

Indian Branch

Report for January, 1931.

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Contents.

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References to the I.L.O.

The Times of India of 22-1-31 publishes an appreciative editorial article commenting on the work of the International Labour Office under the heading "The I.L.O. in 1930." The editorial points out that the work of the I.L.O. has increased from year to year and the summary of its achievements in 1930 foretells an even more consequential year in 1931. The article concludes with the following earnest invitation to employers and workers to co-operate with the I.L.O. "The International Labour Office continues its work of bettering the lot of every kind of worker in every part of the world, and of developing its research and documentation. The I.L.O.'s unostentatious but nevertheless substantial achievements during 1930 should persuade the employers and workers of all nations to co-operate with it to the best of their ability in regulating international trade and raising the workers' standard of living.

* * * *

The Hindustan Times of 2-1-31 publishes the list of names of persons who have been recommended by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to constitute the Indian Employers' Delegation (vide page 1 of December 1930 report of this Office).

The list has been published also by New India of 8-1-31 (Vol. IV - New Series No. 41).

* * * *

On 11-1-31 the Director of this Office opened the New Year programme of the Delhi Y.M.C.A. with an inaugural address on "International Social Progress." After sketching briefly the history of the social reformist movements of Europe during the 19th century, he explained the origin of the I.L.O. and its efforts for the bettering of the condition of life of workers all over the world. Analysing the social and economic structure of India, the speaker stressed the necessity for enfranchising labour in the new Indian constitution so that the beneficial effects of

of the reforms ~~will~~ would trickle down to this large class which constituted nearly three fourths of the bulk of the population. By effecting improvements in the conditions of life and work of Indian labourers, the I.L.O., ^{the} speaker said, was building up a substantial basis on which the new Indian democracy may be safely erected.

Summarised reports of the lecture were published in the Hindu of 13-1-31 and the Hindustan Times of 14-1-31. The Pioneer of 15-1-31 in a short editorial note commented on the lecture.

* * * *

The Indian Post, Delhi, publishes in full at pages 11 to 14 of its combined issue for November and December 1930 (Vol.I-Nos. 5 & 6) the presidential address of Mr.S.C.Joshi at the 10th Session of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference in which he has made appreciative references to the work of the 14th Session of the Labour Conference regarding the question of Hours of Work of W Salaried Employees.

The text of Mr. Joshi's speech has also been published in its entirety by "Labour," the organ of the Bengal and Assam branches of the All-India Postal & R.M.S.Union, in its January 1931 issue (Vol.X-No.12).

The "Unionist," Nagpur gives a summary of the speech in its January 1931 issue (Vol. 2 - No. 10).

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References to the deputation of Mr.S.C.Joshi, the Indian Labour Delegate to the 14th Labour Conference, and to Mr. Joshi's work at the Conference are made in the Annual Report of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union for the year 1929-30. The report is published at pages 1-9 of the Indian Post in its combined issue for November and December 1930 (Vol. I-Nos. 5 & 6). (A copy of the November and December combined issue of the Indian Post has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.2/93/31 dated 5-2-31).

* * * *

New India of 15-1-1931 (Vol. IV - New Series No. 40) publishes at page 11 an article prepared by the League of Nations Union under the caption "The League of Nations: Its value and Work" in which the achievements of the League are reviewed. Referring to the I.L.O., the article says: "The League of Nations, by means of its International Labour Organisation (which consists of representatives of Governments, Employers and Employed), is improving industrial conditions by raising the standards of Labour uniformly throughout the world."

* * * *

The Communiqué issued by the Government of India announcing the date and agenda of the 15th Session of the Labour Conference and inviting recommendations from employers' and workers' organisation regarding the nomination of non-Governmental delegates to the Conference is published in the Excerpts of the proceedings of the Mill-owners' Association, Bombay, during December 1930.

* * * *

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the month of December 1930 publishes the reply sent by the Chamber to the letter of the Government of India inviting an expression of the Chamber's opinion re: giving effect to the Recommendation regarding the prevention of industrial Accidents passed by the 12th International Labour Conference. The Chamber has replied that before any recommendations could be made the Government should prepare a statement showing how far existing legislation has already given effect to the provisions of the Recommendation.

* * * *

The Servant of India of 29-1-31 (Vol. XIV No. 5) publishes ^athe review contributed by the Director of this Office on the League of Nations publication "Ten Years of World Co-operation." In the course

of the review, Dr. Pillai points out that though the absence of any reference in the book to the I.L.O. may be due to the fact that the I.L.O. is an autonomous body, no judgment ~~based~~ on the achievements of the League will be complete or fair unless the work of the I.L.O. also is taken into account.

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The Indian Review of January 1931 (Vol. XXXII - No. 1) publishes a summary of an article by Mr. W. Harsfall Carter under the caption "Kindergarten of Peace" contributed to ^{the} November issue of the Fortnightly Review. The article refers to the lamentable lack of interest in the work of the League in ~~almost~~ of the countries outside Europe and says that in non-European countries, with the exception of Japan, the League is appreciated more for its social and humanitarian activities than for its political activities.

Labour Conditions in the Jharia Coal Mines.*

Jharia Mining Settlement.- The population of the Jharia Mining Settlement in 1929 was estimated to be 511,049. There were 12,598 births (6,500 males, 6,098 females) in the Settlement during 1929, as against 16,104 births (8,219 males, 7,885 females) in 1928. The rate of birth per mille was 27.75 for 1929 as against 35.45 for 1928. The report attributes the decrease in births to the facts that the number of women labourers on collieries is certainly less than in 1928 (18,899 as against 22,872), that in anticipation of the final limitation of female labour on collieries, many men are now unaccompanied by their wives, and that to a greater extent even than formerly women are leaving the collieries as the time for confinement approaches. In 1929 there were 8,882 deaths (4,700 males, 4,182 females) in the Settlement as against 8,300 deaths (4,447 males, 3,853 females) in 1928, the rate per mille being 19.57 for 1929 and 18.28 for 1928. The death rate has thus increased by 1.29.

Note on Colliery Population.- According to the weekly reports submitted by the collieries, the average daily force employed in the collieries during 1929 was 61,816 as against 63,702 in the previous year. Of these 27,567 men and 11,783 women were underground workers and 15,350 men and 7,116 women were aboveground workers. The total number of births during 1929 among the colliery population was 1,554 (816 males, 738 females) as against 2,128 (1,116 males, 1,012 females) in 1928. The rate per mille was 16.76 in 1929 as against 22.27 in 1928. The total number of deaths in 1929 among

* Jharia Mines Board of Health. Annual Report for 1929-30 by N.P. Thadani, Chairman, Jharia Mines Board of Health. Patna: Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa, 1930. pp. 27.

the colliery population was 1,435 (788 males, 647 females) as against 1,529 (844 males, 685 females) in 1928. The death rate per mille in 1929 was 15.48. During 1929 there were 208 cases of cholera and 79 deaths, and 451 cases of small-pox and 6 deaths in the Settlement. 492 accidents were reported during 1929, of which 103 were fatal, 284 cases were reported as recovered, and 105 were minor accidents, as against 143 fatal accidents, 359 cases reported as recovered and 136 minor accidents in 1928.

Dhanbad Municipality.- The Jharia Mines Board of Health undertakes the administration of the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, the control of epidemic disease and all vaccination work in the Dhanbad municipal area. Sanitary conditions within the municipality are not very satisfactory, due largely to want of funds. The number of urinals, latrines and pucca drains is insufficient. For the latrines, efforts are being made to devise a satisfactory type which will be free from offence and then to urge the erection of a sufficient number close to the houses.

Water Supply.- During the year 1929, 13 collieries were connected to Jharia Water Board's mains, bringing the total number of collieries connected to 142. 52 collieries still remain to be connected. Constant efforts are made to induce collieries to link up with the Jharia Water Board's supply. Where it is found to be justifiable, the Board's sanction is sought to compel proprietors to take action.

Housing.- The housing problem continues to occupy the attention of the Board but owing to the continuance of the depression in coal trade, no fresh programme was imposed upon collieries. Nevertheless, some 200 new rooms were constructed, while over 1,000 inferior quarters were refused licences and are therefore unoccupied, most of

them having been pulled down.

Food Adulteration.- Efforts begun in previous years to check food adulteration have been continued with full vigour, but with not more effect than formerly. In 1929 under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, 87 prosecutions were undertaken, of which 73 resulted in convictions.

Medical Arrangements in the Collieries.- On all collieries with more than 30 labourers, a whole-time or part-time medical practitioner is employed. The appointment of each medical practitioner is approved by the Chief Medical Officer of the Board. According to the Report, while the arrangements on the larger collieries leave little to be desired, many of the smaller establishments are prepared to pay so small a sum for their medical attention that satisfactory arrangements are almost impossible. The report states that the Jharia Mines Board of Health, in view of the unsatisfactory nature of the existing medical arrangements may have to take over to itself the employment of medical practitioners who would then be allotted a suitable number of adjacent collieries to look after.

Legal Proceedings instituted by the Board.- One of the most important duties of the Board is to ensure the health of the mining population by initiating prosecutions against persons guilty of offences under the bye-laws of the Board which came into force in March 1922. They provide for the licensing of all houses in the Jharia coalfield and prescribe the minimum standards for houses constructed after the coming into force of the by-laws. In the event of the refusal of the Board to grant a licence a house must either be demolished or reconstructed so as to conform to the prescribed standard.

To prevent overcrowding the by-laws also provide that no more persons shall be accommodated in any room than will allow to each adult the minimum air and floor spaces laid down in the by-laws. The colliery labourer is also liable to a fine if he "causes any room provided for his habitation to cease to meet the requirements laid down in the by-laws, by blocking the ventilation holes or by closing in the verandah or by any other means whatsoever". He is also prevented from building a cattleshed or a pigsty within 50 feet of a room provided for the habitation of colliery labourers or within 50 feet of a well or tank used for domestic purposes. Further, the Board is empowered to proceed against any person who causes overcrowding by occupying a room which has not been assigned to him by the owner, agent or manager of a mine. The Board is thus vested with adequate control over the housing conditions in the Jharia coalfield. During the year under review, 171 prosecutions were intitated by the Board, of which 135 resulted in convictions, 2 in acquittal, 9 were withdrawn and 25 were pending as against 69 prosecutions, 52 convictions, nil acquittals, 4 withdrawals and 13 pending cases in 1928.

Goan Emigrants in British India: Inquiry Commission's Report.

The Governor General of Portuguese India has recently appointed a Commission to inquire into the conditions of Goan emigrants in British India. The Commission, which had as its Chairman, Dr. A. de Silva, Consul General for Portugal in Bombay, have made an exhaustive study of the problem and have suggested many and far-reaching reforms. The Commission has calculated the total number of Goan emigrants in British India to be 50,000 of whom the large majority are to be found in Bombay city.

Causes of Emigration :- Discussing the causes of emigration, the report attributes it chiefly to economic causes as the territory of Goa is insufficient to support the large population. They also attribute ~~to~~ it to certain psychological causes, namely, the aversion in Portuguese India to manual labour and the example of the fortunes made by a few emigrants. The bright prospects offered by a big city like Bombay ~~are~~ also another attraction. The greater number of the emigrants are employed in manual labour and are ~~employed in various~~ tailors, bakers, sailors and domestic servants and most of them are consequently poor and ^{live} a hand-to-mouth existence. The report emphasises that the type of emigrants who come out of Goa is not of the best. Most of them have had little education. This is one of the reasons why there is a large amount of unemployment and the Commission compute that about 7,000 out of a total of 50,000 emigrants are unemployed. The community, however, is one of the most highly educated among the communities in British India. They have several newspapers and their young men have been doing well in the Universities of British India. The moral condition of the community also is very

satisfactory.

Social Institutions .- The report describes the activities of the associations in Bombay city that do ~~a lot of~~ good work among the members of the community and also dwells on the value of residential clubs among the poorer classes of the community. *The usual practice is for* ~~As it is well known~~ a large number of persons coming from the same village in Goa^{to} join together into a club, renting one, two or more rooms, the rent of which they pay by ~~mutual~~ subscriptions. Even those who are working outside the city or as domestic servants continued *during* their absence to pay their subscriptions, which is a small one. Those without employment can thus reside cheaply in the club house and are benefited by this club system.

Ameliorative Measures .- The following is a brief summary of the principal measures suggested by the Commission for the amelioration of the conditions of the Goan emigrants :-

(1) Emigration should be controlled by the Portuguese authorities in Goa. In this way the type of people emigrating can be improved. (2) Schools of arts and crafts should be established in Goa so that the prospective emigrant might obtain a certain amount of training before leaving for British India. (3) The emigration of Goan *young* women into British India should be controlled more effectively. (4) The erection of a special building in Bombay, which might be a common meeting place for the members of the community and where all its associations and institutions might be housed. The proposal is to create a social and intellectual centre for the community, the new building having a public hall, a good library, open fields and other facilities for sport. This house ~~is~~ to be named "The Portugal House." (5) The establishment of Employment Bureaux in British India which might be in touch with the Emigration Department, which the Government of Portuguese India is

urged to establish in Goa to control emigration. (6) The starting of Portuguese and Konkani Schools in Bombay city, where the children of the Goan emigrants may receive special education in their own languages. (7) The creation of ~~V~~^Vigilance Committees in the several Roman Catholic parishes of Bombay (the Goans are Roman Catholics) to help unemployed women, and to repatriate loafers and undesirable members of the community. (8) The establishment of Standing Committees to keep a sustained watch on the interests of the emigrants. (9) The starting of asylums for the old, the invalid, and the unemployed. (10) The reorganisation of the residential clubs and the education of the poor people in such clubs.

Financial Recommendations .- For financing the various measures suggested, the Commission has recommended that the existing two institutions which sell Goa Lottery tickets in Bombay city and other parts of British India should set apart the net profits of one lottery for helping the emigrants, and (2) the Goan Government should levy an emigration tax on every passenger leaving Portuguese India, ^{the} proceeds of which should be earmarked for the emigrants. The Commission expects an annual income of Rs.60,000 from these two sources.

The report has been presented to the Governor General of Portuguese India and will shortly be discussed by his Council. It is expected that the Government will sanction the recommendations of the Commission.

(The Times of India .- 26-1-31)

B.B. & C.I. Railway Staff Committees: Plea for abolition.

The Staff Committees on the B.B. & C.I. Railway were inaugurated ten years back with the object of (1) encouraging the Staff to have a free access to their District Officers and having a greater say in matters affecting their own welfare, (2) increasing the good relations between the officers and the staff, (3) creating a spirit of comradeship and good will amongst Railway employees and cultivating a better understanding among themselves and the Officers, (4) preserving the efficiency of the service, (5) improving the moral and material well-being of the service. The employees had been dissatisfied with the working of the Staff Committees for a long time and were urging their discontinuance. Recently a Memorial addressed to the Agent, B.B. & C.I. Railway, and signed by about 2500 members of the Traffic and other staff of the Railway, urging the dissolution of the Staff Committees on the Railway was sent by the Staff to the B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Association, Ahmedabad, who forwarded it to the Agent on 6-11-30, endorsing the views of the Memorialists. The Memorial points out that the experience of the last ten years shows that the Committees had not been worked in accordance with the spirit of the aims and objects for which they were inaugurated. It alleges ~~three~~ three fundamental defects in the working of the ~~said~~ Committees, which are (1) delay in disposing of the general grievances of the staff and of appeals preferred against the decisions of District Officers; (2) risk of incurring the ~~dis-~~ displeasure of the District Officers by persons who elect to appeal against their decisions; & (3) the increasing tendency amongst the Officers to consult men in whom the staff have no confidence. It is further alleged that the atmosphere prevalent at the Committee meetings restricts the ~~the~~ scope for free discussions between the officers and the representatives of the staff and that questions on which there is a difference of opinion between the officers and the members of the Committee are not duly referred to higher authority as required. It is also pointed out that such Committees will not be a success in the absence of a strong & active organisation of the employees. For these reasons, the Memorial urges the dissolution of the Staff Committees.

(The Labour Gazette, Bombay, January 1930.
Vol. X - No. 5)

Railway Staff Benefit Fund:Draft Rules.

The Indian Railway Board has recently drawn up a set of draft rules for the administration of the Railway Staff Benefit Fund. The rules are to apply only to State managed railways. The principal feature of the scheme is the abolition of the existing Fine Fund as from the 31st March 1931, and the transfer of the administration of the new fund created in its stead to popular committees consisting of a President, who is to be a senior officer nominated by the Agent, and five other members, all railway employees, one nominated by the Agent and four elected by the staff. The centralised administration of the Fine Fund and the utilisation of the monies available for purposes not conducing to the direct benefit of the employees have for long been a subject of grievance to the employees of Indian railways. The abolition of the Fine Fund and the introduction of an element of popular control of the Railway Staff Benefit Fund, it is expected, will go some way for allaying the discontent of the employees in this respect. The rules for the administration of the Fund given below are only in draft form. The Railway Board have communicated these Draft Rules to the All India Railwaymen's Federation on 24-12-1930. The following are the Draft Rules:-

1. The Fund shall be called the Railway Staff Benefit Fund.

2. There shall be a separate Fund for each Railway.

3. Payments from the Fund shall be authorised by a committee at the head-quarters of Railway presided over by a senior officer nominated by the Agent and consisting of five other members, all Railway employees one nominated by the Agent and four elected by the staff.

The constitution of sub-committees of the same composition may be authorised by the Agent, at his discretion, at convenient centres. These sub-committees will have power to allot funds for the objects specified in these rules within rules and limitations prescribed by the Head-quarters Committee.

4. A member of the committee or sub-committee shall hold office for two years unless he is removed by the Agent or resigns but shall be

eligible for re-nomination or re-election.

Note :- At the end of the first year one member nominated by the Agent and two members elected by the staff will retire, but will be eligible for re-nomination or re-election as the case may be.

5. To the Fund shall be credited :-

(1) The balance at the credit of the Fine Fund of the Railway on the 31st March 1931.

(2) With effect from the 1st April, 1931.

(a) All receipts from fines.

(b) All receipts from forfeited fund Bonuses; except forfeited Bonuses of officers.

(c) All other classes of receipts, which under present rules are credited to the Fine Fund.

6. In addition to the credits to the Fund detailed in para 5, there shall be credited to the Fund on the 1st April of each financial year, commencing from the 1st April, 1931, as a contribution from the revenues of the Railway a sum equal to one Rupee per head of the number of the revenue staff on the books of the Railway on the preceding 1st January, less the amounts credited to the fund in the previous Calendar year from the sources of income referred to in rule 5. Provided that for the first three years, the contribution from revenue shall be calculated exclusive of the interest credited to the fund on the ~~xxx~~ balance at the credited of the fund.

Note :- 1. The number of revenue staff for ~~the~~ purpose of this rule shall be determined in thousands, any fraction of a thousand being reckoned as a thousand.

Note :- 2. All staff other than those whose pay is charged to capital new construction or open line shall be regarded as revenue staff for the purpose of this rule.

7. Subject to the general supervision of the Agent, all expenditure from the staff benefit fund shall be authorised by the committee or by a duly appointed Sub-committee under the provisions of rule 3.

8. The Committee shall have power to expend money from the fund on the following objects :-

(i) Schools and Education of the Staff;

(ii) institutes and other forms of recreation and amusements for the staff.

(iii) Schemes for sickness or Maternity benefits etc., for the families of the staff;

9. No part of a Fund shall be used for the direct benefit of the any Gazetted Officer of the Railway.

10. If the chairman disagrees with a majority of the Committee as regards expenditure from the fund in respect to :-

(i) financial propriety.

(ii) wheather the grant comes within the objects mentioned in rule

8.

(iii) conflict with recognised policy of the Government of the Railway, he shall refer the matter to the Agent whose decision in the matter shall be final.

11. The Agent shall make such arrangements as may be necessary for keeping the accounts of the Fund and audit shall be carried out in such manner as the Government of India may direct.

12. The Agent shall submit annually a report to the Board of Directors on the working of Fund during the previous financial year.

13. The Fine Fund will be abolished as such on the 31st March 1931.

Each Company managed Railway will be permitted to establish, with effect from the 1st April, 1931 or ^{an} subsequent date, a Staff Benefit Fund in lieu of the existing Fine Fund subject to the credits to the Fund being regulated by rules 5 and 6, except that the contribution from revenue may be fixed at lower scale and to expenditure from the Fund being confined to the objects mentioned in para 8.

(The Railway Herald, Karachi.- 30-1-31
Vol. 11 - No. 12)

VDS.

Two Reports by the Labour Office, Bombay.

Attention is specially invited to the following two reports published in the January 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay (Vol. X, No.5). The Labour Gazette is being regularly received at Geneva.

Report of an Enquiry into Family Budgets of Cotton Mill Operatives in Bombay City (pages 473-493).

Report of an Enquiry into Infant Mortality among Working Classes in Bombay City (pages 494-508).

The All India (including Burma) Postal & R.M.S. Union:Activities during 1929-30*.

The All India (including Burma) Postal and R.M.S. Union is one of the biggest and strongest labour organisations in India, its membership on 31-3-30 being 27,556. The following account of the activities of the Union for the year 1929-30 is taken from the Annual Report of the Union for the period issued by the General Secretary.

Membership .- On the 31st March 1930, the number of members on the rolls was 27,756 as against 29,670 in 1929. The details are given below:-

Name of Provinces.	Numerical strength of members.		Total.
	Clerks and Stores ^{Sorters} and above.	Below Clerks & Sorters.	
Bengal & Assam ...	3050	4175	7225
Bihar & Orissa	1341
Bombay ...	3419	699	4118
Burma ...	850	866	1716
Central Provinces ...	947	1313	2260
Delhi ...	125	20	145
Madras ...	3018	3982	6100
Punjab & N.W.F.	2374
Sind Baluchistan ...	312	9	321
United Provinces ...	1379	777	2156
Total.	27756.

* Annual Report of the All India (including Burma) Postal & R.M.S. Union for the year 1929-30. Published at pages 1-9 of the November and December -(Vol. I - Nos. 5 & 6) 1930 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi.

Financial Position .- The opening balance in hand on 1st April 1929 was Rs.2,207-8-5. A total of amount Rs.10,587-4-6 was received from the Provincial branches as contributions during the year under review. The total expenditure during the year came to Rs.9,634-12-9 and a sum of Rs.952-7-9 was thus saved after meeting the expenses.

Representation of Grievances .- One of the most important aspects work of the Union is the representation of the of the/grievances of postal employees to the authorities for securing their redressal. During the year under review, the union submitted representations on the following subjects :-

(1) The need for the annulment of the orders passed by the Government of India regarding the appointment of Town Inspectors, in unjust supersession of the claims of a large number of Senior Officials, (2) modification of the syllabus of the Lowest Selection Grade Examination, (3) hardships of Inspectors of Post Offices and R.M.S., (4) improvement of pay and conditions of service of Postal Signallers, (5) fixation of pay of Graduates and Undergraduates in the revised time-scales, (6) inadequacy of outstation allowance sanctioned for R.M.S. officials, (7) grant of family pension and gratuities for Postal and R.M.S. employees who were killed by accidents or died of diseases contracted in course of execution of their duties, (8) counting of temporary or officiating service towards increment, (9) grant of compensatory allowance for costly and notoriously unhealthy places, (10) lowering of status of R.M.S. mailguards as a result of the last revision, (11) grant of grain compensation allowances to the subordinate staff of the Post Office and R.M.S. in places where it is sanctioned by local Governments, (12) reserve Clerks' Examination, (13) conditions of appointment of Postal Accountants, (14) payment of compensation to Postal and R.M.S. Officials on their acquittal after harassing prosecutions, (15) extension of operation of the Workmen's Compensation act to certain classes of Postal and R.M.S. Officials whose duties are of a hazardous nature, (16) grant of overtime pay to Postal signallers, (17) retrenchment, (18) promotion of extra Departmental Agents to the clerical cadre.

Besides the above, the union also made representations on a large number of grievances of a local nature referred to it by the various provincial branches of the union.

Results achieved :- Commenting on the results achieved by such representations, the reports says that they were most disappointing, and observes: "Barring the meagre provision made in the last budget for the improvement of pay of the staff of Benares H.O. and for

revision of allowances for Postal and R.M.S. Officials posted in notoriously unhealthy places in Alipur Dooars, Madras Presidency and Sind and Baluchistan Circle, the administration has shown complete reluctance to entertain any proposals involving any additional expenditure. The result is that nothing has been done to mitigate the sufferings of Extra-departmental agents and other classes of employees who were left out in the last revision, living wage as formulated in the irreducible minimum demands has been denied to the staff whose pay has been revised and to crown all, the existing incumbents have practically reaped no actual benefit from the revision due to non-application of the point to point system. The graduates and undergraduates who were in service at the time of the revision still continue to draw a lower pay than new entrants who are junior to them in service by many years. Not only no provision has yet been made for revising the compensatory ~~x~~ allowance in places outside Burma but even the grant above referred to, for revising the allowances in notoriously unhealthy places, has not been allotted and disbursed, inspite of repeated representations, for affording relief to these most needy officials. There has been a general tendency on the part of the administration to reject or turn down even our most reasonable representations and the time has arrived for instituting a searching enquiry into the causes that have led to this unfavourable change in the attitude of the authorities and for adoption of effective measures for increasing the efficiency of our organisation and of new lines of action for securing redressal of our grievances."

Measures for increasing strength of the Union.- Analysing the

causes of the failure of the Union to achieve its objects, the report that it is due to the lack of enthusiasm says/on the part of the members and secondly to the outburst of

sectional tendencies among certain sections of the Union. The report suggests the following measures for improving the efficiency of the

union as an agency for collective bargaining :- (1) An adequate strengthening of the Staff in the Head-quarter Office of the Union to enable the Union to cope with the growing work and responsibility, (2) adequate provision for continuous and intensive propaganda work to ~~be~~ be especially directed to Provinces and centres where the organisation is ~~weak~~ weak, (3) appointment of a standing Arbitration Board for settling disputes between the Union and the different sections and also between contending parties in branch Unions, (4) inauguration of an All-India Mutual Benefit Fund for stabilising membership, (5) a powerful and widely circulated central organ for ventilating grievances, educating the members and enlisting legislative support, (6) newspaper campaign for creating and strengthening public opinion in favour of our cause, (7) agitation for introduction of joint Councils on the lines of Whitley Councils, (8) adoption of a limited number of resolutions on the most important grievances at the Annual Conference and concentration of activities of the Union for getting them redressed during the ensuing year, Submission of quarterly progress reports inviting suggestions from Provincial Branches for further steps to be taken, (9) appointment of Standing Sub-Committees

for examination of the Union Constitution and Post and Telegraph Manual rules and suggestion of necessary amendments, (10) appointment of a Retrenchment Sub-Committee for submitting a memorandum on measures of retrenchment, (11) appointment of a Sub-committee of experts to examine and report on the present financial policy of the Department and to ascertain the correct deficit and its causes.

Action on Time-Test Report .- During the year under review, the Time-Test Report (see page 63 of the July 1930 report) was published. The Director General has announced in one of his Circulars that the Government has accepted the report and that the revised formulate embodied therein will be applied in future for fixing the staff in the Post Office and R.M.S. He has, however, expressed his inability under the present financial condition of the Department to effect a whole-sale revision of the Staff on the basis of the revised time-test. The report states that the Union should concentrate its agitation on this question during 1931.

Retrenchment.- During the year under review there were various reports regarding the proposed retrenchments in the staff and scales of pay of postal employees, but on a reference being made by the Union, the Director General replied. "It is extremely undesirable and contrary to my express wishes that any economy should be practised which would adversely affect the conditions of service of the Staff, their health or wellbeing."

Settlement with Sectional Organisations .- During the year, the union made efforts to effect settlements with the existing separate sectional organisations of postal employees, viz., the All India Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union, the All India Administrative Officers' Union, and the All India Postal Accountants' Union, by which these sectional bodies could be induced to reunite with the All India Postal and R.M.S. Union. The discussions in this connection were conducted by a Committee of three under the leadership of Mr. S. C.

Joshi (Workers' Delegate to the 14th I.L.Conference), and the report states that, thanks to his efforts and the praiseworthy spirit shown by the leaders of the other Unions concerned, a settlement is in sight.

Mr. S.C. Joshi's work at Geneva .- The report refers to the deputation of Mr. S.C.Joshi, General Secretary, Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Union, as Labour Delegate from India to the 14th International Labour Conference and observes that the great services rendered by Mr. Joshi at Geneva to the cause of Indian labour are matters of deep congratulation for the Union.

Annual and Provincial Conferences & Council Meetings. The 9th Session of the Annual Conference of the Union was held at Peshawar on 10-11-29 under the presidency of ^{Mr.} Dewan Chaman Lall 155 delegates were present at the Conference. Provincial Conferences were held in almost all the provinces. Two meetings of the Council of the Union were held in 1929-30.

Publicity and Propaganda .- The official organ of the union is the General Letter issued every month by the General Secretary. Besides this, several provincial unions are issuing their own publications, the chief being, "Labour" from Bengal and Assam, "General Letter from Bombay, & "General Letter" from Madras, "Postal Comrade" from Punjab and N.W.F., "Unionist" from Central Provinces, and "General Letter" from Burma.

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Trade Union Movement in the Central Provinces,^{*} 1929-30

According to the report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Central Provinces for the year ending the 31st March 1930, issued by the Registrar of Trade Unions, the Central Provinces, the total number of registered trade Unions in the Central Provinces at the close of the period was 7. Of these, 4 Unions were registered under the Act during the year under review. No union was dissolved during the period and of the three old trade Unions, one was not working during the year.

The total membership of all the seven trade unions at the beginning and the end of the year stood at 2,514 and 3,499 respectively, showing thereby an increase of 985 members. The income of 5 unions with a total membership of 1234 stood at Rs.764-1-6 and their expenditure at Rs.731-5-9. The other two unions representing 2265 members did not submit the annual returns for the year under review.

No political fund was maintained during the year by any of the trade Unions.

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 for the year ending the 31st March 1930. Nagpur: Printed at the Government Press 1931. Price - Two Annas. pp 4

Madras Tramway Employees' Union 1929-30.

The following facts about the Madras Electric Tramway and Supply Corporation Employees' Union are taken from the 13th Annual report of the Union for the year 1929-30 :-

The Madras Electric Tramway & Supply Corporation Employees' Union was started in 1917. Mr. S.P.Y. Surendranath Voegeli Arya was elected as its President by a General Body Meeting of the Union on 14th September 1928. The Union was registered on 18th January 1929 under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and was recognised by the Company on the 22nd March 1929. The membership of the Union at the beginning of the year was about 700; by the ~~end~~ end of 1930 its membership increased to 2800 members. The number of Male Members is 2530; The number of Women Members is 270. The monthly subscriptions are:- Coolies (Men) 2 annas, and Coolies (Women) 1 anna, and Employees other than Coolies 4 annas. During the period under review, the Union sent up nine deputations to the Agent to discuss various demands and grievances of the employees, such as, recognition of the Union, increase of wages, the setting up of an Arbitration Board, increased allowances for over-time work, reduction of hours in the Permanent Way Department etc.

The following is a summary of the more important of the resolutions passed at the 13th Annual Conference of the Union held at Madras on 3 and 4-1-31 under the Presidentship of Dewan Bahadur B. Munuswami ~~Naidu~~ Naidu, Chief Minister to the Government of Madras:-

The Conference appreciated the efforts that were being made at the Round Table Conference to realise India's legitimate aspirations; with regard to the demands of Labour the Conference heartily supported the proposition that the New Constitution should contain a declaration of the fundamental rights of the workers, adult suffrage and that labour legislation shall remain a Central or Federal subject.

~~This conference recommended~~ The company should introduce immediately a Provident Fund scheme on the lines of those obtaining in State and

Company Railways etc. It also requests that a copy of the rules may be submitted to the Union before they are finally adopted.

The gratuity scheme introduced in 1920 shall be revived and shall apply to all workers and shall have retrospective effect.

A graded system of pay on time scale should be introduced for all employees.

The fines collected may be allotted as a separate Fund and utilised for the benefit of the workers by way of Night Schools, Reading Room etc., under the management of the Union.

(a) As ~~a~~ regards Traffic employees a minimum wage of Re.1-0-6 ^{per day} (according to Lord Wellington's arbitration) may be fixed.

(b) as regards Generating Staff a minimum salary of Rs.25/- ^{per month} for Switch Board Attendant and Rs.40/- ^{per month} for Station Attendants be fixed and

(c) as regards all other employees of the Tramway Company and the Supply Corporation similar increase in the minimum wage or salary may be granted.

~~undue~~ The company should engage sufficient reserve staff so as to avoid overworking of the employees ~~that what is actually necessary to meet all exigencies.~~

The Traffic staff and all employees working under the shift system shall be given 48 days leave per year with pay instead of 15 days, in exchange for which the employees are willing to forego the privilege of staying away for 4 days each month, will also guarantee not to absent themselves without permission or medical certificate.

As regards the Generating staff (a) in case of overtime they may be given ~~xx~~ an advance for meals, which may be adjusted out of their salaries every month and for this purpose a sum of Rs.5/- may be deposited by the company with the Station Attendant in charge.

The Car Shed employees ~~they~~ may be brought under the benefits of the Factory Act.

Maternity leave with pay be granted to women employees for one month before confinement and one month after confinement.

In view of the frequent punishments meted out to employees for very trivial offences, old offences should not be taken into account after a period of satisfactory conduct.

(Extract from communication sent to this Office by the Secretary of the Madras Electric Tramway & Supply Corporation Employees' Union, Madras.)

Intellectual Workers.Revision of Pay of Shroffs in Currency Offices.

The Standing Finance Committee of the Government of India has sanctioned a permanent recurring grant of Rs.21,756 for the revision of pay of shroffs in Currency Offices. It is proposed to raise the scales of pay of shroffs in Currency Offices as a result of the acceptance of the recommendation of the Committee appointed to inquire into the condition of service and scales of pay of currency employees.

The Committee met in Bombay from November 14 to 19 and submitted its recommendations, which the Government of India have, in consultation with the Controller of the Currency, decided to accept. Although the Committee's investigations were confined to the conditions prevailing in Bombay, a readjustment of the scales of pay of the shroffing establishment is necessary in other offices also, as the existing scale of pay has been fixed on the same principle in every office. The Committee have recommended an increase of Rs.20 in the maximum pay of the shroffing establishment in Bombay and have suggested that the increment should be at the rate of Rs.3 per annum during the first ten years of service and at the rate of Rs.2 per annum during the subsequent ten years of service. It is proposed to raise the maximum pay in Calcutta, Rangoon, and Karachi by the same amount but to raise it by Rs.15 only in Cawnpore, Lahore, and Madras, which are cheaper places; the present minimum pay in these offices is, however, low and it is proposed to raise it by Rs.5; the rate of increment will be the same everywhere. It is also proposed to fix the pay of the head shroff in Bombay at Rs.105, that of the head shroffs in Calcutta, Rangoon and Karachi at Rs.100 and in the other offices at Rs.90 per month.

(Pioneer .- 31-1-31.)

Economic Conditions.Trade of India in 1929-30.*

A comprehensive review of the Trade of India during 1929-30 has recently been published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India. According to the report the total value of imports of merchandise into British India in 1929-30 amounted to Rs. ^{2408.0}~~2400~~ millions and that of exports to Rs. ^{3179.0}~~3175~~ millions. On the basis of corresponding figures for 1928-29, these indicated a decline of Rs. ^{125.0}~~125~~ millions or 5 per cent for the imports and of Rs. ^{201.0}~~201~~ millions or 6 per cent for the exports.

Imports and Exports; Balance of Trade.

Imports.- On the import side the outstanding feature of the year's transactions was a decline of Rs. 37.6 millions under cotton manufactures. Cotton piecegoods by themselves accounted for a reduction of Rs. 35.6 millions, corresponding to a decline of 17.3 million yards in quantity, the actual receipts of the year having amounted to 1,919.3 million yards with a total declared value of Rs. 502.5 millions. This decline is all the more significant, because it occurred in spite of an improvement under grey goods from 838.6 to 925.5 million yards in quantity and from Rs. 201.9 millions to Rs. 209.3 millions in value. Consignments of white goods declined from 554.1 million yards valued at Rs. 153.35 millions to 473.6 million yards valued at Rs. 132.75 millions and those of coloured goods from 506.9 million yards valued at Rs. 173.5 millions to 483.5 million yards valued at Rs. 151.5 millions. The striking feature in the ~~the~~ piecegoods trade was the rapid penetration into the Indian market of Japan, imports from which source showed increases of 152

million yards (63 per cent) under greys, of 8.4 million yards (154 per cent) under whites and of 44.5 million ~~yards~~ yards (40 per cent) under coloured. Twist and yarn exhibited a nominal advance ~~of~~ on the quantity side from 43.8 million lbs. to 43.9 million lbs. although the value recorded declined from Rs. 62.9 millions to Rs. 60 millions. Among other items included in the textile group, artificial silk (including yarn and goods of artificial silk mixed with other materials) declined from Rs. 47.7 millions to Rs. 43.2 millions; silk, raw and manufactured, from Rs. 50.1 millions to Rs. 45.8 millions; wool and woollens from Rs. 50.2 millions to Rs. 42.8 millions. There were interesting movements under sugar, imports of which declined in value from Rs. 160.9 millions to Rs. 157.8 millions, despite an increase on the ~~quantity~~ quantity side from 937,000 tons to 1,011,000 tons. An unusual feature was a remarkable expansion in receipts of beet sugar from 8,400 tons to 131,000 tons simultaneously with a curtailment of the requirements of cane sugar from 860,000 tons to 807,000 tons. The dullness, which had come upon the iron and steel import trade in 1928-29, persisted during the year under review, the total imports having declined from 1,170,000 tons to 972,700 tons in quantity and from Rs. 202.4 millions to Rs. 172.1 millions in value. In machinery and millwork, the developments, noticed in the preceding year, could not be maintained and, although appreciable advances were made under such items as electrical machinery and prime-movers, the total value recorded for the whole group (including belt-ing) fell off by Rs. 800,000 to Rs. 193.5 millions, chiefly as a result of the weakening of demand in the mining, tea and sugar industries. One of the palpably retrograde movements of the year was registered under motor vehicles, the total value of which declined,

contrary to all expectations, from Rs. 77.2 millions to Rs. 75.2 millions. This was due almost wholly to a falling off in the number of motor cars imported from 19,600 to 17,400, the decline being almost entirely confined to consignments from Canada and the United States of America. But the upward trend in imports of rubber manufactures was well sustained, the value of the imports having advanced by 15 per cent from Rs. 28.6 millions to Rs. 33 millions, mainly as a result of the increased consumption of pneumatic motor covers. Imports of hardware (excluding cutlery and electroplated ware) declined from Rs. 52.3 millions to Rs. 50.7 millions, owing principally, to reductions under implements and tools, enamelled ironware and metallised lamps. The total decline under metals and manufactures thereof, including in this group for purposes of comparison such items as machinery and millwork, hardware, cutlery, implements and instruments, and vehicles, was Rs. 35 millions on a total of Rs. 670 millions registered in 1928-29. There was a very remarkable improvement under mineral oils, imports of which advanced from 241.9 million gallons valued at Rs. 107 millions to 252.7 million gallons valued at Rs. 110.4 millions. The steady increase in receipts of kerosene oils, which was noticeable since 1927-28 was more than maintained, and the total quantity consigned during the year moved upwards from 104.7 million gallons to 106.4 million gallons, concurrently with an advance of about 32 million gallons in the coastwise imports into India proper from Burma. Fuel oil supplemented this increase by advancing from 103.7 million gallons in 1928-29 to the record figure of 110.2 million gallons, the recovery being due to the resumption of work in the Bombay cotton

millis. Imports of provisions were valued at Rs. 56.4 millions, a decline of Rs. 5.7 millions, which is to be ascribed to the falling off in the consignments of vegetable product as well as to a reduction in the prices. Imports of liquors advanced from 6.8 million gallons to 7.6 million gallons in quantity and from Rs. 35.7 millions to Rs. 37.7 millions. Imports of raw cotton, which had fallen from 66,100 tons in 1927-28 to 28,900 tons in 1928-29, declined still further in 1929-30 by 4,900 tons, a decrease of 10,000 tons in the share of the United States of America, having been set off to some extent by an increase of 4,000 tons in that of Kenya Colony. Imports of paper and pasteboard increased from Rs. 33 millions to Rs. 37.2 millions, the gain on the quantity side having been 429,000 cwts. on a total of 2,313,000 cwts. recorded in 1928-29. Imports of wheat, which had advanced from 69,200 tons valued at Rs. 10.9 millions in 1927-28 to 561,900 tons valued at Rs. 81.7 millions in 1928-29, came down during the year under review to 357,000 tons with a total declared value of Rs. 49.8 millions, owing largely to the disappearance of the exceptional circumstances ruling in the preceding year.

Exports.- On the export side, the principal phenomenon has been the serious depression in the world demand for jute. The total weight of raw and manufactured jute exported fell by 44,000 tons to 1,765,000 tons, but the value slumped more heavily from Rs. 890 millions to Rs. 790 millions. 50 per cent of the total decline recorded on the value side is attributable to raw jute, exports of which fell from ~~Rx~~ 5,028,000 bales to 4,519,000 bales in quantity and from Rs. 320 millions to Rs. 270 millions in value. Shipments of gunny bags advanced from 498 millions to 522 millions in number but the gain was discounted by a fall in prices, which sent down the

declared value from Rs. 250 millions to Rs. 220 millions. A similar movement was recorded under gunny cloth, the total declared value for which sagged from Rs. 316.6 millions to Rs. 296.6 millions in spite of an increase in yardage from 1,568 millions to 1,651 millions. Under cotton the combined values of the year's shipments of the raw product and of the manufactures declined from Rs. 744.9 millions to Rs. 727.9 millions. Under the ^{stimulus} ~~stimulus~~ of a favourable price parity shipments of raw cotton expanded from 3,712,000 bales to 4,070,000 bales, but the value actually recorded a loss of Rs. 10 millions on a total value of Rs. 660 millions recorded in 1928-29, the advantage of increased shipments having thus been more than neutralised by a serious decline in prices, which can be explained by reference to the pressure of the huge carry-over from the previous year's crop as well as to the low grade of the Broach and Oomras crops of the year. Export shipments of cotton manufactures (including twist and yarn) were valued at Rs. 71.9 millions, which meant a reduction of Rs. 6.1 millions on the basis of 1928-29 and of Rs. 14.8 millions on that of 1927-28. The total decline under cotton piecegoods amounted to 16 million yards in quantity and Rs. 7 millions in value. The principal feature of this downward movement is the progressive decline in exports of greys, which is explained in part by the parlous state of the Bombay mill industry and by the severity of Japanese competition in many of the especial markets of the Bombay mills. Under foodgrains, the total shipments advanced from 2,300,000 tons valued at Rs. 336.9 millions to 2,510,500 tons valued at Rs. 347.9 millions but this improvement, ~~as~~ far from being general, was confined almost wholly to rice, shipments of which recovered from 1,817,400 tons to 2,326,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 264.7 millions to Rs. 315.1

millions in value as a result of the premature exhaustion of the surpluses of the other exporting countries. Exports of wheat, which amounted to 13,000 tons valued at Rs. ~~220~~²¹² millions, were shorter than the exports of 1928-29 by 102,000 tons in quantity and Rs. 14.8 millions in value, the decline on the basis of 1927-28 being 287,000 tons on the quantity side and Rs. 42 millions on the value side. Taking other kinds of foodgrains together for purposes of comparison, the total decline for the year amounted to 193,000 tons in quantity and Rs. 23.7 millions in value, out of which as much as 132,000 tons on the quantity side and Rs. 15.8 millions on the value side represented a reduction in the export shipments of barley. In tea the principal feature of the year was the intensification of the preceding year's depression, as a result of which the value of shipments declined from Rs. 266 millions to Rs. 260.1 millions, notwithstanding an increase in the quantity shipped from 359.6 million lbs. to 376.6 million lbs. Exports of oilseeds amounted to 1,195,000 tons valued at 264.6 million rupees, which meant a decline of 10 per cent in quantity and of 11 per cent in value in comparison with the figures for 1928-29 but an increase of 9 per cent over the average value of the shipments during the pre-war period. The decline, as exhibited in the year's transactions, is accounted for by a falling-off in the shipments of groundnuts from 788,000 tons valued at Rs. 193.7 millions to 714,000 tons valued at Rs. 163.9 millions, a good part of this of which rose from 156,700 tons to 248,200 tons in quantity and from Rs. 33.1 millions to Rs. 57.2 millions in value as a result mainly of the low out-turn of the world's linseed crops. Despatches of hides and skins declined from 89,600 tons valued at Rs. 188.7 millions to 74,100 tons valued at Rs. 160.3 millions. Shipments of lac also

fell off by 10 per cent in quantity and 19 per cent in value from 743,000 cwts. valued at Rs. 86.4 millions to 669,000 cwts. valued at Rs. 69.7 millions. Exports of oilcakes, which had shown an abnormal development in 1928-29 fell off by Rs. 7.2 millions to Rs. 31.2 millions, thus showing a decline of Rs. 200,000 on the basis of 1927-28.

Re-exports.- Coming to re-exports, the total value recorded under this head amounted to Rs. 71.3 millions in 1929-30. This meant a decline of Rs. 1 million in comparison with the value recorded in 1928-29 and Rs. 24.1 millions on the basis of 1927-28. The bulk of India's ~~xxx~~ re-exports usually passes through Bombay and the effect of this retrogression was, as in the preceding year, confined mainly to that province, the value of her trade having fallen off from Rs. 50.2 millions to Rs. 45.2 millions and the corresponding percentage share from 64 to 63. The most noticeable movement of the year, so far as Bombay was concerned, was a decline in the shipments of raw skins from 323 tons valued at Rs. 15.3 millions to 211 tons valued Rs. 10.5 millions. Re-exports of raw cotton from Bombay, which had fallen off from 2,790 tons valued at Rs. 4.4 millions in 1927-28 to 551 tons valued at Rs. 900,000 in 1928-29, recovered to 1,425 tons valued at Rs. 1.9 millions in 1929-30. Shipments of sugar contracted from 10,000 tons to 7,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 2.3 millions to Rs. 1.7 millions in value. Re-exports of cotton manufactures (mostly piecegoods) fell from Rs. 8.9 millions to Rs. 7.8 millions. Re-exports of raw wool decreased from 12 ~~mm~~ million lbs. valued at Rs. 9.4 millions to 8 million lbs. valued at Rs. 6.5 millions.

Balance of Trade.- The visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure for the year 1929-30 was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 530 millions compared with Rs. 520 millions in the preceding year, Rs. 500 millions in 1927-28 and the record figure of Rs. 1,090 millions in 1925-26. The net imports of treasure of private account fell from Rs. 340 millions to Rs. 260 millions, of which net imports of gold were valued at Rs. 140 millions and of silver at Rs. 120 millions. Net imports of currency notes amounted to Rs. 900,000.

Tariff Changes in 1928-29.

The changes in the tariff made under the Indian Finance Act, 1929 and the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1929, were dealt with at pages 45 and 46 of the report of this office for November 1929. Since then four Acts have been passed introducing important changes in the tariff.

The Indian Finance Act, 1930, which was passed on the 28th March, imposed an import duty of 4 annas an ounce on silver bullion and coin and rolled sheets and plates not ~~further~~ further manufactured, raised the import duty on cotton piecegoods from 11 per cent to 15 per cent. ad valorem, raised the import duty on all kinds of sugar and sugar candy (excluding molasses) by Rs. 1/8 per cwt. and reduced the import duty on kerosene from 2 1/2 annas a ~~maund~~ to 2 3/4 annas a gallon and the export duty on rice from 3 annas to 2 3/4 annas a maund. It also raised the import duty on silver manufacturers (plate, thread, wire, leaf, etc.) from 30 to 38 per cent ad valorem consequent upon the imposition on duty on the metal. The reduction of import duty on kerosene was coupled with an increase in the corresponding excise duty from 1 anna to 1 1/2 annas a gallon, while the imposition of customs duty on silver necessitated the imposition of an equivalent

excise duty on the local production and this was done under the Silver (Excise Duty) Act, 1930.

The Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930, which was passed on the 4th April, provided for the protection of the Cotton Textile Industry and imposed a protective duty of 20 per cent. ad valorem on all cases of cotton piecegoods of other than British manufacture with a minimum specific duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas a pound on plain grey goods. For piecegoods of British manufacture the corresponding rate was 15 per cent ad valorem with the same minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas a pound in the case of plain grey goods. The Act also provided for the continuance of the protection granted to the Industry in 1927 in respect of the manufacture of cotton yarn and retained the minimum specific duty of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a pound on the imported article. Both these provisions will have effect up to 31st March, 1933.

The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1930, which came into force on the 29th March, removed the import duty on tanning barks, ammonium phosphates, living plants, certain agricultural implements and dairy appliances, poultry farming appliances and incubators, pans for boiling sugar cane juice, sugar centrifuges and sugar pug-mills and certain printing and lithographic materials. It also effected certain minor changes such as the imposition of saccharine duty on substances of a like nature or use, equilisation of duty on all domestic refrigerators at 15 per cent ad valorem, exemption of pilot cores of insulated copper cables from the condition as regards size for assessment purposes and the equilisation of duty on all kinds of bangles beads and false pearls at 30 per cent ad valorem.

The Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1930, which came into

force on the 29th March, lowered the limit of the size of the protected qualities of round and square steel bars and rods from $\frac{1}{2}$ to "over $\frac{7}{16}$ " inch in order to make the protection more effective. It also imposed the protective duty on tie-bars for cast iron sleepers making all spikes and tie-bars liable to the same protective duty as bars thus giving full effect to the intention underlying the Act of 1927.

Effect of Industrial Unrest on Economic Conditions.

The outstanding feature of the industrial situation in India during 1928 was the labour unrest, which seriously disturbed the economic equilibrium of the country. Conditions showed little improvement in this respect in 1929 and the year witnessed labour unrest of equal magnitude in many industries of the country. The two major incidents of the year, so far as labour is concerned, were the general strikes, -which convulsed at one end the textile industry of Bombay and at the other the jute mill industry of Bengal. In Bombay a general strike was called from the 26th April. Although its actual incidence was not so heavy at first, it spread to 64 mills by the beginning of May. But the situation gradually improved, the strike showing signs of breaking down by the end of August and finally collapsing early in September. The strike in the jute mills of Bengal, which broke out at the beginning of August, affected almost all the jute mills on both sides of the Hooghly. But the majority of the mill hands returned to work by the middle of September and the strike terminated early in October.

(The Trade of India in 1928-29 is reviewed at pages 40-46 of the report of this office for November 1929).

*Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India.

Review of the Trade of India in 1929-30 (56th Issue). Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1930. Price Rs.2 as.10 or 4s.9d. pp. xxv + 284.

Social Conditions.The Immoral Traffic Act, Madras.

As a result of considerable agitation on the part of the Madras public, the Madras Legislative Council passed the Immoral Traffic Act in January 1930, and the Act received the assent of the Governor-General in April of the same year. The Act has not yet been put into force as the Government allege the existence of two main difficulties, in addition to a few minor ones, which stand in the way of an early enforcement. One is the absence, under the Madras Children's Act, of Juvenile Courts that can be invested with jurisdiction under the Immoral Traffic Act to commit rescued girls to "suitable custody" for education, care, etc. In the absence of such Courts, the enforcement of the Act in mufasal towns - where Juvenile Courts do not exist and are not likely to come into existence for some time - will be infructuous. A further difficulty is the absence of Rescue Homes to which the girls can be committed.

(New India .- 22-1-31)

Seeing that the Government was postponing the enforcement of the Act, a deputation of the Madras Vigilance Association consisting of the Lord Bishop of Madras, Mr. K. V. Sesha Iyengar, and Mr. D.F. McClelland waited on the Home Member of the Madras Government on 16-1-31 to urge the necessity for the early enforcement of the Act.

The deputationists pointed out that the provisions of the Act are directed to the achievement of two objects: namely, the arrest and prevention of the growth of immoral traffic, by enacting certain new offences; and the rescue and care of minor girls who have been already made victims to that traffic. Unlike the remedial sections, the punitive sections do not require any new machinery. The Magistrates' Courts and the Criminal Procedure Code are enough for putting them ~~into~~ into operation. The two sets of provisions are independent of each other, and the preventive and punitive sections can be immediately introduced throughout the Presidency in accordance with the Act.

There was urgent need for such enforcement. With respect to the second set of provisions, they stated that inasmuch as their enforcement and effectiveness are dependent on the existence of juvenile courts

and of rescue homes, the Government ought to take steps to bring such courts into existence in all district centres at as early a date as possible. Meanwhile these sections could be ~~x~~ enforced in those places where juvenile courts were functioning.

With respect to rescue homes there were at present some institutions in the city and elsewhere where room could be found for about 50 inmates. The Vigilance Association was also endeavouring to bring into existence a non-denominational home. It was expected that before such a home was built, it might be possible with adequate financial assistance from the Government to meet the requirements of the provisions of the Act either through the existing institutions or through a rented home under the management of the Association.

The authorities are reported to have promised to the deputationists to find their way to enforce the Act at an early date, and, in the meantime, to take steps for obtaining legal opinion as to whether partial enforcement of the Act is possible. (The Hindu .- 16-1-31.)

Social Conditions.Proposed Legislation to stop Beggar Nuisance, Madras.

For the purpose of better controlling beggars in the city of Madras, Mr. F.E. James proposes to introduce a Bill in the ^{Madras} Legislative Council by way of amendment to the Madras City Police Act and the Madras Children's Act.

Section 71 (XXI) of the Police Act which runs as follows is sought to be deleted: "Whoever begs or applies for alms, or exposes or exhibits any sores, wounds, bodily ailment or deformity with the object of exciting charity or of extorting alms". The Bill seeks to insert the following new section:-

"71-A.- Whoever begs or applies for alms or exhibits any sores, wounds, bodily ailment or deformity with the object of exciting charity or of extorting alms in any public street, road, thoroughfare or place of public resort may (1) be released on probation on a first offence as in the case of first offenders under the Criminal Procedure Code or (2) be committed (a) where the offender is able bodied to a certified workhouse or settlement; (b) where the offender is infirm or diseased to a certified hospital or infirmary, or (c) in the case of a refractory or turbulent offender to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months."

The amendment to the Children's Act will be in Section 29 to insert in sub-section (1) after (d) the following:-

"Or (e) is found begging or receiving alms in any public street, road, thoroughfare or place of public resort".

(The Hindu, 16-1-1931).

Public Health.Housing Scheme for E. I. Railway Employees.

Quite a number of railway housing schemes have been started in India during recent years. The newest of them has been started at Howrah, the industrial suburb of Calcutta, by the East Indian Railway. The following details about the scheme, of which the first stages are now complete, are taken from an article on the subject appearing in the Times of India, Bombay, of 9-1-31.

The housing site, which is called the Tindal Bagan Estate, covers an area of $24\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The estate has been laid out with a view to remedying the defects which the past system has revealed; high rents, insanitation, overcrowding, distance, cost of transport and the absence of organised communal life.

The new quarters consist in the main of separate blocks for subordinate employees, for clerks and for menials. The cost of the land has been approximately Rs.3.1 million, ~~which~~ while the buildings and their equipment have entailed the expenditure of roughly Rs.2.3 millions or a total of nearly Rs.5.4 millions. For the subordinate staff there are two great three-storeyed blocks, containing a total of 108 suites of rooms. In each of the blocks there are 15 three-roomed suites and 39 two-roomed suites. The blocks themselves consist of five wings projecting in a southward direction and a main portion running from east to west, the whole forming a frontage of over 150 yards each.

Details of three-roomed suites .- Each three-roomed suite consists of two bedrooms and a living room (each 16ft. by 16ft.); a kitchen with pucca masonry chula (fire place for cooking), iron chimney, porcelain sinks and water connections; a bathroom with sanitary fittings and porcelain handbasins and marble shelf; and a store-room with sets of cement concrete shelves. Each suite also possesses three verandahs of ample width, as well as a small verandah between the kitchen and the store-room. A spiral staircase gives

independent entrance into the kitchen. The bed-rooms and living rooms are separated by a passage way. In this manner each suite is not only entirely self-contained, but planned according to thoroughly up-to-date designs.

Details of two-roomed suites .- The two-roomed suites for subordinate staff consist of two bedrooms, 16ft. by 16ft., a dressing-room 16ft. by 8ft., a kitchen and a bathroom, and also two verandahs (east and west in the case of wing suites, and north and south in the case of the main block). Throughout these buildings the floors are granolithic laid on R.B. work. Steel Crittall windows have been provided in kitchens, stores and bathrooms. The buildings have a pleasing appearance, the monotony of their frontage being broken both by the provision of the wings and by ornamental verandahs; while numerous turrets are further decorative features.

Clerks' Quarters.- The clerks' quarters similarly fall into two categories - three-roomed and two-roomed - and these are found in a separate three-storeyed block. The accommodation in each suite consists of bedrooms and living rooms, kitchen, bathroom and two verandahs.

Menials' Quarters .- Two further blocks, each four storeys high, contain the menials' quarters which comprise 192 units. Each of the latter consists of a room (10ft. by 10ft.) opening on to a continuous verandah 6ft. 3ins. wide. In each storey there are four sets of common lavatories and bathrooms. A further set of 24 units is housed in a smaller two storeyed block.

Sanitary Arrangements .- One of the main features of the Tindal Bagan undertaking is the great amount of attention that has been paid to health and sanitation. The suites of rooms are admirably ventilated, for, in the first place, the rooms are so arranged as to admit fresh air from all directions; and in addition, an area 7ft. by 7ft. has been kept open to the sky to facilitate the entry of air and light into each of the two-roomed suites.

Two 5 inch tube-wells have been sunk to a depth of about 300 feet, and electric pumps with an average capacity of 6,000 gallons per hour have been installed near the tube-wells (and housed in a suitable masonry structure) to supply water for all purposes required for the staff on this estate. The electric pump, incidentally, is located at a level of about ten feet below ground and discharges water at a height of 50 feet into a set of twelve pressed-steel overhead tanks placed on the roof of the menials quarters. Each of the tanks contains 4,800 gallons and the distribution is to all parts of the estate by six-inch and three-inch pipes. In this manner a pure drinking water supply will be obtainable day and night with an ample margin for other purposes.

Flushing arrangements have been provided in all bath-rooms, and the ventilating pipes to all soil pipes rise above the roof level. Pucca masonry surface drainage has been installed all round the quarters with outlets into the municipal drain outside the estate. The latter will have its own septic tank which after chlorination will also have its outlet into the municipal drains. Dust-bins are placed outside each kitchen, and care will be taken that these receptacles are cleaned at regular hours. In this manner it is hoped that the Tindal-Bagan colony will be a model of cleanliness.

Facilities for Recreation.- While ample distances separate the

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blocks from each other, in the very heart of the estate is a large open plot which has been for the time being reserved as a recreation ground ~~that~~ and park. A wide road with numerous feeder roads will give easy access to all parts of the estate and lead directly to the main road adjoining the railway station. Spacious and well-dressed lawns and avenues of trees are being planted so that there will be ample space and shade, which are so essential to well being in a tropical town. Close at hand are Railway Institutes, which the members of the staff are eligible to join.

Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay*

The following facts about the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay are taken from the Annual Report on the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, for the year 1929-30. In March 1929 the management of the Industrial Housing Scheme was transferred to the Revenue Department of the Government of Bombay by the Development Department. The scheme comprises 207 chawls (tenements for industrial workers) having rooms and shops as shown in the following table.

<u>Chawl areas.</u>	<u>Number of chawls.</u>	<u>Number of rooms.</u>	<u>Number of shops.</u>	
DeLisle Road	32	2,549	11	
Naigaum	42	3,271	73	
Worli	121	9,476	184	Market stalls
			and	equal to 20
			*103	rooms
Sewri	12	918	42	
Total	207	16,214	413	

Chawls in use. The following table shows the figures of the occupied chawls at the beginning and at the end of the year:-

<u>Locality.</u>	<u>April 1929.</u>	<u>March 1930.</u>
DeLisle Road	27	27
Naigaum	38	39
Worli	45	46
Sewri	12	12
Total	122	124

Scale of Rents.- During the year under report the scale of rents for rooms on all floors of the chawls at DeLisle Road was reduced with effect from the 1st April 1929 to a flat rate of Rs.8 per room per

* Annual Report on the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme for the Year 1929-30 (Price- Anna 1 or 1d). Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1931.

mensem, while the rents for the chawls in the other three areas remained unchanged throughout the year, the rates being a flat rent for all rooms of Rs. 8 at DeLisle Road, Rs. 7 at Naigaum, Rs.7 at Sewri and Rs.5 at Worli.

Tenancies.- Out of a total of 16,524 rooms and shops constructed by March 1929, 7,291 rooms were occupied at the end of March 1930. During the first quarter of the year under report there was a heavy decline in the number of tenancies, owing to the disturbed condition of the textile industry and the serious communal riots in Bombay, (see pages 25-27 of the ^{Quarterly} February 1929 Report), in all localities except Sewri where there are less millhand tenants. From September the occupancies began to rise steadily till they showed a marked improvement over the figures of occupancies at the end of the year 1928-29. The fall in the month of March 1930 might be due to the G.I.P. Railway strike. On the 31st March 1930 the tenancies showed an increase of nearly 500 over those on the 31st March 1929 but a decrease of 400 as compared with the figures on the 31st March 1928. Three chawls at Worli were placed at the disposal of the jail authorities for a temporary prison in the beginning of May 1929, but two of them were subsequently relinquished and only one was retained by them till the beginning of October 1929. These have not been included in the above table, as they were only temporarily occupied by under-trial prisoners arrested during the disturbances.

A Co-operative Estate Scheme in the Sunderbans, Bengal.

The following are the main ^{features of} ~~details for~~ a co-operative estate scheme put forward by Sir Daniel Hamilton of Bengal, ~~and~~ which has now received the sanction of the Government of Bengal and the Government of India :-

(1) The Government of India should lend Rs.150,000 for the establishment of the Bolpur Training School for co-operative workers, (2) the Bengal Government should place at the disposal of Sir D. Hamilton a block of land in ^{the} Sunderbans for the purpose of creating an estate of about 10,000 acres to be worked on co-operative lines, the estate remaining the property of the Bengal Government, (3) the Government of India should lend a further sum of Rs.2,00,000 for the development of the estate. The estate is estimated to provide a living for 2000 families, the rice-lands being expected to yield Rs.400,000 worth of paddy. The doctors and teachers are to be paid for by the people from the paddy and not ^{from} today and salt, and villagers are to learn the art of self-government through panchayats, which will form the electoral unit of the populace consisting of all castes and creeds. This miniature "Co-operative State" is named Andrewpur.

According to Sir Daniel Hamilton, the proposals, if followed up, would supply what was lacking in the proposed constitution for India, and usher the dawn of independence for the individual, and therefore of the nation, and solve the unemployment problem among the Bhadrak (middle classes).

(The Hindu.- 28-1-31.)

Women and Children.The 5th All India Women's Educational Conference, Lahore.

The fifth All India Women's Educational Conference was held at Lahore on 12 to 14-1-31 under the presidentship of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi. The Conference passed resolutions urging :-

(1) The employment of a woman doctor to ensure ante and post natal care and attention during child-birth for the mother and medical care of children, the establishment of maternity homes and of an adequate supply of trained help, and the establishment of creches and nursery schools in all factories.

(2) The early passing of a Maternity Benefits Act for the whole of India.

(3) Part-time education being made compulsory for all half-timers upto the age of 15 years, and where conditions make it desirable, mill-owners co-operating with the local authorities in the provision of such education among the industrial population.

(4) The Conference urged the Viceroy and the Central Legislature and the local Governments to keep the Sarda Act intact and strictly enforce the provisions of the Act, and called upon ~~social societies and~~ social reform associations in the country to educate public opinion and persuade individuals to obey the law and to report cases of violation of the Act.

(5) In view of the widespread awakening and outlook of women, the Conference considered it imperative to form centres for practical training of social workers in both rural and urban areas and centres for social work.

(6) In view of the high maternal and infant mortality all over India, the Conference called upon the Central and Provincial Govern-

ments to appoint medical women as administrative officers both in the medical and public health departments in order to organise adequate medical aid for women and children and to develop maternity and child welfare work.

(7) The Conference urged that separate children's courts be established for trying juvenile offenders and that in these courts at least one Magistrate should be a ~~woman~~ woman.

(8) The Conference reiterated its firm conviction that women should be adequately represented on the central and provincial legislatures, district, municipal and other local bodies and on commissions and committees affecting women and children. (The Hindu .- 17-1-31).

The First All Asian Women's Conference, Lahore.

The First All Asian Women's Conference was held at Lahore from the 19th to the 25th January 1931. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu was elected president of the Conference, but, as she was at the time a political prisoner, the Conference was presided over by Lady Bandaranaike (Ceylon). Delegates from ~~then~~ Asiatic countries were present on the opening day. Among the foreign delegates present were :- Mrs. Mohl (Jerusalem), Madame Nasik Abed (Syria), Madame Nour Hamada (Damascus), Mrs. Ani (Basra), Madame Mastoor E. Afshar (Tehran), Mrs. Hasan Ara (Afghanistan) Bibi Moulk, and Begum Amiruddin (Persia), and Mrs. San and Miss Soon (Java). The Rani of Mandi in the course of her welcome address said :

"This is the first gathering of its kind in Asia. We meet to promote cultural unity among the women of Asia, to place at the service of humanity those qualities which are peculiar to our Oriental civilisation, to stamp out those evils which have crept into our civilisation, to pick out and adapt those qualities of civilisation and culture which have elevated the West to the high pinnacle of social and material prosperity, to benefit ourselves by exchange of experience in our respective countries and lastly to advance the cause of world peace. It is our desire not merely to regenerate ourselves, but through us,

regenerate and promote human progress and happiness at large. Let us discard the customs and traditions which have been strangling our domestic lives and wield an inspiring and noble influence in our household, in our country and in the world at large."

The Conference passed eleven resolutions concerning education, religion, drink, drugs, health, culture, equality of status of men and women, children's rights, right of self-expression, world peace, stoppage of traffic in women and children and labour. The following is a brief summary of the resolutions passed :- The first resolution urged free compulsory primary education for every boy and girl in Asia. The second resolution said that in order to provide a spirit of religious tolerance, love and harmony amongst the communities, the lives and teachings of great religious leaders should be taught in schools and the comparative study of ^{the} great religions of the world included in the curriculum of colleges. The third resolution recommended prohibition, limitation of production of alcohol, opium and other drugs and propaganda against alcohol among students. The fourth resolution asked the countries in Asia except Japan to spend money on health schemes and institute researches into the causation of diseases peculiar to the East and development of the indigenous system in the light of modern science. The fifth resolution emphasised the necessity for retaining the high spiritual consciousness and desires the women of Asia to maintain the high standard uninfluenced by the materialistic trend of modern times. The sixth resolution urged the abolition of polygamy, equal rights to women over guardianship of children and property, equal rights of ~~divorce~~ divorce, adult franchise and nationality for married women. The seventh resolution urged the enactment of suitable children's acts and abolition of child marriage. The eighth resolution said "in order that every individual and every nation may have unfettered right of self-expression

for enrichment of human synthesis this conference considers it imperative that each country shall have full responsible government." The ninth resolution gave whole-hearted support to the League of Nations and urged women to do their utmost for the League both individually and collectively. The tenth resolution urged the abolition of brothels and raising the age of consent to eighteen years. The last resolution demanded legislation for the regulation of women's hours of work, wages and provision for illness, accident and old age, maternity benefit, housing, medical aid etc.

Maritime Affairs.

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The Indian Sailors' Home, Bombay.

Reference was made at pages 53-54 of the report of this Office for September 1930 to the Report submitted by the Committee appointed by the Government of India to formulate a scheme for the establishment of an Indian Sailors' Home in Bombay. His Excellency the Governor of Bombay laid the Foundation stone of the Indian Sailors' Home on 14-1-31. The site for the building, measuring about 2000 square yards and valued at Rs.200,000, was presented free of cost by the Trustees for the Port of Bombay. The cost of the building is estimated to amount to Rs.312,245. The intention of the Committee in charge of the scheme is to build over a portion of the site, leaving room for further extensions if found necessary. The area left unbuilt is meant to be used as a social welfare ground for the benefit of the seamen. This institution is the only Indian Sailors' Home in the Indian Empire. The cost of running the Home is to be met by a grant of Rs.10,000 a year promised by the Government of India for five years, and a recurring grant of Rs.5,000 a year sanctioned by the Trustees of the Port of Bombay. These amounts, together with the receipts from the Home, it is estimated, will provide ample funds for the upkeep of the Home. (The Times of India.-16-1-31).

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay,1929-30.

The annual general meeting of the Indian Seamen's Union for 1929-30 was held at Bombay on 11-1-1931 with Mr. R.S. Asavale in the chair. Mr. Syed Munawar, the General Secretary, presented the report of the work done by the Union and the ~~xxm~~ audited statement of accounts and balance sheet for the year. In a brief speech he explained the

main features of the work done, and pointed out that four deputations waited on the Government and shipping authorities and made over 150 representations to them for the redress of Indian seamen's grievances and demands, chief among them being the establishment of an employment bureau with a joint advisory committee of ship owners and seamen, an eight-hour day with overtime allowance, regulation of seamen's employment by rotation, prevention of discharge before the term of agreement, deletion of the 'character' column from seamen's certificates, the entire abolition of the broker system, the restoration of the wage-cut effected in 1923, an all-India standardization of wages, increase in the quantity of meat, ghee, sugar, tea, coffee and milk as also in accommodation on board ships, the equalisation of service agreements, location of the shipping office at a more convenient place, the engagement of saloon department members of the Union by the P. and O. and B.I.S.N. Companies by an open muster at the shipping office, and allied matters. After the report with the balance sheet was unanimously adopted, the new office-bearers were elected. Resolutions were passed regarding extension of one more year of the period for presentation of war compensation claims by seamen, and the early formation of the All-India Seamen's Federation.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay was held at Bombay on 18-1-1931 with Mr. L.G. Pradhan in the chair. The chairman explained the object of the meeting and expressed that there was the prospect of the amalgamation of the two unions of seamen in Bombay into one union under the name of the National Seamen's Union of India. Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Serang dwelt on the advantages

that would accrue from the proposed amalgamation. Mr. Syed Munawar, the General Secretary, briefly traced the events leading to the fusion and moved the resolution embodying the terms of the amalgamation. After the resolution was unanimously passed the draft ~~amalgamated~~ constitution of the amalgamated union was adopted.

(The Trade Union Record, February 1931, Vol. I ~~Part~~
No. 12).

Conditions of South African Repatriates in India.

The Government of India had appointed in 1930 a special Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. G. A. Natesan, Member Council of State, and Mr. J. Gray, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner, Madras, to report on the working of the special organization in Madras for dealing with emigrants returning from South Africa under the scheme of assisted emigration. The object of ^{the} enquiry ^{was} ~~is~~ to ascertain how far the existing arrangements are adequate for the discharge of the obligations towards the returned emigrants accepted by the Government of India under the Cape Town Agreement and to recommend what improvements, if any, are required, ~~as~~ especially to ensure that those able and willing to work are given all possible help to secure employment suited to their aptitude and resources.

Under the Cape Town Agreement (See pages 61 of the April 1930 report of this office) ~~the~~ the Government of India undertook to see that on arrival in India, assisted emigrants from South Africa ^{are} ~~will~~:

(1) advised and as far as possible protected against squandering their cash or losing it to adventurers, and (2) helped, as far as possible to settle in occupations ~~x~~ for which they are best suited by their aptitude and resources.

In fulfilment of the obligations of the Government of India under this agreement, a Special Officer was appointed in August 1927 with ~~his~~ headquarters at Madras. The duties with which he has been charged are

(a) to receive the assisted emigrants when they land, (b) to make arrangements for their despatch to their destinations up-country, (c) to protect any cash they may have with them when they land from the attention of adventurers at the port of disembarkation and on their journeys, (d) to provide facilities for banking their ~~savings~~ and bonus until such time as they may require the money for purposes connected with their maintenance or occupation after arrival in India, and (e) to settle them in some occupation for which they may have expressed a preference and for which they may be suited by their aptitude and resources.

The following is a brief summary of the Report presented by the

Committee :-

The Committee began its labours with a visit to the S.S. Umzumbi on its arrival in the Madras Harbour on 8-4-30. The ship brought 257 repatriates for Madras, and 38 for Calcutta. The Committee reports that the accommodation allotted to the repatriates was airy and clean, that hospital, bathing and latrine arrangements were satisfactory and that the food supplied was of good quality. The Committee after a thorough inspection of the routine followed by the Special Officer, record that they are satisfied with the arrangements made by him for the reception of returned emigrants, their despatch to their destinations up-country, the protection of their cash and the provision of facilities for the banking of their savings. The Committee states that the procedure in these respects has been systematised as the result of 2½ years experience and that it has no suggestions to make for its improvement.

One of the most important duties of the Special Officer is to find suitable occupations in India for the returned emigrants. The Special Officer issues clearly printed slips to all returned emigrants asking them to inform him if they require any help in settling down or finding employment. Between shipments, the Special Officer also tours in the moffusil to keep in touch with repatriates in their villages. For decrepit repatriates, who are unable to work, the Government has opened in December 1930 a special Home at Madras.

The total number of returned emigrants who have arrived in Madras under the assisted emigration scheme from August 1927 up to the end of March 1930, is 5,326, of whom 2,329 are men, 1,216 are women and 1,781 are children. Of the 2,329 men, only 1,898 are shown as fit for employment, the rest being decrepits. Of these 1,898 fit men, only

203 have sought the Special Officer's assistance in ~~xx~~ securing employment. During the period, August 1927 to March 1930, 90 returned emigrants from South Africa emigrated to the Malay States, 73 returned to South Africa and 77 found employment on Tea Estates in Southern India. Of the 77 who have found employment on tea estates, 26 appear in the Special Officer's list of applicants. The large majority of the 203 who had applied to the Special Officer for help in finding employment, have been placed in suitable jobs by him, but the Committee is of opinion that the work of the Special Officer is rendered difficult by the lack of proper response from the repatriates. The difficulties pointed out by the Committee are :-

(1) Many of the repatriates do not ~~apply~~ apply sufficiently early to the Special Officer and are content to live on their savings, and then live on charity rather than try for work. (2) The scales of wages in India are lower than those obtaining in S.Africa and consequently even when suitable jobs are found many repatriates refuse to accept the situations offered. (3) Many repatriates of the skilled labour class come to India without testimonials from previous employers as to character, conduct, ~~and~~ fitness for skilled work, and hence it is difficult to place them. (4) Many of the emigrants aspire to posts for which they are not really qualified and for which qualified local candidates are available in large numbers.

The report states that returned emigrants of the class of petty farmers and agricultural labourers, who form 45 per cent of the repatriates, find very little difficulty in settling down. Amongst returned emigrants of the non-agricultural labouring class, who form about 23 per cent of those fit for work, domestic servants and unskilled workers, such as sweepers, porters, etc., have little difficulty in settling down and obtaining employment. The ~~Special~~ Special Officer is always able to obtain employment for people willing to work as waiters, cooks, peons, attenders ^{ants}, ward-boys, etc. The chief difficulty is in regard to finding employment for skilled workers, e-g., men who

have worked on Railways, in mines, Sugar Mills, etc. These men form about 32 per cent of the returned male emigrants fit for work. The Special Officer has been successful in obtaining the sympathetic assistance of most of the large employers of labour such as Railway Administrations, the Port Trust, Governments Departments like the P.W.D., the Madras Corporation, the larger Government Hospitals, as well as large private organisations like the United Planters' Association of Southern India, in his task of finding suitable employment for returned emigrants. ~~The Special Officer.~~

The report concludes with the suggestion that such sympathy might be more effective if the heads of the larger departments and organisations or their representatives could be formed into a Committee to assist the Special Officer in placing returned emigrants in suitable employment. Such a Committee, with the Special Officer as Secretary, might help to overcome the difficulties inherent even when departmental heads are sympathetic in finding places for a class of men who do not come in through the ordinary channels of recruitment.

(The Hindu.-- 13-1-31).

Agitation against the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill.

In the report of the Office for October 1930 (See pages 49 et seq) reference was made to the introduction of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill. The Introduction of this Bill has been the occasion for renewed agitation on the part of the Indian colony there. A feature of the South African Indian National Congress which was in session during December 1930 was the strong protest by the President, Mr. Christopher, against the manner in which the negotiations regarding the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill had been conducted. "In plain terms," he said, "The Bill, if its implications are carefully studied, grossly and unjustly embodies principles and policies to deprive the Indian of his livelihood, to ruin his long established trade and drive him out to locations to lead slum life." Mr. Christopher said that there was a pressing need for another Round Table Conference between the Government of India and the Union Government and their representatives if all of them in South Africa were to receive unprejudiced consideration.

Speaking at the Congress on the Transvaal Tenure Bill, Sir K. V. Reddi, Agent of the Government of India, said that the Government of India had been kept fully informed of developments and was giving its anxious attention to every aspect and implication of the Bill. Informal consultations were held between delegates to ^{the} Indian Round Table Conference and General Hertzog in London recently. The Minister, Dr. Malan, had expressed, said Sir K. V. Reddi, willingness to hear the views of the Government of India during January next. (The Times of India-1-1-31)

The Congress after a lengthy debate, adopted a resolution urging the Union Government to withdraw the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill and introduce necessary legislation, giving relief to Indians in the Transvaal. In the event of the Union Government declining to withdraw

the bill, the Congress requested the Government of India to press for a Round Table Conference to review the situation. If the Government of India fails to secure such a conference, the Congress requests the Indian Government to intimate to the Union Government that diplomatic relations between the two countries should be considered to have ceased and withdraw its agency in South Africa as a protest against the bill.

(The Hindu .- 1-1-1931.)

Mr. C. F. Andrews, who is now in Cape Town at the invitation of the Indians in South Africa, is reported to have stated that, after carefully considering the South African situation on the spot, the best course appeared to him to be to concentrate every effort on the postponement of the new Transvaal Asiatic Bill, pending a revision of the Cape Town agreement at the end of the present year. Many circumstances combined to make this feasible if pressed home. The Cape Town Agreement had only another year to run and the whole Transvaal question needed through consideration by both sides before any fresh legislation was enacted.

(The Hindu.- 15-1-31).

In his address to the Members of the Legislative Assembly on 17-1-31, His Excellency the Viceroy made the following reference to the condition of Indians in Africa :-

"Questions affecting Indians overseas have as always claimed the special attention of my Government. When I last addressed this House, I referred briefly to the Land Tenure Bill introduced in the Assembly of the Union of South Africa, which had caused considerable alarm among Indians in the Transvaal. My Government sought counsel from the Standing Committee on Emigration on the far-reaching provisions of this measure, and received from them valuable advice to guide them in their line of approach to this difficult and delicate problem. We fully recognise the serious implications of the Bill, and in particular the effect it must have on the trading and business interests of the Indian community in the Transvaal. We are aware too of the feelings of deep concern which the Bill has aroused amongst those whose interests are threatened, and of the sympathy which is felt for them by their compatriots in South Africa and in this country. I have given this question much anxious thought and personal attention. Every opportunity has been taken of representing the Indian point of view, and

as our Agent - Sir Kurma Reddi - announced at the recent conference of the South African Indian Congress, our views will be communicated to the Union Government. It is unnecessary to assure the House that we are making every endeavour, in co-operation with the Union Government, to secure an equitable solution, and I earnestly hope that the negotiations to be conducted by our representative will result, after full and frank discussion, in an agreement satisfactory to both sides.

Turning to East Africa, Honourable Members will remember that the conclusions of His Majesty's Government have now been referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament. My Government are not ignorant of how widespread is the anxiety on the several questions that are involved, and they have submitted their views to this Committee through His Majesty's Secretary of State for India. We have further requested permission to present our case through a representative from India. I am glad to inform the House that, in the event of that request being accepted, it is hoped that our spokesman will be the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri."

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICEINDIAN BRANCH

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References to the I.L.O.

An article appearing in the Hindustan Times of 1-2-1931 on economic conditions in India during 1930 says that it was an year of acute anxiety for the Government and the people - for employers and workers particularly. The unemployment problem, the article ^{states} continues, had assumed alarming dimensions, but, the established standards of conditions of employment were maintained throughout the year. The ^{article} ~~writer~~ attributes the safeguarding of these standards in great measure to the work carried on by the International Labour Organisation which "in addition to creating a network of formal undertakings on the part of states to enforce the observance of specified minimum conditions, also provides a strong moral deterrent to any measures which might be regarded as retrograde". The article concludes with a reference to the activities of the 14th Labour Conference and to the progress made in the ratification of Geneva Conventions during 1930.

... ..

On 7-2-1931, the Director of this Office delivered a speech at the Criterion Club, Delhi, on the "New Democracy in India". In the course of his speech, the speaker said that labour conditions in India left much to be desired and that conditions in factories which do not come under the Indian Factories Act approximated to slavery. The conditions in factories coming under the Act were better, but were still exceedingly behind the requirements of the times. The speaker entered a strong plea for a generous policy of labour protection under the new constitution so as to make the new Indian democracy a real one. In ~~his~~ conclusion he pointed out

how the labour laws of India have slowly been operating to remove the more clamant of the industrial evils, and how the I.L.O., which has been so successful in assuaging the discontent of the workers in Europe and turning it into constructive channels of nation-building, could prove an invaluable ally to this country in the great task of social reconstruction which is awaiting her. (A summary of the speech ~~has~~^{is} been published in the Hindustan Times of 9-2-1931).

... ..

The Hindu of 10-2-1931 publishes a few extracts from the minutes of the proceedings of the Monthly General meeting of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, held on 27-1-1931. The proceedings, inter alia included the consideration of the Government of India's circular letter inviting recommendations for the nomination of non-Governmental delegates and their advisers to the 15th Labour Conference. The Chamber's reply to the Government of India on the subject was to the effect that the Chamber supported the recommendation made by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce that the Government of India should nominate Mr. E.S. Harlton (vide page 2 of the December 1930 report).

... ..

The Hindu of 12-2-1931 publishes an editorial article reviewing the book "Unemployment and Public Works" recently issued by the I.L.O.

The Times of India of 12-2-1931 publishes a letter from its London correspondent in the course of which a lengthy reference

is made to the book. The writer concludes his reference thus:-
"The report deserves attention, both from those in all countries who are now concerned with details of national or provincial finance, and also - or perhaps even more especially - from any who are likely to be in that position in the early future."

* The book has also been reviewed in the Hindustan Times of 14-2-1931 and the Pioneer of 15-2-1931. (*Review sent by this office*)

... ..

The Pioneer of 14-2-1931 publishes an article on the results achieved by the Geneva Unemployment Committee. ^{The article is} based on the Geneva communique: ["]on "The "Problem of Unemployment and the International Labour Office", copies of which have been supplied to the press by this office.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 18-2-1931 publishes a news-para about the efforts made by the I.L.O. to reduce hours of work, and refers to the campaign initiated by the International Federation of Glass Workers to get an international convention passed applying a system of four six-hour shifts instead of three eight-hour shifts which is now in vogue in the glass industry in Germany and Czechoslovakia.

... ..

The January 1931 issue of the Indian Journal of Economics, Allahabad (Vol. XI, Part III, No. 42) publishes at pages 332 to 346 a paper under the caption "Geneva and Indian Labour", read by

Mr. D.G. Karve, Professor of Economics, Fergusson College, Poona. The paper was read at the 14th Conference of the Indian Economic Association held at Lahore in January 1931. The following is a brief summary of Professor Karve's paper:-

"The I.L.O. is a new factor in the Indian Labour situation. It is in the interest of labour and of the nation that it should be utilised to the full as an aid to the solution of the labour problem. Its implications from the national economic standpoint should be adequately studied with a view to the adoption of a discriminating attitude on particular items. The separate organisations of labour and capital, and such a political body as the supreme legislature cannot be entrusted with this independent and almost technical responsibility. The position of Indian States in this respect also needs study and definition. To achieve these ends it is suggested that : (1) there should be constituent sectional and regional bodies in the I.L.O., e.g., an Asiatic Section in the main Conference at Geneva and an Asiatic Labour Conference; (2) there should be established in India an Economic Council composed of all interests and of independent expert ~~men~~ opinion, with purely deliberative and advisory functions; (3) the Indian States should have a position in this Council".

Special attention is drawn to pages 573 to 578 of the ~~XXXX~~ Journal where a brief account is given of the discussions which followed the reading of Professor Karve's paper.

In the same issue of the Economic Journal is published at pages 456-465, a paper read at the Economic Conference by Dr. R.B. Gupta, M.A., Ph.D., on the subject of "Labour Recruitment and Wages", in the course of which reference is made to the Geneva

Convention and recommendation of 1928 dealing with minimum wage fixing machinery and the action taken by India on them. (Copy of the Economic Journal is not forwarded as the journal is being subscribed for by Geneva).

... ..

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India have ~~issued for publication~~^{shed} the Report of the Delegates of the Government of India to the 14th Session of the International Labour Conference, as Bulletin No. 46 in the Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour Series. After describing at length the part played by the Indian delegation in the various sessions of the Conference and in the different Committees appointed by it, the report concludes with the following review of the work^{of the Confer-}

"The end of the 14th Session of the International Labour Conference witnessed the adoption of a Convention of doubtful value concerning the regulation of hours of work in commerce and offices, the failure of the attempt to reach a European agreement regarding hours of work in coal mines, and the adoption of a Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour by a very large majority, but with the principal Colonial Powers, save Great Britain, either abstaining from voting or making reservations. It must be admitted that the immediate achievement of the Conference was small. Its direct achievement may, however, prove to be considerable, especially as regards forced labour. Forced labour cannot escape association with the stigma attaching to slavery, and the existence of an international Convention on the subject, combined with the knowledge that international opinion must again be faced in five years' time

is likely to result in ameliorative measures being taken by the most conservative of Colonial Powers".

(A copy of ~~the~~ Bulletin No. 46 was forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute D 1/131/31 of 19-2-1931).

... ..

At page 446, the January 1931 (Vol. X, No.5) issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces from "Industrial and Labour Information" ^{on the position of labour in the future Constitution of India} of 8-12-1930, its report of the speech delivered by Mr. N.M. Joshi at the Indian Round Table Conference held in London ~~on the position of Labour in the future constitution of India.~~

... ..

New India of 26-2-1931 (Vol. IV, New Series No.48) publishes an article by Mr. N.M. Joshi under the caption "What Indian Labour wants in the Constitution of India". Mr. Joshi makes a strong plea for making labour a federal subject under the new constitution for the reason that India will be able to discharge her international obligations as a member of the I.L.O. only if the Central Government is vested with the power to take action on Geneva Conventions, which will not be ~~in the future constitution of India~~ possible if labour is made a provincial subject.

(Copy of New India containing the article is not forwarded as New India is subscribed for by Geneva).

... ..

New India of 12-2-1931 (Vol. IV, New Series No. 46) publishes in full the speech delivered by Mr. B. Shiva Rao at the plenary Session of the Round Table Conference in London. Mr. Shiva Rao

also urges that Labour should be made a Federal subject and not merely a Central subject. He argues that if Indian States do not keep abreast of labour legislation in British India, the future course of Indian labour legislation will be greatly impeded, and that the protection afforded to Indian workers by International Labour Conventions will be weakened.

... ..

The February 1931 issue of the "Unionist" (Vol.II, No.11), Nagpur, the organ of the Central Provinces Branch of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union, reproduces from the Daily Herald, London, the report of a press interview given by the Director of the I.L.O., Geneva, on the methods of combating the unemployment problem.

... ..

Wide publicity ^{is} ~~was~~ given in the Indian press to the statement ^{issued} ~~made~~ by Mr. N.M. Joshi ^{expressing} ~~on~~ his views on the Round Table Conference. In the course of the statement, Mr. Joshi stresses the importance of keeping labour ^{as} a Federal subject in the new constitution so as to provide for the ratification of Geneva conventions both by British India and Indian States. The statement has been published in the Times of India of 9-2-1931, the Hindu of 16-2-1931, the Servant of India, Poona, of 12-2-1931 (Vol. XIV, No.7) and by other prominent papers and journals.

... ..

Young Utkal (Cuttack) of 6-2-1931 (Vol. V, No.12) reproduces the ^{item} ~~article~~ on "Forced Labour in the Indian States" which appeared in "Industrial and Labour Information" of 5-1-1931.

The February 1931 issue of the M.& S.M. Railwayman (Vol. II, No.8), Perambur, Madras, publishes at pages 213 to 220 an article under the caption "The I.L.O. and Trade Unionism" written by Mr. S. Keshoram, a member of the staff of this office. The article deals with the influence of the I.L.O. on Trade Unionism all over the world, particularly with its influence on Indian trade unionism.

(A copy of the issue of the M.& S.M. Railwayman in which the article appeared has been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 4/170/31, dated 5-3-1931.)

... ..

In a letter contributed to the Times of India of 12-2-1931 by its London correspondent, reference is made to the report presented by the Deputy Director of the I.L.O., Geneva, after his recent mission of enquiry into industrial conditions in the United States.

... ..

Recruitment of Labour for Assam Tea Gardens
from the Madras Presidency - 1929-30*.

The following details about the recruitment of labour from the tea gardens of Assam are taken from the report on the working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act in the Madras Presidency for the year ending 30th June 1930 published by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

System of recruitment.- The recruitment for the tea gardens of Assam is conducted under the general supervision of the Assam Labour Board. The Board itself does not conduct recruiting operations; its functions are confined to giving advice to applicants for "local agents'" licences and exercising general supervision over recruitment. The actual recruitment is carried on under the auspices of the Tea Districts Labour Association which is composed of representatives of the companies in the Assam valley. Only one form of recruitment is now permitted, viz., recruitment by garden sardars (recruiters) licensed under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act of 1901. The garden sardars work under the supervision of the local agents who usually give them advances which come from ^{the} Assam Tea Districts Labour Association. The Association charges ^{the garden} a commission on all coolies recruited through its agency. This system is believed to encourage emigration by families and, since the activities of the recruiters are carefully supervised, to be free from serious abuse.

*Report on the Working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act for the year ending 30th June 1930. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, and published by the Government of India Central Publication Branch, Calcutta. 1931. Price, 10 annas or 1 sh. pp. 17.

Local Licensed Agents.- Under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, local agents may be licensed for the purpose of representing employers in all matters connected with the supervision of the garden sardars within the local areas. During the year, 28 licences were issued to local agents.

Garden sardars.- Licences for garden sardars are granted only to bona fide labourers on the books of the tea gardens and each licence must be countersigned by a Magistrate in Assam. The garden sardars when sent to recruit must on arrival in the districts from which they intend to recruit labour, report themselves to the local agents. ~~mm~~ 4,491 garden sardars including 572 sardarnis (women recruiters) were employed and worked under the licensed local agents

Number of Emigrants registered.- ~~Number of emigrants~~ 8,855 emigrants were registered during the period ~~xx~~ under review in the Presidency by garden sardars working under licensed local agents, as against 8,891 in the previous year. 8,156 of these were recruited for Assam, 102 for Cachar and 597 for Sylhet. The number of dependents registered with these emigrants was 1,515 or 17.11 per cent. as against 1,872 or 21.06 per cent of the previous year.

Despatch of Emigrants.- Out of the 8,855 emigrants registered by sardars, 7,199 emigrants were despatched from the forwarding stations for the labour districts of Assam proper. Of these 4,686 or 65 per cent. were men, 1,407 or 20 per cent were women and 1,106 or 15 per cent were children. Of the total number of 509 emigrants who proceeded to Cachar and Sylhet, 265 or 52 per cent were men, 136 or 27 per cent were women and 108 or 21 per cent were children.

Note The present system of recruitment for Assam is described in Chapter XVI of the Whitley Commission Report.

CONDITIONS of LABOUR

11

Reduction of working Hours in Jute Mills.

At pages 24-25 of the report of this office for June 1930 reference was made to the decision of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, to reduce working hours in jute mills from 60 hours to 54 hours. It is understood that owing to the slump in the jute trade the Indian jute Mills Association ^{has decided} to make a further reduction in working hours, to seal a certain percentage of Hessian looms and introduce single shift working from 2-3-31, a step entailing the discharge of about 40000 jute mill employees (The Statesman 20.2.31). Mr. R.B. Laird, the Chairman of the Indian Jute Mills Association, speaking about the proposed reduction of hours, at the 1931 annual meeting of the Association on 30-1-31 declared that it was the policy of the Association to restrict jute production to the requirements of the market ^{and,} if necessary, ~~and~~ to reduce working hours to 40½ hours a week (The Times of India 2-2-31).

The decision to introduce single shift working in jute mills has produced wide-spread discontent among jute workers. In a letter to the President of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Miss Probbabati Das Gupta, President of the Bengal Jute Workers' Union, says that the proposal means unemployment for 80,000 workers with no provision of any kind and a cut in the wages of those ^{who will be} kept employed, without reducing the mills' monthly production per working loom. The workers demand a revision of the policy of the Association so as to maintain wages at the old level and keep all looms working, and, if this is found impossible, ^{that} ~~to pay~~ every discharged worker ^{should be paid} one month's wages, his railway fare home and a pension proportionate to ^{his} ~~his~~ years of service rendered ^{by him}. The letter closes with the assertion that if the demands of the workers are not conceded, the responsibility for threatening the public tranquility with the discharge

80,000 workers will rest upon the Indian Jute Mills Association
(The Statesman 20-2-31).

According to more conservative estimates, it is apprehended that between 15,000 to 20,000 operatives will be thrown out of work as the result of the introduction of the single-shift system in jute mills in and around Calcutta City. In anticipation of the report of the Royal Commission on Labour, which it is believed recommended the ^{adoption} ~~substitution~~ of the single-shift system, it has been already introduced in about 70 per cent of mills in Calcutta. The remainder, it is expected, will adopt similar measures on 2-3-31 (The Times of India. 21-2-31).

Owing to the introduction of the single-shift system about 5000 employees of the Lawrence Jute Mills, Howrah, have struck work on 19-2-31.

Working of the Piece-Work System on the
N. W. Railway .

Useful data regarding the working of the piece-work and bonus system introduced on the North-Western Railway is now available. The information is contained in a note furnished to the Public Accounts Committee by the Financial Commissioner of Railways.

The State Railway Workshops Committee, which visited the shops in 1926, commented adversely on the bonus system, which was in vogue on the North-Western Railway, and recommended its immediate replacement by a more scientific system based on accurate timings of individual operations carefully carried out by a skilled rate-fixer with considerable experience. As soon as fair progress had been made in the direction of introducing modern methods of planning, progressing and scheduling, attention was given to the investigation of the shortcomings of the bonus system and it was decided to introduce the piece-work system.

Main Features of the System: - Under this system the men are required to do a certain amount of work for their daily pay which is guaranteed. Any work done in excess of this amount entitles the men to a profit (bonus). In cases where a man fails to perform the work within the required time, a proportionate deduction is made from any profits which may have been earned by him in the same month, and the man is paid the difference. The method by which the amount of work to be done daily by a man in order to earn his daily pay is fixed, is based on ^{the} English practice. To the basic time

is added 33 per cent and if a man does the work in this time but not quicken, he gets no profit. ^{Thus} ~~and~~ before a man becomes entitled to any profit, he must reasonably exert himself, with ultimate saving to the Railway.

Results Achieved: - The beginning ^{of the new system} was made in November, 1927 and it took ten months to bring the men to a state of efficiency that enabled them to earn ~~the~~ profits. At the commencement there was a loss to the men, but at the end of a period of 16 months a gain of over 20 per cent was shown - a decrease in the output time of 61.04 per cent for which the men received 20.34 per cent extra wages only.

A report recently received from the North-Western Railway shows that ~~the~~ labour charges have been considerably reduced on the North-Western Railway in comparison with the amount of work done. On broad lines, the work done by the railway as regards the maintenance of ~~power~~ is the number of engine miles run. The cost of doing this work is the total labour charges in all Locomotive, Mechanical and Transportation Workshops and includes all ordinary time, overtime bonus and piece work profits.

~~The~~ ^{on the N.W. Railway} Labour charges have been decreased from Rs. 7.1 millions in 1926-27 to Rs. 6.6 millions in 1929-30 and the engine miles run have increased from 30 millions to 35 millions during the same period. The labour cost per engine mile has, therefore, been reduced from 3.79 annas per engine mile in 1926-27 to 3.01 annas per engine mile in 1929-30. This alone shows a saving in labour cost of .78 annas per engine mile on the additional five million engine miles run, or a saving of Rs. 2,44,000 per annum. Still greater saving will be found to have been effected if the engine miles are con-

verted into equated engine miles, which takes into account the larger and heavier engines now employed.

The saving arrived at by this method works out to Rs.4,15,000 per annum. The whole of the saving is not entirely attributable to the introduction of the piece work system. The reorganization of the workshops, the concentration of work at Moghulpura and Sukkur, and the introduction of better methods of work of which the piece-work system forms only a part, are other important contributory factors.

(The Statesman. 24.2.31).

Grievances of Hyderabad (Deccan) Railway Workers.

A memorandum has been recently submitted to the administration of the Nizam's State Railway by the president of the Railway Employees' Union, drawing attention to certain grievances and requesting the administration to take measures to redress them.

The following is a brief summary of the more important of the demands made by the Union:-

In the first place, the administration is asked to recognize the Union as the only organization that can speak and act on behalf of the Railway employees and not to encourage rival institutions such as workshop or staff committees.

Adverse changes, said to have been introduced without consulting the staff, the Union demands, should be cancelled and there should be no curtailment of service privileges on any account.

On the question of wages, the Union submits that the only solution

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for the present "unsatisfactory" system is to introduce time scale payment for all the staff. It complains that there is practically no leave reserve for ~~other~~ services. Certain changes in the hours of work and removal of grievances in connection with the award of punishments are also urged.

As regards staff quarters, the Union demands that they should be remodelled on the recommendations of a joint committee of the Railway and the Union.

Many improvements in sanitation and medical aid are suggested. Occupational disease and injuries while on duty should, it is urged, be compensated on a standard which should not be lower than the standard prescribed by the Geneva Workmen's Compensation Convention, and full pay for periods spent in hospital should be allowed. Moreover, whenever accidents occur Union representatives should be associated in the inquiries instituted by the administration.

The Union finally submits that the case of workers who are deprived of their bonuses by the former administration should be sympathetically considered.

Concluding, the Union says that it fully appreciates the financial difficulties of the administration and urges that those of its demands which require no financial adjustment should be fully conceded, while the others should be discussed and all facts and figures relating to them should be made available ^{to} ~~on~~ the Union.

(The Statesman, 1-2-1931).

Industrial Disputes in British India in 1930.

According to a ^{on Industrial disputes in British India in 1930} ~~communiqué~~ issued by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, under date 6-3-31, the total number of strikes during the year was 148 and the total number of men involved ~~was~~ 196,301, as compared with 141 strikes involving 531,059 men during 1929. The total number of working days lost during the year was 2,261,731, as compared with 12,165,691 during 1929. Two strikes which occurred during the year - one in the Old Champdany Jute Mill, Hooghly, and the other Jute Mills at Titaghar, Bengal - were by themselves responsible for a loss of 548,185 working days involving 34,718 operatives. The most important strike of the year was the general strike in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway which affected 22,608 men and involved a loss of 893,617 working days. The number of strikes where the workmen were successful in gaining any concessions was approximately 39% of the total number.

During the year under review, there were 75 industrial disputes in Bombay involving 79,415 employees and entailing a loss of 1,092,136 working days, Bengal comes next with 34 disputes, involving 69,722 men and entailing a loss of 705,631 working days, Assam had 16 disputes involving 7,885 men and entailing a loss of 12,065 working days, Madras had 11 disputes involving 13,616 men and entailing a loss of 216,659 days, Delhi had 2 disputes involving 11,388 men and entailing a loss of 62,690 working days, Bihar and Orissa had 4 disputes involving 5,785 men and entailing a loss of 62,726 working days, Burma, the United Provinces and the Central Provinces had 3, 2 and 1 disputes respectively involving on the whole 8,490 persons and entailing the loss of 109,804 working days.

Of the 148 disputes during the year, 69 were due to questions of wages, 34 to those of personnel, 7 to questions of leave and hours, 4 to those of bonus and 34 to other causes. Of these 148 strikes, 36 were successful, 22 partially successful, 89 unsuccessful and 1 was in progress at the end of the year.

Classified according to industries, there were 68 disputes in cotton and woolen mills involving 67,343 men and entailing a

loss of 363,894 working days, 13 disputes in jute mills involving 56,017 men and entailing a loss of 688,396 working days, 10 in engineering workshops involving 1,618 men and entailing a loss of 14,496 working days, 9 in Railways including railway workshops ~~involving~~ involving 43,470 men and entailing a loss of 956,331 working days, and 2 in mines involving 5,473 men and entailing a loss of 60,368 working days. In all the other industries together there were 46 disputes involving 22,380 men and entailing a loss of 178,246 working days.

(The Communique issued by the Government of India on Industrial disputes in British India during 1929 is reviewed at pages 35-36 of the report of this office for January 1930.)

Quarterly strike statistics (period ending 31-12-30)

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India in a press communique dated 6-3-31, has published the statistics of Industrial Disputes in British India for the quarter ending 31-12-31. During the period under review there were 35 disputes involving 25,388 men and entailing a total loss of 159,560 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency, where 28 disputes were recorded involving 21,364 men and entailing a loss of 73,104 working days. Bengal comes next with 3 disputes involving 386 men and entailing a loss of 2,877 working days. There were 2 strikes in Madras involving 3,038 men and entailing a loss of 82,329 working days, 1 in Assam involving 500 men and entailing a loss of 1,000 working days, 1 in the Central Provinces involving 100 men and entailing a loss of 250 working days, while no strikes were recorded in the Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Delhi and the Punjab.

Of the 35 disputes during the quarter under review, 16 were due to questions of wages, 6 to those of personnel, 3 to those of bonus and 10 to other causes. In 16 disputes the workers were successful, in 4 partially successful, in 14 unsuccessful, and 1 dispute was in progress at the end of the quarter.

Classified according to industries, there were 27 disputes in cotton and woolen mills ~~in~~ involving 20,010 men and entailing a loss of 64,462 working days, 1 in jute mills involving 2,878

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men and entailing a loss of 80,584 working days, 1 in engineering workshops involving 160 men and entailing a loss of 1,745 working days and 6 in other industries involving 2,340 men and entailing a loss of 12,769 working days.

(The statistics of industrial disputes for the quarter ending 30-9-30 is reviewed at page 37 of the report of this office for November 1930).

Industrial Organisation.

Workers' Organisation.

Textile Labour Association, Ahmadabad.

The Textile Labour Association, Ahmadabad, one of the best organised bodies of workers in India. A practical programme of work for the year 1931 formulating the steps to be taken for the redress of the main grievances of the textile workers of Ahmadabad was drawn up at a recent meeting of the Joint Representative Board of the Textile Labour Association. The following is a summary of the more important of the resolutions passed:-

The first resolution urges a substantial reduction in the hours of work and directs the Secretary to make a preliminary inquiry and report on the extent to which a reduction is called for, keeping in view the conditions of the local industry and the requirements of the working people.

Another resolution draws attention to the tendency on the part of millowners to reduce the number of women workers since the passing of the Maternity Benefit Act "with a view to escaping the liability connected therewith" and requests the Millowners' Association to remove this "unfair distinction against women on the score of sex".

A third resolution demands the immediate introduction of weekly payment of wages; and a fourth demands the abolition of night shifts, as these are prejudicial ^{to} ~~and affect~~ the health and ^{adversely affect the} domestic life of the workmen, ~~and creates unemployment when night shifts are given up.~~

A fifth resolution warns those workers who drink that other workers will be asked to refuse to work with them; thus they will run the risk of unemployment.

(The Times of India, 28-2-31)

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Intellectual Workers.Forthcoming Second All-India Salaried Employees'Convention.

The second session of the All India salaried Employees' Convention is to be held at Madras during the Easter Week in April. The first All-India Salaried Employees' Convention was held last year in Calcutta (see pages 49-50 of the report of this office for January, 1930). The object of the present Convention is to safeguard the interests of the employees by agitating for proper representation in all public bodies now in existence and also in the proposed new constitution for India. The agenda of this year's Convention includes, inter alia , the following subjects : (1) representation of salaried employees in the proposed new Indian Constitution, and (2) solution of the wide spread unemployment problem in India. Salaried employees belonging to the Railways, Port Trusts, Municipalities, District and Taluk Boards, Universities, educational institutions, Insurance and Banking concerns, Mercantile and Trading firms, Printing concerns, etc., besides Employees' Unions (in India, Burma and Ceylon) are entitled to send delegates to the session.

The following questionnaire has been issued by the Convention to elicit information about the actual conditions of work of salaried employees and to facilitate the formulation of

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Resolutions

~~subjects~~ to be considered at the coming Convention.

1. The minimum or starting salary in your office.
2. The nature and scale of increment.
3. Have you got any Provident Fund in your office?
4. Do you get all ~~the~~ Bank holidays?
5. Do you get any share of the profit at the end of each year, or a general bonus yearly; if so at what rate?
6. Are there any prescribed rules for leave (~~privilege~~, casual ^(medical, etc.)?)
7. Is there any pension system for the staff?
8. What are the usual working hours in your office?
9. Are you ever paid overtime allowances for extra work on Sundays or holidays?
10. Are you paid any tiffin allowance from the office?
11. Are you given any time for recreation?
12. Does your office pay a full month's pay to an employee when he is discharged without previous notice?
13. Does your office provide the staff with newspapers, magazines and other literature during ~~the~~ leisure hours?
14. Any other point you may desire to ~~send~~ ^{raise}.

(The Hindu, 24 & 28-2-31)

Salaried Employees of Bombay.

A public meeting of the salaried employees of Bombay was held under the auspices of the Clerks' Union on 22-2-31, in the ~~hall~~ of the Bombay Students' Brotherhood, when the following resolutions were unanimously passed. (1) That this public meeting of the salaried employees of Bombay resolve to call a conference of all the salaried employees of Bombay to formulate ^{demands about conditions of} their ~~necessities in~~ services, ^{More relating to} such as hours of work, scale of pay, provident fund, etc., etc., and that the Conference be held as early as possible this year. (2) That a Reception Committee be formed to organise the Conference ^{that} and a fee of Re.1 be fixed for joining ^{the} such a Reception Committee, ^{that} ~~that~~ any salaried employee of Bombay ~~to be~~ ^{should} allowed to join the Reception Committee on payment of the requisite fee.

The meeting appointed a provisional working Committee to hold

the first meeting of the Reception Committee within a fortnight after 75 members had joined, to elect office-bearers and carry on the work in support of the Conference.

(The Times of India, 25-2.31)

Railway Budget for 1931-32 and Wages of Railway Workers.

The railway budget for 1931-32 presented in the Legislative Assembly by Sir George Rainy, Member for Commerce and Railways, on 17-2-31, was perhaps the gloomiest which that body was ever called upon to consider. The estimates show railway working at a loss for the first time since railway revenues were separated from general revenues. The final result of 1930-31 is anticipated to be a loss from commercial lines of Rs.29.3 millions. The loss in strategic lines of Rs. 21.9 millions brings up the total loss on all railways to Rs 51.2 millions; and consequently, to meet the contribution to the general revenues of Rs.57.4 millions, Rs.108.6 millions will be taken from previously accumulated reserves, leaving a balance of 55 millions.

Prospects for 1931-32. Assuming modest improvement in traffic and minor alterations of rates and fares, the estimates of traffic receipts on account of commercial lines in 1931-32 are Rs.99.5 millions or nearly Rs.60 millions higher than in the current year. The working expenses are expected to be Rs.75 millions lower, in spite of ^{an} increase of Rs. 3.7 millions under depreciation fund for capital expenditure during the current year. The final result of 1931-32 is expected to be a surplus from commercial lines of 31.7 millions or Rs.60 millions more than in the current year. The balance left after deducting Rs.19.6 millions for loss in strategic lines is Rs.12.1 millions representing the gain on all lines during 1931-32. (The Hindu, 17-2-31).

In his speech, Sir George Rainy pointed out that the fall in railway revenues is bound to have unfavourable repercussions on the conditions of service of all classes of railway workers and that adjustments will have to be made permanently to a lower level prices.

The three main factors which will affect the conduct of railway administration in the future will be : (1) the extreme importance to the national life of cheap transport, and in particular low rates for agricultural produce, (2) the desirability of satisfying the equitable claims of the great body of railway servants in India, and (3) the scale of contribution which, under the altered conditions, the railways can fairly be asked to make in aid of the general taxpayer.

Discussing the question of the possibility of a reduction in the scale of wages and salaries on the railways, Sir George Rainy said that hitherto the scale of wages, so far at any rate as the lowest class of railway employees are concerned, was inadequate and that measures were necessary to bring about an improvement. Two years ago the Government promised to ascertain what was the most that could be done for the lower paid employees without injustice to other interests which Government were equally bound to safeguard. In pursuance of that statement, an immense amount of work has been devoted during the last two years to reviewing the scales of wages in force on almost all the State-owned railways in India, and in preparing schemes in order to ameliorate conditions. The ultimate cost of the schemes for the revision of wages already sanctioned is about Rs.3.2 millions per annum and the bulk of the railway servants covered by these schemes draw pay not exceeding Rs.30 per mensem. In so far as we are dealing with this class of establishment, that is, the people who draw not more than Rs.30 a month, and having regard to all that has passed in the last two or three years, the Government thinks that any reduction in wages and salaries is not immediately feasible. Unquestionably these low paid servants of the

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railways must have gained substantially by the fall in prices, but before any question can arise as to a reduction in the scales of pay recently fixed, it should be shown that the new level of prices is likely to be permanent, and that having regard to all the considerations involved, the existing scales are excessive.

Discussing the comparative earnings of different grades of railway servants, Sir George Rainy said that endeavours have been made to ascertain the cost of the various classes of railway establishment, and though the figures arrived at, are only approximate so far as the subordinate establishments are concerned, certain facts emerge clearly. If the large class of railway servants who draw less than Rs.30 a month is excluded, the cost of the remaining establishments, is about Rs.250 million a year so that a ten per cent cut in wages and salaries would mean a saving of ~~the~~ 25 millions. Out of the total, the salaries of gazetted officers amount to only Rs.20 millions a year and a ten per cent cut would give us only Rs.2 ¹/₂ millions. It has not been possible to ascertain with the ~~range~~ ^{range} of accuracy the cost of the upper subordinate establishment, that is, of subordinates drawing Rs.250 a month and over or on scales of pay rising to Rs.250 a month and over, but probably Rs.70 millions a year is an outside figure and the amount may actually be a good deal less. A ten per cent cut in salaries applicable only to the gazetted and upper subordinate establishments would yield therefore a sum substantially less than Rs.10 millions a year. It will be obvious from these figures that if a really substantial saving in expenditure is to be effected, the reduction will have to go right down the scale excluding only the lowest paid establishments of all who seldom draw more than Rs. 30 a month. It may be that this question will have to be faced and a reduction effected in order ~~that~~

railways may become fully solvent and able to contribute to the extent the Legislature may consider proper to the general expenses of Government. The Government think that when large bodies of Government servants on comparatively low rates of pay are being dealt with- and it must be remembered that the average wage of all the railway servants in India does not exceed Rs.45 a month - it would be unfair to single out this Department alone for special treatment, and that if a reduction is finally found to be necessary, it ~~should~~ should be general and applicable to all Departments of Government.

Referring to the effects of the shrinkage in railway revenues on the progress of the various schemes initiated for the benefit of the railway staff, and particularly for the lowest paid employees, Sir George Rainy said that the fall in railway revenues would mean a slower rate of progress for them. ^{He} ~~The speaker~~ said that the ~~Staff~~ ^{his attention} Member of the Railway Board has devoted to every question connected with the welfare of the staff and to the solution of a number of difficult staff problems which have arisen since the war and which could not be properly tackled until the headquarters organisation in question ~~exists~~ in the Railway Board was properly organised for the purpose, and referred specially to the schemes which have been prepared and brought into force on most of the railways in India for improving the pay of the lowest paid employees, and the steps which have been taken to give effect to the obligations incurred by the Government of India under the Geneva and Washington conventions regarding the hours of work of railway employees.

(Summarised from Sir George Rainy's speech introducing Railway Budget. Legislative Assembly Debates .Vol.1, No.16, 17-2-31, pages 917-929).

The Railway Budget for 1930-31 is reviewed at pages 18 to 23 of the report of this office for February, 1930.

Board of Economic Inquiry, U.P.

The Government of the United Provinces have recently decided to constitute immediately, both a ²Board of ²Economic ²Inquiry and a small department, to be called "Bureau of ²Statistics and ²Economic ²Research". The latter will be placed under the Director of Land Records as Director of Statistics, who will have at his disposal a staff of statistical clerks and investigators. The duties of the bureau will be

- (1) to collect and collate economic data already available in official and non-official publications;
- (2) to supply or secure any economic information that may be demanded by the existing departments of Government;
- (3) to advise the departments of Government regarding the best means of collecting statistics, and the statistics best worth collecting ;
- (4) to keep all statistics up to date ;
- (5) when and as possible , to carry out such economic investigations as may be suggested by the Board of Economic Inquiry.

The Board of Economic Inquiry will serve a dual function.

- (1) It will advise the bureau, both generally, and particularly with regard to any inquiries which it may propose to undertake or statistics which it may propose to collect.
- (2) It will , either with the bureau's assistance or on its account initiate and carry out economic investigations.

The Board will consist of 19 members, of whom 8 will be nominated by the Government, 2 will be selected by Chambers of Commerce , 5 will be selected by the five Universities of the Province, and four will be ex-officio members.

(Note. This is in consequence of Sir Arthur Haller's visit to the U.P. I. I. I.)

(The Pioneer . 9-2-31).

Decline in Imports of Textiles:Figures for 1930.

Tell-tale statistics relating to the import of foreign textiles into India during 1930 are contained in an official document issued on 16-2-31 today by the Bombay Millowners' Association.

According to this document, during the calendar year 1930 imports of piecegoods into India fell to 297 million yards, as compared with 565 million yards during the previous twelve months, showing a decrease of 268 million yards, or roughly 48 per cent. Of the 297 million yards imported, the United Kingdom's share was 142 million, against 281 million yards last year, and Japan's 121 million against 219 million yards.

During the same period the import of yarn totalled 16 million pounds against 28 million pounds in 1929. Imports of piecegoods during December, 1930, stood at 6.6 million yards, against an average monthly import of 47 million yards.

(The Pioneer. 19-2-31).

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Unemployment.Unemployment among Anglo-Indians in Calcutta.

Mr.H.B.Whitham, Secretary , District Charitable Society, Calcutta, in the course of an interview given ^{on 26-2-31} to a representative of the Statesman, Calcutta, estimates the number of Anglo-Indians unemployed in Calcutta City at 10,000. Of these, between 1,000 and 1,500 belong to the better class, of whom 550 were dismissed from employment during July and August 1930. Mr.Whitham attributes the abnormal conditions of unemployment among Anglo-Indians in Calcutta to the fact that there is a great rush of members of the Anglo-Indian Community to Calcutta under the mistaken impression that employment is easily obtainable in the city.

(The Statesman 26-2-31).

Social Conditions.Abolition of Devadasi System in Cochin, State

At page 73 of the report of this office for July, 1930, reference was made to the abolition of the system of dedicating Devadasis (dancing girls) to serve in the Hindu temples maintained by the Government of Travancore. The Legislative Council of the neighbouring State of Cochin has, according to the Times of India of 24-2-31, ^{recently} passed a Bill prohibiting the dedication of women in Hindu temples within the State .

Public Health.Housing scheme for Empress Mills' employees, Nagpur

The Empress Mills, Nagpur, of which ^{the} ~~Tatas~~ are the ~~proprietors~~, have been very progressive in the matter of attending to the social welfare of their employees. Schools, ~~scouting~~, an excellent medical system, creches, and tiffin sheds are some of the welfare ^{activities} ~~works~~ ^{that} the mills have undertaken during the past few years. They have followed these up with a scheme for the housing of ^{their} ~~their~~ employees, of which the first stages are now complete. The following details regarding the scheme ^{are} ~~have been~~ taken from an article on the subject appearing in the Times of India of 10-2-1931.

The site covers an area of 200 acres which ~~has~~ been supplied by the Government on favourable terms. The site is a mile and a half from the mills and very near to the settlement there is a railway siding.

So far 150 houses have been built and about 30 others are under construction. The houses are built on plots measuring 36 feet by 53. Each house is surrounded by its own compound and nearly every one has a garden. The house occupies only a third of the plot, and any worker who wants ~~to have~~ a bigger house is allowed to take two plots. Workers are allowed to build houses of their own designs, provided that the designs are approved as coming up to a minimum standard. Each house, it is also stipulated, is to have good-sized windows and six-foot doors.

The basic ~~idea~~ has been to encourage the workers to own their houses and be as far as possible independent of the mills in their private life. The cost of the houses range from Rs.150 to ^{Rs.} 1,800. Any worker can obtain a loan depending on his earning capacity. The loans are made by the mills free of interest for four years in the case of Kachcha houses (houses made of mud) and five ^{years} in the case of pukka houses (houses made of bricks). After that, if the worker wants more time to pay, he can obtain easy terms. Over Rs.70,000 ~~has~~ been given out in this way in the last three years. After the loan has been paid off the worker is absolute master of his house and has to pay only eight annas a month in land rent and municipal taxes. He cannot be evicted, and if he leaves the service of the mills he can still stay on. If he wishes to sell his house he can dispose of it privately to another millhand, or if he gets no adequate offers he can sell it back to the mills. If he cannot agree with the mills about the price, the matter can be referred to the

Deputy Commissioner, and the mills are then bound to buy the house at the price which he fixes. The mills have thus deliberately deprived themselves of the weapon of unfair economic pressure often used by owners ^{during strikes} during strikes in other parts of the world. A worker who has served ~~only~~ five years with the mills can obtain a permanent lease of his land, and after that he cannot be evicted.

Besides having their own compounds, the houses are arranged in groups of 20 to 25, with an open space in the middle as a common ~~the~~ playground. The average density is $7\frac{1}{2}$ houses to the acre, compared with 7 houses to the acre at Bournville, Messrs. Cadbury's garden city near Birmingham. A Child Welfare Centre has already been established, and the settlement has one of the most up-to-date sewage ~~systems~~ systems in India. Government and the municipality are helping by cleaning up ~~and~~ beautifying the neighbourhood and Government has promised to tar the adjoining main road, so as to avoid dust. Space has been left where maternity and general hospitals will be built, and some of the Mahars are now settling aside a rupee a month each to build a temple. Four or five acres have been provided for a big playing field, on which work has already ^{been} started. It will include a full size football ground, with a running track round it, wrestling pits and facilities for minor games and amusements.

The settlement is the only part of the civil station of Nagpur where compulsory primary education has been introduced. The mills have put up an excellent school building at the cost of Rs. 17,000 and loaned it to the municipality in the daytime. The Sisters of Mary Immaculate run a day-school for girls in the same building, and the Y.M.C.A., is opening a night-school for adults. The Y.M.C.A., which is in charge of the Empress Mills welfare work throughout the city, has taken the greatest interest in helping with the development of the model settlement.

The intention of the mill authorities is to abolish the system of employer - landlords which has caused a great deal of labour trouble in western countries. The ultimate cost to the Empress Mills is estimated at Rs. 25 lakhs, and even if the mills do not ultimately get their money back in the shape of goodwill and a permanent labour force, as no doubt they will do, the effort will not have been fruitless. ~~A permanent contribution has been made to the problem of housing labour in India.~~

(The Times of India, 10-2-1931)

Co-operation.

Progress of co-operation in Hyderabad State *during 1930*

The fifteenth annual report of the working of the Co-operative Societies in ~~the~~ Hyderabad State, Deccan, ^{during 1930,} with the Government review thereon, was issued in January, by the Director General of Commerce and Industry with the Hyderabad State.

During the year audit was finally separated from supervision and other work. Supervision in future is to be in the hands of the Central Banks, subject to the control of the Co-operative Union and the Registrar's staff. In some of the central banks, by way of experiment, inspectors were appointed as "inspectors-managers," their main duties being to manage the work of the central banks and to supervise the affiliated societies by constant touring.

The Government expresses satisfaction at the progress made in the re-organisation of the Dominion Bank, whereby the Central Banks have become share holders and have begun to elect directors to the Board. The financial position of the Dominion Bank itself is stated to be satisfactory. There were 29 central banks whose share capital, reserve fund and deposits continued to increase. The public appeared to be gaining confidence in the movement even in the outlying towns, and most of the central banks were able to report an increase in their deposits. The Government hoped that as time goes on the village societies will be ^{financed} more and more ~~financed~~ from money coming from the districts in which they are situated. During the year a sum of 1 million rupees was collected from the societies out of a total of Rs.5.6 millions which was owing, but at the close of the year, a sum of nearly Rs.700,000 was still owing by way of interest alone. The net increase in the number of agricultural societies was only 16. Out of Rs.6.0 millions as principal and Rs.2.9 millions owed as interest by the members to their societies, only Rs.300,000 was collected by way of principal and Rs.500,000 by way of interest. Government consider these results as amounting almost to stagnation.

The Government records great dissatisfaction with the working of the Department. The review states that the touring of most of the Assistant Registrars was inadequate because of the few societies they were able to inspect. Further, owing to various causes, one of which was the failure of the staff to carry out their duties, only 813 out of 1,901 societies were audited. The Government has stated explicitly that in future no excuses would be accepted for failure to complete the statutory audit.

(The Times of India. 3-2-31)

(The progress of cooperation in the Hyderabad State during 1929 is reviewed at pages 43-44 of the report of this office for September 1930).

The Co-operative Estate Scheme in the Sunderbans,
Bengal.

Reference was made at page 44 of the report of this office for January 1931, to the Sunderbans Co-operative Scheme sponsored by Sir Daniel Hamilton. Further details regarding the scheme are now available, as the result of an interview given recently by Sir Daniel Hamilton to ^athe representative of the Times of India, Bombay.

The amount of Rs.150,000 advanced by the Government of India for the co-operative training institute at Bolpur is, it is understood, to be recovered gradually from the villages of Bengal when they have been organised co-operatively. Spread over the entire province the cost of the establishment of the institute, Sir Daniel reckoned, would be only about an anna per villager.

The institute is to be divided into two parts, one situated

at Bolpur under the guidance of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, ^{and} the other at Gosaba, Sir Daniel's own property in the Sunderbans. Thus divided, the institute will cover the drier and moister climates of Bengal and will ensure practical and theoretical training in both. One thousand young men may be given training at a time which, in addition to co-operative training, will consist of a twelve months' round of farming and handloom weaving, ^{and} also spinning if possible, ^{with training has been devised} with the double object of giving ^{selected men} them a working acquaintance with ~~the~~ ^{for} village life and testing their capacity for work in rural areas.

The young men so trained are to be taken over by the co-operative department of the Government of Bengal for the spread of the co-operative movement in the villages and helping to rescue the agriculturists from the hands of the money-lenders.

Regarding the finance necessary for the relief of the ^(cultivators) rayat, ~~continually~~ Sir Daniel's suggestion is that the paper currency reserve of the Government of India ~~which is now purely a~~ currency system and which exchanges notes for rupees and rupees for notes should be developed into a banking business as the metallic reserve is very much greater than is required for purely currency purposes, and that on the strength of the surplus silver in hand credit in the form of notes should be issued to the village societies for productive purposes only. At the present time the Government of India holds fully 90 per cent. of metal against its note issue, and if 50 per cent. should prove sufficient the excess silver would be a sufficient backing for very many ^{millions} ~~crores~~ of productive credit money, which money is lying idle at present when India is crying out for it.

Sir Daniel Hamilton, it may be mentioned, was the senior partner in India of the firm of Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Company, and while in Calcutta he acquired ^{a large agricultural} ~~the~~ property with a view to getting a working knowledge of agricultural life in that province. If his ^{Bengal} scheme materialises ~~in Bengal~~, it is understood that he would like to see similar institutes established in other provinces as well as in the Indian States.

1.

A Colonisation Scheme for Anglo-Indians.

Mr. E. T. McCluskie, President of the Bengal Branch of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association, has recently formulated a Colonisation scheme on a co-operative basis for Anglo-Indians. The outlines of the scheme are now complete, and according to the Statesman, Calcutta, of 11-2-31 as soon as the land required for the colony ~~are~~ granted by the Government a start will be made with the scheme. The main feature of the scheme is to give an agricultural bias to Anglo-Indians, who hitherto have been confining themselves mainly to industrial and urban occupations.

At a conference held on 8-1-31 to consider the proposals it was pointed out that agriculture being the basic industry of the world, the economic foundation of the Domiciled community would not be firmly established unless a large proportion of them became agriculturists.

The objects of the scheme are:-

- To settle the community on the land;
- To train the community to agriculture;
- To sell the trade produce of the colony or colonies;
- To encourage education, especially technical education, and
- To establish industrial undertakings for the employment of members of the community.

The colonization sites have been selected for their agricultural possibilities in regard to climate, soil, accessibility to markets, transportation, latent conditions and possibility of expansion and development. A settlement has been selected in the north of India and another at Hosur in the South of about 40,000 to 50,000 acres. It is estimated that the return on capital subscribed will be from seven to ten per cent a year. The scheme is meant to be a co-operative venture. It is deemed essential that no one should be allowed to hold more than Rs. 1,000 worth of shares, and it has therefore

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been thought advisable to register it under the Co-operative Societies Act (No. 11 of 1912). It is proposed to form a society with a capital of Rs. ^{millions} ~~1000000~~, divided in ^{1 million} ~~ten lakhs~~ of shares of Rs. 10 each. Dividends will be limited under the Act to 12½ per cent per annum ; under the Act 25 per cent of the profits must go to a reserve fund, and the liability of the Society is limited, and the liability of each member is limited to the number of shares held by him. One vote will be allowed to each shareholder, irrespective of the number of shares held by him.

