help of Sale Societies. Considerable quantities of jute and paddy are marketed in this way to the great advantage of agriculturists living in villages far off from central markets. In Western Bengal there is a growing demand for co-operative irrigation societies.

... ..

The Times of India of 18th January 1929 publishes a summary of the report issued by the Chief Commissioner of the North West Frontier Provinces, with regard to the working of Cooperative Societies in that province for 1927-28. The Frontier Province is among the most backward provinces of India and the progress of the cooperative movement in the province can be regarded as a fair test of the general progress achieved. At the end of 1928 the total number of societies in the province was 60 ~~and~~ as against 34 in the last year and the membership had also increased from 884 to 2236. In the same period the working capital rose from Rs. 1,32,722 to Rs. 3,57,036. The Pathan population of the province is noted for its money lending proclivities and the progress of cooperative societies have succeeded to a considerable extent in checking their fell grip on the agricultural classes.

... ..

The work of Cooperative societies in the United Provinces was reviewed by Sir Lalubhai Samaldas in the presidential address that he delivered at the 14th session of the United Provinces Cooperative Conference. (Pioneer 27-1-1929). The address refers to the note of pessimism observable in the Reports of registrars and the special committees appointed for inquiry into the working of co-operative societies in the United Provinces and sounds a note of warning against such excessive pessimism. Sir Lalubhai pleads for an extension of the work of rural credit societies and affirms that the complete programme must include the objective of the liquidation of the existing debts of the peasantry. Sir Lalubhai thinks the cooperative system "is the only movement that can solve the problem of the great struggle between the classes and the masses - the 'Haves' and the 'Have-nots'."

Education.Hartog Committee Report.

The Times of India of 19th January 1929 says that the Hartog Committee appointed to investigate, on behalf of the Statutory Commission, the educational progress of India has concluded its inquiry and submitted a draft report. There was a prolonged conference between the Statutory Commission and the Hartog Committee on 16th January 1929 at Calcutta during which Sir Philip Hartog explained the main conclusions arrived at by the Committee. The report is to remain confidential until its publication along with the report of the Statutory Commission and no authoritative information about it is available under the circumstances.

... ..

Education of Anglo-Indians.

The impending constitutional changes portended by the appointment of the Statutory Commission are occasioning great anxiety among the members of the Anglo-Indian community (Eurasians) in India, particularly with regard to the future of European education in this country. The reply of the Secretary of State for India to the Anglo-Indian deputations that approached him on this matter has not been very encouraging (Times of India, 23-1-29). What the Anglo-Indian community resents is the prospect of European education being treated as a transferred subject and being submitted to the "tender mercies" of provincial governments (Times of India, 23-1-1929). According to the Pioneer of 6th February 1929 the Association of Headmasters of European Schools in India submitted a memorandum to the Simon

Commission urging that European education should be made a central subject under the Government of India, and that a special inspecting staff should be appointed for its supervision. Indian opinion is strongly against any such favoured treatment of European education and even the Times of India in a leader of its issue of 23rd January 1929 says: "We want the age of privilege to give place to the age of opportunity, and in the competition for places in the world of commerce and industry, and in the professions, the Anglo-Indian should take his chance with the Indian". The problem is continuing to exercise the mind of the Anglo-Indian community.

... ..

#### Physical Education in Madras.

The Committee appointed by the Government of Madras to examine the question of physical education in secondary school<sup>3/</sup>for boys have submitted their report. The main recommendations of the Committee are reported in extenso in the Hindu of 25th January 1929. Among the important recommendations are the following :-

- (1) Formal physical training and games should be made compulsory for all boys except such as are declared medically unfit.
- (2) Absence from games and physical training without leave should be treated as the same as absence from school for the whole day.
- (3) Instead of physical instruction being given once a week, such training should be given to each boy at least 15 minutes every day.
- (4) The "house" system should be established and inter-house competitions should be encouraged to stimulate healthy competitions and such groupings are to be entirely irrespective of caste, creed and community.
- (5) All schools containing 250 boys or more should have at least five acres of land for playing fields and middle schools should not have less than three acres.

(6) Special grants-in-aid should be given to municipalities and district boards for the provision of open spaces for use as public play-grounds.

(7) Health instruction is to be accorded a recognised place in the syllabus of studies.

(8) Special attention should be devoted by all teachers to the posture of boys in class rooms and radical changes should be introduced in the design of school furniture.

(9) A more rigorous system of medical inspection of school boys should be introduced.

... ..

#### A Mysore Educational Experiment.

The Hindu of 23rd January 1929 publishes details of a new educational experiment contemplated by the Government of Mysore. The scheme in brief is that middle schools in rural areas should be given an agricultural bias by including agricultural training in its curriculum, thus bringing it into closer relation with the environment of the pupils. The scheme is to be given effect to in certain select schools to start with, situated in areas where conditions are specially favourable. The experience of the past has shown the futility of making such courses of study optional and, therefore, it has been decided that the new course be treated as a compulsory subject for all pupils.

... ..

#### Secondary Education in Bengal.

According to the Times of India of 24th January 1929 a Draft Bill for the appointment of a Board of Secondary Education for Bengal is ready for submission to the Bengal Legislative Council. The fundamental principle of the Bill is the creation of a Board with a considerable non-official majority which shall be responsible for the control

and welfare of all secondary schools in the presidency. The dual control previously exercised by the university and the Government will disappear. If the scheme is finally passed it will mean a great step forward in democratic control of the educational system of Bengal.

... ..

### Maritime

Maritime questions are looming big at present as one of the most controversial measures scheduled to come up for discussion in the present session of the Indian legislature is the Coastal Reservation Bill (see January report, p.45) sponsored by Mr. S.N.Haji, who it will be remembered, had come to Geneva in 1926 to challenge on behalf of a certain section of Indian employers, the credentials of Sir Arthur Froom, whom the government had nominated as the employers' delegate for the two conferences of the year. The Bill has for its aim the creation of a purely Indian mercantile marine by the reservation of coastal shipping to vessels owned by Indian companies and financed by Indian capital. There is acute division of opinion on the desirability of such legislation. Indian interests and organs of public opinion unanimously support the principle of reservation, while European interests have already taken alarm and are raising the cry of "expropriation" against the Bill. The leading articles in the Hindu of 17th January 1929 and the Hindustan Times of 23rd January 1929 ~~in a recent subject~~ sum up the Indian case, while the Pioneer's leader on the same subject of 12th January 1929 is a sober and well-reasoned out presentation of the non-Indian point of view. The controversy has had its repercussions in England. The Hindu of 31st January 1929 publishes a Reuters' telegram from London in which pointed mention is made of the fixed resolve of British shipping interests to fight Mr. Haji's Bill tooth and nail. Added interest is lent to the forthcoming Assembly debate on the subject by the cautiously worded warning uttered recently by the Viceroy against attempts at discriminatory legislation.

*Mr Haji now informs us that the Bill is not likely to be taken up this session. ...*



Workmen's Compensation Act.

The following notification is published by the Government of India extending the benefits of the Act to canal workers :-

Notification No. L.-1440 dated 24-1-1929.

In pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 2 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923), the Governor General in Council is pleased to give notice of his intention to declare that the following occupations, namely :-

- (a) the work of boatman on canals and their connected works, and
- (b) the work of the regulation establishment on canals and their connected works,

are hazardous occupations and to direct that the provisions of the said Act shall, subject to the provisions of the said sub-section, apply in the case of any person who is employed in any such occupation.

Any suggestions or objections with reference to this notification should reach the Government of India not later than the 3rd May 1929.

A. C. McWatters, .

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

[110] C 1903/4

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

5 APR 1929

New Delhi Branch.

Report for March 1929.

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GENERAL

On the 19th February last, Mr. V.J. Patel, the President of the Legislative Assembly, invited the leaders of all the political parties and the leading members of the Government, including the Viceroy, to a tea-party. This was easily the most sensational event during the period under ~~the~~ report; for Mahatma Gandhi was then staying with President Patel, and it was well known that the party was arranged to enable Lord Irwin to meet Gandhi informally and discuss with him in a friendly way the present political situation. On account of the select nature of the party, and the significant fact that the tables were so arranged that Lord Irwin, Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Jinnah, the Mahomedan leader, and the Maharaja of Kashmir were seated more or less out of ear-shot of the other guests, it has not been possible to ascertain with any definiteness the general trend of the Irwin-Gandhi conversations. While, officially, the party was no more than a social function, politicians and newspapers attach importance to it, on account of the Gandhi resolution at the last Indian National Congress (see pages 7-8 of the Report for January 1929). Lord Irwin is leaving for England towards the end of April, and his acceptance of Mr. Patel's invitation is interpreted as signifying his desire to ascertain from Indian leaders <sup>See</sup> (The Pioneer, Allahabad, Leading Article 27-2-1929) "the general feeling of the country and the irreducible minimum of compromise which will be accepted by Gandhi and his friends; and it is to be pointed out here that these gentlemen are in a much more reasonable frame of mind than even their best friends have hitherto suspected".

That nothing conclusive came out of these conversations may be inferred from the fact that the Congress Party has

recently been taking very active measures to strengthen their ranks, consolidate their organisation, collect funds and prepare a detailed programme for putting into effect the Gandhi resolutions of boycott and non-co-operation. According to the Pioneer of 21st February 1929, the All India Congress Committee has already decided upon the main lines to be pursued for furthering their policy of obstruction. An interesting sequel to all these political preparations was the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi at Calcutta on the 4th instant for lighting a bonfire of foreign cloths in a public ~~street~~<sup>park</sup>, contrary to the express orders of the police authorities. He was, however, at once released on his own recognisance, and though the event has certainly given some fillip to the movement for boycott of foreign goods, it must be mentioned that no serious disturbances have followed in its wake. Mr. Gandhi is now in Burma, where he is receiving ovations from all municipalities and public bodies, the enthusiasm characterising which is in a certain measure the popular reply to his arrest. An important political conference held at Rohtak on the 9th instant reiterated the Congress resolutions, and in a speech yesterday (11-3-1929) in the Legislative Assembly, Pandit Motilal Nehru uttered a solemn warning, advising the Government to take heed in time of the Congress demand for Dominion Status, failing which the country would be plunged into disorder for which the moral responsibility will rest with the Government.

The Home Member's reply to Pandit Motilal Nehru was rather evasive, as he confined himself to repeating that Government could not take any action till the Simon Commission had presented its report to Parliament. Meanwhile, the Simon Commission itself appears to have been convinced of

the incomplete nature of its enquiry. The cooperation that it has been so far able to enlist has come from quarters which are more or less tainted by an exaggerated communalist feeling, for example, the Mohammedan die-hard~~s~~, or from avowedly sectional and particularist interests. In a speech at Ootacamund last week Sir John Simon is reported as having said that his part in shaping the constitutional future of India was a strictly limited one, and that suggestions for constitutional improvements emanating from the political leaders of India would be considered along with his own representations to parliament. This statement is being interpreted as another bid for cooperation from nationalist India, even though such cooperation may be forthcoming only after the termination of the Commission's investigation.

The Simon Commission will be coming to Delhi in the third week of March, but it will not include Lord Burnham, who has recently been ill and has been medically advised to leave for England. The lobby talk is that the Government ~~are~~ <sup>when the normal time will have come</sup> are not anxious to dissolve the Legislature, and have a general election which will mainly be fought out on the Simon issue. The prolongation of the life of the sitting House, it is said, will be one of the points on which Sir John Simon's advice would be taken when he arrives in Delhi.

As if to mark their discontent with the existing system of dyarchy in the provinces, the legislative councils of Bengal and <sup>the</sup> Central Provinces have once again overthrown their ministries, with the result that what are known as the "transferred" subjects are now being administered by the Governors themselves.

There is nothing very much to report about the proceedings of the Indian Legislative Assembly. The general budget

was introduced on the 28th February and is on the whole a colourless one. The railway budget which was introduced a week earlier contained one or two proposals of interest to the I.L.O., and is, therefore, dealt with in a later part of this report.

The Hindustan Times of the 13th March publishes a forecast by its political correspondent of the personnel of the Whitley Commission. The Commission, according to him, will consist of the chairman, and eight members as follows:-

Mr. A. G. Clow, (Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour),  
 Sir Victor Sassoon, Bart, a prominent European millowner of Bombay and the representative of the Bombay Millowners' Association in the Indian Legislative Assembly,  
 Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla, another prominent Bombay industrialist and an ex-president of the Bombay Legislative Council,  
 Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, late Agent General of the Government of India in South Africa,  
 Mr. Kabir-ud-din Ahmed, member of the Legislative Assembly,  
 Messrs. Joshi and Chaman Lall and  
 an English lady who is likely to be a labour expert in the British Board of Trade.

Of the two secretaries Mr. S. Lall, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Department of Industries and Labour, will be from India and the other will be from the India Office.

The same paper announces that the probable composition of the Delegation to the twelfth International Labour Conference will be as follows :-

Employers. Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Millowner, Ahmedabad and ex-member, Indian Legislative Assembly  
 ----- Delegate.

Mr. P. Mukerji of the Upper India )  
 Chamber of Commerce, )  
 Mr. B. Das, M.L.A., ) Advisers.  
 Mr. R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, M.L.A., )  
 and another )

<u>Workers.</u>	Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., ---	Delegate.
	Mr. B. Shiva Rao, President, )	
	Textile Union, Madras, )	
	Mr. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, M.L.A.)	Advisers.
	Mr. Kelappa, of the All India )	
	Railwaymen's Federation, & )	
	Mr. P. C. Bose, Secretary, )	
	Indian Colliery Employees' )	
	Association, Jharia. )	

Mr. S. Saklatwalla, the Indian Communist M.P., has, according to a Free Press telegram, already commenced communist propaganda to boycott the Whitley Commission; and Mr. B.F. Bradley, the communist vice-president of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, writes to the press advocating boycott of the Commission on the ground that it is a device to slacken trade union activities. It is not, however, expected that Indian labour will take these suggestions seriously.

On the 31st January 1929 the President of the Indian Legislative Assembly announced the names of the members of the Standing Advisory Committee to the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India. The composition of the Committee is as follows :-

Mr. Muhammad Rafique,  
 Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury,  
 Sir Darcy Lindsay,  
 Mr. Mukhtar Singh,  
 Mr. N. M. Joshi,  
 Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda,  
 Dr. B. S. Moonje,  
 Mr. Abdul Qadir Siddiqi,  
 Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.

References to the I.L.O.

The Times of India of 12-2-29, the Statesman of 13-2-29, the Hindu of 12-2-29 give prominence to a communique issued by this office on the Report on Forced Labour published by the International Labour Office. The communique which runs into one column has been published in full in all the leading Indian papers (cuttings enclosed).

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle of 14-2-29 publishes a short editorial paragraph appreciating the I.L.O. report on "Forced Labour".

... ..

The Times of India of 16-2-29 publishes a review of Mr. F. Alexander's ~~book~~ recently published book "From Paris to Locarno". In the course of the review, the writer expresses the opinion that while the League has a good press, its subsidiary organisation the International Labour Office, has not been accorded the same facilities for publicity.

... ..

The Times of India of 19-2-29 publishes a news item to the effect that information has been received at Geneva that Japanese labour circles have approved an agreement which provides that an Asiatic Labour Conference is to be held annually in China, India, Japan or another eastern country in turn, some five or six weeks before the opening of the I.L. Conference each year. The news item is taken from "Industrial and Labour Information". It may here be mentioned that there does not appear to be much likelihood of such a conference being held this year.

... ..



The London correspondent of the Statesman discusses the growing expenditure of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office in the Statesman of 28-2-29 and says that Mr. Yusuf Ali, one of the substitute delegates of the last Assembly ~~xx~~ was especially outspoken in his demand at Geneva that the expenditure of the International Labour Office on conferences and on the creation of new posts should be brought under the control of the League Assembly and its subordinate committees instead, as now, of remaining in the hands of the Director of the I.L.O.

The paper says that Lord Lytton is reported to have accused the I.L.O. of showing "a conspicuous absence of any disposition to meet demands for economy in a reasonable spirit".

... ..

The Statesman of 3-3-29 is responsible for the statement that Mr. Kelkar will open the question of India's position in the League of Nations and the International Labour Office, during the discussion of the Indian budget in the Assembly.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 8-3-29 has a two column article on "The International Labour Organisation - Its structure, aims and methods of work" contributed anonymously by the Deputy Director of this Office.

... ..

The same paper in its issue of the 13th March discusses the probable composition of the Indian Delegation to the twelfth I.L.Conference.

... ..

The February number of the Indian Labour Review publishes a note by the Director of this office entitled "The 1929 Geneva Conference". (Cutting not sent as the Review is being received at Geneva).

... ..

The All India Railwaymen's Federation Press Report No.4 issued on 15-11-28 is a document of nine pages dealing exhaustively with the Geneva and Washington Conventions and the Indian railways. It concludes with the statement that the "workers' delegates at the ensuing session of the I.L. Conference will have to strongly emphasise the long delay which the Government of India has been showing in observing its ratified conventions. If the present state of affairs continues, the All India Railwaymen's Federation will be compelled to invite the sympathetic attention of the I.L.O. to the failure of the Government of India to enforce the Washington Hours Convention and the Geneva Weekly Rest Convention.

... ..

The Government of India has published as No.41 in its series of bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour, the report of the Government delegates to the eleventh International Labour Conference, together, with the text of the speech delivered by Dr. R.P.Paranjpye regarding minimum wage fixing machinery, and of the Convention, Recommendation, Questionnaire regarding prevention of Industrial accidents and resolutions passed at the Conference.

... ..

Mr. R. W. Fulay, labour member of the Central Provinces Legislative Council, writes an article on "The Problem of Sickness Insurance for Indian Workers" emphasising the need for the ratification of the Geneva Convention (10th Conference) on the subject. The article appears as an annexe to the Annual Report of the Central Circle R.M.S. Union and the Press Employees' Association, Nagpur.

... ..

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

In this <sup>Section</sup>~~connection~~ references are made to the efforts of the Government of India to effect a comprehensive revision of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and to two private bills introduced in the Central Provinces Legislative Council by Mr. R. W. Fulay, who represents Urban Factory Labourers in the Council. The notification of the Government of India for the gradual abolition of the underground work of women in mines is also being reproduced.

Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act.

The Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill to which reference was made at page 9 of my February report has now been reported upon by the Select Committee. The Gazette of India, March 2, 1929, Part V, pages 17-20 publishes the full text of the Select Committee's report. But an even more comprehensive revision of the fundamental act is now contemplated by the Government of India and provincial governments have been circularised to forward their views on the subject to the Central Government before the 1st July 1929. In this letter the Central Government considers it desirable to re-examine the principles underlying the Act in view of the experience already obtained and the two most important questions to be considered will ~~the~~ be the definition of the workman to whom the Act applies and the scales of compensation payable. The present Act aimed at the inclusion only of persons employed in organised and hazardous industries. The great majority of workers in this class of industry have already come under the operation of the Act, and it is thought that the time has come to extend the Act to workers in other industries also. The Government of India is provisionally

of the view that an endeavour to ~~introduce~~ introduce any scheme of compulsory insurance in unorganised industries would be attended by serious administrative difficulties, but considers it desirable at the same time to bring further classes of workers within the scope of the Act. As regards the scales of compensation, the Government draws the attention of the provincial governments to the principles underlying the recommendation of the seventh International Labour Conference on minimum scales of compensation. If the scales of compensation are so framed as to provide an equivalent of two-thirds of the amounts which the workman would have earned had he not been killed or incapacitated, it would involve an enhancement of one-third in the rate of payment for the temporary incapacity, and would probably involve substantial enhancement of the amounts payable on account of death or permanent incapacity. On the basis of the present scales, the provisional view of the Government is that in respect of the more poorly paid workmen an enhancement would be justified and that in any case the minimum scales of compensation which resort from the application of Schedule 4 of the Act might suitably be raised. As for the waiting period the Government thinks that the possibility of "introducing" dating back provisions, as were at one time in force in England, deserves consideration. Another point on which opinion of the local governments is sought is the definition of "dependents" entitled to compensation. Suggestions are also sought for the fixation of liability of contractors and sub-contractors, the enforcement of the clause relating to returns prescribed by section 16 of the Act and on the provisions to be settled relating to procedure in fatal accidents.

To sum up the following are the main questions on which the Government of India are asking opinions from the provincial governments:-

- (1) To what fresh classes of employees, if any, should the Act be extended?
- (2) Should any provisions be introduced for securing workmen against possible loss by reason of the inability of their employer to pay any compensation that may be due?
- (3) To what extent, if any, should recurring payments be substituted for the lump sums at present payable under the Act?
- (4) Should the scales of compensation be enhanced either for the more poorly paid workmen or generally?
- (5) Should the waiting period be reduced either generally or in the case of those workmen who are disabled for more than ten days, and if so to what extent?
- (6) Should the list of relatives entitled to claim compensation be enlarged?
- (7) Should proof of dependence be required in order to enable a relative to claim compensation?
- (8) Should the compensation payable vary with the number of dependants and with the extent of their dependence on the deceased workmen?
- (9) Should section 12 of the Act be amended
  - (a) so as to place the ultimate liability for compensation on the person directly employing the workmen in every case, or
  - (b) so as to place the ultimate liability for compensation on the principal, or
  - (c) in any other manner?
- (10) Should any penalty be provided in the Act for failure to comply with the provisions of section 16?
- (11) Should employers be required to submit returns of accidents in respect of which compensation has not been paid, and if so, to what accidents should this provision apply?
- (12) Should a dependant claiming compensation be relieved of the necessity of approaching the employer for the settlement of his claim?
- (13) What steps, if any, should be taken to ensure that dependants who may have valid claims for compensation do not lose compensation through ignorance of their rights?
- (14) Should employers be required to maintain a register of relatives of their workmen?
- (15) Should Commissioners be empowered to call on employers depositing inadequate compensation for fatal accidents to make a further deposit?
- (16) Should provision be made for the suspension of distribution by the Commissioner pending the disposal of an appeal against his decision?

(Condensed from Letter no. L-1125 dated New Delhi, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 1928 from the Secretary to the Dept of Industries and Labour, to all Local Governments)

The Central Provinces Government Gazette of the 2nd March 1929 publishes for general information, with a view to eliciting public opinion, the text of two legislative enactments dealing with workmen's welfare and maternity benefit. These <sup>private</sup> Bills were introduced in the Central Provinces Legislative Council on the 21st and 22nd <sup>January</sup> ~~February~~ 1929 respectively and opinions thereon are to be forwarded to the Government before the 31st of May 1929. Below are given the full text of both the Bills:-

CENTRAL PROVINCES BILL No. I OF 1929.

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES WORKMEN'S  
WELFARE BILL, 1929.

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An Act to make provision for the health and welfare in general of the factory workers and their infants by providing for the establishment of dining sheds, rest rooms, crèches or day nurseries for the infants of the female employees, etc.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the welfare of the employees in the factories of the Central Provinces employing more than 100 persons on an average per day, by the establishment of water rooms, provision for water taps or reservoirs for pure drinking water, dining sheds, rest rooms, crèches or day nurseries under the direction, superintendence and control of Welfare Committees to be formed in the manner herein-after laid down in this Act;

and

WHEREAS the previous sanction of the Governor General required by clause (f) of section 80-A(3) of the Government of India Act has been obtained to the

to the passing of this Act :

It is hereby enacted as follows :-

1.(a) This Act may be called the Central Provinces Workmen's Welfare Act, 192 .

(b) It extends to the whole of the Central Provinces and applies to all workmen or employees in factories employing more than 100 persons on any one day:

Provided that the Local Government may, unless otherwise directed by the Legislative Council by a resolution moved therein, by notification in the Gazette, ~~may~~ exempt any factory from the operation of the whole or any part of the Act for a period not exceeding one year at a time, on the ground of loss in business or trade depression.

(c) It shall come into force on such day as the Local Government may notify after the passing of the Act.

2. In this Act -

- (a) "Factory" means a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act.
- (b) "Employee" means a worker or wage earner and includes a male as well as female worker in a factory.
- (c) "Child or infant" wherever used in the Act means an offspring of an employee, that cannot be conveniently left alone for a long time or is under five years of age.
- (d) "Union" means a union or association registered under the Indian Trades Union Act.
- (e) "Employer" includes an owner or occupier of a factory or a manager as defined in the Indian Factories Act.
- (f) "Qualified Medical Practitioner" means a qualified medical practitioner as defined in the Workmen's Compensation Act.
- (g) "Inspector" means an Inspector of Factories as defined in the Indian Factories Act.

3. (a) Every factory to which this Act applies shall be provided with the following welfare arrangements in accordance with the rules framed by the Local Government for



guidance of the Welfare Committees to be established as hereinafter provided :-

- (i) Provision of suitable rooms for drinking water, or provision of water taps or clean water reservoirs, so as to ensure a supply of pure drinking water inside the premises of the factory.
- (ii) Mess rooms or dining sheds and rest rooms in accordance with the recommendations and instructions of the Welfare Committee, where the employees can take their food and rest themselves during the interval, with due safeguard for their health.
- (iii) Such number of lavatories and urinals for all classes of employees as is prescribed by the Welfare Committee of the factory.
- (iv) Crèches or day nurseries for the children of the female employees in the premises of the factory to be looked after by nurses employed and paid by the factory.

4. (a) The Inspector of Factories shall issue a notice against the manager, owner or occupier of a factory to which the Act applies and wherein the welfare arrangements contemplated by sections 3(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) of the Act do not exist or have ceased to exist, to make provision for the same within 4 months next after the receipt of the notice.

(b)(i) In case of wilful failure to comply with the said notice the manager, owner or occupier of such factory, shall be liable, on a complaint made by the Chief Inspector to the nearest First Class Magistrate having jurisdiction, to a prosecution for and conviction for disobedience of the order duly promulgated by a public servant as defined in the Indian Penal Code; and

(ii) shall also be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs.50 for each day of default in complying with the notice under section 4(a) of the Act.

5. Every employee shall be entitled as of right to the free use of the welfare arrangements contemplated by this Act subject to rules made under section 10 of the Act:

Provided that no employee unless a female shall be entitled to the use of crèches for children provided by section 3(iv) of the Act.

6. No employee shall be required to pay anything for the benefits enjoyed by him by reason of this Act either to the owner, occupier or manager of such factory or any nurse or qualified medical practitioner employed by the factory.

7. (a) For every factory to which this Act applies there shall be established by the Local Government or the Chief Inspector of Factories a Welfare Committee for a period not exceeding three years and the said Committee shall consist of -

- (i) 5 representatives of the employers or owners of the factory;
- (ii) 5 representatives of the union of the employees in the factory or if no union exists 5 representatives chosen by the employees in accordance with the rules framed under section 10 of the Act.
- (iii) 5 representatives nominated by the Local Government of whom at least 2 shall be qualified medical practitioners and one shall be the Sub-divisional or the District Magistrate.

(b) The aforesaid Committee shall elect a Chairman from amongst its members in accordance with the rules framed by the Local Government in this behalf.

8. The Welfare Committee shall, subject to rules made under this Act, be responsible for the direction, superintendence and control of the welfare arrangements provided by the Act, so as to ensure the maintenance and upkeep of proper health and safety of the employees or their children as the case may be.

9. (a) If the Welfare Committee finds that any arrangement provided by section 3 of the Act is not satisfactory or is insanitary, inconvenient or unsuited to the manners and customs of the employees or needs repairs or change of any kind it shall be lawful for such Committee

to make a written ~~xxx~~ complaint to the Inspector of Factories.

(b) On receipt of a report under section 9(a), the Chief Inspector of Factories shall call upon the owner, occupier or manager of such factory to construct, repair or improve the arrangements as nearly as possible in accordance with the recommendations of the Welfare Committee, by means of a notice in writing, within the time specified by him.

(c) On failure to comply with the said notice within the prescribed time every owner, occupier or manager of such factory shall be liable to the penalty contemplated by section 4(b)(ii) of the Act, on a complaint to the nearest First Class Magistrate having jurisdiction.

10.(i) Subject to the control of the Governor in Council, the Chief Inspector of Factories may, from time to time, make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act and may attach to the breach of any such rules a penalty which may extend to 100 rupees.

(ii) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power such rules may provide for -

- (a) election or nomination of the members of the Welfare Committee formed under section 7(a) of the Act:
- (b) the number, size, form, pattern or plan of the dining sheds or mess rooms, lavatories, urinals, drinking-water-rooms, water taps or reservoirs and crèches under section 3 of the Act:
- (c) the number of nurses required for any factory together with the qualifications and training necessary for such nurses:
- (d) forms of notices under sections 4 and 9 of the Act, and the manner of service of such notices:
- (e) regulations for the conduct of the business, meetings, etc., of the Welfare Committee and the mode by which they shall be dissolved or any casual vacancies filled up:
- (f) the form in which reports shall be made by such Committees:
- (g) regulations for the proper and sanitary upkeep and repairs of the welfare arrangements contemplated by the Act and for their periodical inspection by the Inspector of Factories.

11. Notwithstanding anything contained hereinbefore, the Welfare Committees' recommendations made from time to time with regard to the arrangements under section 3 of the Act shall be given effect to as nearly as possible by the Inspector of Factories by means of rules framed under section 10 aforesaid unless the Local Government otherwise directs.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The death rate amongst the factory hands is abnormally high, and with the long working hours at present, it is not possible for the factory workers to go to their respective homes during the midday interval for meals; neither it is possible for the female employees to keep their babies at home for the whole day. Reports are not wanting to show that it is a common thing to see tiny children playing on the dangerous gins or being nursed by their mothers. The atmosphere is full of dust, and imagine the terrible effects of such conditions on the health of infants, and yet there is nothing in the Factory Act to prevent such children being nursed within the working department of the factory.

There are no facilities for mess rooms or rest rooms, and when the midday syren is sounded it is a common sight to see the operatives sitting on the stairs or in the corridors or by their machines - some eating while others are asleep, for no rest rooms are provided.

There are few factories in the province which are no doubt doing their best in this direction but their number is negligible. The workers are not organised and neither do they get such high wages as to afford adequate arrangements contemplated by the Act at their own cost. The duty of maintaining the health of the operatives rests on the employers and on the Government primarily and it is very

necessary that there should be legislation in this matter if the workers are not intended to be dragged into a sort of conflict going all over the country.

The expenditure required of the factory owners would be comparatively negligible.

Welfare Committees would ensure the proper working of the Act and the penal clauses in the Act are merely to make it obligatory on all factory owners to give effect to the Act.

The Act does not apply to factories employing less than 100 persons in any one day.

R. W. Fulay  
Member in charge

CENTRAL PROVINCES BILL No. VI OF 1929.

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES MATERNITY BENEFIT BILL, 1929.

A Bill to make provision for absence of work during advance state of pregnancy, and some time before and after confinement, and for the payment of maternity benefits to women-workers in the factories in the province during such periods.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the welfare of the female-workers in the factories of the province, payment of maternity benefits some time before and after confinement; and

WHEREAS the previous sanction of the Governor General required by clause (f) of section 80-A(3) of the Government of India Act has been obtained to the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. (a) This Act may be called the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 192 .

(b) It extends to the whole of the Central Provinces and applies to factory-workers in all factories as defined in sections 2, 3(a) and (b) of the Indian Factories Act.  
Act XII of 1911.

(c) It shall come into force on such day as the Local Government may notify, after the passing of the Act.

2. In this Act -

(a) "Factory" means a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act.

(b) "Qualified Medical Practitioner" means a qualified medical practitioner as defined in the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923.

(c) "Benefit" means benefit as provided by this Act.

(d) "Employer" includes an occupier of a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act or the Act XII of 1911.  
"manager" of a factory.

(e) "Inspector of Factories" means an Inspector as defined by the Indian Factories Act.

3. In any factory, to which this Act applies, a woman -

(a) shall have the right to leave her work if she produces a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner stating that her confinement will probably take place within six weeks; and

(b) shall be entitled to be absent from work for six weeks from the date of her confinement; and

(c) shall, while she is absent from her work in pursuance of sub-sections (a) and (b) of this section, be paid ~~at~~ the full amount of wages she would have but for her absence received during such periods, in accordance with the rules framed by the Local Government in this behalf.

4. If a woman dies at her confinement or during the period for which she is entitled to benefits, the remaining sums due as maternity benefit shall be paid to the person who undertakes the care of the child in accordance with rules made by the Local Government.

5. The maternity benefit which shall in no case be less than the actual wages of the woman concerned for three months of work, shall be paid by the employer, through the Inspector of Factories having jurisdiction within 15 days from the date of demand.

6. When a woman is absent from work in accordance with sub-section (a) or (b) of section 3, it shall not be for her employer to give her notice of dismissal during such absence, or at such a time that notice would expire during such absence without the previous written permission of the Chief Inspector of Factories.

7. An employer contravening any provision of the Act or any rule made thereunder, shall be punishable for disobeying the orders of a public servant under the requisite section in Chapter IX of the Indian Penal Code.

8. The Local Government shall make rules -

(1) for determining the manner of payment of benefit to the person entitled to receive it and the mode of application for the benefits :

(2) for calculating the amount of actual benefit payable under the Act;

(3) for recovery of such benefits from employers concerned by coercive processes if necessary.

9. The Inspector of Factories or the Chief Inspector of Factories shall have and perform the same power and duties for the purpose of section 3, sub-sections (a), (b) and sections 5 and 6 of this Act, as they may have and perform for the purpose of the Indian Factories Act.

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The object of the Bill is twofold: firstly, to enable the female factory-workers of the province to leave their

work, six weeks before and after confinement, and to prevent them from being dismissed for absence during such periods. Secondly, during the periods of such absence a woman-worker should be provided, with at least her ordinary wages, which might be of use for the maintenance of the worker and her children.

The money necessary for this purpose is to be paid, through the Inspector of Factories having jurisdiction, by the employer from the funds of the factory. The Act provides that the amount of benefit shall be the wages the worker would have otherwise received during her period of advanced ~~stage~~ state of pregnancy and after confinement.

The Bill seeks to carry out practically the proposals contained in the draft Convention passed at the First International Labour Conference held at Washington in 1919. Mr. Joshi had tried to bring a somewhat similar measure in the 1924 session of the Legislative Assembly; the present Bill is based on it, though it has been considerably limited in its scope and operation because of the limited powers of the local legislature. There is no doubt that such a measure is necessary. If industrialism is to be an unmixed blessing to the working classes, timely provision must be made to counter-act the evils incidental to the system.

As only a small proportion of women will be annually eligible for such benefits, the burden on the employers would be negligible. The average annual payment for such purpose amounts to about Rs. 3,200 in the Empress Mills, perhaps the only factory employing the largest number of women in the province.

The other provisions in the Bill are only incidental for the proper enforcement of the Act.

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R. W. Fulay  
Member in charge.



Regulations for prohibiting the employment  
of women underground in Mines.

The Gazette of India, dated the 9th March 1929 publishes the following notification :-

No. M.-1055.- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 29 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 (IV of 1923), the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following regulations, the same having been previously published as required, by sub-section (1) of section 31 of the said Act, namely:-

Regulations for prohibiting the employment of  
women underground in Mines.

1. These regulations shall have effect from the 1st day of July, 1929.
2. In these regulations -
  - (1) "exempted mine" means -
    - (a) coal mines in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and the Central Provinces;
    - (b) salt mines in the Punjab; and
  - (2) "underground workings" means any part of a mine situated beneath the superjacent ground, and includes vertical shafts provided for access to, or for the ventilation of such part; but does not include tunnels made and used only for convenience in disposing of spoil.
3. No woman shall be permitted to enter or remain in the underground workings of any mine other than an exempted mine, unless & she is authorised in that behalf in writing by the Chief Inspector.
4. In an exempted mine -
  - (1) up to and including the 30th day of June, 1939,-

- (a) no woman shall be permitted to enter or remain in the underground workings of the mine unless -
- (i) she is employed to work therein in accordance with the provisions of sub-clause (b), or
  - (ii) she is authorised in that behalf in writing by the Chief Inspector, and
- (b) the total number of women employed to work in the underground workings of the mine on any day in any year specified in column 1 of the Schedule shall not be a greater percentage of the total number of persons, both women and men, so employed in the mine on that day than the percentage specified against that year, in the case of exempted coal mines, in column 2 and in the case of exempted salt mines, in column 3 of the Schedule; and

(2) on and after the 1st day of July, 1939, no woman shall be permitted to enter or remain in the underground workings of the mine, unless she is authorised in that behalf in writing by the Chief Inspector.

SCHEDULE

Year.	Percentage of the total number of persons, both men and women, employed underground.	
	Exempted coal mines.	Exempted salt mines.
1.	2.	3.
1st July 1929 to 30th June 1930.	29	40
1st July 1930 to 30th June 1931.	26	36
1st July 1931 to 30th June 1932.	23	32
1st July 1932 to 30th June 1933.	20	28
1st July 1933 to 30th June 1934.	17	24
1st July 1934 to 30th June 1935.	14	20
1st July 1935 to 30th June 1936.	11	16
1st July 1936 to 30th June 1937.	8	12
1st July 1937 to 30th June 1938.	5	8
1st July 1938 to 30th June 1939.	2	4

(sd) A. E. M. *Mazumdar*  
*Secretary to Govt. of India*

CONDITIONS OF LABOURRailway Budget and Labour Welfare.

On the 19th February Sir George Rainy, Member for Railways and Commerce, presented the Railway Budget for the year 1929-30 in the Indian Legislative Assembly. The year 1928-29 had been reasonably prosperous from the railway point of view and the final result is estimated to be a gain of Rs. 10,71,00,000 on the working of the commercial lines. Even after making allowances for the loss on the working of the strategic lines, the closed accounts for the year are expected to show a net surplus of Rs. 90,00,000. In the estimates for 1929-30 there is expected a gross surplus of Rs. 11,50,00,000.

From the labour point of view the most important feature ~~part~~ of the budget is the addition of a new member to the Railway Board to look after establishment and staff questions. In dealing with the amelioration of the lot of the railway employees in the lower ranks, Sir George said that the Government were considering ways and means to remove legitimate grievances and to better the conditions of service, especially of the lowest paid men: "We shall set on foot a systematic examination of the service conditions of our lower paid employees in order to ascertain what are the measures which are most urgently called for in order to bring about an improvement. That will cover not only rates of pay and wages, but also reductions of working hours which would of course involve the employment of additional staff, the extension of provident fund benefits to classes who do not at present enjoy them, improvements in the housing conditions and so on ..... We do not anticipate that the

schemes likely to be sanctioned in 1929-30 will cost more than Rs. 50,00,000 in a full year, and, of course, the expenditure in the first year will be smaller. On that basis we have included in the budget a sum of Rs. 2.8 millions and we have also provided a sum of Rs. 3 millions under capital for the building of additional quarters where they are found necessary..... What I have said leads up to what in my view is the most important proposal included in the present budget, I mean the addition~~nt~~ of a new member to the Railway Board..... specially charged with responsibility for all establishment questions and for the welfare of labour and of the staff generally". Elaborating the same idea, Sir George continued "In India we have to deal with a permanent change in the conditions under which industries and commerce must be carried on, and we must be ready to deal with problems which are impending as well as those which have already presented themselves for solution. Here it may suffice to give only one or two illustrations of the kind of questions which, under our existing organisation, it is almost impossible to handle adequately or expeditiously". The first illustration he gave dealt with the methods of handling labour disputes on the railways and the relations of the railway managements with the trade unions. Sir George argued that in these matters he should have the assistance of an officer of not lower rank than a member of the Board. The other illustration he gave referred to the obligations the Government of India have incurred under the Washington and Geneva Conventions for the sixty hour week and the weekly day of rest. "We have not yet succeeded in fully carrying out these obligations and it is clearly a matter of urgent public importance that there should be no further delay. But I do

not hesitate to say that if we have had in the past a member of the Board who would give his whole time to staff questions, we should have solved our difficulties at least 18 months ago".

The proposal to appoint the fifth member of the Railway Board was carried by a majority of 53 against 43, and it has now been announced that Mr. A. M. Hayman would be appointed to the post. The opposition, it may be remarked, was largely due to the fact that Mr. Hayman is an Anglo-Indian and has still now been in the Railway Finance department, thus having had no opportunities to develop labour sympathies. The Pioneer in its leading article of 21st February 1929 considers "that Sir George is just tinkering with the real problem" and <sup>Complains</sup> says "Geneva cannot be implemented, but Simla must".

#### All India Railwaymen's Federation.

The All India Railwaymen's Federation has submitted a memorandum of grievances to the Government of India and the Railway Board, and Sir George Rainy, has agreed to receive a deputation from the Federation some time next April to discuss the points raised in the memorandum which deal with such questions as wages, promotions, allowance scales, hours of attendance, off-days and holidays, housing and medical aid, leave, provident fund, fines and debits, victimisation, racial discrimination, etc. In a preliminary discussion which Sir George had with Mr. Giri, the General Secretary of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, on 22nd February 1929, he indicated that, in view of his announcement in the Railway budget speech about setting on foot a systematic enquiry into the conditions of service of the lower paid railway employees, it would not be possible for him to give any definite reply to the deputation. He hoped, however, to

ascertain from the deputation the relative importance and urgency of the grievances outlined in the memorandum. While he agreed that the Federation was a body whose views he might reasonably hear, he could not for a moment subscribe to the view that the questions discussed in the memorandum could become the subject of negotiations between the Federation on the one hand and the Government on the other. After the agents of the various railways had worked out their schemes of labour reform, Sir George thought that an opportunity for consultation with the representatives of labour might perhaps be taken.

Madras Labour and Simon Commission.

On 21st February 1929, the Simon Commission recorded the evidence of Mr. S. H. Slater, Madras Government Labour Commissioner. ~~According to him~~ <sup>He said that</sup> the total industrial labour population, according to the 1921 census, was two-and-a-half millions in the Madras Presidency. This included women and children. In Madras City the number of actual workers was 40,000 and there were another 100,000 in unorganised industries. There was no standardization of wages or standardization of work but, roughly speaking, a skilled artisan earned between Rs. 22-8 to Rs. 25 per month and an unskilled labourer about ten to twelve annas per day in the Madras City.

In rural areas the standard of wages of skilled labour was much the same. It may be between Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per month, but in the case of unskilled labour it varied from four to eight annas per day. He estimated the total population of labourers and depressed classes taken jointly at about thirteen millions. He said that the really organized labouring class numbered only about 40,000 in the whole of

the Presidency and it was not worth while giving them ~~any~~ ~~special~~ special separate representation. With regard to the unorganized labouring class and the depressed classes, he thought the best way to provide representation for them would be to lower the franchise qualification and thus bring in a large number of these.

He told Viscount Burnham that part of his work was done under the local Government and part under the Central. He thought it was a satisfactory arrangement and did not interfere in any way with the discharge of his duties. He was also in charge of immigration of labour to Ceylon. He could not say if immigrants to these places met with good treatment as he was not in charge of that. He was in touch with the Labour Commissioners of the two Governments concerned in Madras who recruited labour for immigration to those parts.

He did not think that provincial autonomy would interfere with the division of work of the Labour Commissioner under the Central and Provincial Governments.

Major Attlee was informed that the same rules as applied in regard to Ceylon and Malaya did not apply to Burma, to which place immigration was purely voluntary.

Replying to Sir A.P. Patro, witness said that he would have indirect elections for labouring classes through Labour Unions.

(Statesman, 23-3-'29; Times of India, 23-2-'29 and all papers).

MATERNITY BENEFITSIN THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY, LIMITED, JAMSHEDPUR.

1. From January 1st 1929 the Company will pay as Maternity benefit to weekly paid female employees of the Company the equivalent of six weeks' wages following confinement providing that

- (a) The woman shall have been in the continuous employ of the Company for not less than 12 months prior to the date of confinement;
- (b) The woman undertakes during the period of six weeks following confinement not to do any work outside her own home;
- (c) That notification of birth is made to the Company main Hospital within three days of its occurrence.

2. Employees who wish to take advantage of this benefit must register their claim at the Employment Bureau. The Employment Bureau will arrange for the woman to be examined at the Hospital who will state the probable date of birth. If the claim is in order the Employment Bureau will issue a leave of absence permit for 6 weeks and payment will then be made of three weeks wages.

3. On receipt of notification of birth, the Chief Medical Officer will arrange for varification noting the date on the certificate issued by him.

4. The certificate will be handed in at the Employment Bureau who will make the necessary endorsement on it after which payment of the other three weeks wages will be made.

5. Before resuming work,, the woman must report at the Employment Bureau when a fresh weekly ticket will be issued.

( Information taken from a press communique issued by  
the Co.)



Strikes in British India in 1928.

According to a press communique issued by the Government of India, the total number of strikes during the year ended 31st December 1928 was 203, and the total number of men involved was 506,851, as compared with 129 strikes involving 131,655 men during 1927. The total number of working days lost during the year was 31,647,404 which is even greater than the total number of working days lost in the five preceding years taken together. The corresponding figure for 1927 was only 2,019,970. In the 60 disputes in Bengal, 126,575 men were involved, and 3,940,457 working days lost; in the 111 disputes in Bombay, 318,531 men were involved and 24,629,715 working days lost; in Bihar and Orissa there were 8 disputes involving 30,288 men and costing 2,523,994 working days; and Madras had 7 disputes involving 19,778 men and costing 291,284 working days. In comparison with the Bombay, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Madras disputes, the industrial troubles in the other provinces were of much smaller account. Nearly every prominent industry suffered from the prevailing discontent; the Jute Mills of Calcutta, the Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur, the railway workshops at Lillooah and Lallaguda; and the Textile Mills of Bombay were all the scenes of prolonged stoppages of work. The general strike in the Bombay mills alone accounted for a loss of 22,347,620 working days. There were in the cotton and woollen mill industry as a whole 110 disputes involving 323,484 men and the lost time was 24,851,274 days; the 19 disputes in the Jute Mills involved 64,524 men and the time lost was 1,556,808 working days; there were 11 strikes in engineering workshops, (37,688 men; 3,148,706 working days lost) and 9 strikes in Railways and Railway Workshops (49,400 men, 1,874,313 working days lost).

The causes of the disputes may be thus analysed:- disputes over wages, 109: Bonus, 1: personnel, 44: leave and hours, 6: miscellaneous, 43. The workers were successful in 27, and partially successful in 41 disputes; in 128 disputes they were completely unsuccessful, and 7 disputes were still in progress at the beginning of 1929.

Bombay Strike Enquiry Committee.

The Strike Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay to conduct an examination into the main points ~~of~~ at issue in the dispute between the textile workers and mill-owners of Bombay concluded its labours in the third week of February, after a final summing up regarding the standardization scheme by the representatives of the workers as well as employers. While an agreement appears to have been reached on the details of the scheme, no understanding has yet been arrived on the point whether a cut in the weavers' wages of 7½% of their present earnings is justifiable or not. In the course of their summing up, the millowners' representatives declared it was not the intention of the Millowners' Association to introduce standardisation before the 1st October 1929. The Committee would, of course, give its decision in regard to the seventeen demands put forward by the labour representatives (see <sup>December</sup> ~~November~~ report) as also the standing orders proposed by the Millowners' Association. It is expected that the Enquiry Committee will make its report to the Government of Bombay before the end of this month.

(Pioneer, 25-2-1929 and all papers).

Sir Pheroze Sethna summarised the result of the recent Bombay strikes at the annual general meeting of the Central

Bank of India, and according to him, "the six months of stoppage of work by the spinning and weaving mills of Bombay involved the country in a loss of five crores of rupees, besides facilitating large imports of foreign textile goods to the detriment of the country's trade".

Ahmedabad Labour Dispute.

The Ahmedabad labour dispute about the question of increased wages for mill workers is still dragging on. The sub-committee appointed by the Millowners' Association to consider the Labour Union's demand for increased wages held a joint discussion with the representatives of the Union on the 22nd February (Hindu, 23-2-'29). The summary of the profits, dividends and reserve funds of the mills prepared by the millowners showed that profits were dwindling down steadily year after year since 1926. The Labour Union therefore has changed its demand from increase in wages to at least restoration of the cuts in wages effected in 1923. At a meeting of the Millowners' Association held on the 24th February, it was resolved that the Labour Union's demand for restoration of the cuts of 1923 was not justified by the present state of the textile industry, but that the Association was prepared to refer the question to the Arbitrative Board. The millowners are preparing their statement to be placed before the arbitrators.

(Pioneer, 27-2-1929).

On the 16th February 1929 a meeting of the textile workers of Nagpur was held under the auspices of their Union to formulate their minimum demands. Their principal demands are:-

- (1) grant of maternity allowance,
- (2) minimum wage for every worker to be fixed at Rs. 30 per mensem,
- (3) recognition of the Nagpur Textile Union, and
- (4) abolition of the double khada system (deduction of two days' wages for one day's absence.)

(Times of India, 18-2-1929).

On the 22nd February 1929 there was a serious labour clash between two groups of workers of the Tata Steel Works at Jamshedpur. According to the Times of India of 25th February 1929, the incident is the outcome of the long standing tension arising out of the existence of two rival labour bodies, one under Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose (a swarajist leader of Calcutta), and the other under Mr. Manek Homi (a Parsi lawyer of Bombay). As a result of the clash the offices of the Jamshedpur Labour Association were wrecked and cash to the extent of Rs. 1,000 was looted.

(Pioneer, 25-2-1929).

#### The Colombo Tram Strike.

Serious disturbances took place in Colombo in the latter half of January and February because of considerable labour unrest in the city. The Ceylon Labour Union, which has been only very recently started, was the first attempt to organise the labour population of the city. With the organisation of the Union, Ceylon labour had become conscious of its rights and had developed "grievances" against what it asserted to be the general low standards of wages obtaining in the city. The simmering discontent found its first active expression in the strike of the Colombo Motormen and Conductors in the employ of the Tramways and Lighting Co., Ltd. The strike

began on 21-1-1929 and continued till the 5th of the next month and had as its starting point the suspension of a tramway conductor, and the refusal of the administration to reinstate him in spite of a request to that effect made by Mr. Goonesinghe, president of the Union. To this was soon added a demand for 50 per cent increase in wages. The tramway administration offered an increase from Rs. 1 cents 20 to Rs. 1 cents 35 per day for probationers and explained that the wages were based on a rising scale under which after 18 years' service a conductor or driver will be drawing Rs. 2.80 cents per day. The union not being prepared to accept these terms, the strike continued, accompanied by labour boycott measures in the other industrial activities of the local agents of the tramway company and occasional clashes with the police, which culminated in the Maradana riots of 5-2-29, when the police and the military had to open fire on the crowd resulting in four casualties and injuries to 300 persons. The strike came to an end the same day, the terms of settlement being understood to be that all strikers should be re-engaged without penalisation and that the wages question should be submitted for arbitration. According to the Times of Ceylon of 5-2-29, the strike riots paled into insignificance even the communal riots of 1915" and the same paper in its issue of the 7th February refers to a statement by the Colonial Secretary foreshadowing the passing of stringent labour legislation to regulate the activities of labour unions.

## INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION.

### Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.

The Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta held its annual general meeting on February 15th, under the presidency of Mr. Fai<sup>3</sup>ulla Gangjee, a leading merchant of Calcutta. In his presidential speech, Mr. Gangjee made a review of the trade conditions of India during 1928, and said that the year was a very unfavourable one for India. He referred to the anaemic condition of Indian agriculture, and laid the blame for it on the Government's insistence on a 1s.6d. ratio against the best opinion of the country. According to him, trade conditions in India were at present particularly depressing. The jute industry of Bengal was in a very sad plight, equally dismal was the outlook for Bombay's cotton industry, while the condition of rice in Burma was even sadder. Mr. Gangjee estimated that the total loss of foreign trade in rice alone for 1928 amounted to Rs. 10 crores, and said that the problem does not concern Burma alone, but should be treated as an all-India one. Mr. Gangjee advocated vigorous governmental action for the protection of Indian industrial and trade interests, and said that the Banking Enquiry announced recently by Sir George Schuster, should be expedited with a view to the speedy righting of the grave wrong inflicted by the present 1s.6d. ratio.

(Hindustan Times, 18-2-1929).

### The Upper India Chamber of Commerce.

At the 41st annual general meeting of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce held at Cawnpore on the 22nd February, considerable attention was devoted to the present labour situation in India. Referring to the phenomenally large

number of strikes in 1928, Mr. A. L. Carnegie, the president said that "the demands put forward by the strikers in several instances had been so palpably absurd or so redolent of the doctrines of communism, as to make it apparent that there was some sinister organisation bent upon using the workers to further its own aims". According to Mr. Carnegie this was the result of the "forcing on India of premature labour legislation in the shape of the Trade Unions Act", at a time when Indian Trade Unions were not able to protect themselves against designing outside exploiters. Discussing the provisions of the Trades Disputes Bill, Mr. Carnegie said that he strongly objected to the infliction of Boards of Conciliation on parties who were unwilling to submit to arbitration, and to the provision investing the Boards of Conciliation with powers to compel the production of evidence and the attendance of witnesses. He hoped that the Whitley Commission would conduct a most searching inquiry into the subject.

Speaking at the same meeting Mr. S.H. Taylor, a member of the Chamber advocated that "in view of labour troubles and the state of labour legislation, a Federation or Association of Employers should be formed" to express the employers' point of view on labour questions.

(Pioneer, 24-2-1929).

#### Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

The annual General meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce was held on the 22nd February in the Royal Exchange at Calcutta under the presidentship of Sir George Godfrey. Several speakers expressed apprehension at the recurring labour troubles in India, and stressed the need for arming the police with greater powers to check lawlessness during

labour disputes. Sir George Godfrey pointed out that it often happened that during strikes, the strikers and their pickets overshadowed the police. He referred to the recent Bombay riots, and the report of the Red International and said that Europeans wanted whole-heartedly to co-operate with Indians, to save India from ~~the~~ disasters similar to that of Russia.

(Times of India, 25-2-1929)

U. P. Chamber of Commerce.

The 15th annual general meeting of the U.P. Chamber of Commerce was held on the 25th February, under the presidency of Mr. W. C. De Noronha. Referring to the Trades Disputes Bill, Mr. Noronha said, "it would have been much better if the Government had confined the Bill to its first part which would have ensured its safe passage through the legislature. Controversial provisions could be embodied in a separate Bill or their consideration postponed pending the enquiry into labour conditions by the Whitley Commission".

(Hindustan Times, 28-2-1929).

Indian Mining Federation.

The annual general meeting of the Indian Mining Federation was held at Calcutta on the 27th February under the presidency of Mr. A.L.Ojha, M.L.C., who suggested the constitution of an Indian Economic Council on the lines of the German Federal Economic Council for the better adjustment of the new and rapidly changing economic life of India. Referring to labour troubles, he said that the position in the coal-fields has been satisfactory, but entered a strong protest against all attempts to bring labour conditions in India up



the social standards in richer countries, and asked "Can India yet carry out all the recommendations of Washington and Geneva? The fact is that one cannot aim at A 1 labouring conditions in C 3 industries of limited means, as the bulk of the enterprises in India are at present.

(Statesman, 1-3-1929).

ECONOMIC CONDITIONSBudget for 1929-30

Sir George Schuster, Finance Member of the Government of India, presented to the Indian Legislative Assembly on 28-2-29 the budget for 1929-30. The estimates of revenue and expenditure are Rs. 1331.6 and Rs. 1340.6 millions respectively, leaving a deficit of Rs. 9 millions which is to be met from the <sup>Revenue</sup> Reserve Fund which now stands at Rs. 10.4 millions. Sir Basil Blackett's principle of balancing current expenditure with current revenue is here deviated from: but Sir George did not think it justifiable to impose new taxation until he was convinced that there was a permanent need for it. The Finance Member also announced that Government would require a total new loan of Rs. 180 millions: and while his predecessor's loan policy was to raise all available money from India, Sir George Schuster sees no objection to borrowing abroad, though no decision on this point has yet been taken. An important feature of the Budget is the setting up of a Road Fund, for feeding which import and excise duties on motor spirit are raised from 4 to 6 annas per gallon. As for the "ratio" controversy, <sup>Sir George</sup> he advised Indian publicists to accept the 1s. 6d to the rupee rate as a chose jugée, and warned them that stability would suffer if attempts are once again made to alter it.

... ..

Banking Enquiry.

A Government press communiqué of the 17th February announces that the Finance Member, in consultation with the representatives of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and

the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce who have been demanding an enquiry into Indian banking, has agreed that the object should be to enquire into existing conditions of banking in India, and to make recommendations for the expansion of indigenous banking, both stock and "shroffi", with special reference to agriculture, commerce and industry. A further discussion with the representatives of Indian commercial and industrial interests will be held before the final inauguration of the enquiry.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.Madras Presidency.

The Madras Legislative Council has appointed a Committee of seven non-official members of the house to enquire into the economic condition of the districts of Kistna, Godaveri East and Godaveri West and to report to Government by the 1st October 1929. In explaining to the House the motion for electing the Committee, Sir Norman Marjoribanks said that a resolution on this subject was accepted by the House on 28th November 1928, as members were desirous that the information collected by the Settlement Officers in the course of their duties should be checked and supplemented by those chiefly interested in the matter. The Government will keep an open mind on the subject, and give their best consideration to the Committee's Report before making any alterations in the existing rates of assessment.

(Madras Legislative Council proceedings of 30-1-29).

Economic Survey of Hyderabad.

This Office Report for December 1928 referred at page 30 to the economic survey which the Government of the State had just then ordered. According to information now available the original plan was to intensively examine four average-sized villages at random in every district in the State. But it has now been ordered that as a beginning, the special officer appointed for the purpose should take up twelve villages in the Nanded District in order to obtain a fair idea of the conditions prevalent therein. This enquiry will be concluded with inspection of all the marketting facilities of the district. Though the Special Officer considered it too early to give a <sup>final</sup> ~~considered~~ opinion, he, nevertheless,

felt confident that correct and complete information on economic matters could be obtained from the villagers without much difficulty.

(Pioneer, 22-2-1929).

Bardoli Committee's Report.

Some time ago, the inhabitants of Bardoli in Gujarat (Bombay Presidency) alleged that they were being overtaxed by the land revenue authorities, and by an organised campaign of non-payment of taxes, in which the district was actively assisted by Gandhi and Vallabhai Patel, compelled the Government to modify the old assessment rates. In July last year, a small non-official committee was appointed by the Nationalist Party of the Bombay legislature ~~xx~~ to look into the question, and its report, which is ~~published~~<sup>based</sup> mainly on the evidence of Mr. Vallabhai ~~xx~~<sup>ba</sup> Patel and his associates, (the Government of Bombay not having given any response to Committee's overtures) has now been published. According to newspaper reports, the Committee, where it deals with the hardship inflicted upon the people of Bardoli, makes out a restrained and moderate case for the people, and suggests in its recommendations a complete change in the land revenue policy of the Presidency. It further emphasises the need for defining more precisely the relations between Government and the people and limiting the powers of the Executive. According to the leading article of the Pioneer in its issue of the 10th March "there can be few who would not maintain that there is a distinct need for the "principle of assessment" to be brought into line with the civilised notions of land tax prevailing in the West", and there ~~xxx~~ must be fewer still, who will deny that there should be universal

appeal to civil courts, where the assessment is alleged to be unsatisfactory." It therefore recommends a thorough investigation into ~~the state of~~ land revenue policy as it is worked at the present day. In Bombay, legislation has not yet been passed, as it has been in the Punjab and the United Provinces, in accordance with the important recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Government of India Bill, 1919, that there should be embodied in the law the main principles by which land revenue is determined; and the Bombay Bill which is now under consideration is regarded as extremely unsatisfactory.

(A copy of the report will be forwarded when it is available in this office).

#### Land Revenue Law Reform in the Punjab.

The Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill No.2 of 1927 as passed by the Legislative Council on May 11, 1928, has now been assented to by the Viceroy. Its purpose is to rectify the defects of the earlier Act of 1887. Former discussions on land law reform laid greater emphasis on the duration of assessment than on the ratio of enhancements. The Report of the Joint Select Committee of the House of Commons which considered the Government of India Bill of 1919 shed additional light on the problem and recommended that there should be definite statutory provision for the various processes of land revenue assessment. The following quotation of the relevant passages of the Report explains the position in the Punjab (and elsewhere) before the New Act.

"The Committee are impressed by the objections raised by many witnesses to the manner in which certain classes of taxation can be laid upon the people of India by executive action without, in some cases, any statutory limitation of

of the rates and, in other cases, any adequate prescription by statute of the methods of assessment. They consider that the imposition of new burdens should be gradually brought more within the purview of the Legislature. And in particular, without expressing any judgment on the question whether the land revenue is a rent or tax, they advise that the process of revising the land revenue assessments ought to be brought under closer regulation by statute as soon as possible.

9. *(basis for charging revenue on the*  
 "At present the statutory land varies in different provinces: but in some at least the pitch of assessment is entirely at the discretion of the executive Government. No branch of the administration is regulated with ~~the~~ greater elaboration or care: but the people who are most affected have no voice in the shaping of the system, and the rules are often obscure and imperfectly understood by those who pay the revenue. The Committee ~~is~~ are of opinion that the time has come to embody in the law the main principles by which the land revenue is determined, the methods of valuation the pitch of assessment, the periods of revision, the graduation of enhancements and the other chief processes which touch the well-being of the revenue payers".

By introducing the original amending Bill of March, 1927 the Punjab Government was the first Government to take up the implementing of the Joint Select Committee's recommendation quoted above: the Punjab Legislative Council was the first Council to pass a Bill of the nature effecting the alteration popularly desired: and the Bill has been the first of its kind in India to receive assent.

According to the new Act, the maximum limit of the Government demand shall be one fourth instead of one half of the net assets. The ratio of enhancement permissible on reassessment is limited in any assessment circle to one-

fourth, and in any individual estate to two-thirds on the previous rate. Assessments will now remain unaltered for a forty-year period, with certain exceptions in the case of lands served by canal-irrigation introduced after the last assessment, or proposed to be introduced during the term of the settlement. Payment of land revenue wholly or partly in kind has also been abolished.

#### The Cotton Handloom Industry of Madras.

In September 1928 the Government of Madras constituted a Conference to discuss the working of the Textile section of its Industries Department, and to consider the lines of future progress. The Conference held six sittings from the period September 1928 to January 1929 and submitted its recommendations to the Madras Government in February 1929.

The Textile Cottage Industries of the Madras Presidency include cotton, silk, wool, coir hosiery, lace embroidery, sericulture, etc., and ranks next in importance only to agriculture. The Conference, however, confined its attention to the cotton weaving branch only, the most important of such cottage industries. The report finds that the industry does not show any sign of decline, but that on the contrary since the war the production of cotton cloth on handlooms has increased by nearly 200 million yards per annum or by nearly 20 per cent. From the figures of the rate and cost of production of cotton cloth on the handlooms, the report concludes that, "the fallacies regarding the economic inefficiency of the handloom which have so long held the field have been exposed." The cost of handloom production is lower than that of the power loom, and for the same investment the quantity of cloth produced on the handloom



is larger than on the power loom. The difficulty confronting the handloom industry was that when the handloom cloth reached the markets, its price was higher by 7 to 10 per cent than that of the power products. The problem, therefore, was to remove the disparity in prices so that this important cottage industry may flourish, providing continuity of employment for weavers, and part time work for agriculturists during seasons of unemployment.

The cotton mill industry of India was accorded protection by the Government by the removal of the excise duty on cloth, enhancement of the import duty on yarns, removal of the import duty on machinery and by the appointment of a trade mission to find markets for the products of power looms. The Conference is of opinion that similar measures of protection should be extended to the handloom industry also. In order to mitigate the severity of competition between power looms and handlooms the Conference recommends that "the duty on ~~yarns~~ of counts above 40 should be removed, and in the case of yarns below 40 s which are mainly supplied by Indian mills, government may stipulate a condition that they should not be below a standard strength test, and should be of the reputed count, correct length and weight. Government may also assist the handloom industry by providing facilities by rail for transporting yarn and cloth for weavers' cooperative societies.

Other solutions for the removal of the present disparity in prices by internal development of the handloom industry, which would bring about a mutual adjustment are also being sought. The Textile Expert of the Madras Government makes the following recommendations:-

(a) an organisation for securing yarns at a favourable rate either by direct purchase from mills or by starting of

a cooperative spinning mill,

(b) an organisation for the preparation and distribution of ready made warps,

(c) employment of two looms instead of one, with the help of members of the weavers' family relieved from the labour warp preparation,

(d) an organisation for the marketing of handloom cloth,

The Textile Expert's scheme involves activities in the direction of improvement in the technique of the handloom, imparting technical training, bringing into existence linked organisations for the supply of ready made warps and placing the industry on a commercial footing by cooperative organisation. Some of the other recommendations made by the Conference are:-

(1) The imparting of weaving instruction in aided industrial schools in the mofussil should be more strictly inspected by a competent supervising staff.

(2) The present system of demonstration of improved methods of weaving by peripatetic parties should be more vigorously continued.

(3) The economic conditions of the weavers should be bettered, and towards that end, a system of cooperative societies specially designed for credit arrangements, cheap supply of yarns and marketing facilities should be set up.

(4) Efforts should be made for the introduction of mechanized processes to be linked with handlooms.

Special attention is drawn to the cutting from the Hindu giving the full text of the recommendations of the Textile Conference, as also to the cutting from the Statesman of 27-2-29, dealing with the handloom industry in Bihar and Orissa.

Indian Tariff Board's Activities.

The findings of the Tariff Board with regard to the application for the removal of tariff inequality in respect of the manufacture of printing type in India are published by the Pioneer of 3-1-29. The problem in a nutshell is to devise measures for removing tariff inequalities by adjusting the duties so as to afford relief to type foundries which import type metal as well as to those which manufacture it locally. The Tariff Board report finds that "the only method which will afford assistance to both class of producers is an increase on the duty of printing type". The Board has, therefore, recommended "that the duty of printing type should be fixed at a rate corresponding to the duty paid on imported type metal, the tariff inequality being higher in this case". Further, in view of the rapid decline in the prices of German type the Board has recommended "that the duty on printing type should be converted from an 'ad valorem' into a specific duty". The Board has turned down the plea for protection of the printing type industry in India, as on the admission of the applicants themselves, the Indian type foundries supply more than 80 per cent of the Indian market and as such protective measures are not needed at present.

The application of the Indian Cable Company for the removal of disabilities in the matter of tariff treatment was also considered by the Tariff Board. The crux of the trouble is that the development of certain industries in India is hampered by the fact that the duty on the finished article is lower than the duty on the materials which have to be imported for the manufacture of that article. In respect of the cable construction industry in India the Board has recommended that "the duty on electrolytic copper rod, known as 'black rod'

be removed; that a duty of 5 per cent be levied on rubber insulated electrical wires and cables other than those specified in Article 90-A of the Tariff Schedule". The Board, while declining to recommend the grant of a bounty to the industry, however, finds that "on the materials placed before us there is a prima facie case for holding an enquiry into the industry's claim for protection".

Draft Bill for Registration of Nurses, Midwives and "Dais".

The Government of Bombay have circulated for opinion a draft Bill submitted by the Bombay Presidency Nursing Association, making provision for the examination and registration of nurses, midwives and dais (country nurses) in the Presidency. The Bill proposes to establish a Nursing Council whose duty will be to maintain an official register of qualified nurses, midwives and dais. The first Council will consist of 25 members, with the Surgeon General as president. The other members, including the president of the Examination Board, will be nominated by the Governor-in-Council. Three of these at least will be registered medical practitioners, and three will be persons registered as nurses and midwives. The Council will supervise the training and conduct the examinations necessary for admission to the register, and will also assist in such training by grants to institutions etc., The supervising authority will, besides exercising general supervision of registered persons, investigate charges of malpractice, negligence or misconduct, and will report such cases to the Council. The Bill provides a penalty of Rs. 300 for persons who falsely pretend to be registered under the Act and take or use the name or title of registered nurse. The Bill invests the Government with the right to interfere in case the Council has failed to exercise, or has abused the powers conferred upon it by the Act.

(Times of India, 12-2-1929).

MARITIME AFFAIRS.Deferred Rebates Abolition Bill.

Interest in maritime affairs was revived in the Assembly, when on the 20th February, Mr. S.N.Haji proposed the motion for reference to a Select Committee of his Bill to abolish the system of deferred rebates in the coasting trade. The Bill is complementary to the Coastal Reservation Bill sponsored by the same member, and to which reference has been made in the February report. While the Coastal Reservation Bill aims at keeping shipping earnings in India, the Deferred Rebates Abolition Bill is intended to ensure a fair distribution of business among Indian shipping companies. Mr. Haji, in his speech supporting reference of the Bill to a Select Committee, points out that the evidences of witnesses before the Royal Commission of 1907, the Imperial Shipping Committee of 1923, and the Mercantile Marine Committee of 1924 had condemned the continuance of the system of deferred rebates. Further, deferred rebates <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ abolished by most of the Dominions, and even some of the provincial governments desired the abolition of the system. Under the system, the existing shipping of India tends to get concentrated in the hands of the P. and O. and its subsidiary companies and thus encouraged a monopoly. The system, in brief, allows a steamship company to levy freight charges at a certain nominal advertised rate, but enables the company to compel the patronage of shippers by the grant of rebates on the essential condition of a promise to use in future the "bottoms" of that particular shipping company only. "Disloyal" shippers are further penalised by refusal of shipping space at critical periods, by delaying shipment and by discrimination in freight adjustments. According to Mr. ~~Haji~~ Haji, the abolition

of the rebates system would at one stroke remove all these evils, and encourage the unhampered creation of an Indian mercantile marine. To say such action is based on racial discrimination is to condemn legislation which aims only at giving an essential minimum of national protection. The Assembly on the 20th February referred Mr. Haji's Bill to a Select Committee, despite the opposition of the Government and European interests, by 52 votes to 42.

[ILO] C 1903/5

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
New Delhi Branch.  
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Report for April 1929.

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①

GENERAL.

Enough pabulum has been furnished to the ~~members~~<sup>press</sup> and to the sensation-mongers by some of the political happenings of the period under report. On the 20th March 1929, a general round-up of the communist leaders in India was organised and carried out under the orders of the Government of India, and arrests were made in such centres as Bombay, Poona, Calcutta, Allahabad, Meerut and Lucknow. Almost all the arrested persons are connected with labour organisations, <sup>the</sup> Youth Movement, and the Peasants' and Workers' Association. They have all been taken to Meerut where the trial is to take place. Lightning strikes of short ~~period~~<sup>duration</sup>, involving some 20,000 workers in Bombay, occurred when the news became public, but these were short-lived, and there has been no general serious disturbance to speak of. On the 21st March 1929, in reply to a short notice question, the Home Member made the following statement in the Indian Legislative Assembly:-

"Under the authority of the Governor-General-in-Council, a complaint has been laid against 31 persons from various parts of India on a charge of conspiring to deprive the King of the sovereignty of British India. The complaint was laid in the court of the District Magistrate of Meerut and the court in the ordinary course of the law under the Criminal Procedure Code issued processes. In pursuance of these, house searches and arrests have taken place in different parts of India.

With regard to these I am unable at present to give full particulars, as I am not yet in possession of complete information. The names of persons against whom warrants have been issued ~~are~~ as follows:-

Philip Spratt, Calcutta.  
B. F. Bradley, Bombay.  
Adjodhya Prasad, Calcutta.

Shaukat Usmani, Bombay.  
 Puranchand Joshi, Allahabad.  
 Gaurishankar, Meerut.  
 L. R. Kadam, Jhansi,  
 V. N. Mukharji, Gorakhpur.  
 Dharamvir Singh, Meerut.  
 Dharani Goswami, Mymensingh.  
 Shibnath Bannerjee, Khulna.  
 Muzaffar Ahmed, Calcutta.  
 Gopal Basak, Dacca.  
 Shamsul Huda, Calcutta.  
 Kishorilal Ghosh, Calcutta.  
 Gopendra Chakravarty, Dacca.  
 Radha Raman Mitra, Burdwan,  
 Sripad Amrit Dange, Bombay.  
 Sachchidananda Vishnu Ghate, Bombay.  
 S. H. Jhabwala, Bombay.  
 Dhondiraj Thengdi, Poona City.  
 Keshav Nilkant Joglekar, Bombay.  
 Shantram Savalram Mirajkar, Bombay.  
 Raghunath Shivram Nimbkar, Bombay.  
 Gangadhar Moreshawar Adhikari, Bombay.  
 Motiram Gangjanaan Desai, Bombay.  
 Arjun Atmaram Alwe, Bombay.  
 Gobind Ramchandra Kasle, Bombay.  
 Sohan Singh Joshi, Amritsar Suburb.  
 M. A. Majid alias Abdul Majid, Lahore.  
 Kedarnath Sehri, Lahore.

The Complaint of Mr. R. A. Horton, Officer, on special  
 duty under the Director of <sup>Int</sup>elligence Bureau, Home Department,  
 Government of India, shows :-

1. That there exists in Russia an organisation called  
 the Communist International. The aim of this organisation is,  
 by the organisation of armed revolution, to overthrow all the  
 existing forms of government throughout the world, and to replace  
 them by Soviet republics subordinate to and controlled by the  
 Soviet administration in Moscow.

2. That the said Communist International carries on its  
 work of propaganda through various committees, branches and  
 organisations controlled by and subject to itself e.g., the  
 Executive Committee of the Communist International and various  
 sub-committees of the same, including the sub-committee concerned  
 with Eastern and Colonial affairs, the Communist Party of Great  
 Britain which is a section of the Communist International, the  
 Red International of Labour Unions, the Pan Pacific Trade Union,  
 the Secretariat of the League Against Imperialism, the Young

Communist League and various other bodies.

3. That the ultimate objective of the said Communist International is the complete paralysis and overthrow of the existing Governments in every country (including India) by means of a general strike and an armed uprising.

It has outlined a programme or plan of campaign which will be followed, for <sup>the</sup> achievement of this ultimate objective.

Among the methods so ordained are

- (a) The incitement of antagonism between Capital and Labour
- (b) The creation of Workers' and Peasants Parties, Youth Leagues, etc., ostensibly for the benefit of the members thereof, but in fact for the purpose of propaganda and the domination of such parties by Communists pledged to support the aims of the Communist International and the unification of such bodies under one control subservient to the Communist International.
- (c) The introduction of factions or ~~new~~ nuclei of such Communists, with illegal objects as aforesaid, into existing trade unions, nationalist bodies and political and other organisations, with the object of capturing the trade unions and bodies or obtaining their support in the interests of the Communist International.
- (d) The encouragement of strikes, hartals and agitation.
- (e) Propaganda by speeches, literature, newspapers, celebration of anniversaries connected with the Russian Revolution, etc.
- (f) The utilization and encouragement of any movements hostile to Government.

4. "That in the year 1921 the said Communist International determined to establish a branch organisation in British India and the accused Sripad Amrit Dange, Shaukat Usmani and Mizaffar Ahmed entered into a conspiracy with certain other persons to establish such branch organisations with a view to deprive <sup>the</sup> King Emperor of his sovereignty over British India.

5. "That thereafter the various persons, including the accused Spratt and Bradley, were sent to India by the Communist International through the medium of one of its branches or organisations, and with the object of furthering the aims of the Communist International.

6. "That the accused named in this complaint reside at different centres throughout British India. They have conspired with each other and with other persons, known or unknown, within or without British India, to deprive the King Emperor of his ~~sovereign~~ sovereignty over British India and for such purpose to use methods and carry out a programme and a plan of campaign outlined and ordained by the Communist International and in fact they used such methods and carried out such plan and campaign with the assistance of and financial support from the Communist International.

7. That the accused have met and conspired together as aforesaid at various places within and without British India, and amongst others at Meerut, and in pursuance of ~~a~~ such a conspiracy as aforesaid, the accused formed the Workers' and Peasants' Party at Meerut and there held a conference thereof."

"As stated above, a complaint has been laid on a charge of conspiracy under Section 121-A, Indian Penal Code, in respect of which the case for the prosecution will be that acts had been committed, falling within the terms of the section quoted, at various places and at various times extending over a period of several years. Owing to the comprehensive nature of the case, I am unable to give the specific dates of the places. The sanction for this prosecution was given on March 14 and the complaint was laid on March 15. As the case is now sub judice I, at this stage, am unable to give further particulars which might prejudice the merits of the case. Warrants of arrest have been issued only against persons in whose case Government are assured there is strong prima facie evidence, but search warrants

have been issued in cases where there are good grounds for believing that important evidence in connection with the case might be recovered. I hope the House will appreciate that the policy of Government in this case is to bring before the courts, under the ordinary law, a conspiracy which, in their view, is an infringement of the ordinary law of the land and is an attempt to carry out in India the programme of the Communist International. It is not directed against propaganda and activities of any persons or organisations except those who are believed to have taken active part in this particular conspiracy".

A motion for adjournment of the House to discuss the policy underlying the arrests was then sanctioned by the President, but was disallowed the same evening by the Governor General on the ground that the matter could not be discussed without detriment to public safety.

On the 2nd April, the President read out a statement in the course of which he advised the Government, in view of the intimate connection between the Public Safety Bill and the Meerut arrests (two of the accused in the Meerut case being Bradley and Spratt, foreign agitators directly affected by the Bill) to drop either the bill or the prosecution, so that matters sub judice may not be discussed in the House. He considered that there could be no adequate discussion of the Bill without a full reference to the Meerut affair, and before giving a ruling on this difficult point wanted to know what the Government proposed doing. The Home Member replying to this statement on the 4th April stated that it was beyond the powers of the Chair to withhold the Bill from consideration after it had been once introduced, and that the Government were unable to accept either <sup>of</sup> the alternative suggestions put forward by the President. The President allowed a public discussion in order to elicit the opinion of the members as to whether it was possible to have a real and reasonable debate on the Public Safety Bill in view of the pending prosecutions at

Meerut, and secondly, whether the Chair had the power to intervene at this stage. The discussion took place on the 5th April, after which the House proceeded with the discussion on the Trades Disputes Bill, as the President wanted time to consider <sup>the</sup> arguments raised before giving a ruling as to the procedure to be adopted in regard to the Public Safety Bill. It was evident from the discussion in the lobby that the relations between the Assembly and the Government were getting more and more strained and all sorts of wild rumours are afloat as to what the Government would do ~~ask~~ if the President were to give a decision adverse to the Government. Meanwhile, the discussion on the Trades Disputes Bill continued, and the Swarajist leaders arranged to close the discussion as early as possible in order to enable the President to give an earlier ruling.

On the morning of the 8th April the Assembly once again met, tense with ~~the~~ excitement. The third reading of the Trades Disputes Bill was concluded towards 12.30 p.m. and when the Bill had been carried by a majority of 56 to 38, the President stood up to give his ruling when two bombs were suddenly flung from the visitors' gallery above on to the Government benches, and the Assembly broke <sup>up</sup> in confusion. Two revolver shots were also heard. Some five minutes afterwards, after partial order had been restored, and the bomb throwers taken into custody, the President announced that the House stood adjourned till the morning of Thursday the 11th April. The newspaper cuttings <sup>(Hindustan Times supplement 10-4-29)</sup> enclosed deal with the occurrences of the 8th instant, and publish in extenso a manifesto, copies of which were thrown into the House by the bomb-throwers. In the manifesto it was stated that it was <sup>as</sup> a protest against the Public Safety and the Trades Disputes Bills that this extreme action was taken, and the manifesto itself purported to come from the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army.

About the Trades Disputes Bill itself, it may be said that it has been passed by the House as it emerged from the Select Committee, and that it will be considered, and in all likelihood passed, by the Council of State on Thursday, the 11th instant. The Standing Orders has been suspended in order to render this possible.

On Saturday, the 6th April, Mahasha Rajpal, <sup>last year</sup> a Hindu Arya-Samajist leader, who attracted a great deal of publicity on account of his anti-mussalman attitude, was <sup>stabbed to death</sup> ~~shot dead~~ at Lahore by a Mussalman. On the attempt of the Hindu leaders to take out a feneral procession against the orders of the police, a scuffle ensued in the course of which, according to newspaper reports, some 86 persons were injured. This <sup>incident</sup> ~~instance~~ has naturally led to more strained feelings between the two religious communities in the Punjab, and it is to be very much feared that the feeling will soon spread to other centres as well.

The Simon Commission which has been at Delhi for the last three weeks taking evidence, and consulting the various provincial committees, will be leaving Bombay on the 13th instant for England. It is said that opinion in the Indian Central Committee which has been cooperating with the Simon Commission is hopelessly divided, and that the consultations with the various provincial committees have not, by any means, paved the way for a unanimous report. The attempts made by some of the members of the Indian Central Committee to <sup>prolong</sup> ~~pull on~~ the life of the present Central Legislature seem to have been discouraged by the Viceroy; and as many of the members of the Central Committee fear that they would not be returned at the next general elections, they are feeling disgruntled and are afraid that they would have no opportunity to take part in the deliberations which would follow the publication of the Simon report.

The Viceroy himself will be leaving India next June for a period of not more than four months, so that he may be on the

spot in London when the <sup>new</sup> constitution <sup>al</sup> schemes are being considered. Lord Goschen, the Governor of Madras, is to officiate for Lord Irwin during this interval.

Among the newspaper cuttings dealing with the League of Nations is one which gives a summary of the discussion in the Indian Council of State on Sir Phiroze Sethna's resolution about ~~the~~ appointing an Indian to lead the Indian Delegation to the 1929 session of the League of Nations Assembly. As the Government have agreed to appoint an Indian leader this year there is much speculation as to who will be chosen for this place, and the lobby ~~talk~~ talk is that Sir Muhammad Habibullah, the Member in charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and the Leader of the Council of State, may, in all likelihood, be chosen for the place.

No formal announcements have yet been made regarding the personnel of either the Royal Commission on Labour or of the Delegation to the 12th session of the Labour Conference. As regards the latter, however, it is understood that the Government have issued letters to the following gentlemen:-

Employers' Delegation.

Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Ahmedabad Millowner	---	Delegate
Mr. R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, M.L.A.	)	
Mr. B. Das, M.L.A.	)	
Mr. P. Mukerji, Chairman, Punjab Chamber of Commerce.	)	--- Advisers

Labour Delegation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A.	---	Delegate
Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhury, M.L.A. ))		
Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta)		
Mr. B. <del>Shi</del> Shiva Rao, Madras )		
Labour Union, )		
Mr. V. R. Kalappa, All India Rail- )	---	Advisers
waymen's Federation, )		
Mr. G. Sethi, Jamshedpur Labour )		
Union. )		

Most of the delegates and advisers will be leaving Bombay on the 4th May by the P. & O Boat, "Viceroy of India".



Addendum.

The Legislative Assembly met this morning at 11 A.M. (11-4-1929), in continuation of its work after the bombing incident, when the President gave his long expected ruling on the question of the procedure to be adopted with regard to the Public Safety Bill. According to the hasty telephonic communication received in this office, the President considered the various arguments advanced in the House for and against his ~~opinion~~ that, pending the Meerut trials there could be no reasonable discussion of the Bill, and, following the precedent of the House of Commons, held that he had the right under the circumstances to disallow further consideration of the Bill. After the President had read out his ruling, the House was informed that the Governor General desired to address <sup>it</sup> the next day, viz. 12th April, in order to make a pronouncement. The House <sup>was</sup> therefore adjourned; and it is rumoured that the Viceroy will withdraw the Public Safety Bill from the House and issue it as an Ordinance. The political atmosphere continues to be tense with excitement.

References to the I.L.O.

The Statesman of 13th March 1929 and all papers give prominence to a Reuter's agency message from Geneva dated 12th March 1929, containing the report of a meeting of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. at which Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, the British Labour Minister, expounded Britain's reasons for not ratifying the Washington 48 Hour Week Convention.

... ..

The Pioneer of 15th March 1929 publishes a fuller message about Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland's explanation of ~~the~~ British objections to the Washington Convention on the ground of the ambiguous nature of its provisions.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle of 15th March 1929 has an editorial note entitled "Procrastination", condemning the attitude of the British Government in delaying the ratification of the Eight Hour Convention and the reply given by Sir Atul to M. Jouhaux at the last Governing Body meeting. ~~It~~ It says that Indian working classes will be glad to have an impartial enquiry into the present conditions of wages and work here.

... ..

The Tribune (Lahore) of 17th March 1929 also condemns the British attitude regarding the Eight Hour Convention in an editorial note and hopes, ~~when~~ <sup>that</sup> in October 1929, a revision of the Convention will have to be undertaken, the capitalists will not forget the lesson of this Geneva General Body meeting.

... ..

Commenting editorially on <sup>the</sup> British criticism of the I.L.O Budget, the Hindustan Times in its issue of 20th March 1929 points attention to Britain's indulgent attitude towards the League of Nations budget and her critical attitude towards the I.L.O. budget. The following is a relevant extract on the point from the paper :-

"It is curious that Britain did not take up such a strong attitude against increase of expenditure when the general budget of the League of Nations was voted some-time ago. At that time it was left to India's representatives - such as they were - Lord Lytton and the Nawab of Palanpur - to make a strong protest against the huge increase in the League's expenditure. Is it the view of the British Government that an increase of expenditure on the political activities of the League is not so objectionable as an increase on account of its economic work? India must take up quite a different attitude on this question. The International Labour Office is the only organization connected with the League of Nations which has shown any active interest in Indian affairs and has tried to do something in this country. The Workers' Delegates, who are able to appreciate the value of the work done by the International Labour Office, are reported to have generally favoured the estimates while the Employers' Delegates opposed them. We are glad that Sir Atul Chatterjee, India's representative on the Governing Body, was not led away by the example of his British colleague but voted in favour of the estimates".

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 16th March 1929 and all papers publish the purport of a discussion held at the International Labour Office on 12th March 1929 on the Washington Convention. According to the report, the German and French Employers' Delegates and the Swedish Government Delegates supported the British proposal for revision of the Washington Convention, but all the Workers' Delegates opposed it. Mr. Khaitan, the

Indian delegate, declared that "Britain had placed all her cards on the table and urged others to follow suit". Sir A.C.Chatterji declared that "the threat of Mr. Jouhaux, the French workers' delegate that if a revision of the Convention was accepted, he would ask for a revision of the clauses governing labour conditions in India, left him cold. Until the Europeans had set their house in order they would not secure better industrial conditions elsewhere".

... ..

The Pioneer of 15th March 1929 publishes a brief message to the effect that Germany has ratified the Slavery Convention of 1926.

... ..

The Statesman of 17th March 1929 and the Times of India of 18th March 1929 contain references to the personnel of the Indian delegation to the Geneva Labour Conference. The papers state that Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai will be one of the employers' delegates and that Mr. B. Das and Mr. Shanmukham Chetty will be advisers to the employers' delegate.

... ..

The Statesman of 19th March 1929, the Pioneer of 20th March 1929, the Hindustan Times of 20th March 1929, and all papers publish a Reuter's message from Geneva dated 17th March 1929, to the effect that the British Government delegate "strongly criticised the increasing annual expenditure of the I.L.O. at a meeting of the Governing Body, when the budget estimates of the I.L.O. were presented providing for disbursements totalling £ 348,520. The message states that Sir A.C.Chatterjee voted for the estimates, but reiterated his

request that in the interests of economy, when two conferences are held in one year, they should follow each other immediately.

... ..

The Times of India of 21st March 1929 and all papers publish a press communique issued by this office through the Associated Press of India and the Free Press of India on the tour in the Far East of M. Albert Thomas, the Director of the I.L.O. The Communique makes reference to the Director's efforts to ensure the direct and complete representation of China at the International Labour Conferences and active participation in the work of the organisation. Dealing with the Director's activities in Japan, the communique says that he discussed with members of the Japanese Government the position of Japan as regards the Geneva Conventions, examined the possibilities of further ratifications and inquired into the application of the Conventions already ratified. The communique points out that the visit "was an opportune response to the invitations from states which constitute a considerable part of the population of the world and was meant to emphasise the world-wide character of the International Labour Organisation."

... ..

According to the Hindustan Times of 22nd March 1929, Mr. D.P. Khaitan, interviewed by Reuter on his return from Geneva after attending the meetings of the Governing Body, emphasised the need of permanent representation of Indian employers on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. Mr. Khaitan declared that "Asiatic countries resented the imposition of the will of Europe upon them" and suggested that in order to secure the friendly co-operation of overseas countries to a larger extent there should be larger representation of eastern countries both on the staff of the

office, as also on the Governing Body and the Permanent Committees.

... ..

All Indian papers publish fairly long reports of the annual meeting of the Delhi-Simla branch of the League of Nations Union held in the St. Stephen's College Hall, Delhi, on 25th March 1929. The meeting, which was well attended, was presided over by His Excellency Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood, the Commander-in-Chief, and the speakers were Sir George Schuster, the Finance Member of the Government of India, and Dr. Pillai. Sir William Birdwood referred to the League's increased interest in the problems of the East, and cited as an instance in point the establishment of the League's Epidemiological Bureau at Singapore. Sir George Schuster devoted his speech to explaining the work of the League in the domain of European financial rehabilitations, and the administration of Mandated areas. He expressed the opinion that the League was the nearest attempt to organise the conscience of humanity, and pleaded for greater sympathy, and co-operation from India. Dr. Pillai in his speech differentiated between the political work of the League of Nations and its social and economic work, which it had delegated to the I.L.O. He utilised the occasion to defend the I.L.O. against the current criticism that it was "unduly forcing the pace of labour legislation", and pointed out that the I.L.O., while running the gauntlet of ~~xxxx~~ criticism from extreme conservatives and extreme radicals for different reasons, had the solid support of the great bulk of moderate opinion. Referring to the recent criticisms of the I.L.O.'s increasing budgets, Dr. Pillai pointed out the unfounded nature of the charge, and cited figures in support of his contention. While concluding, Dr. Pillai stressed the fact that even if Geneva was asking for more money, it was the result of the new

work assigned to the Organisation by the member-states and that therefore, public opinion should rally in support of the Geneva organisations.

(Times of India, 28-3-1929 and all papers).

... ..

The reports of the proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for January and February 1929 contain a reference to the circular issued by this office re. the opening of the Indian branch of the I.L.O. as from the 15th November 1928.

... ..

The Monthly Circular for January and February of the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association makes reference to this office's circular letter re. the opening of the Indian branch of the I.L.O. and records its decision to supply this office with all possible information when required to do so.

... ..

The report of the Indian Delegation of the British Social Hygiene Council on venereal diseases dated the 11th August 1927 submitted to the Government of Madras and published as part of G.O. No. 489, Public Health, dated the 3rd March 1928 of the Government of Madras ~~and Appendix II~~ refers to the I.L.O.'s action in regard to seamen's welfare in ports. *Similar appreciative references are found in the report submitted by this body to the Government of Bombay & the Government of India.*

An Act further to amend the Workmen's Compensation  
Act, 1923, for certain purposes.

The following Act of the Indian Legislature received the assent of the Governor General on the 29th March, 1929, and is hereby promulgated for general information:-

Act No. V of 1929.