It is maintained in many quarters that the Anglo-Indian will never make an agriculturist in India. Although there are many successful agriculturists among them at the present moment, the urban and industrial bent of the community must be admitted. It is the desire of the organizers and those interested in the venture to ^{take up} youths and train them for agriculture.

The produce will be taken by the Society and sold by the marketing board. The settler thus secures his price on his produce on which he makes a profit, and also ^{shares} in the profits of the Society ^{obtained} by the sale of the produce (his dividends). The lay-out of each colony will be a town in a convenient position with an area of about two square miles. The rest of the land will be laid out for agriculture and leased to settlers.

(The Statesman. 11-2-31).

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE B. I. T. Registry

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General.

The outstanding political events of the period under review are the Gandhi-Irwin Pact which was signed on 5-3-1931, and the ratification of the Pact by the Karachi Session of the Indian National Congress on 30-3-1931. The agreement between Mahatma Gandhi and the Viceroy and its ratification by the Congress have brought about a truce in the political situation. (The terms of the Pact are set forth in full detail in the cuttings under section "General" accompanying this report).

Apart from the ratification of the Pact, the most important resolutions passed by the Congress was the resolution on Fundamental Rights moved by Gandhi himself in the open session of the Congress on 31-3-1931. The following is the full text of the Declaration of Rights:-

"This Congress is of opinion that to enable the masses what Swaraj as conceived by the Congress will mean to them, it is desirable to state the position of the Congress in a manner easily understood by them.

The Congress therefore declares that any constitution which may be agreed on its behalf shall provide or enable the W Swaraj Government to provide for the following fundamental rights of the people such as: (a) Freedom of association: (b) freedom of speech and Press: (c) freedom of conscience and free profession and practice of religion, subject to public order and morality: (d) protection of culture, language and script of minorities: (e) equal rights of and obligations of all citizens without any bar on account of sex: (f) no disability to attach to any person by reason of religion, caste or creed in regard to public employment, office or power or honour and the exercise of any trade or calling: (g) equal rights of all citizens of access to and use of public wells, public roads and all other places of public resort: (h) right to keep and bear arms in accordance with regulations and reservations made in that behalf.

(1) No person shall be deprived of his liberty nor shall his dwelling or property be entered into sequestered or confiscated save in accordance with law:

(2) Religious neutrality on the part of the State:

(3) Living wage for industrial workers, limited hours of labour, healthy conditions of work, protection against economic consequences of old age, sickness and unemployment:

(4) Labour to get free from serfdom or conditions bordering serfdom:

(5) Protection of women workers and specially adequate provision for leave during maternity period:

(6) Prohibition against employment of children of school-going age in factories:

(7) Right of labour to form unions to protect their interests with suitable machinery for the settlement of disputes by arbitration:

(8) Substantial reduction of land revenue and agricultural rent paid by peasants, and in the case of uneconomic holdings exemption from rent for such period as ~~may~~ may be necessary, relief being given to small zamindars whenever necessary by reason of such reduction:

(9) Imposition of progressive income-tax on agricultural incomes above a fixed income:

(10) Graduated inheritance tax:

(11) Adult suffrage:

(12) Free primary education:

(13) Military expenditure to be reduced by at least one-half of the present scale:

(14) Expenditure and salaries in the civil departments ought to be largely reduced. No servant of the State other than specially employed experts and the like is to be paid above a certain fixed figure which should not ordinarily exceed Rs. 500 per month:

(15) Protection of indigenous cloth by the exclusion of foreign cloth and foreign yarn from the country:

(16) Total prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs:

(17) No duty on salt:

(18) Control over exchange and currency policy so as to help Indian industries and bring relief to the masses:

(19) Control by the State of the key industries and mineral resources:

(20) Control of usury direct or indirect.

It shall be open to the All-India Congress Committee to revise, amend or add to ~~the foreign~~ foregoing ~~declaration~~ declaration so ~~as far~~ far as such revision, amendment, or addition is not inconsistent with the policy and principle thereof".

The extremist school of Congress opinion which is in a decided minority and which disapproves of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact found expression in the proceedings of the All-India Naujawan (New Life) Conference held at Karachi on 27-3-1931 under the presidency of Mr. Subash Chandra Bose. Mr. Bose, who advocates a socialist

republican form of government for India, outlined the programme of his party thus:- (1) Organisation of peasants and workers on a Socialistic programme: (2) organisation of youth into volunteers corps under strict discipline: (3) abolition of the caste system and eradication of social and religious superstitions of all kinds: (4) organisation of women's associations for getting our womenfolk to accept the new gospel and work out the new programme: (5) an intensified programme of boycott of British goods: (6) countrywide propaganda for explaining the new cult and for organising the new party, and (7) creation of new literature for propagating the new cult and programme.

The Legislative Assembly closed its Delhi Session on 1-4-1931.

Lord Irwin left Delhi for England on 14-4-1931. Lord Willingdon, the new Viceroy, is expected to reach Delhi on 18-4-1931.

References to the I.L.O.

An article under the caption "The League and India: Social Welfare Work", contributed by Mr. Arthur Davies, an ~~ex~~-Principal of the Madras Law College, is published in the Hindu of 3-3-1931 and the Statesman of 14-3-1931. The writer maintains that India's interest in the Geneva institutions would increase when she gets self-government and points out that India has consistently ~~shown~~ shown till now a genuine interest in the activities of the League and the I.L.O. Referring particularly to India's relations with the I.L.O., the writer points out that India has been an active and important member of the I.L.O. and says that Geneva has inspired recent Indian labour legislation greatly. The article also refers to the visit of Sir Arthur Salter and the Malaria Commission's Indian tour as more recent instances of Geneva's interest in India. The article concludes by stressing the great importance from the League's view point of sustained co-operation between ^{the} Geneva institutions and Asiatic countries.

... ..

The Times of India of 5-3-1931, in the course of an editorial on the decision announced by the Secretary of the American Cotton Manufacturing Association that 83 per cent of the textile industry in U.S.A. has decided to abolish the night work of women and children, takes occasion to point out that the continuance of the practices of the employment of women and children in the U.S.A. is to be attributed to the fact that the country is not a member of the I.L.O. The paper says:-

"If America had been a member of the I.L.O. - membership is not confined to members of the League of Nations - she would have been a signatory to the two Conventions designed to ~~the~~ put an end to every form of night work for women and children except nursing. Both England and India along with many other countries have the signature of these Conventions to their credit. Two important industrial countries - Germany and Japan - still tolerate night work for women and children; but they are not likely to refrain any longer from signing the Conventions as soon as they are faced with forcibly-expressed international criticism. It is also likely that in time a great deal of night work at present undertaken by men in factories and docks will be similarly abolished".

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 11-3-1931 and the Times of India of the same date publish the press communique issued by the Government of India announcing the three items on the agenda of the International Labour Conference to be held in May 1931.

... ..

In the course of his speech on 7-3-1931 made during the debate on the Round Table Conference in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. N.M. Joshi pointed out ^{that} ~~that~~ Indian labour wanted that, if India ~~was~~ were to have a federal constitution, labour matters should be treated as a federal subject instead of remaining ^{central and} a provincial subject as at present. He pointed out that a federation would have no interest at all for Indian workers, if labour legislation and labour matters are not going to be federal subjects. Mr. Joshi also pointed out the necessity of care being taken to ensure that Indian labour is not deprived of the international protection which it gets at present owing to India being a member of the I.L.O. (The speech is published in full in Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. II, No. 10, pages 1662-1665.)

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 9-3-1931 publishes under the caption "The New Constitution and Fundamental Rights of the Workers", an article contributed by Mr. N.M. Joshi advocating that labour should be made a federal subject and not a provincial one in the future constitution of India. One reason^{adduced by Mr. Joshi} for demanding that labour should be made a federal subject is that^{it is only} by doing ~~so~~^{it is that} ~~only~~^{will} India be able to discharge effectively her obligations as a member of the I.L.O.

... ..

New India, Madras, of 12-3-1931 (Vol.IV, New Series No.50) publishes at page 2 a short note under the heading "Labour under a Federal ~~Constitution~~ Constitution". The note draws attention to that portion of the Report presented by the Deputy Director of the I.L.O., Geneva, on his American tour where he refers to the inability of Canada to ratify many of the I.L.O. conventions due to labour being a provincial subject in that country, and points out that this aspect should be given adequate consideration in framing the new constitution for India.

The Deputy Director's report is also reviewed in the Servants of India of 5-3-1931 (Vol. XIV, No.10) at page 119.

... ..

The Director of this Office delivered a lecture on "Labour in the New Constitution" at a meeting of the International Fellowship, Delhi, on 23-3-1931. The speaker made a strong plea in favour of the grant of adult franchise under the new constitution, as well as for providing adequate educational facilities to enable the worker to comprehend and exercise his civic rights. The speaker also

stressed the necessity for treating labour as a federal subject. The speech was followed by an animated discussion over the points raised by the speaker.

... ..

The Times of India of 11-3-1931 announces the placing by the Government of Bombay of Mr. N.A. Mehrban of the Labour Office, Bombay, on deputation to study the working of important industrial and labour organisations in Europe, including the I.L.O.

... ..

The Pioneer of 26-3-1931 reproduces an article published in the February 1931 issue of the "Industrial Review" (organ of the Trade Union Congress, London) under the caption "Shorter Hours demand before the I.L.O." The copy of the above article was forwarded to the Pioneer by this Office.

... ..

The Pioneer of 27-3-1931 publishes a communique forwarded by this office reviewing the I.L.O. publication, "Unemployment and Public Works".

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 30-3-1931, the Times of India of 31-3-1931 and all papers publish brief reports of the passing of the resolution moved by Sir Joseph Bhore, Member, Industries and Labour, in the Council of State on 28-3-1931 recommending the Government of India not to ratify the I.L.O. Draft Convention concerning the regulation of hours of work in commerce and offices, and the Recommendations

concerning hours of work in hotels, restaurants and similar establishments, in theatres and other public places of amusement, and in establishments for the treatment of the sick or the mentally unfit. A full account of the debate in the Council of State on this resolution is given at pages 12-14 of the report of this office for this month.

... ..

The Statesman of 29-3-1931 publishes a review of the book "The Industrial Efficiency of India" by Mr. R.K. Das of the I.L.O., Geneva.

... ..

New India of 26-3-1931 (Vol. IV, New Series No. 52) publishes at pages 10-12 a "Note on Unemployment" contributed by the Director of this Office. The note deals with the efforts of the I.L.O. to explore the causes of unemployment with a view to devise adequate solutions for unemployment.

... ..

New India of 26-3-1931 (Vol IV, New Series No.52) publishes at pages 5 to 6 a letter from its London Correspondent Mr. Basil P. Howell, in the course of which the report submitted by the Indian employers' delegation to the 14th Labour Conference is reviewed. The writer draws the attention of Indian trade unions to the proposal for maintaining a permanent delegation of Indian employers at Geneva, and advises them to closely watch developments. It is suggested that the advantages secured through a permanent delegation of employers at

Geneva would give employers' delegations to I.L. Conferences a decided "pull" over workers' delegations.

... ..

Indian Finance of 21-3-1931 (Vol. VII, No.11) publishes at page 380 the Geneva communique on "Population and Unemployment". A copy of the communique was forwarded to the journal by this office.

... ..

The March 1931 issue of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, (Vol. VIII, No.6) publishes at pages 114-115 the latter portion of the article "Labour Legislation in India" by Mr. R.K. Das which appeared in the November 1930 issue of the International Labour Review. The first portion of the article was published in an earlier issue of the Indian Labour Journal.

... ..

The March 1931 issue of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, (Vol. VIII, No.6) publishes extracts from the speech delivered by Mr. T.G. Russel in the Council of State on the introduction of the Railway Budget, for 1931-32. In the course of the speech ~~of~~ Mr. Russel referred to the steps taken by the Government of India to make hours of work on Indian Railways conform to the Washington Hours Convention. (A summary of Mr. Russel's speech is given in the section of this report dealing with Conditions of Labour, vide pages (9—21).

... ..

The February 1931 issue of the M.& S.M. Railwayman, Madras, (Vol. II, No.8) publishes an editorial article under the caption

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"Retrenchment Menace" in the course of which the journal challenges the Government of India's statement in ^{its} the annual report ^{to} of the I.L.O under clause 418 of the Peace Treaty that there is no industrial unemployment in this country. The article further accuses the Government of taking no action on the Washington Unemployment Convention which India has ratified.

The article is reproduced at pages 121-125 of the March 1931 issue of the Indian Labour Journal (Vol. VIII, No.6).

... ..

The March 1931 issue of the Indian Labour Journal (Vol.VIII, No.6) publishes at page 126 Mr. N.M. Joshi's estimate of the Round Table Conference from the labour point of view, a reference to which was made in ^{an} the earlier report of this office (vide, page 7 of the February 1931 report).

The same issue of the Indian Labour Journal publishes the full text of the speech delivered by Mr. B. Shiva Rao at the plenary session of the Round Table Conference, a reference to which was made at pages 6-7 of the February 1931 report of this office.

... ..

The March 1931 issue of the Indian Labour Journal in its Notes and News columns publishes a note on the recent inquiries conducted by the I.L.O. on Unemployment.

... ..

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for February 1931 publishes the reply sent by the Chamber to the Government of India regarding the Chamber's views on giving effect to

the Recommendation adopted at the 12th International Labour Conference on the subject of the prevention of industrial accidents.

... ..

The March 1931 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, (Vol.II, No.3) publishes at pages 83-88 an article under the caption "Organised Labour and the Body Politic" contributed by Mr. S. Keshoram, a member of the Staff of this Office. The article deals first with the influence of the I.L.O. on trade unionism all over the world and next with the bearings of the social tendencies of the I.L.O. on the future ~~xxxxxx~~ constitution of India. (A copy of the March 1931 issue of the Indian Post was forwarded with this office's minute H 4/327/31, dated the 16th April 1931.)

... ..

India and the Regulation of Hours of Work in Commerce
and Offices, Hotels, Restaurants, etc.

Council of State Proceedings.

The following extracts are taken from the Council of State debates of 28th March 1931:-

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole (Industries and Labour Member): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"That this Council having considered the following Draft Convention and Recommendations adopted by the Fourteenth Session of the International Labour Conference:-

(1) Draft Convention concerning the regulation of hours of work in Commerce and Offices;

(2) Recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in hotels, restaurants and similar establishments;

(3) Recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in theatres and other places of public amusement ; and

(4) Recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in establishments for the treatment or the care of the sick, infirm, destitute or mentally unfit;

recommends to the Governor-General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendations."

Sir, in moving this Resolution I should like to explain that we are bound, in ordinary circumstances within one year and in special circumstances within 18 months of the date of the Conference at which these Draft Conventions and Recommendations are adopted, to bring them before the Indian Legislature for ratification or for authoritative non-acceptance, In pursuance of that obligation I am making this motion today. So far as the Convention is concerned,

Sir, I think the matter is a fairly simple one. If we accept a Convention we have to accept it in toto. We cannot adhere to one part of it and dissociate ourselves from another part of it. If therefore any part of a Convention, however small a portion of the whole it may be, - if any part of such a Convention is unacceptable to us we have no option but to reject the entire Convention. Now, I think that the House will agree with me that so far as this particular Convention is concerned, we have no option but to reject it. Before we begin to think of regulating hours of work in establishments and employments so varied as those which fall within the ambit of the elastic formula adopted in the Convention, we should have information, which we do not possess, in regard to the conditions prevailing in the numberless variety of cases which it is proposed to cover in the Convention under the designation of Commercial and Trading Establishments. If we desired any justification for our contention we should find it in the attitude of the Labour British Government which has refused to ratify this Convention until it has examined the conditions prevailing in the various classes of occupation covered by the Convention and in which the hours of employment are as yet unregulated. I come next, Sir, to the case of the Recommendations. These Recommendations are that special inquiries should be made to ascertain the conditions prevailing in hotels, restaurants, boarding houses, clubs, cafes and similar establishments which are exclusively or mainly engaged in providing board and lodging or supplying refreshment for consumption on the premises, in theatres, music halls, cinemas and places of public amusement generally, whether indoor or outdoor, and in establishments for the treatment or the care of the sick, infirm, destitute or mentally unfit. The reasons, Sir, why I am advising this House not to accept

these Recommendations are briefly these. Inquiries in regard to the conditions prevailing in so varied a list of establishments and under-takings would necessarily involve heavy expenditure. That expenditure must fall upon Provincial Governments and I think it would be unfair without their consent to bind them to such investigation. So far as we are able to forecast the views of Provincial Governments, there seems little likelihood that they will agree to such enquiry. Moreover, Sir, unless we have definite prima facie evidence to suggest the need for such an inquiry - and I ~~may~~ may say definitely we have no such evidence - we feel that we should not be justified in starting a roving investigation which may unsettle the relations of employer and employed, on the mere chance of our finding defects. There is a strong and growing labour movement in this country. There are trade unions whose vigilance in matters pertaining to conditions of work can be relied on. There ^{are} provincial Legislatures and Local Governments who are not unmindful of the claims of labour to fair and just treatment. If any of these authorities brought to our notice the existence of conditions necessitating investigation we should certainly take cognisance of the matter. The point that I wish to emphasise here is that the non-acceptance of these Recommendations does not commit us to inaction. If ^{at} any ~~any~~ time prima facie evidence were placed before us which we considered would warrant an investigation, we should certainly reconsider our position.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

(Extracted from the Official report of the Council of State
of State Debates - Vol.I, No.17, pages 396-397).

National Labour Legislation.

An Act further to amend the Indian Factories Act, 1911,
for^a certain purposes.

Act No. XIII of 1931.

The Indian Factories Act, 1911, contains no specific provision empowering Local Governments to frame rules to provide for the prevention of fires in factories. The necessity of making legal provision for enforcing such safeguards has come into prominence owing to the fires that have recently occurred in a match factory in Burma where the filling of match boxes is done by hand, a process which involves a considerable risk of fire in the absence of proper safeguards. It has, therefore, been found necessary to insert a new clause in sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, specifically empowering Local Governments to frame rules for the object in view.

A Bill was introduced for this purpose in the Legislative Assembly on 16-3-1931 and was passed by the Assembly on 28-3-1931. The Bill received the assent of the Governor-General on 5-4-1931. The following is the full text of the Act:-

Act No. XIII of 1931

An Act further to amend the Indian Factories Act, 1911, for a
certain purpose.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Indian Factories Act, 1911, for the purpose hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

Short title¹. This Act may be called the Indian Factories
(Amendment) Act, 1931.

2. After clause (1) of sub-section (2) of section 37 of
the Indian Factories Act, 1911, the following
clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(1) precautions against fire;"

(The Gazette of India, 11-4-1931, No. 15,
Part IV, page 24).

XII of 1911.

XII of
1911.

Extension of Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923,to Aerial Ropeway Workers.

At page 9 of the report of this Office for September, 1930, reference was made to the intention of the Government of India to extend the application of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, to aerial ropeway workers. The proposed extension has now been made effective and the following Notification has been published in the Government of India Gazette dated 14-2-31.

No.L.-1756 dated 12th February 1931 of the Department of Industries & Labour - Whereas the Governor-General in Council by notification in the Department of Industries and Labour, No.L.-1756, dated 11th September 1930, gave notice of his intention to direct that the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923), shall apply to persons employed in the occupations hereinafter declared to be hazardous occupations;

Now therefore in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 2 of the said Act, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to declare that the occupation of all persons engaged in constructing, maintaining, dismantling, altering or repairing aerial ropeways is a hazardous occupation 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 such occupation.

(The Government of India Gazette, 14-2-31, No.7, Part I, Page 131)

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The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1931.

At pages 8 to 15 of the Report of this office for the month of December 1930 the full text of a Bill to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 15-1-1931 was reproduced. The Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 18-2-1931 and it received the assent of the Governor General on 17-3-1931. Since the Act (Act No. IX of 1931 - An Act further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, for certain purposes) as finally passed incorporate no changes from the Bill as it was when introduced in the Assembly, its text is not reproduced here.

(The Gazette of India, 21-3-1931, No.12,
Part IV, pages 11 - 14).

Note.- Please make the following change in the text of the Bill given at pages 8 to 15 of the report of this office for December 1930:-

In sub-section (d) of section 37 B for the words "Where any young person is to be employed" (see page 9) substitute "~~Where~~ such young person is to be employed".



General Funds of Trade Unions:Extension of Scope of Spending.

The following Notification extending the scope of objects on which the general funds of a registered Trade Union may be spent, is published in the Gazette of India dated 28th March 1931:

No.L.-1766. - In pursuance of clause (k) of section 15 of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926), the Governor - General in Council is pleased to notify the following as objects on which the general funds of a registered Trade Union may be spent, namely:-

- (a) the financing of industrial and technical research connected with the industry concerned ;
- (b) the opening out of new markets for any material dealt with by the industry concerned.

(The Government of India Gazette, 28-3-31, No. 13., Part I, Page 244).

Retrenchment in Railway Workshops.

In view of the crippled condition of railway finances (see page 24 February 1931 report) the Railway Board has decided upon a policy of drastic reduction in the personnel of the railways. The Secretary of the Railway Board has in this connection, issued on 7-3-31 a circular letter on the question of the reduction of the Workshop Staff stating that individuals should be selected for discharge in the following order: (a) Those who are ~~least~~ ~~eff~~ inefficient; (b) those who are least efficient; (c) those who have short service; (d) those who are nearing the ^{age} of superannuation. The letter states that practical steps should be taken to see that the work of reducing the staff does not operate to the detriment of communities not at present adequately represented in the Railway services. (The Times of India, 9.3.31).

In pursuance of this decision, the management of the East Indian Railway have decided to dispense with the services of about 1200 men employed in the Lillooah workshops. The dismissed workers are to be given the bonuses due to them and free passes to their homes.

Railway Budget (1931-32) and Service Conditions
of Railwaymen.

At pages 24-27 of the report of this office for February 1931, a summary ^{has} given of the speech delivered by Sir George Rainy, Member for Commerce and Railways, in the Legislative Assembly while

introducing the Railway Budget for 1931-32 . The Railway Budget² was presented ~~to~~ the Council of State by the Honourable Mr.T.G. Russel, Chief Commissioner for Railways, on 17-2-31. In the course of his speech introducing the Budget, Mr. Russel made the following references to the conditions of service of railway employees.

INCREASES IN WAGES. - First, with regard to wages, the investigation started last year into the rates of pay of the lower paid employees had been concluded, so far as the State-managed Railways were concerned, and schemes of improvement^{have been} sanctioned for persons in inferior service on the Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways estimated to cost a recurring amount of Rs.450,000 on the Eastern Bengal and ~~Rs.~~500,000 on the Great Indian Peninsula Railways and Rs.1.1 millions on the East Indian Railway, as also for workshop employees of the Eastern Bengal ~~Rail~~ and East Indian Railways, costing Rs.500000. Revisions of pay had also been sanctioned on some of the Company-managed Railways: thus on the Assam Bengal Railway the pay of persons in inferior service^s and of the lower paid subordinate staff had been revised at an annual cost of Rs.125,000; on the Madras and Southern Maharatta Railway the pay of the clerical, lower subordinate, menial and workshop staff has been revised at an estimated annual cost of Rs.450,000. Following the revision of wages on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway an investigation had also been made into the wages of the lower paid employees of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

Hours of Work. - As regards Hours of Work, the speaker recalled that a Bill amending the Indian Railways Act with a view to giving effect to the provisions of the Washington and Geneva Conventions was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 27th February, 1930, and by the Council of State on the 19th March, 1930.. Soon after the passage of the Bill, a senior officer was placed on special duty with the Railway Board to direct and co-ordinate the working out of the schemes on the various railways through the agency of officers placed on special duty on individual railways for the purpose and it was expected that the Hours of Employment and ~~Periods~~ Periods of Rest Rules which had been made in pursuance of the Act, would be fully introduced on the North Western and East Indian Railways with effect from the 1st April, 1930, on the Eastern Bengal and Great Indian Peninsula Railways some six months later and on Company-managed railways after a year or so. The total cost of these schemes was estimated to be Rs.4.5 millions per annum on account of additional staff and Rs.7.5 millions under capital for the provision of their quarters.

Speeding up Wage payments. - The question of speeding up payments, Mr. Russel said, had also received attention and a scheme had been introduced on one division of the East Indian Railway to ensure that the payments of salaries and allowances would be made within 7 and 14 days respectively of the close of the month to which they relate. Similar arrangements were in course of extension to the other divisions of the railway.

Debits. - As a result of complaints made by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation that debits were raised against the staff in trivial matters and without proper enquiry, the speaker said, that the Government of India had placed a senior Traffic Officer on special duty to enquire into the existing procedure on the East Indian Railway and that they are awaiting his report.

Education of Children of Employees. - The speaker also drew the attention of the House to the placing of an officer of the Education Department on special duty to frame an estimate of the cost of introducing new rules for the grant of assistance to railway employees towards the education of their children and to report on certain other outstanding questions in that connection, such as the standard of education up to which assistance should be given and other cognate matters. In the meantime the Railway Board have issued provisional rules for the grant of such assistance so as to eliminate all racial discrimination for future employees.

Indebtedness. - On the question of devising measures to combat the evil of indebtedness particularly among the lower paid employees the speaker said that the subject had received attention and a new fund called the 'lower paid staff loan fund' had been constituted on the East Indian Railway with the object of advancing loans at reasonable rates of interest to such employees.

Administration of Fine Funds. - The Government of India had also decided to replace the existing fine funds on the State-managed railways by staff benefit funds which is to receive a contribution from revenue in addition to fines and provident fund bonuses which are to be withheld under the rules from subordinate employees, and which ^{are} to be managed by the representatives of the staff.

Cost of Improvement Schemes. - Mr. Russel estimated the total cost of all these schemes for welfare and improvement in the service conditions of the staff to be 4.3 millions during the current year and 8.3 millions during the next year while the ultimate cost is estimated to mount up to 15 millions rupees; over and above this recurring cost from revenue was the capital expenditure of 2.5 millions already incurred and a further 5 millions to be incurred during the next few years on the provision of quarters for the additional staff required to give effect to the Hours of Employment Regulations.

Re-employment of G.I.P. Strikers. - Finally referring to the question of the re-employment of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ex-strikers of whom about 5,000 men are, according to the latest reports, still out of employment, the speaker assured the House that the matter was continuing to receive special attention and instructions had been issued to all the State-managed railways in India to give preference to them (including such of them as failed to offer for duty within the period prescribed in the Government of India Communique of March 1st, 1930) in filling posts for which they may be qualified over outsiders.

Jute Mill Strikes, Calcutta.

At pages 11-12 of the report of this office for February 1931, reference was made to the decision of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, to make a further reduction of working hours in jute mills, to seal a certain percentage of Hessian looms and to introduce single-shift working from 2-3-31. The strike declared on 19-2-31 by the workers of the Lawrence Jute Mills, Calcutta, consequent on the introduction ^{of the} single-shift system (see page 12 of February 1931 report) ended on 2-3-31 and the strikers resumed work unconditionally. Fresh labour troubles, however, broke out among jute workers on 6-3-31, when 10,000 operatives belonging to the Union South Mill and the Clive Mill, managed by Bird & Company, struck work by way of protest against the dismissals of between 3000 and 4000 workers of the two mills due to the introduction of the single-shift system. (The Hindu, 7-3-31). By 11-3-31 the trouble spread to several other jute mills, with the result that about 13,000 workers were rendered idle consequent on lockouts being declared by the managements of the Delta, National, and Belvedere Jute Mills, belonging to Messrs Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. (The Statesman 13.3.31). On 21-3-31 two more mills, the Lawrence Mill and the Albion Mill, had to close down owing to the operatives going on strike. On 18.3.31 the strikers marched to Calcutta ^{with} the object of staging a demonstration before the Bengal Legislative Council and at a meeting held on the same day it was decided to send a memorandum to Government explaining the grievances of the jute workers (The Hindu 21-3-31).

Miss Probhabati Dasgupta, President of the Bengal Jute Workers' Union, has issued on 18.3.31 the following statement regarding the condition of the Jute operatives:-

From the 2nd March, the Jute Mills have closed down 15 per -

cent of the looms. According to the information supplied to the Bengal Jute Workers' Union, about 80,000 workers have been thrown out of employment. The figures are stated to be too high an estimate; in any case according to all accounts no less than 50,000 have been turned out. And as to those who are still in the mills - weavers, spinners and others, men, women and children - have suffered a drastic reduction in their income. As the workers have been advised not to go on strike at this moment, they are still at their work, except one section that has been locked-out. The mills can light-heartedly declare a short lock-out now, and thereby improve their financial position and clear their accumulated stock. But a few months hence, possibly earlier, the mills will find that a strike or lock-out means a serious loss to them. The mill-hands have just got their wages under the new scale of calculation, and now realise how they have been skillfully deceived.

The management is in error if it thinks that the union will submit to the exigencies of the present position of advantage of the employers. There is ~~the~~ permanent reserve of the unemployed about the mill area. To that may be added the 50,000 or more thrown out recently. Both will not doubt be sought to be utilised to break any strike that may be declared now or later. But the workers' solidarity, if it counts, will find a better opportunity to bring the management down on their knees.

(The Hindu, 21-3-31).

Madras Labour Department and the Depressed Classes,* 1929-30

The following details regarding the work of the Madras Labour Department for the uplift of the depressed classes is taken from the Administration Report for 1929-30 of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, submitted to the Madras Government. Ameliorative activities on behalf of the depressed classes by way of systematic work, through the agency of a special staff, were extended during the year to three more districts and with this extension the special staff was at work during the year in ~~14~~ nineteen districts. In most districts, the usual policy was followed of concentrating the work on a few taluks (sub-divisions of districts) at a time, new taluks being taken up when the work in the earlier taluks was finished. In the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly and South Kanara, however, the work has spread to all the taluks. There was no change in the policy of the Department in regard to the work of the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes. It was continued on the same lines as in previous years and comprised the following:-

(1) Provision of house-sites for the relief of congestion in *(dwellings of depressed classes)* cheris, and for the purpose of freeing the depressed classes from oppression by their landlords;

(2) Organization and running of co-operative societies;

(3) Organization and running of schools to provide special educational facilities for the depressed classes, granting of scholar-

* Government of Madras. Public Works and Labour Department. (Labour). G.O. No. 178 L., 21st January 1931. Labour Department - Administration Report for 1929-30. pp. 3 + 70.

ships , stipends and boarding grants to depressed class students, maintenance of hostels, etc.;

(4) Provision of drinking water facilities by constructing new wells and repairing old wells;

(5) Provision of pathways, burial-grounds and sanitary requirements ;

(6) Arranging for the assignment of land for cultivation;

(7) Arranging for the lease of lanka lands.

The work done under the various heads mentioned above is described in detail in the following paragraphs.

House-Sites. - There are two ways in which house-sites are provided for the depressed classes, viz., (1) assigning free of cost waste lands or suitable ^(land belonging to Government) poramboke lands at the disposal of Government, (2) acquiring land from private parties, at the cost of Government in the first instance, and assigning them to the depressed classes, the cost of acquisition over and above an initial deposit made by the assignees being treated as a loan and recovered in easy instalments either directly or through co-operative societies organized for the purpose. An extent of 687.48 acres of Government land providing house-sites for 2,948 families was assigned during the year. The total number of house-sites provided by the assignment of Government land since the commencement of the work of the special staff of this department is 28,336. The total extent acquired from private parties for the provision of house-sites ~~provided~~ during the year was 225.28 acres and the cost involved was Rs.134,860. The number of house-sites provided by this method during the year was 3,900 making a total of 34,126 since the commencement of the special operations.

Co-operation. - The organization and working of co-operative societies amongst the depressed classes progressed on the usual lines in the 19 districts in which the special staff was working. The societies that were functioning during the year were under one or other of the following categories:-

- (i) Societies for obtaining loans for the acquisition of house-sites;
- (ii) Societies for obtaining loans for agricultural purposes such as the purchase of cattle, seeds, ploughs, etc.;
- (iii) Societies for flood relief;
- (iv) Rural credit societies; and
- (v) Societies for collective bargaining.

Government as usual financed the first three kinds of societies, while the rest were financed by Co-operative Banks, chiefly the Madras Christian Central Co-operative Bank. There were 1,669 societies at the beginning of the year. ¹⁰⁸ ~~One hundred and eight~~ societies were registered during the year, 92 societies were transferred to this Department from the control of the Co-operative Department in areas newly taken up by the Special Labour staff, and 59 societies were wound up. Thus, there were at the end of the year, 1,810 societies working under the control of this department. In order to place the activities of the Co-operative activities of the department on a sound basis, the Government sanctioned the appointment of a Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies to work under the Labour Commissioner.

Education. - The work of the department in promoting the spread of education among the depressed classes, which is one of its most important ameliorative activities, comprises the following:•

- (i) endeavouring to obtain admission wherever possible for depressed class pupils to existing elementary schools, and where this is not practicable starting separate elementary schools for them;

- (ii) granting of scholarships;
- (iii) granting of stipends for teachers' training;
- (iv) maintenance of hostels for students of the depressed classes, and awarding boarding grants to deserving depressed class pupils; and
- (v) granting of financial aid to philanthropic bodies working for the educational advancement of the depressed classes by maintaining schools, hostels, etc., for the depressed classes.

In most rural areas the caste people in general were still opposed to the spread of education among the depressed classes and to the admission of depressed class children to the ordinary taluk board or aided schools. Government have repeatedly laid down that no elementary school under public management or receiving aid from public funds should exclude any community on the ground of the caste or creed to which that community belongs. But caste prejudices were still so strong in many rural areas, that it was frequently impossible to secure admission for the depressed classes to the ordinary elementary schools. [1,407 labour schools were working at the beginning of the year. Two hundred and thirteen schools were started during the year and 37 schools were closed. There were thus 1,583 schools working at the end of the year. 1,428 of these were day schools, 66 were night schools and the rest were combined day and night schools. A total number of 56,527 pupils received education at these schools of whom 47,259 were boys and 9,268 were girls. There were 1,885 teachers employed in the labour schools. 1,468 or 77 per cent of them were trained, the rest being untrained. Every possible endeavour was being made to replace untrained by trained teachers. To provide suitable accommodation for the labour schools, 65 new school sheds were constructed and 85 old ones were repaired at a total cost of Rs.29,757 during the year. As an inducement to the poorer parents of the depressed classes to keep their children at school the free

supply of cloth to deserving pupils was tried as an experimental measure in two districts. The Government of Madras has also sanctioned many scholarships and stipends for depressed class students.

DS.

Labour Troubles in Harvey Mills, Madura.

A serious dispute has arisen on 20-3-1931 between the textile operatives numbering nearly 9,000 working in the Harvey Mills, Madura, and the mill authorities. The relations between the management and the workers were getting strained during the last few months, chiefly as a result of the unsatisfactory labour conditions prevailing in the mills. Even so far back as September 1930, the secretary of the Madura Labour Union (for textile workers) had drawn the attention of the Madras Government to the unsatisfactory conditions of work of operatives numbering 15,000 in the five textile mills of Madura. (A copy of the letter dated 5-9-1930 has been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute No. F 5/1630/30, dated 9-10-1930). The Madura Labour Union was started in January 1930 by Mr. B. Shiva Rao (Adviser to the workers' delegate to the 14th International Labour Conference). The following details regarding the strained relations between the Harvey Mills authorities and the workers which have culminated in the present dispute are taken from a communication addressed to this office by Mr. B. Shiva Rao:-

According to Mr. Shiva Rao's communication ever since the Madura Labour Union was started, the management of the Harvey Mills has been exerting undue pressure on the workers to get the Union dissolved, despite the fact that it was a registered trade union. In the first week of February 1931, the management dismissed 15 workers for very

trivial offences, the real reason, it is alleged, being their loyalty to the Union. The dismissals led to a strike which lasted 12 days, at the end of which the management agreed to reinstate the dismissed workers on condition that the Union was dissolved, and a Welfare Committee ^{under the auspices of the Mills management} substituted in its stead. The men held out against this proposal despite pressure exerted by the management. On 20-3-1931 a fresh development took place when a young worker loyal to the Union was asked by the manager to exchange frames with an old worker. The young worker refused to do so on the ground that the change meant harder work and less wages for him. The workers hold that the manager wanted to penalise the young worker for his loyalty to the Union, but the manager's version is that the change was ordered as the old worker who had put in 20 years of service was in need of light work. In the afternoon of 20-3-1931 about 600 workers at the suggestion of the Naistri (supervisor) went in a body during working hours to place their grievances before the manager, who refused to discuss matters and called in the police to clear the place of the workers who had left their duty during working hours. Work in the mills thus stopped and the Union alleges that the management has locked out the workers. (Summarised from Mr. Shiva Rao's letter dated 6-4-1931 to this office).

The management denies that it has locked out the workers and has issued the following statement to the press on 22-3-1931:-

On the 19th instant a worker of 20 years' service in the Roving Department of one of the mills asked that he be transferred to an easier worked frame as his feet were giving him trouble. We considered the request was reasonable and next day he was transferred to a frame where a man, acting for an absentee, was working and vice-versa. The acting man refused to work on the frame given to him and in the afternoon most of the workers in this department stopped work and stated they refused to work until this decision was reversed. These strikers were soon joined by men from other departments and the mills had to stop as it was impossible to continue working.
(The Hindu, 23-3-1931)

IK.1. Enquiry into Incidence of Sickness among Cotton
Mill Operatives ,Bombay City.

Attention is drawn to the report of an Enquiry conducted by the Labour Office, Bombay, into the incidence of Sickness among cotton mill operatives of Bombay^{city} published at pages 570 - 578 of the February 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette ,Bombay, (Vol X, No.6).

Labour in Mysore.

Attention is specially invited to the extracts dealing with labour conditions in Mysore from the Report on the working of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Mysore, for the year 1928-29, published at pages 558-562 ~~of~~ the February 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol.X, No.6).

Workers' Organisations.

7th Annual Convention of A.I.R. Federation, Ajmer.

The seventh Annual Convention of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation opened its session at Ajmer on the 15th March 1931 with Mr. I.B. Sen, Bar-at-Law, in the chair. The following Unions were fully represented:- The Assam Bengal Railway Employees' Association; The Bengal Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union; the B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union; the Eastern Bengal Railway Employees' Association; the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union; the G.I.P. Staff Union; H.E.H. the Nizam's State Railway Employees' Union; the M. & S.M. Railway Employees Union; the Mysore State Railways ^{Employees'} Union; the North Western Railway General Workers' Union; the National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma; the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Employees' Union; and the East Indian Railway Union. The Director of this Office also attended the session of the Convention.

Administration Report for 1930.- The Administration report of the A.I.R. Federation for 1930 presented to the Convention drew attention, among other subjects, to the following:-

New Affiliations.- The Mysore Railway Employees' Union, the N.W. Railway Union; the R. & K. Railway Union; the A.B. Railway Employees' Association and the N.W. Railway General Workers' Union have become affiliated bodies and that the B.N.W. Railway Union and the S.I. Railway Union have not been affiliated technically on account of not having fulfilled their financial obligations towards the Federation, and that it was this important feature which has prevented other Unions from seeking affiliation with the Federation.

Attitude of Administrations towards Unions.- While there has been no general change in the attitude of the Administrations towards Railway Unions, it is necessary to record the attitude taken by the Mysore and E.I. Railways Administrations towards the growth of Trade Unionism. The Mysore State Railways have gone to the extent of openly victimising the workers for joining their Union as if it were an illegal body and in this respect the Mysore Railways hold a similar

position corresponding to that of Fascist Italy against whom the I.T.F. has been fighting unceasingly. While the Local Administrations have been apathetic towards the growth of Trade Unionism, the Railway Board have since February 1930, opened a new chapter in their relations with the Federation by agreeing to meet the representatives of the Federation twice a year in a conference to discuss matters of interest to the railways and in that way the Railway Board have come into closer contact with the Federation.

Trade Disputes during 1930.- The following were the important disputes during the year:- (1) Lightning strikes in the Bengal Nagpur Railway consequent on the introduction of the bonus system in the workshops (settled in favour of the workers); (2) B.B.&C.I. Railway dispute over transfers to Dohad (settled in favour of workers after reference to a Conciliation Board under the Trade Disputes Act) (3) the G.I.P. Railway strike which began on 4-2-1930; (4) the N.G.S. Railway strike due to grant of bonus to Provident Fund subscribers ~~and~~ only (the Federation brought about a settlement and the bonus question is still under negotiation); (5) Lucknow Railway workshop strike.

Retrenchment.- The announcement in the Railway Budget of impending retrenchment and the reduction of wages of all employees drawing over Rs. 30 per month is causing serious concern. Retrenchment and reductions of salaries are to be strongly opposed by the Unions.

Organisation.- During the period under review, the General Council met at Hubli (on the M. & S.M. Railway), Nagpur (on the G.I.P. and B.N.R.), Simla (N.W.R.) and Delhi (E.I.R., B.B. & C.I., N.W.R., G.I.P.), and important decisions regarding G.I.P. strikers' unemployment, attitude of workers ~~at~~ the present situation in the country, the demands of the working class for proper place in the new constitution, Trade Union unity, etc., were reached.

Relations with I.L.O.- The report contained the following expression of thanks to the I.L.O.:-"The Federation is ~~also~~ indebted to the International Labour Office and its indefatigable Director M. Albert Thomas for supplying the Federation with literature of the Office freely and thus keeping us in touch with the work of that Office. The information from this Office in regard to Washington and Geneva Conventions, supplied by M. Thomas was extremely useful to the Federation at the time of discussions with the Railway Board on Hours of Employment Regulations."

Resolutions passed.- The following are some of the more important of the resolutions passed at the Conference:-

Resolved that this Convention of the All India Railwaymen's Federation records its deep conviction that the Indian State Railways cannot be efficiently worked and managed nor could justice be done to Indians unless and until the Railways are placed under the full control of the Indian Legislature without any reservation whatsoever.

The Railway Board should be Indianised, so that it may be ~~responsive~~ responsive to the wishes of the people and do justice to Indian customers and staff who have been hitherto treated indifferently and starved by the European officials placed in charge of the high offices with inordinately high salaries and allowances, which should,

at least in the case of new entrants, be reduced to the rates in force in the Japanese State Railways.

The Agency Companies hitherto employed for the working and management of the Indian State Railways should be discharged at the earliest date possible as superfluous, irresponsible and uneconomical, they being directly responsible for raising the salaries and multiplying the numbers of the higher railway officials and for keeping the percentage of working expenses at the present high level.

The proposal contained in the Sankey Report for the Federal Government of India to the effect that the Railway Board might be given a statutory constitution outside the control of the Indian Legislature is highly reactionary and should not be allowed to come in the Federal constitution.

The Railway Board should be urged upon immediately to stop retrenchment and cancel previous orders already issued pending complete discussion with the Federation.

The discussions with the Railway Board on the question of the reinstatement of the G.I.P. Railway strikers, which according to the Federation, has been unsatisfactorily replied to by the Railway Board should be pursued to a logical conclusion by the Deputation that is shortly to wait upon the Railway Board.

Other resolutions demanded that adult franchise should be the basis of the new constitution, that labour legislation and its administration should be treated either as a Federal or a Central subject, that the new constitution should contain a declaration of the rights of workers and that adequate representation of labour should be provided in the work of shaping the future constitution.

Trade Union Unity.- Messrs. Deshpande, N.M. Joshi, Aftab Ali and others representing the All-India Trade Union Congress, ^{the} All-India Trades Union Federation and the Bengal Trade Union Federation took part in the discussions on trade union unity and finally it was resolved that a Committee consisting of Messrs. J.M. Mehta, V.V. Giri, and I.B. Sen should negotiate with other organisations generally on the basis that Unions should be given freedom in certain matters and that power of coercion should be used only by 9/10ths majority.

Office bearers.- The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:- President, Mr. J.M. Mehta; Vice-Presidents - Messrs. S.C. Joshi, R.S. Ruiker, K.P. Bannerjee and Kashinath Muttu; General Secretary - Mr. V.V. Giri; Treasurer - Mr. V.R. Kalappa; and Assistant Secretary - Mr. S. Guruswamy.

(The M. & S.M. Railwayman, April 1931, Vol. 2, No. 10, Part I, pages 266-268).

(A review of the 6th Annual Convention of the A.I.R. Federation is given at pages 32-33 of the report of this Office for November 1929).

B.B. & C.I. Railwaymen's Annual Conference, 1931, Ajmer.

The annual conference of B.B. & C.I. Railwaymen for 1931 was held on 14-3-1931 at Ajmer under the presidentship of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. The conference was attended by a large number of delegates, as also by distinguished labour leaders from Bengal, the Punjab and Madras.

In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta said that of the approximate capital of Rs. 750 millions owned by the B.B. & C.I. Railway, almost 98 per cent was found by the Government, and that it was, therefore, very unfair that the directors in far-away London should control the fate of the employees of the B.B. & C.I. Railway numbering about 90,000. The company had an income of Rs. 120 millions most of which was spent in high salaries, palatial bungalows and extravagant allowances to the officers. The prosperity of the company was due to the incessant toil and labour of the workers, but these creators of wealth were doomed to life-long drudgery, low wages, bad housing, humiliating conditions of work, absence of provision against illness and old age. Many entered a premature grave, weary and brokenhearted. The Indian Railways were, he said, in a sense nationalised, but under an undemocratic government, the benefits of nationalization did not accrue to the country while the Railway Board were irresponsible and acted merely in the interests of the foreign bond holder. Recently, labour legislation had however introduced some elements of humanity in the conditions of work of railwaymen and the unions of railwaymen were proving successful to some extent in the prevention of wrongs, but the Nagpur split of 1929 had given a set back to the labour movement in the country.

Proceeding, the president pointed out that industrial peace could not be secured without giving to workers a stake and status in industry, i.e., standard wages and a substantial voice in the conditions of work. He said that if the worker was to ~~have~~ ^{live} a civilized life, he should be given a minimum wage of Rs. 100 in Bombay and Rs. 60 outside. He observed that the cry for real economy through high wages was not merely a slogan of pestilential labour agitators, but that it was a doctrine backed by eminent authorities. Mr. Jamnadas regarded the ~~have~~ 4 hours working day as the ideal to be aimed. The 8 hours day adopted under International Labour Conventions was not ^{the} last word ^{on the subject} and the possibility of a 6 hours working day could not be considered as ^{an} idle dream. He also pleaded for industrial self-government, and observed that it was as important as political self-government. He pointed out that the Railway Board's proposals for retrenchment were, as usual, at the lower paid employees' expense and that, until high salaries of officers were reduced, and the subsidy to the general revenues were substantially cut down, it would be monstrous ^{to retrench the ~~same~~ numbers of the lower staff and} to throw helpless workers on the streets to starve. He concluded with an appeal for strong and vigorous Unions functioning for the best interests of the workers.

The conference passed resolutions condemning the staff retrenchment proposals of the Railway Board and demanding the reinstatement of the G.I.P. railway strikers. Other resolutions passed by the conference related to the grievances about pay, housing, medical relief, leave, passes, fines, racial discrimination, and the complaints of the railway colony at Dohad and the cabinmen of Bombay.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-3-1931)

Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad.

The following are some of the resolutions passed by the Joint Representative Board of the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, at a meeting of the Board held on the 26th March 1931:-

Day Workers Employed At Night. - This meeting of the Joint Representative Board of the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, strongly condemns the practice of day workers being employed in night shifts, involving a glaring breach of the Factory Law, and entailing serious consequences to the physical and moral condition of those concerned. The Board expresses its surprise that a continued breach of a vital provision of the ^{Law} Labour is being permitted and resolves that the Secretary should take steps to put a stop to this practice.

Refusal to Engage Women After Maternity. - In a number of cases, women have been refused employment on return after maternity, and have had to submit to loss of days on this account. The Board disapproves strongly of this and is of the opinion that such a practice is contrary to the spirit and letter of the Maternity Benefit Act; and that in the circumstances that have arisen, the Maternity Benefit Act is causing more hardship than good to the women concerned.

Reduction of Women Workers. - A strong tendency has been noticeable since the passing of the Maternity Benefit Act to reduce the number of women workers and to shut them out from the departments in which they have been usually employed hitherto. This has placed women workers at a very serious disadvantage and has in numerous cases entailed serious hardships. This Board is of opinion that this

regrettable situation has arisen owing to a desire to escape liability connected with the operation of the Maternity Benefit Act. The Secretary is requested to represent the matter strongly to the mills concerned and to the Mill Owners' Association, and to take steps to remove the unfair distinction in ~~the~~ matters of employment made against women on the score of sex.

Weekly Wages. - This Board is firmly of opinion that the period of about a fortnight elapsing between one payment and another in the cases of ~~the~~ most of the workpeople in the local industry, is too long, that it prevents quick and smooth adjustment between ~~the~~ income and expenditure and entails the necessity of borrowing at heavy rates, in the middle of the pay period, and that it is responsible for a large proportion of the huge indebtedness of the labourers, and for the drain of earnings in the shape of interest, ~~caused thereby.~~

This Board therefore resolves that a demand be made for immediate introduction of the system of weekly payment of wages.

Interests on Advances in Wages. - This Board notes that petty advances are made to the work people by the authorities of certain mills in the middle of the 'Hapta' (pay-period) to help them through the period till the payment time and regrets that interest is charged on such advances, which is in some cases at excessively high rates. In view of the fact that payment is made about a week after the wages have become due for a previous hapta, the practice amounts to charging interest on the men's own money, and a demand be therefore placed that the mill authorities should not thereafter charge any interest on such advances.

It furthermore resolves that the mill authorities should,

pending the introduction of the weekly payment of wages , themselves make advances on a reasonable scale, without charging any interest, whenever required, so as to obviate the need of borrowing money at usurious rates from money-lenders, and further the mill-authorities should be asked to immediately put a stop, to the lending operations of certain persons, at present carrying on the business, inside the premises of certain mills.

Bribery in Mills. - It is a matter for the deepest regret that the practice of bribe-taking is still rampant in the mills and no effectual action has yet been taken by the Association or the Union to eradicate it.

The Board resolves that, in view of the great importance of the question and the grave consequence to the working class that flow from this practice, a Committee be appointed, consisting of Shrimati Anasuya Ben, Sjt.Navinchandra Desai, two representatives of the Mill Owners' Association, one representative of the Non-Association Mills, and one representative of the Textile Association with power to co-opt; to inquire and report within ~~Two~~ months regarding the extent to which the practice of bribe taking prevails in the local textile mills, the occasion and circumstances in which bribes are exacted, the steps so far taken to put a stop to the practice , and the measures it would be desirable to take to remedy the evil.

*(Extracted from Communication to this Office
(No 1347 of 7-4-31) from the Publicity Officer,
Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad).*

Intellectual Workers.

Bombay Clerks' Union: Demand for Regulation of Hours of Work.

The annual meeting of the Bombay Clerks' Union was held on the 17th February under the presidentship of Mr. K.C. Desai. The following resolutions were passed at the meeting:-

(1) This meeting strongly protests against the resolution of the Association of Employers in India opposing the proposition of the International Labour Conference for a Convention or Recommendation on the subject of the regulation of hours of work of salaried employees^s as being difficult and impossible of application in India. It, therefore, requests Government to consider the reasonableness of its early application in the case of clerks.

(2) This meeting strongly disapproves of the action of the Associations of Employers in Bombay in changing the morning hours of attendance of clerks in their offices in Bombay on the plea of closing them early for the good health of all the working clerks, but in fact continuing the same old timing in closing them. This meeting requests Government to fix the limit of hours of work for clerks in all offices and shops ^{at} to not more than 8 hours a day, the work commencing not earlier than 10 in the morning and closing not later than 6 in the evening, inclusive of an interval of one hour's recess.

(3) This meeting views with misapprehension the efforts of the employers to bring down the scale of salaries of clerks. It protests most emphatically against such efforts and is of the opinion that the effect of such actions will drive the clerical community to acute suffering ~~and consequently to desperation for the sake of existence.~~

(The Trade Union Record, Bombay, March 1931
Vol. 2, No.1)

Pay & Prospects of Indian Civil Servants.

The pay and prospects of the salaried employees in the service of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments are matters on which there are considerable differences of opinion in India at present. On the one hand, the Congress and the Indian Nationalists are of opinion that the salaries and allowances given to government servants of the superior grades are very much above the country's financial resources and that the huge salary bill of the civil service constitutes a drain on Indian revenues out of all proportion to the services rendered by such government employees. The unprecedented economic and financial depression in the country has given an added impetus to the nationalist demand that there should be drastic reductions in the salaries of the higher grades of the Indian Civil Servants. The matter has been deemed of sufficient importance as to be included in the resolution on Fundamental Rights moved by Mahatma Gandhi on 31-3-31 at the last session of the Indian National Congress, which contained inter-alia the following clause on the subject of salaries of government employees:-

"Expenditure and salaries in the civil departments ought to be largely reduced. No servant of the State other than specially employed experts and the like ^{to be} paid above a certain fixed figure, which should not ordinarily exceed Rs.500 per month." (The Hindu, 1-4-31).

On the other hand, the Government of India is of opinion that the administration of India, compared with that of other countries, is run at very low cost. The following facts and figures in support of the Government's contention are taken from the budget speech of Sir George Schuster in the Legislative Assembly on 28-2-31. (The figures relate to 1928-29).

Taking the Civil Departments (exclusive of the Railways), the

total pay of all the officials of Government, British and Indian, high-paid and low-paid, Central and Provincial, amounts to just under Rs.570 millions. Of this sum, the Central Government's share is about Rs.160 millions, and the Provincial Governments' about Rs.410 millions. This total is distributed between gazetted officers on the one side and what are called 'establishments' on the other. The term 'establishment', covers all the clerical and lower-paid staff. Roughly speaking, with a few exceptional cases, it may be said that this part of the staff includes posts with pay ranging to a maximum of about Rs.500 per month. I may add incidentally that it also includes all the police, and the irregular levies employed in frontier defence, to which special considerations apply. Taking these two classes, the total cost of establishments amounts to Rs.410 millions, and of officers, British and Indian, Central and Provincial, all together, and including all leave pay, amounts to Rs.160 millions, of which the Central Government's share is just under Rs.40 millions and the Provincial Governments' just over Rs.120 millions. Out of this total, the cost of British officers amounts only to about Rs.65 millions.

Referring to the meagre results that would be achieved by effecting even a 10 per cent cut in the salaries of the Civil Service, Sir George Schuster said:-

If the total pay of officers, British and Indian, Central and Provincial combined, amounts to only Rs.160 millions, it is clear that no practicable cut in this figure could produce a revolutionary change. If all salaries were cut by 10 per cent, the total saving for the whole of India would only be Rs.16 millions of which the Central Government would get about ~~Rs.2~~ Rs.3.8 millions and the Provincial ~~xxxxxx~~ Governments about Rs.12.2 millions or not more than about Rs.1.4 millions each. Even if this cut were multiplied to impossible percentages, it would not produce an effect which could really affect the fundamental financial problem, and it is clear that, if effects which are even worth considering are to be produced, drastic reductions right down to the very lowest ranks would be necessary. This would be a very difficult task for any Government to face and one which might produce hard results for the lower-paid men. It is clearly not a case for hasty action.

(Extracted from the Budget speech of Sir George Schuster in the Legislative Assembly on 28-2-31. Legislative Assembly Debates Vol.2, No.6. page 1372).

10th All-India Audit & Account Offices Conference,

1931, Delhi.

The 10th session of the All India Audit and Account Offices Conference was held at Delhi on 28-2-31 under the presidentship of Mr. C.S. Ranga Iyer, M.L.A. Referring to the conditions of service of clerical employees, the President said :-

"It is a legitimate purpose of every employee to improve his standard of life and have enough wherewithal to educate the children and support the family. In no part of the world, with the exception of China, has the condition of the subordinate employees been so much neglected, in the Government service especially, as in this country. Whether we look to the Railways, Postal Department, or the Audit and Accounts Offices, you find that the subordinate employees have to bear the brunt of the work of the whole administration without being adequately compensated. Nowhere in the world does one find so great disparity as in this country between the salaries of the officer and the clerk."

Among the subjects considered by the Conference were:-

1. The need of granting pensions and compensatory pensions for the dependents of deceased government servants.
2. The need for grant of facilities to the ^{relations} ~~positions~~ of the employees possessing qualifications to enter the services.
3. The desirability of the substitution, if necessary, of a Provident Fund in lieu of pension.

(The Times of India, 5-3-31).

Economic Conditions.

Budget of the Government of India for 1931-32.

The Budget of the Government of India for 1931-32 was presented in the Legislative Assembly by Sir George Schuster, the Finance Member, on 28-2-1931. A heavy deficit in the revenues of the Government of India for the current year (1930-31) was revealed in the budget, the revised estimates showing a deficit of Rs. 144.2 millions as against a budgeted surplus of Rs. 8.6 millions.

Estimates for 1931-32.- The income for the ensuing year (1931-32) has been framed in a cautious manner. These work to a total deterioration of Rs. 181 millions as compared with the budget estimates for the current year, and as the latter provided for a surplus of Rs. 8.6 millions, the net deficit will be Rs. 172.4 millions. The Finance Member proposes to meet this deficit by means of retrenchment and new taxation. Military expenditure will be reduced by Rs. 17.5 millions, normal civil expenditure by Rs. 9.7 millions, thus bringing down the deficit to Rs. 145.1 millions. Customs duties and increased taxes on income will bring in Rs. ^{148.2}~~1,482~~ millions, leaving a surplus of Rs. 3.1 millions. The Finance Member also proposed to levy a number of new taxes. He proposed to alter the substantive tariffs in respect of liquor, sugar, silver bullion, ~~betel~~ betel-nuts, spices and exposed cinematograph films. The liquor duties will be enhanced appreciably. The duty on beer and the like will be raised by about 66 per cent. above the present level, while those on wines and spirits (except denatured spirit and spirit used in drugs and medicines) will be raised by between 30 and 40 per cent.

The net effect ~~of~~ of the changes in taxation announced is an addition to the revenue of Rs. 8.8 millions in the revised estimate for 1930-31 and of Rs. 148.2 millions in the Budget estimate for 1931-32. But for these, the estimates would have shown deficits of Rs. 135.6 millions and Rs. 145.1 millions respectively, instead of the deficit of Rs. 126.842 millions and surplus of Rs. 3.106 millions now shown.

Budget at a glance.-

	<u>1929-30.</u>	<u>1930-31.</u>	<u>1931-32.</u>
	<u>Actuals.</u>	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>(in millions)</u>	<u>Estimates.</u>	<u>Estimates.</u>
		<u>(in millions)</u>	<u>(in millions)</u>
Revenue	1,326.855	1,234.361	1,358.764
Expenditure	1,324.171	1,361.203	1,355.658
Surplus or)	+ 2.684	- 126.842	+ 3.106
Deficit)			

Details of New Taxation.- The plan for new taxation is all confined under the heads Customs and Taxes on Income and comprises the following:-

Silver.- Import duty is to be increased from 4 annas to 6 annas per ounce. Additional yield expected is Rs. 7.5 millions. Export duty to be likewise increased. Expected yield - Rs. 0.7 millions.

Sugar.- Increase in duty of Rs. 1-4-0 per cwt. Expected yield - Rs. 0.116 millions.

Liquor.- Duty on beer to be increased by about 66 per cent and that on wines and spirits by between 30 and 40 per cent. Expected yield - Rs. 6.1 millions.

Spices.- Duty enhanced from 15 per cent ad valorem to 30 per cent ad valorem. Expected yield - Rs. 0.8 millions.

Cinematograph Films (exposed).- From 15 per cent ad valorem to 30 per cent. ad valorem. Expected yield - Rs. 0.3 millions.

Betelnuts.- From 15 per cent. ad valorem to 30 per cent. ad valorem. Expected yield - Rs. 2.3 millions.

Kerosene.- Increase in import duty from 2 annas 3 pies per gallon to 3 annas per gallon. Expected yield - Rs. 4.3 millions.

~~Pattna~~ Pattna Increase in excise duty from 2 annas 3 pies per gallon to 3 annas. Expected yield - Rs. 5.2 millions.

Motor spirit.- Import duty increased from 6 annas per gallon to 8 annas per gallon. Expected yield - Rs. 0.7 millions. Excise duty increased by 2 annas likewise. Expected yield - Rs. 8.3 millions

Cigarettes.- Increase in duty of Rs. 1-8-0 per thousand. This, together with the enhanced duties on cigars, etc., is expected to bring in Rs. 1.5 millions extra.

Motor cars.- From 20 per cent. ad valorem to 30 per cent ad valorem. Expected yield - Rs. 3 millions.

Cotton Piece-goods.- Whereas the present duty is 15 per cent. and 20 per cent. ad valorem, with minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas per lb. in certain cases, the figures for the rates of the ad valorem duties will hereafter be deemed to be increased by 5 in each case. Expected yield is Rs. 9 millions.

Income-Tax.- The taxable minimum income from income-tax - Rs. 2,000 - will not be lowered. The rate of tax on the lowest zone, up to Rs. 4,999 will be raised by 4 pies. The rates on higher grades up to Rs. 39,999 will be raised in some cases by 5 pies, in some cases by 6 pies, and in the highest of the grades by 7 pies. At present the highest rate is reached at Rs. 40,000. It is now 19 pies. A rate of 25 pies is now to be levied on incomes from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 99,999 and a maximum rate of 26 pies on incomes of Rs. 100,000 and over. Net estimated yield is Rs. 45.4 millions.

Miscellaneous.- Generally a surcharge of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. has been added to 10 per cent schedule; of 5 per cent to the general or 15 per cent schedule; of 10 per cent to the luxury or 30 per cent schedule. Additional revenue is about Rs. 30 millions.

Super Tax.- Higher rates resulting in increased yield of Rs. 4.6 millions.

Currency Policy.- In the course of a brief summary of the Government's currency policy, Sir George emphasised that "the contraction effected by the Government has been an essential sequel to the fall in world price and has not been carried to an excessive extent". Turning to the ratio Sir George said that "there is no question now of choosing between 1s.6d. and 1s.4d. It is a choice between a stable currency and complete instability".

Economies.- Towards the conclusion of his speech the Finance Member foreshadowed the appointment of (1) a Retrenchment Committee for the Central Government; (2) a Special Committee for Posts and Telegraphs; (3) Investigation of Expenditure on the Railways; and (4) a Committee to study the possibilities of a tobacco monopoly.*

(The Statesman, 1-3-31)

(The Budget of the Government of India for 1930-31 was reviewed at pages 35-37 of the report of this office for March 1930).

* As a result of the discussion of the Budget proposals in the Assembly several alterations have been made; and the position of the new Budget as sanctioned will be summarised in our next report.

The Bengal Jute Bill, 1930.

(A Bill to regulate the control and production of Jute).

At pages 27-30 of the September 1930 report and 35-36 of the October 1930 report of this Office references have been made to the depressed conditions in the Jute industry as well as ^{to} the resolutions passed by a representative conference of all the interests affected in the trades recommending the Government to restrict the cultivation of Jute in Bengal. The Government of Bengal has followed up the suggestions of the Conference and has drafted a Bill incorporating the suggestions of the Conference to be introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council. The following passages are excerpts from the statement of objects and reasons for introducing the Bill:-

Jute is the most important source of the wealth of the Bengal Presidency, and it is one in respect of which Bengal enjoys a practical monopoly in the world. Nevertheless the price of jute has, within recent years, fallen to a level at which it does not even suffice to pay the cost of its production. The result has been disastrous to the people, notably to the people of Eastern Bengal. Intervention of the public authorities to prevent the disaster is therefore urgently called for. Having regard to the widespread area of production and the backwardness and illiteracy of the cultivators, there is no near prospect of their producing their own organisation for dealing with the situation. This Bill therefore seeks to provide an organisation by which the production of jute may be so adjusted as to maintain as high a price-level of jute as may safely be kept up. It is hardly necessary to add that if by this means jute-prices could be raised it would immediately lead to greater prosperity all round. An increase of each rupee per maund in the price of jute would bring approximately Rs.50 millions to the people. And considering that jute prices could easily be raised by Rs.8 per maund above the present prices without any apprehension of serious competition from other materials, a successful regulation of the jute crop may easily add about rupees Rs.400 millions to the wealth of the people.

This Bill proposes to carry out the scheme of regulation of production through the agency of Union Boards. As the jute producing districts have mostly been covered by Union Boards, they furnish a useful instrument for the carrying out of the work. The framing of a provincial scheme for regulation of cultivation of jute is entrusted to a Central Board, which will be necessary. The pro-

gramme of cultivation cannot be settled piecemeal. It must be done on a provincial scale and by persons competent to take account of the necessary factors and determine the amount required to be produced with reference to the world demand. Provision has been made for a revision both of the village and of the provincial scheme, so that any errors due to want of consideration of relevant facts may be remedied. At the same time care has been taken that the decisions should be promptly and finally made without interminable appeals and reviews. In the framing of a village scheme an option has been provided for voluntary compliance by the cultivators with the requisition of the Central Jute Board. The Union Board will frame a scheme of its own only when the voluntary offers of the villagers individually are not adequate to satisfy the requisition of the Central Board.

There are other factors to consider besides restriction of production and important reforms will have to be carried out in the system of marketing jute before the full benefit of its value can be secured to cultivators. That is a matter which must be dealt with in future and in respect of which the Jute Board when constituted under this Act will be able to give competent advice.

(The Calcutta Gazette, 12-3-1931, No. II,
Part IV., pages 6-12.)

Failure of Textile Mill Merger Scheme, Bombay.

At pages 32 and pages 30-31 of the reports of this Office for September and October 1930 respectively, references were made to the Bombay Textile Mills Merger Scheme. The Times of India of 13-3-31 states that it understands on good authority that, owing to serious difficulties which have come to light, the proposed Bombay textile mill merger will not materialise. There may be regroupings of some of the mills concerned, but the merger of over 30 mills originally contemplated is impossible.

The merger scheme has been in the air for several months. ~~now.~~ Mr. Entwistle, the Manchester valuation expert, was specially brought to Bombay to value the properties of the various mills

concerned. He recently ~~submitted~~ submitted a detailed report which was considered by the Merger Committee, consisting of Sir Ness Wadia, Mr. C. N. Wadia, Sir Joseph Kay, Mr. N. B. Saklatwalla, Mr. F. E. Dinshaw, Sir Dinshaw Petit and some others.

The exact nature of the difficulties in the way of the merger, which was intended to bring down cost of production, has not transpired. One part of the scheme was that a loan of about ~~£££~~ ²£££ 100 millions would have been necessary to provide working capital for the new enterprise. The scheme was intended to put the mill industry in Bombay on a firm foundation by the control of production and marketing of goods and the establishment of an efficient buying and selling agency. It was also proposed to abolish the agency commission system and to have a directorate with a managing director or governor for the control of the whole group of mills included in the scheme. The merger scheme, as originally proposed, included 31 mills.

(The Times of India 13-3-31)

The Hindu of 12-3-31 commenting editorially on the failure of the scheme writes:-

"The Bombay mill-owners have rejected the scheme of amalgamation on the lines of the Lancashire Cotton Corporation prepared by the Manchester expert they had called in. We are told that unexpected difficulties have arisen in putting the scheme through. It is, of course, possible that a scheme suited to the conditions in Lancashire was found to be a misfit in Bombay, and if Bombay mill-owners set it aside as impracticable, it is not for any outsider to find fault with them. But the Indian tax-payer and every well-wisher of the country are entitled to see that a great national industry is not ruined by the short-sighted policy pursued by the mill-owners. When special protection was recommended to be given to Bombay by the Cotton Tariff Board, that Board laid emphasis on the fact that the consumer will be justified in going to the aid of the industry

only if those responsible for its management radically reformed their whole system of running it. Thanks to undesirable speculation, an out-of-date method of financing the industry and a defective system of control, the industry finds itself over-capitalised and run on antiquated and wasteful lines. There is no evidence to show that the mill-owners have taken efforts to reduce capital, instal new plant and machinery, and organise sound methods of finance and control. It is also possible that the extra tariff aid which the budget has provided for the industry and the impetus which the Swadeshi movement has given it have made the mill-owners to go back to their old complacent unbusiness-like methods. We should indeed be sorry, if, basking in the sunshine of protection and the patriotic impulses of the people, they forget to fulfil their part of the pact only on the basis of which protection was granted to them. If the mill-owners are wise, they will, of course, utilise the easier conditions, in which they find themselves, to reform industry and consolidate their position?

(The Hindu ,12-3-31)

Co-operation.Co-operative Societies Bill, Madras.

The Government of Madras has decided to introduce a Bill (Bill No. 1V of 1931) in the Madras Legislative Council with a view to consolidate and amend the law relating to Co-operative Societies in the Presidency. The progress and development of the Co-operative movement since the existing Co-operative Societies Act, 1912 (Act II of 1912), was passed by the Governor-General of India in Council has made it necessary to revise the law under which co-operative societies in the Madras Presidency work. The Committee on Co-operation appointed by the Government of Madras in September 1927 who examined the progress made in the co-operative movement in the Presidency and enquired into the present position and lines of development have observed several defects in the existing law and ^{have} recommended that they may be rectified by suitable legislation.

The Draft Bill gives effect to the suggestions of the Committee and opportunity is taken to embody the results of experience of the movement and rectify certain defects found in the existing Act. The noteworthy features of the Bill are shown below:-

(1) The overdues in credit societies are assuming alarming proportions. The panchayatdars (arbitrators) become defaulters and other members are consequently allowed to become defaulters. It is proposed to empower the Registrar or the officer authorized by him to recover the overdue instalments of loans by distraint and sale of movable properties. Provisions for prompt arbitration and conditional attachment of property involved are made.

(2) The co-operative societies in the Presidency have multiplied greatly, the number on 30th June 1928 was 14,064, and the State has been bearing the cost of arbitration and execution besides the cost of audit. Act II of 1912 gave powers to the Local Government to make rules to provide for charges if any to be made for audit, but not for costs for arbitration or execution. It is now proposed to empower the Government to make rules for the levy of fees for the settlement of disputes and for the enforcement of the awards. There is provision for extension of the time for repayment of loans in deserving cases and in other cases it is just that defaulters should pay for the cost of proceedings taken against them, while many disputes arise for which there is no justification and in these cases the delinquent party should be made to pay

for settling the dispute.

(3) Act II of 1912 gave a prior claim to a registered society in respect of loans for the purchase of seed or manure, on the crops and in respect of loans for the purchase of cattle, fodder, implements and machinery and raw materials for manufacture on those things and on articles manufactured and the term of the lien on the agricultural produce was restricted to 18 months. It is proposed to convert the lien into a charge. Land Mortgage Banks are being registered under the Act and the success of the Banks mainly depends on the value of the mortgaged property. The debt is made a first charge also on the lands purchased or improved with the loan and on godowns and buildings purchased or built with the loan and upon the immovable property mortgaged to the society in respect of loans advanced for the clearance of prior debts.

(4) There is much delay in winding up the affairs of liquidated societies. The liquidator is given more powers to wind up the affairs under the guidance of the Registrar and the process of liquidation is sought to be placed on a better footing.

(5) Act II of 1912 required the society and the office-bearers to do many things, but no provision was made to take notice of the failure to comply with the provisions. The only offence for which punishment was provided is the use of the word 'co-operative' by persons other than registered societies. A great laxity is the result and it is therefore proposed to declare the wilful failure, wilful neglect or refusal, wilful submission of a false return and wilful disobedience of summons, etc., an offence under the Act. The offences are made non-cognizable and triable only by a First-class Magistrate while an adequate safeguard against irresponsible prosecutions is provided by requiring the permission of the Registrar before launching a prosecution. The existence of the penal sections will stimulate business methods in the minds of co-operators and the provisions are based upon the English Industrial and Provident Societies Act.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Madras,
dated 17 - 3 - 31)

Co-operation in Delhi Province, 1928-29.

The following table shows the progress of co-operation in Delhi Province during the years 1927-28 and 1928-29:-

Class	Societies.		Members.		Working Capital.	
	1927-28	1928-29	1927-28	1928-29	1927-28	1928-29
Central Credit	1	1	452	487	<u>Rs.</u> 1,293,534	<u>Rs.</u> 1,368,444
Agricultural Credit	233	236	4,672	5,011	622,272	747,670
Non-Agricultural Credit	30	43	622	1,376	62,400	150,683
Total	264	280	5,746	6,874	1,978,206	2,266,797

During 1928-29, 18 new societies were registered, while the registration of two was cancelled. Besides the Central Bank, the total number of societies working rose to 279 against 263 in the previous year. The new societies registered contained 3 Agricultural Credit, 2 Better Living, 1 Consolidation of Holdings, 1 Cattle Breeding, 1 Thrift and Savings and 10 non-Agricultural Credit in the City of Delhi. Out of 280 societies including the Central Bank, 241 are in the rural area and ~~32~~ 39 in the urban. There were 236 Agricultural Societies, including the Consolidation of Holdings and the Cattle Breeding Societies, working in the Province against 233 societies in the previous year. Of the 370 villages in the Province the Co-operative Department has now nearly touched 200 villages. The non-Agricultural Societies consisted of 35 Credit Societies, 6 Thrift Societies and 2 Better Living Societies, against 30 in the previous year.

(Extracted from the Report on the Administration of the Delhi Province for 1928-29., pages 42-43).

Progress of Co-operation in the Punjab , 1929-30.*

The total number of Co-operative Societies in the Punjab rose during the year under review from 19,462 to 20,333. The net increase of 871 was smaller than has occurred for some years. The number of members rose by 38,439 and the total membership is now 679,966. The Registrar points out that each member usually represents a family , and so the number of persons touched by the movement must be more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions or about 12 per cent. of the total population of the province. The working capital rose from just over 160 to just over 175 millions Rupees. These last figures are all the more striking when it is remembered that for the agricultural classes, and indeed for the province as a whole, the year was a disastrous one ; agriculture being depressed by low prices and industry by a shrinkage in the demand for manufactured articles. The report states that this may be taken as a proof of the vitality of the co-operative movement in the Punjab. It is a notable fact that 40 per cent. of the villages of the province now possess at least one Co-operative Credit Society. In spite of ~~the~~ great difficulties, the movement among women continues its slow but steady growth. The number of women's societies has increased during the year from 128 to 146, the number of members from 1,977 to 2,397 and the working capital from Rs.90,319 to Rs.103,105.

The following statement shows the progress so far as it *can be* recorded statistically :-

* Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the Punjab for the year ending 31st July 1930. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1931. Price: Rs.4-12-0 or 7s.2d. *7/2 56 + Cxxxxvi*

1 Class.	2 Societies.		3 Members.		4 Working Capital	
	1929	1930.	1929	1930.	1929	1930.
					Rs. in millions.	Rs. in millions.
Provincial Bank	1	1	12,615	13,008	7.6	9.5
Central Credit	120	118	21,678	22,400	66.4	70.6
Central Non- credit	33	40	3,037	4,379	.4	.5
Agricultural	16,473	17,222	504,907	540,338 540,338	73.1	81.0
Non - agri- cultural	2,835	2,952	99,190	104,603	13.0	14.5
Total	19,462	20,333	641,427	684,728	1,60.5	1,76.3

(The progress of Co-operation in the Punjab during 1928-29 is reviewed at pages 71-72 of the February 1930 Report).

Maritime Affairs.National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay.

At pages 55 to 56 of the report of this office for January 1931 reference had been made to the prospects of an amalgamation of the two unions of Indian seamen in Bombay, the Indian Seamen's Union and the Bombay Seamen's Union, into one union under the name of the National Seamen's Union of India. On 22-3-1931 the inaugural meeting of the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay, was held at the Institute Luso-Indiano Hall, Dabul, to commemorate the amalgamation of the Indian Seamen's Union and the Bombay Seamen's Union, Rao Bahadur S.K. Bole, M.L.C., J.P., presiding. After several speeches, resolutions appreciating the services of the negotiators for a settlement, adopting the draft constitution and confirming the election of office-bearers and members of the Executive Council of the Union, and referring the question of housing the Union to the decision of the Executive Council, were moved from the chair and unanimously carried.

(The Times of India, 25-3-1931).

Migration.Cape Town Agreement : Revision Plans.

A Reuter message appearing in the Pioneer of 18-3-31 states that preliminary arrangements have been made between the Governments of India and South Africa for holding a conference in September in order to revise the present Indian agreement ^(The Cape Town Agreement) (see pages 49-53 of October 1930 Report) which will shortly terminate.

In view of the conference the Government has decided to postpone the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill (see pages 61-63 of January 1931 Report) until next year.

Commenting editorially on the possibility of a revision of the Cape Town Agreement as the result of another Round Table Conference the Hindu of 16-3-31 writes:-

It is time that the Government of India thought of entering upon the negotiations, not as a suppliant but as an equal with the South African Government. Representatives of India at the Conference should not merely think of having this grievance or that of Indians remedied but should carry on their work with the fixed determination that hereafter Indians in South Africa should be treated in every respect as part of the permanent population who are entitled to enjoy, as regular citizens, all the amenities of a civilised people. The agreement which is reported to have been entered into between the Union of South Africa and Japan should make it easy for India to secure for her people equality in respect of franchise, railway travelling, inter-provincial migration, representation in the Councils of the country, etc. Even in the Cape the existing rights are being sought to be curtailed. But this move should be strongly opposed and Indians in other provinces should be afforded opportunities for playing their part as citizens of a free country. The Transvaal Land Tenure Bill will, of course, come in for consideration at the Conference; but we hope that the atmosphere will be favourable not only to the complete withdrawal of this mischievous measure but for revising the antiquated laws of Transvaal in regard to proclaimed lands, now that many parts of such proclaimed areas are no longer used for the purpose of mining. There is lastly the question of repatriation or as the Agreement would have it, the scheme of assisted emigration. This has not been a happy business altogether, and the South African Government would do well seriously to consider whether they are wise, now that many thousands of Indians have left that country, to seek to squeeze out more which will not be to their

advantage. The Conference will have necessarily to consider commercial and shipping questions for the mutual advantage of both countries. It is all the more reason, therefore, that the Conference must be fully representative of Indian opinion, and not merely of Government of India and that the negotiations should proceed on the footing that a free country is conferring with another which is almost on the eve of coming into its own.

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

Report for April, 1931.Contents.

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References to the I.L.O.

Wide publicity has been given in the Indian press to an address on "India's International Status" delivered by Dr. Lanka Sundaram before the Grotius Society, London, on 26-3-1931, with Professor R.W. Lee, Professor of Roman Dutch Law in the University of Oxford, in the chair.

In his address, Dr. Sundaram emphasised the influence of the Great War on India's position, both within the Empire and in the comity of nations and pointed out that, though the Government of India was part of the British Government, the division of sovereignty between the two constituent parts of the Government was increasingly in favour of the authorities at New Delhi.

In support of his contention, the speaker pointed out that the Treaty of Versailles has introduced a fresh element in the status of India in the comity of nations. The Treaty of Versailles may be taken as the actual starting point of the development of the international status of India. Indian plenipotentiaries took part in the peace discussions and signed the Peace Document along with the representatives of other sovereign States on a basis of legal and actual equality of status. The judicial basis of India's external sovereignty has been tacitly recognised by the sovereign States of the world.

As a corollary to the above arrangement, India became a signatory to the Covenant and an original member of the League of Nations. This is another far-reaching step in the elevation of the status of India in international law. But India's peculiar constitutional position gave rise to numerous protests from foreign representatives. Article 1 of the Covenant postulates full self-government as the criterion of future membership of the League of Nations and by implications demanded that India should undergo such a test. At one time grave doubts were held as to the feasibility of India becoming a member of the League at all. But it was pointed out that self-government is the goal aimed at in India and that steps had already been taken to inaugurate such a government in the shape of the Government of India Act of 1919 and this assurance alone saved the situation and India was finally ~~now~~ mentioned in the Annex of the Covenant. After this important issue had been settled, an attempt was made to extend the international status of India. The League Mandate for the administration of German East Africa (now Tanganyika) was at one moment on the point of being granted to India, but this courageous step which would have enhanced the value of the juridical basis of India's international status, was, at the last moment, withdrawn in favour of Great Britain.

But the fact remains that India is a member of the League of Nations and that she has actually participated in its activities. Thus Indian delegations attend the annual sessions of the League of Nations and the International Labour Conference and vote along with the representatives of foreign States on a basis of equality. On account of her extended international status, India has secured representation at non-League conferences. Furthermore, India has secured representation on several permanent bodies of the League of Nations such as the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, the Advisory Committee on Opium and Drugs, the Economic Committee, the Health Committee and the Committee of Intellectual Co-operation. Finally, an Indian presided over the XIth International Labour Conference and another succeeded in carrying through the last year's League Assembly a resolution for an enquiry into the economic depression of the world.

Even though the Indian Delegations to the League and other International Conferences are not political or national in character, in the sense that they are not appointed by a sovereign parliament in India, but are selected by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Government of India, India's representatives were able to pursue an independent line of action even as against the wishes of His Majesty's Government. This is a point of tremendous importance to the operative side of India's status in international law. ~~I will give you a few~~ On the labour side this feature of India's international activity is most prominent. Thus India took an independent line at the Washington Labour Conference of 1919 (hours convention) the Genoa Maritime Conference of ~~1920~~ 1920 (employment of Indian seamen); the International Labour Conference of 1921 (weekly rest day); the Barcelona Transit Convention of 1921; the Conventions on the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children (1921) and on Traffic in Obscene Publications (1923); and the Convention on Opium and Drugs (1925). On the League side it is remarkable to note that ~~they~~ in the First Committee of the First Assembly, India and Australia voted in a minority as against Great Britain and other Dominions on the subject of the method for ~~a~~ the selection of four ~~a~~ non-permanent members of the League Council, while India voted against the whole Commonwealth in regard to the second part of the resolution in question. Again, in 1920 and 1921 India urged successfully for economy in League expenditure. These instances demonstrate the fact that the competence of India in international law to pursue a particular line of policy is not questioned either by the British Commonwealth of Nations or by the rest of the world.

While emphasising that India's membership of the League of Nations and of the International Labour Organisation has raised India's international status, Dr. Sundaram insisted that the personnel of future Indian delegations to the international conferences should be selected and instructed by the new Federal cabinet to be created in India and that the position of Indian States should be defined in such a manner as to provide for the application of international conventions.

The full text of Dr. Sundaram's ~~speech~~^{is} lecture has been published in the Hindu of 11-4-31, in which ^{is} also published an editorial comment on the lecture. The Pioneer of 13-4-31, the Hindustan Times of 13-4-31, and New India, ~~at~~ Madras, of 23-4-31 (Vol.V. New Series. No.4) publish detailed summaries of the lecture.

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The Statesman of 2-4-31, the Hindu of 2-4-31, the Times of India of 3-4-31 and New India, Madras, of 9-4-31 (Vol.V. New Series. No.2) publish detailed summaries of the discussions which took place in the Legislative Assembly on 1-4-31 on the question of the ratification of the Salaries Employees' Convention adopted by the 14th Session of the Labour Conference.

(The full ^{report} ~~text~~ of the discussions extracted from the Legislative ~~Assembly~~ Debates, is given at pages 9-27 of this report.)

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The communique issued by the Government of India under date 10-4-31 regarding the personnel of the Indian delegation to the 15th session of the International Labour Conference has been published in the Hindu of 11-4-31, the Pioneer of 12-4-31, the Hindustan Times of 12-4-31 and New India, Madras, of 16-4-31 (Vol.V. New Series.No.3) The following is the composition of the Indian delegation to the 15th Labour Conference:-

To represent the Government of India - delegates: (1) Sir Atul Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, London, and (2) Mr. A.G. Clow: Substitute delegates, and advisers: (1) Mr. Tin Tut, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour; and (2) Mr. A Dibdin, India Office, London. Adviser: (1) Mr. N. A. Mehrban, Bombay Labour Office.

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To represent employers -Delegate: Mr. Walchand Hirachand,
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Scindia Steam Navigation
Company Ltd., Bombay. Advisers: (1) Mr. S.C.Ghose, Chairman, Indian
Mining Federation, Calcutta; (2) Mr. E.S.Tarlton, Chairman, Indian
Mining Association, Calcutta, and (3) Mr. Rameswara Bagla, Cawnpore.

To represent the workers: Delegate: Mr. R.R.Bakhale, Secretary,
Indian Trades Union Federation, Bombay; Advisers: (1) Mr. Fazlur
Rahman, Vice-President, Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta; (2) Mr. R.W.
Fulay, M.L.C., Nagpur, and (3) Mr. V.M.Ramaswami Mudaliar, M.L.C.,
President, Madras Central Labour Board.

Mr. N.A.Mehrban will also act as Secretary to the Delegation.

...
A ^{Reuters's} ~~reuter's~~ message to the effect that the British Government
proposes to ratify the Draft Convention against Forced Labour
adopted at the 14th international Labour Conference and to apply it
without modification in all its colonies, protectorates and man-
dated territories has been given wide publicity in India. The
message has been published in the Hindu of 23-4-31, the Pioneer
of 24-4-31, and the Times of India of 25-4-31.

New India, Madras, in its issue of 7-5-31 (Vol.V New Series.
No.6) adduces two reasons why India should ratify the Convention.
They are (1) that there is a tendency observable to utilise the
so-called "Criminal Tribes" of India as strike breakers during
industrial disputes (see page 39 of this report), and (2) that
ratification by India would exert a moral pressure on those Indian
States where forced labour exists to follow the example of British
India.

The Times of India of 25-4-31 publishes a short editorial
article under the caption "Freeing the Slaves" complimenting Great
Britain on being the first country to ratify the Forced Labour
Convention in the course of which it observes "It is fitting that
Britain, the biggest colonial power in the world, should be the
first to sign it; when other colonial powers follow suit, an im-
portant step towards the abolition of slavery will have been taken".

~~comment on the subject.~~

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An Associated Press of India message to the effect that the Washington and Geneva Conventions ~~regulating~~ regulating the Hours of employment and periods of rest have been applied to the North Western and East Indian Railways, has been published in the Hindu of 29-4-31, the Times of India and the Hindustan Times of 30-4-31 and New India, Madras, of 7-5-31 (vol V New Series No.6).

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The Hindustan Times of 13-4-31 publishes the full text of the Geneva Communique dated 23-2-31 on "Unemployment and Monetary Fluctuations", a copy of which was supplied to the paper by this Office.

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The Indian Review, Madras, in its combined issue for April and May 1931 (vol XXXII, Nos. 4 & 5) and the Hindustan Times of 27 and 29-4-31 publish an article under the caption "Labour in the New Constitution" contributed by the Director of this Office. The article, ~~xx~~ after reviewing the place assigned to labour in most of the important Federal Constitutions, registers a strong plea for making labour a federal subject and not merely a Central subject in the future constitution of India.

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Mr. V.V.Giri, Barrister-at-Law, General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, in the course of his presidential address on 3-4-31 at the 6th annual conference of the M. & S. M. Railway workers at Bangalore pointed out that it was legitimate for the workers to agitate for making labour a federal subject in the

new constitution of India. He pointed out that unless labour was made a Federal subject, the effective ratification of International Labour Conventions would be beset with many difficulties.

The text of Mr. Giri's speech is published at pages 273-276 of the April 1931 issue of the M & S.M. Railwayman, Madras (vol.2. No.10, ~~Part I~~ Part I). Extracts from the speech are also published at pages 149-151 of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, in its April 1931 issue (Vol.VIII, No.7).

... ..

The Indian Post, the organ of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union reproduces at pages 142-144 of its April 1931 issue (Vol.II, No.4) the article contributed by Mr. H.W.Lee of the British Trade Union Congress, under the caption "Indian Labour and the Round Table Conference" to the Industrial Review, London, (Vol.V, No.2, February 1931.). In his article Mr. Lee refers to the great efforts made by Messrs. N.M.Joshi and B.Shiva Rau at the Round Table Conference to get labour made a federal subject.

... ..

The Statesman, Delhi, of 30-4-31 publishes a communique issued by this office on the I.L.O. Budget estimates for 1932.

(Copies of the communique have been sent to Geneva with this office's minute H.2/410/31 of 30-4-31).

... ..

Mr. B.Shiva Rau, (an adviser to the worker's delegate to the 14th Labour Conference) in the course of his presidential address at the Travancore Labour Association, Alleppy, referred to post-war labour conditions and paid a tribute to the beneficial influence the I.L.O has exerted on the course of labour legislation in India

The full text of Mr. Shiva Rau's speech has been published in the Hindu of 12-4-31.

... ..

The Servant of India of 16-4-31 (Vol.XIV, No.16) published a review of the book "Labour Organisation" by J.Cunnison, contributed by the Director of this office. Reference is made ~~in~~ in the review to the part played by the I.L.O. in stimulating trade union activity and the help which the I.L.O. renders in bringing national trade union movements into healthy contacts with the whole body of organised labour in other countries.

... ..

The Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes in its April 1931 issue (Vol.2, No.2.) the press communique issued ~~by~~ by the Government of India announcing the three items on the agenda of the 15th Labour Conference.

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, publishes at pages 139-142 of its April 1931 issue (Vol.VIII, No.7) an article contributed by the Director of this office under the caption "Unemployment: A World Problem". The article deals with the extent ~~and~~ and seriousness of the problem and gives a brief description of the efforts made by the I.L.O. to combat the unemployment menace.

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, publishes at pages 143-144 of its April 1931 issue (Vol.VIII, No.7) the sections of the article on "Labour Legislation in India" by Dr. R.K.Das (published in the November 1930 issue of the International Labour Review), dealing with mining and transport legislation. The earlier portions of the article have been published in the February and March 1931 issues of the Journal.

... ..

The March 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay (Vol.X, No.7) reproduces at pages 680 to 681 the Geneva note on "Indian Employers and the International Labour Organisation" published in "Industrial and Labour Information" in its issue dated 23-2-31.

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India and the Regulation of Hours
of Work in Commerce.

Legislative Assembly Proceedings.

The following extracts are taken from the Indian Legislative Assembly Debates of 1st April 1931:-

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (Secretary, Industries and Labour Department) : Sir, I move:

"This Assembly , having considered the following Draft Convention and Recommendations adopted by the Fourteenth Session of the International Labour Conference:

(1) Draft Convention concerning the regulation of hours of work in Commerce and Offices;

(2) Recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in hotels, restaurants and similar establishments;

(3) Recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in theatres and other places of public amusement; and

(4) Recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in establishments for the treatment or the care of the sick, infirm, destitute or mentally unfit,

recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendations."

I think it will be in accordance with the desire of the House that my remarks on this Convention should be as short as possible, subject, of course, to the condition that I place the House in full possession of the contents of this Convention and of the reason why we recommend the Governor General in Council not to ratify the Convention. I may say that it is with great regret that we have come to this decision and when I say that it is with great regret it is not merely a manner of speaking. I think I can appeal with full confidence to the record of the Government of India in its labour legislation and to the record of this House in the support that it has given to the Government of India in the matter of labour legislation and labour conventions to show that we can come to a decision of this kind only most reluctantly and because we are convinced that the Convention which we have under consideration is one which we cannot accept. Before I go to the actual terms of the Convention, I would just like to remind Members of something which I am sure they will remember. But nevertheless let me remind them again that once you ratify a Convention you cannot ratify it with reservations. You ratify it fully and if you ratify it, you must implement it hereafter fully in every detail. Now, Sir, let me invite the attention of the Members to the

Convention itself. I believe Members have had a copy of the Convention supplied to them. Article I shows that it applies to persons employed in the following establishments, whether public or private, commercial or trading establishments, establishments and administrative services, mixed commercial and industrial establishments. I need not go through it at all. Then the second part of that Article says that it shall not apply to persons employed in certain establishments. And I would just remind Members that if they will look at the Recommendations they will find that these Recommendations refer to those establishments which have been exempted in the second part of this Article. Then the third part of the Article says that it is open to the competent authority in each country to exempt from the application of the Convention (a) establishments in which only members of the employer's family are employed, (b) offices in which the staff is engaged in connection with the administration of public authority, (c) persons occupying positions of management or employed in a confidential capacity, and (d) travellers and representatives. The first point I wish to make is - and it is a matter of some importance as I shall be able to quote on authority afterwards - that the first objection to this Convention is that it is so very wide that it attempts to include within one Convention establishments of a most different kind both in character and in degree throughout the whole of the country. It is not, I put to the House, a sound or wise practical proposition to attempt to include within one Convention conditions of work which vary so much. Then the wording of Articles 3 and 4 is not very clear, but I think it is quite clear as to what is meant. The hours of work of persons to whom this Convention applies shall not exceed 48 hours in the week, and normally 8 hours, but in no case more than 10 hours in the day. I may point out that in Article 6 it is permitted to have a spread-over. To give an example. You may have 60 hours in one week but then in that case you would have 36 hours in the next week, if you are spreading out over a fortnight. Here, again, I would like the House to consider whether it is wise to accept a Convention which asks for 48 hours a week in regard to commercial houses and trading establishments when actually at the present time under the Washington Hours of Work Convention we may have a 60 hour week in India, when under the Factories Act we have a 60 hour week, when under the Mines Act we have a maximum of 60 hours for work above ground and a maximum of 54 hours for work underground. Therefore, I think that the House will agree with me that this Convention is going much too fast and that it has not taken into consideration the special conditions of India when they ask us to accept 48 hours a week straight off.

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division; Muhammadan Rural): What was your representative delegate doing there?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: I will come to that later. Then, Sir, I would invite the attention of the House to Article 7 because I am very anxious that the case should be stated absolutely fairly. Now by that Article you are permitted certain permanent and temporary exceptions. Of the temporary exceptions I do not think I need say anything. They are to meet special emergencies. But permanent exceptions may be allowed for:

(a) Certain classes of persons whose work is inherently

intermittent;

(b) Classes of persons directly engaged in preparatory or complementary work; and

(c) Shops and other establishments where the nature of the work, the size of the population or the number of persons employed render inapplicable the working hours fixed in Articles 3 and 4.

It may be asked why with these exceptions do you object to this Convention on the ground that it includes so many different classes of establishments all over India within the terms of one Convention. But all that the exception really allows, if Honourable Members will read that Article, is the allowance, by special regulation, of certain additional hours of work. It goes on to prescribe that for these additional hours of there shall be overtime pay, which shall not be less than one and a quarter times the regular rate, and it does not exempt these places from what I imagine to be a practical difficulty that is brought about by this Convention. I will come to that practical difficulty immediately. That will be found in Article 11. Article 11 states that for the effective enforcement of the provisions of this Convention, the necessary measures shall be taken to ensure adequate inspection. Every employer shall be required to notify by the posting of notices in conspicuous positions in the establishment or other suitable place or by such method as may be approved by the competent authority the time at which hours of work begin and end, and where work is carried on by shifts, the times at which each shift begins and ends, to notify in the same way the rest periods, to keep a record in the form prescribed etc., etc. Article 12 says:

"Each Member", (that is each signatory to the Convention) "which ratifies this Convention shall take the necessary measures in the form of penalties to ensure that the provisions of this Convention are enforced."

Now, Sir, ^{it} amounts to this, that every small employer, throughout the length and breadth of the land, has got to maintain these notifications; every employer has to keep these different records and fill them up, and in addition to that we have got, by an inspectorate to see that every employer fulfils these requirements. It means, to start with, an enormous inspectorate with a heavy cost. ^{cost of an inspectorate to see that every employer fulfils these requirements} It is very easy for the Government of India, it will be very easy, I may say, for the Assembly to agree to it, but the cost of it will fall on local bodies. I submit, Sir, that the existing establishments. I am not very conversant with the conditions prevailing in other provinces, but I think I may claim to know Bombay and Sind, and I am quite certain that the only way in which we shall be able to cope with this provision, that is, if you are not going to sign it merely for the purpose of eye-wash before the world, if you are going to sign this Convention with every intention of giving effect to it, and if we are going to enforce it practically and thoroughly and act up to it honestly, we shall be able to do all

this only if we employ our village officers on this work of inspection. I have no desire to say anything against village officers. They are an admirable body of men, who work most loyally by the Government to the best of their ability. But I would ask this House if it considers that this village establishment is suitable for work of inspection of this kind.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural) : What is meant by village officers?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: I cannot speak about the United Provinces. I am not saying this in any way to score off my Honourable friend. I am merely speaking about Bombay and Sind. The village officers in part of Bombay Presidency are for instance Talatis, and the village officers in Sind are the Tapedars. That is, the village officer is a person who goes round and collects revenue and deals with other matters relating to revenue.....

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawab (West Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Just as the Patwaris in the Punjab.

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: I ask the Honourable Member whether the Patwari would be a suitable person to whom we could entrust fully and with confidence inspection work of this kind.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: If he can be entrusted with very important revenue papers, why not entrust him with this inspection work also.

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: I think if you entrust him with this, it will not amount to adequate inspection. I have no desire to say anything against an admirable body of men, but it does open up opportunities for them which I think this House would be wise not to open up.

Mr. K. Ahmed: When the House is very thin, why did you bring forward this Resolution then?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: It was not my desire to bring forward this Resolution on the last day.

I think I have stated the main objections to this Convention to show that it is not really a practical one. One Honourable Member asked me, was any sort of enquiry made as to whether there would be any practical objections to the ratification of this Convention. If Honourable Members will allow me, I will just read out a very short precis from the opinions of Local Governments when they were consulted on the advisability of a Convention or a Recommendation being adopted by the Government of India. The Bihar and Orissa Government were of opinion that legislation of this type which would follow from the acceptance of the Convention, would be particularly difficult to apply or to enforce in the present conditions obtaining in India, and they agreed therefore that if any practical use was to be made of such legislation, it must first be limited to organised undertakings.

The Government of Burma were of the opinion that whatever the disabilities of the salaried employees might be there were far

worse abuses urgently requiring attention in India and there was the danger that these well meant efforts of the International Labour Organisation would dissipate energy which ought to be concentrated on other and more serious abuses.

The Government of Bengal pointed out that the salariat had shown little or no demand for regulation and in no circumstances was the Government of Bengal aware that regulation had been proved necessary on humanitarian or other grounds.

The United Provinces Government was of the opinion that there was no ground for supposing that salaried employees as a class suffered from overwork or a lack of sufficient leisure or that any measures for their protection in these respects were necessary.

The Government of Madras pointed out that under the present proposals there were certain dangers.

The Government of Bombay said they would not be a party either to the Convention or the Recommendation.

I can at least speak with regard to Bombay that in matters relating to labour, it has always shown itself friendly in the cause of labour and not prepared to turn down recommendations of this kind lightly.

Now, there was considerable discussion at the Conference and there was anything but unanimity. Our own delegates submitted a Report at the end of the Conference and I would just like to remind Honourable Members who they were. Our delegates were Sir Atul Chatterjee and Dr. Paranjpye. They said:

"The general scope of the Draft Convention prepared by the International Labour Office covered all kinds of commercial and clerical work not covered by the Washington Convention, with the exception of such work in hostels, hospitals, ~~and~~ hotels and restaurants, etc, and theatres and places of amusement."

I quote that to show that when I made my first point, I was accurate and that it is also the view of these delegates of ours who were there at the time. They go on to say:

"The general position on the conclusion of the Committee stage was therefore that the scope of the Convention, as amended by the Committee and as eventually practically adopted was extremely uncertain, although it clearly affected groups of works in all sorts of trade and occupations and the ratification of such a Convention would involve a maximum of Government interference with a minimum of effective control."

Again they write:

"The Convention can scarcely be regarded as satisfactory, a result which might have been anticipated from an attempt to deal with a very wide range of employments carried on in varying conditions in the absence of exact knowledge of the circumstances of each and seems fully to justify the non-committal attitude adopted by both the British and the Indian Governments".

Now, I wish to make the position of the Government perfectly clear in regard to this matter. We do not want to take up this position of refusing to ratify the Convention and saying, "This is finished; we do not intend to do anything more for it, nor have anything to do with the matter at all." I want to make it perfectly clear that, while Government at the present stage do not see their way to ratify the Convention or to adopt the Recommendations, they do not consider that the Resolution, if passed, will not commit the Government to this attitude, once and for all. If at any time, in the future, Government find evidence to show that the time is ripe for action on the lines of the Convention in respect of particular classes of undertakings, they will be fully prepared to revise their present attitude. As regards the Recommendations, the Government are similarly prepared to change their present attitude and to take action, if in the future, they find evidence to show that such action may be taken with profit.

I do not wish to take the time of the House further. I will only say two words about the Recommendations. They are recommendations that we should make inquiries into certain kinds of businesses, I would invite the attention of Honourable Members to these businesses, and I think I can confidently say - because a great majority of Members themselves know what are the conditions of work in those various establishments - that they will agree that there has been no case made out for starting on an inquiry for which there is no demand. I hope, Sir, in view of what I have said in regard to the position of Government and in regard to their readiness to institute inquiries if necessary at any time, it will not be necessary to press the various amendments of which notice has been given.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the word 'not' occurring between the words 'should' and 'ratify' be deleted and the word 'and' be substituted for the word 'nor' occurring between the words 'Convention' and 'accept'."

Mr. C. C. Biswas (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Sir, I rise on a point of order. Is not the amendment a direct negative of the Resolution itself?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's point of order is that the amendment is a direct negative of the motion. I have given the best consideration to the matter and I have come to the conclusion that it is not and it does not come under the Standing Order to which the Honourable Member has drawn my attention. The object of the Honourable Member in moving his amendment is to place before the House the second issue involved, the issue of ratification of the Convention as against the Government's recommendation not to do so. If that Standing Order were interpreted as contended the result would be that rejecting the Government Resolution would ~~mean~~ not mean that the House had decided to ratify the Convention. It is therefore necessary that the amendment should be allowed, as it is not a direct negative in the sense covered by the Standing Order, but gives the House an opportunity of deciding whether they want to ratify the Convention or whether they want to refuse to do so.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, it is already clear now to Members what my amendment is. My amendment is that the Government should ratify the Convention and should accept the recommendations of the 14th session of the International Labour Conference. While speaking on this Resolution and my amendment, I am somewhat at a disadvantage on account of the manner in which Government have thought fit to bring this matter before the Legislative Assembly. The matter deals with two subjects, first, the ratification of the Convention and secondly, the acceptance of the Recommendations. I feel, Sir, that if your office had brought to your notice the Standing Order that a Resolution should contain one definite issue only, I am sure you would not have admitted this Resolution in the form in which it has been placed before this House. Because, the Resolution deals with two matters which are absolutely different; one is the ratification of the Convention and another is the acceptance of the Recommendations which are quite different. In the first place, as the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution has made it clear, if you ratify the Convention, you have to pass legislation giving effect to every word of the Convention; but even if you accept the Recommendations, you are not bound to accept every word of the Recommendations but only to take some action or other on the Recommendations. These are two quite different matters. The House may be willing to agree with Government - I do not say that it will - that the Convention need not be ratified. At the same time, the House may feel that the Recommendations, which only throw upon them the much slighter responsibility of considering them with a view to taking some action, should be accepted. Another point is this. After all, if the Members have read the Recommendations, they will find that the Recommendations are that the Government should make an investigation into the conditions of work of people working in theatres, hospitals, etc., and report within four years' time. These Recommendations stand on quite a different footing. The action to be taken on these Recommendations is but little, and I feel, therefore, that it was wrong ~~the~~ on the part of Government to have included these two matters in one Resolution. But, Sir, as I am always a consistent supporter of the dignity and prestige of the Chair, I do not raise that objection here now. At the same time I shall ask for your indulgence that, when you put this Resolution to the vote, you should put these matters to vote separately so that the House may give its vote on the Convention and on the Recommendations separately.

Sir, the Convention, as the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution has stated, deals with the regulation of hours of people employed in commercial establishments, and of people employed in administrative offices. I feel, Sir, that the regulation of the hours of work of this class of employees is absolutely necessary. India as well as the whole world has accepted the principle of regulating the hours of work of factory workers. We have a Factory Act, and I feel that similar regulation of work is also necessary in the case of people working in offices. I do not suggest for a moment that the conditions of factory workers and the conditions of employees in commercial offices are absolutely the same. They differ to a great extent in some matters. In some matters you may say that there is a greater ~~extent~~ in necessity of regulation in

the case of factories, but it is quite possible for us to show that, in the case of the employees of commercial offices, from another point of view, there is greater necessity for regulation. In the case of factory workers, they are generally people who are ignorant and illiterate, and from that point of view there is greater need of regulation of work in factories. They also have to do more physical work and under conditions which are unhealthy. But, Sir, there are other points of view from which there is greater necessity of regulation of work of commercial employees and the employees in administrative offices. In the case of factory workers they generally work in large groups. There are factories with a hundred people or even a thousand people and more, working in each. It is easy for these factory workers to organise themselves for ~~their~~ self-defence. It is easy for them to organise themselves for regulating their conditions of work by collective bargaining with their employers. But in the case of the employees in the offices, there is a greater difficulty in the way of their organisation. They work generally in small places; there are indeed some places where there are 100 or 200 employees working, but these places are few in number; and you will certainly not find many places where there are more than a thousand people working. From the point of view of organisation, there is a great difference between factory workers and the employees in commercial enterprises and administrative offices. These people are more difficult to organise because they work in small isolated groups spread over the whole country, they are scattered over large areas. As they are difficult to organise, there is the greater need for their protection, for the regulation of hours and of other working conditions in their case by statute with the help of the Government. These employees in administrative offices are trying to organise themselves for self-defence. I know there are some associations of commercial clerks in Calcutta and some in Bombay and I also know that they are trying to strengthen their organisations further by forming themselves into federations; but still they are not strong enough today to secure proper conditions of life and work by their own effort unassisted by the Government and by the Legislature. The employees of Government offices are better organised, but then, even in their case, their organisations are not strong enough to secure for them proper conditions of work. Moreover, in the case of Government servants there is another difficulty, that it is difficult for them to agitate in the way in which private employees can agitate. The rules for the conduct of Government servants in many cases come in the way of agitation. I know that these poor Government servants are even prevented from approaching Members of the Legislature to get their grievances redressed. In their case, there are also difficulties for the proper regulation of their conditions of work. But more than this, there is another very special difficulty in the case of these employees. Not only here, but all the world over, there are always more men available than jobs. This House itself has considered more than once the question of the unemployment of the middle classes, which means unemployment among the community with which we are dealing today. If you want a clerk, there are ten, if not a hundred applications; and that is the real difficulty in the way of these people securing proper regulation of their conditions of work. There is very great unemployment in the country, with the ~~xxxxxx~~

result that in determining the conditions of service, the employer is always at an advantage and the employee is always at a disadvantage, with the result that, unless the Government come forward and legislate on their behalf, not much can be secured by these people by their own efforts.

Sir, the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution has pointed out certain difficulties, but I feel that he has exaggerated those difficulties. In the first place, the Convention has given, in my judgement, very generous concessions. The Convention makes exceptions in the case of small concerns where members of the same family are working; it makes exceptions in the case of managers and people in a confidential capacity. Now, Sir, if a concern is a small one, there will be only one man in charge who will be the manager, and if there is a clerk, there will be only one clerk who will be the confidential clerk as well, and these small concerns which engage, one or two people can always be exempted under this clause. Therefore, there is no real difficulty from the point of view of small concerns at all.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): How can they be exempted?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: By Government notification under section 3 of Article 1 of the Convention. Because there will be only one clerk or one manager.

An Honourable Member: He will have to be the adopted son.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There are other permanent exceptions which the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution has pointed out. In the case of shops certain concessions are given for the spread over of hours, and in regard to hours, they also make a permanent exemption in the case of places the population of which is not very large, with the result that you can always give some concessions to offices in villages. In the same way, there is a permanent exemption in the case of smaller concerns, the exemption quite clearly says that Government have power to regulate the number of people who are employed in concerns which should be brought under the Convention, so that Government can make a rule that, unless an office has 50 or more people, it should not be brought under the provisions of the Convention. Certainly the Convention will apply, but it will apply with less vigour to those smaller concerns. I therefore feel that the Honourable the Mover has made too much of the difficulties in the way of the application of this Convention.

Then, Sir, the Honourable the Mover exaggerated the difficulties of inspection. It is true that if Government passes legislation, it must make some provision for seeing that the law is properly applied. But, Sir, there is a great difference in this matter between factory inspection and inspection of these classes of offices. I therefore appeal to your indulgence, - because it is the Government that have brought forward several matters in one Resolution and therefore I ask your indulgence to allow me a little more time to deal with the whole subject

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is entitled to fifteen minutes. I will allow him five minutes more, I cannot allow him anything more than that.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I again ask for your indulgence, because it is very difficult to deal with this subject in such a short space of time. I shall finish as early as I can. Sir, the difficulty of inspection is exaggerated, because the people who are concerned here are not ignorant workers in factories, but they are clerks who are expected to know the law, and if there are any breaches of the law, they themselves will bring such breaches of the law to the notice of the Government. Therefore, the inspection that is required is not a serious one, because the breaches of law will be brought to the notice of the Government by those people themselves.

Now, Sir, I come to the Recommendations. The Recommendations are really very small matters. The Recommendations ask Government to make investigation into the conditions of life and work as regards the hours of work in the case of employees of hotels and restaurants, in the case of employees of cinemas and theatres and also in the case of employees of hospitals. Now, Sir, I ask Honourable Members of this House to tell me if there can be any serious difficulty in ~~making~~ accepting this Recommendation? Where is the difficulty in making an investigation? The Recommendation does not say what kind of investigation you should make; it does not suggest that you should appoint a committee. You can make your investigation through your own officers. The Recommendation is that the Government should make an investigation into the conditions of life and work as regards hours in the case of hotels and restaurants, in the case of hospitals, which are not numerous, and in the case of theatres and cinemas, which again are not very numerous. Then again, the Recommendations do not insist upon immediate investigation and report. The Government are asked to make a report within four years' time. I ask the House to tell me if it is difficult for any Government to make investigation into these small matters within four years' time? Why should therefore Government come forward and say that they will not be able to accept this Recommendation? Sir, whatever may be the point of view of Government, I want the Honourable Members of this House to tell me whether there is really any serious difficulty in accepting these Recommendations for making an investigation and a report within four years' time? Sir, the Honourable the Mover also pointed out

Mr. S. G. Jog (Berar Representative): May I know where this period of four years is mentioned? At what page?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am sorry, Sir, the Honourable Member has not cared to read the Recommendations. Paragraph 3 of each Recommendation mentions specifically the four-year limit.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's time is getting on.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The information is contained in the Recommendation itself. I cannot tell him at which page, as unfortunately my book has been taken away by some one.

I do not wish to say anything more except this, that the Honourable the Mover stated that the credit of India stands very high in the international world. Sir, I am very glad that it does. But is the credit of India going to be enhanced by the Resolution which he has brought forward now? I am sure what he is doing now is not going to enhance the credit of India in international matters. Sir, I am quite sure that Honourable Members will very seriously consider this Resolution. But I want to tell them one thing, that it will not pay India to always go before the international world and say that we are a backward country; that we cannot ratify their Conventions; that we cannot accept their Recommendations, although they may be asking our Government only to make an investigation. Sir, that attitude will frustrate the purpose for which we are all fighting. It is a wrong attitude, and instead of enhancing our credit in the international world, we shall be lowering it. Here, I may quote the words of Sir Atul Chatterjee, whose name was mentioned by the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution. Sir Atul Chatterjee in addressing the Council of State said this in 1921:

"We have just entered upon a new constitutional era in this country. The eyes of the world, of the democracies of every country in the world, are at the moment on us. I am confident that the Council has a full sense of responsibility for the good name and the dignity of India in international councils. We do not want to be considered a backward nation always and for ever."

Sir, I move my amendment.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That the word 'not' occurring between the words 'should' and 'ratify' be deleted and the word 'and' be substituted for the word 'nor' occurring between the words 'Convention' and 'accept'."

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I move:

"That for the words 'not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendations', the following be substituted"

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I rise to a point of order, and request you to tell us how you propose to regulate the procedure. I may point out, Sir, that my amendment is for the acceptance of the proposals of the International Conference. If those proposals are accepted by the House, then the other amendments become unnecessary..

Mr. President: Order, order. I thought Mr. Das was going to address the House on the motion and the amendment. The procedure that I have decided to adopt on the present occasion is that the House will decide first between the original motion and Mr. Joshi's amendment. After voting has taken place, it will depend upon the result of such voting whether further amendments could or could not be moved. At present the House is possessed of the original motion and the Honourable Member Mr. Joshi's amendment. Further amendments will only be allowed if Mr. Joshi's amendment is rejected. If it is accepted, then no other amendment can be moved. I thought Mr.

Mr. Das rose to speak on the motion and the amendment, as I had not called him to move his amendment.

Mr. B. Das: I do not wish to speak on the motion. I cannot accept Mr. Joshi's amendment.

Mr. A. H. Ghaznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh; Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support My Honourable friend the Mover of the Resolution. The main objection to the Convention is that it attempts to cover in one formula so many different kinds of businesses. The formula is so large that for practical purposes it is unworkable. The special difficulties which lie in the way of the ratification of the Convention in India are, firstly, absence of an accurate knowledge of the conditions of work of the vast range of occupations and establishments covered by the Draft Convention; secondly, almost complete absence of a demand so far as India is concerned, for the protection conferred by the Draft Convention in respect of the hours of work of the occupations and establishments to which it applies; and thirdly, Sir, the difficulty of reconciling the 60-hour week allowed for India by the Washington Convention of hours of work in industrial undertakings with the 48-hour week laid down in the present Convention in the case of the vast range of non-industrial and non-agricultural establishments to which it applies; and lastly, the necessity, in the event of the Draft Convention being ratified, for the entertainment of an inspectorate of very large dimensions and the consequent expenditure involved in applying the Convention to the thousands of commercial and other undertakings which it covers. Sir, the Government of India in reply to a questionnaire which was issued by the International Labour Office on the subject, expressed themselves in favour of a Recommendation on the subject provided that the Recommendation only applies to organized commercial and trading undertakings and the definition of "organized undertaking" is left to the discretion of each State.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Madras City; Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I know from where my Honourable friend is reading out his extracts? I don't think these documents are placed before the House.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions; Non-Muhammadan Rural): Where are you reading from?

Mr. A. H. Ghaznavi: The Government of India also stipulated that the maximum hours fixed in each State which adopts the proposed Recommendation should be the same as the maximum permitted to industrial workers under the Washington Hours of Work Convention. The limit imposed on industrial workers by this Convention is a 60-hours' week in India. The final decision of the International Labour Conference was to regulate the subject by means of a Draft Convention instead of by a Recommendation as suggested by the Government of India, and it will also be seen from the text of the Draft Convention that the suggestion to make the limits coincide with the limits imposed by the Washington Hours of Work Convention has also been rejected, i.e., a higher maximum week has not been granted for India which, if she ratifies the Convention, will be subject to a 48-hours' week as in the case of European countries. With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney (Nominated Non-Official):

Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi. On reading through the Resolution as moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Shillidy, and after listening to his speech I was stuck nay, I was astounded at the reasons he has adduced for refusing to carry out the Recommendations of the fourteenth session of the International Labour Conference.

Sir, it is said that the present trouble in India is more or less a conflict between an ever changing West and an ever changing East. Here, we have an instance of an ever changing East and an ever Changing West, but a never changing Government. (Laughter) The International Labour Conference has recommended that certain enquiries are necessary for improvement of the conditions of the labourer, and yet we have a Member from the Treasury Benches getting up and asking this House to refuse to accept this Recommendation, citing as one of his chief objections, the labour entailed in controlling such small institutions as village banias' shops, meaning thereby that it would be necessary to employ a large army of inspectors. Then Mr. Ghuznavi gets up and in supporting the Mover states that such control would be hopeless and impracticable. That is the Government point of view. I now desire to place before this Honourable House the labourer's point of view, and here I join hands with my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi and give him my support. We all know, without being told, of the disadvantages under which the Indian labourer suffers. Before I joined the Royal Labour Commission in India and toured throughout the country, I refused to believe half the things that were told me about the sufferings of the Indian labourers. Since then, I have become a convert, and I am now familiar with the most terrible disadvantages and hardships ~~from~~ which they suffer. Sufferings which will be accentuated if this House accepts a Resolution that closes all doors of enquiry and amelioration of the lot of the labourer. Sir, what does this Resolution mean? Here, we have a Member of the Government of India who not only asks this House to reject this Recommendation, but at the same time refuses to make any enquiry and submit his report within a period of four years. (An Honourable Member: "Shame") Sir, I ask this House to reject this Resolution not because it emanates from Government, but because it is against the interests of the labour in this country, interests which this Honourable House should zealously guard and protect. Sir, it is my conviction, whether we like it or not, that whatever Government we may have in this country labour is going to rule it and the sooner this House realises this fact and pays more attention to labour problems, the better it will be for this House and its name and for India as a whole.

Now, the question of organised institutions has been referred to by the Mover and various Provincial Governments. What do they mean by organised institutions? It is subject to multifarious interpretations, but I shall refer to one such institution which I know well, hospitals. What does the Government Member mean? Is it his view that he cannot institute an enquiry within the space of four years into the working of the ~~the~~ few hospitals in India in some of which - and I have personal experience in this matter - the nurses are so over-worked as to be treated like pack mules? I know that a duty chart is made out, but all our larger

hospitals are so under-staffed and so over-crowded with patients, that nurses are over-worked and denied adequate rest - indeed they are inhumanly treated. Surely the Honourable the Mover will not deny an enquiry into such hours of work and conditions of labour? His Resolution suggests this. I support this amendment mainly on humanitarian grounds. I support it also because it conforms with the recommendations of the International Labour Commission, and lastly, because the reasons given by the Government Member, in asking you to accept his Resolution, are I consider the weakest that he could have placed before this House. Sir, I support the amendment. (Applause).

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury (Assam: Muhammadan) : I want to say just a few words in support of the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi. Time and again, on the floor of this House, we have protested against the attitude that the Government usually take up in regard to the Geneva Conventions. It has almost become a habit with the Government of India to find out some excuse or other for not ratifying particular Conventions. They treat these conventions as of very minor importance; they treat them as a nuisance. At the fag end of the Session they bring up a Resolution for the consideration of the House. Now, these Conventions are of very great importance. They are results of very careful consideration and mature deliberation by the representatives of labour, of capital and of the State of almost all the civilized countries of the world. Surely, their recommendation deserves a better and more decent treatment at the hands of the Government of India than a mere ~~summary~~ summary rejection. This Convention lays down the lines along which efforts for the improvement of labour should be decided. The Government of India not only will not give their serious attention to this problem of the improvement of labour conditions on their own initiative, but when it is forced upon them, when an important body like the International Labour Conference have made a Recommendation after having carefully considered and examined the question in all its bearings they refuse even to consider or examine it. What is the ground on which we are asked to reject this Convention? The Honourable Mr. Shillidy, in moving the Resolution, said that, in fixing 48 hours a week, the special conditions of India were not taken into account. I entirely agree with him, but on an extremely different ground, 48 hours a week in India are more rigorous, are more fatiguing, more deleterious to the health of the labourers than 48 hours work in the West. If the special conditions of India are taken into consideration, it ought to be 45 and not 48 hours. Then, my Honourable friend referred to the administrative difficulty, the lack of administrative machinery to carry out this recommendation. As my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi has pointed out, the difficulties have been very much exaggerated. It has come to me very much as a surprise, this confession of incompetence by Members of the Government. If the problem baffles you, if you feel that you are not competent to deal with ~~it~~ the problem, then why not ~~abdicate~~ abdicate your work of administration and leave it to others who can do it better? The Honourable Member has very kindly given us an assurance that when the time will be ripe, the Government will consider the question of changing their ~~xxx~~

attitude in the matter. Who is to judge when the time will be ripe? It is the Government of India, and if you are to wait for their judgement, you will have to wait till Doomsday, when the decision can be reversed. Now, if the Government fail in their sense of duty, the Assembly should not take the responsibility in this matter. The year before last when I was in Geneva, I complained about non-ratification of Conventions by the Indian Government. Mr. Clow, on behalf of the Government of India, twitted me by saying that whenever any Convention had not been ratified, it was done only with the consent of the Assembly of which Mr. Chaudhury was a Member. I hope that Honourable Members will remember this aspect of the question when they record their votes.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur cum Champaran: Non-Muhamadan): Sir, I must, in the first place, register my strong feeling of protest against the action of the Government in bringing up this important matter at the fag end of the session. By doing so, the Government are not doing any justice either to the importance of the subject or to this House. It is only ~~fair~~^{fair} to us that this subject should have been brought up in an earlier part of the session, and if this Resolution is to be carried we on this side of the House want to warn the Government that they can carry it mostly with the vote of the official Members. Most of the Members on the non-official side will not be able to lend their support to this motion.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: Honourable Members must be aware that this item has been on the agenda for the last ten days. It is not the fault of the Government if it comes on at the fag end of the session.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: The regulation of the business of the House is not in my hands, and I can only say that this subject has come before the House for discussion on the last day of the session. Then, Sir, I do not know whether all papers in connection with this subject have been circulated to Honourable Members, because I find that my Honourable friend Mr. Shillidy read out certain extracts from the opinions of certain Local Governments, including the Government of my own province of Bihar and Orissa. I do not know whether these papers have been circulated to Honourable Members of the House. At least I do not remember to have received those papers and I must ask Government to circulate them beforehand. I do not know from what paper my Honourable friend Mr. Ghuznavi read, and how it came into his hands, but if it is a publication which ought to be available to this House, I want to say that the Government have been unfair in not circulating that paper also. In dealing with this subject, I do not know what part the representatives of India played in the International Labour Conference. On page 28 of the Fourteenth International Labour Conference Bulletin, we find this in the Report which was submitted by the representatives of India;

"On behalf of the Indian Government Dr. Paranjpye explained that the Indian Government delegation had taken no part in the proceedings of this committee because, in the vast territory under

the control of the Government of India, ~~that~~ that Government had no adequate knowledge of conditions ~~of~~ of work in many different kinds of occupation covered by the Convention, and that there would be innumerable difficulties in applying such a convention to a country like India".

I do not know whether it was with a blush of shame that Dr. Paranjpye made that statement in the Conference. In the first place I object that our representatives should have taken no part in the discussion of this important subject. In the second place I am astounded at the expression of ignorance which is attributed to the Government about the conditions of work in this country which they had been ruling for more than 150 years. In this paragraph it is stated that Government had no adequate knowledge of conditions of work in many different kinds of occupation covered by the Convention. This is a state of affairs which is lamentable, and I do not know if after 150 years of British rule they have not been able to find out the exact conditions of things in India what amount of time will be needed for them to acquire the necessary knowledge? The proposals may be divided roughly into two parts. Article I asks us to ratify certain proposals contained in the draft Convention. Article I says that this Convention shall apply to persons employed in the following establishments, whether public or private (a) commercial or trading establishments, including postal, telegraph and telephone services, and commercial or trading branches of any establishments, (b) establishments and administrative services in which the persons employed are mainly engaged in office work; (c) mixed commercial and industrial establishments unless they are deemed to be industrial establishments. Now, Sir, the Convention excludes certain branches from its purview; and in Part II it is stated that the Convention shall not apply to persons employed in the following establishments; (a) establishments for the treatment or the care of the sick, infirm, destitute, or mentally unfit; (b) hospitals, restaurants, boarding houses, clubs, cafes, and so on. There are certain recommendations or conventions which we are asked to ratify. There are certain others in relation to which we are asked to make an inquiry during a period of four years; and I do not know why the Government are nervous in making an inquiry during this long time. 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week mentioned in Article III of this Convention seems to be a reasonable proposal, and speaking generally I do not know why Government should have any objection to it.

Mr. K. Ahmad: You can move an amendment for postponement.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I therefore strongly support the amendment made by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi. If that amendment fails, or if it suits the House, I am willing to move another amendment with your permission that the consideration of the subject may be adjourned till the Simla session.

Mr. President: I should like to ask the Honourable Member (Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh) whether he wishes to move that the consideration of this subject be postponed to the Simla session.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I do move, Sir.

Mr. President: You are perfectly entitled to do so. The amendment proposed is:

"That the consideration of this motion and the amendment thereon be postponed till the Simla session".

Mr. G. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions; Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to support the amendment proposed by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh that this discussion be adjourned to the Simla session. I hope, Sir, the Honourable Mr. Shillidy has very closely followed the observations that have fallen not only from this side of the House but ~~take~~ also from the other side about the manner in which at the fag end of a rather weary session a very important question of this kind is being rushed in what I do not like describing as indecent haste. Sir, in a country like India, where inadequate opinion on this subject has been in existence, it is but proper that the public should have an opportunity of expressing themselves. The Honourable Member has already read out to us certain quotations covering the opinions of Local Governments. Those opinions happen to be the exclusive monopoly at this time of the Honourable Member in charge or of those who happen to enjoy his confidence on the other side of the House. (Hear,hear.) I do not think, Sir, these opinions were even within ~~the~~ the knowledge of my esteemed friend, Mr. Joshi, who is better informed in this matter than many an Honourable Member on this side of the House. (Hear,hear.) When such opinions that all the Local Governments have expressed in the matter, it is but fair and proper that the Honourable Member should agree to withdraw the motion now or agree to bring it forward at the Simla session. I hope the Honourable the Leader of the House, who has been anxious, so far as I can judge, to meet reasonable suggestions from this side of the House in a reasonable way, will make up his mind to accept this amendment and will see to it that it is brought forward after the country has had the opportunity of knowing and discussing the implications of the acceptance of the Honourable Member's motion.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, I should appeal very strongly to the Government to consent to this adjournment motion. I find, Sir, that while they have made up their mind about the draft Convention, there is no reason at all why they should make up their mind in such a hurry as regards the Recommendations. That requires further consideration, and at least an investigation which I understand other Governments are prepared to make in this connection. I find another country very similarly placed to our own country, namely, Japan, has not taken up this attitude of rejecting these Recommendations summarily. I should like to quote, for the information of my Honourable friend - I dare say he has already read it - the remarks of the Japanese Government delegate. He says:

"The case is somewhat different with the small shops situated along the streets which are crowded at night and which consequently do a good deal of business till late hours and as regards the public barber shops and the like in which the hours of work are long owing to the peculiar habits of the clientele".

It is a serious question how far

Mr. President: May I ask the Honourable Member not to go into the merits of the question now, but to give his reasons why the subject should not be discussed now and why its consideration should be postponed till the Simla session.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I was only pointing out, Sir, that the Japanese Government have promised that a thorough investigation into all these matters will be made, and I suggest our Government should not be behind the Japanese Government in the matter, and therefore I suggest that this Resolution be postponed to the Simla session so that the Government may come forward with proposals which have received greater consideration at their hands and submit them to this House.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, if it is the general consensus of opinion in this House that there should be an adjournment of the discussion, the Government will of course have to agree; but personally I should like to say, Sir, that I do not think anything will be gained by postponing the discussion of this motion for another six months, and personally, I should very much like to continue the discussion; but I must place myself in the hands of the House in this matter and accept its verdict.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Sir, I do not think we would be justified in moving this amendment that the consideration of this Resolution should be postponed.

Mr. President: It has been moved. (Laughter.)

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: I rise to oppose the motion, Sir, which has been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh. The thing is this. Some day must always be the fag end of the session but work must be transacted on that day. I think, Sir, that all the work which we transact in this Assembly is important work, and therefore it can always be said, "Do not bring this work today because today is the fag end of the session". Well, it is the lookout of Honourable Members of this House, if they want to perform their duty, as the representatives of the Country, to stay in Delhi as long as the session is going on. When, Sir, the new constitution comes into operation and when we get more Members in the House, and when we shall have more subjects to deal with, I think we will then have to sit for, probably, nine months in the year, - and therefore it is not right to say that the Members have left. I think it is their lookout if they leave; for important work - and no work can be considered as unimportant if it has been placed on the agenda of the last day - must be transacted. Therefore, Sir, I oppose this motion for adjournment.

Mr. President: The question is :

"That the consideration of this motion be postponed to the Simla session".

The Assembly divided:

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The voting resulted in 28 for and 16 against the motion.
The motion was accordingly adopted and consideration of the
Resolution and the amendment was adjourned to the Simla session.

(Extracted from the Legislative Assembly Debates,
1-4-31, Vol.1V-No.6. pages 2984 to 3001).

Recommendation concerning the Prevention of Industrial
Accidents adopted by the 12th International Labour Conference,
1929.

It will be remembered that the following resolution was adopted by the two Houses of the Indian Legislature on this subject in 1930:-

"That this Council
Assembly, having considered the Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents and the Recommendation concerning responsibility for the protection of power-driven machinery adopted at the Twelfth Session of the International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should examine the possibility of giving effect to the Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents and that the results of this examination should be placed before this Council
Assembly within eighteen months from this date".

Consequent on this resolution the Government of India has sent out the following circular letter:-

No. L.-1769

Government of India

Department of Industries and Labour

Labour

Dated the 21st November 1930.

From

J.A. Shillidy, Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All Major Local Governments and the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

Subject.- Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents adopted by the Twelfth International Labour Conference, 1929.

Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of the Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents adopted at the Twelfth Session of the International Labour Conference held in 1929 and a copy of the Resolution adopted by both Houses of the Central Legislature regarding this Recommendation. In pursuance of the terms of the Resolution, the Government of India will be much obliged for the Local Government's/ your - advice on the possibility of giving effect to the Recommendation.

2. The first part (Articles 1 to 5) recommends statistical studies into the causes of accidents, investigation into the physical, physiological and psychological factors governing accidents, scientific research into the best methods of vocational guidance and the selection and development of national statistics on uniform bases so as to allow of a comparative study by the I. L. O. of the statistics of different countries. Though the Factory Inspection Departments do useful work in finding out what safety devices should be employed to minimise the risk of accidents, the requirements of this part of the Recommendation presuppose a higher stage of industrial development than exists in India. In India the lack of organisation amongst the industrial workers, their illiteracy and the absence, except in a few centres, of a permanent industrial population depending entirely on work in factories, are factors which present serious difficulties in undertaking any useful systematic research on the lines indicated, particularly in Articles 2 and 3 of the Recommendation. I am to request that the question may be studied with a view to finding out what possibilities and limitations there are in giving effect to the provisions contained in this part of the Recommendation.

3. Part II of the Recommendation (Articles 6 to 14) deals with the various methods of co-operation, e.g., periodical conferences between the inspectorate and the representative organisations of employers and workers, the appointment of safety organisations in each factory or works appointed jointly by employers and the workers, propaganda by means of lectures, publications, cinematograph films, etc., permanent safety exhibitions, encouragement of the employers to do all they can to instruct workers in accident prevention, and of workers' organisations to co-operate in this work, etc. Other provisions in this part of the Recommendation relate to the necessity of instruction in accident prevention in schools, the provision of first-aid appliances in undertakings and arrangements for medical attendance and ambulance services. In ~~India~~ any scheme for the prevention of industrial accidents the co-operation of the factory inspectorate, the workers and the employers is essential. In India considerable attention has been paid by individual employers and certain private organisations within recent years to the welfare of labour, and some of the measures recommended above have already been introduced in large-

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scale industrial establishments. There is, however, considerable scope for further advance, especially in the encouragement of the co-operation of the workers themselves. The Government of India will be glad to know what steps the Local Government/you - consider feasible with a view to encourage the measures described above.

4. Part III (Articles 15 to 21) of the Recommendation lays down certain principles which are recommended to be incorporated in national laws and regulations with a view to ensure an adequate standard of safety. Some of the requirements of this part are already met by the existing provisions in the Indian Factories Act and the Indian Mines Act and the rules framed thereunder. No legal provision, however, exists to call upon the employer to instruct his workers as to the dangers of their occupation, as recommended by Article 16. The provision in Article 19, which requires that the law should make it the legal duty of the workers to comply with the safety regulations, has no corresponding provision in the Indian Factories Act, but the Metalliferous Mines Regulations and the Coal Mines Regulations issued under the Indian Mines Act impose certain definite duties on persons working in mines with a view to the prevention of accidents and these provisions are enforced by means of prosecutions before the criminal courts. I am to request that the question may be examined as to how far and on what lines it would be desirable and practicable to amend the Indian law with a view to bring it fully in line with the requirements of Part III of the Recommendation. It will be seen that the recommendation contained in Article 21 postulates a degree of organisation and education which Indian workers do not at present possess. Any attempt, therefore, to secure by statutory provision ~~the~~ collaboration of workers on the lines indicated in this Article would seem in the present circumstances premature, though it may be feasible to comply with ~~the~~ parts of this Article by administrative action combined with voluntary co-operation on the part of the employers and the employees. I am to invite, the views of the Local Government/ your views - on this point.

5. Part IV (Articles 22 and 23) requires that State Members should endeavour to secure that accident insurance institutions take into account, in assessing premia, the safety measures taken by each firm and encourage such institutions in the work of accident prevention. This part of the Recommendation has little application to India on account of the limited number of insurance institutions in existence in this country. Such of the institutions as exist possibly do take steps to encourage safety measures and take them into account in assessing premia, but the Government of India have no definite information on the point.

6. For a proper examination of the question of giving effect to the Recommendation under consideration it would be necessary to scrutinise carefully each Article of the Recommendation with a view to determine how far the various recommendations are already met by the existing law in India, which of them can be given effect to by administrative orders and what further legislation will be required. The Recommendation is to be put into effect as a whole. In framing, their views the Local Government / your views you - will no doubt consider the desirability of consulting

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representative organisations of workers and employers and insurance societies, etc. I am to mention that the acceptance by a Member State of a Recommendation passed by the International Labour Conference does not commit her to all the terms of the Recommendation but a formal acceptance commits the State concerned to adoption of the general principles contained in the Recommendation in drafting national legislation and in issuing administrative orders.

7. I am to ask that the reply to this letter may be forwarded so as to reach the Government of India by the 30th April 1931.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J. A. Shillidy,
Secretary to the Government
of India.

Labour Conditions in Dharavi Tanneries, Bombay.

The following details regarding the conditions of labour of the tannery workers in Bombay are taken from an objective article on the subject contributed by Mr. S.V. Parulekar, and published in the Servant of India of 12th, 19th and 26th March 1931 in three instalments:-

Most of the tannery work in Bombay is done in a village called Dharavi which is situated within the island of Bombay. This locality is peculiarly unhealthy, as it is surrounded by marshes which provide a good breeding ground for malarial mosquitoes. The unhealthy nature of the locality is augmented by the bad smell emanating from the tanneries. There are 23 tanneries within the area, out of which 17 alone were working during the time the writer conducted his enquiries. They vary in size, the number of workers in each ranging between 12 and 100. These factories are all owned by individuals with the exception of one. In all the tanneries, except this one, the system of tanning raw hides is the old one which requires two months to tan hides into leather. The only factory in which any mechanical power is used is the Western India Tannery. In all the others manual labour is employed. These tanneries have not been brought within the purview of the Factories Act.

Housing Conditions.- The number of workers employed in the tanning industry at Dharavi is about 1,500. All these workers without exception have migrated to Dharavi from the Southern districts of Madras. They all live in Dharavi itself in sheds constructed by the owners of the factories in which they are employed. In the early days of the industry, the factory owners ~~who~~ had to bring workers from the Madras Presidency, as this kind of workers were not available in Bombay, were forced to offer the tempting conditions of free housing to their workers.

Only 125 out of the 1,500 workers live with their families. Two reasons induce the workers to live single, leaving their families in their native places. The first is that the earnings of the male members are inadequate for maintaining their families and the second is that women are not able to secure employment in tanneries and are also unable to secure other work outside since there are no other kinds of factories near at hand in Dharavi. Some of the workers who remain single prefer not to live in the sheds belonging to their employers, but several of them join together and form common messes. The members of a mess cook their meals by turns. As the mess is run on co-operative lines there is hardly any profiteering.

Hours of Work.- The tannery employees have no fixed hours of work. They enjoy a certain latitude as regards the exact time of starting their work. But they are not allowed to stop work until the day's allotted work is finished. Hence the amount of work available on a particular day is often the deciding factor that fixes the number of hours each worker has to put in on that day. Generally, the workers begin the day's work at 7.30 a.m. and leave the factories when their portion of the work for the day is finished - sometimes late in the night. During the boom period of the industry, the management is reported to have extracted work from the workers for more than 14 hours a day, and even at present, when the industry is passing through a phase of depression, the workers are often worked for 12 or even 13 hours a day. The industry does not recognise any over-time allowance.

Child Labour.- The management employs children of 9 to 14 for soaking hides in the pit which are full of bark water. These child workers are called tottiwalas, and their duty is to turn the hides over, and over again while the hides are immersed in the pits. This is a continuous process as the hides get spoilt if they are not properly turned over. Children are preferred for this job since they are more amenable to discipline. It is also alleged that preference is given to children because more work could be extracted out of them, and also because their labour is cheaper. It is ~~stated~~ ^{alleged} that the tottiwalas are worked for more than 13 hours a day in this particularly unhealthy process. ~~Formerly~~ These children began work by 7 a.m. and worked till 8 or 9 p.m. with hardly half an hour's recess for meals at noon. Later, the tannery workers formed themselves into a Union, and soon after they organised a strike for which one of the reasons inter alia was the excessive hours of work of tottiwalas. As a result of the strike the Union succeeded in securing a ten-hour day for the children.

Midday Interval.- The midday interval also has not been fixed by the employers. The adult workers are free to retire for noon meals whenever they please and take whatever time they require for meals, since the unit of a day's work is not work for a certain number of hours daily but is the finishing of the task allotted for the day. So far as the tottiwalas are concerned, they do not enjoy the same latitude as adult workers enjoy in the matter of midday interval, as they are employed not as piece-workers but as earners of daily wages. Hence, their midday interval is very short and during periods of pressure of work, it is alleged they

are marched off to work even before they are able to finish their meals. Though the Union has arrived at an understanding with the owners of the tanneries that the tottiwalas should be allowed to have a midday recess of at least an hour, the Union finds it difficult to check any breach of this understanding as the children are easily forced by the mistries (foremen) not to complain to the Union.

Holidays.- None of the workers whether working on the piece work system or receiving fixed wages, get any holidays with pay. They do not stop work even on Sundays and work for nearly 360 days in the year. The workers as a rule take only four or five holidays in the year, but even for these few holidays they have to put in extra hours of work on the previous or succeeding day. Tottiwalas have to work even on holidays for at least two hours in the morning.

Wages.- The monthly wages of the tottiwalas vary in different factories from Rs. 16 to Rs.20. In the case of the adult workers, it is difficult to ascertain their average wage per day since the wage varies from day to day, month to month, season to season and year to year, as the work available is subject to violent fluctuations. Barring one or two processes, the rates of payment for the different processes are uniform in all factories. All classes of workers in the tannery including the tottiwalas are treated as daily paid workers. They can be thrown out of employment any day during the month without any notice. The system of disbursement of wages is irregular. There is no fixed date for payment of wages and in most of the tanneries the wages are in arrears, some times to the extent of two or three months' wages with the result that most of the workers are in the ~~clutches~~ clutches of money lenders, often paying the abnormally high rate of 120 to 300 per cent interest.

Other Conditions of Service.- The worker never comes in direct contact with the owner or employer of the factory. The work is supervised by a chief maistry (foreman) assisted by two or three other maistries. The maistries possess unlimited powers; they employ and dismiss the workers as they please. Before the coming into existence of the workers' Union, the unlimited powers of the maistries were a serious menace to the security of tenure ~~of~~ of the workers. The prospective employee had to pay a heavy bribe to obtain work in the factory and when once employed had to give occasional presents to keep in the good books of the maistries. The maistries were in charge of the accounts of the daily work done by the workers, and the workers had no access to these accounts with the result that they had to receive whatever amount was given as wages for the months' work by the maistries. After the Union was formed, however, it tackled the question of payment of wages and secured considerable alleviation of the workers' grievances. It also established the workers' right to inspect the wages register daily.

Even though the Union has done some good service for the cause of the workers, the general conditions of work of the tannery employees leave much to be desired. The writer of the article is of opinion that these can be bettered only by bringing the tannery factories under the Indian Factories Act.

Burmese Dock Labourers' Strike, Rangoon.

The Burmese shipping labourers ^{in Rangoon} working under two stevedores, an Indian and an Anglo-Indian, went on strike on 6-4-31 over the alleged nonemployment of Burmans in the agreed proportion. ~~(see pages ---)~~ As a result of the strike, other Burmese labourers joined them in sympathy, while the Andhras apprehending trouble stopped working also. Thus the entire shipping work was suddenly stopped on 6-4-31. The Burmese Labour Bureau held a meeting and advised the Burmans to resume work assuring them of an enquiry into their grievances. The Burmans have agreed and are expected to resume work soon.

A Burmese Government communique dated 6-4-31 says: A dispute having arisen in regard to shipping labour, Mr. Lloyd, I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, summoned a small informal conference to consider the situation on 6-4-31. The dispute has arisen owing to a complaint on the part of Burman shipping labourers that the agreement ~~last~~ of May 1930 has not been duly carried out and that some stevedores do not employ Burman labourers in the agreed proportion. It was decided that the best plan would be to appoint small committees to control the allotment of labour. The stevedores and shipping agents have agreed to this proposal, and the following gentlemen have kindly agreed to serve on the committee: Mr. Lees, I.C.S., Collector, Rangoon, Chairman, Mr. H.M. Mathew of Messrs.

Steel Brothers Company Limited, representing shipping agents
and Captain Rushall representing the stevedores.

It is understood that Burman labourers have agreed to return
to work on 9-4-31. (The Hindu, 7-4-31)

(References to the strike of Rangoon dock workers which occurred in May 1930 and the Conciliation Committee which was appointed to settle the differences between Indian and Burmese dock workers in Rangoon appear at pages 24-25 of our May 1930 report, pages 39-40 of our June 1930 report and pages 45-46 of our July 1930 report).

K. 27

End of Harvey Mills Dispute, Madura.

At pages 28-29 of the report of this office for March 1931 reference was made to the labour troubles in Harvey Mills, Madura, which culminated in stoppage of work at the mills on 21-3-31. As the dispute showed no signs of a peaceful settlement as the result of negotiations between the employees and the management, the Madura Municipal Council on 8-4-31 appointed a sub-committee to bring about a settlement.

The authorities of the mill in a letter dated 11-4-31 informed the sub-committee that they were not prepared to reconsider their decision regarding the dismissal of 12 men whom they held responsible for the present dispute; and that unless there ^{was} ~~is~~ immediate resumption of work, they would be compelled to close down the mill for a period of two months and then consider the question of reducing wages. The demands of the workers as enunciated in a letter dated 9-4-31 of the Secretary of the Madura Labour Union were briefly as follow:- (a) an enquiry into the conduct of these 12 men before dismissal; (b) an assignment of a definite cause, in future, for every punishment; (c) recognition of the Union and the admission of its rights to make representations on behalf of the labourers to the Mill authorities; (d) an assurance that membership of the Union and participation in its activities will not be liable to punishment. In return, the Union ^{was} ~~is~~ prepared to give an assurance that thereafter no incidents like that of 20th March (when a body of workers assembled, during working hours, in front of the Manager's Office to protest against the transfer of a worker from one frame to another) will take place;

also that it will co-operate with the management in securing discipline and efficient work inside the Mills.

The crux of the dispute was the question of the recognition of the Union, as the men alleged the dismissals of the 12 men were occasioned by the prominent part they took in organising the Union. The sub-Committee of the Madura Municipality while announcing their recommendations for a settlement made the following observations on the question of the recognition of the Union:-

With regard to the recognition of the Union, we feel compelled to make certain observations. It is registered under the Trades Union Act. It seems to exercise an extraordinary hold on the vast majority of the workers who are its members. There have been industrial disputes in Madura in previous years; but none that we can recall in which there has been demonstrated such unity by the workers and such exemplary non-violent conduct as on the present occasion. We have no doubt that the Union has created a new consciousness among its members, the effect of which has been to give them a new outlook on life. It is, if we may venture to express our opinion, not the path of prudence and wisdom for an employer to ignore - much less to oppose - a movement which is recognised throughout the world as a legitimate one. So long as the present relationship lasts, with the labourers determined to maintain the Union and the employer challenging their right, there can be no lasting settlement. We would earnestly urge the Mill authorities to reconsider their attitude and revise it in accordance with the spirit of the times.

The following are the recommendations of the sub-committee:-

1. A committee of arbitration to deal with the dismissal of ^K12 men; (2) statement of a definite charge, hereafter, (with, of course, a proper enquiry) in regard to punishments; (3) a fresh election to the newly formed committee, if that be the wish of the labourers; (4) an assurance in writing that membership of the Labour Union will not be penalised; (5) recognition of the Union.

(Summarised from a communication dated 30-4-31 sent to this office by Mr. B. Shiva Rao.)

Criminal Tribes as Strike-breakers. The following is an excerpt from Mr. Shiva Rao's letter regarding certain attempts made during the strike to recruit members of a criminal tribe known as Kallars as strike breakers:-

"In Madura there are over 500 workers belonging to the Kallar caste. This caste is officially classed as a criminal tribe under the Criminal Tribes Act. Its members are registered under the Act and the Government makes advances of money to them to enable them to settle down. During the dispute more than one special effort was made (I cannot say whether it was with official knowledge and influence) to induce the Kallar workers to go to work. It reminded me of the amendment moved by the Government of India delegates at last year's session of the International Labour Conference to the convention on forced labour. The object of the amendment was to exempt the Criminal Tribes Acts from the application of the convention. Because of its rejection the Government of India delegates said they could not vote for the convention. Although Britain has recently ratified the convention and extended its application to her colonies, the Government of India has not yet done so. The incident at Madura shows that in industrial disputes it would be possible for an employer to attempt to break a strike by putting pressure on workers belonging to these criminal tribes."

Retrenchment in Railways: Railwaymen's Protest.

At page 19 of the report of this Office for March 1931 reference was made to the decision of the Railway Board to effect drastic reductions in the personnel of the railways. The sadly crippled condition of railway finances has compelled many of the railway administrations in India to act immediately on the decision of the Railway Board to reduce the number of employees on their pay-rolls, particularly ^{of them} in the lower paid ranks, and to effect cuts in the wages of all employees drawing over Rs.30 per month. These economy measures on the part of the administrations have raised a storm of protest from the various organisations of railway employees in this country. One of the resolutions passed at the 7th annual Convention of the All India Railwaymen's Federation held at Ajmere on 15-3-31 was to the effect that the Railway Board should be immediately called upon to stop retrenchment and cancel previous orders already issued in this connection, pending complete discussion of all retrenchment schemes with the A.I. Railwaymen's Federation. (vide page 33, March 1931 report)

The objections of the rank and file of railway labour to the retrenchment schemes initiated by the Railway Board were summarised thus by Mr. Kamnadas Mehta, Bar-at-Law, in his speech on 15-3-31 as Chairman of the Reception Committee of the 7th annual Convention of the A. I. R. F. held at Ajmere:

Before the Railway Board talk of retrenchment they should take steps to revise their contribution to the General Revenues, to drastically reduce the salaries and emoluments of the superior officers and to stop ~~the~~ leakages, wastages and extravagances. There is no reason why the contribution of Rs.60 millions to the General Revenue should continue at the expense of the Railway

workers. There are again the fat salaries and allowances whose enormity has largely increased owing to the recent drop in prices; there is no reason why these should continue while the Railway worker is being sacked by thousands. I have no doubt that the Convention will set its face firmly and unequivocally against the retrenchment stunt.

The salaries and other emoluments of the superior Officers have in recent years increased out of all proportion. The revisions that were made during and after the War were based on the increased cost of living then prevailing. The index figure in the year 1918-1919 was nearly two hundred as against hundred for 1914. Ever since then, the prices have gradually fallen; in many cases they are even below the pre-war level; in 1924, under Lee Commission recommendations concessions were given to these Officers, the total monetary value of which is somewhere near Rs. 3.5 millions a year. The recent further drop in prices has added to the purchasing power of the already heavy remuneration of these superior officers and, if the Railway revenues are not to be unduly pilfered, a fifty percent reduction of the total remuneration of these Officers would not be a hardship. The subordinate officers can also afford to give up a part of their present remuneration varying from 10 to 25 percent. These reduction will, in my opinion, save at least Rs. 20 millions to the Railways. Secondly there is no reason why the Railways should subsidize the general revenues to the extent of Rs. 60 to 70 millions a year. It is this subsidy which is responsible for the deficit and if that is removed or substantially curtailed no necessity will remain for the proposed retrenchment. Thirdly the leakages, wastes and extravagance of the Railways are a public scandal; with proper vigilance many rupees could be saved a year.

If the Railway Board sits down and applies its minds in these three directions it would be in a position to secure savings which will not only render retrenchment unnecessary but will further enable it to increase the remuneration of the worker to improve his living and other conditions. We cannot contemplate without horror the fate of thousands of our comrades who will come under the axe and we must resist it to the utmost of our power.

The method by which the proposed retrenchment is to be carried out (see page 19, March 1931 report) is no less dangerous. The difficulty of deciding who is the least efficient and inefficient is one which even Solomon cannot solve, and if Government proceed to give effect to the proposals all the evils of favouritism and jobbery will be let loose on the workers creating great injustice and oppression. I therefore urge that the Railway Board should drop them. If however it persists in this easier task of sacking the helpless employees I would recommend as I have already done elsewhere that the A.I.R.F. should seriously consider the question of an All India strike. (The B. B. & C. I. Railwayman, April 1931).

In this connection, a deputation on the N.W. Railway Union waited upon Mr. J. A. Shillidy, I. C. S., Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour at Karachi on 18-4-31, to lodge a protest against the proposed retrenchment in the N.W. Railway and to urge on the Government the desirability of appointing a Conciliation Board under the Trade Disputes Act to deal with the grievances of the employees of the N.W. Railway.. Mr. Badikram, General Secretary of the N.W. Railway Union, who led the deputation pointed out that the Union had applied as early as 2-1-1930 for the appointment of a Conciliation Board, and that the request was repeated in October 1930, and that the reply received from the Agent on 6-1-31 to these requests was very unsatisfactory. He further pointed out that in the meantime the situation had been aggravated on account of block retrenchments of staff, reduction in grades, stoppage of compensatory allowances all of which had been made an issue for reference to the Board.

The situation was growing worse and it was high time that the Government took some action in the matter. The Union had sent an alternative scheme, which, if adopted, would save about ~~RxRx~~ Rs. 10 millions without the unfortunate necessity of discharging a single employee. What the Union desired was examination of the said scheme by an independent tribunal along with the other grievances of the employees. (The Railway Herald, Karachi, 15-4-31).

The employees of the B.B. & C.I. Railway, who are also affected by the decision of the Railway Board are also vigorously agitating against the retrenchment.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, President, B.B. & C.I. Railway Workers' Union, interviewed the B.B. & C.I. Agent on 8-4-31 and discussed the

proposed retrenchment scheme. He impressed upon the Agent that there would be no need for retrenchment if the company stopped the gift of Rs.7.5 millions to the Government in addition to interest, depreciation charges, sinking fund, etc.

The G. I. P. Workers met in Matunga on 9-4-31 under the presidency of Mr. Ruikar. The chairman said that if the demand for a Conciliation Board was not accepted, the workers must go on strike. The workmen of other railways were sure to join them as there was going to be retrenchment all over. The moment the All-India Railwaymen's Federation gave a mandate there would be cessation of work. The authorities should start retrenchment from the top and see if they still incurred a loss. (The Hindu, 10-4-31).

The M. & S.M. Railway Employees' Conference, which was held at Bangalore from 3 to 5-4-31, passed a resolution strongly condemning any action calculated to inflict hardship on the workers by retrenchment without the administration at the same time endeavouring to explore every avenue for curtailing expenditure by holding an inquiry along with Union representatives. (Times of India, 10-4-31).

Labour News in Brief.

Hours Convention: Application to N.W. and E.I. Railways.

An Associated Press message from Simla dated 28-4-1931 says that the preliminary work in connection with the application of the Washington Convention^{* Geneva} regulating hours of employment and periods of rest to the North Western Railway and the East Indian Railway has been finished and that the Conventions ^{have} ~~have~~ been applied to these railways. (The Hindu, 29-4-1931).

Strike of Press Operatives, Jubbulpore.

About 50 operatives including jobbers and compositors of the Raja Gokuldas Printing Works, Ltd., Jubbulpore, where the Lokmat, a local daily vernacular newspaper is published, struck work on 17-4-1931. The strikers have been offering satyagraha, at the press and are preventing the management from employing new men. (The Times of India, 7-4-1931).

Ahmedabad Mill Strike Ends.

The operatives of the Spinning Department of the Bharatkhand Cotton Mill, Ahmedabad, were on strike on the 4th and 5th M April 1931 complaining that the mill authorities have refused to give benefit under the Maternity Benefit Act in some cases and have refused to re-engage women operatives after confinement. On the mill authorities promising to redress their grievances, the Ahmedabad Labour Union persuaded the men to resume work on 6-4-31. (The Times of India, 8-4-1931).

(A reference to this practice is made at page 36 of our March 1931 report, vide paragraph Refusal to Engage Women after Maternity.)

Trade Depression Compels Closure of two Bombay Mills.

Two Bombay mills will be closed from 1-5-1931, on account of the present state of depression in the yarn trade. They are the Connaught Mill and the Raghuvamsy Mill. Notices of the closure of the two mills have been issued by the authorities of both the ~~mm~~ mills. The result of the closure will be that nearly 2,500 operatives will be thrown out of work for May 1931. Several of the operatives thrown out of employment, it is stated, will be able to secure employment in other mills, which are extending their operations, and the Prabhat Mill situated in Tardeo is one of such mills. (The Times of India, 13-4-1931).

Mysore Government Press Strike.

500 workmen of various branches of the Mysore Government Printing Press, Bangalore, are out of work consequent upon a lockout ordered by the Superintendent on 31-3-1931. The grievances of the employees are that consequent upon the recommendation of an inquiry committee the hours of work at the press had been changed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., ^(6 hours) to 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., thus increasing the hours of work to 8; that under the old system of ~~pe~~ piece work some workmen were getting higher pay which has now been fixed for a few service hands at a fixed salary which worked out very low; and that a number of ~~pe~~ workers now retained do not get even a portion of the wages they originally earned consequent upon the increase of working hours. The employees now demand the old hours of work, the appointment of a Workmen's Committee to safeguard their interests and ^{the} granting of casual leave for ~~piece~~ ^{piece} ~~workers~~-workers.

The general complaint seems to be that under the changed conditions brought in force in July 1930 the workmen have not been able to earn half of what they earned originally and that repeated requests have been ignored. The authorities are firm and demand unconditional resumption of work and refuse to go back upon the Government order which brought about the changed hours of work. (The Times of India, 3-4-1931).

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

4TH Annual Meeting of Federation of Indian Chambers of

Commerce, Delhi.

The 4th annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at Delhi on 7th, 8th and 9th April, 1931 under the Presidentship of ^{Mr. D. Birla, owing to the illness of} Lala Shri Ram, the President of the Federation. Reviewing the activities of the past year, Lala Shri Ram said that many events had occurred in the ~~the~~ economic sphere which had intensified the gloomy prospects the Indian mercantile community envisaged when they met last year at their annual meeting. In the first place, ~~there~~ had been a catastrophic fall in the prices of the chief staple agricultural commodities, with the result that the purchasing power of the agriculturists had been reduced. Again, exports had fared worse than imports. In the words of the Finance Member of the Government of India, "She (India) has felt the severity of the fall in the case of what she has to sell, but has not obtained a corresponding advantage of the fall in prices of what she has to buy."

Lala Shri Ram made the fiscal policy of the Government of India the main theme of his address and pointed out:

1. that the currency policy of the Government of India in persisting ⁱⁿ and maintaining the exchange ratio at 1s.6d to the rupee in the face of falling prices was directly responsible for much of the suffering of the country,

2. that the borrowing by the Government of large sums of

money was another contributory cause for the national trade depression,

3. that the effect of the heavy taxation levied by the Government of India was disastrous to Indian trade and industry. (A copy of the full text of Lala Shri Ram's speech was forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute D 1/385/31, dated 23-4-31.)

Mahatma Gandhi, who ~~presided at the opening~~ of the Conference, referred in his opening speech to the resolution regard^{ing} the Declaration of Rights passed at the recent Karachi Congress (vide page 1-3 of our March 1931 Report) and declared that while the Congress stood for the cause of the poor it did not wish to make unreasonable inroads on the rights of the Commercial classes.

According to ~~Mxx~~ Gandhi, what the Congress stood for was that, peasants, merchants, and princes should regulate their activities for the benefit of the country as ^a whole and not try to exploit the poor. Regarding the future position of Europeans in India, Gandhi said that their interest would be served best by their becoming the true servants of the people of India.

After the speech of Mahatma Gandhi, the business session of the Federation ~~summarized~~ commenced. The following is the full text of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Federation:

Resolution No.1 (re: Currency and Exchange). - (A) The Federation views with grave apprehension the financial and currency policy of the Government which has had the effect of: (i) reducing the purchasing power of the people, (ii) increasing the liability of every debtor including that of Government, (iii) creating artificial stringency at even unnatural periods during the last few years in the money market and undermining the credit of the Government both at home and abroad, (iv) frittering away the gold resources in the currency reserves which threatens in the near future the convertibility of the currency of the country.

(B) The Federation is of opinion that unless immediate steps are taken to - (1) make drastic retrenchment in every department ^{of}

~~of~~ national expenditure both in the Central and the Provincial Governments, (ii) generally to regulate the currency and fiscal policy of the Government in a manner calculated to promote the productivity of the country, and (iii) stop further efforts at maintaining the value of the rupee at 1s.6d., the situation cannot but develop most alarmingly causing irreparable harm to the economic structure of the country.

(C) The Federation repeats its emphatic protest against the fact that inspite of its warnings during the last few years, a policy diametrically opposed to unequivocally expressed responsible Indian opinion has been pursued and is amazed at the Government's determined persistence in that policy on the eve of the transfer of the Finance and Commerce Departments to popular control.

Resolution No.2 (re: Silver) : - (A) The Federation views with grave alarm the unprecedented fall in price of silver and is of opinion that unless steps are taken to improve the position of silver as a precious metal in the world there cannot be a lasting revival of normality of economic conditions in the world.

(B) In the opinion of the Federation the following steps are therefore essential for bringing about the desired result: (i) That the main silver producing interests of the world should in co-operation with such Governments ~~and~~ as have surplus silver for sale arrange for some co-ordinated plan for the regulation of the production and sale of silver, (ii) that the Government of India as the Government which hold the most important silver stocks should take a leading part in promoting such co-operation, (iii) that the Government of India should take immediate steps to organise world opinion in favour of fixing ratio of gold with silver, and (iv) that the Government of India should decide their silver policy in consultation with a Committee to be nominated from the elected Members of the Assembly and representatives of this Federation and until that is done, the Government of India should not sell any silver.

Resolution No.3 (re: Agricultural Produce). - (A) The Federation views with alarm the abnormal depression brought about by unprecedented fall in the prices of agricultural produce specially wheat, cotton, groundnuts, jute, etc. and while noting the Government's action in reducing Rail-Freight Rates on wheat in certain cases deplores the general apathy in giving immediate relief to the agricultural population of the country.

(B) (i) The Federation suggests for the acceptance of the Government of India substantial reduction in the Railway freight on agricultural produce which would also result in stimulating greater volume of trade. (ii) The Federation expresses gratification at the recent imposition of the import duty on wheat even though it is a very tardy step in that direction bearing in mind that the price of wheat in the market centres upcountry had declined to under-cost of cultivation about a year back. (iii) The Federation suggests similar import duty on or prohibition of import of rice from foreign countries.

(C) The Federation further urges upon the Government of India the necessity of revising the Land Revenue Policy with a view to afford adequate relief to agriculturists in case of such unprecedented slump in prices.

Resolution No.4 (re: Industries). - The Federation calls upon the Government of India to take active steps towards the development of Indian Industries in general. It regrets the inaction of Government in giving relief to the chemical industry and in dealing with the report of the Tariff Board submitted on this question as far back as July 1929. ~~3~~

It draws the attention of Government to the urgent necessity of taking steps to - (i) make India self-supporting in the matter of salt supply; (ii) secure the acceptance by the Swedish Match Company of certain recommendations made by the Tariff Board in view of its unfair activities such as rate war with the end of ruining the indigenous industry; (iii) give effect to the recommendations of the Hide Cess Committee.

(B) With a view to give adequate protection to ^{the} Indian tanning industry, the Federation urges upon the Government of India to set up immediately an inquiry through ^{the} Tariff Board to examine the case of ^{the} industry, and pending the report of ^{the} Tariff Board ^{to} levy a duty of 15% ad valorem on raw hides and 25% ad valorem on raw skins to give it ^{the} immediate relief which it urgently requires.

(C) The Federation deeply regrets the apathetic and indifferent attitude taken up by the Government of India after the failure of ^{the} Shipping Conference convened by the Viceroy last year regarding the development of ^{the} national mercantile marine and presses upon the Government of India the urgency of taking immediate and effective steps for the development and protection thereof.

Resolution No.5 (re: Insurance Legislation). - The Federation regrets the absence of any effort on the part of the Government of India to introduce Insurance Legislation on the lines of the recommendations made by the Federation at its last Annual Session and emphasises ~~upon the Government of India~~ the necessity of undertaking such legislation at an early date.

Resolution No.6 (re: Burma). - The Federation is of opinion that the question of the constitutional evolution of Burma should be left to the decision of the people of Burma. There are ample indications to show that responsible Burmese opinion is dissatisfied with the decision of the Round Table Conference and the Secretary of State's statement in the House of Commons on the 20th January last to pursue separation without Dominion Status. The Federation considers that the proposed federation of Indian States and provinces has created a new position under which Burma can join with such federation with great advantage to herself. The Federation, therefore, urges that full and proper facilities should be provided for the people of Burma to express their free and clear opinion on this matter, ~~otherwise~~ rendered more difficult owing to ^{the} repressive laws now in force.

Resolution No.7 (re: Rights of British Mercantile Community & Reservations and Safeguards). - The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry disapproves of clause 14 of the Report of the Sub-Committee No.3 of the Round Table Conference which deals with the rights of the British mercantile community. The Federation cannot agree to any restriction on the discretion of the future Government of India, to which there is no parallel in the constitution of any other free country, as in the opinion of the Federation any restrictions of the kind suggested would so fetter the future Government as to render it powerless to protect or promote indigenous enterprise, and that the Federation puts its view on record that no reservations or safeguards of any nature whatsoever will be acceptable unless they are proved to be in the interests of India.

Resolution No.8 (re: Improvement in the Conditions of Workers). While fully recognising that without adequate protection, patronage and Co-operation of the State to withstand competition from foreign countries it is not possible to bring in India conditions which will improve to a satisfactory standard the well-being of all workers, the Federation calls upon its Member-Bodies to make strenuous efforts to bring about such improvements in wages, in hours of labour and conditions of work -agricultural, industrial, commercial and others, as is possible under the existing unsatisfactory conditions in respect of protection, tariffs, and exchange and currency policy of the State.

Resolution No.9 (re: Patronage to Indian Industries). - The Federation expects that all Indian industrialists who claim protection and patronage in any form should in their purchases and dealings and general policy give the same protection and patronage to Indian industries, especially those concerns which are Indian owned and Indian managed.

Resolution No.10 (re: Unfair Activities of Foreign Concerns and their Effect on Indian Enterprises). - This Federation desires to impress on the Government the necessity of taking steps to protect Indian enterprises by putting a stop to unfair activities such as rate war by the foreign concerns against them, and requests the Government to institute a thorough and impartial public enquiry into such cases and to grant relief where grievances of the nature exist.

(A summary of the proceedings of the third annual meeting of the Federation is given at pages 39-45 of our February 1930 Report).

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The Indian Committee of International Chamber
Of Commerce: 2nd Annual Meeting, 1931.

The second annual meeting of the Indian Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce was held at Delhi on 9-4-31, with Mr. D. P. Khaitan in the Chair. After the adoption of the report for 1930 the meeting elected the following office-bearers for 1931-32: Mr. Walchand Hirachand (President); Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai (Vice-President); Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas; Mr. G. D. Birla, Lala Shri Ram; Mr. Jamal Mahomed, Mr. Shanmukam Chetty, Mr. S. N. Haji, Fakirji, ^{Cowasji,} N.R. Sarkar, Mr. B. Das, and Mr. D. P. Khaitan (members). Mr. R. I. Nopany (Honorary Treasurer) and Mr. J.K. Mehta (Honorary Secretary).

(The Times of India, 11-4-31).

(For proceedings of the First annual meeting of the Indian Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce vide pages 46-47 of our February 1930 Report).

Workers' Organisations.

The 7th Session of the Travancore Labour Association, 1931.

The seventh annual session of the Travancore Labour Association was held at Alleppy, Travancore State, in the first week of April with Mr. B. Shiva Rao, (one of the advisers to the workers' delegate to the 14th Labour Conference) in the chair. In the course of his ~~speech~~ presidential address, Mr. Shiva Rao speaking about the progress of the labour movement ~~in~~ since the war, said "The importance of the movement was recognised in the Peace Treaty and one of the most important auxiliaries of the League of Nations today is the International Labour Organisation under ~~whose~~ whose auspices at Geneva, delegations representative of the governments, the employers and the workers from all parts of the world gather to discuss problems affecting workers in agriculture and industry. We in India owe a great deal more than many of you perhaps realise to the work of the International Labour Conference; during the last ten years, in spite of the utterly inadequate representation of labour in our legislatures, we have placed on the Statute book an amended Factories Act providing for a ten hours' working day, a Workmen's Compensation Act, the Trades ~~Unions~~ Unions Act and several other measures of benefit to the working classes." Mr. Shiva Rao stressed the importance and necessity for the workers in Indian States to take concerted action with those in British India to protect their common interests. He then briefly dwelt upon the efforts made by Mr. N. M. Joshi and himself at the London Round Table Conference for safeguarding the rights of labour in the future constitution of India and concluded his speech with an appeal for communal and sectional unity among the workers.

The following are some of the more important of the resolutions

~~passed~~ passed at the Conference:-

1) This Conference urges upon the Travancore Government to appoint without any further delay a mixed commission of officials and non-officials with adequate labour representation to enquire into the conditions of labour in Travancore, including the plantations, and submit a report so as to make it the basis for suitable ~~labour~~ legislation.

2) This Conference ~~it~~ urges upon the Travancore Government to alter the election rules and extend adult franchise immediately.

3) This Conference requests the Government that, consistent with their numbers, the labourers should be given separate electoral constituencies to elect their representatives to the representative institutions in the State.

4) This Conference requests the Government that there should be adequate labour representation in the committee for economic survey proposed to ~~be~~ be appointed by the Government.

5) This Conference requests the Travancore Government to issue forthwith the necessary orders to make primary education compulsory in the State and to prevent boys and girls who have not completed their fourteenth year from going into the factories and other business concerns for labour.

(The Hindu, 12 & 27-4-1931.)

All-India Textile Workers' Federation: Ahmedabad Textile

Labour Association's Scheme.

The Ahmedabad correspondent of the Times of India writing to the Times of India, 28-4-31, gives the following details about a scheme initiated by the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association to set up an All-India Textile Workers' Federation:-

"~~Apr~~ A proposal to unite the millhands employed in the different textile mills in the country into a strong national labour organisation ^{has been originated} by the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association, which is one of the largest labour unions in India with a membership of over 50,000 workers. As ~~it~~ is well known, the Association has consistently refused to enter the Trade Union Congress and has been working under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, Shrimati Ansuya Sarabhai and Mr. Shankarlal Banker in a manner which does not

offend the mill owners and yet safeguards the interests of the workers. (for details, please see pages 18 to 19 of our July 1929 report). If the proposal which is contained in a resolution of the Representative Board of the Association is carried out successfully, the central organisation will be a powerful moderate labour congress and may prove a serious rival to the Trade Union Congress."

(The Times of India, 28-4-31.)

(At page 43 of the report of this office for January 1930 reference is made to the efforts made by Mr. R. R. Bakhale to organise an All- India Textile Federation.)

All-India Railwaymen's Federation:

General Council Meeting.

The General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation has announced that the General Council of the Railwaymen's Federation will meet at Bombay on the 9th and 10th May 1931 to consider the following subjects:- (1) the present retrenchment situation; (2) the G. I. P. strikers' question; (3) the consideration of suggestions for amendment of the Constitution; (4) Trade Union Unity; and (5) any other subjects, which the members will deem fit to consider.

(The Hindu, 21-4-31)

Intellectual workers.

Disabilities of Indian Journalists.

A number of important resolutions bearing on the profession of Journalism in India was passed at the annual meeting of ^{KG} Upper India Journalists' Association held on 4-4-1931 at Delhi with Mr. K.C. Roy, president, in the Chair.

Grievances of Indian Journalists.— Mr. K.C. Roy reviewed the position of Journalism in India as compared with that in other parts of the Empire and said that it stood second to none. The press in India was a new growth but it was a very healthy growth. The position must be viewed from two standpoints. Firstly, the professional standard which it was their duty to build up and maintain for the benefit of all in the trade, and, secondly, the economic standard which must be improved as a result of better news distribution, management and advertisement and above all better editorial contribution.

But there were difficulties in the way of Journalists in India which were peculiar and unknown in other countries. Firstly the penal laws were stiff. They in India had the Princes Protection Act, a statute unknown in any other part of the Empire. Then there was the law of libel in India which was an illusive and harassing enactment. Thirdly, there was the law of contempt which was not infrequently used in India.

Concluding, Mr. Roy drew attention to the fact that democracy and the Press were new problems before the Western political mind, and everybody recognised that nothing could be done to stop newspaper progress. The newspapers in India had always set high ideals for themselves; Mr. Roy felt sure that in India the newspapers had come to stay, Ordinance or no Ordinance.

Report for 1930-31.— The Committee's report for the year ending March 31, 1931, reviewed the activities of the Association in reference to the two Press Ordinances and other Governmental attempts to place difficulties in the way of the Press. Till the expiry of the First Ordinance in October, ¹⁹³⁰ 235 newspapers and 327 printing presses were proceeded against and several of them had to close down, bringing the newspaper and printing trade practically to a standstill. Under the Second Ordinance 17 more newspapers and 18 presses were taken action against. Not only was there a victimisation of newspapers in Upper India but the rigorous censorship over press telegrams which Lord Irwin promised to relax continued undiminished.

The report then referred to the recommendation of the Congress Working Committee suggesting suspension of newspapers as a protest against the Ordinance, thus adding to the difficulties and anxieties of the press. Though united action ^{only} could be solved a great many of the difficulties that beset the path of journalists in India in the present transitional stage.

Resolutions Passed.- The Congress passed a resolution urging the repeal of the Princes Protection Act which was characterised as opposed to the freedom of the press and also to the constitutional growth of India. The meeting also protested against the Press Control Bill as subversive of the liberties of the press and fundamental rights of freedom of opinion and thought, and demanded its withdrawal. A third resolution declared that it was desirable that well-trained and efficient journalists be employed on the editorial staffs of newspapers and that as far as possible the existing standard of salaries be improved and fixed on a graduated scale.

Office-bearers.- The following office-bearers for the new year were elected:- President - Mr. C.S. Ranga Iyer, M.L.A; Vice-President - Mr. J.N. Sahni, and Lala Durgadas; Secretary - Mr. A. Seshadry Iyengar; Joint Secretary - Mr. Shiva Narayan Bhatnagar; Members - Sardar Diwan Singh, Lala Deshabandhu and Mr. Jaffrey. Mr. K.C. Roy is a member of the Committee as an ex-president.

(The Pioneer, 10-4-1931).

The 2nd All-India Salaried Employees' Convention, 1931.

Under the auspices of the Indian Federation of Salaried Employees, Calcutta, the second All-India Salaried Employees' Convention was held at Madras on the 11th, 12th and 13th April under the presidentship of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Barrister-at-Law. The object of the Federation is to safeguard the interests of clerical employees and to improve the service conditions of salaried employees by bringing in the aid of legislation and by securing representation for salaried employees in public bodies.

In the course of his welcome address, Mr. C. Basu Dev, M.L.C. (Madras), Chairman of the Reception Committee, expressed regret for the split in Trade Union ranks which occurred at Nagpur in 1929 (vide pages 24-29 of our November 1929 Report) and pointed out that the All India Salaried Employees' Federation was not a rival body to either the All India Trade Union Congress or the All-India Federation of Trade Unions. Referring to the Convention on Hours of Work of Salaried Employees adopted by the 14th International

Labour Conference, he said that among the ^{Classes of} employees included in the Salaried Employees' Convention, are caretakers, clerical employees, etc., and it is doubtful whether some or all of them do not come under Washington Hours Convention. The term "salaried employees" has been used in contra-distinction ~~with~~ to the term "workers". Some have gone to the extent of stating that any attempt at ^a separate organisation for salaried employees will be an attempt to separate bourgeois classes from the proletariat and that to the organisations of which so-called salaried employees and industrial workers are common members, the All-India Salaried Employees' Federation may bid fair to be a rival organisation encouraging separatism and increasing the ~~divisions~~ divisions already existing in the Trade Union groups in this country. He hoped that the Convention will prove to be a cementing force and sounded a note of warning against the mistakes which the West committed in making bifurcations in the Unions of the Trade Union Movement, as a result of which there have been inter-~~union~~ disputes regarding the boundaries for organisation.

In conclusion the speaker said that the lot of the middle class employees was miserable. They were accustomed to a standard of life which their meagre earnings could not maintain. They must have decent and clean clothing and must live in decent quarters. The co-operative movement, the solvent of many economic evils, had not been fully explored and especially in the matter of housing. Co-operative Building Schemes would easily solve the unhealthy overcrowding and put the class of salaried employees in possession of small garden houses if only they would care to be benefited by it. He then made a fervent appeal to the workers to organise themselves and suggested the starting of an Employment Bureau under the auspices of the Association.

The following are extracts from the presidential address delivered by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta:-

Referring to the scope of membership of the Federation, Mr. Mehta said:- Your Federation includes within its scope not merely one trade or industry but every commercial, trading and manufacturing concern which carries on business on modern lines, including the theatre, music and art. The Trade Union Movement is designed to fight the evils of industrialism; but the small trades and crafts which are based on the individual ability and artistic skill of the worker himself had better be left out of our activities. It would, in my opinion, be a retrograde step to standardise art and craft. You ~~must~~ cannot unionise personality. Moreover in actual working the appeal which your Federation can make will be confined to the clerical, commercial and technical employees. Postal, telegraphic and other civil servants in Government employment are organised in their own departmental unions although their problems are not substantially different from yours. It therefore becomes necessary to make our activities intensive rather than extensive.

Referring to the immediate problems of salaried employees, the President said: In the main, the problems of the salaried employees are the same as those of the industrial wage-earners. They relate to a minimum wage adequate for the maintenance of the employee and his family, to the education of his children and to leisure sufficient to make life happy and enjoyable. For this reason it is our duty to make common cause with the Trade Union Movement in this country and to strengthen ourselves by strengthening it. The existing state of things has done untold harm to the cause of workers whether they be in private employ or in public service. The employing class has got the upper hand and taking advantage of the present depressed condition of trade and industry attempts have been made and are still being made to lower the standard of living of the working classes in the country. The struggle for existence is becoming keener than it ever was. The number of the unemployed seeking work which they cannot find, is very large indeed; and one cannot contemplate without a shudder the intense social and economical distress which must inevitably accompany a period of prolonged and widespread unemployment like the one through which we are passing.

With regard to the serious issues raised by the present widespread unemployment in the country, Mr. Mehta said: It must not be imagined that unemployment is an accidental or temporary phase. Its intensity may vary from time to time but the capitalist state of society cannot continue to exist without some margin of unemployment; and no solution of the problem will be final and satisfactory which fails to take note of this basic and fundamental fact. Unemployment is simply a symptom of the disease called capitalism; and so long as society is prepared to be run on a capitalistic basis, it will be confronted with the duty of making adequate provision for the maintenance of those who might get shipwrecked in times of an industrial crisis. The problem of unemployment as also the question of wages and hours of work is in the ultimate analysis the question of a more equitable distribution of goods and services.

Unemployment and its horrors can only be mitigated by a measure of unemployment insurance; and I am glad that the Indian National Congress has included that item in its ~~progressive~~ programme of social and economic reforms announced at the Karachi session. But this is only a partial solution. In order to achieve permanent results more drastic steps are necessary; there is, however, no unanimity as to what these steps should be. Three different solutions ~~of the proper~~ hold the field: (1) Violent expropriation of the propertied class as is done in Soviet Russia; (2) Evolutionary Socialism; and (3) without altering the basis of society, the imposition of heavy taxation on the rich for financing social services like free education, municipal amenities, unemployment and maternity benefits, old age pensions and the like.

After pointing out the ^{futility} ~~fulfillity~~ of the Soviet method, Mr. Mehta said; Force having thus been ruled out for achieving social well-being what is left open is an evolutionary socialism to be achieved step by step by the spread of education and enlightenment, by gradual conversions of the privileged classes, by constant appeal to the higher side of man, by the ballot box and Parliamentary action. On the whole this method however sober it may appear is more dynamic in results than the endless combats of violent factions. Trade Unionism is no doubt a recent growth in this country. It is still weak in numbers and in energetic propaganda. That weakness is recently increased by the split in its ranks. Yet, even as it is, much can be accomplished to maintain the standard of living of the workers and even to improve it. Public opinion is steadily growing friendly to the demands of labour. The press though mainly capitalistic in outlook is not hostile to our demands and the Indian National Congress at its recent session in Karachi has come out with a programme which is encouraging to every worker in the country. Systematic efforts will have to be made through the Municipalities and Legislatures to encourage legislation making the public bodies and the state responsible for financing liberally social services of various kinds.

Other points dealt with by the speaker were the following:

Minimum Wage Standards. - The minimum wage of course stands in the forefront of our demands. It is no revolutionary stunt, but a common place even in capitalistic countries. On principle, few will be found to challenge it; but to secure it in actual practice will require earnest and unceasing endeavours. Even if the legislatures of the country can be induced to pass necessary enactments it will require a careful statistical inquiry before a definite amount can be laid down as the minimum wage. It will be obvious that the amount will vary according to places for which it is fixed. In a general way however it can be laid down that in large cities like Bombay and Calcutta no man can live a comfortable decent life unless for a family consisting of a husband, wife and two children the total income is at least Rs. 100 a month. In the smaller towns and rural areas Rs. 60 should be required for the family of a similar size. In the absence of such minimum wage "food, warmth and clothing which are necessary for the mere main-

tenance of the functions of the body in their normal state cannot be obtained."

Hours of Work. - Next to the question of wages there is the no less important question of the hours of work. Since the establishment of The International Labour Conference at Geneva, a substantial agreement has been reached among civilised nations on this issue; and in many important industries an eight hours day has been agreed to. This represents a great step forward. Not more than a hundred years ago children of nine years of age were forced to work ten hours per day or even more. Distinguished authorities like Prince Kropotkin and Mr. Bertrand Russell (now Lord Russell) have visualised a four hours day which with better organisation and scientific management could easily produce at least as great a quantity of consumable commodities as are produced at present. But that is perhaps a too ambitious goal for the immediate future. A six hours day however is even now an affair of practical politics. Long hours and much overtime reduce the efficiency of the worker without increasing production. All the reduction of working hours has so far not involved any diminution of output. In the interest of industrialism itself it would be a most desirable piece of social legislation; the reduction of the number of working hours is a thoroughly sound proposition. It decreases the cost of production by reducing sick leave. In the recent resolution of the Indian National Congress we have the assurance by the biggest political body in the country that the limitation of the working hours will be a recognised principle. We have also been assured in that resolution of a fairly advanced programme of other beneficent reforms for the working classes. All this was substantially recommended in the Nehru Report and approved by the Calcutta Congress in 1928. But its restatement at this psychological moment is all to the good.

Measures to Combat Unemployment. - The responsibility for combating unemployment is to a considerable extent to be shouldered by the Government. The money necessary for such practical action can be secured in two ways, viz, by reducing wasteful expenditure on the army and the foreign personnel in the Civil Service. Education and medical relief are starved in this country. If the funds which are today wasted in the manner described above are released for these social purposes we can provide education to every child and free medical assistance to every sick person without a single rupee of additional taxation. If more money is needed for organising unemployment insurance, maternity benefits, old age pensions and the like the same could be secured by taxing large incomes above a certain minimum, by a graduated inheritance tax as proposed in the Congress resolution and by calling upon the bigger industries to contribute towards the relief of miseries for which they themselves are responsible.

Industrial Democracy. - These social and economic reforms will not be complete until the working class gets a substantial control of the conditions of work. In its most extended form this control means an industrial democracy in place of the present industrial autocracy. Political democracy even with adult suffrage

will fail to achieve all that was expected of it until in the industrial sphere the workers and the producers have a determining voice. An economic federal democracy under a political democracy will make the latter real and living. The future thus visualized could be accomplished by the united endeavours of the Trade Union movement in this country, only if this movement extends its sphere of activity beyond the immediate needs of the workers. For this purpose the working class must enter into close and cordial alliance with the Indian National Congress. I have too often heard bitter complaints about the Congress being a capitalist body; but I have found little or no truth in that accusation. (The Hindu, 12-4-31).

Resolutions Adopted.- The following are some of the important resolutions adopted by the Convention:-

1. This convention expresses its disapproval of the action of the Government in prosecuting workers and leaders of the trade union movement and in view of the provisional settlement arrived at between the Government of India and the Indian National Congress and in order to secure a peaceful atmosphere in the country, this convention urges the immediate and unconditional release of all classes of political and labour prisoners, and under-trial prisoners convicted in connection with the South Indian Railway strike of 1928.

2. That in order to safeguard the interests of employees as well as to maintain the efficiency of the staff, this convention urges upon all local bodies the introduction of the time-scale pay providing, on ^{an} average, service for 25 years in the different groups of salaried employees in their employment.

3. ~~That~~ This convention strongly protests against the formation of and retention of staff offices in the various railways in these days of economic strife and urges the removal of the same as a first retrenchment measure in as much as the trade unions will serve the purpose sought for by these offices.

4. This convention is strongly ^{convinced of} ~~of opinion~~ the necessity of providing adequate labour representation in the second Round Table Conference to place before it the view point of workers in the making of the future constitution for India and recommends that the number of such delegates should be 9 and that the personnel of the delegation be selected by the Executive Committee of this federation in consultation with the Executive Committees of the other All-India Labour organisations.

5. This convention is strongly of opinion (a) the system of daily wages for the conductors, motormen and linemen in the Madras Electric Tramway and Electric Supply Corporation be abolished and that they may be put into the salaried register on time-scale with a decent monthly minimum pay as obtaining in Bombay and Calcutta (b) they may be allowed ~~at~~ a day's leave a week and granted leave on the basis of fundamental rules and (c) providing for old age, provident fund system, as obtaining in the railways, should be introduced.

6. This convention deplores the split in the All-India Trades Union Congress since the Nagpur session of 1929 and the incalculable harm it has done to the cause of the workers in India. It appeals to all sections in the movement to close up their ranks and to concentrate on carrying on a united fight by all legitimate, lawful, constitutional and peaceful means with a view to liberating the working class from the life of incessant toil and drudgery to which they are now condemned.

7. ~~That~~ This convention assures all employers in India that the Federation will have due regard to the interests of the employers and employed and will promote harmony between them and in order to secure this object ~~in view~~ this convention requests the Government to promote ~~such~~ legislation ~~as to make~~ provision for profit-sharing between the employers and the employees.

8. ~~That~~ This convention places on record its considered opinion that the conclusions so far arrived at at the Round Table Conference regarding the future constitution for India are unsatisfactory. This convention while congratulating the Indian National Congress upon its recognition of the legitimate rights of workers expresses its emphatic opinion that no constitution for the future Government of India shall be acceptable to the country unless it is based on the following principles both for the British Indian and the Indian States' subjects:-

1. Universal adult suffrage, 2. fundamental rights of personal liberty, association, conscience, speech and press. 3. elimination of female labour from dangerous occupations, 4. maternity benefits, 5. free compulsory primary education, free secondary education and special educational facilities for adults, 6. a living wage for workers based on the family budget, 7. working hours being limited to 6 hours a day and 34 hours a week, 8. healthy conditions of work, 9. protection against the economic consequences of old age, sickness accident and unemployment, 10. abolition of compulsory labour, 11. abolition of compulsory work on holidays and of overtime work, 12. the right to strike, 13. free medical relief and free libraries, 14. abolition of food taxes and 15. nationalisation of key industries.

Office-bearers for 1931-32. - Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Chairman; Messrs. C. Basudev of Madras and R. V. Fulay of Nagpur, Vice-Chairmen, Mr. S. Mukundalal Sircar, Secretary, and Mr. B. Datta of Calcutta, Treasurer.

The invitation from a Delhi delegate requesting that the next convention be held at Delhi was accepted. (The Hindu, 13-4-31).

(The proceedings of the 1st Salaried Employees' Convention held at Calcutta in 1930 are reviewed at pages 49-50 of the report of this office for January 1930).

Conditions of Work of Clerks in Commercial Offices.

The following details about the hard conditions of service under which clerks have to work in Indian commercial establishments are taken from a letter dated 4-4-31, on the subject contributed to the 'New India' of 9-4-31 by a Tuticorin correspondent writing under the pseudonym "A Mere Clerk" :-

"In the Legislative Assembly, Mr. N. M. Joshi, opposed the proposal of the Government for the non-ratification of the convention regarding the hours of work of salaried employees in commercial establishments, restaurants, etc.,. Ultimately the Government agreed to postpone the decision to the Simla session. (See page 27 of this report)

I wish to point out that the lot of clerks in commercial establishments is far worse than that of the industrial wage-earners, who are at least able to make representations through their Unions, and unemployment amongst the middle classes is even more acute than among the working classes, with the consequence that for every vacancy there are at least ten applicants on the waiting list. Also, owing to communal and caste distinctions, clerks are afraid of organizing themselves into Unions. If the conditions obtaining in Tuticorin, ^(South India) are typical, I have no hesitation in saying that our lives are far harder than those of the manual labourers. We work for more than 10 hours, sometimes even 15 hours, a day without any right to a holiday. We are compelled to work even on Sundays and on festival days. Our salaries range from Rs.15 to Rs.30 a month. Representations have sometimes been made to the Indian Chamber of Commerce without any effect. Memorials to the Ministers elicit a formal reply that they will be considered. Is there no way of putting pressure on the commercial community in this country to see that we are treated as human beings?"

Economic Conditions.

Congress Committee to Scrutinise India's Public Debts.

The Working Committee of the Congress has appointed Mr. D.N. Bahadurji, Prof. K.T. Shah, Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, and Mr. J. G. Kumarappa (convener) to carry out ^a scrutiny into the financial transactions of the East India Company and the British Government in India and the so-called public debt of India, and to report on the obligations which should in future be borne by India or England. The committee is to report by the end of May, 1931.

(The Pioneer, 8-4-31).

Scheme for ~~Re~~-Export of Foreign Cloth.

The Congress, working in co-operation with ^{some} ~~the~~ Bombay textile millowners, is engaged at present in working out a scheme for the re-export of the existing stocks of foreign cloth in India. After interviewing Gandhi on 16-4-31, the millowners met at the premises of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, later in the day to give effect to the scheme. They have empowered a sub-committee, consisting of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. Shankarlal Banker and Mr. Lalji Naranji, to draw up the details and work out the scheme. The sub-committee will first collect details about the extent of piecegoods stocked in India, and determine the terms on which goods can be purchased from merchants, and the foreign ~~which~~ countries to which the goods should be exported. A Joint Stock Company, known as the Foreign Piecegoods Export Company, Limited, is to be started to carry on the work and the ~~Articles~~ of the Company are being drawn up. ²

(The Hindu, 17-4-31).

Mill Merger Scheme: Reasons of Failure.

At pages 47 to 49 of the report of this office for March 1931 reference was made to the break-down of the Bombay mill merger scheme. The Times of India, Bombay, of 10-4-31 gives the following reasons for the failure of the scheme:-

"It is authoritatively understood that the proposed scheme for the merger of 35 cotton textile mills of Bombay City has been definitely abandoned on financial grounds; namely, firstly, the Government of India's refusal to forego entirely the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Stamp Duty which would have meant a saving of Rs.3 millions and , secondly, the inability of the Merger Committee to arrange with the Imperial Bank of India a loan of Rs.100 millions to finance the merger. The Government of India agreed to forego half the Stamp Duty, but not the whole of it. The authors of the scheme urged the latter course, quoting as a precedent the action of the British Government in connection with the Lancashire Cotton Corporation."

The Indian Daily Mail, Bombay, gives the following reasons for the failure of the scheme:-

Inquiries made by a representative of the "Indian Daily Mail" show that there are , besides financial reasons, other and more important reasons for the failure of the scheme. To begin with, the report regarding the valuation of these mills made by the two Lancashire experts - Mr. Entwistle and Mr. Thompson - made startling disclosures. It brought to light, it is believed, a deplorable state of affairs in some of the mills; the experts were, for instance, not at all satisfied with the present condition of their machinery, running stock, etc., which they consequently put down at a low price. In other words, they believed that the value of those mills was not what was suggested by their owners. Some of the parties to the project naturally disputed the correctness of the valuation of their mills.

That being so, the Merger Committee decided that no useful purpose would be served by proceeding with the scheme. It is understood

stood that a number of millowners in Bombay and outside raised a fundamental objection to any financial assistance being given by the Government of India to what they described as a "section of the textile industry". This point was, it is believed, carefully considered by the Government, who at once realised its importance and appeared to have changed their original intentions of giving aid through the Imperial Bank. In view of these obvious difficulties, the whole project had to be abandoned. The cost of the valuation of the mills is estimated at a lakh of ^(Rs. 1,00,000) rupees, which sum was subscribed by the Merger Committee. As previously announced in the "I. D. M.", the Bombay Millowners' Association had nothing whatever to do with the merger proposals.

What attitude are the Bombay millowners going to adopt in view of the failure of their scheme? The question is being asked in industrial circles. So far as could be ascertained, efforts are being made by some of them to devise ways and means by which some of the big mills could be effectively grouped. In this connection, it is rumoured that the Century and the Bombay Dyeing Mills, belonging to the Wadias, are to be amalgamated shortly, as Mr. C.N. Wadia (of the Century Mill) is thinking of leaving India for good.

(Extracted from reprint published in the Hindu of 11-4-31.)

Indian Match Industry: Demand for Protection.

The Indian Match Manufacturers' Association has submitted a representation to the Member in charge of the Departments of

Industries and Labour, Government of India, in the course of which it states that "during the Great War India experienced a great dearth of matches and the prices went very high. Government also imposed a customs duty on matches which, though meant for revenue purposes, gave an impetus to the growth of the match industry in the country. The Swedish match manufacturers then formed themselves into a big combine and established several big factories in various parts of the country. Since the submission of its report by the Tariff Board, the Swedish Company has doubled the output of its ~~xxxx~~ x factories and started new factories almost at every place in the country. In 1928 the Company had a factory at each of the following places; Calcutta, Assam, Bombay, Burma. Today the Company has two factories at Calcutta, one at Assam, one at Bombay, two in Burma, one in Madras, two in the U.P., and two in the Andaman Islands.

That is to say, whereas it had only four factories at the time the Tariff Board conducted its inquiry the Company has now eleven factories with vastly increased production. A rate war is

also in progress. This competition has told so heavily on the Indian manufacturers that they have been obliged to reduce their output and some have even closed their factories. If this state of things continues for a few months more almost all the Indian match manufacturers will have no other alternative except to sell their factories to the Swedish Company at any price it may choose to offer. The following steps should therefore be taken by Government:— The operations of the Western India Match Company, which is only another name for the Swedish Match Trust, should be restricted by law to the production of matches not exceeding 30 per cent. of the total requirement of the country. An excise of annas twelve per gross may be levied on its production.

A deputation on behalf of the Indian Match Manufacturers' Association will shortly wait on the Member for Industries and Labour to press the above demands.

(The Times of India, 22-4-31).

Protection to Paper Industry: Tariff Board Inquiry.

The Indian Tariff Board has issued the following communique under dated 20-4-31:-

"It will be recalled that under the Bamboo Paper Industry (Protection) Act of 1925 protective duties were imposed on certain kinds of paper, in order to develop the manufacture in India of paper from bamboo. These duties expire in March 1932 and under the Government of India resolution, dated 26th March 1931, the Tariff Board has been requested to examine how far the Act has achieved its purpose and whether it is desirable to continue the protective measures and, if so, what those measures should be. The Board has been asked to submit its report not later than 15th October and it has called upon all firms and persons, interested in the subject, to submit written representations on the subject not later than the 1st May, 1931 in order that the enquiry may not be delayed".

(The Hindu, 20-4-31).

Government of India Budget for 1931-32.

The Budget of the Government of India for 1931-32 was reviewed at pages 43 to 45 of our March 1931 report, ^{and} it was stated at the end that the ^{final} budget position owing to the alterations subsequently made by the Legislative Assembly will be summarised in this report. The following resolution No.D/118-B dated 9-4-31 issued by the Finance Department of the Government of India and published in the Gazette of India Extra-Ordinary of 11-4-31, summarises the position:-

"The statements relating to the Revised estimates for 1930-31 and the Budget estimates for 1931-32, which were presented to the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State on the 17th and the 28th February 1931. have been reconsidered with reference to the reductions made by the Legislative Assembly in the Demands for Grants, and the course of legislation since the latter date. The changes made are explained below:-

The following reductions were made by the Legislative Assembly in the demands presented to them:-

Demand.	Amount. Rs.
1. Railway Board . . .	1,00,000
Do.	100
16- Customs	100
17- Taxes on Income	100
28- Executive Council	100
39- Army Department	100

All these reductions have been accepted so far as the demands are concerned. The reductions relating to the Railway Board, however,

do not effect the revenue surplus of the Central Government, nor do the other token cuts in view of the fact that the figures in these statements are in round thousands of rupees.

The Indian Finance Act, 1931, as made by the Governor General involves a reduction of Rs. 10.5 millions in the income-tax revenue for the year 1931-32 as previously forecasted. The gap thus created has been partly filled by a reduction of military expenditure to the extent of Rs.6 millions and by a reduction of Civil expenditure to the extent of Rs.1.5 million. The remainder of the gap, viz., Rs.3 millions has the effect of reducing the revenue surplus from Rs.31,06,000 to Rs. 106,000. It has not been considered necessary at this stage to make any alteration in the estimates as a result of ^{the} passing of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931, or the Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931, as their effect on the net revenue ~~re~~ position of the Central Government will probably be inappreciable.

New Rules of Income Tax. - Certain alterations have been made in the rates of Income Tax (vide page 45 of our March 1931 report). The new rates of Income Tax, according to the Indian Finance Act of 1931, are shown below:-

A. In the case of every individual, Hindu undivided family, unregistered firm and other association of individuals not being a registered firm or a company:-

- (1) When the total income is less than Rs.2,000:- Nil.
- (2) When the total income is Rs.2,000 or upwards, but is less than Rs. 5,000:- Six pies in the rupee.
- (3) When the total income is Rs. 5,000 or upwards, but is less than Rs 10,000:- Nine pies in the rupee.
- (4) When the total income is Rs.10,000 or upwards, but is less than 15,000:- One anna in the rupee.
- (5) When the total income is Rs. 15,000 or upwards, but is less than Rs.20,000:- One anna and four pies in the rupee.

(6) When the total income is Rs.20,000 or upwards but is less than Rs. 30,000:- One anna and seven pies in the rupee.

(7) When the total income is Rs. 30,000 or upwards but is less than Rs. 40,000: One anna and eleven pies in the rupee.

(8) When the total income is Rs.40,000 or upwards, but is less than Rs.100,000:- Two annas and one pie in the rupee.

(9) When the total income is Rs.100,000 or upwards: Two annas and two pies in the rupee.

B. In the case of every company and registered firm, whatever its total income:- Two annas and two pies in the rupee.

Unemployment.

Unemployment in Bombay: Need for Labour Exchanges.

The following information about the nature and extent of unemployment in Bombay City is taken from an article on the subject published in the Times of India of 28-4-31:-

The problem of unemployment in Bombay City is growing more acute day by day and the plight of workless people wandering in the streets is pitiable. There is unemployment in almost every class of intellectual and manual labour, with the sole exception of the cotton textile industry of Bombay. "Retrenchment" is the slogan of the employer of labour and of the tax-payer every-where, Drastic reduction of staff is going on apace in every government and public office, commercial firm, railway workshop and factory. Thousands of educated and uneducated men and women are to be seen moving about aimlessly in search of work.

Statistical Data re. Unemployment. - There is no statistical data available to measure the extent of unemployment in Bombay. The representative of Bombay City, North, on the Legislative Council, however, made bold to affirm at the Council session in March 1931, when he moved the appointment of a committee to investigate and report upon unemployment, that "out of a population of 11,50,000 ~~in~~ in the City of Bombay, nearly 1,50,000 to 2,00,000, people are without work." It is to be hoped that this figure is an exaggeration, but no one is in a position to challenge it as a gross over-estimate in the absence of any statistical data. It may, however, be stated without any fear of contradiction that the extent of the problem has reached a stage which calls for serious notice both from the point of view of the state and society.

Help to Communism. - The daily swelling number of the workless manual labourers is a menace to the peace of the city and the growing discontent, and distress among the educated middle classes caused by lack of employment are a danger to the state as potential communists. The lack of suitable avenues of employment is not restricted to any class or community, One often hears of instances in which young men and women are driven by want to acts of demoralisation. The calls made upon philanthropic institutions and on those individuals who have the good fortune of some means of livelihood have strained their resources to breaking point.

Textile Labour Fully Employed. - The only redeeming feature of the unemployment problem in the city at the moment is that textile labour remains more or less unaffected. All the mills in Bombay with the exception of four or five are working in full swing and about a dozen are even working night shifts, thanks to the boycott movement. These mills have thus been able to absorb the full strength of the textile labour population estimated at over 1,50,000.

Reduction of Staff in Commercial offices. - As against this silver lining to the cloud, the serious fall in the import and export trade and the heavy losses being incurred by the Port Trust, the railways and the shipping companies are reflected in the constant reductions of staff which ~~they~~ have become a common occurrence. It is estimated that about 35,000 sea-faring men are wandering in the docks in vain quest of jobs. Several thousand dock workers are without work. The railway workshops are discharging their men on the shortest possible notice in hundreds, besides making drastic reductions in wages of those retained.

Middle Class Unemployment. - When the question of appointing a committee on unemployment was brought before the last session of the Bombay Legislative Council (which the Council rejected), the subject was dismissed after a short debate which could by no means be described as instructive or well-informed. One member who opposed the motion advanced the theory that the unemployment in Bombay was due to the fact that the rates of wages paid in the city were much higher than those paid in the surrounding provinces and up-country places. This attracted outside labour to the detriment of local labour. "It is labour that is dislodged on account of its own inefficiency," was the emphatic argument of the member in question.

With regard to unemployment among the educated middle classes the General Member of the Government ^(Bombay) quoted the conclusion arrived at by the Labour Office based on an investigation conducted by it that most of the persons unemployed were those who were half educated and had not passed the matriculation examination. This explanation of middle-class unemployment will be disputed by many heads of departments in public and private offices in Bombay who are daily pestered by young men of high university attainments for jobs scarcely higher than that of a chaprasi ^(clerk) in regard to emoluments. A single advertisement for a clerk on Rs. 30 produces hundreds of applications not excluding graduates ~~applicants~~.

Unemployment of Agricultural Workers & Labour Exchanges. - Speaking about the reluctance of agricultural labour to migrate to places like those served by Sukkur Barrage, the General Member said: "There are big irrigation works. I am ready to employ labourers in the Sukkur Barrage. Are they prepared to go to Sind?"

The problem cannot be solved by the appointment of a committee and that is how the resolution before the Council last month apparently failed to evoke much support. Neither Government nor the employers of labour can stem the tide of trade depression and its natural sequel. Much can, however, be done to regulate and control unemployment by the establishment of labour exchanges

which are common in all civilised countries and which have never been tried in this country. By the inauguration of such an exchange in Bombay, government and the employers of labour could cooperate to see that no industry is allowed to suffer for want of labour and that the demand is met by a proper distribution between urban and rural areas. The desirability of inaugurating a labour exchange in Bombay might well engage the urgent attention of government in the existing state of affairs.

(The Times of India, 28-4-31).

A solution for unemployment - "Compulsory Leave" Scheme.

The decision of the Railway Board to reduce the personnel of the various Indian railway systems (see page 19 of the March 1931 report) is causing considerable unrest in the Anglo-Indian ~~and~~ community, a large proportion of the members of which community is employed at present in the Indian railways. In this connection the Council of the C.P. and Berar Provincial Branch of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association, Nagpur, have passed unanimously a resolution at an urgent meeting held recently. It is a non-communal proposal that seeks to relieve the distress of the greatest number, irrespective of caste or creed. The following is ^{the} gist of the resolution which has been sent to the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway:

"The Council of the ~~G.I.P. Railway~~ C.P. and Berar Provincial Branch of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association, All-India and Burma, view with concern the discharge of employees of the G.I.P. Railway with less than five years service, which has caused considerable distress in the Anglo-Indian Community. In view of the distress caused by these discharges and the prospects of no employment for these men under present conditions, this Council respectfully offers a proposal for your consideration, which, if adopted, will alleviate this distress and at the same time attain the results desired by your Administration.

"The proposal is the introduction of Compulsory Leave without pay for the whole of the subordinate staff in rotation, irrespective of caste ~~and~~ and creed, in place of definite discharge of a few men.

As an example, if there be a staff of 120,000 men and it is desired to reduce this number by 10,000 let 10,000 be given one month's compulsory leave without pay, after which they will resume duty and a second batch of 10,000 be given one month's compulsory leave and so on. Thus in twelve months the Administration will save the wages of 10,000 men for the full year which is the desired result. At the same time this system will save ten thousand families or about fifty thousand souls from perpetual distress at the expense of a little hardship shared equally by all employees, i.e., co-operative sharing of distress. Elaborated, this system may include the ~~Staff~~ Station Staff of Stations that are to be closed down, traffic staff, loco staff, in fact the whole of the Staff of the Administration in rotation where economies are to be effected, the nett result being eleven paid months in a year in place of discharging large numbers.

It might be mentioned that a similar scheme was successfully tried out on the B.B. and C.I. and B.N. Railways many years ago during the slack seasons when surplus employees, busy during the rush seasons, were given Compulsory Leave for three months without pay in place of discharge. There is no reason why this scheme should not help largely to solve the unemployment problem; indeed, if extended to all industries where prospects of dismissal loom large due to economic causes, the overcrowded unemployed market will be given some relief.

(The Pioneer, 11-4-1931).

Co-operation.

Progress of Co-operation in the Bombay Presidency,

1929-30.*

The Annual report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) for the twelve months ending 31st March 1930, issued by the Government of Bombay shows that the Co-operative movement continued to make satisfactory progress during the year under review inspite of ~~the~~ unfavourable agricultural conditions. The following were the main lines of co-operative activity in the Presidency during the year:-

(1) Agricultural - (a) agricultural credit societies, (b) agricultural non-credit societies and (c) unions; (2) The Provincial Co-operative Bank; (3) District Central Banks and (4) Non-Agricultural credit societies.

The total number of cooperative societies increased during the year under review from 5,472 in the preceding year to 5,734, while the total membership rose from 548,634 to 575,616. The 5734 societies in working during 1929-30 were made up as follow :-

Central Banks - 20 (members - 12,976), Agricultural Societies - 4,779 (members - 343,624), Non-Agricultural Societies - 831 (members - 219,016), Unions - 101, ~~memberxxx~~ Insurance Societies - 3,

* Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind), For the twelve months ending 31st March 1931. Price - Annas 7 or 9d. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1931. pp. 179.

Working capital registered an increase from Rs. 119,179,910 in the preceding year to Rs. 128,138,592 in 1929-30. There was an increase of Rs. 1,325,059 in the Reserve Fund from Rs. 8,055,092 to Rs. 9,380,151.

The number of agricultural credit societies increased from 4,317 to 4,526 and the total membership from 262,569 to 265,325. Working capital increased from Rs. 34,984,553 to Rs. 38,730,928, and the reserve fund from Rs. 4,636,785 to Rs. 5,550,669. The fact that this progress was achieved along with a rigorous pursuit of the policy of consolidation indicates the scope for further expansion.

The progress in Sind continued to be satisfactory. The total number of agricultural societies increased from 877 to 912, the members from 27,461 to 28,232 and their working capital from Rs. 6,725,152 to Rs. 8,164,413, registering an increase of 21.4 per cent.

The agricultural non-credit societies showed healthy activity during the period under review. Of these, the most successful were the cotton sales societies, numbering 25. They sold cotton weighing 352,518 maunds (1 maund = 80 lbs) and realised Rs. 4,530,136.

The position of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank continued to be satisfactory. The number of shareholders increased from 2,113 to 2,440 during the year under review. The total resources commanded by the Bank went down by nearly Rs. 2.7 millions. The paid up share capital, however, showed an increase from Rs. 1,274,350 to Rs. 1,287,750. The amount of share capital held by shareholders increased from Rs. 448,750 to Rs. 530,000.

(The progress of Co-operation in the Bombay Presidency during the year 1928-29 is reviewed at pages 44 to 45 of the March 1930 Report).

Progress of Co-operation in the Madras Presidency 1929-30*

The following details about the progress of co-operation in the Madras Presidency are taken from the Annual Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies Act in the Presidency for the period 1st July 1929 to 30th June 1930 submitted to the Government of Madras by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras:-

Number of Societies. - The number of societies of all classes rose from 15,086 to 15,238, an increase of 1 per cent. These are distributed thus:- Provincial Bank -1, Central Land Mortgage Bank -1, Primary land mortgage banks-27, Provincial Co-operative Union and Language Federations-3, Central banks -31, Federations -24, Audit unions-12, Supervising Unions -405, Training Institutes-6, Agricultural societies -13,079, Non-agricultural societies-1,649.

Membership. - The number of villages including towns affected by the Co-operative movement is 34,087 out of the total number of 53,024 villages and towns in the Presidency. The number of members in all the societies excluding supervising unions was 974,999 as against 940,784 in the previous year, giving an average of 66 members per society as against 64 in the previous two years. These members are classified as follow:- Cultivating landholders-400,842, Non-cultivating landholders-62,820, Tenants -63,824, Field labourers-45,312, Non-agricultural -290,404, Mixed-111,797. There has been a slight fall in membership under field labourers.

Growth of Working Capital. - The working capital of all societies rose from Rs.1,65.153 millions in 1928-29 to Rs.1,79.936 millions in the year under review. The total working capital of the

* Annual Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies Act, II of 1912, for the year 1929-30. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. Price 1 rupee 4 annas. 1931. pp.251+3.

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movement excluding the investments of one society in another
amounted to Rs. 93.399 millions/^{as} against Rs. 90.869 millions in the
previous year and was made up as follows:-

	Millions.
Paid-up share capital	18.556
Deposits of individuals and institutions	61.369
Reserve fund	9.851
Loans from Government	3.623
Total ...	93.399

The percentage of owned capital (share capital plus reserve fund) to working capital was 18.5 against 18.89 in the previous year.

Agricultural Societies. - The number of agricultural credit societies increased from 12,382 to 12,540, representing an increase of 1.3 per cent against 3.5 per cent in the previous year. With the exception of 62 societies all are on the unlimited liability basis. Amongst the agricultural non-credit societies there were 128 societies for purchase and purchase and sale at the end of the year against 133 at the beginning. The value of stock sold by these societies was Rs. 3,56,670 against Rs.2,22,130 in the previous year. A few of the societies undertook the sale of members' products for commission to the extent of Rs.3,54,535 against Rs. 5,67,031 in the year 1928-29, while the purchase of members' products rose from Rs.2,06,586 in the beginning of the year to Rs.3,53,109 at the end.

Non-agricultural Societies. - The number of non-agricultural societies fell from 1,659 to 1,649, but the number of members rose from 246,592 to 259,693 representing an increase of 5 percent. Of these societies 1,151 were credit societies. Amongst the non-credit non-agricultural societies there were 199 stores societies

and the value of stock sold rose from Rs. 2.371 millions to Rs. 2.438 millions and the net divisible profit fell from Rs. 51,973 to Rs. 48,843. The net loss incurred by some societies increased from Rs. 23,169 to Rs. 33,662, or by Rs. 10,493. The proposals of the Registrar for the organization of a central depot at Madras for the disposal of weavers' products, referred to in the last year's review, had to be dropped owing to financial stringency.

Supervising and Audit Unions. - The number of supervising and audit unions increased from 416 to 417 during the year. Besides these there were 3 propagandist unions, 24 district federations and 6 co-operative training institutes. Apart from the sum of Rs. 1,200 granted by Government ~~contributed~~ to the Provincial Co-operative Union, the Government contributed a sum of Rs. 16,275 to federations for conducting classes for panchayatdars. A sum of Rs. 19,087 was also contributed by Government to the training institutes to meet their running expenses. In the co-operation classes conducted at the Government Institute of Commerce, Madras, 26 candidates came out successful out of the 33 selected.

Suits instituted. - The number of suits instituted in civil courts increased from 1,026 to 1,401 in the year under review and the number of arbitration references preferred was 26,104 as compared with 24,768 in the previous year.

Labour Contract Societies. - The number of societies for labourers fell from 63 to 59 during the period under review. In the opinion of the Registrar, the condition of these societies were far from satisfactory. Most of them were incurring heavy losses and those that were not ^{incurring losses} were practically under the control of one man, usually

an ex-contractor. The total number of members in these societies were 3,540 of whom 2,577 were actual workers, the remaining being outside helpers. They had a paid-up share capital of Rs.21,337 and a reserve fund of Rs. 28,278. Twenty-four of them secured contracts to the value of Rs.176,282 as against Rs 163,325 secured by 83 societies in the last year. Work to the value of Rs.101,470 was pending execution at the beginning of the year and the societies completed within the year work valued at Rs.2,09,960. A sum of Rs. 74,948 was paid as wages to members and Rs.46,254 to non-members usually at market rates. Only three of these societies were able to pay bonus to the members, the total bonus amounting to the insignificant figure of Rs.970.

Weavers' Societies.— There were 39 societies exclusively for weavers and 95 credit societies of which more than 60 per cent of the members were weavers. Nearly half the number of societies exclusively for weavers were dormant. In dealing with the subject of forming co-operative societies for handloom weavers as recommended by the Special officer for the survey of Cottage Industries, it was found that the attempts already made had proved a failure as the societies always came into conflict with master weavers. The Textile Advisory Committee discussed these difficulties and considered the desirability of forming a Central Weavers' Co-operative Society. It was at first anticipated that, through a central organization, weavers could get yarn cheap and reduce the number of middlemen between the handloom weaver and the ultimate purchaser to a minimum, and that the weavers would then be enabled to get a larger share of the profits. The Government were informed of the financial assistance required from them and also of the extent of such assistance given by the

Governments of Bengal and the Punjab to similar organizations working in those Provinces. The Textile Advisory Committee after considering the scheme recommended that primary societies for weavers should be started and a central society and bank organized ~~of~~ for financing the primary societies and conducting the sale of their finished products. The central organization was also intended to arrange for the demonstration of the use of machine-sized ready made warps and to popularize other improved preparatory processes and methods of weaving. There was to be a business manager to study and collect information in regard to marketing of handloom products and make this information available to the weavers. It was also recommended to the Government that they should make a recurring grant to enable the organization to meet the establishment and other charges during its initial years. This scheme had to be kept in abeyance owing to financial stringency.

(The progress of Co-operation in the Madras Presidency during 1928-29 was reviewed at pages 64 to 67 of the report of this office for May 1930).

2nd All-India Co-operative Institutes' Conference, 1931,
Hyderabad.

The 2nd All-India Co-operative Conference was held at Hyderabad on 4-4-1931 under the presidentship of Sir Lallubhai Samaldas, C.I.E., Delegates representing all provinces and most of the Indian States were present.

In his presidential address, Sir Lallubhai made a valuable summary of the progress of co-operation in India, analysed the special reasons for the slow growth of the movement in certain provinces, and

suggested certain measures for accelerating the growth of the co-operative movement in India. The following were the salient points in his address:-

General Survey.- The Provincial Banking Enquiry Committees have laid special stress on the spread of the co-operative movement in India as the hope of rural India in respect of credit, yet the progress made hitherto is not satisfactory. In Bombay for instance only 10.7 per cent of the agricultural population has been ~~now~~ brought under the influence of the cooperative movement and only 7 per cent of the finance required for the current needs of agriculture is supplied through its agency. Even in the Punjab, which is said to lead in the matter of cooperative progress, not more than 11 per cent. of the population are affected by the cooperative movement. In Bihar and Orissa not more than two per cent of the sum required annually for the finance of agriculture is provided through the coöperative machinery, and its share of the total indebtedness is still less. Only 5 per cent of the rural households deal with agricultural credit societies in that province, while in Bengal one out of five villages and one out of fifteen families are served by the coöperative agency. For the Central Provinces and Berar, the figures are still more unsatisfactory; only two per cent of the families are reached by co-operative societies whose share of the total agricultural debt of the provision is hardly three per cent.

Reasons for slow progress.- There may be special reasons for slow progress, ~~the President said~~ in particular provinces, such as the inability of the Registrar to register new societies owing to the limited staff at his disposal and Government's refusal in the present unsatisfactory state of their finances to sanction any increase in expenditure. But the general causes which impede growth are (1) inelasticity of the machinery of finance; (2) Uneconomic nature of the agricultural industry; and (3) Want of education and consequent inefficiency of the human material.

Agricultural Marketing.- The problem of the economic improvement of the agriculturists is very complex and involves ~~such~~ large issues of national policy. But whatever the peculiar difficulties, coöperators in all provinces should strive to evolve some well considered plans for the marketing of agricultural produce and the supply of requisites through Co-operative agency. It is a pity that there are no such arrangements today; otherwise they would have proved invaluable in dealing with the present agricultural depression and been of immense help in enabling agriculturists to tide over the present period of falling prices.

Education.- Education, however, transcends in importance all the other factors affecting Co-operative progress. The very foundation for the trained exercise of intelligence is unfortunately lacking in the country among the masses of its rural population; and hence the task of diffusing the knowledge of coöperative principles and practice has become an extremely arduous one. What is wanted is a redirection of the system of education so as to train the agriculturist in better living, in better ~~forming~~ farming, and in better business; and the value of co-operation lies in the fact that it is the most suitable agency

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through which this programme of practical education for the rural population can be taken in hand.

Need for Federation.— At present few, if any, of the provincial organisations are federations; some have mixed membership, others have local and a few have no local or federal units interposed between themselves and their primary societies. The ideal apex organisation should be of the federal type, affiliating to itself the local controlling unions which operate in small areas, with or without district or regional federal unions interposed between the apex organisation and the local unions.

The following is a summary of the more important resolutions passed by the Conference:—

(1) The existing practice of holding separate All-India conferences for Provincial Co-operative Banks and Provincial Co-operative Institutes should be discontinued, and in their stead an All-India Co-operative Congress to which the Provincial Governments and the Indian States should be invited to depute their Registrars should be held every year.

(2) The franchise for the provincial legislatures should be extended to all members of coöperative societies, and the franchise for the central legislature to all members of the managing committees of provincial, district and central banks and of provincial, divisional and district federations or institutes.

(3) Central Organisations should be set up for marketing agricultural produce.

(4) The Conference decided to systematise and further the spread of co-operative education and training, to encourage and publish coöperative literature and publish a journal of coöperation.

(5) The Conference also ~~recommended that~~ decided that steps should be taken to conduct once a year a co-operative study tour round different parts of India and to request railway authorities to grant suitable facilities and concession rates, for this purpose.

(6) The most important resolution passed was that relating to the system of audit of societies. It stated inter alia that, as there was now no uniformity in the system of audit, supervision and inspection of societies in the several provinces — in some provinces the examination being entrusted to three different agencies and in others to two — there was a great deal of duplication of work and unnecessary waste of effort and money. The system of mutual supervision through separate supervising unions and District Federations and District Councils was on the whole unsuccessful in all the provinces, in which it had been tried. If the auditor were given a manageable number of societies he would do far more than by mere mechanical audit by way of instructing the Panchayatdars of societies in the right methods of conducting their business and enabling them to rectify the irregularities found on audit. Therefore, a provincial scheme of centralised audit by well trained auditors would bring about the necessary efficiency and economy. The various provinces and states in India should adopt a scheme of the nature outlined in the resolution with modifications to suit local conditions.

(Times of India, 14-4-1931)

Women and Children.Boys' Welfare Association, Calcutta.

An important step in connexion with the treatment of neglected and delinquent children, who are to be found in large numbers in the streets and bustees of Calcutta, was taken at a meeting held at the Y. M. C. A., Calcutta, on 21-4-31 when a Boys' Welfare Association was formed. Mr. J. C. Mukerji presided.

Describing the miserable lot of the street-boys of Calcutta, the efforts that have recently been made for their welfare, and the need for the creation of a central organisation for coördinating the activities of the various agencies working in this field, Mr. B.K.Mukerji, who is Presidency Magistrate, Central Children's Court, Calcutta, stated that the number of neglected and delinquent children in the city was appalling. According to a police report, the number of these boys in 1929 was over 5,000, many of them having no homes.

During the last six months different organizations started boys' clubs with a view to befriending these homeless boys. Games, drill and scouting, had already been introduced at all these places and arrangements had also been made in one of the centres for elementary education.

The work had so far been carried out entirely on a voluntary basis by public spirited men and women. The result had been most encouraging. At present the Presidency Council of Women, the Y.M.C.A., the Tec H, the Youngmen's Association (~~Part-Circus~~) and a number of students from different hostels were taking active interest in the work.

What was now required was a central organization for co-ordinating the work of the different clubs and dealing with questions of equipment, fund, trained workers, suitable employment for boys, and providing shelter for destitute children. (The Statesman, 21-4-31).

The following office-bearers for the Boys' Welfare Association for 1931-32 were elected: President - Mr. Justice C. C. Ghose; Vice-President - Mr. J. C. Mukerji; Secretary - Miss D. Chatterji, and Treasurer - Mr. Norman Winter.

Commenting on the urgent need for public action for ensuring the welfare of homeless children in Calcutta, the Statesman of 30-4-31 in a leader observes:-

Annually about 5,500 delinquent and beggar children are dealt

with in the Courts in and near Calcutta, but the usual consequence is a warning and discharge in which is neither deterrence for the victimizers nor rescue for the victims. More sections of the Children's Act must be brought into operation. The agencies helping the children through it should be supported and provided with the necessary machinery, which should include not only the industrial and reformatory schools contemplated under the Act but also a ~~reformatory~~ proper rescue home to which young criminals may be sent with special Children's Courts for which a beginning has been made in Calcutta. Bombay is much better off. It has a satisfactory Children Act, a Society to work it enjoying generous support from Government, and at Umarkhadi a remand home that goes a long way towards meeting the special needs of children who have begun to get into trouble. Bengal requires more adequate legislation, more facilities, more official and public support and a better informed public opinion behind those fighting the evil. Children have rights which Geneva has proclaimed for children everywhere, rights to normal development, to be fed and sheltered and nursed and helped in trouble, to be put first in time of calamity, to be protected against exploitation and victimization. That, briefly, is the declaration of Geneva, otherwise known as the Children's Charter. Those who have leisure to think of the oppressed and have used their eyes in Calcutta's streets can form their own opinion of the distance the city is from that ideal. (The Statesman, 30-4-31)

Maritime Affairs.Conference of Eastern Countries on Pilgrim Traffic in the East.

A conference of representatives of Governments in the East specially interested in deck passengers and pilgrim trades will commence in Simla on the 26th May. This is being arranged by the Government of India at the suggestion of His Majesty's Government. Besides representatives of the Government of India and shipping interests in India, the conference will be attended by representatives from Netherlands, East Indies, French Eastern Colonies, Straits Settlements, Hong Kong and Ceylon. British Guiana, Fiji and Trinidad will not be separately represented at the conference, but their interests will be looked after by the representatives of the Straits Settlements. It may be recalled that the international convention for safety of life at sea, signed at London in May 1929, authorizes an administration to exempt, subject to certain conditions, ships employed in carriage of large numbers of unberthed passengers in special trades from the requirements of chapters 2 and 3 of the convention relating to construction and life-saving appliances. One of the conditions for the grant of such exemption is that steps shall be taken to formulate, in consultation with such other contracting Governments as may be directly interested in the carriage of unberthed passengers, generally rules which shall be applicable to ^{the} particular circumstances of the trades in question.

(The Hindu 26-4-31).

Migration.

Scheme for Closer Union of East Africa:

Government of India's Despatch.

At pages 58-59 of the October 1929 report of this Office reference was made to the chief recommendations made by Sir Samuel Wilson on the scheme for the closer union of the Kenya colony with the protected Uganda and the mandated Tanganyika territories which aroused a storm of protest from the Indians both in East Africa as well as in India. Soon after the publication of Sir Samuel Wilson's recommendations, the Government of India deputed the Right Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri to East Africa to help the Indian community there to present its case to Sir Samuel Wilson. The report submitted by Mr. Sastri on his mission was published by the Government of India on 1-3-1930. (A brief summary of the report is given at pages 59 to 62 of the March 1930 report of this Office). The conclusions of His Majesty's Government on the Scheme for the Closer Union of East Africa was issued as a White Paper in June 1930 (a summary of the White Paper appears at pages 76-79 of our June 1930 report).

The Government of India sent its views on the closer union question to His Majesty's Government in a Despatch dated 15-10-1930. The full text of the Despatch was released for publication on 21-4-31. The following ^{are the main} points of the Despatch ~~and its main points:-~~

The despatch voices the "mingled feelings of satisfaction and apprehension" entertained in non-official circles on the scheme for closer union. It is pointed out that the Indian community views with alarm the prospect of any plan which has in it the potentialities of developing into a political coalescence which would reduce the three territories of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika to provinces of a unified state exercising both executive and legislative powers. But Indian opinion welcomes the reiteration by His Majesty's Govern-

ment of the principle of paramountcy of the interests of African Natives and desires that this should not be interpreted and applied to discriminate against immigrants of a particular race.

As regards the Kenya Legislative Council, the question of a common electoral roll is of primary and vital importance, as on it depends the satisfactory solution of the East African problem from the Indian standpoint. If the interests of natives are to be defended by nominated non-officials, there is no reason why the choice should be restricted to Europeans and why Indians should not be appointed.

Examining the scheme of closer union, the Despatch says that the interests of the Indian community in the three areas are sufficiently extensive to warrant the appointment of at least one Indian from each to represent that community in the Council which would assist the High Commissioner (vide page 76 of June 1930 Report of this office).

Regarding the transferred services, the Government of India urges the retention of the safeguarding clause, according to which, at the request of three members of this Council, any measure passed by it might be referred to the Secretary of State for Colonies for the King's pleasure. This is required to protect Indians against any measure detrimental to their interests. The Government of India support the reaffirmation of His Majesty's declaration that the interests of African Natives must be paramount.

As regards the Kenya Legislative Council, the despatch urges a common roll and after setting out the history of this question it notes with satisfaction His Majesty's Government's declaration that they regard the establishment of a common roll as "the object to be aimed at and attained with an equal franchise of a civilisation or education character open to all races." At the same time, the Government of India urge that the inquiry proposed by the High Commissioner, in the direction of the establishment of a common roll, should be under taken as soon as possible, so that the fruition of hopes, which His Majesty's Government's declaration has raised in the minds of the Indian community, may not be delayed longer than is absolutely necessary.

The despatch welcomes the decision of His Majesty's Government that the constitution of the Kenya Legislative Council should be substantially unchanged and that an official majority should be retained. It emphasises that the retention of an official majority is in the best interest of the Colony as a whole. While preferring the present position in this respect, the Government of India have no great objection to the appointment of two non-official members instead of one as at present to represent the interests of Africans and others as these would be nominated by the Governor without restriction of race. (The Pioneer 23-4-31).

Indian Emigrants to France:

Rules for Admission.

The Consul for France in Bombay in a statement to the Times of India warns people from attempting to emigrate to France with the idea of getting employment there. He says that those who wish to enter French territory with that object will be first called upon to produce a contract signed by their prospective employers and counter-signed by the French Labour Ministry. Those who do not fulfil this formality, will meet a great deal of inconvenience and be turned out from the territory.

The Consul for France is advised that a Calcutta newspaper recently published a letter suggesting that in view of the impending constitutional changes in India which will naturally result in greater Indianisation of the services, Anglo-Indians should consider the advisability of emigrating to France where they could get employment easily. The correspondent also suggested that the number of men in France was limited, that Spanish, Italian, and Polish settlers in France were well off, and that there was no colour prejudice in that country. On the basis of the above-mentioned letter, a French newspaper Depeche de Toulouse wrote an article saying that wide propaganda was being carried on ⁱⁿ India in favour of emigration to France and ^{the} Argentina, and that a considerable number of Anglo-Indians — nearly 100,000 — were ready to leave India with a view to settle in French territory.

The Consul for France in Bombay adds that, on behalf of the French Government, whose attention was drawn to the press statements, he warns intending emigrants from India against proceeding to France with the idea of securing employment.
(Times of India, 2-4-1931).

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4th All Malaya Indian Conference, 1931.

The Fourth All-Malaya Indian Conference was held at Telok Anson, Lower Perak, F.M.S., during the first week of April 1931 under the presidency of Dr. N.K. Menon.

In the course of his address Dr. Menon said that at no time in the history of their colonisation could they have noted as clearly as of late the unstable nature of their stay in Malaya. Indians in Malaya had come out not to exploit the weak but to colonise and develop a land united with their own country by inseparable bonds of culture, tradition and association. They were there by right and not by way of sufferance. Unless they had a united organisation, capable of immediate and effective action, there was not the slightest doubt that their elementary rights would be trampled under foot by those better organised. Dr. Menon appealed for a net-work of Indian associations, not functioning independently and not existing for mere social amenities, but for the good of every member of the community.

The following is a summary of the resolutions passed at the Conference:-

Indian representation should be improved and enlarged on the Legislative, Federal and State Councils, the Indian Immigration Committee, Sanitary Boards, and other bodies, special precaution being taken that Indian labourers are adequately represented.

~~The education of Indians in~~ Facilities for imparting education to Indian children should be provided by the Government by the establishment of a number of vernacular schools.

The Malaya Civil Service should be thrown ^{open} to non-European British subjects, including Indians.

The practice of deportation without trial, under which several British Indians have of late been deported from Malaya, should be stopped.

Other resolutions urged (a) the enforcement of a minimum wage:, (b) the fixing of a sex ratio; (c) the abolition of toddy shops, and (d) the introduction of a Workmen's Compensation Act in Malaya.

(The Times of India, 24-4-31: The Hindu 25-4-31).

Indians in British Self Governing Colonies.

A communication issued by Sir Muhammad Shafi (a delegate to the Round Table Conference) on the status of Indians in British Self-Governing Colonies says:- In the autumn of 1930 when the various Dominion Delegations were assembled in London in connection with the Imperial Conference, His Excellency Lord Irwin telegraphed to the Secretary of State, suggesting that advantage should be taken of the presence of the Prime Ministers of South Africa, Australia and Canada in order to hold informal conversations with them about Indians in their respective territories, The Secretary of State asked Sir Muhammad Shafi, who was one of India's delegates at the conference, to undertake these conversations.

Accordingly, Sir Muhammad Shafi had a long interview with General Hertzong, Prime Minister of South Africa, on Tuesday, October 28 ¹⁹³⁰ ~~last~~, during the course of which, among other matters, the hardships on Indian settlers resulting from the Transvaal Land Tenure Bill were discussed. General Hertzong received the representations made to him in a very sympathetic spirit and promised to discuss the matters submitted to him with Dr. Malan immediately on his return to South Africa. As has already been announced, the Transvaal Land Tenure Bill has been postponed till next year, and a conference of the representatives of the South African and Indian Governments is to meet in September next to reconsider the Cape Town Settlement.

¹⁹³⁰
On Friday, November 14, Sir Muhammad Shafi saw Mr. Scullin, Prime Minister of Australia, regarding the enfranchisement of Indian settlers in the States of Western Australia and Queensland ~~Ma~~

Mr. Scullin recognised the anomaly of the existing position and promised to use his influence with the Governments of these States with a view to the removal of the disability of Indian settlers in ~~this~~ respect.

Sir Muhammad Shafi has received a letter from Mr. Scullin informing him that "the Electoral Act has now been amended in Queensland to make provision for the enfranchisement of British Indians resident in that State", and that he is communicating with the Premier of Western Australia for the same purpose and will advise Sir Muhammad Shafi of the result in due course.

On Monday, December 1, Sir Muhammad Shafi interviewed Mr. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada about the question of franchise for Indian settlers in the State of British Columbia for the Federal as well as the provincial ~~in~~ legislatures. Mr. Bennett received the representations made to him most sympathetically and promised to take up the matter, both with his own Government and the British Columbian Government on his return to Canada and to apprise him of the result. The result of Mr. Bennett's action is being awaited.

(The Hindu, 25-4-31).

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

Report for May, 1931.

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Considerable publicity has been given in the Indian press to the first Part of the Director's Report to the 15th International Labour Conference. Roneoed copies of a communiqué on the Report prepared by this office were sent to all the principal newspapers and Journals, as also to the more important of the representative organisations of Indian employers and workers.

The Hindu of 28-5-31, the Hindustan Times of 29-5-31, the Statesman of 30-5-31, and the Servant of India of 28-5-31 (Vol.XIV No.22) have published the communiqué in full. The Hindustan Times of 30-5-31 published an editorial article under the caption "India and the I.L.O." commenting favourably on the Report.

(Copies of the communiqué on the Report have been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 2/568/31 dated 21-5-31).

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The Hindustan Times and the Pioneer of 10-5-31 and the Statesman of 13-5-31 publish a communiqué issued by this office on Hours of Work in Coal Mines, which is one of the items on the agenda of the 15th Labour Conference.

(Copies of the communiqué have been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 2/427/31 dated 7-5-31).

* * *

The communiqué issued by this office on the Partial Revision of the Washington Convention on the Employment of Women during the Night in Industry has been published by the Statesman, the Pioneer

and the Hindustan Times of 9-5-31.

(Copies of the communiqué have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/427/31 dated 7-5-31. Copies of an earlier communiqué on the same subject issued to the press by this office have been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 2/1824/30 of 4-12-30).

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The Age of Admission of Children in non-Industrial Occupations formed the subject of a communiqué issued by this office on 23-5-31. The communiqué was published in the Hindu of 27-5-31 and the Statesman of 28-5-31.

(Copies of the communiqué have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/838/31 dated 18-6-31. An earlier communiqué on the same subject was issued to the press by this office on 11-12-30, and copies of that communiqué were forwarded to Geneva on the same date with this office's minute H 2/1842/30).

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The Hindu of 29-5-31, ~~and~~ the Statesman and Times of India of 30-5-31 and the Hindustan Times of 31-5-31 publish a Reuter's cable to the effect that Mr. R.R. Bakhale, the Indian Workers' Delegate to the 15th Labour Conference, intends moving a resolution asking for an Asiatic Labour Conference. The same cable gives publicity ^{to} the opinion expressed by M. Sokol, the President of this Year's Conference, that the reduction in working hours in industry would alleviate the present economic crisis by regulating output and combating over-production and unemployment.

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The Hindu of 30-5-31 and the Pioneer of 31-5-31 publish a Reuter's cable to the effect ⁽¹⁾ that ⁽²⁾ the Draft Convention on the Hours of Work in Coal Mines prepared by the Office has been adopted by the present session of the Labour Conference as a basis for further discussions, (2) that the employers' representatives from non-European countries have declined to participate in the committee appointed to consider the question on the ground that the question has till then been treated from a purely European view point and (3) that the Conference is considering the extension of limitation of the Hours of Work in Coal Mines to India, Canada, South Africa, China and Japan.

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The April 1931 issue of ^{the} Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol.X No.8 pages 786-787) as well as the printed "Excerpts from the proceedings of the committee of the Millowners' Association", Bombay, during April 1931, publish the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 15th Labour Conference.

The April 1931 issue of the Unionist, Nagpur (Vol. III No.1), and the May 1931 issue of Indian Labour Journal (Vol.VIII No.8, page 181) publish paragraphs announcing the nomination by the Government of India of Mr. R.W.Fulay as one of the advisors to the Indian Workers' Delegate to this Year's Labour Conference, in the place of Mr. K.N. Sen Gupta who was prevented by illness from attending the Conference.

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The monthly circular issued by the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association for April 1931 publishes the letter addressed by the

Secretary of the Association to ^Sth Walechand Hirachand, the Indian Employers' Delegate to this Year's Labour Conference, protesting against the nomination by the Government of India of Mr. Tarlton as an advisor to the Indian Employers' Delegate. The following is the full text of the letter:-

"I am to request you, on behalf of this Association, to protest against the nomination of Mr. Tarlton as an Advisor to the Employers' Delegate and therefore to attend the International Labour Conference as a representative of India. That Mr. Tarlton should by any stretch of interpretation be treated as a "national" of India is a travesty against which India must certainly protest. It is indeed a surprise that the Government of India should have again disregarded public opinion and appointed a non-Indian as a member of the Indian Delegation. Such a protest was lodged by the Indian Employers' representative before the Credentials Committee of the International Labour Conference before. My Committee urge that once again a strong protest be lodged against it. While there are assurances being given of the status of equality to India as a self-governing Dominion in the Empire her sons are denied full direct representation in international assemblies of importance. There would be hundreds of Indians qualified and competent to act as Advisors in place of Mr. Tarlton. My Association urge that your protest be lodged in as emphatic a manner as possible".

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The communiqué issued by this office on the I. L. O. Budget estimates for 1932 have been published by the Pioneer of 2-5-31, the Times of India of 5-5-31 and the Hindu of 10-5-31.

(Copies of the communiqué have been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 2/ 410/31 of 30-4-31).

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The Statesman of 5-5-31 publishes an article under the heading "E.I.R. Apply Geneva Convention" regarding the application of the Washington and Geneva conventions regulating hours of work and weekly rest in the East Indian Railway. This scheme is stated to affect the

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conditions of work of more than 100,000 workmen. The article explains the provisions of the two Geneva conventions to which effect is now given and explains the difficulties experienced by the authorities to bring the scheme to a working condition.

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The New India of 7-5-31 (Vol. V New Series, No.6) also announces the application of the Washington and Geneva conventions regarding hours of work and weekly rest in the East Indian Railway.

* * *

The April 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol. X No.8) reproduces at page 788 the announcement in "Industrial and Labour Information" of 9-3-31 of the ratification by Great Britain of the Geneva Conventions concerning sickness insurance for Industrial workers and concerning sickness insurance for agricultural workers, as well as of Great Britain's acceptance of the Geneva Recommendation concerning the general principles of sickness insurance.

* * *

The replies sent by the Committees of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, and the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, to the Government of India's enquiry on the possibility of giving effect to the Recommendation adopted by the 12th Labour Conference concerning the Prevention of Industrial Accidents are published in the printed Excerpts of the Proceedings of these two Committees of March 1931.

The committee of the Millowners' Association in their reply stated

that they were of opinion that the Indian Factories Act adequately dealt with the provision of safety devices in hazardous machinery, and that the supervision exercised by the Factory Department ~~had been~~ responsible for ^{the} high standard of safety devices maintained in Bombay. It was not considered that an amendment of the Indian Factories Act, as suggested in the Recommendation, was necessary.

The Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce in their reply pointed out that before satisfactory progress could be made in the examination of the Recommendation, it seemed (to them necessary) that Government should prepare a statement showing clearly how far existing legislation covered the various points and which portions of the Recommendation could be given effect to by administrative orders. The Committee therefore confined themselves to a general expression of opinion on the points raised in the Government of India's letter without examining in detail each of the ²Articles of the Recommendation.

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The Servant of India of 14-5-31 (Vol.XLV No.20) reproduces the announcement appearing in an issue of the Manchester Guardian of the decision of the British Government to ratify the convention ~~in~~ against Forced Labour and comments favourably on the decision.

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The May 1931 issue of the Trade Union Record (Vol.11 No.3) Bombay, publishes ^{the news of} the passing of a Bill amending the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923. It is pointed out by the journal that the Bill incorporates

the provisions of various Geneva Conventions and Recommendations concerning the Welfare of Seamen. (The text of the Bill together with the statement/^{of}objects and reasons^{is}, reproduced at pages 8-19 of the report of this office for December 1930).

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The Monthly Circular for April 1931 issued by the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association publishes the contents of a letter addressed by the Committee of the Association to the Government of India protesting against the refusal of the High Commissioner for India in London to issue laissez passer to Mr. Erulkar, while the latter was acting in the place of Mr. Gemmill in the Governing Body of the I.L.O. The letter points out that Mr Erulkar was able ultimately to obtain laissez passer, but it was through the High Commissioner for South Africa, and states: "It is, indeed, an irony that an Indian representative should be denied a courtesy and a facility by the High Commissioner of his own country, whereas he should be able to receive it at the hands of the High Commissioner of a foreign country". The letter strongly urges the Government of India to take steps to prevent such anomalies in the future.

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The Hindustan Times of 6-5-31, in the course of an editorial article based on the forecast by the paper's London correspondent, of the chief recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India, states that the Report submitted by the Commission, in addition to improving the conditions of labour in industries in India, will be further valuable as the first complete and authoritative record of

labour conditions in India, which will serve as a satisfactory ~~foundation~~ basis for action by the I.L.O., which according to the paper is " a body whose influence over the Governments of the world is steadily increasing".

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New India, Madras, of 7-5-31 (Vol.V New Series No.6) and the Indian Post, Delhi, of May 1931 (Vol 11 No 5, pages 192-195) publish ^{an} the article under the caption ^{in the Future India} "Labour and the Round Table Conference" and "Labour & the Round Table Conference" respectively, contributed by the Director of this office. The same article was published under the caption "Labour in the New Constitution" in the Indian Review of April-May 1931 (Vol XXXII Nos. 4 & 5) and the Hindustan Times of 27 & 29-4-31 (see page 5 of the report of this office for April 1931). About 100 reprints of the above article from the Indian Post, Delhi, ^{were} was sent to prominent news papers and journals as well as to the more important organisations of the employers and workers in India. (Copies of the reprint were forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 4/485/31 dated 14-5-31).

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The Hindustan Times of 21-5-31 publishes a letter dated 8-5-31 from its London correspondent which contains an incidental reference to the attitude of the I.L.O. towards making labour a federal subject in the new constitution for India. The letter says that Geneva is in favour of Labour being made a Central subject and is opposed to it being made a Federal Subject since, in the latter case, India would not probably be able to ratify many Geneva Conventions because of the reac-

tionary influence of backward Indian States. The Geneva view-point, the letter says, is apparently that it is best to obtain international standards in British India at least, instead of risking the non^Hobservance of international agreements over ^{the}whole country. The letter ^{also says} continues that Mr. Bakhale, the Indian Workers' Delegate to this year's conference, would probably represent to the I.L.O. the views of Indian labour on the question.

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~~May~~ The May 1931 issue of the Trade Union Record (Vol 11 No.3), Bombay, publishes a brief review of the work accomplished by the 6th annual conference of the M & S.M. Railwaymen in the course of which reference is made to a resolution passed in the Conference which declared that no constitution for the future Government of India would be acceptable unless there was a declaration of fundamental rights of citizenship guaranteeing ~~to~~ a living wage, adult ~~franchise~~ franchise and the ratification and enforcement of Geneva Conventions throughout India.

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9 The Pioneer of 30-5-31 publishes the report of a political speech delivered by Subhas Chandra Bose, the President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, in Bombay on 27-5-31, in the course of which ~~she~~ he made a strong attack on the League of Nations. Mr. Bose is reported to have referred to the League of Nations as "the League of robbers" because, according to him, the countries which constitute the League are working with a selfish motive. He is also reported to have said that Russia kept aloof from the League for the reason mentioned above.

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The May 1931 issue of the Indian Labour Journal (Vol.XIII.No.8), Nagpur, reprints at pages 163-165 a further instalment of the article "Labour Legislation in India" by Dr. R. K. Das (published in the November 1930 issue of the International Labour Review).

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The Servant of India of 7-5-31 (Vol.XIV.No.19) publishes a review contributed by the Director of this office of the books "Hand book of the League of Nations Since 1920" by Denys P. Myres, and " Latin American Relations with the League of Nations" by Warren H.Kelchner. The review contains several references to the work of the I.L.O.

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New India, Madras, of 21-5-31 (Vol.V New Series,No.8) publishes a letter from its Geneva correspondent on the activities of the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations.

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National Labour Legislation.

The C. P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1930.

At pages 25-28 of the report of this office for March 1929, reference was made to a Bill introduced in the Central Provinces Legislative Council on 22-1-1929 to make provision for payment of maternity benefits to women workers in the factories in that province. The Bill was passed by the C. P. Council on 20-1-1930 and has since received the assent of the Governor General.

It will be recalled that a Maternity Benefit Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. N.M. Jeshi in 1924, and that it failed to get through owing to lack of adequate support. The Bombay Legislative Council passed the first Maternity Benefit Act in India in 1929. The Central Provinces is the second province in India to enact a Maternity Benefit Act. The following is the full text of the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930, and of the Rules framed thereunder:-

The Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930.

Central Provinces Act No. VI of 1930.

An Act to make provision for absence of work during advanced state of pregnancy and to regulate the employment of women 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 regulate the employment of women in factories and to provide for the payment of maternity benefits some time before and after confinement; and

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

2.
to the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement. - (a) This Act may be called the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930.

(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, 1911:

Provided that the Local Government may exempt factories not working ordinarily for at least nine months in a year from the operation of the Act.

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

2. Definitions. - In this Act -

(a) "Factory" means a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act, 1911.

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

(c) "Employer" includes an occupier of a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act, 1911, or the "Manager" of a factory.

(d) The expressions "Inspector of Factories", "employ" and "employed" shall have the same meanings as are respectively assigned to them under the Indian Factories Act, 1911.

3. Employment of or work by women in factories prohibited during certain period. - After this Act comes into operation. -

(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.

4. Right to payment of maternity benefit. - (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every woman employed in the factory shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of her average daily earnings calculated on the total wages earned during a period of three months preceding the days of her confinement or at the rate of eight annas a day, whichever is less, 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 nine months immediately preceding the date on which she gives notice to her employer under section 5.

(2) The maximum period for which any woman shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit shall be eight weeks, that is to say, four 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.

5. Procedure regarding payment of maternity benefit. - (1) Any woman employed in a factory and entitled to maternity benefit under the provisions of this Act, -

(a) 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.

(b) who has not given the notice referred to in clause (a) and has been delivered of a child shall, within forty-eight hours, give similar notice, stating

that she is confined,
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 day following the date of the notice in the case mentioned in clause (a) of sub-section (1), and from the day of delivery in the case mentioned in clause (b) thereof, until four weeks after the day of 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 seventy-two 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 arrear.

6. 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 the 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.

7. No notice of dismissal to be given to a woman during period of maternity benefit. - When a woman 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.

8. 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 5, she shall forfeit her claim to the payment of the maternity benefit to which she is entitled

9. Penalty for contravention of the Act by an employer. - If any employer contravenes the provisions of this Act, he shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

10. 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.

11. Cognizance 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 Magistrate of the First Class shall try any offence against this Act or any rules thereunder.

12. Limitation of prosecutions. - No Court shall take cognizance 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.

13. 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;

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(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 power to make rules under this Act shall be subject to the condition of previous publication.

14. 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.

Rules framed by the Central Provinces Government under
section 13 of the Act

1. These rules may be cited as the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Rules, 1930.

2. In these rules-

(a) "Act" means the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930.

(b) "Inspector" means an Inspector of Factories appointed under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911.

3. Delegation to District Magistrate.- The powers and duties of an Inspector may be exercised and performed by a District Magistrate within his own district.

4. Muster roll. • The employer of every factory in which women are employed other than a factory in which no woman is employed for more than nine months in a year, shall prepare and maintain a muster roll in Form A attached to these rules. The names and record of employment of all women employed 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 an Inspector.

5. Inspections. - The Chief Inspector of Factories shall be responsible for the administration of the Act in the province, and every Inspector officially subordinate to him shall be responsible for the administration of the Act within such area as may be assigned to him by the Chief Inspector.

6. Powers of Inspector. - An Inspector may examine the muster roll maintained under rule 4 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 exonerate himself. -

7. Performance of duties by an Inspector. - (1) An Inspector shall at each inspection of a factory satisfy himself -

(a) that the provisions made in the Act and rules to secure adequate maternity benefits to women workers are observed;

(b) that due action has been taken on every notice given under sub-section (1) of section 5;

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8. (a) that the muster roll prescribed by rule 4 is correctly maintained.

(2) An Inspector shall enquire into all cases of maternity for which benefits have been claimed since last inspection, and initial the muster roll in Form A after examination of the same.

(3) An Inspector shall issue orders in writing to the employer to remedy all irregularities under the Act noticed by him, and shall, after consulting the Chief Inspector of Factories, if he is not himself the Chief Inspector of Factories, institute prosecutions for breaches of law whenever deemed necessary.

8. The method of payment of maternity benefit. - For purposes of the payment of maternity benefit, the average daily earnings of a woman worker shall be calculated on the total wages earned during the three months preceding the day of her confinement divided by the actual number of days on which she worked during that period.

9.(a) The payment of any amount against the claim of maternity benefit shall be made to the claimant or to her duly authorised agent, and a receipt obtained from her or the agent in Form C.

(b) A copy of the receipt shall be duly forwarded by the employer to the Chief Inspector of Factories.

(c) All such receipts shall be maintained as record of payment by the employer, and shall be available to an Inspector on demand.

10. Penalties. - (1) Any employer who contravenes the provisions of rule 4 shall, on conviction, be punishable with a fine not exceeding fifty rupees.

(2) Any person who wilfully obstructs an Inspector in the exercise of his powers or the performance of his duties, or who

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9.
fails to produce on demand the muster roll, ^{or} notices given under sub-section (1) of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ section 5 of the Act, or receipts for maternity benefits paid, or other documents necessary to enable an Inspector to ascertain whether the provisions of the Act and these rules have been complied with, or fails to submit the return or preserve the records referred to in rule 11 shall, on conviction, be punishable with a fine not exceeding fifty rupees.

11. (1) Returns. - Every employer of women in a factory in which no woman is employed for more than nine months in a year, shall furnish to the Chief Inspector of Factories by the 15th January in each year a return in Form B attached to these rules, for the previous year ending on the 31st December.

(2) 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.

The Railway Servants' Hours of Employment Rules, 1931.

The rules issued by the Governor General in Council in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 71 E of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, as amended by the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930 (the text of this is given at pages 9-12 of our January 1930 report) were given at pages 13 to 15 of our January 1930 report under the heading 'The Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1930; A new set of rules entitled 'The Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1931,' has been issued by the Governor General in Council on 31-1-31. On 6-5-31 the Railway Board has issued a number of subsidiary instructions to Section 71-A to 71 -H of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, referred to above. The Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, are substantially the same as the Hours of Employment Rules, 1930, the only material difference being the inclusion of an additional clause (d) to subsection to Rule 3(1930 rules) excluding "persons employed in a factory ~~within~~ within the meaning of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, or employed in a mine within the meaning of the Indian Mines Act, 1923", from the application of Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930. It may be pointed out here that these classes of railway workers are excluded as they come under the administration of the Indian Factories Act and the Indian Mines Act, which secure for them equally favourable and in some respects better, conditions of hours of work and rest than those secured by the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930. Below is reproduced the full text of The Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1931. (Alterations from the Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1930, given at pages 13 to 15 of our January 1930

report are typed in red)

The Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1931.

No. 40-L.- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 71-E of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (1X of 1890), as amended by the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act 1930 (XIV of 1930) the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following rules for the hours of employment and periods of rest of railway servants, namely:-

1. These rules may be called the Railway Servants Hours of Employment Short title.] Rules, 1931.

2. In these rules, "chapter", "section" or "sub-section" means a Definition. chapter, section or sub-section of the Indian Railways Act, 1890.

3. (1) The provisions of Chapter VI-A shall apply to the following classes of railway servants, namely:-

Extent of appli-
cation of Chap-
ter VI-A.

- (1) Operating staff.
- (2) Transportation staff.
- (3) Commercial staff.
- (4) Traffic staff.
- (5) Engineering staff.
- (6) Mechanical staff.
- (7) Shed staff.
- (8) Watch and ward staff.
- (9) Staff of the stores department or branch.
- (10) Staff of the medical department or branch.
- (11) Staff of the accounts department.
- (12) Office staff.

(2) For the purpose of this rule, these classes shall be held to exclude-

- (a) running staff ,viz., drivers, shunters, firemen, guards, brakesmen, travelling van porters, travelling van checkers, travelling ticket examiners, travelling stores delivery staff and other staff who habitually work on running trains;
- (b) those chowkidars or watchmen, watermen, sweepers and gate-keepers whose employment is declared by the Head of the Railway to be essentially intermittent and of a specially light character;
- (c) persons who hold positions of supervision or management, or

are employed in a confidential capacity; and

- (d) persons employed in a factory within the meaning of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, or employed in a mine within the meaning of the Indian Mines Act, 1923.

(3) If any question arises as to whether a person holds a position of supervision or management, or is employed in a confidential capacity, the matter shall be referred to the Railway Board whose decision thereon shall be final.

4. The power of declaring that the employment of a railway servant is essentially intermittent, within the meaning of section 71-A, shall vest in the Head of a Railway.
Power to Head of Railway to declare employment essentially intermittent.

5. (1) Power to make temporary exemptions of railway servants from the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 71-D, of sub-section (1) of section 71-D, and of rule 6, shall vest in the Head of a railway.
Power to make temporary exemptions.

(2) The Head of a Railway may delegate his powers under this rule to such authorities subordinate to him as he may, by order, prescribe.

6. (1) The following classes of railway servants may be granted periods of rest on a scale less than that laid down in sub-section (1) of section 71-D, namely:-
Grant of periods of rest on less than the normal scale.
(a) Artizans and unskilled labour employed on lines under construction;
(b) Artizans and unskilled labour employed for temporary purposes on open lines; and
(c) Mates, keymen, and gangmen employed on the maintenance of permanent way.

(2) Such railway servants shall enjoy in every calendar month at least one period of rest of not less than 48 consecutive hours or two periods of rest of not less than 24 consecutive hours each.

7. A railway servant exempted under the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 71-D from the grant of periods of rest shall not be required to work for 21 days without a rest of at least 24 consecutive hours.
Compensatory periods of rest.

8. A railway administration shall furnish for communication to the International Labour Office such information concerning the application of the provisions of Chapter VI-A or of these rules as may be called for by the Railway Board.
Supply of information.

9. A railway administration shall make known either by duty lists, rosters, or other documents placed in conspicuous places, the duration of hours of employment and the incidence of periods of rest.
Display of hours of employment.

10. A railway administration shall keep in a conspicuous place at each station of its railway a copy of Chapter VI-A and of these rules.

(The Central Provinces Gazette. 16-5-31.
Part I, pages 542-543.).

~~Simla, the 6th May 1931~~

Subsidiary Instructions to Indian Railways (Amendment)
Act, 1930, and the Hours of Employment Rules, 1931.

Simla, the 6th May 1931.

Subsidiary Instructions to sections 71-A to 71-H of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, published in the Gazette of India of the 31st January 1931.