An Act further to amend the Workmen's Compensation  
Act, 1923, for certain purposes.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for certain purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. This Act may be called the Workmen's Compensation Short title. (Amendment) Act, 1929.
2. In the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the word "or" at the end of clause (b) and the whole of clause (c) shall be omitted.
 

VIII of 1923. Amendment of section 3, Act VIII of 1923.
3. (1) Section 5 of the said Act shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of section 5, and in that sub-section as so re-numbered, in the Explanation, for the words "this section" the words "this sub-section" shall be substituted.
 

Amendment of section 5, Act VIII of 1923.
- (2) To the same section as so re-numbered the following sub-section shall be added, namely :-
 

"(2) The provisions of sub-section (1), other than the proviso, shall apply to the calculation of wages for the purposes of clause (n) of sub-section (1) of section 2 and of sub-section (3) of that section".
4. In section 8 of the said Act,-



Amendment of section  
8, Act VIII of 1923.

- (a) for sub-sections (1) to (3) the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :-

"(1) No payment of compensation in respect of a workman whose injury has resulted in death, and no payment of a lump sum as compensation to a woman or a person under a legal disability, shall be made otherwise than by deposit with the Commissioner, and no such payment made directly by an employer shall be deemed to be a payment of compensation :

Provided that, in the case of a deceased workman -

- (a) an employer may make to any dependant or other person, by whom the funeral expenses are to be or have been incurred, an advance not exceeding fifty rupees for the purpose of defraying the same in whole or in part, and may make other advances to dependants on account of compensation, not exceeding however an aggregate of one hundred rupees in the case of any one dependant;
  - (b) the amount of any advance made in accordance with the provisions of clause (a) to defray funeral expenses may be deducted by the employer from the lump sum to be deposited with the Commissioner, and the amount of any other advance so made to a dependant, or so much thereof as does not exceed the compensation apportioned to him, shall be deducted by the Commissioner from such compensation and be repaid to the employer.
  - (2) Any other sum amounting to not less than ten rupees which is payable as compensation may be deposited with the Commissioner on behalf of the person entitled thereto.
  - (3) The receipt of the Commissioner shall be a sufficient discharge in respect of any compensation deposited with him.";
- (b) in sub-section (4), after the words "under sub-section (1)" the words "as compensation in respect of a deceased workman" shall be inserted; and after the words "fifty rupees" the following words shall be inserted, namely :-
- "or so much of that cost or of fifty rupees, whichever is less, as has not already been advanced by the employer on account of such expenses";
- (c) for sub-section (5) the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:-
- "(5) Compensation deposited in respect of a deceased workman shall, subject to any deduction made under sub-section (4), be apportioned among the

dependants of the deceased workman or any of them in such proportion as the Commissioner thinks fit, or may, in the discretion of the Commissioner, be allotted to any one dependant.

- (6) Where~~xx~~ any compensation deposited with the Commissioner is payable to any person, the Commissioner shall, if the person to whom the compensation is payable is not a woman or a person under a legal disability, and may in other cases, pay the money to the person entitled thereto.
- (7) Where any lump sum deposited with the Commissioner is payable to a woman or a person under a legal disability, such sum may be invested, applied or otherwise dealt with for the benefit of the woman, or of such person during his disability, in such manner as the Commissioner may direct; and where a half-monthly payment is payable to any person under a legal disability, the Commissioner may, of his own motion or on an application made to him in this behalf, order that the payment be made during the disability to any dependant of the workman or to any other person whom the Commissioner thinks best fitted to provide for the welfare of the workman"; and
- (d) sub-section (6) shall be renumbered as sub-section (8) and after ~~xx~~ that sub-section the following sub-section shall be added, namely:-
- "(9) Where the Commissioner varies any order under sub-section (8) by reason of the fact that payment of compensation to any person has been obtained by fraud, impersonation or other improper means, any amount so paid to or on behalf of such person may be recovered in the manner hereinafter provided in section 31."

5. To section 23 of the said Act after the words "material

Amendment of section  
23, Act VIII of 1923.

objects" the following words shall  
be added, namely:-

\*  
V of 1898.

"and the Commissioner shall be deemed to be a Civil Court for all the purposes of section 195 and of Chapter XXXV of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898."

6. In sub-section ~~23~~ (1) of section 28 of the said Act,-

Amendment of section  
28, Act VIII of 1923.

- (a) for the words "to a person under a legal disability" the words "to a woman or a person under a legal disability" shall be substituted;
- (b) clause (b) of the proviso shall be omitted; and
- (c) in clause (d), for the words "to a person under any legal disability" the words "to a woman or a person under a legal disability" shall be substituted.

7. In Schedule II of the said Act, --

Amendment of Schedule  
II, Act VIII of 1923.

- (1) for clause (v) the following clause shall be substituted, namely :-
- "(v) employed for the purpose of loading, unloading, fuelling, constructing, repairing, demolishing, cleaning or painting any ship of which he is not the master or a member of the crew; or";
- (2) in clause (vii), for the word "cable" the words "line or cable or post or standard for the same" shall be inserted; and
- (3) after clause (ix) the following clauses shall be added, namely :-
- "or
- (x) employed upon a railway as defined in clause (4) of section 3, and sub-section (1) of section 148, of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, by a person fulfilling a contract with the railway administration; or
- (xi) employed as an inspector, mail guard, sorter or van peon in the Railway Mail Service; or
- (xii) employed, in connection with operations for ~~winning~~ winning natural petroleum or natural gas, as a rig-builder, driller, driller's helper, oil-well puller, or in bailing or cleaning oil-wells or putting in and taking out casings or drill pipes in oil wells; or
- (xiii) employed in any occupation involving blasting operations."

\*  
IX of 1890

8. In Schedule IV to the said Act, for the words and

Amendment of Schedule  
IV, Act VIII of 1923.

letters "clause (a) or clause (b)"  
the word and figure "sub-section

(1)" shall be substituted.

(The Gazette of India, 6th April 1929).

Maternity Benefits Bill, Bombay.

The Bombay Legislative Council passed <sup>on 15-3-29</sup> the Maternity Benefits Bill, a non-official Bill introduced by Mr. Asavale, M.L.C., ~~on the 15th March 1929.~~ The principal provisions after the alterations made by the Select Committee are as follow :

The Select Committee made the act applicable to the principal industrial towns only in the first instance. The ~~period~~ period of compulsory rest for four weeks following ~~the~~ confinement was considered sufficient rest for the mother and it has been made illegal for the woman millworker to work in any factory during this period of compulsory rest.

The Select Committee do not consider necessary the establishment of a maternity benefit fund. The benefit should be paid directly by the employer at the fixed rate of eight annas per day, for the actual period of absence, not exceeding three weeks before ~~the~~ confinement, and <sup>for</sup> four weeks immediately after ~~the~~ confinement. In order that a woman be entitled to maternity benefit, she should have worked in the factory of the employer for not less than six months immediately preceding the date on which she gives notice. The select committee also recommended that a pregnant woman can absent herself after notifying her intention owing to approaching confinement. Penalties are also proposed against the infringement by the woman herself of the provision of the bill intended solely for her benefit.

(Hindustan Times, 18th March 1929).

(The full text of the Bill ~~will~~ be forwarded with the May report).

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR.

(General)

Index numbers showing the rise and fall in the cost of living  
of the Working Classes at seven centres in Bihar  
and Orissa during January 1929.

Of the accompanying tables, Table I shows the rise and fall in the cost of living for each centre separately and the numbers given under each centre bear no relation to the numbers given under other centres. Table II shows the relative cost of living at all centres. In the first table the number 100 represents the cost of living for each particular centre for the average of five years ending 1914 which has been taken as the pre-war normal period. In Table II, 100 represents the cost of living at Patna during January 1928 and all the numbers in that table are a percentage of this figure. The articles included in the index are food-grains other articles of food, fuel and lighting and clothing. They have been given the relative importance which they individually bear to the total aggregate expenditure. No allowance has been made for any change in the standard of living since the pre-war normal period.

During the month of January 1929, the cost of living fell in almost all the centres, except Patna and Jharia, where it was stationary. Of these, the fall at Monghyr, Jamshedpur and Cuttack was a little marked and was as much as 10 points at Monghyr and 11 points at Jamshedpur and Cuttack, while at Muzaffarpur and Ranchi the fall was 4 points. The fall was mainly due to the usual seasonal fall in the price of potatoes and onions under heading "other articles of food". The price of clothing continues to be stationary

in all centres. As compared with the corresponding month of the previous year the cost of living was almost stationary at Monghyr, Jamshedpur and Cuttack, higher at Muzaffarpur and Ranchi and lower at Patna. There was a general marked rise in the price of gram and pulse in all the centres, while the price of rice was lower at Patna, Monghyr, Jamshedpur, Jharia and Cuttack. The percentage of increase over the pre-war normal period was 58 at Patna, 55 at Muzaffarpur, 61 at Monghyr, 69 at Jamshedpur, 65 at Jharia, 36 at Cuttack and 52 at Ranchi.

These figures, as explained in Table No. I, have no relation to each other, but only to the pre-war base at each centre. Table No. II shows the relative cost of living at each centre, but here also the standards of living have been presumed to be the same. In the month under report Cuttack continued to be the cheapest centre for a workman to live in, while Jamshedpur was the dearest. Muzaffarpur and Jharia came next in point of dearness, while Patna continued to maintain its position as the cheapest centre next to Cuttack. Monghyr and Ranchi were almost equally cheap. The difference between the two extremes was about 32 points.

It may here be pointed out that of the seven centres, about which information is supplied, two, viz., Jamshedpur and Jharia, are the centres of the Indian iron-and-steel and coal-mining industries respectively.

(Supplement to Behar and Orissa Gazette,  
dated the 27th March 1929).

Table No. I

Statement showing the rise and fall in the cost of living of the working classes at seven centres in Bihar and Orissa.

(100 = average cost of living for five years preceding 1914 at each centre, i.e., 100 has a different value for each centre.)

Commodities.		Patna	Muzaffarpur	Monghyr	Jamshedpur	Thana	Cuttack	Ranchi
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(a) Food-grains -		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Rice (coarse)	(January 1928	163	133	155	176	169	119	136
	(December 1928	126	133	155	154	145	104	136
	(January 1929	126	133	140	154	145	104	136
(2) Wheat-flour	(January 1928	150	128	125	139	123	(a)	147
	(December 1928	174	175	167	150	139	(a)	147
	(January 1929	174	175	148	150	134	(a)	147
(3) Maize and barley	(January 1928	149	158	151	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
	(December 1928	225	204	200	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
	(January 1929	225	204	200	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
(4) Gram and pulse	(January 1928	183	164	153	179	168	196	146
	(December 1928	227	223	206	221	190	263	169
	(January 1929	240	223	192	215	196	252	169
Total food grains	(January 1928	164	139	153	170	167	133	137
	(December 1928	150	153	166	165	151	133	140
	(January 1929	152	153	152	164	152	131	140
(b) Other articles of food	(January 1928	179	163	167	185	188	145	165
	(December 1928	187	186	186	224	194	195	189
	(January 1929	178	159	178	186	193	144	175
(c) Lighting and fuel	(January 1928	171	182	165	161	(c)	126	158
	(December 1928	177	172	177	171	(c)	126	158
	(January 1929	177	172	177	171	(c)	126	158
(d) Clothing	(January 1928	153	138	175	150	142	190	150
	(December 1928	153	138	175	150	158	180	150
	(January 1929	153	138	175	150	158	180	150
General average or total cost of living	(January 1928	166	146	159	170	130	137	147
	(December 1928	159	159	171	180	165	147	156
	(January 1929	158	155	161	169	165	136	152

N.B. The figures in any column bear no relation to the figures in any other columns.

- (a) Not consumed to any extent at these centres.
- (b) Includes sugar, salt, fish and meat, milk, ghee, spices, vegetables and food oils.
- (c) Supplied free to the miners.

Table No. II.

Statement showing the rise and fall in the cost of living relatively at seven centres in Bihar and Orissa.

(100 = average cost of living for January 1928 at Patna)

	Patna	Muzaffarpur	Monghyr	Jamshedpur	Jharia	Cuttack
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
January 1928	100	99	97	114	107	82
December 1928	96	107	104	120	104	88
January 1929	95	105	98	113	104	81

x	Ranchi.
1	8
	Rs.
January 1928	96
December 1928	101
January 1929	99



Bombay Strike Enquiry Committee Report,

1928 - 1929.

(Main Conclusions and Recommendations)

*(Extracted from Chapters I & VIII of the Report)*

1. The Bombay Strike Enquiry Committee was appointed by the Resolution of the Government of Bombay in the General Department, No. 7219, dated the 13th October 1928, which is reproduced below :-

"As a condition of immediate resumption of work by the Bombay Mill strikers, the Government of Bombay agreed to the appointment of an impartial Committee of Enquiry consisting of three members for the permanent settlement of the dispute.

"2. His Excellency the Governor in Council is now pleased to appoint with effect from the 13th October 1928 the following as members of the Committee:-

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| (1) The Honourable Sir Charles Fawcett, Kt.,    |                   |
|   | I.C.S., Chairman. |
| (2) M. P. Khareghat, Esquire, I.C.S. (retired)) |                   |
| (3) B. S. Kamat, Esquire                        | ) Members.        |

Mr. N. A. Mehrban, Investigator, Labour Office, should act as Secretary to the Committee.

"3. The terms of reference which the Committee should be asked to consider are :

(a) Whether the amended scheme of a standardized schedule of rates and of a standardized muster prepared by the Millowners' Association, and also the scheme prepared by the Strike Committee is fair and reasonable.

(b) Whether the Seventeen Demands advanced by the Strike Committee are fair and reasonable and to what extent, if any, they should be met.

(c) Whether the Standing Orders for operatives as amended and presented by the Millowners' Association on the 4th October 1928 are fair and reasonable.

"4. The Committee should be requested to submit their report to Government as soon as possible."

The general strike commenced on the 16th April 1928 in ten mills under the agency of Messrs. Currimbhoy Ibrahim and Sons employing 20,262 workers and spread by the 26th April to all the cotton mills in Bombay except one and nearly 150,000 textile workers were thrown out of employment. (For fuller details about the progress of the strike see Monthly Report of this Office for December 1928).

The main grievances of the Strikers prior to the general strike can be summarised under the following heads:-

- (1) Direct cut in wages.
- (2) Reduction in monthly earnings owing to the following indirect causes;
  - (a) Introduction of new varieties of cloth at rates which did not bring the level of wages to those earned on the production of the old sorts;
  - (b) Reduction of piece-rates to meet unanticipated high production by individual operatives;
  - (c) Adjustments in rates made to bring them in line with the rates prevailing in other mills;
  - (d) No adjustments made to increase rates in cases where mills went on finer counts;
  - (e) Introduction of artificial silk and inferior raw material;
  - (f)\* Gradual withdrawal of bonuses such as good attendance and efficiency bonus, free railway passes to workers, etc.;
  - (g) Introduction of a method of paying wages on the weight of the cloth after it had undergone a subsequent process, instead of on the actual weight produced on the looms;
- (3) The introduction of new methods of work, involving a reduction in the number of operatives employed, notably in the Sassoon Group (i.e., three loom and double frame working) and the fear of the spread of this system to other mills in ~~in~~ the City.
- (4) The increase in the hours of work of mechanics in

some Mills from 8½ hours to 10 hours per day, and the declaration of a general intention to level up the hours of work for all mill operatives in all mills to 10 hours per day.

In addition to the above, there were several minor grievances in connection with the infliction of fines, dismissals, the practice of handing over spoilt cloth to the weavers in lieu of wages, etc. It would, we think, serve no useful purpose to go at length into the exact causes of the General Strike, or to attempt to apportion blame for it on either side. There were no doubt various contributory causes, but in our opinion it can be safely said that the chief reason for its commencement and continuation for a period of nearly six months was the fear of unemployment created by the new methods of work introduced by Messrs. E.D. Sassoon and Company in their mills.

On the 12th May, the Millowners' Association issued a statement to the press, giving categorical replies to each of the "Seventeen Demands" of the Joint Strike Committee. On the 17th May the Millowners' Association published a statement, defining the terms on which they would re-open the mills affiliated to their association and readmit their employees to work. The following are the six broad heads under which they grouped these terms :-

- (1) Standardized rates of wages;
- (2) Revised and Standardized Muster Rolls;
- (3) Full ten hours' work for all male operatives in all departments, without extra remuneration to those who had been doing work for less time previously;
- (4) Standardized rules and regulations for enforcing discipline;
- (5) Uniform system of calculating wages; and
- (6) Fines to be credited to a welfare fund; and unclaimed wages to be made available at any time on sufficient identification.

The public sittings of the Committee commenced on Monday the 29th October 1928 and continued till Friday the 15th February 1929, with one long adjournment during the Christmas Holidays, from the 17th December to the 3rd January, granted to enable the representatives from the Joint Strike Committee to attend various Congresses, and some shorter adjournments granted for the purpose of preparing their cases, for joint deliberation which resulted in a settlement of certain points, or on grounds of convenience, to either the Association or the Joint Strike Committee or both. Forty-seven public sittings in all were held, of which 29 were full-day sittings and 18 half-day sittings. During the course of our enquiry, we examined 106 witnesses in all, not including those witnesses examined in connection with complaints. Out of these, 33 witnesses were connected with the Agency Offices of groups of or individual mills and were called either by the Association or the Joint Strike Committee; 57 were workers called either by the Association or by the Bombay Textile Labour Union and the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, of whom 42 were men and 15 women, 3 witnesses were connected with different Trade Unions in Bombay City, and 13 were persons not connected either with the Cotton Textile Industry or Trade Unions.

The following are extracts from Chapter VIII of the Report: "Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations":-

The general result of our enquiry is that we regard the proposals of the Millowners' Association (a) for Standardisation of wages, duties and numbers of operatives in a mill, and (b) for Standing Orders for the operatives about the conditions of their employment, as being in the main fair and reasonable. On the other hand we consider that, while there is justification for the Associations' proposal to make a cut of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in weavers' wages, which is discussed in Chapter V, there are

reasonable objections to be urged against its adoption in the present circumstances, and we recommend that it should be dropped by the Association, provided the Labour leaders undertake to co-operate in working the Standardisation Scheme.

The main Standardisation Scheme, which was put forward by the Association on the 4th October 1928, was considerably modified as a result of meetings that took place between Sub-Committees of the Association and the Joint Strike Committee in January and February 1929, and this modified Scheme has been accepted by the Joint Strike Committee, subject to some general objections and some qualifications. Some general questions connected with the Scheme are considered in Chapter IV, and the disputed points in Chapter VI. We hold that the Scheme, as modified, is fair and reasonable, with a few minor alterations on some points of difference between the parties, but this is subject to such revision of the part of the Scheme that regulates the wages of weavers as may be necessary to prevent a cut of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in their wages, if our recommendation on this point in paragraph 239 is adopted. It is also subject to such further revision as may be shown to be necessary by experience on some points. Furthermore, the Scheme itself reserves various matters for subsequent standardisation, and it is proposed to revise it after a few months' trial. ~~With~~ With this object and that of avoiding strikes and lock-outs, machinery has been provided by the "Mediation Rules", agreed to by both sides for setting up Joint Committees to enquire into disputes arising under the Scheme and to endeavour to arrange for settlement. The part of the Standardisation Scheme, which is called the "Rational" or "Efficiency" System, and which aims at reducing the number of operative employed in mills, while raising their wages and providing conditions favourable for the extra efficiency ~~expected~~ expected from the operatives, is also

held by us to be fair and reasonable.

Some proposals for amending and adding to the Standing Orders that were presented by the Millowners' Association on the 4th October 1928 were made before us by the Association on 15th January 1929. In Chapter II, we have considered these as well as the original Standing Orders, and prepared a draft of the amended Standing Orders in the form in which we consider them to be fair and reasonable. The main alterations we propose are as follows :-

(1) The finality of the order of a manager or of the Managing Agents should be without prejudice to any right of an operative affected by his or their decision to resort to legal proceedings in a Court of Law.

(2) The Standing Orders should not be altered without the previous consultation of, and consideration of objections by, the operatives or their representatives.

(3) A rule should be added about granting leave.

(4) A rule should be inserted as to the method of calculating wages.

(5) The right to "play-off" for trade purposes should be restricted to a period of two days at a time.

(6) An operative who is "played-off" for a period longer than a week should be permitted to leave the Company's service on intimation of his intention without further notice.

(7) A rule should be added entitling an operative to compensation for detention in a mill for over an hour in the event of stoppage of work owing to breakdown of machinery, etc.

(8) The period of notice for termination of employment should be reduced to 14 days.

(9) A rule should be added as to payment of unclaimed wages.

The principal discussions in Chapter II are on the following points:-

(1) As to the advisability of an extra morning recess; we have agreed with the Tariff Board as to its advisability and have suggested it being tried as an experiment in suitable mills with a reduction of the working hours to 9½.

(2) As to exempting weavers from taking out and presenting attendance tickets; we have held that there is no sufficient reason to exempt them.

(3) As to the liability of operatives to be searched; we have held this to be reasonable.

(4) As to payment of wages being made earlier than at present; we have recommended an attempt to pay them by the 10th of each month.

(5) As to the legality and fairness of "playing-off"; we have held that there is no objection to this in the case of stoppages due to causes for which the employer is not responsible, but that it should be restricted to a period not exceeding two days at a time in the case of "playing-off" for trade purposes.

(6) As to the legality and fairness of forfeiture of wages for leaving without due notice; we have answered this in the affirmative.

(7) As to the legality of operatives striking work without notice or inciting others to do so; we have held that this can be rightly be treated as misconduct rendering an operative liable to dismissal.

(8) As to the proposed abolition of fines; pending the decision of the Legislature we have rejected this proposal.

(9) As to the compulsory purchase by weavers of spoilt cloth; we have held that its compulsory purchase is objectionable, and have suggested a rule on the subject to restrict this present practice within reasonable limits.

The "Seventeen Demands" are discussed in Chapter III, and

we have held that Nos. 3 (as subsequently modified), 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 are fair and reasonable. All of these except 12 and 13 were eventually conceded by the Millowners' Association. Nos. 8 and 11 have been held by us to be unfair and unreasonable and the remaining three, viz., Nos. 1, 2 and 7, have been held by us to be partly fair and reasonable, and partly not.

The principal discussions in Chapter III are as to Demands numbers 2, 8, 11 and 12, and the opinions of the Committee may be summarised as follows:

(1) No. 2.- Employees in Mechanics' Shops have established a uniform practice of working for only  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hours a day; and in standardising their wages on the basis of a ten hours' day; a pro rata increase should be given in any wage based on what they got for  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hours' work a day. On the other hand, other employees, who now work for less than 10 hours a day in some mills, such as Warpers and Sizers, have not established such a uniform practice, and the demand that there should be no increase in their daily hours without paying overtime rates cannot be justified as fair and reasonable.

(2) No. 8.- In this enquiry we should not be justified in importing the principle of a minimum wage to the extent demanded, viz., the fixing of a definite standard of Rs. 30 below which the wages of no mill-operative in Bombay should fall, and we should confine ourselves to seeing that there is no diminution in ~~that~~ the wages of operatives who have been hitherto getting a low pay, and that relief is given in those cases where they are unduly low. The principle of equality of pay for males and females cannot properly be applied in this enquiry, and we should not be justified in going beyond seeing that the lowest pay of a woman under the Standardisation Scheme is sufficient to enable her to maintain herself, without



dependents. The wages proposed for male and female sweepers in the Standardisation Scheme are not unduly low.

(3) No. 11.- The complaint about a daily partial cleaning by a weaver of his two looms by brushing away the fluff that accumulates is unreasonable.

(4) No. 12.- On the whole we favour the proposal to consolidate the existing high prices allowance with the original wages, subject to the understanding that this will not affect any prospective revision of wages according to the cost of living.

We have considered the question of unemployment resulting from the Standardisation and "Efficiency" Schemes in Chapters IV and VII. In paragraph 292 we have made some suggestions for action by the Millowners' Association and the workers and their representatives towards alleviating unemployment, pending the carrying out of any recommendations that may be made by the proposed Royal Commission on Labour questions.

In paragraph 285 we have recommended that the Textile Trade Unions should combine to arrange for the assistance of an expert Technical adviser in dealing with disputes arising under the Standardisation Scheme.

In Chapter V, which discusses the proposed Wage-cut, we have made a suggestion that possible economies in management might be effected by an amalgamation of mills such as recently took place in Lancashire, or by a less extensive scheme for a combination to regulate the production of certain classes of goods, and their export and sale. On the other hand we have rejected the contention that the wage-cut is unjustifiable because all possible economies in management have not been effected, or because the Millowners failed to make proper provision in boom times for a future depression in the industry such as now exists. We have held, after a survey of statistical

and other information, that while there has been some improvement in the condition of the mill industry during the years 1926-27 and 1927-28, and the prospect is more hopeful than it was in the antecedent period, the depression in the industry is still undoubtedly prevalent. We have further held:-

(1) If the proposed cut in weavers' wages is otherwise fair and reasonable, the state of the industry supports this method of obtaining a decrease in the costs of production; on the other hand it cannot be said to be shown that the state of the industry imperatively demands the anticipated annual saving of about 14 lakhs of Rupees by this method.

(2) There are grounds for saying that the rise in the weaver's wage since 1914 is much higher than the rise in the cost of living and that the weavers' wages have risen in a higher proportion (at least 10 per cent.) than those of other male operatives; but objections can be urged against making a cut in view of the fact that their wages have remained at the same level for nearly 8 years and the fall in the cost of living has remained substantially at the present level since the beginning of 1923.

(3) The disparity between the weaver's wage and that of the spinner exists in some other countries; and the case of Japan, which was cited by the Tariff Board, is on a somewhat different footing to that of Bombay. Its extent in Bombay is not exceptional in India and it is even higher in some places.

(4) Such a disparity is consonant with the extra skill required of a weaver, but its percentage increase is higher than that existing in most countries, and it can therefore be said to be excessive.

(5) Though there are, thus, conflicting arguments that ~~can~~ can be urged for and against the proposal, we have held it on the whole to be justifiable.

(6) In view, however, of the necessity for the full co-operation of the Labour leaders in working the new Standardisation Scheme, we have suggested that the proposal should be dropped.

In Chapter VII we have discussed some points that have been raised in connection with the "Efficiency" System. We have held that the objection taken by the Joint Strike Committee that it imposes an undue strain on the operatives concerned has not been sustained and that the improved conditions essential for the proper working of the system are fulfilled in the case of the mills that have adopted it in Bombay. We have also held the contention that the adoption of the scheme should be deferred until the establishment of an Unemployment Insurance Scheme, and other similar steps for alleviating unemployment have been effected by Government and the Legislature, to be unreasonable; but as already mentioned we have made tentative suggestions on this point. We have discussed the question of the proportion of the savings from the increased efficiency that should go to the worker, and have held that the proposals in the scheme in regard to this are reasonable. We have also rejected objections that were raised as to the wages of some of the operatives.

We have endeavoured to deal comprehensively, and at the same time concisely, with all the wide points that are involved in the questions referred to us for opinion, but we are conscious that we ~~may~~ may have failed to notice in our report some of the ~~xxx~~ arguments raised before us. It would, however, have made it unduly long to deal with everything that was discussed at our sittings, and we believe we have dealt with all the important points. We hope our report will be of utility, not only to the Millowners and the workers and their representatives, but also to Government and the public in aiding them to form a

proper opinion upon the disputes, which led to this Enquiry. We think we can claim that both sides were given ample opportunities to ~~xx~~ place their full cases before us; and even if the Enquiry serves no other useful purpose, it has resulted in the two sides getting nearer an agreement than they were in October 1928.

Tata Iron and Steel Company and Sickness benefits.

The Government of India have recently been considering the recommendations made by the Tenth International Labour Conference on the subject of medical relief and sickness insurance for industrial workers, and they have asked the provincial governments to explore the present position. An inquiry has been made by the Bihar and Orissa Government into the Tata Steel Company's provisions regarding sickness insurance, and of payment of unemployment allowance to workers while they are incapacitated for work.

Regarding these questions the General Manager of the Tata Steel Company has replied to the local Government stating that all employees of the Company who are absent from work due to injuries sustained by accident in the course of their employment are given full pay during the entire period they are incapacitated. The Company has no scheme for the payment of an unemployment allowance to employees absent from work for causes other than accidents sustained while on duty. Any time lost owing to sickness is usually charged against leave which, under the rules of the Company, the employee has due to him or against leave which will accrue. The General Manager also states that medical relief to all employees of the Company is rendered by the Company free of charge, either by their attendance at hospital or at their homes. In addition, all medicines and medical requisites are supplied free to employees.

(Times of India, 28th March 1929).

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION.

Indications are not wanting to show that there has been a stiffening of the attitude of both labour and capital during the period under review. The statements of Mr. J.B. Petit, the retiring chairman of the Bombay Millowners' Association, at the annual general meeting of that body held at Bombay on the 12th March 1929, and Mr. Arjunlal Sethi, the president of the Workers and Peasants Conference held at Rohtak on the 9th March 1929, are fairly typical of the hardened spirit animating both sections at the present moment. Mr. Petit expressed himself thus at Bombay "I repeat that we want peace and good will and that we do not want to fight. But, if in our own interests and for our very existence we are forced to do so, we shall fight with our backs to the wall. We will not tamely allow an industry in which over Rs. 60 crores have been sunk and which we have taken half a century to build up, to be ruined by the idiosyncracies and caprices of those who have set themselves up as labour leaders, but who apparently are guided and led by revolutionary organisations outside the country". (Times of India, 14th March 1929).

Mr. Arjunlal Sethi delivered himself with equal vehemence at the Rohtak Workers and Peasants Conference. "Imperialism and militarism, religion and capitalism are responsible for all the unrest in the world and unless they are destroyed there is no hope for peace" declared Mr. Sethi. According to him, the time had come for individualism to see its last days and socialism alone would live. Another speaker, the chairman of the reception committee of the conference, said that "socialism was the only remedy for the miseries of peasants and workers who were being scientifically murdered. If they wanted to live, they must shake off the slavery of capitalists".

(Pioneer, 11th March 1929).

Millowners' Association, Bombay.

At the annual general meeting of the Millowners' Association held on the 12th March 1929, Mr Jehangir Petit, the out-going Chairman, reviewing the position of the cotton mill industry in 1928, said that the partial advantage gained in 1927, though purely adventitious, soon disappeared owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the cotton, cloth and yarn markets. Though in local cottons since September selling was very cheap, manufacturers could not take advantage of the drop owing to the unprecedented general strike. The principal benefit of cheap cotton went to Japan and Italy. The position of the yarn market continued to be unsatisfactory and that of cloth during the year was seldom active.

The Trade Disputes Bill was supported by the Association, subject to the proviso that the powers should be brought under operation only when all direct negotiations for mutual settlement of disputes had been made and had failed. They were also in favour of special provisions for controlling picketing. The out-going Chairman regretted that the Maternity Benefits Bill was accepted by the Bombay Legislative Council, in spite of the opposition of the Government and those having first-hand knowledge of the conditions prevalent in factories. He asserted that under the provisions of the Bill, there was a danger of the industry being called upon to contribute the whole cost for giving maternity benefit to woman operatives. The procedure was unheard of in any other country of the world except Russia. Many recommendations of the Tariff Board for the reduction of the production cost had been already carried out. They were now negotiating for reduction of the municipal assessment on mills and of electric charges.

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Referring to the general strike, the outgoing Chairman expressed the hope that the Facwcett Committee's findings would be loyally accepted by both sides and given a fair trial. He said, "there were clear indications that those controlling the Labour movement and claiming to speak on its behalf were not always acting to benefit ~~the~~ labour, but with the ulterior objects of disorganising the entire industry, destroying capital, embarrassing the powers-that-be and of creating chaos throughout the country. He warned them that if this process continued, concerted measures would have to be thought out not only by those engaged in the industries, but also by all sober and thoughtful elements of society to stamp out the movement.

(Hindu, 13th March 1929).

... ..

Indian Tea Association, Assam.

At the 1929 annual meeting of the Indian Tea Association, Assam, Mr. A. D. Gordon, M.L.C., the president, reviewed the conditions of the tea industry in India. Speaking about the recruitment of labour for the tea gardens of Assam, Mr. Gordon said:-

"As regards labour legislation, you are of course aware that the industry asked for the relaxation of certain recruiting restrictions which have been hampering its progress for some time past, and we are indebted to the Government of India for meeting us so reasonably and doing their best for the industry.

"The Government of India have declared their avowed policy to be 'free labour and free recruiting'. Had this been known to the industry when we submitted our ~~pro~~ proposals in 1928, I think I am right in saying that the industry would have pressed for the abolition of all restrictions, provided that ~~recruiting~~ recruiting was conducted by authorized agents and



that registers were kept of all labour recruited. Whatever mistakes Assam may have made in its recruiting methods in the past, there is no reason to anticipate that these will be repeated.

"Moreover, if an Act is necessary for Assam, it should be equally necessary in the Dooars; but on the contrary, Dooars enjoys absolute freedom which is not being abused. We consider that the Assam Labour Board has outlived its period of usefulness and, as the technical irregularities which concern it will disappear with the new Recruiting Act, any malpractices can be dealt with by the new Act and the Indian Penal Code. It is to be hoped that the proposals now put forward by the Industry in the form of its draft Bill, will be taken into consideration without delay; but from unofficial advices which have recently come to hand, it would appear that legislation is unlikely to come forward within the life of the present Indian Legislature.

"Recruiting for estates in Northern India has presented, and always will present, serious difficulties, as coolies, like everybody else, are disinclined to leave ~~their~~ their native homes unless forced to do so through economic conditions or attracted by employment elsewhere which appeals to them. It, therefore, behoves the tea industry to continue to do its utmost to make conditions, and life generally, on tea gardens such as will attract and encourage labour to settle on the estates."

(Statesman, 26th March 1929).

Workers and Peasants Conference, Rohtak.

A session of the Workers and Peasants Conference was held at Rohtak in the Punjab on the 9th March 1929, under the presidentship of Mr. Arjunlal Sethi. In his presidential address he declared that "Imperialism and militarism, religion and capitalism are responsible for all the unrest in the world and unless they were destroyed, there was no hope for peace". He pleaded for the establishment of the socialist order in the country and advocated the abolition of individualism. "Our goal is to end the domain of capital, to end all wars, wipe out state boundaries and form a co-operative brotherhood of the world". He also made flank attacks upon the political leaders of India and asked the peasants to put an end to the exploitation by the "so-called labour leaders" whose sole aim was to attend the Geneva Conference."

Continuing he condemned the Trades Disputes Bill and the Public Safety Bill and expressed his disapproval of the Whitley Commission.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru speaking at the Conference advised the peasants to spread a net of peasant organisations throughout the country and take united and determined action to remove their miseries by following the example of <sup>Ba</sup>Bardoli peasants, "who had brought Government down on its knees," He urged the Jats to refrain from taking any part in the next war which may be more dangerous than the last and may be fought <sup>at</sup> ~~in~~ India's doors.

(Pioneer, 11th March 1929)

... ..

B.N. Railway Indian Labour Union.

A mass meeting of the Bengal Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union was held at Gondia on the 18th March 1929. At the

meeting Mr. V. R. Kalappa, who is one of the Workers' delegates for the 12th Conference condemned the Trades Disputes Bill, characterising it as "the blackest of all bills ever introduced".

Resolutions urging every patriotic Indian member of the Assembly to throw out the Public Safety and Trades Disputes Bills were passed.

Another resolution protesting against the 84 hours' week was unanimously passed, after the shelving of the Washington and Geneva conventions had been condemned.

... .. (Pioneer, 22nd March 1929)  
...

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Indian Banking Inquiry.

Full details are now available of the Government scheme for the Indian Banking Inquiry, announced in a Government press communique of 17th <sup>February</sup> ~~December~~ 1929 (pages 46-47 of the March report). The following are relevant extracts from a letter addressed by the Finance Member, to the provincial governments in which the plan of the inquiry is outlined.

"The Government of India feel that if investigation is to be adequate and is at the same time to be completed within a reasonably short space of time it would be impracticable to entrust the whole of the work to a single committee," "The proposal which so far met with approval is that there should be set up (a) a Central Committee and (b) a number of provincial Committees to deal with special requirements of the different provinces.

To arrive at a clear definition of the scope and functions of the Central and Provincial Committees respectively, it is necessary to analyse in some detail the subjects which it is intended that the inquiry as a whole should cover, and the analysis arrived at in the course of preliminary discussions is as follows :— regulation of Banking with the object of protecting depositors and thereby increasing confidence in the banking system; banking education with the object of providing facilities for obtaining training in banking, and generally of creating a body of people who have real knowledge of the principles and practice of banking and development and extension of banking on sound lines. The last item is capable of further sub-division as follows: industrial banks, and credit facilities for India's main ~~and~~ industries like cotton, jute, coal, etc.; financing of

foreign trade; ~~agricultural~~ credit (including co-operative credit); and credit facilities for small industries; mortgage banks and financing of internal trade in connexion with all the above headings.

It is suggested that ~~the~~ heads (1), (2) and (3) should be definitely excluded from the purview of Provincial Committees and that head (3)(a) might also be treated from the beginning as primarily the concern of the Central Committee, although it is recognized that there are certain aspects of the subject to which Provincial Committees might make a useful contribution.

Cultivator's Interests.

The essential purposes which it is desired to secure so far as the interests of the rural population are concerned are that the cultivator should be enabled to secure the credit he needs both for the improvement of his land and its equipment and for marketing his produce, and that on the other hand, means should be devised to stimulate the habit of investment and attract banking deposits.

The Central Committee would act as adviser to the Government of India in laying down at the outset the main lines on which the Provincial Committees should conduct their inquiry, and later in sifting the material. The second stage of the inquiry will be reached when the Government of India contemplate that they should invoke the assistance of a small body of outside experts (say three or four) selected by the Government either from England or from other countries with well-developed systems of rural credit and industrial banking.

These outside experts would act as advisers to the Central Committee. They would carry out joint discussions with the Committee with a view to assisting the latter in making its recommendations to the Government of India as to the best way of dealing with the state of affairs disclosed by the preliminary

inquiries. The experts will further be entitled to submit separate reports of their own, if necessary, to the Central Committee, which will include it in its own Report, submitted to the Government of India."

As now planned, the first meeting of the Central Committee will be held in Simla about the middle of May, when a memorandum laying down the heads of enquiry to be undertaken by the Provincial Committees will be drawn up. The actual enquiry might begin before August.

(Statesman, 7-4.1929).

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Child Slavery in Ceylon.

At the annual meeting of the Colombo Friend-in-Need Society held at Colombo on the 27th March 1929, Mr. H.E. Newham, Mayor of Colombo and President of the Society, made an important statement about the existence of forms of child slavery in the city of Colombo and in various parts of Ceylon. In the course of his speech Mr. Newham said:-

"It is known that small children are obtained from the villages in consideration of monetary payment. Their parents and these children are taken far from their homes and used as domestic servants in return for the mere provision of food and clothing. Undoubtedly the majority are well treated, but in the last year there have been 13 cases brought to the courts in which children have been grossly and cruelly ill-treated by those who have no excuse whatever for such brutality. The average age of these suffering children was eight years.

Six were burnt with fire-brands and three with other heated substances. One child of 10, suspected of theft by her employer, was beaten until the cane broke. She was then burnt with heated oil and the sores rubbed with a substance causing severe irritation to the skin. Finally a nest of red ants was let loose on the child's body.

"It is time that a system which permits such abuses to occur with such a slender chance of detection should be abolished from <sup>the</sup> social life of the country. What is needed is a more rigorous enforcement of the regulations with regard to compulsory education so that these children shall attend school, where at least they will have some moments in their lives of freedom from ~~their~~ taskmasters.

"Such provision would also tend to make them of less value to their taskmasters and help to lessen the number of cases of such employment.

"All children who are removed from the care of their parents should be under some adequate supervision by disinterested parties, who should satisfy themselves that they are properly treated. I was today authorized by the Colonial Secretary to state that Government contemplates action upon these lines. A bill has been drafted to regulate the employment of children as domestic servants.

"Under it it is proposed that parents and those taking over children shall produce the children before a magistrate, who will have power to enquire into the case and impose such conditions as he deems necessary. Probation officers will have power to enter and inspect at any time of the day premises at which such a child is kept and severe penalties are provided for ill-treatment and cruelty.

"I can only hope that a Bill on these lines will be introduced with as little delay as possible, and that the country will not rest until it has removed this reproach which at present darkens its social system".

(Statesman, 29th March 1929).



The Central Provinces Opium Smoking Act.

The Central Provinces Opium Smoking Act, IV of 1929, received the assent of the Governor General on the 13th March 1929. It is meant to control the practice of opium smoking, to prevent the assembling of persons for the purpose of such practice, and to secure the ultimate prohibition of opium smoking. The Act, with the exception of section 7 which makes it unlawful for any person to smoke opium, will come into force only on such date as the Central Provinces Government may, by notification, appoint in this behalf, and section 7 will come into force 3 years after the above date.

(Central Provinces Gazette, March 23, 1929,  
Part VI, pages 6 - 9).

... ..

The Bihar and Orissa Opium Smoking Act.

The area of the operation of the Bihar and Orissa Opium Smoking Act (~~1928~~. Act II of 1928), which is similar to the Central Provinces Opium Smoking Act of 1929 referred to above, has by an order of the Governor in Council dated the 22nd February 1929 been extended to the district of Angul, another district in the same province.

(Bihar and Orissa Gazette, 27th February 1929,  
Part II, page 203.)

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Some of the provincial legislatures have been busying themselves recently with legislation to combat the menace of organised prostitution among the womenfolk of certain Indian castes. Prominent among such castes are the Devdasis of the Madras Presidency and the Naik Caste of the United Provinces. The Naik Girls' Protection Act which has been passed as Act II of 1929 by the Legislature of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and which received the assent of the Governor General on 11th March 1929, has been published for general information in the United Provinces Government Gazette dated the 30th March 1929. The Act is intended to prevent minor girls of the Naik caste from being trained for the profession of prostitution.

ACT NO. II OF 1929.

The Naik Girls' Protection Act.

Whereas it is expedient to terminate the custom whereby minor girls of the Naik caste in the United Provinces are trained for prostitution, and whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General has been obtained under sub-section (3) of section 80-A of the Government of India Act to the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows :-

1. (a) This Act may be called the Naik Girls' Protection Act, 1929.  
Short title and extent.
- (b) It extends to the whole of the United Provinces.
2. The district magistrate may from time to time by general or special order which shall be published in the prescribed manner require any member or members of the district magistrate to demand information

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the Naik caste for the time being present within the local limits of his jurisdiction to appear before him and furnish him with such information as may be prescribed for the purpose of this Act.

3. The district magistrate may, from time to time, by

Power of the district magistrate to order restriction of move- ments of Naik minor girls.	order in writing direct any person or persons having under his or their guardianship or control a minor girl or girls of the Naik caste within the local limits of his jurisdiction to take such steps as he may by the said order specify to restrict or otherwise regulate the movements of such minor girl or girls or to remove her or them to the Kumaun division in order to prevent her or their being trained to the profession of prostitution or living in immoral surroundings.
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4. If the district magistrate is of opinion that there

Power of the district magistrate to arrange for custody of Naik minor girls.	is danger that a minor girl of the Naik caste within the local limits of his jurisdiction may be sold, let for hire, trained or otherwise disposed of with the intent that she shall be employed for the purpose of prostitution or for any unlawful and immoral purpose, he may order that she shall be sent to a settlement and there detained for such period as may be prescribed, or that she shall be placed under the guardianship of any person of the same faith who is willing and in the opinion of the district magistrate fit to have charge of her, and may take such steps as may in his opinion be necessary for the enforcement of such order.
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5. Whoever, having been required by a district magis-

Penalty for failure to furnish information.	trate under section 2 of this Act to appear before him and furnish him with information, without lawful excuse fails so
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to appear or refuses or fails to furnish information which it was within his power to furnish or furnishes false information shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or with fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty rupees or with both.

Provided that a substantive sentence of imprisonment shall not be passed against a person who is convicted under this section for the first time.

6. Whoever without lawful excuse disobeys, or resists, or in any way obstructs the execution of, any order of a district magistrate made under section 3 or section 4 of this Act shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding one year or with fine not exceeding five hundred rupees or with both.

7. The local Government may make rules consistent with this Act for carrying out the purposes of this Act, and may by such rules prescribe the nature of the orders which may be made by the district magistrate under this Act including an order exempting any member of class or group of Naiks from the operation of sections 2 and 3 of this Act and the conditions under which such orders may be made; provided that the power of the local Government to make rules under this section shall be subject to the condition that the rules shall be made after previous publication in the gazette and in the localities mainly occupied by Naiks; and after an opportunity has been given to the Council to discuss them; provided further that the rules shall not take effect until they have been published in the gazette in their final form.

*Admission*

Definitions.

8. In this Act --

- (a) "minor girl" means a girl who is under the age of eighteen years,
- (b) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules under this Act,
- (c) "settlement" means any home or institute for the custody of girls declared by the local Government to be a settlement for the purposes of this Act, provided that such home or institute shall belong to and be managed by persons of the same religion as that of the girls concerned.
- (d) "member of the Naik caste" includes a prostitute born of Naik parents or of a Naik prostitute.

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Prevention of traffic in women in Kashmir.

The following press communique has been issued by the Kashmir Durbar in March 1929:-

"Kidnapping women and trafficking in them had of recent years assumed such proportions in the Jammu and Kashmir State that His Highness' Government had to devise exceptional measures<sup>es</sup> to stop this nefarious practice. Various legislative and administrative measures have been sanctioned by His Highness to eradicate this evil from the State. The law bearing on this had been greatly stiffened and the State Penal Code has been amended so as to raise the penalty for kidnapping and abduction from 3 to 7 years and that for enticing married women from 2 to 5 years. Provision has also been made to empower the Courts to award whipping in lieu of or in addition to other sentences in these cases. The age of consent has

been raised from 12 to 13 for marital and from 13 to 14 for extra marital relations. A new Section has also been added to the Criminal Code providing providing penalty for the procurement of girls for illicit purposes. The Code of Criminal Procedure has also been amended to enable the Magistrate to take security proceedings against persons who habitually commit kidnapping or abduction. The Government of India have agreed to make the offences under Section 498 I.P.C. extraditable so far as the Jammu and Kashmir State is concerned.

On the administrative side the measures adopted are to bind the Zaildars, Numberdars and Chowkidars to assist in prevention and detection of such offences and in the event of such cases occurring frequently in their Ilaqas they will be liable to dismissal. All Revenue Officers are required to use their influence to check this evil and the Courts have been given instructions to bring to the notice of the Revenue Department the conduct of village officers in connection with these cases. The Police have been instructed to make special efforts to unearth the agencies at work in this nefarious trade.

It is hoped that as a result of these measures this inhuman and degrading evil will soon be wholly put down".

(Hindu, 14th March 1929).

MARITIME AFFAIRS.Night Work in Bombay Docks.

The Bombay Port Trust asked in January 1929 the views of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce in regard to the feasibility of closing down night work in the docks at 1.30 a.m. except in unavoidable cases.

The Committee after consulting the Docks and Railways Sub-Committee, replied stating that they were definitely of opinion that there should be no further curtailment in the total number of working hours at the Docks. The Committee pointed out that Bombay compared very unfavourably with Karachi in respect of the hours of night work which were understood to be 10 hours, i.e., from 7.30 p.m. to 6.30 a.m. with an hour's recess. If the proposal of the Port Trust Dock Staff Union was adopted the competition which Bombay was experiencing from Karachi and other ports would be aggravated.

The Committee were of the opinion that it would be of advantage if work could be started earlier in the morning when labour was fresh, say, at 7 a.m. instead of 8 a.m., the hours of work to be adjusted accordingly. If this suggestion was adopted night work would stop at 2.30 a.m. instead of 3.30 a.m. as at present or at 1.30 a.m. as suggested by the Port Trust Dock Staff Union.

The Committee did not desire to put forward detailed suggestions for the readjustment of the hours of work as that was a matter for the Bombay Port Trust. They felt, however, that closing down day work at 5 p.m. which would result from putting back all the hours of work by one hour, would be too early, and that it would be preferable to close down at 5.30 p.m. It was suggested that this might be done either by adjusting the recess intervals or, better, by lengthening the day work and shortening the night work if that was possible. This point was submitted for the consideration of the Port Trust in the

event of the Committee's suggestion for starting work earlier being found feasible.

(Times of India, 28th March 1929).

... ..

Hours of Work on Board <sup>Indian</sup> Ships.


The Shipping Master, Bombay forwarded in January 1929, to the Bombay Chamber of Commerce a copy of a letter addressed by Sir Atul Chatterjee, the High Commissioner for India, to the Hon'ble Mr. A. C. MacWatters, in connection with the question of the international regulation of hours of work on board ships. With a view to assisting the International Labour Office in the preparatory work for the Special Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference to be held in October 1929, the High Commissioner desired to receive precise information on the following points :- The determination of the kind of work done by men of different categories, the normal hours of labour both at sea and in port; the importance of overtime work and the kinds of payment therefor; the necessary numbers of men required for different tasks, etc- according to the type of navigation, and all other necessary complementary and related problems. The Shipping Master asked to be furnished with all the information possible on the question.

The Committee of the Chamber, in consultation with the Shipping and Export Sub-Committee, replied stating that the normal hours of duty on board ships at sea and in port on vessels in the Indian trade were the same now as they were in 1927. As far as the Committee were aware no payment was made for overtime work done on board ships, but when such overtime work was performed, the men generally were given a corresponding reduction in the hours of work the following day, if this was



possible. The Committee did not think it necessary to give a detailed description of the nature of the work done and the number of men required, as the members of the Conference must have knowledge of the former, while as regards the latter the number of men must necessarily vary according to the class of ship.

(Times of India, 28th March 1929).



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

New Delhi Branch.

Report for May 1929.

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GENERAL.

As indicated at page 9 of this office report for April 1929 the Viceroy addressed a joint sitting of both houses of the Indian legislature on the 12th April 1929. He said that he had two objects in view in summoning a joint meeting; the first was to associate himself with the universal resentment felt at the outrage perpetrated in that House 4 days ago, and secondly to give the decision of his Government in view of the situation created by the ruling of the President of the Legislative Assembly in regard to the discussion ~~of~~ the House on the Public Safety Bill. After announcing that the Government will not be deterred by such futile and insensate acts as bomb-throwing from the discharge of its duty, to take whatever measures may seem right and necessary for the protection of the law abiding citizens, he turned to the second point and said that he was satisfied that Mr. Patel's was not the proper interpretation of the rules. He therefore proposed to amend the rules so as to take away from the President the power to interrupt the normal course of legislation. Thirdly, since the Government felt it imperatively necessary for them to have the powers proposed in the Public Safety Bill, and since the passage of that Bill was ~~stopped~~ stopped by Mr. Patel, the Viceroy announced his decision to obtain these powers by the issue of an ordinance embodying the provisions of the Bill. The Ordinance was issued on the 13th April by a Gazette of India Extraordinary.

Though this was more ~~than~~ expected, public indignation, as represented by the press and the platform, seems to be running very high against this action of the Government. For the moment however, the legislators at Delhi were busy packing and reserving their seats in the trains when the Viceroy was making his announcement. Both the Houses were adjourned sine die after Lord Irwin's

speech, and by the 15th of April, New Delhi had once again become what it was before November -- a town of tombs and jackals.

Immediately after the adjournment of the Houses, the Government of India and the <sup>public</sup> offices moved up to Simla and thus political interest also has migrated to the hills. One of the first questions on which the Government will soon have to make up their minds is the question of the prolongation of the life of the present houses. As many members of the Simon Central Committee in India pressed for such a prolongation, <sup>but</sup> it was not ~~deemed~~ expedient to make any announcement at Delhi; and it is not unlikely that the Central Government wanted to "tater le terrain" in some of the provinces before committing <sup>itself</sup> the ~~Central Legislature~~ either way. In Bengal and Assam, where general elections are being held, the swarajists appear to be coming back in strong numbers, thus indicating that if the Central Legislature were to be dissolved at the end of its due period and a general election held, then many of the Simonites would be ejected from their seats. This, according to newspaper reports, has once again set the Government of India furiously to think, and though Lord Irwin is said to be against any prolongation of the life of the sitting houses, he may at last be compelled to yield to the wishes of Mr. Crerar of the Home Department who seems to think that a prolongation is imperatively necessary.

In spite of this <sup>various</sup> apparent union between the political parties of India as against the Government, it is nevertheless becoming increasingly clear that fissures are beginning to appear in the ranks of the swarajists, the independents and the nationalists. Details of Indian party politics may have no interest for Geneva, and therefore I do not go into the differences that have arisen in all these political circles, but I must give it as my impression that though the swarajist party

may be a little weakened ~~after~~ if a general election takes place, that will not by any means reduce the popular opposition to the Government.

The investigation of the Meerut communist case has not yet come to a close. The trial of the prisoners, therefore, has not yet commenced, and what with the excessive heat of the plains during ~~this~~ this season, and what with the meagre provisions made in the jails for their comfort, some of the prisoners were taken ill and have been transferred to Dehra Dun. While nothing can authoritatively be stated as to the progress of the investigation, it would yet appear, judged from the startling newspaper reports regarding the discovery of more bombs and more would-be assassins, that the C.I.D. are hot upon the trail ~~and the~~ of a vast conspiracy ~~the~~ with ramifications all over northern India. A comic interlude of the Meerut trial is that one of the prisoners -- Shaukat Usmani -- has been set up by the communist party of Great Britain as a rival candidate for Sir John Simon at Spen Valley.

The Butler Committee which was appointed to report upon the relations between Indian (Native) States and the Government of India has now presented its report. Its principal recommendation that the princes should have direct relation with the Crown has gone much against the trend <sup>of the</sup> of the political classes in India, and there is no denying that this recommendation will prove a serious obstacle to the formation of a united and consolidated India which shall contain both British India and the Native States. Criticism of the Butler Committee's report runs principally along this line, -- that the Committee intend to ~~make~~ a distinct cleavage between the two elements in Indian political society and thereby to perpetuate the British power in India with the help of the princes and as against the wishes of the people. Going into details, and apart from this particular interpretation of the desire of the Butler Committee, it seems to be on the whole a

a sensible report. A summary of the main recommendations is given elsewhere.

No announcement has yet been made as regards the Whitley Commission. And even as regards the 12th International Labour Conference the names of the members of the delegation were announced only so late as the 18th April 1929. There ~~were~~, of course, some occult reasons for this, which I have already explained.

The period under report has not by any means witnessed the emergence of industrial peace either in Bombay or in Jamshedpur. After the publication of the Fawcett report, and when a joint conference was still sitting to elaborate some of its proposals, ~~the~~ members of the newly-started Girni Kamgar Union started a strike in Bombay (towards the end of April), which by now has emptied half the mills of their working population. A forty-day old strike is still continuing among the tin plate workers at Jamshedpur, and there have been other alarms and excursions in Madras, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Poona and Cawnpore.

P.A.M.

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The Indian States Committee Report.

The report of the Indian States Committee (Butler Committee) which was signed on the 14th February 1929, has been published on the 16th April. It is a unanimously signed document running to 54 pages. The Committee consisted of Sir Harcourt Butler, Mr. Sidney Peel and Mr. W. S. Holdsworth. Its terms of reference were :-

(1) To report upon the relationship between the Paramount Power and Indian States, with particular reference to the rights, and obligations arising from (a) treaties, engagements and sanads and (b) usage, sufferance and other causes, and (2) to inquire into <sup>the</sup> financial and economic relations between British India and the States and to make any recommendations that the Committee may consider desirable or necessary for their more satisfactory adjustment.

Part (1) refers only to the existing relationship between the Paramount Power and the States. Part (2) refers not only to the existing financial and economic relations between British India and the States but also invites the Committee to make recommendations.

The Committee visited fifteen States, travelled altogether 8,000 miles in India and examined 48 witnesses. Associations purporting to represent subjects of States approached the Committee with grievances and the Committee while declining to hear them on the ground that it would be outside the terms of reference, allowed them to put in written statements.

Indian States, as they exist today fall into three distinct classes: Firstly, States, the rulers of which are members of the Chamber of Princes in their own right; secondly, States



the rulers of which are represented in the Chamber by twelve members of their order elected by themselves; and thirdly, estates jagirdars and others.

Of the 108 Princes in class I, 30 have established Legislative Councils, most of which are at present of a consultative nature. Only 40 have constituted high courts more or less on British Indian models. Thirty-four have separated executive from judicial functions; 56 have a fixed privy purse; 46 have started a regular graded civil list of officials and 54 have pension or provident schemes. Some of these reforms are still, no doubt, inchoate or on paper, and some States are still backward, but a sense of responsibility to their people is spreading among all States and growing year by year. A new spirit is abroad; conditions have very largely changed in the last 20 years. The proposals of the Committee are concerned mainly with classes 1 and 2.

~~The main points of the report are~~

The report is divided into five sections of which the following is the Committee's own summary:-

"There are two Indias under different political systems, British India and the Indian States. The latter differ so greatly among themselves that a uniform treatment of them is difficult, if not impossible. Treaties, engagements and sanads where they exist, are of continuing valid force, but have necessarily been supplemented and illumined by political practice, to meet the changing conditions in the moving world. We have traced and analysed the growth of British Paramountcy; though it has already lost, and should continue to lose, its arbitrary character in full and open discussions between the Princes and the Political Department. But it must continue to be paramount, and therefore it must be left free to meet unforeseen circumstances as they arise.

"We find that the relationship between the Princes and the Paramount Power, has, on the whole, been harmonious and satisfactory. No practical proposals for new machinery have been placed before us; but we have indicated the changes in procedure based on experience, which should lead to the removal of grievances and the settlement of outstanding questions. In particular, we recommend that the Viceroy and not the Governor General in Council should in future be the agent of the Crown in its relations with the Princes and that important matters of dispute between the States themselves, between the States and the Paramount Power, and ~~xxx~~ between the States and British-India should be referred to independent committees for advice.

"We have suggested methods for recruiting and training officers of the Political Department to which we attach great importance. We have indicated the ways of adjusting political and economic relations between British-India and the States.

"We hold that the relationship between the Paramount Power and the Princes should not be transferred, without the agreement of the latter, to a new Government in British-India responsible to an Indian legislature. But we have left the door open for constitutional developments in future.

"While impressed with the need for great caution in dealing with a body so heterogeneous as Indian Princes, so conservative, so sensitive, so tenacious ~~and~~ of internal sovereignty, we confess that our imagination ~~x~~ is powerfully affected by the stirrings of a new life, and new hopes in the States, by the progress already achieved and by possibilities of the future. To that future, we can merely open a vista. Our terms of reference do not invite us to survey the distant hills and valleys that lead to them, but we are confident that the Princes who, in war and peace, have already rendered such signal service, will play a worthy and illustrious part in the development of India and the Empire".

8

The Bombay Riots Enquiry Committee.

In the monthly report of this office for February 1929 (at pages 25-27) was given a short account of the riots which broke out in Bombay as a bye-product of the Textile strike. In response to a widely felt desire that there should be a public enquiry both into the causes of the riots and into the methods adopted by the government to quell them, it was announced in the Bombay Legislative Council on 7-3-1929 that a Committee would be appointed for the purpose. The personnel of the Committee, as announced in the Times of India of 20-4-1929, is as follows:-

Chairman: Mr. P.E. Percival, C.I.E., I.C.S.,

Members: Mr. Mirza Ali Mahommad Khan, and  
Mr. Krishnalal M. Jhaveri.

Secretary: Mr. E. W. Trotman, I.C.S.

The terms of reference are "to enquire into the recent disturbances in Bombay, their causes and origins, the course which they took, and the measures adopted by Government to suppress them, and to make recommendations". A fairly comprehensive questionnaire of 26 questions has also been issued, of which the first 8 deal with the causes and origins of the disturbances. Questions 9 to 14 deal with criticisms of the action of the police, the military and the Government. The rest deal with suggestions for future action. All persons who wish to give evidence are asked to send in their names to the Secretary; and the taking of oral evidence is expected to commence as from 21-5-1929, unless, indeed, the recrudescence of riots in April-May 1929 continues to that date, in which case, a postponement of the enquiry till normal conditions are restored is likely.

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References to the I.L.O.

New Delhi Communiqués:- The communiqués issued by this office on the agenda of the twelfth Conference, and summarising the four ~~Congress~~ Reports, have received wide publicity. Four cuttings (the Hindu, 3-5-1929; the Statesman, 4-5-1929; the Pioneer, 5-5-1929; and the Times of India, 6-5-1929) are sent which reproduce the communiqué summarising the agenda. The longer communiqués on the separate items of the Conference have also received wide publicity. It may be pointed out that some of these communiqués are rather long, covering more than a column of a closely printed daily newspaper, but that they have nevertheless received generous treatment from the Indian press. (See cuttings from the Pioneer, 20-4-1929; the Madras Mail, 13-5-1929; the Pioneer, 15-5-1929; the Statesman, 15-5-1929, etc).

The Statesman of 8-5-1929 publishes our summary of the two blue reports of the 12th Conference. Condensed forms of this communiqué have also been published in other papers.

Dr. Pillai's reply to Lord Lytton's report <sup>on the</sup> ~~of~~ Geneva expenditure (also issued as a communiqué through the courtesy of the Associated Press of India), has also been prominently featured by the press. It is a pretty long statement coming up to nearly a column and three quarters in the 'Pioneer', which has published it under the caption "Hardest Worked Officials; Tribute to the International Labour Office" (3-5-1929). The same interview is reproduced in the Hindu, 2-5-1929; the Statesman, 3-5-1929; the Times of India, 4-5-1929, and other papers.

There are several references in the press to the Indian Delegation for the 12th Conference. The office is thus kept perpetually before the minds of Indian newspaper readers.

The Hindu, 16-5-1929, publishes the summary of a speech by Mr. C. F. Andrews at Montreal, in the course of which he says that the League of Nations and the I.L.O. have been of great help to India in solving her labour problems. The Geneva correspondent of the Hindu, <sup>(issue 2-4-29)</sup>, has a long letter on the Hours Convention and the I.L.O. budget in which he summarises the British attitude towards the I.L.O. at the last meeting of the Governing Body. He says: "Once more, the British Government on the very eve of the general election has earned the reputation of being reactionary at Geneva. Once more its attempt to strike a blow at I.L.O. ... .. has been foiled. And once more ~~Monsieur~~ Monsieur Albert Thomas has won a victory notwithstanding the usual threat to his budget".

Among the special articles that have appeared in the Indian press which have a close bearing on the I.L.O. may be mentioned the following:-

(1) a fairly long article on "Forced Labour" -- a report from Geneva, by "Sir Selwyn Fremantle" in the Statesman of 2-5-1929;

(2) an article on "India and International Organisations" by the London correspondent of the Hindustan Times, in its issue of 28-4-1929 deals principally with the International Labour Conferences;

(3) an exclusive article to the Hindustan Times of 13-5-29 on "India and the International Labour Organisation", deals, in the course of its 3½ columns, with many aspects of the I.L.O.'s work in relation to India. The article was contributed by the principal assistant of the New Delhi Office;

(4) the March-April number (Volume II, No.5) of the Indian Labour Review has an article of 4 pages entitled "Bond or Free" -- the Problem of Forced Labour", by the principal assistant of the New Delhi Office;

(5) the April number of the Indian Review (Volume XXX, No.4) publishes a 10-column article by Dr. Pillai entitled "The World's Industrial Parliament";

(6) in the April number of the Indian Journal of Economics (Volume IX, Part 4), the leading article of 10 pages on "the I.L.O. and the Forced Labour", is ~~xxx~~ by Dr. Pillai.

Editorial comments have appeared here and there on Dr. Pillai's criticism of the Lytton Report, of which the following, from the Bengalee of 5-5-1929, is a fair specimen. Writing under the heading "the League and India", the paper ~~xxxxxxxx~~ admits Dr. Pillai's arguments, in so far as ~~it~~ concerns the I.L.O., but they are inapplicable to the League of Nations as a whole. The League, according to the paper, is mainly a European League and is obsessed with European questions. The paper fails to understand why in matters of health, intellectual co-operation, social and humanitarian work, etc., on which a large proportion of the League's money is spent, India should receive such scant attention. Similarly in the matter of traffic in women and children the League's activities do not extend to Asia. The paper concludes by observing that if the present apathy continues, India will have to follow the example of Brazil and withdraw from the League.

A report on "Seamen in Bombay" published in 1928 by Mr. N.M.Joshi on behalf of the Bombay Social Service League contains in its appendices 3 and 4 the draft conventions and recommendations on seamen adopted by the I.L.O. at its 2nd, 3rd and 9th Conferences and the resolutions passed in the Legislative Assembly on the Geneva decisions.

The "Leader" of Allahabad (31-3-1929) publishes a letter from Mr. N.M.Joshi on the proposed Asiatic Labour Congress. The letter gives in full the memorandum issued under the joint signatures of Mr. Chaman Lall (represented by Mr. Bakhale) and Mr. Yunikubo, Indian and Japanese workers' delegates respectively

in 1928, regarding the proposal to hold an Asiatic Labour Conference, and refers to the resolutions passed at the 1928 session of the A.I.T.U.C. endorsing the memorandum. It continues that it has been found impossible to convoke the conference this year and therefore announces that it will be held in April 1930 and that it will be presided over by Mr. Suzuki. Mr. Joshi's letter invites suggestions and co-operation from all Asiatic Trade Unions.

11.11.29

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

The Trade Disputes Bill as amended by the Select Committee was passed by the Indian Legislative Assembly on the 8th April 1929 (see page 6 of this office report for April 1929), and was agreed to by the Council of State on the 11th April ~~as~~ exactly as it was sent up to it from the lower house. On the 12th April 1929 the assent of the Governor General was received, and the Trade Disputes Act, (VII of 1929) was promulgated for ~~the~~ general information in the Gazette of India of April 20, 1929. By a notification appearing in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of the 8th May 1929, the Government has appointed 8-5-1929 as the date on which the Act shall come into force in India.

The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary of 11-5-1929 publishes, as a notification from the General Department, and under section 19 of the Trade Disputes Act, rules for the purpose of giving effect to the said Act. These rules are very simple in character and relate principally to the forms to be employed, to keep <sup>ing</sup> information <sup>elicited in the course of the enquiry</sup> confidential, and to the engagement of legal representatives.

Public Safety Ordinance.

Reference has already been made, in the course of the General section of this report, to the promulgation of this ordinance by a Gazette of India Extraordinary of the 13th April 1929. One of the enclosed cuttings (Times of India, 15-4-1929) gives in full the Viceroy's statement attached to the ordinance.



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# Conditions of Labour.

## Industrial Worker in South India.

A series of 9 carefully written articles on the "Industrial worker in South India" has appeared in the Hindu of Madras during the latter half of April (20th, 24th, 25th, 27th and 29th April) and the first half of May (3rd, 4th, 7th and 11th May). The articles are so packed with information that no summary is attempted here. As an indication of what the articles deal with, it may be mentioned that the first examines the sources and material available for the study of the subject; the second estimates the number of the various classes of workers, and in particular, of that class of workers who are self-employed, like the handloom worker who does not work for a master; the conditions of the unorganised textile worker are further <sup>studied</sup> stated in the ~~third~~ <sup>third</sup> article; and in the fourth the case of the urban skilled labourer -- the mat, <sup>and</sup> the shoe maker, the tanner, etc., -- is <sup>studied</sup> stated and attention is drawn to certain factors which have an important bearing on their earnings. The conditions of life of these workers -- housing, clothing, ornaments, etc., are described in the fifth article; and in the sixth, certain measures are suggested to promote their well-being. Of special interest in this connection are the remarks on the relation between wages and prices. Articles 7 and 8 are devoted to skilled and unskilled factory labour respectively, and article 9, the last of the series, deals with the relations between workers and employers.

Commenting on these articles, the Hindu, in its leading article of 11-5-1929, remarks that the survey presented in these articles is an able representation of the facts as they exist, a clear analysis of the problem which the employer, as well as the State, is faced with. Among the points which emerge from the study is one on which special attention has to be bestowed.

The condition of labour, whether in the factory or in the worker's own cottage, are not much as we might look on with complacency. ~~The~~ An average ~~market~~ wage -- using that term to mean the average of the rates which the majority of the workers in a particular line, neither the pre-eminently skilled nor the specially un-skilled, receive -- which, though it differs slightly from one line to another, never much exceeds the barest minimum necessary for subsistence; a regime tolerant of much absenteeism: long hours not very rigorously enforced: occasional provision for the health of operatives; very rare arrangements for their education or housing; imperfect systems for rewarding hard work or successful results: liberal holidays at the workmen's expense -- these are their broad outlines. The hours of work are long, but such is the plight of labour today that even if they are not, it is doubtful if labour will benefit by shorter hours. The workers, not knowing how to employ their leisure usefully, fritter it away in idle or unwholesome pastimes.

Analysing the strikes in the Madras Presidency, the writer says: "all but two strikes sprang from genuine economic grievances -- inadequate wages, the absence of any provision such as bonus or gratuity, the grim prospect of retrenchment". it is noteworthy that even these two exceptions were cases where men struck work, not because they fell dupes to political agitators, but because of resentment at the dismissal of fellow-workmen. Neither of the exceptions, he adds, was a case of "mere perverse insubordination to authority."

Bombay Port Trust and Labour.

The Government of Bombay have nominated a Labour representative on the Bombay Port Trust, "with a view to meeting the growing and legitimate demand of Labour". It is understood that Syed Munawar, B.A., M.L.C., Secretary to the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay has been chosen as the Workers' representative on the Port Trust.

... ..

The Corporation of Madras and Minimum Wages.

At the meeting of the Madras Corporation held on 16-4-1929 the proposal to grant a minimum wage of Rs. 20 per month to all employees was taken up for discussion. After some debating, the question was remitted to the Standing Committee of the Corporation (Taxation and Finance) for its consideration and for finding ~~the~~ out the ways and means to find the additional amounts that may be needed if the proposal is adopted.

(The Hindu, 17-4-1929).

... ..

The Hindu of 11-5-1929 reproduces the substance of an article by Miss Matheson in the "National Christian Council Review" on application of the Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery <sup>the</sup> ~~concern~~ to India.

... ..

Freedom of Association in Mysore.

At the request of the miners in the Kolar Gold Fields in Mysore State, Mr. E. Kirk, the Editor of the Indian Labour Review of Coimbatore, made several visits to the mining area in March-April with the idea of starting a Union. His meetings were closely watched by the Police, and on the 6th April 1929,

when Mr. Kirk and Mr. P.M.Sarma (Secretary of the Bangalore Textile Labour Union) were proceeding to the Gold Fields for getting the draft constitution of the proposed Kolar Gold Fields Miners' Union passed by the men, prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code were served on them on the ground that their acts were likely to lead to breach of the peace (Hindu, 10-4-1929). Mr. Kirk~~xx~~ contributes an article on "Mysore and Labour" to the Madras "Hindu" of 6-5-1929, in which he condemns the Mysore Government's attitude towards Trade Unionism both in Bangalore and in the Kolar Fields. "The Government has nothing to say against the Bangalore mill owners combining for their own interests, nor against the mining officials in the Gold Fields doing the same but it is reluctant to allow a similar liberty without any kind of interference, ~~x~~ to workers. .... In Bangalore, the Textile Union has been prohibited from holding meetings for a period and its secretary has been the recipient of orders under Criminal Procedure Code Section 144". But the Bangalore Minerva Mills are members of the Bombay Millowners' Association, and the five separate mines in Kolar are organised into a kind of union, with ~~the~~ president and full time secretary". That labour is a factor to be reckoned with in the state is clear from the fact that a Department of Industries and Commerce has recently been created, and that the Director of this Department is also the Commissioner of Labour. There is also a Factory Act and a Work~~men~~'s Compensation Act in the State; but no Trade Union legislation of any kind. He argues that Mysore is much behind China in this respect, and pleads for the introduction of Trade Union legislation in the State, and for an invitation to be extended to the Royal Commission on Indian Labour to enquire into Mysore labour conditions as well. A meeting of the workers in Mysore, according to the March-April

issue of the Indian Labour ~~Review~~, has already passed a resolution for bringing Mysore also within the scope of the Whitley Commission's enquiry. An editorial note in the Hindustan Times of 26-4-1929 condemns Lord Winterton's statement in the House of Commons on 22-4-1929 excluding the Indian States from the scope of the Whitley Commission, and urges that the improvement of Indian labour conditions will be difficult if common standards cannot be enforced over the whole country.

... ..

#### The Bengal Labour Conference.

The newspapers announce that the Bengal Labour Conference commenced its sittings on 13-5-1929, when Mr. Varma Das was elected to the chair. The chairman of the Reception Committee is Mr. K.C.Roy Chowdhary, a former labour delegate to the International Labour Conference of 1923. Mr. Chowdhary condemned the Bombay strikes as anti-social and anti-national, and referred to the Indian Jute Mills Association's proposal for a 60 hour week in Jute mills from July 1929.

... ..

#### The Madras Electric Tramway and Supply Corporation Employees' Union.

A general body meeting of the Union was held at Madras on the 17th April 1929 with the permanent president in the Chair. After the formal business the following resolutions were passed:-

(1) That this general body meeting of the Madras Electric Tramway and Supply Corporation Employees' Union requests the authorities to give them a general increment of their wages and salaries in view of the fact that the last general revision of wages and salaries was several years ago:

(2) That this general body meeting resolves that a system of provident fund be introduced for all employees to enable them and their families to get some consolidated sum at the time of their retirement and for their future:

(3) That this general body meeting resolves that in respect of overtime work done by all employees wages should be paid for such extra hours in accordance with the rules and practice in vogue in other mills and factories relating to the said overtime charge.

... ..

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs,

Government of India.

The report of the Department for the year 1927-28 has recently been published according to which a profit of Rs. 10,24,962 made in the previous year has been turned into a loss of Rs. 26,15,138 in 1927-28. The unsatisfactory financial returns are explained as being "largely due to an increase in working expenses consequent on the introduction during the year of a number of measures for the improvement of the scales of pay and allowances of the staff as further instalments of the main scheme formulated in the preceding year".

1929

Textile  
Lightning Strike in Bombay.

The first week of April saw definite efforts being made by both the Mill-owners' Association and the Joint Strike Committee to establish peace in the textile industry. A joint conference of the two bodies met on the 8th April 1929 to discuss a few remaining points of dispute in the light of the report of the Mill Strike Enquiry Committee. Another meeting of the Joint Conference took place on the 16th April 1929, when Mr. Lalji Pandse on behalf of the Girni Kamgar Union read out a statement regarding alleged victimisation of the members of that union by certain mills. On the 19th April 1929 the Secretary of the Girni Kamgar Union sent a letter to the Millowners' Association, in which specific complaints of victimisation were made. After some preliminary inquiries, it was mutually agreed upon that a joint meeting of the Millowners' Association and the Girni Kamgar Union should be held on the 24th April 1929 to investigate the allegations. The main point at issue was that the Wadia group of mills had discharged some 6000 old hands who were members of the Girni Kamgar Union and had engaged new hands, which action the Girni Kamgar Union attributed to the desire for victimisation. At the joint conference on the 24th April 1929 differences arose as to the method of leading <sup>in</sup> evidence. According to the owners' version, the Union representatives insisted that corroborative evidence of victimization should be taken from a large number of witnesses. This the owners' representatives would not agree to and before any decision was arrived at on this point the conference turned <sup>down</sup> to the Union's demand for a return to status quo, namely, the reinstatement of the strikers of the Wadia group. The owners' side would not concede this on the ground that it meant the turning out of the 6,000 new hands engaged in that group. Mr. R. R. Bakhale's suggestion that a

small joint subcommittee should deal with the alleged cases of victimisation, and that in the meanwhile the joint discussions on the Fawcett Committee's report should be continued was turned down by the Girni Kamgar Union.

The same evening (24-4-1929) a mass meeting of the mill-operatives under the auspices of the Girni Kamgar Union was held and it was decided that if the Girni Kamgar Union's demands were not conceded a general strike of all mills in Bombay should be declared at 12 noon on the 26th April 1929. The Bombay Textile Union, of which Mr. N.M. Joshi is the president, anxious to prevent a labour crisis, also held a meeting of mill-workers, and advised the men not to resort to a general strike, as the grievances put forward by the Girni Kamgar Union were too minor and one-sided to justify a general strike.

As a result of the intense propaganda carried <sup>on</sup> by the left wing leaders, soon after the mid-day recess hour on the 26th April 1929, about 100,000 workers downed tools, with the result that 38 out of the city's 84 mills had to close down. On the 27th April 1929 only eight mills were working, the rest having closed ~~down~~ doors, throwing out of work roughly 130,000 men (Hindustan Times, 28-4-1929). Commenting on the situation, Mr. H. P. Mody, President of the Bombay Millowners' Association in a press interview said:- "The operatives, I am in a position to state, have no grievances of any sort. If, however, they are driven out, it will be entirely by the methods of intimidation with which we have become so familiar in the last few months". (Times of India, 27-4-1929).

During the days that followed, the Bombay Textile Labour Union worked strenuously for re-establishing peace under the leadership of Mr. Bakhale, but the strike fever spread, and according to a Pioneer report of the 29th April 1929, the number of mill-hands remaining idle in Bombay was estimated at 185,000.



As the situation was taking a decided turn for the worse, Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, General Member of the Bombay Government, came down from Mahabaleshwar on the 1st May 1929 and held a series of separate conferences with representatives of the Girni Kamgar Union and the Millowners' Association. According to the Statesman of the 3rd May 1929, the Girni Kamgar Union is said to have put forward the following four points for consideration: reinstatement of 6000 <sup>old</sup> hands of the Wadia mills; freedom to collect subscriptions to the union inside the mills; freedom <sup>for the</sup> to mill-committee to function; and inquiry into cases of alleged victimization. The General Member's efforts to restore peace, however, proved futile, as, on the point of the reinstatement of the 6000 <sup>old</sup> discharged workers of the Wadia mills, both the owners and the workers remained obdurate.

Meanwhile, a new danger began to dawn on the horizon. The unrest in the city, which was the outcome at first of purely economic <sup>causes</sup> ~~reasons~~, began to assume a communal complexion. Though the large majority of the mill-workers had struck, <sup>work</sup> a small minority had not joined, and as this minority was composed mainly of Mahomedans, clashes began to occur between the Hindu strikers and the Muslim non-strikers. On the 29th April 1929 a Hindu-Muslim riot on a small ~~xxx~~ scale took place at Currey-road Bridge in the centre of the mill area (Times of India, 30-4-29). From the 30th April 1929 sporadic communal riots began to take place in different parts of the city. The disturbances reached their climax on the 3rd and 4th May 1929, on which days serious communal rioting marred the peace of Bombay. The Times of India of the 6th May 1929 estimates the total list of ~~xxxx~~ casualties up to the 4th May 1929 as 13 killed and 152 injured. In order to prevent any recurrence of guerilla war-fare, the Government issued on the 4th May 1929 a curfew order forbidding ~~any~~ persons to move out of doors between 8 P.M. and 6 A.M. for a period of 14 days.

These vigorous measures soon put an end to the rioting, but the differences between the millowners and the workers persisted. The Governor who had come down to Bombay on the 3rd May 1929 called a round table conference on the 4th May 1929 at which the representatives of the Girni Kamgar Union, the Bombay Textile Labour Union and the Millowners placed their respective view-points before him. At the end of two and a half hours of deliberations, no agreement was arrived at, the one stumbling block being the men's demand for the reinstatement of the 6,000 old hands discharged by the Wadia mills. His Excellency then informed the conference that he had just then received the information that the Trade Disputes Act would be brought into force on the 8th May 1929, and indicated that as the round table conference had failed, the machinery provided by the new Act would be brought into effect ~~for~~ for the settlement of the dispute. (Times of India, 9-5-1929).

The strike situation began to register some improvement from the 8th May 1929. On the 8th May there was a ~~fuller~~ further improvement of the situation, 42 mills being opened and working as against 32 of the previous day. Meanwhile, the millowners themselves launched a vigorous campaign to fight the strike leaders on equal terms. Distribution of leaflets, picketing the mill-gates to encourage the non-strikers to go in and the use of motor lorries to escort the loyal workers to and ~~from~~ from the mills have been some of the means employed by the millowners. A notice was also put up at many of the mills announcing that, in virtue of a decision arrived at by the Millowners' Association\*, the operatives of mills continuing to work would be paid their wages for April on May 15th. In mills which had stopped working the operatives would be paid their April wages ten days after the resumption of work.

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\*Following paragraphs 87, 88, 99 and 100 of the Fawcett Committee Report.

A fresh cause of strife was thus added, the Girni Kamgar Union arguing that it was illegal for millowners to make it a condition for payment of unclaimed wages that the men should resume work. The Standing Order on the subject of forfeiture of wages, according to the Union, referred to cases of termination of contract; and it contends that the declaration of a strike does not amount to a termination of service. The Bombay Textile Union headed by Mr. Bakhale has declared itself against the new move of the millowners, and in consequence a ~~length~~ lengthening of the strike appears to ~~be~~ be an immediate possibility. On the 17th May 1929, 40 mills were said to be working with a partial complement of workers, but large numbers of them are already reported as leaving Bombay for their villages.

Jamshedpur Tin-plate Workers.

At page 35 of this office report for January 1929 was given a short account of a conference of the Tin Plate Workers Union at Jamshedpur to consider some of their immediate demands. About 3000 men of the Tin Plate Company suddenly struck work on 8-4-1929 as a result of the alleged refusal of the Company to act in accordance with the terms of settlement arrived at with Mr. Homi, the President of the Tin Plate Workers Union. The increase of two annas per day per head promised to the hot mill men and the acting allowances agreed to be paid ~~for~~ have not been given effect to; and it is alleged that a policy of victimisation of Union officials has also been started. The idea of a deputation to the manager to discuss the workers' grievances had to be abandoned owing to the management's objection to the personnel of the workers' deputation. Feelings were thus embittered between the two parties, when on 5-4-1929, a fracas <sup>occurred</sup> ~~ensued~~ between the company's guards and the workers at the time ~~of~~ when pay was being distributed. This untoward incident was the immediate action for the strike. The men

have hitherto been very strong, but the management has been engaging outside labour, mostly Pathans and Peshawarees, to carry on the work in the mill. The strikers have begun picketing and there have been occasional clashes with the police. The situation has ~~become~~ become so serious that on 23-4-1929 section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code has been put into force in the disturbed area. On 25-4-1929 the strikers formulated their demands as follows:-

- (1) A general increment of 20 per cent. and a minimum rate of 10 annas for coolies and eight annas for women rejas:
- (2) Reinstatement of discharged and suspended men and full compensation for lost wages:
- (3) One month's privilege leave for monthly rated men and 15 days for daily rated men as obtaining in Tatas Iron and Steel Works:
- (4) Bonus, provident fund and water benefit schemes in consultation with the workers representatives:
- (5) six days work every week:
- (6) Acting allowance and grading posts:
- (7) Preference being given to old hands in filling vacancies:
- (8) Men transferred against their will to be restored to previous positions: and
- (9) An increase in housing accommodation or rental by 25 per cent.

The efforts of Mr. V.V.Giri to effect a compromise having proved unavailing, the same tense situation continues. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President of the All India Trade Union Congress, has written to them congratulating them on their firmness and promising them help.

#### An averted dispute at Ahmedabad.

The relations between the millowners and the operatives in Ahmedabad became strained towards the earlier part of this month owing to some of the demands made by the Labour Union to the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association. The Union had demanded the appointment of a Joint Committee to devise immediate

measures for the improvement of the condition of dining sheds and for the supply of drinking water. The Association at first replied that "in view of creche and other welfare activities having progressed on a satisfactory level for the last three years and in view of the growing facilities for such welfare work which are recently in progress in the mills", it did not deem it advisable to appoint a Joint Committee as asked for. The Union replied that it will be obliged to support the suspension of work, after 24 hours' notice, if no tangible steps were taken within three days regarding water and seven days in the case of dining shed accommodation. The Millowners' Association replied on 8-5-1929 to the effect that immediate arrangements were being made to deal with the serious and continued shortage of water supply in the mills. The threatened strike has therefore not come off; but since the millowners challenge the authority of the Union to declare a strike after 24 hours' notice, the Union complained that the Association has not been complying with the awards of the Joint Arbitration Board since 1921, and that is why they are compelled to assert their right to strike. Beyond an academic warfare on this subject, no trouble is expected at Ahmedabad.

#### Strikes at Bangalore.

The Minerva Mills at Bangalore stopped work on the morning of 3-4-1929, in consequence of a dispute with its labour force regarding the dismissal of one of the workers, and the general request of all the workers that Sunday should be ~~xxxx~~ declared a holiday. In connection with the lock-out ten millhands were arrested on 6-4-1929 and there were clashes between the police and the locked-out workers. The mills were re-opened on 8-4-1929, but the workers were not willing to recommence work till a decision was arrived at on the points at issue and on

16-4-1929 fresh attempts were made to bring about a settlement, but the action of the Mysore Government in serving prohibitory orders on Mr. Kirk and Mr. Sarma had stiffened <sup>the</sup> opposition, with the result that the workers in the Maharaja Mills, under the same management as the Minerva Mills, went on a sympathetic strike. By 19-4-1929 the management having promised generous treatment, nearly 50 per cent of the workmen of the Minerva Mills returned to work. But there were still stray cases of intimidation and assault. On 6-5-1929 again, there was another strike in the Minerva Mills, this time as a protest against the victimisation of 35 labourers, who took a prominent part during the earlier lock-out; and the strikers have been joined by some 3,000 workers of the Maharaja Mill also. Till the date of writing there has been no resumption of work.

#### Other stoppages of Work.

##### Choolai Mill Strike, Madras.

A strike originated in the Choolai Mill, Madras in the closing week of March. The men demanded an increase in wages and some concessions with regard to privilege leave, both of which demands the management did not concede. The strike lasted for about a fortnight till 2-4-1929. The whole question at issue has been referred to the decision of the Labour Commissioner, Madras, and the management have granted a seven per cent increase in wages as also certain privilege leave facilities as from 1929.

#### Minor Strikes.

After striking work for 12 days, the sweepers of Nagpur have resumed work on 13-4-1929 on an assurance from the Municipal authorities that their grievances would be considered and redressed soon in a round table conference. Those of the

strikers who had been imprisoned for joining the strike have been released as a measure of clemency. (Pioneer, 17-4-1929).

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The strike of the workers in the Ramgopal Mills, Secunderabad, which led to the closing of the mill on 16-4-1929 terminated on 25-4-1929, when the men unconditionally submitted and returned to work. One of the conditions imposed upon them is that they should not join any union. No trade union is to be recognised and men joining any union are liable to be dismissed. Dismissal and fines will be entirely at the discretion of the manager and the men are not to go on strike in future on any account. (Pioneer 27-4-29)

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There was a very shortlived strike among the Poona sweepers and municipal scavengers consequent upon attempts to improve their methods of work, which came to an end by 4-4-1929.

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During the earlier part of April 1929, the management of Staines and Mall Mills (Weavers' section) <sup>Coimbatore,</sup> insisted on the workers signing an agreement for reduced wages, and on their refusal, the weaving section was closed. The workers complain that the wages offered to the weavers who worked on double looms under the new scheme were very low and the Madras Labour Commissioner has been requested to intervene in the dispute.

(Hindu, 19-4-1929).

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INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION.  
Employers' organisations  
International Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. D. S. Erulkar, Managing Director of the Scindia Steamship Navigation Company, Ltd., has been elected to represent India officially for the first time at the meeting of Council of the International Chamber of Commerce.

(Pioneer, 13-4-1929).

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South Indian Chamber of Commerce and  
Sickness Insurance.

At the February-March 1929 meeting of the South Indian Chamber of Commerce, among other matters, the question of a sickness insurance scheme for Indian workers was considered by that body. The Government of Madras, Public Works and Labour Department, forwarded to the South Indian Chamber of Commerce copy of a letter from the Government of India requesting to be furnished with the views of the Chamber on the scheme to provide sickness insurance. Sickness insurance laws are now in force in nearly every leading country and the Committee of the Chamber was satisfied that the need of Indian workers for a scheme of compulsory health insurance in selected trades and industries is in no way less than the need of workers in other countries, and that it would not be wise to wait till the industry or enterprise can offer to shoulder the burden. It was also observed that though some large industrial concerns in Madras gave free medical attendance to their employees there is at present nothing like a system of boarding allowance during sickness.

The Committee of the South Indian Chamber recommended legislation in the first instance in respect of factories employing not less than 50 workmen, mines coming under the



Indian Mines Act, works and enterprises and transport services employing not less than 50 persons for six months or more, and large scale plantations employing not less than 100 persons. The Committee of the Chamber, however, suggested the reservation of discretionary powers to exempt concerns which are not in a satisfactory condition as well as to proceed against any corresponding reduction of wages to make good the employers' contribution to the Sickness Insurance Fund. It was also shown that practical difficulties like the migratory habits of labourers, lack of medical practitioners in rural parts, unwillingness of labour to contribute and the lack of a machinery of administration like registered Trade Unions all over the country could be eventually overcome.

(Hindu, 6-4-1929).

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Indian Chamber of Commerce, Tuticorin.

The Indian Chamber of Commerce, Tuticorin held its annual meeting at Tuticorin on 7-4-1929 under the presidentship of Mr. R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, M.L.A. In the course of his address Mr. Chetty made a reference to the problem of the prevention of accidents while loading and unloading ships. The following is a relevant extract:-

"In the report of your committee attention is drawn to the fact that accidents to which workers are exposed while loading or unloading vessels on the roadside are getting very numerous and that it is necessary to obtain statutory protection for labourers on board ships. In this connection it will interest you to know that this was one of the subjects that was considered in the last International Labour Conference at Geneva. The question of accidents to labourers while loading and unloading was on the agenda for the last conference, and in the committee to which this question was referred there was a very interesting

and heated discussion. Our friend Mr. Narottam Morajjee represented the Indian employers on this committee. After a very full discussion a questionnaire was drafted and this was approved in the final conference. In accordance with the procedure of the International Labour Conference the discussion that took place last year was the first discussion in which questionnaires to the various Governments were drafted. The replies from the various Governments must have been received by the Labour Office by this time and the whole question will again be considered in the Conference this year. On the basis of the replies from the various Governments and the further discussion that would take place this year the Conference may adopt certain conventions on the subject. These conventions will then form the basis for making the necessary laws in our country. Those of you who are specially interested in this question may usefully read the proceedings of the International Labour Conference on this subject last year".

(Hindu, 8-4-1929).

South India Skin and Hide Merchants' Association.