No. 40-L. The following subsidiary instructions to sections 71-A to 71-H of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, published in the Gazette of India on the 31st January 1931, are made by the Railway Board.

1. For the purpose of section 71-A, the work of a railway servant shall not be regarded as essentially intermittent unless his ^{daily} period~~s~~ of duty includes (a) two or more periods of inaction of not less than half an hour each, aggregating not less than two hours in all, or (b) periods of inaction aggregating not less than 4½ hours. The term "sustained attention" used in the same section involves mental effort. Thus a pointsman waiting for the arrival of a train, after setting points, is required to give sustained attention; so also is a station master after, but not before, giving line clear.

2. With reference to rule 3(2)(a) it may be noted that running staff have only been excluded from the scope of the regulations pend-

ing further investigations.

3. With reference to rule 3(2) (b) although chowkidars or watchmen, watermen, sweepers and gatekeepers, whose work is declared to be essentially intermittent and of a specially light character, are excluded from the scope of the regulations, it is desirable that their present hours of duty should be scrutinized with a view to making such changes as may be necessary on humanitarian grounds.

4. For the purpose of rule 3(2)(c) the classes of staff detailed in the Annexure to these instructions are to be regarded as persons holding positions of supervision or management or employed in a confidential capacity.

5. The maximum hours of employment, stipulated in section 71-C, do not include the time taken by an employee in going to and from his place of residence.

6. Exceptional pressure of work caused by sickness is to be considered as coming under the provisions of clause (b) of section ~~71-C~~ 71-C (3).

7. The minimum overtime rate of $1\frac{1}{4}$ times the ordinary rate prescribed in section 71-C is only admissible when the maximum limits, i.e., a monthly average of 60 hours a week in the case of continuous workers and 84 hours a week in the case of essentially intermittent workers, are exceeded. These regulations, however, are not intended to affect any overtime, more favourable to the employee, admissible under existing rules or orders.

8. In preparing duty rosters, care should be taken to avoid, as far as possible, rosters which require employees to perform continual night duty especially if any portion of the period of such duty falls between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

9. Authorized periods of rest will not affect the title of

any employee to wages under existing pay regulations for periods when he is not actually on duty.

10. It is not desirable that rosters should be continually revised in respect of individual employees. If, therefore, a rostered weekly period of rest occurs while an employee is absent for any reason he may be considered to have availed himself of that period. On the other hand, if the absence occurs at other times, the employee should not necessarily be deprived of his rostered period of rest on that account.

11. Where the exigencies of the service permit, there is no objection to the periods of rest, stipulated in section 71-D and rule 6, being combined with any other leave to which the employee may be entitled.

12. Although essentially intermittent workers are excluded from the weekly rest proviso under section 71-D, it is intended that the case of these employees should receive adequate consideration and every effort should be made to limit, under normal conditions, their daily hours of duty to 12. Further, their applications for leave, under the Leave Rules, should receive special consideration.

13. Although neither the Act nor the Rules stipulate a minimum period of daily rest, it is intended that the railway servants to whom they apply should, as far as possible, be given in every period of 24 hours a minimum rest period of not less than 8 consecutive hours

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Annexure.

(a) Supervisory staff:-

(1) Gazetted officers on State-managed railways and officers of corresponding rank on other Railways. (2) Inspectors (all branches).

(3) Sub-Engineers. (4) Supervisors (all branches). (5) Superintendents (all branches including officers). (6) Foremen. (7) Yard Masters. (8) Head Train Controllers. (9) Head Train Examiners. (10) Storekeepers (11) Assistant Surgeons.

(b) The following are to be considered as Supervisory staff when they are definitely employed in a supervising capacity:-

(1) Assistant Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors (all branches). (2) Overseers and Sub-overseers. (3) Deputy Superintendents (all branches). (4) Assistant Foremen (all branches). (5) Assistant Yard Masters. (6) Train Controllers in charge. (7) Train Examiners in charge. (8) Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters not actually engaged in train passing duties. (9) ~~Sta~~ Power Controllers. (10) Junction Rolling Stock Verifiers. (11) Sub-Storekeepers and Depot Storekeepers (all branches). (12) Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Health Assistants. (13) Matrons. (14) Chargemen. (15) Shedmen in running sheds. (16) Head Signallers. (17) Head Train Despatchers. (18) Head Fitters. (19) Head Boilermakers. (20) Goods Clerks and Coaching Clerks. (21) Head Ticket Collectors. (22) Head Number Takers. (23) Head Trains Clerks. (24) Head Watchmen and Caretakers.

(c) Confidential staff -

(1) Clerks and stenographers employed in a confidential capacity.

Conditions of Labour.Quarterly Strike Statistics, Period ending 31-3-1931.

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India in a press communique dated 4-6-31, has published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 31-3-31. During the period under review there were 52 disputes involving 103,507 workers and entailing a loss of 731,223 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bengal Presidency where 21 disputes were recorded involving 72,632 workers and entailing ^athe loss of 542,022 working days. Bombay comes next with 11 disputes, involving 6,122 workmen and entailing a loss of 15,544 working days. There were 8 strikes in Madras involving 11,614 men and entailing a loss of 83,410 working days; 4 in Burma involving 2,297 men and entailing a loss of 5,056 working days; 3 in the United Provinces involving 4,282 men and entailing a loss of 22,032 working days; 2 each in the Central Provinces and Assam involving 1,970 and 2,090 men and entailing losses of 4,599 and 2,360 working days respectively; 1 in Behar and Orissa involving 2,500 men and entailing a loss of 56,200 working days; while no strikes were recorded in the Punjab and Delhi.

Of the 52 disputes during the quarter under review, 18 were due to questions of wages, 16 to those of leave and hours, 12 to those of personnel, 2 to those of bonas and 4 to other causes. In 6 disputes the workers were successful, in 9 partially successful, and in 21 unsuccessful; 16 disputes were in progress at the end of the quarter.

Classified according to industries, there were 17 disputes in

Cotton and Woollen mills involving 19,600 men and entailing a loss of 115,357 working days; 16 in ~~Jute~~ ^{Jute} mills involving 69,013 men and entailing a loss of 478,666 working days; 1 in railways, including railway workshops, involving 3,002 men and entailing a loss of 3,002 working days; 1 in mines involving 583 men and entailing a loss of 1,058 working days; 1 in Engineering workshops involving 134 men and entailing a loss of 2,546 working days and 16 in other industries involving 11,175 men and entailing a loss of 130,594 working days.

(The statistics of Industrial disputes for the quarter ending 31-12-1930 ^{are} ~~is~~ summarised at pages 18 & 19 of the report of this office for February 1931).

Rules of the Railway Staff Benefit Fund.

At pages 13-15 of the report of this office for January 1931 the draft rules framed by the Government of India, for the constitution of a new fund on State-managed Railways, to be called the "Railway Staff Benefit Fund", with a view to providing certain amenities and affording relief of distress to non-gazetted employees of Railways, ^{were} ~~was~~ reproduced.

The Rules authorising the replacement of the existing Fine Funds, on State-managed Railways by Staff Benefit Funds with effect from 1-4-31, as finally adopted by the Governor General in Council, ^{now} has/been published as an annexure to Resolution No.61-L dated 1-4-31 of the Railway Department (Railway Board). Hitherto the expenditure on such objects has been defrayed from the Fine Funds under the authority of the Agent of a Railway, but as the income ^{from} of

these funds was of an uncertain amount, the Government of India decided to add to it a contribution from the railway revenues calculated to ensure that a suitable sum is available each year for such expenditure. It will be observed that under these Rules the Staff is to be associated in the management of the new Fund.

The Rules are not reproduced here as they do not differ from the draft rules given at pages 13-15 of our January 1931 report except on the following two points:

(1). After sub-section (iii) ^{of Section 8,} setting forth the objects of the Fund, the following has been added as sub-section (iv).

"(iv) relief of distress amongst the members ^{or} ~~ex-members~~ of of the Staff or their families not provided for under the regulations in force on the Railway"

(2). The new section 12 reads as follows:-

"12. The Agent shall submit annually a report to the Board of Directors on the working of the Fund during the Railway Board previous financial year".

Conditions of Mining Labour in C.P. & Berar, 1930*

The following details about the conditions of mining labour in the Central Provinces and Berar are taken from the Annual Report for 1930 on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar published by the local Government.

Supply of labour.— The depression in the coal and manganese markets continued throughout the year under review, and in spite of the continuance of the temporary reduction of dead rent sanctioned by the local Government and the reduction of railway freights on low grade ore allowed by the railways, the mining industry of the province made no headway. The number of mines worked during the year fell from 161 to 117 owing to the closure of one coal mine, 34 manganese mines and nine ~~other~~ mines for other minerals. As a result, a large portion of the labour force was discharged from several mining centres of the province, the fall being no less than 22 per cent ~~in the districts of Nagpur and Balaghat~~ in the Bhandara district and as much as 34 and 35 in the districts of Nagpur and Balaghat. In consequence, the supply of labour was plentiful everywhere except at the ~~Kabakali~~ coal mine in the Chanda district where some difficulty was experienced in obtaining skilled labour owing to the inadequacy of the housing accommodation, and at the Bharwell manganese mine in the Balaghat district which is the only manganese mine with underground working; here in consequence of the restrictions on females working underground, the Kols, who are a hereditary caste of miners and earth workers, did not present themselves for employment. The number of labourers employed in coal mines increased slightly owing to a greater demand from the Ballarpur and Chugus collieries. Of the total labour force employed in coal mines, about 22 per cent were females.

Wages & Relations between labourers and management.— Despite the reduction in the demand for labour, there was no appreciable change in the rates of wages. The average earnings of a male labourer employed in the coal mines varied from Re. 0-5-6 to Re. 0-11-0 per day for underground and from Re. 0-8-0 to Re. 1-3-0 for surface work, while those of female labourers ranged between Re. 0-3-0 to Re. 0-9-0 per head both for underground and surface work. In manganese and other mines, the daily earnings of an unskilled labourer averaged between Re. 0-5-0 and Re. 0-8-0 for a male and Re. 0-3-6 and Re. 0-6-0 for a female, whereas skilled labourers earned from Re. 0-6-0 to Re. 1-14-0 per day. These rates are slightly higher than the wages earned in agricultural pursuits and local industries and, with the all round fall in the prices of food stuffs and other commodities, the remuneration of labour was adequate for its needs.

* Annual Review on the District Reports on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1930. Nagpur: Printed at the Government Press .1931. (Price- Five Annas) pp.8.

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The relations between the employers and employees remained cordial, and the year was marked by a complete absence of strikes, disputes or any indication of dissatisfaction in any of the mining centres in the province. The labour in mines is, however, still unskilled, illiterate and unorganized.

Health of labourers. - Mining camps were not altogether free from epidemics; small-pox, influenza, cholera and dysentery broke out at several labour camps during the year under review. The following are the mortality rates: there were 67 attacks of small-pox resulting in 7 deaths, 1376 attacks of influenza resulting in 24 deaths, 97 attacks of cholera resulting in 32 deaths and 333 attacks of dysentery resulting in 6 deaths.

In all important mining camps labourers are reported to be generally well cared for in respect of their health and hygiene. The Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company opened a new dispensary during the year under review at their Gumgaon mine in the Nagpur district. They have also inaugurated a Maternity Benefit Scheme for women who continue in service for more than nine months, under which a woman gets average wages of 6 annas per day for a total period of five weeks, viz., two weeks before and three weeks after confinement.

Sanitation and housing accommodation. - The sanitary condition of the labour camps in the province during the year is reported to be satisfactory. In all important mines sweepers were employed both underground and on the surface. The water supply was ample and was drawn from fresh springs and wells. Government notes with satisfaction the progress made by some mine owners in regard to the housing of their labourers. Besides quarters of an approved type already provided at the Kandri, Mansar, Beldongri, Gumgaon and Ramdongri mines, the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company constructed 40 additional houses at Kandri and 19 at Mansar and built model residences for its imported labourers at the Dongri Buzurg and Sitasaongi mines in the Bhandara district. The permanent quarters constructed at the Ballarpur and Ghugus collieries in the Chanda district were all occupied during the year and the management had to provide temporary huts for additional labourers. The housing arrangements at the Mahakali and Hindustan Lalpeth collieries were reported to be less satisfactory and those at the Majri colliery wholly inadequate.

Prices of food stuffs and clothing. - The abnormal fall in the prices of food stuffs proved beneficial to labourers as it was not accompanied by a corresponding reduction in wages. In Yeotmal, juar, which is the staple food, was sold as cheap as 23 seers ^(or 46 lbs) per rupee. The prices of clothing were also cheaper than those of the previous year. In most camps mine operatives draw their supplies from the neighbouring markets and weekly bazars. The Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company's labour camps in the Bhandara district have established weekly markets of their own.

Education. - The year under review recorded an advance in respect of the facilities afforded to mine labourers for the education of children at the mines. The Independent Mining Local

Board opened one more school in ^{the} Pench coalfield, increasing the total number of schools managed by the Board from 10 to 11. The attendance in these schools is reported to be fair. The free schools maintained by the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company as well as those run by the Mahakali and Ballarpur collieries in the Chanda district are reported to be working well. At all other places the children of mine workers attend neighbouring schools managed by local bodies. The report notes, however, that the benefits of education are still insufficiently appreciated even by the better paid operatives.

Crime and moral condition.— With the exception of a few cases of ordinary theft, house-breaking and burglaries, no serious outbreak of crime was reported in any of the mining areas. In the Chhindwara district there was a noticeable decrease in the number of burglaries from 52 to 32 as a result of introduction of a beat system and a closer check on suspected burglars.

Accidents.— There were 91 accidents during the year under review against 99 in the preceding year. Out of these, 10 were fatal and 81 serious, causing injuries to 83 persons. Medical help was promptly afforded in all cases and, in some, compensation was granted to the injured persons. 59 of the accidents were due to misadventure and the remainder were due to the negligence of employees.

Prosecutions for offences under the Mines Act and Mining Regulations.— There were 5 prosecutions during the year under report, 3 in Chhindwara, 1 in Nagpur and 1 in Chanda. In one case a mine Sardar was prosecuted for the removal of the fencing of a prohibited area whereby four deaths and two serious injuries resulted. In two cases the managements of two collieries were prosecuted for failure to submit annual returns.

Hours and limitations of employment and employment of women and children in mines.— The hours of employment in surface workings varied from 6 to 10 and those for underground work from 7 to 8 per day. In the Pench coalfield in the Chhindwara district the percentage of women on the total labour force employed below the surface was about 22 as a result of the introduction of the regulations restricting their employment underground. The Deputy Commissioner, Chanda, however, reports that in his district the regulations were not fully carried out and the attention of the mine owners concerned was drawn to this fact. No children under 13 years of age were employed in any mine.

Receipts from mines.— In spite of a rise of Rs.11,054 in the income from coal mines, the provincial receipts dropped down from Rs.3,93,025 to Rs.3,53,643, the decrease being mainly due to the slump in the manganese and limestone markets and the consequent suspension of operations at a number of mines and ~~quarries~~ quarries. Of the total revenue, Rs.214,586 was received from Manganese mines, Rs.126,055 from coal mines and Rs.23,002 from other mines. The pit's mouth value of coal increased from Rs.4-3-5 to Rs.4-5-2 per ton in the Chhindwara district, while in the Chanda district a decline of six pice per ton from Rs.4-1-10 to Rs.4-1-4 was recorded.

(The annual review on the working of the Indian Mining Act, in the C.P. & Berar for 1929 is reviewed at pages 30-32 of the May 1930 Report. Attention is also directed to the summary of the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for 1929 given at pages 19-26 of the November 1930 Report of this Office.).

* * *

Fire in Nundydroog Mine, Kolar Gold Fields, Mysore.

A disastrous fire occurred in the Nundydroog Mine, Kolar Gold Fields, Mysore on 24-5-31, causing a total of 52 deaths (The Hindustan Times 29-5-31). The fire is characterised as the most terrible disaster in the history of Indian mining. Smoke from the fire which began at the 41st level, spread to other levels where coolies were working and several deaths from asphyxiation resulted, while work was completely suspended in the Balaghat and Gergaum Mines. About 300 coolies were trapped underground where the utmost confusion prevailed. Two Italian miners were among those who succeeded in fighting their way to the top and escaped without injury. The local fire brigades were called out immediately the outbreak occurred and succeeded in holding the flames in check, operations being conducted from both the Gergaum shaft and the Nundydroog main shaft.

The origin of the fire is unknown but the theory is advanced that it was due to the carelessness of a coolie who placed a lighted candle on some timber. An inquiry will be held by the Chief Inspector of Mines.

(The Nundydroog Mine, which covers an area of 2,608 acres, lies in the Kolar Gold Fields and yields an annual output of about 80,000 ozs. of fine gold. The property is held by a company on lease from the Mysore Government and has been worked for approximately 50 years.)

(The Pioneer 28-5-31).

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Wages of Indian Labourers in Ceylon;

Protest against attempt at Reduction.

At page 18 of the Report of this Office for November, 1930, reference was made to the intervention of the Government of India in the question whether the minimum wages of estate labourers in Ceylon should be reduced in view of the serious economic depression prevailing in the plantation industries of Ceylon. The proposals which were then afoot for effecting a reduction in the minimum wages have now advanced a step further. Ceylon papers of the second week of May 1931 publish a communiqué of the Government of Ceylon to the effect that the Government of India had agreed to a proposal made by the Ceylon Government that no action should be taken against estates in Ceylon which reduced the minimum wage by 5, 4 and 3 cents for men, women and children respectively, while simultaneously reducing the issue price of rice from Rs. 6.40 per bushel, the rate fixed under the Minimum Wage Ordinance, to Rs. 4.80 per bushel. This was said to be a temporary arrangement pending a readjustment of the minimum wage by regular action under the Ordinance which requires that six months' notice should be given to the Government of India of any proposal to reduce the wages fixed under the Ordinance. The Times of Ceylon, in publishing the communiqué, stated that the Ceylon Wages Board would meet ~~in~~ soon to revise wages in accordance with the fall in the cost of living and observed, "it is possible that the rates announced in the telegram may be still further revised". There is considerable dissatisfaction in India over the attempt to reduce minimum wages ~~of~~ in Ceylon, which would substantially lower the wage-earnings of the large body of Indian labourers working in

the plantations of Ceylon. Indians in Ceylon number nearly one million out of an estimated total population of $5\frac{1}{2}$ millions. The vast majority of Indians in Ceylon earn their livelihood by working on estates. The average number of Indian labourers reported as working on estates during the quarter ending the 31st December 1929 was 742,297, of whom 243,335 were men, 234,390 women, and 264,572 children. (For further particulars about Indians in Ceylon vide pages 11-16 of our November 1930 report).

Commenting editorially on the proposed reduction of wages, the Hindu, Madras, writes:-

In order to understand the significance of the proposal it is necessary to set out the provisions of the Ordinance briefly. This measure, was passed in 1927 after a long period of agitation. It fixed the minimum wage for estate labourers at rates varying between 50 and 54 cents for men, 40 and 43 cents for women and 30 ~~to 33~~ and 33 cents for children according to the locality. It also stipulated that good unblended rice should be sold to the labourers by their employers at a price not exceeding Rs. 6.40 per bushel, which was about a rupee less than the market price then prevailing. The intention behind this stipulation presumably was to secure the labourers a slight additional benefit at the then ruling prices and to safeguard that the labourers were not adversely affected by fluctuations of the rice ~~market~~ market in the future. In the past year or two the price of rice has, contrary to expectations, fallen considerably, and stood at about Rs. 3.50 per bushel; but the estates have gone on selling rice to their labourers at the price of Rs. 6.40 fixed in 1927, thus making a very handsome profit on every bushel sold and thereby automatically reducing the effective wages paid by them. This was clearly in contravention of the spirit of the Ordinance which had fixed an upper limit for the price of rice sold to the labour force, certainly not with a view to enabling the estates to profiteer. The workers could, of course, buy their rice elsewhere, but this theoretical liberty was largely curtailed in actual practice by pressure of various kinds brought to bear on the labourers to buy from the estates only, though the price was almost double the market-rate. Latterly such pressure seems to have been not on the whole successful and the Ceylon Government have therefore hit upon the device of reducing the price of rice to Rs. 4.80 per bushel (which is still, it will be seen, appreciably above the market rate) and at the same time reducing the minimum wage by five, four and three cents for men, women and children respectively. The Government of India have shown undue complaisance in agreeing to a manipulation of wages which is gravely detrimental to the Indian labourer in the Island. They should ~~be~~ sift with extra care any proposals that may be made for a permanent revision of the minimum wage, and if they find that Ceylon is anxious

to secure a perennial supply of semi-starved labour, tell it that it must look elsewhere than to India for such a luxury. (The Hindu 25-5-31).

Resolutions passed at a mass meeting of Indian Labourers in Ceylong held at Hatto⁷, Ceylon, on 3-5-31 directed attention to the following grievances:-

Any attempt at reducing the Money Wages off the labourers by the Estate Wages Board without previously consulting the Government of India, will be one-sided and will not be binding on that Government.

The agreement that unblended rice of good quality should be supplied to the labourers at a cost not more than 6-40 a bushel does not mean that rice could be supplied above the market rate and thus deprive the labourer of his lawful wages.

Truck system is prohibited by law in Ceylon but an exception is made in the supply of rice to the Estate labourers; it was, however, never the intention of the framers of law that the employers should be allowed to supply rice at fancy prices and rob the labourers.

~~Ex further they tax submit that the employers have not totally forgotten~~

The money wages of Indian labourers were fixed at 54, 52 and 50 ~~cents~~ as the case may be subject to three conditions; viz. (1) that rice is supplied at a price not more than Rs. 6/40 (2) that one 1/4th bushel of free rice is supplied to every male adult working on the Estate and a working widow with a non-working child and (3) that every woman labourer giving birth to a child is given Rs. 8 and a bushel of rice free for a month. On every bushel of rice supplied to the labourer the employer has been making a profit of about Rs. 3 for the past two years; (2) by changing the free issue of rice into child feeding they have been making Rs. 1 million a year for the past 3 years and by non-compliance with item 3 due to the evasion of the passing of the Medical Wants Ordinance they have been making a profit of about Rs. 250,000 a year for the past four years.

The employers have been evading the minimum wages ordinance (of course with some honourable exceptions), by various means; viz., (a) by not giving 26 days work as required by law; (b) by giving work for 26 days but marking for less number by days on the check-roll; (c) by increasing the task work; (d) by making the labourers work more than 8 hours. These evasions are practised with impunity as the labourers are in no way able to prove their claims with documentary evidence.

The depression has not prevented the employers from further recruitment and the statistics would clearly show that there are about 200 to 300 immigrants coming into this island every day. (The Hindu, 21-5-31).

Workmen's Compensation Claims Bureau, Calcutta:

Report for 1930.

The following details about the work of the Calcutta Claims Bureau are taken from the Report for 1930 of the Bureau:-

Total Claims dealt with.- During the year ended December 31, 1930, a total of 6,847 claims was dealt with arising under their Workmen's Compensation Insurance Policies, by the Calcutta Claims Bureau on behalf of its members. Of the total claims reported and dealt with during the year 1930, no less than 6,076 were settled and disposed of, leaving a balance of only 771 claims, or 11 per cent. of the total claims reported, pending at the close of the year. On December 31, 1930, only one claim was outstanding for more than 2 years and 12 claims for more than one year. A factor of extreme importance in the rapid settlement of claims in this country is the existence in the Act of a special Schedule (Schedule 1) under which the more common permanent injuries are assessed in terms of loss in earning capacity.

Proportion of Fatal Cases. - Of the total cases reported to the Bureau during the year referred to above, 205, or 3 per cent of the total, were fatal accidents and, as hitherto, the largest number of such accidents occurred in colliery risks, the balance being mainly those of the Gold Mines of the Kolar Gold Field. There was little delay in the payment of compensation in respect of fatal accidents in Bengal, the Jharia Coal Field and the Kolar Gold Field, but delay is still experienced in the disposal of such cases in other areas where District Officials are Commissioners appointed under the Act.

Delay in Disposal of Claims.- ~~Some~~ delay is occasioned largely because the cases have to be dealt with in ordinary Civil Courts where they are not given special preference but take their turn with ordinary suits. Considerable improvement in this respect would be experienced if a single Commissioner were appointed for the whole of each province, as in the case of Bengal, Bombay and Madras.

Changes & Extension of the Act.- The underlying principle inculcated in the Workmen's Compensation Act at its inception, viz., that it should apply only to occupations which are both organised and hazardous, has remained unaltered in the last 7 years and the Act at present applies only to British India. Similar Acts have, however, recently been introduced into the Indian States of Mysore, Hyderabad and Baroda. The Government of India have also extended the scope of the Act to include the occupation of all persons engaged in constructing, maintaining, altering or repairing aerial ropeways and such employees are now covered under the Act. Certain slight changes in the rules framed under the Act were also made during the year 1930 by the Government of India but these concern the procedure for disposal of claims.

Probable Amendments by Whitley Commission: - It is extremely unlikely that any material changes will be made in the present extent and scope of the Act until the report of the Royal Commission on Labour in India is available. It is practically certain that the Commission will recommend the extension of the Act to all forms of labour in the country which is organised, but not necessarily hazy, among which may be mentioned labour employed on tea, coffee and rubber plantations, employees of "unregistered" factories, dock workers and warehouse hands not at present covered; those employed in connection with organised rail and road transport; and certain other classes of labour not at present covered.

Scales of Compensation & Waiting Periods. - Whilst these proposed changes in the scope of the Act may be expected to create an additional demand for insurance, the most important changes likely to be made in the Act are in the scales of compensation payable and the "waiting period". It is probable that the scales for fatal, permanent and temporary disablement will all materially be increased and that the present "waiting period" of 10 days will be reduced, probably by one-half.

Effects of Changes: Increased Demand for Insurance Cover. - These changes will undoubtedly increase the present burden upon employers and create an increased demand for insurance cover, especially in the case of smaller employers of labour. In addition, it is practically certain that other measures will be introduced into the Act to ensure that employers do not evade their responsibility in the payment of compensation of which practice, unfortunately, abundant evidence is at present available.

Evasion of Liability. - It is obvious that there is no evasion of liability on the part of insured employers; in fact, such employers usually pay great attention to this matter and are not reluctant in urging immediate payment of full compensation in every case where due, in return for the premia paid by them, but it is an indisputable fact that employers in out-of-the-way places in the mofussil, who have not effected insurances of their liability, do not pay compensation as laid down in the Act and, owing to ignorance on the part of their workmen, claims to compensation are not made in the Courts. The number of cases reported by Commissioners as having been disposed of and in which full compensation has been paid, appears, in some districts, to have decreased rather than increased and the too facile explanation for the reduced number of cases coming before the Courts being due to closing down of factories as a result of trade depression, does not appear to be correct.

Need for Further Insurance. - It appears that at present only the larger employers of labour have protected themselves by effecting insurances of their liability under the Act. A large number of small industrial concerns are, however, still uninsured and the proprietors of such concerns would do well to take out this form of cover, the advantages of which cannot be over-estimated.

Forced Labour in Balasinor State.

According to the Hindu of 21-5-31, the Paditars, a depressed class community of Balasinor State, who had emigrated from the State and settled outside the limits of the State, waited in deputation on the Nawab of Balasinor on 21-5-31 to secure redressal for their grievances. The deputation of Paditars was led by the presidents of the Modasa and Kapadwanj Taluka Congress Committees. The deputationists stated that the officials of Balasinor State exacted various kinds of forced labour from them and that such exactions, especially during the rainy season, interfered very much with the carrying on of their own agricultural operations. They added that they had to remove in their carts even street-refuse collected by the Municipal sweepers, and that was the reason they were excommunicated by their caste. For refusing to do such work, they were insulted and abused and assaulted by State servants.

According to a news item published in the Hindu of 22-5-31, the Nawab, in response to the demands of the emigrant Paditars, has agreed to abolish forced labour during the rains. He has also agreed to announce on his forthcoming birthday the total abolition of forced labour. The emigrants however are refusing to return to the State till the total abolition of forced labour.

(The Hindu, 21 & 22-5-31).

Balasinor, is a small state belonging to the States grouped under the Rewa Kantha Agency in the Bombay Presidency. Its area is 189 square miles and it has a population of 44030.

Sporadic Strikes in Textile Mills, Bombay.

During May 1931, the labour situation in the textile mills of Bombay was disturbed owing to the occurrence of a series of strikes in several textile mills of the city. The workers of the Madhaji Dharamsi Mill struck work on 28-4-31 owing to certain unspecified grievances. The strike ended on 7-5-31, an amicable settlement having been arrived at between the management and the workers (The Hindu 8-5-31). About 3500 workers of the Khataji Mankanji Mills struck work on 7-5-31 for alleged non-redress of certain grievances and for the dismissal of one of their spokesmen on 6-5-31. The management declared a lock-out on 13-5-31, which was called off on 16-5-31. The strike terminated on 26-5-31, the management having agreed to redress all the alleged grievances and to reinstate the dismissed worker (The Hindu 26-5-31). About 1600 workers of Bradbury Mill struck work on 12-5-31, complaining that they were getting less wages than they were entitled to (The Hindu, 13-5-31).

* * *

Ahmedabad Industrial Housing Scheme:

Milowners' Co-operation.

At pages 21-24 of the report of this office for September 1930, reference was made to a scheme which was under the consideration of the Ahmedabad City Municipality for the sanitary housing of the workmen of the City. A further step towards the attainment of the object was taken by Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, the Secretary of the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association, by appealing to the Milowners:

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Association for the provision of more suitable quarters for the workmen. Mr. Nanda is of the opinion that the construction of a better type of houses for the working classes, would be greatly stimulated by the organisation of co-operative housing societies, but the government, he observes, owing to its present financial stringency, would be unable to advance any loans and the working classes also were not in a position to supply their share of one-third or one-fourth of the total cost. He has, therefore, requested the local Millowners' Association to arrange to advance the amounts required for the purpose of erecting better houses, to duly formed and registered societies. He suggests ^{that} the money may be recovered by instalments directly from the wages of the workers concerned. The matter was discussed between the representatives of both the millowners and the Labour Association and a joint committee has been appointed to frame a tentative scheme for the purpose.

According to the Times of India of 21-5-31, the millowners have decided to wait till the result of Mr. Nanda's efforts in the Municipality, where, he has proposed that a loan should be raised for providing 5,000 sanitary tenements to the poor of the city at a modest rent, is known. If his scheme is approved by the Municipality, it would, the millowners hold, result in an increase in the duty on cotton and iron, and they do not wish to pay twice for what they themselves can do without the aid of the Municipality. ~~xxxx~~ If, however, the Municipality does not favour Mr. Nanda's proposal, the millowners are prepared to launch a huge co-operating housing scheme by constructing a number of houses at their own cost and handing them over to the workmen on the hire-purchase system.

(The Times of India, 15 & 21-5-31).

Working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in the
Bombay Presidency during 1930*.

According to the Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31st December 1930, submitted to the local Government by the Director of Information and Labour Intelligence with the Government of Bombay, ~~There~~ there was only one case of application by a Union for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation.

The Tramwaymen's Union, Bombay, made an application on the 10th April 1930, for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in connection with a dispute apprehended between the Union on the one hand and the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company Limited on the other. The application was forwarded to Government who, after having given the matter full consideration, proposed not to appoint a Board of Conciliation. The statement of cases referred to Courts of Inquiry or Boards of Conciliation, for the year 1930, is therefore blank.

The report further states that during the year ^{under report} ~~no~~ prosecutions were launched under sections 15 and 17 of the Act.

(The Working of the Trade Disputes Act in the Bombay Presidency during 1929 was reviewed at pages 33-34 of the June 1930 Report).

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* Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for the year ending 31st December 1930. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price - Pies 6 or 1d. pp.1.

Conditions of Work in the Indian Posts &
Telegraph Department - 1929 - 30*

The following information about the conditions of work of Indian postal and telegraph employees is taken from the annual report of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1929-30 issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs:-

According to the statistics published in the Report, the Department employed during 1929-30 a staff of 131,917 employees, as against 129,902 employees in the previous year. Out of this number, 28,958 employees were sub-postmasters and clerks in the time scale, 22,242 were urban postmen, 9,176 were village postment, 1,432 were branch postmasters (~~Departmental~~), 17,704 were branch postmasters (extra-~~Departmental~~), 14,813 were runners and 14,041 were inferior servants. The Department consists of three branches ^{the} -/postal, the telegraph and telephone, and ^{the} wireless branches.

Magnitude of Postal Business. - At the close of 1929-30 there were 114,812 postal officials, 23,888 post offices, and 168,114 miles of mail lines. During the year 1,391.8 million articles, including 55.8 million registered articles, were posted; stamps worth Rs.66 millions were sold for postal purposes; over 40.5 million money orders of the total value of 940.7 millions of rupees were issued;,

* Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, Annual Report for the year 1929-30. Delhi: Printed by the Manager Government of India Press: 1931. Price Rs.2 As.4 or 4s. pp.99.

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a sum of over Rs.287 millions was collected for tradesmen and others on value-payable articles; over 5.6 million insured articles valued at 1,599 millions of rupees were handled. Customs duty aggregating over 8.4 million rupees was realised on parcels and letters from abroad; pensions amounting to Rs.15.8 millions were paid to Indian Military pensioners and 14,592 lbs. of quinine were sold to the public. On the 31st March 1930, there were 2,304,904 savings bank accounts with a total balance of Rs.371 millions and 71,479 Postal Life Insurance policies with an aggregate assurance of Rs.136.8 millions.

Air Mail Services. - On the 6th of April 1929 the first aeroplane from London with mails for India arrived at Karachi, and the return aeroplane left the following day with mails for Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and Great Britain. The service was subsequently extended for the conveyance of air mail articles for most of the countries in Europe, and for Persia. 26,746 lbs. of outward and 29,528 lbs. of inward mails were carried during the year. The number of aeroplanes arriving at and leaving Karachi was 53 and 51, respectively. The Indian State Air Service, a State owned air mail line, began to operate between Delhi and Karachi from the 30th December 1929. This service connects with the Eastward and Westward bound aeroplanes of the Karachi Croydon service. During the year, i.e., from 30th December 1929 to 31st March 1930, 469 lbs. and 606 lbs. of air mail articles were carried on the outward and inward flights respectively.

P. & O. Contract. - During the year 52 steamers left London with the mails for India and the same number of steamers left Bombay with the mails from India. The average time occupied in the transit of those mails by the overland route, London-Marseilles, was 14 days 9 hours from London to Bombay and 14 days 6 hours from Bombay to London compared with 14 days 9 hours and 14 days 8 hours, respectively, during the preceding year.

Operations of Savings Bank.- The number of active accounts was 2,304,904 representing an increase of 14.06 per cent. The total balance at the credit of depositors rose from about Rs.345 millions to a little over ^{Rs.}370 millions representing an increase of 7.66 per cent. The average balance at the credit of a single depositor was Rs.161.10 as compared with 170.67 in 1928-29.

Revision of Pay.- The pay of the peons of the office of the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Alipore, was revised with effect from the 1st July, 1929. The scales of pay of Postmasters-General and the Senior Deputy Director-General were revised with effect from the 1st March 1930, in accordance with the scheme of 'unified' circles under which the Head of the Circle is in charge of all activities of the Department except Wireless.

House Rent Allowances.- With effect from the 1st March 1929 house-rent allowances were granted to inferior servants (other than boy-peons and boy-messengers) in certain administrative offices, who were not provided with free quarters, at the same rates as those already admissible to the inferior servants of the Post Office serving at the same stations.

Co-operative Credit Societies.- The postal co-operative credit movement continues to make good progress. The number of societies stands at 42. The membership has increased from 38,870 to 44,426 and the subscribed capital from about 1.4 million of rupees to 1.73 millions. Loans amounting to about 4.9 millions of rupees were advanced to 19,707 members as compared with 3.7 millions to 15,853 members in the previous year.

The Telegraph Co-operative Credit Societies at Agra, Belgaum,

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Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Lahore, Madras and Rangoon made satisfactory progress and the total number of members rose from 4,511 to 4,825.

Financial Results of 1929-30.- The ~~221~~ financial result of the working of the Department as a whole is summarised below:-

	Postal Branch.	Telegraph Branch.	Radio Branch.	Telephone Branch.	Total.
Receipts.	78,976,568	28,221,783	312,140	5439,142	112,949,633
Expendi- ture.	81,123,901	31,742,725	997,837	5,329,701	119,194,164
plus(+) or less(-)	-21,47,333	-3,520,942	-685,697	+109,441	-6,244,531

The net result for the Department as a whole exhibited in the accounts for the year 1928-29 was a loss of Rs.53,83,629. The net loss of Rs. 6,244,531 during 1929-30 is mainly due to an increase in working expenses resulting from the improvement of the scales of pay and allowances of the staff sanctioned in previous years, as well as to general trade depression and adverse economic conditions which retarded the usual growth of revenues.

(The Annual Report for 1928-29 of the Indian Posts and Telegraph Department is reviewed at pages 26-29 of the Report of this office for May 1930.)

Plight of Indians in Burma:Hostility of Burmans.

A rebellion on a fairly large scale has ^{been going on} ~~broken out~~ in several districts of Burma since the last three months. The rebellion is a resultant of several influences at work - Chauvinism, ⁱⁿ jingoism, nationalism, with its concomitant of hatred of foreigners, and economic and agrarian discontent. A study of developments, and particularly of the outbursts of anti-Indian feeling accompanied by numerous attacks on the Indian population in Burma by rebel forces, clearly indicates that one of the motives behind the rebellion is the resentment felt by the lower and middle class Burmese against Indians in Burma, who, according to the Burmese, are crowding out the Burmese from the paddy fields and from industry, ~~from~~ from all lines of work, both urban and rural.

A contributor writing to the Statesman of 29-5-31 points out that the Burmese regard Indian competition as unfair because it is conducted on the basis of a lower standard of living than that of the Burmese, as exemplified by the fact that Indian labourers are willing to work for wages 20 to 30 per cent lower than those demanded by Burmese labourers. In the clerical grades and in the Civil Services also, the Burmese feel that Indians are slowly annexing all the posts as Indians are willing to work for lesser pay. Besides, the greater efficiency of the Indian worker as compared to the Burman, who is lazy and ease-loving by disposition, secures for the Indian preference in the matter of appointments. As a result of all these, one of the phases of the Burmese rebellion is the determined hostility that is

being shown to Indians in Burma. In this connection, the Indo-Burma Labour Committee, Madras, has sent on 14-5-31 the following communication to the Viceroy and the Governor of Burma:-

"Not a day passes without heart-rending and terrible news being received of wanton devastation and brutal murder of helpless Indians in Burma. Refugees in large numbers returning to India in specially chartered steamers convey one terrible tale of woe and of the incompetency of the authorities in Burma to cope with the situation. Whatever may be the reasons for the growing Anti-Indian feeling in that country, the British Government would be running the grave risk of losing their honour and prestige, if immediate and effective steps are not taken for the suppression of these troubles. Tamils, Telugus and Chittagonians are mostly the victims of the Burman outrages. It is high time that the Government ask the authorities in Burma to go deep into this grave situation and avert further devastation and slaughter of helpless Indians." (The Hindu, 14-5-31).

In the course of a statement issued by it on 14-5-31, the Government of Burma repudiates the allegation that it has been slack in the matter of protecting non-Burmans and states:-

The Local Government fully realizes the necessity of protecting law-abiding people of non-Burman races from attacks. ~~And that, if they~~ continue to take place, action will be taken under the Village Act to enforce the collective responsibility of the villagers concerned. In some of the representations which have been received by the Local Government, it is stated that hundreds of Indians have fled into Rangoon, and in one case it was stated that special steamers would have to be chartered to convey them to India. Inquiries which have been made by the Local Government indicate that there has been some exaggeration, as the figures of emigration from Rangoon to Indian ports during the months of March and April and up to May 9 do not show any unusual increase over the numbers for previous years. (The Statesman, 24-5-31).

Labour News in Brief.

Labour Settlement near Cochin Harbour.- The Government of Cochin (South India) have sanctioned the acquisition of 5 acres of land in the Vendurathi Island, not far away from the harbour reclamation, for a labour settlement in Cochin. The need for a settlement of the kind has been increasingly felt in Cochin with the development of the Harbour where is sure to be greater congestion later on. (The Hindu, 29-5-31).

* * *

Dispute over Holidays in Mills, Ahmedabad.- An acute difference of opinion has arisen between the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association on the question of the observance of holidays in the local mills. It has been the practice for some time past with the local mills to observe either Sunday or Wednesday as their weekly holiday, but it appears that some representatives of the Labour Association met last Saturday and passed resolutions calling upon the workmen to observe Monday instead of Wednesday as the weekly holiday and the operatives forced the mills to carry out the resolution. The millowners have taken exception to this sort of arbitrary action by the operatives. The matter is now before the Arbitration Board and its decision is awaited. (The Times of India, 19-5-31).

* * *

Permanent Board of Conciliation, Ahmedabad.- With a view to settle disputes between the local millowners and mill operatives more speedily than is done now and to prevent any possible trouble over

trifles in the future, the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association have, after a number of joint conferences, arrived at an agreement to set up a permanent board of conciliation to decide the issues that might be brought to its notice day by day. Joint conferences are still going on for deciding questions pending for a long time. (The Times of India, 21-5-31).

* * *

Night Shifts in Bombay Mills.— The Times of India of 6-5-31 points out that the effect of the Swadeshi movement on the textile industry of Bombay is well illustrated by the steadily growing number of mills which are working night shifts. Out of 71 mills working in the city, no less than 25 were in the first week of May keeping some of their departments open by night as well as by day. The total number of operatives employed on night shift at the beginning of May was about 11,000. The mills which employ 500 or more operatives at night are the following: - Bradbury, Imperial, Toye Potdar, Apollo, Kastoorchand, Kohinoor, Manchester, Fazulbhoy, Madhorao Scindia and David. (The Times of India, 6-5-31).

* * *

Agrarian Strike, Dharap^{ur}am (South India).— A number of village agricultural labourers in Dharap^{ur}am taluk, near Tirupur (South India) have gone on strike as the result of an attempt of the landlords to reduce the wages of male labourers to Rs.0-5-0 a day and of female labourers to Re.0-2-6 a day on the plea that the prices of foodstuffs have gone down. The strike is reported to be the first agrarian strike in the Tirupur area. (The Times of India, 15-5-31)

Carters' Strike; Tuticorin. The carters of Tuticorin, South India, have been on strike for some time ~~for some~~ recently as a protest against a recent attempt to divide cart-drawing bullocks into three classes and to fix the load per cart drawn by each class bullock at rates lower than the existing ones. At a special meeting of the Society for the Prevention of ^e Cruelty to Animals, Tuticorin, held on 1-5-31, it was decided to abolish the classification of animals and to fix the load per double bullock cart at 14 bags weighing 28 cwts. (The Hindu, 5-5-31).

Working Class House Rents in Bombay City.

Attention is drawn to the report of a special enquiry conducted by the Labour Office, Bombay, into working class house rents in Bombay City published in ^{the} ~~the~~ May 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol.X No.9)

Industrial OrganisationEmployers' Organisation8th Annual Meeting of Indian Mine Managers' Association, Jharia.

The 8th annual meeting of the Indian Mine Managers' Association was held on April 27, at the Jharia Club, under the presidency of Mr. J.K.Dholakia.

The president in his address referred to the frequency of subsidences in the last few years and appealed to the Mines Department not to be over-cautious about a little fencing or such small defects, but to look to the general conditions of management, the ^{size} of pillars and galleries and the general safety of persons and properties. He also advocated primary education and incidentally a little technical training to the subordinate staff and workmen so as to raise the standard of their efficiency. "Stability of staff and labour", he said, "are conducive to the welfare of the undertaking. Mining is a risky job all the time for the investors and more so for the workmen and hence the staff and the labourers should be made to feel permanency in the job". The President next dwelt on the condition of the present coal market, which was taking a worse turn day by day. "Coal prices have reached the last level but the demand is nowhere. Our railways, who rank first in the consumption of coal, are reducing their purchases and are yet pursuing a policy of opening still more mines, when our existing mines can hardly find a market even at cheap prices. Thus the Government is competing with us in our legitimate market". According to him, the chief remedy lay in the reduction of railway freight. To

combat this slump in the coal market, the President appealed to the owners of mines to organise ~~the~~ marketing conditions as also to regulate prices. He was inclined to think that economy could further be achieved by co-operation and amalgamation wherever possible. This would not only increase ~~the~~ resources and ~~the~~ sustaining power, but would go a long way in reducing cost.

(The Pioneer. 2-5-31).

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Industrial Organisation.

Workers' Organisations.

Meeting of General Council of A.I.R.F., Bombay.

The General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met on 9 & 10-5-31 in Bombay with Mr. Jamnadas M. Metha in the Chair. Representatives of most of the railway unions were present at the meeting. Mr. Metha in his opening speech referred to three main problems that confronted the railwaymen. The first was the reinstatement of 5,000 G.I.P. Railway strikers. The second question was that of retrenchment effected by all the railways. He lastly referred to the unfortunate split in the trade union movement and said that no effort was too great for achieving solidarity. The G.I.P. strikers' case and allegations of breach of terms promised by the Government were considered and the Council authorised the President and the General Secretary to apply for the settlement of the question by the Conciliation Board that would deal with the retrenchment issue. In protesting against retrenchment, the Council expressed the view that it was not justified by the present financial position of the railways. The Council strongly urged the Government of India to grant the Board of Conciliation and passed the following ~~xxxxx~~ important resolutions:- (1) In the event of the application for the Conciliation Board being not granted, immediately on receipt of official intimation to that effect, this Council resolves that a special convention be convened to decide upon the future course of action. (2) In the meantime the Council calls upon all the affiliated unions to take all necessary action for combating the drastic retrench-

ment, including the collection of Rs.200,000 as an emergency fund by a special levy of Rs.2/- per head.

(The Trade Union Record, June 1931,
Vol.11, No.4).

Trade Union Unity Conference, Bombay.

The Unity Conference of representatives of various Trade Unions in India summoned by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met at Bombay on 10-5-31 under the chairmanship of Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta with more than forty representatives of different trade unions to discuss ways and means to heal the present breach in the Trade Union Congress.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, in opening the conference observed that there were two or three fundamental differences among various wings of trade unions in India and he was confident that if they worked with the will to achieve unity and in a spirit of compromise they could arrive at a compromise. The president then invited the different wings to put forth their points of view.

A heated discussion followed when labour leaders like Mr. N.M. Joshi representing the moderate group, Mr. Deshpande, representing the present Trade Union Congress, and several others put forth their viewpoints.

The conference adjourned after five hours' discussion in the morning till night. The conference met again at night and continued discussion, but could not reach any decision.

Mr. B. Shiva Rao suggested that the conference should be adjourned

sine die and a small committee be appointed to consider a scheme of unity and report later on.

The conference accordingly adjourned sine die after appointing a committee , consisting of the following members:-Mr.Jamnadas Mehta, Mr.V.V.Giri, Mr. Tyab Sheikh, Mr. S.C.Joshi, Mr. B. Shiva Rao, Mr. C.Y.Chitnis and Mr. V.R.Kalappa.

(The Hindu, 11-5-31).

4th Annual Conference of G.I.P.Railway Staff Union, Bombay.

The fourth annual conference of the G.I.P.Railway Staff Union was held ^{at} in Bombay on 9 & 10-5-31 under the presidentship of Mr. V.V. Giri. The report and the audited statement of accounts were read and duly adopted. The report stated that the Union had spared no pains to try to get the G.I.P. Railway strikers reinstated. The representatives of the Union had made the strikers' cause their own . The Union tried its utmost to bring about the unification of the G.I.P.Railway Staff Union and the G.I.P.Railwaymen's Union, but all its efforts proved futile. The Union had been able to deal with a number of grievances of the employees successfully.

Mr. Giri, in his presidential address, emphasised that the present position of the railwaymen in India was very grave. The immediate organisation of the railwaymen all over India was needed, otherwise the future of the railway workers would be very gloomy. He also referred to their various grievances and the political situation in the country..

4.
The following important resolutions were passed at the meeting -

"(1) This conference emphatically protests against the policy launched by the railway authorities in ^{reducing the numbers} ~~making reduction~~ and degradation ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ the status of the subordinate railway employees, in as much as the method of retrenchment followed violates the assurance given by the Railway Board to take the Unions into confidence in effecting ~~the~~ retrenchment on a large scale and aggravates the problem of unemployment. (2) This conference protests against the callous attitude adopted by the railway authorities in not reinstating the G.I.P. Railway strikers as contemplated by the Delhi settlement arrived at between the Railway Board and the representatives of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, and requests the authorities to reinstate without delay those strikers who have not been taken back, as old employees with full benefits of their past service.

(The Trade Union Record, June 1931,
Vol.11, No.4)

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Trade Union Movement in the Bombay Presidency,

1929 - 30*

The following details regarding the progress of the trade Union movement in the Bombay Presidency during 1929-30 are taken from the Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in the Bombay Presidency for 1929-30 (1-4-1929 to 31-3-1930) submitted by the Registrar of Trade Unions, Bombay Presidency, to the local Government on 25-3-31. The report which was due to be submitted to Government on the 1st September, 1930, was delayed largely very much owing to the difficulty of obtaining accurate returns from the Unions.

Number of Registered Unions. • The number of Unions registered during the year under report was 9 which, with the 38 registrations up to the end of March 1929, brought the total number of registrations during the period from 1st June 1927 to 31st March 1930 to 47. Out of the Unions registered prior to the year under report, the head office of one Union was transferred to Lahore and its name was automatically removed from the register. The registrations of five other Unions were cancelled on the 21st February 1930 for failure to submit any returns for the year ended 31st March 1929. Two other Unions which had amalgamated to form a new Union were also removed from the register in October 1928. There were thus only 39 registered Trade Unions in the Presidency at the end of March 1930.

Classification of Unions. - Of the 39 registered Unions at the close of the year under review, only 33 individual Unions and one Federation submitted annual returns for the year under report.

* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Bombay Presidency for the year 1929-30.
Price - Anna 1 or 1d. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1931.

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The 33 individual Unions may be classified thus: Textile Industry -4; Railways including Railway Workshops - 12; Seamen - 1; Municipal -4; Port Trust and Dock Workers -4; Miscellaneous - 8. The Federation was the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union which at the end of the year had 10 Unions affiliated to it.

Membership & Finances of Unions. - The total membership of the 33 registered trade Unions which submitted returns during the year under review was 139,047 at the beginning of the year and 94,665 at the end of the year and the opening balance of their combined General Fund was Rs. 344,791-4-10 at the beginning of the year and Rs.244,026-0-3 at the end of the year. The fall in membership and finances is to be attributed to the great fall in membership and revenues of the 4 Unions in the textile industry.

The following table gives the membership figures and the opening and closing financial balance as at the beginning and end of the year under review for the 4 textile Unions which submitted returns:-

al	Return of Unions registered at close of year.	Number of members.		General Fund.		
	Name of Union (and date of Registration).	At Beginning of year.	At end of year.	Opening balance.	Closing balance.	
	Textile Industry.			Rs. a. P	Rs. a. P.	
•	The Bombay Textile Labour Union, Bombay (23rd December 1927).	5,959	836	6,545 11 1	1,574 4 0	
•	The Girni Kamgar Mahamandal, Bombay (21st May 1928).	1,200	1,200	743 8 0	793 12 0	
•	The Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, Bombay (23rd May 1928)	44,822	2,350	64,549 6 3	4,404 6 11	

(continued)

K.3.	Name of Union (and date of Registration).	At beginning of year	At end of year	Opening balance	Closing balance.
	The Bombay Mill Workers' Union, Bombay (1st June 1928).	528	620	667 7 0	376 3 6
<hr/>					
	Total ...	52,509	5,006	72,506 0 4	1,660 3 5.

The following table gives the aggregate membership figures and the opening and closing financial balance as at the beginning and end of the year under review for the 12 Railway Workers' Unions, 1 Seamen's Union, 4 Municipal Workers Unions, 4 Port Trust and Dock Workers' Unions and the 8 Miscellaneous Unions:-

	Member -ship		General Fund	
	At beginning of year	At end of year	Opening balance	Closing balance
Railway Workers' Unions including these of Railway Workshops employees (12)	55,267	57,278	1,46,646-0-11	90,336-4-3
Seamen's Union (1)	21,613	23,133	93,387-7-9	1,15,847-4-9
Municipal Workers' Unions (4)	2,359	1,673	1,776-15-1	2,157-1-7
Port Trust & Dock workers' Unions (4)	4,026	3,986	22,965-11-10	27,046-11-6
Miscellaneous. (8)	3,273	3,589	7,499-0-11	10,298-13-7.

The principal liability of the majority of the Unions was the General Fund and the total amount of liabilities under other heads for all the above Unions amounted to Rs.27,355-13-5 as against ~~total~~ total assets amounting to Rs.2,71,381-13-8, the difference between these two figures representing the amount at the credit of the General Fund Account. The figure for total assets includes a sum of Rs.1,33,928 for Unpaid Subscriptions (amounting in the case of the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay to Rs.114,859). The Assets of the Federation were made up of cash amounting to Rs.860-4-11, Unpaid

4.

Subscriptions (in this case Affiliation Fees) Dues amounting to Rs. 623-6-0 and Miscellaneous Assets amounting to Rs. 143-7-0. The liabilities of the Federation were composed of the General Fund Account amounting to Rs. 1,351-13-11 and other liabilities amounting to Rs. 278-4-0.

Membership & Finances of Federation:- The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union which is the only registered Federation had 9 Unions affiliated to it at the beginning of the year under report and had 10 at the close. The opening balance of its General Fund was Rs. 731-3-10 and the closing balance Rs. 1,351-13-11.

Political Fund. - Only one Union, the National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay, maintained a political fund, which amounted to Rs. 32-12-0.

No appeals were preferred during the year under report against any of the decisions of the Registrar.

Number & Membership of Registered & Unregistered Unions.- According to the list of Trade Unions maintained by the Labour Office of the Government of Bombay, the number of Unions at the beginning of the year (1-4-29) under report was 95, with a total membership of 200,325, which increased to 99 with a membership of 196,748 towards the close of the year 1929. The corresponding figures at the close of the year (31-3-30) under report were 94 and 144,409. (The Annual Report on the Working of the Trade Unions Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1928-29 was reviewed at pages 42-48 of the report of this office for June 1930).

The All India Trade Union Congress:
Preparations for 11th Session.

In December 1930 some of the trade unions in Bengal had decided to invite the 11th session of the All India Trade Union Congress to hold its sittings at Calcutta. No session of the A.I.T.U.C has been held since the 1929 session at Nagpur. Mr. Subash Chander Bose, one of the left-wing labour leaders, in a press communiqué published in the Hindu of 1-5-31, ascribes the delay that has occurred first, to the political crisis through which the country is passing, and secondly to the fact that many of the labour leaders have been in prison during the last 18 months for political reasons. A provisional Reception Committee has been formed in May 1931, with Mr. S. Mukunda Lal as secretary, to make preparations for the holding of the ~~A.I.T.~~ A.I.T.U.C late in June 1931. The following bulletin issued by the Reception Committee is published in the Hindu of 16-5-31.

It is admitted without question that since the advent of the All-India Trade Union Congress, the working class movement in this country has made appreciable progress. Yet it needs highly organised forces to fight against the ills of capitalism and imperialism, under intelligent and cogent lead that is expected to be had from the forthcoming session of the Congress which assembles in Calcutta towards the end of June next. The definite date as may be fixed will be announced later on.

This session is a momentous one, as the Indian masses at this psychological moment are required to assert their rights to self-determination. It is, therefore, imperative that all Trade Unions in the country should rise equal to the occasion and stand united under the banner of the Congress to tackle the most vital problems of the country.

The Unions which are not yet affiliated to the Congress, are most cordially invited to do so. The affiliated Unions are requested to forward their resolutions and the full quota of delegates to which they are entitled to the Secretary, 5, Pollock Street, Calcutta.

Another bulletin issued by the reception Committee notifies

that a meeting of the Executive Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress will be held at Calcutta, on the 6th and 7th June, 1931. The agenda of business comprises (1) consideration of applications received from Trade Unions for affiliation with A.I.T.U.C.; (2) consideration of dates that may be recommended by the Calcutta Reception Committee for the eleventh session of the Congress; and (3) unity in the trade union movement in India. (The Hindustan Times, 29-5-31).

The Madras Central Labour Board: Extension of Activities.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Madras Central Labour Board was held on 27-5-31, at Madras with Mr. C. Basu Dev, the President, in the chair.

It was resolved at the meeting that the scope of the activities of the Madras Central Labour Board should be extended to the whole of the Madras Presidency and that all labour organizations in the Province should be requested to affiliate themselves to the Board and avail themselves of its services; that the name of the Board should be changed to "Madras Provincial Central Labour Board"; that the Board should get itself affiliated to the All-India Federation of Trade Unions and ~~urged~~ ^{be urged on} that it should ~~see~~ [^] the Federation and the Unity Conference Committee to work for and achieve unity with the All India Trade Union Congress at an early date.

(The Hindu, 29-5-31).

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Joint Conference of Employers & Employees, Ahmedabad.

It has been pointed out in some of our previous reports that the relations between the managements ^{and} the operatives in the textile mills of Ahmedabad are of a much more cordial nature than the relations between employers and employees in most of the other industrial centres of India, and particulars have also been given of the existing arrangements for the settlement of disputes in the Ahmedabad textile mills (vide pages 18-19 of our 1st report for July 1929). Several steps have recently been taken for further advances in this direction. According to the Times of India of 23-5-31 a joint conference of members of the Managing Committee of the Mill-owners' Association and the Advisory Committee of the Textile Labour Association has been sitting during the first half of May 1931 for the settlement of outstanding labour disputes and to consider questions such as housing, weekly payment of wages, advances of money to operatives by mills without interest, the eradication of bribe-taking in mills, the abolition of night work, the prevention of unauthorised strikes, the removal of the drink evil, etc. The Conference has appointed a Sub-Committee to suggest ways and means for the construction of houses for work people on a co-operative basis. Regarding the drink evil, the Conference has decided to circularise the mills to take stringent measures against those workmen who drink and stop the unlicensed sale of liquor in mill chawls. Regarding unauthorised strikes, time limits will be fixed for different types of disputes, and strikes, before the expiry of such time limits will be considered unauthorised. Other questions are still under consideration by the Joint Conference. Any question not settled by the Joint Conference will be submitted to arbitration.

(The Times of India, 23-5-31).

Intellectual Workers.

Conditions of Service of Teachers in Aided Schools(Madras):

Demand for Inquiry.

The Session of the 23rd Madras Provincial Educational Conference was held at Madras on 22nd & 23rd -5-31, at Palghat under the presidentship of Rao Bahadur P.V.Seshu Aiyar. The conditions of service of teachers in aided schools and in schools under local bodies and the conditions of the contract between teachers and the managements in such schools in respect of terms relating to termination of service, leave rules etc.were among the subjects discussed by the Conference. The following resolutions were passed by the Conference on these subjects:-

1. Resolved that a Sub-Committee of the ~~South India~~ S.I.T.U. (South India Teachers' Union) Executive be formed to collect materials and submit a report before the end of September 1931 on the number of aided schools in the Madras Presidency, the number of L.T.'s and secondary grade teachers, scales of salary in different schools, teaching grant as at present received in schools, an average standard scale for all grades of teachers, and financial commitments of Government in the event of Government bearing all incremental charges of teachers on the standardised scale.
2. Resolved that the Vigilance Committee of the S.I.T.U. be requested to collect materials re. conditions of the ~~management~~ new contract between teachers and managements in various aided schools in the presidency, ^{in terms} of termination of service, terms of leave rules, hardships to teachers in cases of termination of service. The Committee is to report before September 1931 on the measures necessary to make the contract system applicable to the teaching profession.
3. Resolved that a Sub-Committee of the S.I.T.U. be formed to frame a code of professional conduct for teachers and to organise a registry of teachers submitting to this code. (2) Resolved that ~~that~~ the S.I.T.U. do interest itself in the redress of grievances of only such teachers as come under the Teachers' Registry.
4. Resolved that an Education Week throughout the presidency be organised to focus further attention on Teachers' Association and their work; Protection Fund Day; Parents' Day; Pupils' Day; Teachers' Problems Day; Funds Day and Exhibitions Day.

5. This Conference requests the Government to appoint a Committee of officials and non-officials, including the representatives of the S.I.T.U., to enquire into the present condition of non-Government Secondary schools in respect of (1) their financial stability (2) the need for their existence (3) the conditions of service of teachers employed therein (4) the desirability of unification of the teaching service and (5) exchange of teachers and to report to the Government the result of their enquiry along with their proposals towards improvement.

6. This Conference is of opinion that the written agreement between the management and individual teachers is disappointing and extremely unsatisfactory, as it is not calculated to ensure secure security of tenure for teachers and is against the expressed opinion of the teachers of this presidency, and it expresses its considered view that the condition of teachers in non-Government schools cannot be placed on a satisfactory basis unless (1) the scales of salaries of different grades are standardised on the lines suggested at the Provincial Educational Conference held at Coimbatore in 1930 (2) uniform rules of service, including the leave rules, are framed by the Government and are made applicable to all non-Government schools as a condition of recognition, and (3) an Arbitration Board is appointed in each district to consider the ~~management cases~~ cases of differences arising between the management and the teachers, it being made compulsory that the services of teachers can be terminated only on the recommendation of the Board.

7. This Conference is of opinion that the conditions of service in schools under local bodies being similar to those under Government, the contract between teachers and management prescribed in the Madras Educational Rules should not be insisted upon in the case of such schools.

(The Hindu, 27-5-31).

Economic Conditions.

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Protection for Indian Nail Industry:

Tariff Board Inquiry.

The Government of India have directed an inquiry by the Tariff Board now at Ootacamund into the question whether protection should be given to the wire and wire nail industry in this country. The manufacture of wire and wire nails at present is in the hands of the Indian Steel Wire Products Company which has a factory in Jamshedpur close to the works of the Tata Iron and Steel Company. The question of granting protection to the industry was first considered by the Board in 1924 in connection with the inquiry into the steel industry at that time. On the recommendation of the Board, the Government of India decided to levy a protective duty of Rs. 60/- per ton on wire and wire nails. This was done on the assumption that the Tata Iron and Steel Company would be in a position immediately to roll kinds of steel rod necessary for the manufacture of wire and nails.

The claim of the wire industry for protection was based on the possibility of the industry supplying the market for wire rod manufactured by the Indian steel industry. It transpired soon after that the Tata Company's programme of extensions of works did not admit of the manufacture of wire rod, as special equipment was required for its production. This was brought to ^{the} notice of ^{the} Government of India and it was decided in 1927 to remove the protective duty on wire and wire nails and subject them to the original duty of 10 per cent. In the meanwhile, the original company to which the works belonged went into liquidation as a result of the demand made upon them by principal debenture holders, among whom

were the Bihar and Orissa Government which had considerable financial interest in the Company. The present application has been made by the firm who purchased the works from the original company in 1927.

The inquiry by the Board will primarily relate to the question of the Indian steel industry being now, or in the near future, in a position to supply the material required for the production of wire and wire nails. It is understood that the inquiry will be conducted by the Board along with the paper inquiry which has been in its hand since April 1931.

(The Times of India, 15-5-31).

New Sterling Loan for India.

The following particulars regarding the new Sterling loan floated by the Secretary of State for India is taken from a Government press communiqué under dated 19-5-31:-

"The Secretary of State for India is issuing to-day the prospectus of a sterling loan of £10 millions in the form of 1933-34 bonds. The issue price is £ 100 per cent. The bonds will bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum and if not previously redeemed the bonds will be repaid at par on the 15th December 1934, but the Secretary of State for India reserves the right of giving three calendar months' notice in the London Gazette to redeem the bonds at par on or at any time after the 15th December 1933. The subscription list in London will be closed on or before Thursday the 21st May 1931. Subscriptions to this loan will be received in India at the offices of the Imperial Bank of India at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Rangoon and Karachi.

The loan has been a failure. The underwriters have been left with

62 per cent of the loan, only £3,800,000 having been subscribed.

London papers attribute the failure to ^{the} recent political developments in India, which according to ^{the} prevalent City view, have alienated the sympathies of the investing public.

The new loan has evoked a chorus of protests in Indian commercial circles. The following telegram sent on 22-5-31 by the committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, to the Government of India summarises the grievances of Indian commercialists in this respect:-

"The Committee desire once more to record their emphatic protest against the continuance of the policy of foreign borrowings at high rates as exemplified by the new loan of ten million sterling at six per cent. They cannot help reiterating that these borrowings are due to the impossibility of remitting funds to England at the statutory rate. The committee would like to point out that it is now six years since the Government have either by law or by offer to sell sterling without limit of amount, tried to maintain the ratio at eighteen pence. Yet in spite of the heavy sacrifices of the Indian gold reserves, accentuated trade depression, monetary stringency and the catastrophic fall in the purchasing power of the people as a whole, the new ratio has failed to become effective. A ratio which cannot be maintained after six years of such enormous sacrifices stands condemned as wholly unsuited."

"All sterling securities in the Paper Currency Reserve have long since been dissipated in a futile attempt to bolster up the thoroughly unsound ratio. In addition, Rs.170 millions worth of gold in the currency reserves have been frittered away to keep the Secretary of State in funds. It should not be overlooked that these continued depletions of gold in the paper currency reserve would make it impossible for the Government to maintain the full convertibility of the Indian currency into gold at the statutory rate. The Finance Member maintained that India is a privileged borrower in the London market. We have been told that India's credit stands high because of the annual provision of a heavy sum for debt redemption. This alone imposes an intolerable burden of taxation of about ~~six~~ ^{Rs.} sixty, seventy millions yearly. Yet, it is significant that, at a time when the world money market is so easy that the bank rates on both sides of the Atlantic are not more than 2½ per cent, India is forced to pay a net charge of well nigh 6½ per cent including underwriting commission for temporary borrowing of three years. This is an inevitable result of the Government's obstinacy in attempting to maintain the 18 pence ratio reckless of consequences. The evil of meeting revenue expenditure from currency reserves and capital borrowings cannot be too much emphasised."

The committee are of opinion that the time has now arrived for an independent enquiry into the suitability or otherwise of statutory ratio.

(The Hindu, 23-5-31.)

Findings of Economic Inquiry Committee, Madras.

The Economic Inquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Madras has issued its report, recommending certain measures to mitigate the effects of the general economic depression in the presidency. These include taking steps to provide adequate funds for the next cultivation season, granting loans to smaller ryots for cultivation purposes through the Revenue Department and also increasing the grants to co-operative societies for similar purposes, the organisation of more co-operative societies on the lines of the Tirpur Cotton Sale Society and the reduction of railway freight. The Committee also recommends the creation of a Bureau of Statistics under a permanent committee, as experience has proved that, in the absence of an organisation for the collection of accurate statistics, important information likely to be of great value in investigations and enquiries is not available. (The Times of India, 15-5-31).

Agricultural Depression Enquiry Committee, Mysore.

In view of the several representations made to the Government of Mysore to the effect that the present depression in agriculture and trade has affected more adversely the ryots in Malnad parts (hilly tracts and plantation area) of the State than those on the plains, the Government of Mysore ~~XXXX~~ has appointed a committee of officials and non-officials with Mr. S.P. Rajagopalachar (Revenue Commissioner in Mysore) as chairman to inquire into the economic conditions of Malnad ryots and their indebtedness, to consider what facilities might be created for marketing their special produce on more advantageous terms,

and to suggest such other remedial measures as the circumstances might seem to require. The Committee has been asked to submit their recommendations before 15-5-31. (The Pioneer 9-5-31).

Central Banking Enquiry Committee.

The draft report of the Central Banking Inquiry Committee (see pages 51-53 April 1929 report, pages 54-56 May 1929 report), is said to be under examination at present. It is expected ^{that} ~~and~~ the members will pass the first draft by the beginning of June 1931 and that towards the end of June the Committee's report will be in the hands of the public. After the end of the Committee's task, Sir B. N. Mitra, the Chairman, leaves India for England by the second week of June to take up his new duties as High Commissioner.

(The Times of India, 21-5-31).

Prospects of Tata Iron & Steel Company:

Statement by Directors.

The following statement has been issued by the Board of Directors of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., under date 6-5-31:-

"In view of the rumours about the present workings and financial position of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, which have recently arisen, the Board of Directors of the Company consider that it is due to the shareholders and the investing public that the following statement should be published:-

"Sir Padamji Ginwalla has made a careful personal study, extending over two months, of the works, operations, costs, sales and general management of the Company and has presented to the Board a full and frank report on his findings. This report is now under discussion by the Board with Sir Padamji. The report is confidential, but it may be stated for general information that Sir Padamji reports that, having in view all the circumstances of the period since 1927, the Company has

made satisfactory progress. He points ^{out} to several directions in which further economies must be achieved and in which improvements in the plant and in the conduct of the Company's business should be made.

"The shareholders, are, however, assured that the report contains no revelations of an alarming nature and nothing which justifies nervousness about the stability of the Company. With the help of the additional price received for rails, the Company's year just closed promises to be slightly better than the preceding year. The output of finished steel was the highest on record and the costs for the last half of 1930-31 were lower than those for any preceding year.

"The Company has done everything possible to counter-balance the serious drop in prices of steel, the restriction in the demand for steel in the areas which the Company can most favourably supply and the further falling off in the orders for rails. The results for the year must be regarded as satisfactory by all who realize the full weight of these factors.

"With regard to the rumour which is prevalent that the Board is considering some scheme for the reorganisation of the Company's capital, the Directors wish to announce that no such scheme is under consideration or in contemplation."

The reason for the issue of the statement is that a rumour has been in circulation that, as a result of investigation, certain material defects in the management of the works were discovered and that, in consequence of that discovery, the Board of Directors were contemplating a reduction of the capital of the Company. The issue of the statement has helped to restore confidence among the shareholders and the investing public.

The 'communiqué' has had a reassuring effect on the Bombay Stock Exchange ~~on Tuesday~~, but the improvement in the rates of Tata Steel ordinary and second preference shares as a result of it was not material.

(The Times of India, 6-5-31).

Sir Padamji Ginwalla interviewed at Bombay on 9-5-31 before he sailed for England said that he was optimistic about the future of the Company. He, however, added that this would depend largely on the promptness ^{with which} ~~herewith~~ effect was given to his recommendations, which, on the whole, have been accepted by the directors. If the Industry was not to depend

on the precarious demand for rails by the Indian railways, immediate steps should be taken in his opinion to give effect to the decision of Directors to increase the production of galvanised sheets, wherefor there is a permanent remunerative market. Referring to ~~the~~ Indianisation, he said that the pace of it should undoubtedly be quickened but never at the cost of efficiency. In his opinion over-emphasis on Indianisation was having a distinctly demoralising effect on the Indian employees who consider themselves qualified sometimes prematurely. (The Pioneer, 11-5-31).

Mr. A.R. Dalal, I.C.S., Municipal Commissioner, ~~at~~ Bombay, has resigned from his government post and has been appointed as the General Manager of the Tata Iron and Steel Company.

Cotton Mill Industry Scheme for Bengal:

Anglo-Bengalee Partnership.

A correspondent writing from Calcutta under date 9-5-31 to the Times of India, Bombay, outlines a scheme that is under consideration at present for the starting of cotton mills on a large scale in the Bengal Presidency and thus to set up Bengal as a rival in the field of textile production to the Bombay Presidency. In support of ^{the} efforts in this direction, the correspondent sums up the potential advantages of Calcutta as a cotton mill centre thus:-

As a distributing centre Calcutta's importance requires ^{no} emphasis; but its possibilities as a manufacturing centre, although considerable, are not so widely understood. Capital would not be lacking if efficient management were assured, labour is more plentiful and more cheap than in Bombay (the transfer of the jute mills to single-shift has released 40,000 workers eager for new employment), the vicinity of the coalfields ensures cheap fuel, and the strength of provincial sentiment would be a powerful factor in facilitating the sale of Bengali products of compe-

titive quality and price. The raw material could be drawn from the cotton-growing tracts in the Central Provinces and upper India, while only a steady demand is needed to ensure the growth of additional supplies in areas less distant from Calcutta. The only additional factor required is the spirit of industrial enterprise, so conspicuous in Bombay, so rare in Bengal, at any rate among the Bengalees, yet which is essential in order so to manipulate and co-ordinate all these favourable factors as to ensure profitable production.

The proposal virtually is that Lancashire millowners who find English conditions for various reasons no longer conducive to economical and profitable production should transfer their capital and experience to Bengal and start ^{in Bengal} ~~there~~ ~~anew~~, with ~~sketchy~~ buildings, equipment, etc., embodying all the latest improvements; capital and management being on the basis of an Anglo-Bengalee partnership and the whole enterprise being planned to give industrial development, and racial relations, in Bengal a new starting-point.

(The Times of India, 12-5-31).

Industrial Development in Afghanistan.

According to the Peshawar correspondent of the Pioneer, Afghanistan is on the threshold of an industrial revolution, which is bound to have its repercussions on Indian industrial development. The forward programme of Afghanistan is heralded by the arrival from Europe at Peshawar and at Quetta ^{of} a large consignment of machinery with which Nadir Shah hopes to start cotton weaving and spinning mills at Kabul, the first Afghan paper manufacturing mills at Jalalabad, and woollen weaving mills at Kandahar. This is in accordance with the promise made by Nadir Shah on his accession to the throne in his proclamation which mentioned ambitious schemes for opening canals and railways aimed at making Afghanistan self-supporting and progressive. The Kumar forests

in ²Kalalabad province can supply wood pulp sufficient to keep the mills working all the year round. Kabul already possesses one woollen mill but the demand for swadeshi having increased of late on account of Nadir Shah's preference for Afghan made cloth, it is intended to start new woollen mills at Kandahar where finer wool will be available at cheaper rates and where climatic conditions are more favourable than in Kabul. (The Pioneer, 2-5-31).

Vital Statistics for India for 1928*

The Chief statistical facts relating to the public health in British India in 1928 are set out below:- (1) the birth rate rose from 33.65 per mille in 1925 to 34.77 per mille in 1926; to 35.27 in 1927; and to 36.78 in 1928; (2) the death rate fell from 26.76 per mille in 1926 to 24.89 per mille in 1927 ; and rose to 25.59 in 1928; (3) the infantile death rate (i.e, the death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 born) rose from 174 in 1925 to 189 in 1926, fell to 167 in 1927 and rose to ¹⁷³~~167~~ in 1928.

These figures can be best appreciated by consulting the following table where the rates for British India for 1928 can be compared with those of certain other countries for 1928.

Country.	Birth rate per mille.	Death rate per mille.	Infantile death rate per mille (of infants under one year.)
India .. .	36.78	25.59	173
England & Wales .	16.7	11.7	65
Scotland .	19.8	13.3	86
New Zealand .	19.6	8.5	36
United States of America (Registration Area) .	19.7	12.0	70
Australia .	21.3	9.5	53
Canada(ex Quebec).	24.5	11.3	90
Union of South Africa (White)	25.9	10.0	70
Egypt .	42.2	24.1	151

* Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for 1928 Vol.I.with appendices.Calcutta:Government of India Central Publication Branch,1931 .Price Rs.3-6 or 5s.9d. pp.370.

It will be seen from the above table that India's death rate was $2\frac{1}{3}$ times that of England and Wales; and four times that of New Zealand; her infantile mortality rate was $2\frac{2}{3}$ times that of England and nearly 5 times that of New Zealand.

Births.(British India).-- Births during 1928 numbered 8,882,573 (4,611,688 male and 4,270,885 female) or 365,867 in excess of the figure for 1927; the birth rate was 36.78 against 35.27 in 1927 and 34.64, the quinquennial mean. The proportion of males to every one hundred females born was 108, the same as the quinquennial average. All the provinces except Coorg recorded increases in birth rates as compared with the previous year, the most conspicuous being in Delhi (7.78), Punjab (4.0), North-West Frontier Province (3.2), Ajmer-Merwara (2.86), Bengal (1.9), and United Provinces (1.52). Coorg recorded a decrease of 1.23. With the exception of Coorg and Burma, the quinquennial average was exceeded in all the provinces.

Birth ratios exceeded death ratios in all the provinces except Coorg where the death rate was in excess by 13.27. The following provinces showed the largest increased ratios of births over deaths:- Punjab (21.58), Delhi (19.10), United Provinces (14.09), North-West Frontier Provinces (13.19), Bihar and Orissa (13.0), Madras (11.0), and Bombay (10.89).

Deaths. - (British India). - Deaths in 1928 numbered 6,180,114 as compared with 6,009,729 in the preceding year - an increase of 170,385. Registered births exceeded deaths by 2,702,459 against 2,506,977 in 1927, and Coorg excepted, all the provinces contributed to the increase in the following order :- United Provinces (639,423), Madras (453,701), Punjab (442,696), Bihar & Orissa

(441,386), Bombay (208,762), Bengal(186,665), Central Provinces (178,814). Assam (62,800), Burma (49,592), North-West Frontier Province (28,208), Delhi (9,556) and Ajmere Merwara (3,679). The death rate was 25.59 as against 24.89 in 1927 and a quinquennial mean of 25.97. The rates varied between 19.31 per mille (the lowest) in North-West Frontier Province and 33.66 per mille (the highest) in Central Provinces. The urban death rate was 30.06 against 29.03 and the rural rate was 25.15 against 24.48 in 1927. The rural rates exceeded the urban ones in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam; while the urban rates were in excess of the rural ones in Coorg by 26.08, in Burma by 21.26, in United Provinces by 16.30, in Delhi by 5.37, in Central Provinces by 2.97, in North West Frontier Province by 2.94 and in the Punjab by 2.46.

Infant mortality (under one year).— 1,536,186 deaths or 25 per cent. of the total mortality in 1928 occurred during the first year of life against 1,421,725 or 24 per cent in 1927. In England and Wales the corresponding figures for 1927 and 1928 were 9.5 and 9.3 per cent, respectively. Though the rate for the year is the lowest on record except that for 1927, it is still far in excess of that of England and Wales and other countries. Apart from the ameliorating influences, maternity and child welfare work, the insufficiency of a pure milk supply and the prevailing high prices of milk generally have helped to keep the infantile mortality for India at its present high level of 173 per 1,000 births. During 1928 it varied between 287 (the highest) in Coorg, 238 in Central Provinces, 210 in Burma, 137 in North-West Frontier Province and 132 in Bihar and Orissa (the lowest). In Madras and Bombay Presidencies an increase in the death rates of 8.8 and 18.87, respectively—
-ly,

was recorded, in the Central Provinces 16.81, in Coorg 26.96, and in United Provinces 8.15, while in North-West Frontier Province the mortality rate fell by 13.74 and in Ajmer-Merwara by 5.80. In Madras the rise in mortality was ascribed chiefly to incorrect classification in the returns. The figures show the need for immediate steps being taken to combat this preventable loss of infant life.

Industrial Health and Hygiene. - The report, as in the previous years, gives comparatively little attention to industrial health and hygiene. The following two tables show the chief features of the vital statistics of the colliery population of about 126,000 during 1928 coming under the supervision of the Jharia Mines Board of Health:—

	----	Number	Ratio for 1928.	Ratio for 1927.
Births	. . .	2,128	16.9	15.9
Deaths	. . .	1,529	12.1	10.6

Diseases.	Attacks.	Deaths.	Death Ratio Per Mille During	
			1928	1927
Influenza . .	2,180	55	.4	.2
Small-pox . .	744	24	.2	.2
Cholera . .	132	36	.3	.1

Asansol Mines Board of Health. - The following table gives a few particulars regarding vital occurrences in this settlement:—

			1927.	1928
Births . . .			7,972	9,225
Infant deaths . . .			1,061	1,283

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Infant death rate per mille of births	133	139
Total deaths . . .	5,476	6,896
Cholera . . .	120	292
Small-pox . . .	72	13
Fever . . .	848	1,151
Dysentery and Diarrhoea .	103	310
Influenza . . .	-	4
Respiratory diseases . .	985	1,581
Other causes . . .	3,329	3,519

(The Vital Statistics for India for 1927 ^{are} ~~was~~ summarised at pages 67 to 70 of the report of this Office for February 1930).

Women and Children.

Protection for Child Beggars, Calcutta.

At pages 87-88 of the report of this Office for April 1931 reference was made to the formation of a Boys' Welfare Association to look after the interests of neglected and delinquent children, who are to be found in large numbers on the streets of Calcutta. The subject received further consideration at a public meeting held on 2-5-31 in Calcutta under the auspices of the Bengal Council of Women in co-operation with the Society for the Protection of Children in India, Calcutta, when resolutions were adopted drawing the attention of the Government and of the Corporation to the alarming increase in the number of child beggars and of children exploited for begging purposes, urging upon the Government to bring into operation the section of the Children's Act dealing with "neglected children," and calling upon the Government and the Corporation to support the existing scheme for a Clearing House.

Speaking at the meeting, Mrs. A.N. Chatterji stressed the necessity for taking early action in the matter. She classified the child beggars of the city under the following five heads:-

(a) independent boys who lived by doing odd jobs, varied by a little begging and pilfering. They were homeless and congregated in the neighbourhood of squares and markets. Several of them were arrested daily for begging or obstruction, brought before the Juvenile Court, and dismissed with a warning.

(b) Children brought into Calcutta to be exploited. Those who brought them to Calcutta seemed to think that city a happy hunting ground for beggars, and all sorts and conditions of children flocked into it from all parts of the country.

(c) Boys exploited by gangs usually of thieves or cocaine smugglers. These boys were well treated on the whole, but were taught to take cocaine. When this habit was established, they were made to

earn the drug by helping their masters in their illegal acts.

(d) Children whose parents or guardians sent them round with begging letters and made a good income out of them, and

(e) Children whose frailty and deformities were paraded as a means of earning pity and pice. Their misery was turned into money for those in charge of them. Their suffering was increased a hundred fold and their lives endangered daily.

Dealing with the legal aspects of the problem, Mr. B. B. Ghose, another speaker at the meeting, pointed out that section 27 of the Children Act had some useful provisions, but only a part of it had been put into operation, namely, where children were found living in houses of ill fame. The other useful provisions of that section, however, he added, were lying dormant. ~~There was no doubt that if~~ Their non-enforcement was due to the fact that Government possibly were actuated by the fear of having to find the money to establish industrial schools and rescue homes for rescued children. Quoting police figures, Mr. Ghose said that over 5,500 children were brought before the Juvenile Court every year on petty charges such as begging, obstructing the streets, breach of port rules etc. It was pointed out that in many cases they were warned and discharged and that invariably no attempt was made to send them to industrial schools as provided by the Children Act of Bengal.

The following resolutions were passed at the meeting:-

That this meeting desires to bring to the notice of the Government of Bengal and of the Corporation of Calcutta the alarming increase in the number of child beggars and of children exploited for begging purposes; and to point out the absence of any provision for dealing with the same.

That this meeting calls upon Government to bring into force forthwith the section of the "Children Act" of 1922 which deals with "Neglected Children", and which is still inoperative.

That this meeting calls upon both the Government and the Corporation of Calcutta to give adequate support to the existing ~~scheme~~ ^{scheme} for a Clearing House, and for subsequent accommodation for children or, in the alternative, ^{should} themselves ~~to~~ provide suitable accommodation.

(The Statesman, 3-5-31).

EDUCATION.

Agricultural Classes in Schools :

Progress of Bengal Experiment.

One of the strongest points of criticism against the existing system of education in India is that the training imparted under the present system is designed mainly to turn out efficient clerks for employment by the government and commercial concerns. The absence of an agricultural or industrial bias in the school curriculum has tended to accentuate the drift of pupils towards the black-coated professions, which, as it is, are very congested and are, therefore, unable to absorb the yearly output of fresh batches seeking employment mainly in the clerical grades. It has been felt that a considerable measure of the prevailing unemployment in the country is due to the unsuitableness of the present educational system. Efforts have been made in recent years by several provincial governments, notably by the Punjab and Bengal governments, to alter the existing system and to give an agricultural bias to the curriculum of schools in rural areas. The following is a brief account of the progress made in this direction in the Bengal Presidency:-

The year 1930 saw the beginning of a scheme of agricultural education in rural Bengal, the history of which may be traced back as far as 1889. By the Government resolution on Technical Education of that year, the Provincial Agricultural Departments have had put upon them specifically the duty of "taking positive measures for the education of the rural classes in the direction of agriculture".

In 1890 at the Simla Agricultural Conference attention was directed to this duty, emphasis laid on the fact that "it is no longer a matter of choice whether Agricultural Departments will take up the subject of Agricultural Education or not; but it is a positive duty which they cannot evade unless released by the Secretary of State from the obligation put upon them". As a result attempts were made to teach agriculture through agricultural primers in the rural schools and a few agricultural teachers were appointed to teach agriculture in the High Schools at Dumraon, Calcutta, Chittagong and other places. These did not succeed and a fresh impetus was

given to Agricultural Education in 1917, when the Board of Agriculture in India passed their Resolution XIII, "that for the rapid development of agriculture in India a sound system of rural education based on rural needs is essential".

In 1920 the Dacca Agricultural School was started and later the Chinsurah Agricultural School. In 1924 the Agricultural Education Conference in Calcutta, by their resolutions, numbers 1 and 2, decided to try the experiment of teaching agriculture in the Primary Schools. A deputation was sent to the Punjab to investigate the possibilities of the introduction of Agricultural classes in Schools in Bengal on the lines adopted in the Punjab. The Government of Bengal in 1923 accepted their recommendations to start a teachers' training class at Dacca and to appoint an Inspector of Agricultural Schools to supervise the teaching of agriculture in classes V to VIII, both in the High English and Middle English Schools.

In 1930 the first batch of 15 teachers passed out and began teaching agriculture in 15 schools and the Inspector of Agricultural Schools was appointed. These 15 schools are spread over 12 districts. Of these fifteen, seven adopted the garden scheme and eight adopted the farm scheme. For the garden scheme half an acre of land is sufficient whereas for the farm scheme 5 acres of land is required. In these, 414 students received instructions in agriculture, both theoretical and practical. The total area that was under cultivation, beside the individual plots which each boy has to cultivate by himself, was 56.39 acres. Regarding the attitude of the boys and their guardians towards the agricultural classes, two of which are near industrial centres, report it as definitely discouraging, 4 as lukewarm and 9 as satisfactory or encouraging. It rather unfortunate the opening of these classes synchronised with one of worst periods of agricultural depressions in modern times. This fact is responsible in many cases for the discouraging reports.

The scheme will be reviewed after five years by which time, it is expected, 60 schools will be teaching about 200 classes containing about 2,400 boys. If the scheme is found successful, it will be further extended. The scheme has been modelled on the Punjab Scheme, but as the conditions prevailing in the Punjab are so very different from these in Bengal certain modifications in the light of experience gained may be necessary.

(The Pioneer, 9-5-31.)

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Education.

Education in Mysore -1929-30.

The following information about educational progress in Mysore State is taken from the review on Public Education in Mysore for the year 1929-30 issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Mysore:-

According to the review, the outstanding feature of the year was the passing of the Elementary Education Regulation. Under the new regulation, certain local bodies are expected to take charge of primary education from 1st July 1931. Government trust that, with the co-operation of the department and the public, the objects of the regulation will be fully realised and a great impetus will be given to the expansion and improvement of primary education in the State. (See pages 52-54 of our March~~the~~ 1930 report).

*to the
note
how* Primary, Secondary and Adult Education.- The number of primary schools for boys on 31st March, 1930 was 5,875 with a strength of 230,296 (including 27,162 girls) as against 5,677 with a strength of 2,19,753 (including 22,071 girls) last year, thus showing an increase of 198 schools and 10,543 scholars. The percentage of boys in primary school-going age (calculated at 15 per cent of the total population) was 51.4 as against 49.3 in the previous year.

The condition of the schools for adults continued to be unsatisfactory and many had to be closed. This is attributed to the general apathy of the villagers.

Better progress is expected after the Elementary Education Regulation comes into operation in July 1931.

In the field of secondary education some appreciable progress is indicated. The number of high schools for boys increased from 25 to 28, of which 17 were Government institutions and 11 aided. Their strength rose from 6,380 to 6,549.

Women's Education.- With regard to women's education, there was a decline in the number of institutions though the total number of females under instruction showed commendable increase. The review states that the number of institutions of all grades (including 2 colleges and 6 high schools) for women and girls still further decreased from 784 to 662 and their strength from 37,709 to 34,958, the decrease being due to amalgamation of girls' primary schools with boys' schools. The number of girls studying in boys' schools, therefore rose from 23,599 to 27,162, so that the total number of females under instruction was 62,120 as

against 61,308 in the year previous, which when compared with the total female population of school going age, gives a percentage of 14.83.

Practical Instruction.- There were 87 practical instruction classes (including 12 for agriculture) actually working during the year of which 46 were attached to boys' middle or incomplete schools, 8 to similar girls' schools, 14 to Adi-Karnataka boarding homes and 19 to Adi-Karnataka primary schools. The question as to the place of practical instruction in the system of education and how far it has fulfilled the objects for which it was introduced is under investigation.

(The Hindu, 3-5-31)

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Maritime Affairs.

Employment of Children in Bengal Ports.

The Government of Bengal, Marine Department, have issued the draft of a rule which it is proposed to make under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, to the effect that no child under the age of twelve years shall be employed upon the handling of goods anywhere ~~in~~ within the limits of the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong.

(Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Abstract of Proceedings (No. 330) for April 1931).

The Indian Ports (Amendment) Act of 1922 provided that rules should be made by provincial governments" prohibiting the employment at piers, jetties, docks, etc., of children under the age of 12 years upon the handling of goods". The Government of India, though it passed this legislation, was precluded, for technical reasons, from ratifying the Convention relating to the minimum age of employment.

Right to Terminate Agreement:

Agents Urge Revision of Ruling.

The Agents of steamship companies in India are at present engaged in an endeavour to get a revision of a ruling given by the Government of India on the interpretation of a clause relating to termination of agreement of Indian Seamen contained in the Articles of Agreement of Indian Seamen. The clause in question is as follows:•

"The several persons whose names are hereto subscribed, and whose descriptions are contained herein and of whomare engaged as lascars or other native seamen hereinafter referred to as the said crew hereby agree to serve on board the said ship or any other vessel to which they may be legally transferred in the several capacities

expressed against their respective names on a voyage from to..
any other ports or places within the limits of 60 degrees
 north and 50 degrees south latitude trading to and fro, as the nature
 of the service or employment may require for any period not exceeding
 12 months (provided that this period may be extended by a period not
 exceeding six months by any other further agreement entered into under
 Section 125 (3) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894) and finally to be
 discharged atwithin the said 12 months from the date
 of this agreement".

The point at issue between the Agents of the steamship companies
 on the one hand and Government on the other is as follows :-

The agents contend that they could lawfully pay off the crew of a
 steamer who had signed articles containing this clause at any period
 during the 12 months provided the ship returned to British India and
 the crew were paid off at the port at which the articles were signed.

The Government of India contend, however, that this interpretation
 is incorrect. Government contend that owners could not lawfully dispense
 with the services of the crew at any time irrespective of the period
 of agreement. Government contend that the seamen are engaged on a
 voyage from the port mentioned in the agreement to the port mentioned
 as the port of discharge provided that the period of agreement did not
 exceed 12 months. The agreement did not therefore terminate until the
 vessel, or any other vessel to which the seamen might have been legally
 transferred, had arrived at the port named as the port of discharge
 subject to the proviso that the period of 12 months mentioned in the
 agreement had not expired. Accordingly the Master of the ship is not
 entitled to terminate the agreement and discharge the crew without their
 consent on arrival of the ship at a port in British India other than
 the port of discharge before the expiry of 12 months from the date of
 the agreement.

As this difference of opinion raised a question of great importance
 to shipowners employing Indian crews, the Committee of the Bombay

Chamber of Commerce, after consulting the Chamber's solicitors, have addressed the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon in the matter and pointed out that the interpretation placed on the clause in the Articles of Agreement by the Government of India was contrary to the usual custom and was not supported by legal opinion.. The Committee feels that if this ruling is not challenged, shipowners might be involved in heavy additional expenditure, and suggests that after consultation with Maritime Chambers, the Government of India might be approached and requested to revise their ruling.

The Committee add in their letter to the Associated Chambers, that they are not clear as to how the Government of India came to give a ruling at all in this matter. The form of the agreement with the crew is laid down in Section 28 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, XXI of 1923, and it would be for the Court and not for a Government Department, to interpret its terms if their meaning is disputed.

(Extracted from the Excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, April 1931).

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Migration.

Repatriation from Malaya Estates.

Consequent on the heavy fall in the price of rubber, many of the leading business houses of Malaya, including those established and managed by Indians, are reported to be closing down their business for the present.

According to the Negapatam correspondent of the Hindu, every steamer which arrives in the port from Malaya, is bringing large numbers of repatriated Indian workers. The number of unemployed Indians in Malaya is estimated by the correspondent at 2000 skilled workers and about 30,000 coolies. In spite of this acute situation, many Indians are still leaving for Malaya and thus swell the number of Indian unemployed in Malaya. (The Hindu, 7 & 23-5-31.)

Two Reports on Repatriation Problems

Two reports dealing with the problems of returned Indian emigrants have recently been published in India. The reports are entitled "On the Emigrants Repatriated to India under the Assisted Emigration Scheme from South Africa" and "On the Problem of Returned Emigrants from all Colonies", and their authors are Messrs Bhawani Daya Sanyasi and Benarsi Das Chaturvedi. Mr. Chaturvedi is of opinion that the policy of repatriation is a mistake, as an Indian accustomed to colonial life can never be happy in India. His conclusions may be briefly summarised thus:-

Those who have married in the colonies should not think of coming to India to settle here, for there is little possibility of their being taken back in their respective social organisations. Marriage of their children will be an insoluble problem. From the economic point of view, it is very disadvantageous for colonial Indians to come to India. Certainly they are much better off there. So long as India is not herself free to manage her own affairs, she is not in a position to give any material help to her sons overseas. In no circumstances should Indian leaders of the Government of India be a party to any compromise with the South African or any other colonial government which has for one of its

objects the repatriation of Indians from colonies. In spite of all warnings a number of colonial Indians will still return to India entirely of their own accord. India has a duty to perform towards them. To use Mr. C. F. Andrews' words "They must on no account be allowed to go to destruction in the slums of Calcutta and Madras".

Mr. Sanyasi, who deals mainly with Indians in South Africa summarises his conclusions thus:-

The scheme of repatriation has failed because it has brought untold miseries on the repatriates - especially on those who are colonial-born and they number more than 33 per cent. of the total. They are accustomed to a different standard of living and find it most difficult to adopt the old methods of the land of their fathers or grandfathers. They cannot be happy except in the colonies. With the exception of those who belong to very low castes, others cannot be assimilated by their respective communities. The caste system still holds its sway in India and the question of marriage of the colonial children who are often born of inter-caste marriages raises insolvable difficulties. The Government of India has been able to help only a very small number of the returned emigrants in South India, while they have done practically nothing to those who have returned to North India.

It has been most difficult for returned emigrants, especially for skilled workers, to settle happily in India. A good many offers have been refused by them, some on account of bad climate, others on account of the low wages offered. I have not met a single repatriated emigrant who did not want to return to South Africa if he had only the means to do so. Even from the point of view of the Union Government the Scheme has failed. The Assisted Emigration Scheme will grow more and more unpopular as true facts about the conditions of returned emigrants are known to South African Indians.

(The Pioneer, 25-5-31).

(The report of a Committee appointed by the Government of India to inquire into the working of the special organisation in Madras to deal with South African repatriates is summarised at pages 57-60 of our January 1931 report).

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

Report for June, 1931.

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References to the I. L. O.

During the period under review, the I.L.O. figured very prominently in the Indian press. The greater frequency of references to the I.L.O. is attributable to the fact that during the period the 15th Session of the I. L. Conference was being held at Geneva. The telegraphic messages sent out by Reuters' Agency were, as usual, the main source of information about Geneva developments. The news purveyed by Reuter was scrappy and intermittent, the main object of Reuters' Agency being to wire out only items of definite news interest, greater attention, of course, being paid to matters concerning India which came up before the Conference. No connected account of the proceedings of the Conference was thus available to the Indian public in the daily press. The deficiency was met, however, to a certain extent by special letters contributed to their respective papers by the Geneva correspondents of the more important of the Indian newspapers like the Hindu, Madras, and the Statesman, Calcutta. • Certain Indian weeklies like the Servant of India of Poona also devoted considerable attention to the proceedings of the Conference. Despite the unsatisfactory nature of the volume and quality of the news emanating from Geneva, considerable interest was roused in this country over the proceedings of the 15th Conference. As was perhaps only to be expected, two subjects which evoked particular attention in India were the controversy over Mr. Tarlton's nomination as one of the advisors to the Indian workers' delegate to the Conference, and Mr. Bakhale's resolution advocating the holding of a special Asiatic Labour Conference under the auspices of the I. L. O.

I am giving below the more important of the references to the I. L. O. appearing in the newspapers and periodicals that are received at this Office. The references to the opening of the 15th Session ^{were} ~~are~~ given in my last month's report.

Young Utkal, Cuttack, of 5-6-31, (Vol.V No.28) publishes in its "News of the Week" columns the Reuter's cable regarding the opinion expressed by M. Sokol that the reduction in working hours in industry would alleviate the present economic crisis. The same message includes a reference to the notice given by Mr. Bakhale, the Indian workers' delegate to this year's Conference, of a resolution to be moved in the Conference advocating the holding of an Asiatic Labour Conference.

New India, Madras, of 4-6-31, (Vol.V New Series No.10) commenting on Mr. Bakhale's resolution advocating an Asiatic Labour Conference, says:

"That such a Conference would be of the highest interest and value in focussing attention on the conditions of Labour in non-European countries admits of no doubt. But a more modest resolution last year was not acceptable to the representatives of Governments and Employers, and consequently could not be adopted. Mr. Bakhale suggests representation of the workers in the Colonies and the Mandated Territories at the Advisory Conference. Will the European Powers, which have recourse to forced labor in Africa, agree to such a proposal? France and Portugal, in particular, are unblushing exploiters of colored Labor. Nevertheless, Geneva must show greater and more active interest in the welfare of Labor in Asia and in the Colonies and Mandated Territories. Under the scandalous conditions now prevailing, is it any wonder, as Mr. N.M. Joshi warned the Conference two years ago, that the extravagant promises of Moscow make a strong appeal to the workers in these areas?"

The July 1931 issue of the Indian Review, Madras, (Vol.XXXI No.7) publishes a short note at page 453 announcing that Mr. Bakhale has given notice of a resolution asking for an Asiatic Labour Conference.

The Hindu of 6-6-31, the Hindustan Times of 6-8-31, and New India

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of 11-6-31, (Vol.V New Series No.11) publish a Reuters' cable giving a brief summary of the speech delivered by Mr. Bakhale in the course of the discussions which followed the presentation of the Director's Report to the Conference. It is reported that Mr. Bakhale expressed dissatisfaction at the slow progress that has been made in the betterment of the conditions of Indian workers, and also at the inadequate representation of Indians on the staff and the Governing Body of the I.L.O. He is also reported to have complained that the Indian Government has up till now ratified only very few of the Geneva Conventions. New India of 25-6-31 (Vol.V New Series No.13) publishes at pages 14-15 copious extracts from Mr. Bakhale's speech referred to above. The full text of the speech is published in the Servant of India of 25-6-31 (Vol.14 No.25).

The Times of India of 8-6-31 publishes a short editorial article under the heading "Labour Conventions" commenting on Mr. Bakhale's speech. The article denies Mr. Bakhale's charge about the slow progress made towards the betterment of the conditions of Indian workers and asserts that the progress made in respect of ratification of Geneva Conventions by India is "exceedingly creditable". The article also points out that Mr. Bakhale's criticism about slowness of the Government of India in improving labour conditions is ill-timed and inopportune in view of the forthcoming Report of the Royal Commission on Labour in India, which, the paper expects, will make important recommendations for substantially improving the conditions of the Indian worker.

The Hindustan Times of 17-6-1931 also publishes an editorial

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The full details regarding the attitude taken by the Indian Employers' delegation to the 15th Conference over the acceptance by the Conference of the credentials of Mr. Tarlton, one of the advisers to the Indian Employers delegate, have been widely reported in Indian papers. A Reuter's cable announcing the walk-out staged by the Indian Employers' delegation and the views expressed by Sir Atul Chatterjee on the report of the Credentials Committee on the credentials of Mr. Tarlton was published in the Hindu and the Statesman of 13-6-1931, the Pioneer of 14-6-1931, the Times of India and the Hindustan Times of 15-6-1931 and New India of 18-6-1931 (Vol.V, New Series No.12).

The Hindustan Times of 15-6-1931 has published an editorial article commending the action of Mr. Walchand Hirachand and his colleagues in objecting to the nomination of Mr. Tarlton. The Times of India of 17-6-1931 also publishes an editorial article under the heading "Indian Delegates at Geneva" which takes an opposite view and holds that the contention that European employers of labour in India, because of their being British subjects, should have no say in the election of delegates and advisers to the International Conferences at Geneva, cannot be justified.

Indian Commercial interests are, however, vehemently opposed to the practice of nominating non-nationals to Indian ~~export~~ delegations to international conferences. The following letter sent by the Secretary of the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association to Mr. V.J. Patel, ex-speaker of the Indian Legislative Assembly, then at Geneva, protesting against the nomination of Mr. Tarlton can be taken as typical of the views held on the subject by Indian commercial interests:-

"I am directed by the Committee of my Association to request you to take up the question of appointment of non-nationals on Indian delegations to International Conferences in defiance of public opinion so repeatedly expressed on the subject. My Committee have already authorised Sth Walchand to protest against the nomination of Mr. Tarlton as an Advisor to the Employers' Delegate this year and therefore to attend the International Labour Conference as a representative of India. That Mr. Tarlton should by any stretch of interpretation be treated as a "national" of India is a travesty against which India must certainly protest. It is, indeed, a surprise that the Government of India should have again disregarded public opinion and appointed a non-Indian as a member of the Indian Delegation. Such a protest was lodged by the Indian Employers' representative before the Credentials Committee of the International Labour Conference before. My Committee urge that once again a strong protest be lodged against it. While there was assurances being given of the status of equality to India as a self-governing Dominion in the Empire her sons are denied full direct representation in international assemblies of importance. There would be hundreds of Indians qualified and competent to act as Advisors in place of Mr. Tarlton. My Committee urge that your protest be lodged in as emphatic a manner as possible". (The extract is taken from the May 1931 Circular of the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association).

The Statesman of 20-6-1931 publishes a long air-mail letter dated 5-6-1931 from its Geneva correspondent in which the objection ~~was~~ raised by Mr. Walchand Hirachand against the credentials of Mr. Tarlton, and the previous protests made by Indian delegates in the past conferences against the nomination of non-nationals to represent India at I. L. Conferences are reviewed.

The Hindustan Times of 22-6-1931 publishes in full the speech delivered by Mr. Walchand Hirachand on the Report of the Credentials Committee on Mr. Tarlton's credentials. The Pioneer and the Times of India of 27-6-1931 publish extracts from the Report of the Credentials Committee on Mr. Tarlton's credentials and give summaries of the speeches of Mr. Walchand Hirachand and Sir Atul Chatterjee on the Report. New India of 18-6-1931 (Vol.V, New Series No.12) also comments editorially criticising the Government of India for including a non-national in the Indian employers' delegation.

The Hindu of 14-6-1931, the Statesman of 16-6-1931 and the Pioneer and the Hindustan Times of 17-6-1931 publish a Reuters' cable to the effect that the Italian Delegation to the Conference has announced its intention not to take part in the conference as a result of the objections raised by the workers' group at the Conference against the Italian Facist workers' delegation.

The same message also refers to the adoption of the five resolutions moved by Mr. Bakhale, the Indian workers' delegate to the Conference.

A great number of messages have appeared in the Indian press about the various stages of the proceedings of the Conference with regard to Hours of Work in Coal Mines. The Reuter's cable to the effect that the Conference has adopted the Draft Convention on Hours of Work in Coal Mines prepared by the Office as the basis of future discussions and that the employers' representatives from non-European countries have declined to participate in the Committee on the Hours of Work in Coal Mines was published in the Hindustan Times and the Pioneer of 1-6-1931.

The Hindu of 2-6-1931, the Times of India of 3-6-1931 and the Pioneer and the Hindustan Times of 4-6-1931 publish a Reuter's cable to the effect that the Conference decided to limit the hours of work in coal mines to $7\frac{3}{4}$ hours a day. Another cable from Reuter to the effect that the Conference adopted the first reading of the proposed Draft Convention on hours of work in mines and that Mr. F.W. Fulay, an advisor to the Indian workers' delegate to the Conference, made a

speech on the occasion in the course of which he characterised the conditions of mining labour in South Africa and India as "horrible and inhuman" has been published in the Hindu of 17-6-1931, the Statesman and the Times of India of 18-6-1931 and the Hindustan Times of 19-6-1931.

Mr. Fulay's characterisation of mining labour in South Africa and India as "horrible and inhuman" has evoked a storm of protest from mine-owners in this country. Indian and European mining interests in Calcutta assert that Mr. Fulay's statement is not based on facts, adding that in some respects Indian miners work under better conditions than those enjoyed by their confreres in England. The above views of mine-owners in India have been published by the Statesman of 21-6-31, The Pioneer of the same date publishes a summary of these views.

~~axx~~ A Reuter's cable summarising Mr. V.M. Ramaswamy Mudaliar's (advisor to the Indian workers' delegate) criticism of the Indian Government for its failure to make elementary education compulsory for children and ^{referring to} his assertion that helpless Indian children aged five to six were employed regularly on two pence a day to manufacture cigars and were forced to work 10 to 14 hours a day, made in the course of the discussion over the draft questionnaire relating to employment of children in non-industrial occupations is published in the Hindu of 18-6-1931, the Statesman and the Times of India of 19-6-31, the Pioneer and the Hindustan Times of 20-6-31 and New India of 25-6-31 (Vol.11, New Series No.13) . The same message also announces the adoption of the Convention on the Hours of Work in Coal Mines.

The Servant of India of 25-6-31 (Vol.XIV,No.25) publishes a letter dated 1-6-1931 from its Geneva correspondent describing in detail the proceedings of the opening session of the Conference as well as the work before the Conference. Cephous extracts from the Presidential speech of M. Sokal and from the Director's Report are reproduced in the letter.

The Times of India of 30-6-1931 has published a letter dated 19-6-1931 from its Geneva correspondent under the caption "Application of International Labour Conventions to India". The letter refers to the resolution moved by M. Jouhaux asking the State Members of the Organisation, particularly those having federal constitutions, to examine the machinery for the consideration, ratification and application of I.L.O. Conventions. The letter discusses the difficulties that are likely to arise in respect of applying labour conventions in India in future, when the country may be under a Federal system of Government. After emphasising the need for uniformity and efficiency in giving effect to Geneva Conventions, the letter calls attention to the peculiar position that will be occupied by Indian States in such a Federation if it were to eventuate and advocates the formation of an unofficial all-India labour organisation to stimulate the pace of ratifications of Labour Conventions.

The communiqué issued by the Government of India inviting nominations from representative organisations of Indian employers and workers to the tripartite technical advisory committee to discuss maritime questions to be held at Geneva by the I.L.O. has been published in the Hindu of 12-6-31, the Pioneer, the Hindustan Times and the Times of

India of 13-6-31, and the Indian Trade Journal of 18-6-31 (Vol.CI, No.1304).

The Statesman of 9-6-31 publishes in full a communique issued by this office regarding the Age of Admission of Children to Employment in Non-Industrial Occupations, which was one of the items on the agenda of the 15th I.L.Conference. Copies of the communique have been sent to Geneva with this office's minute H.2/833/31, dated 18-6-31.

Another communique sent out by this Office on Seamen's Welfare in Ports, an item on the agenda of the next maritime session of the I.L.Conference, was published by the Hindu of 20-6-31 and the Statesman of 21-6-31 under the caption "Vagrants of the Sea". Copies of the communique have been sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/838/31 dated 18-6-1931.

The June 1931 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi (Vol.II, No.6), publishes at page 254 to 256 a communique issued by this Office on the ^{Final} 1st part of the Director's Report to the 15th Labour Conference. The same communique is also published at pages 306-308 of the May and June 1931 combined issue of the M.& S.M. Railwayman (Vol 2, No.11 & 12). Copies of the communique have been sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/568/31 dated 21-5-1931.

The Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces in its issue of June 1931 (Vol.X, No.10) the note on the Director's Report appearing in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 25-6-1931.

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, in its combined issue for June and July 1931, (Vol. VIII, Nos. 9 & 10) reprints at pages 187-190 the portion dealing with Indian States in the article "Labour Legislation in India" by Dr. R.K. Das, published in November 1930 issue of the International Labour Review.

The Indian Review, Madras, of July 1931 (Vol. XXXI, No. 7) announces the publication of a book "The Origin, Structure and Working of the League of Nations" by C- Howard Ellis. The notice states that the book, which traces the origin of the League, contains chapters on the machinery of the League, the I.L.O. and the Permanent Court of International Justice. The price of the book is Rs. 15-12-0.

New India of 4-6-1931 (Vol V, New Series No. 10) reprints under the caption "The League of Nations in 1930" the review of the League's activities in 1930 taken from the League of Nations Unions Report for 1930. The review includes references to the Conventions on Forced Labour and on Salaried Employees adopted by the 14th Session as well as to ^{the} inquiry on unemployment initiated by the I.L.O.

At the Session of the Bombay Salaried Employees Conference held at Bombay on 13-6-31, the President, Mr. S. A. Brelvi, M.A., LL.B., while dealing with the various aspects of India's unemployment problems made several references to the work of the I. L. O. in combating unemployment. The analysis of world unemployment conditions contained in the Director's Report to the 15th Conference was reviewed at length

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by Mr. Brelvi, who took occasion to point out that the Government of India has not yet taken steps to give effect to the Washington Recommendation regarding the establishment of unemployment insurance systems. A fairly full account of the proceedings of the Conference as also a summary of Mr. Brelvi's speech is published in the Hindu of 15-6-1931. The Conference is dealt with at pages 35-37 of this report.

Conditions of Labour.

Congress and Labour Reforms .

At pages 1 to 3 of the report of this office for March 1931, reference was made to the resolution ^{on Fundamental Rights} passed at the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress held during the last week of March 1931. The same session of the Congress appointed a committee to consider the clauses of the original resolution in the light of the various amendments proposed and to make a detailed report to the Congress with ^{its} ~~their~~ recommendations. The Fundamental Rights Committee thus appointed, has submitted its report on 25-6-31. The following are extracts from the recommendations of the Committee relating to the labour, economic and social programme to be ~~provided~~ ^{followed} by the Swaraj Government.

(1) Every citizen of India has the right of free expression of opinion, the right of free association and combination and the right to assemble peaceably and without arms for purposes not opposed to law or morality.

(2) The State shall safeguard the interest of industrial workers and shall secure for them by suitable legislation and in other ways adequate wages, ~~and~~ healthy conditions of work, limited hours of labour, suitable machinery for settlement of disputes between employers and workmen and protection against economic consequences of old age, sickness and unemployment.

(3) No person shall be compelled to labour against his will and without due compensation except when such labour is imposed by law.

(4) Attention shall be paid to the special needs of women workers including care of infants when their mothers are at work and adequate provision during the maternity period.

(5) Children of tender age shall not be employed in factories and mines.

(6) Workers have the right to form unions to protect their interests.

(7) The system of land taxation shall be reformed and an equit-

able adjustment made of the burden immediately giving relief to the smaller peasantry by a substantial reduction in agricultural rent and revenue, now paid by them, and in case of uneconomic holdings totally exempting them from rent or revenue, with such relief as may be just and necessary to holders of estates affected by such exemption or reduction in rent and to the same end, imposing a graded tax on net incomes from land above a reasonable minimum.

(8) A graduated scale of death duties on property above a fixed minimum.

(9) Expenditure and salaries in civil departments shall be largely reduced. No servant of the State, other than specially employed experts and the like shall be paid above a certain fixed figure, which should not ordinarily exceed Rs. 1,000 per month.

(10) No duty shall be levied on salt manufactured in India.

(11) The State shall protect indigenous cloth; and for this purpose pursue the policy of exclusion of foreign cloth and foreign yarn from the country and adopt such other measures as may be found necessary.

(12) Intoxicating drinks and drugs shall be locally prohibited.

(13) Currency and exchange shall be regulated in the national interests.

(14) The State shall own or control key industries, mineral resources, railways, shipping and other means of public transport.

(15) Adequate steps shall be taken for the relief of agricultural indebtedness and the prohibition of usury.

(16) The State shall take steps, directly or through local bodies, to improve the condition of people in rural areas by providing healthy amusements, facilities for adult education, the extension and improvement of agriculture, revival and development of hand-spinning and handweaving and other indigenous arts and crafts, and the adoption of an effective programme of village sanitation, drinking water supply, and medical relief.

(17) The State shall provide free and compulsory education.

(The Hindu, 27-6-31)

Labour in Indian States.

Valuable information regarding the right of freedom of association and trade union legislation in Indian States was elicited as ^{He}

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on the subject of

result of a series of questions put by Major Graham Pole in the House of Commons on 7-5-31. According to a message dated 4-6-31 from a London Correspondent of the Hindu, Mr. Wedgwood Benn is reported to have replied that the result of enquiries into the matter undertaken by the Government of India, goes to show firstly, that, in general, freedom of association for industrial purposes exists in Indian States, and, secondly, that no legislation affecting trade unions has been enacted, or is projected, in any of the Indian States.

(The Hindu, 21-6-31).

Minimum Wages of Indian Labour in Ceylon.

At pages 34-36 of the report of this Office for May 1931, reference was made to the considerable dissatisfaction ^{felt} in India over the attempt that is being made in Ceylon to lower the minimum wages of estate labourers there in view of the serious economic depression prevailing in the plantation industries in the Island. According to an Associated Press message published in the Hindu of 15-6-31, Mr. C.S. Ranga Iyer, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, has tabled a question for the forth-coming Autumn Session of the Assembly ~~asking~~ ^{to be asked} whether it is not a fact that the wages of labourers in the tea estates ~~are~~ being reduced in spite of the fact that the Ceylon Tea Company in London has declared a 35 per cent dividend. It is reported to be his intention to urge the Government of India to intervene on behalf of Indian labour against the reduction of wages below the minimum fixed by the law.

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Further details regarding the working of the Minimum Wages Ordinance in Ceylon and the general condition of Indian labour there are brought to light as the result of a recent enquiry conducted by Mr. D. Xavier, Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Council of Mayavaram, who was deputed by the North Tanjore District Congress Committee to study the conditions of ~~the~~ Indian labourers in Ceylon and to submit a report thereon to the Committee. The following are a few extracts from Mr. Xavier's report:-

"In spite of the depression which is cited as one of the reasons for reducing the wages as stabilised under the Ordinance, further recruitment is eagerly sought for by the planters and every day hundreds of coolies are going to Ceylon. At the same time, the fact that conditions in Ceylon are bad and are growing worse for the labourers has become known, so much so, that while in 1929 there were 105,095 emigrants to that island, there were only 91,421 in 1930.

"The degree of medical aid that the labourers are having, as they are entitled to have under the Ordinance, may be judged from the fact that there are at present only 117 hospitals and 762 dispensaries. Some estates have not to this day even a dispensary and no maternity relief.

"The children of the labourers are hopelessly neglected. For statistical purposes, there are 400 schools imparting education to 42,473 children. But, most of these schools have for teachers mere figureheads, who are more concerned with the working of the estate than with the teaching of the boys, and who can, therefore, be regarded only as makers of check-rolls.

"Though from 1922 to 1927 sanitary lines have been constructed almost up to the Government standard, and though as a consequence there of there is not much overcrowding, there are still estates where the back-to-back lines are overcrowded and unhealthy and are only small dungeons. There are only about 5,300 latrines on the estates employing Indian labour and pipe water supply is available only for about 117,000 rooms.

"When a labourer, for some reason or other, desires to quit the Island, he is subjected to the greatest difficulty in the matter of obtaining discharge certificates.

"The disability imposed on Indians to have the right of voting in Ceylon is a matter on which the Government of India have not as yet taken the action that is expected of them, though the subject has been a matter for grave concern to the Indian press and public for some time past.

(The Hindu, 29-6-31).

The abuses of the Kangani system of recruitment for the Ceylon plantations is another subject over which much dissatisfaction prevails in India. The Hindu of 29-6-31 makes the following reference to this ^{subject} in its editorial columns and urges the authorities to make an enquiry on the subject with a view to weed out the evils of the system.

"The need for an enquiry into the Kangany system obtaining on the tea estates in Ceylon is emphasised by the Additional Sessions Judge of Kandy in a recent judgment of his. He observes " that there must be something wrong with a system which allows a kangany to get eighty times the salary of a 'coolie'. It is a matter for the Government to take up". Repeated demands have been made for ^{an} enquiry into the conditions of estate- labour in Ceylon, but without any response on the part of the authorities. It is notorious that even estate- superintendents move in dread of the all-powerful kangany. In the case referred to above an estate- superintendent is reported to have deposed that he would " rather offend anybody but ^{the} head-kangany." The interests alike of estate-owners and the labourers require that the kangany should be taught his place."

Plight of Indian Labour in Burma.

At pages 46-47 of the report of this office for May 1931 reference was made to the Burmese rebellion and to the plight of Indians in Burma. The situation has not improved and Indians are precipitately leaving Burma in large numbers abandoning their jobs and ~~movable~~ movable properties. The feeling is growing in India that the Government of Burma is not taking sufficient steps to protect

Indian interests. In this connection the following telegram has been sent by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 6-6-31 to the Viceroy:-

"The Committee of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry are deeply concerned by the plight of Indians in Burma. Ill-feeling against Indians is spreading from district to district, causing immense loss of life and property and upsetting trade, commerce and industry.

"The Committee find it difficult to gauge the full extent of the loss and suffering to Indians owing to the inadequacy of press reports, but yet feel that the absence of normal emigration from India and the anxiety on the part of Indians in Burma to leave the country is sufficient index to the gravity of the situation.

"The Committee strongly feel that the action taken so far is not sufficient to meet the situation and most earnestly urge the Government of India to resort to prompt and stronger action to protect the life and property of Indians in Burma."

In view of the adverse conditions prevailing in Burma, the Government of Madras has issued the following communique on 18-6-31 warning Indian labourers against going to Burma:-

The Director of Statistics and Labour Commissioner in Burma reported that although the conditions in Rangoon are unfavourable to employment, a continued increase has been noticed in the volume of labour immigration from the Coromandel Coast into Rangoon as compared with the previous years. Indian labourers are warned not to go to Rangoon in search of work unless they have promise of definite employment.

A deputation consisting of Mr. S.N. Haji, (representing the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce), Dr. R.S. Dugal, (representing the Burma Indian Association), and Mr. R.G. Iyengar (representing the Nattukottai Chettiar's Association, Burma) has arrived in Simla on 20-6-31, to wait in deputation upon the Viceroy and place before him the Indian points of view with regard to the present situation in Burma, especially ^{regarding} the serious condition of Indians in various parts of that province. The Deputation will further urge the claims of Indian interests in Burma

for adequate representation on any committee or conference that may consider the question of constitutional development of Burma. (The Hindu, 24-6-31).

Wages and Hours of Work in Printing Presses in Bombay City
in 1929.

Attention is drawn to the report of an enquiry conducted by the Labour Office, Bombay, into wages and hours of work in certain selected printing presses in Bombay City, published in full at pages 1023-1035 of the June 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol. X, No.10).

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M. & S. M. Railway Strike.

As a result of the retrenchment policy of the M. & S. M. Railway authorities, there was a strike in the Perambur railway workshops of the M & S. M. Railway lasting for 6 days - from 17 to 23-6-31. According to the Agent's calculation, in March last, ~~xxx~~ nearly 800 hands were declared surplus in the workshops, and since then nearly 450 hands had voluntarily resigned, and other causes such as deaths, medical unfitness etc., had caused a further reduction of 150 hands. The M. & S. M. Railway Labour Union requested the authorities early in June to stop the compulsory discharge of the remaining ~~200~~ surplus hands as the railway's turn-over of nearly 300 vacancies in a year would enable their gradual absorption. This suggestion of the Union was not accepted by the Agent and on 16-6-31, 17 workers employed in the wagon section and 33 in the smithy section of the workshop were discharged from service by way of retrenchment. According to the authorities, only 53 were considered surplus in the smithy-shop in March last and since then 51 hands in that section had resigned. Therefore the discharge of 33 hands, many of whom were members of the workers' union, from the smithy-shops on the 16th June made the employees apprehend that the authorities were victimising the workmen under the cloak of retrenchment. This led the men to strike work from 17-6-31 as a mark of protest against the action of the authorities. On 19-6-31 the Railway authorities threatened to declare a lock out if the workers did not change their attitude and resume work. As a result of negotiations entered into between the Union and the Railway authorities, a settlement was arrived at on ~~the~~ 22-6-31, ~~according to~~ ^{by} which the workers agreed to end the

strike and resume work. The Agent on his part has agreed (1) to receive a deputation of Union officers to discuss the retrenchment measures (2) to abolish short time working as soon as circumstances permit of this and (3) to victimise no worker for his participation in the present strike. The workers resumed work on 23-6-31 accordingly.

(The Hindu, 17 & 23-6-31)

Mysore Railway Workshop Strike, Mysore.

The authorities of the Mysore Railway Workshop, Mysore, recently decided to reduce the number of working days in the shop from six to four days in the week by declaring Friday & Saturday, in addition to Sunday as holidays. As this meant a reduction in wages, over 700 workmen employed in the workshop struck work on 4-6-31 demanding, besides the cancellation of short time, the recognition of their Union, reinstatement of victimised workmen and the redressal of a few other grievances. When the workmen sent their representatives to the Agent for placing their case before him, he, ^{if would appear,} ~~seems to have~~ insisted that one of the representatives who is the General Secretary of the Mysore Railway Workers' Union should not be included in the deputation. As a compromise the Union sent six of their members, excluding the General Secretary, of the Union. The Agent having given a written undertaking to open the workshop on Fridays and consider their other grievances, the workmen resumed work from 6-6-31.

(The Hindu, 7-6-31).

Enquiry into the Standard of Living
of Jute Mill Workers in Bengal.*

The following details regarding the standard of living of Jute Workers of Bengal are taken from a report on an enquiry into the standard of living of Jute Mill workers in Bengal conducted by Dr. A.C. Roy Choudhury, Special Officer, appointed for the purpose by the Government of Bengal. The inquiry was started by the Government of Bengal for the collection of a number of family budgets to ascertain the standard of living of the poorer classes of labourers in the industrial centres of Bengal. Owing to ~~the~~ shortness of time and insufficiency of trained staff, it was suggested that the inquiry should be of an intensive nature, preferring a smaller number of reliable budgets to a larger number of doubtful ones. Moreover, it was proposed that the inquiry should be confined to certain typical establishments rather than a larger number of widely separated establishments. It was decided to confine the inquiry to the jute mill workers in the first instance and six mills situated in three centres were selected for the purpose, viz. Fort William and Ganges in Howrah, Clive and Hooghly in Kidderpur and Matiabruz, and Kelvin and Kinnison in Titagarh. Owing to trade depression, the Jute Mill Association decided to cut down the working hours of the mills to 54 hours per week and close the mills altogether for one week every month from July as a temporary measure. This temporary

* Government of Bengal Commerce Department - Report on an Enquiry into the Standard of Living of Jute Mill Workers in Bengal - by Dr. A.C. Roy Choudhury, Special Officer - Calcutta ; Bengal Secretariat Book Depot - 1930. Price - Indian, Rs.2; English, 3s.3d. - pages 47.

abnormal situation affected the economic condition of the labourers to a great extent, with the result that the Special Officer was left

with only one month (viz., June) to collect the normal family budgets.

This prevented the comparing of the budgets with those of the subsequent months.

For the purposes of the enquiry, select representative families with total income of less than Rs.50 per mensem from the following classes of workers were chosen: Hindus from Bengal, Behar, United Provinces, Central Provinces, and Madras, and Muhammadans from Bengal, Behar and United Provinces. Out of 153 budgets collected, 28 were rejected for various reasons chiefly due to exaggerated statements. The present report therefore is based on the remaining 125 budgets which have been admitted.

Composition of the families. - The 125 families selected for the purposes of the present enquiry consisted of 223 wage earners (144 males, 77 females and 2 children below 15 years), 309 dependants living with the earning members (3 males, 73 females and 233 children) and 57 dependants living elsewhere (21 males, 21 females and 15 children). The following points should be noted regarding the composition of the families (a) there are very few adult male dependants unless they are incapacitated for some reason, (b) the females of the Muhammadans, as a rule, and also those of the Bengali Hindus are mostly dependants and not wage-earners. Of the 77 female wage earners in the 125 families under consideration, 14 only were Muhammadans and Bengali Hindus while the rest were Hindus from other provinces. Of the 73 female dependants 46 were in Muhammadan and Bengali Hindu families, (c) Children under 15 years are not generally wage-earners, there being only 2 in 125 families.

Income of Members. - The average income per capita of the females are given below:-

Divisions.	Women- earners.	Women- dependants.	Total number of women.	Total wages earned by women monthly.			Average per capita.		
				Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Muhammadans & Bengali Hindus	14	46	60	205	9	9	3	6	10
Hindus from other provinces.	63	23	90	842	4	11	9	5	9

It is obvious from the above table that the women of the second division

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contribute on the average about three times more than those of the first division. The cause of this difference is the purdah system of the Muhammadans and to some extent of the Bengali Hindus who think it a point of honour not to allow their females to work outside. On the other hand, all the Hindus coming from outside Bengal are not hampered by any ^{such} social custom and do not think it derogatory for their females to work.

The side incomes of the wage earners are given in the following table:-

Divisions.	Sex.	Number of earners.	Total additional earnings.			Average earnings per capita.			Total.		
			Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Muhammadans & Bengali Hindus	Male	54	150	4	11	2	12	6	4	2	0
	Female	18*	25	2	0	1	6	4			
Hindus of other provinces	Male	90	89	8	9	0	15	11	1	0	10
	Female	65+	3	15	0	0	0	11			

* Includes 4 women who are not wage-earners, but have side-incomes.
 + Includes 2 women who are not wage-earners, but have side-incomes.

Of the 125 families whose budgets were examined there was 1 getting an income below Rs. 20; 43 getting between Rs. 20 and Rs. 30, 47 getting between Rs. 30 and Rs. 40, and 34 getting between Rs. 40 and Rs. 50.

The average monthly income and expenditure per family and per equivalent adult male is given in the following table:-

	Per average family .			Per equivalent adult male.			Percentage to total expenditure.
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	
Income	34	7	0	10	11	8	..
Different items of expenditure:-							
Food	20	13	5	6	7	10	64.9
Fuel and lighting ..	2	4	7	0	11	5	7.13
Rent	1	8	5	0	7	7	4.74
Clothing	2	6	5	0	12	0	7.5
Household requisites and beddings	0	8	9	0	2	9	1.72
Cellaneous	4	7	11	1	6	5	14.01
Total expenditure	32	1	6	10	0	0	100

4. A comparative statement of the average monthly income and expenditure per family in Bengal, Bombay and Sholapur is given below:-

Rs.	Expenditure.						
	Monthly income.	Total.	Food.	Fuel and lighting.	Rent.	Household requisites clothing & bedding.	Miscellaneous.
Amount	Rs.34-7-0	Rs.32-1-6	Rs.20-13-5	Rs.2-4-7	Rs.1-8-5*	Rs.2-15-8	Rs.4-7-11 ⁺
Percentage to total expenditure	64.9	7.13	4.74	9.22	14.01
Amount	Rs.35-2-3	Rs.33-13-1	Rs.19-15-0	Rs.2-13-4	Rs.2-11-6	Rs.3-3-7	Rs.5-1-8
Percentage to total expenditure	59.56	8.2	8.8	10.3	13.8
Amount	-	-	Not available.		-	-	-
Percentage to total expenditure	49.37	9.97	6.68	12.89	21.07

Generally speaking the workers of Bengal spend on the average 60% of the income on food and 32% on all other items. Most of the families are in a chronic state of indebtedness and the apparent savings of 8% are spent on the payment of debts and interest, except a few families ~~who~~ who really do make a saving. Out of the amount spent for food, nearly 50% is spent on the purchase of staple food (rice, wheat and dal) and 50% on other items of diet.

Of the total expenditure 64.8 % is spent on food, 7.1% on fuel and lighting, 4.8% on rent, 8.2% on clothing, 1.8% on household requisites and beddings and 12.4% on other miscellaneous items.

The following remarks regarding the conditions of labour of the workers have been made in the Report:-

In single shift mills 60 hours' week and in multiple shifts mills about 40 hours' week are observed for each worker. The cause of migration of persons from other provinces in almost all cases is economic strain. They earn markedly more here than they used to do in their own provinces. In the course of the investigation it was found that in some of the mills the percentage of venereal diseases is believed to be very large. Figures were not available as no records

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are kept. The diseases are contracted mostly from the prostitutes in the bastis adjoining the cooly lines. Some of these prostitutes also work as mill hands. This high prevalence of venereal diseases is obviously due to a great extent to the disparity of the sexes amongst all classes of the workers residing in the cooly lines, except the people of Central Provinces and Madras. There is no proper arrangement for the treatment of these diseases.

Children under 15 years of age are not employed in the jute mills and simply waste their time. The establishment of free primary schools for the children is desirable. Out of six mills, in one only there is a free primary school, with 30 or 35 students.

Out of the six only one mill has got a part-time midwife. In most of the mills there is a maternity allowance in the shape of full-pay-leave for 5 weeks.

In one mill there is a permanent arrangement for a free weekly cinema show for the workers.

In the six mills, investigated a little over 50 per cent. of the employees are accommodated in company's quarters. The sheds are made in blocks with back to back arrangement with tiled roof, pucca floor and wall. There is a small verandah in front usually used for cooking and sometimes for accommodating cattle or goats. In some cases there are let out by the occupants to other coolies on a small rental for sleeping during the night. The room itself is in many instances used for cooking. The average size of the rooms is generally 9 feet 6 inches by 8 feet 6 inches. There is one door and sometimes a small window opening on the verandah. In one of these mills there are two-storied coolie lines. The spaces between the blocks are pucca or katcha. Rooms are generally overcrowded. On the average about 4 persons live in each room, 5 or 6 being common. In one case as many as 12 persons (3 males, 4 females and 5 children) were living in a room 8 feet 6 inches square, but this is exceptional. Ventilation of the rooms is very unsatisfactory. Water-supply and conservancy are generally good. The surroundings are kept fairly clean. The other half of the employees live in private bastis adjoining the mill areas. The sheds are generally made of tiles with kutchha floors and mud-plastered bamboo walls. The conservancy, ventilation and general sanitary conditions are, in most instances extremely bad, though the rents are higher than the companies' quarters.

The following suggestions have been made in the Report for improving the condition of labour in the jute industry:-

(a) The Shop-keepers in the mill areas charge higher prices for the quality of the articles supplied, and for one week's credit at least 10 per cent. over the market price. The establishment of co-operative supply stores would be a boon to the labourers.

(b) For the same kind of quarters, the monthly rent charged by different mills varies from 4 annas to Re.1-6-6. Uniformity on one of the lower scales is suggested.

(c) Establishment of free primary schools or elementary technical schools is desirable.

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(d) The establishment of Venereal Clinics in suitable centres, in the mill areas is a necessity. Funds may be found by the combined contributions of the mills, Municipalities and Government. Other measures, such as licensing and inspection of prostitutes in this connection may be considered.

(e) The establishment of a small Maternity Home with a lady doctor in charge in each industrial area would be a great improvement. A baby home with nurses to look after the babies during the working hours of the mothers would eliminate the pernicious habit of dosing the children with opium.

¶ (f) Very few can afford to spend anything for amusements. One of the mills provides a weekly free-cinema show for the workers. Two things in this connection are recommended:-

- (1) providing regular shows like this in other mills; and
- (11) exhibition of general educative films on maternity and child-welfare, social (showing the evils of excessive expenditure on marriages and funerals, etc.), personal hygiene and other public health films with special reference to the possibilities of improvements in their own conditions by their own efforts. Such films may be locally made and shown in different mills by turns.

(g) Increase in the number of quarters for the labourers is a necessity. The overcrowding can be avoided by increasing the number of quarters, and at the same time further construction of back-to-back houses cannot be advocated.

(h) Employment of trained Sanitary Inspectors for mills to look after general sanitation, adulterated foodstuffs, under-weights in the mill markets and septic tanks, etc., is suggested. They can also amuse and educate the labourers by giving lantern lectures on subjects affecting their welfare.

(i) The high rate of interest charged by the money-lenders in mill-areas is a permanent handicap to the labourers ^{in the way of} bettering their condition. The establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies in this connection, wherever possible, is a matter for serious consideration.

(j) The appointment of a sympathetic officer who will study the needs and requirements of the labour force on one hand, and act in co-operation with the mill authorities on the other will go a great way towards the success of any scheme for the betterment of their condition. Success is all the more possible as the labour force is concentrated in definite areas.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION.

Workers' Organisations.

All-India Railwaymen's Federation's 3rd Half Yearly Conference with the Railway Board.

The third half yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the representatives of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation took place on 25 & 26-6-31 at Simla. ~~Though~~ ^{The} questions for discussion at the meeting were limited (1) to the present retrenchment on Indian State Railways and (2) to the re-instatement of the G.I.P Railway strikers. ~~The~~ former question loomed large and took up the major portion of the discussions. The Federation was represented ~~at~~ the meeting by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, President, Mr. V.V.Giri, General Secretary, Mr. S.C. Joshi (G.I.P) Dewan Chamanlal and Mr. Ladikram (N.W.R.), Mr. Sambasiva Rao, (^{Railways} Mysore), Mr. Muttu (B.N.R.), Mr. ~~A. M.~~ Khan (N.W.R.), Mr. Surendra-nath and Mr. Bhatnagar (E.I.R), Mr. J.N.Gupta and Mr. N.N.Chatterjee (E.B.R), Mr. K.K. Gupta (A.B.R.), Mr. Sridhar Naik (N.S.R.) and Mr. Subha Rao (B.B. & C.I.).

Mr. V.V.Giri, the General Secretary of the A. I. R. F., had, as usual, furnished the Railway Board, a few days before the meeting, ^{with} memoranda on the ~~two~~ above two subjects. The meeting, however, ended in failure as the Railway Board refused to stop ~~the~~ staff retrenchment pending its discussion of the Federation's proposals with the Government of India and the Agents of the various railways. Much resentment was felt by the representatives of the Federation at the refusal of the Government to grant a Conciliation Board to settle the points in dispute between the Federation and the Railway Board.

As regards the re-instatement of the G.I.P.Railway strikers, the

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Railway Board expressed its inability to do anything in the matter at present owing to the necessity for retrenchment and in view of the instructions issued by the Railway Board that persons discharged as a result of the present retrenchment should be given preference in filling up future vacancies.

A Special Convention of the All-India Railway-men's Federation met at Simla on 27-6-31 to discuss the Railway Board's attitude and adopted a resolution to organise by way of protest [/] an All-India Railway Strike. This extreme measure^s, according to the resolution, was resorted to for the following reasons:—

(1) The refusal of the Railway Board to consider the views of the Federation in regard to the retrenchment question before proceeding to staff retrenchment.

(2) The refusal of the Railway Board to join the Federation in an application for a Board of Conciliation to settle this question.

(3) The refusal of the Government of India to grant the request of the Federation when it ^{Singly} ~~simply~~ applied for such a Board, and

(4) The refusal of the Railway Board to suspend further retrenchment pending the consideration of certain proposals to meet the present emergency, put forward by the Federation at its meeting with the Railway Board on 25 & 26-6-31.

The Resolution then proceeds to detail the steps already taken for retrenchment and the views of the Federation on the whole question of retrenchment as follows:—

"And whereas so far 35,178 men have been discharge^d and 2989 demoted;

"And whereas 30,000 more workers are doomed to be retrenched in the immediate future;

"And whereas the Federation have received reliable complaints about favouritism, nepotism, victimisation absence of any one principle etc. in actually carrying out the retrenchment;

"And whereas this colossal retrenchment will aggravate the unemployment in the country resulting in social distress and unrest;

"And whereas the retrenchment so far effected is almost exclusively confined to the workers and other subordinates employed, in as much as only 13 officers out of nearly 4800 in all Railways have been sent out;

"And whereas the financial policy the Government in raising the ratio to 1s.6d. in 1927 and thereby creating and accentuating the financial stringency itself largely responsible for the reduction of the Railway traffic, and cannot be made an excuse for the wholesale reduction of the workers.

"And whereas the automatic retirements due to deaths, discharges, superannuation etc. numbering at least 30,000 workers every year render retrenchment unnecessary;

"And whereas the delegation of the Federation was and is still prepared to accept a temporary reduction in the salaries and other emoluments of the staff on a graduated scale, confined to those getting more than Rs.100 per mensem,

"And whereas the said delegation was and is still prepared in the alternative to the above to the diversion of half of the railwaymen's Provident Fund contribution amounting to 50 millions of rupees to stop retrenchment and secure the reinstatement of those already retrenched or reduced or demoted."

It has been decided by the Special Convention to take a ballot of the members of the affiliated unions on the question of the general strike before 1-8-31. The Convention has, further, appointed a 'Committee of Action' to carry on propaganda in favour of a general strike and to supervise the balloting. If the balloting is in favour of the decision of the Convention, this Committee is empowered to organise the General Strike.

Subsequent to the meeting of the Special Convention of the Federation, the Railway Board ~~has~~ issued a press communique in which *it has* they have justified the present staff retrenchment on the ground of the decline in the earnings of the State Railways during 1930 and the

current year. The threat of a general strike by the Federation has, however, led the Railway Board to ^{decide to reconsider} ~~review~~ the position and to consult the Agents of State Railways on the various issues arising out of the discussions with the representatives of the Federation. Urgent invitations have been issued to the Agents of the State Railways to meet the Railway Board and the meeting is expected to take place in the ^{first} week of July.

(The Hindu, 1 & 2-7-31).

The First Mysore Labour Conference,

Bangalore.

The First Mysore Labour Conference was held at Bangalore on 2-6-31, under the presidentship of Mr. V.V.Giri, Bar-at-Law, the General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. The Conference was attended by more than 20,000 labourers of Mysore. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who opened the proceedings of the Conference, as well as Mr. Giri made fervent appeals to the labourers to organise themselves under Trade Unions ~~so as~~ to safeguard their interests. The following are a few of the more important resolutions passed by the Conference:-

That this Labour Conference deeply deplores the appalling tragedy at the Kolar Gold Fields last week and, while expressing its sense of profound grief at the terrible loss of life and conveying its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of the family, ^{also} ~~calls~~ ^{calls} upon the Government to institute an immediate, open and thorough enquiry into the matter so that the public may know what steps are taken in the mines to ensure ^{the} safety and progress of the workers therein.

That this Conference recommends that the Government of Mysore should introduce Trade Union legislation with a view to safeguard and advance the rights and privileges of the labourers.

That this Mysore Labour Conference deplores the attitude of the employers in the State towards Trade Union activities and therefore urges upon the Government and employers to immediately reorganise unions and collaborate with them in ensuring industrial peace.

This Conference congratulates Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru for securing the adoption by the Congress of the resolution on the fundamental rights relating to the workers and requests the Mysore Government to incorporate the fundamental rights of the workers in the constitution of the Government of the State, on the lines followed by the Indian National Congress.

This Conference emphatically protests against the retrenchment policy adopted against the workers on the railways, without consideration of the hardships inflicted thereby, and without resorting to other avenues to retrench expenditure, ~~without throwing the men out of employment~~ and the Conference therefore demands that all discharge notices issued or contemplated be cancelled forthwith and a Conciliation Board be appointed immediately for the purpose of devising ways and means of meeting the requirements of the establishment and at the same time avoiding compulsory discharge of employees.

(The Hindu, 3 & 4-6-31).

All- India Trade Union Congress:

Executive Council Meeting, Calcutta.

A meeting of the Executive Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress was held on 7-6-31 in Calcutta under the presidency of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, the President of the All-India Trade Union Congress. The meeting, besides deciding to hold an open session of the Congress in Calcutta on 3-7-31, discussed fully the question of restoring unity within trade union ranks. Mr. Bose appealed that one more effort for unity should be made before the next session of the A.I.T.U.C., which was to be held in July. He recommended the Council

to find its way, if possible, to effect a compromise ~~on~~^{the} on three major issues around which differences of opinion chiefly centred, viz., foreign affiliation, representation at Geneva and the question whether the decisions of the Trade Union Congress is to be binding on individual trade unions. Ultimately the following resolution was adopted by the Council:-

That this meeting expresses its emphatic opinion that unity in the Trade Union movement is essential in the interests of the Indian working class, and as the T.U.C. session is fast approaching and as it is imperative that the much desired unity should be achieved before the T.U.C. meets in Calcutta, this meeting authorises the Chairman of the Executive Council to declare, in unequivocal terms, that the A.I.T.U.C. stands for international solidarity of the working class, and for co-operation with all class organisations of workers in every country which are fighting against capitalist exploitation backed by imperialism. It also holds that the A.I.T.U.C. stands against all international organisations which are working as agents of capitalism and imperialism. This meeting further authorises the chairman to invite all Unions in India to join the A.I.T.U.C.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-6-31).

Invitations had been issued by Mr. Bose to many ~~of the Unions~~^{by the labour leaders of the Council} affiliated to the Federation to meet the Executive Council to explore means of effecting unity in the labour ranks. Almost all the Unions declined the invitation and the members of the Trade Union Unity Committee appointed by the Trade Union Unity Conference of May 1931 (vide pages 55-56 of the May 1931 report) are reported to have addressed letters to Mr. Bose requesting him to drop his plan of a new Conference and to fall in line with the work started in Bombay early in May this year.

According to a statement issued to the press by the Secretary of the Trade Union Unity Committee, the Committee had an informal discussion in Bombay with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 11-6-31 on the question of bringing about a union of the two wings of the Indian Labour and

decided to request Pandit Jawaharlal and Mr. S. C. Bose to serve as members of the Committee. Pandit Jawaharlal is reported to have accepted the invitation. The Committee has further requested the Trade Union Congress to postpone its session till October so that efforts for unity may have a greater chance of success and the Congress Session may be utilised to re-establish ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ unity of the Trade Union movement ~~of~~ the country. (The Hindu, 25-6-31).

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Intellectual Workers.

Salaried Employees' Conference, Bombay.

The salaried employees of Bombay met in conference in Bombay on 13-6-31 under the presidentship of Mr. S. A. Brelvi, M.A., LL.B., Editor, Bombay Chronicle. Unemployment was in the forefront of subjects discussed by the Conference and Mr. Brelvi, in the course of his presidential address, referred in great detail to the efforts made by the International Labour Office in combat unemployment and to the analysis of the causes of unemployment contained in the Director's Report to the 15th Labour Conference. Speaking about the problem of unemployment in India, the speaker said that the Government of India was not only indifferent to the welfare of the unemployed but was, by ^{its} ~~their~~ "On-scientific and unfair system of retrenchment, especially on the Railways", adding to the number of unemployed in the country, which, according to Mr. Jammadas Mehta's estimation numbers 40 millions. He deplored that the Government of India have so far ignored the recommendation of the International Labour Conference of 1919 regarding the introduction of unemployment insurance.

The Conference passed resolutions (1) demanding separate representation for salaried employees in the legislatures ^{provisionally} (2) ^{provisionally} appointing ~~selecting~~ a committee to investigate the unemployment problem, (3) opining that salaried employees were inadequately paid and demanding that the minimum salary for intellectual workers should not be less than Rs.100 per month, with a month's privilege leave, three weeks' sick leave with full pay and further leave on half pay till recovery (4) demanding provision of provident and pension funds and (5) urging that maximum hours of work should be fixed at 6 hours per day and 33 hours per week.

(The Hindu, 15 & 16-6-31).

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The statement that the number of unemployed in India today amounts to 40 millions ^{made by} which Mr. Brelvi ~~has made~~ on the strength of the calculations made by Mr. Jammadas Mehta, M.L.A., and a labour leader of note, is seriously challenged by the Times of India in the course of a leading article on "Unemployment" published in its issue of 17-6-31. On the number of unemployed in India the article says:-

"We observe that Mr. Brelvi has adopted Mr. Jammadas Mehta's figure of 40 millions of unemployed in India. This appears to us a preposterous estimate and if we put the figure at one per cent of ~~four~~ 40 millions, we believe we are likely to be as near the truth as Mr. Mehta is."

Commenting on Mr. Brelvi's criticism of the Government for not having organised a scheme of unemployment insurance for India, the article observes:-

Mr. Brelvi denounces Government for not having instituted a scheme of unemployment insurance; but, if we take his figures, we see how impossible it would be for Government to institute such a scheme now and how, if a scheme had been instituted, it must inevitably have broken down at the time of greatest need. Assuming that relief was given to the extent of only Rs. 5 a month, we should then get a figure of Rs. 200 million a month for unemployment relief alone, quite apart from the cost of distribution and administration. Perhaps Mr. Brelvi and Mr. Mehta will tell us how this sum could be raised in India today. Even if we took relief at Rs. 2 million a month, the sum would be formidable. Mr. Brelvi quotes the Treaty of Versailles in support of his contention that the Government of India should have instituted a scheme of unemployment insurance, but he forgets that unemployment insurance applies only to industrial workers and not to the clerical classes that he represents.

In so far as there is an unemployment problem it is that of the middle classes, and this has been the finding of various Provincial Committees who have studied the unemployment question. It is true that these Committees reported before the present economic depression and their conclusions might therefore require some modification today. But in principle they remain the same. The Punjab Committee said that there was "no unemployment worthy of mention among the uneducated classes", and the Bengal Committee observed:- "The labourer, if we may use the term, has not yet been divorced completely from the land, and he frequently possesses or has an interest in a small plot of land in his native place on the cultivation of which he can fall back in times of depression. Added to this, is the fact that industrial labour is still comparatively scarce in Bengal and in fact has to be imported from other provinces. The effect, therefore, of trade depressions on the industrial labourer in Bengal is so very small." In Bombay, also,

labour is largely agricultural in its composition and while we are aware that the economic pressure on the land in the Konkan and Ratnagiri is responsible, to a considerable extent, for the drift of labour into Bombay and that severe depression in industry is bound to react on the mufussil, yet the effects are not so grave as in a purely industrial country. An indication of the ability of labour to stand up to periods of unemployment is shown by the strike of 1928, when 150,000 mill operatives remained out for six months with practically no outside assistance.

A time of trade depression is obviously not one in which to institute an unemployment insurance fund because the fund would be bankrupt from the start and could only be supported, as it has been in England, by large drains upon the public exchequer; and, with practically every local Government showing a deficit, it is difficult to see where the money is coming from. The Government of India with its demand for a 10 per cent. cut in expenditure, the Government of Bombay with a demand for a 6 per cent. cut, the Railways forced, irrespective of efficiency, to cut their budgets by 10 per cent., are all adding to the number of unemployed; and we frankly confess that we can see no solution of the problem, save a revival of trade, a good monsoon and political peace. (The Times of India, 17-6-31).

Economic Conditions.

Scheme for an Economic Advisory Organisation in India:

Sir Arthur Salter's Report.*

The Government of India released for publication on 10-6-31 , the Report by Sir Arthur Salter, Director of the Economic and Financial Section of the League Secretariat, to the Government of India, proposing a scheme for an Economic Advisory Organisation in India. Sir Arthus Salter's advice was sought by the Government of India in November 1930 for the creation of some organisation "for the study of economic questions, including both the continuous interpretation of current developments and the consideration of plans designed to achieve particular purposes". The necessity for a national economic policy and of national economic Councils had been stressed in the past notably by Messrs. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and Faizulla Gangjee and D.P. Khaitan of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta. But the immediate stimulus to the action taken by the Government of India was a suggestion made by Mr. R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, M.L.A. (one of the advisors to the Indian employers' Delegate to the 12th session of the Labour Conference) in the Legislative Assembly during the budget debates early in 1930. It was in pursuance of this suggestion that the Government of India requested the Secretary

* A scheme for an Economic Advisory Organisation in India - Report by Sir Arthur Salter, Director of the Economic and Financial Section of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, to the Government of India; with three appendices. - Calcutta Government of India Central Publication Branch 1931. Pages 92 - Price As.6 or 8d.

- General of the League of Nations for the expert advice of Sir Arthur Salter.

The Report opens with a brief review of the post-war economic advisory ~~Organisations~~ established in other countries and is followed by a review of ^{the} special conditions and needs of India. In discussing the special conditions prevailing in India, the Report brings out the following points regarding India's economic position.

(1) India is at once one of the greatest of agricultural countries and also, by international recognition as expressed through the League of Nations, one of the eight principal industrial countries of the world. But her industries are at present small in comparison with her agriculture, and small also in relation to the future ~~extent~~ extension of which they are destined to achieve. The development which India contemplates may be presumed to be in the direction of an improvement in the technique of economical agricultural production combined with the simultaneous enlargement of industrial and commercial activity. In this development, the active assistance and guidance of Government and official machinery will be utilised. In spite of her industrial achievements and ambitions, India is predominantly an agricultural country and her people would be adversely affected by any policy which ^{is} ~~was~~ injurious ~~and~~ and unjust to agricultural interests.

(2) In respect of size, population, divisions into Provinces and special areas and between British India and the States, India is a continent rather than a country. At the same time it has an economic unity, the destruction of which would involve both great loss and serious friction. It would be disastrous if differences in social legislation, in the incidence of taxation, or in policy as regards

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assistance to special industries, were so great as to ^{result} ~~result~~ in the transfer of industries from Province to Province or between the States and the Provinces, for reasons which have no relation to natural economic advantages.

(3) The need for co-ordination of policy in India is greater than in countries with a centralised Government, and the difficulties of securing it are also greater. Instead of co-ordination between different departments of a single administration, India needs co-ordination (a) between the departments of the Central Government, (b) between those of each Provincial Government, (c) between the Centre and the Provinces, (d) between the Provinces themselves and (e) between British India and the States. It is a quintuple not a single problem.

(4) The actual machinery and methods employed by the Government to secure the advice and assistance of un-official experience is both elaborate and comprehensive. In the first place, amongst standing official or semi-official bodies, there are such institutions as the Tariff Board, the Indian Cotton Committee and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. In the second place, local Chambers of Commerce are consulted on proposed legislative matters. In the case of "central" measures, the Central Government consults the Provincial Governments, who in turn ask the opinions of the local Chambers; in the case of Provincial measures, the Provincial Government consults the local Chambers direct; and in both cases other institutions, as well as representative individual persons, are also asked to express an opinion. In the third place, in some instances Advisory Boards are appointed to each of the Departments of a Provincial Government, sometimes more than one to a single Department. In addition, the Legislature

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themselves, unlike most national Parliaments, at present contain persons directly nominated as representing special economic interests and institutions. Lastly, it is customary to appoint Royal Commissions, and Committees whose methods of work are often almost as thorough and elaborate, to make reports upon problems of considerable public importance.

(5) The present character of the available Statistical Information and Commercial Intelligence has come in for scathing criticism from business-men, officials, and economic students. It was stated in particular that the "internal trade" statistics, suppressed on the recommendation of Lord Inchcape's Commission are very much needed; that indices of wholesale and retail prices, and of wage levels, are at present almost entirely lacking except in a few areas; that the information published is often in too crude a form, unanalysed and unaccompanied by explanation; that the classification adopted, e.g., for imports statistics, is not sufficiently specific and detailed; that it is often very much out of date; that the methods of sale and distribution often make it difficult to secure published information without long delay; that in all these respects India compares unfavourably with many other countries; and that great as are the difficulties in view of the special conditions of India (as described, for example, in the dissenting note attached to the Indian Economic Enquiry Committee) considerable improvement could be effected without disproportionate expense.

The following is a brief outline of the scheme for an Economic Advisory Organisation for India as sketched by Sir Arthur Salter.

The Report has suggested the formation of (a) a Central Economic

Advisory Council and (b) an Economic Advisory Council in each province. Some of the Indian States also might create similar Councils, but this is to be in existing circumstances a concomitant rather than an integral part of the ~~Original~~ Scheme. Two important points which have to be noted regarding the Councils are (1) that these Councils are to be ^{unofficial} predominantly in character, and (2) that they are to be designed to secure representative advice rather than expert advice.

(A) Central Council.

Membership - The members ^{are} ~~is~~ to consist of persons representing the following types of economic experience, interest or research:- (a) Agriculture, Banking and Finance (from each main category of banks), Commerce, Consumers, Co-operative organisation, Economists, Industry, Labour Organisation, Members of the Legislature, Officials, Railways and Communications.

(b) Representatives of the Provincial Councils and Representatives of the Indian States.

(c) Representatives (one each) from such national bodies as :- The Indian Cotton Committee, The Tariff Board, The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, The Jute Committee, The Reserve Bank ^{the two last} (when created).

Method of nomination and Status of Members. - Regarding the method of nomination and the status of members, the following considerations have to be kept in view:-

(1) A suitable balance in the membership as to locality (each Province and the States) and also as to qualification (e.g. experience of Industry, Agriculture etc.) should be secured. Nomination by representative organisations should be combined with adequate security

both as to the quality and the balance of expert qualifications.

(2) Membership should be made as far as possible representative of national economic institutions and the formation of such institutions should be encouraged .

(3) Direct nomination by the Government is to be resorted to only in cases where no suitable economic institution exists to serve as the nominating authority for persons with some of the qualifications mentioned above. Even when suitable nominating authorities exist, the Government should take certain precautions to assure that the balance between the different qualifications and types of ~~special~~ experience is obtained (a) by a full and careful explanation of the general scheme to the nominating authorities and (b) by unofficial contact with them. No risks must be taken of the balance being seriously disturbed as between different classes of interests.

(4) India being primarily an agricultural country, ~~the~~ agricultural ~~country, the~~ representation in the Council should be such, alike in size, ability and influence, as to assure that agricultural interests will take their proper place among the elements from which policy is evolved. In the absence of organised and articulate institutions representing different classes of agricultural interests, the Government should, till the development of such institutions which should be encouraged, select, on such advice as it may deem best, ~~to nominate~~ representatives to represent agriculture. The same thing should be done as regards the interests of consumers.

(5) Perhaps one representative from each Provincial Council would suffice, but it should be competent to the Council to change its representative at any time as convenience required . The method of

appointment of representatives of Indian States must obviously depend ultimately upon the position of the States under the new constitution. In circumstances like the present, some of the larger States might be asked to appoint representatives and some others might be appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Princes.

(6) National institutions such as the Indian Cotton Committee, the Tariff Board, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the future Jute Committee~~s~~ and the Reserve Bank might appoint one member each directly subject to some ~~un~~official communication with them ~~an~~ order to avoid undue overlapping of functions.

(7) The total membership of the Central Council, as composed on the above principles, may be made to consist of 50 members.

Tenure of appointment - The appointment of members should be for not~~less~~ less than three years, and five years might be preferable. This should not apply, however, to the representatives of the Provincial Councils and the States.

Time and Place of Meeting and Method of Working. - The Council should meet not more than ~~f~~ twice and more probably only once a year. The appropriate place for the head-quarters of the Organisation would appear to be Delhi; but it might be found convenient that the Council should itself sometimes meet in one or other of the great industrial or commercial centres of the country. The best normal method of work would be very largely through small ad hoc committees. With this method of working the Central Council might well, especially during its earlier years, devote its discussions to two main tasks. The first is that of drawing up a programme for the examination of specific problems,

laying down the main lines of study and investigation, appointing the sub-committees and the investigations, etc. The second, which should start modestly and develop gradually with later years, is that of reviewing the progress of the past year and recommending policy in general outline for the ensuing year. This second discussion would be greatly facilitated if the Secretariat, under the control of the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee proposed below, prepared beforehand a short general review of the chief developments and measures of the past year, with a summary of Indian economic conditions at the moment. Such a publication, much shorter and simpler than any existing publication (though usefully supplemented by an annotated list of more detailed studies and reports), would be of real value in India, particularly if it can be translated into several of the principal Indian languages.

It would be necessary for the Chairman, with the aid of the Secretariat, to follow the working of the sub-committees, etc., throughout the year. In this task he might be aided by a small Supervisory Committee, elected by the Council, ^{which} ~~who~~ would meet several times in the year, under the presidency of the Chairman of the Council, to receive reports of progress. It would be useful to include among the tasks of such a Supervisory Committee that of drawing up an Agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Council based upon requests from the Government for the consideration of defined proposals, upon similar suggestions from Members and upon the reports of the specialised committees.

The Chairman. - It is advisable that the appointment of the

Chairman should be a paid whole time one; and it would be well to assure ~~also that~~ the appointment as Vice-Chairman of some one qualified to act as Chairman and able to devote a considerable part of his time to the work of the Council.

The Secretariat. - The Secretary should devote his whole time to the work of the Council, and should have a small but highly competent staff. The Secretary, and the Officers under him, should be an integral part of the Government Service.

(B) Provincial Councils.

There would presumably be one Council for each Province; it should be composed generally on the same principles as the Central Council but should be different in the following respects.

While the qualifications of the members should be generally the same - (Agriculture, Banking and Finance, Commerce, Consumers, Co-operative Organisation, Economists, Industry, Labour Organisation, Members of the Legislature, Officials, Railways and Communications),

- (a) in some instances some of these qualifications may not be needed, e.g., there may be no Co-operative organisations in the Province,
- (b) the balance would naturally vary with the economic structure of the Province, (jute being, e.g., of special importance to Bengal, cotton to Bombay, etc., and in some cases Agriculture being overwhelmingly more important than Industry),
- (c) there would of course be no representatives of other Provinces, or of the States or of all India Committees. The Provincial Councils would therefore be much smaller, averaging perhaps 20 as compared with 50,
- (d) the Provincial Councils would meet more frequently, in some instances perhaps once a quarter, in others once a month. Nearly all their members would usually be resident in, or reasonably near, the capital of the Province, so that little expense or loss of time in travelling would be involved.

In general it is desirable that, apart from such differences, the Councils should be constituted on the same principles, and work by the same methods, as the Central Council, especially as regards their predominantly unofficial character, the appointment of a Chairman and Secretary, the use of specialised committees and individual investigators. The subjects of enquiries chosen by Provincial Councils will doubtless include both those which are exclusively Provincial in character (and require action within the competence of the Provincial Government for their solution), and also those which involve in part all-India factors or Central action, but in which the particular Province is specially interested. In some case as suggested above, the Provincial Council might initiate an investigation on a subject which is of special interest to itself, although it ultimately involves, in some aspects, an All-India Policy. In others several Provincial Councils might arrange for joint investigation of a subject of common interest* to them.

Machinery of Government. - The whole of the organisation proposed above is advisory and predominantly unofficial. It - or any alternative to it - will be wholly ineffective unless the machine of Government is such as to utilise it, and to secure, rapidly and with due Co-ordination, practical effect to whatever may be valuable in its recommendations. Successful results cannot be achieved unless the Governments, both at the Centre and in the Provinces, not only take immediate and serious account of the recommendations, but also have at their disposal an official machinery which will enable them to take the required action quickly. It is a frequent complaint of those who

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have been invited to give their advice to the Government, whether through Royal Commissions or otherwise, that their advice is not given serious consideration and practical effect because the Ministers or officials concerned are too much engrossed with immediate daily duties to give adequate attention to anything like a new general scheme of policy. It is also clear that the problem of co-ordinating governmental policy between the Departments of the Central and the Provincial Governments, and between the Centre and the Provinces, between the Provinces themselves, and with the States, will be a grave and difficult one, which can only be solved by ~~new~~ governmental machinery and procedure. These must be additional to, though they may be helped by, the advisory organisation here proposed.

Relation to International Organisations. - The Organisation proposed above is designed to secure ~~new~~ full consideration of India's policy from the point of view of her national interests. But India being an integral part of the world economic system, she will need information, advice and experience from wherever it can best be obtained. It would seem very desirable, therefore, that there should be an appropriate link between the League of Nations and the new advisory Councils. This might in part be secured by a representative member, perhaps the Chairman, of the Central Council being appointed a member of the League's Economic Consultative Committee, which meets annually at Geneva. But it is even more important that steps should be ~~annually taken~~ taken to secure that reports from India's representatives, whether on the standing League's Economic Committee or any Economic Conferences, should be available to the Central Council. At the same time, it would be well that the Secretariat of that Council should establish close contact with the League's Secretariat and make arrangements for the full use of the League's economic publications by the Council and its Committees.

Foreign Cloth Re-export Scheme.

The Foreign Cloth Export Company started by the millowners at the suggestion of Mahatma Gandhi (vide page 65 of April 1931 report of this Office) was registered early in July 1931 under the Indian Companies Act with a capital of Rs. 2,500,000. The Board of Directors of the Company consists of Sir Ness Wadia, Mr. F.E.Dinshaw, Mr. S.D. Saklatvala, Mr. H.P. Mody, Mr. Lalji Naranji, Mr. Chimanlal Parekh, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai, Mr. Trikamlal Girdharilal Mr. Devidas H. Shah, Mr. G. D. Birla, Mr. Shankarlal Balabhai, and Mr. Shankerlal Banker. The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on 4-6-31 and the following statement regarding the aims and objects of the Company has been issued:-

The Foreign Piecegoods Export Company, Limited, has now been registered and will shortly commence operations. Its primary object is to help foreign piecegoods dealers to dispose of their stocks outside India and to enable them to change over to business in Indian cloth. In the initial stages, the scope of the Company's operations must naturally be limited.

The Company's operations will be two-fold; firstly, to dispose of foreign cloth outside India at the owner's risk; secondly, to take over stock on stated terms. So far as the first operation is concerned the Company will explore suitable places outside India, and as soon as contact is established, the Company will be prepared to handle stock. So far as the second operation is concerned, the Company will confine its activities for the time being to Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi Madras and such other big centres as it may be found convenient to handle.

The Company will be prepared to receive applications on the following terms:-

(1) Goods shall be taken over only from such dealers as are willing to give, and can be relied on to observe, the undertaking that they will not hereafter, directly or indirectly, import or deal in foreign cloth or yarn. (2) The maximum price at which goods will be taken over in the case of wholesale dealers will be 90 per cent. of the present market price or the cost as laid down at ports, whichever is less. (3) In special cases, stocks of retail dealers may be taken over, in which case the price paid will be 80 per cent. of the wholesale price at the port or the cost price, whichever is less.

Ordinarily, however, stocks in bales or cases as imported will only be dealt with. (4) The valuation of the goods shall be made by the Board of the Company or by anyone to whom they may delegate their authority. (5) Ninety per cent. of the purchase price shall be paid on the stocks being handed over, 10 per cent. being retained as deposit for one year by way of surety for the fulfilment of the terms agreed upon. This amount shall be returned to the party at the end of the year.

In the case of merchants who wish to dispose of their stocks abroad at their own cost and risk, the Company will ordinarily take over their goods and arrange to sell them abroad on the following terms:- The merchants will pay to the Company the actual expenses incurred by the Company ~~the~~ in disposing of the goods, such as freight, cartage, godown rents, etc., but the Company will not charge any commission or remuneration for getting the goods sold. The Company will deduct the amount of such charges from the sale proceeds and the net sale proceeds will be handed over when they are received.

(The Times of India, 15-6-31)

According to a message from its Bombay correspondent appearing in the Hindu of 11-6-31, the Directors of the Company, in consultation with Mahatma Gandhi, have drawn up their scheme of disposing off all foreign cloth stocks in India. First, the four ports, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, and Karachi will be purged of their stock of foreign cloth. Selling centres have been divided into two divisions, the first being Afghanistan, Persia, Mecca, Medina, Turkey, East Africa and South Africa and the other section being Singapore, Indo-China, Sumatra, Java and other Pacific countries. It is stated there are a number of patriotic foreign cloth merchants, who have intimated the Company their willingness to bear themselves the whole loss in the transaction without burdening the Company.

Retrenchment in Civil Service;Salary Cuts Contemplated.

References have been made in the previous reports of this Office to the great financial strain imposed on the Government of India and the Provincial Governments by the world-wide trade depression. India has been particularly hard hit in this respect because of the phenomenal agricultural depression in this country. Agrarian distress has not only made the collection of land revenue difficult, but has also necessitated remissions of revenue on a large scale in many provinces. The Bombay Presidency and the United Provinces have been the worst sufferers in this respect. Added to this, there has been decline in revenue from other sources as well. The shrinkage in revenues has forced the Central and Provincial governments to make drastic retrenchments in expenditure. The governments contemplate retrenchment in expenditure by substantial cuts in the salaries of civil servants, as well as by effecting material reduction in personnel. In a few cases, fresh taxation also is being contemplated. Retrenchment Committees have been appointed both by the Central as well as the Provincial Governments to formulate suggestions for effecting schemes of retrenchments in the government departments and to suggest other measures for increasing the revenues. In order to facilitate the work of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee appointed by the Government of India, the Advisory Committee has been divided into various Sub-committees, one for each of the following central subjects:- (1) Army, (2) Railways (3) Posts and Telegraphs, (4) General Purposes (5) Indian Stores Department, Stationary and Printing, and

(6) Public Works, Accounts and Audit, The several Retrenchment Committees, both central and Provincial, are expected to submit their reports in the course of a month or two.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-6-31)

Mr. S.C. Joshi, (Indian Workmens' Delegate to the 14th I. L. Conference), ~~the~~ General Secretary of the All-India Salaried Employees' Federation, has addressed a communication to the Chairman of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee requesting that an opportunity should be afforded to the Federation and other recognised Unions of employees of the several Government departments to place their views on the retrenchment problem and their suggestions as to the methods to be employed for effecting economies in expenditure (The Hindu, 1-6-31). The Retrenchment Committee has according to the General Letter dated 30-6-31 (Vol. XI No. 3) issued by the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association, decided to receive representation from associations of Government Servants regarding the retrenchment problem.

Sterling Loan of May 1931.

At pages 68-69 of our last month's report, a reference was made to the New Sterling Loan for India for £ 10 millions which was floated in London by the Secretary of State, and of which only 32 per cent were subscribed by the public, the under-writers having had to make good the rest. The criticism that the failure of the loan was pre-arranged in order to bolster up the case for Great Britain continuing to exercise financial control over India even after the ~~reforms~~ coming into force of the contemplated reforms, has been gaining in intensity among the Indian-owned newspapers. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's announcement on the 26th June 1931, is being here considered as another step in the same direction. Mr. MacDonald said "It will not be possible to introduce the proposed constitutional changes if financial stability is not assured, and His Majesty's Government are determined not to allow a state of affairs to arise, which might jeopardise the financial stability and good government of India, for which the Secretary of State is at present responsible. They have, therefore, decided that, should the need arise, they will apply to Parliament for the authority necessary to enable them to give financial support under suitable conditions to the Government of India for the purpose of maintaining the credit of the country pending the settlement of the constitutional problem and the formulation of provisions which will ensure the maintenance of India's credit in the future." But this statement has failed to carry conviction here as he has not explained why it has been necessary to offer this "generous" guarantee. Nevertheless, the terms "pending the constitutional settlement" and "the formulation of provision" occurring in the statement have been rather hopefully interpreted by a nationalist paper like the Hindu,

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as indicating that they do not imply the continuance of British control over Indian finances after the constitutional settlement has once for all been effected. It is certainly true that Indian finances are now rather uncertain on account of the acute economic depression. Besides, India has to meet £ 15 millions of maturing bonds in January 1932, and if the starting of the Central Reserve Bank is rapidly proceeded with, the Government will have to strengthen their gold reserves by some thirty millions at least in consequence of the drawings this year. These might have been the considerations which induced Mr. MacDonald to make a statement.

Hoover's Moratorium: Extension to India.

The extension to India by the British Government of the Hoover plan for an year's moratorium to the war-debtor countries stands on a different footing. According to a communiqué published by the Financial Department of the Government of India, "the effect of the proposal in regard to India is that, provided President Hoover's proposal is adopted, the Government of India may suspend both capital and interest payments in respect of the outstanding War Loan liability for one year beginning on July 1, 1931. On the other hand, the Government of India will forego receipts from reparations during the same period. The total amount of the outstanding War Loan liability on March ~~1931~~ 31, 1931 was £16,721,000. The total War Loan liability till 1929-30 was being discharged by making such annual payments of capital as would lead to the extinction of the liability by about 1946-47. In 1929-30 and 1930-31, however, no capital repayment was made to His Majesty's Government and similarly the budget for 1931-32 does not include any amount for capital repayment of the War Loan liability. The amount of interest payable by the Government of India

to His Majesty's Government on the outstanding amount of the War Loan liability is £836,000 per annum which is payable in two half-yearly instalments. As the moratorium year runs from July 1, 1931 to June 30, 1932, the relief to the Indian budget on this account during the current year will be £418,000. The remaining half of the benefit will fall within the next year's budget total. The amount of reparation receipts due to the Government of India under the Young Plan during 1931-32 and 1932-33 is approximately £228,300 per annum, which is payable monthly. Under the proposals of His Majesty's Government, the Government of India will forego these receipts for nine months in the current year (July 1 to March 31), amounting to about £172,000 and for three months (April 1 to June 30) in the next year, amounting to about £57,000. The net relief to the budget of the Government of India will thus be £246,000 in the current year and £361,000 in the next year."

(The Pioneer, 28-6-31.)

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Social Conditions.

The Bengal Opium Smoking Bill, 1931.

The Calcutta Gazette of 25-6-31 (No. 26 of 1931) publishes at pages 50-54 of Part IV of the Gazette, the text of the Bengal Opium Smoking Bill, 1931, ^{which is} to be introduced ^{shortly} in the Bengal Legislative Council with the object of suppressing the smoking of opium in that Presidency. The following is the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill:-

The question of legislation for the purpose of suppressing opium-smoking in the Presidency of Bengal originated with the suggestions of the Royal Commission on Opium, 1895, but was postponed for various reasons till its revival in consequence of the recommendations of the International Opium Commission which met at Shanghai in 1909. The Great European War, however, prevented further progress in the matter. Subsequently, as a result of the first Opium Conference held at Geneva in 1925, the British Government agreed to bring about the gradual and effective suppression of the manufacture of, internal trade in, and use of prepared opium in those territories within its jurisdiction, in which the practice of opium-smoking exists.

The intention of the Local Government in introducing this Bill in its present form is to carry out the obligation of the Government of India under the terms of the First Geneva Opium Convention of 1925 to suppress the smoking of opium as speedily as possible, and with this end in view it has been proposed in this Bill to register persons who are already addicted to opium-smoking in Bengal, and to permit such persons only to indulge in the practice. Any persons other than such registered smokers indulging in the practice will render themselves liable to prosecution and punishment. It is hoped that the strict enforcement of the provisions of the Bill will have the ultimate effect of stamping out this vice with the present generation of addicts.

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Indore Nukta (Funeral Feasts) Act, 1931.

One of the main reasons for the poverty of the Indian masses is the extravagant expenditure incurred by persons high and low on customary, but non-religious, practices such as extravagant marriage and funeral feasts. Invariably debts beyond possibility of repayment are incurred by the middle classes, peasants and workers for the celebration of these and many other functions which have no religious significance underlying them. Social legislation has ~~XXXXX~~ recently been enacted in the Indore State to minimise the evils/ effects of such social customs. An Act, ~~called~~ the Indore Nukta Act, ~~has~~ ^{recently} been passed by the Indore State, which has for its object the checking of extravagant expenditure in connection with funeral feasts. The Shradha, or the Hindu death rites and anniversaryes, which, when performed according to strict religious injunctions, enjoin, besides the performance of the religious rites, the feeding of only a limited number of Brahmins, have been excluded from the purview of the Act. The Act lays down that no person shall feed more than 101 persons in any funeral feast performed in his family, with the proviso that a larger number, never exceeding 400, may be fed after obtaining the permission of the District Judge. The District Judge, is to accord such permission only if he is satisfied after due enquiries that the applicant will not suffer any undue financial strain by such expenditure. Not only are funeral feasts forbidden, but distribution of utensils and vessels as gifts during funeral ceremonies are also banned. The violation of the provisions of the Act is to be visited with fine which may extend to Rs. 500 or with simple imprisonment.

The Act provides that
Further, ~~inducement~~, ^{*should be*} in the nature of rewards, ~~is~~ given to people
~~encourage them to~~,
to give information to the authorities ^{*about*} of ~~committal~~ of an offences
under the Act. The Act is expected to improve the economic conditions
of all classes of people, especially ^{*that of*} the working class, whose chronic
indebtedness may partly be traced to the calls made on their slender
purses by these social customs.

(The Times of India, 30-6-31).

Rural Reconstruction in India.

Great interest has recently been evinced in India on the subject of rural uplift and several ~~different~~ schemes have in recent years been placed before the public for rural reconstruction in India. Of these, three schemes deserve special notice. The first scheme is sponsored by Mahatma Gandhi, the next is the outcome of a conference on Rural Uplift held under the auspices of the Deccan Agricultural Association in Poona on 20-6-31, while the third is outlined by Sir. M. Visweswarayya, an ex-Dewan of Mysore and an industrial expert, in a pamphlet which he has published on the subject.

According to Mahatma Gandhi's scheme, education of the masses is to be the first item in ^{any} ~~the~~ ^{of rural reconstruction.} programme. His suggestion is that Congress volunteers must distribute themselves all over the country at the rate of one for every ten square miles, if not for every ~~10~~ ^{ten} villages. Each volunteer is expected to go to every village in his firca by turns, and collect children and teach them takli-spinning, carding and the alphabets. Sanitation of the village is the next item that the volunteer is expected to tackle. Thirdly, he can distribute medicine to the sick. Fourthly, he should try to help the "untouchables" by creating facilities for the supply of drinking water to them and relieving their distress. The volunteer should take a census of the villages in his beat, reporting to ~~his~~ higher authorities the conditions prevailing ^{in them.} ~~there.~~ The area of ^{each} ~~the~~ village, its population, its crops and its revenue, also should be noted down by him. The volunteer should train a band of workers in every village who can carry on the work ^{during} ~~in his~~ ^{tours} ~~absence~~ in another village. Gandhiji lays special emphasis on the production of khaddar. Every volunteer, he says, should see that each village is self-supporting as far as khadi is concerned.

(The Hindu, 21-6-31)

The Rural Uplift Conference which met in Poona under the president-ship of Pandit Madan Mohan Malavya on the 20-6-31 adopted resolutions:-

(1) appointing a committee to frame a scheme for training organisers ~~for~~ the village uplift movement and also to make proposals for making the rural uplift movement ~~pay~~^{is} its way; (2) recommending a systematic and immediate inquiry by the Government and other public bodies into the economic condition of the average farmer in different tracts; (3) opining that the present system of education is unsuited to the requirements of villagers and ^{is} exceedingly costly, that it should be made economical and more suited to their requirements, and that special efforts should be made to make compulsory education more popular and ~~to~~ extend the area of its operation; (4) recommending the formation of village volunteer corps ~~for~~ for the purpose of village defence and the maintenance of peace and harmony in the village ; (5) recommending a detailed survey of possible village industries and opining that such industries should be encouraged and (6) calling upon all who sympathise with the agriculturists to encourage the manufacture and use of hand-spun and handwoven khaddar as it ~~most~~ materially helps the village people. Resolutions were also adopted in favour of insurance of ~~life~~ ~~and~~ live-stock preferably on co-operative lines, the starting of more co-operative credit and other societies, and the formation of sanitary organisations in villages.

(The Hindu, 24-6-31)

Sir M. Visweswarayya's scheme for rural uplift is adapted from a similar organisation found in actual operation in parts of Japan where, under Government encouragement, a large measure of success is reported to have been achieved. According to the scheme, the head-men of families in every village are to form an association which is to meet twice an

year in conference to discuss questions pertaining to the wants of the village in respect of production and occupations, and to the funds and measures required to promote both. With the assistance of the Council, ^{which is to be} the executive body of the Association, a programme of work and budget of expenditure for each year is to be drawn up. The Village Council is to meet every month to give practical effect to the policies and programmes of the half-yearly conferences. It should be part of the work of the Council to take statistics of production~~x~~ and income of each family in the village. The Village Association should carry on propaganda to educate the people in rural economics and give instructions to adult members ~~of~~ ^{on} the village, the methods ^{to be adopted for} of improving the working capacity of the villager. For the success of the scheme, the provincial governments ~~is~~ ^{accord a large measure of} are to ~~give~~ self-government to villagers ~~in a liberal measure~~, and thereby create a spirit of self-help and constructive effort among ^{village} ~~the local~~ populations, leading to healthy developments in every sphere of activity - economic, social, cultural, recreational and the like.

(The Hindu, 30-6-31)

(Attention is drawn in this connection to the report of the proceedings of an All-India, Burma and Ceylon Rural Uplift Conference given at pages 52-55 of the April 1930 Report of this Office)

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Maritime Affairs.Indian Seamen and the Round Table Conference.

~~The~~ Indian Seamen are much dissatisfied with the inadequate labour representation in the Round Table Conference and in a joint press communique, the Councils of the Indian Seamen's Union, the Bengal Mariners' Union and the Indian Quarter Masters' Union have urged the Government of India to nominate Mr. M. Daud, Barrister-at-Law, the leader of the Indian Seamen and a former Workers' delegate to the 13th session of the Labour Conference, to ~~represent the~~ Indian Seamen at the forthcoming Round Table Conference.

(The Hindu, 25-6-31)

Lascar Seamen: ~~SEAMAN~~ Right to Claim Discharge.

At page 412 of part I of the Gazette of India of 23-5-31 is published the following Resolution of the Commerce Department of the Government of India, regarding the inclusion of ^{an} additional clause in the Articles of Agreement of Indian Seamen stipulating the conditions under which ~~a~~ lascar seaman may claim his discharge:-

No. 11-M.II.(3)/31.- The Governor General in Council is pleased to direct, under section 28(1) of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923(XXI of 1923), that the following additional stipulation shall be added before the last additional stipulation in the form of Agreement for lascars prescribed in the Resolution by the Government of India in the late Department of Commerce and Industry, No.4817-4822-5, dated the 4th July 1912, and as subsequently amended, namely:-

"Additional stipulation which must be entered into and signed by the owner of the vessel or by the Master in his behalf:-

I hereby further agree that if a seaman shows to my satisfaction that he can obtain command of a vessel or an appointment as mate or engineer or to any other post of a higher grade than he actually holds, or that any other circumstance has arisen since his engagement which

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renders it essential to his interests that he should be permitted to take his discharge, he may claim his discharge, provided that without increased expense and to my satisfaction he furnishes a competent and reliable man in his place. In such case, the seaman shall be entitled to his wages up to the time of his leaving his employment."

Migration.

Indian Migration to Malaya & Ceylon*

The following details regarding the migration of Indian workers to Malaya and Ceylon are taken from the Annual Report on the working of the Emigration Act, 1922, in the Madras Presidency for the year 1930, submitted to the ^{Madras} ~~Local~~ Government by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

Malay and Ceylon are the only countries to which emigration for unskilled work is lawful. Madras and Negapatam are the ports of embarkation for emigrants to Malaya. Tuticorin and Dhanushkodi are the ports of embarkation for emigrants proceeding to Ceylon. During the year, Tuticorin was not used for that purpose, but 28 indigent immigrants (23 males and 5 females) who were repatriated, returned by that route.

Volume of Emigration (a) to Malaya. - The total number of emigrants to Malaya during the year 1930 was 36,346 (12,304 from Madras and 24,042 from Negapatam) as compared with 75,611 during 1929. The number of non-emigrants, (i.e., labourers who had already resided in the colony for not less than five years or the wives or children of such labourers) who proceeded to the colony during the year was 5,933 (2,770 from Madras and 3,163 from Negapatam) as compared with 11,694 during 1929. Emigration to Malaya was normal till July 1930. From 1st August 1930 the Malayan authorities suspended kangani recruitment owing to the slump in the rubber and tin industries in the colony, as a result of which many estates in the colony had to close down, while others had to effect considerable reductions in their labour force. They also restricted assisted emigration to such of the non-recruited emigrants as had their families in the colony.

(b) to Ceylon. - The number of persons who emigrated to Ceylon also decreased. 45,101 emigrants and 46,321 non-emigrants proceeded to Ceylon during the year 1930 as compared with 58,362 emigrants and 46,733 non-emigrants in the year 1929. In explanation

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 for the year 1930. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, and published by the Government of India Central Publication Branch, Calcutta. 1931. Price, 5 annas or 6d. pages 23.

of the decrease, the Protector of Emigrants, Mandapam, says:- "The decrease during the year in the flow of labour to Ceylon may be attributed to stoppage of recruitment for rubber estates in Ceylon during the year, especially in the latter part, on account of depression in rubber trade, and restricted recruitment for tea estates. The increased demand for labour in South India in railway and in other large works should have also contributed to the decrease". As usual the rush of labour was greatest during the summer months of May to July when cultivation in the recruiting area was at a stand still.

to

System of Recruitment (a)/Malaya. - Emigrants were as usual either recruited or voluntary. During the year, 1,429 Kangani licences were registered at Negapatam as against 2,578 during the previous year and 847 licences were registered at the Madras Port as against 2,347 in the previous year. Of the licences so issued, 56 were cancelled at Negapatam on the recommendation of the Protector of Emigrants and 79 were cancelled by the Assistant Emigration Commissioner on his own initiative. 178 Kangani licences were cancelled at Madras as the estates stopped recruiting and 25 licences were cancelled for improper recruiting. All licences issued to Kanganies at Madras were suspended indefinitely from 1st August 1930 and none were in force at the end of the year. Of a total number of 24,042 emigrants who proceeded to Malaya through Negapatam, 14,972 were recruited by Kanganies and the remaining 9,070 were non-recruited labourers who applied for assisted passages under rule 30 of the Indian Emigration Rules. The proportion of non-recruited labourers to the total number of emigrants who passed through the Port of Negapatam during the year was 37.7 per cent as against 39.2 in the previous year. The Protector at Negapatam rejected 132 intending emigrants while the Assistant Emigration Commissioner refused assistance to 14,497 would-be voluntary emigrants and rejected 6,290 recruited labourers. At Madras, the number rejected as unfit was 5,371, while 3,271 were released and 74 deserted.

(b) to Ceylon. - In the case of Ceylon, of a total number of 45,101 emigrants only 7,365 were assisted emigrants under rule 30. The Kangani method of recruitment still greatly predominates as far as emigration to Ceylon is concerned. 15,726 Kangani licences were issued during the year as against 19,072 in the previous year. 123 licences were cancelled during the year for irregularities of various kinds. The percentage of rejection of labourers at agencies was 21.4 as against 25.23 in the previous year.

Irregularities in Recruitment. - The prevailing types of irregularity in the method of recruitment by Kanganies were as follows:- (1) forgery of village munsif's signature; (2) recruiting young persons without the consent of their parents or relatives; (3) pretended relationship between recruits; (4) getting recruits from one village passed by the village munsif of another village; (5) passing off new recruits as non-emigrants; and (6) substituting different persons in the place of those who actually appeared before the village munsif and were passed by him.

The Protector of Emigrants, Negapatam, rejected 132 intending emigrants and the Protector at Mandapam rejected 393 for irregular and illegal recruitment. 7 persons in the case of Negapatam and 452 persons in the case of Mandapam who claimed to be non-emigrants, were found to be really emigrants.

Places of accommodation (a) Madras. - The Avadi and Melpakkam depots continue to be licensed places of accommodation during the year (Avadi for 2,029 and Melpakkam for 1,056). Melpakkam was however scarcely used. Both depots were kept in good condition.

(b) Negapatam. - The Negapatam depot continued to be the main place of accommodation and Papacoil was used only as an over-flow camp for the accommodation of voluntary emigrants in the heavy season and of recruited emigrants suspected to have arrived from infected areas. As the scheme for the acquisition of a large site in the suburbs of Negapatam and the construction of an up-to-date depot on modern lines has been held in abeyance for the present, some improvements in the existing depots were effected during the year such as the construction of additional drains, sanitary improvements to the latrines and the improvements of water-supply by the laying of new and larger pipes. There was some congestion in the depots during the year owing to a heavy rush of intending emigrants in the summer months and owing to the arrival of three to four thousand repatriates in the course of two or three days during the rainy season when owing to the flood and breaches in the railway lines, the repatriates could not for several days be booked to their villages. The accommodation was generally quite adequate and to relieve the congestion an extra shed was constructed at Papacoil and licensed ~~x~~ about the middle of the year to accommodate 160 labourers.

(c) Dhanushkodi. - There were 19 agencies of the Ceylon Labour Commission where the recruits were selected and registered before despatch to the Mandapam Camp. These centres are not formally declared to be places of accommodation under rule 18. The arrangements at the Mandapam Camp for the reception, lodging and feeding of the labourers are excellent and the camp authorities exercise constant and efficient supervision over the arrangements.

Embarkation. - Except on five occasions the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, maintained their weekly sailings between South India and Malaya throughout the year with their steamships "Rohna", "Rajula", "Ellenga" and "Santhia". This was done in spite of the suspension of recruitment because of the very large number of repatriates who had to be brought back from the Colony and of the larger number of ordinary deck passengers proceeding to the Colony paying their own passages. Several special steamers were also engaged on several occasions for the conveyance of emigrants and passengers during the busy season. The total number of shipments for the year was 54 as against 51 of the last year. Embarkation and disembarkation arrangements continued the same as in the previous year. There is a daily South Indian Railway ferry service between Dhanushkodi and Talaimannar. The intending emigrants along with the passengers who undergo quarantine at the camp are taken daily by a special train from Mandapam Camp to Dhanushkodi where they embark on board the ferry steamer for Ceylon.

Classification & sex ratio: (a) Ceylon. - Emigrants continue to be drawn chiefly from the agricultural classes in the Tamil districts. The emigrants for Ceylon came mainly from the districts of Trichinopoly, Salem, Madura, Tanjore, South Arcot, Tinnevely, Ramnad, North Arcot, and from the Pudukottah State. More than a fourth of the emigrants came from the depressed classes. As usual, labourers for the Ceylon plantations emigrated in family groups as a rule, the exception being

the Nadars of Tinnevely and the people of Malabar who generally go unaccompanied by their wives and children. The labourers who emigrated to work in the salt pans and the Pesalai fisheries were unaccompanied by their families as they return to India after the season is over. The proportion of females to the total number of emigrants to Ceylon was 40 per cent as compared with 44 per cent in the previous year.

(b) Malaya. - The districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, South Arcot, North Arcot, Selam, Malabar, Madura, Chingleput, Vizagapatam, Coimbatore, Ramnad, Chittoor, Tinnevely and the Pudukottah State contributed the bulk of the labour for Malaya. In the case of Malaya, the percentage of females to the total number of emigrants sailing from Negapatam was 24.3 during 1930 as against 23.5 during 1929. Among recruited labourers also sailing from Negapatam, this percentage worked out at 29.4 as against 28.1 in 1929, while among non-recruited labourers it came to 15.9 as against 16.4 in 1929. Figures for Madras Port are not given separately for recruited and voluntary emigrants. The general percentage of females to the total number of emigrants for Malaya sailing from Madras was 39.4 in 1930 as against 29 in 1929. The rule about sex ratio was further suspended in the case of emigration to Malaya until 30th June 1931.

Wages & general conditions of labour (a) Malaya. - It is reported that the wages in the key districts in Malaya remained at the standard rates, viz., 50 cents for an adult male, 40 cents for adult female and 20 cents for a working minor, till 5th October 1930. After this period owing to the depression in the rubber industry some estates are said to have effected a reduction of approximately 20 per cent in the wages of the labourers retained by them and increased the working hours by one or two a day. The concessions usually enjoyed by the estate labourers, viz., free distribution of rice and kanji to the aged dependents and the children are said to have been gradually withdrawn and the free distribution of tea and milk-food to them stopped.

(b) Ceylon. - The minimum cash wages in Ceylon as prescribed by the Minimum Wage Ordinance vary according to the situation of the estate as detailed below:-

	Men.		Women.		Children.	
	A.	P.	A.	P.	A.	P.
Low country	...	8 - 0	...	6 - 5	...	4 - 10
Mid country	...	8 - 4	...	6 - 7	...	5 - 0
Up country	...	8 - 8	...	6 - 11	...	5 - 1

But owing to the depression in the rubber industry during the year, the Estate Superintendents are reported to have found it necessary either to cut down their labour force or to reduce the wages of the labourers and this resulted in the Ceylon Government approving of a special scheme for the repatriation, at the expense of the Immigration Fund, of Indian labourers desirous of going back to India owing to unemployment, threatened unemployment or any material deterioration in their remuneration.

Return emigrants. - The phrase, 'return emigrants' is used in the special technical sense which excludes all who have been five years

in the Colony concerned and their wives and children. The proportion of new emigrants to old emigrants returning is 100: 10.24 at Madras, and 100: 10.1 at Negapatam in the case of emigration to Malaya, and 100: 25.7 in the case of Ceylon.

Repatriation. - The number of emigrants repatriated from Fiji, British Guiana and Jamaica were 306, 36 and 59, respectively. 33,583 emigrants were repatriated or assisted to return to the Port of Negapatam from Malaya and 7,469 were repatriated from Ceylon during the year. Of the total number of 40,366 passengers (excluding repatriates) who landed at Negapatam from Malaya, about 25,000, according to the Protector's estimate were labourers returning from Malaya. The Protector of Emigrants, Mandapam, states that about 98,700 emigrants returned from Ceylon at their own expense.

Causes of repatriation. - The causes for repatriation from Malaya and Ceylon are given in the following statement:-

Causes of repatriation.		Number.	
		Malaya (Negapatam).	Ceylon (Dhanushkodi).
1. Home sick or sick and unable to work	...	5,089	62
2. Too old, maimed or otherwise disabled	...	583	322
3. Unsuitability of climate	...	65	1,386
4. Death of earning members of family	...	1,267	225
5. Death of other members of the family	...	972	172
6. Kidnapped, abducted or seduced or cheated by false promises by kanganies.	...	11	31
7. Insufficient wages to support dependents.	...	731	333
8. Want of work	...	24,540	*4,216
9. Unsuitability of work	152
10. Other causes such as husbands or wives deserting their spouses	...	325	570
Total		33,583	7,469

* Repatriated under the special scheme of 1930 owing to unemployment, threatened unemployment or material deterioration in wages.

Bonus to repatriates. - The Protector of Emigrants, Negapatam, reports that owing apparently to the fact that the figure of repatriates went very high during the year, the payment of the bonus of Rs. 10 usually made to every adult repatriate and of Rs. 5 to every minor repatriate at the port of disembarkation was at first restricted to the adults who had lived in the colony for not less than a year and was subsequently limited to such of the adult repatriates alone who arrived at Negapatam in a decrepit or disabled condition irrespective of the length of their stay in Malaya. He also states that single widows and females and widows having minor children among the repatriates were paid by the Emigration authorities small sums of money as a sort of gratuity, but that the bulk of the repatriates who were sent back for lack of work, got nothing either as bonus or as gratuity. The Protector of Emigrants, Mandapam, states that in several cases return emigrants were stranded at Dhanushkodi or Mandapam without money for the journey to their native villages as they had failed to apply to the proper authorities in Ceylon before leaving and

that in such cases, he provided funds for their food and transport to their respective destinations.

Skilled labour. - There was no emigration of skilled labour through the Port of Madras. 26 skilled workers emigrated to Malaya through the Port of Negapatam. 96 emigrated to Ceylon and 5 to Germany through the Port of Dhanushkodi during the year 1930; these were assisted or engaged by private persons or by firms or by the Ceylon Government Fisheries Department.

Scheme of assisted emigration from South Africa.- The total number of emigrants from South Africa who availed themselves of the scheme of assisted emigration was 690 during the year as compared with 1,435 during 1929. The Special Officer explains that the decrease is probably due to the fact that the process of weeding out the impoverished members of the Indian community is nearing completion and the pecuniary inducements of a free passage and a bonus of £20 offered under the scheme have no effect on the bulk of the Indian community in the Union. The health of the return emigrants was good. There were four deaths in transit all due to heart failure. There was no complaint of any want of attention on board the steamers either in the matter of medical aid or in regard to food or accommodation. Only 46 of the return emigrants were decrepits, due mostly to old age. Such of the decrepits as had relatives to look after them were despatched to their homes with escorts. Those who had no such relatives were lodged in the "Decrepit Home" which is maintained at Madras for housing such decrepits returning from South Africa. The total amount paid to the assisted return emigrants as bonus during the year was Rs. 1,36,954-10-8 and the savings brought by them amounted to £2,894 excluding jewellery worth £1,843.

Employment of repatriates. - According to the Special Officer, 70 per cent of the total repatriates settle down in their homes as agricultural labourers. The remaining 30 per cent of the emigrants include almost all the 'skilled' labourers who had been employed in South Africa in collieries, mines, railways, harbours, etc. Many of these are reported to be irresponsible and improvident. They insist on the immediate payment of the entire bonus money, squander it soon and then go to the Special Officer for securing them jobs. During the year there were 125 applications to the Special Officer for help. The Special Officer was unable to secure jobs to most of the applicants. Trade depression, and consequent retrenchment in firms and other institutions and the unwillingness on the part of the emigrant to accept the normal low wage on which the local men are engaged contributed towards the failure in getting them jobs. In several cases, the emigrants soon left the jobs which the Special Officer had secured them with great effort. In some cases, the appointees misbehaved and were dismissed by the employers. This prejudiced the subsequent entertainment of other repatriates in the institutions concerned.

Under the scheme of "Assisted Emigration" the Union Government sanctioned a monthly pension of 10 shillings per mensem to each decrepit emigrant subject to the condition that the payment of the pension should commence 40 months after the decrepit's arrival in India, for which period the Union Government thought the bonus amount of £20 should suffice at 10 shillings a month. On a representation made by the Government of India that the bonus amount is often exhausted much sooner, the Union Govern-

HK.7

ment have reduced the waiting period from 40 to 30 months. In four cases where it was found that the decrepits had spent their bonus long before they became eligible to draw their pensions under the 40 months' rule, the Local Government sanctioned compassionate allowance at rates ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs.10 per mensem.

(The Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 for the year 1929 was reviewed in this at pages 81 to 86 of the report of this Office for the month of August 1930).

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

Report for July, 1931.Contents.

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References to the I.L.O.

~~An important~~ statement was issued to the press after his arrival from Europe by Mr. Rameswar Prasad Bagla, M.L.A., adviser to the Employers' Delegate to the 15th Labour Conference on his impressions of the International Labour Organisation. The following are the more important passages in the statement as published in the Statesman of 31-7-1931:-

"I had high hopes and great faith in the deliberations of the International Labour Conference, but I was sadly disappointed. I have returned a wiser man with the firm belief that these bodies do not exist for countries like India, which occupies an inferior position on account of its present constitution. India has inadequate representation on the governing body of the International Conference. It is a pity that most of the numerous small European countries with population ranging between five and ten millions have seats which should, as a matter of right, go to India or Japan or China in view of their industrial importance.

The question of therefore arises whether India should or should not continue its association with the League of Nations when no real good is to come out of such association. India's contribution to the League of Nations is about £58,000 over and above the expenditure that she incurs in sending delegates to attend the Conference. India unfortunately remains unrepresented, unseen, unheard, and her presence is not even noticed. In fact, if proper measures are adopted India can at a much less cost keep full-time observers at Geneva in order to study various problems that are being discussed there so that they may, subject to such modifications as may be necessary in the interests of India, be adopted".

The Statement then accuses the delegates of the Government of India ~~of~~ being indifferent and, at times, hostile towards the Indian non-Government delegates. ~~The~~^{In} conclusion the statement justifies the action of the Indian Employers' delegation in not participating in the work of the Conference as a protest against the nomination of a non-national as an Adviser to the Indian Employers' delegate.

The statement was published by the Hindu of 27-7-1931, the Times of India of 28-7-1931, the Hindustan Times of 29-7-1931, the Pioneer

of 30-7-1931, and the Statesman of 31-7-1931.

The Hindustan Times of 30-7-1931 publishes a short article under the caption "Geneva and Indian Labour" in its editorial columns and on Mr. Bagla's statement, in which the view is expressed that Indian labour has nothing to gain by its connection with the Annual Labour Conferences and that benefits which accrue to India as a result of her connection with the League are inadequate considering the amount India contributes to the League every year.

... ..

The Hindu of 11,⁵16 and 18-7-1931 publish ~~Indian non-government~~ four letters sent from Geneva by Dr. Lanka Sundaram, describing in detail the progress of the 15th Session of the International Labour Conference. The headings of the four letters are, respectively, "XVth International Labour Conference" (Hindu, 11-7-1931), describing the opening session and the major issues facing the Conference), "The I.L. Conference (the Hindu of 5-7-1931, reviewing the discussions over the Director's Report), "The Indian Delegation at the I.L. Conference", (the Hindu, 16-7-1931) and the "Closing Session of the I.L. Conference" (the Hindu, 18-7-1931).

... ..

The Servant of India, Poona, of 2 and 9-7-1931 (Vol. XIV, Nos, 26 and 27 respectively) publish three long letters from its Geneva correspondent - the first entitled the "Discussion of the Director's Report", (2-7-31), the second entitled "the International Labour Conference: Indian Employers' withdrawal" (9-7-1931) and the third entitled "Hours of Work in Coal Mines" (9-7-1931). An attempt is made in these three letters to review the work of the 15th session of

of the I.L. Conference in all its stages.

... ..

The July 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol. X, No.11) reproduces at page 1092 the note on "International Labour Conference - Fifteenth Session" which appeared in the Industrial and Labour Information of 22-6-1931.

... ..

The Hindu of 11-7-1931 publishes in full the speech delivered by Mr. V.M. Ramaswami Mudaliar, an adviser to the Indian Workers delegate to the 15th Labour Conference, on child labour in India on 18-6-1931 in the course of the discussions at the 15th I.L.Conference over the questionnaire on the Age of Admission of Children to non-Industrial Occupations.

... ..

A public meeting was held in Madras on 18-7-1931, under the auspices of the Madras Labour Board, to welcome Mr. V.M. Ramaswami Mudaliar on his return from Geneva. In giving his impressions of the Geneva organisation, Mr. Mudaliar traced the origin of the League and the Labour Organisation and explained the working of the machinery of both institutions. He then gave an account of the several Draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the I.L.Conferences. He appealed to India Labour to take a more intelligent interest in the activities of the I.L.O. and to bring pressure on the Government to give effect to the several Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the I.L. Conferencees.

An account of the meeting was published in the Hindu of 19-7-1931 and "Federated dia" of 22-7-1931, (Vol. V, No.29).

According to an Associated Press of India message, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry recommended Mr. M.A. Master, Managing Director, the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., Bombay, as the Employers' delegate to the forthcoming meeting of the Tripartite Maritime Technical Advisory Committee.

The A.P.I. message is published in the Hindustan Times and the Pioneer of 19-7-1931, and the Times of India of 20-7-1931.

According to the Hindu of 4-7-1931, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce also has recommended Mr. M.A. Master to represent Indian Employers at the Maritime Advisory Committee. Mr. M.A. Master's name has been recommended also by the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association, according to their Monthly Circular for June 1931.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, according to the Abstract of Proceedings of the Committee of that body during June 1931, has recommended the name of Captain C.S. Penny, Technical Adviser to the British India Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., to represent Indian shipowners at the forthcoming meeting of the Maritime Advisory ~~Summit~~ Committee.

... ..

The Pioneer of 9-7-1931 publishes a Reuter's cable giving briefly the gist of the speech delivered by the Rt. Hon. V.S. Srinivasa Sastri at a meeting held in Paris on 6-7-1931 and of the concluding remarks of Monsieur Albert Thomas who presided on the occasion.

... ..

New India of 2-7-1931 (Vol. V, New Series, No.14) publishes an article under the caption "Indian Labour and Geneva", in which an

attempt is made to answer the query of the left wing elements in the trade union movement in the country:- "What have the Indian workers gained by the association of India with the I.L.O.?" The article briefly traces the influence of the I.L.O. ~~xxxx~~ in accelerating the pace of labour legislation in India.

... ..

The June issue of the Indian Labour Journal (Vol. VIII, No.9) Nagpur, publishes at pages 187 to 190 a further instalment of the article "Labour Legislation in India" by Dr. R.K. Das, published in the November 1930 issue of the International Labour Review.

... ..

The July 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay (Vol. X, No.11), reprints at page 1108 the note on the Conference of Labour Statistician published in "Industrial and Labour Information" of 1-6-1931.

... ..

The July 1931 issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, (Vol.2, ~~xxxx~~ No.5) publishes an article under the caption "International Labour Conference: 15th Session", briefly reviewing the work of the Conference with particular reference to the activities of the Indian workers' delegation to the Conference.

... ..

The Hindustan Times, Delhi, of 1-7-1931, publishes a photograph of the 15th I.L. Conference in Session. The photograph was forwarded to the Hindustan Times by this Office.

(For the views expressed by Mr. S.C. Bose, President of the 11th session of the A.I.T.U.C., on the question of representation of Indian labour at I.L. Conferences and affiliation to 'Amsterdam', please see page 50 of this report). See also page 55 of this report.

The Whitley Commission Report.

The Royal Commission on Indian Labour, presided over by the Rt. Hon. J.H. Whitley, appointed two years ago (see pages 7-9 of the Report of this Office for June 1929) have submitted a lengthy and comprehensive report which deals with conditions of employment and work, the standard of living of the worker and general questions such as workmen's compensation, trade unions, trade disputes, etc. The report is unanimous being signed by all the Commissioners with the exception of Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola who was elected President of the Legislative Assembly on January 17, 1931, and so from that date was unable to take further part in the proceedings. But it has a minute by Sir Victor Sassoon and another by Mr. K. Ahmed. The Commission twice toured India journeying 16,000 miles, exclusive of the journeys between London, Bombay and Colombo, and ^{held} holding 128 public sittings and 71 private sessions. 837 witnesses were examined, 490 memoranda considered and 180 visits were paid to industrial undertakings and plantations. The Commissioners comment that no trouble was spared by all concerned to facilitate their inquiries and assist them in their tours.

Main Divisions of the Report.- The six main divisions of the report comprise the examination of discussion of three great groups of conditions and problems, in, and arising out of, industrial and certain other classes of organised labour. These three groups are: first, conditions of employment and work; secondly, the standard of life of the worker; and, lastly, general questions related mainly to the industrial workers, namely, workmen's compensation, trade unions, and trade disputes.

The first eleven chapters are devoted to a full inquiry into the actual conditions of employment, that is, recruitment, hours of labour, female and child labour, wages, rest intervals, holidays, safety arrangements, health and welfare conditions, unemployment and education of workers and their children. This inquiry ranges over the whole field of work in factories of all kinds, in mines, railways, transport services and public works, whilst four later chapters of the report, deal with the same matters ^{in respect} of the plantations, particularly ^{in regard to} the outstanding example of organised large-scale planting operations - the Assam tea gardens.

In chapters XII ~~and~~ to XV is found the discussion of the second group of problems and conditions. These chapters deal with the general economic and physical state of Indian labour as revealed by conditions of income, indebtedness, health and welfare ~~and~~ and housing. The third group is comprised in chapters XVI, XVII, XVIII, and XXV which discuss workmen's compensation, trade unions, industrial disputes and labour and the constitution~~s~~, that is the vastly important economico-political side of labour.

Finally, individual chapters deal with certain special questions relating to Burma and with statistics and administration. Two minutes by members of the Commission together with the observations of the majority of the Commission on one of these, and a number of appendices and maps complete the report, which, its authors intend shall give not a series of recommendations framed in the light of the existing crisis, but a considered programme for the development of labour policy.

Principal Recommendations:-

Hours of Work, Women and Child Labour, etc.- The Commission recommends a weekly limit of 54 hours with a daily limit of 10 (for adults) and 5 (for children between the ages of 12 and 15) instead of a 60-hour week and 10-hour day for adults and a 6-hour day for children as at present. Suggestions are made for the introduction of a scheme of unemployment insurance when large reductions of staff are contemplated in an industry and the Government are asked to examine certain possible lines of remedial action in the case of unemployment. Women labour in mines should stop from 1939 and to secure that end the continued recruitment of ~~new~~ women for underground work should be discontinued forthwith. Children under 14 are also to be excluded from work under or around mines. Valuable suggestions for the improvement of the welfare and safety of the workers, the provision of amenities and the strengthening of the factory inspecting staff are included in the report. Gross abuses of child labour are exposed and the chapter on child labour is a "veritable children's charter".

Wages, Housing Conditions, etc.- The report records that wages have risen appreciably in recent years in organised industries, but adds that the belief - widely held that the workers have a fixed standard of life which do not improve with rise in wages is fallacious. No injury will be inflicted by raising workers' wages. In fact, it will increase efficiency. Two-thirds of the workers are in debt, often to the extent of more than three months' wages, at rates of interest of 75 per cent. and not infrequently 150 per cent. Measures are suggested for saving workers from harassment by creditors. Workers housing conditions are described as deplorable and the Government is urged to subsidise employers' building schemes, to lay down minimum standards regarding cubic space, ventilation, lighting, drainage, sanitation, etc., and to insist on the adoption by builders of workers' houses of model bye-laws. Measures are also suggested for improving the health of the workers and for providing them with amenities. It is proposed to extend the Workmen's Compensation Act to less hazardous and less organised industries.

Railway Problems and Trade Unions.- A large portion of the report is devoted to railway labour and a new machinery is set up for dealing with industrial relations on railways. A Joint Central Board is to be created with representatives of Agents of Railways and workers in equal proportion to discuss questions of all-India railway policy and to hear appeals from similar joint railway councils set up in each railway. The report asks the Government to make the recognition of trade unions more easy and to encourage their registration. Works Committees must be formed wherever possible to solve industrial problems in individual factories and Provincial Governments are to appoint officers to encourage conciliation between employers and the employed.

Labour and the New Constitution.- Legislative powers in respect of labour should remain at the centre, but provincial legislatures should also have power to legislate provided they do nothing repugnant to the central legislation or its administration. If special constituencies are to remain part of the Indian constitution, labour should be given adequate representation in all legislatures preferably by means of election by registered trade unions. Where there is a substantial industrial population it should be given by franchise or otherwise adequate influence over the policy of local bodies. In the framework of the future constitution, provision should be made for an

Industrial Council which would enable representatives of employers, labour, and governments to confer regularly on labour measures and policy. The possibility of making labour both a federal and provincial subject should be considered, and if federal legislation is impracticable, attempts should be made to ensure that all India participate, as soon as possible in improving labour matters. The Industrial Council should offer a suitable channel for co-operation between British India and Indian States where there is appreciable industrial development.

Indian Labour in Ceylon, 1930.*

The Report submitted by the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon to the Government of India on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, the Rules issued thereunder and of the Labour Ordinances of Ceylon, during the year 1930, contains a mass of valuable information regarding the conditions of labour of Indians in Ceylon. In the main, the report follows the lines adopted last year, but two new chapters, one on Indians, other than estate labourers, in Ceylon and the other on the important problem of the indebtedness of Indian labourers in Ceylon, have been added to the report under review.

Immigration Figures: Total number of Indians in Ceylon:-

~~The report estimates that~~ The figures of the latest Census are not yet available, but it is estimated that at the end of 1930, out of a total population of more than 5 millions, Indians numbered over 800,000. The vast majority of Indians in Ceylon earn their livelihood by working on Estates. The total number of Indians reported as working on Estates at the end of December 1930 was 734,747 against 742,297 in the previous year. Of them 240,390 were men, 230,710 were women and 263,647 were children. These figures show that family life is almost universal in the case of Indian labourers in Ceylon.

Immigration into Ceylon.- It was mentioned in the Report for 1929 that, barring 1926, the number of Indian estate labourers who came into Ceylon in 1929 was the lowest since 1924. During the year 1930 there was a further striking decrease; the number of immigrants fell from 105,095 in 1929 to 91,422. This figure is by far the lowest since 1924 and is only slightly in excess of the figure for 1923. The report observes that the statistics for 1930 as compared with those for 1929 reflect clearly the effects of the depression in rubber. The depression was far more acute in the latter part of the year than in the former, with the result that while there was only a decrease of 1,400 in the figures of immigration for the first six months of 1930, as compared with the corresponding months of the previous year, there was a decrease of some 12,000 during the last six months of 1930, as compared with the second half of 1929.

Departures to India.- A statement in During the year under review, 98,728 labourers returned to India. This figure is slightly lower than that for 1929, but is distinctly higher than that attained in any preceding year.

*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 1930 by the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon. Calcutta: Govt. of India Central Publication Branch, 1931. Price Re.1 As.4 or 2s. pp.32.

Nett Immigration.- Immigrants into Ceylon in 1930 fell short of emigrants from Ceylon by 7,306. This was the first time since 1923 that there was a decrease in the number of arrivals as compared with departures. This, according to the Report, again, was predominantly due to the rubber slump.

Repatriation.- The number of Indian Estate labourers repatriated from Ceylon to India during the year 1930 was 7,460 as compared with 3,187 in 1929. In normal times, repatriates fall under two classes, namely, those who have been in Ceylon for less than one year and are repatriated by the Agent of the Government of India under Section 22(1) of Ceylon Ordinance No. I of 1923; and those repatriated under the Ceylon Government Scheme of 1924 for the repatriation of sick and indigent labourers. The number repatriated by the Agent under the former category was 61 against 44 in 1929; and the number repatriated under Ceylon Government Scheme of 1924 was 3,216 as compared with 3,143 in the previous year. It will be noticed that the number of persons repatriated in 1930 under the two categories, mentioned above, was only about 100 in excess of the previous year. The total number of repatriates from Ceylon to India in 1930, however, was over 4,000 in excess of the previous year. This is explained by the fact that owing to the depression in rubber a new scheme for the repatriation of labourers affected by the rubber slump was inaugurated in October 1930. During the last three months of the year, 4,182 labourers were repatriated under this Scheme. 12 lepers - 10 men and 2 women - were repatriated in 1930 as compared with 25 in 1929.

Recruitment.- The vast majority of labourers came, as usual, from the Tamil Districts of the Madras Presidency. The Tamil Telugu and the Malayalam Districts (including the States of Travancore and Cochin) contributed in more or less equal shares some 1,500 labourers, while Mysore was responsible for 150. The rest, numbering nearly 90,000 came from the Tamil Districts, including the State of Pudukkottah which contributed over 4,200. Among the Tamil Districts, Trichinopoly, as usual, headed the list, having contributed more than one-third of the total. Salem stood second with nearly 18,000 labourers. The number of recruiting licenses endorsed by the Agent in 1930 was only 14,380 as compared with 19,331 in 1929. This, according to the report, is the lowest figure since 1924 and is due to the depression in the rubber industry. 12 cases of alleged irregular recruitment as against 11 in 1929 and 28 in 1928 were forwarded by the Agent to the Protector of Emigrants at Mandapam for action under Section 28 of the Emigration Act.

Labour Depots.- The Labour depots at Colombo and Polgahawela continued to be of great assistance to labourers. They provided food and shelter for Indian labourers en route to their destination.

Remuneration of Indian Labourers: In Tea Estates. - Many labourers in tea estates indeed earned more than the minimum wage while hardly any earned less. There were few irregularities in the payment of wages; and these few were more often the result of ignorance than of any deliberate attempt to evade the law. Occasionally, however, the check-roll is disfigured by a "half-name" which generally means, not that the labourer has worked only half a day but that his outturn has not reached the required standard. It is,

however, recognized that half-name/are illegal; for, the whole object of the Minimum Wage Ordinance is to render the remuneration of a labourer independent of the varying outturn demanded from him on different estates. Fears had been entertained in certain quarters that this might make the indifferent labourer still more indifferent and result in a large increase in the number of slackers. This fear has certainly not been fulfilled, at any rate, on those estates - and their name is legion - which combine an aptitude for business with a sense of fairplay.

In Rubber Estates. The most disquieting feature of the year under report was the almost unprecedented depression in the rubber industry in the latter part of the year. During the first five or six months of the year, rubber fetched prices which made it possible for estates to proceed on normal lines. From July onwards the price of rubber deteriorated with such startling rapidity that rigid economies in all items, including the wages of labourers, had to be introduced. It has only to be remembered that the price of rubber which stood at 28 cents at the beginning of July fell to 14 cents towards the end of October. This alarming fall in the price of rubber imposed an almost intolerable strain on the Minimum Wage Ordinance in the very infancy of its existence. Labourers on rubber estates fall into two classes, (i) tappers, and (ii) sillara workers, employed on ordinary field works, such as weeding, drainage, road repairing, etc. The normal method on rubber estates is to pay sillara workers by the day and tappers according to the amount of latex brought by them to the factory. Until the depression set in, the minimum wage was but an academic question in the case of tappers, for they generally earned more, and an effortless reality in the case of sillara workers, for they hardly ever got less. With the increasing gravity of the situation, however, it was obvious that tappers could not be paid at the old handsome rates; it was even questioned whether the rates of minimum wages were not impracticable. Theoretically the problem of such labourers could have been solved by their absorption by tea estates. But all such attempts were defeated, except to a negligible extent, by the rooted antipathy of labourers on rubber estates to work on tea. Nor was the free repatriation of discharged labourers a complete panacea, because the interest of a large number of them are wrapped up in Ceylon and they have nothing more than a sentimental attachment to their mother country. Therefore the only alternative to extensive unemployment was to employ certain classes of labourers on less than six days in the week, provided the latter were willing to forego their statutory privilege of demanding six days' work in the week. This was a desperate remedy adopted to meet a desperate crisis. It was, however, in the case of tappers that great difficulty was experienced. On many estates, there was not enough work to keep the tappers employed. The question arose whether on such estates it was obligatory to give tappers the minimum wage. There seems little doubt that it would be a direct contravention of the idea underlying the minimum wage to give only six hours' work and on that ground to justify the payment of, say, three-fourths of the minimum wage. An attempt was made to introduce a scheme, based on this "three-fourths" principle.

in the Kalutara District, with the result that it created considerable misunderstanding and a certain amount of discontent among labourers and the scheme had ultimately to be abandoned.

Indebtedness. - The indebtedness of the Tamil labourer still remains the most distressing feature of his life in Ceylon. It is true that now-a-days he is hardly ever indebted directly to the estate, nor, on the whole, is his indebtedness so appalling as it used to be in the old "Tundu" days. Still the fact remains that thousands of Indian labourers live in perpetual debt to their Kangany, and a portion of their monthly earnings is taken by him. The labourer's indebtedness which may have had small beginnings, becomes acute, chronic and well-nigh incurable; he ceases to be the master of his earnings; and he acquires, and is demoralized by, his tendency to roam from estate to estate. This is a state of affairs which obviously produces certain adverse repercussions on employers as well as employees.

Remedial Measures. - As early as 1889, the Indian labourer's immunity from arrest for debt was secured by Statute. But it was only some ten years ago that systematic efforts were made to remove the root causes of the labourer's indebtedness. The "Tundu" system was abolished; and the entire cost of a labourer's recruitment and transport was debited to a common fund known as the Immigration Fund instead of being debited to his personal account, as was done till 1923. In order to enable a labourer to land in Ceylon free of debt to his Kangany, provision was made, whereby advances given by the recruiter or others in India to induce a labourer to emigrate were made irrecoverable in the courts both in India and in Ceylon. Further the provisions that wages should be paid before the 10th of the month and that the total amount of wages should be paid directly into the hands of the labourer himself were designed to reduce the labourer's indebtedness. In spite of these salutary provisions, however, the indebtedness of Tamil labourers, though reduced to a large extent, continues to be a matter for concern.

Housing of Labourers. - The progress achieved in recent years in the construction of up-to-date lines was hampered in the year under report by the acute depression in the rubber, and to a less extent, in the cocoanut industries. Though many company-owned estates, especially in the tea districts, were able to carry on a modified programme of improvements, a large number of estates, chiefly rubber, in the low-country had to restrict or stop all expenditure on the construction of lines and confined their attention to the maintenance of existing lines in a sanitary condition. There was, however, little overcrowding. The sanitary conditions of lines and line compounds were, on the whole, satisfactory, in spite of the fact that the number of line sweepers had been reduced on some estates on account of the depression.

Vital Statistics. - It was mentioned in the report for 1929 that both the birth rate and the death rate among the Indian Estate population were the lowest since 1919. 1930 has beaten the record of 1929. The birth rate has fallen from 34.3 per thousand to 33.5 and the death rate from 25.1 to 22.1. Infantile mortality

has decreased from 214 per thousand in 1929 to 194 in 1930. This is by far the least discreditable figure since ~~1922~~ 1919, though it is still considerably higher than that for the whole of Ceylon. It is remarked that there is no question that the rate of infantile mortality can be further reduced by the more extensive employment of midwives and the construction of lying-in rooms. The chief causes of death, ~~xxx~~ apart from debility, are pneumonia, dysentery, diarrhoea and enteritis.

Medical Relief. * No improvements, during the year under review, in the provision of facilities for medical relief for estate labourers have been recorded. In 1930 there were 66 Government hospitals and 108 Government dispensaries scheduled to estates as compared with 65 Government hospitals and 112 Government dispensaries in 1929. The number of estate hospitals and estate dispensaries showed a slight increase. There were 88 estate hospitals against 85 in 1929 and 715 estate dispensaries against 706 in 1929. The majority of hospitals were well built and suitably equipped. Most of the dispensary buildings, however, were, in the opinion of the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, unsatisfactory.

Education. - The total number of estate schools registered up to the end of September, 1930 was 501 as compared with 402 at the end of 1929. The total number of children of school-going age for 1930 was 77,723 of whom 44,030 were males, and 33,693 females, as against 77,376 in 1929, of whom 43,108 were males and 34,268 were females. The total number of children who actually attended school was 42,671, of whom 29,762 were males and 12,909 were females, as against 40,859 in the previous year, of whom 28,667 were males and 12,192 were females. Thus 54.9 per cent. of the total number of children of school-going age attended school in 1930, as compared with 52.8 in 1929 and 45.7 in 1928. The report states that the prevalent depression adversely affected the education of the children of estate labourers in two ways. Firstly, it caused a reduction of work on many estates, mostly rubber. Indeed, on certain estates the labour force has become so attenuated that the necessity for the provision of educational facilities no longer exists. Secondly, the present financial conditions of the Island necessitated a policy of drastic retrenchment, involving a refusal on the part of Government to incur further expenditure by the ~~provision of the Education~~ registration of new schools.

Indians other than Estate Labourers in Ceylon. - The following brief account of the condition of Indians in Ceylon other than estate labourers, is given in the Report:—

"The Tamil labourers form the vast majority of Indians in Ceylon; but there is a large number of Indians of other classes, employed in various walks of life. They include Government officials, medical practitioners, teachers and clerks; Sindhi or Gujerati merchants; Mohammedan boutique-keepers; the ubiquitous Palghat Brahmin restaurant keepers; the wealthy Mattukottai Chettyiars and their sturdy counterpart in money lending on a miniature scale, the Baluchi; and, last but not least, the Malayalees in Colombo, unrivalled in their efficiency as domestic servants. So varied are the

types and so different their occupations that they have little cohesion and no organization. This lack of organization was almost painfully apparent at the time of the registration of Indian voters. "Associations", indeed, there are, and plenty of them; but they generally spring up like mushrooms, and die like moths after a brief inglorious existence. It was only during the Franchise controversy that some of these Associations came to public notice. The Nattukottai Chettiyars are by far the wealthiest class of Indians in Ceylon. There are some 760 registered firms of Nattukottai Chettiyars from South India operating in Ceylon with an aggregate capital of over Rs. 100 millions as financiers, exporters and importers, rice merchants and textile dealers.

Political Status of Indians in Ceylon. - (For detailed treatment of the question of the Indian franchise in Ceylon please see pages 80-84 of the report of the Office for June 1930). The registration of voters took place in ^{the} third quarter of the year under report. It was decided to get Indian labourers, as far as possible, registered as domiciled, instead of resorting to the comparatively cumbrous procedure of obtaining certificates of permanent settlement. Those Indians were regarded as domiciled who could produce proof of five years' residence in Ceylon and had an intention of residing here for an indefinite period. The Planters' Association of Ceylon issued circulars emphasizing the importance of the registration of Indian labourers and outlining the procedure to be adopted. Its efforts were unfortunately nullified to a large extent by certain pamphlets, issued by interested persons, threatening the Indian labourer with the forfeiture of his rights and privileges if he registered himself as a voter. How far the apathy of the Indian labourer and the scepticism of the average employer with regard to the value of the vote have been overcome by ~~xxx~~ the action taken by certain Planters' Associations it is impossible to say. The number of Indians on the electoral roll is not yet known. It may, however, be conjectured that owing to the lack of any effective organization among Indians in Ceylon, the paucity of Indian candidates with political ambitions, and the illiteracy, the helplessness and the "pathetic contentment" of the Indian labourer in Ceylon, the number cannot be large.

General Remarks. - Almost from the beginning of the year 1930, and especially during the latter half, depression cast its lengthening shadow on almost every branch of activity connected with the life of the Indian labourer in Ceylon. It effected the rate of recruitment, the flow of immigration and the volume of repatriation; on rubber estates it subjected the Minimum Wage Ordinance to a severe ordeal which it survived, but not without difficulty and caused a reduction in the normal remuneration of thousands of Indian labourers, notably tappers; it hampered the construction of lines and the registration of new estate schools and altogether prevented the extension of such beneficent ventures as the formation of co-operative societies. Yet 1930 had features from which the optimist may take heart. Tea remained unaffected by the depression; and the

work and wages of labourers in up-country and, for the most part, mid-country districts proceeded on normal lines. Even in low-country the very fact that the Minimum Wage Ordinance was subjected while it was, so to say, still in its swaddling clothes to a strain which seems unlikely to recur has shewn its inherent vigour. The decrease in the death rate of Indian labourers from 25.1 per thousand in 1929 to 22.1 in 1930 and in the rate of infantile mortality - though still undoubtedly high - from 214 per thousand in 1929 to 194 in 1930 is a feature for which employers deserve full credit. Even education, in spite of the fact that many schools had to be closed and no new schools are being registered, showed a slight improvement; 54.9 per cent. of the estate children of school-going age attended school in 1930 against 52.8 in 1929. Perhaps the most disappointing feature of the year under report was that the long-expected publication of the report of the committee appointed to consider the medical wants of estate labourers, has not been followed by any measures to improve the system of medical relief on estates. One incident in the year, 1930, however, is a matter for unalloyed satisfaction. The question of the franchise of Indians in Ceylon has been satisfactorily settled, and memories of that acrimonious controversy have been laid to rest, one hopes, for ever.

(The Report on the Working of the Indian Emigration Act in Ceylon for the year 1929 was reviewed at pages 11-16 of the Report of this Office for November 1930).

Force⁴ Labour in Indian States.

The following reference to forced labour in Indian States is taken from the presidential address delivered by Mr. A.V. Thakkar, Member, Servants of India Society, at Punjab States' Subjects' Conference held at Simla on 24-7-31:-

Begar or forced labour is widely prevalent in ^{most} all States. It is as if some communities, specially the depressed classes, are ordained from times immemorial for this very purpose. ^{In some states, is} Not only are the whole rural population, including agriculturists, who form 80 to 90% of the population, subjected to compulsory labour, but the payment given to ^{it} them is always inadequate in theory, and often refused in practice in toto. Instances are quoted in the recent publication "Indictment of Patiala" of compulsory labour being exacted for ^(hunking) Shikar parties, construction and clearance of canals, and for cultivating State gardens, &c. Bullocks and camels are also impressed for transport, and provisions - specially milk and ghee - are exacted with inadequate, and probably no payment. This is unfortunately an every-day affair, when either the Prince, or any high or low official, or a part of the State ^{Army} is on tour. Representatives of Indian Princes sit in Council meetings of the League of Nations, where attempts are being made to put an end to forced labour, but these very representatives exact forced labour in their own territories without any compunction. Responsibility in the administration can alone end this state of things, and unless that is introduced, this and dozens of other abuses will be continued for, God knows, how long.

(The Servant of India, 30-7-31,
(Vol. XLV, No. 30).)

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Forced Labour in Bihar and Orissa.

Mahatma Gandhi has published the following summary of a letter received by him from the representatives of a "slave" community in Bihar and Orissa:-

"We are representatives of the Rajwar community ^{living} in the districts of Gaya, Patna, Monghyr and Palamau, in the Province of Bihar and Orissa, and number about 100,000. We belong to one of the poorest and most illiterate communities in the whole province, and are looked down upon as a low caste. We are landless labourers, as not even one in a thousand ^{among us} ~~employees~~ owns even an acre of land. We are being kept down so as to get the utmost work out of us with the least expense to our employers. On refusal to give begar (forced labour) the zamindar forthwith begins a suit for arrears of rent, gets a decree, puts the plot to auction and evicts the tenant from the land.

"A Rajwar child, no sooner he reaches his 6th or 7th year, becomes almost the property of his parents' landlord; he is made to tend the landlord's cattle and ^{do} all sorts of odd jobs for which the landlord provides him with only his feeding and four yards of cloth per annum, but the most inhuman part of the whole thing is that, the child is never allowed to live in the house of his master but is compelled to go every night to his own house, even in the worst weather, although the house may be a long way off. In fact he leads the life of a slave, a mere chattel of the landlord. For working from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Rajwars are paid at the rate of three seers of unhusked rice per diem and no wages in cash are ever paid to them. The amlas (servants) of the zamindars, if they do not find the male member in the tenant's house and if the ~~zaman~~ zamindar's men need his labour on their master's behalf, compel the female members as well as the children, to do the work in his stead, in spite of the inconvenience it causes to the family. And at times it so happens that the females are made to go to places 15 to 20 miles away carrying their master's loads. If any protest is made against such employment, the inevitable result is abuse, assault and violation of the modesty of the women-folk and ~~the~~ forcible eviction from the homestead. The Rajwar children are not allowed to be sent to the primary schools and the teachers too are not allowed by the landlords to teach the boys. Whenever there is any theft or larceny or dacoity or any crime whatever in the locality where this community is living, the first suspicion and the first brant of the police enquiry must be borne by them, although there may not be the slightest evidence for the same. The whole community has been subjected to the rules and regulations of the Criminal Tribes Act for over 15 years. Under that Act, the members of this community, if they want to give their sons and daughters in marriage to those living in a different district, are not allowed, or are obstructed in such a way by the authorities and caste people that it becomes impossible to make such alliances.

"We have already submitted memorials to the District Magistrates of Gaya and Patna and to the Chief Secretary, Bihar and Orissa Government, but we have not as yet learnt what steps the respective authorities have taken. We hope that you will do something to ameliorate our condition".

The following are extracts from the observations on the letter appended by Mahatma Gandhi:-

"They (the above statements) are highly ^{likely} to be true in the main. For, such treatment is not an isolated phenomenon of Bihar. Almost all the provinces have these backward, suppressed, slave communities. They are no heritage from the British. We have had them for ages, and all the greater shame on us for that. We may plead a thousand excuses for their existence in the days gone by. But in these days of enlightenment, awakening and insistence on Swaraj, we have no excuse for tolerating the atrocity. Congress workers have to take up the cause of these communities wherever they are found. They should try to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of those who "own" these men and women. Swaraj is the sum total of all the activities that go to build up a free and vigorous nation conscious of the strength that comes from right-doing. The existence of slave communities is a ~~terrible~~ terrible, wrong and must therefore be a hindrance in our march towards the goal.

(The Hindustan Times, 1-7-1931).

Hours of Work in Jute Mills.

References have been made in our monthly reports (see pages 24-25 of June 1930, and 11-12 of February 1931 monthly reports of this Office) to the decisions adopted from time to time by the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, with regard to hours of work in the jute industry. The following review of the various decisions taken in this respect by the Indian Jute Mills Association from 6-11-1928 to 13-11-1930, is taken from the report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association for the year ended 31-12-1930:-

Decision of 6-11-1928 to increase working hours from 54 to 60 from 1-7-1929.- The ~~XXXXXX~~ Indian Jute Mills Association decided on 6th November 1928 to increase working hours from 54 to 60 per week with effect from 1st July 1929, this decision being come to in view, principally, of growing competition from the Continent and from new mills on the banks of the Hooghly. The 60-hours week agreement, subsequently entered into between members, was of indefinite duration, and was allowed to continue in operation until it became evident - early in 1930 if not before then - that the world market was unable readily to absorb the increased output of manufactured goods. Stocks had begun to accumulate rapidly both in Calcutta and abroad, and the consequent depression in market conditions resulted in the negotiations which eventually led to the adoption of a \pm 54 hour working week as from 30th June 1930. The negotiations were protracted, however, on two accounts. In the first place, the general feeling among members was that no steps should be taken towards restriction of production, whether by direct curtailment of working hours or otherwise, without the co-operation of the mills in the Calcutta district working independently of the Association. And in the second place - though at a later stage in the proceedings - the ~~X~~ view was expressed that action should be taken to strengthen the position of the Association against outside local competition and to avoid a recurrence of the circumstances which had made it necessary for the Association mills to increase their weekly working hours from 54 to 60 during 1929.

Decision of 16-6-1930 to reduce hours from 60 to 54 from 30-6-30 to 31-12-1931.- The new agreement dated 16-6-1931 came into force with effect from the 30th June 1930, and ~~its terms were published~~ The principal points of similarity to and variation from previous working time agreements are indicated below:-

(a) Working Hours.

The agreement provided for a reduction of working hours from 60 to 54 weekly, double shift mills to run for four days of $13\frac{1}{2}$ hours each per week, and single shift either four days of 11 hours

and one of ten hours or five days of ten hours and one of four hours per week. This ~~it~~ was the arrangement previously in force under the short time agreement which came to an end on 30th June 1929.

In addition to this reduction of working hours, provision was made in clause 5 of the agreement for a complete stoppage of work for a period of 54 hours between the dates 30th June 1930 and 2nd January 1931. But this arrangement was not put into operation, as it was superseded by a further agreement between members.

(b) Making up of lost time.

Mills are permitted under agreement to make up time lost on account of (1) strikes, (2) shortages of coal and (3) failure of the electric supply on which the mill relies for its motive power, provided the stoppage is one for at least two whole working days. In the case of failure of electric supply it is at the Committee's discretion to permit or not to permit the mill to make up the time lost, according as they are satisfied that the stoppage was due to a difficulty in the main power supply, as distinct from the mills' own electrical equipment.

(c) Non-members' Mills.

Clause 6 of the agreement embodies an entirely new provision to the effect that signatories will not take over the control or management of any jute mills not members of the association and will not be parties to the sale or purchase of such mills, during the currency of the agreement.

(d) Extensions of productive machinery and relative buildings.

As in previous agreements, signatories undertake that during the currency of the agreement they will not instal, nor place orders for, any extra productive machinery or relative buildings. An exception to this understanding was made in the case of Messrs. Raja Janokinath Roy and Brother, who were given permission to complete the construction of the Premchand Mills, consisting of not more than 500 looms, with the necessary complement of mill machinery and relative buildings. A note has been added to this clause - clause No. 7 - making it clear that "productive machinery" includes both spinning frames and looms.

(e) Census of looms.

Clause 8 of the agreement was the outcome of a suggestion put forward by the Committee, and accepted by members, that the general tightening up of the internal organisation of the Association should be accompanied by a revision of the official loomage figures maintained by the Association. Provision was accordingly made in the agreement for re-enumeration of all looms to be undertaken by firms of Chartered Accountants prior to 30th June 1930. The Census was carried out by Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes and Messrs. Price, Waterhouse Peat and Company, with the following results:-

Number of looms on re-enumeration including the Premchand Mills, then under construction. ... 58,639 looms

Previous registered number of looms including the four newly elected mills and the increase sanctioned in respect of "Gondalpara" during 1929 52,929 looms

of previous registered figure. 5,710 = 10.79%

(f) Jute Mill Inspectors: Penalty provisions.

~~These~~ Clauses 9 and 10 of the agreement may conveniently be treated together. The former provides for the appointment and ~~and~~ maintenance by the Association of a staff of Jute Mill Inspectors, who, by regular visits of inspection to the mills, enable the Committee to satisfy themselves that the provisions of the agreement are being strictly complied with by signatories. And Clause 10, which is in effect a supplement to the rules of the Association, provides for infringements or alleged infringements of the agreement: it prescribes that an offending signatory shall be liable to a fine which may extend to the total amount of the deposit made by the signatory under the rules, or to expulsion from the Association, or to both. The three Inspectors appointed by the Committee on the terms set out in the proceedings of 8th July have been actively engaged in their duties since their appointment on 14th July 1930; and though they have had occasion to report a number of mills for minor irregularities, such as starting up and closing down a few minutes before or after the agreement hours, in no case has it been necessary for them to take punitive measures under the rules of the Association.

Subsidiary Agreement dated 4-7-1930.- Within a week of signature^{Mc} of the main agreement dated 15th June, the Committee were addressed by two groups of mills in the membership of the Association regarding the downward trend of the market since the adoption of reduced working hours. They were urged to take further early steps towards stabilising prices at a reasonable level and towards safeguarding the interests of buyers; for, so it was argued, the restriction of production provided for in the existing agreement had already shown itself to be very far short of what the reduced demand in the world's market called for. The Committee put forward the following recommendations which they thought were likely to meet with general acceptance:- (1) That all mills should close down:- (a) from 28th July to 2nd August 1930, both days inclusive; (b) from 25th August to 30th August 1930, both days inclusive; (c) from 15th September to 20th September 1930, both days inclusive. (2) That during these closed periods, an allowance should be paid to the workers by all mills according to the following scale, based on a 54-hour week :- (i) for half timers - Rs. 0-12-0; (ii) for all workers earning between Rs. 1/- and Rs. 5-7-9 per week - Rs. 1-2-0; (iii) for all workers earning between Rs. 3-8-0 and Rs. 5-7-9 per week - Rs. 1-8-0; and for all workers earning Rs. 5-8-0 per week and upwards - Rs. 2-0-0. (3) These proposals met with the unanimous acceptance of the mills; and they were eventually embodied in the form of a subsidiary agreement, which was signed on 4th July. Provision was also made in the subsidiary agreement for any time lost on account of strikes during the period 30th June to the end of September to be placed against the compulsory closure of one week per month.

Revised scale of wages:- Some little time before this arrangement came into operation, it was suggested to the Committee that the scale of allowances to be paid to the workers during the closed weeks under this subsidiary agreement might with advantage be revised so as to avoid too large a difference in the allowances payable to workers drawing approximately the same wage. On the Committee's recommendation, the following scale of allowances was ultimately substituted

for that set out above:- (a) for half timers - Rs.0-12-0; (b) for all workers earning between Rs.1-0-0 to Rs. 3-7-9 per week - Rs.1-2-0; (c) for all workers earning between Rs.3-8-0 and Rs. 4-2-9 - Rs.1-4-0; (d) for all workers earning between Rs.4-3-0 and Rs.4-13-9 - Rs.1-6-0; (e) for all workers earning between Rs.4-14-0 and Rs.5-7-9 - Rs.1-8-0; (f) for all workers earning Rs.5-8-9 per week and upwards - Rs.2-0-0. With this amendment the subsidiary agreement dated 4th July was given effect to by all mills in the membership of the Association. It is of interest to note that general agreement was reached with regard to a recommendation put forward by the Committee, namely that the wages which the workers would normally have drawn during the closed weeks should be paid on the first day of resumption of work, and that the allowance due for the non-working week should be paid on the last working day of the ensuing week. The Committee felt that uniformity in this respect was desirable; but they recognised that a certain amount of laxity was necessary, and the arrangement was not on that account made part of the agreement.

Second subsidiary Agreement dated 19-8-1930.- The subsidiary Working Time Agreement dated 4th July made provision for the closure of all mills in the membership of the Association for one full working week in each of the months July, August and September; and clause 3 provided for the ~~pm~~ position as regards October/December 1930 to be reviewed later. Towards the beginning of August 1930, however, an agitation was set on foot for an immediate declaration by the Association as to what extension of this arrangement was contemplated. It was argued that neither the extent of the restriction nor the period of the agreement was sufficient to give confidence to the market, in view of the stock position after the July closure of one week. The Committee ~~x~~ were therefore urged to consider the matter further; and for the purpose of the reference which they ultimately made to members they selected the following from among the various suggestions put forward:- (a) that the subsidiary agreement of 4th July, providing for a closure of one week monthly, should be extended to cover the period October to December 1930, the position subsequent to December to be reviewed not earlier than 15th November 1930; (b) that the ~~xx~~ subsidiary agreement should be extended to cover the period October 1930 to March 1931, the position subsequent to March 1931 to be reviewed not earlier than 15th February 1931.

In asking for the ~~x~~ views of members on the position, the Committee explained that proposals had been put forward providing for the closure of the mills for a longer period than one week per month, but that they were unanimously of opinion that it would be neither expedient nor politic from the labour point of view to adopt such proposals. For this reason the Committee merely asked in their circular reference which of the above two courses would be the more acceptable. The second of them eventually met with the unanimous approval of members; and the arrangement was subsequently incorporated in the form of a second subsidiary agreement, which was signed by the mills on 19th August. The dates of closing down provided for in this agreement were:- (1) 27th October to 1st November 1930, both days inclusive; (2) 24th November to 29th November 1930, both days inclusive; (3) 29th December 1930 to 3rd January 1931, both days inclusive; (4) 26th January to 31st January 1931, both days inclusive; (5) 23rd February to 28th February 1931, both days inclusive; (6) 23rd March to 28th March, 1931, both days inclusive. In other respects the agreement followed closely the terms of the previous subsidiary agreement of

4th July.

Decision dated 13-11-1930 to reduce hours if necessary to 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours from 1-4-1931.- Some two months after the signature of this second subsidiary agreement, the Committee were again addressed by three members of the Association with regard to the existing position of the gunny market and the tendency of prices - particularly of hessians - to drop still further, notwithstanding the attempts made to counteract the depression. The members in question urged very strongly that steps should be taken to bring about an improvement; and the alternative suggestions embodied in the letters were that this should be effected by means of (1) an immediate and drastic further curtailment of production, notwithstanding the second subsidiary agreement of 19th August and the provision contained in it that the position subsequent to March should not be reviewed earlier than 15th February 1931; (2) an announcement by the Association to the trade that the working arrangements of the mills after March 1931, would be so regulated as not to allow stocks of manufactured goods to accumulate beyond 8 or 10 days production, accompanied by a declaration to the effect that if stocks were not reduced to this specified level by next March, the mills would thereafter adopt a 12-day working month.

(Summarised from pages 18-28 of the Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, for the year ending 31-12-1930). The Committee anxiously considered whether any of the proposals made to them would be likely to meet with the acceptance of the necessary percentage, namely 75%; and from enquiries they had made, they were forced to the conclusion that none would be likely to do so. However, on 13-11-1930 they issued the following announcement to the trade:- "That restriction of production will be continued until such time as confidence is restored by the revival of world trade or the reduction of stocks of manufactured goods, and that it is the declared policy of the Association to restrict production to market requirements, the mills comprising the Association being prepared, if necessary, to work 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours per week or the equivalent from 1st April 1931. This will be a matter for discussion on or after 15th February in terms of the existing agreement dated 19th August 1930".

(Summarised from pages 18-28 of the Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, for the year ending 31-12-1930).

Factory Administration in Burma during 1930*

Number of Factories. - The number of factories registered in Burma and the Northern Shan States at the end of 1930 was 1,079 compared with 1,064 at the end of 1929. 99 factories were closed throughout the year leaving 980 which were running for at least some part of the year. 8 were burnt down, 3 dismantled and 19 deleted for miscellaneous reasons during the year, while 45 mills were newly registered.

Number of Employees. - In spite of general complaints of slack trade the number of persons employed increased from 98,077 in 1929 to 98,701 in 1930. This increase, the report states, is probably due to the returns from parboiled paddy mills being somewhat more accurate than in previous years and to the paddy-carrying women coolies being included where formerly they had been wrongly omitted. The report adds that there is little doubt that the annual returns received from factories are very far from accurate.

Extension of the Act to Small Factories. - No further progress has been made with the proposal to extend the Act to small factories. The report states that in the present state of the Provincial finances it is undesirable for the Act to be extended as the staff, which it seems unlikely will be increased at present, is unable to inspect regularly the factories already registered.

Inspection. - ~~During the year~~ ^{One} ~~being on leave for the whole of the year, only~~ ^{being on leave for the whole of the year, only} 538 factories out of the 980 running were visited and the not very high ideal of inspecting each factory once a year was very far from being realised. The report states that the proposals made for increasing the staff have not been favourably received.

New Rules. - No new rules were gazetted during the year but some unimportant verbal alterations were made. A special exemption was issued for work in connection with Timber Seasoning Plants and the exemption relating to Brick Kilns was cancelled. The general exemption relating to overtime in case of press of work was also cancelled and it is proposed in future to issue special exemptions to individual factories.

Housing of Industrial Labour and Sanitation. - The housing of industrial labour remained much as in previous years but received considerable attention from the Royal Commission on Labour who visited this province in October 1930. The trade depression through which the Province has been passing has rendered occupiers reluctant to spend money on any objects which they do not consider to be likely to give an immediate financial return. The trade depression also made occupiers reluctant to spend money on improving the sanitation of their mills. Latrines have been allowed to fall into disrepair and very few new artesian wells have been put down.

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, in Burma for the year 1930. - Rangoon: Superintendent Government Printing & Stationery, Burma 1931. Price- Rs.3 = 4s.6d - pp.2 + 52.

General Health. - The general health of the operatives appears to have been normal. The Chief Inspector in company with an officer from the Department of Public Health visited some small enamelled ironware workshops in which it was anticipated that lead poisoning might occur and made some recommendations as regards ~~xxxx~~ ventilation and other safeguards, but as these places were not factories no active measures could be taken by this department to protect the workpeople. A set of draft rules relating to the protection from lead poisoning of certain classes of workers in the factories is now under the consideration of ^{the} Government.

Women and Children. - The number of women employed according to the returns was 10,705 as against 9,988 in 1929. As the depression in trade makes it unlikely that any real increase in the number of women employed actually took place, this apparent increase is attributed to an improvement in the returns received from factories. 622 children were employed as against 752 in 1929, the decrease being spread over several districts. No serious irregularities in connection with the employment of children came to light but there were four prosecutions for employing women at night and the report states that it is probable that after illegal Sunday work this was the commonest irregularity during the busy season.

Accidents. - There was an increase in the number of accidents which, during the year under review, reached the total of 2,244 against 1,988 in the previous year. There were 24 fatal accidents, three of which were directly due to the earthquake on 5-5-30, as compared with 20 fatal accidents in the previous year. Serious accidents dropped from 351 in 1929 to 293 in the year under report, and the minor accidents increased by 310 from 1,617 to 1,927. While the reporting of non-fatal accidents is probably still far from perfect it appears that every year there is an improvement in this respect. Only one fatal accident was due to unfenced machinery or mill gearing and this took place in a mill from which no notice of occupation had been received and whose existence was not known to the department. The large proportion of deaths due to burns or scalds (10 out of 24) is worthy of note and is the more remarkable from the fact that no deaths occurred due to fires in the hand filling departments of match factories or to petroleum fires. No fatal accident occurred due to throw-backs from circular saws and the general use of riving knives seems to have done much to lessen the danger from these tools. There were 22 prosecutions in 1930 against 39 in 1929.

Earthquakes. - A serious earthquake occurred in Rangoon and Pegu on 5-5-30 which caused directly in factories three deaths, two from the collapse of a wall and one from hot water slopping over. Practically every brick-mill chimney in Rangoon was damaged, some so badly that they had to be completely demolished. An earthquake on the 3-12-30, which had its centre near Pyu and which was probably more serious than the Rangoon-Pegu earthquake, did very little damage to mills as in this district the mills are all of corrugated iron with steel chimneys.

White Phosphorus Matches Prohibition Act of 1923. - There

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were six match factories , 4 in Rangoon, 1 in Hanthawaddy and 1 in Mandalay. One factory in Rangoon was burnt down but reconstructed during the year. No irregularities under the White Phosphorus Matches Prohibition Act came to light.

(The report of the Factory Administration in Burma for the year 1929 is reviewed at pages 31-32 of the report of this Office for August 1930).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 in 1929.*

The following information about the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in India and Burma in 1929 is taken from a Note on the subject recently issued by the Government of India:-

General.- The year under report was the 5th complete year of the working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act. The year saw some improvement in the number of returns from employers in certain provinces. In Bombay 89 per cent. of the factories which were subject to the operation of the Act submitted returns as against 78 per cent. in ~~1928~~ 1928. The number of defaulters in this respect in Bengal fell from 183 in 1928 to 79 in 1929. The Burma report, however, says that "difficulty is still being experienced in collecting the returns and the advisability of prosecuting under section 176 of the Indian Penal Code was brought to the notice of Deputy Commissioners and other officers collecting the returns, but no prosecutions were reported". It adds that many of the returns received were found to be incorrectly filled and had to be sent back to employers.

Review of Administration in the Provinces.- (~~NUMBER OF CASES AND~~
~~COMPENSATION PAID~~)- The total number of cases coming under the purview of statement I (number of cases and compensation paid) increased from 16,768 in 1928 to 18,865 in 1929 and the corresponding figures of total compensation paid during the year rose from Rs. 1,095,730 in 1928 to Rs. 1,260,164 in 1929. There seems little doubt that the Act is gradually becoming more widely known. The Madras report says that "in an increasing proportion of cases, employers themselves now take

*Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1929 together with a note on the working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. Published by order of the Government of India. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1931. Price As.7 or 9d. pp.5

provisions of the

the initiative in complying with the ^A Act as is proved by the fact that there has been a decrease by nearly one-half in the number of proceedings instituted for the recovery of compensation and an increase by nearly 50 per cent. in the ~~at~~ number of ~~the~~ cases of deposit of compensation under section 8(1)". Conditions in the United Provinces, however, seem to be different. It appears that, owing to their illiteracy, the workmen there are not always able to get due compensation from their employers. It is suggested by one of the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation in the Province that the various important directions to be observed by the workmen and the employers should be printed in Urdu and Hindi in bold letters to be posted on the entrance gates of the factories and workshops, and that a copy should invariably be given by employers to new workmen. In Burma there still seems to be a tendency among some employers, especially the smaller employers, to evade the obligations of the Act. The Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation Act, Bengal, reports that the provision making it compulsory for the employers to deposit lump sum compensation payable to ~~men~~ women or minors resulted in only 5 such deposits during the year, but several cases of direct payment were brought to his notice. In Bombay, it is reported that, about 43 per cent. of the cases were dealt with by Insurance Companies and it was found that claims are settled more speedily and just as equitably when Insurance Companies are concerned than when the employers deal direct with the workmen. This seems to be due to the greater familiarity of Insurance Companies with the law and the procedure laid down in the Act. The Railways in Bombay have special officers to deal with compensation cases. The assistance given by the Textile Labour Union, Ahmedabad, which was mentioned in the Note for 1928, continued during the year under review. Mention

was made in the Note for 1928 of the agencies in Bombay which charge a fee for assisting workmen to recover compensation (see page 36 of the Report of this Office for June 1930). The Bombay report for 1929 records the unfortunate fact that the proprietor of the largest of these agencies absconded during the year under review with a good deal of money received by him from employers on account of workmen.

Applications filed before Commissioners.- The total number of applications filed before Commissioners in 1929 under section 10 of the Act for the award of compensation was 554 as compared with 558 in 1928. The number of distribution cases filed before Commissioners under section 8 of the Act was 703 as against 531 in 1928. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of by Commissioners was 20.07 as compared with 23.7 in 1928 and 22.9 in 1927. The number of applications filed before Commissioners for registration of agreements was 1,067 as compared with 906 in 1928 and 711 in 1927. The number of appeals filed in the High Court against decisions of the Commissioners under the Act continued to be few; the total filed during the year under review being only ~~ten~~ 10, of which 3 each were in Bengal and Burma, and 2 each in Bihar and Orissa and the Central Provinces. Only 4 references were made to High Courts during 1929 by Commissioners on questions of law.

Occupational Diseases.- One case of occupational disease, namely lead poisoning, was reported from a printing press owned by the Government of Bengal. A sum of Rs. 2,730 was paid as compensation by agreement. In Burma a sum of Rs. 7,313 was paid for 11 cases of permanent disablement and 3 cases of temporary disablement caused by occupational diseases. Of the 11 cases of permanent disablement, 8 had occurred in the preceding year.

Legislative Changes.- Reference was made in the Note for 1928 to the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1929, which effected certain changes of a non-controversial character in the main Act and which received the assent of the Governor General on the 29th March 1929. (See pages 23-26 of this Office's report for April 1929). No other amendment was made to the Act during the year under review; nor was any notification issued declaring ~~the year under review~~ any occupation to be a hazardous occupation under section 2 (3) of the Act.

Improvement in Administration of the Act.- The want of adequate knowledge on the part of workpeople of their legal right to Compensation must be regarded as an obstacle in the proper administration of the Act. As the knowledge of the workmen in this respect grows, a corresponding improvement may be expected. The improvements noted in this respect in the reports ~~of~~ for Madras, Bengal, Burma and Bombay form the most satisfactory feature in the administration of the Act in the year under review.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in 1928 is reviewed at pages 35-39 of the report of this Office for June 1930).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Burma during 1930*.

The total average number of adult workers employed per day in Burmese factories coming under the operation of the Act decreased from 122,290 in 1929 to 121,797 during the year under review. There was

*Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Burma for the year 1930. Rangoon, Supdt. Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma, 1931. Price, -Rs.2 = 3s. pp. 36.

also a marked decrease in the number of minors employed per day from 927 in 1929 to 673 during the year under report. Altogether 1,290 returns were received from employers, and of these, 1,087 were from factories, 163 from mines, 2 from tramway companies, 4 from port authorities and 34 from establishments which are not required to furnish returns. According to these statements, there were 42 deaths, 84 permanent disablements and 1,368 temporary disablements in respect of which compensation was paid during the year. The amounts paid by way of compensation were Rs. 31,324-0-0, Rs. 29,748-9-9, Rs. 21,358-9-0 for deaths, permanent disablements and temporary disablements respectively. 2 accidents, one resulting in death and the other in temporary disablement, in the case of minors, were reported in respect of which Rs. 200-0-0 and Rs. 56-0-0 respectively were paid by way of compensation. 2 cases of temporary disablements due to occupational diseases were reported in respect of which Rs. 292-8-0 were paid.

Workmen's Compensation Commissioners.- District Magistrates continued to be Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation for their respective districts in Burma proper, with the following exceptions. The Warden and the Assistant Warden of the Oil-Fields continued to be Commissioners for the Yenangyaung and Sale Townships respectively of the Magwe District. By a Notification of the Local Government the Assistant Warden was also appointed to be Commissioner for the Pakôkku portion of the Chauk Oil-Field and for the Yenangyat Oil-field. The Director of Statistics and Labour Commissioner continued to be Commissioner for the Rangoon, Insein and Hanthawaddy Districts, and Assistant Superintendents in the Federated Shan States continued as Commissioners for the areas within their respective jurisdictions in those States.

Applications before Commissioners.- The total number of cases filed during the year was 105, of which 23, 20 and 8 related to award of compensation for fatal accidents, permanent disablements and temporary disablements respectively, 49 to distribution in fatal cases, 4 to payments of deposits - 2 in respect of permanent disablements and 2 in respect of temporary disablements - and 1 to recovery of compensation under Section 31. The number of applications filed during the year for registration of agreements relating to payment of compensation was 78. 6 of these applications related to agreements in respect of temporary disablements, 1 to an agreement for commutation of half-monthly payments, and the remaining 71 related to agreements for payment of compensation for permanent injuries.