The annual meeting of the Association was held at the Association Hall at Errabalu Chetty Street, Madras on 27-4-1929 with the president, Jamal Mohammed Sahib in the Chair.

After dealing with the general depression in the tanning industry, the president referred to labour's demands for higher wages and more facilities. In dealing with the exchange problem, he further expatiated on the connection between the exchange policy and the conditions of labour. "In the matter of exchange, there an attempt to set off the labourers against the capitalists. But any one who is in the know of things will undoubtedly be convinced that the exchange affects the labourer as it affects anybody else. The present exchange starves and throttles the source of their wages. Agriculture, industry and commerce which are the sources of their employment are suffering acutely and this is really at the bottom of almost all labour grievances. ~~After~~ getting any wages at all in the first instance, and then better wages, the industry must be good and prosperous. But when the industry~~xxx~~ is ~~on~~ the wane, ~~thence~~ to the financial policy of the government, many labourers will, in the nature of things, have to lose their employment, apart from the inability of the industries concerned to yield better wages. The prosperity of labour depends, therefore, upon the prosperity of the ~~countryxxx~~ economic life of the country and the economic prosperity of the country depends to a ~~xxxx~~very great deal upon righting the present wrong exchange policy of the government before anything else".

He further pleaded for protection for the tanning industry which is suffering from severe foreign competition. The present export duty of 6 per cent, which in practice means only 2 to 3 per cent. through low tariff valuation, is helpful so far

as it goes. But it is not adequate and he pleaded for its enhancement.

(The Hindu, 29-4-1929).

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The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

The second quarterly meeting of the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce was held at Bombay on 8-5-1929, with Mr. Walchand Hirachand, the president, in the chair. In his opening speech Mr. Hirachand reviewed the conditions in the textile industry and the real causes of the strikes in Bombay. He said that the mill operatives have not received any increase for some time past, and that, therefore, their demand for higher wages was both natural and just. It was equally true, that the mill industry was not at present in a position to pay the increased wages to the workers. To make it possible for the industry to earn more, he urged that "protection should be given to it for a period of 5 or 7 years by increasing the import duty ~~on~~ on foreign cloth by a further 10 percent; the workers should receive one-fourth of this 10 per cent. increase, which is roughly the proportion of wages in the ~~cost~~ of production at present". Expatiating on the demands of labour, he said that it is not possible to tide over the trouble by effecting ~~some~~ <sup>small</sup> economies here and there. The workers' sense of the amenities of life has developed in common with rest of the society and they find that their means have not proportionately increased. Complaints about victimisation, demand for recognition of trade union committees in the mills and of their right to collect union ~~x~~ contributions in the mill premises, the demand for reinstatement of old hands, ~~and~~ these and similar other causes are only ~~an~~ outward symptoms of the underlying discontent and dissatisfaction among the workers. It was understood all along that the mill workers' wage, is not, properly speaking, a living

wage at this time, particularly for a city like Bombay. Under the circumstances, it is easy to see ~~how~~ why the worker is ready to strike now and then. He finds that not only is there no hope of betterment of his prospects, but that he is on the contrary faced with a cut and condemned as inefficient. His whole struggle, therefore, today looks as if it is directed to maintain his present level of wages and to save himself from unemployment. The suggestion that the import duty should be enhanced by a further 10 per cent. of which one-fourth should be paid to labour will mean an increase of 10 per cent on the present wages level, there ~~is~~ being moreover no talk of any ~~any~~ cut. The workers should of course undertake on their part not to strike while the conditions continue to be normal, under this scheme of things, during the continuance of protection. All disputes during this period should be settled either by conciliation or by arbitration and it may also be suggested that government should have the power to withdraw protection immediately after any of the party breaks the conditions. Three-fourths of the suggested increase of 10 per cent. in the import duty should go to the industrialists, in as much as it is intended by this measure definitely to enable the industry to earn more, so that it may thrive and expand and meet the bulk of the country's demands in piece goods in the near future. A meagre and small protection which just enables the industry to live hand to mouth defeats the very purpose for which it is given. It is wrong to say that mills up-country, while they may be faring slightly better than those in Bombay, <sup>are having</sup> ~~should have no~~ prosperous times. Even they are earning only just enough to pay for interest and depreciation on replacement value, which is not at all what an industry is expected to live for.

(The Times of India, 11-5-1929).

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An organisation to promote the economic interests  
of the country.

A meeting of the more important industrialists in Bombay was held on 22-3-1929 at the residence of Sir Dorab Tata, and it was resolved to form an association, the objects of which were approved as follows:-

"To promote, protect and safeguard the manufacturing industries of the country and generally to support the trade and commerce of India, and advance the economic interests of the country by all legitimate means, such as (1) to support and promote all measures calculated to foster and stimulate the manufacturing industries and trade and commerce of the country for the economic growth and well-being of India; (2) to secure for the above purpose the requisite political power and influence (3) to counteract all efforts and oppose all measures which are likely to be in any way injurious or harmful to the industrial, commercial and economic interests of India: and (4) to take steps to influence elections to the legislatures in order to secure adequate representation for the industries, trade and commerce of the country commensurate with their importance".

(Times of India, 8-5-1929).

Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay.

Addressing the first quarterly meeting of the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay on 27-4-1929, Mr. L.R. Tairsee, the president of the Chamber, dealt with important problems affecting trade and industry, and referred in great detail to the labour situation and the present strike in the mill industry.

Speaking on the labour ~~position~~ situation, Mr. Tairsee declared that if the report of the Fawcett Committee emphasised one thing more than another, it was the need of a conciliatory and sympathetic attitude on the part of Capital and responsive

co-operation on the part of Labour. The latter would do well to carry the proposed scheme of the Fawcett Committee through, as the Millowners' Association had agreed to consider the possibility of accepting the Committee's recommendation to waive the cut of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in weavers' wages. If labour leaders were actuated by a genuine desire to advance the general interests of the industry, he would suggest that they should abandon all minor issues in their dealings with owners and concentrate on the straight issues of co-operating whole-heartedly with the owners in effecting the changes proposed in the industry, which are essential to its well-being. For the sake of peace in the industry, it was to be hoped that both sides would make all possible endeavours to meet each other in a spirit of toleration and good will in arriving at a solution of the difficulties that had so long beset the industry."

The speaker, continuing, said that the present wave of Swadeshi feeling afforded an excellent opportunity for the development of the textile industry, and regretted that just when the Fawcett Committee has created an atmosphere of peace and good-will, and ~~has such~~ <sup>suggested</sup> machinery for conciliation, a fresh strike should have been started on puerile grounds. He pleaded that the strike should be called off ~~and the matters~~ and the matters in dispute referred to arbitration.

(The Times of India, 30-4-1929).

Workers' organisations

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All India Railwaymen's Federation.

\*A deputation of the All India Railwaymen's Federation led by Mr. V. V. Giri, the General Secretary of the Federation, waited upon Sir George Rainy, the Railway Member of the Government of India, at Simla on the 4th May 1929. The deputation consisted of Messrs. V.V.Giri (spokesman of the Federation), S. C. Joshi, M.L.C., Bombay, representing the G.I.P. staff; D.P. Chetti, G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union; Mathurani, President, North-west Railway Union; Krishnamurti, Secretary, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Union; Fataukha Khan, President, Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway Employees' Union; M.N.Mukerjee, Joint Secretary, Bengal Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union; J.N.Gupta, representing Eastern Bengal Railway Employees' Union; Nadkarni, Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway Union and S. Guruswami, Assistant Secretary of the Federation.

The deputation represented over 100,000 railway workers drawn from almost all the railway systems of India. The demands formulated in the memorandum submitted by the deputation were comprehensive, touching all aspects of the grievances of Indian railwaymen. They were 24 in number falling under such heads as wages, promotion, allowances, hours of attendance, holidays, quarters, medical aid, leave, provident fund or gratuity, fines, insecurity of service, victimisation, racial discrimination, etc.

As regards the question of wages, it was stated that the present wages of subordinate railway employees were most inadequate both the minimum and the maximum; that employees were barred at the maximum of every grade for several years; that at the end of their service they did not get a living wage.

See pp 33-34 of this Office's report for March 1929



Another defect in the present wage system was the differentiation made in pay on the ground of the difference in designations, although precisely the same kind of work was done by the employees. It was also pointed out that there was no standardisation of working conditions and different railways paid different rates for employees doing precisely the same work. This was sometimes done by a difference in designations, a system which has resulted in anomalous positions which were more marked when the employees of the different railways worked at the same place.

The next point stated in the memorandum was the practice prevailing on some railways of making payments to men on rates below the sanctioned minimum of a grade. The barring of further increment on reaching the low maximum of each grade for want of vacancies in the higher grade was stated to be a serious defect in the existing wage systems of ~~the~~ different railways. The defect was further intensified by the irregular practice of filling vacancies in the higher posts, not according to seniority but according to personal considerations. Favouritism had a large scope in making such appointments. It was ~~further~~ <sup>therefore</sup> suggested that all existing grades should be amalgamated, there should be time scales of pay for all classes of employees, and the present minimum and maximum should be substantially increased.

The necessity ~~of~~ for introducing a time scale of pay for all employees was stated to be an admitted principle, as all employees in Government Departments were given the time scale of pay. The only question, therefore, which remained, was as to what should be the time scale for the different classes of railway employees. It was submitted that the Government of India and the Railway Board should follow the analogy of the time scale ~~of~~ for employees of corresponding status in other Government Departments working in different places in India. It was stated that the analogy of the Posts and Telegraphs Department might be very useful, as employees in that department were working throughout

the length and breadth of India and like railwaymen, belonged to a public utility service and worked on a commercial basis.

It was further pointed out that the principle of supply and demand, which was long exploded, should not be brought forward in sanctioning the time scale of pay to railwaymen.

With a view to avoid all anomalies, employees coming under various designations should be classified into unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, clerical (ordinary) and semi-technical.

Under the first category would come menials, coolies, lifters, pattern cleaners, etc.

The second class would include shop number takers, cranemen, strikers, shunting jemadars, fitters, oilers, etc.

Boiler makers, cranemen, fitters and carpenters are included under the class of skilled labour.

Foreman, Permanentway Inspectors, Block Inspectors and others can be grouped as highly technical. Accountants, Station Masters and Signallers were grouped under the category ~~xxx~~ of semi-technical.

It was further pointed out that as a large number of railwaymen had to work in big centres and their services were interchangeable with others working in different places it was desirable to have one uniform time scale of pay with suitable local allowances to compensate for varying conditions in different localities, ranging from 10 to 25 per cent. of the pay.

It was therefore suggested that the following should be the time scale of different classes of employees:-

Unskilled workers, Rs. 25-1-45.

Semi-skilled, Rs. 30-2-60.

Skilled, Rs. 50-5-150.

Clerical (ordinary) Rs. 50-5-175.

Semi-technical Clerks, Rs. 80-5-200.

Supervising staff for unskilled and semi-skilled, Rs. 50-5-150

Supervisors for skilled staff, Rs. 150-10-350.

Superintendents, Rs. 350-25-700.

Superintendents for Clerks (ordinary), Rs. 350-25-700.

Semi-technical Clerks, Rs. 80-5-200.

Supervisors for Clerks, Rs. 250-20-450.

Superintendents for Clerks, Rs. 450-25-700.

It was further stated that the number of Supervisors' posts should be at least 20 per cent and that they should be filled according to seniority and competency. As regards Superintendents' posts, it was stated that there should be a competitive examination open to all employees with five or more years of service.

The memorandum then discussed various allowances. As regards the overtime allowance, it was stated that all employees who were required to work beyond the usual ~~time~~ duty hours should be given overtime allowance, and that no differentiation should be made between employees, classed under different designations.

As regards Sunday and holiday allowance, it was stated that under the Geneva and Washington Conventions it was necessary that every employee should be given one off day in a week. It was, however, stated that if it was not practicable to give concessions to any employee he should be compensated by a holiday allowance. It was further pointed out that work in different offices was steadily growing by reason of the increase in traffic submission of additional statistical information and want of sufficient relieving staff. There was, however, no corresponding increase in the existing staff to cope with that additional work. The staff was therefore required either to stay late or come on Sundays and other holidays to finish their work. It was requested that Sunday or holiday allowance should be sanctioned for such work.

It was also suggested that relieving clerks should be entitled to a relieving allowance all the time they were away from headquarters. The next question discussed dealt with insecurity of service and the terms of the service bond. The memorandum suggested a procedure to be adopted in cases where dismissal or discharge had to be resorted to, and requested that every employer should be regarded as permanent after two years continuous service. As regards fines debits and other punishments, the memorandum asked for the promulgation of clear and definite rules leaving no loop-hole for victimisation or personal malice. The fines fund should be under the control of representatives of employees and should be utilised only for the benefit of the workers. The memorandum further asked that no employee taking part in trade union activities should be directly or indirectly victimised, and offered definite suggestions as to how the spirit of the Washington and Geneva conventions on hours could be given effect to. In the matter of leave also, the employees claimed that they should be given the same treatment as government servants, and that the "Fundamental Rules" of the <sup>Indian</sup> government services should be extended to them.

In the matter of medical relief it was pointed out that if defective vision or any ailment of an employee was due to his work, ~~and as such~~ it should be treated as an injury under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Similarly, men such as drivers reduced for medical unfitness should be entitled to get compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Zenana Hospitals should be provided in railway colonies and compulsory counter-signature of medical certificates by railway doctors should be dispensed with.

The last question discussed in the memorandum was the recognition of unions. It was stated that all unions of staff should be duly recognised and should be entitled to represent individual cases.

In conclusion, it was stated that the memorandum was confined to the main grievances that the railwaymen in India were labouring under. It was hoped that if the principle of joint consultation was conceded, such misunderstanding in the future relations of railwaymen in India and the Railway administrations would be removed.

Sir George Rainy, replying, referred to the announcement, during his last Railway budget speech, of his proposal to set on foot a systematic examination of the service conditions of the lower-paid employees in order to ascertain what were the measures most urgently called for in order to bring about improvement. This examination would cover not only rates of pay and wages, but also reductions of working hours, extension of Provident Fund to new classes, improvement in housing conditions, etc. Only 4 out of the 24 proposals in the Memorandum now presented fell outside that enquiry; and these are the establishment of wages Boards - obviously a matter to be dealt with by the Whitley Commission -, racial discrimination, recognition of Trade Unions, and victimisation. Questions like bad climate allowances, supply of uniforms and creation of Railway institutes call for no general enquiry. The Government will inform the Railway Company Agents of their policy, which will be given effect to as funds permit. Questions like promotions, overtime and travelling and relieving allowances, and fines and debits may well form the subject of enquiry, but they are not urgent and must wait their turn. With regard to a third group of questions, including provident funds and gratuity, fines fund, free passes, periodical medical examination and medical certificates, enquiries have already been begun. A fourth group of subjects which called for no enquiry included piece-rates difficulties and the extension of medical aid. As regards the first, the Railway administrations wanted a free hand, and much has already been done <sup>and</sup> - this policy will be

continued - in the direction of extending medical benefits. In the fifth group must be reckoned the most important of the present proposals - those regarding wages and the position of the daily rated men, hours of work and the weekly rest day, insecurity of service and appeals, leave, quarters and house-rent. As regards wages, the limited funds at the disposal of the Government made it impossible for them to accept the wages classification suggested by the Deputation; nor can they adopt the principle of uniformity of pay in all railway administrations. The same remark applies to quarters and house rent, though in the matter of the provision of housing the Government's record was a very good one. As regards insecurity of service, Government were prepared to recognise that length of service does establish a claim when the question of discontinuing one's service is considered. Secondly, the power of discharge and dismissal will be limited to senior officers; and thirdly all appeals will be carefully gone into.

Sir George Rainy then said that he could speak only on behalf of the State-owned Railways, while some of the most important systems were company-owned. Nor, on the other hand, could the All India Railwaymen's Federation claim a representative character as it had a membership of only less than 100,000. He therefore argued that it was ~~unwise~~ to discuss specific proposals on the basis that either party can come to a binding agreement. "I cannot hold out hopes" said he, "that the questions you have raised can become the subject of further discussion between you and me". He therefore recommended the Unions to place their case before their respective agents.

The delegation then withdrew.

All India Trade Union Congress Committee.

A meeting of the All India Trade Union Congress Committee was held at Bombay on 27 and 28-4-1929 under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The meeting was attended by a large number of representatives of trade unions all over India. The recent arrests of alleged communists, the promulgation of the Public Safety Ordinance by H.E. the Governor-General, and the passage of the Trade Disputes Bill in the Legislative Assembly are understood to have largely figured in the discussions at the meeting which was conducted in camera.

Mr. D.B.Kulkarni moved a proposition to boycott the Royal Commission on Labour in view of the "repressive" policy of the Government of India. But the proposition did not find favour with the majority of the members present. It was then resolved that individual trade unions and their office-bearers be allowed to choose their own line of action without, however, committing the All India Trade Union Congress Committee to any definite view.

The Committee next considered proposals received from certain trade unions in the Central Provinces, Bengal and Bombay that the representatives of Labour at the ensuing International Labour Conference at Geneva - whose names have been notified recently - should be called upon to withdraw their consent to represent India at the Conference in view of the labor leaders' arrests, the promulgation of the Public Safety Ordinance and the passing of the Trade Disputes Bill. On this question also, there was a wide divergence of views and it was thrown out by a majority.

There was a strong debate as to who would represent the country at the ensuing session of the League against Imperialism in Paris in the absence of Joglekar and Thengde who were

elected at the last session of the Trade Union Congress and who were now awaiting trial at Meerut. One of the members present moved that two of the labour delegates at the Geneva Conference be requested to take the place of the two persons. One of the delegates-designate present is understood to have expressed his disinclination to avail himself of this offer and it was also pointed out that others too might not feel enthusiastic about their representation at the Paris session. The tangle was solved for the time being by choosing Mr. Purandare, a member of the B.B. and C.I. Railway Union, Bombay and keeping the other place vacant till such time as the consent of any one of the Geneva delegates was obtained.

A proposition to raise a Political Fund by trade unions for running elections to the different legislatures in the country was deferred till the next session of the Trade Union Congress at Nagpur. It was, however, agreed that meantime the trade unions be consulted as to the lines on which the elections should be conducted.

The Committee then passed a long resolution protesting against the policy of Government. The resolution read thus:-

"This meeting strongly condemns the recent indiscriminate and whole-sale arrests and house searches of a number of trade union workers as a part of the policy of repression directed by Government against the speedy growth of the trade union movement in India;

"This meeting further condemns the methods adopted by the authorities in bringing the accused from all parts of the country to an out of the way place like Meerut where they are deprived of their right to be tried by a jury and other facilities for a proper defence open to such accused in Presidency towns to which a majority of the accused belong;

"This meeting considers that the promulgation of the Public Safety Ordinance and the passage of the Trade Disputes



Bill in spite of the determined opposition of the All India Trade Union Congress and in defiance of public opinion in the country expressed both in the Legislative Assembly and outside constitute a great menace to the existence of the Labour movement in India:

"This meeting recommends to all affiliated unions of working class organisations to observe May day and to record its strong protest against the repressive policy of Government; and

"This meeting expresses its heartfelt sympathy with those under arrest and appeals to the Unions to endeavour to bring about cent per cent. organisation on trade union lines and thus protect their interests".

(The Times of India, 30-4-1929).

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#### Grievances of Post and Telegraph Employees.

A deputation consisting of Colonel Gidney, M.L.A., Mr. H. Suhrawardy, Member of the Council of State, Nawab Muhamad Ismail, M.L.A., and Mr. Amarnath Mal waited on Mr. Rogers, Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on 10-4-1929 and presented to him the various grievances of the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs and the Telephone Department. The following points were discussed:-

(1) the more liberal appointment of subordinates of the electric branch to first division electrical appointments;

(2) grievances of postal recruited telegraphists which the department now hopes will in a measure be remedied:

(3) increase of pay for station service telegraphists in Madras and Karachi:

(4) prospects of pay and pension of taskwork peons and the granting of pensions to mistries, telephone operators and members of all other departments without any exception who at present are non-pensionable:

(5) grant of leave to peons (by hand durwans etc.):

(6) the administration and control of the Telephone Department to be made as far as possible a separate department. The deputation also stated that ample opportunities be afforded to the staff in the upper and the lower subordinate grades to rise to the higher grades, that house rent be given to the staff and that all sections of the Telephone Department be made a pensionable service. Mr. Rogers gave a patient hearing which lasted over an hour. He promised to give his sympathetic consideration to all points raised by the deputation.

(The Times of India, 12-4-1929).

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All India Spinners' Association.

The Council of the All India Spinning Association met at Sabarmati Ashram (Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram) on 4-4-1929. The annual report was passed and the audited accounts for 1922-28 were adopted. The progress of the Association has been steady. The total amount of public collections in 1927-28 for the Association was Rs. 3,44,612. Khaddar to the value of Rs. 24,16,382 was produced in the year under report, Tamil Nadu alone taking credit for about Rs. 10,00,000 worth of khaddar. The sales amounted to over Rs. 33,00,000. There are now 310 centres for khaddar, 156 of which are directly run by the All India Spinners' Association, the rest being private and aided organisations.

The activities of the Association cover nearly 3000 villages. The figures collected showing the number of spinners and weavers employed are not exhaustive in case of certain provinces, but details collected so far, show that no less than 90,212 spinners and 4672 weavers are employed in this movement. It is

estimated that a sum of Rs. 500,000 has been distributed as wages to spinners, and Rs. 700,000 among weavers employed in khaddar production. The number of literate young men employed in the work of organisation came up to nearly a thousand. Reference is made in the report to the success of the Khaddi centre organised by the Mysore Government, and to the possibility of similar work being undertaken by other Indian states, where the poverty of the peasantry necessitates the introduction of a widespread supplementary village industry. It is understood that the Baroda Government is contemplating experiment in this direction.

(The Hindu, 9-4-1929).

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.The Banking Inquiry.

The personnel of the Banking Committee has not yet been announced, though according to the original plan the Central Committee was to have met at Simla by the middle of May (see April report of this office -- page 53). Sir George Schuster, the Finance Member, made a visit to Bombay in the closing week of April to personally discuss with the leaders of the commercial community important matters of policy connected with the proposed banking enquiry. At an interview granted to the Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, the Finance Member announced that it was government's intention to appoint an Indian as the president of the **Banking Inquiry Committee**.

Early in April the Government of India addressed <sup>a letter</sup> to all provincial governments, in which it was stated that it had been decided to inaugurate an inquiry into the general banking organization of the country which is intimately connected with the question of the formation of a Central or Reserve Bank. For this purpose it was proposed to set up:-

- (a) a Central Committee, and
- (b) a number of Provincial Committees to deal with the special requirements of different provinces, such Provincial Committees to consist of persons who have knowledge of local conditions, which will be all important.

The Government of India added that to arrive at a clear definition of the scope and functions of the Central and Provincial Committees respectively, it was necessary to analyse in some detail the subjects which it was intended that the inquiry as a whole should cover, and the analysis arrived at in the course of the preliminary discussion was as follows:-

- (i) The regulation of banking, with the object of protecting depositors and thereby increasing confidence in the banking system.

(ii) Banking education, with the object of providing facilities for obtaining training in banking and generally of creating a body of people who had a real knowledge of the principles and practice of banking, and

(iii) The development and extension of banking on sound lines.

The last item was capable of further sub-division as follows:-

(a) Industrial banks and credit ~~bank~~ facilities for India's main industries like cotton, jute, coal, etc.:

(b) Financing of foreign trade:

(c) Agricultural credit (including co-operative credit) and credit facilities for small industries:

(d) Mortgage banks: and

(e) Financing of internal trade in connection with all the above headings.

It was suggested that heads (i), (ii) and (iii)(b) should be definitely excluded from the purview of the Provincial Committees already described, and that head (iii)(a) might also be treated from the beginning as primarily the concern of the Central Committee, although it was recognized that there were certain aspects or sub-divisions of the subject to which the Provincial Committees might make a useful contribution. The main matter for study by the Provincial Committees would, however, be head (iii)(c)(d) and (e).

As regards the composition of the Committees, it was suggested that the Provincial Committees should contain the following personnel:-

(i) A senior officer of Government with considerable district experience and knowledge of rural economy, who would be Chairman:

(ii) A co-operative expert to provide special experience on rural agricultural credit:

- (iii) An Indian Economist:
- (iv) A representative of commerce:
- (v) A representative of the indigenous banking industry:
- (vi) A non-official with a close knowledge of the interests of the agricultural classes, who could represent their interests as the classes <sup>2</sup> who required credit facilities: and
- (vii) Possibly another non-official similarly to represent small urban interests.

It was contemplated that the Central Committee which would act throughout in close contact with the Hon'ble the Finance Member, should include the following:-

- (a) Two members nominated in consultation with the Federation of Indian Chambers.
- (b) Two members nominated in consultation with the Associated Chambers of Commerce.
- (c) An Indian Economist.
- (d) A banker nominated in consultation with the Imperial Bank of India.
- (e) A banker nominated in consultation with the Association of Co-operative Banks.
- (f) A banker ~~in~~ nominated in consultation with the Exchange Banks Association.
- (g) A joint-stock banker, and
- (h) An indigenous banker.

... ..

#### Bardoli Committee Report.

The report of the Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay to inquire into the complaints of the people of the Bardoli and Chorasi Talukas about the revenue assessments of the two talukas was published on 7-5-1929. (A brief report of the findings of the small non-official committee appointed

by the Nationalist party in the Bombay Legislative Council in July 1928 to inquire into the same question appears at pages 49 and 50 of the report of this office for March 1929). The present report is signed by Mr. R.S.Broomfield, I.C.S. and Mr. R.M.Maxwell, C.I.E., I.C.S., The terms of reference of the Committee were "to enquire into and report upon the complaint of the people of Bardoli and Chorasi taluqas (a) that the enhancement of revenue recently made is not warranted in terms of the Land Revenue Code, (b) that the reports accessible to the people do not contain sufficient data warranting the enhancement, and that some of the data are wrong; and in the event of it being held that the people's complaint was justified, what enhancement or reduction, if any, there should be upon the old assessment.

On the first issue the report finds that there is no legal hindrance in the Land Revenue Code to the basing of the assessment on "rental value". On the second issue, namely, that the reports accessible to the public do not contain sufficient data warranting the ~~an~~ enhancement, and that some of the data given are wrong, the report substantially endorses the contentions of the ryots. After discussing in detail the data relied upon by the settlement officer, especially as regards railways and roads, marketing facilities, the crop grown in the talukas and the extent to which such crops are expected, population, new houses, agricultural stock, the cotton boom, prices, increase in rents, etc., the report concludes that the Settlement Officer has in his earlier assessments erred on the side of optimism. The report accordingly finds neither the general increases sanctioned in the maximum rates nor the much higher increases in the case of particular villages warranted by the facts of the case. The report, therefore, has lowered the assessment in both the talukas.

As regards Bardoli Taluka the report proposes a net increase of Rs. 30,806 or 6 per cent. over the old assessment of the taluka. Compared with the second revision settlement as sanctioned, the new settlement shows a decrease of Rs. 89,379. In Chorasi taluka the report proposes a total increase of Rs. 17,842 or 5.24 per cent. over the old assessment. This is, however, Rs. 49,465 less than the second revision settlement. In the two talukas taken together, the second revision settlement already sanctioned imposed an increase of Rs. ~~22~~ 1,87,942 or 22 per cent, the proposals outlined in the report, on the other hand, allow only an increase of Rs. 48,648 or 5.7 per cent

The report has been hailed with great satisfaction by the nationalists and even such strong supporters of Government policy as the Times of India and the Statesman admit that the revenue policy ~~xx~~ of the Government has been wrong in the present instance. The Bombay Government in their order on the report declare they are not prepared at the present stage to commit themselves to any questions of general principle discussed in the report, but accept the specific recommendations as to the maximum rates and groupings of villages, and will take steps to give effect to them forthwith.

... ..

#### Revenue Members' Conference.

The Viceroy opened a conference of the Revenue Members of the various provincial governments at Simla on 11-5-1929.

The question of holding such a conference had ~~h~~ long been under consideration, owing to the difficulties felt by all provinces to promote land revenue legislation. Originally it was argued that the various provinces should be allowed to pursue their own policy, but lately the idea of an informal conference has found favour with the government due, it is surmised, to certain recent developments as those at Bardoli.



It will be remembered that when Sir Pheroze Sethna's resolution asking for an enquiry into the land revenue question came up before the Council of State on 20-3-1929, Sir Mahomed Habibullah, speaking on behalf of the Government, declared that he had no objection to consult the provincial governments as to whether the appointment of a Committee of enquiry was necessary. The Committee that Sir Pheroze Sethna asked for was to investigate and report on the systems of land revenue in the different provinces of India, their economic effects, the changes and modifications necessary in those systems, in order to bring about the economic prosperity of the agricultural population, and any ~~other~~ financial readjustments that will be considered necessary as a result of the changes proposed. What are demanded by the public is the abolition of the practice of endowing the executive authority with arbitrary powers of arriving at the rate of settlement, and an effective voice to the provincial legislatures in determining the principle of re-settlement. The public argue that what is true of Bardoli today is true of any other ryotwari tract in India: and that the only solution which is consistent with democratic principles is the adoption of the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament that the principle of re-settlement should be brought under the purview of legislation, thus giving the representatives of the people some real control over land revenue matters. (See the quotation at pages 50 and 51 of this office's monthly report for March 1929.

The proceedings of the land revenue conference are being kept confidential.

... ..

Economic distress in the Central Provinces of India.

The utter failure of crops in certain parts of the Central Provinces has given rise to a somewhat serious situation, and the Government have been compelled to remit the land revenue from those areas, and to start famine relief measures. According to a press communiqué appearing in the Times of India of 13-5-1929, the Government has now sanctioned the remission of the whole of the suspended rabi (spring) instalment of land revenue for 1928, amounting to nearly Rs. 1.4 millions in the districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor and Damoh. Sanction has also been given for the full suspension of the current rabi instalment of land revenue, amounting to over Rs. 1.6 millions. Nearly Rs. 250,000 have also been suspended in the Seoni district. The current rabi instalment in the Nerbadda district has also been suspended to the extent of Rs. 300,000 out of a total demand of nearly Rs. 500,000. Consequent upon the general suspension of land revenue, the instalments of taccavi (agricultural loans to the peasants made by the State) due for payment with the current rabi revenue collection have also been postponed.

According to a statement showing the number of persons on relief works and in receipt of ~~gratuitous~~ gratuitous relief in different parts of the country issued by the Government of India on 16-5-1929, during the first week of May 1929, 60,031 persons were in receipt of famine relief in the United Provinces and 87,564 persons in the Central Provinces were either employed on relief works or were in receipt of gratuitous relief.

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### Prevention of Prostitution.

#### Bombay.

The Bombay Vigilance Association has been informed by the Government of Bombay that the Government was drafting a Bill embodying several amendments to the Bombay Prevention of Prostitution Act, and that the Government propose to appoint a committee consisting of the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, the Police Commissioner, Bombay, two nominees of the Bombay Vigilance Association, and the Under Secretary, Home Department, Government of Bombay, to consider the proposed amendments from a practical point of view. The Bombay Vigilance Association is strongly advocating the total suppression of all brothels in the city.

... ..

#### Madras.

The Madras Government is also contemplating to enact legislation for the suppression of brothels. The Bill for the suppression of brothels and immoral traffic has reached the Select Committee stage. The Select Committee has been holding its sittings in Madras in the middle of April and examining witnesses in order to elicit public opinion on the proposed legislation.

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#### Opium Consumption in Bombay.

The Government of Bombay have appointed a Committee to enquire into the causes of the excessive consumption of opium in the city of Bombay and to suggest measures for checking it.

The personnel of the Committee is as follows:-

The collector of Bombay (Chairman)

Members: Dr. E. Moses, M.D., Executive Health Officer,

Bombay Municipality, Dr. D.M.Gagrat, L.M.S., the Hon. Sir  
Manmohandas Ramji, Kt., and Mr. Syed Munawar, B.A., M.L.C.

The Committee is now holding its sittings and has drawn up a  
questionnaire for supply to individuals and public bodies desir-  
ing to give evidence before it.

(The Times of India, 8-4-1929)

MARITIME AFFAIRS.Seamen in Bombay\*.

On account of the acuteness of unemployment among seamen in Bombay, the Bombay Social Service League, of which Mr. N.M. Joshi is the secretary, undertook an enquiry into their conditions of unemployment, so that measures to mitigate the evils may be suggested. The investigation was carried out by Mr. P.G. Kanekar, one of the workers of the League. The report describes the social and economic conditions of the various classes of seamen in Bombay such as Goans, Konkani Mohammadans, Kharwas, Moplahs from Malabar and South Kanara and Mohammadans from Bengal. In the course of the investigation 243 statements were recorded including statements from representatives ~~xx~~ ~~xx~~ of saloon workers, ~~xx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xx~~, deck workers, and engine room workers. It is pointed out that owing to the long periods of unemployment and to the nature of their social customs most of the seamen in Bombay are in debt. The method of recruitment is defective and leads to bribery and corruption. The method suggested for dealing with the problem is the rationalisation of the methods of recruitment. From the evidence collected it is clear that bribes are paid by seamen for securing jobs and that employment is often given to the highest bidder. The result of this method is that the man who is really in need cannot afford to pay anything, and in consequence remains unemployed. The Union of Seamen will be able to do something to stop the existing evils of recruitment, but it will be necessary for the government to establish an employment bureau as recommended by the Committee appointed in 1922 by the Government of India to make enquiries into the subject. The report also makes a recommendation for the setting up of advisory committees of representatives of shipowners and seamen as contemplated by the

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\* Report of an enquiry into the conditions of their life and work with appendices containing other valuable information. Published by Mr. N.M. Joshi, Bombay, 1929. Pp. 46. Price 8 annas

Genoa convention as early as possible. Some such machinery is necessary to deal with the present problem and those that may arise in future.

Of the appendices, the first deals with the system of recruiting seamen at Bombay and Calcutta, the second with the existing legal measures for the protection of seamen, the third with the draft conventions and recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conferences with regard to the conditions of seamen and the fourth sets forth the resolutions passed in the Indian Legislative Assembly regarding the draft conventions and recommendations on seamen adopted by the various International Labour Conferences.

(A copy of this report has already been forwarded to Geneva along with this office minute A 2/402/29, dated the 25th April 1929).

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#### The New Marine Club at Kidderpore.

A new marine club at Kidderpore, Calcutta, costing about Rs. 700,000 was officially opened at Calcutta in April 29. It is a handsome two-storied building and is built in three sections making up a single unit with accommodation in each section for captains and ships' <sup>surgeons</sup> ~~sergeants~~, officers and men. The Club is equipped with a stage and cinema, music rooms and libraries, bars and billiard rooms, 4 tennis courts and a swimming bath. Provision has also been made for the addition of a third storey to the building. A navigation instructor will be resident for the convenience of men pursuing their studies. Situated nearly a few hundred yards east of the King George's Dock, the Club is barely ten minutes walk from any of the berths.

INDIANS AS MARINE ENGINEERS.

The following press communiqué has been issued *by the Govt of India*:

The question of the training of Indians as Marine Engineers has been engaging the attention of the Government of India for sometime past. The rules for the examination of Marine Engineers prescribe certain qualifications which a candidate must possess before he can sit for examination for a second class Engineer's certificate.

Generally speaking the qualifications required fall under two heads, (a) Workshop service and (b) Sea service. ~~Practical training~~ Practical training in the construction and erection of marine engines cannot at present be obtained in India, and to enable candidates to obtain the necessary training, the Government of India have decided to award this year three State technical scholarships of the value of £240 per annum each (inclusive of a bonus of £40) tenable in England for the period of training, subject to certain conditions.

The total period of training will extend from six to seven years. Of this four to five years will be required to complete the training at one of His Majesty's Dockyards or at a private firm of marine engineers as may be arranged by the High Commissioner for India. The period of apprenticeship will be followed by training for 18 months at sea in a foreign-going ship, arrangements for which will also be made by the High Commissioner.

The scholarships will be awarded after a competitive examination which will be held at different centres in India on the 15th July 1929 and following days. Rules and conditions for the grant of these scholarships and the rules for the competitive examination for the selection of candidates for the scholarships are being published in Part I of the Gazette of India dated the 13th April 1929. Applications for entry to the examination

must be made on the prescribed form copies of which can be obtained from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce, and they must reach that Department on or before the 15th June 1929.

(Hindustan Times, 12-4-1929).

... ..

Deck Passengers.

Two cuttings are enclosed, one from the Hindu of 11-4-1929 and the other from the Hindustan Times of 28-4-1929, which give an account of Mahatma Gandhi's impression of the treatment of deck passengers in the B.I.S.N.Co's boats. He says:- As in railway carriages so in steamships, there was not much difference between the condition of travelling so far as the lowest class travelling is concerned. There was the same squalor the same indifference, the same over-crowding, the same stench and the same din and noise as before". A companion of Mahatma Gandhi who made an inspection of deck accommodation on board the S.S. Aronda has made a report which is reproduced in these articles. It is there said that "there is deck accommodation on the "Aronda" for about 1,500 passengers, though in the busy season this limitation is over-looked. There are for the use of these 1,500 passengers two tiny bath rooms and twelve latrines in sets of four for the males and two bath rooms and 8 latrines for the females, -- an average of one latrine to 75 passengers and one bath room to 375 passengers. The twin or the lowermost deck is dark and dingy and stuffy and hot to the point of suffocation. Electric lights have to be kept burning for the most part and there is no direct access to sea air."



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MIGRATION.

Indians Abroad.

The eighth session of the East African Indian National Congress was held at Mombasa on 13-4-1929 under the presidency of Pandit H. Kunzru, M.L.A. The occasion was availed of to take stock of Indian claims vis a vis the claims of the European settlers in Kenya. The publication of the Hilton-Young Commission report had intensified feeling among both the European settlers and Indians. The Europeans have reiterated their demand for responsible government, for a majority of elected Europeans in the Council, and have declared their unwillingness to co-operate in any scheme of closer union between Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda unless they receive that larger measure of self government which would enable them to dominate the policy of the Union (Hindu, 1-4-1929)

The Indian position has been explained by Mr. Kunzru in his presidential speech at Mombasa on 13-4-1929. He strongly opposed the European demand for self-government or increase in European influence in the Kenya Government and the reopening by Sir Samuel Wilson (the Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies who is visiting Kenya in connection with the Hilton-Young Report) of the self-government question. Pandit Kunzru also pleaded for a common electoral roll, and expressed the opinion that Indians had made all reasonable concessions to meet European apprehensions. The East African Indian Congress was fully in agreement with Pandit Kunzru's views and passed resolutions supporting generally the Hilton-Young report accepting African trusteeship as adumbrated in it (which makes the Imperial Government and not the British settlers the trustees for the African natives) also opposing European self-government, and increase in the number of Europeans in the Kenya Legislative Council. The Congress, while opposed to any

political union, welcomed the economic union of Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda, demanded adequate representation of Indians on the Advisory Councils of the central authority, and the appointment of an Indian Private Secretary to the Central Authority. (Times of India, 17-4-1929).

At the invitation of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Government of India have deputed the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri to help the Indian community in East Africa to state its views to Sir Samuel Wilson on matters arising out of the Hilton-Young Commission's Report and to be at Sir Samuel Wilson's disposal if he wishes to make use of him in dealing with Indian deputations. Mr. Sastri sailed from Bombay on 1-5-1929 for East Africa.

#### Cape Town Agreement Threatened.

According to a Free Press telegram dated 2-5-1929 from Johannesburg, the Cape Town Agreement, one of the essential principles of which is that Indians in the Union are to be accepted as an integral part of the South African population, has been threatened by General Smuts in one of his election speeches. Speaking at Pretoria General Smuts declared "Our policy should be summarised as 'no Asiatic immigration, and as fast ~~as~~ a repatriation of those Asiatics in the Union with no chance of their returning, as is possible'".

"The Hindu" of 4-5-1929 publishes a leader dealing with the sufferings and tribulations of those Indians who have been induced to return to India. According to "the Hindu", many of the repatriated Indians have been induced to leave Africa as the result of false expectations held out to them and the Government has been guilty of callous neglect of them after their landing in India.

The following figures have been supplied by the Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic affairs to the South

African Indian Congress as regards the number of Indians who have been repatriated from South Africa to India since August 1927:-

	<u>Month.</u>	<u>Men.</u>	<u>Women.</u>	<u>Boys.</u>	<u>Girls.</u>
<u>1927.</u>					
	August	124	51	45	34
	September	188	96	90	62
	October	112	33	48	40
	November	141	65	43	57
	December	182	104	82	80
<u>1928.</u>					
	January	109	58	45	53
	February	184	89	85	89
	March	128	57	65	49
	April	131	58	54	49
	May	144	78	82	76
	June	75	31	22	30
	July	102	45	46	52
	August	16	9	9	5
	September	122	45	47	57
	October	164	78	58	77
Grand total ...					4450

For 15 months, that is to say from August 1927 to October 1928, an average of 299 men, women and children left for India under the scheme.

(from the South African letter in the Times of India of 10-5-1929).

#### The New Fiji Constitution.

The Government of Fiji has recently issued a press communiqué about constitutional changes. The chief variations from the present constitution concern the Legislative Council. The present council consists of the Governor and 12 nominated members (including one Indian member), seven elected members and two native members. Under the new constitution there will be an increase in the nominated members of one and a reduction in the European elected members of one, an increase in the native members of one, and provision for three elected Indian members. The total strength of the new council will be distributed thus:- 13 nominated members, 6 European elected members, 3 native members, 3 Indian members. The extension of the franchise to Indians is new and coincides with the 50th anniversary in May next of the first arrival of Indians in Fiji.

(The hindu, 1-5-1929).

Standing Emigration Committee

Central Legislature.

The following have been nominated by the Member for Education with the approval of the Governor-General from panels elected by the Council of State and the Assembly, to serve on the Standing Emigration Committee:

Mr. G. A. Natesan,  
Sir Umar Hayat Khan,  
Sir Phiroze Sethna,  
Mr. Ram Saran Das,  
Sir Abdul Qayum,  
Mr. M.C.Rajah,  
Sir Darcy Lindsay,  
Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas,  
Sir Hari Singh Gour,  
Mr. Triloki Nath,  
Haji Abdullah Haroon, and  
Lieut.-Colonel H.A.T.Gidney.

(Pioneer, 29-4-1929).

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

Report for June 1929.

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GENERAL.

The most important political event during the period under review is the extension of the life of the Legislative Assembly\*. Even before the end of the Delhi Session and the departure of the Government of India for Simla, there was considerable speculation about a possible extension of the life of the Indian legislature. Sir Hari Singh Gour, a member of the Assembly and of the Indian Central (Simon) Committee, busied himself during the closing days of the ~~hot~~ <sup>Cold</sup> weather session to canvass support from members of the Assembly for a petition, in which a definite request for the prolongation of the Assembly was embodied. The idea of the petition did materialise and a petition signed by Sir Hari Singh Gour and a score or so of co-operating politicians was presented to the Viceroy early in April. This bid on the part of the co-operators for an extended lease of life nettled the Swarajist party in the Assembly, and the party's leader, Pandit Motilal Nehru, wrote to Mr. Crerar, the leader of the Assembly, to allot a day for the discussion of the question of the life of the Assembly. Mr. Crerar declined to accede to the request. The Swarajists thereupon decided to move an adjournment of the House to discuss the question, but eventually no adjournment motion was made. It has been alleged subsequently that the reason why Pandit Motilal did not press for an adjournment motion on the question was that the Viceroy had informed him informally through the President of the House that there was no probability of the Government deciding to prolong the life of the Assembly. The Delhi Session of the Assembly

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\* See this office reports March 1929, page 3, para 2;  
April 1929, page 7, para 3;  
May 1929, page 2, para 2.

closed on the 12th April, leaving the all important questions of the next elections and the life of the present Assembly in a vague and indefinite position.

It may be mentioned here that, in the ordinary course of events, the Assembly, having completed its allotted span of 3 years of existence, would have been dissolved about the end of September 1929, and fresh elections would have been held by December to enable the new Legislative Assembly to meet by January 1930. But a Gazette of India Extraordinary dated Simla, 23rd May, containing an announcement by the Governor General, gave a definitely new turn to affairs. The announcement was to the effect that the Assembly would not be dissolved in September 1929, that the present Assembly would continue to function, but that no final decision has been reached on the actual period of the extension, and that before the necessity arises of making a formal order on the extension of the life of the Assembly beyond its normal term, the Governor General shall reconsider the matter and make a definite announcement. The following are the reasons assigned by Lord Irwin for his decision. According to him there are "evident disadvantages in holding the elections for the Assembly on the eve of the publication of the report of the Statutory Commission". Further, the reports of the Statutory Commission, the Indian Central Committee, and some of the provincial committees cannot be expected before the beginning of 1930, and therefore, at the time when elections would be held, speculation as to the possible recommendations of these bodies and the resulting uncertainty could not fail to be embarrassing, both to candidates and electors. The announcement has created considerable resentment among nationalist politicians, and has met with



a ~~mx~~ mixed reception from other groups. There can be no doubt about the strict validity of the legal power, which has been exercised by the Viceroy in the present instance; the relevant section of the Government of India Act provides that the three years' life of the Legislative Assembly "may be extended by the Governor-General, if in special circumstances he so thinks fit".

The Swarajists assert that the Viceroy, by postponing the elections, was deliberately avoiding an appeal to the electorate because of the fear, that a general election at this juncture, which would amount to a referendum on the Nehru and Simon Reports, would result in a Swarajist sweep of the polls, and thus provide a conclusive demonstration of the Nehru Report's acceptability to the Indian people in preference to any scheme that the Statutory Commission~~xxx~~ might evolve.

Following the Viceroy's announcement, the provincial governors of Bombay, and of the United Provinces have also published their intention not to dissolve their Councils in October. It may therefore be accepted that, with the exception of Bengal and Assam where the Councils have been dissolved and fresh elections are being held, all other provincial councils would follow the lead of Simla.

In view of the Viceroy's notification, the meeting of the All India Congress Committee which was held at Bombay during the last week of May assumes special importance. It met on the 24th May under the chairmanship of Pandit Motilal Nehru, and on the 25th Gandhi moved a resolution that, in view of the campaign of repression which the British Government is carrying on in all parts of the country, the nation should prepare for an efficient resistance. He, therefore, suggested the reconstruction of the Congress organisation so as to make it a more efficient body. The Working Committee of the Congress also resolved that Congress members of the

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various legislatures should abstain from attending meetings of those bodies as a protest against the extension. This has created a rift in the lute, and it is not at all likely that the Congress members of the legislatures in the United Provinces, Bengal and Madras will consent to obey the Congress mandate in this respect. As a matter of fact the Tamil Nadu (Madras) Congress Committee was for freedom to the Congress parties to attend the legislatures and even accept offices, though at the Bombay meeting they did not press their case in view of the necessity for presenting a united front in opposition to the Viceroy's order of prolongation.

Moderate opinion in the country as represented by Mr. C.Y.Chintamani and others of his political persuasion <sup>are</sup> more or less united in condemning the prolongation as "a fraud upon the electorate", but the Mohamadans, and Maharashtra leaders like Kelkar and Jayakar (as also, curiously enough, the Deputy leader of the Swarajist Party, Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar) seem to favour the Viceroy's action.

The second session of the Indian States' People's Conference was held at Bombay on the 25th and 26th May 1929 with Mr. C.Y.Chintamani in the chair. It condemned the method and manner in which the Indian States (Butler) Committee conducted its proceedings, inasmuch as no opportunity at all was afforded to the representatives of the subjects of Indian States to present their case before the Committee. Another resolution urged that for the speedy attainment of Swaraj for India as a whole, the Indian States should be ~~being~~ brought into constitutional relations with British India, and expressed dissatisfaction with the Butler Committee's recommendations to the effect that the princes should not be transferred, without their agreement, to a relationship with a new government in British India, (evidently referring to

the Government of India after the attainment of Swaraj) responsible to the Indian legislature, and that the relations of the States should be directly with the Crown through the Viceroy, and not with the Government of India. After urging the necessity for several administrative and legislative forms calculated to bring the political life in the Indian States in line with that in British India, the Conference asked for an independent inquiry into the economic conditions in Indian States. Two resolutions dealing with labour were also accepted by the Conference: these are reproduced in the section of this report dealing with Conditions of Labour.

Meanwhile the Indian princes propose to wait in deputation upon the Viceroy at Bombay, and place before him their views on the Butler Report. It is expected that they will press for the limitation of the Paramount Power's right to intervene in cases of maladministration in the States or in other matters of a purely domestic character.

The personnel of the Indian Delegation to the forthcoming Assembly of the League of Nations has now been announced. In accordance with the promise made by the Government in reply to Sir Pheroze Sethna's motion in the Indian Council of State (see this office report for April 1929, page 8, para 1, and page 16, para 4), Sir Mahomed Habibullah, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council in charge of Education, Health and Lands, has been appointed leader of the Delegation, and his colleagues are the Maharaja of Kapurthala and Sir William Ewart Greaves, an ex-judge of the Calcutta High Court. The substitute members are Sir Chunilal Mehta (ex-Member of the Bombay Executive Council), Sir ~~Sam~~ Geoffrey Corbett of the Department of Commerce, and Syed Raza Ali, a member of the Public Service Commission. Mr. G. S. Bajpai, the present Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of

Education, Health and Lands, will also be accompanying the Delegation. The appointment of an Indian leader to the League Delegation has met with universal approval in India, as giving the lie to the argument that Indian princes will not care to serve in a deputation headed by an Indian.

His Excellency Lord Irwin will be leaving India by the 26th June for England, where he will be in consultation with the British Cabinet regarding the impending constitutional reforms in India. He is expected back in October.

Royal Commission on Labour.

A Government of India communiqué dated Simla, May 23rd, 1929<sup>1929</sup> announces the anxiously awaited personnel of the Royal Commission on Labour. At the opening of the Legislative Assembly on 28-1-1929, the Viceroy had announced that the King had approved of the appointment of a Royal Commission under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. J.H. Whitley to inquire into the conditions of labour in India (see <sup>1929</sup>February report of this office, page 5).

The Commission will consist of the Following.

The Rt. Hon. J.H. Whitley (Chairman),  
The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri,  
Sir Alexander Murray, \*  
Sir Ibrahim Rahimtollah,  
Sir Victor Sassoon,  
Mr. N. M. Joshi, \*  
Mr. A. G. Clow, \*  
Mr. G. D. Birla, \*  
Mr. John Cliff (Assistant General Secretary of the  
Transport and Railway Workers' Union, England),  
Dewan Chamanlal, \*  
Miss Beryl M. le Poer Power (Deputy Chief Inspector,  
Trade Boards, England), and  
Mr. Kabiruddin Ahmed (Members)

Mr. S. Lall, Department of Industries and Labour,  
Government of India, and Mr. A. Dibdin of the India Office  
will act as joint secretaries to the Commission.

The terms of reference of the Commission are:-

"To enquire into and report on the existing conditions of labour in industrial & undertakings and plantations in British India; on the health, efficiency and standard of living of the workers, and on the relations between employers and employed, and to make recommendations".

The Commission, consists of six Indians and five Britishers with a British chairman. The personnel as announced has on the whole met with a favourable reception in the Indian press, with occasional attacks from the extremist

press. The Hindustan Times of 26-5-1929 comments editorially thus:- "The terms of reference and the personnel of the Whitley Commission on Indian labour conditions, are eminently satisfactory ..... Indian labour interests are effectively represented by Mr. N.M.Joshi and Dewan Chamanlal. European industrial interests are represented by Sir Alexander Murray and Sir Victor Sassoon, while Mr. G.D.Birla and Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola represent Indian industry." The Times of India in its issue of 28-5-1929 in the course of a leading article observes "We can rely upon Mr. Whitley and the stronger members of the Commission to make an exhaustive study and draw up a fair report. The terms of reference are sufficiently wide to enable the Commissioners to pursue their investigations untrammelled by needless restrictions. The Commission has an enormous task before it and, even though it may not rouse the same "hatred" as the Simon Commission, it should be none the less productive of permanent advantages".

The Pioneer of 26-5-1929 publishes the following from its Lahore correspondent. "Inquiries made in various circles show that the appointment of Dewan Chamanlal, M.L.A. to the Royal Commission on Labour has been well received in the Punjab. It is felt from the labour point of view that his appointment gives the Commission a definite touch of popularity as he is one of the founders of the All India Trade Union Congress".

The phrase "Industrial undertaking" as used in the terms of reference is interpreted as in Article I of the Washington Hours Convention. The Commission is expected to meet in Bombay next October, and will be visiting all the leading industrial centres and the provincial capitals in the course of the ensuing cold weather.

It may here be mentioned that at the second session of the Indian States' People's Conference held at Bombay on the

25th and 26th May 1929, it was urged that the terms of reference of the Whitley Commission should be widened so as to include an investigation into the conditions of labour in the Indian States. The resolution which was put from the chair was carried unanimously.

#### REFERENCES TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Hindu of 25-5-1929 publishes a fairly long letter from its Geneva correspondent. The letter deals with the disarmament discussions at Geneva.

... ..

A message from the special correspondent of the Times of India at Simla is published on 28-5-1929 to the effect that the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations, will be announced by the 1st June. The correspondent forecasts that though the Delegation may not be led by a non-official Indian this time, the probabilities are that an Indian official would be deputed to lead the Delegation.

... ..

The Times of India of 28-5-1929 publishes a short news paragraph about the United States' accession to the League of Nations Slavery Convention of 1926.

... ..

The Times of India of 28-5-1929 publishes a news paragraph about the adoption of a draft Convention providing certain modifications of the existing penal legislation and police measures to make prevention and punishment of counterfeiting more effective.

... ..

The Times of India of 28-5-1929 publishes a news paragraph about the work of the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations.

... ..

The Pioneer of 29-5-1929, as also other papers, publish the full list of the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations.

... ..

The Pioneer of the same date publishes the news of the appointment of Mr. A. C. Chatterjee as an officer in the Information Section of the League of Nations.

... ..

The Times of India of 30-5-1929 publishes a leading article on "India and the League". The article comments favourably on the composition of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations, and answers the criticism that the Delegation is mainly official in character by pointing out that the Delegations of other countries, for example that of Britain, have been composed mostly of officials. Referring to the Nawab of Palanpur's criticism of the disproportionate cost that membership of the League entails for India, the paper says that India must always be fully identified with the idea of world peace and world co-operation, and that as the League offers the best chance for making the idea effective, India has no occasion to regret her association with that body.

... ..

The Times of India of the same date publishes a message to the effect that the personnel of the Indian Delegation has been received with satisfaction by the moderate political leaders of Bombay.

... ..



The Times of India of 31-5-1929 publishes an article by Mr. Sisley Huddleston about the League's difficulties in tackling the question of the minorities in Europe.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 9-6-1929 has a leading article entitled "India and the League" in the course of which the question whether it is worth while for this country to continue her membership is once again considered, and the opinion is expressed that so long as India occupies her present subject position, it is doubtful if she is wise in continuing her membership.

... ..

The Pioneer of 14-6-1929 publishes a short account of the work of the Refugees' Section of the League.

... ..

The Servant of India of 6-6-1929 publishes a review by the Director of this office of the book "From Paris to Locarno and After" by F.Alexander.

... ..

#### REFERENCES TO THE I.L.O.

The Times of India of 27-5-1929 publishes a two column article contributed by Mr. Otto Rothfield on "International Labour - What the League of Nations is doing?" The article is couched in a critical vein and ascribes to the whole Geneva atmosphere an air of unreality. The writer says that "the cosmopolitan crowd of officials" belonging to the League of Nations Secretariat and the International Labour Office "are superbly removed from common life in their grave progression back and forwards" to their offices.

In his observations on the International Labour Organisation, Mr. Rothfield affirms that the Organisation has a strong labour bias. After pointing out that the I.L.O. was founded "by the influence and pressure of industrial operatives, especially those of the United States, Great Britain and France, organised in federations and trade unions", the writer continues to observe "The Labour Office is, therefore, primarily an expression of the thought and will of the leaders of organised industrial labour in the most highly developed capitalist countries of the world; it is guided by extreme radical conceptions tending to what is usually called socialism, and it is directed in a spirit of implicit acceptance of oral or written discussion by elected representatives as the final and ideal type of government, whether in national or international affairs". Mr. Rothfield thinks that even the building which houses the I.L.O. corresponds to the labour bias of the Organisation. Says he "A great mass of stone, it is modernist and indeed futurist and almost communist in style and decoration". About the staff of the I.L.O. he says "There are 375 officials in all; no small number for an office which is still so young and which has resulted in so little action". Another charge that Mr. Rothfield levels against the I.L.O. is that "the Bureau is representative in the main of the "democratic countries - hardly at all of the spirit of the others. Italy, Spain, South America, Hungary, even Germany ..... they count for comparatively little in its guidance, less still in its spirit. England, France, and to an almost incredible extent Czecho-slovakia with its subtle and enormously subsidised propaganda -- these furnish the real soul of the Labour Office". According to the writer "the essential weakness of the organisation, as indeed of the whole League of Nations, is the absence of sanctions".

The article, however, concludes in a commendatory vein. The writer admits that in the face of various difficulties "the actual results of the Labour Office's work are perhaps not disappointing..... Moreover, it is undeniable that the office does exercise a moral pressure which even if illusive, is still distinctly appreciable, and which makes governments and even capitalists shrink from the open exposure of mal-practices before an admiring world".

... ..

The Statesman of 28-5-1929 publishes a fairly long message from its special correspondent at Delhi about the 13th (Maritime) Session of the I.L.Conference. The correspondent points out that the welfare schemes hitherto adopted by the Government omit Indian seamen from their scope, and hopes that Geneva's lead in the matter will induce the Government of India to shake off its apathy. The correspondent also refers to the work of <sup>the</sup> Indian branch of the International Labour Office in collecting information about the conditions in Indian ports, particularly those relating to Indian seamen. (The material for this message was supplied to the Statesman correspondent by this office).

... ..

The Pioneer of 29-5-1929 publishes a fairly long message from its correspondent at Delhi about the 13th session of the I.L.C. The correspondent points out that no legislation safeguarding the interests or conditions of service of Indian seamen exists in the country, and says "that the various welfare schemes of the government have always left Indian seamen in the lurch". The message then gives the four items on the Agenda of the 13th session, and proceeds to sketch an outline of the probable lines of reform contemplated by

Geneva. The message pays a tribute in passing to the work of the Indian branch of the I.L.O. in this connection. (The material for this message was supplied by this office).

... ..

The Times of India of 30-5-1929 and all papers publish a Reuters message from Geneva about Sir Atul Chatterjee's plan whereby a financial settlement for the I.L.O. for a quinquennium would be concluded with the Assembly. The message says that Sir Atul's plan is to fix the standard expenditure for the period; to make allowances for progressive increases in succeeding years, while the saving in expenditure of the office in any year would not revert to the League, but would be carried forward to the following year.

... ..

The Hindu of 31-5-1929 and all papers publish a Reuters agency message about the opening of the 12th I.L.Conference. The message says that the 12th session of the Conference has the largest number of delegations since the inception of the International Labour Office, and that 50 out of the 55 States-members of the League of Nations have sent delegations. After mentioning the items on the Agenda, the message says that the Conference, which is presided over by Dr. Brauns, will also consider the report of the International Labour Office on unemployment.

... ..

The Hindu of 31-5-1929 has a short editorial note on forced labour and unemployment in India. The paper hopes that the League and the I.L.O. together will be able to combat the problem of unemployment.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 2-6-1929 publishes a two column leading article on the 12th session of the I.L.Conference. The article affirms that India is vitally interested in the I.L.Conferences, and cites in support the testimony of Mr. C.F.Andrews and the continued loyalty of the All India Trade Union Congress to the Geneva ideal, despite the violence of the extremist section of Indian labour. The four items on the Agenda of the present Conference are then discussed in turn, and the bearing of each on Indian interests is elucidated. The article points out that the framing of suitable conventions and recommendations on these items would be of great help to India. The article concludes "It is our firm conviction that India's participation, viewed at from whatever angle, leads to the irresistible conclusion that such participation redounds to India's good". The Hindustan Times also pays a tribute to the composition of the Indian delegation to the 12th Conference and congratulates the I.L.O. on its "felicitous" choice of Dr. Pillai as its representative in India.

...                      ...                      ...                      ...                      ...

The Hindustan Times of 2-6-1929 publishes a full page of pictures about the I.L.O. at Geneva. Besides pictures showing the conference in session, and of the I.L.O. headquarters at Geneva, pictures of M. Albert Thomas, Mr. Butler, Dr. Pillai, and of some members of this year's delegation to Geneva are reproduced. (The pictures were supplied by this Office).

...                      ...                      ...                      ...

The Statesman of 2-6-1929 and all papers publish a Reuters agency message to the effect that as an experiment for one year, the I.L.Conference groups have agreed that Government delegates shall participate in the Committees if they wish to attend, though hitherto they have been excluded from attending Committee ~~xxxxxxx~~ meetings.

The Pioneer of 3-6-1929 publishes a three column article entitled "India at the International Labour Conference - Urgent need for Industrial Legislation". The article discusses at length the four items on the Agenda of the 12th Session of the Conference in relation to India's present industrial needs. The contribution endeavours to demonstrate the great ~~and~~ advantages India stands to gain by participation in the activities of Geneva. The same article is reproduced in the Hindu of 3-6-1929. The article was issued as a communiqué by this office.

... ..

The Times of India of 3-6-1929 publishes a two column article under the caption "Twelfth International Labour Conference -- India's interest in the session". The article was supplied by this office. It makes an endeavour to assess the importance of the part that Geneva plays in Indian affairs, and combats the tendency in certain Indian quarters to decry India's connection with the League.

... ..

The Pioneer of 6-6-1929 and all papers publish a ~~Reuters~~ Reuter's Agency telegram to the effect that at the International Labour Conference one of the Indian Government representatives declared that there was no truth in the allegation made by the German labour representative that labour legislation was not being observed at Kharagpur. The same message says that in the general debate on forced labour, the British Government delegate stated that the British point of view was that forced labour could not be abolished, but should be made the object of a searching examination.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 3-6-1929 has a small editorial

note on forced labour. The paper draws attention to the existence of forced labour in Kenya and other African colonies, and expresses the hope that the International Labour Conference would make a definite protest against the continuance of the evil.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 3-6-1929 comments editorially on the Report of the International Labour Office on unemployment. The paper regrets that all such inquiries have hitherto ignored agricultural unemployment and says that even the Whitley Commission has excluded the agricultural labourer from its sphere of consideration. The paper is of opinion that this state of affairs is largely due to the West being obsessed by the problems of manufacturing industry only and hopes that the delegates to the I.L.Conference will view the question in its broader aspects.

... ..

"Justice", the ministerial daily of Madras in its issue of 4-6-1929 publishes a leading article on forced labour, welcoming Geneva's initiative in the matter. It concludes "the I.L.O. has already to its credit a fair volume of beneficent legislation, and we have no doubt that by tackling the system of forced labour successfully, it would add considerably to its prestige and usefulness."<sup>1)</sup>

... ..

The Hindu of 4-6-1929 also has an editorial note on forced labour. It advocates a thorough inquiry into the conditions in the country, but argues that to introduce a distinction between "private" and "public" enterprises will only result in complicating the issue, and in rendering futile all remedial measures.

... ..

The Swarajya of Madras in its issue of 5-6-1929 has an editorial note entitled "British Government and Forced Labour" in which it is said that the British Government was the only power to uphold forced labour at the League deliberations". "It is impossible to resist the conclusion, however skilful the legerdemain of diplomats; that the empire is a force to keep alive slavery in this century".

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle of 6-6-1929 publishes a brief editorial note on forced labour under the caption "Britishers' plea for semi-slavery" and advocates passive resistance against the system.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 6-6-1929 and all papers publish a message that in the course of the discussion on forced labour at the I.L.Conference, the Indian Workers' delegate demanded its total suppression. Max M.Gayen, the Belgian Employers' delegate, the message says, declared that employers unanimously wish for abolition of forced labour in all forms.

... ..

The Servant of India of 30-5-1929 publishes a short note on the work of the 43rd meeting of the Governing Body.

... ..

The May number of the Indian Review, Madras, has an article on "India and Geneva" from the pen of Mr.C.F.Andrews. It contains appreciative references <sup>to</sup> about the I.L.O.

... ..

The Servant of India of 13-6-1929 publishes a leading article on "Forced Labour" advocating its abolition as pleaded for by Mr. N.M. Joshi.

... ..



The Times of India in its issue of the 7th June 1929 has a long leader on forced labour in India, in which the British Government's position is upheld. It deals with the cases in India where forced labour is permissible under legal enactments or by established practice, and advocates further investigation into the matter.

... ..

All papers publish a Free Press telegram of 4-6-1929 to the effect that Dr. Paranjpye referred to Mr. Furtwangler as a mere globe-trotter who knew nothing about labour in India, and that, therefore, his condemnation of conditions in the Assam tea plantation was not to be relied upon.

... ..

All papers publish a Reuter's telegram of 8-6-1929 giving a summary of Mr. Joshi's speech comparing Moscow methods with those of Geneva. Sir Atul Chatterjee's suggestion for a shortening of the Agenda is also referred to.

... ..

A Geneva telegram of 11-6-1929 announces that Mr. Humbert Wolfe on behalf of the British Government declared that the Government had decided to ratify the Eight Hours Convention, the Minimum Wages Convention and the Convention regarding Seamen's Agreements.

*The Indian Labour Review of May 1929, at pages 19 to 21, publishes an article "The I.L.C.: A Survey" by Dr. P. P. Pillai.*

*The Bombay Chronicle of 13-6-29 has an editorial with the heading "The I.L.C. Welcomes the change in the attitude of the British Government in regard to the 8 hour Convention etc"*

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Bombay Maternity Benefit's Bill, <sup>as</sup> passed on 15-3-1929.  
(See our April Report, page 27).

The following is the full text of the Bombay Maternity Benefit's Bill as finally passed by the Bombay Legislative Council on 15-3-1929:-

BILL No. VI OF 1928.

A Bill to regulate the employment of women in factories some time before and some time after confinement and to provide for the payment of maternity benefit to them.

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the employment of women in factories some time before and some time after confinement and to provide for the payment of maternity benefit to them in the manner hereinafter provided; And Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by sub-section (3) of section 80-A of the Government of India Act and the previous sanction of the Governor required by section 80-C of the said Act have been obtained for the passing of this Act; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

5 & 6  
Geo. V.  
c. 61.

1. Short title. This Act may be called the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929.

2. Extent and operation.-- (1) This Act shall apply in the first instance to the Bombay Suburban District and the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Virangam, Surat, Broach, Jalgaon, Sholapur, Belgaum, Amalner and Karachi. The Government may, from time to time, by notification in the "Bombay Government Gazette" extend this Act to such other places as it thinks fit.

(2) It shall come into operation on the first day of July 1929.

3. Definitions.-- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, -

XII of  
1911

(a) "Employer" includes an occupier of a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act, 1911, and the manager of a factory;

XIII of  
1911

(b) the expressions "employ" "employed", "factory", and "inspector of factories" shall have the same meanings as are respectively assigned to them under the Indian Factories Act, 1911;

(c) "maternity benefit" means the amount of money payable under the provisions of this Act to a woman employed in a factory.

4. After this Act comes into operation,-

Employment of or work by women in factories prohibited during certain period.-- (1) No employer shall knowingly employ a woman in any factory during the four weeks immediately following the day of her delivery; and

(2) no woman shall work in any factory during the four weeks immediately following the day of her delivery.

5. Right to payment of maternity benefit.-- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every woman employed in a factory shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of eight annas a day for the actual days of her absence for the period immediately preceding her confinement and for the four weeks immediately following her confinement as mentioned in sub-section (2):

Provided that a woman shall not be entitled to maternity benefit unless she has been employed in the factory of the employer from whom she claims maternity benefit for a period of not less than six months immediately preceding the date on which she notifies her intention under sub-section (1) of section 6.

(2) The maximum period for which any woman shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit shall be seven weeks, that is to say, three weeks up to and including the day of her delivery and four weeks immediately following that day. If a woman dies during this period the maternity benefit shall be payable only for the days up to and including the day of her death.

6. Procedure regarding payment of maternity benefit.--

(1) Any woman employed in a factory and entitled to maternity benefit under the provisions of this Act, who is pregnant may, on any day, give notice in writing to her employer stating that she expects to be confined within one month next following, that her maternity benefit may be paid to her, and that she will not work in any employment during the period for which she receives maternity benefit.

(2) The employer shall thereupon permit such woman to absent herself from the factory from the following day until four weeks after the day of her delivery.

(3) The amount of maternity benefit for the period up to and including the day of delivery shall be paid by the employer to the woman within forty-eight hours of the production of a certified extract from a birth register stating that the woman has given birth to a child. The amount due for the subsequent period shall be paid punctually each fortnight in arrears.

7. Payment of maternity benefit in case of a woman's death.-- If a woman entitled to maternity benefit under this Act dies during the period for which she is entitled to maternity benefit, the employer shall pay the amount of maternity benefit due, if the newly born child survives her, to the person who undertakes the care of the child; and if the child does not survive her to her legal representative.

8. No notice of dismissal ~~is~~ to be given to a woman

during period of maternity benefit.-- When a woman ~~is~~ absents herself from work in accordance with the provisions of this Act, it shall not be lawful for her employer to give her notice of dismissal during such absence or on such a day that the notice will expire during such absence.

9, Forfeiture of maternity benefit.-- If a woman works in any factory after she has been permitted by her employer to absent herself under the provisions of section 6 she shall forfeit her claim to the payment of the maternity benefit to which she is entitled.

10. Penalty for contravention of the Act by an employer.-- If any employer contravenes the provisions of this Act he shall, ~~in~~ on conviction, be liable to a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

11. Penalty for contravention of the Act by a woman.-- If any woman works in any factory within four weeks of the date of her delivery she shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding ten rupees.

12. Cognisance of offences.-- (1) No prosecution under this Act shall be instituted except by or with the previous sanction of the inspector of factories.

(2) No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or of a Magistrate of the First Class shall try any offence against this Act or any rules thereunder.

13. Limitation of prosecutions.-- No court shall take cognisance of any offence against this Act or any rule thereunder unless complaint thereof is made within six months of the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

14. Rules.-- (1) The Governor in Council may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for,-

(a) the preparation and maintenance of a muster roll and the particulars to be entered in such roll;

(b) the inspection of factories for the purposes of this Act by inspectors of factories;

(c) the exercise of powers and the performance of duties by inspectors of factories for the purposes of this Act;

(d) the method of payment of maternity benefit in so far as provision has not been made in this Act; and

(e) any other matter for which no provision has been made in this Act and for which provision is, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, necessary.

(3) Any such rule may provide that a contravention thereof shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

(4) The making of rules under this section shall be subject to the condition of previous publication. Such rules shall be laid on the table of the Bombay Legislative Council for one month previous to the next session thereof and shall be liable to be rescinded or modified. If any rule is modified the Governor in Council may accept the modification and re-issue the rule accordingly or may rescind the rule.

15. Copies of this Act and rules thereunder to be exhibited.-- A copy of the provisions of this Act and the rules thereunder in the local vernacular shall be exhibited in a conspicuous place by the employer in every factory in which women are employed.

*(Copied from pp 1656-1660 of Volume XXV  
--- Appendices --- of the Official  
report of the Bombay Legislative  
Council debates for the February  
- March 1929 session)*

Proposed Factory Legislation in Baroda.

The Sub-Committee consisting of the members of the State Dhara Sabha (Legislative Assembly) met last week under the presidentship of Mr. V. K. Dhurandhar, the Legal Remembrancer to consider the provisions of the New Factory Act. The Committee took up the consideration of the bill and it is understood, decided to recommend 14 years instead of 15 as the age when a boy ceased to be a child for the purpose of employment in the factory. It was further resolved to amend the provisions regarding the limitation of working hours per day and during the week in case of seasonal factories from 11 and 60 to 12 and 66 respectively as proposed for all the factories by the Committee previously appointed by the Government to consider the bill.

(Times of India, 11-6-1929)

...                      ...                      ...                      ...

Proposed Amendment of Madras City Municipal Act.

To bring the provisions of the Madras City Municipal Act, relating to industries and factories, into line with those in the District Municipalities Act, Government at the instance of the Commissioner of the Corporation have framed a bill, which they have now sent to the President of that body for being placed before the Councillors and their opinion obtained. Schedule 6 of the Act which sets out the purposes for which "premises may not be used without a license," has been amended by the inclusion of "use for any industrial purpose, any fuel or machinery and doing in course of any industrial process, anything which is likely to be dangerous to human life, health or property." Section 287 has been modified so as to provide for notification in the first instance before making it obligatory on users of premises to take out licenses

and the area of its operation has been extended to a distance of three miles beyond city limits. Extension to outside limits has been made conditional on previous sanction of local government, to avoid possible conflicts in jurisdiction between the Corporation and other local bodies in the said area.

(The Hindu, 12-6-1929)

... ..



# Conditions of Labour

## (a) General.

### The Working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act\* in 1927.

Though 1927 was the third complete year of the working of the Act, the difficulty in obtaining satisfactory returns from employers still persists; and the figures showing the number of cases and the amount of compensation paid during the year cannot, therefore, be regarded as wholly reliable. Nor do these figures cover all the cases of workmen protected by the Act; but the numbers excluded are of small importance, as the more important <sup>such as in factories, mines,</sup> classes of workers, <sup>^</sup>decks, railways, and tramways are here included.

The total number of accidents which occurred during 1927 and were dealt with under the Act was 15,216 as against 14,096 in 1926, while the total amount of compensation paid was Rs. 11,11,254 as against Rs. 8,21,476 in the preceding year. Of these accidents only 42 affected miners, and the injuries proved fatal only in 783 cases, including six miners. The general comment of the provincial governments on the working of the Act is that, though much progress remains to be made, the provisions of the Act are becoming more widely known, and the benefits accruing from it more generally appreciated by the working classes. On the other hand a good deal of ignorance still persists among certain sections of workers regarding their rights under the Act. Thus, the Bengal report states that very few claims are received in the Ranigang Coal-field area, largely due to the absence of any proper trade union to assist the

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\* Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1927, together with a note on the working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act. 1923. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch 1929. pp. 6 Price As. 6.

workers in obtaining the relief provided for under the Act. But factory inspectors as well as increasing number of employers are assisting workmen to obtain their just dues; and labour organisations, particularly in Bombay and Bengal, are taking an increasingly active part in furthering the claims of their members. As against these reports of sympathetic co-operation from Bengal, Bombay and <sup>the</sup> Punjab, the Government of Bihar and Orissa point out that there is an increasing tendency to deny liability on the part of employers, particularly the smaller classes which are working at a loss owing to the depression of the coal industry.

The growth of the practice of insurance against claims made under the Act, ~~may~~ tend to minimise any undue reluctance which employers may feel in meeting just claims. The percentage of employers who insure their liabilities is not known, but it is mentioned that in Burma most of the employers are thus insured, while the Madras report mentions the existence of thirty insurance companies and a Claims Bureau. Such insurance also appears to be widely resorted to in Bengal and Bombay, where also Claims Bureaus are functioning.

The total number of applications filed before the Commissioners in 1927 under section 10 of the Act for the award of compensation was 554, as against 379 in 1926, the increase of over 46 per cent. being a striking indication of the increasing frequency with which working people claim their benefits under the Act. Distribution cases filed before the Commissioners under section 8 of the Act rose to 491 in 1927, as against 408 in 1926. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of by the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation was 22.9

as compared to 23.7 in the year previous. The total number of applications filed for the registration of Agreements was 711, as against 610 in 1926; and only 3 out of these 711 applications were not registered on account of the inadequacy of the compensation offered. In the majority of cases compensation was paid without the intervention of the Commission<sup>ers</sup>. Over 15,000 persons are reported to have received compensation in 1927, while the total number of applications filed was only 554 as pointed <sup>out</sup> above.

Occupational diseases have figured for the first time in connection with the working of the Act in India. It is reported from Bengal that a compositor in a Government Printing press received the sum of Rs. 2,730 from the government as compensation for permanent disablement due to lead poisoning. ~~Through~~ Though no case of occupational disease is included in the returns from Burma, cases of lead colic, plumbism, and some mild forms of lead poisoning in the mines worked by the Burma Corporation at Namtu have come to the notice of the Public Works Department.

The Act remained unchanged throughout the year, but a government notification under section 2(3) of the Act was issued during 1927 declaring the occupations of loading, unloading, and fuelling any ship in any harbour, roadstead, or navigable water to be hazardous occupations. Dock labour~~ers~~ are thus brought within the scope of the Act. The Act is also popular among Indian lascars; and though it is directly applicable only to lascars of steamers registered in India, maritime local governments have been able to induce shipping companies which recruit lascars in India to insert in the Articles of Agreement of Indian lascars on ships registered in the United Kingdom an

additional stipulation by which such lascars can claim to be compensated as workmen under the Indian Act.

The Government of India has recently passed an amending measure (Act V of 1929) making certain changes of a non-controversial character, and they have also under consideration certain proposals which involve changes of a radical nature in the Act.

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#### Forced Labour in Indian States.

The second session of the Indian States' People's Conference which was held at Bombay on 25 and 26-5-1929 has passed a series of resolutions relating to conditions of labour in some of the Indian States. Resolution No. XI which was passed unanimously by the Conference runs thus:-

(a) "Whereas the system of compulsory labour which prevails in most Indian States is inhuman and barbarous, this Conference calls upon the Indian princes to abolish the same immediately.

(b) "This Conference regrets that in some states customs and practices analogous to slavery still exist, and strongly urges that they should be immediately abolished"

It may be pointed out here that the Rajputana States People's Conference which was held at Ajmere on the 23rd and 24th November 1928 passed resolutions advocating the abolition of "begar" (compulsory labour) and slavery in the Indian States of Rajputana. (See the report of this office for December 1928, page 28). It is significant that despite these emphatic allegations of barbarous practices in the Indian States, no authoritative disclaimer from the Indian States has as yet appeared in the Indian press.

*Bombay*  
The Conference has also passed a resolution to the

effect that the terms of reference to the Whitley Commission be widened so as to include an investigation into the conditions of labour in the Indian States.

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Conditions of Miners in the Central  
Provinces and Berar.

According to "the Annual Review on the District Reports on the Working of the Indian Mines Act IV of 1923 in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1928"<sup>\*</sup>, the depression in the coal and manganese markets continued throughout last year and resulted in the closing down of two coal mines in the Chindwara District of the Central Provinces and as many as ninety manganese mines throughout the province.

The demand for labour was, in consequence, below normal and the supply plentiful in almost all districts.

Imported labour plays but a small part in the mining industry of the province as the labour force to a large extent consists of local agriculturists who are attracted to the mines by higher wages during the open season and return to their hereditary pursuits at the commencement of the agricultural season. Imported labourers usually visit their homes during the season of Hindu festivals from September to November and return to the mines in December.

*The Review*  
~~A RESOLUTION~~ issued by the Local Government states that the relations between employers and employees continued to be cordial and the year was marked by a complete absence of strikes and labour disputes. Labour in mines is still unorganised.

The contraction of the demand for labour was not

\* Nagpur, Government Press 1929 pp 6

accompanied by any appreciable reduction in the rates of wages. In the coal area of the Chhindwara district, the average earnings of a male labourer varied from Re. 0-7-0 to Re.0-9-0 per day for underground work and from Re.0-6-0 to Re.1 for surface work, while a female cooly earned on an average from Re.0-4-0 to Re.0-7-0 both underground and on surface. The daily income of a skilled labourer varied between Re.0-10-0 and Rs. 2-10-0

In other parts of the province the rates for male labourers approximated to those ruling in the Chhindwara district, while the earnings of female labourers were one to two annas less. Outbreaks of cholera, influenza, malaria and smallpox occurred in several labour camps. Cholera was responsible for 133 attacks and 57 deaths, of which 7 attacks and 2 deaths occurred in the Jubbulpore district, 70 attacks and 28 deaths in the Nagpur district, and 56 attacks and 27 deaths in the Chhindwara district. Necessary measures were taken by the mine management concerned to combat the epidemic and in the Nagpur district where the attack was most intense, an extensive programme of inoculation was undertaken.

Medical facilities are within easy reach of every important mining area in the province. In addition, the larger mine-owners in the Nagpur, Balaghat and Chhindwara districts maintain their own dispensaries for their labour force.

The Government notes with satisfaction that during the year the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company established a maternity and infant welfare centre at their Kandri mine in the Ramtek tahsil under the charge of a qualified nurse. The dispensary is reported to be well equipped and is affiliated to the provincial branch of the Indian Red Cross Association. Although it is reported that the services of the nurse are not as yet readily utilized by the labourers, it is anticipated

that they will appreciate the benefits of this new institution in course of time.

A new dispensary was also opened by the same company at their Ramrama mine in the Balaghat district.

In spite of unfavourable trade conditions the total income from mines rose slightly from Rs. 3,94,266 in 1927 to Rs. 4,03,643 in 1928.

The whole of this increase of 2 per cent was contributed by coal mines in the Chanda and Chhindwara districts.

Out of the total income, manganese mines yielded Rs. 2,62,003, coal mines Rs. 1,04,860, and other mines Rs. 36,780.

(Statesman, 13-6-1929).

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#### Indian Coolies in Ceylon Tea-Gardens.

Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi, M.L.C., Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council, has contributed an article to the Hindu of 5-6-1929 on the labour conditions prevailing among Indian tea estate workers in Ceylon, whose number is estimated at 8,00,000. According to Dr. Reddi, the wages obtaining for Indian tea-estate coolies are as follows:-

The average man's wage	= 54 cents
The average woman's wage	= 43 cents
Children	= 32 cents

(A rupee is 100 cents).

The cost of living in Ceylon, according to Dr. Reddi is one and a half times and in certain places even twice as expensive as in India. On an average they work 24 days in the estates, Sundays and other holidays not being paid for. The wages of a husband and wife put together thus work out to less than a rupee, which are insufficient for meeting the expenses of even a small cooly family. A consequence of the low rates of wages is that parents are driven to send even

their children under ten years to work on the tea-estates, so that their meagre earnings might also contribute to the insufficient income of the elders. According to Dr. Reddi it is no rare sight to see whole families, including tender children, working on the cold, rain-swept hill sides of the high ranges in Ceylon, on which the plantations are located. The difference in climate and environment occasions an abnormally high rate of mortality among the Indian immigrant labourers. The insufficiency of the wages compels even pregnant ~~women~~ women labourers to keep on working right up to the period of confinement.

Some feeble efforts are being made in the direction of maternity benefits, but as they consist only in the giving of some quantity of rice, varying with each estate ~~from~~ from a quarter of a bushel to one bushel, and after child birth cash varying from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5, and some castor oil for the baby and mother, they do not contribute substantially to the alleviation of the difficulties of women workers. Even these benefits, Dr. Reddi asserts, are wholly denied in some estates, while in certain estates the maternity benefits are given only a week after delivery, and that only if the child is alive. Analysing the average budget of a worker's family consisting of husband, wife and 2 children, Dr. Reddi points out that when the woman becomes pregnant the free ration of  $\frac{1}{4}$ th bushel rice for herself and  $\frac{1}{8}$ th bushel rice for each of her two children per month are not sufficient for them, as the husband earned only Rs. 6 or Rs. 7 after paying off the price of the rice allowance for himself, out of which amount he has to meet <sup>the</sup> other expenses of himself and of his family. (An adult labourer requires ~~only~~ one bushel of rice for himself for 30 days). The result as has been mentioned earlier, is that pregnant mothers have to work right up to



the period of confinement, with no time except the mid-day interval to nurse their babies. The Ceylon Administration Report for 1927 says "The maternal mortality is high on the estates, and so also the percentage of deaths from pneumonia is increasing due to change from the hot plain to the cold tea regions of Ceylon. In 1927, 2845 children died from debility most probably due to malnutrition and unfavourable ante-natal conditions".

Discussing the hours of work in the tea-gardens, Dr. Reddi points out, that the coolies have to get up very early as the roll-call is at 6.30 or 7 a.m. The labourers work 9 hours or more from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. with one hour interval at mid-day. Even after the day's work is over, the coolies have to wait till the leaves are weighed and recorded, and by the time they go home it is often 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. The coolies get free quarters and free medical aid on the tea estates, but as the majority of the coolies (40 per cent of them belong to the depressed classes) live in huts in the open air in their Indian villages the question of rent hardly arises and the free medical aid is also no new thing as they obtain free aid in the Government dispensaries in India. Dr. Reddi points out that there are no public schemes for the insurance of these coolies against sickness, unemployment, old age, or accident. According to Dr. Reddi the protection of expectant mothers, the grant of full wages 6 weeks or a month before and after child birth, and the forced attendance of children below 12 years in schools even against the parents' wishes have to be immediately insisted upon. "Ceylon" she says, "has been turned into a fairy land with the sweat of Indian labour", and the Indian labourer deserves some return for his contribution to the island's wealth. The tea-estates, even the poorest of them, are able to declare dividends of

of 25 per cent and, therefore, a part of the huge profits can justifiably be set apart for the amelioration of labour conditions.

(Hindu, 5-6-1929)

Industrial relations in Ceylon.

An agreement between the All Ceylon Trade Union Congress and the Employers' Federation of Ceylon was signed at a Conference held in the first week of June 1929, at which the Chairman and Acting Secretary of the Employers' Federation represented their body, while the All Ceylon Trade Union Congress was represented by its President and Secretary.

The following are the germs of agreement:-

That the Employers' Federation of Ceylon and the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress hereby acknowledge the right of each of them to negotiate on behalf of their members on all matters affecting them.

That the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress undertakes that no strike will be called without an attempt being first made to arrive at a settlement with the employers' concerned, or failing any settlement being reached by such negotiations, without giving the Employers' Federation not less than seven days' notice in writing addressed to the Secretary that a strike will be called unless a settlement can be arranged meanwhile, such seven days notice to run as and from the date on which the Secretary of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon should receive such notice in the ordinary course of post.

That the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress will address the Employers' Federation of Ceylon and not its individual members in matters of common interest. Minor and individual matters will be dealt with direct with the Employers concerned at present.

That both parties to this agreement undertake to do all in their power to assist a pacific settlement, when and wherever possible, of any labour troubles which may arise.

That each party to this agreement will carefully consider any communications received in writing from the other and submit a reply thereto <sup>within</sup> ~~in~~ a reasonable time.

That in the event of any member of either body breaking any one of the terms of this agreement, the Union or Federation to which such member belongs will "immediately take steps to expel such member" according to the rules of the bodies concerned.

That any breach of this agreement by either party hereto will entitle the other party to determine it by giving 24 hours' notice in writing.

It is expressly agreed that this document does not bind the members of either body to arbitrate on any specific case.

This agreement may be terminated at any time by either party giving to the other three months' notice in writing of its intention to determine the agreement.

The following are the Associations composing the Federation:-

The Ceylon Engineer Employers' Association,  
The Ceylon Employers' Association, Colombo  
Harbour Interests, The Ceylon Motor Employers'  
Association, The Ceylon Stores and Mills Association,  
The Ceylon Fertilizer Employers' Association, The  
General Importers and Distributors Association,  
The Ceylon Hotel and Associated Trades Association,  
The Master Printers' Association.

The following Trade Unions <sup>from the second party</sup> ~~have~~ subscribed to the agreement:-

The Ceylon Labour Union, The Ceylon Chauffeurs' Union,  
The Ceylon Printers' Union, The Ceylon Hotel and  
Domestic Workers' Union, The Ceylon Mariners' Union,  
The Ceylon Tramway Men's Union, The Ceylon Mercantile  
Union, and all Unions connected with Labour which may  
join the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress hereafter.

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR.(C) Labour Disputes.Quarterly Strike Statistics.Statistics of Industrial disputes in British India for  
the quarter ending 31st March 1929.

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has in a press communiqué dated 6th June 1929, published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 31-3-1929. According to the Government communiqué, during the period under review there were 45 industrial disputes in British India, involving 77,385 workers and entailing a total loss of 820,215 working days. The disputes may be distributed according to provinces thus:- Assam - 2; Bengal - 7; Bombay - 29; Burma - 1; Delhi - 2; Madras - 2; and the United Provinces - 2. Bombay alone was responsible for 29 disputes involving 51,157 men and entailing a loss of 542,488 days. Bengal comes next with 7 disputes, involving 18,585 men and entailing a loss of 115,010 working days. Out of the total of 45 disputes, 19 were due to questions of personnel, 16 due to wages, 2 to bonus, 1 to leave and hours and 7 to other causes. In 10 disputes the workmen were successful, in 10 they were partially successful, in 17 they were unsuccessful, and 8 disputes are still in progress. The disputes may be classified according to industries thus:- Cotton and Woollen mills - 29; Jute mills - 5; Engineering workshops - 1; Railways including railway workshops - 1; others - Miscellaneous - 9.

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The Bombay Textile Strike.

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The strike of the Bombay Textile Workers still continues, with varying vicissitudes. Both parties to the dispute are showing a degree of stubbornness and obduracy, which is quite out of keeping with the gravity of the situation. In the monthly report of this office for May last, it was explained how the peace negotiations conducted by the Millowners' Association and the Joint Strike Committee in the first half of April broke down on the vexed question of the alleged victimisation of 6000 old hands of the Wadia group of mills, and how the Girni Kamgar Union's demand for the reinstatement of the men was refused by the millowners. From the 8th May there was some improvement in the situation, and many mill hands returned to work. But a notice put up by the millowners that April wages will be paid only on May 15th, and that only for those who would return to work was seized upon by the Girni Kamgar Union as a fresh causa belli, and frantic appeals were made by that body asking the workers not to resume work. (See pages 25-29 of May Report).

The millowners, on the other hand, justify the stand they have taken on this subject. A communiqué issued by the Millowners' Association on 14-5-1929 says "According to the Fawcett Committee which went into the question more thoroughly than was ever done before, forfeiture of wages for lightning strikes is not only legal but also fair. The employees can certainly not make it a grievance that when giving them wages to which they are not entitled, we make it a condition that an employee should have worked for six days to enable him to draw the wages, which, we repeat, we have a clear right to forfeit".

On 15-5-1929 the strike situation took a serious turn as the result of the Girni Kamgar Union's decision calling upon

the strikers to enter the premises of the mills where they were working to demand payment of the wages for April. Collisions occurred in several places between the strikers and the police pickets posted at mill-gates, when the pickets tried to prevent the strikers from rushing into the mills. On two occasions the police had to resort to firing. The military had also to be called in to control the situation. Owing to the tension in the mill-area, there were fewer mills working on 15-5-1929, and a communiqué of the Millowners' Association of the same date estimates the number of men working at 34,000. A press communiqué issued by the Girni Kamgar Union, explaining the incidents of the day (15-5-1929) states that the strikers had gone peacefully to demand their wages, that a few "black-legs" came out of the mills and stoned the strikers, ~~xx~~ that the police wantonly charged them, and that the opening of fire by the military was equally without sufficient reason. The Union sent a telegram to the Governor complaining of the injustice done to them and claiming April wages. On the same day a deputation of the Millowners' Association waited upon the Home Member, and demanded adequate police arrangements for the prevention of such recurring troubles.