Administration.- During the year under report, the Act seems to have been used as much as it was during the preceding year. The District Magistrate of Tavoy has expressed a strong opinion that the work of the Commissioner should be retransferred to the District and Sessions Judge, who has more time and experience in civil law than the District Magistrate in most cases. There is still noticeable a tendency among some employers, especially small employers, to evade their obligations. It is remarked that no great improvement in this respect may be expected unless provisions are introduced in the Act, under which employers may be compelled to make deposits in all fatal cases, whether they admit or whether they deny liability. There have, however, been, as during the preceding year, cases ~~where~~ ex-gratia payments have been made by some employers through the agency of the Labour Commissioner to the dependants of deceased workmen, although no claims were made under the Act and according to the employers concerned no compensation was payable under the Act. It has also been noticed during the year under report, that, in cases of temporary disablement for short periods, some employers or standing pay more than what is actually due under the Act, and this is particularly so in the case of large firms and is to ~~be~~ their credit. Most of the large employers of labour and some smaller employers continued to avail themselves of the benefit of insurance.

Factory Administration in Hyderabad State,

Fasli Year 1339 (A.D.1930).

The following facts about factory administration in Hyderabad State, Deccan, are taken from a summary of the annual reports on the working of the Hyderabad Factories Act and the Hyderabad Boilers Act during the last Fasli year (A.D.1930) published in the Times of India of 23-7-31:

Administration.— Hitherto the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers was working under the Director of Commerce and Industry, but during the year under review, has been brought directly under the Commerce and Industry Department. The year was remarkable for the publication of the rules under the Hyderabad Factories Act and the enforcement of the provisions of the Act with effect from the 1st of Amardad (5th June). In addition to the Chief Inspector, two Inspectors were appointed and these, under the supervision of the Chief Inspector, administered both the Factories Act and the Boilers Act. Out of 355 factories on the register, only 24 worked throughout the year. The enforcement of the Act in the State, where most of its provisions were entirely new, was naturally not easy and allowances had to be made at first for the ignorance and omissions of the factory owners.

Women & Children. — Since the close of the year it has been possible to put a stop completely to the employment of women by night and to bring into force, subject to a temporary concession, the rules regarding the employment of children. The report states that those who are acquainted with the conditions of factories of Hyderabad will realise that the achievement of this reform in so short a period was not easy.

Working of the Boilers' Act. — With regard to the working of

the Boilers Act, the report states that the present Act, which is obsolete, has not been hitherto very strictly enforced, and it is doubtful whether there has been any effective inspection of boilers in the State. Early in the year, a serious explosion took place at Warangal which caused the death of five persons. A special inquiry was held by a commission. The cause of the explosion could not be definitely established, but the Commission considered that the former Chief Inspector of Boilers had not carried out a thorough inspection of the boiler, after it had undergone extensive repairs, before allowing it to be worked.

The Times of India. 23-7-31.

Binny Mills Dispute, Bangalore.

A serious labour dispute between the management and workers of the Bangalore Woolen, Cotton & Silk Mills managed by Messrs. Binny & Co, which came to a head on 18-7-31, was responsible for a baton charge by the police on the workers and ultimately for police-firing, which, according to press reports, resulted in 4 deaths and over 200 workers being wounded. The genesis of the trouble was the refusal, on the score of losses due to trade depression, of the mill management by a notice dated 16-7-31 to pay the usual half-yearly bonus to the workers. On 18-7-31 the workers assembled in the mills, but refused to start work or leave the mills. The management, apprehending damage being caused to the machinery and plant, called in the police to clear the mills of the workers. According to the police version, on the workmen refusing to

to disperse, the police made a baton charge and when this was answered with stone-throwing by the workers, the police opened fire in self defence. The workers were then driven out of the mills premises. The casualties, according to the Times of India 20-7-31, amounted to 5 killed and 100 injured. It is alleged that in the course of ^{the} baton charge many women workers of the mills were belaboured by the police.

The workers in the Binny Mills number about 6000 and there are two rival Unions among the workers, one started under the auspices of the management and the other, the Bangalore Textile Union, functioning as an independent Union. The demand for the half-yearly bonus, which amounts to a cash payment of 10 per cent of the wages received by each employee during the previous six months, was not pressed for by the Bangalore Textile Union, in view of the losses suffered by the Company. Mr. K.T. Bhashyam, President of the Bangalore Textile Union, in the course of a statement issued on 19-7-31, states that the workers who assembled in the mills and refused to disperse and thus precipitated the police-firing of 18-7-31 belonged to the rival union (The Hindu 19-7-31

Commenting on the disturbances in the Binny Mills, the Hindu of 21-7-31 in the course of an editorial says:-

Labour troubles in Bangalore have, of late, been so frequent and attended with such serious consequences that it is high time for official authorities to intervene and see that these disputes are settled by methods of conciliation which have proved so fruitful elsewhere. It is significant that the Textile Workers' Union officials discouraged their men from embroiling themselves in any violent demonstrations against the management which, they apprehended, had been contemplated by workers who were not members of the Union. If the mill authorities were wise, they would have enlisted the co-operation of this responsible trade union in securing a solution of the difficulty acceptable to all parties. It is time that both those responsible for law and order and industrialists recognised that in the interests of all, conciliation is a better method of tackling the difficulties than coercion and that, in any case, coercion must be had recourse to, if at all, only as the very last resort. The Mysore Durbar cannot be unaware of the fact that the Government of India

has a special Department of Industries and Labour and more than one provincial government have special officers to deal with Labour problems. We hope Mysore will take note of the trend of the times and without further delay provide machinery whereby industrial disputes might be settled by conciliation and arbitration instead of by strikes and disturbances.

The Director of Industries and Labour, Mysore, in the course of a statement issued to the press replying to the charges of the Hindu says:-

There is an assumption underlying the comments in the press (1) that there is not in the Mysore State a machinery for attending to the interests of labour, (2) that authoritative intervention could have saved the situation but was absent, and (3) that use was not made of the Textile Workers' Union which could have averted the necessity for coercive action by securing a solution of the dispute acceptable to all parties. It is proposed to deal with these assumptions seriatim.

By an order issued in October 1926 the problems connected with labour in the Mysore State were assigned to the Department of Industries and Commerce and the Director of the Department was made responsible for the discharge of all duties relating to them. This order was passed in view of the steady expansion of industrial undertakings in the State and the increasing complexity and importance of the problems concerning labour.

The Director of Industries and Commerce was also appointed Chief Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation in 1928 and Chief Inspector of Factories in the same year. He has been performing these functions in close co-operation with capital and labour on the one hand, and the connected Departments of Government on the other, and his intervention has often effectually composed differences which otherwise might have grown into clash and conflict. In the present case also, the Director of Industries and Commerce, as Labour Commissioner, did his best to prevent a strike.

'The Hindu' observes that the mills might have enlisted the co-operation of the Textile Workers' Union to secure a solution of the difficulty "acceptable to all parties". The Union represents less than a fourth of the labour in the mills, and past experience of its good offices in the event of trouble has not been found encouraging.

The leader in "The Hindu" assumes that methods of conciliation have invariably proved fruitful elsewhere, Conciliation Boards have, no doubt, their value, but they have not always prevented lockouts and strikes. The Whitely Commission Report has just been published, and the question of how far, and on what lines, labour legislation might be undertaken in Mysore is under consideration.

Regarding the charge of ^{the} use of excessive force by the police on 18-7-31, the statement asserts that the police acted solely in the

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interests of law and order and that ~~only~~ the minimum force necessary was used. (The Hindu 29-7-31).

The Bangalore Congress Committee has appointed on 24-7-31, a non-official enquiry committee to inquire into the disturbances. Several women workers giving evidence before the Committee have deposed that in the baton charge on 18-7-31 women operatives of the mills were assaulted by the police.

Labour Trouble in Sholapur Textile Mills.

Sholapur, near Poona in the Bombay Presidency, where there is a fairly big concentration of textile mills, has been hitherto, comparatively speaking, free from labour troubles. Recently, however, acute discontentment about working conditions has broken out among the textile workers. The workers have formulated a series of 14 demands and since the last week of June 1931 negotiations have been going on between the representatives of the workers and the Agents of the Mills about the settlement of these demands. In the first week of July some of the demands of the workers like (1) provision of an eating-room in "C" mill, (2) supply of provisions to workers, (3) drafting of rules in a manner understandable to the workers, and ~~sp~~ (4) speedy decision of leave applications, ~~etc., were immediately granted by the mill~~ were granted by the mill managements. It has also been agreed that the system of imposing a fine in the form of cutting two days' wages which is known as "Double khada" will also be put an end to shortly.

Among the other important demands of the workers are (1) grant of bonus, (2) making "bajri" cheaper than 10 seers a rupee in the mill shops so as to bring it in line with bazar rates and (3) abolition of

the system of forfeiting wages ~~of~~^{if} not drawn within six months after they are due. The millowners have promised to decide these questions in a fortnight's time after conferring among themselves. No satisfactory answer has been given to the following two important demands of the workers:- (1) Recognition of their Union, the Sholapur Textile Union, which is a branch of the Bombay Textile Union organised by Mr. N.M.Joshi, and (2) Grant of increased wages for women workers, weavers, and certain categories of permanent workers.

As no favourable answer has been received to these demands by 23-7-31, the Committee of the Textile Workers' Union has declared a general strike as from 23-7-31. In consequence, about 70 per cent. of the workers of the Sholapur New and Old mills, the Vishnu, the Laxmi and the Raja Pratapgirji Mills kept out on 24-7-31. The gates of the mills are picketed by the strikers, and the mill area was strongly guarded by the armed police parties. By 30-7-31 about 7000 textile operatives were on strike. The strike is continuing.

A sympathetic strike organised by the Poona workers fizzled out by 29-7-31.

(The Times of India 30-7-31).

Labour Conditions in Mysore State -1929-30.

The following information about ~~Labour~~ ~~Conditions~~ in Mysore State is taken from a review of the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce of the Government of Mysore for the year 1929-30 published in the July 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay:-

Labour Conditions - General . - During April 1930 there was a prolonged strike in the Kolar Gold Fields which lasted for 24 days and involved 16,000 workers. The cause of the strike is attributed to the operations of the Central Labour Registry Office organised by the Mining companies for the medical examination of the workmen and for recording particulars relating to their service. Rumours got abroad that the thumb impressions of the workmen were being taken with a view to binding them perpetually for mining work. This caused general excitement and about 1000 men struck work. After the Diwan's visit to the mines, however, the Executive Committee of the Mining Board announced their decision of abolishing the Labour Registry Board and also the system of taking thumb impressions. The strike was then immediately called off. There was also a lock-out in the Bangalore Cotton, Woollen and Silk Mills, Limited. It lasted for 22 days and affected 4500 persons. With the exception of these disputes, the relations between the employers and labour were cordial. The supply of labour was good and the demand fairly steady. The level of wages remained the same and as prices fell there was an improvement in the standard of living.

Trade Union Legislation. - As regards the question of introducing Trade Union legislation in the State, the Government of Mysore were of opinion that the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Indian Labour may be awaited before any action was taken in that direction. The Director in his report refers to an interesting experiment made by the employees of the Bangalore Cotton, Woollen and Silk Mills for starting a Trade Union with the assistance of the management of the mills. The Union has a total membership of 2544 persons and realised Rs.1795 from subscriptions during the year. It was able to obtain the reinstatement of 14 hands who had been dismissed from service and the dependants of 14 deceased workmen were given suitable relief. An office-bearer of the Union represents the interests of labour in the Mysore Legislative Council.

Factory Administration. - The total number of factories on the register at the beginning of the year stood at 159 and 21 factories were added during the year while 8 were removed from the register. The average number of persons employed daily amounted to

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17,489 as against 22,188 in 1928-29. The decrease in the number employed was due to the depression trade. The number of adults employed amounted to 15,343 of whom 12,019 were men and 3324 were women. The total number of children employed was 2146. The total number of inspections made during the year amounted to 131 as against 76 in 1928-29. The number of factories inspected by Medical Officers appointed as Inspectors for administering the sanitary and health provisions of the Regulation amounted to 23. It is stated that the inspections made by these officers were not satisfactory and that proposals have now been submitted for the appointment of all Health Officers as Medical Inspectors. The total number of accidents reported during the year amounted to 112 as against 11 reported in the year before. Reference is made in the report to the amended Factory Regulation Rules which came into force about two years ago and it is stated that sufficient time has now been allowed to the owners, occupiers and managers of factories to acquaint themselves with the requirements of law. A Brief note on their duties under the Rules has been prepared and circulated among them. It is now proposed to enforce the provisions of the law more rigorously and the Inspectors have been requested to avail themselves of the penal provisions of the Regulation in respect of occupiers who systematically violate the provisions of the law.

Workmen's Compensation Statistics. The total number of cases dealt with by the Commissioners under the Workmen's Compensation Regulation during the year ending June 1930 amounted to 200 as against 45 during the period ending June 1929. Of the 200 cases dealt with during the year, 66 cases related to fatal accidents, 33 to non-fatal accidents, and 101 cases to the registration of the memoranda of agreements. The total amount deposited with the Commissioners by the employers during the year under report under section 8 of the Regulation amounted to Rs.41,963-13-2 as against Rs.20,764-15-7 during the period ending 30th June 1929. Of this amount, Rs.38,518-8-0 were for distribution among the dependants of the deceased workmen and Rs.3445-5-2 for distribution among the injured workmen.

Conditions of Labour of Printing Press Employees in India.

The following information regarding the conditions of labour of printing press employees in India is taken from an article on the subject originally contributed to the "Print and Paper", by Mr. Walter Bushler, and reprinted in the Hindu of 18-7-31. The article contains a mass of information regarding wages and general conditions of labour in ^{the Indian} printing

industry, which according to the report of the Whitley Commission, employs 38,000 persons in 360 presses, excluding those employed in a great number of small establishments working hand presses.

General. - The majority of the printing establishments in India are located in such cities as Calcutta (which comes first in this field as far as perfection and up-to-dateness are concerned), Bombay, Madras, Lahore, and a few others. These houses are using modern composing machinery for the setting up of all classes of English type matter. Of all the machines so far installed in India, Linotypes predominate, several hundreds of these being already in use. And although it is today possible to set several of the vernacular languages (Bengali, Marathi, Gujarathi, and Urdu) on these machines, the Indian printer has not yet realised the advantages of setting up his type by machinery for use in connection with the vernacular language; he continues to set by hand owing principally to the cheapness of labour and the poor price obtainable for vernacular printing. The important printing firms have found that it pays to have foreign superintendents with special training in handling high-speed presses, such as the Miehle, Centurette, and two-colour machines. This training, according to the writer, the Indian does not possess, and cannot acquire unless he works for many years in a printing establishment managed by westerners, or goes abroad for this experience. Very few Indians, however, go abroad to learn the printing trade, and those that do are mainly the sons of proprietors and those who win the scholarships granted by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments.

There are thousands of Indian printing establishments in India, and in some places there are hundreds of tiny little bazaar shops many of them staffed only by the proprietor himself and a small boy as his assistant. In the smaller towns, even the antiquated stop-sylinder press is rarely to be found, foot-operated and hand-operated presses turning out the whole of the print in the district.

Wages. - Rates of pay in the printing industry, vary in India. Those in Calcutta are lower than the rates prevailing in Bombay, owing to the larger supply of suitable Indian labour available there. In Bombay, an Indian Linotype operator can get as much as Rs. 250 a month, and compositors, stone hands, correctors, Rs. 50 a month; whereas in Calcutta, the best Linotype operator gets Rs. 140/150 a month, and compositors and other hands proportionately less. There is no school of printing yet in India. Messrs. Linotype and Machinery, Ltd., have a school of their own in Calcutta, where instruction is given free to men who are sent to them for tuition by users or prospective buyers of their machines. Apprentices are taken in by the large Government Presses as well as by foreign commercial houses and there they work their way up, no pay (or very little) being given during their period of learning.

Conditions in Urdu Presses. - Urdu printing is usually produced by lithography. Whole pages of newspapers, for instance, are

written direct on to the lithographic stones at the rate of 4 annas ($\frac{3}{4}$ rupee) per page. A similar page set in type or Linotype would cost about eleven times as much. Most of the printers of North and Central India are so poor, and the bulk of their business is ~~xxx~~ of such a cheap nature, that composing machines are not profitable in their case. There a man with a good hand has no difficulty in getting a job as a lithographer, but his remuneration is by no means high.

Newspaper Presses in India. - Some of India's daily newspapers bear comparison with the best journals printed in America or Europe. Among these, the "Statesman" (Calcutta), "Times of India" (Bombay), and the "Hindu" (Madras) are the most deserving of mention for the quality of print and general work they produce. All these three papers enjoy a large circulation though not on the same scale as do papers in the United States or in Europe. Their printing plants are completely up-to-date, and the Bombay and Calcutta papers employ many Europeans as supervisors in their Linotype, stereo-typing and rotary press departments. The "Hindu" however, affords a striking example of Asiatic newspaper progress. This newspaper is entirely produced by Indian labour. The equipment of this office comprises the most modern stereotyping department. The product of this office is all Indian, and does the producers great credit. At the other extreme, some of India's so-called newspapers are produced in the cheapest possible circumstances from battered and worn-out types, whilst the papers themselves are printed off on some of the most antiquated presses to be found anywhere in the world. Machines are used which are turned round by hand; and they lack delivery mechanism, the product having to be taken off the cylinders by small boys ("chokras" as they are named). Some of India's commercial printers, however, are going ahead with quality lithographic printing.

Efficiency Standards. - It is difficult to draw any comparison between the standards of efficiency of the Indian operator in the composing room and the Western^{er}, so wide apart are they. The foreign operator has a thorough understanding of the work he is turning out, whilst the Indian usually possess a very poor knowledge of English or knows none at all. Most of the copy given to the Indian operator is typewritten, and his speed is usually equal to that of the average (though not that of the best) operator in England. In the jobbing press room Western supervision has been, up to now, a necessity in nearly all of the large quality printing offices in India. The science of make-ready-underlays, interlays, and overlays - is not too well understood by the Indian, and it is very rarely that he can turn out a really good-looking job from half-tone or colour-blocks.

(The Hindu , 18-7-31)

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Retrenchment on Indian Railways:Decision to Appoint Court of Inquiry.

At pages 28-31 of the report of this Office for June 1931, the events that led to the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to decide to take a ballot on the question of resort to a general strike as a protest against the Railway Board's unsatisfactory attitude to the A.I.R.F.'s representations against the contemplated whole-sale retrenchment of staffs on Indian railways, have been briefly dealt with. The following cable sent on 1-7-31 by the A.I.R.F to the British Prime Minister summarises the grievances of the railwaymen:-

"Wholesale unwarranted retrenchment on the Indian Railway. Over 35,000 sacked; thousands more working short hours and demoted. Thirty-thousand more are doomed. Request for Conciliation Board rejected. Federation proposed temporary reduction in wages and diversion of provident fund contributions. Yet retrenchment is going on. The Viceroy has refused to receive a deputation. A Special Convention of the Federation has advised a general strike. Request your intervention for the suspension of retrenchment and the appointment of a Conciliation Board".

On 1-7-31 the Railway Board issued a communique justifying its attitude on the question of retrenchment and bringing out the following points:-

Staff retrenchment is only one of the many directions in which economies are being effected. In fact, untempering efforts are being made to economise in other charges, and only the staff which is definitely surplus to the requirements is being discharged. In order to regulate such discharges in a fair and reasonable manner and to minimise the hardship entailed, orders were issued by the Railway Board to the Agents of the State Railways last March with an invitation to the Company-managed railways to follow the same procedure, namely, that the least efficient employees should first be discharged, next those of short service, and after that those nearing the age of superannuation.

Reports received from the railways show that the total staff discharged on all the State-owned railways up to the end of May 1931 consists approximately of 33,000 employees. The savings resulting from

these reductions are estimated to be in the vicinity of Rs.1300 millions in a full year. Efforts have been made to minimise the hardship incidental to retrenchment and to adopt other methods as far as possible, e.g., leaving vacancies unfilled, working short-time certain workshops, and on one railway, grant, in rotation, of half-pay for periods not exceeding one month to the staff connected with the handling of traffic.

The Railway Board has summoned the Agents of the Railways to a special meeting to be held on 3-7-31, in order to consider inter alia the request made by the Federation for suspension of retrenchment pending consideration of the representations made by them. The representatives of the Federation were to meet the Board again on the 8th July 1931.

The allegation that the Government of India rejected an application for the appointment of a board of conciliation, without going into the merits of the case, conveys an impression which is wholly unwarranted and misleading. The intimation of the Government of India, that they would refrain from passing orders on the request for the appointment of a board of conciliation until the Federation's proposal had been given ~~this~~ thorough examination, was in accordance with the policy they have consistently followed of encouraging friendly settlements between parties to a dispute so far as it is possible. To represent it as a refusal to grant a board is a grave abuse of language. (The Hindu 2-7-31).

A joint conference of the Agents of all Indian railways and the Railway Board was held from 3 to 6-7-31. According to the Times of India of 8-7-31, the Board have as a result of the conference decided that 100 superior posts in the superior cadre of the railway establishment should be cancelled.

An important stage in the negotiations was reached when, after the Board's conference with the Agents, the Board received a deputation of the A.I.R.F. on 8-7-31. As a result of the discussions at the meeting, the following decisions were arrived at:-

The Board has agreed to suspend retrenchment in the case of all employees, except the temporary staff, until the 31st October 1931.

Before any action, if necessary, was taken after 31st October 1931, the Agents of the Railways should discuss with the respective Railwaymen's Unions ~~any~~ any retrenchment plan then in contemplation.

Thereafter, the Railway Board will meet the Federation unless,

in the meanwhile, a permanent machinery for the settlement of ~~the~~ disputes on railways, is set up, as recommended by the Labour Commission.

^{Regarding} Re. the request that the Board should join the A.I.R.F. in the demand for a Board of Conciliation, the Board said, it would be prepared to do so provided that the points in dispute as stated in the application relate to the following issues: (1) whether retrenchment on the scale already carried out has been effected by (a) imposing unreasonably long hours of work on the establishment retained or (b) depriving them of a reasonable amount of leave and (2) whether the concessions granted to men discharged are adequate or inadequate. The deputationists wanted the following additional points to be included (1) whether the omission of the Railway Board to receive a deputation of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in February last to discuss the proposals and suggestions has not led to the discharge of more men than was necessary (2) whether the methods adopted by the Railway Board and the various railway administrations are the best or whether there are better alternatives, and if so what? No agreement on these points was arrived at.

Dewan Chaman Lall, in the course of a communique issued to the press on 9-7-31, commented thus on the failure of the Board to accede to the A.I.R.F.'s demands:-

"The Board are not prepared to open up the question of examining the justification for retrenchment. The Federation, in the interest of 35,000 unemployed workers, is equally determined to have their case examined by an impartial tribunal. It must not be forgotten that detailed schemes for retrenchment of expenditure were submitted to the Railway Board by the Unions and that they were not acted upon; also that the Lee Commission concessions on the railways alone are estimated to cost between Rs. 25 to 30 millions annually. The total saving as a result of retrenchment affecting 70,000 workers will come to about Rs. 26.2 millions considering that the saving effected for the current year by discharging 35,000 men comes to Rs. 13.1 millions. The question before the Government of India and the public is, therefore, Are these Lee Commission concessions for 7,000 officers to be safeguarded or the livelihood of 70,000 workers? (The Statesman, 11-7-31).

Meanwhile, the Congress Working Committee which was holding its sessions at Bombay passed the following resolution on 10-7-31 endorsing the demands of the A.I.R.F.:-

The Working Committee having carefully considered the situation in respect of retrenchment on railways, it appears to the Committee that, notwithstanding the technical objections, the demand of the All India Railwaymen's Federation for a board of conciliation to examine the methods of retrenchment so as to avoid discharge of the lowest paid staff is just and reasonable". (The Hindu, 11-7-31).

On 22-7-31 the Government of India decided to appoint a Court of Inquiry under Section 3 of the Trades Disputes' Act to examine the following points:-

- of work,
- (a) Whether the retrenchment has resulted in improper conditions
 - (b) Whether the terms allowed to the retrenched staff are reasonable,
 - (c) Whether, having in view the limitations imposed by the commercial management of the railways, the fullest regard has been paid, when discharging staff, to certain alternative methods of effecting economy, e.g., stoppage of recruitment, working short time, retirement of staff, taking their gratuity and provident fund or transfer of individuals to other departments, ~~in~~ or to other railways on similar or even reduced rates of pay,
 - (d) Whether there has been victimization or favouritism, and
 - (e) Whether the staff discharged on the ground of retrenchment can or should be given any assurance of re-engagement. (The Times of India, 25-7-31).

On 27-7-31 the Council of Action set up by the A.I.R.F. met to consider the Government's decision to appoint a Committee of Inquiry and arrived at certain decisions which were communicated to the Government on 28-7-31 in a letter by Mr. Jammadas Mehta, president of the A.I.R.F. The following were the main points brought out in the communication:-

The Council of Action were of opinion that the mere appointment of a court of enquiry would not substantially alter the position that existed at present, and, therefore, they were unable to advise the calling off the resolution on the question of a general strike. The terms of reference, as announced, did not cover the whole dispute. It was open to the Government to appoint or not appoint a court of enquiry, but having admitted the existence of a trade dispute and also the necessity for an immediate enquiry into the facts, the Council held that it was impossible for the Government to avoid the manifest implications of those admissions. In view of these facts, the Council requested the Government that the whole case arising out of their application dated 30th April and the subsequent correspondence should form the subject-matter of an enquiry.

Without prejudice to the above conditions, the Council also passed a resolution that they were prepared to accept a court of enquiry if the following additional term of reference was added. "Whether the

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methods adopted by the Railway Department and the Railway Administration were best or whether there were better alternatives, and if so what?". The Council further added that this was the utmost limit to which they could go, and hoped the Government would see the justice of the proposals.

Concluding, the letter says: "The Council are fully aware of the difficulties that would result from a general strike to the public, but that is their last resort and the Government could avoid that by accepting the additional term of reference suggested by them".

The Council have asked the Government to communicate their decision before the 10th August, till which time the question of ballot taking will be suspended.

(The Hindu, 29-7-31).

Provisions to Suppress Traffic in Slaves:

Bill to Amend Hyderabad Penal Code.

At the meeting of the Hyderabad Legislative Council held on 9-7-31 under the presidency of Nawab Lutfud Dowlah Bahadur, Judicial Member, H.E.H. the Nizam's Government, a Bill has been introduced to amend the Hyderabad Penal Code with a view to suppress traffic in slaves in Hyderabad State in conformity with the requirements of international law on the subject.

(The Pioneer, 16-7-31).

Industrial Organisation.

Workers' Organisations.

11th Session of All-India Trade Union Congress, Calcutta.

The eleventh session of the All-India Trade Union Congress was held at Calcutta from 4 to 7-7-31 under the presidency of Mr. Subhash Chander Bose. About 195 delegates representing 35 unions and a large number of visitors attended the Congress. It will be remembered that the 10th session of the A.I.T.U.C. which was held at Nagpur from 30-11-29 to 1-12-29 under the presidency of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru ended in a split and that the moderate elements in Indian labour separated themselves from the A.I.T.U.C and formed a new body — the All-India Federation of Trade Unions (for full particulars see pages 24-29 of November 1929 report sent with this Office's minute C 1/1275/29 dated 19-12-29). No session of the A.I.T.U.C. was held in 1930. The 11th session held at Calcutta from 4 to 7-7-31 witnessed a further split in the extremist ranks, as the extreme left-wingers, led by Mr. Deshpande and the Bombay Communists, attempted to pass a vote of censure on Mr. S.C.Bose, the President, on 5-7-31, and failing in this attempt broke up by rowdyism the Executive Council meeting of the A.I.T.U.C., and held a rival session at Matiabruz, near Calcutta, on 6-7-31. When disorder broke out on 5-7-31, Mr. S.C.Bose temporarily adjourned the Executive Council meeting and the open session of the A.I.T.U.C. The adjourned sessions of these two bodies were held at the Town Hall, Calcutta, on 7-7-31. Both parties issued manifestoes on 6-7-31 giving their versions of the events that led to the split and justifying their

respective positions. Both the A.I.T.U.C. and the rival session held by the extremists under Mr. Deshpande's lead passed a number of resolutions, the more important of which are given later in this report.

The following is a summary of the presidential speech delivered by Mr. S.C. Bose at the opening session on 4-7-31:-

"I doubt if we can claim that, during the last eighteen months, the Trade Union movement has gained in strength and in volume. I would rather be inclined to say that, during this period, the movement received a setback. Many factors account for this setback but in my opinion the two most important factors are - firstly, the split which occurred at Nagpur and secondly the diversion caused by the launching of the Civil Disobedience movement.

Basis of Unity. - Attempts at unity within the ranks of the Trade Union movement have been made from time to time by various individuals and groups. I consider it desirable, therefore, to state clearly what the main problems were over which we quarrelled and how unity could best be achieved at this stage. The main issues are:- (1) The question of foreign affiliation, (2) Representation at Geneva, (3) Mandatory character of the Trade Union Congress resolutions.

Foreign Affiliations. - With regard to the first issue, my personal view is that we need have no foreign affiliation now. The Indian Trade Union movement can well be left to take care of itself. We should be prepared to learn from every quarter and even to accept any help that may come from any part of the world. But we should not surrender to the dictates of either Amsterdam or Moscow. India will have to work out her own methods and adapt herself to her environment and to her own special needs.

Representation at Geneva. - With regard to representation at Geneva, I am afraid that too much importance has been given to it by both sides. The best course for us would be to have an open mind on the subject and come to a decision every year on this question. We need not decide beforehand once for all as to whether we should send any representatives to Geneva or not. Personally, I have no faith in Geneva. Nevertheless, if any friend will be satisfied by our keeping the question open for our decision every year, I have no objection to it.

Mandatory Nature of T.U.C. Resolutions. - With regard to the mandatory character of the Trade Union Congress resolutions, I am afraid there can hardly be any compromise, the Trade Union Congress is to exist and function. The resolutions of the Trade Union Congress are to be binding on all Unions affiliated to the Congress. To reduce the Trade Union Congress to the position and status of a loose federation or to something like an All Parties' Conference, would be suicidal. With regard to the question of Trade Union unity, my position

is quite clear. I want unity because, thereby, we may have a strong and powerful organisation. But if we are to quarrel again and part company, then we need not attempt a patch-up unity now.

Fundamental Rights. - The Karachi session of the Indian National Congress passed a resolution now popularly known as the Fundamental Rights resolution (see pages 1-3 March 1931 and pages 13-14 June 1931 reports). Various opinions have been expressed with regard to that resolution. On the one hand some have roundly condemned it as altogether inadequate and unsatisfactory while others have waxed eloquent over it. Both these views appear to me to be one-sided. However unsatisfactory the resolution may be, there is no doubt that the resolution stands for a departure from the old tradition, for a recognition of some of the rights of the workers and peasants and for a definite move in the direction of socialism. The value of the resolution is, not in what it contains in an explicit form but in what it contains in an implicit form. It is the potentiality of the resolution - rather than the actual contents of the resolution - which appeals to me. The contents of the resolution have to be amplified and improved before it can be altogether satisfactory. We are glad to note that a committee is already working for this purpose.

Whitley Report. - At the Nagpur session of the Congress, the boycott of the Whitley Commission had been decided upon. That Commission have just issued their report. If I were to act like a logician, I should ignore that Report altogether but I shall not do that. Whether it be good, bad or indifferent, we should not ignore a document of that character which is now before the public and which the public are bound to take serious notice of and criticise. I should say at the very outset that the value of the Report of a particular Commission lies not in what it contains on paper but in what will ultimately come out of it. We Indians have seen so much of these reports that until and unless some tangible good actually comes out of a particular Commission - apart from the mere issuing of a report - we are inclined to be highly sceptical and suspicious about the results. The present report has laid considerable emphasis on the problem of welfare work for a labour and though I voted for the boycott of the Whitley Commission, I have no hesitation in saying that, if the recommendations on this point are given effect to, there will be an improvement on the present position. Nevertheless, I am constrained to say that some of the larger and more important questions have not been dealt with properly. Labour today wants the right to work. It is the duty of the State to provide employment for the citizens and where the State fails to perform this duty, it should accept the responsibility of maintaining them.

Living Wage. - Just as every worker can claim the right to work, he can also claim the right to a living wage. Does the factory worker in India get a living wage today? Look to the jute factories and to the textile mills. What enormous profits they have made in the

in the past! What portion of these enormous profits did they spend for the welfare of the poor and oppressed workers? I know that they will say that of late they are in a bad way. But granting that proposition, may we not ask what profits they have made, what dividends they have declared and what reserves they have piled up throughout their past history? What then has the Labour Commission recommended for securing to the Indian worker a living wage and decent treatment? They have referred to minimum wages in the jute and textile industry. But can we rest assured that the minimum wage means a living wage?

Trade Union Officers. - The report says that "Section 22 of the Trades Unions Act should be amended so as to provide that ordinarily not less than two-thirds of the officers of a registered Trade Union shall be actually engaged or employed in an industry with which the Union is concerned." The Commission should have known that, in India, outsiders or non-workers are usually elected as office-bearers of Trade Unions because employees who agree to work as office-bearers are usually victimised by the employers on some flimsy pretext or other. Therefore, if employees are to be forced to become office-bearers themselves - there should be some arrangement for preventing their victimisation.

Adult Franchise. - To sum up, the major problems of unemployment, retrenchment and living wage for the workers, have not been handled properly. The ameliorative programme drawn up by the Commission is attractive in many places - but who is going to give effect to that programme? Can anything be expected from the present Government which is definitely anti-labour? The labour problem, is, therefore, ultimately a political problem. Until India wins her freedom and establishes a democratic - if not, socialistic - Government, no ameliorative programme for the benefit of labour can be given effect to in this country. It is clear from the Report that everything is practically left to the Government. The report does not say anything as to how labour can capture or influence the governmental machinery. But ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ till this is done, no amount of reports can actually benefit labour. The Commission should have recommended adult franchise in connection with the new constitution. In addition to this or as an alternative the Commission could also have recommended a certain percentage of seats in the provincial and central legislatures to be reserved for the representatives of labour.

(The Hindu, 7-7-31)

Split in A.I.T.U.C.: Genesis of the Trouble. - The proceedings of the opening day, 4-7-31, ended with the President's opening address. The meeting of the Executive Council which met on 5-7-31 had to be adjourned sine die owing to the rowdy tactics of the extreme left - wing led by Mr. Deshpande. Conflicting versions of the events that led

to the adjournment were issued by the two parties on 6-7-31. The following are the facts of the case:-

The Executive Council of the Congress met on the 3rd July 1931, when the question as to who were the real representatives of the Girni Kamgar Union of Bombay, was first taken up for consideration. Two rival groups, one under the leadership of Mr. S.V. Deshpande (the General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress), and the other headed Mr. G.L. Kandalkar (the President of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union and the Vice-President of the All India Trade Union Congress), claimed the right to sit on the Council as the representatives of the Girni Kamgar Union of Bombay. This question was ultimately referred to a Credentials Committee appointed for the purpose, which after scrutinising the claims of the rival groups, recommended that Mr. Kandalkar's party was entitled to represent the union. When the Executive Council again assembled on 5-7-31 prior to the open session of the Congress, Mr. S.C. Bose, who presided, ruled that the report of this Committee should first be taken up for discussion. Mr. Deshpande's group considered this ruling as arbitrary, and Mr. Randive on behalf of that group therefore moved a vote of censure on the chair, but the motion was lost by 24 to 26 votes. Dissatisfied at this, Mr. Deshpande's group resorted to noisy tactics and created confusion in the meeting. Efforts made to restore order were of no avail. The President therefore adjourned the meeting of the Council and also the open session sine die on the ground that the open session could not be held as the report of the Credentials Committee had not been considered by the Executive Council and it was not known who among the delegates were entitled to be present at the session.

Resolutions Passed by A.I.T.U.C. on 7-7-31. -

The adjourned

session of the A.I.T.U.C. met on 7-7-31. Only about a 100 people, including delegates and members of the Executive Council, were present. The organisers, however, claimed that 30 unions were represented at the meeting. The Congress adopted about 30 resolutions some of which were of a general character dealing with the aims and ideals of the body. The rest dealt with the specific grievances of various sections of workers.

Some of these condemned the retrenchment policy on Indian Railways, called upon the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to chalk out a militant programme of a General Strike to oppose the new attack on railway workers, condemned Government for refusing to issue passports to Messrs. Saklatvala and Gallacher who wanted to attend the session, urged the release of the Meerut case prisoners and congratulated Soviet Russia for attempting the uplift of workers. Among the other ~~xxxxxx~~

resolutions passed, one called upon the workers in view of the drastic retrenchment, the economic starvation and the intense exploitation of the workers, to carry on their struggle for the following demands:

(1) Unconditional transfer of power to the people (~~the~~ abolition of the Indian States and the "parasitic" landlords, (III) freeing the peasantry from all exploitation so that the greater part of the surplus produce may remain in their possession, (IV) nationalization of land, mines and banks; (V) repudiation of debts contracted by the "foreign" Government; (VI) provision of an irreducible standard of living for the workers through the introduction of minimum wages of Rs. 50 for skilled workers, of Rs. 40 for unskilled labour, and a 44 hour week; (VII) insurance against unemployment, sickness and old age and (VIII) control of the economic life of the country by the workers and the peasants so that the fruits of national freedom might not be usurped by the capitalists. (The Statesman, 10-7-31),

New Office-bearers. - Mr. S.V.Deshpande, the outgoing General Secretary of the Congress, did not submit the Annual Report on the working of the Congress and the audited statement of accounts to the Executive Council. A resolution was, therefore, passed disapproving the conduct of Mr. Deshpande and directing him to hand over all books of accounts, records, documents and other properties to the General Secretary elected at this Congress within a month from that date.

The following office-bearers were elected:- Chairman - Mr. R.S. Ruikar. Vice-Chairman - (1) Mr. G.L.Kandalkar. (2) Mr. V.H.Joshi (3) Mr. J.N.Mitra, and (4) Mr. S.B.Kar. Treasurer - Mr. S.C.Bose. General Secretary - Mr. S. Mukunda Lall. Secretaries - (1) Mr. A.Tayab Sheikh (2) Mr. P.M.Naidu, (3) Mr. W.V.R.Naidu. (4) Mr. J.L.Ganguly, and (5) Mr. S.D.Hasan.

It was decided to hold the next session of the Congress at Jamadoba near Jharla in Manbhum District.

Meeting of Left Wingers of A.I.T.U.C. at Matlabruz.

Mr. S.V.Deshpande and his party who broke away from the Congress, held a separate session of their own on the 6-7-31, at Matlabruz, a suburb of Calcutta. It was reported that about ten or twelve unions, most of which were not recognised by the Executive of the All India Trade Union Congress, were represented at the meeting. Mr. D.B. Kulkarni was elected President, and Messrs. S.V.Deshpande, Bankim Mukerji and S.G. Sardesai, General Secretaries for the current year.

The meeting passed resolutions sending greetings to the Soviet

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Union for accomplishing the five-year plan, condemning the local jute mill owners for intimidating millhands, boycotting the Geneva Labour Conference, condemning the Irwin-Gandhi agreement, sympathising with the peasantry of Burma, U.P., and other provinces in their struggle, condemning the Whitley Commission, reaffirming the resolution passed at Jharla which declared the goal of the Trade Union Congress as a Socialistic Workers and Peasants' Republic of India, and authorising the Executive Committee to elect delegates to the next session of the League against Imperialism and the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Congress Secretariat. (The Times of India 8-7-31).

Freedom of Association in Indian States.

At pages 14-15 of the report of this Office for June 1931, reference was made to the statement made by Mr. Wedgwood Benn affirming that, in general, freedom of association for industrial purposes exists in Indian States. Mr. K.T. Bashyam Iyengar, Advocate and President of the Bangalore Textile Labour Union and a prominent worker in the cause of the subjects of the Indian States, in the course of a statement to the Press regarding the Secretary of State's reply in Parliament stating that workers in the Indian States had freedom of association, contradicts it and says, "Workers are oppressed and tyrannised both by the capitalists and Government. Workers' unions are smashed and Unionists victimised. Peaceful meetings are prevented, prohibitory orders issued, false cases filed, leaders' movements shadowed and prominent workers persecuted. Railway, textile and mining labourers are treated worst of all. Our Secretary, Mr. Rama Sarma, and our Geneva delegate, Mr. Mudaliar, were prohibited from meeting labourers at Kolar, Mysore". Mr. Iyengar goes on to say that workers are victimised and persecuted in other ways also.

(The Hindu, 2-7-31).

Intellectual Workers.

5th Hyderabad Teachers' Conference, Hyderabad State.

The fifth annual session of the Hyderabad Teachers' Conference was held on 2-7-1931 at Hyderabad (Deccan) under the presidency of Nawab Mirza Yar Jung Bahadur, the Chief Justice of Hyderabad State. An important feature of the session was the strong criticism directed against the present system of secondary education in the country by Nawab Mirza Yar Jung in the course of his presidential address. He said:

"The economic forces which are working in the world today force us to cry a halt and think whether the time has not arrived when we should change the very type of secondary education which we have been pursuing in the past. Now the position is this: I, as a parent, have begun thinking seriously how far my son has lightened my burden. I, as a citizen and a tax-payer, have begun thinking how far the added number of scholars in schools will proportionately add to the wealth and prosperity of the state to which I belong. The cultivator of soil, whose son is reading in a Government school, has begun thinking how far the type of education provided for his son has been helpful to the family as a whole, or even to his profession as a cultivator. These are the questions confronting us now as parents, as citizens, and as laymen. The reply is not satisfactory. I feel that the number of those whom I have been disappointing as an official in the matter of employment is increasing year after year. I feel that my cook and butler are probably earning more than the salary which some matriculates or even undergraduates educated under the present system would be willing to accept to find some sort of job to support them. Many statesmen think that half the causes of unrest and agitation in British India are economic. If it is true that the increased number of scholars of secondary education has resulted in increasing the number of unemployed, then it becomes a matter for serious consideration for the state how far these scholars have really added to its strength and how far the expenditure over them has been justified by results. There is overwhelming evidence to show that the present type of general education given in our secondary schools requires far-reaching and drastic changes in favour of vocational education. In this matter, we can learn much from Germany, from Denmark and from many other advanced European countries". (The Hindustan Times, 16-7-1931).

The chairman also laid emphasis on the necessity for introducing physical culture, and sports in any future scheme of education and on the need for co-operation between parents and teachers. He suggested

the holding of a "Guardians' Day" every two months so that guardians and teachers may meet and exchange views. Lastly, the President entered a strong plea for raising the present status of teachers. He said that the teaching profession should be made tempting enough to attract the best men in the country. He also expressed his approval of the proposal to provide special facilities for the education of the children of teachers, to open a provident fund for them and to do everything that would help them to discharge their duties. (The Hindustan Times, 16-7-31).

The following are the more important of the resolutions that were passed by the Conference:-

"This Conference is of opinion that, in view of the fact that trained teachers are liable to lose touch with modern methods of teaching after a time, a Refresher Course for such teachers be instituted periodically at headquarters to which selected teachers may be deputed from the various schools in the Dominions".

"This Conference is of opinion that ^{three} side grades of Rs.50-2-70, Rs. 70-2-90 and Rs.80-2-100 be instituted in all Government schools for the benefit of at least 10 per cent of such teachers as have already reached the maximum in the grades of Rs. 30-50, Rs. 35-65, or Rs.40-65 and Rs. 55-80 respectively and can have no possible chance of promotion to the already existing next higher grade either on account of their age or inability to qualify themselves for the next grade by passing a higher examination".

"This Conference is of opinion that all Divisional Inspectors might, ~~whenever~~ wherever possible, be assisted by subject-teachers in their inspection, such assistants being selected from teachers of at least six years' standing, and that a suitable remuneration be awarded to them for such work". (The Hindu, 8-7-1931)

Economic Conditions.

State Aid to Industries Bill, Bengal.

With the object of enabling the Government to give reasonable assistance towards the industrial expansion of Bengal, a State Aid to Industries Bill was discussed in the Bengal Legislative Council on 24-7-1931. There was no opposition to the main principles of the Bill, but several amendments were moved to modify some of its provisions. The Bill was introduced by the Hon. Khan Bahadur K.G.M. Faroqui, Minister for Industries and Agriculture.

The object of the Bill, it was stated, was to obtain statutory power to enable State aid to be given mainly for the purpose of encouraging cottage and small industries in the shape of loans, guarantees, provision of hire-purchase systems, etc. It was proposed to set up a Board of Industries composed entirely of non-officials with business or banking experience to advise Government on applications for such aid. Provision had also been made for the delegation of the powers of the local Government to the proposed Board of Industries.

The Bill is still under consideration.

(The Statesman, 25-7-1931).

Sir Victor Sassoon shifts activities to China.

According to the Times of India, dated 18-7-1931, Sir Victor Sassoon, who is one of the most important textile mill magnates of Bombay, is bidding good-bye to India, it being his intention to make China the principal centre of his commercial activities. Questioned by a "Times of India" representative about his reasons for that decision, Sir Victor said things were getting stabilised in China and the Nanking Government and the Chinese banks were very anxious

to carry out some joint schemes for the development of Shanghai and China generally. "I think the time should soon come when business will be possible on a large scale in that country, whereas here in India we find our business is contracting, the only big stake we have here now being our mills and mill management".

Asked what the causes of the contraction of their business in India were, Sir Victor said, that a great deal of it was due to the fact that they found they could not compete with Indian firms with small overhead charges. He continued "Then, too, the political situation does not encourage one to feel that one should launch out on big schemes in India for the time being. On the other hand China is now getting over her civil wars and other troubles. It looks as if India under Swaraj will have a great deal of internal trouble. That is what it looks to the ordinary business man".

China had her troubles for the past 15 years, but there appeared to be a prospect of her getting out of it. Incidentally, there was a general feeling in India ~~which is~~ against the foreigner developing the country which they called "exploiting", whereas in China, realising, as they did, the necessity for foreign finance, they were only too glad to have the foreigner working with Chinese interests." (The Times of India, 18-7-1931.

The closure of the Sassoon group of mills in Bombay, ^{if it takes place,} will cause a great amount of dislocation in the textile industry of Bombay and create considerable unemployment among the textile operatives of the city.

Retrenchment in Central Government:

Sub-Committees at Work.

At pages 51 to 52 of the report of this Office for June 1931 reference was made to the attempts initiated by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to effect drastic reductions in expenditure and to the appointment of six sub-committees into which the Retrenchment Advisory Committee appointed by the Central Government has been divided. During the month under review, the various sub-Committees of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee, as well as the Retrenchment Committees appointed by the provincial governments have been busy at work. Only one committee, the Bombay Retrenchment Committee, has up till now submitted its report (A summary of the Bombay Retrenchment Committee's report is given elsewhere in this report).

The General Purposes sub-committee on Retrenchment (of the Central Government) has issued a communique on 7-7-31 setting forth the methods which they intend to follow. The following are some relevant extracts from this communique:-

"We shall deal as fairly and equitably as it lies in our power between different classes of employees of Government from top to bottom and save as far as we can undue hardship to any class or individual.

As for the procedure, we propose to pursue simultaneously two ways of approach in order to find out how far we can reach the maximum amount of economy without injuring the best interests of the country and having in regard the consideration mentioned above. These two methods are : (A) a percentage cut in all salaries, concessions and allowances, perhaps upon a graduated scale; and (B) by cutting off what are really superfluous activities or suspending activities which are possible of suspension for a term of years without much loss and by a reduction of officers' staff

and establishment and other heads of expenditure in so far as these objects can be effected without jeopardising efficiency of Government.

Lastly we shall take up the question of pay of future entrants to public service with a view to place it on an economic basis.

(The Pioneer 9-7-31).

All indications go to show that the report of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee, when it is finally presented, will recommend an all-round cut in salaries of the employees of the Central Government. A moot point in this connection is whether the Retrenchment Committee has powers to recommend cuts in the salaries of the members of the Covenanted services, who claim exemption from such cuts because of their covenanted position.

Bombay Retrenchment Committee's Report.

The ad interim report of the Retrenchment Committee of the Government of Bombay was published on 23-7-31. The report is signed by all the members with a minute of dissent by Mr. Hooseinally M. Rahimtoola. The present report deals only with proposals for immediate retrenchment to deal with a deficit of Rs.6.1 million in the current year, ~~as forecast before~~. The report says that their recommendations "will entail definite savings this year of Rs. 28,66,400, but apart from these definite items we have made several suggestions the savings of which cannot be computed exactly. We should not, therefore, be unwarranted in assuming that our proposals, apart from a reduction in salaries, would save about Rs. 3 million this year. The extent of savings under salaries depends on the date ~~on~~ which orders are passed on the subject.

Salary Cuts. - Four Proposals. - With regard to the cut in salaries the report says: "We recognize the force of the two-fold argument put before us that, in the first instance the fall in prices has benefited mainly lower salaried servants and that in the second ~~at~~ instance, salaries of over Rs.166 a month have already been subjected to progressively increasing reductions

by the emergency income-tax proposals of the Government of India.

First Proposal.- Without ignoring these considerations. Messrs. Kamat, Chikodi, Rahimtoola and Rao Bahadur Patel consider it undesirable to deprive the lowest ranks of the advantage given to them by the fall in commodity prices and propose to exempt all salaries below Rs.40 in the mofussil and Rs.60 in Bombay. Above this level they recommend the following cuts on monthly pay: 5 per cent. up to Rs.199; from Rs.200 to Rs.499, $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent from Rs. 500 to Rs.999, and those getting Rs.1,000 and above 10 per cent. The estimated saving in a year on this scale is Rs.2.5 million.

Second Proposal: -

The second proposal which Sir Rustom Vakil, Chairman of the committee, prefers is : $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent up to Rs.40 ; above Rs.40 to Rs.499 and above Rs.500 up to Rs.1,499 cuts of 5 and $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. respectively and Rs.1,500 and above $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Working on this scale it is estimated that there will be a saving of Rs.2.6 million approximately.

Third Proposal:

The third proposal by Mr. Wiles, the Finance Secretary, and Khan Bahadur Allahbaksh, who consider that in view of the great increase in income-tax, which was admittedly put on as a means of reaching salaries which could not other-wise be reduced is that the maximum cut should not exceed $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. - 5 per cent. above Rs.40 to 499 and above Rs.500, $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. According to this, it is estimated that there will be a saving of about Rs. 2.5 million.

Fourth Proposal:

There is yet a fourth proposal by Mr. Humphrey who disagrees with any cut in salaries which will result in Government breaking their pledges to the All-India and provincial services. Such action would, in his opinion, be disastrous not only morally but would also create a precedent which might be brought forward as an argument in the future. He would therefore, prefer to restrict it to a cut in allowances. If, however, a cut can be made without breaking any pledge or contract he is in favour of no cut up to Rs. 40, 5 per cent from Rs.41 to Rs.499 and above Rs.500, $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. He further suggests that the Government of India should be asked to pay to the provincial funds additional income and supertax which will be collected from Government services in this presidency.

Reduction in number of Executive Councillors. - The committee members have agreed that the cut should be a temporary one and should be made up to the end of the financial year 1932-33. The total cost of the local Government of salaries worked out in 1928-29 was Rs.53.7 million. The majority of the committee are of opinion that the total number of Executive Council members and ministers who are at present four and three respectively should be reduced to four - two members and two ministers - as it is believed that such a reduction will not only save money but will facilitate work. There should, in the opinion of the Committee, also be a certain amount of saving in the menial and general clerical establishment and they recommend a reduction to be brought about as soon as possible
(The Pioneer, 25-7-31).

Unemployment.

Unemployment in Bengal: Two Land Settlement Schemes.

Two Khas Mahal land settlement schemes, to which sanction have been accorded by the Bengal Government, have recently been started in Noakhali District, Bengal, with a view to ease to some extent unemployment which is rampant among middle class young men in Bengal. Under both the schemes preference is given to those who are earnest about making agriculture their profession in life.

One of the schemes is on the co-operative basis while the other is on the ordinary settlement basis. Under the former scheme three different societies have been formed with 20 members each. Each member has been allotted eight acres of "char" ^(alluvial island) land for cultivation by himself and two acres by the co-operative society of which he is the member. The proceeds of the latter two acres are to go to establish a fund for the improvement of the "char" ^(alluvial island) and for the mutual benefit of the members. Each member is ~~required~~ required to build his own house, dig a tank in his estate and reside ^{in the estate} permanently. If the members fail to conform to the conditions within five years, they ~~will be liable to have their lease~~ ^{will be} cancelled at the discretion of the Collector. A Managing Committee, consisting of seven members with the Khas Mahal Officer as ex-officio chairman and the Inspector of Co-operative Societies as one of the members, has been formed. The members are to have no right of alienation of any of the lands.

Under the second scheme, the settlement scheme, each member has been allotted 50 bighas (1 bigha = $\frac{5}{8}$ of an acre), which he is required to cultivate on his own account. Of the produce, one-fifth is to be taken as rent, one-fifth is to go to form a common fund for the improvement

of the "char" and mutual benefit of the members. The members are to have no right of alienation for five years, after which they may be considered to possess ordinary tenant rights provided they conform to the rules and conditions. Under this scheme a member will have ordinarily to reside in his own house in the "char" and to dig a tank, and should not be a stipendary or professional man, whose presence might be required elsewhere.

The schemes, which have been sponsored, by Mr. B.R. Sen, the Collector of the District, have met with a good response and about 100 educated young men ~~have~~ have been selected and most of them have, it is understood, started cultivation from this year".

(The Pioneer, 10-7-1931).

Social Conditions.

Proposed Bengal Brothels Bill.

A private Bill to improve the moral atmosphere of the City of Calcutta is likely to be introduced at the forthcoming session of the Bengal Legislative Council by Mr. J.N. Basu, provided the sanction of the Government of India, for whose approval it has been sent, is available. The provisions of the measures, briefly, are as the following:-

- (1) To make brothels illegal and to punish brothel keepers, managers, or owners, or landlards who knowingly let their premises for the purpose of prostitution.
- (2) To punish those over the age of 16 years who knowingly live on the earnings of the prostitution of another person.
- (3) To safeguard public places from acts constituting the business of prostitution, which is also defined in the Bill.

The Bill has been most carefully drafted by one of the members of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Calcutta Vigilance Association composed of Mr. T.Y.J. Roxburgh, the Rev. Herbert Anderson, Mr. S.C. Mukherji, Mr. H.K. Mukerji, Mr. J.N. Basu, and Mr. Justice M.N. Mukerji. It has been framed after an exhaustive study of the laws in other parts of India, Burma and Ceylon. The provisions of the Bill are based on data collected by personal survey work by Miss Millicent Shephard, Representative in India of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene of London.

(The Times of India, 20-7-1931).

Medical Aspect of the Problem.

Miss Shephard is convinced that, along with legislative propaganda and rescue work, the medical aspect of the problem as found in Calcutta requires early solution, in view of the fact that the Medical Department of Calcutta Corporation admit that three out of every four

infantile deaths in the city are due to syphilis, that the infantile death rate here is higher than any other city in India, and that the registered number of beggars, procurers and prostitutes in the 1921 census for Calcutta and suburbs was 39,157. The Calcutta Vigilance Association presented a scheme to ^{the} Calcutta Corporation for its consideration for the free treatment of ~~some~~ ^{the} venereal disease in 1929, but unfortunately it is still in abeyance and no decision has been arrived at. It has now been handed over to the Medical Sub-Committee of the Association for working out. The Association hopes that a small experimental treatment centre may be started in the Park Circus area of the city if the necessary money is forthcoming. It is important, they think, to avoid compulsory methods for the continuation of the necessary treatment and it is only by the establishment of a large number of small centres where skilled treatment is courteously given that a scheme for combating venereal diseases ^{can} ~~will~~ be launched. (The Pioneer, 18-7-1931).

Bill to Amend Immoral Traffic Act, 1930, Madras.

At pages 36 to 37 of the report of this office for January 1931, reference was made to the Immoral Traffic Act, 1930, Madras, which received the assent of the Governor General in April 1930. It had also been stated that the Madras Government was consulting legal opinion as to whether partial enforcement of the Act is possible (see page 37 January 1931 report). Previous sanction having been obtained ^{from} ~~by~~ the Government of India, the Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman,

K. 3. ^(Madras) Home Member, has given notice of a Bill to amend the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, to be introduced, considered and passed into law at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 3rd August 1931. The amendments sought to be made are contained in clauses 2 & 3, which are as follow:-

For sections (1) and (2) of the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the following sections shall be substituted, namely:-

"This Act may be called ' The Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930'.

"The Local Government may, from time to time, by notification in the 'Fort St. George Gazette', apply all or any of the provisions of this Act to the whole or any portion of the Presidency of Madras from such date as may be specified in the notification and may cancel or modify any such notification."

In sub-section (11) of section 6 of the said Act, for the words and figures "before a Juvenile Court constituted under section 36 of the Madras Children Act, 1920", the words and figures "before a court established under sub-section (1) of section 36 of the Madras Children Act, 1920, or where no such court has been established, before a court sitting in the manner specified in sub-section (2) of that section " shall be substituted.

The following is the statement of objects and reasons:-

The Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930 (Act V of 1930), has not yet been brought into force because the machinery postulated in the Act, i.e., Juvenile Courts and Rescue Homes, has not been established. The Act, as at present standing, applies as a whole to the Presidency as a whole and contains no provision enabling the Local Government to apply it either in part or to selected areas where a Juvenile Court and a suitable Rescue Home are already in existence. To remedy this situation it is proposed to amend the Act as shown above in order to enable the Local Government (1) to bring it into force at once in selected areas and to extend it gradually to ~~the~~ other areas as circumstances permit; and (2) to bring into force such of its provisions as may be practicable in any particular area.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, No.13,
28-7-31. part IV).

Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency, 1930-31*

The following is a summary of the report on the working of the settlement^s established under the Criminal Tribes Act, and allied institutions in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31-3-1931, submitted by the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer, Bombay Presidency, to the Government of Bombay. It may be mentioned here that a fairly good proportion of the factory labourers in Bombay are drawn from the communities coming under the Criminal Tribes Act.

Population: - The population of all the settlements as it stood on 31-3-31 was 8,842 as against 8,905, the figure for the last year. There is thus a slight fall of 63 persons. During the year, 179 registered persons with their 327 dependants were interned in the settlements newly from the districts and from Bombay City. Practically all of these registered persons had four or more convictions. The average number of convictions of each registered person prior to his internment in the settlement was 7. The maximum number of convictions held by any person prior to admission was 21. The excess of births over deaths in the settlements during the year was 221. 154 registered persons and 414 dependants were released on license to the free colonies and 64 registered persons and 130 dependants to villages.

Employment. - Employment during the year under report was normal. The majority of the settlers were employed in spinning and weaving mills, in railway workshops and in factories. From the settlements and Free Colonies 1,835 men, 673 women and 180 half-timers were employed in spinning and weaving mills or in other factories such as the Western India Match Factory at Ambernath or in the Railway Workshops, Hubli. Work of this nature formed indeed the mainstay of the employment of the settlers. The question of providing labour for the population of the various settlements is reported to be becoming more difficult, because, with the yearly rise in the number of skilled labourers and the recent unemployment, which has rendered the supply of labour greater than the demand, the railways and industrial concerns are less ready to recruit labour from the members of Criminal Tribes who are at first unskilled. The department has therefore to turn more and more to canal works and agricultural settlements, which, though more suited to many of the classes which are dealt with in the settlements, involve more capital outlay and depend on the extent to which Government are able to undertake new major works.

* Annual Administration Report on the Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency - Part I - Price, Anna 1 or 1d. - Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1931 - Obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay, or through the High Commissioner for India, India House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2, or through any recognised Bookseller. - pp.30.

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Health, Housing and Sanitation. - The health of the settlers and of those in the Free Colonies is reported to be satisfactory. There have been no serious epidemics. The health of the settlers at the experimental sub-settlement at Kambharganvi was good. Dispensaries attached to all the larger settlements have been working satisfactorily. During the year the number of births in the settlements was 420 as against 199 deaths and in the Free Colonies 195 births and 96 deaths. Thus there were substantial excesses of births over deaths of 221 in the settlements and 99 in the Free Colonies. Infant welfare centres and school children's clinics were organised in Sholapur and Hubli settlements. In the latter settlement considerable attention was also given to the scientific treatment of venereal diseases.

Most of the settlers live in huts of their own construction. These huts certainly look untidy and frail, but for the whole of the dry weather they are used for little else than the storing of the articles of settlers while the latter live outside. One difficulty of the settlements as regards sanitation was the provision of sufficient latrines and dustbins. These are being provided as finances permit. The second difficulty was to persuade those settlers, who had hitherto led a wandering life in which such conveniences were neither available nor their lack felt, to use the latrines and dustbins now provided.

Education. - Compulsory education is made a reality in the settlements and in the attached Free Colonies. Attendance is made compulsory both for boys and girls up to the age of 13 and in the case of half-timers in mills up to the age of 15. Attendance at night school is compulsory for boys up to the age of 18 years. Classes for girls who have left school are also held in some of the settlements. Out of a total population of 8,842 in the settlements proper, the number of children attending the day and night schools were 1,772 and 283 respectively, and out of a total population of 4,982 in the Free Colonies, the corresponding numbers were 950 and 172. Thus the number of children attending day or night schools per thousand of the population was 232.4 for the settlements and 225.2 for the free colonies. 52 boys passed the examinations in carpentry and drawing and 16 boys in weaving and 15 boys in moulding, held by the Committee of Direction for Technical Instruction. Training in Agriculture was given at Bijapur, Hotgi and Indi to 32 boys.

Co-operation. - The various Credit and Producers Societies had a successful years work, and all were in a sound financial condition. The Gadag Producers Society experienced a slight loss during the year, but it has a big reserve fund so that unless the loss is repeated in future years, there is no anxiety on this score. A tendency is noticeable for the loans to be increased, and the deposits, which represent in the main the settlers' savings, to be decreased. The Staff Co-operative Credit Society for the Staff of the Criminal Tribes Settlement Department progressed satisfactorily, the share capital being increased to Rs. 4,750 by the end of the year under report.

Free Colonies. - When a settler has established a good record in a settlement, the question of his discharge raises many difficult questions. If he has a field, or even a house in some town or village he will wish to return to it, and in most cases this is the best solution for him. But, such persons are few. The majority have never had a permanent home before coming to the settlements and it becomes necessary to make some permanent provision for their future. To this end areas have been organized adjacent to the settlements wherein such persons can build huts or houses for themselves. The population on these areas, consisting of persons on license or those who, having completed their period of license, have become completely free, is steadily rising. In most of these free colonies the residents are progressing satisfactorily. In one or two centres, however, the attitude of the ~~Haramatikata xamxHanjaxHata~~ probationers have given ground for anxiety. They do not seem to wish to build permanent houses or substantial huts on the free colony, desiring apparently at the end of the period of probation to recommence their old habits of wandering. In other centres, on the contrary, persons from the same casts seem to be settling down satisfactorily and there is not much danger of their reversion to wandering when they are completely freed from restrictions.

Special Establishments. - The Women's Home attached to the Habli settlement continued its beneficent work. It is the only institution of its kind for difficult and immoral women from the settlements. During the year, 38 were admitted and 33 discharged leaving 21 resident in the Home at the close of the year. Though a small institution it is helpful to all the settlements, for one immoral woman may be the centre of dangerous feuds, and a settlement Manager can often ward off a dangerous riot in his settlement by sending such a woman to this Home for a time. The Children's Homes and Hostels closed the year with 91 inmates. Only children who prove themselves to be thieves or whose families are absolutely incapable of caring for them are separated from their families and placed in these Homes. Admissions are becoming less in recent years, as the effect of education and control is being felt in the settlements.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Health Conditions in Asansol Coal Mines, 1929-30*

The following information about the health conditions of the mining population in the Asansol Coal Mines during 1929-30 is taken from the Annual Administration Report for 1929-30 issued by the Asansol Mines Board of Health:-

Nature of work of Asansol Mines Board of Health. - The Board's out-door work consists chiefly in the following activities:- (1) Notification of epidemics, (2) Suppression of epidemics, (3) Vaccination, (4) Collection of vital statistics, (5) Anti-Malarial investigation, (6) Provision of burning ghats and burial grounds, (7) Improvement of water supplies, (8) Lectures on elementary hygiene to school children, (9) Medical inspection of school children, (10) Education of the public., (11) Provision of aid to women in child birth.

Cholera -
Suppression of Epidemics. - There were altogether 1076 cases of cholera with 518 deaths during the year giving an incidence rate of 3.27 and a death rate of 1.57 per 1000 inhabitants and a mortality rate of 48.1 per cent as against 537 cases of Cholera with 292 deaths during the previous year with an incidence rate of 1.63, a death rate of 0.89 and a mortality rate of 41.7 per cent. Of the 1076 cases of Cholera, 263 cases (128 deaths) occurred in the collieries, 661 cases (335 deaths) occurred in villages, 109 cases (30 deaths) occurred in Asansol Municipality and 43 cases (5 deaths) occurred in Raniganj.

Small-Pox. - The total number of cases of small-pox recorded during the year was 354 with 42 deaths as against 143 with 13 deaths during the previous year giving an incidence rate of 1.07 and a death rate of 0.13 per thousand and a mortality rate of 11.9%. Of the 354 cases of small-pox, 101 cases (9 deaths) occurred in the collieries, 167 cases (18 deaths) occurred in the villages, 78 cases (14 deaths) occurred in Asansol municipality, and 8 cases (1 death) occurred in Raniganj. Owing to the immigrant nature of the labour employed in the mining settlement, it is impossible to prevent the frequent introduction into the settlement of epidemic diseases such as small-pox and cholera, but those diseases have ceased to be of any economic importance to the mining industry as a result of the activities of the Board.

No cases of plague were reported during the year. Only 21 deaths from recognised malaria were reported during the year. There was a slight increase in the number of deaths from "Fever" during the year. Severe outbreaks of epidemic dropsy were reported from various parts of the mining settlement. Leaflets suggesting remedies for the disease were obtained from the Bengal Public Health Department and were widely distributed among the public for guidance.

Vaccination. - The number of primary and secondary vaccinations performed during the year was 17503 and 17825 respectively as against 9667 and 10161 during the previous year. The rate of success in primary
*X Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health
for the year 1929-30. - 1930. - Saraswati Press, Asansol. pp.16.

and secondary vaccination cases was 99.8 and 61.9 as against 99.9 and 65.7 during the previous year. As usual, vaccination was carried out free of charge from house to house. The attitude of the people was friendly and no opposition of any importance was met with, though resort had occasionally to be made to prosecution under the Epidemic Diseases Act. The midwives of the Board vaccinated and re-vaccinated pardanashin women and girls who owing to custom could not be vaccinated or re-vaccinated by the board's sanitary assistants. The number of re-vaccinations performed during the year was considerably higher than that performed during the previous year. Opportunity was always seized in every case of small-pox or chickenpox (sporadic or epidemic) to revaccinate all the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

Collection of vital Statistics. - Births. - The number of births recorded during the year was 8934 as compared with 9225 during the previous year of which 51.2 per cent were males and 48.8 per cent females as against 52.4 and 47.6 during the previous year. The ratio of males born to every 100 females was 105 as against 110 during the previous year. The number of still-births reported was 75 as against 91 during the previous year. The ^{number} births show a decrease of 291 over those of the previous year, the rate per mille being 27.1 (calculated on a population of 329353) as against 28.0 during the previous year.

Deaths. - Deaths. - During the year under report, there were 7644 deaths from all causes as compared with 6896 during the previous year of which 52.9 per cent occurred amongst males and 47.1 per cent amongst females as against 52.8 and 47.2 per cent respectively during the previous year, the death ratio of males to every 100 females being 113 as against 112 during the previous year. The total death rate per mille was 23.2 (calculated on a population of 329353) as against 16.6. It is to be noted that during the last 8 years the number of births recorded in the Mining Settlement has consistently exceeded the number of recorded deaths.

Infantile Mortality. - Altogether 1296 infants of under one year died during the year under report as against 1283 during the year 1928, the infantile death rate during the year amounting to 145 per thousand of births registered as against 133 during the previous year. Of 1296 deaths amongst infants, 58.5 per cent occurred amongst males and 41.5 per cent amongst females as against 56.4 and 43.6 per cent during the previous year, the death ratio of male infants to female being 141 to 100 as compared with 129 to 100 during the previous year. The infantile mortality rate for the year was 145 per 1000 children born as against 139 during the previous year.

Deaths due to child-birth. - Of 1209 deaths which occurred amongst adult married women, 51 were due to child-birth giving a death-rate due to child-birth of 5.7 per thousand births and a percentage death-rate amongst married women of 4.2 per cent. As usual, Board's midwives gave free advice and attendance to the women of the Settlement in their confinements and regularly delivered house to house lectures on cleanliness and domestic hygiene.

Anti-Malarial Investigation. - The investigation was carried

put in places from where outbreaks of malaria were reported by a staff of 3 anti-malarial investigators. The staff examined ground tanks, water courses, shallow pools, cow-sheds and other places where malaria-bearing mosquitoes were suspected either of breeding or harbouring in adult form.

Improvement of water-supply. - On the recommendation of the Chief Sanitary Officer, the Asansol Local Board completed the construction of 9 six feet diameter wells in 9 villages of the settlement during the year 1929-30. Of the 491 villages in the mining settlement, 335 now possess local board wells. All the local board wells within the settlement were regularly inspected by the Board's staff and recommendations were made from time to time to the Chairman of the Local Board for action when necessary. During the Cholera epidemic season of the year, ground tanks were, with the owners' permission, reserved under the Epidemic Diseases Act in many villages of the Settlement either for drinking or for bathing and the contaminated water supplies were sterilised and guarded.

Medical Inspection of School Children. - The Sub-assistant surgeon employed by the Board for the medical inspection of school children carried on the work of medical inspection throughout the year. During the year 3088 children were examined in 74 schools amongst whom 1041 cases of disability were found as against 3182 in 83 schools with 1441 cases of disability during the previous year.

Education of the Public. - In the epidemic times, the sanitary inspectors of the Board delivered lectures in the infected localities in the prevailing epidemics. The midwives of the Board, in addition to the specific duties, paid house to house visits and delivered simple lectures on the general principles of cleanliness and domestic hygiene to the women of the Settlement. The sanitary assistants of the Board delivered weekly lectures in nearly all the lower and upper primary schools of the settlement on hygiene and public health and the Board's Primer in Bengali on elementary hygiene was distributed free to all pupils. The sanitary inspectors of the Board periodically examined the children investigating their progress in the knowledge of the contents of the Board's primer.

General Remarks. - The construction and renewal of miners' dwellings on collieries generally conformed to the standard prescribed by the Board. The sanitation of paohai shops in the Settlement was regularly supervised by the Board's inspecting staff and the improvements recommended by them were in most cases carried out by the vendors. All necessary precautions during the annual fairs and festivals within the Settlement were as usual taken by the Board's staff.

Finances of the Board. - No loan was applied for during the year under report and no grant was received from Government or any public body during the year. The expenses of the Board were met by a cess levied at the following rates:- On Mine-owners at Re.1/14/- per

Agriculture.

Agricultural Progress in India in 1930.

The following facts regarding agricultural progress and conditions in India during 1930 are taken from the report presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for India prepared from the detailed reports submitted by each Indian province, a summary of which is published in the Hindu of 3-7-31:-

Total Area Under Cultivation. - The report shows that nearly 290 millions of India's 320 million inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, that the area under cultivation exceeds 116 million acres of which 52 per cent is held by peasant proprietors, 18 per cent is permanently settled and 30 per cent is temporarily settled by larger proprietors.

Activities of Administration. - The administration undertakes in the absence of private activity, the functions of seedsman, manure seller, agricultural engineer and implement dealer, and development of modern agricultural methods. This development was possible only by well-organised propaganda and administration. Ocular demonstration of new methods from the view point of the cultivators' own requirements is the fundamental principle underlying the educational activities of the Agricultural Department. As regards agricultural education proper, there has been a steady development during the year and facilities for short courses at the Agricultural College Experimental Farms are now provided for training adult cultivators in most provinces.

The Locust Menace. - Among the other enterprises of the recently established Imperial Council of Agricultural Research now seriously at work is the Locust Committee. It has helped to co-ordinate efforts in dealing with the present scourge, which, it is stated, is part of extensive and exceptional migration extending from Western Sudan through Egypt and Palestine, Iraq, Arabia and Persia into North-West India.

Irrigation Projects. - An interesting section of the report deals with developments in irrigation in British India during the past quarter of a century. During 1928-29 the total area, apart from the Indian States, irrigated by Government's works amounted to 30.7 million acres, ~~or 12 per cent of this entire cropped area.~~ The total length of the main branch canals and distributaries in use amounted to about 75,000 miles.

The greatest of the irrigation works at present under construction are the Sukkur Barrage in Sind and the Sutlej Valley Project in the Punjab. Sukkur, one of the largest ^{irrigation} works of the world, ~~is~~^{should} be complete next year. The total area affected by the scheme is approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ million acres. The Sutlej Project will bring $3\frac{3}{4}$ million acres of desert waste under cultivation. When allowance is made for the natural expansion of the existing scheme it is probable there will be an ultimate area of 50 million acres under irrigation by Government works.

(The Hindu, 3-7-31).

100 tons based on the average raisings of coal during the past 3 calendar years. On Royalty Receivers at 24% of the annual average road cess payable for the past 3 financial years. The amount of cess assessed upon mine-owners for the year under report was Rs. 1,00,917-10-0 as against Rs. 95,978-8-0 for the previous year. The increase was due to larger output giving a higher average on which the assessment was based. The amount of cess assessed upon royalty receivers for the year under report was Rs. 1,78,20-9-0 as against Rs. 1,66,25-9-0 for the previous year. The increase was due to higher assessment of road cess.

Maritime Affairs

Unemployment among Indian Seamen: Joint Conference at Calcutta.

The problem of unemployment is causing grave concern to Indian seamen. It is reported that in Bombay alone more than 15,000 seamen have been thrown out of employment owing to trade depression. To consider the question of unemployment among seamen and to devise measures for relief, a Joint Conference of Indian Seamen, Quarter Masters and Port Trust Mariners met under the auspices of the Indian Seamen's Union, Bengal Mariners' Union, Indian Quarter Masters' Union and the Port Trust Mariners' Union on 28-6-1931 at Kidderpore, Calcutta, Mr. Amin Ahmed, Barrister-at-Law, presiding. Among those present were Messrs. M. Daud, Z.A. Rahim, M. Ali Khan and Shamsul Haq. The Conference adopted the following resolutions, amongst others, unanimously:-

(1) Whereas the unlawful interference of interested persons, who are outsiders, in the Government Shipping Office, in the matter of general recruitment of seamen and particularly in the selection of the Goanese seamen, is not only acting as a menace to the improvement of seamen's conditions but is also creating disorder in the said matter of engagement, and whereas such interested persons are provoking unemployed seamen to aggravate the problem of seamen's unemployment, this Joint Conference of Indian Seamen draws the attention of the authorities and requests them to take early steps in removing those persons from the shipping office and also to take steps so that they may not provoke the unemployed seamen to the detriment of all concerned in these days of commercial depression.

(2) That, in order to obviate the ^{difficulties} ~~disabilities~~ regarding unemployment of seamen, this Joint Conference requests the Government and the Shipping Authorities to solve that problem in consultation with the Indian Seamen's Union by adopting Unemployment Insurance in this country on the lines prevalent in the European countries.

(3) That this Joint Conference confirms the action of the Executive Councils of the Indian Seamen's Union, the Bengal Mariners' Union and the Indian Quartermasters' Union in demanding representation of Indian seamen at the Round Table Conference and also in suggesting the name of Mr. Daud, the Union's President, for such representation (see pages 62 of the report of this Office for June 1931).

Mr. Ahmed, the President of the Conference, in summing up the proceedings of the Conference, advised the Seamen and the Mariners

to stand by their Unions, without which their grievances could never be removed and objectives gained. (The Pioneer, 2-7-1931).

Conditions in Bombay.- The Trade Union Record, July 1931, (Vol. II, No.5) publishes the following paragraph about conditions of unemployment among Indian seamen in Bombay:-

"More than 15,000 seamen have been thrown out of employment in Bombay owing to trade depression. The National Seamen's Union of India placed before the authorities of the various shipping companies a plan whereby the distress caused among the seamen could be alleviated. The shipping companies agreed to the proposal of the Union that the crews should be changed every year, thus making vacancies for the large number of unemployed. As the British India Steam Navigation Company refused to concede the repeated request of the Union to change their crews every year, the Union has started picketing at the gate of the office of the Company and also at docks since the 1st of June". (The Trade Union Record, Bombay, July 1931, Vol. II, No.5).

Conditions of Work of Inland Steam-Ship Crews:

Demand for Inquiry.

A General meeting of the members of the Bengal Mariners' Union was held at Barisal under the presidentship of Mr. M. Daud on 28-5-1931. Mr. Abdul Huq, after narrating the discussions that took place between the representatives of the Union and the Joint Steamer Companies, Calcutta, exhorted the workers to be united and organised if they were really keen on getting them redressed. The following resolutions were unanimously passed at the meeting:-

(1) That, in view of the different conditions of services of the inland steam-ship employees in Bengal with regard to their wages, working hours, compensation for accidents, houses, leave rules, pensions, provident fund, etc., the Union urges the Government to hold a public enquiry into their conditions of services by a committee consisting of equal number of representatives of the employers and the Union as also the representatives of the Government and the public. (2) In view of the fact that proper increments in wages were not given to crews in 1927, the Union urges a further increment in their wages by at least 10 per cent. (3) 25 per cent. increment should be given in the wages of the pilots and sailors on the Company's barges. (4) The system of

pensions and gratuity should be properly regulated on a satisfactory basis. (5) The Union urges the Companies to maintain equal number of crews in ~~the~~ vessels of the same type and additional number of crews be given in the new steamers for the purpose of ensuring the health of the crews.

(The Trade Union Record, Bombay, July 1931.
Vol. 2, No.5).

Conditions of Work of Bombay Seamen.

The following details regarding the conditions of work of Bombay seamen ^{have been} ~~were~~ brought to light as the result of personal enquiries conducted by Mr. S.V.Parulekar of the Servant of India Society, ~~Bombay~~.

Strength of Labour Force. - The fleet of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company consisting of 18 steamers and motor vessels and 16 steam launches runs the coastal services from Bombay to Karachi and Bombay to Mangalore. The total number of sailors employed on them is about 800. The Company also owns 118 lighters and country crafts and the number of sailors working on them in different ports comes to about 750. About 250 workers are employed in the workshops throughout the year to carry on the normal work of making repairs, in addition to which, during the rainy season when two-thirds of the vessels are laid up for repairs, a large number of extra hands numbering about 800 are engaged for a period of three months. Detailed personal enquiries were made into the conditions of life and work of the sailors employed on two launches, one of which plies between Bombay and Dharamtar and the other between Dabhol and Chiplun and information collected about the conditions of life and work of sailors working on steamers.

Recruitment. - The captain of the launch recruits sailors to work in the Deck Department. The Engineer is responsible for the recruitment of the staff which works in the Engine Department. In the case of steamers the Company obtains seamen through serangs. The existing methods of recruitment leave immense scope for corruption and favouritism as the captain, the engineer and the serangs enjoy wide powers to give employment in the departments under their charge and control, to whomsoever they like. Though corruption prevails in the matter of recruitment, it is very difficult to prove it in a court of law. Moreover, the master, the driver and the serangs have absolute powers of dismissal.

Hours of Work. - The hours of work vary according to the route of steamers. The hours of work of the sailors in the Engine Department of a steamer do not exceed 8 per day and they do not work for more than 4 hours at a stretch. The aggregate hours of work of the sailors of the Deck Department is 12. But actually they work for more than 12 hours a day as all of them have to be on duty when the steamer touches a port. It is a little difficult to arrive at an accurate and exact figure of the hours of work of the sailors working on the launches. The Company seems to have laid down no limit to their hours of work. Their least hours of active duty vary between 10 and 11. After the completion of the trip the sailors of both the Engine and Deck Departments have to work by turns. Assuming that every sailor would have to be on duty for at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours in addition to 11 hours' active duty, the least number of hours of work of the sailor employed in the Engine Department cannot, therefore, be in any case less than

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13½ hours a day. The total hours of work of those sailors who work in the Deck Department also vary between 13 and 14 as five sailors have to be on watch when the launch is at anchor. After ~~the~~ excessive toil for about 14 hours in the hot engine room, the rest of 10 hours available to the sailor cannot reasonably be said to be sufficient, particularly in view of the fact that the seaman cannot have it at a stretch. It may be remarked here that the Company does not make provision for Sunday rest or grant leave with pay.

As the hours of work of these sailors are not fixed, they receive no extra payment in case they work for more than the normal number of hours of work. Sometimes some repairs ~~require~~ to be made to the launch or to the engine and the sailors receive not a pie by way of extra payment even if they work for more than 16 hours continuously on such occasions. The launch at Bombay many a time ~~has~~ ^{has} to make an extra trip and the total number of hours of work ~~is~~ ^{is} on that ~~particular~~ ^{such} day comes to about 17 hours, but the sailors are not paid any extra remuneration for the extra labour.

Wages. - The captain of the launch at Dabhol is paid a pittance of Rs.56 per month. This amount includes the messing allowance as the Company does not supply rations. The amount which the ~~master~~ master receives as his pay cannot but be characterised as absolutely meagre and inadequate in proportion to his responsibilities. The engineer of the ship is paid at the rate of Rs.3-4-0 per day. The daily rate of pay of the ~~steersman~~ ^{steersman} is Rs. 1-1-0. The sailors are paid at the rate of Re.1 per day. The pay of the master of the launch which runs between Bombay and Dharantar is Rs. 75 per month. The daily rate of pay of the rest of the sailors is Rs.1-2-0. The steersman gets Rs.1-3-0 per day. The sailor on the steamers is paid Rs.37 per month. The serangs get Rs.60. The pay of the tindal and the steersman is Rs.47 and Rs.43 respectively. The Company does not supply rations to the seamen but it pays the cooks who cook their food.

The aggregate amount of monthly earnings of a sailor working on the launch at Dabhol will, theoretically speaking, amount to Rs.30 provided he works without remaining absent for even a single day. But actually his maximum average earnings per month will be Rs.22-8-0 only when calculations are made on the basis of his aggregate earnings during the whole year. When the coastal passenger traffic stops during the rainy season and the steamers and the launches are laid up for repairs for about three months, the services of all the sailors, with the exception of a very small number, are dispensed with. ~~The~~ ^{Such} leave is compulsory and a sailor receives no pay during the period of leave.

Family Budget. - The expenses which the sailors of launches and steamers incur for food vary respectively between Rs.12 and Rs.13, and Rs.13 and Rs.15. A few of them form a mess and the total amount spent on food is equally distributed among them at the end of the month. The food they take is of the meanest kind. In addition to the expenditure on meals, the amount which they generally spend on tea,

refreshments, smoking, etc., comes to about Rs.5 per month. A further allowance of Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 has to be made for their miscellaneous expenses, shaving, washing, oil, etc. Hence the maximum amount which a sailor could send to his family per month will be Rs.10 and that only if he works all the days in the month without taking leave. During the rainy season, the discharged sailor puts himself to the task of cultivating the land belonging to some landlord as a subsidiary source of income. The sailors working on launches and in the engine department of the steamers come from that part of the country which is popularly known as Konkan. The whole of the tract is hilly and the land is not fertile. The process of cultivating the land is very laborious and tedious. It is sheer compulsion of economic circumstances that forces the sailor ~~xxx~~ to work in the fields in return for an income which is just enough to keep the members of his family alive during the three months of enforced leave.

Savings and Indebtedness. - It will be clear from the above rough analysis of his income and expenditure that the seaman will not be able to save anything from his earnings. There is no scope for economy, as whatever he is able to earn is hardly sufficient for maintaining and bringing up the members of his family. The occasions for borrowing money in his case are numerous and unavoidable. Sickness, spells of unemployment, social and religious ceremonies, all drive the sailors to borrow money, sometimes at exorbitant interest, without any ~~xxxx~~ hope of repayment.

Security of Tenure. - All the members of the staff on the launches including the master, the driver and the sailor on the steamers are treated by the Company as temporary hands. The Company can dispense with their services with a moment's notice as, under the provisions of law, only permanent servants are entitled to one month's notice or, in lieu, one month's pay before they can be discharged from service. The masters and the drivers on the launches were regarded as permanent hands before 1924. The sailor is constantly haunted by the painful thought of the insecurity of service.

Holidays. - The sailors work incessantly without a single holiday for nine months. Those sailors whose services are not dispensed with during the rainy season work for 365 days without a day's rest. The hard manual work for 14 hours a day continuously for 270 days during the year tells adversely on the health of the sailors and shorten their lives.

Other conditions of Work. - Not a single seaman, either on the launches or the steamers, was found to have been living with his family. Every one of them had left the family at his native place. The seaman cannot get leave for paying a visit to his family during the nine months he is on duty. In the case of those few sailors whose services are retained during the rainy season, the Company allows them to go to their native places, if they could be conveniently spared, for a month at the most after twelve months' service.

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None of the seamen are entitled to any gratuity in appreciation of long services. The sailors are not entitled to the benefits of the provident fund. Only those who are treated as permanent hands by the Company are allowed to subscribe to the provident fund. The seamen are denied this privilege on the ground that they are daily paid employees.

Fire Extinguishing Appliances
(Pilgrim Ships) Rules, 1931.

The following notification by the Government of India, Department of Education, Health and Lands, regarding the rules to regulate fire extinguishing appliances in pilgrim ships, is taken from the Gazette of India of 18-7-31 (No. 29 Part I, pages 583 - 585):-

No. 1276 - In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 213 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923 (XXI of 1923) the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following rules to regulate fire extinguishing appliances on pilgrim ships, the same having been previously published as required by sub-section (3) of the said section, namely:-

Rules.

1. Title and extent of application. - (1) These rules may be called the Fire Extinguishing Appliances (Pilgrim Ships) Rules, 1931.

(2) They apply to pilgrim ships, and shall come into force on the 1st day of September 1931, from which date, rules 11 to 15 of the rules published with the notification of the Government of India in the Home Department no. 1902 (Sanitary), dated the 14th October 1910, shall be cancelled.

Provided that these rules shall not apply, and rules 11 to 15 of the rules published with the said notification shall continue to apply to pilgrim ships with regard to which a certificate of survey was granted before the 1st day of September 1931, under section 136 or section 144 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, while such certificate is in force.

2. Definition. - In these rules "approved" means approved by the Governor General in Council.

3. Spaces occupied by passengers and crew. - (1) On every ship of more than 4,000 tons gross tonnage, at least three, and on every other ship at least two, steam or equivalent pumps shall be available for the spaces occupied by passengers and crew; provided that more than two pumps shall not be required on ships whose keels were laid before the 1st September 1931. Each such pump shall be capable of providing a full supply of water, in accordance with the requirements specified in sub-rule (1) of rule 6, to one or more ranges of water service pipes. The service pipes shall be of metal, with branches so arranged that the fire hoses may be coupled thereto, and two powerful jets of water may be rapidly and simultaneously brought to bear, by means of single lengths of hose from each branch, upon any part of each deck space occupied by passengers or crew, when the watertight and fire-doors are closed. Where

2. the water service is on an exposed deck, the branches necessary to comply with the foregoing requirements shall, in the case of vessels whose keels are laid after the 1st September 1931, be fitted on both sides of the deck.

Provided that in the case of vessels whose keels were laid before the 1st September 1931, the main engine sanitary pump shall be allowed to count as one of the pumps required to be available if it is so fitted as to be capable of serving the purpose of such pump.

(2) Every ship shall carry an efficient portable hand pump with suction and hose complete.

(3) Portable chemical fire extinguishers of an approved pattern shall be carried in every compartment wherein passengers and crew are accommodated. There shall be two extinguishers in each such compartment, and when passengers are carried in enclosed spaces above the upper deck, there shall be at least one extinguisher on each side of such spaces at intervals of not more than 60 feet.

4. Cargo spaces. - On every ship arrangements shall be made whereby two powerful jets of water may be rapidly and simultaneously directed into any cargo compartment, and, save in the case of a ship of less than 1,000 tons gross tonnage, satisfactory means shall also be provided whereby steam or other gas incapable of supporting combustion may be conveyed to each such compartment.

5. Machinery and bunker spaces. - (1) Arrangements shall be made in ships which use coal as fuel whereby two powerful jets of water can be rapidly and simultaneously directed into any part of the coal bunker spaces, boiler rooms and machinery spaces.

(2) In ships in which the main boilers are oil fired the following additional arrangements shall be made:-

(a) The fire hoses in the machinery spaces shall be provided with additional conductors suitable for spraying water on oil without undue disturbance of the surface.

(b) In each firing space there shall be placed a receptacle containing 10 cubic feet of sand, sawdust impregnated with soda, or other approved dry material, and scoops for distributing the same.

(c) In each boiler room, and in each of the machinery spaces in which a part of the oil fuel installation is situated, there shall be provided two approved portable chemical extinguishers of a type discharging froth or other approved medium suitable for quenching oil fires.

(d) Means shall be provided whereby froth may be rapidly discharged and distributed over the whole of the lower parts of any boiler room, or of any machinery space in which oil fuel units or settling tanks may be situated. The quantity of froth which can be discharged

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should be amply sufficient to cover up to a depth of 6 inches the whole area of the plating formed in any one compartment by the inner bottom plating, or by the shell plating of the vessel if there is no double bottom tank. If the engine and boiler rooms are not entirely separate, and fuel oil can drain from the boiler room bilges into the engine room, the combined engine and boiler rooms shall be treated as one compartment. Provided that if other effective means are available for combating fire and the apparatus can be controlled from outside the compartment in which fire may occur, the Governor General in Council may exempt from the requirements of this clause ships whose keels were laid before the 1st September 1931 on which it would not be reasonable to require the fitting of large froth installations.

(e) There shall further be provided one extinguisher of at least 30 gallons capacity in ships having one boiler room, and two such extinguishers in ships with more than one boiler room. These extinguishers shall be provided with hoses on reels suitable for reaching any part of the boiler rooms and spaces containing oil fuel pumping units. Provided that the Governor General in Council may permit the fitting of any other equally efficient apparatus in place of the 30 gallons extinguishers.

(f) All containers and valves by which they are operated shall be easily accessible and so placed that they will not readily be cut off from use in case of fire.

6. Pumps. - (1) In all ships each of the steam or equivalent pumps shall be capable of supplying simultaneously two powerful jets of water for use in any part of the vessel. The pumps shall be worked by steam or by some other equally efficient motive power, and shall always be available for immediate use at all reasonable times when the vessel is in commission.

(2) All steam or equivalent pumps shall be provided with effective escape valves suitably adjusted and so placed as to prevent excessive pressure in any part of the water service system.

7. Water Service pipes. - The main water service pipes shall be made of wrought material, and, if of iron or steel, shall, in the case of vessels whose keels were laid after the 1st September 1931, be galvanised. They shall be sufficiently large in diameter for the adequate supply of water to the fire hoses which shall be secured to them for simultaneous operation. The branches shall be so placed that the fire hoses may be conveniently coupled to them, and cocks or valves shall be fitted where required to admit of any hose being removed, if desired, while the pumps are at work.

8. Fire Hoses. - (1) The fire hoses shall be of leather, seamless hemp, flax canvas of first-class quality, or other approved material. They shall be provided with suitable metal unions and conductors, and with gooseneck connections where necessary.

(2) A sufficient number of fire hoses with attachments and conductors shall be suitably distributed about different decks in the ship so as to be readily available for rapid use in any space occupied by passengers or crew, and not less than three hoses and attachments shall be provided in any vessel.

(3) The fire hoses and the conductors, and other apparatus referred to in sub-rules (1) and (2), together with coupling wrenches if required, shall be kept ready for use in conspicuous positions near the water service hydrants or connections. They shall be used only for the purposes of extinguishing fires or for testing the fire extinguishing apparatus at fire drills and surveys, and not for washing decks.

9. Arrangements for injecting steam or other gas into Cargo Spaces and Boiler Rooms. - Where provision is made for the injection of steam or other gas into the cargo spaces and boiler rooms for fire extinguishing purposes, the necessary pipes for conveying the steam or gas to holds or other compartments shall be provided with controlling valves or cocks readily accessible from the deck and so marked as to indicate clearly the compartments to which the pipes are respectively led. Suitable provision shall be made for locking these valves or cocks so as to prevent inadvertent admission of the steam or gas to any compartment. If any pipe is led to a space to which passengers have access, it shall be furnished with an additional stop valve or cock also capable of being locked. Provided that the Governor General in Council may permit the substitution of any other equally efficient safety device giving the requisite security from danger.

10. Fluid Fire Extinguishers. - (1) A sufficient number of approved portable fluid fire extinguishers discharging water shall be provided in accordance with the requirements of rules 3 and 5. For ordinary purposes not specifically referred to in these rules, the capacity of portable extinguishers shall be not more than three imperial gallons, and not less than two imperial gallons, provided the Governor General in Council may, in his discretion, permit the use of an extinguisher of less than two gallons capacity in special circumstances.

(2) An approved type of portable extinguisher discharging a medium other than water may, in the case of not more than 20 per cent. of the total number of extinguishers required to be carried, be substituted for the ordinary water-discharging extinguisher.

(3) The portable hand fluid fire extinguishers (apart from those supplied in boiler rooms, etc., specially for use in connection with oil fuel) shall not be of more than two types in any one ship.

(4) All extinguishers, whether portable or otherwise, shall be placed in positions where they are readily accessible.

11. Smoke Helmets and Safety Lamps. - At least two smoke

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helmets and two safety lamps of approved types shall be included in the fire extinguishing equipment of every vessel and the helmets shall be stowed separately. The members of the crew shall be practised regularly in their use.

12. Emergency Appliances. - The necessary emergency fire appliances such as knives, axes, and crowbars, shall be kept in a place readily accessible at all times from different parts of the ship.

13. Fire Drill. - Fire drill shall be observed at least once a week on board all vessels and during such drill all fire appliances shall be put into use and the fact entered in the Log Book. The great utility of woollen or asbestos blankets for smothering small fires shall always be impressed on all persons taking part in a fire drill.

14. Custody of fire apparatus and fire patrol. - (1) The fire apparatus shall be placed by the master under the special charge of one of the principal officers of the ship and of the ship's carpenter, who shall both be held responsible that the apparatus is kept in a state fit for immediate use. As soon as possible after leaving port, the officers and crew shall be divided into parties and assigned to stations in case of fire.

(2) A continuous patrol system shall be organised so that any outbreak of fire may be promptly detected.

15. Stowage of cargo and disposal of inflammables. - (1) The cargo of every ship shall, before she leaves port, be properly stowed away, and the decks shall be cleared of any loose straw, hay and other inflammable material. Any goods which are dangerous by reason of their inflammability or liability to explosion shall be stowed, subject to the provisions of any law or rules in force, in such manner as to safeguard the ship from danger of fire or explosion. The tanks of motor cars carried on the ship shall be drained before loading.

(2) Before a ship leaves port, every passenger shall deliver up any lucifer matches, gun-powder or other inflammable article in his possession.

16. Use of naked lights and spirits. - Naked lights shall not be used in the holds or store rooms or between decks, except under trustworthy superintendence. No person shall read in bed with a naked light. Casks or drums containing spirit shall not be opened in the hold but shall be hoisted on deck for the purpose.

17. Relaxation of rules. - In the case of a small vessel under 200 feet in length when it is shown to be unreasonable to require full compliance with any of the provisions of these rules, such relaxation shall be granted as the Governor General in Council may, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, direct.

18. Penalty. - Whoever does any act in contravention of any of the provisions of these rules shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

Migration.

Labour Conditions in Federated Malay States during 1930.

The following facts regarding the labour conditions in the Federated Malay States during 1930 are taken from the Annual Report for 1930 submitted by the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay States to the Government. A good percentage of the labour force of the Federated Malay States is recruited from South India.

Trade Conditions: According to the report, the Federated Malay States experienced a very difficult year. Trade conditions continued to be most depressing and there is little hope of any immediate improvement in the situation. There was a serious decline in the revenue and attempts are being made to place the permanent expenditure on a less exalted basis. Tin and rubber went from bad to worse and the voluntary efforts to regulate output had no appreciable result. Towards the end of the year Government was invited to join with Nigeria, Bolivia, ^{and the} ~~the~~ Netherlands East Indies in an international tin quota scheme, which has since become an accomplished fact. The scheme which aims at adjusting supply to demand by compulsory restriction of production is not flawless; but given a fair chance it should assist the industry by keeping unwanted tin off the market and in the ground. Whether the salvation of the rubber industry, where conditions are more complicated, lies along the same lines is a matter of opinion; a great variety of individual schemes has been promulgated, but one would like to see a more concerted attempt made by the leaders to solve a very difficult problem.

H.K.2.

Supply of Labour. - The majority of labourers in *the* Federated Malay States are Chinese and Southern Indians. The latter are chiefly engaged in agricultural work and on public services; the former in agriculture and in every other form of manual labour. Skilled work is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese. The workmen of all races in the peninsula, excepting about 3,560 Javanese labourers, who are under contract for a certain term each, are at liberty to leave their employment at any time on giving a month's notice.

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. Relations between employers and labourers were generally satisfactory, but it took some time for labourers to accommodate themselves to the changed conditions which now govern the rubber industry.

Immigration and Repatriation of Indians. - The Immigration of labourers from Southern India is regulated by the Indian Immigration Committee 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 total number of labourers so assisted during 1930 was 39,873.

Owing to the low price of rubber, estates found themselves in many cases with a surplus of labour in 1930 and recruiting in India was stopped from 1st August 1930, after which date, only those labourers who wished to rejoin their families in Malaya were assisted to emigrate ~~from~~ from India. During 1930, 56,063 adults with 15,873 minors and 5,825 infants were repatriated to India. The majority of these repatriates were unemployed labourers for whom work could not be found in Malaya.

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(full report missing)

International Labour Office, New Delhi.

Summary of the Report for August, 1931.

I. Reference to the I.L.O.

In an article reproduced in the Indian press, Mr. ^{a member of the recent Royal Commission on India,} John Cliff, says that beginning with the International Labour Conventions adopted in Washington in 1919, the International Labour Office has exerted a considerable and powerful influence upon labour legislation in India and urges that an Advisory Asiatic Labour Conference should be held immediately under the auspices of the International Labour Office. He also demands that propaganda regarding the International Labour Office should be strengthened in India.

In the course of a speech delivered at the ~~Third~~ quarterly general meeting of the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, held on 15 August 1931, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, the President of the Chamber and the employers' delegate to the fifteenth Labour Conference, made several references to the International Labour Organisation.

(1) He confessed ^{himself} to a sense of disappointment at the experience he had at the International Labour Conference, and expressed doubt if India should any longer usefully continue participating in these Conferences at the expense of an annual contribution of £58,000 besides the cost of sending delegates to the Conference.

(2) Industrial European countries are anxious to see that other countries, particularly the Asiatic ones, which have so far provided good markets for their manufactures, but

which are now trying to develop their own industries, do not benefit by escaping the burden of the social charges which the European industries have to bear. The purpose of the Organisation, as stated by the Treaty of Peace, is to secure common minimum standards of labour throughout the world and so remove the unfair competition which the advanced countries have to face ~~in~~ international trade. The overseas countries are often compelled to accept burdens based on European standards. The economic effects of this being far-reaching, it supplies the necessary atmosphere for suspicion and secret moves and counter-moves. Indian employers cannot any longer allow themselves to be dragged on by the Geneva Organisation.

(3) It is possible that we may be able to derive equal benefit from the work of the International Labour Conference if we have a full-time "observer" who should keep himself in close contact with the questions coming up for discussion at Geneva and report the same to us so that India may introduce them with suitable modifications and alterations. "The point I want to make" he said "is that we should have the freedom to consolidate our economic position in our own way without being in any way fettered by the so-called International Labour Conventions, primarily designed to meet the requirements of European countries."

(4) It may be mentioned that Mr. Forbes Watson, the head of the British employers' delegation, is convinced that the solution of English labour problems is not to be found at Geneva, but that they can be best solved in England itself. It is also noteworthy that two big

countries of the world, the United States of America and Russia, have all along remained outside the Organisation.

In the course of an address at the First Session of the Southern India Port Trust and Dock Workers' Conference, held at Madras on 1 August 1931, Mr. Mudaliar, Chairman of the Reception Committee, stated that in spite of Indian representation at Geneva Conferences since 1919, the conditions of the working classes in India have not improved much. If the Conventions adopted by the Geneva Conferences were brought into force in India in every department of labour, the working classes would be much better off than they were at present.

The report of the Royal Commission of Labour in India which was published early in July 1930, contains numerous references to the International Labour Organisation, regarding (1) the influence exerted by it in stimulating interest in labour matters, (2) in enacting new legislative measures and (3) in undertaking investigation on labour questions. The Commission also proposed the Indian Industrial Council on the model of the International Labour Organisation. (an analysis of the Report has already been sent to the Director).

(pages 1-7)

2. National labour legislation.

(i) ^{the} Rangoon Labour Housing Bill, 1931.

A Bill for the provision of housing accommodation for labour in Rangoon will shortly be introduced in the Burma Legislative Council. The question of housing

immigrant labourers has long been under consideration and it was examined by a Committee appointed by the local Government in 1926. It has become necessary to provide a shelter or some kind of rest-house for immigrants passing through Rangoon and also to provide barracks primarily for temporary labourers in Rangoon. One of the objects of the Bill is to raise funds for the scheme. It is proposed to utilise the Development Board for the execution of the scheme and hoped that the rest-house and barracks when built will be managed by a Social Service Committee. This Committee would be responsible for the payment of the rent of the sites and for running the buildings as far as possible on a self-supporting basis.

(pp.8-13).

Amendment of Bengal Factories Rule, 1928 (re latrines)

In exercise of the power conferred by section 37 of the Indian Factories Act of 1911, the Government of Bengal had made some amendments in the Bengal Factories Rules regarding sanitation and number of latrines in factories, and also as to separate arrangement of latrines for men and women (p.14).

3. Conditions of labour.

Factory administration in India, 1929. According to the latest statistics the total number of factories rose from 7,863 employing 1,520,315 workers in 1928 to 8,129 employing 1,533,392 workers^{in 1929} (A resumé of this report has been made for the International Labour Review) (pp.15-19)

Factory administration in Bombay, 1930. The total number of factories in Bombay rose from 1,751 to 1,785 in 1929 and the number of workers from 366,029 to 370,704. During the same period the number of women workers increased from 74,924 to 77,965, while the number of children decreased from 4,527 to 4,389. There is a tendency among the employers to replace children by women. Of the 792 perennial factories and 758 seasonal factories, only 14 of the former and 5 of the latter remained uninspected. There were 6,454 accidents as against 6,282 in the year before. 33 mills in Bombay employing 75,000 persons combined to secure a "visual

education service", the object of which was to stimulate the interest of the workers in eliminating factors that adversely affect their health, efficiency or earning capacity or interfere with their individual progress towards a higher standard of living. (pp.20-24)

Factory administration in Madras. There were in Madras 1,661 factories of which 1527 were working; they employed 142,549 workers. There was a slight decrease due to the industrial depression. The number of women workers amounted to 34,982 and of children 6,375. Of the factories working all but 38 were inspected during the year. The number of accidents amounted to 2,164

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Factory administration in C.P. and Berar, 1930. The number of factories in the Central Provinces and Berar rose from 893 to 903, but the number of workers declined from 69,191 to 68,856. The total number of accidents amounted to 303 as against 331 in the year before. (p.28)

Factory administration in Bengal, 1930. The number of registered factories in Bengal stood at 1,555 in 1930 as against 1,482 in 1929, and the number of workers at 563,877 as compared with 589,860. There was a decrease of 25,983 resulting from bad trade and the general depressed state of industry throughout all the world. The number of women declined from 77,966 in 1929 to 73,951 in 1930. During the same period the number of children declined from 23,036 to 16,630. The decline

in the number of children is due to the general tendency among jute mill owners to eliminate children. All factories, except 155 situated in outlying districts, were inspected.

The total number of accidents during the year amounted to 4,182 showing a decrease of 358 accidents as compared with the year before. (pp.29-34)

Factory administration in the Punjab, 1930. The number of factories rose from 613 to 640, but the number of workers decreased from 49,875 to 49,549. All the factories except 42 were inspected during the year. The number of accidents rose from 990 in 1929 to 1298 in 1930. The year under review shows the higher accident percentage for the last ten years, being 2.62 as against 1.99. An analysis of the accidents shows that the increase is chiefly in the minor accidents which number 1,235 as compared with 929 in the year before. (pp.35-38)

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in C.P. and Berar, 1930. The total number of accidents for which compensation was paid during the year was 234, of which 22 resulted in death, 26 in permanent disablement and 186 in temporary disablement, as compared with 17, 40 and 179 respectively in 1929. The compensation paid was Rs.8,965 for fatal accidents, Rs.5,830 for permanent disablement and Rs.2,400 for temporary disablement. (p.39).

Standing Board of Conciliation for Mysore. As a result of industrial disputes in Bangalore in July 1931 which culminated in shooting, the Government of Mysore appointed on 1 August 1931 a Standing Board of Conciliation for the settlement of industrial disputes in the State. This appointment may be regarded as a result of the recommendation of the Whitley Commission. The Board will consist of the Labour Commissioner in Mysore as ex officio Chairman, and two members from each group, namely, employers, employees and the public. The Board will recognise all disputes in the State on the representation by the employer or employees or on reference by Government. The purpose of the Board will be to reconcile the dispute. If not, it will send a full report on the facts of the case and its own findings to the Government. (pp.40.41)

Quarterly strike statistics: period ending 30 June 1931.

During the period under review there were 58 disputes involving 82,941 workers and entailing a loss of 623,639 working days. The largest number of disputes took place in Bengal where 20 disputes involved 45,679 workers and entailed the loss of 250,486 working days. Of all the disputes 21 were due to questions of wages, 13 each to those of personnel and those of leave and hours. Only 12 disputes were fully or partially successful. (p.42)

Retrenchment on railways. Threat of the All India Railwaymen's Federation to boycott the Court of Enquiry. As a consequence of the dispute between the All India Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Board on the question of retrenchment and other subjects, the Government of India appointed a Court of Enquiry on 15 August 1931, and defined the terms of reference. The All India Railwaymen's Federation, which had first asked for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation, was not satisfied with the terms of reference, and demanded an additional term. The Government replied repeating its inability to refer the question of retrenchment to a Board of Conciliation, because the Government of India believed that there was little chance of an agreement on this question. The Council of Action of the All India Trades Union Federation was not pleased with the Government reply, and, at a meeting held on 19 August, recommended the General Council to consider the advisability of appearing before the Court of Enquiry for the ~~exact~~ purpose of seeking an authoritative interpretation of the scope of the terms of reference from the Court itself. Unless the interpretation was satisfactory to the railwaymen, the Council of Action would advise the immediate withdrawal from the Court and the early adoption of all proper steps to implement the resolution of the special Convention for a general strike. The General Council of the All India Railway Confederation met on 29 and 30 August, and endorsed the decision of the Council of Action. (Pp. 43-46).

All India Postal and R.M.S. Union's memorandum regarding retrenchment. The General Secretary of the

All India Postal and R.M.S. Union submitted a comprehensive memorandum embodying the views of the members of the Union on the question of retrenchment which was under discussion by one of the retrenchment committees of the Government. This memorandum showed the top-heaviness of the Administration, asked for the abolition of some superfluous posts, showed how economy could be made under several headings and revenue could be increased by such methods as the sale of old stamps, as is done in other countries. (Pp. 47-48).

4. Industrial organisation.

Thirty-eighth annual meeting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India. At the General Meeting of the Association held at Bangalore on 17 August 1931, the Chairman showed the difficulties of the industry in face of a declining market, and asked the Association to consider some of the recommendations of the Whitley Report, namely: (1) the non-recovery of all travelling expenses incurred in getting labour to estates; (2) the non-recovery of all advances except from the first payment of wages; (3) the proposed weekly payment of wages; (4) the extension of the Workmen's Compensation Act to estate labour; and (5) the extension of health and welfare work. Several resolutions were passed demanding increase of the import duty on tea from 20 to 30 per cent. ad valorem, and enactment by local governments of the Adulteration of Food Act, including tea and coffee, etc. (Pp. 49-52).

U.P. Trades Union Conference, 1931. The 1931 Session of the United Provinces Trades Union Conference was held at

Lucknow on 15 and 16 August 1931, under the chairmanship of Pt. H. Shastri. The chairman of the Reception Committee stated that trades unionism was a philosophy of class struggle based on positive action of the workers, leading finally to conquest of power by the proletariat. Reformism checked the progress of the working class movement, and so did ultra-Leftism, because it overlooked the immediate rôle of the workers, and ignored stern realities. The chairman, in his address, dwelt on the grievances of the workers, and pointed out the necessity of introducing a minimum wage Convention in India. He criticised the Whitley Commission report because it failed to recommend remedies for unemployment, and also failed to mention the fact that the great obstacle to the growth of trade unionism was dismissal by the employers of all the workers who became members of any trade union organisation. He pointed out three distinct schools of labour thought in India: (1) the school which recognised the existence of capitalism as a settled fact, and believed in compromise between capitalists and workers on an equitable basis - e.g. Mr. Gandhi and the Ahmedabad Labour Group, as well as Messrs. Joshi and Shiva Rao; (2) the school that had no faith in compromise or co-operation, and advocated a policy of class struggle, but would not ignore realities (it believed that a proletarian revolution was impossible unless the working classes were thoroughly organised and possessed strength - e.g. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Messrs. Bose and Ruikar); and (3) the school led by Messrs. Deshpande and Ranadive, who desired to fight on without any regard to realities. They wanted to make united efforts to create a strong labour class organisation.

Several resolutions were passed.

The Conference repudiated the Round Table Conference, and declared that the struggle for independence must be carried on on the fundamental principles of class war, and on the following terms: (1) transfer of all power to the proletariat; (2) abolition of the Indian States and parasitic landlords; (3) freedom of the peasantry from exploitation and exaction; (4) nationalisation of land, mineral resources and banks; (5) repudiation of debts contracted by an irresponsible government; (6) ^{an} irreducible standard of living for workers; and (7) control of the economic life of the country by the workers and peasants. (Pp. 53-55).

5. Intellectual workers.

Retrenchment in superior cadres of railways. During the recent conversation between the Railway Board and the All India Railwaymen's Federation, it has been maintained by the latter that retrenchment has been carried out mostly at the expense of the low-paid subordinate staff. It is now known that the Government of India have ordered the abolition of 78 posts of a total cadre of 1127 on the five State railways. On the company-managed lines, 52 posts out of a total cadre of about 850 have been held in abeyance. (Pp. 56 and 57).

6. Economic conditions.

Reduction of jute acreage in Bengal. The area under jute in 1931 has been estimated to be less than

that of last year by about 46 per cent. (P. 58).

The State Aid to Industries Bill (Bengal) passed.

The Bengal State Aid to Industries Bill has been passed into law. The State aid will be given mainly for the purpose of encouraging small industries, and it is proposed to set up a Board of Industries composed entirely of non-officials, with ~~the~~ business and banking experience, to advise the Government on application for such aid. (P. 58).

Proposed State Aid to Industries Bill (Punjab).

A Bill to regulate the giving of State aid to industries in the Punjab is under consideration. The forms of State aid to be given include the grant of a loan, taking of shares or debentures by the State, grant of land, raw material, firewood, water, etc., or payment of subsidy for research or purchase of machinery. No State aid is to be given to any joint stock company unless the company is registered in India with rupee capital (p. 59). ^{Prevention of Usury!—} A notice has been given for moving a resolution in the Legislative Assembly recommending to the Governor General in Council that immediate legislation be introduced to control money lending and unrestricted usurious rates of interest in India.

A similar Bill was passed in the Punjab, but the consent of the Governor is still being withheld. (Pp. 59-60).

7. Social conditions.

Criminal tribes in the Punjab, 1930. According to the latest statistics, there were at the end of 1930 18,456 persons of criminal tribes. The operation of the Criminal Tribes Act has a salutary effect on crime. Education forms a most potent factor in the reclamation of the criminal tribes. All the settlements are equipped with primary schools for boys and girls. Even the young people working during the day attend night schools. Co-operative institutions have been established in most of the settlements. (Pp. 61 and 62).

8. Public health.

Reorganisation of medical service in State railways.

A recent resolution by the Government of India announces the formation of a medical department on the State managed railways. The question has been under consideration since 1925. Most of the company railways recently transferred to the control of the State their medical departments. The medical department forms a branch of the superior revenue establishment of the State railways, and rules have been framed regulating recruitment in India. (Pp. 63 and 64).

Prevention of malaria: League Commission's recommendation. The Malaria Commission of the League of Nations spent four months in India in 1929. The report of the Commission shows that its investigations related mainly to (1) the urban malaria problem; (2) the Punjab malaria problem; (3) the Bengal Delta malaria problem; and (4) the hill malaria problem. The report discusses remedial measures (1) for the prevention of malaria - that is the treatment of malaria cases - and (2) the anti-mosquito measures. Quinine is the most effective medicine against malaria, but it is rather costly for poor people. The oiling of mosquito-breeding places is the common method of destroying the mosquito larvae, but spraying with Paris green is a cheaper method. (Pp. 64-66).

9. Education.

Compulsory adult and industrial education in Delhi Province, 1929-30. In Delhi City, five out of nine

administrative areas have introduced compulsory education. The District Board has also introduced compulsory education in six villages. Instruction is also given in manual training once every week to the children of the middle classes. (Pp. 67-68).

10. Maritime Affairs.

Southern India Port Trust and Dock Workers' Conference, Madras. The first Session of the Southern India Port Trust and Dock Workers' Conference was held at Madras on 1 August 1931, under the chairmanship of Mr. T. V. K. Mudelier. The chairman of the Reception Committee, in his address, welcomed the Whitley Commission Report, and also the resolution on fundamental rights passed by the Karachi Congress.

Mr. Shiva Rao, the President of the Congress, emphasised the need for better organisation among dock workers, and pointed out the difficulty of getting recognition by the Port Trust. Of the several resolutions passed by the Conference, the most important were on the formation of the Southern India Federation of Port Trust and Harbour Workers, disappointment at the utterly unsatisfactory nature of the reply of the Government to the deputation which waited on the member in charge to press for the ^{adequate} ~~educated~~ representation of labour on the Port Trust, and the necessity of giving effect by the Government of India to the recommendations of the Whitley Commission. (Pp. 69-71).

Bombay seamen demand enquiry into grievances. A general meeting of the National Seamen's Union of India (Bombay) was held on 14 August 1931, with Mr. N.M. Joshi, President of the Union, in the chair. Mr. Joshi advised the Union to move the Government to give immediate effect to the Whitley Commission's recommendations regarding the wider application of the Workmen's Compensation Act to seamen, stoppage of fresh recruitment, abolition of licensed brokers for the supply of seamen, and a fresh enquiry into the working conditions of seamen on board, their wages, hours of work, etc. (P. 71).

Bengal inland steamer employees' grievances:
Mariners' Union demands. The inland steamer employees of Bengal held a special meeting at Kidderpore on 30 August 1931, and passed resolutions on several matters, expressing deep regret at the failure on the part of the representatives of the steamer companies to remove the grievances of the men regarding the increment of wages and reinstatement of suspended and dismissed employees, the accommodation for the crews, and better rules for pension and gratuity. (Pp. 72-74).

Demands of the Indian Quartermasters' Union, Calcutta. The annual general meeting of the above Union was held at Kidderpore on 29 July 1931, with Mr. Daud in the chair. A resolution was passed demanding the enforcement at an early date of the recommendations of the Seamen's Recruitment Committee, the introduction of unemployment insurance for seamen, and the limiting of hours of work to eight a day or 44 a week for Indian quartermasters on board ships, as well as when in harbour, etc. (P. 75).

11. Migration.

Indians in South Africa, 1930. During the year under review, the two important questions which agitated South African Indians were firstly the threatened passing by the South African Parliament of the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure (Amendment) Bill, and secondly the question of domicile. The Bill was introduced on the recommendation of the Select Committee appointed in February 1930 affecting some vital rights of the Indians in the Transvaal. It caused the greatest uneasiness amongst the Transvaal Indians. The Bill has remained pending since May 1930.

The question of domicile arose in connection with the Immigration and Indian Relief (Further Provision) Act, 1927. The Act provided that Indians domiciled in South Africa could return within three years to the country without losing the right of domicile. Under that regulation many Indians left for India soon after the passage of the Act, but when they returned within the prescribed period they found it difficult to get back the right of domicile. It was interpreted by the Department of the Interior that those who had lost their domicile under the provisions of the 1913 Act could not come under the regulation of the 1927 Act. (Pp. 76-81).

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Co-operation.

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Co-operation in the Central Provinces & Berar, 1929-30*

Societies and Membership. - The most prominent feature of the year 1929-30 is the registration of 344 new societies. This number is the largest since 1920-21. The standard of strictness and caution in registering new societies was not relaxed. 161 societies were cancelled during the year and 122 reorganized. The number of primary credit societies at the end of the year stood at 4,020, as against 3,851 in the preceding year, and the number of all types rose from 3,954 to 4,137. Making allowance for the fact that the figures of previous years were inflated by the inclusion of 8,446 past members, there was a net increase of 4,600 members of societies during the year, the total membership standing at 128,800.

Recoveries. - The total recoveries from co-operative societies by the Central Banks amounted to Rs. 18,34,347 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 1,787,765 in Berar, as against Rs. 1,701,090 and Rs. 2,398,978 in the previous year. The total demand for the year was fixed at Rs. 19,467,070. Recoveries thus amounted to only 34.6 per cent of the demand. Adverse agricultural conditions in the northern districts and low prices were, no doubt, partially responsible for the poor recoveries, but the facts and figures cited by the Registrar conclusively prove that the will to recover the dues from the societies is not so strong and effective in some areas as in others.

Outstanding Loans. - The loans outstanding against members of co-operative societies at the close of the year under review amounted

to Rs. 6,886,094 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 9,862,678 in Berar, as against Rs. 6,463,895 and Rs. 9,222,069 respectively, in the previous year. The percentage overdues to the total dues increased from 50.2 to 53 in the Central Provinces and from 40 to 54.1 in Berar. Excluding dues from societies under award and under liquidation, the overdues amount to 35.2 per cent in the Central Provinces and 37.6 per cent in Berar, as against 28.1 per cent and 19.7 per cent of the last year.

Central Banks. " The Central Banks continued to enjoy the confidence of the depositing public as is evident from a further increase in the deposits from individuals from Rs. 13.5 millions to Rs. 14.4 million in spite of the reduction in the rates of interest made by some of the banks. It is unfortunate that full advantage of the deposits is not or cannot be taken by some of the banks in extending the benefits of co-operative finance to agriculturists for short-term agricultural purposes. The Government agrees with the Registrar that the Central Bank should not rest on their oars after merely collecting deposits, but should utilize them in financing agriculture at reasonably lower rates of interest.

The total working capital of banks increased from Rs. 22,636,280 to Rs. 24,055,947. Share capital fell from Rs. 1,988,333 to 1,968,632 for the whole province. Doubtful debts have decreased in the Central Provinces by Rs. 21,453, but have increased in Berar by Rs. 192,731, while bad debts have increased in Central Provinces by Rs. 50,763 and in Berar by Rs. 290,682. There is an increase of Rs. 512,723 in the total bad and doubtful debts. This is partly due to the fact that, while central banks are exercising clemency on the ground of economic depression, the other creditors of many members are bringing pressure to bear on them and getting hold of all their available assets.

Cash advances made by the Central Banks to the primary co-operative societies amounted to Rs.1,851,978 in Central Provinces and Rs. 1,839,227 in Berar, as against Rs. 1,522,958 and Rs. 1,884,237 respectively, of the preceding year. The increase in the Central Provinces is due to a revival of demand as a result of reorganization and registration of an increased number of societies.

(Progress of Co-operation in Central Provinces and Berar during 1928-29 is reviewed at pages 45-46 of the September 1930 report of this Office).

The Central Banking Enquiry Committee's
Recommendations re. Co-operation.

For a summary of the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee's recommendations regarding the development and regulation of co-operative primary societies see pages 45-49 of this (September 1931) report.

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References to the I. L. O.

The Pioneer and the Hindustan Times of 4-9-31 and the Hindu of 5-9-31 reproduce in full an article contributed by Mr. John Clifff, Member, Royal Commission on Labour in India, under the caption "The Workers of India: How the I.L.O. Might Help the East" published originally in the August 1931 issue of Headway (Vol. XLII, No. 8). (A short summary of the article was given at page 1 of the August 1931 report of this Office). Copies of the article were supplied to the more important of the Indian newspapers by this Office.

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The Pioneer and the Times of India of 7-9-31 and all papers published a short communique under the caption "Mission from the International Labour Office to China" dealing with the assistance given by the I.L.O. at the request of the Chinese Government to organise a factory inspection service in China. The communique was supplied by this Office to the Associated Press of India on 3-9-31.

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On 10-9-31 Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh asked the following questions in the Legislative Assembly regarding the protest made by the Indian Employers' delegation re. the nomination of Mr. Tarlton to ^{the} 15th session of the I. L. Conference.

(a) Will Government kindly explain the circumstances under which Messrs. Walchand Hirachand, Ghosh, and Bagla, the Indian Employers' delegates to the International Labour Conference at Geneva, walked out of the Conference Hall in protest?

(b) Who is Mr. Tarlton; to what nationality does he belong;

who nominated him to represent India; and what are his antecedents and qualifications in this respect?

(c) Is it not a fact that the organisations which nominated Mr. Tarlton have a membership, 88 per cent. of which is incorporated in, controlled from, or belongs to Great Britain?

In reply Mr. J.A.Shillidy, Secretary, Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India, said:

(a) The gentlemen named are reported to have walked out of the Conference Hall as a protest against the action of the International Labour Conference in accepting the credentials of Mr. E.S.Tarlton as Adviser to the Indian employers' delegate.

(b) At the time of his nomination Mr. Tarlton was the Chairman of the Indian Mining Association. He is a British subject and was nominated by the Government of India in conformity with the provisions of Article 389 of the Treaty of Versailles. The nomination was upheld by the Credentials Committee and the Conference.

(c) Exact information is not available, but the answer to the question, as I understand it, is almost certainly in the negative.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: What is the strength of the organization which nominated Mr. Tarlton?

Mr. J.A.Shillidy: I did not catch the question.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: With regard to (c), I should like to know how many Indians are on the organization which nominated Mr. Tarlton.

Mr. J.A.Shillidy: I cannot say quite how many Indians there are. I have not got the exact information; but the answer to the question is almost certainly in the negative.

Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar: Did the Honourable Member try to get the exact information?

Mr. J.A.Shillidy: No; I am afraid we cannot get the information.

The Text of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's questions with Mr. Shillidy's answers is published in the Times of India of 11-9-31, and the Hindustan Times of 12-9-31, and also in ^{the} Legislative Assembly Debates dated 10-9-31 Vol.V NO.4. page 166.

New India of 10-9-31 (Vol.V, New Series, No.24) publishes at page 4 a short article under the caption "India and the International Labour Conference". The article criticises the views expressed by Mr. Walchand Hirachand, the Indian Employers' delegate to the 15th I.L.Conference, regarding India's connection with the League and the I.L.O. at a recent meeting of the Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay. He is reported to have said at this meeting; "It did not serve the interests of the Indian employers to be connected with the Labour Conference". Mr. Walchand Hirachand is also reported to have said that "Indian labour leaders, by going to Geneva, got exaggerated notions of what Labour achieved and could achieve in other countries and wanted to press for legislation of an advanced type in this country".

The article, after criticising Mr. Walchand Hirachand's views as those of an obscurantist, states that Sir Atul Chatterjee has a better claim, in virtue of his long association with the I.L.O., to give a just appreciation of what India has gained and may gain by her association with Geneva. The article then quotes several extracts from an interview recently given by Sir Atul Chatterjee to the Geneva correspondent of the "Indian Nation". In the course of the interview Sir Atul Chatterjee is reported to have said that as a result of participation in the Conference, "instead of being, in matters of Social Reform, confined in a backwater, India has mingled with the main stream of thought and action in these matters. Though without doubt the industrial legislation, which has been passed in India during the last ten years, has been profoundly influenced by the work of the International Labour Organization - that is the value of India's adhesion to it - it cannot be asserted that Geneva has, in any way, dictated to India; for every thing that had been considered and accepted at Geneva had to be placed before both Houses of the Legislature in India, where the Government of India did not possess a majority with which it could carry proposals not acceptable to the opinion represented in those

Houses". As regards the League, Sir Atul stated: "India has risen greatly in the esteem of the world as the result of the able discharge of their duties by the representatives of India at these Conferences".

The Servant of India of 3-9-31 (Vol. XLV No.35) publishes a short editorial note at page 418 on Mr. Walchand Hirachand's speech under the heading "Mr. Walchand's ill-considered Criticism". The note reproduces the following editorial comments on the speech published in the Leader, Allahabad.