On 16-5-1929 the situation had quietened down. Crowds of strikers offered satyagraha at the millgates as a protest against non-payment of wages. ~~Mean~~ Meanwhile the moderate leaders, who had supported the strikers in their demand for April wages, but who did not approve of violent methods, distributed handbills among the strikers signed by Messrs. Ginwalla, Asavale, Bakhale and others, advising the men to keep the peace pending their negotiations with the millowners for a peaceful settlement. A deputation of the moderate leaders waited on the millowners and urged the payment of

April wages on grounds of expediency, if not as a matter of right, but the millowners did not accede to the request.

The number of mills working on 18-5-1929 was 50, and the attendance at the mills had increased to 47,300. Against this reassuring feature should be set the fact that the exodus of strikers and their families from Bombay began to increase. On 17-5-1929 a deputation of the European Textile Association of Bombay, which for the last 50 years has been responsible for the management of about 75 per cent of Bombay's mills, waited on Mr. G.E.B. Hotson, the Home Member, and expressed the view that it fully supported the action taken by the Millowners' Association and that there can be no peace in the industry until the communistic influence of the Girni Kamgar Union has been broken. The Home Member replied that Government was watching the situation closely to decide what action ought to be taken.

On 18-5-1929, according to a communiqué of the Millowners' Association, there were 54 mills working either partially or completely with a complement of 58,000 hands. But the strike leaders challenged the accuracy of these figures. According to them only five or six mills were working with a total attendance of about 4,000 workers. The strike thus went on, both sides carrying on intensive propaganda. The exodus of mill workers continued, and according to an estimate of the Girni Kamgar Union, about 20,000 workers left the city during the third week of May. The Union had arranged for concession rates on coastal steamers, and this, no doubt, lent stimulus to the exodus. It must also be remembered that, on account of the approach of the rains, this is a period when the industrial workers in Bombay usually go to their villages to attend to their agricultural work.

Meanwhile an offer to set up a court of inquiry by the



Government was turned down by the Union leaders on the ground that they could not understand what inquiry was needed on such an obvious matter as the April wages, and that the machinery of the Trades Disputes Act "should not have been brought into existence if it was to be exploited for harassing the workers". In spite of the activities of the Union leaders the strike situation continued to improve and on 24-5-1929, according to a communique of the Millowners' Association, 100,000 men were at work, and there were only five mills in the city which were not working.

A sudden turn for the worse took place ~~by~~ 1-6-1929. Many workers after qualifying themselves to receive the April wages by working for the six days required by the employers began to absent themselves. The pronounced absenteeism of the workers began on 23-5-1929 and by 25-5-1929 roughly 8,000 workers had ceased to work. By 27-5-1929 the number of such absentees had come up to 15,000, most of whom after receiving April wages left for their villages.

On 5-6-1929 according to a communique of the Millowners' Association, the operatives at work numbered about 67,000 but the Girni Kamgar Union maintained that over 70,000 workers had already left the city. The Bombay Share and Stock-Brokers' Association, which had been feeling the effect of the strike, sent up a memorial to the Governor, urging him to take certain steps to put an end to the trouble, failing which they would be compelled to close the share market indefinitely for forward transactions, thus dislocating the commercial life of the city. The millowners admitted that on 7-6-1929 the number of operatives had dropped to 65,000, and that one more mill had to close down. A Joint Conference between the Share and Stock-brokers' Association and the Millowners' Association met the same day to consider the situation, but it proved abortive. On 8-6-1929

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, M.L.A. suggested that the Congress should be asked to intervene, and proposed the names of Mahatma Gandhi and Motilal Nehru as arbitrators. The Union rejected the suggestion. On 10-6-1929 there were over 70,000 men at work but the situation was still serious. The Hon'ble the General Member of the Bombay Government came down to Bombay on 11-6-1929 to receive representations from various representative bodies, and arrange a compromise. His efforts proved unavailing, the strikers insisting that no settlement was possible unless the following five demands were conceded:

- (1) the reinstatement of 6,000 men of the Wadia mills:
- (2) freedom to ~~make~~ collect subscriptions to the Union inside the mills: (3) freedom to mill committees to function:
- (4) enquiry into the causes of the alleged victimisation: and
- (5) payment of April wages; and the millowners steadfastly refusing to concede them. 61 mills were said to be working on that day with a labour force of 72,500 employees. But the bitterest struggle still continues.

It may here be noted that according to the statistical tables issued by the Government of India relating to industrial disputes for the first quarter of the current year, Bombay tops the list with 25 disputes, involving 51,157 men and a loss of not less than 542,488 working days.

Some idea of the heavy losses sustained by the textile industry owing to the frequent labour dislocations can be had from the tell-tale figures adduced in the annual reports of some of the city's mills. The balance sheet of the E.D. Sassoon United Mills Ltd. as presented at the general meeting of the shareholders on 25-5-1929 showed a loss of Rs. 21,07,773-5-0, which the directors attributed to the prolonged strike during the period under review. The Jamshed Manufacturing Company Ltd. according to the company's balance sheet during the last year, suffered a loss of Rs.1,79,224-1-5.

Strikes in Ahmedabad.

Ahmedabad was the scene of considerable labour trouble during the latter half of May and the beginning of June. In the period April-May 1929, a threatened labour strike was only just averted owing to the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association's timely yielding to the wishes of the Ahmedabad Labour Union in the matter of drinking water arrangements and dining shed accommodation (see this office report for May 1929, pp. 30-31). At a meeting of the Council of representatives of the Ahmedabad Labour Union on 22-5-1929, resolutions were passed demanding weekly payment of wages, fixing the normal standard of breakages of yarn in the spinning department and the adjustment of conditions so as not to exceed the standard, the employment of 50 per cent ~~xxxxxx~~ women in the spinning department since wages of spinners are fixed on the family basis, and payment of compensation to piece workers for the loss of production owing to deficiency in material and other causes beyond the control of the men, and authorising the Labour Union's secretary to take steps for preventing recruitment of local labour for the Bombay mills to break the strike there. The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association has not yet given its reply to these demands; but the nature of the demands indicate the possibility of future trouble.

On 27-5-1929, 300 men of the spinning department of the Aryodaya Ginning Mill struck work, alleging harsh treatment by the spinning-master. The spinning master contends that the men are in the habit of wasting time loitering about on false pretexts. The men then charged the spinning-master with the offence of accepting bribes. The mill authorities have expressed their willingness to institute an inquiry if the men resume work, but the men demand the dismissal of the

spinning-master prior to resumption of work. A council ~~in~~  
~~being met~~ of the representatives of the Labour Union is being  
 called on 29-5-1929 to consider the conduct of the strikers.

The operatives of the spinning department of the Fine  
 Knitting Mill and the Ambica Mill went on a lightning strike  
 on 1-6-1929, the men of the former complaining of delay in  
 the payment of wages. The Millowners' Association has written  
 to the Labour Union demanding compensation for such unautho-  
 rised strikes.

The Millowners' Association has submitted to the arbitra-  
 tion board the financial statement of certain selected mills  
 in connection with the demand of the Labour Union for the  
 restoration of the cut of fifteen and a half per cent on wages  
 made in 1923. The arbitration proceedings will begin in a  
 few days.

Another partial strike occurred on the morning of 4-6-'29  
 in the throttle department of the Gujarat Spinning Mill, but  
 thanks to the effort of the Labour Union, the men were persuaded  
 to resume work. The Committee of the Ahmedabad Millowners'  
 Association has resolved to demand an explanation from the  
 Labour Union for the occurrence of such unauthorised strikes  
 every day for about a week.

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#### Jamshedpur Tinplate Workers' strike.\*

The Jamshedpur Tin-plate workers' strike which began on  
 8-4-1929 is still proceeding, and both sides are showing no  
 signs of yielding. On 15-5-1929 a mass meeting of the  
 strikers was held and as the result of fervent appeals many  
 loyal workers struck work, and only two mills were running on  
 that date. The strike leaders have issued a special appeal

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\* See this office's May Report, pp.29-30.

to all public organisations in and outside Jamshedpur to help the starving workers, and the appeal has met with some success. The management has refused to meet any deputation of the workers, and has also refused to see outside labour leaders willing to negotiate on behalf of the strikers. Dewan Chamanlal, who was approached by the strikers to intercede on their behalf, on writing to the management received a curt reply to the effect that as the works are operating no negotiations were necessary. Dewan Chamanlal then acting upon the wishes of the strikers wired on 22-5-1929 to the Behar Government urging the appointment of a Conciliation Board under the new Trades Disputes Act to bring about a settlement. A statement issued to the press by Mr. Chamanlal on 27-5-1929 says that the Behar Government has issued no answer to this request, but the Behar Government in a communication to the secretary of the Trade Union Congress, Bombay, says that no such application had been received. The Behar Government has appointed Mr. J.R.Dain, I.C.S., to study the situation first hand and to report to Government as a preliminary to a Government inquiry. A deputation headed by Mr. V.V.Giri submitted a memorandum on behalf of the workers to Mr. Dain on 4-6-1929. The memorandum outlines instances of inadequate fulfilment of the terms of settlement arrived at between the Union and the management on 31st January last. The instances referred to include the provident fund and bonus schemes, acting allowance, increments promised to hot mill men, normal supply of soda in hot weather, and unfavourable service conditions compared with the Tatas. Other charges against the management include allegations of transfers of men from hot mills to new and unaccustomed posts, and later their discharge on protesting, and suspensions and dismissals of Union members. The memorandum affirms that the immediate cause of the strike was the management's refusal to meet the

workers' representatives through the Union and urges government to constitute a Board of Conciliation as provided in the Trades Disputes Act. The strike is continuing.

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Strike situation in Bangalore.

At page 32 of the report of this office for May, it was mentioned that on 6-5-1929, there was a strike in the Minerva and Maharaja mills, as a protest against the dismissal of 30 workmen, who had taken a prominent part in an earlier strike. This strike continued and as the men stood firm in their demand for the reinstatement of the dismissed workers no settlement was arrived at. Meanwhile the City Magistrate, Bangalore, on 13-5-1929 issued a gagging order on three prominent labour leaders prohibiting them under section 144 Cr.P.C. from addressing the millhands of the city. On 8-6-1929, however, the dispute in the two mills came to a close, the management assuring that there would be no victimisation, and that the question of Sundays being observed as holidays would be given sympathetic consideration.

... ..

Strike in Oorgaum Gold Mine.

Some 500 men of the Oorgaum Gold Mine went on strike on 25-5-1929. The causes of the strike are the decision of the management to stop Sunday work, entailing loss of pay to the men, and the reduction of wages from 9 annas to 8 annas a day. The strike ended on 27-5-1929, the men returning to work unconditionally.

... ..

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION.

(1) Employers' Organisations.

South<sup>ern</sup> Indian Chamber of Commerce and Workmen's  
Compensation Act Amendment.

The Honorary Secretary, Southern India Chamber of Commerce, replying to the Secretary to the Government of Madras Public Works and Labour Department, regarding the Workmen's Compensation Act, says:- I am directed to state that my Committee having considered the proposals of the Government of India fully concur with them that the provisions of the Act might be liberalised in certain respects in favour of workmen in unorganised or non-hazardous industries and enterprises. The Committee have no objection if the Act should be extended to fresh classes of workmen employed in the following enterprises:- (a) Plantations: (b) transport, weighing, measurement or other handling of goods within the premises of a harbour: (c) loading, unloading, coupling, etc., in the railways: (d) road work in cities and work in dams and tunnels; (e) hazardous transport services for transporting timber, granite, machinery and iron structures and (f) mining operations in quarries which do not come under the Indian Mines Act.

The Committee are opposed to burdening unorganised industries with any scheme of compulsory insurance of compensation due to employees, but say that the Commissioner's award can be executed against the assets of the employer. Lump sums should be payable in the case of death and in the case of other injuries lump or instalment payments may be made at the option of the injured workmen. The Committee are in favour of a general increase by one-third on the scale of compensa-

sation provided in Section 4 and by one-third on the minima of schedule IV. The Committee agree with the Government that the acceptance of the ~~maxi~~ scale recommended by the International Labour Conference would involve unduly heavy payments for death or permanent disablement.

... (Hindu, 23-5-1929).

Baroda Millowners' Association.

The 11th annual meeting of the Baroda Millowners' Association was held at Baroda on 26-5-1929 with Mr. Magambhai Haribhakti, the Nagar Seth (chief of the Guilds) of the city, in the chair. The chairman Mr. Bhailal Amin reviewed the activities of the Association for the last ten years, and pointed out that the organisation had for its object the fostering of local factories and other industries; affording <sup>an opportunity</sup> ~~a link~~ for the new and old enterprises to meet on a common platform; assisting the state to promote commercial and industrial enterprises; and maintaining a strict watch for the purpose of safeguarding the interest of the community in general. The Association, in particular, endeavoured to maintain cordial relations between the employer and the employed by looking after the wants and comfort of labour, and had always taken care to represent their best interests whenever it was found necessary. The state had recognised the services rendered by the Association by inviting its president to take part in the discussion when the draft of the new Factory Act was brought before the State Legislative Assembly for consideration.

(Hindu, 25-5-1929).

... ..



INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION.(2) Workers' Organisations.G.I.P.Railwaymen's Union.

The first annual general meeting of the G.I.P.Railwaymen's Union was held at Chalisgaon on 25-5-1929 under the presidency of Mr. F.G.Ginwala. Mr. Ginwala, in his presidential speech, emphasised the necessity of organising railway workers in India as, of the 700,000 railway workers in the country, only 100,000 were now organised. He condemned Government's action in passing the Trades Disputes Bill and the Public Safety Ordinance in the teeth of strong opposition, and characterised the Ordinance as a great infringement of personal liberty. According to Mr. Ginwala the real cause of India's industrial trouble today was that employers, encouraged by Governments' apathy, took scant notice of the representations of employees' organisations, and thus invited industrial trouble confident of the ultimate support of the Government. He cited as a case in point that in the course of the last year, 1759 complaints relating to fines, victimisation, free passes, compensation, leave, removal from service, etc., which were received from the Union's various branches were forwarded by the Union to the Agent for remedial action; but with very few exceptions the complaints were never remedied. Mr. Ginwala sounded a note of warning to the authorities that, if this policy was continued, a very serious labour situation was bound to arise, and the responsibility for it would rest with the government.

... ..

Ajmer Postal Conference.

The fifth session of the All India Burma Postal and R.M.S. Union (Central Circle) conference was held at Ajmer on

19-5-1929 under the presidentship of Rai Sahib Har Bilas Sarda, M.L.A. The Conference directed attention to the inadequate salaries of postmen and runners, who, in the opinion of the Conference, did not even get a living wage. The plight of graduates employed before the recent revision of salaries, and who had to work at a disadvantage compared with new graduate employees was sympathetically considered by the Conference. Attention was also drawn to the fact that the revision of salaries had given no relief to packers, mail peons, letter-box peons, and van peons. "You will realise the ~~sting~~ stinginess shown by the Government to postmen in India" said Mr. Sarda, "when you compare them with their confreres in England. In England a postman starts on a salary of Rs. 175/- per month and rises to Rs.304/8/- in 13 years. In Rajputana he starts on Rs. 18, and rises in 20 years to Rs. 30/8/-. Till two years ago he could not rise beyond Rs. 24/-."

... ..

#### All-India Telegraph Workmen's Union.

The annual general meeting of the All India Telegraph Workmen's Union was held at Lahore on 29-5-1929, under the presidentship of Dewan Chamanlal. The meeting passed a resolution urging the grant to telegraph workers in cities, rent allowance, cycle allowance, sun-proof glass for summer, rain-proof coats and umbrellas for the rainy season, abolition of the system of bracketting telegrams, and of the practice of not paying for telegrams when addressees are not found. It was also decided that a comprehensive statement of grievances should be sent to the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, and on receipt of reply, if necessary, a deputation should wait on the Director General.

As a result of representations the authorities of the

Posts and Telegraph Department have formulated a scheme whereby a telegraph delivery peon after a certain period of service in the taskwork department can apply for the post of postman. But the All India Telegraph Workmen's Union demands a more far-reaching scheme under which the menial grade would be altogether abolished in the Telegraph Department.

... ..

Madras Tramways' Workmen.

A meeting of the Madras Electric Tramways and Supply Corporation Employees' Union was held on 29-5-1929 under the presidentship of Dr. C. Natesa Mudaliar, M.L.C. Three resolutions were passed at the meeting: one requesting the authorities a general increment of their wages and salaries: the other for the introduction of a system of Provident Fund: and the third that in respect of overtime work done by all employees wages should be paid for such extra hours in accordance with the rules and practice in vogue in mills and factories.

... ..

Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway

Employees' Union.

In compliance with the request of this Union, the Chief Engineer, M. & S.M. Railway, has consented to the formation of an employment bureau consisting of the General Secretary of the Union and the Works Manager, Arkonam, for finding out employment in the railways and elsewhere for the retrenched men at Arkonam.

The first meeting of the bureau was held on the 18th May 1929 at Arkonam and the lines on which it should work were agreed upon. Though the men at Arkonam feel that the notices dispensing with their services should have been

cancelled, yet the appointment of the bureau has given considerable relief.

(Hindu, 24th May 1929).

... ..

#### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

##### The Banking Inquiry.

At pages 54-56 of this Office's report for May 1929 an account was given of the main proposals of the Government of India with regard to a scheme of enquiry into Indian banking conditions. After a consultation with the local governments, the Central Government has now decided to set up a Central Committee and ten local committees - one for each of the nine major provinces, and one for the centrally administered areas. The Committee will inquire into the existing conditions of banking in India, and consider what steps, if any, are feasible and desirable under the following main heads:

- (1) Regulation of banking ~~in~~ with a view to protect the interests of the public:
- (2) Development of banking in the sense of expansion of both indigenous and joint stock banking with special reference to the needs of agriculture, commerce and industry: and
- (3) Banking education with a view to the provision of Indian personnel in adequate numbers and with necessary ~~many~~ qualifications to meet the increasing needs of the country for a sound and well-managed national system of banking.

The Hon'ble Sir B.N.Mitra has been appointed chairman of the Central Committee, which consists of over <sup>20</sup>~~15~~ members. He will take over his duties on the termination of his

membership of the Viceroy's Council early next year; until then Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, Vice-chairman, will act for him.

The main work of the provincial committees is to be done in the cold weather of 1929-30, when certain sub-committees of the Central Committee will also be active. In the summer of 1930, the Central Committee will study the reports of its sub-committees as also of the various provincial committees, and provisional conclusions and recommendations will probably be settled. The next stage will be consultations between the Central Committee and a small body of outside experts selected by the Government either from England or from other foreign countries with well developed systems of rural credit and industrial banking. These experts will act as advisers to the Central Committee, and will, if necessary, submit a report ~~by~~ of their own which will be included by the Central Committee in its own report to be presented to the Government of India. These final reports according to the present plans will be ready by April 1931.

The Committee has on the whole been well received by the public.

... ..

#### The New Rupee Loan of the Government of India.

A Gazette of India Extraordinary of 11-6-1929 publishes the terms of the new 5 per cent loan 1939-44 issued at Rs. 96 $\frac{1}{2}$  and ~~giving a redemption yield of 5.34 per cent~~, and of a further issue of 5 per cent bonds 1935 issued at Rs. 98, and ~~giving a redemption yield of 5.39 per cent~~. The 5 per cent loan 1939-44 is for Rs. 120 millions nominal, and the 5 per cent bonds 1935 is for Rs. 150 millions nominal; but the Government of India reserves to themselves the right to close either ~~the~~ the loan or the bonds and close the subscriptions at

any time after subscriptions for both the loan and the bonds taken together have exceeded a total of Rs. 180 millions. The period when the issues are open for subscription is from the 20th to the 28th June 1929.

... ..

#### Removal of Export Duty on Manila Hemp.

The Government of India have issued orders on the Tariff Board report issued on the 7th June 1929 recommending the entire removal of the duty on Manila hemp to enable Indian manufacturers of Manila rope to ~~xxxxx~~ compete with foreign producers in markets abroad, besides restoring the tariff equality in respect of that part of the output which is sold for local consumption. The Government resolution says: "The Government of India accept & in principle the recommendation of the Board that the duty on Manila hemp should be entirely removed". It is proposed to give effect to it when the financial conditions permit.

Once the industry was in flourishing condition in India, but since 1920 export had practically ceased. One of the reasons assigned for this is the disability to which the Indian manufacturer is subject by reason of the import duty on Manila hemp. The Tariff Board recognises that it is unreasonable to levy on Indian manufacturers a duty which has the effect of shutting them out of their natural export markets and expresses the opinion that an import duty levied on raw materials used in the manufacture of article destined for export was not distinguishable in effect from an export duty on raw materials, to which strong objection was taken by the Indian Fiscal Commission.

... ..

Land Revenue Conference.

With reference to the Revenue Members' Conference, an account of which appears at pages 58-59 of the report of this Office for May 1929, the Government of India have issued a communiqué on 15-5-1929 explaining that the object of the Conference was to enquire into the adequacy of the existing system of land revenue administration to meet present conditions. The last comprehensive examination of this question was undertaken by the Government of Lord Curzon, which issued a resolution on this subject in 1902. The Government of India hope to publish shortly a resolution setting out the main conclusions reached by the Conference on the important questions discussed. But as land revenue administration is primarily the concern of the local governments, being a reserved provincial subject, and as the divergence of the local systems of settlement and local conditions make it essential that any general principles that may be enunciated should be framed with due regard to these factors, the Government of India propose to issue the resolution after prior consultation with local governments.

In this connection attention may be drawn to a statement published in the Pioneer of 22-5-1929 by Mr. K.M.Munshi, M.L.C. (Bombay), who figured prominently during the Bardoli controversy. Mr. Munshi pleads for the establishment of the rule of law instead of the arbitrary rule of the executive authority in the land revenue policy of the country. The essential features of an enlightened revenue policy should be (1) land revenue must be statutorily recognised as a tax and not as rent; (2) principles of assessment must be clearly defined by statute; (3) assessments should be enquired into and fixed judicially, the assessment made by a revenue officer being open to challenge before a land court consisting of

the district judge and a settlement officer, with the right of appeal to the high court; and (4) the recovery of assessment should be by processes more akin to the execution of decrees by the civil courts.

... ..

#### Inland Waterways of India.

The Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has made a representation to the Government of India, asking for the examination of the problem of the development of waterways in India in all its aspects by a central agency with a view to the formulation of a national policy in the matter. The press supports the Chamber in its request, and points out that the Government of India are wrong in holding that the development of the waterways was primarily a matter for the provinces. According to the "Statesman" of 24-5-1929 "the fact is that the policy of the Government of India in this matter is dictated by the Railway Board ..... Instead of spending its money in opening up routes where there is no water communication, the Railway Board persistently lays siege to traffic which is already carried by the waterways, thus laying the foundations of its own future monopoly. The Government of India admits that railways and roads are an imperial concern. How then can they exclude from the same category waterways, which are only another aspect of the problem?" It may here be pointed out that the Indian Industrial Commission "felt justified in urging that the Government of India should take up the question of improving the existing waterways, as we cannot help thinking that in the absence of a representative especially charged with their interests, the vested interests of railways have prevented waterways in India from receiving the attention that has been given to them in other countries with such satisfactory results".

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## UNEMPLOYMENT.

### Mysore Farming Colony.

It will be remembered that early this year the Bengal Government resolved to try the experiment of starting agricultural colonies in that province as a solution to the problem of unemployment among the educated middle classes. The Government of Mysore has now accorded sanction to a similar scheme proposed by the Director of Agriculture for the establishment of an agricultural colony <sup>near</sup> ~~under~~ the Bhadra Channel, where an area of 379 acres of wet land and 442 acres of dry land has been selected for the purpose.

The object~~s~~ of the scheme are to give opportunities to intelligent young men who have had an agricultural training to utilise their knowledge to the advantage of themselves and the benefit of the country; to open out and develop the resources of hitherto insufficiently developed tracts; and to serve as a centre for the distribution of agricultural implements.

The scheme provides for the ~~admission~~ admission of only ten men to the colony, allowing 30 acres of wet land and 40 acres of dry land to each of the colonists, who will be required to clear all the wet land within two years or forfeit it, unless they can show sufficient reasons for the delay. Each holding will be non-transferable for a period of 20 years, or until the dues are paid. The estate will be impartible. A sum of Rs. 5,000 is to be spent on wells, roads and bridges for the colony, and the whole colony is to be placed under the control of the Director of Agriculture.

The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 10,250 per man, out of which the colonist is to contribute Rs. 1,500 and the Mysore Government the balance, which will be treated as a loan free of interest for five years. The Director has proposed

that the principal of this loan, with interest at 6 per cent per annum be made repayable in sixteen equal annual instalments, commencing the fifth year after the disbursement of the loan.

(Statesman, 30-5-1929)

... ..

#### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

##### Temperance work in India.

An exhaustive review of the temperance work done in India in 1928-29 was placed before the annual meeting of the Anglo-Indian Temperance Association held in London on 13-5-'29. The report drew attention to the fact that during the last 50 years drinking habits had increased in India, and that the excise system by which the sale of drink was regulated had become one of the most lucrative revenue collecting agencies of the Government. An ominous factor in the situation is that about one quarter of the total provincial revenues was dependant upon excise revenues, the proportion rising to as much as 33.3 per cent in Madras, and 34.4 per cent in Bihar and Orissa. This explains the inwardness of the inability of several provincial governments to make any real progress towards prohibition, though they have announced prohibition to be the final goal of their policy.

The excise policies in the different provinces are then discussed. In Bombay after much agitation a system of rationing liquor supplies designed to achieve total prohibition by gradual stages was adopted some years ago, but this system has now been practically abandoned. All rationing of liquor in Bombay Presidency proper was stopped as from

1-4-1928, which led to much criticism in the Council and the passing of a motion of censure on the Excise Minister. In Sind, the rationing system has been continued, the ration for the current year being fixed at 5 per cent less than that of 1927-28.

The Madras Government have been making some efforts towards prohibition, and have even set apart a sum of money for expenditure each year to discourage the drink habit and to subsidise voluntary agencies working for prohibition.

In Bengal, the Government's attitude leaves much to be desired, in marked contrast to the attitude of Madras, Bombay and the Central Provinces, which have scrapped the old policy of "a maximum revenue from a minimum consumption", and have approved of eventual prohibition as a practical ideal. The Bengal Government is still content with the regulation of the sale of liquor, and regards prohibition as impossible. That the stoppage of excise contributions will be disastrous to provincial finances seems to be the view of the Government, with the result that its attitude to temperance reform has become unsympathetic and even hostile.

(Times of India, 11-6-1929)

The position in Madras is further elucidated by the proceedings of a meeting of the executive committee of the Central Propaganda Board against Alcoholism which was held at Ootacamund on 20-5-1929, with the Minister for Excise in the chair. The Committee considered the draft scheme prepared in the light of the previous discussions, which has for its object the creation of active public opinion in favour of total abstinence, so as to be able to work up to the goal of total prohibition within 20 years. A sum of Rs. 400,000 has been allotted for propaganda this year for the Central

Board. The majority of the members of the Board are non-officials, but the Secretary of the Revenue Department of the Government of Madras, the Commissioner of Excise, and the Director of Public Health are also ex-officio members and the president is the Minister for Public Health.

(Hindu, 3-6-1929).

#### Opium Cultivation Statistics.

In his report to the Central Board of Revenue, Mr. A.P. Collett, Opium Agent and Commissioner of Income-Tax, United Provinces, remarks that the maximum area of cultivation during 1927-28 (October-September) was further reduced from 100,000 bighas to 80,000 bighas. The settlements were very satisfactory and resulted in an area of 79,251 bighas or only .94 per cent less than the sanctioned area being obtained.

The reluctance of cultivators to engage observed in the previous year was not apparent, and the cultivation of poppy has regained its popularity. But this is due chiefly to the efforts of district officers and there is little doubt in view of the restricted cultivation that the limit has been reached and any further reduction in price will adversely affect poppy cultivation.

The area of production was 76,743, while failures due to climatic causes amounted to 2,275 as compared with 1,459 in the preceding year.

The gross produce amounted to 7,002 equivalent to 7,016 maunds at a consistence of 70°. The amount was 1,298 maunds less than the estimate framed by district officers owing to the unfavourable weather conditions during February.

The average yield per bigha on the actual outturn was 3.66 seers at 70° as compared with 5.12 seers in the previous

year and an average of 4.62 in the past seven years.

For opium delivered the average price paid by the department was Rs. 36-9-0 per bigha, while each cultivator received Rs. 17-6-0 as compared with Rs. 51-3-0 and Rs. 22-9-0 in the previous year. The decrease is due to the poor yield.

During the year 738 lbs. of crude morphine and 164 lbs. 10 ozs. of morphia-hydrochloride were manufactured, besides small quantities of cotarnine-hydrochloride and codeine. The quantity of crude morphine sold through the High Commissioner for India after the necessary permission had been obtained from the Home Office was 1,100 lbs. The balance in hand, 778 lbs. is sufficient to meet Indian indents for some time and as the sale of crude morphine in the United Kingdom affects the sale of special medical opium, which gives better profits, the manufacture of crude morphine has ceased for the present.

The number of chests of medical opium despatched to the High Commissioner for India for sale in the United Kingdom was practically the same as in the previous year: 480 chests comprising 76,800 lbs. were sold and the accounts received up to date of 345 chests valued Rs. 8,68,404-13-0. The price obtained, however, has gradually dropped from 2s.3d per lb. per unit of morphine to 1s.10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. owing to the competition of Turkish opium in the London market.

The segregation of the opium obtained from the lancements of the first and second visits to the fields in certain selected localities and the setting aside of the opium so obtained together with opium of high morphine strength obtained from subsequent lancements for the manufacture of medical opium was continued during the year. But though the quality of the opium was good, there was a decrease in outturn due to adverse ~~xxx~~ climatic conditions.

The net profit of the manufacturing operations of the department for the period amounted to Rs. 1,98,79,248 as compared with Rs. 1,69,67,833 for the preceding eleven months ending September 30, 1927. To this must be added interest charges amounting to Rs. 23,10,130 and depreciating<sup>en</sup> amounting to Rs. 44,996. Most of the profits were, as in the previous year, obtained from the sale of provision opium.

Special medical opium despatched to the United Kingdom yielded a profit of Rs. 4,44,127-2-0. Indian medical opium, cake and powder, also yielded a profit.

There was a loss of Rs. 35,197-2-0 on the sale of lands and buildings due to disposal of the buildings at a price much below their book value.

(Statesman, 24-6-1929).

#### Social Reform.

How wide is the gulf that separates India from the countries of Western Europe is strikingly brought home by the difference in the connotation of the expression "Social Reform" here and there. Here social reform does not mean schemes of social insurance, or old age pensions, or relief ~~from~~<sup>of</sup> unemployment. It means rather the removal of the old time social customs, which today act as a bar to progress. Thus, addressing the Conference of the All India Hindu Law Research and Reform Association which opened at Poona on the 15th May 1929, Mr. Justice Madgavkar, I.C.S. emphasised the urgent need there was for the reform of Hindu law, social customs, and religious practices in accordance with the conditions of modern existence in India, and the dictates of prudence and necessity. According to him the three points on which reform was urgently required were the status of women, the caste system, and the joint family system. One of the questions considered at the

brilliant history in some other lines of medical and public health research". The Committee recommend that the headquarters of the Central Medical Research Organisation should be established at Dehra Dun, though some medical bodies in India object to its location at Dehra Dun, where the Institute will be isolated, and teamwork in ~~the~~ other departments of study, such as chemistry, physics, physiology, etc., would not be possible, and it is argued that in the same way as the Public Health Institute of India, for which the Rockefeller endowment has promised a contribution of Rs. 1,500,000, is to be located at Calcutta, Bombay may be chosen as the site of the new Central Medical Research Institute.

#### CO-OPERATION.

Among the newspaper cuttings on co-operation forwarded with this report are two which deal with the progress of co-operation in Mysore and in Madras, to which special attention is directed. Two other cuttings in the same section deal with the work of co-operative housing societies in Karachi and in Bangalore. A very interesting article in the Hindu of 14-5-1929 on "Water supply in rural areas - Field for co-operative endeavour" also deserves more than passing attention.

#### EDUCATION.

##### Industrial Education in Madras.

In the course of a Government order No. 691, Development Department, dated 12-4-1929, the Government of Madras state that they had had under consideration the recommendations of the Committee on Technical and Industrial Education in the Presidency, which reported in 1924, that a number of model

industrial schools ought to be set up in areas where aided schools were few and far between. Accordingly three such trade schools have now been sanctioned to be opened, ~~at~~ a Trade School at Bangalore, and Industrial Schools at Calicut and Bellary, to provide part time instruction in engineering trades, including motor engineering, wood-work and cabinet making etc.

#### Training of Printers' Apprentices in Calcutta.

At a meeting of the leading Calcutta printers on 21-5-1929 Mr. H.E. Watson, the editor of the "Statesman" presiding, a Master Printers' Federation of Bengal was formed with the primary object of establishing a Board of Control of apprentice training in the printers' trade. The proposal was welcomed by the Director of Industries in Bengal on behalf of the Calcutta Technical School. The Government, he said, had shown its desire to foster industrial training by giving the school property worth Rs. 1.05 millions and making it over to a non-official governing body on which the industries of Calcutta were represented. Technical education was essentially the responsibility of the leaders of industry. Government usually aided these ventures by contributions to capital and recurring expenditure, to as much as 50 per cent of the outlay, and a bona fide gesture from such an important body as the Master Printers of Calcutta, he considered, would undoubtedly meet with government support.



# AGRICULTURE.

## Review of Agricultural Operations in India, 1927-28\*.

The Review of Agricultural Operations in India for the year 1927-28 by Dr. D. Clouston, Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, has now been published, and copious extracts from it together with comments are appearing in the various newspapers of India. After passing in brief review the agricultural conditions of the year, and detailing the nature of the economic work§ on crops, Dr. Clouston points out that a considerable amount of research work bearing on the fundamental problems of the science of agriculture is being done by some of the agricultural departments in India. Investigation into soil fitness and manures is also being carried on at different centres. Government have provided at the cost of over a Rs. 1,000 millions irrigation works which protect 26 out of the 256 million acres under cultivation in British India. Much headway has not yet been made in the designing of improved implements suitable to Indian conditions. Two of the most interesting chapters in the Review deal with agricultural education and the co-operative movement. The number of Indians trained up to date in the technique of good agricultural practices is quite inadequate. A more technical education than is now given in secondary schools would have given the students a bias towards agriculture as a vocation, stimulated their interest in the land, and equipped them to be better farmers. Though the

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\* Review of Agricultural Operations in India 1927-28 by Dr. Clouston, C.I.E., M.A., D.Sc., Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India -- Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch - 1929. Price Rs. 2-6 or 4s. 3d. ~~Rs. 157.~~

co-operative movement as affecting agriculture is in a somewhat unhealthy condition, nevertheless a system of rural credit has been established which, carefully fostered, should in the course of time relieve the cultivator of his burden of usury. Another important subject dealt with in the report deals with the disease and treatment of live stock, and the question of cattle breeding. The net expenditure incurred by the Imperial Agricultural Department was Rs. 1,025,464 during the financial year ending 31-3-1928, while there was a rise of Rs. 800,000 in the gross expenditure of the provincial departments of agriculture over that of the previous year.

... ..

#### Agricultural Research Council.

In the monthly report of this office for February 1929, pages 3-4, reference was made to the intention of the Government of India to create an Imperial Council of Agricultural Research as recommended by the Linlithgow Commission. The Government have now published a resolution formally announcing their decisions with regard to the constitution of the council. The central organisation would be divided into two parts vested with executive and advisory functions respectively. The executive part which will be known as the governing body will consist of the Member of the Viceroy's Council in charge of agriculture, a principal Officer of the Administrative Council, three representatives from the Central Legislatures, two representatives from Indian business interests, one representative each from the Government of each major province, two representatives elected by the advisory board, and such other persons as the Government may nominate. The functions of the advisory board will be to

to examine all proposals in connection with the scientific objects of the Council, to report on their feasibility, and to advise on any other questions referred to it by the governing body. It will consist of all those whose inclusion in the Council was recommended by the Linlithgow Commission, with the exception of the representatives of the Central legislatures, and of the Indian industrial and commercial communities. The principal administrative officer of the Council will be the ex-officio chairman of the advisory board. For the lump grant of Rs. 5 millions recommended by the Linlithgow Commission, the Government have decided to substitute an initial lump grant of Rs. 2.5 millions and a fixed minimum annual grant of Rs. 725,000 of which Rs. 500,000 will be devoted to the furtherance of the scientific objects of the Council, and Rs. 225,000 to the cost of the staff and secretariat.

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

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Report for July 1929.

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General.

The period under review was characterised by a lull in the political world. To allay the unrest and suspicion created by nationalist criticism of some of the recent actions of the Government of India, the Viceroy delivered a speech at a dinner given by the Chelmsford Club, Simla, on the eve of his departure to England. This was an important pronouncement for more reasons than one. Surveying the present political situation in India, Lord Irwin said:- "I have never either under-rated the strength of the opposition to Sir John Simon's Commission, or impugned the motives of those who felt it their duty to pursue that line of conduct. But none the less, I think that the opposition to the Statutory Commission has rested, in some degree at all events, upon a misconception of their functions!"

Referring to three recent acts of the Government of India which have brought considerable odium on the authorities - the Public Safety Bill and Ordinance, the Trades Disputes Act, and the Meerut prosecutions - the Viceroy justified each of these as dictated by necessity, and affirmed that in all of these <sup>cases</sup> Government have acted in the best interests of the State. In passing, the Viceroy made brief references to the problems of minority communities and Indian States, and said:- "I do not believe that these or any other problems are beyond the power of wise men to solve, if only they approach them with cool hands and steady heads!" In conclusion, he reiterated the British Government's <sup>unalterable</sup> ~~abiding~~ faith <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ the Declaration of 1917, and said that he was going at the present juncture to England to place before the British Government the different standpoints of those who can speak for Indian political opinion.

The speech, on the whole, has been well received by the Anglo-Indian and Moderate sections, but the nationalists are inclined to be a bit sceptical of the Viceroy's benevolent intentions. Thus the Hindu, (Madras), while hauling the Government of India severely over the coals for its recent record of repressive legislation, concludes a long leader with the assertion that the Viceroy's pious aspirations of an honourable partnership of Britain and India is realisable only with the grant of full Dominion Status to India.

The Viceroy and Lady Irwin left Bombay for England on the 29th June, and they are expected back by October of this year. Much is expected as the result of the Viceregal visit, and the opportunity it affords for a full and direct exchange of views between the British Cabinet and the head of the Indian administration, and this expectation is heightened by the advent of a labour government in Britain as the result of the General Elections. During Lord Irwin's absence, Lord Goschen, the senior-most among the Indian Governors, has been appointed to act as ~~Viceroy~~ *Governor General*.

No date has been officially fixed for the opening of the autumn session of the Legislative Assembly in Simla, but it is learned from reliable sources that the session will commence on the 2nd September, if not on the 30th August. The agenda of the Assembly is not as full as usual, mainly owing to the Congress ban on council entry. The location and programme of the proposed Medical Research Institute (see pp.65-66, ~~January~~ June 1929 report), the critical situation precipitated in East Africa owing to the unacceptability of the Hilton-Young Report to India, and the grant of certain subsidies to Imperial Airways Ltd., seem to be the immediate preoccupations of those Indian members of the Assembly not securely held back by the Congress leash.

If the Congress taboo is removed, there can be no doubt, that the next autumn session would witness some extremely lively scenes. There seems to be a reasonable prospect of such an eventuality coming to pass, as the Congress Working Committee's decision at its Bombay meeting to boycott the Councils (see page 3, June 1929 report) is meeting with increasing opposition in the provinces. The feeling has been gaining ground that to indulge in the futilities of a boycott of the legislatures at this juncture, however unjust the decision to extend the life of the legislatures, central and provincial, may be, would be detrimental to the best interests of the country. Madras, which showed signs of incipient revolt even at the Bombay meeting, and was only prevailed upon to give a grudging acquiescence to the boycott programme, is showing visible signs of restiveness. The Bengal Congress party, leaving aside all pretences, has extorted the consent of the Swarajist leader in the Assembly, to Bengal congressmen attending the opening of the Bengal Council. The revolt of the provinces against the boycott ukase found emphatic expression in the decision of the Working Committee of the Congress convoked at Delhi on the <sup>26th July</sup> ~~29th June~~, not to make any pronouncement on the vexed question, but to leave the decision to the competence of a special session of the All India Congress Committee to be held at Allahabad on the 26th July.

Meanwhile, the results of the Council elections in Bengal, which with Assam were the only two provinces where the provincial councils were not given a further lease of life, act as a sort of indicator of what would have been the probable outcome if the elections to the central and provincial legislatures were allowed to take their normal course. The Bengal elections show that though the Congress party

has not been returned in an absolute majority to the Bengal Council, it can with the support of Muslim adherents of the Congress, of whom there ~~are~~<sup>is</sup> a sufficient number in the Council, defeat any Ministry which might be set up. The prospects of a stable Bengal Ministry are thus dependant entirely on the chance of inducing defections of Muslim~~x~~ Congressmen from congress ranks.

The reports of several Provincial Simon Committees, which have been published during the period under review, are interesting documents in so much as they furnish a basis for understanding the minimum demands of even the co-operating section of Indians. Most of the provincial committees are unanimous on one point; they are for full-blown provincial autonomy with an element of responsibility in the Central Government, which is to be more or less substantial. The United Provinces Simon Committee, subject to an explanatory memorandum on joint electorates by a Mahomedan member, and certain minor reservations by a Hindu member, recommends for the province a bicameral legislature, a unified cabinet, transfer of all subjects with certain reservations about law and order, and a limited franchise, based on property and educational qualifications. The Muslim member has, however, advocated communal electorates. The Madras Simon Committee, while fully joining in the demand for provincial autonomy, has voted for continuing communal representation for minorities. The Punjab Committee goes the furthest in its claims for provincial autonomy, and has advocated considerable curtailment of the powers of the central government. For instance, it has suggested that the Central Government's powers for interference in provincial ~~mg~~ affairs should be statutorily defined and clearly limited; the majority even



goes to the extent of recommending that the Provincial Government should have full control over the services, including the right of appointing High Court Judges. The outstanding feature of the provincial reports, therefore, <sup>According to the Anglo-Indian press,</sup> is the utter incongruity between the exaggerated claims made for complete provincial autonomy, and the dismal failure to achieve a decent measure of communal solidarity. A second factor which emerges from the rather obscure and confused situation is that almost all the provinces while claiming provincial autonomy are careful to add the significant rider that provincial autonomy <sup>should</sup> ~~can~~ be implemented fully ~~only~~ by the creation of an element of substantial responsibility in the Central Legislature. The bulk of co-operating provincial opinion has given its verdict against the Nehru report, at least so far as the principle of joint electorates, one of its principal planks, is concerned.

The welter of political opinion in the country is further intensified by the reports emanating from responsible sources of considerable misunderstandings between the Indian Central Committee and the Simon Commission. According to the London correspondent of the Free Press, Sir Sankaran Nair, the co-operating President of the Central Committee, has already expressed strong resentment against the autocracy of the ~~xxxx~~ Simonites, and their unwillingness to act in co-operation and consultation with their Indian colleagues. Sir Sankaran Nair, it is reported, has expressed his intention to leave England as soon as the formal taking of evidence is over, not waiting for further collaboration with the Simonites in the subsequent stages of submitting a report to Parliament. The nationalist Indian press, which had never ceased to anathematise Sir Sankaran Nair for his

co-operating fervour, while leaving the affronted Sir Sankaran Nair to stew his own juice, is indulging in the exquisite satisfaction of saying in chorus "We told you so".

The charge made by the nationalists that the policy of the government is leaning more and more in the direction of repression is strengthened by the recent prosecution, trial, and punishment of Dr. Satyapal, a congress worker of the Punjab, with a provincial rather than an all-India reputation. Dr. Satyapal was charged under section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code with the offence of delivering a seditious speech at Delhi on 10-3-1929, calculated to create disaffection against the Government, and to bring it into contempt. On 11-7-1929 he was sentenced to 2 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs.500/- by Mr. F.B.Pool, the Additional District Magistrate of Delhi. The gravamen of the charge against Dr. Satyapal is that he publicly characterised the government as a "tyrannical" one, and asserted that it was responsible for 150 years of oppression and misrule. In view of the fact that these charges are openly levelled against the government by almost every nationalist leader without bringing <sup>him</sup> ~~them~~ under the clutch of the criminal law, it is being alleged that Government is deliberately pursuing a policy of taking action only against the lesser political fry, leaving the big leaders alone for the moment, so that the nationalists might be deprived of their rank and file, and the leaders may be left without a following. It is also alleged that behind Dr. Satyapal's arrest and punishment, there is also the <sup>added</sup> motive of depriving the forthcoming Congress session which is to be held at Lahore in December of this year, of one of its strongest local supporters. It is significant

that the Punjab Government has of late been adopting a policy of consistent obstruction to the Lahore Congress, particularly ~~of~~ <sup>by</sup> creating difficulties in the matter of granting the congress organisers amenities of water and light supply and a suitable place for <sup>7</sup> meeting, which, whatever might be the differences dividing congressmen and the government, have hitherto been ~~freely~~ accorded by the governments of the provinces in which the different sessions of the Congress were held from year to year. The Lahore Congress assumes particular importance in view of the fact that on it will devolve the responsibility of endorsing or negating the mandate of the Congress of 1928 taken under Gandhi's inspiration of launching mass civil disobedience in the event of India not being accorded Dominion Status by the 31st December 1929 (see pp. 3-11, January 1929 report).

No official announcement has yet been made of the programme of the Royal Commission on Labour, but from independent sources it is learned that the forthcoming winter tour of the Commission in India will extend from October 1929 to April 1930. The Government of India have addressed Provincial Governments to prepare details for the Commission's visit. It is also learned that the Commission is not issuing any formal set questionnaire. The general heads of inquiry have already been decided upon, and the procedure as far as can be ascertained at present would seem to be to invite either written or oral statements under the general heads.

REFERENCES TO THE I.L.O.

News items of the 12th International Labour Conference have been steadily trickling down to the Indian press, mainly through Reuter, but occasionally also through the intermediary of some special correspondents. The Hindu of the 22nd and the 29th June published two long articles from its Geneva correspondent on the 12th Conference. Full texts of the speeches delivered by Mr. Shiva Rao on forced labour, and by Mr. Kelappa on the working hours of salaried employees have also been published in the Indian papers. The I.L.O. report on "unemployment" is reviewed in the Pioneer of the 20th June 1929. Editorial notes and comments on Mr. Joshi's statement that the meretricious glamour of Moscow's policies has proved more alluring to eastern workers than the slow evolutionary methods of Geneva are also frequently appearing. A short article explaining the attitude of the Fungal Chamber of Commerce on the items coming up for discussion at the 13th session of the Conference appears in the Statesman of the 29th June. All papers publish the communiqué issued by this office on the I.L.O. budget for 1930 (see the Times of India of 2-7-1929, the Hindustan Times of 4-7-1929, etc.).

...                      ...                      ...                      ...

The Guardian (Calcutta) of 20-6-1929 publishes an editorial note welcoming the efforts of the I.L.O. to suppress forced labour, especially as according to the "Guardian" such an attempt marks a departure from the I.L.O.'s general policy of indifference to conditions in non-European countries.

...                      ...                      ...                      ...

The Bombay Chronicle of 21-6-1929 publishes an editorial note on forced labour congratulating the I.L.O. on its humanitarian efforts but pleading for an accelerated pace of progress.

... ..

The Muslim Outlook (Lahore) of 22-6-1929 publishes lengthy extracts from the speech of Dr. Brahmns, the President of the 12th session of the Conference.

... ..

The Muslim Outlook of 25-6-1929 publishes a leading article entitled "The Labour Problem", in the course of which it asserts that Article XIII of the Peace Treaty is destined to usher in a sounder social order. The paper points out that the I.L.O's efforts in this direction are in complete accord with the Prophet Mahomed's attitude on labour questions.

... ..

The Madras Mail of 28-6-1929 has an editorial note on the differing view points of the Indian workers' delegate, Mr. N.M.Joshi, and of the Indian employers' delegate, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, on the question of hours of work in Indian factories. In the conflict of views between Mr. Joshi, who wants further reduction of hours of work and Mr. Lalbhai, who wants Indian States to come up to the level of British India before the latter makes further advances, the paper's sympathies are entirely with the employers' representative. It says:- "A 60 hour week with industrial prosperity is better than a 48 hour week with increased unemployment".

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 4-7-1929 publishes a strong editorial note supporting Mr. Shiva Rao's plea for suppression of forced labour.

... ..

The Liberty (Calcutta) of 5-7-1929 publishes the report of a special interview with Mr. D.P. Khaitan, an ex-substitute member of the Governing Body of the I.L.O., who has recently returned from an extended tour of Europe and America. Mr. Khaitan expresses the conviction that the I.L.O. has come to stay, and observes that as India cannot remain isolated from world currents, it should take its full place in the work of the I.L.O. He pleads for India being accorded a greater share in the governance of the institution.

"The European States", says Mr. Khaitan, "constitute only half the membership of the I.L.O., and yet they are monopolising the show. I hope Europe will realise the importance of securing the willing, friendly, and equal co-operation of Asiatic countries".

## Conditions of Labour

### Textile strike in Bombay.

The Bombay textile strike is still continuing with unabated vigour. It is becoming increasingly evident that the strike is not the outcome of a genuine labour dispute, and that it has resolved itself into an open trial of strength between the entrenched forces of capital and labour. This aspect of the situation is emphasised by the evident unwillingness of both the Bombay Millowners' Association and the Girni Kamgar Union to accept suggestions helpful towards a settlement made by impartial outside bodies, such as the Bombay Municipal Corporation and the Congress party. During the first week of the period under review, the employers were buoyed up with the hope that despite the strike propaganda of the Girni Kamgar Union, the operatives would be returning to work in increasing numbers, and that the strike will collapse out of inanition. An upward tendency in the number of workers returning to work was a noticeable feature of the second half of June. Thus, on 10-6-1929 there were over 70,000 men at work (see June 1929 report, page 43); by 14-6-1929 their numbers had increased to 74,000. (Times of India, 14-6-1929). The Girni Kamgar Union countered this tendency by carrying on more intensive picketing of the mill area, and by enhancing their demands. On 15-6-1929, the Girni Kamgar Union decided to add to their existing five demands (see page 43, June 1929 report), the seventeen demands of the textile workers that were placed before the Fawcett Committee. The Union decided to place these twenty-two demands before the Governor of the Presidency.

While enlightened public opinion was disposed to condemn the excesses and the extravagant demands of the strikers, there was a considerable section of thought, which was inclined to apportion a good share of the blame for the impasse to the lack of sympathy, obstinacy, and intractability of the millowners. In an account published by the Times of India of 18-6-1929 of a conference between the representatives of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the European Association, and the Millowners' Association, held at the invitation of the last named body, occurs the following significant observation made by Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, an ex-president of the Bombay Legislative Council, and a member of the Whitley Commission: "One point strikes me as peculiar. Can you explain why the leaders of the Girni Kamgar Union have such an enormous influence with labour, while the employers, whose servants they are, have no voice over their own employees. It seems that the owners have not kept that touch with their labour which they ought to have". In his reply to Sir Ibrahim's indictment, Mr. H. P. Mody, had to admit the substantial truth of the charge. Said Mr. Mody: "Coming to the want of proper touch, I will not deny it. All that I will say is that there have been excuses for it. The ignorance and illiteracy of the men, and the classes from whom they are drawn have not made it possible for employers of labour to get into the skins of the workpeople". The above quotations cannot help emphasising the class aspect of the textile dead-lock in Bombay. A counterpart to the dissatisfaction of other capitalists with the obduracy of the millowners, is presented by the frankly ~~critical~~ <sup>critical</sup> attitude taken up by the Congress party, which at first supported the strikers, but whose sympathies have later on been estranged by the impossible



demands of the strikers. A bulletin of the Bombay Provincial Committee advised the strikers to return to work on the condition of a settlement being arrived at through the mediation of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Motilal Nehru.

Meanwhile, Sir Frederick Sykes, the Governor, realising the gravity of the situation, himself came down to Bombay from Mahableshwar with the General Member, Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah on 19-6-1929 to study the situation on the spot, and to effect, if possible, a settlement of the long-drawn-out dispute. On 19-6-1929 the Governor conferred for over an hour and a half with a select body of newspaper editors, and this was followed by a conference of over three hours' duration with the representatives of all the important public bodies in the city. The Bombay Millowners' Association and the strikers' unions were not invited to this conference. In his opening speech, the Governor expressed his disappointment at the parties to the dispute not having invited the Government to adopt one or other of the possible processes of action under the Trades Disputes Act, which the Bombay Government had taken special action to bring into operation. As the strike could not be allowed to go on interminably, the Governor invited suggestions which would help to deal effectively with the situation. While there was general agreement in the conference about the need for setting up a tribunal to settle the outstanding points of disagreement, there was a sharp cleavage of opinion as to the desirability of resorting to any repressive policy. The Conference was adjourned to 21-6-1929. At the resumed conference, the Governor outlined the steps the Government proposed to take, which may be briefly summarised thus:-

- (1) A Court of Inquiry under the Trades Disputes Act:
- (2) Request to the Governor General for an Ordinance making intimidation a cognisable offence:
- (3) A Bill in the local legislature to ban picketing:
- (4) Extending the duration of the Chief Presidency Magistrate's order prohibiting assemblies of five or more persons, and
- (5) A Bill in the local legislature on the lines of the Presidency Areas Security Act of Bengal to deal with hooligans.

The terms of reference of the Court of Inquiry are:-

- (1) To inquire into and ascertain the exact nature of the dispute or disputes between the employers and workmen of the following mills ..... which led to the strike in those mills in March and April 1929.
- (2) If there was any such dispute, to what extent the employers or workmen or both are responsible in matters connected therewith.
- (3) What are the causes of the ~~the~~ prolongation of the strike? Whether the employers or workmen or both are responsible for such prolongation, and if so, to what extent?
- (4) What are the difficulties in the way of a settlement of the dispute or disputes between the employers and the workmen?

The Court will consist of Mr. Justice Pearson of the Calcutta High Court (President), Mr. F. S. Talyarkhan, Bar-at-Law, a well-known member of the Bombay bar and an ex-judge of the Bombay High Court, and Mr. Rupchand Bilasram, Additional Judicial Commissioner in Sind. The announcement of the Government's decision has met with a mixed reception. The representatives of the Bombay Corporation and several other bodies have expressed themselves strongly against the adoption of a repressive policy; the millowners are pessimistic, not being sure whether the decisions of the Court of Inquiry would not meet with the same fate as those of the Fawcett Committee, and the strikers have spared no pains to interpret the

contemplated measures as calculated only "to strengthen the Government's armoury of repression" to crush the trade union movement in Bombay.

The principals of the dispute, in the meanwhile, are straining every nerve to achieve their own particular ends. On 25-6-1929, the Girni Kamgar Union sent a wire to the British Premier, and to the Secretary of the British Labour Party, protesting against the contemplated measures to make intimidation a cognisable offence, and to ban picketing. The Millowners' Association led by Mr. H.P.Mody held a conference on 28-6-1929 with the Viceroy at Poona, at which the desirability of according further protection to the ~~the~~ cotton industry, in the shape of an enhanced import duty on cotton cloth was stressed. (The subject is more fully dealt with in the section of the report dealing with economic conditions). On 3-7-1929 the Bombay Millowners' Association held a conference with Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, Member for Industries and Labour of the Government of India. At the Conference, Mr. H.P.Mody explained in detail the various steps taken by the millowners to implement the recommendations of the Fawcett Committee, but when he proceeded to expatiate on communism as the sole cause of the deadlock, Sir B.N.Mitter had to ask him "to turn the searchlight inwards" and demand whether the millowners had exhausted all remedies by way of introducing economies in their management, and of promoting the welfare of the labourers.

As a result of the Government's intervention there is a distinctly improved tone at present in the mill area. The attendance which had been showing signs of dwindling down, has again begun to show an upward tendency. According to a Times of India report of 4-7-1929 73 mills were working on 2-7-1929 with a total attendance of over 85,000 workmen.

The first preliminary meeting of the Strike Enquiry Court was held at the Secretariat on the 6th July 1929. The Millowners Association (represented by Mr. H.P.Mody, Mr. S.D.Saklatvala, and Mr. T. Maloney) the Bombay Textile Labour Union (represented by R.R.Bakhale and R.S.Asavale) and the Girni Kamgar Mahamandal (represented by Mr.Mayekar) were present at the meeting. The Girni Kamgar Union was not represented as its officials complained that they had not received a special invitation to the meeting. It was agreed upon after discussion that the Millowners Association of the various textile unions should be invited to submit written statements of their cases to the Committee not later than the 11th July 1929, and the representatives of these bodies are again to meet the Committee after the statements have been submitted. Copies of the statements will be submitted to all the parties to the dispute so that each party may acquaint itself with the views of other parties. The Court meet a second time on the 11th July 1929. The Millowners' Association in its statement maintained that the strike declared by the Girni Kamgar Union in April was unwarranted, and that the Union's attitude in respect of the Wadia group of mills was a clear case of breach of agreement. The Millworkers' Union and the Girni Kamgar Mahamandal in their statements expressed their views as to what the owners should do to satisfy the workmen, but emphasised that their Unions had never supported the general strikes of 1928 or 1929. The Bombay Textile Labour Unions statement will be submitted on the 12th July 1929. The

The Girni Kamgar Union's representatives who were not ready with their statement, maintained that those organisations which were not parties to the dispute should not be allowed to be represented, and that the proceedings should be thrown open to the public. They also maintained that the former Office-bearers of the Union, Messrs A.A. Alve, S.A. Dange, and R.S. Nimbkar, who are now under trial prisoners in the case should be allowed to come to Bombay and record their statements.

In view of the generally disturbed conditions in the mill-area, the Polic Commissioner has issued an order prohibiting the Girni Kamgar Union from holding public meetings for one week from the 12th July 1929. The Government in a communique explain its action on the ground that the Girni Kamgar Union are utilising its meetings to incite the mill-hands against the police rather than for legitimate bona fide trade union purposes. On the evening of the 12th July 1929 the leaders of the Union held a public meeting in defiance of the order and three leaders of the Union were arrested. A crowd of strikers followed the arrested leaders in a militant mood. The police had to open fire on the crowd to defend themselves. Two men were injured as a result of the firing.

On the 11th July 1929, according to a communique of the Mill-owners Association 95,555 were at work in the mills.

THE AHMEDABAD TEXTILE  
INDUSTRY.

—°—

Ahmedabad possesses a large number of cotton mills and is second to Bombay in the Presidency as a cotton manufacturing centre. In the year 1925 Ahmedabad had about 62 mills with 13,38,056 spindles and 29,383 looms. This number gradually increased and at present there are 76 mills with 16,01,577 spindles and 37,948 looms, showing an increase of fourteen mills with 2,63,521 spindles and 8,115 looms. The year 1928-29 saw 10 new mills with 1,15,704 spindles and 3,034 looms. These figures show that during the period of Bombay's labour troubles the Ahmedabad mill industry has considerably progressed. Further, before the days of trouble in Bombay, local mills had to store up their products because there was not sufficient demand for them. The Bombay strikes turned the tables. The local mills not only sold off their stored up goods but many of the mills have effected sales in advance. Not only have these sales been effected but they have been effected at better prices. Naturally the public would expect a fall in the price of cloth when cotton prices have dropped. But owing to the scarcity caused by the Bombay strikes, these goods fetched better prices and hence the condition of the local mills has financially improved. Some mills have to work both day and night to supply goods to their customers in time. The last but not least advantage to the local mills is that the Bombay mills and merchants used to export the products of their mills to Aden, Africa, Arabia,

Afghanistan and other parts. During the strike they purchased from the Ahmedabad mills and exported the goods. Some of the Ahmedabad mills are now trying to capture those markets.

The Ahmedabad mill industry has progressed on account of the harmonious relations between employers and employees. There is a Millowners' Association, with Sheth Chimanlal Girdharlal Parekh as its President, and a Labour Union. In case of dispute between the mill authorities and the employees, both these bodies work simultaneously to set things right. No strike takes place unless arbitration is refused. When the Association and the Union cannot make up their differences the matter is placed before the permanent board of arbitrators consisting of Mr. M. K. Gandhi (representing the Labour Union) and Sheth Mangaldas G. Parekh (representing the Millowners' Association). After hearing the secretaries of both Association and Union the arbitrators give their award, which is binding <sup>on</sup> ~~to~~ both parties. In case of any difference of opinion between these arbitrators, the matter is constitutionally referred to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, who gives his final award as sole arbitrator. Both the Association and the Union are watchful to enforce awards on the parties concerned and would even go to the length of taking disciplinary action in cases of breach or threatened breach of any term of the award. If employees go on any unauthorised strike the Labour Union promptly condemns their action and shows readiness to expel them from the Union.

(Times of India, 11-7-1929.)

Tin-plate Workers' Strike.

The tin-plate workers' strike, Golmuri, Jamshedpur is showing no signs of an immediate peaceful settlement. The strike which started on 8-4-1929 has now lasted for more than three months, and yet neither side is showing any signs of yielding ground. It was mentioned in the report for June 1929 (see page 46) that Mr. J.R.Dain has been appointed to study the situation first hand and to report to Government, and that a deputation of the workers under Mr. V.V.Giri had presented a memorandum fully detailing the grievances of the workmen to him. Mr. Dain's investigation of the situation has not allayed to any considerable extent the discontent of the strikers, who are conducting a vigorous campaign to stiffen the attitude of the rank and file, and to enlist all-India sympathy in their fight. Peaceful propaganda, picketing and collection of funds are the immediate pre-occupations of the strikers. Meanwhile, the fight is engaging the sympathetic attention of the labour leaders. On 22-6-1929, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President of the All India Trade Union Congress who visited Jamshedpur, issued a statement endorsing the cause of the strikers, and condemning the attitude of the managing agents, Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company. On 29-6-1929, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose visited Jamshedpur and later on broadcasted an appeal for help to the strikers. The intervention of these leaders is likely to lead to the transference of the fight to other than the strictly labour and industrial sphere. Thus Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose advocates the boycott of the products of the Burma Oil Company, which along with the Tatas own the Tinsplate Works. Other means of coercion sought to be employed are the inducement of sympathetic strikes both at the Budge Budge



(Calcutta) works of the Burmah Oil Company, and in the workshops at Jamshedpur. The dominioneering attitude of Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company is coming in for a good deal of blame and the "Boycott" movement is a direct result of the dissatisfaction generally felt with them. The men do not seem to attach much importance to the leisurely investigations of Mr. Dain, but the ~~xx~~ rumoured visit of Sir B.N.Mitra of the Department of Industries and Labour on July 5th 1929 has considerably raised the hopes of the men, who are planning to wait in deputation on him and to submit to him a memorandum of their grievances.

Renewed strikes in Bangalore.

During the period under review Bangalore was again the venue of industrial strife of considerable magnitude. A short account was given in our last report (see page 47, June Report) of a strike in the Minerva and Maharaja Mills, Bangalore, on the ground of victimisation, and how the strike came to an end on 8-6-1929, on the assurance of the management that there would be no more cases of victimisation. The peaceful conditions which followed for nearly a fortnight were once again rudely interrupted when the workers of the Maharaja Mills suddenly downed tools on 24-6-1929, the reason given being the arrest of a few boys and workmen who are alleged to have assaulted some people and a policeman in the previous strike, and against whom prosecutions have been launched by the police. By noon of 26-6-1929 all the workmen of the Maharaja mills were out, demanding the release of all those arrested as a condition precedent to their rejoining duty. The next day, 27-6-1929, a few workmen returned to the mill, but the mill authorities told them that work would only be resumed when a sufficiently large number returned to work. On 30-6-1929 the workmen of the Minerva mills, Bangalore, struck work in sympathy with the workers of the Maharaja mills, who were still holding out. The situation was further complicated by 3,000 workers of the Binny Mills, Bangalore stopping work as a protest against the dismissal of a mechanic as a disciplinary measure by the authorities.

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End of Choolai Mill strike.

The workers of the Choolai Mills, Madras, who had gone on strike in the second week of June as the result of a Gurkha watchman at the

gate assaulting one of the workmen, resumed work on 13-6-1929. The termination of the strike was due to the intervention of the officials of the Madras Labour Union, in response to whose representations the Agent of the mill, dismissed the Gurkha watchman concerned, promised that steps would be taken to prevent such occurrences in future, and issued an order prohibiting watchmen at the gates from carrying any weapon while on duty.

... ..

#### Two strikes in Calcutta.

During the period under review there were two strikes in Calcutta. The workers of the Sri Kishen Cotton Mill, Belur, struck work on 18-6-1929, but by 24-6-1929, half of the strikers had returned to work. The spinners of the Bharat Abhuday Mills, Howrah, went on strike, but resumed work on 28-6-1929 on the removal of their grievances.

... ..

#### Labour College for Bombay.

Labour troubles in Bombay which have assumed an almost chronic character seem to have evoked in certain responsible quarters a desire to bring the situation under control. An indication of this tendency is to be found in the effort of a certain school of thought in Bombay, to found a labour college in the city. From a statement made by Dr. G.Y.Chitnis, one of the pioneers of the movement, in the Times of India of 14-6-1929, it would appear that arrangements are complete to open the classes <sup>from</sup> ~~the~~ the third week of June. The curriculum will include economics, sociology, trade union movement and the co-operative movement. The object of the college according

to the promoters is twofold: "to create a general intellectual awakening among factory workers and to train capable men and women for sane labour leadership". "My experience of the last few years has taught me that anybody with a set of imported ideas on labour can become a labour leader, provided he uses sufficiently strong language against the Government and the capitalists of the country. Such leadership is foredoomed to failure ..... Whatever shape the labour struggle may take, it must be thoroughly constitutional in its activities". It is too early to say whether the attempt will succeed and will be productive of results, as the men behind the movement lack the requisite influence and position. It has however to be conceded that the attempt tries to meet a genuine need. The fortunes of the proposed institution and its development are certainly worth careful watching.

Jute Mill Strike in Calcutta.

The weavers employed in the Alliance and Meghua mills, and the spinners in the Baranagore jute mills, Calcutta, have struck work on 6-7-1929 on the question of increase of bonus and overtime allowances (Pioneer, 10-7-1929). These three mills are situated in the suburbs of Calcutta, and employ approximately 40,000 men, of whom about 3,000 have struck work. The strike is the outcome of the change of working hours and days in the jute industry from 55 hours in the course of five days to 60 hours during six days adopted from the 1st July 1929. (In the November 1928 report of this office a reference is made to this change of working hours - please see page 23). The strike, which was throughout orderly, came to an end on 8-7-1929, the men being assured by their Union leaders of a peaceful settlement of the dispute regarding wages and hours of work (Times of India, 11-7-1929). The president of the Kankinarrah (Jute) Labour Union, Mr. K.C. Roy Chowdhury, has made a statement of the men's case in the Statesman of 9-7-1929. According to Mr. Roy Chowdhury the change of working hours in the jute industry from 55 hours in five days to 60 in six days was decided upon three months ago. The increased working hours mean a proportionate increase in wages to all mill-hands, but in the case of weavers the situation is a bit complicated by the fact that the weavers are paid on a piece work basis on so many lengths or cuts of jute fabrics taken off the looms every week. To encourage efficiency a bonus is paid to weavers on extra lengths over a certain minimum cuts. The usual minimum in some of the mills is 13 cuts of 100 yards. When the new working hours were introduced the managers decided to alter the basis of bonus to payment of bonus on extra cuts above 14, and not 13 as

hitherto, on the ground that the increased working hours from 55 to 60 would automatically increase the weavers' earnings. The weavers on the other hand, maintain that they have come to think of Saturdays and Sundays as rest days, and that if they have to work on Saturdays they must be paid overtime, or alternatively, there must be no change in the basis of the bonus. They apprehend that they will ~~lose~~ lose about Re.1/- a week if a new basis of hours is made. Efforts are being made by the Union leaders to effect an amicable settlement pending which the striking weavers have resumed work.

Forced Labour in Indian States.

It will be remembered that open charges of the existence of forced labour, and similar exactions in Indian States were made by the Indian workers' representatives at the last session of the International Labour Conference. In the absence of a properly constituted inquiry into labour conditions in Indian States, it is difficult to fully substantiate these charges. But it is significant that corroborative evidence continues to come in by dribblets, which throw illuminating side-lights on conditions in this respect in the States. The Servant of India of 27-6-1929 publishes the account of an interview which the "Libre Belgique", Brussels, had on 13-5-1929 with Dr. Zacharias, a European catholic journalist domiciled for nearly 30 years in the East, about a murderous attack made upon two Belgian Jesuit missionaries at Ambakona, in the State of Jashpur, Central Provinces, on 2-4-1929. (An account of this incident appeared in the Examiner of Bombay dated 27-4-1929). The story of the attack in brief is as follows:- Two Belgian missionaries, Father Dumonceau and Father Andries, stationed in Jashpur, remonstrated with the brother of the reigning prince of the State for exacting forced labour from the Christian converts in the State, even on Easter Sunday. The protest of the missionaries so enraged the brother of the prince that, he, it is alleged, made a night attack on the missionaries, to remove these inconvenient critics. Dr. Zacharias points out that the attack was not the result of resentment against the mission's proselytising activities, but was due to a desire for summarily removing independent critics of the unjust labour conditions in the State. The whole incident throws a flood of light on the

political, social, and industrial conditions obtaining in the backward Indian States. One can readily understand the rootedness of the institution of forced labour in Jashpur, by the fact that the mild protest of the missionaries against exacting forced labour on a ~~single~~ day of the year, and that on Easter Sunday, should have excited ~~so much~~ indignation resulting in so crude and primitive a form of revenge as a murderous night attack, and that by no less a person than the brother of the reigning prince. Dr. Zacharias points out in his interview that the continuance of such evils is made possible only by the indiscriminate protection <sup>afforded</sup> ~~offered~~ to Indian princes by the British Government. (Cutting from Servant of India, 27-6-1929 not sent, as the weekly is subscribed for by Geneva).

The Young Rajasthan, a weekly of Rajputana almost entirely devoted to the discussion of conditions in Indian States, publishes in its issue of 18-4-1929, an article under the caption "Slavery in Marwar", which gives definite and concrete instances of forced labour, and conditions analogous to slavery, in the backward Indian States of Rajputana. The article is reproduced below:-

Slavery in Marwar.

(By one who feels the pinch).

It was a graceful act of His Highness the Maharaja to have declared the abolition of slavery in the Jodhpur State a few years ago. But it seems the pronouncement was made more to placate the half-hearted opposition of the British Government to slavery than to root out the evil. The inference is inevitable in view of facts too hard to be ignored. Let me quote a few out of numerous cases.



Jaideva Tanwar's wife and children have been forcibly detained as slaves by Maharaj Ratan Singh of Raoti, and the poor man has been knocking about the door of the highest authority in vain for about three years to obtain the restoration of his dear ones.

The case of Shersingh is even more remarkable. This man, though originally belonging to village Pithapura in Sirohi, has been deprived of his wife by Maharaj Fateh Singh, a member of the royal family and Home Minister of the State. ~~Shersingh~~ Shersingh has been clamouring for justice ~~for~~ for about a year at the hands of the Maharaja Sahib, but his prayers have so far proved a cry in the wilderness. That such a responsible public servant should be allowed to forcibly enslave a citizen's wife in the very capital of the state, and against the resolution of the Council to which he has subscribed, is a disgrace to the administration. Similarly, the wife of Solanki Moolsingh has been unlawfully confined by the Deoli Thakur at his bungalow in Jodhpur, and forced to serve as a slave. She is not permitted even to see her husband. I understand that under Zenana influence, the Maharaja once called the woman to audience and ordered her release, but for unknown - and perhaps unknowable - reasons she was soon after directed to return to her captor. Nay, she was, it is said, entrusted to the Deolia Thakur, when she escaped to her home with the help of her husband in the way. Moolsingh has filed a complaint in the court of Thakur Madhosingh of Sankhavai, the Sessions Judge, but the Deolia Thakur has failed not only to send the woman to the court in answer to more than one summons, but also to show cause for such failure.

These cases refer to the capital. I shall now cite an example from the interior parts of the state. The Thakur of Sena,

a village in the Bali Pargana, has penned in the wife and daughters of Biradsingh, a native of the village, and is subjecting them to a life of serfdom. Biradsingh is a farmer and badly needs the help of the members of his family in his strenuous calling. But the Thakur seldom allows the wife to visit her home, and does not permit the girls to go out of his harem at all. The girls are of a marriageable age, and it is feared that they will be given away as articles of dowry. Biradsingh has proceeded against the Thakur in the Hakoomat court, which unfortunately is presided over by a Thakur, and there is little chance of unalloyed justice being done.

Although it is a healthy sign of the times that members of the oppressed class are mustering courage to put up a fight against their oppressors, they are an unequal match. Apart from the great political influence which the feudal lords wield in the autocratic system of rule in the Indian states, the "slaves" are seriously handicapped by their economic conditions. These wretches get only half a maund of the coarsest corn and about seven annas every month as maintenance provisions from their masters. It is unthinkable that they could meet the costs of litigation. And then they can be tortured to any extent with impunity if their intentions are prematurely divulged.

The miseries of thousands of men, women, and children smarting under this accursed system can better be imagined than described. Let those who maintain, permit, or ~~re~~ protect it, let the feudal chiefs, the Princes, and the British Government ponder over the reaction that is bound to follow from such wrongs. I wish the Maharaja of Jodhpur could gather strength to enforce his decision both in the letter and the spirit, and wipe off this ugly blot from the fair face of Marwar without delay.

The Young Rajasthan,  
18-4-1929.

Attention has also to be invited ~~in~~<sup>in</sup> this connection to the special report on forced labour sent by this office on 4-7-1929.

## Industrial Organisation.

### Workers' Organisations.

A marked feature of the period under review was the emergence of a spirit of restlessness and dissatisfaction with their present service conditions among the employees of the various railway systems in India. An account has already been given in the May 1929 report of this office (see pages 42-48) of a deputation of the All India Railwaymen's Federation which waited on Sir George Rainy and the Members of the Railway Board at Simla on 4-5-1929, under the leadership of Mr. V.V.Giri, the president of the Federation. The evasive replies given on the occasion by Sir George Rainy to the demands of the Federation have directly contributed to the present accentuation of unrest among railwaymen. Mr. Giri has issued a detailed statement to the press on 15-6-1929, exposing the futility of the Simla discussions, and charging the authorities with unwillingness to meet the railway employees in a reasonable frame of mind. The Railway Member's gibe that the Federation, which has at present a membership of 100,000 has no representative basis, and that hence no final agreements can be made with it, has stung the men to the quick. The evasive answers given to the demands for improved wages, security of service, increased housing facilities, standardisation of work and emoluments, and better leave rules have created great discontent in the rank and file of railway labour. Mr. Giri has appealed for an intensive campaign to double the membership of the existing unions, both on state and company railways, and has directed all the railway unions affiliated to the All India Railwaymen's Federation to present

the same demands as made by the Federation at Simla, to their respective Administrations. Mr. Giri has also placed in the forefront of the railwaymen's programme, first the need for securing the recognition of the All India Railwaymen's Federation as a machinery of negotiation with the railway employees, and secondly, the acceptance by the Railway Board of its responsibilities as the controlling authority of the Indian railways, instead of the present opportunist policy of shunting off inconvenient questions inconclusively to the different Railway Administrations and their Agents.

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Unrest among G.I.P. Railway employees, Nagpur.

The general unrest among railwaymen found its strongest expression at Nagpur, where the local G.I.P. Railway Union signified the first anniversary of the Union (13-6-1929) with a threat of direct action, if their grievances were not immediately redressed. At the anniversary meeting resolutions were passed expressing dissatisfaction with the G.I.P. Agent's reply to their demands; requesting Mr. Aney, M.L.A., to represent their grievances in the proper quarters; and recommending to the executive of the Central Union to permit the Nagpur branch to resort to direct action on 22-6-1929 if their demands were turned down. It is understood that the chief demands of the men, in addition to the joint demands made by the All India Railwaymen's Federation deputation at Simla on 4-5-1929, are for improved conditions in respect of the present unsatisfactory ~~existing~~ water and electric supply, and overtime work without extra remuneration, and victimisation of Union members. Mr. Hutchinson,

the Vice-president of the Union, who was subsequently arrested as a communist agent on 16-6-1929, and who is now undergoing trial at Meerut, was one of the principal advocates of ~~direct~~ action, while Mr. Fuley, M.L.C., struck a different note, and pleaded for conciliation and arbitration. The situation had become so serious by 27-6-1929, that the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway had to go to Nagpur, to investigate conditions on the spot. The direct action threat is in abeyance pending the Agent's investigations.

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G.I.P. Railway Employees' Annual Conference, Bombay.

The second session of the annual Conference of the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union was held in Bombay on 29-6-1929 under the presidency of Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta, M.L.A. Mr. Mehta's presidential speech was an important utterance, as while it severely criticised Sir George Rainy and the Railway Board for their unsympathetic and evasive replies to the deputation of the All India Railwaymen's Federation on 4-5-1929, it contained an equally severe warning against the dangers of workers falling easy victims to the lure of communism. Said Mr. Mehta: "We have lately heard a good deal of communism in the labour movement in India..... If any labour worker believes in strikes as a principle, or promotes strikes for purposes other than for which the union is started, such as for transferring the control of an industry or for political power, I should ask you to keep away from such a worker, whether he calls himself a communist or not". Mr. Mehta said that the Nehru Report provided a sure and adequate guarantee for the rights of the workers, and that with such a charter of liberties "there was no reason for

setting up a counter political movement to the Congress whether in the name of the Third International, or the dictatorship of the proletariat, or any other shibboleth. When an admirer of Russia waves the red flag you might respond by waving the Gandhi flag, which is the symbol of unity, peace and freedom". The speech is important as indicating the revulsion of sane and responsible nationalist leaders against the excessive permeation of communistic influence in labour matters. The Conference passed resolutions for the introduction of a uniform time scale with local allowances, an eight hour day with a weekly off-day, extension of leave benefits to all employees including inferior servants, grant of free passes to members of the Union, provision of adequate and decent free quarters, abolition of periodical medical re-examinations, and the stopping of several kinds of victimisation.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.Floods in Assam.

Towards the last week of June 1929, vast areas in Silchar, Sylhet, and Nowgong in Assam were inundated by disastrous floods. Even so early as the 9th June, it was noticed in the Assam valley, that three rivers in the Nowgong District were steadily rising and inspite of warnings given to the villagers to remove themselves to higher places, about 3,000 persons were rendered homeless by about the 22nd June. Destruction of property caused by the floods in the submerged villages in the area is estimated at ten million rupees, and the task of rendering the distressed villages aid was rendered very difficult by the interruption of all communications. The Government have taken prompt measures to remedy the situation, and supplies of food and clothing are <sup>being</sup> rushed to the area. In a communiqué issued by the Government of Assam, it is mentioned that the area under water is far larger than that in any previous flood, and that the disquieting feature of the situation was the prolongation of the floods. Early in July communications were partially restored, and though complete figures of mortality are not yet available, it is reported that 41 were drowned in Cachar, and that there has been a heavy cattle mortality. Public offices have been closed as they were filled with refugees, and suspensions of collection of revenues have been ordered, and the various departments have been asked to facilitate the <sup>erection</sup> ~~extension~~ of buildings by means of <sup>fragments of</sup> thatching materials from the forest reserves for the next three months. Thanks to the assistance of the local committees and of the general public, the



immediate danger of starvation has, it is believed, been already met. But apart from the immediate needs for food and housing, the problem of furnishing suitable seed grains and cattle still remains to be met. The Government propose doing this with the aid of agricultural loans and by the intensification of the activities of the Agricultural Department. Famine conditions however still continue to prevail.

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#### Scarcity and Famine.

Whereas the difficulties in the Assam valley are due to too abundant rainfall, the failure of the monsoon has been responsible for famine conditions now prevailing in the villages of the Delhi province and in certain parts of the United and Central Provinces. The District Magistrate of Delhi has been recently helping the cultivators in the locality by the grants of agricultural loans for the purchase of cattle and seeds, and for sinking new wells ~~wherever~~ wherever required. There is a very big demand for agricultural loans in certain parts of the United Provinces, such as <sup>the</sup> Agra and Bundelkhand divisions and some districts in the Meerut and Allahabad divisions. In the latter areas the Government had previously remitted 7.5 lakhs of rupees of the kharif (autumn crop) revenue demand and suspended the realisation of nearly 54 lakhs. They have now considered the treatment of the amount under suspension, and ordered the remission of another 22½ lakhs of rupees, while proposals involving the remission of an additional 6 lakhs of rupees are still under consideration. The agricultural loans recently granted

amount to nearly 31 lakhs, and some 5,000<sup>maunds</sup> of tested paddy seeds have ~~be~~ also been distributed in the afflicted areas. Famine works in these districts have also been started.

In the Jubbulpore area, Central Provinces, gratuitous relief has been given to about ten thousand paupers, and some relief works have been started. The average number of persons employed on scarcity works in the Jubbulpore division during the week ending the 24th June was as follows:-

Jubbulpore	-	33,100,
Saugor	-	20,068,
Damoh	-	20,211,
Mantla	-	1,348,
Seoni	-	5,105, and
Narsinghpur	-	6,811.

The Central Provinces Government have come in for a good deal of public criticism for providing metal breaking as almost the only form of relief to the famine-stricken peasants of the division. In view of the seriousness of the famine condition there, and in view of the fact that the Government have not been able to devise any suitable scheme of work to which the people of the district may be put, the local congress committee has volunteered to organise relief by the introduction of the spinning wheel. ~~That~~ An article appearing in the Pioneer of the 28th June states that the authorities are seriously studying the congress scheme of relief work.

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#### Land Revenue Settlement.

In some of the previous numbers of this report, mention has been made of the Bardoli Report published by a Committee of Congressmen appointed to inquire into the system of land assessment in the

The Indian Cotton Industry and Foreign Competition.

The textile strike, which has recently loomed so largely on the industrial horizon, has to some extent served to distract attention from the ~~difficult~~ difficult situation which the Indian cotton industry is facing on account of vigorous foreign competition. The millowners, however, have been extremely alive to the challenge of foreign efforts to capture the Indian cloth market. The views recently expressed on behalf of Bombay Millowners' Association by Mr. H. P. Mody, the Chairman of the body, on two questions having a vital bearing on the stability and prosperity of the Indian cotton industry deserve more than passing attention. The first is the Association's views on the changes effected in the Japanese Factories Law from 1st July 1929 with regard to the prohibition of night work of women and youths below 16, by way of fulfilling Japan's obligations under her conditional ratification of the Washington Hours Convention. Mr. Mody asserts in the course of a special interview to the Times of India on 3-7-1929 that as the prohibition of night work under the new changes applies only to the hours between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., and as the Japanese cotton mills will continue to work in two shifts of 8½ hours each between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. employing women and children, it can not be said that night work in its real sense has been abolished in Japan. Night work according to the Indian Factory Act, which complies with the Washington Convention, means that women and children shall not be employed in factories between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. The new law in Japan may be an improvement on the old system, which permitted the employment of all classes of labour in two shifts - the first from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the second from

7 p.m. to 6 a.m., making a total of 22 working hours. Under the new law the working day of 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. ~~is~~ contains a total of 18 working hours only, with half an hour's interval for each shift. Mr. Mody contends that, under the circumstances, it is a misnomer to say that Japan has abolished either the double shift system or night work of women and children. He stresses the fact that the power vested in the Japanese Government to suspend the application of the provisions has impaired to a considerable extent the value of the changes, and asserts that Indian cotton industry in its competition with Japan is materially handicapped by the Indian Factories Act with its severer restrictions on night work of women and young persons.

In this connection the Times of India of 3-7-1929 in a leading article points out that though the recent innovation of the Japanese factory law does not mean the adoption of the Washington Convention in its entirety, it will still materially affect the finances of Japan's cotton industry. In 1925, out of a total of 1,800,000 Japanese operatives, 732,000 were women over 16 years of age, and 223,000 were girls below 16 years of age, so that female workers considerably outnumbered male workers. According to the paper, the figures for the textile industry are still more striking, and illustrate the dependency of the Japanese cotton manufacturing trade on ~~women's~~ women's labour. Out of a total of about 973,000 workers in textiles, 591,000 were women and nearly 200,000 were girls below 16. Men numbered only 168,000, and boys under 16 came up to 13,000, a total of 181,000. The new regulation restricting the hours of night work of women, though it is limited in its application, will affect 80 per cent of Japanese mill workers, as the percentage of women's labour in the industry comes up to that high level.

The Japanese owners are meeting the situation by adding to the spindleage of each mill.

The second question raised by the Bombay Millowners' Association is the need for further protection to the industry by the imposition of an added duty on imported foreign cloth. At the Conference between the Viceroy and the representatives of the Association at Poona on 28-6-1929, Mr. Mody presented the case for enhanced import duty on cloth. In the Conference between the Committee of the Association and Sir George Rainy and Sir George Schuster at Poona on 29-6-1929, Mr. Mody further defined his views and urged the imposition of an import duty of not less than 9 per cent, which he contended would not only put the Indian textile industry on its feet, but bring to the Government additional revenue to the tune of ~~Rxxx~~ Rs. 3 crores. The Finance and Commerce Members, it is understood, have called for a detailed memorandum of the present position of the industry and the steps that have been taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Tariff Board. The Simla correspondent of the Free Press in a statement on the situation on 6-7-1929 expresses the opinion that though the Government is averse to the imposition of protective duties on cloth and incurring the enmity of Lancashire interests, yet ~~its~~ its present financial embarrassments and the tempting bait of an extra Rs. 3 crores to spend, might induce the Government to meet the sore-pressed millowners more than half way. Sir B.N.Mitra, however, is not in favour of an enhanced import~~x~~ duty, on the ground that it will hit the Indian consumer very hard.

enjoining pre-puberty marriage, but a particular feature revealed by the inquiry is that only a very small section of the population seems to be influenced by religious texts, and that it is the tyranny of custom rather than the conscientious objections of orthodoxy which is standing in the way of salutary social reforms. It is, therefore, not surprising that the Committee has set its face against exemptions being granted on the ground of religious or conscientious objections.

The acceptance of the Committee's recommendations, will, of course, to a very large extent depend on the public support given to them. It is believed that immediately on the publication of the report Rai Saheb Harbilas Sarda's bill for raising the marriageable age of girls to 14, and of boys to 18, the consideration of which was postponed in the last session of the Assembly, on the ground that the Age of Consent Committee's Report was not out (see February Report page 6), will be proceeded with, (at the ensuing autumn session of the Assembly).

#### Efforts to elevate the Depressed Classes.

At page 64 of the report of this Office for June 1929, mention was made of the Depressed Classes and Aboriginal Tribes Committee, which has recently been appointed by the Government of Bombay to inquire into and report on the economic and educational condition and the grievances of the untouchables and aboriginal tribes in the Bombay Presidency, and of the questionnaire framed by the Committee. The questionnaire which is divided under the four main heads, education, economic, social, and general, is suggestive of the extremely depressed conditions of these classes occupying the lowest rungs of the social ladder. Most of them are ~~and~~ serfs in perpetuity of the village land-holders, because of their chronic indebtedness.

There are indications to believe, that in some parts at least of the Presidency, they are compelled to do forced labour. The arrogant upper classes have gone even to the extent of decreeing that the depressed classes shall not put on good clothes and ornaments. It is to be expected that as a result of the inquiry, more light will be thrown on the whole problem, and the depressed classes will be allowed to develop in their own way unimpeded by social taboos. Already much good work has been done in this direction by the Mysore and Madras Governments. It is to be expected that Bombay will follow in the footsteps of Madras and Mysore. Below are given some accounts of the main activities of the two latter governments in this direction

#### Adi Karnatak Co-operative Society.

In the year 1927 an order was passed by the Mysore Government for starting as an experiment one Adi Karnatak Co-operative Society consisting of 20 members who, at the time of selection, were residing within easy reach of one another. Each member of the society was to be given 6 to 8 acres of land free, on condition that they should not be alienated by the members for a period of ten years from the date of the grant. Provision was also made for advancing to each family a sum of Rs.80/- for the purchase of a pair of bullocks and Rs.20/- in all for agricultural implements, manure, seed and fodder for the bullocks. For subsistence till the first harvest, ragi and other articles of food were to be supplied on credit up to a limit of Rs.10 for each family per month. Half the amount advanced for the purchase of bullocks, etc. and half the cost of the provision supplied to the members for subsistence was to be treated as a free grant and written off, and the other half to be recovered from the members in 5 to 8

equal annual instalments, according to the circumstances of each individual case. The cost of starting a society on these lines was calculated to be Rs. 3,000 as detailed below:-

Cost of 20 pairs of bullocks at Rs.80 per pair.	Rs. 1,600
Subsistence charges 20 families for 5 months at Rs.10 per family per month.	.. 1,000
Implements, manure, seed, fodder, etc.	.. 400
	<hr/>
	Rs. 3,000

#### Activities of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

An important branch of the work of the Commissioner of Labour in the Madras Presidency is to act as a Protector of the Depressed Classes. His main lines of work in this connection are the provision of house sites, the organization and supervision of Co-operative Societies, provision of schools including hostels, the construction of wells, tanks, and roads and the provision of burial grounds, latrines and path-ways for these classes.

Where the Depressed Classes have not sufficient space in the gaothan or it is unsuitable, Government waste land is sought for and converted into village site, and distributed amongst those who need it. As a rule however such land is not available, and the Labour Commissioner has to acquire land under the Land Acquisition Act. The compensation is advanced by Government and is repaid gradually by the new holders through a Co-operative Society.

The establishment of special schools for the Depressed Classes is a very important feature of the work. Instruction is free, and books, slates etc., are provided. Most of the teachers are recruited from the Depressed Classes. Scholarships for maintenance whilst in



schools or undergoing industrial training are allotted through the Department.

The Labour Commissioner also watches over the interests of the Depressed Classes in the matter of distribution of land and in their representation on the local bodies.