"Mr. Walchand Hirachand is perfectly entitled to hold his own opinions and to give expression to them, but he is very much mistaken if he thinks that public opinion in India, including the section of Indians whom he was deputed to represent at Geneva, will endorse these views of his. Indeed, it is for the first time that we have heard a prominent Indian merchant expressing such views about Geneva. The International Labour Organization has already, within the short period of its existence done much to improve the lot of the working classes, and has for that reason incurred the displeasure of those who, deriving their inspiration from Moscow, like to fish in troubled waters and find in discontented labour a great field for pursuing their activities. Let Mr. Walchand know that if India and other countries should decide to break off connection with Geneva and if the institution should languish for want of support, nowhere will it cause greater satisfaction than at Moscow ---- Frankly, we regard Mr. Walchand's criticism of Geneva as very ill-considered".

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The Hindu of 16-9-31 publishes a letter dated 28-8-31 from its Geneva correspondent in the course of which reference is made to the attention that has been drawn by the I.L.O. to the importance of the Ten-Year Plan of China in the 17-8-31 issue (Vol. XXXIX No.7) of Industrial and Labour Information. The letter also refers to a memorandum presented by the Director of the I.L. Office to the Committee of Credits of the European Commission of the League dealing with a proposal for remedying the existing unemployment by the institution of public works.

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The Hindu of 12-9-31 and the Hindustan Times of 14-9-31 publish an article prepared in this Office under the caption "Civil Servants Salaries: Substantial Cuts in Other Countries". Some of the material for the article is taken from the notes on Civil Servants' Salaries in Poland and Japan published in the issue of Industrial and Labour Information dated 3-8-31 (Vol. XXXIX No.5).

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Dr. P. Subbaroyan, M.L.C., Ex-Minister of the Madras Government, made an appreciative reference to the I.L.⁰ in the course of the presidential address delivered by him at the Pondicherry Labour Conference on 6-9-31. He stated that labour problems were growing more and more important every day and that the present tendency was to deal with these problems from an international point of view rather than from a purely national one. He cited the instance of the various Conventions and Recommendations passed by the I.L. Conference as [^]proof of the recognition of the increasing importance of labour problems in all progressive countries. A summary of Dr. Subbaroyan's speech is published in the Hindu of 7-9-31.

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A reference to the Washington Hours of Work Convention was made in the Council of State on 15-9-31 when the Hon'ble Mr. Jagdish Chandra Banerjee asked for information regarding the hours of work for railway servants fixed by the I.L. Conference and the observance of the Convention in India. The full text of the questions and the reply thereto is ^{reproduced} published at pages 14 of this report ⁱⁿ under

the section dealing with Conditions of Labour.

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At page 83 of the Report of the Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 1930-31^{is} published the text of the communication sent to the Government of India by the Association giving the names of ~~the personnel of~~^{the} Association's nominees for the Indian Employers' Delegation to the 15th session of the I.L.Conference.

At ²pages 11-12 the Report of the Committee of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce for the year 1930-31 contains a reference to the Chamber's approval of the personnel of the Indian Employers' Delegation to the 15th I.L.Conference recommended by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

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His Excellency the Viceroy in his Address to a joint session of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly at Simla on 14-⁹20-31 made the following reference to the work of Sir Atul Chatterjee in connection with International Labour Conferences :- " I should like to acknowledge the invaluable services rendered on behalf of India at the International Labour Conferences by Sir Atul Chatterjee who has recently relinquished charge of his duties as High Commissioner for India. Sir Atul was associated with the International Labour Organisation from its inception in 1919. Out of the 15 sessions of the Conference held so far, Sir Atul has attended no less than 11, and

from 1926 he has been in addition the permanent representative of the Government of India on the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation. His election as President of the International Labour Conference in 1927 was a signal honour to India".

(Extracted from Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol.V. No.6, 14-10-1931).

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The excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for August 1931 publish the views of the Chamber on the I.L.O. Questionnaire on the Age of Admission of Children to Employment in Non-Industrial Occupations. The Committee is of opinion that legislation on the subject is inopportune in India at present in view of the very elementary state of primary education in India and the present economic position ^{of} the country.

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National Labour Legislation.

The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1931.

The following is the full text of the Indian Mines (Amendment) Bill (L. A. Bill No. 37 of 1931) with the statement of objects and reasons which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 7-9-31. The Bill was passed by the Assembly on 16-9-31:

L. A. Bill No. 37 of 1931.

A Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, for a certain purpose.

of
23. Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, for the purpose hereinafter appearing; It is ^{hereby} enacted as follows:-

1. This Act may be called the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act,

Short title 1931.

2. In section 3 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, after clause (c), Amendment of section 3, Act IV of 1923. the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(cc) 'District Magistrate' means, in a Presidency-town, the person appointed by the Local Government to perform the duties of a District Magistrate under this Act in that town".

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

The Indian Mines Act, 1923 (IV of 1923), confers certain powers and duties on District Magistrates. In addition, powers are conferred upon District Magistrates by the Regulations and Rules issued under the Act. There is, however, no person who can exercise within the limits of the Presidency-towns the powers conferred upon District Magistrates under the Indian Mines Act, 1923. The Bill proposes to remove this defect.

(The Gazette of India, 12-9-31. No. 37. Part V, page 102).

Government and the Whitley Report: Probable Lines of Action.

Considerable interest is being evinced in Indian labour circles as to what action the Government of India and the Provincial Governments are proposing to take on the recommendations contained in the Whitley Report. The recommendations total up to 357. The special representative of the Statesman at Simla, writing on the subject under date 1-9-1931, says that serious endeavours are being made by the Government of India to evolve a scheme to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour Conditions in India.

The following, according to the Statesman's representative, are the main features of the probable lines of action contemplated by the Central Government:-

The Government of India contemplates the issue to local Governments, by the middle of September, of a lengthy circular letter explaining its attitude to the report and the measures it proposes should be taken for the earliest and most favourable possible treatment of the questions which the report raises. It is suggested that the recommendations should be provisionally grouped into six ^{groups} ~~clauses~~, namely:-

Grouping of Recommendations.-(1) Recommendations involving central legislation, under which head fall the Factory Acts, for example.

(2) Recommendations necessitating administrative action by the Government of India; for example, the proposal that there should be an annual Government note on the working of the Trade Unions Act, recommendations affecting the issue of licences to brokers under the Merchant Shipping Act, the recommendation that no legislation should be passed to make breach of contract a penal offence, and the appointment of a Labour Officer to watch the labour conditions of industrial employees, under direct control of the Government of India.

(3) Recommendations involving provincial legislation, e.g., concerning minimum wages on the Assam plantations.

(4) Recommendations requiring administrative action by the provincial Governments.

(5) Proposals for action by public bodies, such as municipalities, e.g., compulsory education in areas where there is a large concentration of industrial employees.

(6) Proposals requiring action by employers and workers and their organization, e.g., the training of promising workers to enable them to assume charge of trade union affairs.

The proposal for this grouping of the recommendations is likely to be incorporated in the Government of India's letter to the local Governments, and ²it is obvious that there must be some consultation between the Central and Provincial Governments, concerning many of the measures suggested for carrying out the recommendations of the report, even when the executive responsibility ^{for these measures} will rest either with the Central Government alone or with only one or another of the Provincial Governments.

Special Subjects.- Following the Government of India's first letter, a series of letters will be addressed to the local Governments, each dealing with a specific subject of the Whitley Report's proposals and giving the Government of India's opinion thereon. For example, one letter will be concerned with unemployment, and another with suggestions for the amendment of the Indian Factories Act, which, though it is a Central Subject, cannot be dealt with adequately or equitably without consultation with the various local Governments.

Other matters which will probably be brought up for immediate consideration in the same way are legislation for the oilfields, wages and tenancies in the coalfields, machinery for fixing minimum wages, legislation relating to the indebtedness of industrial workers and to maternity benefits, sickness insurance and the recognition of trade unions. It is obvious, in fact, that with the Whitley Report before it the Government wishes to spare no effort to avoid or mitigate in India the hardships and iniquities that have accompanied ~~to~~ industrial progress in other countries, and that India, recognized by the League of Nations as one of the principal industrial countries of the world, shall benefit to the fullest measure possible from the lessons of other countries' experience.

(The Statesman, 2-9-1931).

Conditions of Labour

Bill to Regulate Conditions of Labour in Beedi Factories, Madras

Reference was made at pages 23-24 of the April 1930 Report of this Office to a Conference held at Madras in April 1930 under the auspices of the Youth League, Madras, to consider the problem of Child Labour in Beedi (country cigarettes) factories in ^{the} Madras Presidency. An enquiry ^{subsequently} undertaken by a committee consisting of Mr. V. T. Arasu, M.L.C., the convener of the Conference, and three other members on the conditions of work of children in that industry revealed conditions of work which were appalling in the extreme. The following extract from a communication dated 26-9-1930 from Mr. Arasu to this Office supplies figures regarding the number of boys engaged in the trade in that Presidency.

"There are 14000 children employed in that (beedi) industry alone in the Madras city. The term children is here used in the sense that they are below sixteen years of age. Of this 14000, 6000 are of school going age, i.e. below twelve years of age. This industry is not restricted to Madras city alone. The other important places in this presidency where this industry is localised are: Vellore, Trichinopoly, Palghat, Coimbatore etc. I have had the opportunity of visiting the above named centres. The conditions are just the same as in Madras, and the number of children employed in those centres may be approximately stated as follows:

Name of place	No. of children	No. of children of school going age.	Total No. of workers
Vellore	8000	4000	20000
Trichinopoly	2000	1000	6000
Palghat	2500	1000	5000
Coimbatore	4000	1500	10000

Mr. V.T.Arasu has recently given notice of a bill to be introduced in the Madras Legislative Council to regulate the working of, ^{and} labour conditions in, beedi factories in the Madras Presidency. The

as explained by the author

following is the text of the statement of objects and reasons for introducing the bill:

"Beedi making was, until some years back, a small scale industry mostly resorted to by the villagers as a subsidiary occupation. But within the last few years, the demand for beedies, both within this province as well as from places like South Africa, Ceylon and the Federated Malay States, has grown so enormously that it has ceased to be a cottage industry. It has now come to be run on a large scale, and is at present localised in the city of Madras and other mofussil centres like Vellore, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. In each of these centres there are tens of thousands of labourers employed in beedi factories. The number of labourers employed in any one of these factories ranges from about 10 to 200. In one particular factory in the town of Vellore, there are as many as 700 employed under one management and under one roof.

Though the industry is at present being run on large scale, and though it employs such large numbers of labourers, no control is exercised over them by either the Government or the respective local bodies. The Act XII of 1911, which regulates the working of all factories where more than 20 persons are employed, does not apply to beedi factories as there is no steam, water, electrical or other mechanical power used in the process of manufacturing beedies.

Thus let alone and allowed to carry on as they like without any restraint or check whatsoever, these beedi factories have become a menace to the health of not only the labourers employed therein, but also of the citizens at large of the respective areas where they are situated. Most of these factories are small airless boxes, often without any windows, where the workers are so crowded thickly on the ground that there is barely room to squeeze between them. Others are dark semi-basements with damp mud floors unsuitable for manufacturing process. Sanitary conveniences and other adequate arrangements for the removal of filth and refuse are generally absent. Regular intervals for meals, and weekly holidays are generally non-existent. The daily hours of work generally range between twelve to sixteen.

Another matter of paramount concern is the question of child labour. Broadly speaking, about fifty per cent of the labourers employed in any one of these factories are children below the age of 16; and quite a large proportion of these are children of school-going age. These children are employed for long hours usually ranging between twelve to fifteen hours a day without adequate interval for meals or weekly rest days, for wages as low as half or one anna a day. Corporal punishments and other disciplinary measures of a reprehensible kind are often resorted to in order to compel these children to work for such long hours and small wages.

For the past three or four years, there has been a consistent and growing agitation in this presidency to bring these beedi factories under some sort of control and regulate their working. Several public bodies have also made definite representations to the Local Government on this matter, and urged on them the necessity of undertaking legislation. The Whitley Commission have also recommended the initiation of an Act to regulate these factories. But the Local Government have not till now done anything in this direction.

It is necessary that legislation in regard to this matter should be undertaken without any delay whatsoever. For, the number of children in these factories is increasing day by day. And there can be no two opinion that something must be done - sooner the better - to save more children from getting into the inhuman clutches of the owners of beedi factories, as also to remove the existing ^{ones} ~~lines~~ from the perdition in which they are at present placed and drive them to school. Hence this Bill.

This Bill seeks to make these beedi factories clean and healthy, regulate their working hours and, prohibit the employment of children under twelve years of age.

(The Hindu, 9-9-31).

Indianisation in Tata Steel Works, Jamshedpur.

Owing to the trade depression, the Management of the Tata Steel Works at Jamshedpur have found it necessary to hasten the Indianisation in the superior services of the works wherever it is possible, and as a result 24 ~~con~~venanted European Officers are being discharged. An Indian, who for the past four years has been Assistant Superintendent of the Duplex Plant, has been appointed Superintendent of the Open Hearth Plant, 6 out of the 7 furnaces in the Open Hearth Plant will now be operated entirely by Indians.

((The Times of India, 1-9-31)).

Hours of Work of Railway Servants

The following questions regarding the Hours of Work of Railway servants were put on 15-9-31 in the Council of State by the Honourable Mr. J. C. Banerjee:-

~~The Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee:~~

1. Will Government be pleased to state the number of hours for which a continuous railway servant works?

2. Will Government be pleased to state the number of hours for which an intermittent railway officer works?

3. Will Government be pleased to state the maximum number of hours fixed for the railway workers by the League of Nations at Geneva?

4. Will Government be pleased to state if the Geneva regulations in regard to the conditions of labour on the Railways are being observed?

5. If not, why not?

In reply the Honourable Mr. J. C. B. Drake said:-

1. According to the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, a railway servant, other than one whose employment is essentially intermittent, is subject to certain exceptions, not permitted to be employed for more than 60 hours a week on the average in any month. In actual practice on the North Western and East Indian Railways, to which Railways the Act has been applied, about 30 per cent. of such servants are not employed for more than 48 hours a week, while a further 30 per cent. are not employed for more than 54 hours a week.

2. According to the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, a railway servant whose employment is essentially intermittent is, subject to certain exceptions, not permitted to be employed for more than 84 hours in any week.

3. The Washington (Hours of Work) Convention adopted by the International Labour Conference lays down for British India the principle of a 60-hour week. Its application to Railways is limited to such branches of rail-way work as may be specified by the competent authority.

4. and 5. The provisions of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, in the matter of the grant of weekly rest to railway servants, are being strictly applied on the North Western and Eastern Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Railway Servants' Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, will be applied to other railways as quickly as financial circumstances permit.

Recruitment for Assam Tea Gardens:

Conference to Implement Whitley Recommendations.

His Excellency Sir Laurie Hammond, Governor of Assam, held a conference at Shillong during the last week of September 1930 with the representatives of the Assam tea industry to see whether it was possible for the local Government to take any speedy measures towards the introduction of the recommendations of the Whitley Commission on the subject of recruitment of labour. (For summary of these recommendations see pages 519 - 522 of the Whitley Report).

Assam Government's Policy Outlined.

The Governor in his

opening speech outlined the policy which the Government of Assam proposed to adopt with regard to the Whitley Recommendations. His Excellency said:-

"The Central Government will take the initiative on the recommendations involving Central legislation in connexion with the Labour Commission's report. They will address the local Governments on the recommendations which concern them, including those which are almost entirely provincial in character. They do not, however, desire that the examination by local Governments of those recommendations should be postponed until the receipt of their letters, nor do they contemplate that local Governments should refrain from exercising their powers to give immediate effect to any recommendations of the Labour Commission which concern them.

The main object of the conference is as to see whether it was possible for the Government of Assam to take any measures now towards the introduction of the recommendations of the Royal Commission. The Assam Labour and Emigration Act (Act VI of 1901) has been proved to be defective and the cost of recruitment is obviously disproportionate to the change in the cost of production of tea."

Control Still Necessary. " I think the time has not yet arrived for the removal of all restrictions and that the control on recruitment and the forwarding of labour must remain a regrettable necessity and as a temporary expedient. Is it, however, necessary for us to await the enactment of a new Emigration Act? Must we wait for the abolition of the Assam Labour Board and the appointment of a Protector

of Immigrants and his staff in order to place recruitment on a healthy basis. It should be possible to come to some arrangement by which, in return for the removal of restrictions in recruiting districts, there was a definite arrangement in tea gardens for repatriation. If this could be done and there was adequate propaganda in recruiting districts, the cost of recruitment could be reduced. The Assam Government will be glad to help the industry in this matter in any way they can. Steps in this direction have already been taken by the Central Provinces Government."

Fixation of Wages. - "As regards the fixation of wages, the Royal Commission considered that a careful investigation should be undertaken in the shape of collecting returns and more adequate statistics for which a specialist was required. His Excellency suggested that it would probably be useful to depute an officer to Ceylon to examine the system of working there, accompanied by a representative of the agency houses in Calcutta. This small committee could visit Ceylon in, perhaps, November and December and study the system on the spot and see to what extent it could be adapted for introduction into Assam." ^{the importance} The importance of inviting the co-operation of the industry was recognised as their practical experience should minimise the difficulties. After the collection of returns and their tabulation and analysis, the Government would invite the industry to submit proposals for a wage-fixing machinery."

(The Statesman, 29-9-31).

Hours of Work in Textile Mills in Indian States:

Congress's efforts to establish 10-hour day.

The Working Committee of the Indian National Congress had recently appointed a Textile Mills Exemption Committee to inquire into conditions of labour in Indian textile mills and to advise the Working Committee as to what mills should be recognised by the Congress. By a resolution passed in August 1931, the Congress Working Committee decided to make the recognition of a textile mill by the congress contingent ^{inter alia} on the absence of complaints regarding treatment of textile labourers or any reduction in the wages. The Working Committee of the Congress also

resolved that the Textile Mills Exemption Committee should endeavour, wherever possible and necessary, to prevent, by amicable arrangements, any penalisation or victimisation of labour in the mills which have signed the Congress declaration and help in the bettering of labour conditions in these mills. The withholding of recognition by the Congress means² that the products of unrecognised mills would be placed on boycott^{the} list and as this in turn entails great difficulty in market~~ing~~ goods, textile mills in British India have generally agreed to abide by the terms laid down by the Congress.

The Secretary, the Textile Mills Exemption Committee, Ahmedabad, in a statement issued to the press and published in the Hindu of 25-9-31 says:-

Mills in British India.- "The Exemption Committee had occasion to communicate with the authorities of several mills with reference to the reports appearing in the press of an actual or intended cut in the wages of the operatives in those mills. In this connection letters were addressed to the Model Mills, Nagpur, the Benares Cotton and Silk Mills, the Swadeshi Mills, Indore, the Abhyudaya Mills, Calcutta, and the Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Mills, Pulgaon. The authorities of the Model Mills, Nagpur, have agreed to refrain from making a reduction now. A similar reply has been received from the Cotton and Silk Mills, Benares. The Swadeshi Mills, Indore, have restored the cut. The Abhyudaya Mills have not sent any definite reply.

Mills in Indian States.- The attention of the Committee has also been drawn to the prevalence of excessively long hours of work in textile mills in certain Native States. It has been ascertained that in respect of hours of work, conditions in most of the large States are on a par with those obtaining in British India. It has been discovered, however, with very keen regret, that in some States ~~the~~ textile labour is being compelled to put in unbearably long hours extending in some cases to fourteen per day. It would be a surprise to many to know that such inhuman conditions can still exist, particularly, when the trend of opinion in British India is already in favour of a further reduction from 10 to 9 or 8 hours and a textile mill in Delhi has already adopted a 9-hour day.

Demand for a 10-hour day.- The Exemption Committee has appealed to the mills in question to introduce a ten-hour day from the 1st October 1931. The following mills have been approached in this behalf:- The New Jehangir Vakil Mills, Bhavanagar, the Rajkot State Cotton Mills, Rajkot, the Cambay State Mills, Cambay, the Krishnakumar Mills,

Mahuwa, the Wadwan Camp Mills, Wadwan, the Vinod Mills, Ujjain, the Cotton Ginning, Spinning and Weaving Mills, Ujjain, and the Shri Sahu Chatrapathi Mills, ~~Kol~~ Kolhapur. Of these the first three, ~~nix~~ viz., the Bhavanagar, Rajkot and Cambay Mills, have undertaken to introduce a ten-hours day from the first of October 1931. It is hoped that the other mills also will perceive the enormous wrong that is being done to the women, men and children affected by too long hours, and will in response to the call of humanity, make the required change without any delay. The true interests of the industry dictate ~~the same~~ ^{such a} course".

(The Hindu, 25-9-1931).

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Minimum Wages in Ceylon: Questions re. reduction in Assembly.

At pages 34-36 of the May 1931 report and pages 15-17 of the June 1931 report of this Office, references were made to the efforts made by the Government of Ceylon to lower the minimum wages of estate labourers in Ceylon in view of the serious ~~at~~ economic depression prevailing in the plantation industries in the Island. In reply to a series of questions ^{on this subject} put in the Legislative Assembly on 7-9-31 by Mr. C.S.Ranga Iyer, M.L.A., Deputy Leader of the Opposition, ~~on this subject~~, Sir Fazl-i-Husain made a statement on the situation from which the following facts are extracted:-

The following minimum rates of wages for Indian estate labourers were introduced in Ceylon with effect from the 1st January, 1929:-

			Men. Cents.	Women. Cents.	Children. Cents.
Up-country	-	-	54	43	32
Mid-country	-	-	52	41	31
Low-country	-	-	50	40	30

When these wages were fixed, it was arranged, that good clean unblended rice should also be issued to each Indian labourer at a cost not exceeding Rs.6.40 per bushel at a monthly rate of not less than $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of a bushel for a man, $\frac{6}{8}$ ths of a bushel for a woman and $\frac{5}{8}$ ths of a bushel for a child. Owing to a fall in the market price of rice, the Ceylon Government approached the Government of India in April last with a proposal that the issue price of rice should be fixed at Rs. 4.80 per bushel and that a corresponding reduction should be made in the standard wages by 5, 4 and 3 cents per day for men, women and children respectively. The Government of India were satisfied that the proposal amounted only to a re-adjustment of wages and caused no reduction in the effectual earnings of the labourers. They accordingly gave their consent to it. The Ceylon Government then summoned Estate Wages Boards for the reassessment of wages owing to the fall in the general cost of living. It is understood that the suggestions put forward by these Boards have been considered by the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour, but the Government of India have not yet received any communication on the subject from the Colonial Government. They are in close touch with the situation through their Agent and will do

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all they can to safeguard the interests of the Indian labourer in Ceylon.

In reply to the question whether the Government of India would take steps to stop Indian labourers from proceeding to Ceylon until labour wages and conditions are made satisfactory, Sir Fazl-i-Husain said that recruitment for rubber estates in Ceylon had entirely ceased, while in the case of tea estates fresh recruiting licenses were not issued, unless special reasons are shown, and that the Government of India did not consider that any further steps were needed to restrict emigration to that country.

(The Legislative Assembly Debates ,7-9-31, Vol.V.No.1 pages 27-29).

The Hindu of 8-9-31 makes the following editorial comments on Sir Fazl-i-Husain's statement:-

Sir Fazl-i-Husain's statement in reply to a question in the Assembly regarding the reduction of the wages of Indian labourers in the Ceylon plantations will cause surprise and disappointment among the Indian community in that Island. Sir Fazl-i-Husain refers to the fall in the price of rice as though that were the sole or crucial factor that should govern the fixing of a minimum wage. Had he read the report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon carefully, he would have noticed certain other factors in the situation which none may disregard without doing injustice to the labourer. That report (reviewed at pages 10-16 of the July 1931 report of this Office) for one thing, made it clear that indebtedness among the workers was both widespread and serious. Surely, it cannot be contended, in the light of this fact, that Indian workers in Ceylon enjoy a high standard of living, much less, that their remuneration is so high that a cut would not do serious injustice to them. It may be recalled in this connection that the Indian Agent in the Island has deprecated in his latest report all suggestions calculated to disturb the minimum wage law. By the way, did the Government of India consult the Indian labourers on the point before they formed their opinion?

(The Hindu 8-9-31).

2

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act
in Bihar & Orissa, 1930*

The daily average attendance of persons employed in Factories coming under the purview of the Workmen's Compensation Act in ~~the~~ Bihar & Orissa is reported to have been 158,602 adults and 1,363 minors as compared with 162,529 adults and 2,232 minors in 1929. The decrease is not confined to any particular locality and may therefore be attributed to general depression in trade. ¹⁹³⁰ 170 persons lost their lives as the result of accidents, 132 were permanently disabled and 2,579 (including one minor) suffered from temporary disablement; while in 1929, the corresponding figures were 159,171 and 4,147. There was no case of occupational disease during the year under review. The total sums paid as compensation for the three classes of accidents were Rs. 84,797-14-0, Rs. 44,582-4-9 and Rs. 44,610-12-0 (out of which Rs. 4 were given to the minor) against Rs. 80,963, Rs. 40,957-12-9 and Rs. 44,353-13-0, respectively, in the preceding year. Out of these amounts Rs. 83,896-2-0, Rs. 3,806-14-0 and Rs. 1,220-8-7, respectively, were paid through the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation as compensation for fatal accidents, permanent disablement and temporary disablement. Compensation in the majority of cases of permanent disablement was as usual settled out of court and generally by agreements under section 28. The average amount paid as compensation for a fatal accident was Rs. 498 and for permanent disablement Rs. 337 as compared with Rs. 511 and Rs. 239 in 1929.

Although the Act is becoming more widely known and fuller advantage is being taken of its provisions, there are still many workmen, according to the report, who have very little knowledge of their statutory rights. The report recommends that vernacular abstracts of the Act should be posted at places of employment.

(The Working of the Act in Bihar and Orissa during 1928

is reviewed at pages 25-27 of the August 1929 report of this Office)

*. No. 2116-Com. Government of Bihar and Orissa - Revenue Department •
XI - 17
Statistical returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. •
dated the 11th August 1931 - pp.6.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act,
1923, in Bengal during 1930*

The total average number of workers employed per day in the registered factories in Bengal during 1930 was 667,900, of which 18,810 were minors. According to the returns received from 1,490 employers, of which 1,359 came from factories, 123 from mines, 6 from Port Commissioners and 2 from Tramways, there were, during 1930, 100 deaths, 356 cases of permanent disablements and 2,750 cases of temporary disablement (including cases of 4 minors) in respect of which compensation was paid during the year, as compared with 149,315 and 2,018 cases respectively during 1929. The amounts paid by way of compensation in 1930 were Rs. 61,194 for deaths, Rs. 85,042 for permanent disablement, and Rs. 46,817 for temporary disablement; one case of lead-poisoning in the Government printing press was reported; but a claim made for compensation in respect of the disease was disallowed by the Commissioner.

According to the Report, 1930, the Calcutta Claims Bureau continued in full and valued co-operation with the Commissioner. Claims against the employers insured with its members, at present including 32 leading insurance companies, were handled with commendable promptitude and

judgment. The only Trade Union which helped its members more or less regularly in the realisation of compensation was the Indian Seamen's Union of Kidderpore. During the year under report, a claims agency, the first of its kind in the Presidency, was started at Kharagpur. This organisation, the "Kharagpur Claims Bureau on Workmen's Compensation", generally dealt with claims arising out of accidents in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company's Kharagpur Workshops.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during 1928 is reviewed at pages 27-28 of the August, 1929 report and that for 1929 at page 17 of the August 1930 report of this Office).

* Government of Bengal Commerce Department Annual Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during the year 1930- Calcutta: Bengal Secretariat Book Depot 1931 - Price Indian, 11 annas; English, 1s. - pp. 16.

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Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act
in the Madras Presidency, 1930*

The returns under section 16 of the Act were received from about 1,600 establishments out of 1,642 factories and about 200 mines in the Madras Presidency. There is no improvement over last year in the number of defaulters. The Calcutta Claims Bureau, of which many insurance companies are members, was given permission, as usual, to submit returns on behalf of the employers who have insured their liabilities with them. In the Presidency, only about 40 employers, mostly Europeans, have insured their liabilities under the Act. Important employers like the Buckingham and Carnatic Co., Ltd., the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co., Ltd, the Madras Electric Tramways and Supply Corporation, the South Indian Railway Co., Ltd., and the Madura Mills Co., Ltd., have not yet resorted to insurance.

Accidents were reported in 136 returns. 23 cases of death, 63 cases of permanent disablement and 710 cases of temporary disablement (including ^{those} ~~there~~ of 25 minors) were reported in these returns, as against 23 cases of death, 35 cases of permanent disablement and 594 cases of temporary disablement reported in 1929. Compensations paid for these accidents amounted to Rs.10,861-8-0 for deaths, Rs.12,081-4-3 in respect of permanent disablement and Rs.6,720-15-9 in respect of temporary

* Government of Madras - Public Works and Labour Department - G. O. No.1916 L., 29th July 1931 - Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923-Working-1930 - pp.22.

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disablement (including Rs.189-2-11 paid to the 25 minors). The average amount of compensation paid in cases of death was Rs.472, in cases of permanent disablement, Rs.192 and in cases of temporary ~~moment~~ disablement, Rs.9-8-0.

The number of cases filed during the year was 146 as against 128 in 1929. Of these 146 cases, 24 relate to proceedings instituted for recovery of compensation under section 10 of the Act, 61 to distribution of compensation to the dependants of deceased workmen under section 8, 60 to memoranda of agreement for registration under section 28 and 1 to recovery under section 31 of compensation awarded to the claimant. The increase in the number of cases filed during the year was mainly due to the increase in the number of memoranda of agreement sent by employers for registration under section 28 of the Act. 28 cases and 9 agreements were pending at the close of the year.

(The working of the Act in the Madras Presidency during 1928 is reviewed at pages 31-32 of the August 1929 Report, and that during 1929 at page 18 of the August 1930 report of this Office.).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab, 1930*

The number of accidents coming within the purview of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab during 1930 increased from 614 in 1929 to 730. The number of fatal accidents and of temporary disablements also increased from 14 and 580, respectively, in the previous year, to 20 and 667 in the year under review, but the number of permanent disablements decreased from 47 to 43. As the increase in the total number of accidents reported occurred mostly under minor accidents, the percentage

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age of accidents coming within the purview of the Act to the total number of accidents reported, decreased from 65 to 55 during the year under review. Of the total number of accidents coming within the purview of the Act during the year, namely, 730, compensation was paid in 536 cases, as against 540 in the previous year out of a total number of 580 cases, which gives a percentage of 73.4 against 84.4 of the previous year. The total amount of compensation paid during the year was Rs.31,869-7-3 as against Rs.47,793-1-2 in the previous year. This sum included the amount of Rs.17,864 paid as compensation in respect of cases pending from previous years. Out of the total amount of Rs.31,869-7-3, Rs. 8,250 were paid in respect of the fatal accidents, Rs.16,411-6-8 for cases of permanent disablement (which includes the amount of Rs.252 given to 1 minor) and Rs.6,950-0-7 for cases of temporary disablement.

During the year under review, there were 24 accidents coming within the purview of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, as compared with 13 in the previous year. Of the 24, 2 were fatal, 1 entailed permanent disablement and 21 temporary disablement. The total amount of compensation paid during the year was Rs.1,152-11-9 (including Rs.252 paid in respect of two cases of temporary disablements which had occurred in the previous year) as compared with Rs.2,874-6-0 paid during 1929. But it may be noted that this low figure is due to the fact that compensation was paid in only 10 out of the 24 cases during the year. In others, the claims were still pending when the year closed, because a number of the accidents had occurred towards the end of the year. Out of Rs.1152-11-9, Rs.680 was paid in respect of fatal accidents,

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Rs. 126 in respect of permanent disablements and Rs.346-11-9 in respect of temporary disablements.

65 fresh proceedings were filed under section 10, and 46 under section 8, with Commissioners appointed under the Workmen's Compensation Act. 47 cases were pending at the commencement of the year. Of these, 109 were admitted by the employers, 3 were allowed ex parte, 2 were dismissed for non-appearance, 1 was withdrawn, 2 were allowed ^{and} 1 was allowed in part after contest, while 49 were pending at the close of the year. 63 agreements were filed with Commissioners and 22 were pending from the previous years. Of these, 61 were registered as filed, 11 registered after modification, and 2 were ~~not~~ not registered on account of "other causes". There ^{were //} ~~were~~ agreements pending when the year closed.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab during 1929 is reviewed at pages 27-29 of the report of this Office for November 1930).

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Factory Administration in the United Provinces, 1930*

Number of Factories. - The total number of factories in the United Provinces under the operation of the Indian Factories Act at the close of the year 1930, was 409 as against 384 in 1929. This represents an increase of 6.51 per cent. in the number of factories against 5.37 per cent. and 2.95 per cent in 1928 and 1929 respectively. Of the 409 factories, 156 were seasonal and 253 perennial factories. Out of these, 376 factories worked during the year and 33 remained closed.

Number of Operatives. - The average daily number of persons employed in the registered factories, as obtained from the annual returns submitted, was 92,161 against 91,188 in the previous year. The bulk of this or nearly 92 per cent. is adult male labour. The increase is entirely due to the registration of the new factories. Out of the 92,161 operatives, 30,102 were employed in the textile industry, 21,529 in Government and local fund factories, 10,503 in gins and presses and 10,385 in food, drink and tobacco factories.

Employment of Women and Children. - The average number of women and children employed in factories for the last two years was as follows:-

			<u>1929.</u>	<u>1930.</u>
Women	6,362	6,623
Children	1,109	863

732 women were employed in tea factories and 3,549 women in cotton ginning factories. The proportion of women to the total number of employees has steadily remained round about 7 per cent. for the past 8 years. For the year under report it is 7.2 per cent. against 6.98 per cent. in 1929.

The decrease of some 22 per cent. in the number of children employed is due to the textile factories, Cawnpore; Opium factory, Ghazipur; cigarette factory, Saharanpur; and the glass works at Bahjoi; employing less children. The percentage of children to the total number of workers has been steadily declining during the past ten years. In 1920 it was 3.69 per cent, and in 1930 it is only .94 per cent.

Inspection: - The number of inspections and visits made during the year was 990 as against 591 in 1929. 135 factories were inspected once, 106 factories were inspected twice, 63 factories were inspected ~~more~~ thrice, 53 factories were inspected more than three times and 19 factories were not inspected.

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1930 by W.G. Mackay, Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers. Allahabad: The Superintendent, Government Press, United Provinces 1931. Price, 14 annas. - pp. 35.

A number of special visits were made for enquiry into accidents and also to particular factories on Sundays and before and after the fixed working hours, as a result of which the prosecutions for contravening sections 22 and 26 were much more numerous this year and it is hoped it will have a deterrent effect in the future.

Sanitary Arrangements and Ventilation. - The report states that the sanitary arrangements, except in a few instances, were on the whole more or less satisfactory during the year under review.

Fencing of Machinery. - The fencing of machinery and the provision of suitable guards was, according to the report, generally well maintained but in four cases prosecutions were instituted for failure to provide necessary guards. Three of them were in seasonal factories.

Accidents. - 1,865 accidents (246 serious and 1,592 minor) were reported during the year as compared with 16 fatal, 205 serious and 1,569 minor in 1929. There is reason to think that a better knowledge of the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act has improved the reporting of accidents. The majority of the accidents occurred, as in previous years, in Railway Workshops which reported 1,524 out of the total 1,865 accidents. *27 fatal,*

Housing of Factory Operatives. - 216 additional quarters, i.e. 125 single and 91 double, were constructed in thirteen districts during the year. The Government Harness and Saddlery Factory, Cawnpore, started the construction of the workmen's dwellings during the year. 17 excellent lofty well-constructed double-quarters, which are intended to house some of their higher paid workmen, are expected to be ready for occupation about the middle of 1931. A specified number of quarters, including smaller ones for the lower-paid men, will be built each year. This progressive construction policy, according to the report, will naturally be governed by the financial position and future developments of the factory. The local scheme for the housing of some 20,000 factory workers continues dormant as none of the mills have taken up the matter actively which is due, probably, to the depressed condition of trade during the year under review.

Hours of Employment. - The majority of factories worked up to the maximum limit allowed by the Act. Labour was plentiful in practically all districts throughout the year under report. The weekly hours of 56 factories were not more than 48, those of 33 factories were not more than 54, while those of 280 factories were above 54.

Welfare Work. - Due to adverse trade conditions, welfare work did not expand to any considerable extent but the existing institutions continued to be well maintained. The following indicates the main additions made during the year.

The British India Corporation built a new community hall in their Kakomiganj settlement and now have a maternity clinic there in charge of a qualified nurse as in their other settlements. Two new cottages for welfare workers were built, also a water reservoir with an electric pumping plant, and drainage and sanitation has been greatly

improved. It is hoped in the near future to add a segregation hospital to this settlement.

It is reported that there were 300 more persons living in the Kakomiganj settlement than in the previous year, and that there is a large waiting list as is the case in the Allengaj and McRobertganj settlements.

Both creches and schools have been well attended during the year.

Messrs. Begg, Sutherland and Company, Limited, opened a dispensary for the womenfolk and children of the Elgin Mills employees. It is in charge of a qualified lady doctor and is evidently greatly appreciated, the average monthly attendance of patients being over one thousand.

For the benefit of the same women and children ^{working in the above Company,} special programmes of music, singing, cinema shows, etc., were arranged by the welfare superintendent, and it is understood the cinema shows and acting in public by the school girls caused considerable excitement among the women, some of whom had never previously seen a cinema picture.

For the workmen of the Cawnpore Electric Supply Corporation, an institute and reading room was opened. Newspapers, magazines and indoor games are provided, and there is also a library of about one thousand books in English, Hindi and Urdu. The average daily attendance is said to be 55 and the monthly issue of books about 225.

A monthly recreational programme is conducted for the benefit of the workmen of the Cawnpore Sugar Work and Cawnpore Textiles, Limited, of which Messrs. Begg, Sutherland and Company are also the Managing Agents.

The New Victoria Mills have considerably improved and extended their creche which now has two qualified nurses in attendance. A Committee of ladies visits the creche periodically, inspects the arrangements for free clothing and feeding of the children, and makes suggestions for improvements where considered necessary.

The East Indian Railway opened a small hospital in the premises of their Carriage and Wagon Workshops at Lucknow. This is well equipped and is in charge of an assistant surgeon and, its proximity to the works enables immediate treatment to be given in accident cases.

(The report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1928 is reviewed at pages 25-27 of our October 1929 report, and that for 1929 at pages 29-31 of our November 1930 report).

Conditions of Labour.

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Retrenchment on Railways: Proceedings of
Court of Enquiry.

Reference was made at pages 43-46 of the report of this Office for August 1931 to the decision of the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to co-operate with the Court of Enquiry appointed by the Government of India only if the interpretation placed by the Court on its terms of reference was liberal and satisfactory to the A.I.R.F. The Court held its first sitting on 9-9-1931 at Bombay. The A.I.R.F. was represented by Messrs. Jamnadas Mehta, President, ~~S.C. Joshi~~ and V.V. Giri, General Secretary of the A.I.R.F., and S.C. Joshi.

Mr. Mehta, who presented the case on behalf of the Federation, placed before the Court of Inquiry the fear entertained by the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation that the terms of reference of the Court were not wide enough. It was pointed out that it was clear from the letter written by the Government of India to the Federation on July 18, 1931, that Government were anxious that all the facts in ~~the~~ dispute should be investigated. In a subsequent letter dated August 8 (vide page 43 of the report of this Office for August 1931) Government expressed their anxiety to examine all reasonable alternatives to retrenchment. The Federation, Mr. Mehta said, felt that the terms of reference as framed now by the Government fell short of Government's original intention, and requested the Court to make it clear whether the following issues came within the scope of the inquiry: (1) Whether the conventions about hours of work and weekly rest should not have been put into force before retrenchment was begun? (2) whether contribution to the Railway Provident Fund should not have been diverted temporarily to prevent retrenchment; (3) wage cut in all its aspects; (4) stoppage of extravagance; and (5) Capricious and arbitrary use of power vested in the Railway Board, including discrimination of all kinds. Mr. S.C. Joshi raised the question as to whether it would be open for the Federation to lead evidence that there has been favouritism and discrimination of a racial character in the method of retrenchment. (The M. & S.M. Railwayman, Vol. 3, No. 3, Sept. 1931).

After hearing the arguments of Mr. Mehta the Court came to the following decision:-

That it was within the scope of enquiry of the Court to investigate into favouritism and discrimination even if it be of a racial character.

That the issue whether the conventions regarding hours of work and weekly rest should not have been put into force before retrenchment was begun came within the purview of the Court.

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That "short time working whether by a day or more of every week or month, respectively or whether compulsory leave by rotation without pay or with reduced pay by disallowing overtime in some cases so as to stop the discharging of others or stoppages resulting in general short time all round" as alternatives to compulsory discharge came within the purview of the third item of reference.

That it was open to the Federation to lead evidence with regard to the temporary diversion of provident fund contributions as an alternative to retrenchment though the court could not accept the proposals owing to ~~the~~ statutory difficulties. (The M. & S.M. Railwayman, September 1931, pages 66-67, Vol.3, No.3).

The Council of Action of the A.I.R.F. met immediately after to consider the ruling and the following statement was issued on 11-9-1931 by Mr. V.V. Giri on the attitude of the A.I.R.F. towards the Court of Enquiry:-

In pursuance of the resolution of the General Council of the Federation held at Madras on the 29th and 30th August (vide pages 45-46 of the Report of this Office for August 1931), Messrs. M. Jamnadas Mehta, S.C. Joshi and V.V. Giri appeared before the Court of Enquiry and sought from the Court an authoritative interpretation of the various terms of reference and the Council of Action is satisfied that the interpretation placed on the terms of reference by the Court is adequate for substantial presentation of the case of the workers before that Court. The Council of Action therefore now calls upon all affiliated unions and their members carefully to prepare the workers' case on their respective lines, so that judgment may not go by default against them. (The Hindu, 12-9-1931).

The Court began its enquiry into the actual dispute from 14-9-1931 when evidence was led by the Federation in regard to retrenchment in the G.I.P. Railway.

The work of the Court is proceeding.

Labour News in Brief.

Proposed Discharge of Bombay Millworkers.

The management of several mills in the Bombay City have, according to the Times of India of 28-9-1931, put up notices informing their workmen that the services of a considerable number of them will not be required after 1-10-1931. It is estimated that about 5,000 mill hands

will be thrown out of employment in Bombay City. This drastic step, it is stated, has been taken on account of the rise in the ~~per~~ price of cotton due to the financial crisis. Night work is to be stopped in many mills, putting out of employment about 3,000 of the total number expected to be thrown out of work. A large number of men working on day shifts are also being retrenched. Considerable dissatisfaction is prevailing among mill workers. (The Times of India, 28-9-1931).

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Kurla ~~Sewa~~ Swadeshi Mill Strike, Bombay.

On account of trade depression, the management of the Kurla Swadeshi Mill, Bombay, decided to close down some 600 looms in the mill and gave notice of discharge to 700 workers in the spinning section of the mill. This was resented by the workers who ~~be~~ believed that this was a ruse on the part of the management for re-engaging the men later on on reduced wages. As a protest against the retrenchment there was a partial strike in the spinning department of the mill on 14-9-1931. The strike, however, spread to other departments and by 17-9-1931 nearly 4,500 workers had downed tools and the mill was subjected to picketting. (The Times of India, 19-9-1931).

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Madhavji Dharamsey Mill Strike, Bombay.

3,000 ~~me~~ workers of the Madhavji Dharamsey Mill went on strike on 2-9-1931 as a result, it is stated, of the management's decision to close down the blanket department of the mill from 3-9-1931. The closure of the department necessitated the discharge of 200 workers employed in the department. The appeal of a committee of workers to the management to reconsider the decision to close the department

having failed, all the workers of the mill struck work. (The Times of India, 3-9-1931).

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Lock-out at Bombay Electric Supply Tramway Workshops.

500 workers employed in the Bombay Electric Supply Tramway Workshops at Dadar were rendered idle on 29-9-1931 as a result of a lock-out declared by the management. Trouble is reported to have been threatened for some time over the decision to keep the workshop closed every Monday, in addition to Sundays, as a measure of economy, only a small number of men being employed to keep the machinery in proper order. Workers, regarding this as an indirect wage cut, picketed the workshops on 28-9-1931 with a view to preventing the workers from attending. On 29-9-1931 when the workers presented themselves for work the workshops were closed, the management having declared a lock-out.

(The Statesman, 30-9-1931)

Industrial Organisation.Workers' Organisation.11th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, Calcutta:Resolutions Passed.

At pages 53-54 of the report of this Office for July 1931 ^{was given} a brief summary, as published in the Statesman of 10-7-1931, of the resolutions passed at the 11th session of the All-India Trade Union Congress held at Calcutta from 4 to 7-7-1931. The following is the full text of some of the more important of the resolutions passed by the 11th session of the A.I.T.U. Congress on 7-7-1931:-

Condemnation of Conduct of Mr. Deshpande and his Group.- Taking into consideration the fact (a) that Mr. Deshpande and his group since the Nagpur Session of the Trade Union Congress have done nothing to keep the T.U.C. in a normally functioning condition; (b) that they have not cared to make any efforts to help the work of bringing about unity in the ranks of workers; (c) that they have, instead of helping the work of the Session of the Trade Union Congress obstructed the work of the Executive Council for full three days, having gone to such extremes as to insult the President and other comrades, and to violate the constitution of the T.U.C. by calling a meeting of the Executive Council which they have no right to call, by holding a mock session of the Congress at Matiabruz attended by representatives of Unions many of which are bogus; (d) that they have avoided the responsibility of submitting ^{the} annual report and statement of accounts, and have resorted to obstructive tactics, so as to prevent the passing of a censure motion against them, This Congress strongly condemns the rôle played by Mr. Deshpande and his group during the whole of the last year and specially, their conduct in the meetings of the Executive Council of the T.U.C. at this session.

Fundamental Rights.- Resolved that a Sub-Committee be formed with the following members to go into the question of fundamental rights and report its findings to the Executive Council within two months: (1) V.H. Joshi; (2) A. Tayab Shaikh; (3) P.M. Naidu; (4) J.N. Mitra; and (5) S.B. Kar.

Unity.- ~~This Congress~~ Resolved that this Congress exhorts all Trade Unions in the country to explore all avenues for bringing about Unity in the Trade Union movement and further authorise the following committee to co-operate with all Trade Union organisations in the country including the Bombay Unity Committee and lay down a common platform for the achievement of unity. This Congress also resolves that in working for unity the committee do observe the following instructions:- (1) No affiliation of the Trade Union Congress at present to any foreign organisation; (2) the question of sending

delegates to the Geneva conference to be kept open to be decided every year at the annual session of the Congress; (3) the decisions of the majority in the T.U.C. to be binding on all affiliated unions.

Resolved further that the platform of unity suggested by the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union be referred to the above Committee for their consideration:

The Committee.- 1. Mr. A. Tayab Shaikh; 2. Mr. R.S. Ruiker; 3. Mr. S. Mukunda Lall (convenor); 4. & Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose; 5. Mr. W.V.R. Naidu.

Capitalism and Socialism.- This Congress impresses upon the workers and peasants of India that in view of ~~the~~ (a) ^{the} most drastic, inhuman and ruthless retrenchment both by reduction of staff and wage cuts in the already starvation wages of the subordinate staff and workers in Government, and other capitalistic industries and organisations and allied grievances like forced ~~leave~~ leave, etc., (b) the consequent growing unemployment in the ranks of the workers, and (c) the economic starvation of ~~the~~ millions of peasants in India due to ~~the~~ intense exploitation ~~by~~ the landlords and the Government it has become absolutely imperative and essential for the workers and peasants of India to end this capitalistic exploitation; this Congress calls upon the workers and peasants to carry on their struggle ~~for~~ the following demands:-

1. Unconditional transfer of all power to the people;
2. Abolition of the Indian States and parasitic landlords;
3. Freedom of the peasantry from all exploitation and exaction so that the greater part of their surplus produce may remain in their possession;
4. Nationalisation of land, public utilities, mineral resources and banks;
5. Repudiation of debts contracted by the foreign Government;
6. Provision for an irreducible standard of living for the workers through the introduction of minimum wages of Rs.50/- for skilled workers and Rs.40/- for unskilled; 44-hour week, healthy conditions of labour, insurance against unemployment, sickness, old age, etc.;
7. Control of the economic life of the country by the workers and peasants so that the fruits of national freedom may not be usurped by the capitalists.

Non-Recognition of Unions.- This Congress condemns in most unequivocal terms the policy of withdrawing or refusing recognition to ~~the~~ properly constituted Trade Unions by the employers, private as well as Governmental, and further invites all organisations interested in the working class movement to rally round the Trade Union Congress in forcing the hands of these employers to accord recognition to all such properly organised Trade Unions.

Venue of Next Conference.- The next session of the Congress be held at Jamadoba in the colliery area in Manbhum District.

(Extracted from communication dated 3-10-1931 to this Office from Mr. S. Mukunda Lall, General Secretary of the A.I.T.U.C.).

A.I.T.U.C. and Foreign Organisations: No Immediate Affiliation.

The General Secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress issued the following statement under date 6-9-1931 to the press regarding the policy of the A.I.T.U.Congress with regard to affiliations of the Congress with foreign organisations:-

"My attention has been drawn to the Reuter's news dated London, August 31, to the effect that the decision of the Indian Trade Union Congress to affiliate with the League Against Imperialism is warmly acclaimed by the London headquarters of the League. In this connection I hasten to inform the public that there had been no such decision at the recent session of the All-India Trade Union Congress held in Calcutta. On the other hand, owing to internal dissension and disorder caused thereby in the labour organisations, the Congress decided for no affiliation at present with any foreign organisation, but in the meantime, it has determined to bring about greater unity and work for more solidarity in the Indian working class movement."

(The Times of India, 7-9-1931).

1st All-Bengal Trade Union Conference, Kankinarrah, 1931.

The First session of the All-Bengal Trades Union Conference was held at Kankinarrah, near Calcutta, during the third week of September 1931, with Dr. Naresh Chandra Sen Gupta, M.L.C., as president.

Discussing the position of labour in the future constitution of India, Mr. K.C.Roy Choudhury, M.L.C., chairman of the reception committee, suggested that important labour legislation affecting local industry and local workers should be undertaken by the Provincial Councils, while specified labour measures dealing with factories, railways and shipping should be left in charge of the Central Government. As regards franchise and electorates, the speaker recommended the formula adopted at the Madras session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, namely, that

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the representation of the working classes in the central and provincial legislatures should be considerably increased, that labour organizations ~~in the legislatures~~ should be given special representation in the legislature through their own constituencies and that the system of election should be substituted for that of nomination.

The Conference passed resolutions urging the employers and the Government to give immediate effect to the recommendations contained in the Whitley Commission Report.

(The Statesman, 24-9-31).

The Pondicherry Labour Conference, 1931

A Labour Conference of French-Indian labourers was held ^{at} in Pondicherry on 6-9-31 under the chairmanship of Dr. P. Subbaroyan, ex-Chief Minister of the Madras Government. The conference was convened with the object of recommending to the Government of France to extend the French "Code-du-Travail" with suitable modifications to the French-Indian Labourers.

In an interesting speech Mr. Jeer Naidu, the chairman of the Reception Committee, traced the course of labour legislation in French India. The following is a brief summary of the relevant portions of the speech:-

Many years ago Mr. Joseph David, one of the leading advocates of this place, took up the cause of the labourers and agitated for their uplift. As a result of his agitation, the Home Government was pleased to direct the Local Government to appoint a Labour Commission for French India to consider the ways and means by which the "Code-du-Travail" of France could be introduced in French India with suitable modifications. The Committee was appointed in 1927, but there was no labour representative in it. Mr. R. Sellane, another leading advocate, was appointed to the Committee in his ex-officio capacity as member of the French India Assembly, and he put up a strong fight in the Committee for the introduction of all sections of the French Labour Act with modifications based on the Indian Factory Act. But his suggestion was not accepted by the majority of the Commission. Finally, the Commission recommended to the Home Government the introduction of the Labour Act (I and II parts only) with some modifications, and their recommendations were returned by the Home Government to the Local Government after two years for the reconsideration of certain points raised therein. In 1929 these points were again reconsidered by the Commission who returned the draft recommendations to the Home Government once again for approval. In 1930 the draft was again sent back to Pondicherry with a view to consider whether it required any further modification in the light of the resolution passed by the Geneva Conference on compulsory labour in that year, but the Commission decided that the Geneva resolution had no bearing ^{on} to the French-Indian Labour and re-submitted the draft with their opinion. Nothing was heard of about it till now. In order to bring this fact to the notice of the Home Government and ^{compel} insist on them to introduce all the sections of the Labour Act of France, with suitable modifications in French India, this Conference had been arranged.

Proceeding further, Mr. Jeer Naidu said that another and more

important reason for holding this Conference, was that the labourers of Pondicherry, particularly those who were working in the Port, had been suffering hardships for the past twenty years. The labourers had many grievances of their own, such as want of accommodation, medical aid, education of their children and other amenities of life, and it was the duty of the delegates and the leaders present ^{at the Conference} ~~here~~ to help the labourers to get their grievances redressed. It was also up to them to ~~xxxxx~~ see that the "Code-du-Travail" of France was introduced in French India with suitable modifications at an early date and the speaker hoped that the Conference would pass effective resolutions on the subject mentioned.

Dr. Subbaroyan, in the course of his presidential address, emphasised the necessity for labour getting organised. He stated that labour problems are gaining in importance every day and that the tendency was to meet those problems from an international point of view rather than from a national one and gave the instance of the various conventions and recommendations passed by the I.L.O. as a proof of the importance of labour in the governance of a country.

The following resolutions, inter alia, were adopted by the Conference:-

- (1) This Conference appeals to Monsieur Adrian Juvanon (Governor of the French settlement in India) to strongly recommend to the Home Government the promulgation in French India of the "Code-du-Travail" with the necessary alterations, in accordance with the Indian Factories Act which is the principal Act for labour regulation in British India.
- (2) This Conference appoints, with a view to give effect to the above resolutions, a temporary committee consisting of Messrs. Joseph David, M. G. Balasubramaniam, P. Ehanaraja, Saravana Chettiar and Mohamed Haneef.

(The Hindu, 7 & 9-9-31)

Trade of India in 1930-31*

The annual review of the Trade of India during 1930-31 has recently been published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India. According to the report the total value of the imports of merchandise into British India in 1930-31 amounted to Rs. 1650 millions and that of the exports to Rs. 2260 millions. Compared with the values recorded in 1929-30, these figures represent a decline of Rs. 760 millions or of 32 per cent in the case of imports and of Rs. 920 millions or 29 per cent in that of exports.

Imports and Exports: Balance of Trade:

Imports. * On the import side the principal feature of the year was the drastic reduction in the Indian demand for imported textile. The aggregate value recorded under the textile group amounted to Rs. 410 millions as against Rs. 780 millions recorded in 1929-30. The especial significance of this retrogression lies in the circumstance that the textile group which had hitherto been the most important item in the import trade of India was forced to yield its place of predominance to the metal group. The decline under textiles was primarily the effect of a reduction in imports of cotton piecegoods, the total receipts of which amounted to only 890 million yards valued at Rs. 200.5

* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Review of the Trade of India in 1930-31 - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council - Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch 1931 - Price Rs. 2 as. 10 or 4s. 9d.

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millions in the year as compared with 1,319 million yards valued at Rs. 502.5 millions in 1929-30. Naturally enough, all the three principal descriptions of cotton piecegoods - grey, white and coloured - had their respective shares in this heavy decrease, grey goods declining by 561 million yards, white by 202 million and coloured by 237 million yards. But the most striking single factor with regard to cotton piecegoods was the falling off in consignments from the United Kingdom, notably of grey goods, imports of which from that source alone showed a reduction of 377 million yards. The decline under piecegoods was supplemented by a reduction in imports of cotton twist and yarn from 44 million lbs. valued at Rs. 60.0 millions to 29 million lbs. valued at Rs. 30.8 millions. It is, however, interesting that the same forces which brought down imports of cotton manufactures to such a low figure, served to give a stimulus to imports of raw cotton, which rose from 24,000 tons to 58,000 tons, mainly as a result of an enlargement of the demand for superior staples from spinners of finer counts in the country. Under the metal group there was a reduction of Rs. 77.0 millions; imports of iron and steel declined from 972,700 tons to 614,200 tons in quantity and from Rs. 172.1 millions to Rs. 108.9 millions in value. This decline was a continuation of the trend noticeable in the preceding year, but what was most striking was the retrogression of the United Kingdom in this line of trade. There was a decline of Rs. 38.7 millions under machinery and millwork notwithstanding stray improvements in certain directions, such as mining, refrigerating and sugar machinery. Imports of motor vehicles declined from Rs. 75.2 millions to Rs. 49.9 million, the reduction being due primarily to a falling off in the number of

vehicles imported from 17,400 to 12,600 under cars and from 15,300 to 8,900 under omnibuses. This reduction, pointing as it did to a restricted demand for new motor vehicles in a year of depression, had its repercussion on the import trade in rubber manufactures, the value of which amounted to Rs. 25.7 millions against Rs. 33 millions recorded in the preceding year. The aggregate value of hardware imported declined from Rs. 50.7 millions to Rs. 36 millions but more significant than the aggregate value were the reductions under metal lamps and enamelled ironware. The sugar trade had another difficult year and the value of the consignments declined from Rs. 157.8 millions to Rs. 109.6 millions. Consignments of mineral oils fell from 253 million gallons valued at Rs. 110.4 millions to 242 million gallons valued at Rs. 104.8 millions despite an increase of 4 million gallons under petroleum, etc. Imports of provisions declined by Rs. 7.6 millions, chiefly, in consequence of a falling off in receipts of vegetable product, biscuits and cakes, and condensed milk.

Exports. - On the export side the outstanding factor was the slump in the jute trade which was responsible for a decline of 378,000 tons in the total weight and of Rs. 340 millions in the value of raw and manufactured jute exported. Shipments of raw jute declined from 4,519,000 bales to 3,470,000 bales in quantity and from Rs. 270 millions to Rs. 130 millions in value. Despatches of gunny bags receded from 522 millions valued at Rs. 220 millions to 434 millions valued at ^{Rs. 150 millions and those of gunny cloth from 1,651 million yards valued at} Rs. 300 millions to 1,271 million yards valued at Rs. 170 millions. There was a decline of Rs. 210 millions under cotton, raw and manufactured. Exports of cotton raw fell off by 144,000 bales to 3,926,000 bales, mainly as a result of the depressed condition of the

world , but the lower prices for cotton all the world over made the slump conditions more pronounced on the value side, which showed a decline from Rs .650 millions to Rs.⁴⁶⁰ millions . Twist and yarn constituted, as usual in recent years, a minor item in the cotton export trade, but there also the year's despatches declined from 24.6 million lbs. to 23.5 million lbs. Exports of cotton piecegoods also declined from 133 million yards valued at Rs.46.7 millions to 98 million yards valued at Rs. 33.2 millions. Under foodgrains, the value of the shipments declined from Rs.347.9 millions to Rs.298.8 millions, although on the quantity side there was actually a gain from 2,510,000 tons to 2,614,000 tons. This improvement was wholly due to a partial recovery in the wheat export trade. Exports of wheat amounted to 196,500 tons ~~XXXXXX, XXXXXX, XXXXX~~ which compared very favourably with the low figure of 13,000 tons recorded in 1929-30. Shipments of rice declined in volume from 2,326,000 tons to 2,279,000 tons, whereas the value declined more heavily by Rs.55.4 millions to Rs.259.7 millions owing to the lower prices ruling. Shipments of tea fell by 20.4 million lbs. to 356.2 million lbs. and by Rs.24.5 millions to Rs.235.6 millions in value. Shipments of oilseeds amounted to 1,037,000 tons valued at Rs.178.6 millions. This meant a decline of 13 per cent in quantity and of 33 per cent in value in comparison with the exports of the preceding year. The decline was mainly due to a falling off in exports of groundnuts from 714,000 tons to 601,000 tons. Linseed alone among the different kinds of oilseeds showed an increase of 9,000 tons, but in spite of this gain the value declined by Rs.3.1 millions to Rs.54.1 million. There was a decrease in shipments of

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hides and skins from 74,100 tons valued at Rs.160.3 millions to 63,000 tons valued at Rs.117.4 millions. Exports of lac amounted to 547,000 cwts. valued at Rs.31.4 millions which represented a decline of 18 per cent in quantity and of 55 per cent in value.

Re-exports. The total value of re-exports amounted to Rs.51.4 millions which represented a decline of Rs.19.9 millions in comparison with the value recorded in 1929-30 and of Rs.26.9 millions on the basis of that for 1928-29. Shipments of raw skins, which constitutes the major item in the re-export trade, remained stationary at 211 tons, but the value declined by Rs.400,000 to Rs.10.1 millions. Re-exports of sugar fell from 7,000 tons to 3000 tons. Shipments of raw cotton fell away from 1,400 tons to 100 tons in quantity and from Rs. 1.9 millions to Rs.100,000 in value. Re-exports of cotton manufactures (chiefly piecegoods) dropped from Rs.7.8 millions to ^{Rs.}5.4 millions. Despatches of raw wool also contracted from 8.2 million lbs. valued at Rs. 6.5 millions to 5 million lbs. valued at Rs.2.85 millions. It is to be noted, however, that this decline in the volume of the re-export trade particularly affected Bombay through which the bulk of this trade passes. During the year under review Bombay's share amounted to Rs.32.3 millions which meant a reduction of Rs.12.9 millions, but in spite of this decline her percentage share remained stable at 63.

Balance of Trade. The visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure for the year 1930-31 was in favour of India to the extent of Rs.380 millions compared with Rs.530 millions in the preceding year, Rs.520 millions in 1928-29 and the record figure of Rs. 1090 millions in 1925-26. The net imports of treasure on private

account fell from Rs.260 millions to Rs.240 millions of which net imports of gold were valued at Rs.130 millions and of silver at Rs.110 millions . Net imports of currency notes amounted to Rs.300,000.

Tariff Changes in 1930-31.

The changes in the tariff made under the Indian Finance Act, the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, ~~the~~ and the Steel Industry (Protection) Act, all of 1930 , were dealt with at pages 33-35 of the January 1931 Report of this Office. Since then five Acts have been passed introducing extensive changes in the tariff.

The Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1931, which was passed on the 28th February, gave effect to the recommendations of the Tariff Board concerning certain railway materials made of steel. It imposed a specific duty of Rs.2-4 per cwt. on fish bolts and nuts, ordinary bolts and nuts and dogspikes and another of Rs.2 per cwt. on rivets and gibs, cotters, keys, distance pieces and other fastenings for use with iron or steel sleepers. It also brought chrome-steel switches and crossings as well as stretcher bars which form part of them under the protective tariff.

The Gold Thread Industry (Protection) Act, 1931, which was passed on the 28th February, gave effect to the recommendations of the Tariff Board on the question of extending protection to the gold thread industry in India. It imposed, for a period of ten years, a protective duty of 50 per cent ad valorem on silver thread and wire including so-called gold thread and wire as well as [^]silver leaf and lametta,

metallic spangles and articles of a like nature. It also ~~renewed~~ restored the duty on silver plate and on silver manufactures "not & otherwise specified" to the original level of 30 per cent ad valorem.

The Indian Finance Act, 1931, which came into operation on the 30th March, introduced extensive changes in the customs tariff to provide additional financial resources. The changes fall into two distinct classes, increases in the substantive rates and additional impositions of the nature of surcharges. In the first category, the duty on ale, beer, porter, cider and other fermented liquors was raised by about 66 per cent above the old level, while those on wines and spirits (except ~~and~~ denatured spirit and spirit used in drugs and medicines) were raised by between 30 and 40 per cent. Duties on all grades of sugar (except molasses) and sugar candy were raised by Rs. 1-4 per cwt. and that on silver from 4 as. to 6 as. per ounce, while betelnuts, spices and exposed cinematograph films were transferred from the general rate of 15 per cent to the "luxury" rate at 30 per cent ad valorem.

In the second category a surcharge of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent was imposed on articles bearing 10 per cent duty, 5 per cent on articles bearing 15 per cent or the general rate of duty (except raw hemp) and 10 per cent on articles liable to 30 per cent or "luxury" duty. Other important surcharges are:- 15 per cent on cigars, Rs. 1-8 per thousand on cigarettes, 12 as. per lb. on unmanufactured tobacco, 9 pies per gallon on kerosene, 2 as. per gallon on motor spirit, Rs. 2-8 per ton on batching oil, 4 pies per gallon on lubricating oil, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on fuel oil, 10 per cent on arms and motor cars, motor cycles, etc., $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent

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on artificial silk yarn and thread, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on silk mixtures and Rs.2 per ton on Portland cement. Another important surcharge is that of 5 per cent ad valorem on cotton piecegoods.

The Finance Act also raised the excise duties on motor spirit, kerosene and silver bullion corresponding to the increases in the customs duties on these articles, the enhanced rates being 8 as. per gallon, $2\frac{1}{4}$ as. per gallon and 6 as. per ounce, respectively.

All these changes in the customs and excise duties came into effect on the 1st March, 1931, under the provisions of the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1918.

The Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931, which came into force on the 18th March, imposed a temporary additional customs duty of $4\frac{1}{2}$ as. per maund on foreign salt in the interests of the Indian salt industry. It will remain in force up to 31st March 1932.

The Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931, which came into force on the 20th March imposed a temporary customs duty of Rs.2 per cwt. on foreign wheat in order to assist the sale of indigenous wheat in India. It also raised the duty on wheat flour to the same level and will remain in force up to 31st March 1932.

In addition to the statutory changes mentioned above, the protective duties on iron and steel galvanized sheets and articles made therefrom were increased with effect from the 30-12-1930, under Section 3(4) of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894. The rate for non-fabricated sheets was raised from Rs.30 to Rs.67 per ton while in the case of sheets fabricated or made into pipes and tubes, the alternate specific rate of Rs.33 per ton was in each case raised to Rs.73 per ton. The additional protection is to remain in force up to 31-3-1932.

Effect of Industrial Unrest on Economic Conditions.

As in 1929 labour unrest continued to be a feature of the industrial

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situation during 1930; but though the number of disputes was about the same in both years, the number of workmen involved and the loss of working days were much less during 1930. The most important strike of the year was the general strike on the ^{for} Great Indian Peninsula Railway which started on February 4, and was over before the end of April, 1930. The other noteworthy strikes of the year were those in the Old Champdany Jute Mill, Hooghly, and in the jute mills at Titagarh. From the point of view of labour peace the year 1931 too has not begun well. In the very first week of January some 8,000 operatives of the Kamarhatty Jute Mills in Bengal went on strike as a result of the introduction of the single shift. The textile mills in Bombay are also having frequent labour trouble.

(The Trade of India in 1928-29 is reviewed at pages 40-45 of the report of this Office for November 1929 and the trade of India in 1929-30 at pages 26-35 of the January 1931 report).

Congress and the Indian Coal Industry:

Plea for Preferential Treatment.

A deputation on behalf of the Indian Mining Federation, consisting of Mr. K. L. Dutt, Chairman, Mr. K. Bose, Vice-Chairman, and three other members waited in deputation on the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress on 10-9-1931 to present the case of the Indian section of the coal industry of this country for preferential treatment. The following are some of the principal points brought out in the memorandum

submitted by the Federation to the Working Committee:-

Present Position.- The position of the Indian ^{section} share in the coal industry, in spite of its numerical strength and potentialities of ~~increasing~~ increased raising is somewhat distressing, both ^{on} ~~in~~ point of view of the aggregate output and the average quality of the coal worked, the Indian section is weaker in comparison with the European.

Reasons for depression.- There are well known historical reasons, states the memorandum, which account for this position and to which allusion may be made here. Of the two coal fields the Raniganj area was exploited earlier, notably in the ^{1840's} ~~1840's~~ and ^{1850's} ~~1850's~~ of the last century and mostly by European capital. The opening of the Jharia coalfields in 1893 gave Indians a chance to retrieve their position in the coal industry. During the concluding years of the last century a few enterprising Indian firms prospected and even started working the best part of the Jharia coalfields. Early in the present century, however, Indian interest in the best collieries of the Jharia coalfields completely yielded place to Europeans.

Lack of Capital, etc.- Lack of capital was so embarrassing for early exploiters of the Jharia coalfields that they found it difficult to resist the temptation of selling over fine colliery properties to Europeans. There are other reasons also which account for the weakness of Indians in the industry. Railway custom is the main stay of colliery enterprise. In the Bengal coal trade for long years the lion's share of railway custom went to firms and benefitted European collieries. In this position, the coal trade struggled on through the first 18 years of this century with only a casual break in the continued record of depression, once in 1907 and again in 1911. This spurt in coal prices in those two years was, however, only short-lived. It was not until the year 1918, synchronising with the post-war industrial boom in this country, that the demand for Indian coal markedly increased.

European Competition.- Indian capitalists took advantage of this situation. A large number of small concerns cropped up on all sides of the coalfields but even then the system of wagon control operated to the serious prejudice of Indian-owned collieries and Indian owners suffered grievously in competition with European owners of mines.

Extent of depression.- The extent of depression which has ^{since} ~~over-~~ taken the coal trade ~~since~~ will be clear from the fact that the number of coal mines in the ~~the~~ two coalfields which stood at over 700 in 1923 has dwindled down to 456 in recent years. The coal trade today is strewn with the debris of Indian enterprise which springing up in the year 1918-19, had a short-lived existence and then succumbed to ruthless forces, mostly of economic competition and partly for having to ~~unfairly~~ compete on unequal terms.

Claim for protection.- The plea which the Indian section of the coal industry has put forward in consonance with the prevailing Swadeshi spirit is this:- That all Indian industrialists who have steam boilers in their industrial establishment should draw for their supply of fuel, through whatever source it may be obtained, only such coal as is the output of Indian owned and Indian managed mines. Negatively speaking the implications of such a formula as that put forward by us are two-fold. In the first place, oil-using steam boilers must be discarded inasmuch as crude oil for steam raising purpose is mostly an imported commodity or at least the product of purely foreign companies operating in this country; secondly, no coal must be used in a steam

boiler, through whatever source it may be obtained, which is the output of a non-Indian mine. We do not consider that we are called upon to explain the obvious consideration of Nationalist economies involved in the formula. It may be briefly emphasised that our proposition is as sound as the position enunciated by the Congress and accepted by the Indian public, that only textile articles of Indian-owned and Indian-managed cotton mills should be patronised by the latter. (The Pioneer, 12-9-1931 and the Hindu, 11-9-1931).

Working Committee's Decision.- The Working Committee at its meeting held on 11-9-1931 passed a resolution endorsing the demand for preferential treatment subject to certain conditions. The following is the full text of the resolution:-

"Whereas coal mining is of great importance as a basic industry essential for the development of the industrial life of the country in all directions, the Committee is of opinion that all possible encouragement should be extended to Indian enterprise in this field. The Committee, therefore, recommends that all industrial concerns in this country, particularly, textile mills, should confine their purchase of coal as far as possible to the produce of Indian owned and managed collieries.

The Committee resolves that the Indian Mining Federation be requested to submit a list of Indian collieries, the ~~the~~ proprietors or agents of which agree to fulfil the following conditions:- 'We hereby declare that (1) we have full sympathy with the national aspirations of the people; (2) that not less than 75 per cent of the share capital of the company is held by Indians; (3) that not less than 75 per cent of the directors of the company are and will continue to be Indians; (4) that there is no foreign interest in the managing agents' firm; (5) that we will assist in the propagation of swadeshi by refraining from exploiting in our own interest the situation arising out of the movement in respect of price or of quality.

In pursuance of the above declaration we hereby undertake to do as follows:- (1) No person connected with the management of the firm will engage himself in propaganda hostile to the national movement; (2) recruitment of the staff will be restricted to Indians except for special reasons; (3) we shall pass as early as possible the insurance, banking and shipping business of our company to Indian companies; (4) we shall henceforth employ as far as possible Indians as our auditors, solicitors, shipping agents, buying and selling brokers, contractors or the suppliers of the goods required for our business; (5) we shall purchase for our business as far as possible, articles of Indian manufacture and will only purchase such foreign articles as are indispensable and as cannot be replaced by Indian swadeshi; (6) those connected with the management of our firm will wear ~~pure~~ swadeshi cloth and (7) we shall secure to our operatives a satisfactory scale of wages and conditions of life and work".

(The Hindu, 12-9-1931).

The Ahmedabad Millowners Association's Attitude.

The Ahmedabad Millowners Association, against whom the Indian Mining Federation of Calcutta complained to the Congress, has, after careful consideration of the demand for patronising Indian coal made by the Federation, sent a detailed reply to that body. The Association says that the Ahmedabad Millowners were always anxious to give preference to the best of their extent to Indian-owned collieries. During September 1930, the Association had issued a special circular requesting the mills to patronise Indian-owned mines. Replying to the suggestion that the Association should ask such of its members as had burning contracts with contractors to issue definite instructions to their contractors that all coal purchased by them should be purchased exclusively from the output of the collieries under Indian management and ownership, the Association says that contract relations and terms of agreement between a Mill and a contractor were not supposed to be under the operation of direct instructions to draw coal from particular collieries only.

(The Times of India, 12-9-1931).

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Progress of Banking in India, 1929*

The following information about the progress of banking in India is taken from the Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India for 1929 published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India:-

Classification of Banks. - The banks dealt with in the statistical tables are classified into (1) The Imperial Bank of India, (2) the Exchange Banks whose head offices are located outside India, (3) the Indian Joint-Stock Banks, registered under the Indian Companies Act, and (4) the Indian Co-operative Banks, registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, II of 1912.

Imperial Bank of India. - An examination of the statements of accounts of the Imperial Bank of India reveals the fact that, as compared with 1928, Government or public deposits decreased in 1929, while private deposits increased. Cash balances showed an increase as compared with the preceding year. The table below summarises the capital, reserves, deposits, and cash balances of the Imperial Bank of India from 1925:-

31st December	Capital	Reserve and Rest	Government or Public Deposits	Private Deposits	Cash balances.
	1	2	3	4	5
	Rs(1000)	Rs(1000)	Rs(1000)	Rs(1000)	Rs(1000)
1925 . .	56,250	49,273	54,644	778,333	174,682
1926 . .	56,250	50,950	64,536	738,970	209,010
1927 . .	56,250	52,407	72,023	720,722	108,865
1928 . .	56,250	53,922	79,486	713,044	105,758
1929 . .	56,250	54,776	75,997	716,431	139,985

* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India - Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India 1929 - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council - Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch 1931 - Price Rs. 1-6 or 2s.3d. - pp.52.

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Exchange Banks. -

The aggregate paid-up capital and reserves of the eighteen Exchange Banks doing business in India in 1929 amounted to £228 millions and their deposits and cash balances in India only to £50 millions and £7 millions, respectively. Of the 18 Exchange Banks, 6 were banks doing a considerable portion of their business in India, and 12 were banks which were agencies of large banking corporations doing a major portion of their business abroad. The position from 1925 to 1929 of these banks was as follows:-

	Number of Banks	Capital, reserve and rest	Deposits in India	Cash Balance in India.
1925	18	£(1,000) 138,311	£(1,000) 52,909	£(1,000) 7,062
1926	18	148,003	53,658	8,046
1927	18	180,919	51,647	6,098
1928	18	187,923	53,354	6,042
1929	18	227,625	49,994	6,785

Indian Joint-Stock Banks - In 1928 there were altogether 78 Indian

Joint-Stock Banks having a minimum paid-up capital and reserves of Rs.100,000, from which returns have been received. The banks are subdivided into two classes, namely, (A) those with a paid-up capital and reserves of Rs.500,000 and over, and (B) smaller banks with a paid-up capital and reserves of between Rs.100,000 and less than Rs.500,000. The aggregate paid-up capital and reserves of these 78 banks in 1929 amounted to Rs.126.9 millions, the deposits to Rs.663 millions, and cash balances to Rs. 95 millions, as stated below:-

Class A					Class B			
Number of banks	Capital and reserves	Deposits	Cash balance		Number of banks	Capital and reserves	Deposits	Cash balance
	Rs (Million)	Rs (Million)	Rs (Million)			Rs (Million)	Rs (Million)	Rs (Million)
1925	28	106.0	544.9	101.0	46	11.8	34.2	6.8
1926	28	108.4	596.8	91.2	47	12.6	34.7	8.2
1927	29	110.8	608.4	77.0	48	12.2	34.6	5.2
1928	28	111.0	628.5	81.9	46	12.0	35.0	5.2
1929	33	116.4	627.2	90.5	45	11.5	35.8	4.5

Total Deposits. - The total deposits in all the three classes of Banks in India decreased from Rs.2,350 millions in 1920 to Rs.2,120 millions in 1929. The respective shares in the total deposits in 1929 were: Imperial Banks of India 37 per cent, Exchange Banks 32 per cent, and Indian Joint-Stock Banks 31 per cent. (In the case of Exchange Banks the figures refer to their deposits in India only)

Proportion of Cash to Deposits. - Cash balances at the end of 1929 were 18 per cent of the liabilities on deposits in the case of the Imperial Bank of India, 14 per cent in the case of Exchange Banks. The percentage for Indian Joint-Stock Banks was 14 in the case of those having capital and reserve of Rs.500,000 and over, and 13 in the case of those with smaller capital.

Indian Co-operative Banks. - The statistics in these tables relate to all Provincial and Central Co-operative Banks and registered non-agricultural(urban) Co-operative Credit Societies with limited liability and a capital and reserve amounting to at least ~~mm~~ Rs.100,000. These banks are sub-divided, as in the case of the Indian Joint-Stock Banks, into two classes namely (A) Rs.500,000 and over and (B) Rs.100,000 and below Rs.500,000. The following figures show the progress of co-operative banking during the years 1925-26 to 1929-30:-

Class A			Class B		
Number of Banks	Capital & Reserves	Deposits & loans received	Number of Banks	Capital & Reserves	Deposits & loans received.
	R (1,000)	R (1,000)		R (1,000)	R (1,000)
25-26 10	9062	53,783	104	20,284	92,981
26-27 12	11,254	70,065	119	22,474	119,769
27-28 16	14,982	88,356	125	24,734	131,636
28-29 18	16,334	90,149	140	27,707	148,688
29-30 22	20,470	109,016	157	30,805	161,278

Bank Rates. - These are the rates charged for demand loans, i.e. the rates charged day by day by the old Presidency Banks and the Imperial Banks of India for loans advanced on such security as Government paper. The annual average of these rates for the year 1929 was 6.33, the rates at the end of June and December being 6.88 and 5.79, respectively.

Bank failures. - The number of failures in 1929 was 11, Mysore accounting for four and Punjab, Bombay and Madras each for two.

Social ConditionsAbolition of Devadasi System in Savantvadi State

At pages 73 of the July 1930 and 31 of the February 1931 Reports of this Office, references were made to the abolition of the system of dedicating Devadasis (dancing girls) to serve in the Hindu temples maintained by the Governments of Travancore and Cochin. The small State of Savantvadi in the Bombay Presidency has, according to the Times of India of 17-9-31, recently passed an enactment called the Savantvadi Prevention of Dedication of Devadasis Act. By the new Act the performance, within the precincts of a Hindu temple or outside, of any ceremony intending or having the effect to dedicate a Hindu woman as a Devadasi, has been declared illegal and of no effect. The Act further provides that whoever performs or abets the performance of any ceremony ^{of} ~~for~~ dedication of a Hindu woman as Devadasi, will be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine or with both.

Special Backward Class Officer for Bombay.

The Bombay Government, in a Resolution, state that having accepted the resolution of the Depressed Classes and Aboriginal Tribes Committee, appointed in 1928, that there should be some officer definitely charged with the duty of seeing that the progress of the backward classes is continuous and their rights upheld, (Vide pages 71-73 of the Report of this Office for July 1930 for a summary of the Report of the Committee), ~~they have accepted the recommendation and~~ ^{They} have appointed ~~Mr. X. X. X.~~

Mr. O.H.B.Starte, I.C.S., who was Chairman of the Committee, to be the Backward Class Officer in addition to his own duties, with effect from 1-9-1931. Mr. Starte's duties will be to act as the adviser to Government on all matters specially or differentially affecting the backward classes, and to investigate and report on any question relating to them that may be referred to him by ^{the} Government. He is also charged with the general duty of enquiring into their needs and grievances, and where he considers it necessary, of making suggestions or representations to the departmental officers responsible for taking action. If after discussion with the departmental authorities, he is not satisfied with the action taken, he is empowered to refer the matter to higher authorities or to Government.

(The Times of India, 7-9-31)

Industrial Health

Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, 1930-31*

The following facts regarding the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, are taken from the Annual Report on the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, for the year 1930-31. The scheme consists of 207 chawls (tenements for industrial workers). (For details of rooms and shops in the tenements see table given at page 42 of the January 1931 report of this Office). During the year under review, one room at DeLisle Road and two rooms at Naigaum were converted into shops.

Chawls in Use. - The following table shows the figures of the occupied chawls at the beginning and at the end of the year:-

Locality .		April 1930	March 1931,
DeLisle Road	...	27	27
Naigaum	...	39	42
Worli	...	46	45
Sewri	...	12	12
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...		124	126

Scale of Rents:- The scale of rents for single roomed tenements in the four areas remained unchanged throughout the year. They were DeLisle Road Rs. 8, Naigaum Rs.7, Sewri Rs. 7 and Worli Rs.5. Re. 1 extra is charged for corner rooms. The rents for two-roomed tenements ranged from Rs.17-0-0 to Rs-19-0-0 a month and the rent for three-roomed tenements was Rs.27-0-0 a month. Out of 322 shops only 148 were occupied during the year. The question of revising the rates of rents of shops according to their location was considered, but on account of the prevailing economic depression it was considered desirable to postpone any revision.

Tenancies. - Out of a total of 16,524 rooms and shops 7,800 rooms were occupied at the end of March 1931, as against 7,291 at the

* Annual Report on the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme for the year 1930-31 - Bombay : Printed at the Government Central Press 1931 - Obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay, or through the High Commissioner of India, India House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2, or through any recognized Bookseller. - Price - Anna 1 or 1d. - pp.8.

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end of March 1930. The number of occupied rooms steadily increased in the first quarter of the year, but from August till October there was a gradual decline in the occupancies owing to a number of mills having been closed down and on account of the disturbed political conditions of the city. In November the situation began to improve, and by the end of March the figures of occupancies were higher by 509 than those at the corresponding period of the previous year. The rise in the occupancies at Worli from May 1930 to February 1931 was due to the occupation of four chawls by the Police Department to accommodate political prisoners.

Rent Collections. - The amount assessed for the year was Rs. 851,447 and the total recoveries, including arrears, during the year was Rs. 852,706. The collections were satisfactory in view of the prevailing conditions and compare favourably with those of previous years.

The total amount due from absconders was Rs. 24,848-3-9 as against Rs. 79,124-13-3 due in the previous year. The amount recovered was Rs. 8,928-14-7. The net amount still to be recovered is therefore Rs. 15,919-5-2 or a little more than 2 per cent. of the total assessment of the year, viz., Rs. 8,51,447. This result, the report states, is not unsatisfactory.

Vital Statistics and Sanitation. -

Locality.		Approximate population.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 approximately.
1		2	3	4
Naigaum	...	13,245	318	24
DeLisle Road	...	8,550	196	22.9
Worli	...	13,525	312	23
Sewri	...	4,425	63	14.2
Total...		39,745	889	22.3

As the figures of the new census are not yet available the average number of inhabitants per room has been taken as five for the purpose of calculating the specific death rate. The figures in column 2 are approximately the averages of the monthly tenancies multiplied by 5. There was no epidemic in any of the areas during the year.

Maternity Home at Worli. - A maternity home under the auspices of the Presidency Infant Welfare Society was opened at Worli during the year, and a chawl at Worli has been taken up for the purpose. The ground floor of the Chawl has been rendered suitable for the accommodation of children and servants. The first floor has been converted into a Maternity Home, containing two lying-in-wards, five existing rooms being converted by removal of partitions in each ward. Two rooms have been converted into a Labour Ward. The work, which was started at the end

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of January 1931 was completed in March 1931 at a total cost of Rs.9,297 against the estimated amount of Rs.9,299.

(The Annual Report on the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, during 1929-30 was reviewed at pages 42-43 of the report of this Office for January 1931).

Slum Clearing in Madras: Corporation's Housing Scheme.

The Corporation of Madras has decided to eradicate some of the worst slum areas in its area. ^{the} Government granted Rs.2,51,000 and some land in Pārambur Barracks Road some time ago and there the Madras Municipal Corporation is building 120 houses in addition to 80 houses in Bogipalliam. Each house has a living room 10ft. by 9ft., a bathroom, kitchen, passage 4ft. wide and a back verandah. The cost of each house is estimated at about Rs.1,200 which includes sewerage, water and light.

Sixty more houses are to be built at Bogipalliam, for the cost of which the Corporation will draw on municipal funds. Another housing scheme is contemplated at Triplicane, for which a loan of Rs.100,000 has been raised.

(The Times of India, 17-9-31).

Maritime Affairs.

R. I. M. Dock Workers' Union, Bombay.

A general meeting of the R. I. M. Dock Workers' Union, Bombay, was held on 21-8-31 with Mr. R.S.Asavale in the chair. Mr. Syed Munavar emphasised the need of solidarity amongst the workers, which alone, he said, would secure for them permanency of service, provident fund and other reasonable amenities, as also recognition by the authorities of their registered trade union with some genuine trade unionists as its office-bearers. The president exhorted the meeting to have faith in constitutional methods for the redress of their grievances. Resolutions were passed (1) urging the authorities to give immediate effect to such of the Whitley Commission's recommendations as related to workers of the dock yard, (2) demanding security of service for those who had served for over three years, (3) expressing determination to carry on with renewed vigour the activities of their existing union and (4) protesting against the discharge of some workers of long service and demanding their reinstatement.

(The Trade Union Record, September, 1931
(Vol.2, No.7).)

Conditions of Work of Indian Quartermasters.

At page 75 of the report of this Office for August 1931 reference was made to the demands of the Indian Quartermasters' Union, Calcutta. The following information about the conditions ~~of work of~~

of work of Indian quartermasters is taken from the September 1931 issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay:

The number of quartermasters at Calcutta being larger than required on board ships, the majority of them remain unemployed continuously for a long time. To minimise unemployment the Union has suggested that the quartermasters who have been serving on the same ship for more than a year, as well as those who come back to the port with the ship completing its voyage after six months, should be discharged. The recruitment of quartermasters is not done through the shipping office but some interested persons attend ships direct for employment which leads to corruption. The Indian quartermasters have to work 12 hours a day with intervals ^{after} every 4 hours which system prevents them from getting complete rest and sound sleep. The Union has suggested that the number of quartermasters on board ~~the~~ ship should be increased and the hours of work should be reduced to 8. On account of want of wheel-houses on all ships they are not protected from sun, rain, ice and wind while working. They are not provided with separate cabins. Their duties are not clearly defined. They are compelled to do the work of chipping, painting, washing etc.

(The Trade Union Record, September, 1931,
(Vol. 2, No. 7).)

Migration.

Indians Abroad: References in Viceroy's Address to the Legislature.

The Viceroy, in his address to the members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly at Simla on 14-9-31, made several references to the conditions of Indians abroad. The following are relevant extracts:-

Closer Union question in East Africa. - "As Honourable Members are aware, the Government of India deputed the Right Honourable V.S. Srinivasa Sastri to represent them before the Joint Select Committee of the two Houses of Parliament in London on the question of East Africa. Mr. Sastri gave evidence before the Committee towards the middle of June, and widespread satisfaction will be felt at the fact that, on the question of Closer Union, the views, which the Government of India finally authorised him to express on their behalf, were in complete accord with those of non-official Indian opinion, both in this country and in East Africa. My Government now await the report of the Committee with great interest."

Conditions in Malaya. - "The depression in the rubber and latterly, in the tea industry has seriously affected the Indian labourer in Malaya and Ceylon. The Governments of these two territories have shown a commendable spirit of co-operation with us in ensuring that the measure of sacrifice imposed by the economic crisis on the Indian labourer is not proportionately greater than what he can legitimately be expected to bear along with the other elements engaged in the industry, and that the labourer, who is not prepared to bear his share of the sacrifice, is repatriated to this country free of cost. My Government are watching the economic situation, in so far as it affects the Indian labourer, with constant and sympathetic vigilance and will do all that lies in their power to safeguard his interests."

Indians and the Ceylon Franchise. - "When the Order in Council on the subject of the franchise in Ceylon was first promulgated, there was considerable misgiving as to its effect on the Indian aspirant to the vote. It was feared that the requirement of a certificate of permanent settlement would have the effect of debarring a great many Indians from claiming the franchise. Honourable Members will be glad to hear that the great majority of Indians, who have sought admission to the electoral roll, have done so on the strength of domicile which can be established by a proof of five years' continuous residence in the Island. The total number of Indian electors is over 100,000 and it is hoped that, as the Indian population of Ceylon learns to appreciate the value of the vote and of organisation, their numbers will

increase. Meanwhile, my Government have learnt with great satisfaction that one of the Indian⁴ elected Members of the State Council has secured a seat in the Ministry⁴.

Indians in South Africa - " Early in the new year representatives of the Government of India will meet the representatives of the Government of the Union of South Africa to consider matters arising out of the working of the Cape Town Agreement which was concluded in 1927. As Honourable Members are aware, the Union Government, in deference to our representations, have agreed to postpone consideration of the Bill to regulate the tenure and ownership of immovable properties by Indians in the Transvaal until after this Conference which will also consider this projected measure of legislation. My Government are deeply appreciative of the spirit of friendliness of which this decision of the Union Government is a sign, and earnestly hope that it will help to ensure for the Conference an issue satisfactory and honourable both to India and to South Africa. Non-official Indian opinion, both in South Africa and in this country, has been greatly alarmed by this Bill, as also by certain other legislation, of which the recent amendment of the Immigration Act of the Union in respect of the value of Transvaal Registration certificates is the most important. The Government of India are of opinion that there is justification for this feeling, but do not despair of a satisfactory settlement of all these questions, provided that the representatives of both Governments approach them with earnest resolution to maintain and, indeed, improve upon the friendly relations which the Conference of 1927 did so much to establish. I feel confident that the interests of India will be fully maintained by her representatives under the wise and able Chairmanship of Sir Fazl-e-Hussain⁵.

(Extracted from Legislative Assembly Debates: 14-9-31 -
Vol. V. No.6 - Pages 342-343).

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE.
INDIAN BRANCH.

Report for October, 1931.

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Co-operation.

Progress of the Co-operative Movement in India, 1929-30*

The following information regarding the progress of the Co-operative movement in India during 1929-30 is taken from the Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during the year 1929-30 published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India.

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 Re-insurance Societies), (c) Agricultural Societies (including Cattle Insurance Societies), and (d) Non-Agricultural Societies (including Insurance Societies). The number of societies of all kinds increased from 96,091 in 1927-28 and 100,150 in 1928-29 to 104,187 during 1929-30. The number of societies per 100,000 inhabitants rose from 34.9 in 1928-29 to 36.2 in British India and from 43.3 to 45.7 in the Indian States for which figures are given. The total number of members of primary societies in India rose from 3,780,173 in 1927-28 and 4,002,197 in 1928-29 to 4,181,904 in the year under review. The number of members of primary societies per 1,000 inhabitants rose from 14.0 in 1928-29 to 14.6 in 1929-30 in British India and from 16.5 to 17.6 in the nine Indian States, and from 14.3 to 15.0 for the whole of India. The Working Capital for all India rose from Rs. 767,087,000 in 1928-29 and Rs. 826,896,000 in 1928-29 to Rs. 895,178,000 during the year under review. The Working

* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. - Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during the year 1929-30 - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. - Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch-1931 Price Re.1 or 1s.9d.- pp.21.

Capital of Co-operative Societies expressed in terms of annas per head of the population rose from 49 in 1928-29 to 53 in 1929-30 in British India and from 33 to 36 in the nine Indian States for which statistics are given and from 47 to 51 in the whole of India.

The financial position of all classes of Societies seems to be sound. In 1929-30, 588 Provincial and Central Banks with a membership of 89,956 individuals and 101,399 societies had reserve funds amounting to Rs.17,602,430, working capital amounting to Rs.309,022,374 and a profit of Rs. 5,127,690. The corresponding figures for agricultural and non-agricultural societies are equally impressive. In 1929-30, 91,786 agricultural societies with a membership of 3,117,627 had reserve funds amounting to Rs.58,438,980, working capital amounting to ~~Rx~~ ~~Rxxx542,980~~ Rs. 349,312,049 and profits amounting to 12,637,990. Similarly, in the case of non-agricultural societies, 10,255 societies with a membership of 1,059,048, had reserve funds amounting to Rs. 13,314,040, working capital amounting to Rs.150,644,304 and profits amounting to Rs. 5,614,787.

(The progress of the cooperative movement in India during 1927-28 is reviewed at pages 56 to 57 of the report^o of this Office for September 1929).

B. & O. Committee on Co-operation.

The Government of Bihar and Orissa has recently appointed (Resolution No.605 D.R. dated 28-9-31 of the Ministry of Education) a Committee to review the present condition of co-operative institutions and to make recommendations for the improvement of co-operation in the

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province. Mr. John Austen Hubback, M.A.(Cantab), ~~xxxx~~, is the President and Mr. Hassanand Radha Krishna Batheja, M.A.(Oxon), I.E.S., is the Member-Secretary. The Resolution states:-

"A considerable period has elapsed since the working of the Co-operative Department was examined by the Lyall Committee in 1923. During this interval, there has been a wide expansion of the activities carried on by the Department. The Royal Commission on Agriculture in India have recommended that Committees should be appointed by local Governments from time to time to enquire into the working of the movement so that defects may be brought to light and progress on sound lines ensured. The Bihar and Orissa Banking Enquiry Committee also emphasised in their report the need for a Committee on co-operation. Government in the Ministry of Education are accordingly pleased to appoint a Committee on co-operation in Bihar and Orissa.

(Supplement to the Bihar and Orissa

Gazette, 9-9-31. No.36. page 954).

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References to the I.L.O.

The Simla Session of the Legislative Assembly took up for discussion on 2-10-1931 the Recommendation of the 1929 I.L. Conference re: Prevention of Industrial Accidents. The full text of the debates extracted from the Legislative Assembly Debates of 2-10-1931 (Vol. VI, No. 8) is given at pages 8 — 10 of this report.

A short summary of the Assembly debate on the question is published in the Hindu of 2-10-1931.

The Council of State took up the above question for consideration on 5-10-1931. A summary of the Council of States debate on the question is published by the Hindu of 5-10-1931 and the Times of India and the Pioneer of 7-10-1931.

...

The Assembly took up for discussion on 3-10-1931 the resolution of Sir James Crerar (Home Member to the Government of India) recommending non-ratification by India of the Draft Convention on Forced or Compulsory Labour, adopted by the 14th I.L. Conference. The original resolution was modified by Mr. B. Das's amendment (see page 12 of this report) was adopted by the House.

A summary of the debate on the question in the Assembly is given at pages 10 — 14 of this report).

Summaries of the debate on the question were published in the Hindu of 4-10-1931, the Times of India of 5-10-1931 and the Labour Gazette, Bombay, of October 1931 (Vol. XI, No. 2).

The Council of State took up the above question for debate on 5-10-1931. The full text of the debate in the Council of State is published in the Council of State Debates of 5-10-1931 (Vol. II, No. 9).

A summary of the debate in the Council of State is given at page 16 of this report.

... ..

The Legislative Assembly took up for further discussion on 3-10-1931 and adopted Mr. J.A. Shillidy's resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Convention Regulating Hours of Work in Offices, Hotels, etc.

(A summary of the debate on the question in the Assembly is given at pages 14-15 of this report).

... ..

In the course of the debates in the Legislative Assembly on 3-10-1931 on the Conventions re: Forced Labour and Regulation of Hours of Work in Commercial Offices, etc., Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan Rural) made an attack on the League of Nations and the I.L.O.

The full text of Mr. Ziauddin Ahmad's speeches is published at pages 1518-1520 and 1527-1528 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of 3-10-1931 (Vol. VI, No.9).

... ..

The Pioneer of 31-10-1931 publishes a news item to the effect that the Government of India have received intimation from Geneva that the meeting of the Tripartite Technical Advisory Committee on Maritime Questions has been postponed indefinitely.

... ..

The Hindu of 21-10-1931 publishes a brief message from its London correspondent to the effect that the I.L.O. proposes to hold an

Asiatic Labour Conference despite Japan's protest.

The Hindustan Times of 23-10-1931 also publishes a more detailed account of the proposal to hold an Asiatic Labour Conference, sent to it by its London correspondent.

... ..

The Hindu of 20-10-1931 and the Pioneer of 21-10-1931 publish a special cable from Geneva to the effect that a proposal by the Workers' group for an unofficial conference to discuss ^athe 40-hour week was defeated at the last meeting of the Governing Body.

... ..

A communiqué issued by this Office on the questionnaire on the Age of Admission of Children to non-Industrial Occupations was published in the Hindu of 7-10-1931, the Pioneer of 8-10-1931 and the Hindustan Times of 9-10-1931.

Copies of the communique have been sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H2/1200/31, dated 8-10-1931.

... ..

The November 1931 issue of the New World, (Vol. I, No.1) a new monthly edited by Diwan Chaman Lall, publishes at pages 14-17, an article under the caption "The Workers' Cause: A New Social Order, Justice and Equality", contributed by the Director of this Office.

The article is written as a reply to the criticisms levelled against the I.L.O. by Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Employers' delegate to the 15th I.L.Conference.

(For summary of Mr. Walchand Hirachand's criticisms see pages 2-3 of the August 1931 report of this Office).

Volume II of the Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the year 1930 publishes at pages 255-303 the replies sent by the Chamber to the Government of India forwarding their views on all the questionnaires issued by the 13th I.L. Conference, as also on the question of India ratifying the Conventions concerning Seamen's Articles of Agreement, Protection of Workers employed in Loading and Unloading Ships, and the Marking of Weights on Heavy Packages.

Pages 46-64 of Volume II of the Report of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for the year 1930 contains the replies sent to the Government by the Chamber giving the Chamber's views on the questionnaires issued by the 13th I.L. Conference on the Protection of Seamen in case of Sickness and the Regulation of Hours of Work on Board Ship.

... ..

The September 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay (Vol.XI, No.1) reproduces at pages 49-50, the note on the I.L.O. Mission to China under the caption "Factory Inspection in China: International Labour Office Mission", originally published in "Industrial and Labour Information" of 24-8-1931, (Vol. XXXIX, No.8).

... ..

The October 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay (Vol. XI, No.2) reproduces at pages 149-152 the full text of the resolution and recommendation adopted by the Fourth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held at Geneva in 1931, which was originally published in the July 1931 issue of the International Labour Review.

... ..

The October 1931 issue of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, (Vol. IX, No.1) in a note published at page 13, draws attention to

the postponement by the Government of India of the extension of the application of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Railway Servants' Hours of Employment Rules, 1930, (vide pages 9 to 15 of our January 1930 report) to Indian Railways other than the North Western and the East Indian Railways in both of which ^{they have} ~~it has~~ already been applied. The paper makes the following comment on this decision of the Government:-

"It may be pointed out that Washington Hours and Geneva Weekly Rest Conventions do not admit financial stringency as one of the valid grounds for non-enforcement of the ratified conventions. The effect of the present decision is to allow the budget grant of Rs. 2 millions sanctioned for the current year for the purpose of enforcing the Conventions on all the Railways, to lapse and this is not the first year in which the sanctioned grants have been allowed to lapse in this manner. How can the workers have confidence in the bona fides of the Government when, repeatedly alleging some reason or other, they have been postponing the application of the Conventions for over a decade?"

Reference to the postponement of the application of the Act and the Rules is also made in the memorandum submitted by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to the Railway Court of Enquiry on behalf of the M. and S.M. Railway Union. The memorandum says:-

"The postponement of the application of Washington and Geneva Conventions owing to retrenchment is wholly unjust when regard is had to the fact that the question is now ten years old. We do not admit that the total number of additional men required when the Conventions are put into force will be 591 only. According to our estimates, the number will be in the neighbourhood of 2,500 additional men. Retrenchment has therefore worked as a hardship on the surplus men who could have been easily absorbed in the new posts created for the enforcement of the International Conventions".

The memorandum is published in the October 1931 issue of the M. & S.M. Railway Man (Vol. 3, No.4).

... ..

~~The~~ Indian Finance, Calcutta, of 31-10-1931 (Vol.VIII, No.17), publishes at pages 613-614 a review of the recent I.L.O. publication "International Labour Organisation - The First Decade". The review

was contributed by the Director of this Office.

(A cutting of the Review was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute E.1a/1300/31, of 5-11-1931).

... ..

The September 1931 issue of the E.B.Railway Labour Review (Vol.IV No.33) reproduces at pages 19-22 an article under the caption "An Englishman's Impression of the Whitley Report", originally published in the "People", Lahore. In the course of the article, the writer pays a tribute to the work of the I.L.O. in stimulating the conscience of the world in the matter of doing social justice to the workers.

He says:-

"In reading the Report the Englishman's mind is thrown back a hundred years, and often more. Shocking as some of the existing conditions in India are, especially when compared with the situation in this country, ^(England) it is well to remember that a century ago conditions were nearly as bad here, ^{and} as in many ~~xx~~ respects quite as bad, and that it has taken decades of hard and heroic fighting in the field of Trade Unionism, and also of politics, to get rid of the worst evils. India will have to travel much the same road, except that by virtue of what has been accomplished in the more advanced industrial countries and of the stimulus of the conscience of the whole world on these matters, aided by the work of the International Labour Office of the League of Nations, progress will be much more rapid in countries like India which have only latterly entered the field of centralised and mechanised industry".

... ..

The article contributed by Mr. ~~John~~ John Cliff, Member, Royal Commission on Labour, under the caption "The Workers of India: How the I.L.O. might Help the East", to the August 1931 issue of Headway (Vol. XIII, No.8) is reproduced in the October 1931 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, (Vol. II, No.10). Copies of the article were supplied to the more important of the Indian newspapers and labour journals by this Office. (For list of other papers which have published the article, vide page 1 of our August 1931 report and page 1

of our September 1931 Report.)

... ..

The Government of India recently published the Report of the delegates of the Government of India to the 15th I.L. Conference as Bulletin No.47 in their Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour Series. (A copy of the Bulletin was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D 1/1297/31, dated 5-11-1931.)

India and Geneva Conventions.

India and the Recommendation re: Prevention of Industrial Accidents.

The following extracts are taken from the Indian Legislative Assembly Debates of 2-10-31:-

Mr. J. A. Shillidy (Secretary, Industries and Labour Department): - Sir, on the 7th July 1930, a Resolution moved on behalf of Government was adopted by this House recommending that the Governor General in Council should examine the possibility of giving effect to the Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents adopted by the Twelfth International Labour Conference, 1929, and that the results of this examination should be placed before this House within 18 months from that date.

In pursuance of this Resolution a letter was addressed to all the major Local Governments and the Chief Commissioner of Delhi asking for their views. The replies have now been received, in the light of which the Government of India have undertaken a further examination of this Recommendation.

While there is a general agreement with the principle underlying the Recommendation, there is considerable criticism of the details. The Recommendation is divided into four parts and comprises no less than 23 Articles covering a very wide field of activities. The preamble to the Recommendation extends its application "to agriculture, taking into account the special conditions of agricultural work". The general view of Local Governments, with which the Government of India are in agreement, is that in some respects the Recommendation goes beyond ~~the~~ what is possible or necessary in the existing stage of industrial development of the country. In particular it is considered that, even with the proviso contained in the preamble, the application of this Recommendation in any form to agriculture, would be inoperative in practice. The use of machinery in agricultural operations is in its infancy throughout India and it would be impossible to take any effective action which would ensure that legislative or administrative orders were carried out. Moreover, it is pointed out that both Parts I and II of the Recommendation presuppose an amount of co-ordination and co-operation between the three parties concerned, namely, Government, the employer and the employee which cannot be expected in existing Indian conditions. Labour in this country is still to a large extent migratory, illiterate and insufficiently organised to be able to undertake the various duties which are implicitly required of it by the Recommendation. In addition, there are certain proposals, particularly those relating to industrial accident insurance, psychological and physiological research, which postulate the existence of organisations and agencies which are either non-existent or still imperfectly developed.

On the other hand, the replies from Local Governments indicate that many of the items in the Recommendation are already in operation

in varying degrees and that, in certain directions, further progress is possible and desirable. Indeed, many of the details involved in the Recommendation also find mention in the report of the Royal Commission on Labour. Thus, although the terms of the Recommendation cannot be accepted as immediately practicable, they may be regarded as forming a standard which employers, employees and inspecting authorities may gradually work up to in the future. Of the four parts into which the Recommendation is divided, Part III dealing with the legislation which each State Member should undertake is the only one on which definite action can be taken by Government. For the remaining parts, Government are dependent on persuasion and must first secure the co-operation of private organisations and associations. So far as legislation is concerned, Government are anxious that it should not be undertaken piece-meal. The Royal Commission on Labour have examined the working of the Factories Act and the Mines Act which are the principal Acts concerned and have made recommendations for their amendment and revision including proposals for industrial safety. The Recommendation of the International Labour Conference will need to be re-examined in the light of the Report of the Royal Commission on Labour, which has only lately ~~been published~~ been published. The examination of the Report is at present being pursued, but until this is completed, Government will obviously not be in a position to take any action. It may also be mentioned that the last reply from a Local Government to the Government of India's circular letter regarding this Recommendation was received only towards the end of June last, and, in view of the numerous criticisms of the details, the time available has been inadequate for arriving at any definite conclusions. As the Report of the Royal Commission on Labour covers the same ground as the Recommendation, the Government of India proposes to proceed with the consideration of the latter simultaneously with the former and to give effect to it so far as may be practicable.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Do I take it that the Government of India, in the light of their examination of the Labour Commission's Report and also these Recommendations, will themselves bring forward legislation without our applying pressure on the Government?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: I think I explained once before in answer to a question that there were a great many of these Recommendations of the Labour Commission, the decision on which would rest with the Local Governments. There were other matters in regard to which either the Local Governments or the Central Government could take action by executive order. As regards the legislation which the Honourable Member refers to, we are at present engaged in examining the recommendations of the Labour Commission. Some of these recommendations as I said will have to go to Local Governments. There are other recommendations which we have previously examined, the results of our examination having been given to the Labour Commission, and on these we shall certainly try to take action and prepare legislation as soon as possible. I can assure the Honourable Member that no pressure will be required from this House on Government to undertake that legislation.

Mr. B. Das: Does the Honourable Member expect that he will bring in such legislation at the winter session at Delhi?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: I would be most unwilling to give any promise, but our hope at the present moment is that there will certainly be certain legislation in the Delhi Session.

(Extracted from the Legislative Assembly Debates, dated 2-10-31, Vol. VI - No.8, pages 1408-1410).

Resolution re: Draft Convention on Forced or Compulsory Labour

The following is a summary of the debate which took place on 3-10-1931 in the Indian Legislative Assembly on the question of India's ratification of the I.L.O. Draft Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour:-

The Honourable Sir James Crerar (Home Member) moved the following resolution:

"That this Assembly, having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendations concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, adopted by the 14th session of the International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention".

After tracing the history of the Draft Convention and the views expressed by the Government of India on the questionnaire on the subject, Sir James Crerar said that the definition of 'Forced or Compulsory Labour' in the Draft Convention was such as to preclude India from ratifying the Convention owing to the difficulty of giving effect to the Convention while keeping intact the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924. "Under that Act, section 16 empowers the Local Government to establish industrial, agricultural or reformatory settlements and any criminal tribe in respect of which a notification has been issued under section 11 may be placed in any such settlement. The Act further empowers the Local Government to establish industrial, agricultural or reformatory schools for children. The rule-making power in section 20 empowers Local Governments to make rules for the management, control and supervision of industrial, agricultural or reformatory settlements and schools and likewise for the works on which, and the hours during which persons placed in an industrial, agricultural or reformatory settlement shall be employed, the rate at which they shall be paid, and the like. There is a further provision which is important, section 22, which is obviously essential for carrying on this work. It imposes a definite penalty for breach of the rules on the part of a member of the criminal tribe settled in one of these settlements".

The Chief difficulty of the Government of India was that "when a Local Government first registers criminal tribes, or when it institutes a settlement or a reformatory school or the like, it is not taking penal action. That is to say, no sentence is passed on any person concerned. Consequently, though it is necessary that work or service should be exacted, ~~as the consequence of the conviction in a court of law~~ it cannot be said in the terms of the Convention that it is exacted as the consequence of the conviction in a court of law. That is the legal position. There are at present in India some 61 settlements which have been set up under this Act; They have a population of something over 30,000 people at the present time. In addition to members of criminal tribes who are in settlements formed under sections 16 and 17 of the Act, there are, more particularly in the Bombay Presidency, certain free settlements, or colonies which have been set up by the criminal tribes settlement organisations which are not in any sense part of the settlements actually coming under the Act. This is a question of the reclamation of the criminal tribes. In dealing with the stages of dealing with the criminal tribes, there are necessarily in the first instance measures of registration and restriction. The second stage is that of institution of settlements, reformatory schools and the like. The third is a very important development, that in which free settlements are formed which pass out to the normal and useful occupation of citizens - a large number of persons who have passed through the previous stages.*

..... In these settlements they are taught agriculture and various useful trades; those that are settled near ~~under~~ industrial towns in process of time take their place in the ranks of free labour and carry on the ordinary work of a labourer in conditions very different from those from which they have emerged. It is the invariable practice to attach schools to these settlements: Sometimes for obvious reasons children are taken away from their parents and are sent to separate schools". According to the Home Member, work of this kind had necessarily to be carried out under conditions of discipline. These settlements and Reformatory schools were stumbling blocks in the way of India ratifying the Convention.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh moved an amendment to the effect that the word "not" occurring between the words "should" and "ratify" in the Home Member's resolution should be deleted. Speaking in support of his amendment for advocating ratification, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh said that the views of the provincial governments on the question of the application of the provisions of the Convention to the Criminal Tribes were at variance with the views expressed by the Home Member. He then quoted the following views of the various provincial governments. The view of the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer, Bombay, which was endorsed by the Bombay Government was as follows:-

"I do not know if the existence of the settlements is the only difficulty in the way of the Government of India ratifying the Convention, or the amount of pressure which will be exercised upon it to ratify the Convention regardless of difficulties. If the pressure is serious and if the existence of the Criminal Tribes Settlement is the only difficulty in the way of ratification, it is possible that modification in the Criminal Tribes Act might be made to bring the Criminal Tribes Act within the terms of the Convention"... "If it be agreed that the spirit of article 2(c) would include persons detained in schools established under Children's Acts or ~~Bor~~ Borstal Acts, cannot it also be argued that settlements too are meant as

training grounds?"

The Madras Government in its report on Criminal Tribes Settlements said: "In practice, however, the measure of compulsion is very small. In the three settlements managed by the Salvation Army the conditions of labour are hardly different from those under which ordinary free labourers work. The wages paid by the Salvation Army are what are usually paid to labourers in the neighbourhood They get their usual daily wages like any other labourer outside and no compulsion or force is used".

The Inspector General of Police, the United Provinces, has remarked: "~~that~~ the settlers cannot be said to be forced to work; the work is there for them to do but they can if they wish take a 'day off' and suffer a loss of wages as do labourers elsewhere. . . . The work in settlements is not regarded as forced labour by the settlers themselves".

And lastly, the Government of Punjab has said: "In the opinion of the Governor in Council the term 'forced or compulsory labour' is misleading when applied to the conditions which obtain in the settlements established for the reclamation of criminal tribes. The labour which is done is not for the pecuniary benefit of the employer". [Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh therefore contended that ratification of the Convention was not incompatible with the enforcement of the Criminal Tribes Act, if the Act could be suitably modified so as to bring it under the terms of the Convention.

Mr. Singh's amendment motion recommending ratification when put to vote was negatived.

Mr. B. Das, (an adviser to the Employers' delegate to the 12th session of the I.L.Conference) then moved the following amendment:

"That for the original resolution the following be substituted:

'While considering that the Draft Convention on forced labour cannot be ratified until Article 2 thereof is modified so as to exclude labour exacted under the Criminal Tribes Act, the Good Conduct Prisoners' Probationary Release Act and other similar social legislation in force in India, this Assembly recommends to the Government of India that they proceed to take action on all other provisions contained in the Draft Convention and the Recommendations as soon as may be practicable"'.

In his speech moving the amendment, Mr. B. Das said: "I was present at Geneva along with my Honourable friend Mr. Chetty. We both took part in these debates and we found that the Government of India did not help us properly in the matters that we raised at the International Labour Conference at Geneva and we were contradicted. And because the Government of India had the right of reply at the end we could not give them a reply. I then told a delegate of the Government of India, Dr. Paranjpye, that I reserved my right to reply to them two or three years afterwards on the floor of the Assembly. I have got that opportunity today and I will do it. Sir Atul Chatterjee who was the leader of the Government delegation refuted that, and subsequently Dr. Paranjpye refuted a similar statement made by me and Mr. Shiva Rao at the International Labour Conference. I will quote Sir Atul Chatterji's speech:- 'There is one small point to which Mr. Chetty referred and to which I must make very brief

allusion. That is the question of the position of Indian States in regard to the Draft Conventions and Recommendations passed at this Conference. I think Mr. Chetty has overlooked the fact that this is a matter which has received very anxious and prolonged consideration from the Indian Government, and the position was fully explained in a communication made to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations about two years ago'.

"And I will give you the reply which the Director Mons. Thomas made to this statement of Sir Atul Chatterjee: 'First of all within the framework of the organisation itself there is the problem of the Indian Native States. Will the work partially, but still considerably accomplished in British India for the protection of labour survive if competitive industries exempt from all social charges develop uncontrolled in the Native States? Mr. Chetty has expressed the concern of the employers; Sir Atul Chatterji has explained the difficulties connected with the introduction of protective legislation in the Native States. He recalled the dilemma with which Lord Birkenhead wished to confront us in 1927. Either the ratification will apply to British India only or we shall not ratify at all. We cannot believe that this will be a final solution'. I want the House to note this carefully. Mons. Thomas says: 'We cannot believe that this will be a final solution. We believe that we shall receive help from all quarters in the necessary endeavour to obtain a generalisation of just and humane working conditions in the immense communities of India'.

"Sir, while I am grateful to the Honourable the Home Member for accepting every Article in the Draft Convention except Article 2 as to work connected with the Criminal Tribes Act and similar social legislation and also the Recommendations, I want a statement either from him or from the representative of the Department of Industries and Labour present as to what steps Government have taken since 1929 to bring the Indian States into harmony with India and whether the Indian States have fulfilled the expectations that the Director of the International Labour Conference expressed. I should also like to know what further negotiations have taken place between the Government of India, the High Commissioner and the office of the International Labour Conference in this matter. Sir, at Geneva I did point out that I strongly resent that Indian ~~Princes~~ Princes should represent India at the League of Nations and I did suggest that a representative of India should challenge their credentials because they do not allow Conventions that are passed in the International Labour Conference to be ratified in their States. Of course we know that in the present circumstances the Government of India have special power and they have reserved power to deal with the Indian States, but I cannot accept any Indian Prince or ruler as my equal or as my representative in international problems when he cannot accept the conditions of work that are laid down at the International Labour Conference. Sir, I hope I will get a reply, or if the Government have slept over it since 1929 I hope they will proceed further in the matter before the reforms are settled at the London Round Table Conference."

"I do not want to quote Dr. Paranjpye's speech any further. But I have one request to make to the Honourable Members of the Treasury Benches. In future, I do not mind the High Commissioner being the leader of the International Labour Conference. But his advisers, both Indian and European, should be persons who are acquainted with the actual conditions of work in India. Otherwise they make statements which at times resemble the bureaucratic observations coming from the Treasury Benches. I am glad that the Honourable the Home Member accepts this amendment. It will save our face before the world and show that we are bringing humanising conditions to our workers and are prepared to abolish slavery or forced labour in all forms both in British ~~xx~~ India and Indian States".

Mr. B. Das's motion was put to vote and was adopted.

(Summarised from the Legislative Assembly Debates, 3-10-1931, Vol, VI, No.9, pages 1509-1525).

Resolution re Draft Convention Regulating Hours of Work
In Offices, Hotels, Etc.,

At pages 9-27 of the Report of this Office for April 1931, was given the text of the debate which took place in the Legislative Assembly on 1-4-1931 on the question of India's ratification of the Convention re: Hours of Work in Commerce. On that date a motion was adopted by the House to the effect that the consideration of the question should be postponed to the Simla Session of 1931. Accordingly the question was taken up for discussion by the Legislative Assembly on 3-10-1931. The following is a summary of the further discussions which took place on 3-10-1931 in the Assembly on the question.

The Resolution originally moved by Mr. J.A. Shillidy, Secretary to the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, was as follows:-

"This Assembly, having considered the following Draft Convention and Recommendations adopted by the Fourteenth Session of the International Labour Conference:

- (1) Draft Convention concerning the regulation of hours of work in ~~hotels, restaurants and similar establishments~~ Commerce & Offices;
- (2) Recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in hotels, restaurants and similar establishments;

(3) Recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in theatres and other places of public amusement; and

(4) Recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in establishments for the treatment or the care of the sick, infirm, destitute or mentally unfit, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendations".

To this resolution Mr. N.M. Joshi had moved in the April session the following amendment: "that the word 'not' occurring between the words ~~should~~ 'should' and 'ratify' be deleted and the word 'and' be substituted for the word 'nor' occurring between the words 'convention' and 'accept'.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju, speaking in support of the resolution and against the amendment, said that the ratification of the Convention was undesirable for the following reasons: (a) The Convention did not really benefit the employees but had simply given the government greater powers of control; (b) India is primarily an agricultural country and commercial offices are very few; (c) The number of exceptions are so many that those who come under the provisions are very few; (d) Mr. Joshi stated that offices containing less than 50 employees may be exempted from any legislation that may be passed on the subject. Such action would mean that the employees affected by the Convention would be ~~very few~~ ^{still} few in this country. (e) The question of minimum wages is closely connected with the question of hours of work and the Whitley Report is of opinion that it is not possible for India to fix any minimum wage. Hence legislation on one subject without corresponding legislation on a closely related subject is not advisable. (f) The cost of maintaining a staff of inspectors to enforce any law based on the Convention will be out of proportion to the benefit that will be derived by the enforcement of the Convention.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad also spoke in support of the resolution and made a strong attack on the League of Nations and the I.L.O.

Mr. S.G. Jog, speaking in support of Joshi's amendment, said that the Government should have split up their resolution into two, one to deal with the Convention and another to deal with the Recommendations attached to the Convention. Mr. Jog was of opinion that the Recommendations which requested the government to investigate into the conditions of work of employees of hotels and restaurants, theatres and places of public entertainments, should be given effect to.

Mr. Shillidy in his reply pointed out that the Recommendations were to enquire into the professions named in order to see if the Draft Convention could be applied to them also and that since the present ~~proposed~~ proposal was that the Draft Convention should not be accepted by India the necessity for conducting the enquiries into particular professions did not arise.

Mr. Joshi's motion recommending ratification of the Convention when put to vote was negatived.

The original Resolution was then put to vote and it was adopted.

(Summarised from the Legislative Assembly Debates, 3-10-1931, Vol. VI, No.9, pages 1525-1531).

The Council of State and the Geneva Conventions.

The Council of State took up for discussion on 5-10-1931 the Recommendation concerning the Prevention of Industrial Accidents and the Convention re. Forced or Compulsory Labour.

Recommendation re. the Prevention of Industrial Accidents. The Honourable Sir C.P. Ramaswami Ayyar (Law Member to the Government of India) made a statement on the subject similar to that made in the Assembly on 2-10-1931 by Mr. J.A. Shillidy (see pages 8-10 of this report). The text of the statement made in the Council of State is published at pages 205-207 of the Council of State Debates of 5-10-1931 (Vol.II No.9).

Resolution re. Draft Convention on Forced or Compulsory Labour.

The Honourable Mr. H.W. Emerson (Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department) moved the following resolution in the Council of State on 5-10-1931:

"This Council, having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendations concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, adopted by the 14th Session of the International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention".

The above resolution, modified as follows, was accepted by the House:

"While considering that the Draft Convention on forced labour could not be ratified until Article 2 thereof is modified so as to exclude labour exacted under the Criminal Tribes Act, the Good Conduct Prisoners' Probational Release Act and other similar legislation in ~~force~~ force, this Council recommends to the Government of India that they proceed to take action on all other provisions contained in the Draft Convention and the Recommendation as soon as may be practicable".

(The full text of the debate on the question in the Council of State is published at pages 207-209 of the Council of State Debates of 5-10-1931 (Vol. II, No.9). For summary of debates on the question in the Assembly see pages 10 & 14 of this report.)

K.

National Labour Legislation.The C. P. Workmen's Welfare Bill, 1931.

At pages 19-25 of the March 1929 report of this Office, the full text of the Central Provinces Workmen's Welfare Bill introduced by Mr. R.W.Fulay, M.L.C. (adviser to the Indian workers' delegate to the 15th I.L. Conference) with the Statement of Objects and Reasons was given. The Bill was introduced in the C.P. Legislative Council on 21 & 22-1-29 and a motion for circulation to elicit public opinion was carried on the latter date. The Bill evoked great opposition from factory owners and when it was moved on 24-8-31 to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, the House was of opinion that sufficient attention was not paid to the Bill and hence its consideration was postponed. The Bill lapsed with the dissolution of that Council.

According to the Central Provinces Gazette of 3-10-31, (No. 40 Part VII pages 87-90), Mr. Fulay has introduced an identical Bill in *the* present C.P. Legislative Council on 29-8-31 and a motion to circulate the Bill to elicit public opinion thereon was carried on the same date.

(For full text of Bill and Statement of Objects and Reasons see pages 19-25 of March 1929 report of this Office).

K.

The Bengal Mining Settlements (Amendment)

Act, 1931. (Bengal Act IV of 1931).

Act II 1912. An Act to amend the Bengal Mining Settlements Act 1912.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Bengal Mining Settlements Act, 1912, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

V. And Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General has been obtained under sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of India Act to the passing of this Act;

3
V

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Bengal Mining Settlements Short title and (Amendment) Act, 1931. commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Local Government may, by notification in the Calcutta Gazette, appoint.

2. In sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Bengal Mining Amendment of Settlements Act, 1912 (hereinafter referred to section 1 of Ben. as "the said Act"), the words "including the Act II of 1912. Sonthal Parganas" shall be omitted.

3. In section 2 of the said Act for the figures "1901" the Amendment of figures "1923" shall be substituted. section 2.

4. After sub-section (4) of section 10 of the said Act, the Amendment of following sub-section shall be inserted, section 10. namely:-

"(4a) The expenses due from any owner in respect of any mine shall, subject to the prior payment of the land-revenue (if any) due to the Government thereupon, be a first charge upon the said mine, and upon the movable property (if any) found within such mine and belonging to the said owner".

5. In section 11 of the said Act - Amendment of section 11.

(a) clauses (d) to (i) of sub-section (2) shall be omitted, and

(b) in sub-section (5) for the words and figures "section 9 of the Indian Mines Act, 1901" the words and figures "section 10 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923" shall be substituted.

6. After section 11 of the said Act, the following section Insertion of new shall be inserted, namely:- section II A.

"11A. (1) A Mines Board of Health may, after previous publication, make by-laws -
Power of Board to make by-laws.

- (i) defining the duties of owners, agents and managers of mines in respect of a mining settlement, and of all persons acting under them;
- (ii) defining the matters in respect of which notices, returns and reports shall be furnished by owners, agents and managers of mines, the form of such notices, returns and reports, the persons and authorities to whom they are to be furnished, and the particulars to be contained in them;
- (iii) defining the plans (if any) to be kept by owners, agents and managers of mines within a mining settlement, and the manner and places in which they are to be kept for purposes of record;
- (iv) providing for the supply of filtered, boiled or other water and for sanitation and conservancy in the mining settlement;
- (v) providing for the taking of measures to prevent the outbreak or spread of and to combat epidemic and other diseases in the mining settlement;
- (vi) providing against the accumulation of water (other than water in mines) in the mining settlement;
- (vii) regulating the construction and sanitation of residential buildings within the mining settlement;
- (viii) prescribing standards of accommodation in cases where accommodation is provided for persons employed in mines within the mining settlement;
- (ix) defining the medical assistance to be provided by the owners of mines within the mining settlement for the labourers employed under them;
- (x) providing for the prevention or abatement of nuisances affecting the public health committed by any persons within the limits of the mining settlement; and
- (xi) generally for carrying out the purposes of this Act and for promoting the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines within the mining settlement.

(2) By-laws made under this section shall not take effect until they have been confirmed by the Local Government and published in the local official Gazette".

7. In section 12 of the said Act -
Amendment of section 12. (a) in clause (a) after word "rules" the word "by-laws" and
(b) in clause (c) after the word "rules" the words "and by-laws" shall be inserted.

8. In sub-section (3) of section 15 of the said Act -
Amendment of section 15. (a) in clause (a) after the word "rule" the word "by-laws" shall be inserted; and
(b) in clause (b) for the words "rule or order there-under" the words "rule, by-law or order made there-under" shall be substituted.

9. In sections 16, 17 and 18 of the said Act, for the words
Amendment of sections 16, 17 and 18. "rule or order thereunder" the words "rule, by-law or order made thereunder" shall be substituted.

(The Act Received the assent of the Governor General on 17-10-31).

(Extracted from the Calcutta Gazette, dated 5-11-31, No.45 of 1931, part III, pages 56-57.).

HHK.