#### Depressed Classes Settlement at Palghat.

The Government of Madras is trying an interesting social experiment at Olavakkot, in the Palghat Taluk. The Nayadis of the taluk belong to the lowest of the untouchable classes of Malabar, and are treated as beyond the pale of society. Their number all told in the Palghat Taluk does not exceed a couple of hundreds. Inexorable social customs decree that these poor people should live far away from all human habitation in huts made of leaves. They are not allowed to do any decent work, and are even allowed to beg only on two days of the week, on Saturdays and Wednesdays. To elevate the condition of these depressed people, the Labour Department of the Government of Madras has evolved a scheme to construct a colony for them. Nine and a half acres of land have been acquired for the purpose of building huts and for cultivation. As an experimental measure five huts have been already built for them, and a large well has also been dug. At first, though the huts have been ready for some time, no Nayadi would come forward to enjoy the amenities provided for by the Government, as they suspected the motives of the Government in being so friendly. After persistent canvassing five Nayadi families consisting of 34 members have been persuaded to move into their new homes. The Government is giving each Nayadi member of this colony, nearly three quarters of a Madras measure of rice

(enough for a man's daily food), with two annas for incidental expenses, and half an anna worth of kerosene oil for the first day and a quarter anna worth of the same for subsequent days. A steward has been appointed to look after the welfare of the colonists. After the Nayadis have become familiarised with their new environments and methods of life, the Government is planning to instruct them thoroughly in farming and husbandry, through the officers of the Madras Agricultural Department. The colony was opened on 17-6-1929.

Child Marriage Prevention Act, Baroda.

According to the Hindu of 2-7-1929, the Baroda State Gazette has announced that the new Child Marriage Prevention Act will come into operation in the State from the 1st August 1929. Under the Act, a marriage contract entered into without ~~xxx~~ the special permission of a magistrate between parties who have not completed eight years is invalid, and persons arranging such a marriage are punishable with fine and simple imprisonment.

## MIGRATION.

### Indians in East Africa.

The position of Indians in East Africa is still engaging the earnest attention of Indian politicians and the public. In the monthly report of this Office for May, mention was made of Sir Samuel Wilson's (Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, who has been specially deputed by the British Government to study the situation on the spot and report) visit to East Africa, and of the Right Honourable V.S.Srinivasa Sastri, being deputed by the Government of India to lay the Indian case before him (see May Report, pp.72-73). Mr. Sastri sailed for East Africa from Bombay on 1-6-1929. On 10-6-1929, a deputation of Indians headed by Pandit Hridayanath Kunzru, M.L.A., president of the last session of the East African Indian Congress, met Sir Samuel Wilson at Nairobi, when Mr. Sastri was also present. The following are the main points in the memorandum presented by the Indian deputation on the occasion. The deputation first referred to the views of the Government of India on the question of a common electoral roll, and asked for joint electorates, as recommended by the Hilton-Young Report. Secondly, regarding the Kenya Legislative Council, the deputation strongly condemned the proposals of the Hilton-Young Commission for the creation of a non-official European majority, and regarded the proposal for the replacement of four officials by four non-official Europeans to represent native interests as inevitably leading to a control of the Colony by the Europeans. The deputation urged that the official majority must be preserved, and the status quo maintained. Thirdly, the natives should be represented by natives, and failing this, native

representatives should be selected in equal numbers from Indians and Europeans. Fourthly, it was pressed that Indians should be associated with the responsibilities of trusteeship by appointment to the higher civil services, from which they are at present entirely excluded. & Fifthly, as regards closer union, in the sense of political union and federation, the Indian viewpoint was strongly opposed to it. Close co-operation was practicable in economic matters, but legislative powers must be retained by each territory, and the native policy must be controlled by the High Commissioner. Sixthly, the memorandum stressed the need for the provision of better educational and medical facilities for Indians. After receiving the deputation and listening to the presentation of the case for India, Sir Samuel ~~Wilson~~ Wilson left East Africa for England from Mombasa on 12-6-1929. Mr. Sastri and Pandit Kunzru also left for India on the same day.

The infructuous nature of the Wilson mission and the futile embassy of Mr. Sastri, <sup>are</sup> furnishing much food for anxiety among Indian leaders about the future of the Indians in East Africa. The Indian community does not welcome the Hilton-Young recommendations as an unmixed blessing, but for the sake of the principle of a common roll and a joint electorate embodied in the report, it was willing to overlook the recommendation for a non-official European majority in the Council after the registering of a formal protest. But Sir Samuel Wilson's announcement that the proposal for a common roll will have to be scrapped because of the Kenya Whites' opposition to it is regarded by the Indian public, as well as by the Kenya Indians, as a culpable concession to European intransigence at the expense of helpless India.

Pandit Kunzru on his return from East Africa, in the course of an interview to a representative of the Times of India on 24-6-1929, said that the late Conservative Government's tendency to shelve the proposal of a common roll was a policy which should find but little support from the Labour Government, in view of Labour's repeated declarations, while out of office, of the essential justice of the Kenyan Indians' demand for a common roll and joint electorates. He also pointed out that considering that there were 26,500 Indians as against only 12,500 Europeans in Kenya, an equitable share of the Kenyan revenues should be set apart for the provision of better educational and medical facilities for Indians. The Indian papers, including even Anglo-Indian journals, are all agreed upon the reasonableness and modesty of Indian demands in this connection, and are united in urging upon the Government of India to press India's case with the utmost vigour before the British Cabinet, lest the country's case should go by default.

[100] 1903/9

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

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Report for August 1929.

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1

General.

It was mentioned at page 3 of this office's Report for July 1929 that consideration of the Congress Party's idea of boycotting the legislatures had to be put off to the Allahabad Session of the All-India Congress Committee, which was to meet on the 26th July 1929. Owing to sharp differences of opinion in the Party, and more particularly in view of the sturdy opposition the idea encountered from Bengal, the United Provinces, and Madras, a final decision on this question had once again to be postponed till the next Christmas season, when the Lahore Congress is to give its verdict on the matter. As at Calcutta during the last Congress, so at Allahabad, Mahatma Gandhi appeared as the saviour of the situation; and his formula of reconciliation is enshrined in the following resolution which was adopted with only <sup>four</sup>~~from~~ dissenting voices:-

"In view of the general situation in the country, this meeting of the All-India Congress Committee is of opinion that the time has come when all national effort should be concentrated on the preparation of the country for a campaign of non-violent non-co-operation after December 31, 1929, and agrees with the Working Committee that all Congress members of the various Legislatures, Central and Provincial, should resign their seats to give effect to this campaign; but having regard to the views expressed by a considerable body of Congress members of the Legislatures and some members outside them, this Committee resolves that the question of withdrawal from the Legislatures do stand over till the forthcoming Congress at Lahore.

"This Committee further desires the public in general, and the members of the Legislatures in particular, to prepare for complete withdrawal from the Legislatures should such a course be necessary, on and from January 1



next, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the Congress Party in any Legislature from resigning their seats before the Congress is held at Lahore if they consider it necessary to do so on any new issue that may arise hereafter."

There is no gain saying the fact that this resolution is a climb-down from the previous position adopted by Pandit Motilal Nehru and his followers; but however that may be, there is reason to believe that the postponement of the question has eased for the time being the anxiety of the Government. Another resolution passed at Allahabad condemned the policy of "repression" followed by the Bengal Government, and the meeting also authorised the Secretary (who, is also the President of the All India Trade Union Congress) to prepare a statement of the case of the strikers in the Golmuri Tin Plate ~~Workers~~ strike (see pages 20-21 of this Office's Report for July 1929).

Commenting on the Allahabad decision, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, a leading liberal politician and an ex-member of the Viceroy's Cabinet; said according to the Hisdustan Times of 31-7-29 that he hoped that before next December there would be a change in the political atmosphere. "The policy of the Government of India and of the India Office during the last few years had been one calculated to alienate their friends, and they have not only shown utter lack of imagination in regard to constitutional matters, but total lack of responsiveness to advice from friendly quarters". He thought it would be wrong to stake anything upon the Simon Report. Even assuming ~~provincial~~ autonomy was granted, that, without a simultaneous change in the Central Government, will not give satisfaction even to the Liberal Party. He would like to give every chance to the present British Cabinet if only they will approach the constitutional

question in the right spirit. "I see no reason why they should not discuss the Indian situation and the future constitution with Indian politicians. The basis of that should be Dominion Status. It is for them to decide whether they care to have a Conference, or whether they would like as a preliminary step, to send out Mr. Wedgwood Benn to see things for himself, as Mr. Montagu did in 1917, and take Indians into his confidence". The non-publication of the Simon Report, which can represent only one view of the matter, was in his judgment no bar to either of these suggestions being carried out.

Meanwhile, reports as to the nature of the Indian Central Committee co-operating with the Simon Commission are trickling down to India. As has already been reported to you, this Committee appears to be anything but a happy and united family, and it is therefore not surprising to be told that their report will not be unanimous. The majority Report, it is said, will ask for Government by an Indian ministry responsible to the legislature, both in the Central Government and the Provincial Governments, with the temporary exclusion of the Army and the Navy. But all these, of course, are mere guesses at this stage.

It has now been <sup>announced</sup> ~~announced~~ that the Indian Legislative Assembly is to meet on the 2nd September, and the Council of State on the 16th September. The Assembly Secretariat has circularised the members giving a list of pending bills, both official and non-official. In the former category come the Income-tax (second) Amendment Bill, opinions whereon have been collected; the Dangerous Drugs Bills whereon also opinions have been collected; the Patents and Designs Bill referred to a Select Committee last February; the Bill amending Section 505 of the Penal Code introduced last September; the Public Safety Bill, further discussion on which was not resumed on account of the President's ruling; and the Transfer of

Property Bill and the Transfer of Property Supplementary Bill, both of which were referred to Select Committees.

Non-official bills pending are Mr. K. C. Neogy's Inland Steam Vessels Bill, referred to a Select Committee in February last; Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda's Hindu Child Marriage Bill, consideration of which was postponed pending the publication of the Age of Consent Committee's report. Mr. Haji's Coastal Reservation Bill, the report of ~~the~~ <sup>on which</sup> Select Committee was presented in April; Mr. Haji's Deferred Rebates Abolition Bill which was referred to a Select Committee, and Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava's two bills amending the Criminal Procedure Code.

There are 29 non-official bills regarding which notice of motion for leave to introduce has been received. Among these are the Hindu Widows' Right of Inheritance Bill by Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda, the Bengal Regulation Repealing Bill by Mr. Amarnath Dutt, the Imperial Bank Amendment Bill by Mr. B. Das, the Benares University Bill by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the Indian Khaddar Protection Bill by Pandit Motilal Nehru, and the Abolition of Capital Punishments Bill by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh. An interesting resolution of which Mr. Har Bilas Sarda has given notice is that the Government should appoint a Committee to examine the laws relating to the status and rights of women in India and to recommend necessary legislation ensuring to Indian women their just rights. He wants legislation to penalise marriage of man a over 40 years of age with a girl below a certain age amongst the Hindus and such other communities in which widow remarriage does not obtain. He wants a law declaring the rights of women deserted by their husbands, the right of daughters to share in paternal property, the right of a

Hindu widow to share in her husband's property and the property of the joint family of which her husband at the time of death was a member, and lastly the right of a wife whose husband during her life time, marries another woman.

Many of the provincial Councils are having, or have already finished, their short summer session. The Bengal Council met on 2nd and ~~xx~~ 3rd July 1929, and stood prorogued on the latter date after the transaction of formal business; and a ministry has with some difficulty been formed there. In the Central Provinces also a new ministry has come into being. The Bombay Council commenced its sittings on the 22nd July, and the U.P. Council on the 24th June. The Madras, and Punjab Councils also are now sitting.

During the present session of the Bombay Council the Government will be introducing two bills, one to make the offence of criminal intimidation cognizable in times of emergency and the other for safeguarding of life and property in the Presidency area in times of emergency. Detailed references to these bills are made in the Section of the report dealing with national labour legislation.

REFERENCES TO THE I.L.O.

The Hindu of 13-7-29 publishes the account of an interview which its representative had at Bombay on 13-7-29 with Mr. Abdul Matin Chowdhari, M.L.A., who attended the last Geneva Labour Conference as one of the advisers of Indian labour. Mr. Chaudhury, in the course of his interview, said: "India has gained a lot by participating in the International Labour Conference. The Indian Government is very backward in the matter of labour legislation and protection; but the forward proposals of other nations which were very helpful to labour have their own repercussions on the Indian Government, who now has begun to feel the moral force".

... ..

The Hindu of 13-7-29 publishes a two column letter from its Geneva correspondent, which gives an account of the concluding stages of the 12th International Labour Conference.

... ..

The Hindu of 19-7-29 publishes an account of an interview which its correspondent had at Bombay on 19-7-29 with Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, the employers' delegate to the last session of the Geneva Labour Conference. Mr. Kasturbhai stated that at his instance, Indian middle class unemployment had been included in the scope of the enquiry on unemployment which Geneva is undertaking. Referring ~~into~~ the hours of work in India, ~~he~~ said that it was not likely that the 1919 decisions will be revised when they <sup>will</sup> come up before the Conference next year.

... ..

The Times of India of 23-7-29 publishes the account of a more detailed interview with Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai. The chief points stressed in the interview were that the importance of the International Labour Conferences is not sufficiently recognised in India, that the decisions of the Conferences were not always of an economic character, but that some of them had important political bearings, and that in view of these considerations both employers and employees in India should pay greater attention to the Geneva Conferences. He pointed out that the India Government was at times very hasty in ratifying some of the Conventions without adequate provisos, and opened that at least on certain subjects, India should ratify Conventions only if Japan did so. Other points referred to by Mr. Kasturbhai were the disabilities under which British Indian industries were suffering because of unfair competition from industrial enterprises located in Indian States, and the advisability of maintaining continuity in the personnel of delegations to the Geneva Conferences, as is the practice in England, France, Germany, Italy and Belgium. Mr. Kastoorbhai pointed out that only by such continuity of personnel, India can hope to establish a certain sphere of influence, and thereby obtain greater support for the country's points of view at the Geneva Conferences.        x                                x                                x                                x

A fairly comprehensive summary of the Director's report to the 12th Conference issued by this office in the form of a press communique has been published in the Times of India and Hindu of 17-7-29, in the Pioneer of 18-7-29, as also in most of the other Indian newspapers. The communique, while briefly dealing with the I.L.O's various activities during the period under review, devotes special

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attention to the Director's tour in the Far East, and to labour conditions in Asiatic countries.

... ..

A long letter from the Geneva correspondent of the Hindu dealing particularly with the work of the Indian delegates to the last Conference is published in the Hindu of 20-7-29. The letter draws attention to the marked divergence between the views of Mr. Joshi, the workers delegate, and <sup>here?</sup> Mr. Kastoorbhai Lalbhai, the employers' delegate, in the matter of the revision of the Hours Convention as far as it affected India.

... ..

The Statesman of 24-7-29 publishes a short editorial note on the assertions made by Herr Furtwangler at the last Geneva Conference on conditions in the Assam tea plantations. The Statesman, while condemning the statements in Messrs Purcell & Hallsworth's report to the British Trade Union Congress, which according to the Statesman <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ Herr Furtwangler's authority for the assertions that he made ~~in~~ at Geneva, quotes the following comments of "Truth" (London) regarding this subject: "It was perhaps hardly worth serious notice so long as it remained a mere ebullition of the ignorance of such irresponsible persons as Messrs Purcell & Hallsworth, but a different situation arises now that it is being bandied about International Congresses under the auspices of a body closely associated with the Labour Government".

... ..

The Hindu of 26-7-29 publishes the full text of the Introduction to a reprint of the report of a recent dialogue between Mr. C. Vijayaraghavachari, an octogenarian political leader and an ex-President of the Indian National Congress, and a friend of his, on the ways and means to be adopted for securing self government for India. The statement is interesting because of the daring assertion of faith that it contains "Our (India's) political and economic salvation lie with the League of Nations". Mr. Vijayaraghavachari's idea in brief is that failing other means of redress, India should appeal to the League in the matter of achieving her freedom. The possible objection that the League will not take cognizance of such an appeal on the part of India, he meets with the assertion that there are several possible ways of bringing the matter up effectively before the League. He refers <sup>to</sup> President Wilson's observations regarding Article XI of the Covenant: "Article XI says that it shall be the friendly right of any member of the League to call attention at any time to anything anywhere that threatens the peace of the world .....". The suggestion may be of academic interest only, but it is valuable because of the testimony that it bears to the faith entertained by India's political leaders in the fair-mindedness of the League of Nations. It is all the more interesting when it is remembered that Mr. Vijayaraghavachari expressed himself vehemently against the League in a speech delivered three years ago, at the Benares Hindu University <sup>at a meeting also</sup> addressed by Dr. Pillai.

... ..

The Asiatic Review of London in its issue of July 1929 publishes an eight-page article by Dr. Pillai entitled "India's interest in the International Labour Office".

... ..



The Servant of India of 11-7-29 publishes an article from its Geneva correspondent under the caption "The Geneva Labour Conference" It briefly summarises the proceedings of the Conference.

....

The Servant of India of 18-7-29 publishes another article from its Geneva correspondent dealing with the results achieved by the last Conference.

....

The June 1929 issue of the Indian Labour Review (Coimbatore) publishes a short account of the last Geneva Conference. The July 1929 number of the same magazine contains an appreciative comment on Mr. R. K. Shumukham Chetty's assertion at the last Geneva Conference that unless the Indian States were also compelled to ratify Geneva Conventions, the employers of British India would be forced to resist ratifications of Conventions by India. Incidentally, a strong plea is also made for the inclusion of conditions of labour in Indian States within the scope of inquiry of the Whitley Commission.

...

The Director of Industries, the Punjab, has issued under date 8-9-29 a ~~document~~ <sup>communiqué</sup> informing the public that the post of an actuary has fallen vacant in the International Labour Office, Geneva. The ~~document~~ <sup>communiqué</sup> gives details about the qualifications required of applicants and the salary fixed for the post.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Rules framed under the Bombay Maternity Benefit  
Act 1929.

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The Bombay Government Gazette dated the 20th June 1929 publishes the following draft notification (General Department No.1066, dated the 17th June 1929) of the rules which the Bombay Government proposes to issue under Section 14 of the Maternity Benefit Act 1929\* (Bombay VII of 1929).

Draft Notification

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929 (Bom.VII of 1929), the Governor in Council is pleased to make the following rules, for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of the said Act, namely :-

1. Short title.- These rules may be cited as the Bombay Maternity Benefit Rules, 1929.

2. Definitions.- In these Rules.-

(a) "Act" means the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929.

(b) "Inspector" means an inspector of factories appointed under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, and includes an additional inspector appointed under sub-section (4) of the said section.

3. Muster roll.- The employer of every factory in which women are employed shall prepare and maintain a muster roll in the form of Schedule I to these rules, The names and record of employment of all women employed

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\* A summary of the Bill is included at page 27 of the April 1929 report of this office and the full text of the Bill is included at pages 19-23 of the June 1929 report of this office.

in the factory shall be entered therein and also the other particulars prescribed therein. All entries in the muster roll shall be maintained up-to-date and it shall always be available for inspection by the Inspector.

4. Responsibility of Inspector.— The Inspector shall be primarily responsible for the administration of the Act, within the area assigned to him under the Indian Factories Act, 1911; provided that in areas where there are more than one inspector, the Collector of Bombay may allocate the factories within such areas to such inspector as he shall deem proper.

5. Powers of Inspector.— (1) The Inspector may within the area for which he is appointed, examine the muster roll maintained under rule 3 and shall have power to make such enquiries and to require the production of such papers or documents as he considers necessary for the purpose of ascertaining whether the provisions of the Act and of these rules are properly carried out in any factory or not; provided that he shall not require any employer to answer any question or to give any evidence tending to criminate himself.

(2) Every notice given under sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Act and every receipt for maternity benefit paid to any person under the provisions of the Act or of these rules shall, on demand, be produced before the Inspector.

6. Penalty.— If any employer contravenes the provisions of rule 3 he shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding fifty rupees.

7. Penalty.— Any person who wilfully obstructs an Inspector in the exercise of his powers or the performance of his duties or fails to produce on demand the muster roll, or notices given under section

6(1) of the Act or receipts for maternity benefits paid or other papers or documents necessary to enable the Inspector to ascertain that the provisions of the Act and these rules have been complied with, shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding fifty rupees.

8. Return.— Every employer of women in a factory shall furnish to the Chief Inspector of Factories by the 1st of August in each year a return in the form of schedule II to these rules.

9. Records.— Records relating to the payment of maternity benefit under the provisions of the Act or these rules shall be preserved for a period of two years from the date of their preparation.

.....

#### SCHEDULE I

(See rule 3)

Form of muster roll

Name of Factory .....

(Muster Roll to be maintained up to date under the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929).

Month of 19 .

1. Name
2. Department
3. Ticket or departmental Number
4. Date 1, 2, 3 .....31
5. Total days
6. Date on which notice of pregnancy was given § Section 6(1) §
7. Date of birth of child
8. Date of production of certified extract from birth register
9. Date of first payment and amount of same § Section 6(3) §
10. Date(s) of subsequent payment(s) and amounts thereof. § Section 6(3)§
11. If the woman dies, date and amount of maternity benefit paid, and the name of persons to whom paid
12. Remarks

.....

SCHEDULE II

(See rule 8 )

Return to be submitted to the Chief Inspector of Factories  
on or before the 1st August each year.

-----

Name of factory

Name of Occupier

Name of Manager

Year ending 30th June 19

Average number of women employed daily

Number of women who claimed maternity benefit under section 6(1) of the Act

Number of women who were paid maternity benefit for actual births

Number of other persons who were paid maternity benefit (section 7)

Total amount of maternity benefit paid

(Signature) .....

Employer.

0000000000000000

AMENDMENT OF RULES 44 & 46 OF  
FACTORIES RULES (1923) BOMBAY.

The Bombay Government Gazette dated the 4th July 1929 publishes following draft notification (General Department No.2343, dated the 27th June 1929) under the Indian Factories Act, 1911, regarding the amendment of Rules 44 and 46\* of the Factories (Amended) Rules, Bombay 1923.

Draft Notification

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911(XII of 1911), as subsequently amended, the Governor in Council is pleased to amend Rules 44 and 46 of the Factories (Amended) Rules, Bombay, 1923 (Published in Government Notification, General Department, No.2343-D, dated the 1st July 1923), by the substitution of the words "a majority" for the words "not less than three-quarters" where they occur in these rules.

The draft will be taken into consideration by the Governor in Council on or after 1st November 1929.

\* The following is the text of Rules 44 and 46 relating to Rest Intervals:-

Rule 44.- On receiving a request from not less than one-quarter of the adult employees in any factory asking that the provisions of section 21(a)(ii) shall apply to the factory, the Inspector shall take steps to ascertain the desire of all the adult employees. If he is satisfied that not less than three-quarters of the adult employees desire that the provisions of section 21(1)(a)(ii) should apply, he shall record the fact in the Inspection Book under his signature, together with a brief account of the steps taken to ascertain the wishes of the employees.

Rule 46.- Where in any factory to which the provisions of section 21(1)(a)(ii) apply the Inspector is satisfied that not less than three quarters of the adult employees desire that that section should no longer apply, he shall record the fact in the Inspection Book under his signature together with a brief account of the steps taken to ascertain the wishes of the employees. Section 21(1)(a)(ii) shall thenceforth cease to apply to that factory.

... ..

EXEMPTIONS RE HOURS OF WORK IN ELECTRICAL  
TRANSFORMING FACTORIES.

The Bombay Government Gazette dated the 4th July 1929 publishes the following notification (General Department No. 741, dated the 1st July 1929) under the Indian Factories Act, 1911, regarding hours of work in Electrical Transforming Factories.

I

Notification

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 30 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), as subsequently amended, the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that, in the case of Electrical Transforming Factories, the work, viz., operation and maintenance of the transforming plant, switches and synchronous condensers, which necessitates continuous production for technical reasons, shall be exempted from the provisions of sections 21\*, 22\* and 28\* of the said Act subject to the conditions named below :-

(1) that the persons engaged on continuous process shall ordinarily be employed on daily eight-hour shifts;

(2) that each person shall have a rest period of at least 24 hours' duration on an average once per fortnight and as far as possible on

every fourteenth day except where temporary difficulties prevent it;

(3) that the average weekly hours of each person shall not exceed fifty-six over each shift cycle of three weeks.

\* The following is the text of Sectiond 21, 22 and 28 of the Indian Factories Act 1911:-

¶ 21. (1) In every factory there shall be fixed,

(a) for each person employed on each working day -

(1) at intervals not exceeding six hours, periods of rest of not less than one hour, or

¶ (ii) at the request of the employees concerned, periods of rest, at intervals not exceeding five hours, of not less than half an hour each, the total duration of the periods of rest on that day not being less than one hour for each period of six hours' work done ¶;

¶ Provided that, in lieu of the periods provided under sub-clause (i) or sub-clause (ii) there may be fixed for each male person employed for not more than eight and a half hours on each working day, at the request of the employees concerned and with the previous sanction of the Local Government, a period of rest of not less than half an hour, so arranged that no such person shall work for more than five hours continuously, and ¶

(b) for each child working more than five and a half hours in any day, a period of rest of not less than half an hour.

(2) The period of rest under clause (b) shall be so fixed that no such child shall be required to work continuously for more than four hours. ¶

22. (1) No person shall be employed in any factory on a Sunday, unless -

(a) he has had, or will have, a holiday for a whole day on one of the three days immediately preceding or succeeding the Sunday, and

(b) the manager of the factory has previous to the Sunday or the substituted day, which ever is earlier, given notice to the inspector of his intention so to employ the said person and of the day which is to be substituted and has at the same time affixed a notice to the same effect in the place mentioned in section 36.

¶ Provided that no such substitution shall be made as will result in any person working for more than ten consecutive days without a holiday for a whole day. ¶



§(2) where, in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1), any person is employed on a Sunday in consequence of his having had a holiday on one of the three days preceding that Sunday, that Sunday shall, for the purpose of calculating the weekly hours of work of such person, be deemed to be included in the preceding week. §

§ 28. No person shall be employed in any factory for more than eleven hours in any one day. §

... ..

BENGAL FACTORIES RULES, 1928: CANCELLATION OF  
RULE 77\*

The Government of Bengal(Commerce Department) has issued the following notification regarding the Cancellation of Rule 77 of the Bengal Factories Rules, 1928.

Notification

No.- 3527 Com.- 20th July 1929.- In exercise of the power conferred by section 37 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911(XXI of 1911), read with section 21 of the General Clauses Act 1897(X of 1897), the Governor in Council is pleased to cancel rule 77 of the Bengal Factories Rules, 1928, published with Bengal Government notification No.365 T-Com dated the 7th May 1928.

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\* The following is the text of Rule 77

RULE 77. Late or Incomplete Returns.- The Manager or occupier of every factory shall furnish to the Inspector, in addition to the returns specified in the Act or in these rules, any returns which may be prescribed from time to time by the Government of India or by the local Government. Returns made incompletely, incorrectly, or later than the prescribed date are liable to be considered not to be returns within the meaning of the Act, and to render the manager or occupier who submits to them liable to the penalty provided in section 41(j), namely, Rs.500.

... ..

EMERGENCY LEGISLATION IN BOMBAY

Reference has been made at pages 13-14 of the report of this Office for July 1929 to certain legislative measures that the Government of Bombay intended to enact to meet the difficult situation created by the recurring labour strikes and riots in Bombay. Among the various measures announced in this connection by the Governor of Bombay at a Conference held at Bombay on 21-6-29, were (1) a request to the Governor General for an Ordinance making intimidation a cognisable offence and, (2) a Bill in the local legislature on the lines of the Presidency Areas Security Act of Bengal to deal with hooligans (see page 14-July 1929 report). The idea of promulgating an Ordinance making intimidation <sup>&</sup> of cognisable offence was ultimately abandoned in favour of passing a Bill in the Bombay Council to the same effect. Below is given the text of two Bills which the Government of Bombay has introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council.

THE BOMBAY PREVENTION OF INTIMIDATION BILL

BILL NO. XX OF 1929.

A Bill to make the offence of criminal intimidation  
cognizable in times of emergency.

WHEREAS it is expedient to take power to enable the police to deal effectively with the offence of criminal intimidation in certain areas of the Bombay Presidency;

And whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of India Act has been obtained for the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows :-

Short title  
Extent and  
Commence-  
ment.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Bombay Prevention of Intimidation Act, 1929.

(2) It extends to the Presidency Area.

(3) This section and sections 2 and 3 shall come into operation forthwith; section 4 shall come into force on the date or dates on which a state of emergency is declared to exist by notification under section 3, and shall continue to be in operation for the period specified in such notification or, if no period is therein specified, until such notification is cancelled by the Local Government.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,

(a) "Presidency Area" means the City of Bombay, the Bombay Suburban District and any other area adjacent to the City of Bombay or the Bombay Suburban District which the Local Government may, by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette, include for the purpose of this Act within the Presidency Area.

(b) "Criminal Intimidation" has the meaning assigned to it by section 503 of the Indian Penal Code.

Declaration  
of state of  
emergency.

3. The Local Government, if satisfied that the public tranquillity in the Presidency Area or any part thereof is endangered by the prevalence of intimidation, may, at any time by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette declare that a state of emergency exists and shall set forth the reasons for such declaration in the notification.

Offence of  
criminal  
intimidation  
to be cogniz-  
able.

4. Notwithstanding anything contained in the ~~XXXXX~~ Second Schedule to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, the offence of criminal intimidation shall be a cognizable offence ~~of criminal intimidation shall be a cognizable offence~~ as defined in that Act and the rest of the provisions of that Act shall have effect

accordingly.

# STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

It has been found that intimidation is very commonly practised in times of excitement in Bombay City and its neighbourhood and that the Police cannot deal effectively with it under the existing law since the offence of criminal intimidation is not cognizable. It is necessary that the powers of the Police should be increased in times of emergency in those areas. The Bill, therefore, provides that the offence of criminal intimidation shall at such times be made cognizable by a notification which can be cancelled when the emergency has passed away.

(Bombay Government Gazette - 27-7-29).

## THE PRESIDENCY AREA(Emergency)

### )SECURITY BILL.

BILL NO. XXI of 1929.

## A Bill for safeguarding life and property in the Presidency Area in times of emergency.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision in manner hereinafter appearing for the safeguarding of life and property in the Presidency Area in times of emergency;

And whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of India Act has been obtained for the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows :-

1. This Act may be called the Presidency Area (Emergency) Security Act, 1929.

2. (1) This Act shall extend to the whole of the Presidency of Bombay.

(2) Section 5 shall come into force on the date or dates on which a state of emergency is declared under section 4 and shall continue in force for three months from such date or dates. The rest of the Act shall come into force at once.

3. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

"Presidency Area" means the City of Bombay together with

(i) the Bombay Suburban District, and

(ii) any other area adjacent to the City of Bombay or the Bombay Suburban District which the Local Government may, by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette, include within this definition.

4. The Local Government, if satisfied that the public tranquility and security of life and property in the Presidency Area or any part thereof are endangered, may at any time, by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette, declare that a state of emergency exists and shall set forth the reasons for such declaration in the notification.

5. (1) Whenever the Commissioner of Police or District Magistrate exercising jurisdiction in the Presidency Area is satisfied that any person within his jurisdiction is committing, or has committed or is likely to commit or is assisting or abetting the commission of

(a) a non-bailable offence against any person or property or

Cf. Bengal  
Act III of  
1926, S.1.

Cf. ibid,  
S.2.

Power to  
declare  
state of  
emergency.

Power to  
order  
removal of  
turbulent  
character.

(b) the offence of criminal intimidation, or

(c) any offence involving a breach of the peace,

so as to be a danger to ~~or~~ cause or be likely to cause alarm to the inhabitants of the Presidency Area or any section thereof, the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, may, subject to the control of the Local Government, by written order direct such person to remove himself from the Presidency Area within such time and by such route as may be specified in the order and not to return thereto for a period (not exceeding one year) to be specified in the order without the written permission of the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be.

(2) An order under sub-section (1) against any person may, unless the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, is satisfied in respect of such person that both he and his father were born in the Presidency of Bombay or that he is a member of a family which has settled in the Presidency of Bombay and is himself so settled, direct that such person shall remove himself from the Presidency of Bombay within such time and by such route as may be specified in the order and shall not return thereto for a period (not exceeding one year) to be specified in the order save with the written permission of the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be.

(3) An order under sub-section (1) shall be served personally on the person against whom it is directed in such manner as the authority making the order thinks fit.

Procedure to  
be adopted  
in making  
order under  
section 5.

6. (1) Before making an order under section 5 the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, shall give an opportunity to the person against whom the order is proposed to be made to show cause against the order, and shall consider such representation as he may make verbally or in writing.

(2) Within forty-eight hours from the making of an order under section 5 the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, shall forward in writing to the Local Government his reasons for making the order.

Power to  
modify order  
under  
section 5.

7. When by an ~~order~~ order section 5 any person has been directed to remove himself from the Presidency of Bombay and has complied with the order, or when any person has been removed in police custody outside the Presidency of Bombay under section 9, the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, may, of his own motion or upon application made to him in this behalf, if he is satisfied that both such person and the father of such person were born in the Presidency of Bombay or that such person is a member of a family which has definitely settled, modify the order in such manner as to permit such person to return to and remain in any part of the Presidency of Bombay outside the Presidency Area.

Right of  
appeal.

8. When an order has been served on any person under section 5 and has been complied with by him, his agent authorised by him in writing may petition the Local Government to remove or modify the order and thereupon the Local Government shall consider such

facts and circumstances relating to the case as may be placed before it, and may confirm, modify or revoke the order.

Failure to  
comply with  
order.

9. Any person who, having been directed by an order made and served on him under section 5 -

- (a) to remove himself from the Presidency Area or from the Presidency of Bombay, fails to remove himself therefrom within the time specified in the order,
- (b) not to return to the Presidency Area or the Presidency of Bombay within a specified period, returns thereto within such period without the written permission of the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be,

may be arrested without a warrant by any police officer, and-

- (i) may be removed in police custody outside the Presidency Area or the Presidency of Bombay, as the case may be, or
- (ii) on conviction before a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class, may be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year.

Indemnity.

10. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding whatever shall lie against any person in respect of anything which is, in good faith, done or intended to be done under this Act.

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

During the riots in Bombay City in February and May 1929 most of the casualties were due to sudden and sporadic attacks by hooligans on unwary persons whom they met on roads and in bye-lanes. It was found that the powers conferred under Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code and under the Bombay City Police Act of 1902 were inadequate to allow the authorities to deal promptly with a state of extreme



emergency such as existed on those two occasions. The experience then gained showed that a summary remedy is required by which bad characters, who engage in the commission or abetment of offences so as to be a danger or a cause of alarm to peaceful citizens, can be removed from the Presidency Area. It is, therefore, proposed to pass a Bill to enable Government promptly and adequately to deal with any similar ~~m~~ emergency which may arise in future.

2. The Bill is entirely based on Bengal Act III of 1926, which was passed by the Bengal Legislative Council in consequence of riots in Calcutta similar to those which occurred in Bombay. Under clause 4, if the Local Government is satisfied that a serious situation has arisen or is apprehended in the Presidency Area or any part thereof, it may declare that a state of emergency exists in such area. Thereupon, the Commissioner of Police in the City of Bombay and the District Magistrate elsewhere, if satisfied that any person within his jurisdiction is concerned in the commission or abetment of offences of the nature ~~described~~ described in clause 5(1) so as to be a danger to or to cause alarm to the inhabitants, may direct such person to remove himself from such area and not to return thereto for a period not exceeding one year without the written permission of that officer. Clause 6 provides that such person shall be given an opportunity to show cause why the order should not be made and that within forty-eight hours from the making of such order the officer concerned shall forward in writing to the Local Government his reasons for making the order. Clause 8 gives a right of appeal to the Local Government against an order under clause 5. The provisions of the Bill are limited to the Presidency Area and to a state of

emergency, and under clause 2(2), the provisions of clause 5 continue in force for three months only from the date of the notification under clause 4.

(Bombay Government Gazette- 27-7-29).

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Amendment to Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

In November 1928, the Government of India issued a circular letter to all the provincial governments setting out the points on which the Government are prepared to consider public opinion for effecting amendments in the Workmen's Compensation Act, in the light of the past five years' experience of the working of the Act. The provincial governments have in their ~~turn~~ taken steps to consult ~~an~~ organisations of employers and employees, and other interested parties, to elicit public opinion on the proposed changes. The Government of Bombay empowered the Labour Office, Bombay, to consult any additional persons and bodies whom it might deem it necessary to address in this connection. A symposium of the opinions of the various bodies in the Bombay Presidency, both employers' and Workers' organisations, addressed by the Labour Office is published in the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol VIII, No. 11, July 1929), at pages 1077-1117. The inquiry has been based on sixteen questions framed under the following main heads :- the scope of the Act, the scales of compensation, the "waiting" period, the definition of dependants, liability of contractors, returns of compensation claims statistics, and provisions relating to procedure in fatal accidents. (Cutting is not enclosed as the Labour Gazette is regularly received at Geneva).

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CONDITIONS OF LABOUR

Bombay Textile Strike

The Bombay textile strike continued throughout the period covered by this report(15th July to 31st July), but with diminishing intensity. The figures published by the Millowners' Association from time to time about the attendance at the mills showed that while the numbers fluctuated round about 95,000, the efforts of the Girni Kamgar Union to get more men to strike were not meeting with much success. According to the Millowners' Association on 14-7-29 the numbers of attendance stood at 93,932; on 16-7-29 at 88,782; on 23-7-29 at 91,036; and on 24-7-29 at 94,254. Towards the end of July, there was a regular influx of workers to the mills and on 27-7-29 the attendance neared the 100,000 mark, the actual figures being 98,387. There were occasional attempts at terrorism to prevent workers from attending the mills, but on the whole, the police were able to keep the rowdy elements in check by strong measures. On 19-7-29 the Police Commissioner issued an order under the authority of the Governor in Council, prohibiting the office bearers and members of the Girni Kamgar Union from "holding, convening, or calling together any assembly of mill-hands or employees of the Textile Mills of Bombay" for the period of one month from 19-7-29. On 20-7-29 the Managing Committee of the Girni Kamgar Union met to discuss the situation created by the new prohibition order, and it is reported that the strikers considered the feasibility of resorting even to Satyagraha(passive resistance) against the renewal of the prohibition order(Times of India- 22.7.29). Apart from occasional attempts at terrorism with a view to <sup>prevent</sup> ~~intimidate~~ non-striking

workers from attending the mills, which reached their climax on 23-7-29, when one man was killed and three were injured in a scuffle with a gang of strikers, the strike, during this period, was not marked by any outstanding incident.

A noticeable feature of the situation, however, was the increasing participation of the children and womenfolk of the strikers in strike activities. Mrs. Dange, whose husband Mr. Dange was a prominent office-bearer of the Girni Kamgar Union and is now an under-trial prisoner at Meerut, has been elected a Vice-president of the Union. The ~~xxx~~ women workers have begun to participate increasingly in the meetings and other activities of the strikers. This tendency found further expression in the children of the strikers ~~workers~~ going to the municipal schools wearing red badges, shouting "Victory to the Red flag", and indulging in fights with the children of non-striking workers.

At page 14 of the report of this office for June 1929, mention has been made of the chief steps that the Government of Bombay intended to take for bringing the strike to an early termination. Among the steps contemplated were the enactment of legislation for making intimidation ~~an~~ a criminal offence, and for deporting undesirables from the city of Bombay. Two Bills to this effect have now been introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council (The text of the Bills are given in the section of this report dealing with labour legislation).

At page 17 of the report of this office for the month of July 1929 reference was made to the arrests on 12-7-29 of <sup>certain</sup> ~~three~~ labour leaders, all office-bearers of the Girni Kamgar Union for holding a public meeting in defiance of the Police Commissioner's orders.

The trial of the accused (Mr. S.W. Deshpande, editor of the "Krantī", and Mr. B.T. Randave, General Secretary of the Girni Kamgar Union), began on 16-7-29 before the Presidency Magistrate, Fifth Court, Bombay. The prosecution counsel in the course of his address stated that "it could be proved from the lists of cognisable and non-cognisable offences that had been prepared by the police between 26-4-29 and 11-7-29, 317 cognisable and non-cognisable offences were reported either to the mill-authorities or to the police as having been caused by strikers. Judgment in this case was delivered on 19-7-29. The magistrate found both the accused guilty and sentenced them under section 143, I.P.C., to six weeks rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs.200/-, or in default six weeks further imprisonment. The accused have filed an appeal against the conviction and sentence in the Bombay High Court.

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#### The Bombay Mill strike Inquiry.

The Bombay Mill strike Inquiry Court met on 17-7-29 (an account of its earlier proceedings is given at pages 16-17-29 of July 1929 report), but had to be adjourned without transacting any business on account of the non-appearance of the representatives of the Girni Kamgar Union. After several adjournments the Court again met on 23-7-29, the representatives of the Girni Kamgar Union having been brought to the Court from jail to give evidence on behalf of the Union. [Mr. Deshpande, Secretary of the Union, in his evidence indicated the composition and policy of his union and explained the ~~xxx~~ method and object of the union's work among the mill-hands. In reply

to a question from the Chairman, he stated that his union accepted the responsibility for the strikes called in March and April of this year, as also for the present general strike. The examination of this witness continued to occupy the attention of the Court on 24,25,26 and 27-8-29. Cross-examined by Mr. H.P.Mody, Secretary of the ~~Millowners~~ Millowners' Association, witness asserted that the millowners precipitated the strike because of their studied policy of victimisation, and maintained that the strike was being kept alive because of the uncompromising attitude of the owners. Witness admitted that there were divisions among the workers, and that many of them did not support the strike, but alleged that the divisions were the result of rivalry between the unions. At the close, witness demanded that Mr. Dange and other leaders of the Union, who are kept in jail as under-trial prisoners at Meerut, should be brought over to Bombay to give evidence before the Court, if it wanted a complete presentation of the strikers' case.

The examination of Mr. Deshpande lasted for full four days, and afforded an opportunity for the principal protagonists to meet each other face to face. The cross examination of Mr. Deshpande by Mr. Mody and the frequent passages at-arms that occurred between them, furnished ample evidence of the extreme divergence <sup>between</sup> of the outlooks of the Girni Kamgar Union and the Millowners Association.

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#### The Tinplate Workers' Strike

The tinplate workers' strike, Golmuri, Jamshedpur, which began on 8-4-29 is still continuing without either side ~~xxxx~~ showing any signs of yielding. According to the Times of India of 19-7-29, the

strikers who are at the end of their financial resources, have received a gift of £100 from the British Trade Union Congress. As has been stated in the July <sup>1929</sup> report (see page 20), the strikers are banking all their hopes on inducing sympathetic strikes in the Budge Budge works belonging to the same owners, and also in the Tata Steel and Iron Works, Jamshedpur. The Tinsplate Company is keeping an adamant attitude, unperturbed by these tactics. The company has recruited fresh labour, and the works are going on as usual, except for the inevitable falling off in the quality and the ~~quantity~~ quantity of production. The men have been latterly indulging in hopes of Government intervention on the strength of the Trades Union Act, but according to present indications there is little likelihood of Government yielding to the men's demands for a Conciliation Board. The Company is determined in its attitude not to negotiate with the strikers.

A press communique issued by the Golmuri Tinsplate Workers' Union on 26-7-29 says that arrangements have been made in the Tata Iron and Steel Works, and in the Burma Oil Company Works at Budge Budge, to declare sympathetic strikes if the minimum terms offered early in May, 1929, by Mr. W.V. Giri (see page 47 of the report of this office for June 1929) on behalf of the workers are not accepted.

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#### Jute Mills strike, Calcutta.

In the report of this office for July 1929, reference was made to a strike which originated in the Alliance and Meghna mills and the Baranagore Jute mills on 6-7-29. The strike was the outcome of a change of working hours in the jute industry from 55 to 60 hours.

The men wanted increased bonus and overtime allowances. The strike which ended on 8-7-29 on the assurance of a peaceful settlement of their claims broke out anew on 12-7-29, when some of the workers of these three mills, numbering about 3000, struck work, declaring their unwillingness to work 60 hours a week. According to the **Statesman** of 14-7-29, the workers have stated their intention to return to work only if the 56 hours week as obtained before 1st June 1929 is reintroduced. The same paper of 17-7-29 says "truce has been arranged whereby the men will return to work for two weeks, pending a satisfactory settlement of their demands. These peace hopes, however, have proved illusory, as by 29-7-29 the weavers of <sup>the</sup> Union Jute Mills, the Soora Jute Mills, and the Darbhanga Jute Mills downed tools, demanding a higher rate of wages (Times of India 29-7-29). The situation is somewhat obscure as the workers have not in all cases made out a plain statement of their grievances and demands; but there can be no doubt that at the bottom of the trouble is the recent transition to a 60 hours week from the old 55 hours week. As the change in the hours of work affects the whole jute industry, the chances are ~~knave~~ that the strike epidemic will spread in Calcutta.

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#### Strike in Choolai Mills, Madras

On 16-7-29 the workers of the Choolai Mills, Madras went on strike on the ground that their wages have been reduced. Thanks to the intervention of Mr. Slater, Labour Commissioner, Madras, a settlement was arrived at on 25-7-29. The following are the principal terms of the settlement :- *The owners have agreed to*

"(1) Paying allowances when looms stop for lack of materials or for any other reason for which the labourers are not responsible.



(2) Granting privilege leave for all operatives over five years' service; (3) Giving effect to the recommendations of the Textile Expert Committee. The management have given an undertaking in the presence of the Labour Commissioner to carry this out. (4) They also accepted to put on the notice board the rates for various counts units and pattern of work. (5) They also accepted the main demand of the Union on which centered much discussions and sharp differences and which was mainly responsible for the present strike, namely the appointing of an expert committee with the following terms of reference:- (a) to report to the Labour Commissioner whether since the introduction of the two-loom system there has been any alteration in the basic rate on which wages in the weaving department are calculated and if so to indicate the nature, extent and time of the alteration or alterations. (b) to examine and report to the Labour Commissioner on the figure of production which has been furnished by the Management of the Mills at the conference on Tuesday and yesterday for each of the 12 months ending with June last and (c) to report to the Labour Commissioner whether the production in the Weaving Departments at any time since the beginning of November last has been seriously affected by the inferior quality of the warp and weft supplied.

(Hindu- 25.7.29)

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#### End of Bangalore strikes

The Bangalore textile labour general strike involving the workers of the Minerva and Maharaja mills (please see page 22 - July 1929 report) ended on 24-7-29. The men resumed work unconditionally.

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Hours of Work in Baroda Factories.

A deputation of ten members of the Millowners' Association at Baroda, waited upon Rao Bahadur V. T. Krishnamachariar, the Dewan, <sup>on 23-7-29</sup> to represent their views on some of the new Factory Act which is to be taken up for final reading at the next session of the State Dhara Sabha.

The Association represented that, in view of certain sectional holidays which had to be observed to respect the orthodox sentiments of the labour class, Government should not insist on observing Sunday as a holiday every week, but that factories should be allowed to work for not more than 12 days on a stretch. The association recommended that the number of holidays should be 48 in the year and that instead of a recess of an hour, half an hour may be fixed in order that the labourers may be relieved half an hour earlier.

The deputation succeeded in prevailing upon the Dewan to agree that the hours of labour should be reduced to 11 from 13 and that the definition of the word 'week' be so worded as to allow factories to work for 12 days consecutively when there were two or three sectional holidays at a time.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONEMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION.THE AHMEDABAD MILLOWNERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association was held on 20-7-29, under the presidentship of Sheth Chamanlal Parekh. In the course of his ~~xxx~~ speech, Mr. Parakh made an important pronouncement on the need for according some measure of protection to the Indian cotton industry in view of the adverse effects of the 1sh. 6d exchange, and the increasing competition of foreign countries, notably Japan. The following are relevant extracts from his speech :-

"The growing weight of foreign imports which receive, as it were a bounty ~~xxxxxx~~ of 12 per cent. owing to the fixing of the exchange at 1s.6d. keeps on cutting the Indian industry under the feet. Foreign countries are keenly devising ways and means to continue their hold on Indian markets. Conditions of dangerous depression which are accentuated by the exchange ratio which favours foreign imports, are likely to receive further support from those countries which have felt the temporary effect of indigenous competition against their goods. Hitherto, Japanese mills used to work two shifts from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. with a recess of one hour. From July 1, 1929, women and boys under 16 years are not to be employed on night-work which is defined as from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. This change is not supposed to carry out the provisions of the Washington Convention. The new change allows Japanese factories to work for 18 hours a day with all classes of workmen. This would enable them to work two shifts of 8 hours each, between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. with the employment of women and children. When in India the Factory Act prohibits the employment of women and children at night, in Japan the above ~~arrange-~~

arrangement gives unfair advantage to Japanese employers. Moreover, some Japanese mills have increased their spindles by this time. Many mills have also installed Toyoda automatic looms which are reported to run 25 per cent. more picks per minute than any American automatic loom. Thus, the abolition of night work in Japan in the above manner is not likely to decrease production but to increase it. In Japan the textile industry holds the first place among its main industries in the order of the amount of products. Out of the total production of all kinds of industries in Japan, the textile output comes to Yens 2,677,000,000 which constitutes 26 per cent. of all the total products."

"Japan seems to have strengthened all its forces of competition recently, as in the current year during the first four months 165 million yards of cloth have been imported into India against 85 million yards during the same period last year. It is regrettable that Government continues to watch the situation ~~at~~ calmly for the last four years and yet remains indecisive, as to the real measure of protection which is imperatively necessary to save the national industry from ruin and disaster. Great Britain has adopted the principle of safeguarding industries. The derating proposals for the benefit of industries are supposed to substantially assist them."

"Without further delay Government should now see their way to counteract <sup>*the effects of the exchange by an additional*</sup> ~~tional~~ duty on imported cloth to the extent of 12 per cent. Protection of nascent industries should be the motto of every government. When all industrial countries like America, Great Britain, Japan, Italy, Germany, Brazil, China, Roumania, Turkey, Egypt, South Africa etc. are devising measures to protect effectively national industries, and when the United States, Germany, ~~I~~ Italy, and Japan have already

proved that no country could survive industrially unless it was protected by tariffs, the Indian mill industry which has its raw-materials produced abundantly in India and has an immense indigenous market with 320 millions of consumers within its own boundaries is woefully compelled to petition the Government every now-and-then with a view to protect it from the inequitable exchange, severe foreign competition, high railway freight and high burden of central, provincial, and local taxation. In such circumstances, one is reminded of the words of the ex-Secretary of State for India Mr. Montague, viz.:- "The Government of India is too wooden, ~~too iron~~, too inelastic, too antediluvain, to be of any use for modern purposes."

(Times of India 23-7-29)

ECONOMIC CONDITIONSENQUIRY INTO TEXTILE TARIFF CONDITIONS.

The cotton interests of the country have for long been pressing the Government of India for a fresh enquiry into textile tariff conditions in the country, on the ground that since the Sir Frank Noyce Committee reported, other factors have conspired to make the conditions of the industries worse. Though at first the Government was not inclined to accept the ~~unfounded~~ contentions of the millowners at their face value, latterly, its attitude had changed, in view first, of the steady worsening of the position of the cotton industry, and secondly, because of its own increasing financial embarrassments. At page 44 of the report of this office for July 1928, reference has been made to two deputations of the Bombay Millowners' Association, which waited upon the Viceroy, and Sir George Schuster at Poona, on 28-6-29 and 29-6-29 respectively, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> which urged the imposition of a duty of not less than 9 per cent on all cotton goods imported into India. In response to the representations made by the millowners, the Government of India have issued the following communique :-

"The Government of India have decided to appoint Mr. Hardy, Collector of Customs, Calcutta, to examine the possibility of substituting a system of specific duties for the existing system of ad valorem assessment of cotton piecegoods. They have also decided in order to give effect to the proviso made by His Excellency Lord Irwin, when he received a deputation from the Bombay Millowners' Association at Poona that their representation would be considered, that Mr. Hardy should simultaneously ascertain and report what changes have taken place since the Tariff Board reported, in the volume of imports, classes

of goods imported, and the extent and severity of external competition with the ~~products~~ of the Indian mills"

It may be mentioned here that the millowners themselves are conducting an inquiry into the subject. The Government while deciding that Mr. Hardy's inquiry is to be independent, has instructed him to meet in all possible ways the Bombay Millowners' Association's request for the assistance of government experts in the conduct of their own enquiry into the tariff changes necessary for the preservation of the cotton industry. Mr. Hardy has been instructed to visit Bombay at the earliest possible moment, and to confer with the representatives of the millowners to ascertain how far his enquiry and the millowners' enquiry may be co-ordinated. The twin enquiries are to be welcomed, as between the two, the public will be able to secure a comparatively true picture of the conditions in the industry, so far, at least, as external competition is concerned.

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#### DUTY ON RAW COTTON IN BOMBAY CITY

The Government of Bombay have rejected the recommendation of the Textile Tariff Board that the 1927 town duty on raw cotton imported into the city from any part of India, of one rupee for every bale, on all the cotton consumed by the mills in Bombay <sup>by</sup> the grant of a refund to the mills on proof of consumption.

The Government Press note on the subject says: "The Tariff Board held that the continuance of the town duty for the purposes of the industrial housing scheme was not inequitable. Tenements provided by the Government are much superior to the majority of those available elsewhere. Reduced rents charged for them compare very favourably with

those charged by others, and it is the mill industry which stands most to gain by the improved housing conditions of employees. The Bombay Municipality has, during the last eight years, carried out not only a much larger programme of development than in the preceding years by virtue of the revenue from this *cess*, but have committed themselves to a further scheme like the main drainage scheme for the north of the island, which may have to be given up if the resources of the Corporation are curtailed at this stage".

(Hindu 19-7-29)

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#### Tariff Board Inquiry into Salt Industry

At the March 1929 session of the Indian Legislative Assembly, Mr. N.C. Kelkar, M.L.A., had moved that the Tariff Board should be asked to inquire into the position of the Indian Salt ~~z~~ industry with a view to make India self-supplying in the matter of salt supply. The Taxation Inquiry Committee of 1926 had already recommended the adoption of such a procedure in its report, but the Central Board of Revenue which examined the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee, decided that, except in the case of Burma, there was no prima facie case for a reference of the question to the Tariff Board. The Assembly debate of March 1929 has, however, induced the Government of India to reverse their previous decision. The Government of India announce that they have reconsidered the position with regard to the salt industry and have asked the Tariff Board to report whether, having regard to all relevant considerations, it is desirable in the national interest that steps should be taken to encourage production of salt in India, suitable for consumption in those markets which are at present largely supplied from abroad and if so, what measures they recommend.



The Bombay Presidency Land League

At pages 38-39 of the report of this office for July 1929, references have been made to the rapidly growing agrarian discontent in the country against the land revenue policy of the Government. The agitation is most intense in the Bombay Presidency, particularly in the Maharashtra country. On 23-7-29 over a hundred delegates from the Maharashtra, Gujerat, and Karnatak assembled at Poona in order to found the Bombay Presidency Land League.

The first resolution defining the object of the <sup>Bombay</sup> presidency land league as "safeguarding the rights and interests of agriculturists and the Constitution", and the next, demanding "the cancellation of all revision settlements since 1920 and the announcement of a definite policy" were adopted unanimously.

The land league has influential backing. Its president is Mr. Vallabhai Patel, the leader of the successful Bardoli campaign. A Committee has been appointed to define the basic principles of land revenue.

All the present indications go to show that if the Bombay Government continues with its present land revenue policy, a serious situation will be precipitated. Mr. C. R. Shroff, M.L.C., in a recent letter to the Governor of Bombay had sounded a serious note of warning on this issue. In his reply, the Private Secretary to the Governor, assured Mr. Shroff, on behalf of the Governor, that since April 1929, when the Bombay Government had received the Bardoli report, they had been continuously engaged in reviewing the land revenue policy and in considering the best form of legislation, but that it would not be placed before the Legislative Council until Government had satisfied that they had a measure framed on sound progressive lines.

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### Early Marriage Prevention Act, Bhavnagar

References have been made at pages 45-47, and page 51 of the report of this office for July 1929, to the Age of Consent Committee Report, and to the Child Marriage Prevention Act recently enacted in Baroda. The Indian States are beginning to act up to the lead given by the Government of India and the progressive state of Baroda. The Council of Administration in the Bhavnagar State has decided to adopt legislation to prevent early marriages and has invited the opinions of the leaders of Hindu thought in the State on the provisions of the proposed Early Marriage Prevention Act on or before September 1.

The Act fixes the marriageable ages for boys and girls at 18 and 14, respectively contravention being threatened with legal penalties.

All betrothals performed <sup>(Registrar)</sup> before the Act is ratified shall have to be registered before the Wahiwardar of every Mahal, if they are to acquire validity, and it will in future not be possible for a widower of over 45 years to marry a girl whose age is not half of his own. <sup>below the ages fixed,</sup> Marriages, however, will be allowed in a caste known as the "Kanbis" in which child marriages are much in vogue, but the girl should not be sent to her husband's home till the above age is attained. Defaulters as well as abettors will be punished with either a fine of Rs.500 or three months' imprisonment or both.

(Times of India - 23.7.29)

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### The Brothels Bill (Madras)

At page 61 of the report of this office for May 1929 mention is made of the Brothels Bill which the Government of Madras is planning

to enact for the suppression of brothels in the city. The Bill, at the time, has been referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee has now concluded its labours. \*Among the important changes effected by the Committee are the extension of the Bill to the whole presidency from the very enactment of the measure; and the deletion of clause 5 which provided for an elaborate preliminary enquiry and warning by the Police Commissioner and then prosecution. This clause is substituted by another intended to directly penalise brothel keeping as an offence.

Provision is made for the compulsory maintenance by the Government of ~~homes~~<sup>or</sup> ~~homes~~ for the rescued minor girls and women, with a proviso that those rescued should be in the custody of persons belonging to the ~~name~~ religious persuasion to which the rescued belong. Punishment by ~~whipping~~ whipping is removed from the statute.

Clauses dealing with procuration, <sup>7</sup>detention of girls and women against their will for purposes of prostitution, are allowed to remain more or less as they were in the draft Bill; but solicitation is made punishable only if it takes place in or near a public place or thoroughfare so as to amount to public nuisance!"

(Hindu .- 23-7-29)

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#### Prohibition of Public Gaming Bill

Mr. F. E. James, M.L.C., of Madras is intending shortly to introduce a Bill in the Madras Legislative Council to provide for the punishment of public gaming and the keeping of gaming houses in the Presidency. "The aim is to make "gaming" illegal except under the conditions prescribed. ~~These are (a) on the day on~~

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Bengal Children Act (1922) Amendment Bill

The Government of Bengal is contemplating to amend the Bengal Children Act of 1922 with a view to establish a central court for the trial of offences thereunder. The statement of objects and reasons of the Amending Bill which the Government is introducing, published in the Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary dated the 26th July 1929, says that the question of putting the working of the existing Juvenile Court in the Presidency on a more satisfactory footing was raised during a discussion in the Legislative Council, and Government promised to examine the matter. While considering the question, it was not only found that the present arrangement under which several magistrates in Calcutta tried juvenile offenders was unsatisfactory, but also that the House of Detention at Howrah <sup>where</sup> the Juvenile Court of the district is located dealt with a very limited number of cases, while the cost of maintaining the House was proportionately high. Accordingly, it was proposed to abolish the House of Detention and to establish a combined central court under experienced magistrates to try cases of juveniles for offences committed in Calcutta and the neighbouring industrial area.

Under the existing law the magistrate sitting within the local area has not the power to try cases arising outside his limit, and to remove this bar it is proposed to amend the Bengal Children Act. The opportunity is also taken to define a Juvenile Court.

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Maternity and Child Welfare in Madras.

The Pioneer of 15-7-29 states that Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Vice-

President of the Madras Legislative Council, has given notice of a resolution to be moved at the next meeting of the Council recommending the appointment of highly qualified medical ~~XXXXXXX~~ women on the public health staff to organise maternity and child welfare work in a manner best suited to the needs of the province, to supervise the work of midwives and dais, <sup>and</sup> to attend to the medical inspection of school girls, <sup>x</sup> women students, and the adoption of immediate steps to induce local bodies to open maternity and child welfare centres in their areas by a system of grants-in-aid from the provincial revenues.

EDUCATIONTraining in State Railway Collieries

The demand for Indianisation of the superior grades of the railway service, which has been growing in intensity has, of late, been evoking increasingly satisfactory responses from the Government of India. An instance in point is the Government's determination to recruit qualified Indians for at least 75 per cent of the vacancies in the Coal Department (Collieries and Inspection) of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways (the procedure for the selection and training of such recruits in India is published in the Gazette of India, dated 15-6-29). It is a condition of the scheme that candidates must hold either the mining diploma of the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, or the diploma of the School of Mines, Dhanbad. Candidates selected as probationers will be given practical training in the State Railway collieries for 12 months and will be given a stipend of Rs.100 per mensem. On satisfactory completion of the probationary period and training, and provided he has passed the examination for Sardar's certificate, gas testing, and First Aid to the injured under the Indian Coal Mines Act, a probationer will be appointed as a Junior Overman (Rs.125-15-200). Vacancies in the grade of Senior Overman (Rs.250-20-450) will be filled by selection from those Junior Overmen who have obtained a Second Class Manager's Competency Ticket. [The Government of India's lead in the matter of giving suitable posts for qualified students from the Indian School of Mines has stimulated the Indian Mining Association to draw up a scheme for training mining apprentices at the Jharia collieries. The increased facilities thus afforded for technical education will be greatly welcomed by Indians.

## AGRICULTURE

### Long-term loans scheme for Baroda Agriculturists.

A new comprehensive scheme to help the agriculturists has been sanctioned by the Maharaja Gaikwar. The scheme, which is one of considerable magnitude, will provide long-term loans at ~~the~~ the small rate of interest of 4 per cent to finance the agriculturists for sinking wells and purchasing bullocks and agricultural implements.

Five lakhs of rupees will be released for this purpose from the budget every year for the next five years. The amount of Rs.25 lakhs thus released will continue to increase as it is to be administered separately, while the interest earned will be added to it.

Under the scheme, village officers will prepare a list of reliable and fairly well-to-do applicants possessing irrigable dry crop land, with a promising site for a well. If sufficient water is available, a good well will be sunk and the cost defrayed from the allotted amount by the Taluka revenue officer. The village officer will also ascertain whether the peasant-proprietor has a sufficient number of bullocks. If not, he will advance a sufficient amount to enable the purchase of the requisite number of young oxen of good breed from outside the State so that the available stock in the State may steadily be increased.

The period of recovering the amount advanced will be about 3 years for agricultural implements, etc., 6 years for bullocks, 6 to 8 for oil-engines and pumps, and 8 to 12 years for wells.

For the first two or three years, no interest will be charged on the aggregate debt incurred by the peasant, but deferred interest will be added subsequently on the amortisation system to the instalments due from him, when he begins to earn an increased income from the irrigated crops.

Another feature of the scheme is that the ~~farmer~~ farmer borrowing money will

give an undertaking to plant five to ten trees such as are useful for shade, fruit bearing and agricultural purposes.

The scheme has already been put into operation in Waghodia Taluka. The response on the part of the peasants was prompt and exceeded the expectations. Over one lakh of rupees was applied for.



MARITIME AFFAIRS.RECRUITMENT OF INDIAN SEAMEN

The methods of recruitment of Indian Seamen in the principal ports of India are far from satisfactory. At page 67 of the report of this office for May 1929 is included a short summary of <sup>a</sup> report into the conditions of the life and work of seamen of Bombay, published by Mr. N.M.Joshi, as the result of investigations conducted by Mr. P. G. Kanekar of the Bombay Social Service League. The report furnishes ample evidence of the extremely unsatisfactory nature of the then existing arrangements for the recruitment of seamen in Bombay. A deputation of the Indian Seamen's Union consisting of Messrs N.M. Joshi, Syed Munawar, and several others, waited upon the Commerce Member of the Government of Bombay, as early as the 18th December 1927, and had urged the need for the appointment at an early date of a Special Recruiting Officer for Indian seamen in Bombay. It was hoped that the appointment of such a special officer would put an end to complaints regarding unfair selection, harassment by Ghat serangs, interference from the brokers' men with the choice of seamen by stewards and mates of ships, partial and delayed payments of wages, inordinately long periods of unemployment, and extortions and undue exactions from seamen by brokers' agents. The representations of the Indian Seamen's Union have at last borne fruit as the Government of Bombay has recently appointed a special recruitment officer. A meeting of the Indian Seamen's Union was held at Bombay on 13-7-29 to discuss the new appointment, and to concert measures for the redress of the other grievances of the seamen. The following account of the meeting is extracted from the Times of India of 16-7-29 :-

Mr. Syed Munawar, General Secretary of the Union announced to the meeting that the Government had acceded to their demand for the appointment of a Seamen's Recruitment Officer who had taken charge and that the injustices and hardships which the seamen had experienced so far in the matter of recruitment would gradually disappear.

Mr. Mahomed Ibrahim, Serang, Secretary of the Union and a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation, said that in the course of three years the Union had 21,997 men on its roll consisting of workers on deck, saloon and engine departments and explained to the audience the new system of recruitment which would do away with the iniquities and corruption that had existed so long.

The meeting then passed resolutions urging upon the Government of India to move the shipping companies recruiting their men directly to entrust the work to the Assistant Shipping Master and to discontinue the system of employing licensed brokers. Another resolution requested the Government to set up joint advisory committees consisting of representatives of seamen and shipowners to assist the officers of seamen's bureaus in all the principal ports to smoothen the work of recruitment.

MIGRATIONEmigration and Immigration Report (1928) for Madras  
Presidency.

The Emigration and Immigration Report of the Madras Presidency for 1928 is an interesting document. The total number of persons who sailed for Malaya as assisted labourers in 1928 was 39,134, as compared with 133,007 in 1927. This marked diminution in numbers is explained as being due to the depression in the rubber industry, and seasonal conditions which were unfavourable. While emigration to Malaya greatly diminished, the flow of labour to Ceylon~~g~~ was not far below the high figure of recent years. The Avadi<sup>x</sup> Melapakkam depot~~s~~ continued to be licensed in the year under review as places of accommodation, but Melapakkam was hardly ever used as the number of emigrants was considerably less than those in the previous years, and the accommodation at Avadi was enough for all.

The care of emigrants returning from South Africa under the agreement concluded in 1927 with the Union Government was in the hands of a Deputy Collector under the supervision of the Labour Commissioner; 2,731 emigrants returned as compared with, 2,387 in the previous year, the special arrangement having come into operation about the middle of 1927 (The figures of Indians repatriated from South Africa during the period August 1927-October 1928 are given at page 73 of the report of this Office for May 1929). The numbers are stimulated by the increased bonus given on return, and it is believed also that employment for Indians in South Africa is becoming increasingly difficult to find.

The problem of finding employment or means of livelihood for these returned emigrants presented some difficulties. The Special Officer has succeeded in finding jobs on tea estates for some of these, and for

several others who did not formally apply. Efforts to secure employment on railway and in factories were not very successful. Many are finding the wages paid in India inadequate to the standard of living to which they were accustomed in South Africa.

(Times of India- 22-7-29)

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### Indian emigrants to Federated Malay States.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay States has recently published his annual report for the year 1928. A section of the report is devoted to ~~the~~ labour conditions in the Federated Malay States. Of recent years there has been a rush of Indian labour emigrants especially from South India, to the plantations in the Federated Malay States. The labour necessary for the working of the plantations is almost entirely supplied by the Chinese and the Indians. The Indians are generally engaged in agricultural work and other forms of manual labour, but the more educated of them generally find posts in the public service. Skilled work is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese. In addition there are about 5,000 Japanese labourers immigrant from the Netherland East Indies . About 450 of these labourers are employed on contract service for 900 days' work entered into in Java. This is the only form of indentured labour in the Federated Malay States. All other labourers of all races are at liberty to leave their employment at any time on giving a month's notice.

The following passages relating to the general conditions of labour in the Federated Malay States, with special reference to the

Indian emigrants are extracted from the report for 1928 of the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay States :-

"Conditions of labour are governed by the provisions of the Labour Code, 1923, and by the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Enactment, 1927. These enactments are administered by a Labour Department under the direction of the Controller of Labour, Malaya. Officers of the Chinese Protectorate are appointed Deputy or Assistant Controllers of Labour to deal with questions of Chinese Labour.

Relations between employers and labourers were generally satisfactory.

The standard rates of wages for Indian labourers prescribed in 1927 of 58 cents a day for men and 46 cents for women, were paid in the inland districts of Pahang. Throughout the ~~xxx~~ Federated Malay States minimum rates of 50 cents a day for men and 40 cents for women were paid to all labourers employed by Government departments.

In October standard rates of wages of 50 cents a day for men and 40 cents for women were prescribed under the provisions of Section 141 of the Labour Code for Indian labourers throughout the ~~xxxx~~ Coast districts of Selangor. These rates were not to come into force until the 1st February 1929. In other parts of the Federated Malay States Indian labourers earn from 45 to 65 cents (men) and 35 to 55 cents (women). Javanese and Malays earn from 45 to 60 cents a day and Chinese who are usually employed on contract (that is, piece work) from 70 cents to 2 dollars a day according to the nature of their employment.

Health conditions on estates generally show an improvement on those of 1927. The death rate among the Indian labourers on estates

and mines from which returns are received was 15.71 per mile on an average population of 170,824 as compared with 18.44 on an average population of 175,235 in 1927. The mortality among the labourers of other races, of whom there are fewer employed on estates, was 7.27 per mile. The death rate per mile amongst labourers of all races on estates was 14.19 and among Indian labourers 15.98.

Under the Health Boards Enactment a Central Health Board has been constituted which is empowered to collect an annual cess or cesses for the purpose of carrying out health measures in other than Sanitary Board areas and local boards under the control of the Health Board have been formed in all States. The local board areas correspond generally with those of the administrative districts and the District Officers are the chairmen of the local boards. In order to co-ordinate the work of the Board with the Labour Code, the Controller of Labour is appointed ex-officio President of the Central Health Board. It is hoped that the supply of additional hospitals, the extension of medical supervision to all estates and the preparation of schemes for the improvement of unhealthy areas will, by these means, be facilitated. Up to the middle of 1928, progress had been slow, owing, in part, to the experimental nature of the whole measure and, in part, to the difficulty experienced in reconciling various conflicting interests, but there has been a growing interest on the part of the public and towards the end of the year, there were signs of something approaching unanimity. The original Health Boards Enactment of 1926 was repealed in April by a new enactment No. 7 of 1928.

Chinese immigration is uncontrolled and takes place mainly through the ports of the colony. The number of Chinese deck passengers

arriving in the colony was 295,700, while the number of those returning to China was 149,354. Large numbers of these immigrants proceeded to the Federated Malay States but in spite of this continued influx there was little unemployment.

The immigration of labourers from Southern India is regulated by the Indian Immigration Committee (of which the Controller of Labour, Malaya, is ex-officio Chairman) appointed by the High Commissioner. The Railway fares in India, steamer passages and transport expenses of such labourers to their places of employment are paid from the Indian Immigration Fund. The number of labourers so assisted who arrived in Penang, during 1928 was 27,240 compared with 123,826 in 1927. These "assisted labourers" consisted of 22,649 adults and 4,491 minors. Of the adults 14,635 were men and 8,014 women; the number that proceeded to places of employment in the Federated Malay States was 18,343 compared with 77,863 in 1927. The great drop in the number of immigrants is to be attributed partly to the large influx of Indian labourers in 1926 and 1927 which had satisfied the existing demand for labour, and partly to the practical cessation of further recruitment owing to the uncertainty in the rubber market created by the decision that all restrictions on the export of rubber from Malaya would be withdrawn on the 1st November, 1928.

The income of the Indian Immigration Fund is derived from a quarterly assessment levied on all employers of South Indian Labour throughout Malaya based on the number of days' work done by such labourers during the quarter. With a view to increasing the number of female immigrants a differential rate is levied on male and female labourers. The rate of assessment was fixed at 3 dollars for males and 2 dollars for the females for the first and second quarters, and

at 50 cents for males and nil for females for the 3rd and 4th quarter<sup>s</sup> of 1928 in respect of every 72 days' work done.

During 1928, 13,819 adult and 4328 minor decrepit or destitute Indians were assisted with passages back to India. Of these 7,279 adults and 2345 minors were from the Federated Malay States. Among those repatriated at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund, 2,157 adults and 1062 minors had been inmates of the Home for Decrepit Indians, Kuala-Lumpur, maintained by the Immigration Committee".

... ..

#### Education of Indians in Fiji

The Fiji Government has drawn up a new scheme for providing increased educational facilities for the children of Indians domiciled in Fiji. The full details of the scheme are not yet available, but according to the Times of India of 15-7-29, Mr. W. Lunn, Under-Secretary for the Colonies, has stated in reply to questions in the House of Commons on 12-7-29 that under the Fiji Government's new education scheme, the Government had decided to establish a Teachers' ~~Training~~ Training Institution for Indians, at which higher grade classes for Indian boys would also be held. A Government Scholarship scheme for Indians was also to be started. It was also hoped to inaugurate in 1930 a five years' programme for the development of education among Indians in Fiji, which included among other facilities the provision of ten new schools for Indian boys and three for Indian girls.

Interviewed by the correspondent <sup>of</sup> the Hindu on 14-7-29



regarding the Government of Fiji's new education scheme for Indians, Mr. Venkatapathi Raju, C.I.E., President of the Indian deputation that went to Fiji in 1922, said :-

"When the deputation went to Fiji in 1922, we noticed that education had been admittedly neglected and facilities for Indians were far less than for other communities. Not only there should be a definite policy, but the necessary amount of money should be earmarked for the purpose of education for Indian children. Mr. C. F. Andrews, as well as the deputation, recommended that the Government should also encourage the establishment of schools by Indians themselves by a suitable grant-in-aid system. It was a great pity that the Education Ordinance of 1916 closed the European public schools at Luna and Lenaka and the Fijian school at Uasinu to Indian pupils. It is regrettable that when Indians are admitted into public schools in New Zealand and Australia, they should be prohibited in Fiji.

Under the Labour Government, I hope better facilities will be provided and additional funds will be allotted, while removing the racial bar to Indians to attend public schools of the Government where there is better equipment and better training".

(Hindu - 16-7-29)

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
B.I.T. Registry
Indian Branch
Report for September 1929.
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General.

The fifth session of the third Indian Legislative Assembly was held at Simla from the 2nd to the 25th September 1929. On the opening day, the President, Mr. Patel, read out a letter which he had addressed to the Viceroy in regard to the general interpretation placed upon the latter's speech in proroguing the House last April, and His Excellency's reply thereto. The Viceroy, in his prorogation speech, had stated that the President's action in ruling out of order further consideration of the Public Safety Bill was not in conformity with the original intention of the Indian Legislative Rules, but that since the President was the only appropriate person to interpret the rules within either House of the Legislature, the Government's only remedy was to obtain, by due authority, such amendment of the rules that the recurrence of any similar interruption in the normal legislative procedure may be prevented in future. In addition to this "threat" to limit the powers of the President, the Viceroy also announced that the Public Safety Bill, the progress into law of which was held up by the presidential ruling, would be issued by him as an Ordinance. The Ordinance appeared in the Gazette of India in due course, and a notification of the Legislative Department appeared on the 24th August last, adding a new clause (Rule 17-A) to the Indian Legislative Rules which took away from the President the power to prevent or delay the making or discussion of any motion relating to a Bill made by the member in charge of the Bill, or to refuse to put, or delay the putting of, the question on any such motion, unless such power is expressly conferred on him. In the light of these two

events, there was considerable speculation as to the nature of the correspondence that passed between Mr. Patel and Lord Irwin. Mr. Patel's letter referred to the Viceroy's criticism of his ruling as an unprecedented encroachment on the dignity and the authority of the Chair; and stated that the only way to impugn his conduct as President was by a direct appeal to the House. In the Viceroy's reply, it was stated that it was no part of his intention either to criticise the President's ruling or to pass censure upon him for it, and that His Excellency regretted that his words should have been so interpreted, though such an interpretation was under circumstances perhaps inevitable. Even before these letters were read out, a short notice question elicited from the Government the fact that they were not bringing up for discussion at this session the Public Safety Bill. Though this was a partial victory for the opposition, the fact remained that the President's powers had been curbed by the amendment of the Indian Legislative Rules. A further opportunity to bring home to the Government the emptiness of their victory in adding Rule 17-A to the Indian Legislative Rules occurred when the question of the admissibility of Mr. S.C. Mitra's resolution stating that Lord Irwin's part in the enactment of this rule was reprehensible came up for consideration. The opposition contended that under the new rule the President had no power to disallow the resolution, even though the reference in the Resolution to Lord Irwin contravened the terms of Standing Order 29. The Government were this time forced to ask the President to exercise his inherent power - thus more or less going back upon their attitude when the Public Safety Bill was

stopped by the President. Mr. Mitra's resolution was finally dis-  
 allowed by the President on the Government's making a statement that,  
 in all matters of important amendment of rules, they would consult  
 the Legislative Assembly before they submit their proposals to the  
 Secretary of State except in cases of emergency. The opposition  
 thus gained another tactical victory; and with this incident one  
 phase of the controversy between the Government and the President of  
 the House may be said to be closed.

... ..

A resolution moved by Mr. K.V. Rangaswami Iyengar recommending  
 the appointment of a mixed committee of officials and nonofficials  
 to examine the rural conditions obtaining in the various provinces and  
 to recommend ways and means for establishing in each village or group  
 of villages an efficient village panchayat, elected on the adult  
 franchise system and possessing sufficient legal powers and financial  
 resources for administering village concerns such as agriculture,  
 minor irrigation and forests, cottage industries, village sanitation,  
 education, co-operation, trade and banking, and for deciding civil  
 and criminal suits up to a certain limit, was carried in the House by  
 35 votes as against 33, the Government opposing.

... ..

The pièce de resistance of the present session was the Child  
 Marriage Bill introduced by Rai Saheb Harbilas Sarda, the nature and  
 provisions of which have already been set out in some detail in this  
 office's report for February 1929. Though it is generally felt that

social legislation of this nature affecting enormous masses of the population can after all only be in the nature of propaganda, nevertheless, there was a considerable mass of opposition to the Bill headed by the "orthodox" Hindus and by a certain section of the Mahommedans. Earlier in the debate - which was a very protracted one - the leader of the House made a statement that the Government was in favour of the Bill and thereafter the discussion was more or less robbed of its interest as the issue was a foregone conclusion. The passing of the Bill towards the end of the session has been hailed with great joy throughout the entire country, as it has all along been realised that the system of child marriages has been one of the most fruitful causes of the physical deterioration of the population of India.

... ..

In earlier reports of this office, mention has been made of the fact that some of the under-trial prisoners in the Lahore and Meerut Conspiracy cases had gone on hunger-strike, on the ground that "political prisoners" should not be treated as common felons under the law, and that in any case they should be given some of the more rudimentary amenities of life such as a cake of soap, special diet, some literature to read and immunity from forced labour. After 63 days of voluntary starvation, one of the hunger-strikers, Mr. Jatindra-nath Das, died while the Assembly was sitting, and the national newspapers have hailed him as a martyr who has laid down his life for an elementary principle of justice. On the 14th September the leader of the opposition asked for leave to make a motion for adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance,

namely, the situation arising out of the action and policy of the Government regarding the treatment of the accused under trial in the Lahore Conspiracy case. The motion for adjournment was carried by 55 votes as against 47, the Government opposing.

Another difficulty that the Government had to face, which also arose directly out of the hunger-strike, was that, according to the existing provisions of the law, they found it impossible to proceed with the trial so long as one or more of the hunger-strikers were too ill to attend Court and persistently refused to appoint counsel to defend them. In order to get out of this difficulty, the Government sought to introduce a Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure by the addition of a new section 540 B. By this clause, if any accused person by his own voluntary act renders himself incapable of appearing before the Court and declines to be represented by counsel, the Court has the discretion, in such circumstances, to dispense with his presence and carry on the trial. There was naturally a great deal of excited opposition to the Bill ~~in~~ which was commonly referred to in public discussions as the Anti Hunger-Strike Bill, and the death of Das lent special strength to the opposition. As a result of prolonged discussion, the Government's motion for taking the Bill into consideration was replaced by an amendment for circulating the Bill for eliciting public and legal opinion thereon; and in so far as this meant that the Government's desire to be armed with the special authority given under the new section for dealing with the Lahore cases was frustrated, the decision of the House must be taken as a defeat for the Government.



Two items of special importance to the International Labour Office were taken up for discussion during the session. The first was the introduction by Sir George Rainy, the Member for Railways, of a Bill to amend the Indian Railways Act. In moving on the 9th September 1929 that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, Sir George Rainy explained that the necessity for this legislation arose from the obligations which the Government of India have undertaken under the Washington and Geneva Conventions. Under the Washington convention the Government undertook that the principle of the 60 hours' week should be adopted in such branches of railway work as might be specified for the purpose by "competent authority". Under the Geneva convention, a weekly day of rest must be extended to the same classes of workers. What the Bill proposes to do is to make the Governor General in Council "the competent authority". Sir George recognised that the more usual practice would have been to add certain substantive provisions in the law itself, as has been done in the Indian Factories Act, instead of asking the Assembly to delegate its powers to the Executive authorities. The Government, however, have found it a difficult and complicated business to work out exactly what provisions should be made applicable to Indian railway workers, and they have not been able so far to put forward definite provisions which could be incorporated in an Act of this nature. The Bill, according to Sir George, only meant that the Government was asking the legislature to affirm that the time has come when by legislation a competent authority should be set up to specify the branches of railway work to which the weekly day of rest

and the principle of the 60 hours' week should apply. The motion was adopted after Messrs. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Diwan Chaman Lal, V.V. Jogiah and others had pressed upon the Government the necessity for limiting the number of hours a day to eight and for incorporating in the act itself the substantive part of the rules instead of giving a blank cheque to the Government. Mr. V.V. Jogiah urged that "the competent authority" should be a committee consisting of representatives of the Government (on behalf of the employers) and of the All India Railwaymen's Federation (on behalf of the employees). The Railway Member's reply to these points was that they could be considered in the Select Committee.

The second point of direct interest to the I.L.O. was the motion made by Sir B.N. Mitra on the 26th september last for the non-ratification of the Geneva convention regarding minimum wage fixing machinery. In support of his motion he said that the Labour Commission would soon be making an exhaustive enquiry on this subject in India and that this was not the time therefore to ratify the convention. Diwan Chaman Lal urged the postponement of the discussion to the Delhi session. This was carried by 17 votes as against 5, Government remaining neutral. There was a very interesting discussion on this resolution in the Council of state, where most of the non-official members voted against Mr. Ryan's motion, which was worded on the same lines as that of Sir B.N. Mitra. In that House, however, it was carried.

... ..

A deputation from the Indians settled in East Africa was touring in the country during the period under report explaining the disabilities to which Indians were subject in the East African Colonies and in the Mandated territory of Tanganayika, and the directions in which they wanted a modification of the recommendations of the "Closer Union" committee presided over by Sir Edward Hilton-Young. It will be recalled that the British Colonial office had sent out Sir Samuel Wilson to East Africa to explore the situation once again, and that the Right Honourable V. S. Srinivasa Sastri was sent out by the Government of India to collaborate with him. It was however generally known that Mr. Sastri's mission was a failure, and that Sir Samuel Wilson had expressed himself definitely against a common electoral roll for which the Indian population of these areas was strenuously fighting. It is understood that the East African Indian deputation which came to India waited on the Government of India and explained their case, and that the Government's reply was not very reassuring. During the present session of the Assembly, an occasion arose for discussing the entire situation. On the 26th September the matter was discussed in the House, when the Government explained that before any final decision was come to regarding the implementing of either the Hilton-Young report or that of Sir Samuel Wilson, the Assembly will have an opportunity of expressing its opinion on the points involved.

This Debate has however not cleared the air; on the other hand, certain passages in the speeches from the official benches, particularly where they referred to the Government of India being "mere advocates" in the cause of Indians in East Africa were

disappointing and discouraging. In fact statements like these show that the Government of India have resiled from the strong position they had taken up in such matters during the Imperial Conferences of 1921 and 1923.

It is understood that Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru has left for England to represent the cause of East African Indians before the colonial office in London.

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On the 24th September, the Legislative Assembly carried by 51 votes against 42, the Government opposing, a resolution moved by Pandit Nilkanta Das for the withdrawal of protection granted to the Tin plate Industry as the tinsplate company of Golmuri (Jamshedpur) was no longer an Indian concern. The occasion for the resolution was the prolonged strike at Jamshedpur, Mr. Das making it clear that the basis of his contention was that the Company's treatment of its labour force was unsatisfactory, and that the Government had failed in their duty in not appointing a Court of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act. Sir B.N.Mitra, in his reply on behalf of the Government, said that the strike was due to political influences, and that the Bihar Government, within the territorial jurisdiction of which the strike took place, had made out a good case as to why they should not intervene. The resolution however was carried.

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At a meeting of the All India Congress Committee held at Lucknow on the 28th September, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was elected President of the forthcoming session of the Indian National

Congress at Lahore. His election was the result of Mr. Gandhi's persistent refusal to accept the Presidentship for the year. Pandit Jawaharlal, it will be remembered, is the General Secretary of the Congress, and is, besides, the President of the All India Trade Union Congress.

settlers in the Mandated Territories.

On 24-9-1929, Mr. F. E. James interpellated <sup>the Government</sup> in the Madras Legislative Council on the action, if any, that has been taken in ~~the~~ schools and colleges to familiarize students with the ~~aim~~ aims and objects of the League. Even more interesting than the detailed reply given by the Government were the supplementary questions in which the members expressed their opinion that the League served no useful purpose to India, because it did not concern itself with the attainment of swaraj in India.

The Indian newspapers announce the arrival on 25-9-1929 at Rangoon of the League of Nations Opium Commission consisting of Monsieur Ekstrant (Chairman), Max Leo Gerrard and Jean Havlasa (members), and Monsieur Wilson, (Secretary). This Commission was set up by the League last March in accordance with a resolution passed by the 1928 Assembly. The League's Malaria Commission has now been in India for two weeks, and is now at Delhi.

#### References to the I.L.O.

Most of the Indian dailies published in extenso the press communiqué issued by this office on the 13th (Maritime) Labour Conference. Cuttings from the Statesman of 12-9-1929, Hindustan Times of 9-9-1929 and the Pioneer of 13-9-1929 have been forwarded to Geneva to show that the programme of the forthcoming conference has received considerable publicity.

A press communiqué issued by the Government of India announcing the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 13th Conference has been widely reproduced in the Indian press.

... ..

A Free Press of India message dated the 21st September says that the Committee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, as also of the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, have protested against the appointment of Mr. Brown as an adviser to represent Indian employers at the 13th (Maritime) Conference. A protest has also been lodged with the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India.

... ..

A Reuter's message from Geneva giving the gist of Monsieur Albert Thomas' spirited defence to the attack made on him by the Norwegian delegate Mr. Hambro in the 4th Committee of the League Assembly has been reproduced in all the papers. The Statesman of Calcutta, in its issue of 20-9-1929, commenting on this message observes that Monsieur Thomas' defence seems to be very satisfactory, and that as ~~he~~ the official of the B.I.T., whom Monsieur Thomas had <sup>to be elected</sup> permitted, for election to the British Parliament was opposing an avowed communist, "it is not necessary to suspect M. Thomas of anything very red".

... ..

Mr. B. Shiva Rao, who was the Indian Workers' Adviser to the 12th Conference, contributes an article <sup>on "International Labour"</sup> to the Statesman of 15-9-1929 giving his impressions of the Conference. He ~~stresses~~ stresses the importance of having direct representatives from coloured workers from the Colonies at the Conference. In spite of this <sup>difficult</sup> difficulty

in the composition of the Conference, "there is not the least doubt that the Conference is becoming a real force in improving labour conditions in the world. .... So far as India is concerned, it would not be accurate to say that the pressure of Geneva has been negligible. The Central Legislature has been responsible, ~~at~~ during the current decade, for a number of important labour measures; and in almost every instance the inspiration may be traced to Geneva. .... The discussions of problems affecting the interests of millions of human beings who cannot speak for themselves are in themselves of the utmost importance, while Governments are sensitive to criticism at Geneva and do not appreciate exposures of their methods. The force of the world's public opinion is thus becoming increasingly potent in directing national policies. .... It is a great piece of work which is being done at Geneva; the I.L.O., from the Director downwards, is staffed by men who show a zeal for work and a faith in its potentialities which are ~~in~~ an inspiration to those who visit Geneva".

... ..

The Hindu of 17-9-1929 publishes<sup>ed</sup> a fairly long account of a speech delivered by Mr. Shiva Rao at Madras on 16-9-1929. He referred to the decision to hold an Asiatic Labour Congress, and to the decision taken by Mr. Joshi and himself to organise an All-India Textile Federation. He concluded his speech with an exhortation to his audience to ~~study~~ <sup>study</sup> the workers' case carefully for submission to the ~~Whitley~~ Whitley Commission.



Mr. Ernest Kirk contributes an article on "Labour and the Colour Bar" to the Hindu of 21-9-1929, in the course of which he refers at length to Mr. Joshi's speech commenting on the report of the I.L.O. Director presented to the 12th Conference. The article deals with the economic aspects of the colour bar in labour, and proceeds to deal with conditions in South Africa, China, America, Australia, etc.

... ..

The Ceylon Independent of 19-9-1929 publishes a short note on the visit of Mr. Yonekubo and his friends to Colombo on their <sup>way to</sup> ~~return from~~ Geneva. Addressing a meeting of the Ceylon Labour Union, the Japanese delegates spoke about the proposed Asiatic Labour Congress and canvassed support for the idea.

... ..

In its issue of September 1929, pages 368-371, the monthly magazine "Education" published at Cawnpore, reproduces in its entirety the Geneva "educational" communiqué on the 12th Labour Conference.

... ..

In its issue of October 1929, pages 64-69, the "Calcutta Review" publishes in extenso our communiqué on the 12th session of the International Labour Conference.

... ..

In its issue of October 1929, pages 522-529, the "National Christian Council Review" of India, publishes an article entitled "the Christian Church and the International Labour Office" by Dr. P.P. Pillai.

... ..

National Labour Legislation.

(The following Bill was introduced in the Indian Legislative Assembly on 2-9-1929 and referred to ~~the~~ Select Committee on 9-9-1929.)

A  
BILL

Further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, for certain purposes.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows :-

1. This Act may be called the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, Short title | 1929.

2. After section 47 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (herein-

IX of 1890 Insertion of new sec- | after referred to as the said  
tion 47A in Act IX of 1890 | Act), the following section

shall be inserted, namely :-

"47A. (1) The Governor General in Council may make rules

IX of 1890 Power to make rules | generally to regulate the hours  
to regulate the hours |  
of work and periods of | of work and periods of rest of  
rest of railway ser- |  
vants. | railway servants, or any class

of railway servants, who are not employed in a factory within

XII of 1911. the meaning of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, or in a mine

IV of 1923. within the meaning of the Indian Mines Act, 1923.

(2) The rules may provide that any person committing a breach of any of them shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees".

3. In section 143 of the said Act, after the word and

Amendment of sec-  
tion 143, Act IX of  
1890.

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figures "section 34" the word

and figures "section 47A" shall

be inserted.

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

1. The Washington Convention, limiting the hours of work in industrial undertakings, provides inter alia that in British India the principle of a sixty-hour week shall be adopted for workers in the industries covered by the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), in mines and in such branches of railway work as shall be specified for this purpose by the competent authority.

2. In the Geneva Convention concerning the grant of weekly rest in industrial undertakings, the definition of 'industrial undertakings' is subject to the special national exceptions contained in the Washington Convention, from which it follows that the concession of the weekly rest is also prescribed for the same categories of workers in British India as are covered by the Washington Convention.

3. These Conventions were promulgated in 1919 and 1921, and ratified by the Government of India in 1921 and 1923, respectively, and their application to Indian railways has been the subject of prolonged investigations. Persons employed in

workshops and collieries have already been brought under the Conventions by the amendment of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, and the enactment of the Indian Mines Act, 1923.

With regard to the railway staffs, efforts have hitherto been directed towards the application of the principles of the Conventions to railway servants in India by executive orders to the State-managed railway administrations and by invitation to the Company-managed railway administrations.

In the opinion of the Governor ~~General~~ General in Council the time has now arrived to institute measures for giving effect to the statutory obligations incurred by the ratification of the Conventions, and the first step in this direction is to create a competent authority which will specify the branches of railway work and frame other rules for this purpose.

4. It is accordingly proposed to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, by the insertion of a new section 47A ~~empowering~~ empowering the Governor General in Council to make rules generally to regulate the hours of work and periods of rest of railway servants other than those working in factories and in mines (for whom adequate provision is already made in the Factories and Mines Acts) and the proposed amendment is embodied in clause 2 of the Bill.

Clause 3 amends section 143 so as to secure that the rules made under section 47A shall not come into force until they have been published in the Gazette of India.

Simla;  
The 1st August, 1929.

G. RAINY.

Conditions of Labour.Calcutta Strike Situation.

The Calcutta Jute workers' strike (see pages 12-15, September 1929 report of this office) has ended. The few lightning strikes which were declared at the end of August collapsed by the beginning of September. According to the Times of India of the 16th September 1929, with the exception of two mills, all the other jute mills of the city and its suburbs were working on that day.

Bombay Textile Strike.

The Bombay textile strike (see pages 15-16, September 1929 report), has practically ended. According to a communiqué issued by the Bombay Millowners' Association, the number of workers attending the Bombay textile mills on the 11th September 1929 was 1,21,328 and that on the 25th September 1929 was 1,31,642. The Girni Kamgar Union issued a hand-bill on the 11th September 1929 urging the millhands to hold on and to continue the strike, but seeing the futility of such appeals in view of the increasing attendance at the mills, the Union withdrew all its pickets from the mills on the 18th September 1929. The strike, however, has not yet been formally called off.

<sup>15</sup>  
Findings of Strike Inquiry Court, Bombay\*.

Reference has been made at page 14 of the report of this office for the month of July 1929 to the Court of Inquiry appointed by the Government of Bombay to inquire into the Bombay textile strike. The Court of Inquiry has recently published its report after a prolonged enquiry. The terms of reference of the Court were as follows:-

1. To inquire into and ascertain the exact nature of the dispute or disputes between the employers and workmen of the ~~XXXXX-XXXXX~~ 64 textile mills which led to the strike in those mills in March and April 1929.
2. If there was any such dispute, to what extent the employers or workmen or both are responsible in matters connected therewith?
3. What are the causes of the prolongation of the strike? whether the employers or workmen or both are responsible for such prolongation, and if so, to what extent?
4. What are the difficulties in the way of a settlement of the dispute or disputes between the employers and the workmen?

The principal grievances which led to the general textile strike as formulated by the strikers were the following:- (1) dismissal of 6,000 men of the wadia mills; (2) victimisation of the Girni Kamgar Union men; (3) obstacles to the Union's activities by the management; (4) objection of the millowners to collection of union

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\* Government of Bombay, Report of the Court of Inquiry 1929 - (Price-As. 3 or 4d), pp iii + 64, Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1929.

subscriptions inside the mills.

The Court of Inquiry has pronounced the following findings about these grievances of the strikers, the justifiability of the strike, and the responsibility for the circumstances that led to the strike:-

- (1) The leaders of the Girni Kamgar Union took advantage of the conditions prevailing in October 1928; viz., the discontent prevailing among the workers due mainly to the fear that there would be both a cut in their wages and unemployment resulting from the proposed introduction of the standardisation and efficiency schemes recommended by the Fawcett Committee, and fostered an atmosphere favourable to the declaration of a strike.
- (2) The Girni Kamgar Union leaders have adopted an ~~un~~unconstitutional method in converting the Mill Committees from advisory into executive committees, and their policy of encouraging individual action among Mill Committee officers even on such matters as the declaration of strikes is unjustifiable.
- (3) The Girni Kamgar Union, instead of taking corporate action and trying to encourage formation of corporate agreements is guilty of stimulating antagonism between the workers and the millowners and has thereby caused several lightning strikes without just cause prior to the declaration of the general strike with a view to foment general unrest.
- (4) There was nothing in the attitude of the representatives of the millowners at the Conference of 24-4-1929 (see page 25 of May 1929 report of this office) which justified the officials of the Girni Kamgar Union in breaking off negotiations and resorting<sup>to</sup> the extreme step of declaring a general strike.
- (5) The Girni Kamgar Union has failed to establish the charge of victimisation and to justify its demand for the reinstatement of the strikers in the wadia group of mills.
- (6) The disputes which preceded the

general strike partook more of the nature of disputes between the Girni Kamgar Union and the Millowners' Association than that of a dispute between the general body of workers and the owners. In this struggle the millowners were largely on the defensive. It is highly probable that in certain instances the millowners and their officers did not act with the same ~~circumspection~~ circumspection as they might have done in a more favourable atmosphere, but the blame for precipitating such an atmosphere lies wholly at the door of the officials of the Girni Kamgar Union. (7) The main causes of the prolongation of the strike are:- (a) the aggressive and mischievous propaganda of the officials of the Girni Kamgar Union and the inflammatory appeals made by them to the workers, (b) picket~~ing~~ing and intimidation by the strikers and acts of violence committed by them on non-strikers. Hence, the blame for the prolongation of the strike rests mainly upon the officials of the Girni Kamgar Union. (8) The main difficulty in the way of a settlement is the uncompromising attitude of the officials of the Girni Kamgar Union; but there is an under-current of discontent among the workers due inter alia to (a) the proposed cut of 7 1/2 per cent on the wages of the ~~m~~ workers; (b) the fear of unemployment in consequence of the proposed introduction of the efficiency schemes, and (c) the non-payment of April 1929 wages. (9) Other difficulties in the way of a settlement are the absence of contact between the millowners and the workers, and the absence of any machinery such as an arbitration board to settle disputes as they arise.



Report of the Bombay Riots Inquiry Committee.

The report of the Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay to inquire into and report on the communal riots which took place in Bombay City in February 1929 (see pages 25-27, February 1929 report of this office) has recently been published. It has to be pointed out that the communal riots of February 1929 in Bombay, were an off-shoot of the textile strike in Bombay and that the riots were in a great measure due to the antagonism between the strikers, who were mainly Hindus and the non-strikers who were mainly Mohammedans. Another factor which accentuated communal hostility and gave a communal colouring to the riots was that the immediate cause of the riots was the animosity smouldering among the Hindu millhands against the pathan money-lenders who on occasions exacted even 150 per cent interest from the mill-hands, the large majority of whom are Hindus. The riots of February 1929 have, therefore, a dual character, They had their origin in the general unrest created by the labour strike, but were given a communal turn by the fact that the majority of the non-strikers were Muslims, and that the extortionate money-lenders also were Muslims. In view of these facts, the recommendations of the Bombay Riots Inquiry Committee have a strong bearing on the labour situation in the city of Bombay.

The following are the Committee's principal recommendations:-

- (1) Drastic action should be taken against the Communists. &
- (2) During a riot immediate action should be taken to get rid of or confine all hooligans. (3) The question of /control of pathan money-lenders, in Bombay City and the suburban area should be referred to the Banking Inquiry Committee. (4) Special constables should be enrolled to relieve some unarmed police for

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riot work. (5) The police force of Bombay should be strengthened by 500 more constables. (6) The Committee favour the Prevention of Intimidation Act (see pages 19-21, August, 1929 report of this office). (7) Action should be taken against newspapers and other publications which excite communal hatred. (8) As regards the Hindu Muslim tension, the Committee are of opinion that it is an all-India problem, and that what is required is a change of heart.

Inquiry into Grievances of Indian Telegraphists.

The Times of India of 26-9-1929 says that at the request of Col. Gidney, M.L.A., Sir B.N. Mitra has consented on behalf of the Government of India, to institute an inquiry into the grievances of Indian telegraphists with the aid of representatives of the employees from the Indian Telegraph Association and the All India Telegraph Union.

The Tinplate workers' strike, Jamshedpur.

The Jamshedpur Tinplate workers' strike (see pages 16-17 of the September 1929 report of this office) is still being continued. While a state of deadlock continues at Jamshedpur, during the period under review the active fight has been transferred to other parts. On 6-9-1929 a motion for the adjournment of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council to discuss the situation arising out of the Tinplate strike was carried by 41 votes to 39. Mr. Srikrishna Singh, the swarajist leader who moved the adjournment motion, condemned the attitude of the management, and urged that it was the plain duty of the Government to intervene and appoint a conciliation Board to

inquire into the grievances of the men as provided for in the Trades Disputes Act. The Hon'ble Mr. whitty, speaking on behalf of the Government, said that the managements' attitude throughout was conciliatory, that the strike was declared without notice and had no justification, that the works are being run with the full complement of nearly 3,000 men composed of loyal and newly engaged hands, and that, therefore, there was no occasion for Government intervention. (Statesman, 8-9-1929). The Governor-in-Council after full consideration of the situation decided on 13-9-1929 that for the reasons given in the Hon. Mr. whitty's speech, no useful purpose can be served by the appointment either of a Court of Inquiry or a Conciliation Board under the Trades Disputes Act for the settlement of this strike.

Pandit Nilakantha Das' motion that the Steel Protection Act, 1927 should be amended with a view to withdrawing the protection granted under the Act to the tinplate industry furnished an occasion on 24-9-1929 to the Legislative Assembly to discuss the situation created by the strike. The motion to withdraw the protection accorded to the industry was carried by 51 to 42 votes. Fuller reference of this is made in the section of this report dealing with general affairs.

The statesman of 25-9-1929 publishes two comprehensive statements regarding the strike, one issued by the management of the company and the other by Mr. Subash Chandra Bose on behalf of the workers, which set forth the causes of the strike and its history from the viewpoints of the employers and the workers respectively. Special attention is invited to these cuttings. (Cutting is forwarded separately).

Factory Administration in Bombay, 1928\*

The number of factories in the Bombay Presidency subject to the control of the Indian Factories Act (Act XII of 1911), increased during 1928 from 1596 to 1661. 103 factories were added to, and 38 factories removed from the register during the course of the year. The greatest increase in factories was recorded in Bombay, where 28 new factories were started during 1928. Ahmednagar comes next with 12 new factories, followed by Sholapur with 7 new factories, and Sukkur with 6 new factories. The number of stoppages of factories is also highest in Bombay City, where the troubled industrial conditions prevailing for major part of the year, <sup>the</sup> resulted in the closing down of 8 factories. The report states that the increase in the number of factories was mainly due to the increasing registration of concerns employing about 20 persons each. The efficient supervision of these small establishments has always been a difficult matter, as registration with them is seldom voluntary, and frequent combing of the industrial areas is necessary for ensuring their registration in full numbers. Out of the 1661 factories on the Register, the number which actually worked was 1498, as compared with 1426 in the previous year. Of these working factories, 715 were perennial and 783 were seasonal establishments. The preponderant position of the cotton industry in the Presidency is well established by the fact that 215 of the perennial, and 676 of the seasonal factories of the Presidency were connected with this industry. The total number of operatives employed

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\* Annual Factory Report of the Presidency of Bombay 1928. Price - Annas 4 or 5d. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1929. pp 79.

in all industries as ascertained from the annual returns received from the factories was 3,56,083 as against 3,81,868 in the previous year. The total number of operatives employed in cotton mills during 1928 was 219,428, as against 245,509 in the previous year. The above figures show considerable decreases from those of last year, but if due allowance is made for the prolonged Bombay strikes of the year, it will be found that the decreases are more apparent than real.

Factory Inspection - The number of inspections made by the factory inspection staff registered considerable increase, and the inspections were conducted in a more thorough manner. Of the 715 perennial factories, 91 were inspected once, 206 twice, 177 thrice and 232 more than thrice while only 9 escaped inspection. Of the 783 seasonal factories, 264 were inspected once, 347 twice, 134 thrice and 32 more than thrice while only 6 were not inspected.

Sanitation - The sanitation in most of the industrial areas of the Presidency has improved considerably owing to constant vigilance. Most of the Bombay mills are now connected to the Municipal sewage system, but in a few the primitive system of basket privies continues. Steady pressure has been maintained to introduce up-to-date methods, and promises have been obtained from several managements of necessary changes when financial and labour conditions are more favourable.

In Ahmedabad, where mill development is going on at a greater pace than the improvement of municipal amenities, the sanitation problem is giving cause for much concern. As most of the new mills are being erected in the outlying areas, the difficulties, at any

rate, are not increasing. Several of the older mills have been prevailed upon to demolish insanitary latrines, and to replace them by modern ones.

In the other industrial centres in the ~~mofussil~~ mofussil, sanitation is more or less conditioned by the progress made by municipal and local boards, - but on the whole the standards of cleanliness maintained in mofussil factories are superior to the standards obtaining in the surrounding areas.

Ventilation - In the matter of the provision of improved ventilation arrangements, Ahmedabad, where the climatic conditions are very unfavourable to the growing textile industry, made very good progress. The installation of ventilating plants based on the evaporative cooling principle, has to a great extent neutralised the adverse effects of the climate, and in several mills working conditions have been changed beyond recognition. A fair idea of the progress made can be had from the fact that 37 spinning and weaving mills of the place have already spent Rs. 9,97,000 on ventilation improvements, ensuring thereby a more contented labour force, increased earning power to the operatives, and enhanced profits to the owners. In Bombay where climatic conditions are more favourable, and where mills are generally better designed, the progress in ventilation arrangements has not been so marked, but a notable innovation during the year was the provision in some textile mills of a cheap type of propeller fan driven from the loom staff and ordinarily clamped to the loom rail to supply greater air movement near the weavers. Factory inspectors report that in 1928 there was closer compliance with humidity rules, as also improvements in the

maintenance of hygrometers.

Wages and Strikes - The period under review was characterised by frequent strikes, the most important of which was the strike in the textile industry in Bombay city, which lasted for six months.

Towards the close of the year there were a series of strikes in the oil mills at Sewree, Bombay. Hours of work, wages, and allied questions were the causes of the majority of the strikes.

Employment of Women and Children - The total number of women employed in the Presidency in 1928 was 75,092, as against 80,155 in 1927, and 81,104 in 1926. The number of children employed in 1928 was 5,183 as against 6322 in 1927, and 7,078 in 1926. A noticeable feature of the situation is that the increase in the number of women ~~in~~ children employed is confined entirely to the mofussil due to increased activity in the seasonal industries, and that in Bombay City the figures were stationary with, if anything, a tendency to decrease. The double employment of children which was very prevalent in Ahmedabad, and of which on the occasion of one check in 1926 over 100 cases were detected, had during the year 1928 almost disappeared. Legislation and departmental action have thus led to an almost complete abolition of child labour irregularities in the Ahmedabad mills. The Bombay mills have for a considerable time practically ceased to employ children, the figures for Bombay City of such employment being only 164 in 1927, and 122 in 1928. The supply of children for employment, therefore, remains considerably in excess of the demand. The irregular employment of women in Sind has been considerably reduced by the surprise visits and prosecutions initiated during the past years.

Fencing of Machinery - Slow, but steady, advance in the fencing of machinery was kept up during 1928. The ginning factories, as a rule, have erected fences, but the ground-nut decorticating factories are still backward in this respect. In Bombay mills considerable progress has been made in the substitution of the bar type of loom guard for the hook variety. The new carding machines in the Bombay mills are being fitted with automatic locking machines on the cylinder doors. Gur (country sugar-cane crushing) factories are still being run in several cases, without fencing of any description, but as these are quasi-agricultural concerns they are being treated with a fair amount of leniency. Prosecutions for failure to fence machinery were instituted against 24 factories and all resulted in conviction.

Accidents - During 1928 there were 39 fatal accidents, 1,060 serious accidents, and 3,419 minor accidents, making a total of 4,518 accidents, as against 4800 in 1927, and 3,984 in 1926. The accident average per 100 operatives employed was 1.27 in 1928, 1.25 in 1927, and 1.04 in 1926. Safety Posters are becoming increasingly popular. The G.I.P. Railway authorities, and the Millowners' Mutual Insurance Association have produced suitable posters for the railway workshops and the textile industry respectively. An analysis was made of 1016 railway workshop accidents to ascertain whether fatigue had any bearing on accident causation. The results tended to show that accidents appear to depend solely on the activity of the workmen, and that fatigue was not a contributory factor to any material extent.

Prosecutions - 326 prosecutions were instituted in 1928 against



59 factories, and convictions were secured in all cases except one. The fines ranged from 1 anna to Rs.300. The fines imposed totalled Rs.8275-1-0, as against Rs.4,125-0-0 in 1927. The average per case was Rs.25, and per factory Rs.140. The report states that magistrates, on the whole, have been imposing reasonable fines for breaches of Factory Law.

Housing of Factory Hands - Very little advance has been made in this direction in 1928. The doubt is being increasingly entertained whether the housing of employees by owners is altogether in the interests of labour. These doubts are strengthened by the fact that in several cases where accommodation has been provided by employers, their men have refused to live in the quarters provided, and that consequently such quarters had to be let to operatives of other factories. The Bombay Development Chawls (quarters for workers), the biggest scheme of the kind, has resulted in a partial failure, since Bombay workers are preferring to live in their present insanitary quarters rather than go and live in the more distant and higher priced Bombay Development Chawls. The report says that both in Bombay and Ahmedabad the housing problem is very serious.

General Welfare - Despite the difficult situation created by the textile strike in Bombay much work was done in 1928 for the general welfare of Bombay labour. At the close of 1928, 14 creches were in operation in Bombay City entailing an average expenditure of Rs. 1700 a month. The creches are being increasingly made use of by the working class mothers. In September 1928 the average creche attendance was 124, in October 266, in November 316, and in December 304. The evil practice of drugging of infants with opium has been com-

bated to a large extent by the creche system. In Ahmedabad, 22 mill creches were in operation in 1928.

Other kind of welfare work are being undertaken by several mills both in Bombay and the mofussil. The provision of dispensaries and medical aid, anti-malarial operations in mills and their environments, the running of cheap grain shops, the starting of Benefit and Provident Funds, the advancement of loans on easy terms to the workers, the setting up of reading rooms and libraries, are some of the more frequent forms that such welfare work takes.

In Bombay, the problem of the education of the children of mill-workers has been solved by the progressive introduction of compulsory education in several of the municipal wards. In Ahmedabad, where the same facilities do not obtain, 8 schools are maintained by the millowners. The Agents at this centre also contribute Rs. 15000 yearly to schools run by the Labour Union, in which some 1300 children of the mill operatives are educated in 11 day and 16 night schools. In Sholapur also the mills maintain several schools.

#### Factory Administration in the Punjab, 1928\*

The total number of factories subject to the control of the Indian Factories Act in the Punjab in 1928 was 602, as against 590 in the previous year. Of these, 559 actually worked, and 43 remained closed. The total number of all operatives in all factories increased from 50,088 in 1927 to 51,613 in 1928. The increase is ascribable mainly to the registration of new concerns. The total number of children certified by the Certifying Surgeons during the year was 827 as against 1,061 in 1927. Of these, 422 were rejected as being

either under 12, or over 15 years of age, and 28 were declared to be medically unfit.

Health and Sanitation - The health of the operatives throughout the year was satisfactory. Progress in sanitary conditions, was impeded by the lack of interest on the part of operatives, the bulk of whom are <sup>be</sup> illiterate to take advantage even of the existing sanitary arrangements. Almost all perennial factories are now lighted with electricity. In all newly erected factories ventilation showed a distinct advance, adequate consideration being given to the provision of windows, skylights, and exhaust fans. In cotton ginning factories ventilation continued to be a serious problem. During the year a set of draft rules with regard to the control of humidification in cotton spinning and weaving mills was framed and circulated among millowners for eliciting opinion.

Hours of Work, wages, and strikes - Hours of employment in perennial factories were within the requirements of Factory Laws. In railway workshops, the average did not exceed 48 hours a week, while other factories worked up to 60 hours a week during the busy season, but reduced working hours to 50 and even 48 when work was slack. In cotton ginning factories, during the busy season, there was observable a tendency to make employees work for longer hours than is allowed, as a result of which there were several prosecutions ending in convictions.

The cost of labour continued to be much the same as during the past three years. Wages for casual labour were subject to fluctuations, but the average for the year remained unchanged. Industrial relationships continued to be peaceful, with the exception

of a strike in the New Egerton Woollen Mills, Dhariwal, where 1500 operatives went on strike from the middle of January to the end of May. The strike which ultimately fizzled out was due to purely economic reasons and had no bearing on the administration of the Factories Act.

Industrial Safety and Accidents - Considerable attention was paid to the fencing of machinery during the year. The factory inspectors gave frequent demonstrations and explanations regarding the handling of dangerous machinery. 1,019 accidents were reported to have occurred in 1928, as compared with 707 in 1927. Of these 29 were fatal accidents, 36 serious, and 954 minor, the ~~same~~ corresponding figures for 1927 being 16, 14, and 677. A comparison of the accidents statistics shows that while there were 62 accidents per 100 operatives in 1919, the figures have risen up to 1.97 per 100 operatives in 1928. Mill gearings, shafts, and pulleys claim the largest proportion of fatal and serious accidents. In Railway workshops injuries to workers' eyes form the major proportion of accidents, and workers have been provided with eye-protectors as safe-guard against such accidents.

Welfare Work - Big industrial concerns have begun to realise their obligations to their employees in the sphere of welfare work. The New Egerton Woollen Mills, Dhariwal, the biggest privately owned factory in the Punjab, has started an uplift club for its employees. The mill also conducts a school attended by about 500 children of operatives, and a co-operative society for supplying food-stuffs to employees at rates cheaper than those of the market. The housing of factory hands has not made much advance. Large factories in ~~next~~

rural areas have generally provided excellent accommodation, but urban conditions in this respect are still unsatisfactory.

Factory Inspection - Of the 559 factories which worked during the year, 409 were inspected once, 102 twice, and 18 thrice. The total number of inspections was 667 in 1928, as against 596 in 1927. 58 inspections were made at night, resulting in 17 prosecutions for illegal employment of women and children. During the year, 130 cases were instituted under the Factories Act against the occupiers and managers of 41 factories, as compared with 91 cases against 33 factories in 1927. Of the total number of cases 108 resulted in conviction, 8 in acquittal, 11 were withdrawn, and 3 were pending at the end of the year. The fines imposed in the majority of cases were too light to have an adequate deterrent effect.

Factory Administration in Central Provinces  
and Berar\*

The number of factories subject to the control of the Indian Factories Act, in the Central Provinces and Berar was 868 in 1928, as against 800 in 1927. Of the 868 factories 98 were perennial, and 770 were seasonal factories. In 1928, 75 factories were added to the Factories Register, while 7 were removed from the register. The majority of additions to the register were seasonal ginning and

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Report on the Administration of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (Act XII of 1911), as modified up to the 1st June 1926, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1928. Nagpur: Printed at the Government Press 1929. pp 39.

pressing factories, while, next in order, were the rice mills. The number of factories actually working was 758, consisting of 97 perennial factories, and 659 seasonal factories.

The average daily number of operatives employed was 44,130 men, 24,591 women, and 1439 children in 1928, as against 43,276; 23,627, and 1700 in 1927. The total average daily number of operatives increased from 68,603 in 1927 to 70,160 in 1928, the increase being accounted for in part by a revival of trade and the starting of new industrial <sup>There</sup> Enterprises, has been little or no variation in the wages of skilled and unskilled labour which had showed a slight downward tendency in the preceding year. Only one strike took place during 1928. This occurred in the Akola Cotton Mills, Akola, owned by Bombay capitalists, where the operatives struck <sup>dear</sup> work demanding an increased /district allowance and rewards for regular attendance. The strike was more an off-shoot of the Bombay textile strike than the result of any genuine grievance.

Industrial Safety - Owing to the inferior quality of the materials used, the guards and fences for machinery in many factories had become unsuitable, and the inspecting staff had to make frequent requisitions for repairs. Prosecutions for non-compliance had to be initiated in many cases and several convictions were obtained. The oilmen and mochis (machine attendants) still show a marked disinclination to wear trousers instead of dhotis (loose Indian loin-cloth), though such practice is attended with great danger. The standard of lighting has shown a decided improvement, and electricity has been introduced in many factories. In the ginning and pressing factories ridge ventilation has been insisted upon. Speaking

generally, the perennial factories have a fairly <sup>good</sup> standard of lighting, while conditions in this respect are still far from satisfactory in the seasonal factories.

Accidents - Accidents are showing a tendency to increase. In 1928 there were 337 accidents as against 293 in 1927, and 243 in 1926. Of these accidents 11 were fatal, 34 serious, and 292 minor. Over Rs 6,000 was paid as compensation.

Welfare Work - Owing to the general trade depression not much progress has been made with welfare work among the operatives, the factory owners, in the absence of legal compulsion, showing apathy in the matter of undertaking work of this nature. Five factories granted maternity benefits in 1928, as against four factories in 1927. The sanitation in industrial areas still leaves much to be desired. The large perennial factories provide adequate accommodation for the majority of the operatives, but seasonal factories are still lagging behind in this respect. 7 cotton mills provide creches, where some 230 babies are looked after daily. There has been a continuous decline in the number of children receiving education in factory schools. In 1924 the attendance in such schools was 947; in 1927 it was 705, and in 1928 the figure was 651.

Factory Inspection - In 1928, 97 perennial factories and 653 seasonal factories were inspected, out of a total of 756 factories. The total number of inspections was 1,597 in 1928, as against 1,439 in 1927. There is still considerable laxity in the matter of the illegal employment of women and children and of ensuring strict observance of weekly holidays and correct hours of employment.

In 1928, 176 cases were instituted against managers of factories. Of these 84 cases have been disposed of with fines ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 400, and 92 are still pending. The report mentions that the fines for offences like the illegal employment of women and children are in many cases too small, and that, consequently, they have no deterrent effect. The number of children employed in the factories is showing a steady decrease.

#### Factory Administration in Bihar and Orissa, 1928\*

In 1928 there were 261 factories on the register of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar and Orissa, as against 255 in 1927. During the year 31 factories were added to the register, ~~where~~ 3 were removed from the register, and 22 remained closed, though not definitely abandoned. The number of persons employed in factories under the Indian Factories Act was 68,100, as against 71,400 in 1927. The decrease was confined mainly to the Iron and Steel industry in which there was a prolonged ~~strike~~ strike during the period under review. The gradual decline in the number of women employees continued, the number ~~of~~ falling from 6288 in 1927 to 5682 in 1928. The elimination of children is proceeding slowly, there being 934 children employed in factories in 1928, as against 1017 in 1927.

Sanitation and Health - The drainage of waste water from paddy-steeping vats in rice mills continued to engage the attention of the inspection staff, but as the Factories Act is not applicable to the

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the Province of Bihar and Orissa, 1928 by H.W. Brady, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar and Orissa. Patna: Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa, 1929. pp 30.



nuisance which such water may cause outside mill precincts, much progress was not made in this direction. Orders were issued in 1928 to several mills to construct pucca enclosed drains up to the boundaries of the factory. Fair progress is reported in the ventilation and lighting of factories. In the larger factories and in some of the smaller ones which are under good management there is little room for complaint, but in several of the small establishments added to the register during the year conditions are not satisfactory.

Industrial Protection and Accidents - The standards in this respect in factories in rural areas are still very low and progress has been very sluggish. In spite of this there was a reduction in the total number of accidents, the number of factory accidents of all kinds being 1849 in 1928, which is 204 less than the figure for 1927. Of these 43 were fatal accidents, 420 serious, and 1386 minor.

Factory Inspection - The number of factories inspected was 154, against 115 in 1927, and the total number of visits was 220 as against 189 in 1927. Proceedings were taken against five factory managements for failure to fence machinery, for failure to make the prescribed returns, and for working excessive hours. In general, the penalties imposed were of an adequate nature.

#### Factory Administration in Bengal, 1928\*

The total number of factories under the operation of the

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\* Government of Bengal. Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal and Assam. For the Year 1928. R. P. Adams, O.B.E., M.I.(Mech.) E. Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal and Assam. Calcutta: Bengal Secretariat Book Depot 1929. Price - Indian, Rs.4-4; English, 7s. pp 65.

Indian Factories Act in the two provinces of Bengal and Assam rose from 1984 in 1927 to 2062 in 1928. During the year 112 factories were added to the register, and 34 were crossed off, resulting in an increase of 78 factories during the year. The average daily number of persons employed in registered factories in the two provinces rose from 608,453 in 1927 to 618,921 in 1928, and an increase of 10,468, of which Bengal accounts for an increase of 11,320, and Assam a decrease of 852. The jute industry of Bengal absorbed the majority of this accession to the labour ranks. The decrease in Assam was due to a smaller number of children being employed in the tea gardens.

Health and Sanitation - Progressive efforts towards better sanitation were made in the bigger industrial concerns. New construction of latrines and urinals, the overhaul of existing sanitary systems, the construction of surface and underground drains, the installation of flushing systems are amongst the many improvements that are being carried out. The Titagarh sewerage scheme, completed in 1927, and the Bhatpura improvement scheme, now in hand, are two noteworthy efforts in this sphere. Sanitary conditions in the smaller factories are not satisfactory. Efforts are also being made to remove, or at least mitigate, ventilation, lighting and structural defects in the older type of factory building. Malaria still continues to make its ravages, and is the principal cause of absenteeism. The jute mills are carrying on a campaign against malaria, the principal steps taken being the chlorination of wells, tanks, drains, etc, and the free distribution of genozone and essential oil mixture.

Employment of Women and Children - In Bengal, the average daily number of women employed in registered factories was 75,498, and the number of children 24,422, an increase of 2,591 women, and a decrease of 2,015 children as compared with the previous year's figures. The steady displacement of boys under 15 years of age by full-timers, and the changing over of more jute mills to the single shift system account for the decrease in the employment of child labour. The abuse of child labour has steadily decreased. The opening of a district labour office at Jalpaiguri has made it possible to devote special attention to women and child labour in the tea gardens.

In ~~the~~ Assam the average daily number of women employed was 13,059, and the number of children 9,244, which registers an increase of 388 women, and a decrease of 2019 children as compared with the previous year.

Housing and Welfare Work - The living conditions of industrial labour in small factories where housing is not provided ~~are~~ difficult to estimate. In the quarters provided by some of the bigger jute mills the housing arrangements and general amenities are comparatively good, but the total accommodation is still inadequate. In the tea gardens provision of housing accommodation is looked upon as a necessity, and is usually provided free. The larger tea gardens are now replacing the old type of cooly lines with well constructed tenements. A feature peculiar to the tea gardens is that small allotments of land are given free to workers, who are thus able to supplement their wages by <sup>marketing</sup> ~~marketing~~ the produce grown the land.

Welfare work is carried on by the larger jute mills on a satisfactory basis. The health centres and baby clinics started in Calcutta are doing good work. Other welfare activities are the provision of hospitals, medicines, free medical attention, bathing and washing facilities and the supply of good drinking water. The small employers, however, as a class betray too much apathy in the matter of welfare work and think that they are doing more than their duty by barely fulfilling the conditions imposed by the Factory Act.

Wages and general conditions - The wage rates current during 1927 still obtain, and the cost of living has remained steady. With the exception of the rice-milling industry there has been little unemployment. The gradual change by the jute mills from the multiple to the single shift system has been the occasion for labour troubles in some of the mills. The report states that the new system has effected considerable improvement in the conditions of the workmen, and that the troubles are due to the machinations of "Babus" and "Sirdars" (mill clerks and jobbers), whose illicit earnings have been affected by the change. The multiple system lends itself to numerous abuses and irregularities not easy of detection, whereas the single shift system lightens considerably the work of the factory inspection staff.

During the year under ~~re~~ review there was considerable labour unrest, and stoppages of work were numerous. Most of the strikes were due to demands for higher wages and were short lived, the workers being ultimately forced to resume work unconditionally.

Accidents - The total number of accidents reported during 1928 were 3657, of which 79 were fatal, 1204 serious, and 2374 minor;

the corresponding figures for 1927 being 3551, 66, 1165, and 2320 respectively. The slight increase in the number of accidents is, however, offset by the increase in the number of persons employed. In Assam, the total number of accidents were 85, of which 2 were fatal, 40 serious, and 43 minor, the corresponding figures for 1927 being 67, 5, 34, and 28 respectively.

Prosecutions - In Bengal prosecution proceedings were instituted in 135 cases. Convictions were ~~was~~ obtained in 121 cases, 2 cases ended in acquittal, and 2 were withdrawn, 31 cases were instituted for employing persons beyond or without specified hours, 9 for irregularities in connection with the maintenance of employment registers, 10 for non-compliance with fencing orders, 14 for illegal employment of women, and 22 for illegal employment of children. The report refers to the inadequacy of the penalties imposed by many trying magistrates in cases under the Factories Act.

## Industrial Organisation.

### The United Provinces Trade Union Conference

The first session of the U.P. Trade Union Conference was held at Cawnpore on the 14th and 15th September 1929, with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the chair. In the course of his long presidential address, the Pandit observed that strikes were instruments to be used only on very grave occasions and <sup>even</sup> then after full deliberations and organisation of details. As for the Whitley Commission, he thought it could do no good to the Indian worker, and that it was a clever move on the part of Great Britain to divert the attention of the workers from the real struggle. The first demand of the workers before the Commission should be that the Commission should leave the country. The presence of two labour leaders on the Commission was no argument at all why it should not be boycotted.

At the second day's meeting (15th September), Principal Narendra-deva moved a resolution to the effect that the future constitution of India should pay due regard to the rights of labour and grant it adequate representation, and <sup>laying</sup> ~~this~~ special stress on guaranteeing a minimum living wage and unemployment benefits to every worker. The resolution was seconded by Maulana Hazrat Mohani and <sup>was</sup> accepted by the Conference.

Another resolution denounced the Government's repressive policy as manifested in the Trades Disputes Act, the Public Safety Ordinance, and the arrest of labour workers.

The resolution which evoked the greatest discussion was the one about the boycott of the Whitley Commission. It ran as follows:-  
"In view of the fact that the Whitley Commission has been appointed

at a time when the Meerut Conspiracy case is going on against ~~the~~ a number of labour workers, which has not been withdrawn by the Government in spite of repeated requests of the workers, this Conference is of opinion that co-operation with the Commission is detrimental to the interests of Indian workers, and hence it should be boycotted. The opposition to the resolution was led by Pandit Rajaram Sastri, who said that one failed to understand on what grounds the boycott was advocated of a Commission which had as its object the betterment of the conditions of large masses of workers of the country. Even if the recommendations of the Commission were not accepted, their investigations would at least bring to light the real state of Indian workers. The resolution was, however, adopted.

Another resolution appointed a Committee consisting of Messrs. Jawaharlal Nehru, R.V. Dhulekar, Ganesh Shanker Vidharthi, ~~Khaliquzzaman~~ Khaliquzzaman and Harihar Nath Sastri to investigate into the labour conditions in the United Provinces and prepare a report before the 31st March 1930, based on <sup>personal</sup> evidence~~s~~ and statistics, embodying the grievances of the workers and the ways and means of removing them. (Summarised from the account given in the Hindustan Times, Delhi, of 20-9-1929).

#### Indian Seamen's Union.

The annual general meeting of the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, was held at Bombay on the 16th September 1929 with Mr. R.S. Asavale in the chair.

According to the annual report presented to the meeting, the general position of the Union had vastly improved, as a result of its registration under the Trade Union Act, and its existence has

been recognised both by the Government and by the shipping companies. As between December 31, 1927 and March 1929 it had increased its members by nearly 3,000. The economic distress prevailing among a considerable section of Indian seamen, due to long terms of unemployment was also reviewed; and a reference was made to the deputation of the Union which waited on the Government of Bombay asking for the appointment of an officer for the purpose of recruiting seamen in Bombay. The financial position of the Union for the year ending 31st March 1929 showed an excess of income over expenditure to the extent of Rs. 90,000, the bulk of which, however, represented arrears of subscriptions.

After the adoption of the report, resolutions were passed advocating payment of compensation to Indian seamen in the event of premature discharges, provision of better and more adequate rations to seamen on board ships, and also improvement of sleeping accommodation <sup>of</sup> ~~to~~ seamen aboard ships.

#### The Madras Labour Union.

The annual meeting of the Madras Labour Union was held at Madras on the 11th September 1929, with Mr. B.P. wadia in the chair.

In the course of the annual report it was stated that though there were over 7,000 members on the rolls of the Union, only about 4,000 could be regarded as regular members. The system of death benefits to the members of the Union, and maternity benefits for the women workers of the Choolai Mills ~~were~~ have been continued. The ~~panel~~ of lawyers helping the Union on legal questions, conducted 12 cases before the Commissioner for ~~the~~ workmen's compensation, and a sum of about Rs. 2,000 was obtained as workmen's compensation by



the members of the Union during the year. The Labour Investigation Bureau of the Union has been carrying on its work of collecting information, which it is expected will be worked up into a memorandum for presentation to the Whitley Commission. Efforts have also been made during the period under report to establish textile unions in various South Indian Textile centres with the object of coordinating them later on into a Textile Federation of India. The Union also noted with satisfaction that the Government have agreed to reserve seats in the Madras Corporation for labour representatives.

In his concluding address the president warned the Union against the dangers attendant upon allying the labour movement of India with foreign movements, whether Bolshevik or not. According to him, it was only by eradicating the causes for disunion from their own ranks that they could succeed in establishing a sound labour movement in the country,

#### All-India Railwaymen's Federation.

The general council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met at Nagpur on the 29th September, 22 representatives from various affiliated unions being present. At the outset, discussion centered on the question of co-operation with the Whitley Commission. While one section wanted it to be completely boycotted in view of the Government's repressive policy and its anti labour measures, another section was prepared for co-operation provided the entire staff of <sup>the</sup> various railways of India was brought within the scope of the enquiry and representatives chosen by the Federation were given the same status, privileges, and facilities as those enjoyed by the Commissioners themselves during their enquiry. A third section recognised the

futility of such commissions and advised co-operation so as to give a last chance to test the bona fides of the Government. It was finally resolved to defer consideration of the question to the annual convention of the Federation which is to meet at Nagpur in November or December next.

Another resolution considered that the reply of Sir George Rainy, the Member of the Government of India in charge of Railways, to the deputation which waited on him last May was unsatisfactory, and appointed a Committee to carry on propaganda throughout the ~~country~~ railways so that within the next three months workers might be prepared for a general strike if the Government do not satisfactorily deal with their minimum demands.

#### Asiatic Labour Congress.

At page 6 of the special report on the All India Trade Union Congress sent by this office on 3-1-1929, reference has been made to a resolution passed by the executive committee of the All India Trade Union Congress to hold an Asiatic Labour Congress at Bombay in the near future. Mr. Yonekubo, General Secretary, Japanese Seamen's Union, on his way to Geneva to attend the Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference, stopped in India for a few days to confer with the representatives of the All India Trade Union Congress with a view to make final arrangements for the proposed Congress. It may be pointed out that the initiative for the Congress, the first of its kind, was taken when the Japanese and Indian delegates to the 11th session of the International Labour Conference issued a joint memorandum from London in July 1928.

advocating the desirability of holding such a Congress. At the informal meeting between the representatives of the All India Trade Union Congress and Mr. Yonekubo that took place on 11 and 12-9-1929 at Bombay, the following proposals were agreed upon:-

(1) The first formal session of the Asiatic Labour Congress should be held towards the end of April or beginning of May, 1930.

(2) The session should, as far as possible, be held in Bombay; but in case, it is found that the time available to the Japanese and Chinese delegates proceeding to Geneva may not be enough so as to enable them to stay in Bombay for the whole session owing to the inconvenient timings of the steamers, the session may be held in Madras.

(3) The session may be held for about a week.

(4) In addition to the agenda<sup>off</sup> the International Labour Conferences of next year, the Congress should consider inter alia the conditions of the workers in the textile industry in India, Japan, and China.

(5) The draft of the Constitution and the standing Orders may serve as a basis for holding the first session of the Congress.

These proposals, the Constitution, and the standing Orders should be placed before the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Japanese Joint Council, and will be considered as being adopted by them only when they are approved and confirmed by them".

In the draft constitution of the Congress, the objects are stated to be, inter alia:-

(a) To bring about unity among the working classes of Asia by developing closer relations between the trade unions in the affiliated countries.

(b) To remove ~~the~~ disabilities of a discriminatory character

imposed upon Asiatic workers and bring about equality of treatment in working conditions, irrespective of race, nationality, or colour.

(c) To remove the exploitation of workers in Asiatic countries under foreign domination.

(d) To improve the conditions of life and work of the workers in Asiatic countries so as to remove the existing disparities and bring them on a level with those obtaining in countries where social legislation is sufficiently advanced.

(e) To promote the development of international social legislation.

(f) To avert war, establish international peace, and to combat Imperialism and Capitalism.

These objects are to be achieved by democratic and recognised trade union methods, which include co-operation with other organisations in so far as such co-operation appears useful in the interest of the Trade Union Movement in Asia.

The Congress will be open to all the National Trade Union <sup>Organisations</sup> Centres in Asiatic countries which accept its objects and methods. The management is vested in the hands of the Executive Council, <sup>consisting</sup> of a President, three Vice-Presidents and one General Secretary. The autonomy of each affiliated country is guaranteed. The headquarters of the Congress will be in Bombay, India.

Economic Conditions.

Indian Hide Industry.

A Simla message of the 28th September states that the Government of India have appointed an ad hoc Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Meek, Director of Commercial Intelligence, with seven others as members, including the representatives of the tanning industry and the export trade in raw hides, to inquire ~~into~~ and report on ~~xx~~ articles on which a cess might suitably be imposed, and the rate of cess on each article of export of raw hides. The cess is to be administered by a Committee on the lines of the Central Cotton Committee for the benefit of the industry as a whole.

Madras Cottage Industries Committee.

The Hindu, in its issue of the 16th September announces the appointment of a Committee consisting of Messrs. C.E. Wood, M.L.C., L. K. Tulsiram, M.L.C., Naganna Gowd, M.L.C., T.N. Kalidoss, and Rev. Mr. Thiell of Panruti, to consider the reports of the special Officer, who recently made a survey of cottage industries in several districts of the Presidency, and to recommend proposals to stimulate private effort in the organisation and development of such industries.

Textile Conference Committee.

~~In accepting~~ The Hindu, in its issue of the 14th September says that in accepting the recommendations of the Textile Conference, Government have appointed a Committee to advise them on the steps to be taken to encourage the textile industry in ~~this~~ ~~the~~

Presidency. The Development Minister will be the Chairman of the Committee and the Director of Industries, <sup>an</sup> ex-officio member.

Tata Iron and Steel Company.

The 22nd ordinary ~~gms~~ general meeting of the Company was held on 26-9-1929 at Bombay, when the annual report of the company was taken up for consideration. Mr. J.D. Ghandi presiding, said that production during the present year was improving steadily. There was every reason to hope that it would improve still further, and in the cold weather, the company would recover the position it would <sup>had</sup> have in the cold weather of last year had there been no strike.

The financial position of the company had become much worse, but fortunately, certain special sums, set aside largely on account of income-tax expected to be paid on profits, were available, since with the disappearance of profits <sup>disappeared also</sup> ~~it gained~~ the need for retaining these reserves. The profit and loss account for the year shows a loss of Rs.681,543. The following are the relevant passages from the report:-

"External conditions were not unfavourable, the cost of coal being low and prices remaining fairly stable; but during the entire year from April 1928 to March 1929 ~~the~~ labour at the works was unsettled. Repeated partial strikes and stoppages during April and May culminated in a complete strike on June 1, and most of the units in the works were closed until the men returned to work under a settlement on September 12. This settlement with labour provided for the ultimate reduction of the company's labour force by some 3,000 to 3,500 men, for increments to labour amounting to seven to

eight lakhs of rupees annually, and for a bonus of ten lakhs of rupees a year on normal production. All men leaving the company's service were adequately compensated. The disorganisation following so long a shut-down and the condition of the coke ovens, blast furnaces, steel furnaces and mechanical and electrical equipment generally throughout the plant resulting from it, prevented a rapid return of normal working conditions and, even after the settlement, constant labour agitation and unrest ~~continued~~ continued owing to the disputes between the rival Unions. Further stages and strikes were threatened during December and January, and labour was again agitated by the strike in the Tinsplate Company's works which, though settled originally, broke out again after the close of the year. ~~The~~ <sup>Pro-</sup>duction was very seriously affected by this incessant and continued agitation among the men and the consequent loss of profit to the company has been very great.

This is shown in the figures of the production for the year:-

	1927-28	1928-29
	Tons	Tons
Coke	739,539	566,182
Pig Iron	644,296	496,737
steel ingots	599,565	396,055
Finished steel products	428,654	275,841

The company, therefore, supplied to the country about 150,000 tons less of steel than in the previous year and this quantity was replaced by imports from foreign countries.

The strike has set back seriously the progress anticipated in

plant operating conditions and in the completion of the programme of construction by which a substantially larger output of steel was expected at a considerably lower cost. The necessity for keeping the shops engaged more on maintenance work and less on construction work has precluded the possibility of completing various items in the construction programme by the anticipated ~~xx~~ dates. The greater part of the new construction programme will be completed by the end of December 1929.

Despatches of raw material from the Steel Company's properties have been as follows:- Iron ore 831,129 tons, Dolomite 2,257 tons, Limestone 16,017 tons, Manganese ore 12,660 tons, Magnesite 1419 tons and Fire-clay 1,379 tons.

During the year orders were booked for the following steel materials:- (in tons) Rails 123,485, fishplates 2,990, bars 57,476, light structural 25,517, heavy structural 26,381, plates 33,339, black sheets 15,284, G.C. sheets 9,584 and G.P. sheets 1,914.

The confusion caused by labour troubles at the works interfered considerably with the work of the sales department. ~~xx~~ supplies were not regular and orders booked had to be cancelled and re-booked and cancelled again until the works settled down to normal production and deliveries. One result was a marked increase in the import from other countries of British standard material which is usually required for engineering purposes and which has to be delivered by definite dates. Stock-yards in different parts of India have been started and a large proportion of our steel will ultimately be distributed through them.

One of the chief grievances of our employees is the shortage



housing accommodation. In order to remedy this, the Board sanctioned a town development programme which is estimated to cost Rs.36 lakhs during the next three years. During the year we have constructed 71 blocks of various types which would accommodate 264 families.

A new wing of the Hospital was opened during the year with accommodation for 70 more in-patients.

sir Malcolm Watson visited Jamshedpur during the year at the invitation of the board of directors and prepared a programme for the prevention of malaria both in the town and at the mining camps. This programme is being carried out by the company and should materially improve the health of the town.

The average daily attendance of labour at the works from October 1928 to March 1929 was 19,025 and that of the outside departments was 2,119; both figures exclude contractors' ~~pay roll in the~~ ~~at of April 1928~~ labour. The covenanted staff on the pay roll on the 1st of April 1928 was 148, and on the 31st March 1929, 134, a reduction of 14. Locally employed Europeans number 25 as against 28 in the previous year".

CO-OPERATION.Progress of the Co-operative movement  
in India\*

A recent publication of the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India gives interesting details about the progress of Co-operation in the country.

The principal types of Co-operative Societies in India are (a) Central Unions (including Provincial and central Banks and Banking Unions), (b) Supervising and Guaranteeing Unions (including Reinsurance Societies), (c) Agricultural Societies (including Cattle Insurance Societies), and Non-Agricultural Societies. The progress of the Co-operative movement in India can be gauged from the following figures :- In the period 1906 - 07 to 1909 - 10 there were 1926 societies of all kinds in India; in the period 1910 - 11 to 1914 - 15 there were 11,786 societies; in the period 1915 - 16 to 1919 - 20 there were 28,477 societies; in the period 1920 - 21 to 1924 - 25 there were 57,707 societies; and in 1927 - 28 there were 96,091 societies. The number of societies per 1,00,000 inhabitants in 1927-28, stood at 35.5 in British India, and 40.9 in the nine Indian states for which figures are given. The total number of members for primary societies for India is as follows :- In the period 1910 - 07 to 1909-10 -- 161,910 members; 1910 - 11 to 1911 - 15 -- 548,253 members; 1915 - 16 to 1919 - 20 -- 1,128,961 members; 1920 - 21 to 1924 - 25 -- 2,154,607 members; 1925 - 1926 -- 3,058,025 members; 1926 - 27 -- 3,421,905 members; and 1927 - 28 -- 3,780,173 members. The number of members of primary societies per

\*Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during the year 1927-28. Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1929. Price Annas 14 or 1s.6d. (pp 21).

100 inhabitants in 1927-28 stood at 13.5 for British India, at 15.0 for Indian States, and for the whole of India at 13.5. The figures for Working Capital for all India is as follow :- In the 1906-7 to 1909-10 -- Rs.68,12,000; 1910-11 to 1914-15 -- Rs. 5,48,42,000; 1915-16 to 1919-20 -- Rs.15,18,47,000; 1920-21 to 1924-25 -- Rs.56,36,26,000; 1925-26 -- Rs.57,60,39,000; 1926-27 -- Rs.67,95,61,000; and 1927-28 -- Rs.76,70,87,000. The Working Capital of Co-operative Societies expressed in terms of annas per head of the population in 1927-28 stood at 46 annas in British India, and 30 annas in the Indian States, or at 44 annas for the whole of India.

The financial position of all classes of Societies <sup>seems to be</sup> ~~in a~~ sound ~~conditions~~ In 1927-28, 589 provincial and Central banks with a membership of 109,150 individuals and 93,087 societies had reserve funds amounting to Rs.1,30,26,659, working capital amounting to Rs.26,90,74,961, and a profit of Rs.48,28,751. No less impressive are the figures in these respects for agricultural and non-agricultural societies. In 1927-28, 84,559 agricultural societies with a membership of 2,870,575 had reserve funds amounting to Rs.4,57,66,332, working capital amounting to Rs.30,09,41,838, profits amounting to Rs.1,05,45,785. Similarly, in the case of non-agricultural societies, 903,447 societies with a membership of 8,60,48,124 had reserve funds amounting to Rs.77,18,674, working capital amounting to Rs.11,76,77,328, and profits amounting to Rs.43,25,425.

Agriculture.

Indian Sugar Committee.

Following the announcement of the British Colonial Office of the terms of reference of the west Indian Sugar Commission on the 16th september, the Government of India has appointed a sugar Committee under the auspices of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to advise on the steps which should be taken to assist the Indian Sugar Industry. The personnel of the Committee is as follows:-

Chairman : Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya, Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research;

Members : Mr. B.C. Burt, Agricultural adviser to the Council

C. Mukhtar Singh, M.L.A;

Mr. W. Hirachand, C.I.E., Bombay;

Mr. G. W. Clarke, U.P. Department of Agriculture;

Khan Bahadur Fatehuddin of the Punjab Department of Agriculture;

Mr. G.S. Henderson of the Bihar and Orissa Department of Agriculture;

Dr. W. McRai, Pusa Research Institute;

Mr. T.S. Venkataraman, Madras Agricultural Department;

Babu H.S. Gupta, Zemindar, U.P.,

sardar Sir Sunder Singh Majithia, Zemindar, Punjab

Secretary : Mr. A.S.M. Hydari, Secretary of the Council.

The Committee, which will have power to co-opt, is expected to begin its work on the 19th October 1929.

### Shellac Industry in Bihar.

As another example of the close ~~xxxxx~~ connection between ~~the~~ Imperial economic policy and the development of Indian industries, it may be mentioned that the British Empire Marketing Board is collaborating with the Bihar Government for developing the shellac industry in that province. A Lac Marketing Expert in London has been appointed for 5 years to whose salary the Empire Marketing Board will contribute £500 per annum. For the last 5 years research has been carried out at the Lac Research Institute at Ranchi for improving methods of cultivation and securing a steady supply of the natural product. The next step necessary is to fix standards of quality according to which shellac is to be manufactured. For this purpose it is necessary to ascertain the requirements of other industry<sup>ies</sup> utilising shellac and see how far Indian samples comply with these standards. The appointment of the Expert will facilitate this organising, intelligence and research work. The creation of a new officer has been considered necessary since this industry is of vital importance to Bihar and Orissa which supply more than half the world's lac requirements.

### Jute Industry in Bengal.

The Statesman of 18-9-1929 gives an account of a lecture on the jute industry delivered by the Director of Industries, Bengal.

The speaker said that the manufacture of gunny chats from jute fibre was essentially an indigenous industry, and it was a widespread cottage industry till the middle of last century. The connection

of Dundee with the Jute industry dates from 1830, and it was not till 1838 that the problem of adapting jute fibre to the kind of machinery previously utilised for flax was solved. There are approximately 90 jute mills in the Calcutta area stretching over a length of 50 miles from Budge Budge to Bansberia along the river Hooghly. Of these mills some six are entirely owned and managed by Indian companies, while the rest are still managed mostly by Scottish concerns. The daily production today is approximately 5,000 tons of spun yarn and some 8,000 miles of woven cloth.

#### Assam Tea.

In his report on tea culture in Assam for 1928, the Director of Agriculture in Assam says that the number of gardens at the end of 1928 was 980, of which 220 belonged to Indians. The total area under tea continued to increase from 423,891 acres in 1927 to 427,225 acres in 1928, the increase being fairly well spread over the whole province, except Nowgong. The area plucked also increased from 399,930 acres to 403,906 acres during the year and represents 94.5 per cent of the total area under tea. The area owned by Indians was 43,101 acres.

The total area of land comprised within the tea estates in Assam was 1,629,524 acres, of which 26.2 per cent was actually under tea. Of this acreage, 230,939 acres were owned by Indians.

The daily average number of labourers employed in the gardens during the year was 543,920, the permanent garden labour being 468,391, permanent outside labour 33,368 and temporary outside labour 42,161. Shortage of labour still prevails in the districts of

Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The incidence of area under tea on labour during the year comes to .78 acre per man against .79 acre in 1927.

Indian capitalists continue to take keen interest in the industry as is evidenced by the fact that the area under tea continued to be on the increase and that more gardens were started by them during the year. There is still a crying need for labour in places as recruitment is poor.

#### Indian Rubber statistics, 1928.

The number of plantations in 1928 was 2,782, covering an area of 245,809 acres, as against 1,912 with an area of 228,758 acres in the preceding year. New lands planted with rubber in the estates during the year 1928, so far reported amounted to 18,076 acres, and the area of old cultivation abandoned to 3,317 acres, showing a net increase of 14,759 acres over the total area of 152,257 acres in 1927. The total area under rubber in the year under report was thus 167,016 acres, which is nearly 10 per cent above the area of the previous year, and of this area only 108,585 acres were tapped. Of the total area under cultivation, about 53 per cent was in Burma, 30 per cent in Travancore, 9 per cent in Madras, 6 per cent in Cochin and 2 per cent in Coorg and Mysore.

The total production of raw rubber during the year is reported to be 26,839,332 lbs. a year ago. The yield per acre of tapped area was 280 (259) lbs in Cochin, 260 (255) lbs in Travancore, 240 (219) lbs in Madras, 239 (256) lbs in Burma, 174 (166) lbs in Coorg, and 20 (36) lbs in Mysore, the figures for 1927 being shown in brackets.

There was a general increase in the production in the year under review, except in Burma which showed a slight fall.

The daily average number of persons employed in the plantations during 1928 was returned at 58,292, of which 40,982 were permanently employed and 17,310 temporarily employed, as compared with 52,899 (46,236 permanent and 6,663 temporary) in the preceding year.

The total stock of dry rubber held on the 31st December, 1928 was estimated at 5,854,148 lbs as against 4,327,246 lbs on the same date of 1927.

The exports of rubber by sea from British India to foreign countries during 1928-29 amounted to 25.8 million lbs, showing an increase of about 2 per cent as compared with the preceding year. The United Kingdom absorbed 37 per cent, Ceylon 24 per cent, the Straits Settlements 21 per cent and the United States of America 14 per cent of the total exports. Madras accounted for 55 per cent and Burma 45 per cent of the total trade.



INDIAN LABOUR IN CEYLON PLANTATIONS\*

According to the report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act and of the Labour ordinances of Ceylon during the year 1928, recently issued by the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon, out of a total population of 5.25 millions in the island, about 90,000 were Indians (Labourers and others). The average number of Indian labourers reported as working in Ceylon estates during the quarter ending the 30th September 1928, was 718,728 of which 238,132 were men; 232,470 were women, and 248,126 were children. The number of the estates employing Indian labour during the year was 1,967. 133,712 Indian estate labourers went into Ceylon during the year, and the number of departures from Ceylon to India was 93,596 leaving a net flow of immigration into the island of 40,116. Recruitment is undertaken by "Kanganies" who are licensed for the purpose, and the number of recruiting licenses issued by the Agent of the Indian Government during the year was 20,326. Only 28 cases of alleged irregular recruitment were brought to the notice of the Agent, and in all these cases he recommended prosecution under section 28 of the Act.

All the provisions of the Minimum Wage Ordinance, with the exception of the cardinal one relating to the payment of minimum rates of wages, came into force on 24-12-1927 when the ordinance received the assent of the Governor. Sometime later were set up Estates Wages Boards, and the award of these boards were finally approved towards the end of the year. The Minimum Wage Ordinance

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\* Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 (VII of 1922), the rules issued thereunder and of the Labour Ordinances of Ceylon during the year 1928. By the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon, Calcutta Government Press, Central Publication Branch, 1929. Price Re.1 or 1s.9d. pp 22.

therefore came into effective force only from the beginning of 1929. With the coming into force of this ordinance, the Agent thinks that the limit of what can be achieved in securing reasonable conditions of work and wages for Indian labour, apart from the provision of adequate medical facilities which question still awaits solution, has for some time to come been reached. The extent to which Indian labourers benefit under the new ordinance will depend largely upon their own efforts to assert their rights under it. There are certain classes of abuses which exist on certain estates in the removal of which the labourer himself can play a more effective part than any Government Department.

While it is no doubt true that, considered purely from the point of view of his daily existence, the Indian labourer in Ceylon seems to be fairly well off, the Agent still feels that his economic position in Ceylon is yet susceptible of improvement by his own efforts. The factors that which operate against him are his lack of education, his inability to look ahead, his periodic migration from estate to estate and lastly his disinclination to put in any more work than is needed to bring him enough for his daily wants. The Agent considers that what the Indian labourer in Ceylon needs is a more positive kind of help than being merely protected against oppression. He must be trained to make better use of his opportunities and to lead a fuller life than he does to-day. So far as the education of the labourers' children is concerned, it is satisfactory to note that some progress is being made. The

number of registered estate-schools at the end of 1928 was 364 as compared with 304 a year earlier, and the total number of children of schoolgoing age at the end of September 1928 was 81,858 of whom 37,400 were attending school.

Every estate labourer is entitled to get free medical attendance, but it is not always that he gets it. In 1928 there were only 81 hospitals and 684 dispensaries maintained by the estates; though, in addition, there were 65 hospitals and 104 dispensaries maintained by the Government for Indian labourers. The slow progress made in the voluntary provision of facilities for the treatment of maternity cases on estates as well as the fact that there are even today some estates which employ no "dispenser" at all make the speedy passage of a Medical Wants Ordinances a matter of urgency. In this connection it may be noted that while the rate of infant mortality per thousand for the whole of Ceylon was only 160 in 1927, that among the Indian estate population in the island was so high as 228. It is also worth noting that while the general death rate per thousand of the population was 21.7 for the whole of Ceylon in 1927, that among the Indian estate population was 28.2. These figures make it obvious that the standard of health on the estates is lower than that in the entire Island, and explain the insistence with which the Agent of the Government of India presses for a speedy enactment of the Medical Wants Ordinance.

As regards the general question of the presence of a large number of Indian workers in Ceylon, the Agent makes a remark which is worthy of notice. He says that extreme critics both in Ceylon and in India of the emigration system overlook two considerations -

One is that the Indian Emigrant labourer, whether assisted or not, does not displace indigenous labour but fills a void which the latter cannot fill, : the other is that the emigrant would not leave his home if, after weighing the balance of economic advantages, he did not consider it worth his while to do so.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

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Report for October 1929.

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General.

For some time past the newspapers have been busy with conjectures and speculations as to the probable outcome of Lord Irwin's visit to Great Britain. It had all along been realised that Lord Irwin would be getting into personal touch with the members of the Labour Cabinet and with the leaders of the other two political parties in Great Britain and would discuss with them the situation created in India by the successful boycott of the Simon Commission and the rise into prominence of the Indian Independence League. An observable feature of the utterances of leading public men here on this subject was that, coupled with a frank expression of their want of confidence in Great Britain's pledges to India there was an expression of faith in the Viceroy's sincerity and desire for conciliation. For about two weeks before Lord Irwin's return to India it was being freely remarked that an explanatory statement of the British ~~Government~~'s views about India would soon be simultaneously issued both from London and New Delhi, and that this explanation would go a long way to conciliate political India. Lord Irwin reached Bombay on the 25th October and arrived in Delhi on the 27th October. A Gazette of India Extraordinary issued on the 31st October 1929 contained the long expected statement. While restating that it would be both impossible and improper to forecast the nature of the constitutional changes that may be proposed after the Simon Commission's report is laid before parliament, the announcement stated that the broad question of constitutional advance in British India in co-operation with the authoritative exponents of public opinion in the country had been engaging the attention of His Majesty's Government.

Sir John Simon had suggested that the relations of the Indian States with British India should be fully examined, before laying down the main lines of the new polity for India. He, ~~therefore~~, suggested that after the publication of the reports of the Simon Commission and the Indian Central Committee, but before the stage is reached of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, a conference should be called in which His Majesty's Government should meet representatives, both of British India and of the States for the purpose of seeking the greatest possible measure of agreement for the final proposals which the government would later on submit to parliament. With this view His Majesty's Government is in complete accord. The second main point of the announcement was ~~that~~ the Viceroy, speaking on behalf of His Majesty's Government, stated clearly that the natural issue of India's constitutional progress as contemplated in the declaration of 1917 is the attainment of Dominion Status. The Conference referred to above will be called when the reports of the Simon Commission and the Indian Central Committee have been published and considered by the Government; and representatives of different parties and interests in British India and representatives of the Indian States will meet separately or together as circumstances may demand, for the purpose of discussing both British Indian and All-Indian problems.

Even though it may be slightly anticipating our Report for November, it seems worth while to narrate the sequence of events which followed the announcement. Under the auspices of the All-Indian Congress Committee a so-called "Leaders' Conference" was held on the 1st and 2nd November in the house of Mr. Patel, the President of the Assembly. Most of the leaders present seemed to have been



favourably influenced by the conciliatory tone of the Viceroy's announcement, though, at the instance of Mr. Gandhi, the Conference, while welcoming the statement, added as conditions precedent to the successful issue of the Round Table Conference suggested therein, that (1) a general policy of conciliation should be inaugurated by the government, (2) a general amnesty should be given to political prisoners, and (3) that the personnel of the representatives to the Round Table Conference should be chosen predominantly from the Congress group. There are, however, considerable numbers of prominent leaders, mostly of the moderate persuasion, who are for welcoming the announcement unconditionally. The intransigents are led by Messrs. S. Srinivasa Iyengar, Subbash Chandra Bose, and Dr. Kitchlew. In face of the Calcutta Congress resolution which was cast-iron in form, it has to be confessed, that ~~their~~ theirs is a logical position, in as much as the viceregal announcement as to the goal of political progress in British India does not by any means imply that India will be given Dominion Status before 31st December 1929. (See page 7 of this office's report for January 1929). It is significant, however, that Mahatma Gandhi~~x~~ himself has veered round to a conditional acceptance of the suggestion for a Round Table Conference, and that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President-elect of the 1929 Congress, and one of the most influential advocates of the complete-independence-idea, has also been brought over to the "right" side. Altogether, therefore, the political tension has been considerably eased, though it may be safe to predict that the next Congress will see a split in its ranks.

... ..

Mr. Whitley and a majority of his collaborators on the Royal Commission landed in Bombay on the 11th October, <sup>Mr. Whitley has</sup> and issued the following statement to the press:-

"The wise man speaks, if he speaks at all, ~~at~~ putting off his harness, not when he puts it on. My vocation too has led me to be a ~~listener~~ listener rather than a maker of speeches. Moreover, it is only now that I have had an opportunity of meeting most of my Indian colleagues, to whom I ~~ix~~ look for much help in the performance of our difficult task. These considerations would lead me to prefer silence to speech, but courtesy calls for just a few words when I set foot on Indian soil for the first time.

I understand that Indian opinion is nearly unanimous in desiring a great advance of Indian industry. This is a desire which I share to the full. As I understand the position, India has emerged from the first stage of industrial evolution and, as far as I have been able to judge, she seems to have surmounted the ~~diffm~~ difficulties inherent in transition more easily and more smoothly than did some of the Western countries. She is now entering the second stage. New factors, both human and economic, have come into play and the problem has become as much international as national.

Manufacture and commerce are more affected by worldwide conditions. Superiority in organisation or technique soon overleaps national boundaries and great nations cannot for long be content with the supply of their internal needs. But there can be no true progress in industry unless the progress is reflected in the conditions of the masses of workers who make the industry possible: any advance in which they did not share would be a transient advantage.

Healthy and permanent progress is bound up with a steady improvement of the economic status of the rank and file of the industrial army. It is the well-being of all persons engaged in an industry which constitutes the contribution of that industry to national wealth. This is, I think, generally recognised in India, where the aim in view is that as many as possible should contribute to the advance that is expected and that the benefits to be secured should be shared as widely as possible.

It is my hope that our work in India will result in a contribution of some value towards this aim. I hope by examining the conditions and suggesting the lines of development, we can help India to forge ahead so that, in respect of labour questions, Indian industry generally may profit by the successes and avoid the mistakes made elsewhere, or in particular parts of this great country.

This is an ambitious task and one which the Commission unaided can hardly be expected to accomplish. We shall, of course, do our best to form opinions and reach conclusions but that best will be a poor one unless our own thought on the subject is stimulated by the thought of the employers, the workpeople and the wide public of India.

The problems which face us are not new to most of those interested in Indian industry. There has been, I am sure, much quiet examination of them during the last few years. I hope no one who feels he has anything to contribute either in experience or ideas will hesitate to come forward and help us.

As you are no doubt aware, we are to have with us as Assistant Commissioners the representatives of employers and workers in each province. Similarly, we expect to derive great assistance from the association with us of Indian women whose help we have been promised.

We have asked for written evidence to be submitted to us at an early date but it may be well to state that no relevant matter will be excluded from our consideration which reaches us in time to be dealt with in a practical manner".

The statement has been favourably commented upon by the press, and several newspapers have devoted leading articles to the work of the Commission. The Commission arrived at Karachi on the 12th October and began its work on the 14th. Two ladies were co-opted as assessors for the Karachi sittings, which lasted from the 15th to the 17th October. The Sukkur Barrage works were visited on the 18th and <sup>the</sup> Khewra salt mines from the 19th to the 22nd. Evidence was taken at Lahore from the 23rd to the 29th, on which date it also visited Amritsar to examine conditions in the carpet factories. It reached Delhi on the morning of the 30th October, and after examining the Member in charge of Industries and Labour in camera and other government and private witnesses such as the secretaries of the Commerce and Industries Departments, and the Railway Board, the Director of Army Ordnance Factories, the Inspector of Factories, the Industrial Surveyor for Delhi, the Delhi Municipality's representatives, representatives of the Punjab Chamber of Commerce, the Health Officer for New Delhi, and Dr. Ruth Young, representing maternity welfare interests, left Delhi on the morning of the 9th November. Mrs. J.C. Chatterjee was the lady assessor to the Commission at Delhi, and on behalf of the railway employees Col. Gidney and Mr. Gregory represented the Anglo-Indian element, and Mr. Chandrika Prasad the Indian element, as assessors.

It has not been possible to follow the work of the Commission and summarise the evidence gathered by it consistently and carefully

for two reasons. In the first place, the secretaries informed me that they are unable to supply copies of the memoranda on which the various witnesses were examined either to me or to the press reporters as they are treated as confidential documents. Secondly, and as a consequence of the first, the press reports of the open sittings are very scrappy and unreliable and in all cases unsatisfactory. No attempt was therefore made to summarise the evidence gathered by the Commission, and this office was obliged to rest satisfied with forwarding to Geneva the press cuttings dealing with the enquiry.

References to the I.L.O.

The 13th session of the International Labour (Maritime) Conference has received a satisfactory degree of publicity in all Indian newspapers. Reuter's telegrams from Geneva chronicling the day to day progress of the Conference have appeared in all Indian papers. Besides, several papers, like the Hindu of Madras, have published supplementary messages from the representative of the Free Press of India at Geneva. The protests lodged by Indian commercial organisations against the Indian Government's nomination of Mr. Browne as adviser to the Indian employers' delegate and the verdict of the Credentials Committee have received wide publicity in the Indian press. According to a Free Press of India message appearing in the Hindu of 29-10-1929, the Secretary of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, has addressed a telegram to the Indian Government drawing attention to a Free Press message from Geneva, wherein Sir Geoffrey Corbett is reported to have stated in the Conference that the Indian employers' delegation would have been nowhere but for Mr. Browne and taking objection to the "objectionable" remarks and urging the withdrawal of the remarks in the open conference with an apology.

... ..

The Indian press has naturally devoted the greater share of its attention and space to the doings of the Indian delegation, and to other matters having a bearing on Indian affairs. Thus, the Hindu of 26-10-1929 and all papers give prominence to the decision of the Conference to initiate consultations with the various governments with a view to the conclusion of an agreement fixing the length of the seaman's working week, and to the amendment moved by Mr. Daud

to exclude allusions to special conditions which, he feared, might debar Indians from the benefit of the Convention. Similarly, Sir Atul Chatterjee's protests against the delay in the communication of the reports of the I.L.O. to oversea countries, the holding of the second maritime conference at Geneva in the middle of winter which would prevent far eastern delegates from attending on account of climatic difficulties, and the cost involved by the increase in the number of committees have all received a good deal of attention in the Indian press.

... ..

A two column communiqué issued by this office on 15-10-1929 explaining the inwardness of the dead lock created by the attitude of the employers at the Conference has been published in all papers. (Times of India, 17-10-29, Statesman, 17-10-29, Hindu, 16-10-29, Pioneer, 18-10-29 and Hindustan Times, 18-10-29).

... ..

Special letters from papers having their correspondents at Geneva have been regularly appearing in some of the papers. Two letters from the Hindu's correspondent at Geneva dated 12-9-1929 and 24-9-1929 have appeared in the Hindu of 5-10-1929 and 19-10-1929 respectively. An occasional correspondent ~~in~~<sup>of</sup> the same paper has contributed a long letter from Geneva to the Hindu of 11-10-1929, which directs pointed attention to India's inadequate representation in the League Secretariat despite its heavy contribution to the League's funds.

... ..

The Servant of India of 3-10-1929, and 17-10-1929 publishes two letters from its correspondent at Geneva. The correspondent deals mainly with the last League Assembly and refers to the able way in which Sir Mahommed Habibullah, the first Indian to lead an Indian delegation to the Assembly, has discharged his duties. The second letter (Servant of India 17-10-1929) is interesting as the writer concludes his argument for greater representation of Indians at Geneva with the assertion that "it is difficult for an Indian to be optimistic about Geneva ..... unless there is an early prospect of her position with regard to the League proper being at least what it is in regard to the International Labour Office".

... ..

The Daily Gazette of Karachi in its issue of 14-10-1929 publishes the account of an apocryphal interview by its correspondent with the Director of this office. The interview deals mainly with the objects and scope of the work of the Indian branch of the I.L.O. and makes a strong effort to counter the belief entertained in certain Indian circles that India is not accorded proper consideration at Geneva. This is interesting as showing that the I.L.O. has at last come to be regarded as good "copy" for enterprising journalists. It may also be mentioned that the interview appeared in ~~the~~ Karachi on the very date the Royal Commission began its ~~work~~ work in India.

... ..

The October, 1929 (Vol. X, Part II, Serial No. 37) issue of the Indian Journal of Economics publishes Captain W.J. Ellison's article on the twelfth International Labour Conference.

... ..



//

The Indian Finance (Calcutta) of 2nd November 1929 (Vol.IV,No.17) and the Indian Social Reformer of 9th November 1929 (Vol. XL,No.10) publish reviews forwarded by this office of the I.L.O. publication "The Encyclopaedia of Industrial Hygiene", and of "International Migration, Vol. I, Statistics" compiled on behalf of the I.L.O. by Imre Ferenczi.

... ..

The Pioneer of 17-10-1929 publishes a short paragraph about the 14th session of the I.L.Conference which will open at Geneva on 9th June 1930. It gives a brief summary of the items on the Agenda of the Conference and notes that all suggestions relating to nomination of delegates should reach the Government of India by 10-1-1930.

... ..

The Times of India of 31-10-1929 gives a list of the persons suggested by the United Provinces Chamber of Commerce for nomination to the employers delegation at the 14th Conference.

... ..

The September-October (Vol.II, No.10) issue of the Indian Labour Review publishes several articles which are of interest to Geneva. Under the caption "An Indian Mission at Geneva", Mr.G.Venkataramanan, B.A., B.L., contributes an article putting in a strong plea for the Indian National Congress, the All India Trade Union Congress and other bodies to maintain unitedly an Indian mission at Geneva. In the section "Our Portrait Gallery", a sketch is published of the life and activities of Mr. M.Daud, the workers' delegate to the 13th Conference which contain copious references to the work of the I.L.O. for seamen.

Mr. Ernest Kirk's article "Labour and the Colour Bar" derives its inspiration mainly from Mr. N.M. Joshi's advocacy of removal of the disabilities of coloured labour at the 12th Conference.

... ..

The September (Vol. VI, No.12) issue of the Indian Labour Journal publishes an appreciative article on the 12th International Labour Conference. The article urges that in selecting the personnel of the workers' delegations as far as possible only actual workers should be selected. The same issue of the paper contains an informative article on "Slavery and Forced Labour in Indian States". The October (Vol.VII, No.1) issue of the journal publishes an article entitled "A birthday Greeting" contributed by the Director of this Office on the occasion of the Journal completing the sixth year of its existence.

... ..

The Times of India of 3-10-1929 announces that the Nagpur University has created an endowment called the "University League of Nations Essay Gold Medal Fund". The net income accruing from the fund will be applied to the award of a gold medal on the best essay in English on a subject connected with the League of Nations.

... ..

The Pioneer of 20-10-1929 reports that a movement is on foot to start a branch of the League of Nations at Nagpur and that members are being enlisted.

... ..

The Hindu of 9-10-1929 publishes an appreciative review of the publication "Educational Survey" issued by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

... ..

The report of an address delivered by Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, President of the Corporation of Madras, at the first anniversary of the Students' United Literary Association" on 20-10-1929 on "India in International Affairs" is reported in the Hindu of 21-10-1929.

<sup>the</sup> League of Nations naturally claimed a good deal of the speaker's attention.

... ..

The activities of the League's Malaria Commission now touring India are receiving a fair share of attention in the press. The Pioneer of 27-10-1929 publishes the account of a short interview which its correspondent had with Dr. Swellengrebel, a member of the Commission.

... ..

Labour Legislation, Bombay.

At page 19 of the report of this office for the period 15-31 July, 1929, was given in full the text of a Bill to make the offence of criminal intimidation cognisable in certain parts of the Bombay Presidency in times of emergency. After a full debate in the Bombay Legislative Council this Bill with certain alterations passed its final reading on the 10th August 1929. The Act was assented to by the Governor General on the 30th August 1929, and was published in the Bombay Government Gazette of 3rd September 1929. As this measure is mainly intended to deal with the troubles arising from picketing by strikers its full text is reproduced below :-

BOMBAY ACT NO.VIII OF 1929.

(First published, after having received the assent of the Governor General, in the "Bombay Government Gazette" on the 3rd September 1929.)

An Act to make the offence of criminal intimidation  
cognizable in times of emergency.

WHEREAS it is expedient to take power to enable the police to deal effectively with the ~~affix~~ offence of criminal intimidation in certain areas of the Bombay Presidency;

5 & 6  
Geo. V,  
c. 61.      And whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of India Act has been obtained for the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows :-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Bombay Prevention of  
Short title, extent, duration )  
and commencement. )      Intimidation Act, 1929.

(2) It extends to the Presidency Area and shall remain in force for a period of ~~g~~ five years.

(3) This section and sections 2 and 3 shall come into operation forthwith; section 4 shall come into force in the whole of the Presidency Area or in any part or parts thereof on the date or dates on which a state of emergency is declared to exist in such area or part or parts thereof by notification under section 3, and shall continue to be in operation for such period, not exceeding one month at a time, as may be specified in such notification unless such notification is sooner cancelled by the Local Government.

Defini-  
tions.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,

(a) "Presidency Area" means the City of Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District;

XLV of  
1860.

(b) "Criminal Intimidation" has the meaning assigned to it by section 503 of the Indian Penal Code.

Declara-  
tion of  
state of  
emergency.

3. The Local Government, if satisfied that the public tranquillity in the Presidency Area or any part or parts thereof is endangered ~~by~~ by the prevalence of criminal intimidation, may, at any time by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette declare that a state of emergency exists in the whole area or in any part or parts thereof and shall set forth the reasons for such declaration in the notification.

V of  
1898.

Offence of  
criminal  
intimidation  
to be cog-  
nizable.

4. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Second Schedule to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, the offence of criminal intimidation shall be a cognizable offence as defined in that Act and the rest of the provisions of that Act shall have effect accordingly.

The Bombay Presidency Area Security Act.

The Bombay Presidency Area (Emergency) Security Bill, the text of which was also given in this office's report for the period 15-31 July 1929 at page 21, passed its final reading in the Bombay Council on the 4th October 1929. A copy of the Bill as passed into law will be incorporated in one of our future reports.

The Bombay Port Trust Amendment Act.

It is worth while to mention that Bombay Act No.XVI of 1929 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Port Trust Act No. VI of 1879) published in the Bombay Government Gazette of the 17th October 1929 has for its object the addition of a representative of labour to the Board of Trustees of the Bombay Port Trust.

Conditions of Labour.

The Tin-plate Workers' Strike, Jamshedpur.

There is no prospect of an early settlement of the Jamshedpur Tinplate Workers' strike (see pages 24-25 of the report of this office for the month of September) as both parties to the dispute seem to have been embittered by the prolonged trial of strength that has already taken place. According to a statement issued on 4-10-29 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who specially visited Jamshedpur to study the strike situation, over 2,000 men are still holding out, though many have been forced to abandon the strike owing to acute distress. According to the statement, the Tinplate Company has struck off the water supply to the quarters of some of the strikers. (Hindu, 5-10-29).

On 1-10-1929, the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress which met at Lucknow passed the following resolution regarding the strike:-

"Having read the papers prepared by the Secretary in connection with the Golmuri tin-plate workers' strike, the Working Committee regards the demand of the strikers as eminently reasonable and just and regrets that the Bihar Government would not entertain the demand, and hopes that a representative and impartial committee would be forthwith appointed for enquiring into the grievances of the strikers, with full power to grant such relief as the strikers are found entitled to.

The Committee notes with satisfaction the stand taken by the members of the Assembly recommending the withdrawal of the protection granted to the tin-plate industry".

Mr. Rajendra Prasad, a prominent non-co-operator and lieutenant of Mr. Gandhi, visited Jamshedpur on 23-10-1929 and after conferring

with the strike leaders left on 24-10-1929 to consult Mr. Gandhi in the matter of bringing about a settlement. Mr. Giri and other labour leaders interviewed Mr. Dain, the Deputy Commissioner, in the third week of October and urged on him the desirability of government intervention in the shape of the appointment of a Court of Inquiry. Mr. Giri and his colleagues, ~~xx~~ had further interviews with Sir Bhupendranath Mitra and Sir George Rainy in Delhi towards the end of October, but it is reported that no basis of settlement could be arrived at as the result of these peace efforts. The hope engendered by the strong expressions of public opinion in favour of the strikers, both in the Bihar and Orissa Council and the Assembly, of an early settlement has thus been belied. Meanwhile, the strikers are receiving considerable public sympathy. According to the Hindu of 3-10-1929 donations of £ 50/- and £ 25/- were received for the relief of the strikers from the British Trade Union Congress, and the British Steel Corporation Union, London.

#### Dock Workers' Strike, Karachi.

A lightning strike of some 700 dock workers broke out at Karachi on 17-10-1929. The strike was intended to call the attention of the Whitley Commission, <sup>which was just then at Karachi,</sup> to the grievances of dock labourers working under stevedores and dubashes. The main demand of the workers was for shorter hours, which prior to the strike is reported to have been eleven hours in the day time with an hour's break, and eleven hours at night without a break. The strikers demanded a nine hour day and a seven hour night. (Hindu 18-10-1929). As the strike was not organised by any labour union, there was no definite formulation of demands before resort was had to the strike, but it is understood



that the insufficiency of the rates of wages, particularly for coal-bunkering, was also among the grievances of the strikers.

The strike which lasted from 17-10-1929 to 25-10-1929 was ultimately brought to a termination as the result of a six-hour conference on 24-10-1929 between the representatives of the dock workers, employers, and other interests affected. Several of the strikers' demands have been conceded and a compromise has been arrived at on other demands. The Karachi Port Trust has expressed its willingness to consider favourably the question of shorter hours of work, and the stevedores have agreed to higher rates of wages. The stevedores' agreement is subject to acceptance by the shipping companies, but it is not expected that the latter will repudiate the arrangement. The rates of pay for coal bunkering have been referred to an arbitrator. (Statesman, 3-11-1929).

It is estimated that the strike has caused a loss of nearly Rs. 100,000 besides causing great inconvenience to steamship agents, consignees of cargoes, and to workmen.

#### Conditions of Work - Karachi Port Trust.

According to the Administration Report of the Karachi Port Trust for 1928-29, recently published, the Accident Insurance Fund instituted to meet liabilities under the Workmen's Compensation Act and to pay compensation to employees injured or killed in the execution of their duty under section 22(7) of the Karachi Port Trust Act, stood at Rs.16,214 on 31-3-1929, and an amount of Rs.5,000 was allotted to the Fund during the year.

As regards the health of the employees it is stated that the total attendance at the Port Trust Dispensary at Manora was 15,541,

giving a daily average of 42.7<sup>8</sup>; of these, 27.6 were males, 4 females, and 11.1 children. The prevailing ~~am~~ diseases were malaria, rheumatism and diseases of the respiratory and digestive organs, and eyes. 1301 employees attended the Medical Officer's Room at the Port Trust Office. In addition to maintaining its own dispensary at Manora and its medical arrangements at Karachi, the Port Trust contributed Rs.16,900 to the other medical institutions of Keamari and Karachi. An anti-rab<sup>i</sup> campaign was carried out during the year in the Keamari yard and the wharves.

During the year, the Port Trust instituted 2 scholarships of Rs.360 each per annum for training Indian boys <sup>in</sup> to the I.M.M.T.S. "Dufferin", and it was decided to formulate a ~~new~~ scheme for the training of Indians in England and other countries to enable them ultimately to fill the higher posts in the Traffic and Engineering Departments of the Port Trust.

#### Calcutta Strike situation.

The Calcutta Jute Workers' strike (see page 19 of the report of this office for September, 1929) had fizzled out during September. There was a slight recrudescence of trouble, however, on 18-10-29 when 3400 men employed in the Orient Jute Mill, Budge Budge, str<sup>uck</sup> work on the <sup>new</sup> ground of arbitrary dismissals of certain workmen. The strike did not spread and caused only local trouble.

#### Bombay Textile strike.

The Bombay textile strike (see page 19 of the report of this office for September 1929) has not yet been formally called

off, but for all practical purposes the strike is at an end. According to a report in the Times of India of 21-10-29, Mrs. Dange and Mr. V.A.Joshi, two of the leaders of the Girni Kamgar Union, have issued a statement criticising the extremest labour leaders for their unbending attitude and urging the immediate calling off of the strike, as, if the strike <sup>were</sup> ~~is~~ continued the new hands taken in place of the 30,000 odd strikers who have gone to their villages would get time to ~~learn~~ learn their work, and thus deprive the strikers of their jobs.

The Bombay mills are now working with their full complement of men.

Hours and wages in Cotton mills:

Bombay Labour Office Inquiry.

The following information has been furnished by the Hon'ble Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah in the Bombay Council on 3-10-29 in response to a question standing in the name of Syed Munawar in regard to the inquiry recently conducted by the Bombay Labour Office into the hours of work and wages in the cotton industry. According to Sir Ghulam Hussain the present inquiry is intended to obtain complete particulars in the case of each individual workers with regard to the number of days worked, total out-turn in the case of piece-work, rates of wages, basic wages, additional remuneration in the form of "dearness allowances", deductions made in respect of fines, bonuses paid for good attendance or better production, and net earnings payable. The inquiry is unlike the two previous inquiries conducted in 1921 and 1923, when information was obtained

for different groups of workers in different occupational classes for each mill with regard to the aggregate number of days worked by each group, and the total aggregate earnings for the number of days worked. A report of the inquiry is now under preparation by the Bombay Labour Office, and is expected to be published before the close of 1929.

Factory Administration in Burma, 1928\*

The number of factories in Burma and the Northern Shan States registered at the end of 1928 was 1,047, of which 79 were closed, as compared with 1,007 factories of which 67 were closed during 1927. The majority of the factories are rice mills, their total number being 606. In addition, there are about 250 small unregistered rice mills, so that there are probably over 900 rice mills in the province. The milling capacity is much in excess of that required to deal with the rice crop, and consequently many of the mills have to work intermittently. Industrial conditions in Burma, the report observes, would be greatly improved if some new industry could be introduced which can be worked by small capitalists.

Number of factory workers: women and children. The total number of persons employed increased from 101,353 in 1927 to 101,586 in 1928. The total number of women employed in 1928 was 10,249, as against 10,492 in 1927, and 9,381 in 1926. The total number of children employed was 845 in 1928, as against 1,089 in 1927, and 1,340 in 1926. A few cases of illegal employment of women have been detected, and it is suspected that many cases of this sort remain undetected owing to the inadequate strength of the inspecting staff.

Housing and Sanitation. Some of the larger factory owners have taken proper steps to ensure the proper housing of their workmen, but lower down in the scale housing conditions are far from satisfactory.

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\*Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, in Burma for the year 1928. Rangoon: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma - 1929. pp. 2 + 60. Price,- Rs.3=4s.6d.

In the larger towns the problem of the housing of factory workers becomes merged in the wider question of the satisfactory housing of the working classes in general. The report is apprehensive that in the absence of effective public opinion on this point nothing much will be done in this respect in the near future. As the bulk of the factories in the province consists of rice mills, the problem of sanitation does not present great difficulties, the only serious problem to be tackled being the elimination of rice and paddy dust.

Fencing of machinery and Accidents. There has been an all-round improvement in the arrangements made for fencing of machinery, but new difficulties are presented by the task of ensuring that the fencing provided is maintained in good repair. The total number of accidents during 1928 was 1482, of which 16 were fatal, 248 serious, and 1,218 minor accidents. The corresponding figures for 1927 were 1,452; 28; 275 and 1,149 and those for 1926 were 1,388; 28; 282; and 1,078.

Administration and Inspection. The strength of the inspecting staff, according to the report, is inadequate to the requirements of the province. The factories are spread over a large area and an additional handicap is provided by the poor means of access to most of them. As a result, of the 1,047 factories only 968 were inspected once, leaving 253 as totally escaping inspection. Very few revisits were paid and even some cases of fatal accidents could not promptly be investigated.

Factory Administration in the United Provinces, 1928\*

The total number of factories in the United Provinces subject to the control of the Indian Factories Act (Act XII of 1911), stood at 373 in 1928, as against 354 in 1927. Out of these, 338 factories worked during the year, while 35 remained closed. The number of operatives in all industries, as obtained from the annual returns submitted, was 86,531 in 1928, as against 88,319 in the previous year. The main cause of the decrease is the closing down of a number of ~~x~~ spinning mills in Agra. Textiles absorbed the largest number of workers, 25,780 being employed in this industry, while next in order comes ~~x~~ Government and local fund factories with 24,353 workers, gins and presses with 9,602 workers, food, drink and tobacco with 9,319 workers, and engineering with 6,779 workers.

Employment of women and children. The average number of women employed was 6,343 in 1928, as against 6,567 in 1927, and that of children 1,076 in 1928, as against 1,606 in 1927. The number of women and children employed thus registered a decrease. <sup>6</sup>Of the total factory population, 7.33 per cent were women, and 1.24 children in 1928, as against 7.4 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively in 1927.

Sanitary arrangements and ventilation. Considerable improvements have been made in the ventilation, cooling power, and movement of air in certain cotton mills. The principal changes introduced are:-  
(a) ~~extrac~~tion fans for removing heated air in factory halls, (b) induction fans for drawing cool moist air into the room through wet khus khus tatties and mats, (c) removal of large-sized unprotected steam pipes from rooms, (d) provision of smaller propeller type of fans on individual looms, and (e) placing of khus khus tatties to

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\*Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1928. Allahabad: The Superintendent, Government Press, United Provinces, 1929. pp. 47. Price, Rs. 2.

windows on windward side of mills.

Fencing of machinery. The report states that though there was a fair amount of progress in this direction, considerable apathy is still shown by certain owners, and 7 prosecutions had to be instituted for neglect of this very essential duty.

Accidents. 1,611 accidents, of which 26 were fatal, 178 serious, and 1,407 minor, were reported during the year, as compared with a total of 1,226 in 1927, of which 14 were fatal, 81 serious, and 1,131 minor accidents. The increase in all classes of accidents ~~is was~~ considerable when compared with the figures of the previous year. ~~The report~~ ascribes the increase in accidents to indulgence in unsafe practices which rules alone cannot adequately control, and observes that personal individual instruction by managers and supervisors would tend to mitigate the evil.

Housing of Factory Operatives. The housing conditions of operatives in some industrial centres, particularly Cawnpore, are very bad. The U.P. Government is considering a scheme for building housing accommodation for 20,000 employees and their families, but the scheme has not passed beyond the committee stage as yet. Meanwhile, some private employers have been pursuing a forward policy in this respect. The British India Corporation, one of the largest employers of labour in the province, has already provided a settlement consisting of 2,200 pukka dwellings of various types in which are accommodated over 6,000 employees and their families. The Corporation has acquired an additional 50 acres of land on which it proposes to construct houses for 200 more workmen.



Hours of employment, wages, etc. The majority of factories worked up to the maximum limit allowed by the Act. The weekly hours of 56 factories were not more than 48, of 22 factories not more than 54, and of 254 factories above 54. No shortage of labour was reported; on the contrary there was a surplus of labour in some districts ~~own~~ owing to the failure of the monsoon rains. The average wages for the province remained unaltered with the exception that the monthly rate of compositors, printers, and dyers increased by Rs. 4, Rs. 6 and Rs. 3 respectively, while that for boilersmiths was reduced by Rs. 3. During the period under review there were no serious strikes in the province.

Slavery and Forced Labour in  
Indian States.

The following article by Mr. Sunder Kabadi, Secretary, Indian States People's Conference, London, under the caption "Slavery and Forced Labour in Indian States" is taken from the September, 1929 (Vol. VI, No. 12) issue of the Indian Labour Journal, edited by Mr. V.R.Kalappa. The article sheds a flood of light on the actual conditions in the more backward of the Indian States, particularly in the Rajputana States. In this connection attention is specially invited to the special report on forced labour accompanying ~~minute~~ <sup>minute</sup> New Delhi C3/663/29, dated the 4th July 1929.

"In this article, I propose to point out that slavery in the ordinary sense does exist in the Indian States, justifying immediate intervention on the part of the British Government to abolish it.

The fact of the matter is there are several communities of slaves in many of the Rajputana States, and some States in the Western Indian States Agency, including the Kathiwar States. According to the Census Report of 1921, in Rajputana and Central India alone, there were in all 160, 735 slaves. They are known by various names, such as Darogas, Huzaris, Ravana Rajputs, Chelas and Golas, etc, and are owned by the Princes and their wives, Hindu and Moslem alike. They are bound to be life-long servants of their masters and are not allowed to possess any property barring a few necessaries. In return for their services, they are given bare food, which ordinarily consists of remnants left in their masters' dishes. Their masters exercise the power of disposing of their wives and daughters and their marriages and divorces depend largely upon the sweet will

of their masters. If they run away to other States, they are liable to be brought back and returned to their masters. In fact, there were laws in some of the States until recently, prohibiting these slaves from leaving their masters or from emigrating from one State to another without obtaining the previous permission either of the district magistrate or their masters.

In Jodhpur, if the Darogas deviate from service commensurate with the position and requirements of the masters, the latter is legally entitled to take adequate service from them. If the number of Darogas exceeds the position and requirements of the master, he keeps the requisite number and discharges the rest, who, however, when summoned, must attend marriage and other ceremonies at the master's house, and live there for such a time as the master chooses and gives him in return nothing but mere food. Rajputs who have Darogas born in their houses and who have brought them up are entitled to give away their daughters (Darogas') in dowry along with their daughters. Rajputs of position are also entitled to give away in dowry even the whole families of the Darogas. They are further permitted to give away in dowry daughters of those Darogas who having exceeded in number the position and requirements of the master have sought employment elsewhere.

In Kotah, agricultural labourers, peasants, shepherds, cowherds and serfs of the State are not allowed to emigrate to another State unless they have arrived at a settlement with their masters. As a rule, they have to obtain permits from the Nazim (a district magistrate) or from their Masters before emigrating from one State to another. Besides this, any born slave of the jagirdars, who has

entered State Service, is, on receipt of information from the jagirdars, forthwith dismissed and no complaint by any such slave against the jagirdars is heard until it has been ascertained that the complainant is not a slave. His Highness looks upon this practice favourably and considers it proper that no born slave of any jagirdar should be employed in the police, the army, and any other department of the State and that if such a slave at the time of his appointment conceals his identity and thus succeeds in entering the State Service, he should be removed from the Service as soon as <sup>his</sup> the identity is revealed.

In Bikaner, whose ruler was a delegate to the League of Nations and is a signatory to the Treaty of Versailles, there were according to the Census Report of 1921, in all 10, 884 born domestic slaves of the classes known as Chakars and Darogas. In Alwar, another State, whose Maharaja was represented by Mr. Wedgewood Benn, His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, as a "remarkable man who shines in every walk of life and whose State bears the marks of the good administration of its ruler", there were, according to the Census Report of 1921 (?) male and 2599 female slaves. In Jodhpur, once again, according to the Census Report, there are in all 48,100 slaves.

#### Forced Labour.

Coming to the subject of Forced Labour, the system of VETH and BEGAR, which means Forced Labour, prevails in almost all the Indian States and all classes of labourers, workmen and artisans are compelled to work for the Princes, and their officials for remuneration which is nothing but bare food. They are compelled to

work at any time and for such time as the State requires and are also forced to go miles away from their houses into the villages, to the hills or jungles to follow the prince or his guests, shikar camps and tours of officials.

The following extracts from one of the Bundi State Regulations will, I trust, indicate the exact nature of Forced Labour prevalent in many of the Indian States:

- (1) Barbers shall continue as a matter of usual free service
  - (a) to make lighting arrangements in the evening at public offices and (b) to do the plastering and smearing of such offices with clay and cowdung;
- (2) Oilmakers shall continue to dig pits and spin hemp when necessary for State purposes and they shall be given food in return;
- (3) Brewers shall continue to supply fuel and spin hemp under the same conditions as the oilmakers;
- (4) Betel-sellers shall continue to supply screen and curtains under the same conditions as the oil-makers;
- (5) Butchers shall continue to supply free of charges skins for drums belonging to temples;
- (6) Peasants shall continue to supply dry cowdung for fire-places at public offices without any charge.
- (7) Bhils (aborigines) shall continue to be sent on errands and deputed to keep watch and shall be given food.
- (8) For bullocks engaged in Bundi City on hire and bound for places outside the city, commission at the rate of one

anna in a rupee shall continue to be charged by the State.

- (9) For all labour done for the State purposes food will be given and for all work done for public servants wages shall be paid, but such labour shall be done by the very same classes as have been doing it hereditarily and if persons of these classes refuse to do their work, they shall be properly punished.

The Udaipur State, in July 1923, appointed a Commission of Enquiry presided over by Mr. C.G.Chenix Trench, I.C.S., to investigate into the grievances of the peasants of Begoon Jagir. One of the complaints made before the commission was that "Bolas, Bhils and Balais, even if they have given up their calling, are compelled to build roads, <sup>and</sup> carry beddings of officials from one village to another without any payment" but in the opinion of the Commission, which was presided over by an English Civilian. "this burden is not on cultivators but on the bhill, bola and balai communities. When they are summoned on occasions of the visits of high officials, they are given food. But if it is not customary to give them food, it shall be given in future. Every such labourer shall be paid daily wages of annas two if he does not want food". The Agents to the British Government in India who are fairly well acquainted with these conditions, instead of discouraging the princes are sometimes indirectly supporting and encouraging the system as will be seen from the following speech delivered in 1923 by the Agent to the Governor General in reply to an address given to him by the Kotah Durbar, which announced that it had abolished BEGAR in the State. The Agent said :-

"It is not an institution that ~~reduces~~ reduces people to the level of serfs. It is on the contrary only an evidence that the right kind of relations exists between the princes and his nobles

and their ryots. It is a service of affection rendered with spontaneity and willingness and received with kindness and benevolence. Even in British India, BEGAR is not evidence of the wickedness of the system of administration. In olden days supplies of fodder and fuel and so forth were freely given to touring officers, as a sign of affection and hospitality, and gratitude <sup>for</sup> and protection and help in time of trouble. Abuses have no doubt crept in, and the system of administration has become less dependent on the personal factor and the institution has had to be curtailed. But I for one should be very sorry if it were completely abolished even in British India and I hope that it will long survive in the States".

#### Forced Labour in Kashmir.

Interesting and instructive side-light on the difficulties of abolishing forced labour completely from Indian States is furnished by certain observations made by H.H. the Maharaja of Kashmir at a dinner given by the European residents of Srinagar, Kashmir, at the Srinagar Club on the occasion of the celebration of the Maharaja's thirtyfifth birthday. The remarks of the Maharaja were the outcome of certain criticisms recently levelled against him in respect of his not being a party to exactions of forced labour in connection with the visits of tourists to Kashmir. The visitors to Kashmir, mainly foreign, number on an average about 10,000 a year, and the problem of ~~passage~~ porterage in that mountainous country entailed in this connection, <sup>hitherto</sup> was to a large extent solved by exactions of

forced, or at any rate, grossly underpaid labour. The following extract from the speech of the Maharaja is taken from the Pioneer of 4-10-29 :-

"During one of my tours in the state I came across an outlying place which is a regular jumping-off ground for sportsmen. I found that labourers were being forcibly collected there from the thinly-populated villages of that mountainous country so that sportsmen should be provided with transport. Those wretched people were brought sometimes 40 or 50 miles from their villages and kept for days on the chance of some sportsman coming through and requiring transport. As if that was not bad enough the rates which had been fixed for such labour were so shockingly inadequate that these wretched people received hardly three annas per day by the time they were permitted to come again."

"I abolished forced labour and raised the rates. I was immediately accused of nefarious designs for keeping Europeans out of Kashmir. I am glad to have this opportunity of publicly stating that I welcome visitors of all nationalities and my Government will as usual gladly extend all reasonable facilities to them so long as it is not to the sacrifice of my people or detrimental to the interests of the state which it has pleased God to entrust to my care".



Industrial Organisation.Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.

The third quarterly general meeting of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, was held at Bombay on the 26th October 1929 with Mr. L.R. Tairsee in the chair. Referring to the World Economic Conference at Geneva and its recommendation for the abolition of import and export restrictions, the chairman pointed out that India could not participate in the tariff holiday-making, as Indian industries were so poor that, without tariff protection, they would not be able to survive foreign competition.

Speaking at some length on the labour situation, he stated that a chastened mood was now prevailing both among the employers and among the workers in Bombay as a result of the last strike and the great damage done by it. "Labour has seen where its extreme leaders have led it; against the loss in wages they have but earned for Bombay the two Acts of legislation: the Goonda Act and the Public Safety Act. Capital has also seen what harm can be done by small pin-pricks and that some provision is necessary to convince the worker that he gets fair treatment and to make him believe that he gets it. The workers' status must be improved by provision and safeguards against dismissal and victimisation; assurances should be provided against arbitrary dismissals for disciplinary and other offences and for alleged inefficiency. The workers and their leaders have to realise that their own material interests are bound up with the prosperity of industry and that this prosperity cannot be secured without co-operation with capital. Capitalists have to realise that no industry can make any

any progress worth the name if the workers without whom it cannot exist have their human needs and aspirations unsatisf~~acted~~ and are deprived of their due share of the fruit. If on the acceptance of these two vital facts a negotiating machinery is agreed upon and arranged, the industry would be on a fair way towards a system of co-operation and industrial swaraj necessary for its prosperity. It should be the aim of both labour and capital to increase the economic results of industry by greater efficiency, discipline and continuous work, and thus bring to the highest pitch the contributions of both to it. The lack of touch and contact by Capital with Labour has been one of the most important causes for the prevailing industrial unrest in Bombay! The rest of the speech was devoted to a spirit of defence of Mr. Haji's Indian Coastal Shipping Bill against the attacks made on it by the Associated Chambers of Commerce which represents European ~~Trade Union~~ interests in this country.

#### The Indian Merchants' Chamber and the Hours Convention.

Replying to the questionnaire issued by the International Labour Conference with reference to the proposed extension to <sup>selected</sup> ~~the industrial~~ ~~employees~~ and ~~commercial~~ undertakings of the Washington Convention restricting hours of work ~~for salaried employees~~, the Indian Merchants' Chamber protest against its "revolutionary character as far as the trading and commercial conditions in this country are concerned". The Chamber point out that in all villages and even in a majority of the towns and cities, shops are a one-man show and shop-keepers live and trade in the same premises. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to lay down in such cases how long a man should sit in his shop,

when he should open, and when he should close it. The Chamber believe that the progress of education and the development of trade and industries would bring about a change in the present system automatically, and they strongly recommend that the pace must not be forced.

(Hindu, 5-10-1929).

The Associated Chambers of Commerce.

At this year's annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce which will be held in Bombay next December, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce is expected to sponsor a resolution "requesting the urgent attention of the Government of India to the extent to which, in the recent industrial disputes, unregistered trade unions have interfered between employers and their workers; affirming the views expressed in their resolution of December 16, 1924 to the effect that ~~the~~ registration be compulsorily enforced in respect of every trade union, and picketing be declared illegal and effectively dealt with in the interests of peace and prosperity in the industries of India; and urging the Government to introduce at as early a date as possible legislation to amend the Trade Unions Act XVI of 1926 accordingly".

The Indian Railway Conference.

The Indian Railway Conference, which was instituted <sup>twenty-</sup>six years ago to deal with comparatively minor matters of ~~Indian~~ inter-railway concern, has now developed into an affair of almost Parliamentary importance. Every department of the great business of railway transport, its equipment, methods, development and improvement according to the best that world wide knowledge and experience can show now comes under its review. This year's session of the Conference was held at Simla on the 12th and 13th October, with Sir Ernest Jackson, the Agent of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company, in the chair. Dealing with the relations between the ~~office~~ officers and the staff, he said that there was no deep-rooted feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the employees, though many difficulties had been experienced in the wake of the passage of the Trade Union Act, for requests of every imaginable character had been put forward by the unions. Some unions had often made use of the word "grievance" to camouflage extortionate demands. Among the reasons why greater progress had not been made in bringing about a modus operandi agreeable to the unions and to the management alike was the general idea among the members of the unions that the ~~administration~~ administration is opposed to their staff becoming the members of such associations. Secondly, if railway administration can feel more or less assured that only fair and reasonable representations would be put forward, their uncertainty, almost amounting to distrust, in the responsible management of certain labour associations would very quickly disappear. He instanced the fact that applications ~~tumble~~ <sup>run</sup> over each other when a vacancy occurs in the railway ~~service~~ <sup>as</sup> indicating that the conditions of service offered by railway systems were usually appreciated by the staff.

According to him, the real

the real trouble was that a very large majority of the men falling within the category of menials are entirely in the hands of the money-lenders. "My endeavour has been", said Sir Ernest Jackson, "to bring relief to these men by freeing them from debts carrying these huge rates of interest, to find funds with which to satisfy the money-lender, and to replace the loans by others carrying a reasonable rate of interest. A partial remedy for this lies in providing more opportunities for putting by savings, by deductions from pay sheets, for starting more railway co-operative societies. Another point on which he dwelt referred to the strenuous opposition which the Railway Staff Committees met with from the Unions. These Committees represent different branches of the staff and were ~~appointed~~ <sup>founded</sup> ~~with~~ the set purpose of bringing to the notice of their superiors those directions in which they consider improvement and relief can be given, and he therefore failed to see what objection could be taken to these Committees by any Union which really has the best interests of the staff at heart."

Addressing the Conference, Sir George Rainy also referred to railway labour problems. "All big questions are coming to the ~~front~~ front, hours of work, scales of wages, leave rules, especially of the lower-paid officers, and housing conditions in particular areas, and we must do our best to effect improvements in these matters when such improvement is shown to be reasonably necessary. It is on matters such as these that attention is usually concentrated when labour questions are discussed, but I cordially welcome other and more indirect methods by which the welfare of labour can be promoted. What the administration of the B.B. and C.I. Railway has done by the encouragement of co-operative credit societies to lighten the load

of debt under which its servants are too often weighed down is of the highest value, and I should like to assure all railway administrations that whatever they may find it possible to do on similar lines will have the cordial sympathy and approval of the Railway Board and of the Government of India".

With the conclusion of the opening proceedings, the Conference settled down to its detailed agenda, and one of the questions of first class importance appearing on it relates to railway labour problems. It may here be mentioned that the Committee appointed by the Conference a year ago to submit a report on this problem has not as yet presented its report. The railways are large employers of labour <sup>in certain centres during the past year</sup> and there have been such outbursts of unrest that a considered report by the Railway Conference Association would be of great value to all employers of large bodies of labour and to every one concerned in the modern development of the labour problem in India.

Seth Narottam Morarjee, who was the Indian Employers' delegate ~~to~~ the 11th International Labour Conference, met with a tragic death on the 6th November 1929. While motoring between Bombay and Sholapur, he got down to see a precipice called "tiger's leap point" in the Western Ghats, and it is ~~suspected~~ that he slipped and fell down the ravine, as his body was discovered the next day in a hollow about 1400 feet below.

The late Mr. Morarjee was among the most prominent commercial magnates in Bombay, and had a seat on the directorate of many important firms. As the chairman of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company he rendered abiding national service by bringing to the forefront

the questions of mercantile marine and reservation of the coastal traffic for India.

On behalf of the office, the Director of the Indian branch sent a telegram of condolence to the late Mr. Morarjee's son.

Industrial Organisation.Railways.

The simmering discontent among the Railway workers of India consequent on what they consider to be the unsatisfactory reply made by Sir George Rainy, the Member for Railways and Commerce in the Government of India, to the deputation of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation which waited on him last May has appreciably stimulated the activity of many Railway Unions.

On the 29th September 1929, the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met at Nagpur, 22 representatives from various affiliated unions being present. After prolonged discussion, consideration of the question of the boycott of the Whitley Commission was deferred to the Annual Convention of the Federation, which is to meet in Nagpur this November. A result of this decision has been that the All-India Railwaymen's Federation has not been able to take any action on the Government's request that a representative of it should be chosen as an Assistant Commissioner to collaborate with the Whitley Commission. Other resolutions dealt with the unsatisfactory nature of Sir George Rainy's reply, the appointment of propaganda committees to prepare within three months for a general strike on the railways if the Government did not accede to the minimum demands of the railway workers, and the problem of dealing with unions started in rivalry to the existing affiliated unions.

Among the railway unions that have been exceptionally active during the period under report is the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Union. This Union has recently been reorganised by Mr. V.V. Giri, and has been encountering a considerable degree of opposition from the Railway Management, first because



Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar, an ex-President of the Indian National Congress, has been elected one of its prominent officers, and secondly because the Union is opposed to the Management's system of recruitment for its staff committees. As the second point is of some importance, it is considered useful to give an idea of the functions of these committees, as explained by their official sponsors.

The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company have a proposal on hand to establish District<sup>and</sup> Central Staff Committees in the Transportation Department, and the Railway authorities have explained to a representative of the "Hindu" of Madras (see its issue of the 11th October 1929) that the objects of these committees are to increase the good relations between the officers and the staff, to discuss general or individual grievances of members of the staff, to discuss suggestions for improving the efficiency of the service and thus to give the staff a better insight into the working of the company as a whole and increase their interest in it.

The district committees will have thirteen members each representing one grade of the staff (driver, station-master, signaller, etc.) in the Transportation Department. Each representative will be elected by the men in his grade, the minimum qualification for voting being two years' service.

The district committee will, after discussing a particular subject or subjects among themselves at a preliminary meeting, place those subject or subjects at a second meeting which will be held under the chairmanship of the senior district officer. Other district officers will also be present at that meeting.

The Central Committee will consist of one elected member from each district committee and one representative from the staff at Salt

Cotaur. The Chief Transportation Superintendent will be the president of this Committee. Matters requiring representation to the Traffic Manager and the Chief Transportation Superintendent and matters which could not be finally disposed of by the district committees will be placed before this committee, which will meet periodically for consideration.

At a meeting of the M.& S.M. Railway Employees' Union (Bangalore Branch) held at Bangalore on the 3rd October 1929, the workers expressed ~~their~~ that these staff committees were being formed to undermine the existing unions, and passed the following resolutions:

(a) The employees of the M.S.M. Railway at Bangalore City Station view with grave concern the attitude of the administration in attempting to stifle the activities of the Men's Union by forcing upon them the Staff Committees against their will.

(b) It is hereby resolved that the authorities should be informed that the employees have no faith whatsoever in the working of the proposed Staff Committees and wish to emphasise that such Committees can never be representative bodies, in the real sense of the term, of the employees.

(c) If, however, Staff Committees are appointed in spite of the General protest of the employees, they wish to make it known to all concerned and to the Royal Commission on Labour that the Committee thus elected on the inspiration and guidance of the employers consisting of their own men will represent none but themselves to gain their own ends.

Meetings of the Bezwada branch of the same Union held on the 9th October 1929, and of the Bangalore and Madras branches held on the 17th October 1929, have adopted the same attitude towards ~~to~~

the Staff Committees, and it is understood that Mr. Maynard, the Deputy Transportation Superintendent of the M.S.M. Railway, is touring the line to explain the functions of these committees, while representatives of the Unions are also going from centre to centre stiffening the men's opposition to them.

#### G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union.

A meeting of the executive of the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union was held at Nagpur on the 20th October and was attended by ~~the~~ representatives from the unions at Jhansi, Itarsi, Bombay and Manmad. After authorising the president of the meeting to inform the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway that his unsympathetic attitude towards the demands of the railway workers will compel the ~~workers~~ men to resort to a general strike, the meeting accorded its support to the programme for the preparation of a strike arrived at by the General Council of the All India Railwaymen's Federation at its meeting of the 29th September last. All the centres were called upon to do their best to increase their membership and to collect money for a strike fund.

Other railway meetings held during the period under report were the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Loco Workers' meeting at Bombay on the 2nd October 1929, and the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway Employees' meeting at Secunderabad on 3rd October 1929. The principal point considered at these two meetings was the attitude of the Railway Managements concerned towards the men's demands for better conditions of service.

#### Anglo-Indians in Railway Employ.

Anglo-Indians in Railway Employ.

A representative meeting of the North Western Railway employees, European and Anglo-Indian, was held at Lahore on the 27th October, when ~~with~~ Lt-Col. Gidney, M.L.A., now acting <sup>as</sup> Assistant Commissioner with the Whitley Commission, spoke on the "problem of Anglo-Indian Labour conditions and employment on railways". He expressed great dissatisfaction at the official interpretation of "Indianisation" which had led to so much hardship among Anglo-Indians as what was happening was merely a displacement of one kind of labour by another. He advocated that this policy should be replaced by a policy for levelling up of the economic conditions of labour rather than an economic levelling down. He forecasted three major grievances which would have to be considered by the Whitley Commission. The first of these was the abolition of the word "subordinate" as unnecessarily creating an artificial grade and an inferiority complex. Even competent subordinate officers acting for long periods for covenanted railway officers had no chance of being confirmed in the higher grade, and this practice meant that the Anglo-Indians were merely being made ~~a~~ <sup>economic</sup> contingents to serve the interests of their European colleagues.

Secondly, there was the general question of workshop recruitment and hours of work, which in many cases have caused considerable hardship. The third point concerned the living standard as compared with the prevailing standard of wages. Uniformity of treatment was impracticable when the conditions governing living wage were different. This ~~once~~ again led up to the policy of enforcing uniformity of wages on the higher and not on the lower standard.

All-India Telegraph Workmen's Conference.

The first session of the All India Telegraph Workmen's conference was held at Bombay on the 8th and 9th October 1929 with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, M.L.A., in the chair. Mr. F.J. Ginwalla, M.L.C., the chairman of the Reception Committee, in his welcome address referred to the unsympathetic treatment the telegraph men of India have received from the Government as regards their demands regarding salaries, promotions pensions, provident fund, hours of work, allowances and the gradation of service. whereas the postmen are considered to be in the superior service, the telegraph men ~~xxx~~ who had equally responsible work <sup>to do</sup> are designated as inferior servants, and the telegraph worker, called the Task Work Peon starts at a salary of Rs. 12/- per mensem which with house allowance and message allowance bring him a sum of not ~~xxxx~~ more than Rs. 40/- per month. It is also frequently the case that he does not earn more than this starting salary at the time of his retirement. After 30 years' service he is given a pension of only Rs. 4/- per month. This was the situation in Bombay and he considere that the situation elsewhere must be even worse.

The president said that the Government have perpetually disregarded all the complaints submitted to them by the telegraph workmen. He emphasises the need for organisation if they were anxious to solve their special ~~x~~ problems.

The following are <sup>among</sup> the resolutions passed at the session:-

"This Conference reiterates the demands contained in the Memorial submitted by the Bombay Presidency Telegraph Workmen's Union to the Government of India in July 1927 and the Memorials submitted by the All India Telegraph Workmen's Union, Lahore, and resents the

failure of the Government to grant any one of the demands in spite of repeated representations made by the Unions in that behalf.

This Conference requests the Government of India to abolish the present menial grade of the Telegraph Delivery Peons and class them as superior servants and introduce a grade, and scale of pay and time similar to that of the Postmen.

This Conference is of opinion that the present rate of monthly pension, viz., Rs. 4/- allowed to the members of the Telegraph Delivery Staff is not only ridiculous but worthy of condemnation and further that the arbitrary distinction drawn between Postmen and Telegraph Delivery Peons, as the grade of the former is classed as superior and that of the latter as menial, is grievously prejudicial to the interest of Telegraph Delivery Peons.

This Conference is of the opinion that in order to promote solidarity and class association between the Postal and Telegraph Employees Associations all over India, a Federation of all Unions and Associations be started with a suitable constitution and funds and such Federation should hold its meeting at the time and place of the meeting of the All India Trade Union Congress!

The Conference then elected Diwan Chamanlal as president, Messrs. Jawaharlal Nehru, N.M. Joshi, Jamnadas Mehta and Ishwardas Sowhney as Vice Presidents; Mr. P.B. Datar as Secretary, and Mr. F.J. Ginwalla, M.L.C., as Treasurer for the year 1929-1930.

#### Central Labour Board of Madras.

The labour leaders of Madras have for some time been considering the resuscitation of the now defunct Madras Central Labour Board,

and two or three informal conferences had been held during the period under report to discuss the question. At one of these meetings Mr. B. Shiva Rao, President of the Madras Labour Union, explained how such a Board would be most useful in co-ordinating the activities of the Labour Unions. There was general agreement with the view that that Board should confine itself to such problems as housing, health, working hours and economic conditions, leaving party politics severely alone. Each Union would be empowered to elect three representatives on the Board and a further meeting is to be held on the 3rd November for the regular constitution of the Board.

The All India Trade Union Congress will meet from the 28th November to the 1st December at Nagpur. The All India Postal and R.M.S. Conference will hold their annual session on the 9th and 10th November 1929 at Peshawar under the chairmanship of Diwan Chamanlal, M.L.A. Among the items on the agenda are the following:-

- (1) Federation of Unions; (2) Abolition of Provincial Branches
- (3) Time-test; (4) Town Inspectors appointment and selection grade examination; (5) Denial of the D.G. to receive a deputation of the Union; and
- (6) Mutual Benefit Fund.

#### Trade Union Movement in Burma.

According to the report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in Burma during the year ending 31st March 1929, issued by the Labour Statistics Bureau, Burma, the trade union movement is not making any appreciable progress in Burma. The organised workmen form but a small proportion of the total labour population in the Province. Only one trade union has so far registered itself under

the Act and none of the other trade unions in existence has shown any inclination yet to take advantage of the provisions for registration afforded by the Act. This may have been due partly to the low standard of literacy and intelligence prevailing among the working classes in general and also partly to the fact that conditions in Burma are better than in India. The labourers in Burma are perhaps as a class a more satisfied lot than their brethren in India.

However, with a view to making the provisions of the Act known as widely as possible steps are being taken to print a pamphlet containing the Act and the rules and regulations issued thereunder and to distribute copies to the existing trade unions in the Province.



Intellectual Workers.Clerks in a Government of India Office.

About five or six years ago, the Government of India was recruiting accountants  
clerks, for the Indian Stores Department on rather low rates of monthly salary (Rs  $\frac{200}{50}$  per month in the scale of pay of Rs.  $\frac{200-20-500}{50-6-140-5-200}$ ), but on account of the arduous and responsible kind of their duties they were also given a special pay of Rs.  $\frac{80}{60}$  per month. One of the conditions of the order of appointment was that, if it was subsequently decided to convert the whole or any portion of the special pay into compensatory allowance, they will have to accept that decision without protest. The Government subsequently ordered that the special pay should gradually be withdrawn and that no compensatory allowance should be made at all. With effect from the 1st September 1929, only  $\frac{2}{5}$  of the special pay is being given to them; even this reduced rate of special pay is to be finally withdrawn as from the 31st August 1931, if it is established that the growth of work in the office has become regularised by that time. Since, under the terms of their contract, these employees are entitled to compensatory allowance in lieu of the special pay thus stopped, there has been much unrest among them, and it is understood that from the 1st September 1929 onwards they have been refusing to receive the special pay at the reduced rate. Memorials have also been sent to the Government showing that this sudden stoppage, which in many cases reduced their monthly income by about 50 per cent, has been causing them serious hardship. No action so far appears to have been taken on these memorials, and a deputation of this class of employees which waited on the Auditor General early in November 1929

is reported to have received a stern warning against their rebellious conduct which, it was hinted, might end in their wholesale dismissal. In consequence, it is reported that they have now expressed their willingness to abide by the decision of the Government for the suppression of the special pay without giving any compensatory allowance in lieu thereof.

Economic Conditions.Cotton Ginning Pools in India.

The Vice-President of the Gujarat Cotton Traders and Factory Owners' Association has addressed a communication to the Secretary to the Government ~~of India~~ in the Department of Commerce and Industry, Bombay, defending the system of cotton ginning pools in India from certain criticisms directed against it by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. This Committee had requested the provincial governments to take action against the existence of the system of cotton ginning and pressing pools on the ground that it was convinced that the presence of these pools in most, if not in all, <sup>of</sup> the cotton growing tracts in India is detrimental to the interests of the grower~~s~~ in as much as he has to pay a much higher rate for the ginning and pressing of his cotton. The Vice-President of the Gujarat Cotton Traders and Factory Owners' Association says that a pool or a combination of factory owners in a limited area is not in a position to impose its own prices on the cultivators who have to sell their ginned cotton, since the price obtainable by the cotton cultivator on the margin of production depends on the existing state of the general market, and that secondly only a very small percentage of the ginned and pressed cotton belonged to cultivators' societies and individual cultivators, whereas about 98 per cent of it was brought to the ginning factories by large commercial organisations interested either in the trade or in the direct utilisation of cotton. The McKenna Cotton Committee of 1918 says in paragraph ~~22~~ 231 of their report that the result of the formation of the pools has frequently been that new ginning and pressing factories, which are never intended to work, have been

erected with the sole object of sharing in the profits of the pools, which are unduly large on account of the monopoly of ginning and pressing work created by the combination of the factory owners and that this monopoly works to the detriment of the cultivator. This statement is characterised as an exaggerated allegation and the Association protests against the method suggested by the McKenna Committee to put an end to this system.

(Pioneer, 30-10-1929)

Migration.Indians in East Africa: Sir Samuel Wilson's Report.

The report of Sir ~~Am~~ Samuel Wilson to which reference has been made at page 60 of the report of this office for August 1929 has recently been published. The principal recommendations made in the report are the following:-

(1) The appointment of a High Commissioner, who will rank senior to the Governors of the three territories, and will exercise complete control, legislative and administrative, over certain common services, namely, customs, railways (including ports and harbour), posts and telegraphs, defence and fundamental research. (2) In the exercise of legislative powers the High Commissioner is to be assisted by a central council having an official majority. The powers of the central council are to be limited to transferred subjects, all other matters being left to local legislatures. (3) Regarding the position of Indians in East Africa, the report says that ~~the~~ Indians might be induced <sup>to accept</sup> nomination to the Legislative Council instead of election provided (a) an undertaking is given that the door is not closed to a common roll, (b) that the Kenya Government would miss no opportunity to bring Indians and Europeans together. (4) As regards the re-constitution of the Kenya ~~Legislative~~ Council the report suggests three alternative schemes, the common features of which are (a) a decrease in the abnormally large number of officials now in the Council, and (b) a small increase in the number of non-official Europeans compared with their demands in the past.

In a preface to the report, the Secretary of State for the Colonies says that the report does not in any way commit the Government to the suggestions embodied therein.

The members of the East African Deputation in India have issued a statement (Times of India, 10-10-1929) condemning the report as reactionary and as an abject surrender to the white settlers in Kenya. The deputation holds that no surren~~ger~~ is possible on the demand for a common electoral roll and demands an equal number of seats for Indians and Europeans in the Legislative Council.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

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Report for November 1929.

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\* These pages were sent in again in a corrected version,  
for which see last pages of this copy

### General.

The past month has been singularly devoid of political events which deserve to be chronicled. After the Viceroy had left Delhi by the end of the first week of November, it is understood that no decisions of first class political importance have been taken by the Government of India. There has been a great deal of speculation both as to the personnel and as to the ultimate success of the Round Table Conference; as regards the first point the rumour is that it will include the two Nehrus, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Sir Ali Imam, Sir Mahomed Shafi, Pandit Malaviya, Mr. M.A.Jinnah, Dr. Moonje, Sir C.P.Ramaswamy Iyer and Sir A.P.Patro, but it must, however, be stated that the whole thing is now in a state of fluidity, and that neither the composition nor the strength of the Round Table Conference are now definitely known to the public. Attempts are being made to win complete approval and co-operation for the Conference and not to hedge the Conference idea round with conditions of all kinds such as were laid down in the leaders' manifesto referred to in our earlier report. On the other hand, though the independence party now seems to be lying low, there is a great deal of discontent against the leaders who have signed the Delhi manifesto. It now seems practically certain that the Round Table Conference will be the rock upon which the Lahore Congress will split, and that not even the great influence and personality of Gandhi will be able to avoid a rupture.

The Trade Union Congress which was held on the last day of November and the first day of December at Nagpur has been the only sensational event of the month. Elsewhere in this report is given a brief summary of the proceedings, and though some of the erstwhile members of the party which was apposed to the moderate



group are now holding out olive branches, it is expected that the rupture in the labour ranks, brought about by a fundamental difference in principles and policy, will not be easily healed. It is noteworthy that the International Labour Organisation has come in for its own share of attack during the passages at arms between the moderates and the extremists. This is all the more curious when it is known for a fact that several leaders of the extremists were themselves actively canvassing for election to the Geneva labour delegation before the divergence between the two parties became so acute.

Among the important places visited by the Whitley Commission this month were Ahmedabad, Bombay and Nagpur, all of them centres of the textile industry. The response from organised labour at both Ahmedabad and Bombay was of a rather poor character, the Ahmedabad Labour Union having, according to newspaper accounts, decided on a boycott in the same way as the Girni Kamgar Union of Bombay. In the latter centre, the only organised labour union to offer evidence was the Bombay Textile Labour Union, which had presented a memorandum and sent its secretary, together with four workers, as witnesses. From the employers' side abundant information was forthcoming; at Bombay the Millowners' Association presented a memorandum and offered evidence and the Sassoon group of mills offered evidence separately in regard to their new "efficiency" scheme. The managements of the B.B.&C.I and G.I.P. Railways were also examined.

One of the members of the Commission, Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, has been ordered absolute rest for six months, but according to a

Mr.

press communiqué issued by Whitley he has been requested by his colleagues not to resign his place ~~from~~ the Commission. Mr. Joshi, though he is bravely carrying on, is still far from well; and during the major part of November, Mr. Birla also was away from the Commission.

A batch of news paper cuttings dealing with the work of the Commission is sent separately. This office has not yet succeeded in getting copies of the memoranda presented by the Ahmedabad and Bombay Millowners Associations, which will be very useful to us for our textile enquiry; but a copy of the Bombay Government's\* memorandum is being sent separately.

( Continued: see next page )

The cold weather session of the Legislative Assembly will begin ~~its sittings~~ on the 20th January 1930, and the session is bound to be lively as it will be held three weeks after the Lahore Congress and some time before the Round Table Conference. Besides, several Departments of the Government have a number of bills left over from the last session and many more for introduction in the Assembly before the end of the current financial year on the 31st March 1930. There are also, in addition, more than four dozen non-official bills at various stages, of which special reference should be made to Mr. Haji's Coastal Reservation Bill.

Important changes will soon take place in the personnel of the Government of India. In the place of Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah, who represented India at the League Assembly this year, Sir Fazl-i-Husain, who was acting for him during his absence in Geneva, is to be appointed Member for Education, Health and Lands. Mr. J.W. Bhore, I.C.S., who is now a Joint Secretary of the Simon Commission, is to take the place of Sir B.N. Mitra, the present Member for Industries and Labour, who will be retiring in April. Mr. Bhore has won a high reputation for administrative ability while he was the principal Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in London, and later when he became the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands.

References to the I.L.O.

The Indian papers are still devoting considerable attention to the controversy over Sir Geoffrey Corbett's remarks at the meeting of the Credentials Committee of the 13th International Labour Conference, to which reference has been made in Para 1, page 8 of the October report of this office. The point of view of Indian employers' organisation is lucidly set forth in a memorandum addressed by the South Indian Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India, inviting Government's attention to and protesting against the statement made by Sir Geoffrey Corbett that European Chambers have Indian membership and that in no insignificant proportion. In view of the importance of the controversy the main submissions of the South Indian Chamber are given below :-

The Chamber objects to the argument that the fact of Europeans and Indians moving together in certain institutions indicates the right of the former to be treated as Indian nationals. In the second place, the Chamber repudiates the suggestion that there is any reasonable proportion of Indian members in European Chambers of Commerce. Taking the major provinces of Madras, Bombay and Bengal it is found that in the Madras Chamber of Commerce there are only two Indians out of a total of 58 members; that in the Bombay Chamber of Commerce among a total number of 162 members there are only 16 Indian concerns which are managed by Indians and are members of the Chamber; that in the Bengal Chamber of Commerce out of a total of 229 ~~mm~~ members there are only 12 Indian concerns managed by Indians which are members. The plea that these Chambers serve to any extent the interests of Indian nationals is belied by the fact that in none of the Chambers are the Indian members allowed to

occupy positions of power or responsibility whether among the office bearers or among the Managing Committee or Standing Committee Members. In these circumstances the Chamber submits that Sir Geoffrey Corbett's statement is incorrect and misleading and requires to be publicly withdrawn by him or ~~him~~ by the Government of India.

A summary of the Chamber's memorandum is published in the Hindu of 2-11-29.

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The adoption of "Forced Labour" as an item on the agenda of the International Labour Conference is evidently responsible for the frequent references that are made to this topic in Indian Papers. The Hindu of 22-11-29 and all papers publish the summary of a memorandum submitted by the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay to the Government of Bombay, in the course of which the Chamber criticises the Government of India's "halting" policy in the matter of the abolition of forced labour and urges the complete abolition of forced labour in India.

The Times of India of 30-11-29 publishes a two column article under the Caption "Forced Labour in India --- Conditions in Gujerat" contributed by a correspondent specially deputed by the paper to make a study of conditions in Gujerat in this respect (A summary of this article is given in the section of this Report dealing with conditions of ~~the~~ labour).

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The Hindu of 22-11-29 publishes the names of persons recommended by the South Indian Chamber of Commerce to represent Indian

employers at the 14th International Labour Conference. The following persons have been recommended by the Chamber:-

Mr. Amritlal Ojha, M.L.C., (Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta) as the delegate and the following four to be his advisers: "Messrs. P. Mukherjee (Punjab Chamber of Commerce, Delhi), J.K.Mehta (Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay), Ramjeedas Vaishya, (Gwalior Chamber of Commerce) and Ganganand Sinha, M.L.A.

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The New India, a Madras Weekly in its issue of 28-11-29 (Vol. III New Series, No.34), publishes an article entitled "Labour in India" by Mr. B. Shiva Rao, adviser to the Workers' delegate at the 12th International Labour Conference, in the course of which a strong plea is made for bringing the Indian States within the purview of the International Labour Conference.

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Mr. B. Shiva Rao, adviser to the Workers' delegate at the 12th session of the International Labour Conference contributes an article on the Asiatic Labour Congress to the New India dated 31-10-29 (Vol.III New Series, No.30) in the course of which he refers to the warm approval extended to the idea ~~xx kxx~~ of holding such a Congress by M. Albert Thomas during his recent visit to the far east.

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The October 1929 (Vol.VIII, No.10) issue of "Education" (Cawnpore), and the November, 1929 (Vol.VI, No.5) issue of the "Progress of Education", Poona publish an article entitled "The International Labour Organisation and Educational Bodies" contributed by the

Director of this office.

\* \* \* \* \*

The pamphlet "India and the International Labour Organisation" published by the League of Nations Union, 11, Grosvenor Crescent, London, is appreciatively reviewed in the Reviews section of the monthly magazine "Education" (Vol.VIII, No.11, November, 1929), the official organ of the United Provinces Secondary Education Association. The reviewer urges the desirability of publishing such pamphlets in the more important of the Indian languages.

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The Indian Labour Review in its November 1929 issue (Vol.II, No.11), under the section News and Reports makes a reference to the ~~figk~~ gift of \$25000 to the International Labour Office by the Ford Motor Company, Ltd., on behalf of the 20th Century Fund, for the carrying out of a special investigation into wages in Europe.

In the same issue of the Indian Labour Review references is also made to Mr. M. Daud's (workers' delegate, 13th International Labour Conference) opposition to the resolution ~~x~~ tabled by employers at the 13th International Labour Conference with regard to who should and should not be eligible as delegates and advisers to the Maritime Conferences of the International Labour Office, on the ground that the employers were seeking to amend the Peace Treaty by substituting "shipowners" and "seamen" for "employers" and "workpeople" in the provisions relating to the nominations of employers' and workers' delegates.

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The October, 1929 (Vol. IX, No.2) issue of the Labour Gazette

publishes in extenso the questionnaire of Hours of Work of Salaried Employees. By way of introduction to the Questionnaire, the Labour Gazette publishes a brief review of the circumstances that led to the placing of the subject on the Agenda of the International Labour Conference, reproducing copious extracts from the summary of the Grey Report on the subject contributed by Dr. R. Fuhs, to the June, 1929 issue of the International Labour Review.

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The "M. & S.M. Railwayman" (Official Organ of the M. & S.M. Railway Employees' Union) in its November, 1929 issue (Vol.1, No. 5) publishes a photograph of India's representatives at the 12th International Labour Conference.

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The Times of India of 1-11-29 publishes an article entitled "Taking stock at the League" contributed by Mr. Otto Rothfield. The article deals with the last meeting of the League. Special attention is devoted to the work of Sir Chunilal Mehta, India's representative on the Opium Committee.

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On Sir Mahomed Habibullah's return from the sessions of the Tenth Assembly of the League of Nations, a representative of the Times of India interviewed him in Bombay on 4-11-29. Referring to the fact that he was the first Indian to lead the Indian Delegation to the Assembly, Sir M. Habibullah said "The representatives of the States who sent delegations this year welcomed the appearance of an Indian leader. This, I regard, is a happy sign



for the future".

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The recent decision to establish a wireless station for the League at Geneva has received considerable publicity in Indian papers. The Pioneer of 7-11-29 in a short editorial note welcomes the decision and expresses the hope that the wireless station will serve as a useful link between the Geneva organisation and non-European States.

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"The League of Nations -- Its work in Education", is the title of an article contributed by Mr. Arthur Mayhew, M.A., I.E.S., (Retired) to the Hindu, and appearing in its issue of 20-11-29. The article directs special attention to the possibilities of international co-operation in academic institutions.

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The Hindu of 20-11-29 publishes a fairly lengthy report of an address on "The League of Nations" delivered by Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar before a gathering of the students of the Presidency College, Madras, on 20-11-29. Dr. Annie Besant also spoke on the occasion. Both speakers spoke in highly appreciative terms of the work of Geneva, and pleaded for the stimulation of Indian interest in the work of the League.

Conditions of Labour.

Quarterly strike statistics (period ending 30-9-29).

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has in a press communique dated the 28th November 1929 published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 30th September 1929. During the period under review there were altogether 38 disputes involving 417,790 workmen, and entailing a total loss of 6,202,810 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency, where 18 disputes involving 129,112 men were responsible for a loss of 3,056,287 working days. Bengal comes next with 9 disputes involving 277,921 workers and entailing a loss of 3,103,552 working days. There was no trouble in the United Provinces, the Punjab, Delhi or the Central Provinces. While there is a disparity as regards the number of men involved in Bengal and Bombay, statistics show that the number of days lost was almost the same, viz., over 30,56,000.

Regarding the nature of the demands which led to disputes, it is interesting to note that on the question of wages there were no less than five out of nine in Bengal and three out of 18 in Bombay. Three were over personnel in Bengal, while 18 were over the same cause in Bombay.

Most of the disputes were unsuccessful for no fewer than four in Bengal and 15 in Bombay fizzled out easily. In fact, none was successful in Bombay, and only two in Bengal and one in Madras. Two disputes were still in progress in Bengal and Bombay at the end of the quarter.

Twenty of the disputes were in cotton and woollen mills, involving over 1,33,000 men, while there was only one dispute in a jute

mill, with 2,72,000 hands involved.

The statistics for industrial disputes in British India for the 1st quarter of 1929 are given at page 38 of the June report of this office, and those for the 2nd quarter at page 18 of the August report of this office.

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Strike situation in Bombay, Calcutta and Golmuri.

Bombay Strike Situation.      Though the Bombay textile strike has ~~has~~ collapsed completely and the city's mills are working with the normal complement of workers, the atmosphere prevailing in labour circles is far from satisfactory. The Police Commissioner has, therefore, in the second week of November, extended for a further period of one month his order prohibiting the holding of meetings of mill-hands. (Times of India, 14th November 1929). The Chief Presidency Magistrate's order under the Criminal Procedure Code, prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons in certain parts of the city is still in force. The Times of India, in a leader published on the subject in its issue of the 8th November 1929, while admitting that the two special Orders referred to above cannot be continued indefinitely as they constitute an unwelcome infringement on the rights of citizenship, attributes the peaceful conditions

conditions prevailing in the city to the fact that these orders are still in force.

The Girni Kamgar Union's organ "Krantī" (Revolution) has been trying its best to lash up the workers into a state of fury, and the articles in it have been advocating class-war. By way of reply to the Girni Kamgar Union's militant attitude, the Bombay Millowners' Association has published the following notice withdrawing recognition of the Union:-

"In view of the happenings of the last few months, the findings of the Bombay Riots Inquiry Committee and the Court of Inquiry, and the inflammatory appeals which continue to appear in the "Krantī", which voices the opinions of the leaders of the Girni Kamgar Union, the Millowners' Association has decided to withdraw recognition from the Union".

(Times of India, 28-11-1929).

At a meeting of the Girni Kamgar Union held on 28-11-1929, to consider the new development, a resolution was passed recommending the Millowners' Association to reconsider its decision to withdraw recognition.

Calcutta Strike Situation. As has been mentioned in the October Report of this office, the Calcutta strike situation has completely eased down. The strike in the Orient Jute Mill, Budge Budge (see October Report, Page 20), has also been settled as the 5000 and odd men who had gone on strike resumed work during the first week of November. (New India, 14-11-1929).

Tinplate Workers' Strike, Golmuri. Though November has been devoid of incidents at Golmuri, the tinplate workers' strike is still continuing. The tinplate works are being run by new labour.

Ahmedabad Wages Dispute: Umpire's Award.

At pages 44-45

of the report of this office for June, 1929, reference was made to the demand of the Ahmedabad Labour Union for the restoration of the cut of fifteen and a half per cent on wages made in 1923 and to the fact that arbitration proceedings were then about to begin. (see para 2, page 45, June, 1929 Report). The machinery for securing arbitral awards on matters of dispute in the Ahmedabad Textile industry has been explained at page 19 of the report of this office for July, 1929.

As the Permanent Board of Arbitrators consisting of Mr. Gandhi (representing the Labour Union), and Sheth Mangaldas Girdhardas (representing the Millowners' Association), could not agree on issue of increased wages for local millhands, Dewan Bahadur K.M. Zaveri, Retired Judge of the Small Causes Court, Bombay (chosen in place of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya), was appointed umpire. After discussing the problem with the two arbitrators, Mr. Zaveri pronounced his decision on 3-12-1929. The award gives an 8 per cent. increase to the employees of the Spinning Department and a 5 per cent increase to the employees of the Weaving Department from January 1, 1930. Though the award is favourable to the employees, it has not given them all that they wanted, nor does it accept the Millowners' plea of not giving any increase. It has taken <sup>a</sup> middle course by way of compromise. In the course of a lengthy award, he observes: "Looking at the state of the industry and the circumstances under which the cut was imposed, I do not see any ground to characterise it as either unwarranted or unjustified. That depression was there was a fact, but that would not stop Labour from raising the question of enhancement of wages whenever they think the industry is in a position to afford it. What

was justified in 1923 might not be so in 1929. If the circumstances have changed for the worse, a cut might be necessary, if for the better a proportionate enhancement might be demanded. As to whether there has been any improvement or not the parties naturally differ. Broadly speaking, I do not find that there has been an improvement in the state of the industry. I am unable to hold that the state of the industry would not warrant a small increase in the wages of the workers. I find that the worker does not get enough wages to enable him to maintain a suitable standard of living and he can ask his employer to pay him wages which would enable him to do so". (Times of India, 6-12-29

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Hours of Work in Karachi Docks.

At page 19 of the report of this office for October, 1929, reference has been made to a strike of the dock workers of Karachi. The undertaking then given by the Karachi Port Trust to favourably consider the question of hours of work has now been implemented by its decision to reduce with effect from 1-12-1929 the hours of work for dock labourers to 9 hours during day as well as during night. The dock workers however have not been satisfied, and practically all of them left work on 1-12-1929, after having worked only for 8 hours. At a conference of the workers held on 2-12-1929 resentment was expressed at their night hours being one hour in excess of Bombay dockworkers' hours. They have submitted a representation to the chairman of the Karachi Port Trust praying for the introduction of the same hours of work as in the Bombay docks.

(Pioneer, 6-12-1929).

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The Assam Labour Board.

Details of the working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending 30th June 1929 are available ~~for~~ from the annual report of the Board published under resolution No. L-1723, dated the 4th November 1929, of the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India. The Assam Labour Board, it may be mentioned, is the agency responsible for ensuring that the recruitment of labour for the tea-gardens of Assam would be carried on under proper conditions, and that the labourers are not imposed upon by recruiting agents. The Board exercises its authority by granting recruiting licenses only to approved agents and by cancelling the licenses of agents guilty of recruiting labour by dishonest methods.

The total number of persons recruited during the past season was 73,198 as against 39,549 in the previous year, and the number of garden sardars at work was 44,751 as against 39,677, in the previous year. The average number of recruits per sardar was 1.63 as against .99 in 1928. The year under report was very good for recruitment owing to scarcity and famine conditions prevailing in the various parts of the country. It is not expected that the same high figures will be attained during the current year. The total number of garden sardars prosecuted for offences in connection with recruitment was 75 as compared with 85 in the previous year; and 39 garden sardars were returned to gardens without prosecution on account of minor irregularities, as against 51 in the previous year. Similar offences were occasionally differently treated from district to district. In some cases ~~irregularities~~ irregularities in law were brought to the notice of the district magistrates concerned by the Chair.

During the year under review 1,927 applications for the grant or renewal of the licenses of local agents in British recruiting districts were received from the Tea Districts Labour Association and other pre-existing recruiting agencies. All these were recommended by the Board. Eighty-three applications were received for appointment of local agents and for licenses on behalf of local agents supervising recruiting in Feudatory States. Eight Indian planters, who formed an association called the Indian Planters' Association, applied to the local Government for recognition which was recommended by the Board. At the close of the year 41 local agencies were at work. The conduct of local agents has been satisfactory.

Conditions of labourers in S.Indian Tea Gardens.

The following account of conditions of labourers in the tea-plantations of South India has been forwarded to this office by Mr.B.Shiva Rao, adviser to the workers' delegate at the 12th I.L.Conference, on 21-11-1929. The facts are collected from communications reaching Mr. Shiva Rao from the clerical staff of several tea plantations in South India.

"The food of the workers in the plantations consists only of boiled rice, salt and chilli. Milk and vegetables are practically unknown. Every one of my correspondents agrees that the whole trouble in the tea and coffee plantations is due to the peculiar system of recruiting. If, instead of recruiting agents being entrusted with the work, Labour Bureaus were started and Protectors of Labour were employed to see that the workers are treated fairly, there would be very considerable improvement. They all lay stress upon housing, and even more than on housing, upon pure water supply. While no doubt the planters may seek to mislead the public by giving glowing accounts of conditions, actual



investigation would reveal a very different state of affairs. For instance, it will be said by the planters that there are dispensaries. While this is true, it must also be added that these dispensaries are in charge of very poorly qualified men, no better than compounders. Medicines will not be supplied to the workers, except on payment of 2 to 4 annas to the compounder, who pockets the money. Some planters no doubt spend large sums of money on their hospitals. But it would be worth enquiring how much of this is spent on tonics for the European superior staff, and how much on the actual workers. The great need in many plantations is adequate feeding of those who are ill. The planters make out that the fact of the same labourers returning year after year is proof of the satisfactory conditions obtaining therein. But these workers are so heavily indebted to the recruiting agents that they are compelled to return to the plantations, not because they voluntarily come, but because of the compulsion of the recruiting agent. Although the Planters Labour Act penalising breach of contract has been abolished, this fact is known to very few of the workers. The plantations must be brought under the control of the Inspector of Factories, who at present examine the actual tea factories only where tea is manufactured. But 97 per cent of the labour are in the estates on the plantations, and only 3 per cent in the factories. So, the 97 per cent get no benefit at all from the control of the Factories Department. There must also be frequent inspections by Officers of the Health Department, and non-official inspectors should be appointed in various places. Otherwise, the planters regard themselves such superior beings that they will not allow even Government officers to come into the plantations in the course of their duties!"

An account of conditions in Ceylon Tea ~~Pl~~ Plantations is given at pages 32-35 of the report of this office for June, 1929.

Forced Labour in Gujerat.

The following observations about conditions of labour analogous to forced labour in Gujerat are taken from an article entitled "Forced Labour in India - Conditions in Gujerat" contributed by a correspondent of the Times of India who has been specially commissioned to make investigations on the subject and appearing in the Times of India of 30th November 1929.

Forced labour still survives in many forms in Gujerat, especially in hilly places inhabited by aboriginal tribes and remote villages which are still in a primitive state. Such labour takes the form of exaction of work either entirely without remuneration, or for a ~~paltry~~ paltry consideration. The system is known by different names in different districts, but they all connote the same thing - a modified form of slavery.

"Veth" is a common expression in vogue in Gujerat, and the continuance of Veth is sanctified by a long usage. It is known as "Khawas" or "Londa" in Rajputana. In Kathiawar the people who are thus bound to give their labour are called "Chakars" or Golas". The class of people whose labour is liable to be impressed from long established custom is called "Kaliparaj" or depressed classes and it comprises the Dheds, the Dublas and the Dhodias. Those privileged to exact ~~that~~ their labour are known as "Dhaniama", or masters. The latter class is of well-to-do land holders which include the Anavlas, the Patidars and the Kunbis. These terms do not merely convey the idea of servants and masters or employees and their employers. Their special ~~existing~~ significance lies in the relationship existing between bond slaves and their owners. There is not merely an implied sense of inferiority in the one and superiority in the other class. The nomenclature connotes in fact that the one is the property of the other.

In the Surat district this class of indentured labourers is called "Halis". A man becomes a Hali by reason of a debt contracted either by him or by his ~~farang~~ forefathers. These Hails are, or were at one time, owners of land and not entirely dependent on manual labour for his Dhaniamas. When a man of his class contracts a debt for a marriage or a funeral ceremony he becomes a Hali and his creditor a Dhaniamas. He pledges the only thing he has of any value - his labour for the rest of his life, or till the debt is repaid. But the debt has a tendency of constantly swelling and never diminishing. So long as the debt remains ~~■~~ so long does he remain a slave of his Dhaniamas. And after him his children inherit the debt and the Hali system thus becomes perpetuated from generation to generation. These debts range from Rs. 100 to Rs. 800 or thereabouts. Interest is calculated at the rate of 9 to ~~■~~ 12 per cent. The "khata" or account is of course kept of the Dhaniamas and he takes care to get his Hali's thumb impression on the khata periodically so as to keep him in constant terror of the civil court. A landlord has his Halis as a part and parcel of his property and he uses his Halis for field labour or domestic work according to his needs. Until not long ago the Halis were treated virtually as a commodity which could be purchased or sold in liquidation of the debt and even to this day such transactions, though not common, are not unknown.

There is another form of compulsory labour under the constitution of the so-called village economy. It is labour exacted from the "Mahars" and the "Chambers" of a village for the skinning of dead animals. It is a long standing tradition in the village constitution that these members of the depressed classes are compelled to skin the carcasses of animals. Thanks to the agitation carried on by the Depressed Class

Mission in some parts of Maharashtra, the Mahars and Chambars of those places have revolted against this exaction and are refusing either to skin or to eat the carrion and the owners have to dispose of the carcasses by burial.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONEmployers Organisations.Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce.

The annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce will be held at Delhi on the 14th February, 1930. Many of the provincial chambers have notified to the Federation the resolutions they propose to move at the session, and the Southern India Chamber of Commerce will raise a discussion about the rate of freights for goods on Indian railways, the need for protecting the tanning industry and the rates of Indian and foreign exchange. The following resolutions will be moved by the representatives of the Chamber at the Delhi meeting.

"That the rates of freight for goods on the Indian railways are too high to permit the fullest expansion of Indian trade and industries and should therefore be examined by a committee consisting of officials and non-officials, with a majority of non-officials with a view to overhaul the whole tariff on the lines of policy adopted in advanced countries of the West. "That the tanning industry of the country requires to be protected against foreign competition by means of a duty of 15 per cent ad valorem on exports of raw hides and skins and that a no impost shall be levied on the skins or hides treated in Indian tanneries or exported in a tanned or a semi-tanned state. "That in view of the slow development of Indian enterprise and the repeated changes in law and administration which affect their growth during this period of transition, the Government of India be urged to amend the Indian Income-tax Act so that profits of any business concern in the year to which the assessment relates may be set off against any losses of the concern in the preceding years.

"That as the official rate of Indian and foreign exchange has remained at great variance with the market rate in spite of the best efforts of Government and has been extremely detrimental to the export trade and the agriculturists and the general economic well-being of the country, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce desire to request Government to reconsider the decision at an early date."

(HINDU .- 14-11-29).

Associated Chambers of Commerce of  
India and Ceylon.

The 1929 annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon will be held at Bombay on the 16th and 17th December 1929. The following are some of the more important subjects that will be discussed at the Conference :-

Income-tax on sums expended as commissions and bonuses to employees; income-tax; Carrying forward of business losses; double super-tax on companies; internal air services; air communications across India; railway finance; railway freight rates on cotton; government competition with private enterprise; mechanical cultivation; the interference of unregistered trade unions in industrial disputes; hours of work of salaried employees.

Workers' Organisations.All India Trade Union Congress, Nagpur.

The tenth session of the All India Trade Union Congress was held at Nagpur from the <sup>20</sup>~~28~~ th November to ~~16~~ 8<sup>th</sup> December, under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The session was an eventful one. As it was apprehended from the beginning that momentous issues affecting Indian labour in general and the Indian Trade Union movement in particular, would come up for discussion and settlement at the present session, there was a record attendance of trade union leaders and delegates. <sup>Of the</sup> 51 unions on the register of the Congress, 50 were represented at the Congress.

Signs were not wanting even long before the session of the Congress to show that the extremist left wing of the All India Trade Union Congress deriving its inspiration from Moscow would make a determined bid for capturing the Congress, and for committing it to a policy incompatible with genuine trade unionism. Even at the 9th session of the A.I.T.U.C. held at Jharia in December 1928, the proposal to hold an Asiatic Conference according to the agreement arrived at Geneva between Joshi and Suzuki in 1925 and Chamanlal and Yonekubo in 1928 found the extremist wing even then in open opposition. Not content with this, the left wing tried its best to commit the Jharia Congress to a policy of non-participation in the International Labour Conferences at Geneva. Further, at Jharia, the extremists fought hard to secure the affiliation of the A.I.T.U.C. to the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that the moderates were able to carry through the negative proposition of seeking no affiliation with any outside body at that stage. (see Special Report sent along with this office minute C 3/1/29, dated the 3rd January 1929).

At the meeting of the Executive Council of the A.I.T.U.C. held at Bombay on 27-4-1929, the differences between the two wings of the Congress became even more pronounced. The left wing utilised the occasion for endeavouring to commit the A.I.T.U.C. to a policy of boycott of the Royal Commission on Labour, and renewed the attempt to non-co-operate with the International Labour Conference by securing the withdrawal of the Indian labour delegation at least from the 12th Conference, on the plea that such action would serve as a gesture against the Government's repressive policy against trade unionists. (see Special Report accompanying Minute C 3/581/29, dated 6-6-1929).

It was in such an atmosphere of open tension and with tempers exacerbated by the prolonged Bombay textile strike and the Meerut trial that the tenth session of the A.I.T.U.C. met under the junior Nehru's presidency at Nagpur. The contentious nature of the meeting of the Executive Council of the A.I.T.U.C. on 29-11-1929, prior to the open session, gave early promise that the Nagpur session would be a stormy one. The communist left wing was led by Messrs. Deshpande, Ruikar, Kulkarni, Kandalkar, Ginwalla, mostly hailing from Bombay and finding their supporters in the Girni Kamgar Union and the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union. The moderate right wing which showed greater powers of coherence and united action than in 1928 was led by Joshi, Chamanlal, Giri and Shiva Rao. The president though he had not fully ranged himself with the communists was more in sympathy with the left wing, and in fact by his predilections fatally tilted the balance at a critical stage. The moderate section had to object to the placards placed prominently in the pandal bearing such slogans as "Down with Chamanlal", "Down with Joshi" and was able to have them removed only after hot debate. The question of the affiliation of the Girni Kamgar Union with its membership



estimated at 54,000 which was next taken up provoked serious opposition from Chamanlal, Giri, Shiva Rao and others, who contended that the strength of the Girni Kamgar Union should be put down at 4,000, as no audited statements of the Union were submitted to justify the higher figure. As a via media, Mr. Ginwalla moved a resolution to put down the strength of the Union at 40,000. The voting on this resolution resulted in a tie, and on the casting vote of the President, the resolution was carried. This decision had important consequences, as it was the exaggerated voting strength thus accorded to this extremist union which enabled the left wingers to commandeer the requisite majority and to capture the Congress, and which in its turn forced the moderates to secede.

The open session of the Congress was held on 30-11-1929. In his opening speech Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru advocated the setting up of a socialistic order of society in India in which the interest of the workers would be supreme. Referring to the controversial issue of the boycott of the <sup>Whitley</sup> ~~Simon~~ Commission, he advocated the boycott on the ground that the Commission was a "useless show", that the British labour government's record did not justify trust in them, and that the requisite atmosphere for the successful working of the Commission was lacking because of the Indian Government's repressive policy as evidenced by the arrests of trade unionists, the Meerut trial, the passing of the Trades Disputes Act, and the promulgation of the Public Safety Ordinance. On the question of the affiliation of the A.I.T.U.C., the president expressed himself against affiliation both with the Second International and the Third International, with the former because it stood for labour imperialism, with the latter because, though he admired

Soviet policy, he could not justify Soviet methods. Defining his political position, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that despite of the offer of the Round Table Conference, he stood still for the independence ideal.

The open session was followed by a meeting of the Executive Council ~~on 30-11-1929~~. Discussion centred round the resolution moved by Mr. Deshpande of the Girni Kamgar Union for boycott of the Whitley Commission. The resolution contained three parts: (1) Boycott, because of its appointment by the British Imperialist Government, "which is pursuing a policy of repression"; (2) Condemnation of Messrs. Joshi and Chamanlal; and (3) Condemnation of the old executive in <sup>having</sup> not giving a ~~lead~~ <sup>concrete lead</sup> on the Whitley Commission. Messrs. Ginwalla, Ruikar and Kulkarni and several others of the left wing supported the boycott proposal. Mr. Shiva Rao of Madras brought forward a substantive motion ~~in~~ welcoming the Commission, which was supported by Giri, Ramanjulu Naidu and others. After a stormy debate, at one stage of which the President had to threaten adjournment of the house, the first part of Mr. Deshpande's resolution was carried by 53 votes to 41, 5 remaining neutral, while the two latter parts were dropped.

The differences between the right and left wings of the Congress reached their climax at the meeting of the Executive Council on 1-12-29. Mr. Deshpande moved a resolution for affiliating the Congress to the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat and <sup>advocating that</sup> ~~not to~~ the Asiatic Labour Conference. <sup>See 12-12-29</sup> Dr. Choksy's motion for postponement of the question for one year was lost, as also Rai Sahib Chandrika Prasad's amendment for affiliation with the Asiatic Labour Conference. Finally, Mr. Deshpande's resolution was carried. Another motion carried by the Executive Council packed

with extremist votes was the one for cutting off all connection with the International Labour Organisation. This was followed by the anticipated break from the A.I.T.U.C. of the Moderates led by Chamanlal, Joshi, Giri, Shiva Rao and other moderate leaders, who were followed by twenty-four unions.

The open session of the A.I.T.U.C. Congress on 12-12-1929 was robbed of all interest because of the secession of the moderate elements. In the absence of all real opposition, the Congress passed in quick succession several resolutions of an extreme character advocating boycott of the Whitley Commission, condemning the Nehru Report and the Viceregal Announcement, urging complete independence and the establishment of workers republic, affiliation with the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat and sympathy with the League against Imperialism. That the secession of the right wing had dampened the ardour of the extremists was however evident from the fact that the A.I.T.U.C. in its open session though there was no opposition, found it expedient to drop Mr. Deshpande's resolution for affiliation with the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat, and adopted Dr. Choksy's motion for postponement of the question for a year. The President at this stage read a letter signed by Joshi, Chamanlal, Giri, Shiva Rao, Fuley, Kirk and other right wing leaders explaining the reasons for their secession. The statement asserted that the policy of the A.I.T.U.C. under its new executive was fundamentally opposed to the interests of the working classes as indicated by the resolutions for the boycott of the Whitley Commission, affiliation with the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat, rejection of the proposal for an Asiatic Labour Congress, severance of relationships with Geneva, rejection of the offer for the Round Table Conference and repudiation of the Nehru Report. Referring to the packed nature of the A.I.T.U.C.

the statement says that out of a total voting strength of 930 in the Congress no less than 350 votes belong to the G.I.P. Union and the Girni Kamgar Union, whose membership figures were denied and challenged by us and never accepted by us, - the two Unions which are mainly responsible, among others, for the adoption of the new policy underlying the above mentioned resolutions -.

The following office-bearers were then elected for 1930.- President Mr. Subash Chandra Bose, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. D.B.Kulkarni, Kandal-kar, Dr. Dutta, R.S.Chandika Prasad and Bonken Chandra Mukerjee, Secretary: Mr. S.V.Deshpande, Assistant Secretaries: Messrs. K. K. Sen and S.B.Banerjee, Treasurer: Mr. Ginwala.

It was also decided to hold the next session of the Congress in Bombay. The tenth session of the All India Trade Union Congress ended on 21 12-29.

The All India Trades Union Federation.

On the 1st December representatives of the 24 seceding unions headed by the moderate leaders, together with some 50 members of the Executive Council of the A.I.T.U.C met under the presidency of Dewan Chaman Lal and resolved to form a central organisation called the All India Trades Union Federation, composed of unions desiring to work purely on trade union lines, and appointed a committee with Mr. V. V. Giri as chairman and Mr. R.R.Bakhale as secretary for the purpose of drafting a constitution.

Among the resolutions passed by this meeting were one calling upon all trade unions in India and Burma to tender evidence before the Royal Commission on Labour, and another approving of the Round Table Conference announced by the Viceroy and demanding adequate labour representation thereon. A third resolution recommended to the Government of India the names of the following gentlemen to represent labour at the ensuing session of the International Labour Conference; Delegate - Mr. S. C. Joshi, M.L.C.; Advisers - Messrs B. Shiva Rao; S.K.Bose; I.D.Sawhney; A.N.Bose; Umar Rajab; Abdulla Khan and Ernest Kirk. The meeting warmly approved of the suggestion to keep out of the Federation Communist Unions, and it was generally agreed upon that a meeting of the Federation should be summoned some time during the Easter holidays to ratify the draft constitution and make the necessary arrangements for a systematic continuation of its work.

Following the step taken by the 24 seceding unions, a few other unions, some of them of a distinctly extremist character, and others whose natural disposition would otherwise have been to sit on the fence, have also issued statements to the effect that they are seeking disaffiliation from the Congress. As a result the A.I.T.U.C

has degenerated into a mere rump, a majority of its members having deserted it for one reason or another. It may, however, be pointed out that those of the seceders who are of extremist persuasion are not likely to join forces with the federation.

All India Railwaymen's Federation.

The sixth Convention of the All India Railwaymen's Federation was held at Nagpur on the 2nd December 1929, with Mr. N.M. Joshi, M.L.A., in the chair. Previous to the open session of the Convention, there was a meeting of the Executive Council at which the form of the resolutions to be passed at the Convention was settled. As the Federation met immediately after the closing of the All India Trade Union Congress, it was noticeable that the proceedings of the Congress, and particularly the secession of a majority of the members of the Congress had a chastening effect on the more ardent spirits present in the meeting. Thus, though Messrs. Ruikar, Ginwalla, Kulkarni and Randive were members of the Executive Council of the Federation, their voices of protest were not loudly raised against the Executive Council's decision regarding the Whitley Commission, the projected general strike and the proposed deputation to wait on the Government of India.

In the course of the annual report presented by Mr. V.V. Giri, the Secretary of the Federation, it was mentioned that the membership had risen from 100,000 to nearly 150,000. The body of the report dealt with the deputation of the Federation which waited on Sir George Rainy, the member of the Government of India in charge of Railways, on the 4th May 1929, the full details of which have already been reported to Geneva (vide this office's monthly report for May, 1929, pages 42-48). With regard to Welfare Committees, the report made it absolutely clear that the workers were opposed to the formation of such organisations as they feared that they would stifle the growth of trade unionism in India.

In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Joshi referred to the unredressed grievances of the railwaymen of India and suggested that a deputation might once again wait on the Railway Member of the

Government of India in order to ascertain what steps the Government have taken to meet their demands since May 1929. He stressed the peculiar characteristics of railway service and exhorted the workers to bear in mind that, as workers in a public utility service, their masters were the entire public of India, whose support and sympathy they should attempt to win by not resorting to any forms of ~~direction~~ action which might cause serious public inconvenience, but to always pursue conciliatory methods. He expressed himself definitely in favour of negotiation as opposed to strikes which were to be regarded only as an ultimate weapon to be employed when all other remedies fail. If circumstances compelled them to resort to strikes, they should take particular care not to infringe the provisions of the Trade Disputes Act; even though those provisions seriously curtailed the possibility of a successful strike, and were to that extent an encroachment upon the legitimate rights of labour, Nevertheless, so long as they remained on the statute book he counselled them that ready obedience should be given to them. Finally, the success of the Unions both in negotiations and in strikes depended on the degree of organisation they had attained; and in order that the railway workers might organise themselves for victory, they had to increase their membership and bring into the fold of the Federation every railway union and every railwayman in India.

Among the more important resolutions passed by the Federation were those advocating co-operation with the Royal Commission on Labour in India, and the formation of a deputation to wait afresh on the Railway Member.

Mr. I.B. Sen was elected President and Mr. V.V. Giri re-elected General Secretary for 1930.



All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress.

The second annual general meeting of the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress was held on the 1st and 2nd November, 1929, at Colombo under the presidentship of Mr. A. E. Goonesinha.

Mr. Goonesinha in his presidential address reviewed at length the labour situation in the country, and deplored the efforts that were being made by the capitalist classes of Ceylon to deny the franchise to the labouring classes of the country. (The Donoughmore Commission has recommended that the franchise should be given to all men over 21 years and to all women over 30 years of age who have resided in Ceylon for a minimum period of five years. ~~But~~ Lord Passfield, the Colonial Secretary, while generally approving the report, has made the modification that, instead of women over 20 only being given the vote, all women of 21 and over should be given the franchise. The procedure laid down in respect of the Reform scheme is the report as modified should, in the first instance, be submitted to the Ceylon Legislative Council, and that in the event of the Council throwing out the scheme, a fresh election should be held on the issue) Mr. ~~Gooneshi~~ Goonesinha pointed out that the present Council was a reactionary body, elected by an extremely narrow electorate, consisting of only 4 per cent of the population. As such it would be opposed to the introduction of universal adult suffrage, which would give a share of the political power to the masses, including the labouring classes. Under the circumstances, he apprehended that the Reforms scheme would surely be thrown out by the present Council, as well as by any future Council elected on the existing limited franchise. The barren record of the present Council in the matter of even elementary labour legislation was a

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signal proof of the betrayal of a sacred trust. He said that if the Reforms scheme with its provision for universal adult suffrage would be finally accepted a true democracy will be established - "a democracy of the Heart that would care for the babe in the slum, the mother in the factory and the father in his old age".

Comparing the attitude of European and Indian employers to labour, he said that the European employers were much more sympathetically inclined to labour than Indian employers, and pointed out that while the European members of the Ceylon Employers' Federation tried to work out in the best spirit the fact arrived at between the Employers' Federation and the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress, (see pages 36-37 of the report of this office for June 1929) he could not say the same of the Indian employers.

The following are among the more important of the resolutions passed by the Congress :-

1. That this Congress on behalf of the unrepresented masses of the country do accept the Recommendations for the reform of the Constitution as adumbrated in the despatch of Lord Passfield and thank the Government for the granting of Adult Suffrage and the establishment of the Committee system of government as conducive to true Democracy.
2. This Congress strongly deplores the reference of the recommendations to the Legislative Council for acceptance, or rejection as unnecessary and undesirable and calls upon the Government to refer the Reforms if needs be to a Plebiscite.
3. That in view of the greater responsibilities entrusted to the working people in regard to the Government of the country the Congress urges upon every union and every member of such union to act unitedly and in a spirit of loyalty, fraternity and solidarity for ~~the~~

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the progress and development of the ideals of the Congress. 4. "That the Congress do accept the invitation of the Japanese and the Indian Trade Unionists to participate in the Asiatic Labour Conference to be held in <sup>India</sup> Calcutta next July". 5. "That this Congress do strongly urge upon the Government to establish a Rent Restriction Act to safeguard poor tenants". 6. "That this Congress requests the Government to appoint a Committee with a representative labour to investigate the conditions of labour in the matter of wages, old age Pensions, Compensation for injuries, Housing, etc."

Andhra Labour Conference.

The first session of the Andhra Labour Conference was held at Bezwada on 15-11-29 under the presidentship of Mr. Trivikrama Rao. The president in his opening address said "In Andhradesa (the northern Telegu speaking districts of the Madras Presidency) labour is mainly engaged in agricultural operations, in transport, in industries like rice, oil, cotton and jute mills, and in intellectual forms of clerical labour. Andhra labour is not yet organised, but attempts are being made to bring it within the abit of the Trade Union Movement. Each department of industrial, agricultural and intellectual activity has to be formed into a distinct local group, and affiliated to its superior federations". (Hindu 16-11-29)

The Conference passed a number of resolutions. The first resolution condemned the recent "indiscriminate and wholesale arrests and house searches of a number of Trade Union Workers" and considered the promulgation on the Public Safety Ordinance and the passage of the Trade Disputes Bill as constituting a great menace to the existence of the Labour Movement in India. The Conference by the next resolution opined that legislation should immediately be passed providing for all workers in all organised trades and industries:-

- (1) Adult franchise, (2) Eight Hours day or 44 hours work week, (3) Machinery for fixing minimum wage, (4) Sickness and unemployment insurance, (5) Old age pensions and pensions of widows and orphans, (6) Maternity benefits, (7) Weekly payment of wages. Resolutions inviting the attention of the Government to the serious problem of unemployment of the Indian workers and urging upon them to take immediate steps for satisfactory solution thereof asking the Government to take

necessary steps for giving proper effect to the recommendations of the Tariff Board about the reduction of running cost of the steel and various other industries, not by the reduction of low paid workers, but by adequate retrenchment of the supervising staff and speedy Indianisation and urging upon the Government of India to appoint a Committee to revise the Workmen's Compensation Act and insisting that the All India Trade Union Congress should be given adequate representation thereon, were also passed.

#### The Bengal Labour Conference.

The 4th session of the Bengal Labour Conference was held on 16-11-29 at Kankinnarah under the presidency of Mr. H. C. Suhrawardy, M.L.C., The futility of resorting to strikes without exhausting all other means of redress was stressed at the Conference. Mr. K. C. Roy Chowdhury, M.L.C., warned the mill-hands not to be misled by the advocates of direct action. The president Mr. Suhrawardy pointed out the great danger of the labour movement being used for political purposes and stressed the necessity for co-operation with the Whitley Commission.

(Hindustan Times.- 20-11-29.)

All India Federation of subordinate  
Government services.

The November, 1929 (Vol.VII, No.8), issue of "General Letter", the organ of the All India (including Burma) Postal and R.M.S. Union publishes an appeal over the signature of Mr. S. C. Joshi, Hony. Secretary of the Central Board of Revenue Ministerial Officers' Union, Bombay, to start an All India Federation of the Subordinate Government Service Associations on the model of the All India Trade Union Congress. It is proposed to hold an inaugural meeting of the representatives of the several Unions of the Imperial and Local Governments, but no definite date has been fixed. The aim of the organisers is to co-ordinate the activities of all the existing Unions and Associations of subordinate government servants, and thus to improve their collective bargaining capacity.

All India Federation of Teachers'  
Association.

The fifth Conference of the All-India Federation of Teachers' Associations will be held at Madras, on the 27th, 28th and 29th December 1929, under the presidentship of Sir P.S.Sivaswami Iyer. The Conference is open to teachers of all types and of all grades ~~of both sexes~~ - University. Secondary, Primary and Technical. The Federation is affiliated to the World Federation of Education Associations and is recognised by the Government of India for representation at World Education Conferences.

(Times of India.- 9-11-29).

world's tea trade was abundantly reflected in a decline in the value of shipments from Rs. 324.8 millions to Rs. 266 millions, although the quantities registered during the year showed only a very small decline from 362 million lbs. to 360 million lbs. The value of shipments of oilseeds advanced from Rs. 266.9 millions to Rs. 296.3 millions owing primarily to a steady development of the trade in groundnuts, which expanded in bulk from 613,000 tons to 788,000 tons. In spite of the depression in the leather industries of the United Kingdom and Germany, there was considerable vitality in the Indian trade in hides and skins, exports, of which were valued at Rs. 95.6 millions as compared with Rs. 88.1 millions in 1927-28. Lac made a very significant contribution, its shipments having risen both in quantity and value from 544,000 cwts. with a declared value of Rs. 69.9 millions to 743,000 cwts. valued at Rs. 86.4 ~~lakh~~ millions. There was also an appreciable improvement in exports of raw wool, the value rising from Rs. 43.6 millions to Rs. 48.9 millions. Among less important items, there was an interesting development in respect of oil-cakes, exports of which ~~w~~ swelled in value from Rs. 25.3 millions in 1926-27 to Rs. 31.4 millions in 1927-28 and Rs. 38.4 millions in the year under review.

The visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure for the year 1928-29 was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 520 millions compared with Rs. 500 millions in the previous year, Rs. 400 millions in 1926-27, and the record figure of Rs. 1,090 millions in 1925-26.

#### The effect of Industrial Unrest on Economic Conditions.

The review pays more than passing attention to the troubled industrial conditions that prevailed in the country during the year,

and their repercussions on Indian trade. More than one important industry was seriously affected by the wave of labour unrest that swept over the country. Reference is made to the long-drawn-out strike in the Bombay Cotton Mills, which started in April 1928, lasted till October of that year, and was continued soon after in the guise of a new strike. The Bombay textile strike, it is needless to say, affected the trade of India to a considerable extent. The strike in the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur which lasted from the middle of April to the middle of September 1928, seriously affected the steel output of the Company. In Southern India there was a prolonged railway strike. The frequency of labour unrest had a profoundly disturbing effect on the economic life of the country.

#### Tariff Changes.

The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1928, and the Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1928, do not come under the period under review as they were passed before April, 1928. Later in the year, another Act, viz., the Match Industry (Protection) Act, 1928, was passed in pursuance of the recommendations of the Tariff Board regarding the grant of protection to the match industry. This Act, which came into force on the 25th September, 1928, maintained the then existing rate of import duty on matches and converted it into a protective duty. It also converted the then existing import duties on undipped splints and veneers into protective duties to make the duty on matches effective.

The Indian Finance Act, 1929, which gave effect to one of the main recommendations of the Indian Road Development Committee, raised the import and excise duties on motor spirit from 4 annas to 6 annas a gallon with effect from the 28th February, 1929. It is proposed



Indian labour in Malaya\*

At pages 52-57 of the report of this office for July, 1929, extracts are given from the report for 1928 of the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay states on labour conditions in the Federated Malay states, with particular reference to the conditions of Indian emigrants. The information there given is supplemented to a considerable extent by the recently published annual report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1928.

For a correct appreciation of conditions in Malaya, some knowledge of the main political divisions of the country is necessary. Malaya may be divided into three main political divisions :-

(1) Straits Settlements which comprise Penang, Singapore, Labuan and Cocos Islands and Province Wellesley, Dindings and Malacca on the Malay Peninsula. They form a crown colony administered by the Governor of Straits Settlements with the aid of an executive and Legislative Council at Singapore.

(2) Federated Malay States comprise the States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang. The Governor of Straits Settlements is also the High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States as well as Unfederated Malay States. Kuala Lumpur is the Federal Capital. Matters common to all these four States are legislated by the Federal Council whose President is the High Commissioner. Each State has besides a British Resident and a State Council with the Malay Sultan as its President.

(3) The Unfederated Malay States of Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan

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\* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1928. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch. 1929. pp II 34 . Price Rs.2-2-0 or 4s.

Trengannu in the Malay Peninsula and Brunei in the island of Borneo are governed by their respective Malay Sultans assisted by British Advisers and State Councils.

Population statistics - The following table gives the distribution according to the 1921 census :-

General information relating to Malaya as per 1921 census.

Political division.	Area sq. miles.	Total population.	Indian Population.		
			Males.	Females	Total
(a) Straits Settlements.	1,600	883,769	78,254	26,374	104,628
(b) Federated Malay States.	27,648	1,324,890	211,342	93,877	305,219
(c) Unfederated Malay States.	27,354	1,149,395	45,889	15,930	61,819
Total ...	<u>56,602</u>	<u>3,358,054</u>	<u>335,485</u>	<u>136,181</u>	<u>471,666</u>

The total Indian population of 471,666 out of a total general population of 3,358,054 in 1921, may be divided into the following groups :- Of the total Indian population 82% or 387,597 were Tamils; 4% or 17,190 Malayalies; 3% or 15,504 Punjabis and 2% or 11,389 Bengalis and others. Considering the balance of immigration in favour of Malaya during the period 1921-1928, the total Indian population of Malaya including North Indians may be estimated at 680,000 approximately. About 70 per cent of them might be considered as labourers employed in rubber estates, tin mines, Government Departments such as Railways, Public Works Department, Harbour Boards, Municipalities,

etc., firms and companies, and under private persons and small holdings. The rest are engaged in trade, business and the learned professions.

Arrivals in 1928 and sex Ratio. - Owing to unemployment or under-employment of Indian labour consequent on the Rubber Restriction scheme there was a considerable fall in the volume of emigration to Malaya during 1928. The total arrivals in Malaya numbered 63,072 as compared with 156,132 of 1927; on the other hand there was considerable increase in the number of departures, the total for 1928 numbering 91,252 as against 84,767 of 1927. The sex-ratio among the number of assisted emigrants in Malaya registered an improvement in 1928, as the proportion in 1928 stood at 1.8 male to 1 female, as against 2.8, 3.3, the four preceding years. Exemption of Malaya from the operation of the sex ratio rule was in force till the end of the year. During November 1928, the Controller of Labour, Malaya, visited Delhi and conferred with the Government of India on important matters affecting the welfare of Indian emigrants in Malaya; and as a result of the discussions that took place there, further exemption has been granted for a period of 18 months from 1st January 1929.

Repatriation. - A phenomenal increase in the number of decrepit and destitute Indians repatriated during 1928 is noticeable; 18,147 persons, including 4,328 minors, were repatriated during 1928 as compared with 9,495 persons including 1,802 minors in 1927; 3,205 in 1926; 2,271 in 1925 and 2,032 in 1924. Repatriates are provided with free clothing wherever necessary, and given free rail and steamer passages till they reach their houses in South India. They are also paid a cash bonus of Rs.10 in addition. The cost of repat-

riation is borne in part or in whole by the Governments concerned, the Indian Immigration Fund, and employers of labour, according to the circumstances of each case, The repatriates were also supplied during the year with mats and tin cups during their voyage. On the whole, the sum of \$443,249 is stated to have been spent on repatriation during 1928.

Economic position of Indian labourers: Work and Wages.- The Indian Immigration Committee during 1928 fixed as standard wages 50 cents for men, 40 cents for women, and 20 cents for children over ~~then~~ years and above. These rates were approved by the Federated Malay States and were notified as coming into force on 1st February 1929. The rule evoked considerable opposition from the Planters' Associations, but it is hoped the new rule will have the effect of raising the general wage level to 50 cents for ~~men~~ men and 40 cents women, in the case of estates and other private places of employment. In the case of inaccessible, more costly, and less healthy areas the higher rates <sup>75 cents for men & 46 cents for women</sup> were legally adopted. Instances, however, are not rare where estate managers have attempted to lower the rates even in areas <sup>the new rule was</sup> where introduced. Such cases are reported to the Controller of Labour on ~~deduction~~ <sup>to</sup> detection. Besides direct attempts at breaking the new wage rules, private employers attempt to avoid the payment of standard wages by such evasive methods as payment of labourers engaged in weeding, tapping, etc, on a task work basis instead of by the day-wage system. The consent of the labourer for such tasks, as required by the law, is more often assumed than really taken; and the ignorant and illiterate Indian labourer submits without demur to ~~any~~ task that may be imposed on

him. Failure to complete the task on any day entails <sup>the loss of a</sup> a half day's wage. Cases of hardship have been brought to the notice of the Controller of Labour.

Hours of Work . - The existing labour laws provide that "no labourer shall be bound to work on more than six days in one week, or for more than six consecutive hours or more than nine hours a day of actual labour", but as a rule full nine hours work was rarely exacted from labourers. The introduction of standard wages has stiffened the attitude of employers, several of whom are now insistent on the exaction of nine hours work. Employers are expected to provide work for at least 24 days in a month, but the average number of actual working days often falls below this limit. The labourers have not yet fully come to know that they are entitled to demand work for 24 days, or wages for days of enforced idleness.

Cost of living: Co-operative Societies. - The cost of living is considerably higher than in India. Some of the provision shops on estates run by persons in authority over the labourers charge unreasonably high prices. A system of co-operative purchase and distribution amongst the labourers might be introduced with advantage. The report states that at the end of 1928 there were 19 registered societies with a membership of 3,794 labourers having to their credit \$38,469 as share. Subscription, as against 8 societies at the end of 1927. The labour laws do not permit employers to make ~~any~~ deductions from the labourers' wages except for the supply of provisions, or the payment <sup>small</sup> ~~large~~ of cash advances in anticipation of wages. Hence, indebtedness is not widespread among the labourers.

Health, Welfare and Housing . - In 1928 the number of deaths was

much in excess of the number of births; but this was largely due to the lesser number of females. Malaria and pneumonia were the chief causes for the larger percentage of deaths. Under the labour laws, employers are obliged to provide sufficient housing accommodation, fresh and wholesome water supply, and other necessary amenities. Not more than three single men, nor more than a single family may be accommodated in a standard room of 10' by 10'. Labourers living with their wives and children are to be housed separately from single men and bachelors as far as possible.

Legislation. - Important amendments were passed during the year to the Federated Malay States Labour Code, 1923, and to the corresponding Straits Settlements Labour Ordinance, the chief amendments being :-

- (i) recognition of contracts for skilled work entered into in British India,
- (ii) boarding of immigrant ~~xxxx~~ vessels by the Agent of the Government of India,
- (iii) publication of abstracts of labour law in the vernacular for the information and guidance of Indian labourers,
- (iv) fixing of Standard Wages for working minors,
- (v) penalty for non-payment of standard wages,
- (vi) allotments of land at one-sixteenth of an acre for cattle grazing or for garden cultivation, and
- (vii) issue of permits regarding supply of rice and provisions.

A further Amendment Enactment to the Federated Malay States Labour Code to ensure proper housing, health and sanitation on places of employment other than estates and mines was also passed during the year.

A consolidated law relating to vagrants was also passed during the year, whereby able-bodied beggars may be arrested and detained in custody and sent to work in Settlements to be created under

that law. A proviso was inserted that the powers of repatriating Indian labourers possessed by the Controller of Labour should not be affected by this Enactment.

An ordinance entitled the Immigration Restriction Ordinance was passed in the Straits Settlements, whereby the Government could prohibit or restrict the arrival of immigrants from China or India by the issue of a Proclamation in times of emergency. On representation made by the Government of India, a clause was added to it enabling the Agent of the Government of India to board steamers conveying Indian emigrants on their arrival.

The labour laws of the States of Kelantan and Brunei were amended in several important respects so as to provide greater amenities for Indian immigrant labourers working in those States.

Strikes .- There were no serious strikes or disturbances among Indian labourers during 1928. Some minor strike on account of insufficiency of wages, excessiveness of tasks, illtreatment or other causes were settled without much trouble through the intervention of the Agent of the British Government in Malaya.

The report summarises the general position of 1928 thus :-  
 "The economic position of the masses of the community has distinctly advanced during this period; this is a matter of utmost importance for the future progress of the community. Several important laws tending to the welfare of the community have been placed on the Statute Book. Considerable impetus has been given to the spread of the Co-operative Thrift movement amongst the community. The community has secured representation in the Federal Council and its claim for representation in State Councils has also been recognised.

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Important questions connected with Education, Health, Toddy drinking, Land Settlement, etc., have come to the forefront and are being seriously considered. Much has been achieved; but much yet remains to be done. The community is yet in a formative stage; and its future will in a large measure depend upon the manner in which its activities are guided at the present juncture."



The All India Trade Union Congress  
10th Session, Nagpur.

4 JANV 1930

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The tenth session of the All India Trade Union Congress was held at Nagpur on the 30th November and the 1st December 1929, under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The session was an eventful one. As it was apprehended from the beginning that momentous issues affecting Indian labour in general and Indian trade union movement in particular would come up for discussion at the present session, there was a record attendance of trade union leaders and delegates. Of the 51 unions on the register of the Congress 50 were represented at the Congress.

Signs were not wanting even long before the session of the Congress to show that the extremist left wing of the Indian labour movement, which is popularly believed to be deriving its inspiration from Moscow, would make a determined bid for capturing the Congress and for committing it to a policy incompatible with legitimate trade unionism. Even at the 9th session of the A.I.T.U.C. held at Jharia in December 1928, this left wing was very much in evidence, and it was due to their persistent opposition that many measures which are in reality acceptable to the rank and file of Indian labour, were held up or condemned. Thus the proposal to hold an Asiatic Labour Conference according to the agreement arrived at between Messrs. Joshi and Suzuki in 1925 and Messrs. Chaman Lall and Yonekubo in 1928 was interpreted by them as a step taken at the bidding of an "imperialistic" government to check the influence of such organisations as the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat and the League against Imperialism. There was also an attempt to non-co-operate with the International Labour Organisation, once again on the

ground that it was an organisation composed of imperialistic states. The same ground was advanced for voting down a proposition to affiliate the A.I.T.U.C. with the International Federation of Trade Unions at Amsterdam. In spite of their opposition, however, wiser counsels prevailed, and but for the fact that the moderate labour leaders permitted themselves to be hustled into voting in favour of the resolution affiliating the A.I.T.U.C. with the League against Imperialism for a period of one year only, the Conference at Jharia was a technical victory for the moderates.

In the elections for the office bearers for 1930 the communists once again pursued their tactics, with the result that the moderates and their supporters were constrained to vote for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for the presidential chair. Pandit Jawaharlal calls himself a socialist, and though an admirer of Soviet policy and methods, does not call himself a communist. It was on this ground that the moderates gave him their support in his election. That the new president was determined to change the complexion of the A.I.T.U.C. and convert it into a political organisation was apparent from the proceedings of the first meeting of the Executive Council of the A.I.T.U.C which was held under his chairmanship (a report of this meeting of the Executive Council has been sent to Geneva along with my minute C 3/581/29, dated 6-6-1929). At that meeting the usual objections were brought forward to co-operating with the Whitley Commission and to sending a labour delegation to the International Labour Conference; but due to the restraining influence of Mr. N.M. Joshi, the Council agreed not to withhold the labour delegation from Geneva and to give each labour union in India complete discretion as to whether it should co-operate or not with the Whitley Commission. Since then both Pandit Jawaharlal

Nehru and the communist leaders have been carrying on a persistent propaganda in favour of boycotting the Commission.

It was in such an atmosphere that the tenth session of the A.I. T.U.C. met at Nagpur. The prolonged Bombay textile strike, which, under the inexperienced leadership of the Girni Kamgar Union, had fizzled out, had embittered the communist contingent from Bombay, and the rank and file of Indian labour were still feeling that the Meerut <sup>1920</sup> was an attack directed against the Indian labour movement. That these ideas and sentiments would find open expression in the Congress was a foregone conclusion; and this conclusion was justified by the events.

The proceedings of the open session of the Congress were preceded by animated meetings of the Executive Council, on the 29th, <sup>and</sup> 30th November and the 1st December. It is significant of the relative importance of the Congress and its Executive Council that while the open ~~session~~ proceedings of the Congress, which were more or less of a formal nature, occupied ~~nearly~~ two evenings on the 30th November and the 1st December, the meetings of the Executive Council took up nearly three days. It is, therefore, necessary to bestow some attention ~~of~~ ~~to~~ what happened at the meetings of the Executive Council in order that the proceedings of the open session of the Congress may be adjudged at their real value.

The first serious tussle that took place in the Executive Council was over the question of affiliations and reaffiliations. Under the constitution of the Congress, Article 4, sub-section (e), "no union shall be affiliated to the Congress which has not had its accounts and statement of paying members audited by a qualified auditor". Two unions which, between them claimed a membership of 70,000, viz., the Girni Kamgar Union with its alleged membership of 40,000 and the G.I.P.

Railwaymen's Union with its alleged membership of 30,000, claimed affiliation and recognition even though they failed to produce the necessary audited statements. It was common knowledge that the membership of these unions was very much exaggerated, and that the Girni Kamgar Union had in November 1929 barely a membership of over 4,000. The extremists fought a pitched battle over this issue, ~~and~~ as these Unions represented the most aggressive and militant elements in the Indian labour movement, and it was only with the help of the voting strength which these alleged figures would confer on their party that they could hope to secure a majority in the Congress. Even though the moderates pointed out how it would be a breach of the constitution to affiliate these two unions, the motion for affiliation was carried. In the case of the Girni Kamgar Union, where there was a tie, the president gave his casting vote in favour of affiliating it ~~and~~ on its alleged strength of 40,000. The Council then proceeded to consider what action the Congress should take with regard to the Whitley Commission, and after a very heated debate carried a motion calling upon all the unions to boycott the Commission. Messrs. Joshi and Chaman Lall pointed out in the course of this debate how, at many previous sessions of the Congress they had been asking the Government to appoint a Committee to investigate conditions of life and work of the Indian labourer and how therefore a resolution of this kind, if it were now accepted by the Congress, would stultify their past record. But their advice did not prevail. The Executive then condemned the Viceroy's move to summon a representative round table conference to settle the future constitution of India, and decided also not to send further delegations to the International Labour Conferences, not only on the ground already alluded to above, but also on the ground that the prospect of a free trip to

Geneva at Government's expense has had a corrupting influence on the Indian labour movement. It also affirmed its opinion that the proposed Asiatic Labour Conference was designed to counter the growing influence of the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat and the League against Imperialism and, therefore, resolved to recommend to the Congress that Indian labour should not be represented at the proposed conference.

The last ~~and~~ important decision taken by the Executive was to recommend to the Congress the affiliation of the A.I.T.U.C. to the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat. Messrs. Joshi, Chaman Lall, Shiva Rao, Giri, Bakhale and their followers in the Indian labour movement felt that the nature of the decisions taken at the Executive Council of the A.I.T.U.C. was such that they could not continue to co-operate with those who were responsible for this resolution, and since these later had a majority in the Congress, they felt it necessary to secede from the Congress and organise themselves into a new body called the All India Trade Union Federation. At the first meeting of the open session of the Congress on the 30th November, the President read out a statement signed by Messrs. Joshi, Chaman Lall and representatives of 24 trade unions informing him that they did not propose to attend the Congress or to keep within its fold any longer.

The first meeting of the open session of the Congress was held, as previously stated, on 30-11-1929. In his opening speech, the President advocated the setting up of a socialist order of society in India in which the interests of the workers would be supreme. In his judgment the Whitley Commission was bound to be a "useless show" and he, therefore, recommended that it should be boycotted. The record of the British Labour Government did not justify the Indian worker reposing any trust in them, and the requisite atmosphere for the successful functioning

of the Commission was lacking because of the Government's repressive policy as evidenced by the arrests of Indian trade unionists, the Meerut prosecutions, and the passing of the Trade Disputes Act, and the promulgation of the Public Safety Ordinance. He expressed himself against the idea of affiliating the Congress to any foreign organisation since the Amsterdam International stood for labour imperialism and the Red International has recently been developing methods which he could not appreciate. Defining his own political position he said that he still stood for independence and that the Labour Government's offer of the Round Table Conference was only a new diversion.

The resolutions which were passed by the Executive Council were then formally presented to the Congress and accepted by it, with the important exception of the resolution affiliating the Congress to the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat. Even though at the open session of the Congress only the extremist wings were represented, owing to the secession of the moderate leaders and their followers, yet they reversed their own decisions in the Executive Council, and deferred the question of affiliation with the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat for another year.

The following office bearers were then elected for 1930:-

President - Mr. Subash Chandra Bose, Vice-Presidents - Messrs. D.B. Kulkarni, Kandalkar, B.N. Dutta, R.S. Chandrika Prasad, and B.C. Chatterji, Secretary - Mr. S.V. Deshpande, and Treasurer - Mr. Ginwalla.

The tenth session of the Congress ended on the 1st December 1929, after deciding that the next session should be held in Bombay.

Special attention is invited to an article entitled the "Indian Labour Movement and the Nagpur Split" appearing at page 12 of the "Times of India" of December 18, 1929. This article is based upon the information confidentially imparted to Mr. Byrt, the representative of the Times of India at New Delhi, by the Director of the New Delhi Office.

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## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

## Indian Branch

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Report for December 1929.Contents.

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General.

Ever since the announcement by the Viceroy of the Government's intention to hold a Round Table Conference to discuss the <sup>future of</sup> Indian constitutional development, there has been great speculation in the country as to how the various political parties would react to it. The extreme wings have not concealed their apprehensions that no good will come out of the Conference. On the morning of the day on which the Viceroy was to <sup>discuss the subject with</sup> ~~meet~~ Mr. Patel, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Motilal Nehru, Mr. Jinnah and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, an attempt was made to bomb the viceregal train, <sup>thus</sup> showing that revolutionary activities or the activities of agents-provocateurs were still continuing. The Conference between the Viceroy and the leaders, as has been pointed out elsewhere, came to nothing, and the Indian National Congress has now adopted complete independence as the political objective of India and has spurned the offer ~~of~~ the Round Table Conference.

Following the resolution adopted at the Congress, several members both of the Central and of the Provincial Legislatures have already tendered their resignations. Among these are Pandit Motilal Nehru and Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar. But an effort is being made by one section of the Congress Party to postpone their resignations till after the budget session of the Indian Legislative Assembly, and several of those who have already resigned are standing for re-election, thereby showing that they ~~do~~ not approve of the Congress resolution calling for the boycott of the councils.

It is in this atmosphere of shifting politics and uncertain programmes that the winter session of the Indian Legislative Assembly opened on 20-1-1930. The abstention of the Swarajist members has

altered the relative strengths of the parties in the Assembly, and Pandit Malaviya, the Leader of the Nationalist group, has now become the leader of the opposition, though the Independent Party under the leadership of Mr. Jinnah is likely to eclipse the official opposition in the exercise of actual influence and power because of its superiority in debating talents and mastery of parliamentary tactics.

In spite of the cordial <sup>personal</sup> relations between President Patel and Lord Irwin, the tug of war between the President and the Government of India still continues. The official opposition has now made it clear that if the Government benches were to encourage the Muslim members of the Assembly, who practically obey the Government whips, to bring forward a vote of censure on the Chair, they would also walk out of the House, leaving the Assembly to be filled by Government officials and their adherents of the Muslim group. It is, therefore, expected, that President Patel will continue in office till the end of the session which, it is now definitely known, has been extended up to 31st July 1930.

On account of the weakness of the Opposition, the Government are likely to have it all their own way during this session. Thus the question of the ratification or otherwise of the Geneva convention on Minimum Wages has been put off for two years when the Whitley Commission is expected to submit its report; Mr. S.N. Haji's controversial bill for the reservation of coastal traffic is to be re-circulated; and Mr. B. Das's efforts to indianise the staff of the Imperial Bank of India have met with no success in the House.

It may here be added that the withdrawal of the Swarajists from their seats in the Legislative Assembly has provided an opportunity for the liberalx politicians, some of whom are now standing for election to the seats vacated by the Swarajists. Among these are

Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer of Madras and Sir Chimanlal Setalvad of Bombay.

On the last day of February this year the Budget of the Government of India is likely to be presented to the House. It is going to be rather a trying season for the I.L.O. as it is understood that some of the Indian members in the House contemplate raising a discussion on the report of the Credentials Committee regarding Mr. Browne at the 13th Conference on a token cut in the contribution made by the Government of India to Geneva.

The report of the Indian Central Committee co-operating with the Simon Commission was published on ~~23rd~~ 23-12-1929, but in view of the Viceroy's affirmation of Dominion Status as the political goal of India, and the offer of the Round Table Conference, the report fell rather flat. The Report recommends a considerable measure of advance towards Dominion Status, ~~the proposals~~ including self-government in the provinces, responsible Cabinet Government in the Central Government with the reservation of defence and relations with foreign powers and the Indian States. While the main report is signed by six members, most of these have submitted notes of dissent and separate memoranda.

The Ceylon Legislative Council accepted the Donoughmore Reforms proposals by 19 votes to 17 on 12-12-1929.

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The Indian National Congress: 44th Session.

The 44th Session of the Indian National Congress was held at Lahore from the 29th December 1929 to the 1st January 1930 under the presidency of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (A brief account of the 43rd session of the Congress held at Calcutta under the presidency of Pandit Motilal Nehru from 29th December 1928 to 1st January 1929 is given at pages 3-11 of the report of this Office for January, 1929).

Besides the Congress, about thirty other conferences were held at Lahore during the Congress Week, of which the following are among the more important :- Hindusthani Seva Dal, Teachers' Conference, Kirti Kisan (peasants') Conference, Social Conference, State Subjects' Conference, Library Conference, Rashtra Bhasha (Indian languages) Conference, Arya Mohila (Women's) Conference, Nava Jiwan Conference, Bhatia Conference, Indian Christian Conference, Depressed Class Conference, Political Sufferers' Conference, Hindu Conference, Students' Conference, Theistic Conference, Medical Conference, Temperance Conference, Jat Pat Torak (Anti - caste) Conference, Cow Conference, Khilafat Conference.

The 12th session of the National Liberal Federation (political association of Indian Moderates) was held at Madras on 29-12-29 under the presidency of Sir Pheroze Sethna. [For a right appreciation of the issues confronting the Lahore Congress a brief review of the main political developments since the last Congress is necessary.]

It will be remembered that the Congress at its last session held in Calcutta had passed the following resolution defining the political goal of India and laying out the line of policy to be adopted by the country :-

"Subject to the exigencies of the political situation, this Congress will adopt the Nehru constitution if it is accepted in ~~its~~ its entirety by the British Parliament on or before the 31st December 1929; but in the event of its non-acceptance, by that date or its earlier rejection, the Congress will organise a campaign of non-violent non-co-operation by advising the country to refuse taxation and in such other manner as may be decided upon" (see page 7 of the report of this Office for January, 1929).

The resolution was tantamount to an ultimatum<sup>to</sup> the Government that in the event of the Nehru Report not being accepted by the Government before 31-12-1929 the country will have recourse to mass civil disobedience. In view of the seriousness of the situation, Lord Irwin left for England towards the close of the year to hold personal consultations with the British Cabinet, and soon after his return to India, announced the decisions arrived at as the result of his conferences with the Cabinet, in a Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 31st October 1929. The main point<sup>of</sup> of the announcement was ~~that~~ that the Viceroy, speaking on behalf of His Majesty's Government, stated clearly that the natural issue of India's constitutional progress as contemplated in the declaration of 1917 is the attainment of Dominion Status. The announcement further stated ~~that it was Government's intention~~ that after the publication of the reports of the Simon Commission and the Indian Central Committee, but before the stage is reached of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, a conference ~~should~~ be called in which His Majesty's Government ~~should~~ meet representatives both of British India and of the States for the purpose of seeking the greatest possible measure of agreement for the final proposals which the Government would later on submit to

Parliament. The Leaders' Conference held at Delhi on the 1st and 2nd November 1929 to consider the Viceroy's offer of a Round Table Conference, while welcoming the announcement stated that the necessary conditions precedent to the success of the Conference were (1) that a general policy of conciliation should be adopted by the Government, (2) a general amnesty should be given to political prisoners, and (3) that in the Round Table Conference the Congress group should be accorded predominant representation. ~~The~~

[The atmosphere of good-will created by the Viceroy's announcement was strengthened by the following resolution moved by Mr. Fenner Brockway and which was passed by the House of Commons on 18-12-29:-

"This House welcomes the evidence of co-operation of Indian representatives on the question of constitutional reform in India and relies on the Government of India to encourage good will by the sympathetic conduct of its administrative and executive functions, particularly in relation to expressions of political opinion." Mr. Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for India, declared in the course of his speech that the proposed Round ~~Table~~ Table Conference would meet with absolutely free hands, and referring to the tendency in Congress circles to impose conditions on the Conference, significantly declared that "the winning card was argument and the losing card non-co-operation". [In view of the hesitancy shown by Congress leaders to accept the Round Table Conference suggestion unreservedly, a conference of five leaders, namely, Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Motilal Nehru, Mr. V. J. Patel (President of the Assembly), Sir T.B.Sapru and Mr. Jinnah with the Viceroy was arranged to take place on 23-12-29. The Conference of which much was hoped ended in failure owing to fundamental dif-

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fer<sup>en</sup>ces of opinion. The Congress leaders insisted on the immediate grant of Dominion Status as a condition precedent to Congressmen's participation in the Round Table Conference, while the Moderate leaders, Sir T.B.Sapru and Mr. Jinnah, urged that it should be left open to the participants in the Round Table Conference to ask for the grant of Dominion Status and to discuss the question with all its implications (Times of India 25-12-29). An official statement issued on 23-12-29 declared that the Viceroy stated that while the conference was designed to elicit the greatest possible measure of agreement, it was impossible for him or His Majesty's Government in any way to prejudge the action of the conference or to restrict the the liberty of Parliament. The most important issue before the Lahore session was thus whether the Congress should accept the Viceroy's offer of a Round Table Conference, or whether it should with doctrinaire insistence maintain that in the event of the Nehru Report being not accepted by Government by 31-12-29 it should act upon the resolution sponsored by Mahatma Gandhi at Calcutta and declare for complete independence.

In his presidential address, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, whose elevation to the presidency is a testimony to the increasing strength of the youth movement in India, declared that the Nehru constitution had to be scrapped and independence had to be declared as the future goal of India as the conditions for co-operation laid down in the Calcutta Congress remained unfulfilled. Outlining the future constitution of an independent India, he declared that ~~that~~ the three major problems of ~~the~~ minorities, the Indian States, and labour and ~~the~~ peasantry, will have to be tackled in a spirit of social good will and religious toleration, and with a determination

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to remove the dominance of one class by another by the acceptance of socialistic ideals. For forging effective sanctions to enforce the national will, he suggested mass civil obedience and boycott of legislatures in the political sphere complemented by boycott of British goods in the economic sphere.

The presidential address gave a true indication of the temper of the Congress and of the nature of the decisions it was finally to adopt. The following is the full text of the resolution moved by Mahatma Gandhi and adopted by the Congress with regard to the independence issue, as also with regard to the boycott of the legislatures, municipal and local bodies :- "This Congress, whilst endorsing the action of the Working Committee in connection with the manifesto signed by the party leaders, including Congressmen, in connection with the Viceregal Pronouncement of the 31st October relating to Dominion Status, and appreciating the efforts of H.E. the Viceroy towards a peaceful settlement of the national movement for Swaraj, and having considered the result of the meeting between the Viceroy and Pandit Motilal Nehru and other leaders, is of opinion that nothing is to be gained in the existing circumstances by the Congress being represented at the proposed Round Table Conference; and in pursuance of the resolution passed at the Calcutta Congress last year, this Congress now declares that "Swaraj" in the Congress creed shall mean complete independence, and therefore further declares the Nehru scheme of Dominion Status to have lapsed, and hopes all parties in the Congress will devote their exclusive attention to the attainment of complete independence, and hopes also that those who were prevented from joining the Congress or were actuated to keep away from it by whom the tentative solution of the communal problem suggested in the Nehru constitution has prevented from joining the Congress or actuated them to abstain from it, will now join or rejoin the Congress



and zealously <sup>work for</sup> ~~prosecute~~ the common goal; And as a preliminary step towards organising a campaign for independence and in order to make the Congress policy consistent with the change of creed, this <sup>Congress</sup> declares a boycott of the central and provincial legislatures and municipal and local bodies, and calls upon Congressmen to abstain from participating, directly or indirectly, in the legislatures or municipal or local bodies in future, and the present members of the Legislatures or municipal and local bodies to tender their ~~resignation~~ resignation; And this Congress ~~is~~ calls upon the nation to concentrate its attention upon the constructive programme of the Congress and authorises the All-India Congress Committee, whenever it deems fit, to launch a programme of civil disobedience, ~~including~~ including non-payment of taxes, whether in selected areas or otherwise and under such safeguards as it may consider necessary. [The resolution was keenly debated in the Working Committee and the All-India Congress Committee. In the open session of the Congress several amendments to the resolution were moved. Pandit Malaviya's amendment for postponing the making of changes in the creed of the Congress till after an All-Parties' Conference in March or April, 1930, Mr. N.C.Kelkar's amendment urging deletion of the clause in the resolution relating to boycott of legislatures, Mr. Subash Chander Bose's amendment, which went further than the original resolution in that it advocated boycott of the law courts as well, Mr. Satyamurty's amendment to omit the words indicative of non-co-operation with the proposed Round Table Conference and the boycott of legislatures, are among the more important of the 14 amendments to the resolution moved in the open congress and which were all rejected by the Congress.

<sup>ultimately</sup> Mahatma Gandhi's resolution was adopted by the Congress consisting of about 1500 delegates with only a dozen delegates voting against.

Among the more important of the other resolutions passed by the Congress were the following :-

"This Congress deplores the bomb outrage perpetrated on the Viceroy's train, and reiterates its own conviction that such action is not only contrary to the creed of the Congress, but results in ~~in~~ harm being done to the national cause. It congratulates the Viceroy and Lady Irwin and their party including the poor servants on their fortunate and narrow escape." [ "This Congress is of ~~the~~ opinion that the financial burdens directly or indirectly imposed on India by the foreign administration are such as a free India cannot bear and cannot be expected to bear."

"This Congress, while re-affirming the resolution passed by the Gaya Congress in 1922, records its opinion for the information of all concerned that every obligation and concession to be inherited by independent India will be strictly subject to investigation by an independent tribunal and every obligation and every concession, no matter how incurred or given, will be repudiated if it is not found by such a tribunal to be just and justifiable ."

Resolutions congratulating the East African Indians on the clear national stand they took upon the problem there, and affirming that no solution of the question that accepts communal electorates and is based upon a discriminating franchise, or imposes a disqualification on Indians holding property, can satisfy the nation; condemning the refusal of passports to return to India to Mr. Saklatwala and others living in foreign countries; opining that the time has arrived for the Ruling Princes of India to grant responsible government to their subjects; and fixing that future sessions of the Congress should be held in February or March, instead of in December

as at present, were also passed by the Congress.

The next session of the Congress will be held at Karachi. The Congress elected Dr. Syed Mahmood (Bihar), and Mr. Sri Prakash (Benares), as Secretaries, and reappointed Seth Jammalal Bajaj and Mr. Sivaprasad Gupta as Treasurers.

The close of the Congress witnessed acute differences of opinion between the various parties in the Congress. The party in power headed by Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Motilal ~~Nh~~ Nehru, and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru (President) is determined on carrying on the programme as defined at Lahore, and with this purpose in view ~~have~~ in choosing the Working Committee of the Congress for the year selected only those who are in complete agreement with the Congress programme, excluding Mr. S. C. Bose, Mr. Srinivas Iyengar and others, who differ on details. <sup>The principle</sup> that the Working Committee should form a sort of Cabinet working on the principle of joint responsibility and agreement on all essential questions did not appeal to a section of the Congressmen, who under the leadership of Messrs Srinivas Iyengar, S.C. Bose, and Satyamurti walked out of the All-India Congress Committee and formed a new party inside the Congress called the Congress Democratic Party. Another party headed by Pandit Malaviya, Mr. N. C. Kelker and Dr. Moonje is opposing the council boycott programme of the Congress and has asked members of the Central Legislature to postpone resignations till the 18th January, when a common plan of action is to be decided upon. Meanwhile, in response to the Congress mandate, a good number of resignations, from both the Central and Provincial Legislatures, have already been tendered.

References to the I.L.O.

The Times of India of 9-12-29 publishes the account of an interview with Mr. G. Sethi, adviser to the workers' delegate to the 12th Session of the I.L. Conference, who returned to India on 6-12-29. Mr. Sethi, who after the conference visited England, France, Germany and Russia, in the course of the interview said that he was struck much by the progress made in Russia and was favourably impressed by the way in which the Soviet Government dealt with the problems of minorities, languages and races. According to Mr. Sethi, a noteworthy feature in the Russian workshops and factories is what is called the "wall paper", through which the workers voiced their grievances and offered suggestions for the better management of undertakings.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Hindu of 16-12-29 publishes the list of persons nominated by the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, to constitute the employers' delegation to the 14th Session of the Conference. The following are the names suggested :-

Delegate, Mr. Amritlal Ojha, M.L.C., (Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta); advisers, Messrs. Mukerjee (Punjab Chamber of Commerce), J.K. Mehta (Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay), Ramjidas Vaishya, (Gwalior Chamber of Commerce), and Ganganand Sinha, M.L.A., (Bihar and Orissa Chamber).

\* \* \* \* \*

Special letters from the Hindu's special correspondent at Geneva appear in that paper's issues of 3-12-29 and 18-12-29.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Hindu of 15-12-29 and the Pioneer of 19-12-29 publish brief accounts of the activities of the League of Nations Malaria Commission in Mysore.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Pioneer of 20-12-29 publishes a leading article reviewing Lady Simon's (wife of Sir John Simon) book "Slavery", in the course of which appreciative references are made to the efforts of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office to eradicate slavery.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Pioneer of 29-12-29 in a leaderette refers to the recent decision of the Governments of India, Australia and South Africa not to participate in the preliminary conference to discuss the draft conclusion for a tariff truce, and points out that the independent attitude adopted by India in this connection proves that, despite assertions to the contrary, India is not forced <sup>by Britain,</sup> to subordinate her interests, or to play a subsidiary role at Geneva.

\* \* \* \* \*

According to the Hindu of 29-11-29 the Employees' Association of Calcutta has recommended Mr. Mukunda Lall Sircar, President of the Employees' Association, Calcutta, and Mr. Anath Bandhu Datta, General Secretary of the Calcutta Corporation Employees' Association, for nomination as delegate and adviser respectively of the workers' delegation to the 14th I. L. Conference.

\* \* \* \* \*

The report of the abstract of the proceedings of the Bengal

Chamber of Commerce for November, 1929 (No.313) makes reference to the communique issued by the Government of India on 15-10-29 regarding the 14th Session of the I.L.Conference. The Chamber has recommended that Sir George Godfrey should be nominated by Government as the delegate of the employers to the conference.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Indian Social Reformer in its issue of 7-12-29 publishes a paragraph about the establishment of the Open Door International at Geneva, and points out that though the Open Door International is particularly interested in the I.L. Conference and the I.L. Office, it exists for the purpose of "combating special restrictions placed on women based on sex alone, many of which have been spread to all countries through the influence of the I. L. Organisation".

\* \* \* \* \*

The Servant of India of 26-12-29 publishes reviews of two books "The Problem of Industrial Relations and ~~the~~ Other Lectures" by Henry Clay, and "The New Industrial Revolution and Wages" by W. Jett Lauck (contributed by the Director of this office) in the course of which references are made to the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Labour Gazette, Bombay, in its issue of November, 1929 (Vol.IX, No. 3) publishes at pages 231 - 241 the views of ten employers' and six employees' associations on the questionnaire issued by the I.L.Office on the international regulation of hours of work of salaried employees. In the same issue, is published at pages 242 - 258 the questionnaire issued by the International Labour Office on forced labour.

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, in its issue of November and December, 1929 (Vol.VII, Nos 2 & 3 ), at pages 34 to 41 publishes an article by the Director of this Office entitled "Geneva and the Worker".

\* \* \* \* \*

The "Progress of Education", Poona, in its (Quarterly) issue of November, 1929, (Vol.VI, No. 5) publishes at pages 2 to 9 an article by the Director of this office on "I.L.O. and Educational Bodies". The same article is published at pages 621-626 of the November, 1929 (Vol. XXXV, No. 11) issue of the "Educational Review", Madras, and in "Education", Cawnpore, at pages 413 - 419 of its October, 1929 (Vol. VIII, No. 10) issue. (Copies of these journals have been forwarded to Geneva)

\* \* \* \* \*

The "Stri Dharma" at pages 515 - 521 of its September and October, 1929 (Vol.XII, Nos. 10 and 12) issue publishes an article by the Deputy Director of this office entitled "A Plea for Protective Legislation for Indian Women Workers", in which appreciative references are made to the efforts of the I.L.O. to ~~improve~~ better the conditions of women workers. (A copy of the Stri Dharma has been forwarded to Geneva).

\* \* \* \* \*

The Hindu Annual for 1929 publishes an article entitled "International Labour Organisation - The Work of the Indian Branch" contributed by the Director of this office. (A copy of the Annual has been forwarded to Geneva).

The Hindustan Times Congress Number (December, 1929) publishes at pages 17 and 36 an article contributed by the Director of this office under the caption "The League and Labour". (A copy of the Congress Number has been forwarded to Geneva).



Bombay Presidency Area (Emergency) Security Act.

At page 16 of the report of this office for October, 1929, reference was made to the Bombay Presidency Area (Emergency) Security Bill, with the note that a copy of the Bill when passed into law will be incorporated in a future report. (See also pages 21-27 of the report of this office for the period 15-31 July, 1929). The report of the Select Committee on the Bill was published on the 17th September 1929 and their main recommendations were (1) that the life of the Act should be limited to five years, (2) that "Presidency Area" should include only the City of Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District and (3) the addition of a new clause (clause 8) to provide for every order passed by the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate under clause 5 to be automatically reviewed by a Committee to be appointed by Government in this behalf. The Bill as amended by the Select Committee was discussed by the Council on four days, i.e., from the 1st to the 4th October 1929, and thereafter passed into law. The Act received the assent of the Governor General on 19th November 1929, and was published in the Bombay Government Gazette dated 19th November. The following is the full text of the Act :-

BOMBAY ACT NO. XVII of 1929.

(First published, after having received the assent of the Governor General in the "Bombay Government Gazette" on the 19th November 1929.)

An Act for safeguarding life and property  
in the Presidency Area in times of  
emergency.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision in manner hereinafter appearing for the safeguarding of life and property in the Presidency Area in times of emergency;

And whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of

5 & 6 India Act has been obtained for the passing of  
Geo. V, this Act;  
c. 61.

It is hereby enacted as follows :-

1. This Act may be called the Presidency Area (Emergency)

Short title Security Act, 1929.

2. (1) This Act shall extend to the whole of the Presidency

Extent, commence- of Bombay and shall remain in force for  
ment and duration. five years.

(2) Section 5 shall come into force on the date or dates on which a state of emergency is declared under section 4 and shall continue in force for three months from such date or dates. The rest of the Act shall come into force at once.

3. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the

Definitions subject or context, -

"Presidency Area" means the City of Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District.

4. The Local Government, if satisfied that the public tranquillity and security of life and property in the Presidency Area

Power to declare or any part thereof are endangered, may  
state of emergency. at any time, by notification in the  
Bombay Government Gazette, declare that a state of emergency exists  
and shall set forth the reasons for such declaration in the notification.

5. Whenever the Commissioner of Police or District Magistrate exercising jurisdiction in the Presidency Area is satisfied

Power to order removal that any person within his  
of turbulent character.

jurisdiction is committing or has committed or is about to commit or is assisting, abetting or inciting by words either spoken or written the commission of

(a) a non-bailable offence against any person or property, or

(b) the offence of criminal intimidation, or

(c) any offence involving a breach of the peace, so as to be a danger to or cause or be likely to cause alarm to the inhabitants of the Presidency Area or any section thereof, the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, may, subject to the control of the Local Government, by written order briefly stating his reasons therein direct such person to remove himself from the Presidency Area within such time and by such route as may be specified in the order and not to return thereto for a period (not exceeding six months) to be specified in the order without the written permission of the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be.

(2) An order under sub-section (1) against any person may, unless the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, is satisfied in respect of such person that both he and his father were born in the Presidency of Bombay or that he is a member of a family which has settled in the Presidency of Bombay and is himself so settled, direct that such person shall remove himself from the Presidency of Bombay within such time and by such route as may be specified in the order and shall not return thereto for a period (not exceeding six months) to be specified in the order save with the written permission of the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be.

(3) An order under sub-section (1) shall be served personally on

the person against whom it is directed in such manner as the authority making the order thinks fit.

6. (1) Before making an order under section 5 the Commissione of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, shall

<del>Procedure to be</del> -----:	give an opportunity to the person
adopted in making :	
<del>order under section 5.</del> -----:	against whom the order is proposed

to be made to show cause against the order, and shall consider such representation as he may make verbally or in writing.

(2) Within forty-eight hours from the ~~the~~ making of an order under section 5 the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, shall forward in writing to the Local Government his reasons for making the order.

7. When by an order under section 5 any person has been directed to remove himself from the Presidency of Bombay and has

<del>Power to modify order</del> -----:	complied with the order, or when
<del>under section 5.</del> -----:	any person has been removed in

police custody outside the Presidency of Bombay under section 10, the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, may, of his own motion or upon application made to him in this behalf, if he is satisfied that both such person and the father of such person were born in the Presidency of Bombay or the such person is a member of a family which has definitely settled in the Presidency of Bombay and is himself so settled, modify the order in such manner as to permit such person to return to and remain in any part of the Presidency of Bombay outside the Presidency Area.

8. (1) As soon as possible after the issue of a notification under section 4 the Local Government shall appoint a committee

consisting of such number of persons as it thinks fit for the  
Review      §      purpose of reviewing, in manner hereinafter  
provided, the orders passed under section 5:

Provided that at least one member of such committee shall be a  
person who for a period of not less than ten years

(1) has held any judicial office in the service of the Crown  
in India, or

(11) has been a Barrister, Advocate, Pleader, Attorney, or  
Solicitor of any court in British India.

(2) Every order passed by the Commissioner of Police or the  
District Magistrate, as the case may be, under section 5 shall, as  
soon as possible, be forwarded by him together with the relevant  
papers of the case to the committee appointed under sub-section (1).

(3) When an order has been served on any person under section  
5 and has been complied with by him, he or any agent authorized by  
him in writing may, within fifteen days of such service, file a  
representation before the committee appointed under sub-section (1)  
giving reasons why such order should be modified or revoked.

(4) The committee shall, within one month from the date of  
service of an order under sub-section (1) of section 5, examine the  
proceedings relating to such order and shall consider such repre-  
sentation as may be made to it under sub-section (3) and shall  
forward the same together with its recommendation thereon to the  
Local Government who may confirm, modify or revoke the order.

9. When an order has been served on any person under section  
~~Right of appeal~~      §      5 and has been complied with by him, he or  
an agent authorised by him in writing may  
petition the Local Government to revoke or modify the order and  
thereupon the Local Government shall consider such facts and

circumstances relating to the case as may be placed before it, and may confirm, modify or revoke the order.

10. Any person who, having been directed by an order made ~~Failure to comply~~ and served on him under section 5 - ~~with order~~

- (a) to remove himself from the Presidency Area or from the Presidency of Bombay, fails to remove himself therefrom within the time specified in the order,
- (b) not to return to the Presidency Area or the Presidency of Bombay within a specified period, returns thereto within such period without the written permission of the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be,

may be arrested without a warrant by any police officer, and -

- (i) may be removed in police custody outside the Presidency Area or the Presidency of Bombay, as the case may be, or
- (ii) on conviction before a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class, may be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with both:

Provided that notwithstanding such conviction and punishment if the period for which such person was directed to remove himself under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 5 has not expired on the date on which the fine, if any, is paid or the term of his imprisonment, if any, under this clause expires he may be removed in police custody outside the Presidency Area or the Presidency of Bombay, as the case may be, for the unexpired portion of such period.

Explanation .- For the purposes of this proviso the period of imprisonment undergone by such person shall be treated as a part of the period for which such person was directed to remove himself under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 5.

11. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding whatever shall lie against any person in respect of anything which is, in good ~~Indem-~~ faith, done or intended to be done under this Act.

~~nity.~~

~~The end~~

Conditions of Labour.Choolai Mills Dispute:leave of employees

A long standing cause of dispute between the employees and the management of the Choolai Mills, Madras, was settled amicably on 18-12-29, when the management decided to accede to the men's demand that instead of being compelled to utilise their privilege leave of 15 days a year at one stretch, they should be given the option to avail themselves of the privilege leave in instalments. The Labour Commissioner, Madras, was present when the leaders of the workers discussed the question with the management.

(Times of India 20-12-29)

Jamshedpur strike situation.

The strike of the Golmuri tin plate workers, Jamshedpur, has practically collapsed ~~completely~~. A correspondent writing to the Statesman of 20-12-29 says that on a recent visit he found the works in full swing with the mills registering record production. According to the correspondent "a third of the original strikers have resumed work in the mills, a third have left for their homes, while the remaining ~~that~~ third <sup>are</sup> depending on charity for their daily needs".

Board of conciliation for B.B.&C.I. Rly. dispute.

A dispute is now in progress between the B.B. & C.I. Railway Union, Bombay, and the management of the B.B. & C.I. Railway over the question of the terms on which some of the employers in the B.B. & C.I. Railway workshops at Parel <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ to be transferred to the workshops at Dohad. The Union applied to the Government of India

for the appointment of a Board of conciliation regarding the dispute and the application has been granted by the Government. The Union has been asked by the Government to recommend the name of a person to represent the employees on the Board of Conciliation. Pending the decision of the Board, the railway management has withdrawn the notices served to several employees.

(B.B. & C.I. Railwayman.- 15-12-29.)

The Governor General in Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, has been pleased to refer the dispute to a Board of Conciliation composed of the following members :- Chairman: Mr. Bepin Behari Ghose, M.A., B.L., retired Judge of the High Court, Bengal. Member to represent the employers: Mr. C.W.M. Collins, Deputy Agent, Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway, Member to represent the employees: Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, M.L.A., President, Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway Employees' Union, Rai Saheb Dipchand, Superintendent, Department of Industries and Labour Government of India, will act as Secretary to the Board.

(A proposed reduction in wages, to the extent of 10 per cent. on the transfer of the B.B. & C.I. Railway Workshops from Bombay to Dohad forms the subject of this dispute. The Railway contend that the 10 per cent. in question is a special allowance granted to employees in Bombay owing to the high cost of living, which allowance must cease on the transfer of the Workshops. In protest against the proposed reduction the B.B. & C.I. Railway Workmen's Union addressed recently a memorandum to the Government of India Labour and Industries Department.)

(Times of India.- 6-1-30.)



Labour conditions in Indian Mines\*

The report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, for the year ending 31-12-1928 recently published by the Government of India is a handy publication which gives within the compass of one volume a variety of useful information about the conditions of labour in Indian mines. The Indian Mines Act, 1923, applies only to British India and not to the Indian States. The following classes of mines are dealt with in the report :- coal, iron, manganese, lead, antimonial lead, silver, gold, copper matte, nickel, zinc, mica, salt, magnesite, bauxite, steatite, slate, limestone, igneous rock, stone (unspecified), laterite, sandstone, gravel, murum, fire-clay, china clay, barytes, apatite, asbestos, ochre, Fuller's earth, kyanite, corundum, gypsum, beryl and bismuth.

Persons employed.

During the year 1928 the daily average number of persons working in and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 267,671, as compared with 269,290 in the previous year. The decrease was 1,619 persons, or 0.60 per cent. Of these persons 117,940 worked underground, 79,458 in open workings and 70,273 on the surface. The distribution in respect of sex was as follows:-

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\* Indian Mines Act, 1923, Annual report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1928. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch 1929. pp. VI+195. Price Rs.2-4-0 or 4s.

			<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Underground	...	...	86,155	31,785
In open workings	...	...	51,005	28,453
Surface	...	...	52,430	17,843
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	...	189,590	78,081
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Of the 31,785 females employed underground, 28,408 were employed in coal mines, 2,677 in mica mines, and the rest among the various other kinds of mines. The provincial distribution of the females who worked underground was :- Assam, 94; Bengal, 8,428; Bihar and Orissa, 20,504; Central Provinces, 1,426; Madras, 906; Punjab, 361; Ajmer-Merwara, 2; and United Provinces, 44.

Distribution of workers :-

Coal mines .- The number of persons employed in coal mines was 164,139, which is 1,074 less than the number employed in 1927. Of these persons 41,929 were coal cutters, 8,774 were male leaders and 36,427 were females - chiefly leaders.

Other mines .- The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 103,532, which is 545 less than the number employed in 1927. 75,323 were males and 28,209 were females. Of these females only 3,377 worked underground.

Wages %- In the coalfields there was a small decline in wages, the amounts being 5 per cent. in the Jharia coalfield, 2 per cent. in the Raniganj coalfield, 4 per cent. in the Giridih ~~coalfield~~ coalfield, 2 per cent. in the Assam coalfield, 8 per cent. in the Punjab coalfield and 7 per cent. in the ~~Assam coalfield~~,  
in the Punjab coalfield and 7 per cent. in the ~~Assam coalfield~~,

Pench Valley coalfield. To give an idea of the wages obtaining in coal mines, the daily earnings of the several classes of workers in December, 1928, in the Jharia coalfield under the three main headings - underground, open workings, and surface - are given below :-

Underground :- Overmen and Sirdars - Rs.1-4-9, Miners - Rs.0-13-6, Loaders - Rs.0-10-9, Skilled Labour - Rs.0-13-0, Unskilled Labour - Rs.0-9-9, Females - Rs.0-8-9. Open workings :- Overmen and Sirdars - Rs.1-2-6, Miners - Rs.0-14-0, Loaders - Rs.0-5-6, Skilled Labour - Rs.0-10-6, Unskilled Labour - Rs.0-7-9, Females - Rs.0-8-3, Surface :- Clerical and Supervising staff - Rs.1-6-9, Skilled Labour - Rs.0-12-3, Unskilled Labour - Rs.0-8-6, Females - Rs.0-6-9.

The enforcement of the provision for a compulsory rest day for workers in mines, has affected the wages of certain classes of workers such as pump-minders, boiler-firemen, etc., as they are being paid only for six days work in the week instead of seven days as heretofore. The figures of average daily earnings in the various mining industries indicate a great disparity in the earnings of the workers. Thus, while a skilled labour in the Burma lead mines gets Rs.2-10-0 a day for underground work, in the Jharia coalfield the wages for such labour are Rs.0-13-0, in the Bihar and Orissa mica mines Rs.0-8-0, in the Madras mica mines Rs.0-6-3, and in the Punjab slate quarries Rs.0-4-0. The wages for unskilled female labour range from Rs.0-10-0 a day in the Burma lead mines to Rs.0-2-6 a day in the United Provinces stone quarries

Women and underground employment :- In June 1928 draft regulations

for prohibiting the employment of women underground in mines were published, and opinions were invited inter alia as to whether a check on the gradual reduction in the number of women employed in the mines to be exempted during a transition period should be obtained by means of a system of tokens or badges to be attached to the person, or by prescribing that the number of women employed underground day to day should not exceed a definite and gradually decreasing percentage of the total number of persons, men and women, employed underground. The consensus of opinion was in favour of the latter method, and it has been substantially adopted. With effect from the first day of July 1929 the employment of women underground in mines other than coal mines in Bengal Bihar and Orissa and the Central Provinces, and salt mines in the Punjab, has been prohibited. In the coal mines mentioned above, women may continue to be employed in the underground workings after the 1st July 1929, but their total number shall not be a greater percentage of the total number of persons, both men and women, employed underground than 29, and this permitted percentage will be reduced by 3 every year till finally extinguished in July 1939. Similarly the number of women who may be employed underground in the salt mines will gradually decrease from 40 per cent. in 1929-30 to nil in July 1939. Although these new regulations do not apply to quarries, the Railway Board has decided to reduce the number of women employed in loading coal in the coal quarries worked by the State Railways pari passu with the reduction in the number of women employed in underground coal workings. This rule, however, will not be extended to women employed in the removal of over-burden less than 60 feet thick.

21,515,796

Output of minerals :- Coal.- The total output in 1928 was <sup>21,515,796</sup>~~21,515,796~~ tons of a declared value of Rs.8,37,52,449. The increase in the output was 406,820 tons or 1.93 per cent. The output was within a quarter of a million tons of the record production in 1919 when  $21\frac{3}{4}$  million tons was produced. The opening stocks in 1928 were 1,721,288 tons and the closing stocks 1,625,718 tons, which is 153,212 tons less than in the previous year, and more than a million tons less than the closing stocks at the end of 1925. The average output of coal per person employed was for underground and open workings 188 tons in 1928, as against 177 tons in 1923-27, and for miners employed above and below ground 131 tons in 1928, as against 114 tons in 1923-27. There was again a small improvement in the average, and, as in the previous year, the improvement may be ascribed to the greater use of coal-cutting machinery. In 1927 the output of coal per person employed above and below ground in the United Kingdom was 252 tons. In 1926 comparative figures in certain other countries were :- Japan 132 tons; Transvaal 426 tons; United States of America 780 tons.

The market for Indian coal continued to be weak until the closing months of the year. With a view to economy in the cost of production the large concerns were obliged to strive for maximum outputs, but the excess production could not be absorbed and the pressure to sell resulted in even lower prices being obtained than in the previous year. In the closing months of the year a degree of firmness manifested itself and promised to continue. The direct cause of this change was the reduction of raisings brought about by a poorer supply of labour. When the crops are

exceptionally good, as they were in 1928, the miners do not show the same inclination to return to the collieries for work as they do in normal years.

Accidents .- During the year 1928 at mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, there were 221 fatal accidents, which is 12 more than in 1927 and 6 more than the average number in the preceding five years. These accidents involved the loss of 259 lives, which is 12 more than in 1927. Of these persons 210 were males and 49 were females. In one case seven lives, in one case six lives, in one case four lives, in four cases three lives and in sixteen cases two lives were lost. There were in addition 654 serious accidents involving injuries to 683 persons, as compared with 680 serious accidents involving injuries to 713 persons in the previous year.

The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows :-

	Number of fatal accidents.	Percentage of total number of fatal accidents.
Misadventure ...	147	66.52
Fault of deceased	39	17.65
Fault of fellow workmen	9	4.07
Fault of subordinate officials ...	12	5.43
Fault of management	13	5.88
Faulty material ...	1	0.45
Total ...	<u>221</u>	<u>100.00</u>

Deaths occurring in each class of mine were as follows :-

218 in coal mines, 2 in mica mines, 7 in manganese mines, 5 in

silver-lead mines, 8 in tin and wolfram mines, 6 in limestone mines, 6 in stone mines, 3 in iron mines, 2 in a fireclay mine, 1 each in salt and copper mines.

The number of serious accidents reported was 654, as compared with 680 in the previous year.

Health and sanitation .- The principal bodies charged with looking after the health of the miners were the Asansol Mines Board of Health and the Jharia Mines Board of Health. In the territory under the supervision of the former the death rate was 20.9 per 1000, and the infant mortality rate 139.1 per 1000. In the latter's area, the death rate was 18.28 per 1000 and the birth rate 35.47 per 1000, as against 16.73 and 33.74 per 1000 respectively during 1927.

Coal-Dust Committee .- The work of the Coal-Dust Committee was continued throughout the year. Experiments were carried out in the underground galleries of Godhur colliery in the Jharia coalfield. In July a demonstration was given in the presence of the members of the Association of Colliery Managers in India. At the Indian School of Mines experiments were made on the effect of stone dust in preventing the ignition of coal-dust, and on the ignition of coal-dust by electric arcs.

Inspection .- Since the year 1923 the number of coal mines being worked has decreased from 942 to 556, and the number of metalliferous (including stone) mines at work has increased from 601 to 1,393.

During the year 982 mines were inspected and many of them several times. 2,410 separate inspections were made. The cause

and circumstances of practically all fatal accidents and serious accidents of importance, and all complaints of breaches of regulations were investigated. As in other years many inspections were made on the invitation of mine-owners, superintendents or managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. The number of complaints received from workmen in respect of wages and hours of work tends to increase. An increasing proportion of the time of Inspectors is occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwelling houses and roads by reason of the underground workings of coal mines.



Immigrant Labour in Assam\*.

The Government of Assam has recently published two reports on immigrant labour in the province of Assam, the first dealing with immigrant labour in the Assam Valley Division and the second with immigrant labour in the Surma Valley and Hill Division. The immigrant labour dealt with in the two reports is that recruited for the tea gardens. Below are given brief summaries of the reports.-

Immigrant labour in Assam Valley Division. - The number of immigrants <sup>in July 1928 - June 1929</sup> was 56,473 against 36,617 in the preceding year showing an increase of 19,856. The increase is mainly due to the scarcity in the recruiting districts, such as Ranchi and Santhal Parganas and importation of short term coolies from the Madras Presidency. At the close of the year the total number of garden population was 735,075 against 701,892, an increase of 33,183 or 4.80 per cent. over the population of the preceding year. The number of adult labourers to an acre is .87 in Goalpara, 1.36 in Kamrup, 1.41 in Darrang, 1.21 in Nowgong, 1.43 in Sibsagar and 1.69 in Lakhimpur. Coolies were generally well off. The number of births recorded was 22,323 while the number of deaths was 15,641. No serious epidemics occurred during the year under report. The gradual and steady increase in wages continued. The average cash earnings calculated on the average working strength were Rs.14-1-5 for men, Rs.11-4-2 for women and Rs.7-6-1 for children, as against Rs.13-2-1, Rs.11-6-1, and Rs.7-0-6 respectively in the previous year. These figures do not represent the total earnings of

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\* Reports on Immigrant Labour in the Province of Assam for the year ending 30th June, 1929. Printed at the Assam Secretariat Printing Office, Shillong. Price Rs.1-3-0; 1s. 9d. pp. 20.

the labourers. In addition to wages the coolies are generally granted concessions of free firewood, grazing grounds, rice lands for cultivation in the garden grants. They are often supplied with paddy and rice below the market price. Gardens almost always allow maternity leave on full or half pay with or without free rice ~~for~~ for a period varying from three to six or even eight months. The relation between the planters and the labour force was generally satisfactory: the number of collisions when considered in proportion to the garden population is very small. The report records the occurrence of five strikes during the year, all of them of a minor and local character, and of short duration. The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 521 against 513 in the previous year. Of these 257 were liable to inspection but 239 were inspected during the year under report.

June 1929  
for the year ending 30th

Immigrant labour in the Surma Valley & Hill Division.- The total garden population, working and non-working, living in garden lines and on garden land at the close of the year rose from 323,329 to 332,587 showing an increase of 9,258 souls. Double the number of souls, 12,427 as compared with the preceding year 6,228, was imported during the year. The prevalence of scarcity conditions owing to two successive failures of the rabi harvest throughout the Jubbulpore division adjoining the Indian States gave an impetus to emigration. There were no ~~xxxx~~ cases of fraudulent recruitment during the year under report. The general health of the coolie population continued to be good. No serious epidemics were reported during the year. The birth-rate rose from 31.73 to 32.71. The death-rate was a little higher. It increased from 18.66 to 21.16 per mille. The steady

increase in the average monthly cash earnings calculated on the average daily working strength as compiled from the wages returns for the months of September and March continued. The concessions of private cultivation, free housing, free medical attendance, free fuel and grazing, and a supply of tea, rice and cloth at less than the market rates, were enjoyed as usual together with free meals and liberal maternity concessions given when necessary. The coolies on the gardens held 51,062 acres of land against 49,887 acres in the preceding year. Of the total area 2,520 acres were held directly under Government, 45,895 as tenants of the gardens, and 2,647 acres as tenants of land-holders. The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 336 against 334 in the previous year. Of these 122 gardens were liable to inspection and 108 were inspected during the year under report. Four miscellaneous cases were instituted against the managers by ~~thier~~ coolies during the year and all of these were decided against the complainants. The report records the occurrence of five strikes during the year; three on questions of wages and two as demonstrations of resentment against the orders of managers. On the whole the relations between the employers and the labour force continued to be good.

The Resolution passed by the Government of Assam on the two reports summarised above points out that the total number of immigrant labourers into Assam rose from 42,845 in the previous year to 68,900 in the year under review, and that there was a similar marked increase in the number of labour force obtained locally. The total labour force (both immigrant and local) increased from / 1,025,221 in the previous year to 1,067,662 in the year under review. The resolution directs attention to the fact that the reports do not disclose to what extent, if any,

there has been an improvement in the standards of living of the labour force. Referring to labour unrest and strikes, the Resolution says: "Although labour is not organised in Assam, the labour force is quick to resent anything which is regarded with or without reason as an injustice or imposition and to express that resentment by concerted action. The industry can ill afford the loss of labour, and managers are therefore anxious to keep their labour force contented".

Labour Conditions in Central  
Provinces & Berar\*

Comparatively little is known of the industrial conditions prevailing in the Central Provinces and Berar. The handy and instructive volume "Labour Conditions in the Central Provinces and Berar" compiled by Messrs Fulay, Pahade and Deshpande, is therefore a welcome contribution to the literature on Indian labour. The authors, are recruits from the intelligentsia class who have identified themselves heart and soul with the Indian labour movement and they speak from actual first hand information. Differing from the Gandhian School, they frankly admit that the exigencies of international competition have made the adoption of the factory system indispensable to the material prosperity of the country. This stern sense of practical values has enabled them to define their goal as an "endeavour to mitigate the evils of exploitation and capitalist dictatorship by the early establishment of well-established Trade Unions", and in this endeavour they gladly welcome the International Labour Organisation as a valuable ally.

The main thesis of the book is that labour conditions in the province are very backward, that the housing and health of the labourers leave much to be desired, that the present wage standards are abnormally low, and that both Government and employers are to blame for the continuance of such conditions. The statistical evidence given in the book bears out their contentions. In Nagpur, the

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\* Labour Conditions in Central Provinces and Berar by R.W.Fulay, M.A., LL.B., M.L.C., (Hony. Secretary, Press Employees' Association; Vice-President, Provincial Postal and R.M.S. Association, C.P. and Berar; Textile Union; the Motor Drivers' Association; and President, Scavengers' Union, Nagpur, etc.) J.S.Pahade, M.A., B.T., (Secretary, R.M.S. Union, Nagpur) and S.P.Deshpande, B.A., LL.B., (Vice-President, Motor Drivers' Association, Nagpur). 1929. Published by T. Krishnaswamy Mudiraj & Raji Shastri Chandekar, Walker Road, Nagpur City. Price Rs.3 . pp. 111+119.

chief industrial centre of the Province, hardly a thousand out the eight thousand employed there are provided with suitable accommodation through the combined efforts of the employers, the municipality and the local government; the rest of the labouring population live in one-room tenements in insanitary chawls and busties. In the same place, the infantile mortality per 1000 births was 303.38 in 1917, 364.50 in 1919 and 375.61 in 1921. In Nagpur the monthly wages of a skilled fireman is Rs.28, of a semi-skilled dyer Rs.20, of an unskilled gin cooly (male) Rs.17, and (female) Rs.9. The authors strongly plead for minimum wage legislation for India on the lines suggested by the International Labour Conference and suggest that the minimum wage should be fixed at Rs.30 per month as demanded by the All-India Trade Union Congress. They accuse the Government of a bias in favour of the employers in the recent legislation it has initiated, such as the Trade Disputes Bill and the Public Safety Ordinance and cite in further support of their contentions the lukewarmness the Government of India has shown in ratifying Geneva Conventions. They further point out that the recent swing of the Indian labour movement towards militant socialism can be countered only by a more ~~sympathetic~~ sympathetic attitude on the part of the Government and the employing classes.

Industrial Organisation.Employers' OrganisationsAnnual meeting of the Associated Chambers ofCommerce, Bombay.

The eleventh annual general conference of the Associated Chambers of India and Ceylon was held at Bombay on 16 & 17-12-29 at the office of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, with Mr. G.L. Winterbotham in the chair. The Hon. Sir Bhupendranath Mitra and the Hon. Sir George Rainy, Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, in charge of Industries and Labour, and Commerce and Railways, respectively were present by special invitation.

In his presidential speech Mr. Winterbotham voiced the desire of the Associated Chambers to work in harmony with Indian Chambers of Commerce. Regarding political and constitutional questions, Mr. Winterbotham said that many of the worst features of the present political situation will disappear under a constitution which puts on the elected representatives of the people the responsibility for the good government of the country. Discussing the relations between capital and labour, it was pointed out that the year 1929 was marked by a series of disastrous strikes, the effects of which it would be difficult to compute. The year also saw the passing of the Trades Dispute Act and the setting up of the Whitley Commission. ~~THE~~ He commended the action of the Bombay Government in availing itself of the machinery provided by the Act, when occasion arose, and wished that other provincial governments would follow in this respect the Bombay Government's example. He cordially welcomed the Whitley Commission and expressed the hope that labour organisations, instead of being led astray by designing politicians, would co-operate with the Commission. He welcomed development of real trade unionism and said he did not despair of this result though the immediate outlook was far from bright.

The following are among the more important resolutions passed by the Conference :-

"This Association requests the urgent attention of the Government of India to the extent to which, in recent industrial disputes, unregistered trade unions have interfered between employers and their labour; the Association affirms the views expressed in their resolution of December 16, 1924, to the effect that registration should be compulsorily enforced in respect of every trade union and that picketing should be declared to be illegal, and be effectively dealt with; and in the interests of peace and prosperity in the industries of India, the Association urges Government to introduce, at as early a date as possible, legislation to amend the Trade Unions Act XVI of 1926, accordingly."

Sir B. N. Mitra in explaining the position of the Government in this matter said that Government was fully aware of the part played by communists in prolonging the Bombay strikes, but was of opinion that the strike was due more to economic reasons than to Communistic promptings. Regarding registration of trade unions, he remarked that labour organisations should not be recognised unless they were registered. On 3-9-29 there were 30 registered Trade Unions in Bombay and about 25 in Bengal. If registration were made compulsory it was obvious that those who failed to register their unions should be punished. It was now recognised in England and other European countries that the <sup>right</sup> to strike was an essential right of the wage-earner. Regarding picketing he said that the Pearson Committee and the Riot Enquiry Committee had recommended legislation in respect of intimidation only and not in respect of picketing. Government had no intention at present to undertake any legislation on the subject. The desire of the employers to secure industrial peace would be better served by the establishment of better standards of conduct between employers and workmen.

As a result of Sir B. N. Mitra's statement the motion was withdrawn.



Mr. P. Mukerjee of the Punjab Chamber moved and Sir Leslie Hudson seconded a resolution requesting Government to oppose the proposal of the International Labour Conference for a convention or recommendation on the subject of the regulation of hours of work of salaried employees as such convention or recommendation would be difficult, if not impossible of application in India. Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, observed that the whole question was at present engaging the attention of Government and that the views expressed at the Conference would be borne in mind before any decision was arrived at. The resolution was passed.

It is understood that Mr. P. Mukerjee in his speech moving the resolution <sup>made a reference</sup> ~~paid a tribute~~ to the work of the Indian branch of the I.L.O.

Among the other resolutions moved were <sup>those</sup> ~~resolutions~~ urging the necessity for substantial reductions in railway freight rates on cotton and fuel oil; the desirability of adopting a standard form of contract for all government purchasing departments, more especially state railways, and introducing force majeure and arbitration clauses in all contracts for supply of government stores; and expressing regret <sup>at</sup> ~~for~~ state interference with private enterprise as exemplified by the ~~the~~ permission accorded by Government to the Railway Board to offer large quantities of slack coal for public sale and the sale of jail-made goods to the public.

The 1930 annual conference of the Associated Chambers will be held in Calcutta.

(Times of India 19-12-29).

Industrial Organisation.

Workers' Organisation.

Madras Labour Union's Memorandum to Sir B.N.Mitra.

The Hon. Sir B. N. Mitra, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council for Industries and Labour, met the members of the Executive Committee of the Madras Labour Union on 19-12-29, <sup>7</sup>discussed with them a memorandum presented by the Union. The memorandum referred to the question of recognition of trade unions by employers and suggested an amendment to the Trade Union Act providing for enquiry by the Registrar of Trade Unions in regard to the bona fides of any union before registration. The memorandum also dealt with the question of representation of labour in the legislatures and the need for extending the scope of the Workers' Compensation Act.

Sir Bhupendranath Mitra is understood to have stated that these suggestions would necessarily come up before the Whitley Commission and therefore the Government of India could not consider them until after the Commission had reported. With regard, however, to the question of recognition of registered unions by employers, he is reported to have said that an amendment on the lines suggested by the union would not really <sup>bring</sup> ~~bring~~ about the desired result. In the long run the establishment of friendly relations between the employers and the work-people could only be through direct efforts even more than by legislation. Mr. Gray, the Labour Commissioner, was also present at the meeting.

(Hindu.- 20-12-29.)

Madras Presidency Postmen's Union.

The ~~xx~~ tenth annual provincial conference of the Madras Presidency Postmen and Lower Grade staff Union was held at Nellore on 22-12-29 under the presidentship of Mr. C. Doraiswami Iyengar, M.L.A.

The president in his ~~pe~~ speech pointed out that, though the postal regulations are becoming more numerous and more taxing, the pay of the lower staff had not been increased. The plea for Indianisation of the services should not mean that more Indians should be appointed in the higher grades on the present extravagant scale of salaries. Salaries in the higher grades should be cut down and salaries in the lower grades should be increased. The present practice of giving travelling allowances to the higher grades and denying them to the lower staff should be stopped. The number of village postmen had increased only by 400 during the last ten years and their present strength was only 8,700. Considering the number of villages that have to be served, the number of village postmen should be increased.

(Hindu.- 24-12-29.)

M. & S. M. Railway Employees' Demands.

A deputation of the M. & S. M. Railway Employees' Union, Perambur, headed by Mr. V. V. Giri, President of the Union, waited on the Agent of the M. & S. M. Railway on 20-12-29, and presented a memorandum embodying the grievances of the employees. The memorandum contained nearly ninety demands. Addressing a meeting of the union on 24-12-29, Mr. Giri said that the Agent had given the deputation a sympathetic hearing and that there were hopes that many of their demands would be conceded. The Union is planning to publish the results achieved and what it still hopes to achieve in the form of a blue book. The following are among the more important of the union's demands :-

In the light of the best experience from English and Conti -

mental Labour Institutions, it is desired that the Administration be pleased not only to recognise the Union but also to appoint a Standing Committee consisting of an equal number of representatives from the Administration and the Union to carry out the declared objects <sup>of the Union</sup> ~~already referred to~~. ~~From what has been already stated~~ <sup>the</sup> appointment of rival institutions or bodies like the Staff Committees in opposition to the Union is not conducive to the best interests of <sup>either</sup> ~~both~~ the management <sup>or</sup> ~~and~~ the employees.

The Union desires that full facilities to investigate ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~alleged~~ alleged grievances by furnishing relevant official records or information, that may be asked for, should be given, <sup>in</sup> order to eliminate frivolous complaints. The Union should be supplied with copies of all standing rules, etc., affecting the staff, issued by various officials of the railway, from time to time. ~~The~~ service conditions of the employees are to be framed after prior consultation with the Union in accordance with the uniformly followed principle in the drafting of all the International Labour Conventions of Geneva. ~~§~~

Uniformity of practice in the enforcement of service rules has to be observed in all the departments of the railway. Designation of employees as menials, lower subordinates, etc., should not result in different service-privileges for that reason only, and similarly, men paid on either daily-rated or monthly-rated system are to be given the benefit of equal privileges without distinction. The General Service rules of the Railway, especially those not affected by local circumstances, like Pass

rules, leave rules etc., shall not fall short of the most liberal practice followed in other State-owned Railways, and this is to be effected in consultation with the Union. Regarding security of tenure and punishments, the memorandum makes a number of demands and says that compulsory retirement should be confined only to cases of criminal misconduct, frequent wilful disobedience, and medical unfitness and superannuation. Dismissal or discharge of staff on the basis of mere police report should not be effected without full and proper enquiry. Similarly, employees acquitted by courts should not be discharged from service.

In regard to the method of fixing wages the memorandum asks that the existing scales of pay for the staff should be reviewed periodically by a joint committee of the railway and the union with a view to improve the rates wherever necessary. The memorandum then discusses the rules concerning promotions, provident fund, gratuity rules, hours of work, leave and holidays, passes, medical examinations etc. and concludes with the request that the Union should be heard by the administration when it has to make representations on general or individual grievances, and that it should be consulted on questions dealing with the service-conditions of its member.

(Hindu.- 20-12-29.)

Trade Union Movement in the Punjab.\*

According to the report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab for the year 1928-29 issued by the Registrar of Trade Unions, the Punjab, the total number of registered trade unions in the Punjab at the close of the year was 13.

The total number of the membership of the ten unions from ~~whom~~ <sup>which</sup> returns of statistics have been received reached the figure of 14,507 at the close of the year under review, as compared with the membership of 5,799 of the six unions of the previous year. It is apparent from these figures that the average membership per union increased from 966 in 1927-28 to 1,451 in the year under review. This rapid increase in the number of members of these unions is a clear evidence of the fact that the employees are now beginning to realise the benefits of co-operative <sup>action</sup> ~~movement~~ and look upon the Act as a safeguard for the preservation of their legitimate rights. The income of the ten unions during the year under review was Rs.15,583-6-5 as compared with an income of Rs.2,044-8-0 of the six unions of the previous year. The expenditure on the other hand increased from Rs.2,348-0-9 in the year 1927-28 to Rs.15,258-1-11 in the year under report. The year under report being the first year of the existence of the majority of the unions, the funds of these unions were mainly utilised towards their organisation. A few of these unions are considering schemes relating

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\* Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab during the year 1928-29. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. Price Rs.0-8-0. pp. 3+3.

to sickness insurance and the payment of benefits like annuities, old age pensions, and the like. The majority of the unions directed their energies mainly towards the amelioration of the working conditions of the workers employed in their respective trades. The unions of the employees in the different sections of the North-Western Railway succeeded in securing some ~~of the~~ privileges relating to service recruitments, promotions, to higher grades, ~~and the provision of the existing scales of pay, etc.~~ No appeal was filed against the orders of the Registrar during the year under review, and no registration was either withdrawn or cancelled. As in the previous year none of the unions subscribed to the political fund.

Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency.

The following statistics about grade unions in the Bombay Presidency are taken from the Labour Gazette, November, 1929 (Vol. IX, No. 3).

The total number of Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ 94 during the third quarter of 1929. Of these 94 Unions, 48 <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ in Bombay City, 8 in Ahmedabad and 38 in the rest of the Presidency. The total membership of these Unions stands at 193,335 as compared with 200,325 as at 1st March 1929, showing a fall of 3.49 per cent., and as compared with 74,875 at the end of the year 1926, showing an increase of 158.02 per cent. The number of members in the Unions having their offices in Bombay City fell from 162,187 to 158,444 or by 1.66 per cent. The membership of the Ahmedabad Unions fell from 24,152 to 22,826 or by 5.49 per cent. The number of members in the Unions in the rest of the Presidency also declined from 13,986 to 12,065 or by 13.74 per cent.



Intellectual Workers.

All-India Teachers' Federation.

The fifth Conference of the All-India Federation of Teachers' Associations, which was attended by more than a <sup>thousand</sup> ~~1000~~ delegates from all over India, opened its sittings at Madras on 27-12-29 under the presidentship of Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyar. The Federation, it may be mentioned, is the premier teachers' <sup>organised</sup> ~~associations~~ in India. Its aims and objects are :- (a) to study educational problems with special reference to Indian conditions; (b) to work for the adequate realization of the educational needs of India; (c) to co-ordinate the working of the various teachers' associations of the country; (d) to safeguard and advance the interests of the teaching profession in India, and to secure for it its legitimate place in national life; (e) to act as a vehicle of representation at International Teachers' Conferences. Successful annual conferences have already been held at Cawnpore, Patna, Calcutta ~~am~~ and Bombay.

The All-India Teachers' Federation is one of the affiliated organisations of the World Federation of Educational Associations and was represented at the recent biennial Conference at Geneva by as many as twenty delegates, including Prof. D. K. Karve, the founder of the <sup>Indiana</sup> ~~Women's~~ University, <sup>(Pona)</sup>, Mr. V. S. Ram of the Lucknow University and Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, the well-known worker in the cause of women's educational reform in India.

Mr. S. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer, the Vice-President, in his speech welcoming the delegates, stressed, among other matters, the following points :- (i) that there should be hundred per cent organisation among teachers, and that (ii) efforts should be made to induce Provincial Governments to accept the teaching profession as a department

of the state and to accept all teachers as state servants, as is the case in Ceylon.

The main points emphasised in Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyar's presidential address were :- (1) No conclusion of the Hartog Committee report (see pages 55-57 of the Report of this Office for October, 1929) would militate against the grant of greater political responsibility to the people, who were, despite the illiteracy prevalent in the land, quite able to exercise the franchise, (2) there was considerable waste of effort in elementary schools, which was a feature in other countries also, (3) inspections of schools are carried out in a mechanical manner, (4) the training given in the Teachers' Colleges is inefficient, (5) the Secondary School Leaving Certificate Scheme is a failure, (6) the School Final Examination, as it has been conducted hitherto, has led to grave defects due to early specialisation and other causes, and (7) provision for vocational education is very scanty. To these causes he attributed the deterioration in standards of the average graduate of the present day.

The following are among the more important of the resolutions adopted by the Conference :- (1) "This conference urges upon all Provincial Governments to take steps for the provision for instruction in sex hygiene in school and colleges by such teachers and professors as qualify themselves for this task, a special allowance being paid for such extra work." (2) "This conference is of opinion that the methods of school inspection now current <sup>are</sup> ~~and~~ capable of improvement and do not help the schools adequately to improve in efficiency and outlook and that a new system must be tried of having a number of subject inspectors to work in co-operation with ordinary inspectors whose main function must be to direct, organise

and co-ordinate." (3) "This conference urges the Provincial Govern -  
ments to take earnest steps for the provision of physical edu -  
cation in schools and colleges (1) by making physical training  
and games compulsory for all pupils, (2) by insisting on the  
appointment of trained physical instructors, with ~~an~~ a high stand -  
ard of general educational qualification and a special knowledge of  
hygiene and first aid, (3) by enabling the schools and colleges to  
acquire suitable play-grounds with the help of three-quarters or  
even the whole actual costs in the shape of Government grants, (4)  
by making health instruction compulsory in all schools and colleges,  
(5) by introducing scout movement in all schools and colleges, and  
(6) by starting physical culture institutions for the benefit of  
students." (4) "This Federation is of opinion that the success of  
elementary education in the country mainly depends upon popularis -  
ing adult education and as ~~such~~ it requests the Government to start  
a successful campaign ~~of~~ adult education in consultation with the  
non-official educationists." (5) "This conference is of opinion that  
a conscience clause should be introduced with regard to religious  
instruction in schools and colleges." (6) "This conference is of  
opinion (a) that a minimum salary for each grade of teachers should  
be laid down and incorporated in Educational Rules and insisted on  
as a condition of recognition and (b) that the great differences  
in the salary scale of teachers in Government and non-Government  
institutions is detrimental to the cause of education and appeals  
to the Government and departments of education to minimise the  
difference ~~by~~ adopting a standardised salary scale for teachers in  
non-Government institutions and to meet all incremental charges in  
the scale, the initial salary being borne by the institutions  
concerned."

The conference also passed resolutions requesting the Govern -  
ments to make primary education compulsory; to establish magic  
lantern bureaus or centres in every province; to give liberal  
library grants, and to institute special funds to enable teachers  
to undertake occasional long-distance educational tours, and to  
adopt the American system of giving a year's leave once in six  
years with full pay for purposes of studies abroad. It was resolved  
to start an all-India journal and a sub-committee was appointed  
to take steps for that purpose.

(Hindu.- 29 & 30-12-29).

It is understood that arrangements are being made for the  
holding of a Pan-Asiatic Conference of Teachers at Benares in 1930.

The Director of the Indian Branch who attended this Conference  
on the special invitation of the Reception Committee, utilised the  
opportunity to circulate copies of his article on "The I. L. O. and  
Education/Bodies".

Protective duty for cotton: Conference in Delhi.

At page 50 of the report of this office for November, 1929, reference was made to the Government of India's decision to convene a conference of the representatives of the cotton millowners of Bombay, Ahmedabad, and other cotton centres to consider the course of action that was to be taken in view of Mr. Hardy's report on "import tariff on cotton piecegoods" (For conclusions of this report see pages 47-50 of the report of this office for November, 1929). The Conference took place at Delhi on 9 and 10-12-29. The Government of India was represented by Sir George Rainy, Commerce Member, Sir Arthur McWatters, acting Finance Member, and Mr. Woodhead, Secretary, Commerce Department. Among the more prominent of the representatives of the millowners were Sir Manmohandas Ramjee, Mr. H.P. Mody, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, and Mr. Saklatwala. The proceedings were confidential. According to the Hindu of 11-12-29, it appears that there were two schools of thought in the Conference. One was definitely opposed to specific duties, while the other group seemed agreeable to it as a temporary measure ~~in this direction~~ ~~to~~ to provide immediate relief. The discussion tended in the direction of emphasising the millowners' point of view that ad valorem duties are preferable to specific duties as suggested by Mr. Hardy himself. The millowners are understood to have pointed out how adversely Japanese competition affected the Indian textile industry. Some are said to have pleaded for a higher protective duty so as to enable Indian mills to compete successfully with Japan and Italy in respect of coarse and medium counts, and also <sup>to</sup> withstand the pressure of competition now experienced from Lancashire in respect of particular counts.

The Ahmedabad mill-owners specially explained the keenness of the competition from Japan and gave statistics in support.

Depression in India's Coal Trade.

The total production of coal in India amounted in 1928 to 22,543,000 tons, which is 461,000 tons or 2.1 per cent more than in 1927, but 85,000 tons less than the record output of 1919. About 564,000 tons are estimated to have been taken by the miners for their own use, thus bringing the total production up to 23,107,000 tons. An official report compiled by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence states that the coal trade is passing through a state of depression. Prices have steadily slipped back with the result that mines with seams of anything below first quality coal are shut down. Of first quality coal mines, those working on older methods are somehow managing to remain in existence; those which are equipped with modern type plant and organization are only finding it possible to keep among the regular dividend payers, though the dividends are getting less and selling prices falling lower.

The following causes have gone a great way to create the present position of the industry:- (1) The steady increase of output from the railway-owned mines, (2) The increasing surplus output from many large company-owned first class and selected mines owing to the introduction of electrical and coal cutting by machines (3) General slackness of industries, strikes and long periods of closing down of factories. (4) Extension of electrical supply for millworking and railways. (5) A growing appreciation of improved coal-burning methods leading to reduced consumption in mills.

(A brief survey of labour conditions in Indian mines is given in the section of this report dealing with Conditions of Labour.)

### Cottage Industries in Bengal.

The Government of Bengal in a Resolution on the administration report of the Director of Industries, Bengal, for the year 1928-29, express the following views on the steps to be taken for stimulating the cottage industries of Bengal. The Resolution refers to the finding of the Royal Agricultural Commission that, though agriculture is the main industry of India, that alone cannot occupy the agricultural population throughout the year, and that for bettering their economic condition the possibilities of spare time occupations have to be fully explored. Manufacture on cottage industry lines is the most profitable spare time occupation for the agriculturists. The cottage industries of Bengal have to a certain extent withstood the intense competition of the factory products, but to make the position of the domestic industries secure the main thing necessary is the substitution of primitive methods by modern processes. Secondly, the Department of Industries may help village artisans by educating them on modern lines so far as village manufactures are concerned by ocular demonstrations of the fact that the adoption of modern methods will enable them to effect economies in labour, time, and cost of production. Thirdly, the village artisans have to be extricated from debt by the formation of co-operative credit societies. Fourthly, cottage industries can be fostered by the organisation of markets for cottage industry products.

(Statesman.- 13-12-29.)

The Conference convened by the Government of Madras in 1928 to consider the future lines of progress of the cottage industries of the

presidency, and which submitted its recommendations in February, 1929, came to almost identical conclusions. A brief summary of the views of the Textile Expert of the Government of Madras on this question is given at pages 52-54 of the report of this office for March, 1929.

Indian Economic Conference, Allahabad.

The 13th session of the Indian Economic Conference was held at Allahabad on 28-12-29 under the presidency of Mr. N.S. Subba Rao, M.A., (Cantab) of the Mysore education service. In his presidential speech, Mr. Subba Rao made a comprehensive survey of the economic situation in India, with particular reference to the educational readjustments that have to be made in view of the economic changes that are rapidly taking place. He pointed out that in recognition of the principle that economists have a definite place in economic enquiries and investigations, professors of economics have been appointed on several Committees and Commissions set up in recent years by the Governments, such as the Tariff Board, the Central Banking Enquiry Committee etc. He deplored the exception that has been made in the case of the Royal Commission on Labour, which particularly required the services of trained economists. Other points emphasised by Mr. Subba Rao were :- (1) Instead of the hap-hazard appointment of occasional Commissions etc, the time has come for systematic and continuous work. India should imitate the example of the United States of America, which has instituted permanent bodies like the Tariff Commission and the Federal Trade Commission and other bodies, which make investigations suo moto as the result of a comprehensive plan of campaign. Only by such methods could permanent



and solid contributions to economic literature, as well as the formulation of definite, consistent and sustained economic policies be ensured. The nucleus for the formation of an All-India Economic Organisation was present in the existing Tariff Board and the Department of Statistics and Commercial Intelligence. The ~~Tariff~~ <sup>Tariff</sup> Board after finishing its present labour should be continued as an enlarged body and vested with authority to make enquiries and surveys on its own initiative<sup>7</sup> to submit recommendations to the Government from time to time. It should serve as the "Economic Intelligence Staff" of the country and pave the way for a department charged to devise the "necessary social and industrial adjustments that are intended to prevent the very occurrence of a wide spread or long-continued involuntary wagelessness".

Discussing the need for a new orientation of economic policy, Mr. Subba Rao said that post-war developments have shown the inexpediency of India's excessive dependence on agriculture, and that there was no reason to believe that India cannot herself produce essential industrial products like cloth, sugar, etc, provided state ~~like~~ support was forthcoming in the initial stages to help the country to withstand the pressure of foreign competition. This, however, was only a partial solution. The raising of the level of comfort of the masses has to be brought about by the application to the land of the brains and capital of India. At present Agriculture and Industry were transferred subjects under the control of local Ministers, with the result that schemes of development were viewed at from a provincial rather than an All-India point of view. If events made it clear that the reign of Bombay as the centre of the cotton industry is over, it would not be advisable that the

Bombay mills should be bolstered up by artificial aids against the natural development of the industry elsewhere in India, though local sentiment in Bombay would be against such action.

Reviewing the educational policy of the country, Mr. Subba Rao said that the present system was harmful in two ways in that it gave a bias not only away from manual work, skilled or unskilled, but also gave a bias towards posts in offices and other sedentary occupations. Educational readjustments have to be made to suit economic changes, secondary education should be given a vocational bias so that Indian boys, who for want of proper training are going unprepared for their life's work in agriculture, industry, and commerce, may be practically trained in such useful occupations.

Speaking about the labour problem, Mr. Subba Rao said that it offers to the economic reformer not one but several problems, such as the basis of reward for work, allowance during periods of enforced idleness, regulation of conditions of work, the place of labour organisations in the control of industry, and the provision for training and systematic recruitment.

Briefly, Mr. Subba Rao pleaded for a vivid realisation of the juxtaposition of the old and the new in India. Any system of industrial education that visualises industrial development only on factory lines will deal, but incompletely with the facts of the situation. The urgent need of the moment was a thorough survey of the economic position of the country and this required the setting up of a National Economic Commission, which should embody a triple alliance between the educationist, the psychologist and the economist.

(Times of India.- 31-12-29.)

Medical Relief for Women in the Dhanbad Colliery Area.

The Government of Bihar and Orissa had recently drawn the attention of the Jharia Mines Board of Health to the inadequate provision for medical relief for women, particularly as regards maternity and welfare work, in the Dhanbad Colliery areas. The Jharia Mines Board of Health thereupon drew up a memorandum on the subject and formulated a scheme for the establishment of a maternity home at Dhanbad. The principal suggestions made by the Jharia Mines Board of Health are embodied in a letter dated the 4th November, 1929 addressed by the Chairman of the Board to the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta. The following are the main points of the scheme:-

There is no organization in the Jharia Coalfield for maternity and child welfare work and there is no special medical relief for women. There are no special arrangements for maternity cases at the Dhanbad hospital. There is a well equipped Railway hospital but it is not open to the public as a whole. Colliery hospitals are only equipped on a small scale with no special arrangements for maternity cases. It is proposed that the Board of Health should organize a Maternity Hospital or a Women's Nursing Home, which should be located just outside the Coalfield at Dhanbad. There should be accommodation for thirty beds, of which twenty should be put into commission immediately as follows:-

- 12 for maternity cases;
- 4 for accident cases for women workers;
- 4 for the treatment of diseases of women.

The outlay of money required would amount to Rs. 115,000, and the annual recurring expenses Rs. 22,080. The local government should be approached for a grant of Rs. 50,000. The Nursing Home would provide free conveyance to the Home, free food and free clothing both for child and

and mother, and free treatment. The Home would also function as a child-welfare centre.

(Summarised from report of the proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 27-11-1929).

Education.

Railway staff college, Dehra Dun.

A Railway staff college has been opened at Dehra Dun in January 1930, to impart secondary education in transportation for the staffs of Indian railways. The Dehra Dun institution is a continuation of the "area schools" already in existence where primary education in transportation is imparted. The "area schools" have two distinct functions.

(A) The training of "probationers" who have not yet begun their railway service, and (B) The provision of periodical "refresher" courses for those already in the railway service, certificates being granted on the results of each course.

Training will be provided for probationers in three groups: (A) A station group comprising telegraph signallers, assistant station masters and station masters. (B) A commercial group, comprising coaching and goods clerks. (C) A train staff group.

The courses will vary from 3 to 10 months depending on the nature of the group. The second function of the "area schools" is the provision of refresher courses. It is intended to provide courses of training for staff at intervals of 5 years, certificates being granted at the completion of the courses. It is hoped in time to ensure that no railway servant will be considered eligible for promotion to a higher post unless he holds the corresponding school certificate.

The Dehra Dun <sup>8</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Staff College, which is meant to serve as a Central College for the "area schools", will impart instruction of a more advanced type and provide refresher courses for officers and instruction for probationer officers. The College which has 155 acres of ground at Dehra Dun, possesses a Transportation Room 120' x 49' x 45', where a model railway of 2½" gauge is worked for demonstration purposes.

(Pioneer.- 23-12-29).

Agriculture.  
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research

The first session of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research (see pages 69-70 of the report of this Office for June 1929) opened at Pusa on 7-12-29 under the presidentship of Sir Mahomed Habibullah, ex-officio chairman of the Council. The session lasted six days, during which there were meetings of the Advisory Board, the Governing Body, and the whole Council. The meetings of the Advisory Body were attended by all the Directors of Agriculture and the heads of the Veterinary Departments in the Provinces, as well as <sup>by</sup> representatives of the Universities and the co-operative movement.

Reviewing the work of the Council, Sir M. Habibullah said that during the five months of its existence the Council had established a creditable record of work. The appointment of the Committee to report upon the 'sugar-cane Industry to devise solutions for saving the indigenous producer against dumping tactics which over-production abroad facilitates, the initiation of liaison activities between provincial governments and private institutions engaged in agricultural research, the stimulation of all-India co-operation in agricultural efforts, these were the first results of the Council's activities. Besides, the Council had to make awards of on applications from all over India for financial aid for agricultural research. It was also the Council's province to establish relations with international and imperial institutions engaged in kindred activities.

The Advisory Board passed the following two resolutions regarding the locust menace and the conservation of indigenous manurial resources:—

"Resolved that the Advisory Council of Agriculture Research do

appoint a special sub-Committee to (a) Work out the technique and organisation required for the control of desert locust, including measures not involving the use of poisons. (b) To make recommendation for the scientific study of the desert locust in India and to work out the staff equipment and funds required to carry this out. (c) To recommend to what extent locust research should be carried out by the Imperial and by the Provincial Agencies respectively, and (d) To report what action should be taken on the recommendations of the Committee of Civil Research.

"Resolved that a sub-committee be appointed to prepare a programme of research in fertilisers and to conduct an investigation into the economic utility of indigenous manures." The Governing Body of the Council accepted both the above recommendations of the Advisory Board.

(Times of India.- 20-12-29.)

Maritime.Recruitment of Seamen in Bombay.

There is considerable dissatisfaction prevailing among the seamen of Bombay on the ground that their long standing grievances (see pages 50-51 of the report of this office for period 15th to 31st July 1929, and also pages 67 of report for May, 1929) have not been redressed by the authorities concerned in spite of many representations made by the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay. The general discontent prevailing has of late been aggravated by the fact that some shipping companies of Bombay have recruited crews from Calcutta. They allege that this is unfair and unjust to the large number of unemployed seamen in Bombay, and have already represented their grievance to the Shipping Officer. The seamen held a meeting on 5-12-29 where it was decided to send a deputation to the Commissioner of Police to represent this grievance. A deputation of the Union waited upon the Police Commissioner, Bombay, on 6-12-29 to represent the grievance of the seamen and it is understood that the Police Commissioner gave them a sympathetic hearing and promised to write to the Shipping Master. The meeting on 5-12-29 also resolved that if steps were not taken to ~~put a~~ <sup>held</sup> stop recruiting crews from Calcutta and their other grievances were not sympathetically considered immediately, the seamen in Bombay would have to think of resorting to direct action.

(Times of India.- 9-12-29.)

The Indian National Steamship Owners'  
Association.

At a meeting of Indian steamship-owners, recently held at the office of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, it was decided to form a body to be known as "The Indian National Steamship-Owners'



Association". After general discussion those present resolved to form "the Indian National Steamship-Owners' Association" and appointed a provisional committee, consisting of Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Mr. Kaikobad Cowasji Dinshaw, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Mr. Sarabhai N. Haji, and Mr. M.A. Master. Mr. Walchand Hirachand was appointed provisional Chairman and Mr. M.A. Master, Honorary Secretary.

At the meeting, it is understood, there was unanimous agreement in regard to the necessity for an Association to protect and promote, Indian shipping interests. The objects of the Association will be amongst others, (1) to discuss and consider questions affecting the Indian Mercantile Marine in all its aspects, (2) to attain the advantages of united action for the representation of Indian shipping interests on public bodies in India and various Imperial and national organisations, (3) to make efforts for the spread of knowledge relating to shipping and allied industries, and (4) to secure organised action on all subjects relating to the interests of Indian ship-owners directly and indirectly.

Along this is  
the "incident  
Conference -  
P.P.P.

#### Indian Shipping Conference, Delhi.

A shipping conference attended by representatives of the principal companies engaged in the coastal trade in India was opened on 3-1-30 by His Excellency The Viceroy in the Council Chamber in Viceroy's House. The conference was held within closed doors and the Press was not allowed. Sir George Rainy, Member, and Mr. J. Woodhead, Secretary, represented the Commerce Department. ~~Delegates were sent by~~ The Scindia Steam Navigation Company, which was represented by Mr. Walchand Hirachand and Mr. H.P. Mody, the Indian Co-operative Navigation and Trading Company by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the Bengal-Burma Steam Navigation Company by Mr. Abdool

Baree Choudhury, the British India Steam Navigation Company by Sir Arthur Froom and Mr. J.H.Fyfe, the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company by Sir Phiroze Sethna, the Associated Chambers of Commerce by Sir George Godfrey and Mr. Ernest Miller, <sup>and</sup> the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce by Mr. D.P.Khaitan. Mr. S.N.Haji, the sponsor of the Coastal Reservation Bill, was present by special invitation.

After several hours' discussion a sub-committee, <sup>was appointed</sup> to thresh out certain outstanding details of the measure. ~~was~~ The sub-Committee consisted of Sir George Rainy, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Mr. H.P.Mody, Mr. Dowding, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Sir Arthur Froom and Mr. Fyfe. The Sub-Committee however failed to come to a settlement. According to an agreed statement issued to the press, "various possible solutions were tentatively explored but on some points the differences between the representatives of British and Indian interests appeared to be fundamental and no agreement was reached."

A communique issued by the Government of India dated 6-1-30 says.- "The Government of India will take into consideration at an early date the issues raised in the discussion which took place at the conference on the development of an Indian Mercantile Marine as soon as it has been possible fully to consider these issues. The responsibility will rest with the Government of India of deciding what action should now be taken and whether any useful purpose would be served by inviting the interests concerned to meet again."

According to newspaper reports the failure of the conference is due to the fact that the British shipping interests were not willing to meet Indian Shippers in any arrangement by which English Companies, which have a predominant share in the Coastal trade, would agree to its gradual diminution, and which would enable the conference to arrange for a consequent gradual increase

in Indian tonnage. ~~Owing to Congressmen's resignations from the  
Assembly in obedience to the Congress mandate, the chances of  
Mr. Hajji's Bill in the Assembly are very poor.~~

(Times of India 6 & 8-1-30.)

Migration.Education of Indians in South Africa.

At pages 63-64 of the report of this Office for the period 1st August to 30th August, 1929, details were given about the educational facilities provided for the children of Indians domiciled in South Africa. The progress achieved in the provision of further educational facilities since 1928 was briefly summarised by Sir Kurma Reddy, Agent-General to the Government of India in South Africa, in a speech on the occasion of the opening of the Sastri College for Indians at Durban on the 26th October, 1929.

According to Sir K.V. Reddy there were in 1928 in Natal some 30,000 <sup>Indian</sup> children of the school-going age. There were nine Government schools and 43 aided schools, with about 10,000 children on the rolls. Of these schools only one was teaching up to the matriculation standard. All the other schools were primary schools teaching up to the sixth standard. Besides these there were a few schools built by missionaries. Until a year or two ago the Provincial Administration and the Education Department were not able to give that consideration for Indian education which was expected of them. Quite recently, however, a more liberal policy has been adopted. Not only is the entire amount of subsidy granted by the Union Government being utilized for the education of Indian children but a liberal and ~~an~~ broad-minded policy has been adopted and a great advance has been made during 1929. In October, 1929 there were 12 Government schools in place of nine, and 63 aided schools in place of 43 - in all 75 schools - with a little over 13,000 pupils on the rolls.

The Sastri College, until it becomes a University College, will be a combined normal college and high school. General education will

be provided for up to the matriculation standard, while training will be given to obtain three classes of certificates, the senior, the intermediate, and the junior trained teachers' certificates. The college is expected to start work in the last week of January, 1929. The Education Department will appoint a European Principal from the Education Service, while six professors will be arriving in January from India, all specially qualified for the teaching profession.

(Statesman, 1-12-1929).