Conditions of Labour.The Milling
Wages in Burmese Rice Industry**

The following information regarding the wages in Burmese rice mills is taken from a recently published report on the subject based on an enquiry under-taken by the Director of Statistics and Labour Commissioner, Burma. The report incorporates the results of enquiries made into the earnings of wage-earners in rice mills in Burma during three different periods. The first period is March 1928 which is taken to show the amount of employment and the earnings at the height of the busy milling season which normally lasts from January to May in any year. The second period is November 1927 which gives the corresponding information for the slack season when either the minimum amount of milling is being done or the mills have been closed down with the exception of a skeleton staff to keep things in order. The third period is March 1914 which has been taken to give some kind of comparison between present day earnings and pre-war earnings.

Number of Rice Mills: According to the Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Burma during 1928, there were 608 rice factories in that year in Burma which came under the provisions of the Act. The number of rice factories which furnished completed returns for the inquiry on which the report is based was 520 and consequently the report covers only these 520 rice factories.

* Report on Wages in Rice Mills in Burma by A. J. Page, B.A., F.S.S., I.C.S., Director of Statistics and Labour Commissioner, Burma. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma-1931 Price= Rs.2 = 3s. = pp.94.

Number of Workers:- According to the Factory Report for 1928, there were 41,327 workers employed in the rice mills of Burma. Of these, 12,187 represent the number of men employed on a monthly basis. The remaining 29,140 represent the number of maistry coolies employed in the mills as well as the number of daily paid men and daily and monthly paid women.. Those paid on a monthly basis mostly belong to the engine room staff, boiler staff, mill staff, mill workshop staff, paddy staff and rice staff.

The Total Wage Bill: (Monthly Paid Employees) :- The total amounts earned by monthly paid men on the three different dates are shown in the following table:-

March 1928				November 1927				March 1914.			
No. of men	Amount Rs.	As.	P.	No. of men	Amount Rs.	As.	P.	No. of men	Amount Rs.	As.	P.
12,187	341,914	-4	-9	8,597	249,218	-8	-5	4,044	84,494	-3	-9

For all-Burma these figures show that the average monthly amount earned (excluding overtime and concessions) per head was Rs.20.89 in March 1914, Rs.28.99 in November 1927 and Rs.28.06 in March 1928. Comparing the two periods March 1924 and March 1928, there has been a nominal increase in earnings of 34.3 per cent. As no index numbers of cost of living have been maintained for any centres outside Rangoon, the report states that it is impossible to deduce any all-Burma figure to show the change in real wages. Taking the Rangoon figures alone, the average earnings per head at the three given dates were Rs.20.75,

Rs.30.88 and Rs.29.08. The nominal increase in earnings as between March 1914 and March 1928 is seen to be 40.14 per cent.

Real Wages:- The index numbers of the cost of living in Rangoon of the four principal communities to which the rice mill workers belong in 1914 and 1928, according to the tables published in the Burma Gazette, were as follows:-

	Burmese.	Tamils, Telugus & Oriyas.	Hindustanis.	Chittagonians.
March 1914	92	96	98	93
March 1928	134	136	148	136

An unweighted arithmetic mean of these figures gives a figure of 95 for March 1914 and of 138 for March 1928. A rough percentage increase of 45.26 in the cost of living of workers in Rangoon is thus indicated, but, the report states that, it must be clearly borne in mind when comparing this figure with the 40.14 per cent. increase in wages given above, that the difference between the two figures is not great enough to ^{one}Merable to come to any definite conclusion that in March 1928 the increase in the cost of living was greater than the increase in nominal wages measured by a pre-war standard.

Hours of Work. - From the returns supplied by 511 mills from which definite information was obtained, it appears that in March 1928 the hours of work in 11 mills were from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. (12 hours), xxxx in 6 mills from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. (10 hours), in 107 mills from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. (11 hours), and in 310 mills from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (12 hours). 21 mills started at 6-30 a.m. and closed at times varying

from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. , 49 mills started at 7 a.m. and closed between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., 5 mills started at 8 or 8-30 a.m. and closed between 3-30 p.m. and 6 p.m., whilst 2 mills did not open till as late as 10 a.m. and closed at 3 p.m. respectively. *Of the 571 mills, 26 worked 10 1/2 hours; 302, 10 hours; 11, 9 hours; 67, 9 hours; 6, 8 1/2 hours; and 34, 8 hours.*

Overtime Earnings:-

According to the information furnished

in the returns, the amount of money earned by overtime work in the month of March 1928 was not considerable. In most cases overtime work was paid at the same rate as for ordinary work judging by the figures based on information supplied by 156 mills.

Concessions in Addition to Wages:-

Concessions granted to

rice mill hands may be free quarters, free rice, cheap rice, & free cook, free water, light or fuel, free medical treatment with medicines. In a few cases free board and lodging and even clothing were given. The following figures show the relative prevalence of the various concessions. Out of 476 mills which have furnished particulars regarding free quarters, 354 report that free quarters are provided for every one, 50 report that all except certain sections of the staff have the privilege whilst the remainder give free quarters only to such employees as the power house ^{staff} or boiler staff or to durwans. The mills in the Tharrawaddy Group seem the most generous in this respect, 156 of them providing accommodation for all or some of their staff. Fifty-two mills report that they give free rice to all or some of their staff. Eighty mills give cheap rice, 69 of them giving it to all their staff. The concession of free water is only reported by 35 mills. These mills are situated in places where a local supply of good water is difficult to be obtained. Free light was supplied in 41 mills, free fuel in 15, medical treatment and medicines in 9. The number of mills which give free board and lodging or free clothing were very few.

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Conciliation Committees in Bombay Mills

An experiment to establish Committees in Bombay textile mills representing the workers as well as the mill management, which would serve to ^{give} speedy redress to ~~the~~ grievances of the former and prevent lightning strikes, undertaken by the Currimbhoy group of mills, Bombay, has excited controversy in labour circles.

Conciliation Committee. - The Currimbhoys own about 13 mills in the city and recently the management of certain of these mills have moved in the matter of establishing a Committee in each mill consisting of 60 members representing the workers. The Committee would be presided over by the mill manager, but the secretary would be elected from among the workers. The grievances of the workers from each department would have to be placed before the Committee twice regularly every month, and the Committee would then consider them and take steps to give redress.

Such a Committee has already been established in the Kasturchand Mill, the manager of the mill having taken a lead in the matter. Besides this, it is also proposed to start co-operative credit societies with a view to advance loans to workers on easy terms.

(Labour Gazette, October 1931.

Vol. XI - No.2., Page 138.)

Economy Measures in Tata Iron & Steel Co.:

General Manager's Statement.

The General Manager of the Tata Iron & Steel Company, Jamshedpur, issued a statement on 26-9-31 regarding the present economic depression and how it affects the future of the company, and particularly how it will affect the wages of the workers. The following are extracts from the statement:-

"On September 15 we had 38,818 tons of pig iron, 57,389 tons of finished steel and 23,641 tons of semi-finished steel in stock. This company had to pay for the raw materials, coal and labour to produce this ~~material~~ stock. At the same time, this represents Rs.7 millions tied up in these stocks. In spite of these facts, it is still the policy of the management not to interfere with the wages of the low paid men. It has rather been the policy to do away with high-paid staff, wherever possible, and to make whatever savings we could on this account. We regret to notice, however, that outsiders are coming here, as they think that the present is an opportune moment for capturing illiterate men. They speak of grievances which the management refuse to redress. These grievances are entirely imaginary and exist solely in the minds of a handful of men. The world trade during the past week has gone from bad to worse and it is doubtful what the future holds in store for us. We hope we can keep operating at the same rate we are now doing, but if we cannot sell our steel, we will not be able to keep going at the present rate, because we cannot afford to stock any more steel and it is out of the question for us to pay our workmen with bars, angle iron and pig iron, instead of rupees."

Referring to the reduction in wages and other economies effected in steel plants in other countries, the statement says:-

"We expect all the low-paid men in this plant to give us that same support for the coming year as they did in the past year, and if they do, we see no reason why this Steel Company should not keep operating. The United States Steel Corporation has announced a reduction of 10 per cent in wages commencing October 1. The Steel Corporation is an amalgamation of about 20 of the largest steel plants in the United States employing approximately 800,000 men. The Bethlehem Steel Corporation and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company have adopted a similar ten per cent wage cut which will affect 250,000 men. The General Motors Corporation are reducing the wages of their employees from 10 to 20 per cent, and the United States Rubber Company is making a nine per cent wage reduction and have reduced the working days to five days a week."

(The Statesman, 1-10-31).

Postponement of Application of Hours

Convention to Indian Railways.

The Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Railway Servants' Hours of Employment Rules, 1930 (for text of the Act and rules, see page 9-15 of the Report of this Office for January 1930), were passed by the Government of India to give legal effect to India's ratification of the Washington Hours Convention. By the end of 1930, the Act and the rules thereunder were applied to the North Western and East Indian Railways, and it was the intention of the Government of India to extend gradually their application to the other Indian Railway ~~xx~~ systems. Recently, the Government of India has decided, in view of the present necessity for retrenchment in expenditure, to postpone the application of the Act to other Railways. It may also be pointed out here that it is definitely understood that one of the recommendations of the Railway Retrenchment Sub-Committee appointed by the Government of India (vide pages 51-52 of the Report of this Office for June 1931) is to the effect that the further application of the Act and the Rules are to be postponed for the present. Commenting on this decision of the Government of India, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of October 1931 (Vol.IX, No.1) says:

"The Railway Board in their circular letter No.40-L, dated the 29th March 1930 to the Agents, Class I Railways, stated that 'the Government of India desire that the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, should come into force as quickly as possible on each Railway and in no case later than 28th February 1932. They are confident, moreover, that it can be applied on certain railways before the expiration of this time.'" Up to now, the Hours of Employment Regulations have been said to be in force only on the North Western and East Indian Railways. According to the official estimates, nearly 9,500 employees have to be employed additionally to implement the Hours of Employment Regulations. It is indeed surprising that the Government of India have gone back on their previous understanding by issuing a new circular that 'owing to the present financial stringency the Government have reluctantly decided to postpone the

24 the application of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act (XIV of 1930) to the Burma, Bengal Nagpur, Bombay Baroda and Central India, Bengal and ~~the~~ North Western Railway, Rohilkhand and Kumaon, Assam Bengal, Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railways to a date later than the 31st March 1932 and the question as to the date by which the Act should be applied towards the close of this year".

It may be pointed out that ^{the} Washington Hours and ^{the} Geneva Weekly rest conventions do not admit financial stringency as one of the valid grounds for non-enforcement of the ratified Conventions. The effect of the present decision is to allow the budget grant of Rs. 2 millions sanctioned for the current year for the purpose of enforcement of the Conventions on all the Railways, to lapse, and this is not the first year in which the sanctioned grants have been allowed to lapse in this manner. How can the workers have confidence in the bona fides of the Government when, repeatedly alleging some reason or other, they have been postponing the application of the Conventions for over a decade?". (The Indian Labour Journal, Vol.IX, No.1, p.13).

Retrenchment on Railways: Proceedings of Court of Inquiry.

Reference was made at pages 30 to 31 of the report of this Office for September 1931 to the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry appointed to inquire into the question of retrenchment on railways. The Bombay sittings of the Court which began on 9-9-31 concluded on 8-10-31. The Court re-assembled at Madras on 12-10-31 to pursue its enquiries with regard to the retrenchment on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and the South Indian Railway.

The South Indian Railway Administration was represented at the Court of Enquiry by Sir Jamshetjee Kanga, Advocate-General, Bombay, Major Wagstaff, Railway Board, and Mr. K.P.Velu Pillai, General Staff Officer, South Indian Railway. On behalf of the All-India Railway-men's Federation, Messrs. Jamnadas Mehta, and V.R.Kalappa were present, besides the office-bearers of both the (S.I.R. and M.& S.M.) Employees' Unions. The Court of Inquiry held its last sittings at Madras on 23-10-31.

The following is a list of the principal official witnesses examined during the Madras sittings:-

Mr. G.Charlton, Deputy Agent, M & S.M.Railway; Mr. R.H. Martin, Deputy Agent, S.I.Railway; Mr. R. Lean, Deputy Mechanical Engineer, M.& S.M.Railway ; Mr. H. Lingard, Chief Engineer, M.& S.M. Railway; Mr. A.F.Clay, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, M.& S.M.Railway; Mr. W.E.Harrison, Chief Auditor and Accountant, M. & S.M.Railway; Mr. T. Pinder, Works Manager, Locomotive Works, Perambur; Mr. K.P.Velu Pillai, General Staff Officer, S.I.Railway. Besides the official witnesses, the Court also examined a number of individual witnesses.

The Court will reassemble at Calcutta and will begin its sittings there on 3-11-31. In Calcutta the Court proposes to take up the cases of the East Indian and Assam Bengal Railways first and thereafter the cases of the other administrations, i.e., Bengal-Nagpur and Eastern Bengal Railways.

After visiting Lucknow and Lahore the Court is expected to return to Bombay by the middle of December when Sir Jamshedjee Kanga, Advocate-General, and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta will address the Court on behalf of the Railway Administrations and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation respectively. Thereafter the chairman and members of the Court will draft their report which is expected to be submitted to the Government of India in some time in February 1932.

Proposal to Retrench 10,000 Additional Railwaymen:

Federation Meets Railway Board.

While the Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate the question of retrenchment on railways is holding its sittings at Madras, the Railway Board, after consultation with the Agents of the various railways, decided upon discharging a fresh batch of 10,000 employees, in addition to the 35,000 odd men already discharged. The following is the text of the telegram ~~in this~~ sent in this ~~connection~~ context on 14-10-31 by the Railway Board to Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation:-

"The Board reviewed the situation in consultation with the Railway Agents and have considered it necessary to discharge about 10,000 employees. The Board before issuing orders will consult the

3. Federation and suggest a meeting between the Federation and the Board on the 27th at Delhi, provided the date is not inconvenient to the Railway Court of Inquiry". (The Statesman, 15-10-31).

The following is the text of the reply telegram sent by Jamnadas Mehta on 15-10-31 to the Railway Board:-

"I deplore your proposals for fresh retrenchment and regard them as a declaration of war while the truce has been agreed to by the appointment of an inquiry court. Your measures of previous ~~x~~ retrenchment are under investigation by a competent court and out of deference to the court both sides are bound to suspend any aggressive action. This has been the common practice and the only right attitude to take if investigations under Trade Disputes Act are to ~~mean~~ anything (vide Labour Commission's report page 168). The understanding of July 7, was before the appointment of the court but that appointment has fundamentally altered circumstances.

Until the court has reported it would be as wrong for you to initiate further retrenchment as it would be for the Federation to declare a strike. I would therefore, strongly urge you to cancel the proposed Delhi meeting. Subject to this protest I am prepared to meet you on 30th instant and I am lodging protests before the court and the Industries Department". (The Hindu, 15-10-31).

The action of the Railway Board in proposing a fresh reduction of 10,000 employees, has elicited vigorous protests from all organisations of railway employees. In this connection, Mr. V.R. Kalappa, Acting General-Secretary of the A.I.R. Federation, issued the following communiqué on 24-10-31:-

"The public have already been apprised of the threatened retrenchment of another 10,000 and odd more railwaymen. We have since received another telegram from the Railway Board intimating of a further increase of 400 surplus men bringing the total number to 10,471.

The ~~rail~~ affiliated Unions have strongly condemned the policy of the Railway Board and asked the Federation to boycott the Court of Inquiry in the event of its failure to stop the threatened retrenchment. The railwaymen had their own misgivings about the Court of Inquiry when terms of reference have been so restricted as to make it impossible for the public to be in "possession of the fullest information" on the dispute. Yet the Federation agreed to co-operate and lead evidence before the court in order to put the Government in the wrong. The

The decision of the Railway Board to retrench a second lot of 10,471 men while the Court of Inquiry is still investigating, goes to prove beyond all doubt that the appointment of the Court was a decision to gain time and a mere palliative to tide over a crisis arising out of the ballot for a general strike. Had the railwaymen resorted to ^{the} strike weapon early this year, nothing more disastrous than what they find today would have happened.

So far 32,655 permanent and 7,849 temporary employees have been thrown ~~into the~~ ^{in the} streets. Add to this the economic loss sustained by the demoted, numbering 4,392 and 1,20,000 workshop men on short-time. This will be further augmented by the wage-cut recommended by the Retrenchment Sub-Committee. These, in spite of the loyalty and devotion of ~~the~~ workers and frequent negotiations with Railway Administrations by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and its affiliated Unions! Any victimisation consequent upon failure of a general strike could not be worse. Instead of waiting for any more surprises and never-ending threats of retrenchment and wage-cuts from the employers, the workers should get ready for action, though belated. (The Hindu, 26-10-31).

The meeting of the representatives of the A.I. Railwaymen's Federation with the Railway Board to discuss the new retrenchment proposals took place at New Delhi on 30-10-31. The Federation's representatives were Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, President, Diwan Chamanlal (N.W. Railway), Mr. V.R. Kalappa, Secretary, Mr. Purushotam Tricumdas (G.I.P. Railway), Mr. T.V.K. Naidu (South Indian Railway), Mr. N.A.V. Raman (B.B. & C.I.), Mr. N.N. Chatterjee (E.B. Railway) and Mr. Marcel Fernandez of the Council of Action. The Railway Board was represented by Mr. Russell, Chief Commissioner, Mr. Hayman and Mr. Parsons, Financial Commissioner.

Mr. Russell at the outset explained that the Federation representatives had been invited for a discussion as retrenchment on the railways was an all-India problem.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta argued that it was not necessary to have invited them when the retrenchment proposals had not been submitted to the Railway Unions as required by the terms of the Simla agreement. He further explained that the procedure was to submit the proposals to the Unions, in detail, and invite their views.

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The Railway Board submitted a statement showing the number of staff found surplus at present on the railways. Their figure is arrived at after making very full allowance for wastage up to the 13th April 1932, suspension of recruitment, retirement as far as possible of persons beyond or nearing the age of superannuation, and the working of short time in the workshops to the extent of one and a half days a week. The revised figure of 7,500 is made up as follows: N.W. Railway 825, East Indian 1,325, G.I.P. 1,550, East Bengal 675, Burma Railways 150, B.B. and C.I. 1,075, B.N. Railway 1,525, M. and S.M. 350, and Assam-Bengal Railway 25. No figure was given for the South Indian Railway. Of the total of 7,500, 3,500 are on the line staff and 4,000 on the workshop staff.

It is understood that as a result of the discussion that followed it has been agreed that retrenchment proposals of each railway would first be submitted in detail to the respective recognised railway unions which would reply direct to the Agents and then if necessary the Federation would meet the Railway Board. (The Hindu, 31-10-31).

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Labour News in Brief.

Kalol Navjivan Mill Strike, Ahmedabad. - The strike of operatives of the ~~Throstle~~ Department of the Kalol Navjivan Mills, Ahmedabad, ended on 15-10-31, as the Agent accepted the demand of the operatives for wages similar to those paid to operatives of other mills. The Agent also agreed to recognise the labour union that has been formed in Kalol as a branch of the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association. (The Times of India, 17-10-31).

Demand for 10 hour day in Bhavnagar Mill. - The operatives of the Krishna Kumar Mills in Mahuva, Bhavnagar State, ~~have gone~~ on strike on 17-10-31 in pursuance of their resolution to go on strike, if the Mill did not introduce a 10 hour day by the 15-10-31. The Mill authorities, it is stated, ask more time for consideration. The strike ended on 19-10-31, the management agreeing to the 10 hour day demanded by the operatives. (The Hindu, 20-10-31).

Strike in Indore Mills: Conciliation Board Appointed. - The strike of the operatives in the Bhandari and S.T.E. Mills in Indore has been called off, as the State has decided on 19-10-31 to appoint a Conciliation Board to enquire into the grievances of the operatives. (The Hindu, 20-10-31).

Strike of Women 'Bidi' Makers, Sangli. - About 1,000 women bidi (country cigarette) makers of Sangli went on strike in the last week of September. An extensive trade in tobacco is carried on in Sangli and there are several factories in which bidi making is the main business of the capitalists. These bidis are exported to distant places in the Bombay Presidency.

The main reason for the strike appears to be a reduction in the wages of the operatives, against which the women labourers strongly protest. (The Times of India, 6-10-31).

Ahmedabad Chawls: Threat of Non-payment of Rents. - The joint Board of representatives of the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, passed a resolution on 1-10-31 calling upon the owners of chawls, Ahmedabad, to make suitable provision for water, light, latrines, etc. and to consider the question of non-payment of rent in those cases where such provision is not made after due notice. The Board also passed a resolution asking the Municipality not to permit construction of chawls with one room tenements and to compel owners of chawls to provide water, light, etc. (The Times of India, 3-10-31).

Proposed Cuts in Wages of Domestic Servants. - Since heavy cuts in pay and increased income-tax proposals together with enhanced customs duties have been recently announced by the Government of India the question of a reduction in the wages now given to domestic servants,

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which has been mooted from many centres, has been receiving considerable attention at the hands of both civil and military officials, of the Government of India. The question of more economy in certain directions by officers of their forces is a matter in which both the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and the Air Marshal Commanding the Royal Air Force are already interesting themselves. A majority of the large business concerns, banks, leading hotels and other institutions, have already imposed cuts upon their staffs and employees. As soon as the question has received further consideration by the various authorities and also by house-holders, it seems likely that cuts will be proposed on a sliding scale for domestic servants in every city, town and station in India. It is believed that army circles will favour Rs.15 as the minimum pay which should be adopted for a reduction of 8 annas, while a salary of Rs.50 would be reduced to Rs.46 and so on. (The Hindu, 10-10-31)

Whitley Recommendations: A Madras Plea for Action. - The following resolution has been given notice of ~~M~~ by Mr. C. Basudev, M.L.C., on 6-10-31, for discussion at the next meeting of the Legislative Council:-

"This Council is of opinion that the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India are calculated to improve some of the conditions of the Industrial workers in this country and their relations with their employers, and therefore deserve to be implemented by suitable legislation or executive action or by other methods, as the case may be, within a reasonable period of time, and requests the Governor-~~General~~ in-Council (1) to instruct the Labour Department to prepare a programme under which such of the recommendations as lie within the competence of the Madras Government and the Statutory and other bodies within the Madras Presidency, to be carried out within a period of 3 years; and (2) to announce such programme for the next session of the Council". (The Hindu, 6-10-31).

Special Officer to give Effect to Whitley Recommendations. - Mr. A.G. Clow, I.C.S., is shortly rejoining the Industries Department as Special Officer on duty as Joint Secretary to the Department. Mr. Clow will be particularly engaged in framing legislative schemes to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour whose suggestions have already been before Local Governments for some time for examination. It may be possible to bring forward a few Bills during the ^{next} normal winter session in ~~at~~ Delhi, ^{which} extending from January to March 1932, as the result of this examination. The full measure of legislative proposals will take longer to mature. (The Times of India, 22-10-31.).

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Industrial Organisation.Employers' Organisation.28th Session of A.I. Railway Conference, 1931

The 28th session of the All-India Railway Conference met at Simla on 10-10-31 under the presidentship of Mr. D.S. Burn, Agent, G.I.P. Railway and concluded on 14-10-31. Starting as a comparatively minor gathering to deal with wagon interchange between the different railways, the conference gradually accumulated new categories of business until it has now become a yearly meeting of all the heads and principal officers of the numerous railway administrations, and the occasion of exceedingly important consultations between the Railway Board, the Railway Member of Government and the representatives of each separate railway.

Mr. Burn in his presidential address dealt with various subjects of importance to Indian railway administrations.

Gross Earnings of Railways:- Referring to the gross earnings of Indian railways, Mr. Burn said:- "The gross receipts of all the State-owned railways (excluding strategic lines) were only slightly more in 1928-29 than in 1927-28 and in 1929-30 there was a drop of Rs. 15.6 millions, equal to 1.5 per cent. on the previous year's figures. The gross receipts in 1930-31 were Rs. 74.9 millions or 7.4 per cent. less than in 1929-30, while up to the middle of August 1931 there was a further decline estimated at Rs. 35.1 millions or 10 per cent. as compared with the same period of 1930-31. In 1931-32 up to the end of August the results of economy on the principal State-owned railways, excluding depreciation, amounted to a reduction of Rs. 23.0 millions or slightly more than 10 per cent. of the expenditure for the corresponding period of the previous year. A total amount of Rs. ~~22.4~~ 624 millions over and above interest charges, etc. was earned by all State-owned railways excluding strategic lines from 1924-25 to 1929-30 inclusive. During the same period the average annual increase in interest charges was Rs. 14.4 millions. The revised estimates for 1930-31 disclosed a probable inability to meet interest charges, etc., of Rs. 29.3 millions."

Economy Measures. - Referring to the steps taken to ensure economy, Mr. Burn said: "The necessity for drastic economy needs no

arguing. The railway objective is to increase net revenue. There are two ways of achieving this, to decrease expenditure and to increase earnings and both methods have been adopted. Passenger train services have been ~~cut~~ cut down to a minimum having regard to reasonable facilities being given to the public. The goods services are regulated automatically and are reduced as traffic decreases, goods trains being ^{not} run unless full loads are available. Departmental train mileage has been curtailed. Reduction in shunting mileage follows reduction in train mileage. Passenger, goods and halt stations have been closed where they could be dispensed with."

"The pe=riod between repairs of coaching and goods stock has been extended. The maintenance of structures has been limited to preserving them from deterioration. The painting programme of bridges and other works has been revised. The expenditure on permanent way has been cut down. There has been a decrease in supply of stores and stationery; in some instances the quality has been reduced. Innumerable ways have been ~~found~~ found of saving cost on small items of expenditure."

Retrenchment of Staff. - Re this question, Mr. Burn said: "Nearly all the measures given above involve the retrenchment of staff, and in addition the greatly improved organisation and facilities of railways have decreased the number of men necessary efficiently to work them. Labour costs on Indian railways amount to about 50 per cent. of the working costs. It has been necessary to dispense with the services of a large number of men. As many as possible of those not required in the posts they occupied have been given the opportunity of taking service in lower paid posts. The staff have shown admirable patience and fortitude in facing the situation which has been forced upon the Administrations through conditions which prevail throughout the world"

"The position of railways is extremely serious, The limit has nearly been reached in effecting economies and yet the saving falls short of the reduction in revenue. It is necessary to increase rates and fares where this can be done. This is not, of course, an opportune time to introduce any general increase in rates, but increases should be made where they can be introduced without affecting the movement of traffic."

(The Times of India, 12-10-31)

The conference considered the annual report of the Electrical section of the Association and passed resolutions on such subjects as the illumination of railway premises, headlight equipment for locomotives, and rules for the safe working of electrical equipment. (The Pioneer, 16-10-31).

Workers' Organisations.

11th Session of A.I. Postal & R.M.S. Conference.

Delhi , 1931.

The 11th session of the All-India Postal & R.M.S. Conference was held at Delhi on 31-10-31 & 1-11-31 under the presidentship of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, M.L.A. Meetings of the Council of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union and the Council of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union were also held at Delhi on 31-10-31. The following were some of the more important subjects on the agenda of the Council of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union:- (1) Preparation of Agenda for the 11th Conference. (2) Adoption of the Annual Report. (3) Retrenchment. (4) Amalgamation or Federation of the Sectional Unions. (5) Communal movements. (6) Propaganda (7) Budget and Finance. (8) Centralisation of the All-India Special Reserve Fund. (9) Amendment of Rules. (10) Resolutions. The principal issues which engaged the attention of the Conference were the economy measures, namely, cuts in salaries and reduction in personnel recommended by the Post and Telegraph Retrenchment Advisory Sub-Committee and the separatist tendency exhibited by certain Muslim postal employees who had started a union of their own on a communal basis.

The following is the summary of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's presidential address:-

Victimisation of Lower Staff. - Mr. Jamnadas Mehta declared that in the name of economy, the Government was penalizing the hard-worked and underpaid employees of the Postal Department, and added that "compared to our national income, we pay a much heavier rate for our postal and telegraphic service, than any other country, and compared to the work they do, the post office subordinates are among the lowest paid staff in the world". The President quoted from the observations

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Bombay
 of the ^{Mr.}Postmaster-General, Bewoor, regarding the R.M.S. Staff and D.L.O. Staff, to show that the lower staff could not be reduced in personnel nor could the leave reserve be reduced. The first step towards retrenchment should be a reduction in the number of the superior officers, and also in their salaries and allowances, particularly of the telegraphists who were the pet children of the Government.

Extravagance Condemned. - Mr. Mehta endorsed the recommendations of the Union before the Retrenchment Committee, and pointed out some cases of what he characterised as the extravagance of the Department, such as, expenditure of over Rs.80,000 on the radio section in the Director General's Office, and the fact that to check the work of ten ledger clerks in the savings bank section of the Calcutta G.P.O., they maintained, *on their staff of 26. It had* that the department was not working at a loss, if it received a subvention for incurring expenditure for military and political purposes. Then again, the department was being charged interest on the amount of the capital works built from its own revenues, which was a case of unabashed usury.

Proposals of Retrenchment Committee: As for the Retrenchment Committee's proposals, Mr. Mehta observed that the time-honoured practice of robbing those least able to stand the burden, was practised. The pay of the future entrants was to be lowered in the case of the clerks by twenty-five per cent and of officers by twelve to thirteen per cent, a discrimination which was revolting in its inhumanity and extravagance. The postmen and lower grade staff were to receive ten to fifteen per cent lower salary. Referring to the proposed ten per cent cut and income tax on salaries between Rs.1,000 and Rs.2,000, Mr. Mehta said "Nero fiddled when Rome was burning. These modern Neroes outbid the old tyrant in all their ways. They make a show of reducing their own income by ten percent, but immediately qualify the cut by making it inclusive of the new income tax so that as a matter of fact, the sacrifice they will make will be a mere bagatelle".

Communal Unions Condemned. - Mr. Mehta appealed to the members of the Assembly to throw out the Finance Bill proposals and he asked the Union to fight the menace at all costs. He hoped any sectional discord would not be allowed to stand in the way of their success and that Sir Hubert Sams' excellent advice against communal unions would be taken to heart.

(The Hindu 31-10-31)

(A fuller account of the proceedings of the Conference and of the resolutions passed will be given in our next monthly report).

Trade Union Movement in Burma, 1930-31.*

The following information regarding the progress of trade unionism in Burma during 1930-31 is taken from the Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in Burma during the year ending the 31st March 1931, issued by the Registrar of Trade Unions, Burma.

Legal Changes:- The following two changes were made in Indian trade union law in the course of the year under review:

(1) ~~Extension~~ Extension of the objects on which the general funds of a registered Trade Union may be spent to (a) the financing of industrial and technical research connected with the industry concerned; (b) the opening out of new markets for any material dealt with by the industry concerned (Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, Notification No.L-1766, dated the 26th March 1931). ^(vide page 18 of the March 1931 Report of this Office) (2) Regulation 7(2) of the Burma Trade Union Regulations, 1927, was amended so as to provide that the Registrar should require a trade-union applying for transfer of its head office to Burma to alter its name if that is identical with or closely resembles the name of any other registered trade-union in Burma (Government of Burma's Miscellaneous Department Notification No.59, dated the 30th July 1930). ~~(Vide page 18 of the Report of this Office for March 1931).~~

* Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in Burma during the year ending the 31st March 1931 - Rangoon: Superintendent Government Printing and Stationery, Burma - 1931. Price As.8=9d. pp.3+9.

Registered & Unregistered Trade Unions and Federations. -

There is only one registered trade-union in Burma, namely, the Burma Motor Drivers Association, registered on the 28th October 1927. This Association started with 100 members at the beginning of the year under review and had 106 members in its register at the close of the year. The union had no political fund. No federations of trade-unions have yet been registered and none ~~Registered Federations~~ have yet applied for registration.

Trade Unions of Government Servants:- The Burma Railway

Employees Union which came into existence on 30-4-1930 submitted an application for registration. The question whether associations of Government Servants are to be registered as trade unions, was referred to the Government of India but no definite orders on the subject were received during the year. Letters received from the Government of India on this subject in 1928 recorded the view of the Government of India that it was inadvisable that associations of government servants should apply for registration as trade-unions; but the letters conveyed no orders on the subject. The ~~unions~~ ^{of the union} attention was drawn to the above desire of the Government of India and was asked to say whether it wished to withdraw its application. As the union did not wish to withdraw its application, its rules are now being examined with reference to the requirements of the act.

General Remarks:- According to the report, there were 28 un-registered unions in respect of which particulars were available. Although so few trade-unions have been registered or applied for registration in Burma, it must not be supposed that the spirit of

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combination is not developing amongst Burmans. The advantages of registration of trade-unions are not known amongst the workers who constitute the unions and are probably not fully appreciated even by those who organize those workers and persuade them to form trade-unions. The report states that it is not in any case to be expected that a distribution of copies of the act and of the regulations under it would have any effect in stimulating the registration of trade-unions; more effective would be the publication of short articles in newspapers, each article dealing with a single salient point.

(The progress of Trade Unionism in Burma during 1928-29 is reviewed at pages 49-50 of the October 1929 report of this Office).

Secessions from A.I. Postal Union:
Director General's Appeal for Unity...

There has been recently observable a tendency among postal employees belonging to the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union to break away from the Union and to form separate unions formed on a communal basis. In this manner within the last year there had sprung into existence two distinctly communal unions of postal employees, namely, the All-India Muslim Postal and R.M.S. Union with its head-quarters at Delhi and the Sikh Rights Protection Society with its headquarters at Lahore. This tendency to form communal unions cuts at the very root of trade union organisation and the management of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union is becoming very much perturbed over these developments. It would appear, however, that a halt has been ~~called~~ called to the progress of communal tendencies within the rank of postal trade-unionists owing to ^{an} ~~an~~ appeal for unity issued by Sir Hubert Sams, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, in the course of which it is definitely stated that communal unions will ~~not~~ be recognised by the Government. This appeal ^{from} ~~form~~ the head of the department, coupled with the threat of non-recognition, is producing good effects. It is understood that proposals are afoot for effecting a merger of the communal unions with the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union and that an independent Committee nominated by the Unions concerned will arbitrate over the issues at dispute, prior to a final settlement. The following are relevant extracts from the appeal for unity issued by *The* Director General:-

"During the course of the year, there has been a marked tendency

to secede from the Postal and R.M.S. Union, which has been recognised by the Department and is, therefore, entitled to its support. I hold no brief for the Union. On the other hand, I do not subscribe to the principle of divide et impero. If the Department must have a recognised union, I want to see it united, (a disunited union is a contradiction in terms) efficient and reasonable. As I see the position, the following are the definite disadvantages of Unions and Associations formed on a communal basis:-

(a) They will not be recognised by the Department. They cannot, therefore, send delegations to the authorities, nor will their references be answered or considered.

(b) They can do nothing that the recognised Union cannot do. Whatever advantages in the way of pay, conditions of service or stoppage of abuses that the recognised union has gained or may in future gain for the staff, apply to the whole staff and not to any particular communal portion of the staff. The principal object of a communal union can only apply to recruitment with which a Union has no concern. If recruitment is not effected in accordance with the orders of the Government, that is the concern - I may add, the anxious concern - of the Director-General. It is also the concern of the various political communal associations, which can and do bring pressure to bear on the authorities in this respect. But it is definitely not the concern of a Service Association. Nor is a Service Association permitted to interest itself with postings or with promotions. This being the case, a communal association or Union can gain no good by its formation.

(c) The greatest evil of a communal Union is that it must inevitably tend to foster the communal spirit. The higher an official rises in the department, the more responsibility he has to shoulder and the more men he has to control. If such an official is known to be a member of a communal association, is it humanly possible for him to command in his subordinates the same confidence and respect as he could do if he were known to belong to a union which has at heart the welfare of all without distinction of creed or community?

(d) I, therefore, appeal to all the staff of the department to abandon what is, I think, a suicidal policy and to refrain from joining any association or union formed on a communal basis. Our aim must be to make the recognised union truly representative of the great body of the staff concerned and as far as possible, composite of the main communities forming that body in so far as it may not at present be so; in other words, that all the staff should feel that they have a voice in its conduct, and that the management is not confined to any one community alone."

(The Indian Post, October 1931,
Vol.2, No. 10).

Efforts at Trade Union Unity:Meeting of Madras Sub-Committee.

At a meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade Union Unity, held on 11-10-31 at the Madras Branch of the M. and S. M. Railway Employees' Union, Periamet, it was decided that after holding one more meeting the Committee should close all evidence and proceed to draft the Committee's report to be placed before the All-India Trade Union Unity Conference to be held in December 1931. It is understood that among the subjects considered were (1) how far there was room for political action within the trade union movement and, if so, whether it should be Liberal, National, Socialist or Communist; (2) whether international affiliations should be permitted or merely tolerated and (3) whether the re-united All-India Trade Union Congress, if that was possible, should accept affiliation from local federations or directly through every union constituting those federations. The venue of the All-India conference would be decided at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee in the third week of November.

(The Hindu, 17-10-31).

All-India T.U. Congress Council.

The General Secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress, Calcutta, has issued the following communique under date 16-10-31:

"During the Christmas week of 1931 the Executive Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress will meet in Bombay for the disposal of several important issues now before the Congress. It is understood that the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Conference will also be held at the same time. The Trade Unions will, therefore, forward their proposals and resolutions which they desire to be discussed at the Council meeting, and also the names of their representatives who are to serve on the Council for the current year."

(The Times of India, 21-10-31).

Salary Cuts: Protests by Salaried Employees' Organisations.

The decision of the Government of India to make a ten percent cut in the salaries of government servants announced by Sir George Schuster on 29-2-1931 (see pages 53-55 of this report) has elicited ^{strong protests} from the organisations of salaried employees in India. Below are given the more important of ^{the} resolutions passed on this question by some of the prominent organisations of salaried employees in India:-

Imperial Secretariat Association, Simla. - At an extraordinary general meeting of the above Association held at Simla on 12-10-31, the following resolutions were passed:-

Resolved that, while fully appreciating the gravity of the emergency that has necessitated the decision arrived at by the Government of India that there should be a general cut in the salaries of Government servants, this Association considers

(1) That a cut at a uniform rate of ten per cent, inclusive of surcharge, on income-tax, contravenes the expressed desire of the Government that the sacrifice required of its servants should be on an equitable basis;

(2) That, in order to make the sacrifice equal to all classes of Government servants and to ensure that some Government servants are not forced to forego or curtail necessities while others continue to enjoy luxuries even on a reduced scale, the cut in salary, irrespective of surcharge on income-tax, following the principle on which tax on incomes is levied and the principle followed by His Majesty's Government in the application of which no administrative difficulty has been experienced, should be on a graduated scale, a higher percentage being applicable to higher salaries; and

(3) That in any case the cut should be confined to salaries and that no revision or cut in allowances at present admissible to members of the Secretariat establishment be made so long as the specific conditions necessitating their grant continue to exist.

Resolved that the Home Secretary be requested to receive a deputation of the Imperial Secretariat Association consisting of not more than four members in order to afford them an opportunity of representing personally the hard-ships involved in the present flat rate of 10 per cent proposed by the Government as cut in salaries. (The Hindu, 12-10-31.)

Non-Gazetted Government Officers' Association,
Madras Presidency.

The following resolutions were passed at a general body meeting of the Association held at Madras on 27-10-31:-

This association of the Non-Gazetted Officers of the Madras Presidency begs to represent that "prima facie" there is no case for any cut in their salaries and that, if at all it is necessary to effect any cut for the purpose of balancing the budget, they should come up last for consideration for the undermentioned reasons:-

(a) In connection with the general revision of pay and allowances, the Non-Gazetted Officers of this Presidency did not get any appreciable relief by way of enhanced pay and new allowances and were denied the benefit of their past services being counted for the purpose of fixing their initial pay in the revised scales, as the funds available had almost been consumed in affording relief to the superior services. (b) This association has been agitating for a committee of enquiry to revise the salaries of the Non-Gazetted Officers year after year without any effect so far. (c) The present fall in the prices of food-stuffs cannot be taken as sufficient reason to cut the salaries of the Non-Gazetted Officers, as these generally belong to the Middle Class whose other necessities like milk, labour, medical relief, rent of houses, have not shown any decrease in prices. (d) An enquiry into the life of any Non-Gazetted Officer will show how far he is living in comfort or discomfort. A casual look into the accounts of Government Servants' Co-operative Societies will convince anybody that he is always in need. (e) Non-Gazetted Services employed under the Government of India were given higher scales of pay, with the benefit of counting their past service in fixing their initial pay while the Non-Gazetted Officers of the Local Government were denied such benefits.

This Association begs to represent to the Government that, in case there is to be any cut in the salaries of the Non-Gazetted Officers, those drawing a pay of Rs.125 or less should be left out of account, and the cut in the higher salaries should be on a graduated scale, the maximum cut not exceeding 5 per cent.

This Association begs to represent that there should be no reduction in the present scales of pay for future entrants as the minimum wage demanded by the association long ago has not yet been granted to them.

This association requests the Retrenchment Committee and the Government to eschew altogether from the scope of their deliberations connected with the retrenchment the question of reduction of establishment in offices which are not completely wiped off, as the present non-gazetted strength of all offices is pitched at the absolute minimum, consistent with efficiency and volume of work.

All-India Government Employees' Federation.

A meeting of the All-India Government Employees' Federation was held at Bombay on 24-10-31, when a resolution was passed protesting against the proposed uniform cut of ten per cent. in the salaries of all Government servants. It also urged Government to introduce a graduated cut with exemption for salaries below Rs.100. Another resolution protested against the proposed lowering of the income-tax level.

Mr. S.R.Davar, who presided over the meeting stated in the course of his speech, that "one failed to understand the equity of exempting the high-salaried officers from additional income-tax and at the same time bringing in the humbler class within the reach of that by lowering the scale of non-taxable income from Rs. 2,000 to Rs.1000". The low standard of living of clerks and other sub-ordinate employees was most undesirable as it reduced efficiency, destroyed health and lowered the morals of the people. Besides, the depreciation in currency and the rise in prices caused as a result, prices had further risen due to increased taxation on the necessities of daily life. The claim that the cut should be graduated according to the actual salary drawn was therefore, most reasonable and just.

The meeting also resolved that a special joint conference representing all employees of the Imperial, Local and Semi-Government bodies, should be held in Delhi just before the November session of the Indian Legislative Assembly, began in order to protest against the Government proposals. (The Times of India, 27-10-31).

Economic Conditions.

The C.P. Money Lenders Bill, 1931.

Mr. R.W.Fulay, M.L.C. introduced a Bill (C.P.Bill No.XVII of 1931) in the Central Provinces Legislative Council on 29-8-31 to regulate the profession of money lending and to provide for the licensing of the persons who carry on money lending business. A motion for the circulation of the Bill to elicit public opinion on the Bill was carried on the same date.

The salient feature of the Bill is that every money lender in the province has to take a money lender's licence and the Bill enjoins him to regularly record and maintain an account of all transactions relating to loans, for each debtor separately, to furnish each debtor, every six months, with a legible statement of accounts, and to give a written receipt for all sums received from his debtors. The word "Loan" is defined in the Bill as

"an advance whether of money or in kind at interest and shall include any transaction, which the court finds to be in substance a loan, but it shall not include (a) a deposit of money or other property in a Government post office bank or any other bank or in a company or with a co-operative society, (b) a loan to or by or a deposit with any society or association registered under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860, or under any other enactment, (c) a loan advanced by Government or by any local body authorized by Government, (d) a loan advanced by a bank, a co-operative society or a company whose accounts are subject to audit by a certified auditor under the Companies Act, (e) a loan advanced to a trader, (f) an advance made on the basis of a negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, other than a promissory note, (g) a transaction which is in substance a mortgage or sale of immoveable property."

The following are extracts from the Statement of Objects and Reasons for introducing the Bill:-

The Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee have found that there is a certain percentage of dishonest and unscrupulous money lenders who resort to underhand usurious methods for preying upon unsophisticated

and illiterate persons. They have, therefore, recommended that to prevent such money lenders from habitual misbehaviour, some legislation was necessary. At the same time, it cannot be denied that money lending has a utility of its own. The present Bill is designed to give effect to the recommendations of the Banking Enquiry Committee. The Bill is based on the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act and the Money Lenders Act of Great Britain. The aim has been to secure, as between certain classes of money lenders and debtors, an improved system of keeping accounts which will give the latter the means of ascertaining periodically how their accounts stand and how they are composed. At the same time, the Bill designedly avoids any unnecessary degree of regimentation which might tend unduly to harass the lender and to constrict the facilities for credit so useful in the rural system of economy. Secondly, by expecting certain classes of loans it expressly avoids interference with accounts connected with trade and commerce. The definition of a loan embodies the experience gained by the courts in England in dealing with attempts made by money lenders to evade the Law. The penalty for non-compliance with the provisions of the Bill is in keeping with the spirit of the times. Licensing has been so kept that practically every honest money lender will have no difficulty in having a license. The penal provisions of the Bill are specially designed to counteract the evil and menace of the wily petty money lender and the Pathan money lender (petty money lenders usually dealing with the poor people).

(The full text of the Bill is published at pages 109 -114 of the Central Provinces Gazette, 3-10-31, No.40 Part VII).

Legislation Against Usurious Money Lending in India.

The following brief note on legislation against usurious money-lending in India is taken from an article published in the October, 1931 issue of the Anglo-Gujarati Quarterly Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay (Vol. XXIV No. 4- pages 215-217).

(1) The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. - The most prominent legislative measure to protect the cultivators against usurious money-lenders is the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. The Act was passed in 1879 and since then has been amended several times. Almost the whole of it is now applicable throughout the Bombay Presidency. The Act authorises the courts, in suits by or against agriculturists, to examine the history of the debt with a view to determine the sum that is rightly due to the creditor and also to reduce unreasonable rate of interest. According to public opinion, the Act has not proved successful and has done more harm than good. It has ~~created~~ created a feeling of distrust between debtors and creditors. Honest money-lenders prefer to

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refrain from granting loans to agriculturists who are thus put at the mercy of rapacious money-lenders who contrive to evade the provisions of law and charge very high rates of interest. Many influential bodies and persons acquainted with the working of the Act have demanded its repeal.

(2) Usurious Loans Act (1918). - This Act is applicable to the whole of India. By it the courts are empowered in suits for recovery of debts to go behind the matters at issue and to enquire into the justness or otherwise of the rate of interest and other terms of the loan granted. The Act is very cleverly avoided and, as observed by the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India (1928) in their Report, "the Act is practically a dead letter in all provinces".

(3) The Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act (1929). - This is the most recent attempt to check usury by legislation. The Act assigns to the creditor the duty of maintaining and furnishing a separate account for each debtor, of transactions relating to the loan and of sending to each debtor in a prescribed form and language a half-yearly statement of accounts. The entries in books of accounts are made admissible as evidence for proving the transactions to which they relate. Penalties are prescribed for non-compliance with the provisions of the Act. The Act came into force from 1st July 1931. In 1928 when the Bill was introduced in the Punjab Legislative Council, the Indian Agricultural Commission had examined the provisions of the Bill and had recommended the principles underlying this Bill to the consideration of other local Governments.

Emergency Budget of G. of I : Cuts in Salaries.

Sir George Schuster, Finance Member, Government of India, introduced the Indian Finance (Supplementary and Extending) Bill to supplement the Indian Finance Act, 1931 (see pages 43-45 of March 1931 report and pages 69-71 of April 1931 report). The purpose of the Bill was to introduce an Emergency Budget for the 18 months period 1-10-1931 to 31-3-1933. The following are the main features of the Emergency Budget necessitated by the financial depression prevailing in the country:-

Temporary Surcharge on Existing Duties and Taxes. - There will be a temporary surcharge of 25 per cent on all existing duties and

4. taxes, including income-tax and supertax but not including export duties. The surcharge on the income-tax for the present year will be $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the whole year's income. The exemption limit will be reduced and a tax of four pies in the rupee will be levied on incomes between Rs.1,000 and Rs.2,000 a year. The tax will be imposed at the rate of two pies for the current year and four pies for next year.

Higher Postal Rates. - Postal rates will be increased to $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna minimum (instead of one anna) for each inland letter and postcards nine pies instead of 6 pies.

Cuts in Salaries. - Emergency cuts in pay, wherever the Central or local Governments have the power to make the cut, will be 10 per cent on all salaries above Rs.40 a month, with the proviso that the question of the pay of the police will not be settled until after further consultation with provincial Governments. The Viceroy has voluntarily cut his salary by 20 per cent and Members of the Executive Council have cut their salaries by 15 per cent.

Legislation re Guaranteed Salaries. - His Majesty's Government have undertaken to introduce legislation in Parliament at the first opportunity to reduce the salaries which are guaranteed by the Government of India Act.

Expected Yield from Cuts in Salaries. - For the present year the cuts in civil pay are expected to yield Rs. ~~22~~ 3.5 millions and cuts in military pay Rs.2.5 millions. So far as concerns the cuts in pay of Government officials, Sir George Schuster said that if further increase of income-tax were to be added the result would be unfair. It is therefore proposed that increases of income-tax, both by way of surcharge on existing rates or owing to the reduction of the exemption limit, shall be merged in any general cut imposed on these salaries. On Army expenditure the minimum cut in two years is expected to reduce expenditure from Rs.55.0 millions to Rs.47.4 millions. For next year the civil retrenchment measures will yield Rs.25.0 millions, military retrenchment measures Rs.45.0 millions, cuts in civil pay Rs.11.5 million, cuts in military pay Rs.7.5 million. The total of cuts in pay and retrenchment next year is Rs.89.0 millions.

Increased Import Duties. - The following are increases in import duties:- Artificial silk, piecegoods, from 20 per cent (present rate) to 40 per cent. Artificial Silk yarn, from 10 per cent (present rate) to 15 per cent. Brown sugar, from Rs.6-12-0 a cwt. to Rs.7-4-0 a cwt. Boots and shoes: the duty will be 20 per cent or 4 annas a pair whichever is the higher. Camphor, 20 per cent to 40 per cent. Electric bulbs, 20 per cent to 40 per cent. As regards all these articles the surcharge will be levied on the increased duty. The new duties include 10 per cent on machinery and dyes and half an anna per lb. on raw cotton.

Government Facing Huge Deficits. - The total anticipated deficit for the current year and 1931-32 was nearly Rs.400 millions,

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according to

~~said~~ Sir George Schuster. The provisions of the Emergency Budget would ~~this year and~~ reduce it to Rs.100 millions this year and realize a surplus of Rs. 50 millions next year. The net deficit for the two years will be met by reduction of provision for debt reduction. Referring to the cuts in salaries, Sir George Schuster stressed the fact that there was no intention that these should remain operative after March 31, 1931.

Consideration Postponed to Special Session. The

attempt made by members of the opposition to oppose leave to introduce the Finance Bill was defeated by 57 votes to 43. The Finance Member, however, agreed to postpone consideration of the Bill to a special session to be held in November 1931.

(The Statesman, 30-9-31).

Agrarian Unrest in U. P.:

Threatened ~~of~~ No-Tax Campaign.

The prevailing financial depression and phenomenal fall in prices of agricultural products have been responsible for the creation of a great deal of agrarian unrest in India. The prevailing discontent has found its most intense expression in the United Provinces, where all classes of tenants have been, since last September, carrying on a concerted agitation for remission of rents. Despite the truce which followed the successful termination of the Gandhi-Irwin negotiations and the comparative lull in political activity consequent on the willingness shown by the Congress to participate in the Round Table Conference,

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the agrarian unrest in the United Provinces is bidding fair to develop into a political and economic issue of the first magnitude which if allowed to gather force, would seriously threaten the continuance of the political truce. The U.P. Government, in response to the demands of the agriculturists of the province led by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, have already granted a certain percentage of remissions in rent payments, but the Congress party, which has taken the leadership of the tenants, is disputing the fairness of the rates allowed and is insistently pressing for further remissions, failing which the initiation of a no-tax campaign is threatened.

A Conference of the tenants of the Allahabad district, attended by over 3,600 peasants delegates, was held at Allahabad to discuss the question on 23-10-31 under the presidentship of Mr. P.D. Tandon. All the Congress leaders who spoke exhorted the tenants to arrive at a decision in favour of a no-rent campaign after deep deliberation and thought ^{that} for the brunt of the campaign would have to be borne mainly by the tenants but, at the same time, they expressed the view that, in their opinion the distress to which the tenants were reduced would only be relieved eventually by a weapon as effective as Satyagraha. Mr. Tandon announced that they had already received the blessings of Mr. Gandhi on the struggle that they were contemplating on account of inadequate remissions. Mr. Gandhi had cabled in reply to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that he (Mr. Nehru) might do what he considered best to meet the situation.

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

In the opinion of this Conference, the remission in rent announced for Allahabad district for the year 1339 Fasli is entirely inadequate and will not remove the misery of the tenants, which has ~~been~~ increased during the last one year and a half in prices. It will be impossible for the tenants to pay the rents demanded from them after allowing remissions. For the whole district the average of present remission per rupee is only 2 annas 7 pies while the price of food-grains during the last 2½ years has fallen by 55 per cent. In justice rent should also be reduced by 55 per cent on account of the slump in prices.

The poverty of the tenants in Allahabad district has increased, as is strongly evidenced by the fact that during the last 30 years the area of land under cultivation has decreased whereas the population has increased.

It is the considered opinion of the Conference that the principle which the Government has sanctioned in regard to rental remission is unsuited to the special conditions of this district. To reduce the rents merely to the level of 1900 A.D. is not just. As the District Congress Committee has already said the rents of 1898 A.D. should be reduced by 20 per cent. and a further remission of 10 per cent. should have been given in the reduced rents on account of rise in the cost of cultivation.

This Conference places on record the view that in case the Government does not adopt suitable measures for meeting the conditions of the tenants, then the tenants of the whole district will oppose the Government by resorting to the no-rent campaign and in this matter they will gladly carry out the instruction of the District Congress Committee in this behalf.

This Conference heartily approves of the application made by the District Congress Committee to the Provincial Congress Committee for permission to start Satyagraha in the shape of a no-rent campaign in Allahabad district. (The Pioneer, 25-10-31)

It is understood that the U.P. agrarian situation was one of the principal items on the agenda of the Congress Working Committee which met at Delhi on 27-10-31. The Pioneer of 30-10-31 states that steps are being taken by the authorities of the Allahabad District to avert the possibility of a no-tax campaign being started and that in order to understand better the Congress view-point and to find a solution for the problem they have decided to convene a conference to which the leading Congress-men of the district will be invited.

Public Health.

Ahmedabad Industrial Housing Scheme :

Resolution Before Municipality.

At pages 21-24 of the September 1930 report and pages 40-41 of May 1931 report of this Office, references were made to a scheme which was under the consideration of the Ahmedabad City Municipality for the sanitary housing of the workmen of the city. A further step towards the attainment of the object was taken recently, when Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, the secretary of the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association and the chief sponsor of the housing scheme, moved the following resolution⁸ at a meeting of the General Board of the Ahmedabad Municipality which was held on 27-10-31:

This

~~The~~ Board resolves to alter the taxation schedule of terminal tax relating to cotton and iron, and that it shall be 1 anna and 3 pies. The alteration of the taxation schedule shall be notified for inviting public objections. The Standing Committee is requested to review the objections received and submit a report thereon for final adoption of the rules by the General Board and for obtaining sanction of the Government. (~~The~~ alteration in the terminal tax is to finance the housing scheme)."

"This Board further resolves that a Special Trust Fund be created with the approval of the Commissioner. There shall be two parts of accounts: (i) revenue expenditure and (ii) capital expenditure. The former part shall show all receipts from the extra terminal tax from cotton and iron, and also the house-rent on the credit side, and all debt charges (interest and sinking fund) cost of management of the estate, and municipal taxes &c. on the debit side. The latter part shall deal with capital borrowings and expenditure therefrom."

"A loan application should be prepared by the Chief Officer for a loan of Rs.450,000 and submitted in the usual way to Government, in which the additional sources be pointed to Government, and it be made clear that the Municipality intends to introduce a hire purchase system, to the extent possible, to recoup the cost from tenement-owners, and that in case the net rental realised within five years is sufficient to meet the debt charges of the present loan, and the Municipality does not wish to extend the scheme for reason of the experimental scheme having failed to serve the intended purpose, the taxation will be reconsidered and the taxation schedule will be revised by remission or reduction."

"The Municipal Engineer be requested to prepare detailed plans, specifications and estimates making due provision for the needs and usages of the various communities, with regard to the situation and the type of the buildings, keeping in view that the cost of each dwelling, including the price of land, shall not exceed Rs. 1,000 and to submit within a month the same for approval of a Committee consisting of Seth Ranchhedral Amrutlal and Messrs. Narmadashanker D.Mehta, Balvantrai Thakore, Narmawalla and Gulzari Lal Nanda. The chief officer shall submit to the same committee draft administrative regulations for the management of the estate".

Moving his resolution, Mr. Nanda traced the history of the movement to afford better housing for the working classes of the city and pointed out that the proposal moved by him was agreeable to all the parties. The millowners, he said, had declined to do anything in this respect on the ground that it was the business of the Municipality to provide sanitary houses for its population. While he did not agree with the attitude, he was not at present prepared to pick up a quarrel over the issue and he would be quite satisfied if the Municipality acted according to his proposal.

After some discussion on the subject, the Board adjourned, deciding that further discussion should be taken up at a subsequent meeting.

9

(The Times of India, 30-10-31).

Health Conditions in Jharia Coal Mines, 1930-31.

Jharia Mining Settlement. - The population of the Jharia Mining Settlement in 1929 (Calendar year) was estimated to be 511,049 and in 1930 to be 518,031. There were 14,556 births (7,471 males, 7,085 females) during 1930 as against 12,598 (6,500 males, 6,098 females) during 1929. The rate of birth per mille was 28.09 for 1930 as against 24.65 during 1929. There is an apparent increase of 3.44 in the birth

rate. The report states that there is probably no real increase, the higher figure being due to improved collection of birth statistics. Till recently the Board was relying too much on the Birth Registers in the Police Stations. Orders were, therefore, issued early in 1930 that, while the Police Registers might always be consulted, the Board's staff were to make independent enquiries in the collieries and villages and collect statistics on their own initiative. In 1930, there were 8,380 deaths (4,394 males, 3,986 females) in the Settlement as against 8,882 (4,700 males, 4,182 females) in 1929, the rate per mille being 16.28 in 1930 and 17.38 for 1929. The rate of increase of population, that is, excess of birth rate over death rate was 11.91 in 1930 as compared with 7.27 in 1929.

Note on Colliery Population.-

From the Monthly Reports

submitted by Collieries, the ~~Average Daily Labour Force~~ employed in 1930 was 63,244 as against 61,816 in 1929. Of these, 31,336 men and 8,594 women were underground workers and 16,942 men and 6,372 women were above ground workers. *as against 39,350 (22,567 males, 11,783 females) underground workers and 22,466 (15,350 males, 7,116 females) above ground workers in 1929* The figures show a marked decrease in the number of women working in collieries. The total number of births during 1930 among the colliery population was 1,586 (824 males, 762 females) as against 1,554 (816 males, 738 females) in 1929. The rate per mille was 16.72 in 1930 as against 16.78 in 1929. The total number of deaths in 1930 among the colliery population was 1,314 (732 males, 582 females) as against 1,435 (788 males, 647 females). The death rate per mille in 1930 was 13.85. During 1930, there were 118 cases of Cholera and 42 deaths, and 381 cases of Small-pox and 21 deaths in the Settlement. 518 accidents were reported during 1930, of which 133 were fatal, 284 cases were reported as recovered, and 101 were minor accidents,

as against 103 fatal accidents, 284 cases reported as recovered and 105 minor accidents in 1929.

Dhanabad Municipality. - The Jharlia Mines Board of Health undertakes the administration of the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, the control of epidemic diseases and all vaccination work within the Municipality. Sanitary conditions leave much to be desired. According to the report, the financial condition of the Municipality is largely responsible for this state of affairs, but the management of the municipality is also to some extent to blame.

Water Supply. - In 1930, ten collieries were connected to the Jharlia Water Board mains, bringing the total number of connected collieries to 152. Forty-two still remain unconnected for various reasons but chiefly because they are small collieries and cannot afford a connection. Constant efforts are being made to induce the remaining collieries to link up with the Jharlia Water Board's supply.

Housing . - The Board decided at its August 1930 meeting to revise ^{its} ~~their~~ attitude towards the housing problem on Collieries. In spite of the fact that the five years' programme initiated by the Board in 1923 (according to which every colliery was to replace annually 20 per cent of its non-standard housing and complete the work by 1927-28) was suspended and a general moratorium granted in 1926, there has continued to be a marked improvement in housing conditions. The Board decided that the moratorium should cease from February 1931 and that the better type of houses approved by the Board should be granted permanent licences. Non-standard houses which failed to secure approval were to be granted temporary licences, it being the policy of the Board to ensure that such type of houses ~~were~~ ^{were} completely demolished by May 1936. A third type

of houses which were condemned as unfit for habitation, the Board decided, should be demolished by June, 1931. Of a total of 31,891 houses on 1-1-31, 21,127 belonged to the first group, 10,438 to the second group and 326 to the third group.

Food Adulteration. - The campaign against the sale of adulterated or impure food-stuffs has been carried on with unabated vigour. In the latter months of the year, the percentage of samples which turned out to be genuine appeared to be appreciably higher, which was encouraging. There was a good deal of protest against the standard of pure ghee fixed in the Bihar and Orissa Food Adulteration Act. Certain defects in this Act were also pointed out. The matter has been represented to Government. In 1930, under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, 101 prosecutions were undertaken of which 85 resulted in convictions.

Maternity Scheme. - In November, 1930, the Board embarked on a Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme at a cost of Rs. 4,000 for one year. A Maternity Supervisor is employed by the Board to superintend the work of the midwives engaged by the Agents of certain adjacent Collieries near Kendwadih. There has been some difficulty in obtaining suitable midwives, but the work proceeds more smoothly month by month as the troubles inevitable at the beginning of such an undertaking are overcome.

(Extracted from the Annual Report of the Jharia Mines Board of Health for 1930-31 published in the supplement to the Bihar and Orissa Gazette, No. 40 dated 28-10-31. Pages 1098-1118)

(The Health conditions in Jharia Coal Mines during 1929 were reviewed at pages 5 to 8 of the January 1931 report of this Office).

Public Health.

Bogipalayam Housing Scheme, Madras.

At page 69 of the report of this Office for September 1931, reference was made to a scheme for abolishing the slums in Madras undertaken by the Madras Municipality. The scheme was inaugurated on 22-10-1931 by the opening of 180 houses which were recently constructed by the Municipality at Bogipalayam. The Bogipalayam housing scheme was begun two and a half years back, and out of a grant of Rs. 251,000 given by the Madras Government, about Rs. 180,000 have already been invested in the scheme. The scheme, as originally planned, was to acquire bit by bit the Bogipalayam cherries (slums) and as fresh houses were built, to persuade the inhabitants to vacate the insanitary areas, which were then to be raised, levelled, and drained. The rent of the new houses has been fixed at Rs. 2 per house. In this connection, it may be noted, that the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, provides similar dwelling houses for their employees at Rs. 1-8-0 for each house. (The Hindu, 23-10-1931).

Note on the slums of Madras. The following information regarding the slums of Madras is taken from an article on the subject contributed to the Hindu of 8-10-1931 by Mr. S.R. Venkataraman, a Member of the Servants of India Society.

Number of Slums.- The Madras slums are, chiefly industrial: a result of the influx of villagers seeking work in mills or factories. According to the figures furnished by the Corporation authorities, there are as many as 158 slums in the City of Madras. It has recently been computed that nearly fifty slums have not been included in the ~~sanitary survey of the slums that is now being carried out by~~ Corporation list. There are, therefore, about 200 slums distributed all over the city. The bigger ones consist of about 500 houses and of about 1,000 families; ^{and} the smaller ones consist of about 20 houses and of about 50 families. The Royal Commissioners on Labour in India say that, "in a city like Madras there are 25,000 one-roomed dwellings, sheltering 150,000 persons or one-fourth of the population. The general shortage of houses is so acute that many hundreds of

workers are entirely houseless and live on the streets or on the verandahs of godowns in the vicinity of the harbour".

Ownership of slums.- The slums in the city may be generally classified under three headings according to ownership. They are owned by either the Government, the Corporation or by private land-owners. For purposes of municipal administration, the slums owned by the Government and the Corporation are treated alike. That is, the Corporation can effect improvements in these cheries (slums) when funds are available, and can provide the fundamental civic services in these cheries or slums, like the provision of water taps, lights, latrine, bathrooms, etc. In privately owned slums, the Corporation is not in a position to effect sanitary improvements, because it is objected to by the government auditor. Out of the 158 cheries, 15 per cent. are government cheries, 13 per cent. Corporation cheries, and 72 per cent. privately owned cheries. As a rule, the cheries owned by the government and the corporation are better kept and attended to than the privately owned cheries from the point of view of sanitary arrangements, though they are far from being satisfactory.

Conditions in Slum Areas.- A standard hut constructed by the Corporation to house its menials, like the scavengers and sweepers, contains a living room about 8 feet by 10 feet with a verandah in front which has no roof. There is a verandah at the back which is roofed and is being used as a kitchen. The dimensions of the verandah will be about 4 feet by 10 feet. Besides this, there is a small courtyard at the back which is used for bathing and other domestic purposes. According to the writer of the article, this is scarcely sufficient to accommodate an average family of five members. But in the case of those sweepers and the scavengers, no family seems to consist of less than five members and the average in their case may go up to six or even seven members for a family. On inquiry it was found that each hut consisted of more than one family and some of the sweepers and scavengers had sub-tenants from whom ~~also~~ they collected rents. Numerous huts were found in which as many as four ~~families~~ families were living.

Privately owned cheries are the worst in this respect. They are very insanitary and the Corporation does not think it is its duty to attend to their sanitary needs. Out of the 115 private cheries on a rough calculation, about 30 of them belong to religious or communal bodies. The rest are owned by Mahomedans, Hindus and Christians.

Social and Economic Status.- It is also worth while to consider their social and economic status. Most of the people living in the cheries are poor labourers. They occupy the lowest position economically and socially. They lead a hand to mouth existence. Their poverty does not permit them to live in good locality in decent houses, but drives them to the slums where they construct a small house or hut at a cost of Rs. 10 or 15, or more according to their means. Those who are not in a position to build huts live in rented huts. People owning huts in private cheries pay to the land holder ground rent ranging from annas eight to Rs. 2 in the case of thatched buildings. The owner of a hut with a view to supplement his income lets a portion of his hut for rent making thus overcrowding in the cheri still worse.

The Madras Sanitary Welfare League. - The Sanitary Welfare League which has been recently started by those interested in the civic problems of the city, is conducting sanitary surveys into the condition of each slum. The League has the following objects:- (1) to carry on a campaign of sanitary education to investigate and assist in bettering conditions of living in the city; (2) to bring together persons and bodies interested in the sanitary improvement of the city, and to co-ordinate their work; (3) to focuss public attention on the main problems of sanitary improvements and to bring to the notice of the municipal authorities the sanitary needs of different localities in the city. Since it was started, about 20 workers have come forward now to work on behalf of the League. A questionnaire from the point of view of sanitation has been prepared and out of the 158 cherries, nearly 35 have been surveyed. After the survey is completed the information thus got is to be made available to the public in the form of a report.

(The Hindu, 8-10-1931).

Housing of Mill Operatives, Ahmedabad.

The Labour Office, Bombay, conducted an inquiry early in 1931 regarding mill chawls (cheap houses for labourers) in Ahmedabad. An inquiry of a similar nature was undertaken by the Labour Office in 1926 and the present inquiry brings up to date the data collected on this subject. The following information is summarised from the report:-

Extent of Housing Facilities. - Out of 69 mills working in Ahmedabad, 34 provide housing accommodation for some of their employees. The total number of workers in all the mills is about 70,000, of whom the workers in the 34 mills providing housing are 40,668, or nearly 58 per cent. No mill provides housing accommodation for all its members. The total number of tenements made available by mills is 3,708, of which 3,057 or 82 per cent. are one-roomed, 567 or 15 per cent. two-roomed, and the rest contain three or more rooms. Of the total number of tenements, only one per cent. is reported to be vacant. All the tenements are not necessarily occupied by the workers in the mills to which the tenements belong. The chawls are generally situated in close proximity to the mills.

Rents. - As regards rents, it is seen that the average rent for one-roomed tenements is Rs.3-5-3, for two-roomed tenements it is Rs.4-8-6 and for three roomed tenements, Rs.5-15-5.

note

The most predominant rent ^{note} is between Rs.4 and Rs.5. As compared with the rents prevailing in 1926, there is a rise of 2.3 per cent. in 1931 in the case of one-roomed tenements, of 1.2 per cent. in the case of two-roomed tenements, while the rents have remained the same in the case of three and four-roomed tenements. The rent charged by the mills to their operatives is usually appreciably below the economic rent.

Outsiders. - All the tenements are not occupied by workers in the same mill to which the tenements belong. No less than 892 tenements or 24.1 per cent. of the total are occupied by outsiders who do not work in the landlord's mill. Only seven mills have a rule to the effect that the tenements ^{operatives} must be ^{operatives} at the mill and only six of these mills observe the rule strictly. In the case of ~~the~~ ^{one} mill ^{chawl} no tenant works in the ~~same~~ mill. In another only 2.8 per cent. and in a third only 5.5 per cent. of the tenements are occupied by workers in the landlord's mill.

Conditions of Tenancy. - In the majority of mills no special conditions are enforced. Only the usual terms of regular payment of rent and giving a month's notice before vacating are said to be applicable. In one mill no notice is necessary on either side and tenants may vacate and may be asked to vacate at any time. Another mill insists upon fifteen days' notice on either side. A third mill has a printed foot-note to every rent receipt to the effect that the only object of the chawls is to facilitate the safe and smooth working of the mill and whoever creates any mischief by drinking or otherwise will be evicted without notice. A fourth mill, which does not let out the chawl to outsiders and lets it to its workers at one-fifth of the economic rent, enforces the following conditions:- "The workmen employed in the mills and dwelling at the mill chawls should vacate the rooms three days prior to leaving the Company's service. The salary due will be paid after the room has been vacated. If the employee does not vacate the room after leaving the Company's service, he will have to pay such rent as will be determined by the Manager and the Manager is authorised and empowered to take possession of the room in what manner he thinks fit."

Right of Eviction. - The question of eviction assumes a serious aspect at the time of prolonged strikes. Two mills, which had prolonged strikes, felt the necessity for eviction. In one case all the tenants vacated without giving much trouble to the mill. In another case the tenants would not vacate although legal notice was given. Civil suits were filed against half a dozen tenants and the Court made them vacate. A similar trouble arose in the same mill during the progress of the same strike. All the tenants had been served with notice to vacate. An Inspector of the Labour Union was prevented by two watchmen of the mill from entering the mill chawl although he went in the company, and at the request, of a resident of the chawl. A criminal complaint was filed against watchmen as a test case and the Magistrate decided that the tenants could not be considered as trespassers during the period of notice to vacate, that they had a right to invite their friends and relatives

to the chawl and that the invited friend although he might be working against the interest of the mill, had certainly a right to proceed to his friend's house.

(The results of the inquiry are published in full at pages 58 to 66 of the September 1931 ^{issue} of the Labour Gazette., Vol XI-No.1).

Women & Children.

6th Madras Women's Conference, 1931.

The sixth session of the Madras Annual Constituent Conference of the All-India Women's Conference on education and social reform was held at Madras on 24 & 25-10-31 under the chairmanship of Mess. E. McDougall, Principal, Women's Christian College, Madras. The following are some of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Conference.

1. World Peace. - The women of this Conference, realising the vital importance of disarmament for the peace and the happiness of the world, urge the women of India to give their whole-hearted support and sympathy to the World Disarmament Conference to be held in Geneva in February 1932.

2. Factory Inspectresses; - This Conference urges the immediate appointment of Inspectresses of Factories as laid down in the Report of the Royal Commission on Labour in India.

3. Child Labour. - (1) This Conference deplores the appalling conditions of labour in the Beedi factories and all other unregulated industries. (2) It welcomes and gives its whole-hearted support to Mr. Arasu's Bill for periodical inspection and regulation of Beedi (country cigarette) factories. (3) It urges immediate abolition, by law, of employment of children under 12 years of age in all unregulated industries.

4. The Madras Children's Act. - This Conference urges the amendment of the Madras, Children's Act, so that the seduction of minor children for immoral purposes either by parents or by others should be made punishable under law, as also the offence of juvenile begging.

(a) This Conference welcomes and gives its wholehearted support to Mr. F.E. James' Bill called the Madras City Beggars' Bill (1931).

(b) It is of opinion that the passing of the Beggars' Bill, though urgently necessary, will lay on the community, the responsibility for concerted efforts to provide homes and infirmaries for disabled and diseased beggars, and authorises the Constituent Committee of the All-India Women's Conference to appoint a Special Committee to make a survey of the existing institutions in Madras which might be used for this purpose.

(c) It draws the attention of the public to the undesirability of promiscuous and indiscriminate charity and strongly recommends that money now given to casual beggars be given towards the support of

existing institutions and the endowment of a fund for the provision of Beggar Homes and Infirmaries.

5. Compulsory Education for Muslim Girls. - This Conference urges upon the Muslim public and the Corporation of Madras, the desirability of extending the Scheme of Compulsory and Free Elementary Education to Muslim girls in the City of Madras.

6. Abolition of Devadasi Service. - This Conference draws attention to the fact that in Mysore, Travancore, Cochin, and Pudukottah States, the Devadasi service in temples has been totally abolished, and calls upon the Trustees of temples in Madras city to follow their example without delay.

7. Traffic in Women and Children. - (1) This Conference greatly deplors the limitations of the Act for the closure of brothels, the application of which is proposed to be restricted to the city area, and appeals to the Government to extend its operation to the whole of the Presidency.

(2) It appeals to the public and the Government for financial support to start "Rescue Homes" as has been done in Calcutta and Bombay.

(3) It is strongly of opinion that women probation officers should be appointed to assist the police department in the operation of the Act during the investigation for the rescue of minor girls.

(The Hindu, 24 & 25-10-31).

Crèches in Factories in the Bombay Presidency.

At pages 82-87 of the report of this Office for July 1930, a summary was given of the report of the Labour Office, Bombay, on the Mill crèches in Ahmedabad. A previous enquiry into this subject was made in 1926 and its results were published in the December 1926 issue of the Labour Gazette. Information regarding the present position of crèches in factories in the Bombay Presidency is the subject of a pamphlet published under Government auspices by ^{D. J. Cama} T. J. Cama, Inspector of Factories, and T. W. Johnstone, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay Presidency. A summary of the pamphlet is given at pages 153-157 of the October 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol. XI-No.2).

Maritime Affairs.

Administration of the Bombay Port Trust, 1930-31.*

The following information regarding the conditions of work ~~of dock~~
~~workers~~ in the Bombay Port is taken from the Administration Report of
the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1930-31:-

Income and Expenditure.- The actual receipts of revenue for the
year amounted to Rs. 24.927 millions. The actual expenditure for the
year was restricted to Rs. 26.099 millions.

Import Trade.- The cargo handled at the docks and bunders amounted
to 5,860,000 tons, a decrease of 828,000 tons as compared with the volume
of the previous year. Imports accounted for about 50.3 per cent. and
exports 49.7 per cent. of the total tonnage.

Export Trade.- In the export trade, the most noticeable feature
was, ^{that} in spite of the severe depression prevailing throughout the year,
the export of raw cotton (Bombay's staple export commodity) remained
about the same as ~~px~~ the previous year, viz., 2,722,000 bales in 1930-31
as against 2,793,000 bales in 1929-30. Increases in exports occurred
under petrol (135,000 gallons), seeds (28,000 ~~at~~ ~~gallons~~), groundnuts
(14,000 tons) and twist and yarn (7,000 tons). On the other hand there
were decreases under coal (22,000 tons), iron (17,000 tons), bulk
liquid fuel (18,000 tons) and manganese ore (124,000 tons).

Vessels in harbour.- Vessels which entered the docks or were
berthed at the Harbour Walls (excluding ferry steamers) totalled 1,970
with an aggregate tonnage of 4,773,492 net register, as against 1,965
vessels with a tonnage of 4,895,326 in the preceding year. The dry
docks were occupied during the year by 156 vessels as against 169
vessels in the preceding year, 1929-30. The total tonnage decreased
to 517,783 tons, being 44.721 tons less than the previous year.

Total Staff.- The total approximate number of staff employed
during the year under review was 9,671 as compared with 11,236 during
1929-30 and 11,591 during 1928-29. Of these, 191 were permanent staff
receiving salaries over Rs. 300 per mensem; 676 clerical staff and
1,127 out-door staff receiving salaries from Rs. 50 to Rs. 300 per
mensem; 440 were permanent inferior staff on salaries under Rs. 50 per
mensem; 932 temporary staff getting between Rs. 50 and Rs. 300; 2,851
temporary staff getting below Rs. 50 and 3,454 were daily paid workers.

Conditions of Dock & Labour.- The Docks Hamallage (Labour) Depart-
ment met all demands for labour during the year. The attendance of the
labourers continued to be satisfactory and was not affected by any in-
dustrial dispute. The average number of labourers engaged daily was
2,016 and the highest number of employed on any single day was 4,259.
The total tonnage of goods handled during 1930-31 amounted to 3,650,241
tons, the inclusive labour charges averaging 3.86 annas per ton as
against 4.05 annas per ton in 1929-30.

* Bombay Port Trust. Administration Report, 1930-31. *pp. 55.*

Housing Conditions.- 329 of the 1,994 permanent superior staff, 126 of the 440 permanent inferior staff and 3,104 of the 7,237 temporary staff have been housed by the end of 1930 by the Port Trust. This represents a total housing of 36.8 per cent. of the total staff by the Port Trust. In consequence of the curtailment of the Capital programme, no further expenditure was incurred during the year on staff housing.

Fires and Accidents in Docks.- There were 11 fires at the docks, wharves and sheds and on board vessels and craft while in the docks. None were serious or involved loss of life. The number of accidents to persons in the docks was 566, of which 17 were fatal, 83 serious and 466 slight. Of the fatal cases, 4 were caused by falling into holds or ~~light~~ lighters, 6 by falling into dock basins, 1 by breakage of slings, and 6 were due to other causes. 6 accidents to vessels in the docks occurred during the year, none of which was serious. In 3 cases, Port Trust officials were held to blame.

Compensation for Injuries.- Following the practice obtaining on the Railways, the Board decided that Port Trust employees, incapacitated for further service on account of injury sustained while on duty, should be eligible for grant of retiring gratuity under the Trustee's rules in addition to the benefits admissible under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.- The Maternity Home and Infant Welfare Centre at the Port Trust dock labourers' quarters at Wari Bunder was well patronised during the year under report. The Infant Welfare Centre catered for the needs of 798 children of whom 161 came from the chawls and 637 from outside. The extension to the Maternity Home sanctioned last year was completed and opened in June 1930 at a cost of Rs. 10,157. The Report states that 14 beds are now available and the demand for admission continued to be heavy. The total number of admissions during the year was 455, of whom 54 were occupants of the chawls, 49 were wives of Port Trust employees living outside the chawls, and 352 were outsiders living as far as Jacob Circle, Parel and Worli. The number of births registered was 403. The Trustees sanctioned the installation of electric fans in the Maternity Home and the provision of fly-proof doors and windows. Grants were also sanctioned for the initial cost of equipment and recurring expenditure in connection with ante-natal treatment of venereal disease in expectant wives of Port Trust employees.

(The report of the Administration of the Bombay Port Trust during 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 55 to 59 of our report for September 1930).

Indian Seamen's Grievances:

Representation to Government of India.

In pursuance of a resolution of the Councils of the Indian Seamen's Union and the Indian Quartermasters' Union, Mr. M. Daud, M.A., B.L., Bar-at-Law, President of the Unions, interviewed Mr. A. Raisman, I.C.S., Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Department, at Delhi on 26-10-1931. Mr. Daud raised (i) the question of introducing free and open system of selection for the seamen of all ratings including sailors, stokers and trimmers, etc; (ii) abolition of Government licensed shipping brokers as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour in India; (iii) removal of undesirable persons from the Shipping Office at Calcutta; (iv) extension of the present three months optional period in the Seamen's Articles to 6 or 9 months with the usual 25 per cent. increment after 12 months of service; and (v) removal of the climatic bar at present imposed upon Indian seamen.

In placing these points for the consideration of the Government, Mr. Daud pointed out that bribery and corruption were still prevalent in the system of Indian seamen's recruitment and that the men x of the lower ratings were forced to part with at least three months' wages in one year's service only for the purpose of being engaged on board ships. The Seamen's Recruitment Committee recommended the abolition of the present system as far back as 1922, and advised the setting up of a State Engagement Bureau on the lines of the recommendations of the International Labour Conference at Genoa in 1920. He ^{asked} ~~pressed~~ that, pending enforcement of the above, a free and open "muster" system for engaging seamen of all the lower ratings should be immediately introduced. Regarding the second point, he said

that it was high time that the brokers should be abolished as their presence in the system ^{was} ~~is~~ no longer necessary. As to the third point, he insisted upon the removal of undesirable persons from the Shipping Office, Calcutta, who were boycotted by the Union and whose licences were cancelled by the Government. These men created disturbances amongst the rank and file of seamen and were instrumental in bringing about more corruption in the already rotten system of engagement. As regards the fourth point, Mr. Daud said that the Union ^{would} ~~will~~ have no objection if the optional period be extended from three to six or nine months with the usual 25 per cent. increment in the wages.

Mr. Raisman, Joint Secretary, Commerce Department, Government of India, gave a sympathetic hearing and expressed his sympathies for Indian seamen, and promised to look into their grievances, and, after consulting other authorities, he promised that he ~~was~~ would communicate the Government's decision to the Unions within a short time. He further said that Government's Order in 1929 on the enforcement of the recommendations of the Seamen's Recruitment Committee were communicated to the Shipping Master, Calcutta, which spoke of selection of the leading ratings ~~as~~ from registers to be maintained for the British India Line by the British India ^{S. N. Co.} and for other Lines by the Shipping Office. Regarding the lower ratings, they were also to be selected by the Marine Superintendents or the Ships' Officers for the British India ^{Co.} with the aid of the Serangs and the Butlers; and for other Lines by the Marine Superintendents or the Ships' Officers as each case may require.

In reply, Mr. Daud pointed out that in respect of the British India the words "with the aid of serangs or butlers" should be omitted, and the lower ratings also should be selected independently of the Serangs and the Butlers. And regarding other Lines, the Shipping Master, Calcutta, might be asked to enforce the Governments' Orders by which the seamen of the lower Ratings might be engaged independently of the higher ratings and without paying any bribes. Mr. Raisman promised to look into the matter.

It is also learned that Mr. Daud and Mr. Aftab Ally, President and General Secretary respectively of the Indian Seamen's Union, interviewed on 29-10-1931 at Calcutta Captain Thomas Kidd of the Bank Line, Ltd., and Captain Fitchet of the City Line of steamers and discussed with them the above matters raised with the Government of India, and ^{that} some understanding has been arrived at between the said Lines and the Union.

(Advance, Calcutta, 31-10-1931).

The Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta: (Report for 1930-31).

On 31-3-1930 the total membership of the Union was 8,401 and an addition of 5,518 new members was made during the period under report, which brought the total membership to 13,919 on 31-3-1931. The subscription collected during the year amounted to Rs.15,216 and the balance with the Union after meeting the current expenses is 7,257. The Union tried to impress upon the mind of the employers that their interests would be better served by meeting the demands of the seamen but the seed of co-operation and good-will which was expected of them did not come forth. The grievances of the seamen

were duly placed in a detailed memorandum before the Royal Commission on Labour. Among the other activities of the Union, ~~the~~ was the rendering of accident, sickness, legal, medical, funeral, educational, unemployment and general benefits to the needy members during the period covered by the report. The Union also rendered valuable assistance in realising due compensation for accidents, and cancellation of unlawful fines to many of the members free of cost. The Union negotiated with the Bombay and other seamen's unions in connection with the formation of an All-India Seamen's Federation. During the year, the Union continued its affiliation with I.T.F., Amsterdam. During the period under review the Union was affiliated to the Indian Trades Union Federation. Mr. Fazlur Rahaman, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Union was nominated as an adviser to the Indian Workers' Delegate to the 15th session of the International Labour Conference.

(The Trade Union Record, October 1931,
Vol. II, No.8).

The Bombay Port Trust Employees' Union, 1930-31.

The ~~strength of~~ ^{of the Union} membership ~~which was~~ ^{under review} at the beginning of the year ~~was~~ 1,661, stood at 1,084 at the end of the year. The reduction in membership was due to discharges, retirement and arrears of subscription. The Union paid Rs. 325 to its members as benefit for retirement and Rs. 44 as death benefit. The Union disaffiliated from the All India Trade Union Congress and affiliated itself to the Indian Trades Union Federation. The Union tried without success to persuade the Port Trust authorities to provide quarters to the cranemen. As the result of negotiations carried on by the Union about 100 workshop hands who had been discharged were ~~now~~ allowed to work by turns. The following resolutions regarding the Constitutional changes were passed by the Union and were forwarded to the Government of India:-
"(1) That the future Constitution for India should declare and guarantee to the workers, freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of association and right to strike. (2) The Constitution should provide for adult franchise as the basis of elections to the legislatures. (3) The Labour legislation and administration should be federal subjects. (4) The Federal Government should have the power of ratifying Conventions and secure its enforcement throughout the whole of Federal India". (The Trade Union Record, October 1931,
Vol. II, No.8).

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(1903/36)

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for November, 1931.

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Co-operation.

Co-operation in Bihar and Orissa, 1930*.

The following information regarding the progress of the co-operative movement in Bihar and Orissa during 1930 is taken from the Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the period issued by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa.

General Progress.- The policy of registering new societies with great caution and weeding out the bad ones, continued to be followed throughout the year. Only 286 societies were registered during the year, at the end of which the total number of working societies of all kinds stood at 9,404, an increase of only 88 over the previous year's figure. The number of societies whose registration was cancelled during the year was 261, as against 180 in the preceding year. The report states that the rate of progress in regard to working capital, reserve fund, profit and deposits did not keep pace with that of the preceding year, and there was a decrease of 6,766 in the total number of members of societies, obviously due to the large number of societies liquidated during the year. New loans advanced to societies amounted to only Rs. 3,624,935 against Rs. 4,938,107 in 1929.

Provincial Bank.- According to the report, the provincial Bank had another successful year's working, and continued to maintain its previous high standard of efficiency. The working capital of the bank amounted to Rs. 7.76 millions at the end of the year, an increase

*Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1930. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa, Patna, 1931. Price.- Rs. 2 annas 8. pp.46 + xxxiii.

of over Rs. 0.4 millions. There was a slight decrease in profits from Rs. 104,245 to Rs. 98,842 owing to the conversion of old loans at higher rates into fresh loans at current reduced rates and to the large sums (about Rs. 100,000 in all) locked up in societies under liquidation. The paid up share capital increased by over Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 576,600. Deposits of all kinds held by the bank at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 6.75 millions of which nearly Rs. 1.3 millions came from central banks and societies. Deposits from individuals increased by over Rs. 0.5 millions during the year, and as the increase was more rapid than was needed to meet the bank's requirements the rates on all fixed and savings deposits as well as upon the floating deposits of central banks were lowered still further at the end of the period under review.

Investments in central banks and societies stood at Rs. 3.78 millions in loans and nearly Rs. 0.54 millions in the form of cash and maximum credit accounts or Rs. 4.32 millions in all as against Rs. 4.25 millions in the preceding year. The Provincial Bank has been steadily reducing its lending rate, which stood at 8 per cent. in 1926 but had been reduced to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. by 1929. During the year 1930 the average rate showed a further reduction to 6.3 through the replacement of old loans by fresh loans at a lower rate. The minimum rate to banks is now 6 per cent.

Central Banks and Unions.— The number of central banks remained unchanged at 67 with an average membership of only about 136 societies. No less than 22 have under 100 societies affiliated to them. The report shows an increase in paid-up share capital and reserves (including bad debt and other funds) over last year's figures by Rs. 62,741 and Rs. 231,112 respectively, and an increase of nearly Rs. 0.35 millions in the total working capital, which now stands at Rs. 23.25 millions. The reserve fund of the banks increased by just over a hundred thousand to Rs. 843,491, of which Rs. 458,059 or 54.3 per cent. was separately invested. The total of reserve and other funds rose to rather over Rs. 1.5 millions. All funds except the Education Fund continued to increase.

Agricultural Societies.— The principal kinds of agricultural societies were purchase and sale societies, dairy societies, rent-paying societies, and irrigation societies. There was an increase by 102 in the number of agricultural societies of all classes, the total number at the end of the year being 8,817. Membership of such societies, however, decreased by, 8,839 to 227,554. The working capital, which amounted to Rs. 24,147,000 at the end of the year, shows a decrease of Rs. 146,000. The paid up share capital, profits (including overdue interest) and reserve fund increased respectively from Rs. 1,506,000 to Rs. 1,610,000, Rs. 428,000 to Rs. 464,000, and Rs. 3,051,000 to Rs. 3,224,000. There was further improvement in the proportion of share capital and reserves, which formed 20 per cent. of the working capital as against 18.7 per cent. last year. Following the more cautious policy of financing societies adopted by the Central banks the amount of loans given out to members decreased by Rs. 1.05 millions to Rs. 3.37 millions. ~~Thix~~

Non-Agricultural Societies.- The principal kinds of non-Agricultural societies were wage-earners' societies, salary earners' societies, fishermen's societies, home industries associations, housing societies, artisans' societies, public health societies and societies for the depressed classes and weavers' societies. The total number of non-agricultural societies was 333 with a membership of 26,908 as against 338 societies and 24,835 members in 1929. The working capital in 1930 was Rs. 3,752,956 as against Rs. 3,686,694 in 1929. Commenting on the general working of non-agricultural societies during 1930 the report states:

"Industrial societies of all kinds have not only been generally unsuccessful but have played a prominent part in undermining the financial stability of the central banks. All our experience emphasises the wisdom of sticking to the simplest forms of co-operation in its present state of development and eschewing all grandiose schemes for societies of special type or multiple purpose. Unfortunately such schemes exercise a peculiar attraction, which tends to obscure the infinitely greater importance of the ordinary village credit and thrift society. With the limited means at our disposal for the organisation and supervision of societies it is particularly important that our energies should not be so diffused as to be wasted. ~~The~~ I (the Registrar) have therefore issued instructions that no fresh societies of special type are to be registered without my previous approval".

(The report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1929 is reviewed at pages 51-54 of the report of this Office for November 1930).

Anglo-Indian Colonisation: Mr. E. T. McCluski Scheme.

Reference was made at pages 37-38 of the report of this Office for February 1931 to a colonization scheme for Anglo-Indians sponsored by Mr. E.T. McCluski, M.L.A. At a meeting of the Anglo-Indian community of Calcutta held on 11-11-1931, it was decided to inaugurate the scheme as a Colonisation Co-operative Society.

Mr. E.T. McCluski, M.L.A., who had fathered the scheme, pointed out that 4,319 people in other parts of India were willing to join the society, and nearly Rs. 400,000 had been promised for the purpose. So far as land was concerned, there were 5,000 acres of land near Bilaspur which could be secured, if they were given a perpetual lease and if they were satisfied as to the fertility of the soil.

Some of those present doubted the feasibility of turning a town people into farmers in the course of a few years. There were two amendments, one asking for a committee of investigation to go into the scheme and the other appealing to the British Government to grant the land to the community free. These were however lost.

A resolution for forming the Society and for enrolling members was adopted by the meeting. (The Hindu, 12-11-1931).

Women & Children.

Bill to Amend Madras Children Act, 1920.

A Bill (Bill No.29 of 1931. Madras Children (Amendment) Act, 1931) was introduced in the Madras Legislative Council by Mr. A.B. Shetty with the object of amending the existing Madras Children Act, 1920, ^{for} the protection of children and young persons under eighteen who are either ill-treated by their parents or guardians or are living in brothels and for the prevention of juvenile begging. The following is the full text of the Statement ~~and~~ of Objects and Reasons for introducing the Bill:-

"The Madras Children Act, 1920, does not deal with child beggars though it has been modelled on the English Children Act. There is a considerable body of opinion in favour of the view that ~~the~~ child beggars should also be dealt with under the Children Act. This view is also supported by the report of the Beggar Problem Committee appointed by the Corporation of Madras in 1925 and adopted by that body. Provision has ~~been~~ also been made to bring child beggars under the age of 18 years under the operation of the Madras Children Act.

In the evidence recorded by the Select Committee on the Bill for the Suppression of Brothels and Immoral Traffic, it is observed that the provisions of the Madras Children Act are inadequate to deal with children under eighteen years of age living in a brothel and also to rescue children who are the victims of other people's misconduct. The provisions of the Act are also inadequate to meet the cases of minors being procured for the purpose of prostitution. Provisions have been added to remedy these defects"

(The Fort St. George Gazette, 17-11-31, No.19 Part IV

Pages 275-278).

Plea for Social Reform:

Resolutions by Women's Conferences.

During the month under review ~~there were~~ several provincial and District Conferences of women held in different parts of the country. ^{were} The proceedings and resolutions passed at some of the more important of these conferences are summarised below:-

5th Oudh Women's Conference, Lucknow, 1931.- The fifth annual meeting of the Oudh Women's Conference was held at Lucknow on 1-11-31 under the Presidentship of Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade of Gwalior. In the course of ^{her} the presidential address, Rani Lakshmibai referred to the deplorable conditions of labour of women workers of India and said:

" I would like to put a word for our sisters who work in mills and factories. We are all aware of the conditions in which their work is carried on. Due to dire poverty and for want of knowledge of even their bare human rights, they allow themselves to be exploited. Unfortunately there are no adequate laws for their protection, and at times they have to carry on their work even in those delicate conditions of health, which generally precede and follow confinement. The All-India Women's Conference devoted a whole session last year to the discussion of ways and means of bettering their lot, and there is also going to be held a women's labour conference next February in Bombay."

Referring to the need for birth control she said; "Another problem of national importance is that of limiting the excessive growth of the population. The figures of the last census show an appalling increase of well nigh 30 millions of human beings. This is nothing but an unnecessary addition of perhaps so many decrepit specimens of humanity to our already overgrown population. If India is to take her proper place in the comity of nations, her first concern should be to rear a race which would be worthy of the name of man. This can only be achieved by proper attention to eugenics, which necessarily involves the practice of regulating births. This will not only save the womanhood of India from undue physical and mental strain but will also help partly to solve the grave economic problem with which we are face to face today."

The following are some of the more important resolutions passed

at the Conference:-

This Conference calls upon the local Government immediately to provide adequate facilities for the rapid expansion of compulsory Primary Education of girls in this province and urges upon the District and Municipal Boards to nominate women members on their Education Committees.

This Conference emphatically resolves itself against any amendment introduced in the Assembly intended to limit, weaken or hamper the operation of the Sarda Act, and, further, it hereby calls upon all individuals and organisations interested in social reform to resist such attempts.

This Conference resolves itself in favour of universal adult franchise as the basis of the new constitution. The women of India have no desire for any special treatment for themselves, as long as full and equal citizenship is recognised in practice as it is in theory .

That this Conference calls upon the Government of India immediately to take the necessary steps to implement the recommendation of Whitley Committee Report in respect of the improvement of the condition of female labour in India.

(The Pioneer, 8-11-31).

1st U.P. Women's Social Conference, Lucknow, 1931. - The first

United Provinces Women's Social Conference was held on 3-11-31 at Lucknow under the presidency of Begum Mohamadullah Jung of Allahabad. Women from all parts of the province attended. The delegates numbered over a thousand.

The Conference passed a number of resolutions condemning child marriage, dowry system ^{and} polygamy, and opined that these should be made penal, and expressed the opinion that women should have the right to seek divorce from immoral husbands and widows should have the right to remarry.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-11-31)

3.

The 4th C.P. Women's Conference, Nagpur. - The fourth session of the Central Provinces Women's Conference was held at Jubbulpore on 13-11-31 under the presidentship of Lady Butler. Resolutions were passed by the Conference urging women to use their influence to bring down the expenditure of large sums of money on entertainments, marriages, births, and dowries; the opening of an Industrial Home for women at Jubbulpore; starting Temperance Associations; urging Government not to weaken the Sarda Act; asking women to join the nursing profession and requesting educational authorities to pay increased attention to the physical education of girls.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-11-31)

The 5th Andhra Women's Conference, Guntur. - The fifth session of the Andhra Provincial Women's Conference was held on 21-11-31 at Guntur under the presidentship of Srimati A. Vasundhara Devi, M.A., B.Sc(London). Resolutions were passed by the Conference unanimously requesting the Government, local boards and municipalities to introduce as early as possible, compulsory elementary education for boys and girls; advocating mixed education for boys and girls in institutions with women-teachers; appealing to the Government to start at least one medical school for women in Andhradesa and to locate the same at Guntur in the newly constructed medical school buildings, and urging the establishment of adult schools and industrial schools for the benefit of uneducated adult women and emphasising the need for promoting and encouraging Indian industries.

(The Hindu, 23-11-31).

Agriculture.

Progress of Agricultural Research in India, 1929-31*

The following information regarding agricultural research in India is taken from the first Report of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the period 21-6-1929 to 31-3-1931.

Origin of the Council:- Since 1920, when on the inception of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms Agriculture was made a transferred subject, the need for some organisation which would co-ordinate and encourage the activities of Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry among themselves and with such Central Institutions for research in these sciences as existed became increasingly apparent. In matters of research some organisation was required which while drawing its strength from the Provinces transcended in its working provincial boundaries. In the words of the Royal Commission on Agriculture; "However efficient the organisation built up for demonstration and propaganda, it cannot achieve a full measure of success unless it is based on research; the lack of co-ordination in agricultural research has prejudicially affected progress; there is a wide field open for the co-operation of the Government of India and of Provincial Governments in regard to agricultural research; and it is the duty of the Government of India, in the discharge of their ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the vast agricultural population of this country, to advance research in every way possible without encroaching upon the functions of Provincial Governments in that sphere". The plan conceived by the Royal Commission on Agriculture to meet this need was the constitution of a body on which the Provinces would be represented, which would be endowed with funds and which would allocate them for the development of agricultural and animal husbandry research. A conference with Provincial Ministers of Agriculture and other provincial representatives was held in 1928 to examine this recommendation, among others, made by the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

Constitution of the Council. - The Council consists of an Advisory Board and a Governing Body. On the Advisory Board are the Heads of the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments of all the Indian Provinces including those of such Indian States as have elected to join the Council, representatives of Indian Universities, of the Co-operative Movement in India, of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, and a few others.

* Annual Report of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the years 1929-30 and 1930-31 - Calcutta : Government of India Central Publication Branch 1931 - Price Annas 12 or 1s.3d. PP. 47.

HHK.2.

The Governing Body is composed of the Ministers of Agriculture of all the Provinces, three representatives of the Indian Legislature, two representatives of Commerce as well as two members elected by the Advisory Board, with the Member of the Governor General's Council in charge of the portfolio of Agriculture as Chairman. The Governor-General in Council has the right to nominate additional members both to the Advisory Board and to the Governing Body. This power is intended to provide for additional representation of interests as need arises without having to make an amendment to the constitution every time. The function of the Advisory Board is to examine and make recommendations on schemes of research submitted to the Council by Provincial Governments, Universities or private institutions. Recommendations of the Advisory Board are submitted to the Governing Body which accepts them or not as the case may be. It is the Governing Body which has control of the research funds of the Council. These consist of lump sum and annual grants made by the Government of India and donations from any other source. (For further details see pages 3-4 of February 1930 report and pages 69-70 of June 1929 report of this Office).

The Council held its inaugural meeting on June 21st and 22nd 1929 and passed its draft Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations of the Council. At this meeting, representatives of the Provinces reported the progress made by Provincial Governments in the preparation of schemes for assisting the sugar industry and decided to set up a Sugar Committee.

The Sugar Committee. - During the period under review, the Committee, which had received a general mandate from the Council to examine and report on measures necessary for the development of the sugarcane industry in India, held three meetings at which a series of recommendations were made by the Committee. In this Committee the Council has a qualified and representative body to which it can and does refer all questions affecting the welfare of the sugarcane industry in India. One of the first recommendations of the Committee was that the Government of India should be asked to institute an enquiry through the Tariff Board in regard to the question whether any protection should be given to the Indian sugarcane industry. This recommendation was accepted by the Council and the latter's representations were successful in inducing the Government of India to order such an enquiry. Pending full consideration of the Tariff Board's report, the Government of India have already taken action and raised the duties on imported sugar as from the year 1931-32. The Council has also accepted all the major recommendations of this Committee, for example, the establishment of a chain of ~~sugar-growing provinces~~ sugarcane research stations embracing all the sugar-growing provinces of India; the appointment of a technologist whose advice is available to existing and prospective sugar manufacturers in India and the endowment in collaboration with the Government of the United Provinces of a model sugar factory at Cawnpore.

Locusts Committee. - Another Committee set up by the Council was the Locusts Committee to combat the menace of locusts in northern and north-western India. This Committee held its first sittings at Delhi in February 1930 and issued an interim report containing measures to be adopted to bring the locust swarms, which had then begun to descend under control. The suggested measures were put into execution with the

help of the Governments of the United Provinces and the Punjab as also with the help of those of the Indian States which were affected by these swarms and the situation was brought under control. A second meeting of the Locust Committee held in May 1930 considered the question of locust research and made certain far reaching recommendations. Some of the more important recommendations advocated: (1) The establishment of a central organisation for collecting and broadcasting the information received from the provinces; (2) the establishment of provincial organisations for locust control and intelligence work; (3) the establishment of a central store of materials for locust control operations; and (4) the employment of a special research staff under the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for research on the ~~xx~~ desert locust. Subject to two considerations, namely, (1) that as far as possible locust research in India should be conducted by scientists already at work in this country and (2) that the Council should not undertake financial liabilities for work outside India, the recommendations of the committee have been generally accepted.

Rice Research. - Out of a total cultivated area of 260 million acres in India and Burma, there are about 82 million acres under rice. Hence rice research claimed the attention of the Council from the very start. A sub-committee was appointed by the Advisory Board to evolve a co-ordinated scheme for rice research from the suggestions and plans submitted by the rice-growing provinces. The sub-committee considered that there should be greater collaboration between the various rice research stations in India and Burma, and made the following recommendations: (1) there should be a free interchange of selected types between stations and farms of adjacent tracts of different provinces; (2) the fullest facilities should be given to Economic Botanists working on paddy as well as to Directors of Agriculture to meet each other from time to time at the various rice research stations; (3) at each research station or sub-station all definite unit species which are isolated in the course of plant-breeding work, should be fully described and maintained and made available to workers in other parts of India; and (4) in addition to the actual production of improved strains, each station should devote attention to the general genetics of the rice crop and to the clearing up of obscure points in connection with the inheritance of characters. The sub-committee agrees that there is scope for a good deal of more work in the direction of botanical and agricultural surveys of the rices of India; such surveys are provided for in the schemes ~~for~~ recommended for sanction. The total cost of working these schemes was estimated at Rs.1,122,408 of which the Empire Marketing Board promised to pay Rs.203,279. The ~~Government~~ Governing Body of the Council is expected to sanction the balance.

Fertilizers Committee. - Another Committee appointed by the Council during the period under review, was one to investigate problems relating to the conservation of indigenous manurial resources, the development of the use of indigenous fertilizers and the preparation of a programme of research on fertilizers. The Committee made a number of recommendations almost all of which have been accepted.

HHK.4,

Dissemination of Information. - The Council has, during the period under review, developed its activities in the matter of dissemination of information, which is one of its functions, in three directions: (1) by providing facilities to scientific workers in India to attend Imperial and International Conferences bearing on agriculture and animal husbandry; (2) by subscribing to Imperial and International Institutions which purvey information of value to workers in India; and (3) by means of its publications. The Council publishes the following three periodicals: (1) The Journal "Agriculture and Livestock in India" which took the place of the "Indian Journal of Agriculture" and the "Journal of the Central Bureau for Animal Husbandry and Dairying"; (2) "The Indian Journal of Agricultural Science", and (3) "The Indian Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry". The aim of the Council's work of publications is to provide in India suitable media for the publication of work done in India relating to any of the sciences with which the Council's activities are concerned.

Representation at Conferences abroad. - The Council sent its representatives to the following Conferences and Congresses held abroad during the period under review.

1. Third Entomological Conference, London, June 1930; 2. Imperial Botanical Conference. Fifth International Botanical Congress, Cambridge, August 1930; 3. Eleventh International Veterinary Congress, August 1930; 4. Conference of workers interested in the problems of Fruit Production within the Empire, London, August 1930; 5. Empire Soil Science Workers' Conference, Rothamsted, England, September 1930; 6. Tenth General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, October 1930; 7. Conference preparatory to the Second International World Wheat Conference, Rome, March 1931; and 8. Ninth International Dairy Congress, Copenhagen.

Progress of Agricultural Education in Burma, 1930-31*

The Report on the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Burma, for the year ending 31-3-1931 gives the following information regarding the progress of agricultural education in that presidency.

Agricultural College, Mandalay:- The total number of applications for

* Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Burma, for the year ended the 31st March 1931 - Rangoon: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma - 1931. Price Rs. 1-8 = 2s.3d.

entry was 78 during the year under review, but this number was reduced to 40 by a preliminary selection. The Board selected 20 stipendiary and 4 non-stipendiary students, but of the latter, one did not join the College. The total number of students on the roll at the end of March 1931 was 42, the numbers for the previous four years having been 47, 40, 43 and 34.

Pyinmana Agricultural School: This school which is managed by the American Baptist Mission is situated at Pyinmana and was opened in 1923. In addition to the school there is a farm and garden area which with the building site, amounts in all to 200 acres. The school is financed partly by the Mission and partly by Government, the latter contributing an annual grant of Rs.22,000. The ~~sub~~ object of the school is to train persons coming from the village communities so that they may take up the work of farming and marketing and successfully practise it under the conditions met in Burma. In order that village ~~communities from the district may be trained for farming~~ boys may come, only vernacular educational qualifications are required for entrance. Any boy who is over fourteen years old, who is strong and well and has passed the vernacular fourth standard may be admitted. The course is a four-year one of applied instruction, the lessons learnt in school being applied in the field. Since the school opened, 121 students have gained the Lower Middle Certificate by passing the first two years of the course and 54 were graduated after completing the four-year course. 92 students were on the roll during the year and 79 remained till the close of the school. The total enrolments during the past eight years have been 292 in all, thus averaging 36 per year. Of the former students, 49 are engaged in agriculture proper, 10 in gardening, 5 are village school teachers, 9 Mission agricultural school teachers, 8 are in the Agricultural Department as fieldmen and the rest engaged in miscellaneous work, except 12 whose whereabouts are unknown.

Farm Schools- There were two farm schools in the Presidency, one at Hmawbi and one at Mahlaing. Ten students were taken in at the former school of whom 9 only finished the course, and 8 passed the final examination. The total number of applicants was 22 and the course appears to be becoming popular. The Deputy Director remarks that although some of the applicants for admission hope to get appointments as fieldmen in the Department after attending the course, there appears to be an increasing number who are prepared to attend the course so that they can return better fitted to work their own lands, or to manage the lands of others. The course given at Hmawbi comprised instruction in determining the different kinds of paddy and rice, the characters of good quality paddy as opposed to bad, the principles of manuring and instruction in horticulture. The course is given by one of the Assistants ~~at~~ at the farm and supervised by the Deputy Director who conducts the final examination.

At Mahlaing the farm school opened in April 1930, twelve students being selected for training, of whom eleven completed a nine months' course, one having left in the middle of the course. The

CHK, 6.

Deputy Director reports that of the eleven students who passed out, eight have gone to take up agriculture on their own account while two of the remaining three have stayed on as paid hands to assist in the farm work at Mahlaing, the remaining one having been retained as a temporary demonstrator. The Deputy Director reports that much help is being received from those who passed out in previous years by their taking up improved methods of cultivation, encouraging their neighbours to do so and aiding the Assistants of the department in the course of their work.

At the Mudon Agricultural Station, two short courses, each of one month's duration, were held for cultivators during the year. Twelve students, all of whom were bona fide cultivators, or sons of such cultivators, attended these courses. All these students were found to be willing and keen workers but lack of necessary educational qualification proved a serious handicap in training them. The Director makes the following remarks on the courses:

"From what I have seen of these courses I believe that they fill a marked want and it is a pity that Government did not see its way to sanction more than two at the time that the scheme was put up six years ago. It is one of the most important lines along which the activities of the department should develop".

Training of Adult Cultivators. - These are short courses of about a week's duration held at various times of the year on the experimental farms and attended by adult cultivators who cannot afford to be away from their holdings for longer periods. The courses are enlightening rather than instructional. The cultivators who come to the farms are brought into personal touch with the work of these and with the staff and friendly relations are established. The courses are reported to be popular. In the Southern Circle these courses were attended by 27 during the year, a falling off by 38 from the previous year. The Deputy Director considers that it will be advisable to curtail the courses to three or four days. In addition to the courses, a few selected cultivators were given practical training extending for a period of one month at experimental farms and demonstration centres.

Progress of Agricultural Education in Madras Presidency,

1930-31.*

The following information regarding the progress of agricultural education in the Madras Presidency is taken from the Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture of the Madras Presidency for the year 1930-31.

* Report on the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Madras Presidency for the year 1930-31. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent Government Press. 1931. Price, 1 rupee 2 annas. pp. 54 + 3.

The activities of the Madras Agricultural Department in matters of educational consist in the running of a College affiliated to the University of Madras, an agricultural middle school and three farm labourers' schools.

Agricultural College, Coimbatore.— During the year the number of applications for the course of studies in this College rose from 303 to 365. Out of these, 48 students were finally selected. The restriction in the selection of students to 48 provoked the criticism of the members of the committee, who opined, that steps should be taken to permit more students joining the College, as it appeared to them that this course was becoming more and more popular. The cause of its popularity was, however, not investigated. A number of special lectures on subjects like plant nutrition, bacteriological technique, base exchange and kindred subjects which are dealt with only in an elementary way in their usual course were delivered by the staff of the college during the year. The increase in the number of students in each class made it inadvisable to continue the former practice of conveying students on tour from one part of the country to another, as it meant great expense and insufficient individual attention. Tours were, therefore, restricted to the agricultural research stations and their immediate surroundings.

Agricultural Middle Schools.— The Report observes that the only school of this nature maintained by the Department did not function as satisfactorily as it used to during the early years of its existence, 12 boys were admitted into the first year, of whom 4 left in the course of the year. In the second year there were 8 so that the total strength of the school was only 16 as against 23 in the (year previous). The history of the school dates back to 1922 and although it seems to have enjoyed some popularity during the first few years, it is clear, that for this kind of education, there is no demand from the agricultural classes. The report states that since this course is intended mainly for the sons of farmers who would go back to their land, two years seem too long a period for the boys to be kept away from their parents who need their presence during the busy agricultural seasons. If, on the other hand, this course was intended also for non-agricultural classes, it is not sufficiently attractive to them inasmuch as it does not help to qualify them for employment under the Government, as the college degree course does. It is, therefore, obvious that this course does not meet the need of either the agricultural or the non-agricultural community. If the agricultural middle schools are to be more popular, it is evident that the present order must change. The report suggests that one way of mending this unsatisfactory condition seems to lie in the direction of instituting allied branches. The period may extend from a few weeks to a year depending on the kind of courses given. Facilities should be available for young men from the country who wish to take short courses in insect pests and diseases, dairying, poultry management and the like, which would enable them to utilize the training with profit when they go back to their farms. The Government has deputed the Director of Agriculture, Madras, to investigate the causes of unpopularity of this type of education.

29.8

Farm Labourers' Schools.- These schools continued to function at Anakapalle, Palur and Coimbatore, with a fair measure of success. At Anakapalle, there were 33 boys in the day school against 35 in the previous year, and 21 as against 22 in the night classes. At Palur, there were 14 and 16 boys in the day and night classes respectively, as against 14 in each in the year previous. At Coimbatore there were 14 in the day and 11 in the night classes, as against 8 and 11 respectively in the previous year. The report expresses its gratification that these schools are supplying a want, viz., the education of the children of labourers at and near the agricultural stations who, otherwise, are likely to be deprived of it. These schools also aim at inculcating to the boys improved methods in farming practices obtaining in their neighbourhood. The opinion is expressed that it seems desirable that these schools are made permanent and the experiment be extended to other agricultural stations where there is ~~an~~ scope for this kind of education.

Programme for 1931-32.- The programme of work of the Department for 1931-32 include continuation of the Degree course at the College; attempts at short courses at the College and agricultural middle school; and continuation of farm labourers' schools.

6. Economic Conditions.

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(b) The Bombay Regulation of Accounts Bill.	33 - 34
(c) Tea Depression in Assam. ...	34 - 35
(d) Protection of Bengal Industries; Proposed Trade Convention. ...	35
(e) Enhanced Income & Super Tax Rates; Protest by Millowners' Association, Bombay.	36 - 39
(f) Agrarian Unrest in U.P.; Peace Efforts Fail.	40 - 41

7. Social Conditions.

Bill to Amend Madras Immoral Traffic Act, 1930, Passed. ...	42
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8. Public Health.

(a) Ahmedabad Industrial Housing Scheme; Action by Municipality ...	43
(b) First Aid for Workers; Bombay Millowners' Scheme.	43 - 44

9. Co-operation.

(a) Co-operation in Bihar & Orissa, 1930	45 - 47
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10. Women & Children.

(a) Bill to Amend Madras Children Act, ¹⁹²⁰ 1929	49
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(a) Progress of Agricultural Research in India, 1929-31. ...	53 - 56
(b) Progress of Agricultural Education in Burma, 1930-31. ...	56 - 58
(c) Progress of Agricultural Education in Madras Presidency, 1930-31 ...	58 - 60

12. Migration.

(a) Forth coming Cape Town Conference; Prospects of Revision of Cape Town Agreement.	61 - 62
(b) Repatriation from South Africa; Discontinuance Urged.	62 - 63
(c) Indians in Malaya, 1930 ...	63 - 69
(d) Closer Union of East Africa; Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report.. ...	69 - 73.

References to the I.L.O.

The Hindustan Times of 23-11-1931, the Times of India of 24-11-1931, the Pioneer and the Hindu of 25-11-1931 publish in full a lengthy communique issued by this Office on 21-11-1931 on the decision of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. to authorise the Director to consult the Governments of Asiatic countries and the States Members of the Organisation having territorial possessions in Asia on the desirability of holding a separate Asiatic Labour Conference.

The ~~communiqué~~ gives a brief resume of the history of the Asiatic labour conference idea and points out that "the holding of the proposed conference will ~~thus~~ bring together all sections of labour thought in Asia and it is expected that the strength of labour opinion ^{has} created thereby will exert pressure, on the one hand, on individual Asiatic Governments to ratify as many conventions as possible and, on the other, on Geneva, to make reasonable allowances for the differing conditions prevailing in the East.

(Copies of the communique have been sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/1347/31, dated 26-11-1931).

The Times of India of 27-11-1931, published a leading article on the subject under the caption "An Asiatic Labour Conference" based on the communique issued by this Office. The paper warmly supported the idea. The following is a relevant extract from the article:-

"The news that the Governing Body of the International Labour Office has authorised the Director to consult the Government of the Asiatic countries and the States' members having territorial possessions in Asia, on the desirability of holding a separate Asiatic Labour conference under the auspices of the International Labour Office, is of great interest with special interest to the Asiatic countries."

it and it is significant that Moscow has made several attempts to organise a conference, under Communist auspices, of Asiatic workers. A Communist conference, of course, would not be interested in labour except from the point of view of revolution. Certainly, labour could not expect to benefit from a purely political body. It may be assumed that a conference held under the auspices of the International Labour Office would devote itself exclusively to the amelioration of labour conditions, more especially in the direction of social legislation."

... ..

The November 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol.XI, No.3) publishes at page 201 in its "Month in Brief" column the news re: the decision of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. to authorise the Director to consult the Governments of Asiatic countries on the desirability of holding a separate Asiatic Labour Conference under the auspices of the I.L.O.

... ..

The Hindu of 17-11-1931 publishes the views of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce on the questionnaire ~~mm~~ issued by the I.L.O. on the Age of Admission of Children to Employment in Non-Industrial Occupations which have been communicated to the Government of India. The Chamber is of opinion that the application of any Convention on the subject would be premature as far as India is concerned. They observe:

"The general literacy of the people is extremely backward and the observance of the provisions of any such law in non-industrial occupations would be a matter of considerable difficulty for some years to come. No system of compulsory primary education has yet been adopted in India except in a few municipalities and until such time as it is extended throughout India, any law shutting out the boys and girls from their occupations would only mean enforced ~~iam~~ idleness. The minimum age for occupations ought to be ~~x~~ definitely correlated to the school-going age. Moreover, India is too poor to be deprived of what support the families would get from the grown up children. Nor are the climate, customs and social system of the people favourable to the adoption of as high a minimum age as in other countries".

... ..

Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office, addressed a meeting of the Economic Society of the Arabic College, Delhi, on 19-11-1931 on "Some Aspects of the Indian Labour Problem". In the course of the speech extensive references were made to the stimulus given to labour legislation in India by the I.L.O.

A short summary of the speech is published in the Hindustan Times of 21-11-1931.

... ..

The Times of India of 26-11-1931 publishes the principal points of a resolution adopted by the Advisory Committee of the I.L.O. on Salaried Employees, requesting the Office to take all measures calculated to hasten the adoption of international regulations or inventors' right for salaried employees.

... ..

The Indian Trade Journal, Calcutta, dated 12-11-1931 (Vol.CIII, No. 1325) publishes the news that the meeting of the Tripartite Technical Advisory Committee which was to have opened at Geneva on 8-12-1931 for the discussion of certain maritime questions has been postponed.

... ..

According to the Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for October 1931, the Government of India have sent a circular letter to all local Governments and administrations urging them to examine the Whitley Report with a view to taking early action thereon. One of the reasons put forward by the Government of India for the adoption of a generous labour policy is the need for the fulfilment of

the pledges given by India as a member of the I.L.O. The letter says:
 "....." ¹¹ ₂ By her membership of the International Labour Organisation, India is pledged to a policy of continuous progress. The Government of India, therefore, hope that the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour will receive early and sympathetic consideration by all concerned".

... ..

The November 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol.XI, No.3) reproduces at page 236, the announcement in the "Industrial and Labour Information" of 5-10-1931 regarding the ratification by the Government of India of the Convention concerning the "Marking of the Weight on Heavy Packages Transported by Vessels".

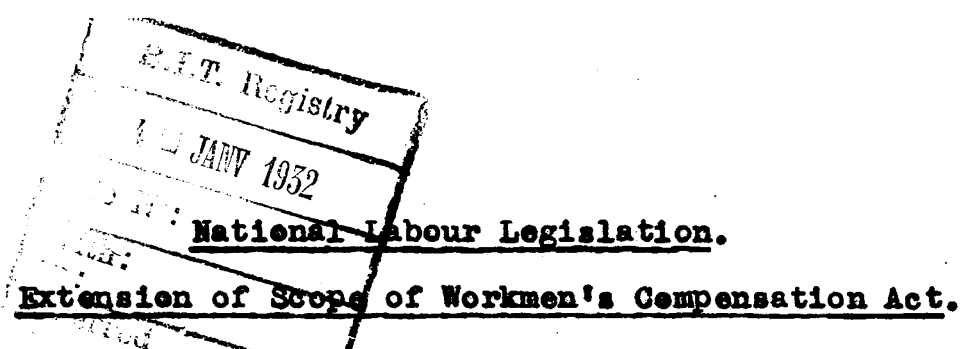
... ..

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the month of September 1931 publishes in full the statements made in the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State on behalf of the Government of India on 2-10-1931 and 5-10-1931 respectively regarding the possibility of giving effect to the I.L.O. Recommendations re: Prevention of Industrial Accidents.

... ..

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, during the month of October 1931, publishes the views of the Committee on the Blue Report on the Protection of Seamen in case of Sickness. The Committee is of opinion that Great Britain's reply as given in the Report adequately covered the ground at the present stage and that the discussion of details should be left over until the Convention was finally drafted.

... .. ^{...end many other papers}
 The Hindustan Times of 5-11-1931 publishes a lengthy communique issued by this Office on the recent elections of the President and Vice-President of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. Copies of the communique were sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/1303/31, dated 5-11-1931.



The Government of India have, by their Notifications, from the Foreign and Political Department, Nos. 599-I, and 600-I dated 22-10-1931, extended the application of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, to the lands occupied by various sections of the B.B.& C.I Railway and its branches passing through the State territories of Kathiawar and Limbdi. The extension is intended to remove the anomaly of employees injured on certain parts of the line getting compensation, while those ^{employed} ~~employed~~ on certain other parts, namely, in sections running through state territory, are not compensated. The above notifications and the draft rules framed for the purpose are published at pages 996 - 1008 of part I of the Gazette of India dated 24-10-1931 (No.43).

Working of the Labour Department, Madras, 1930-31.

The following are extracts from the Administration Report of the Labour Department, Madras, for the year 1930-31, issued by Mr. C.A. Souter, I.C.S., Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

Number of Factories and Health of Employees.- There was an increase in the total number of factories which stood at 1,661 at the end of the year 1930 as compared with 1,623 at the end of the year 1929. The majority of the factories which accounted for the increase was perennial. There was a slight decrease in the number of women and children employed in these factories and this ^{was} due to the fact that a large number of the registered factories remained closed during the year, owing to trade depression and other causes. The health of the operatives continued to be good and there was an increasing desire on the part of the factory owners to promote the welfare of their employees by providing housing, educational and other facilities. There was an increase in the number of accidents during the year and the statistics point to the need for more frequent inspections by the departmental staff.

Labour Unions.- The number of trade unions, registered during the year was 6, and this brings the total to 19 since the introduction of the Indian Trade Unions Act. No appeal ^{or the} has been filed against any decisions of the Registrar of Trade Unions. Great difficulty was again experienced, as in the previous years, in obtaining the prescribed returns from some of the registered trade unions for the year ending 31st March 1930. No employers' associations have been registered under the Act. Activity in the matter of the organisation of labour was greatly stimulated by the visit of the Royal Commission on Labour.

Workmen's Compensation Act.- The number of cases filed during the year was 146, 24 relating to proceedings instituted for recovery of compensation under Section 10 of the Act, 61 to distribution of compensation to dependents of deceased workmen under Section 8, 60 to memoranda of agreement for registration under Section 28, and 1 to recovery of compensation under Section 31. The report shows that the average amount of compensation paid in cases of death was Rs. 472, in cases of permanent disablement Rs. 192, and in cases of temporary disablement Rs. 9-8-0. The total amount of compensation paid to workmen in respect of the 60 memoranda of agreement sent for registration was Rs. 15,722-9-9.

Ameliorative Work for Depressed Classes.- It is stated that ameliorative work on behalf of the depressed classes through the agency of a special staff was extended during the year to the districts of Salem and Chittoor. Ameliorative work was conducted on the usual lines and consisted of - (1) provision of house-sites for relieving congestion in cheris and for liberating the depressed classes from oppression by landlords; (2) organisation and supervision of co-operative societies; (3) organizing special schools for depressed classes, granting them scholarships, stipends and boarding grants,

maintaining hostels, etc., to facilitate the spread of education among the depressed classes; (4) provision of pathway from cheris to roads, burial-grounds, etc.; (5) provision of facilities for drinking water by sinking new wells or repairing old ones; and (6) assignment of lands for cultivation and lease of lanka lands.

Co-operation.— The organisation and working of co-operative societies among the depressed classes continued to make progress on the usual lines. The chief kinds of societies were — (1) societies for obtaining loans for the acquisition of house-sites; (2) societies for obtaining loans for agricultural purposes, such as the purchase of cattle, seeds, ploughs, etc.; (3) societies for flood-relief loans; (4) societies for credit purposes; and (5) societies for obtaining leases or assignment of lands from Government. The first three types of societies were financed by Government and credit societies were financed by private banks. There were 1,813 societies at the beginning of the year. ~~156~~ 156 societies were organised and registered during the year, ^{and} 201 societies were transferred to this department from the Co-operative Department. 65 societies were wound up and 247 societies were transferred to other departments. There were thus 1,858 societies at the end of the year under report; 88 societies were pending registration at the close of the year.

(The Hindu, 25-11-1931).

Proposed Safety First League, Bombay.

The alarming increasing in the number of accidents of all kinds, accidents in factories, street accidents etc., and the resultant loss of human lives and injuries to person, has, of late, been ^{engaging} ~~enjoying~~ the serious attention of industrial leaders in Bombay city. The first step towards the formation of a Safety First League in Bombay was taken at a representative meeting of citizens held in the office of ^{the} General Motors India, Limited, at Sewree, Bombay on 5-11-31, when Mr. G.C. Seers, the convener of the preliminary meeting, occupied the chair and explained at length the urgent need ~~for~~ starting such an organisation in Bombay and the lines on which similar institutions were run in England and elsewhere.

Mr. Seers, in the course of his preliminary speech, said that

the need for an organization to promote accident prevention and other safety methods in India was too obvious to be discussed. ~~Starting with factory accidents,~~ Statistics showed that there were no less than 6,454 accidents in mills in the Bombay area, during 1930. Of these 1,256 were serious and 42 were fatal. In the case of street accidents, there were no less than 2,511 in Bombay in 1929 of which 88 were fatal, automobile traffic being responsible for 1,702 accidents and 69 fatalities. In 1930, when the total number of motor vehicles in Bombay had grown to 10,500, there were 3,469 motor accidents. Street accidents last year altogether accounted for 97 deaths and 2,532 injured. Of other forms of accident, from oil stoves, electric shocks, drownings, etc., no reliable figures were available. It was, however, quite certain that all of these hazards had claimed their toll.

Referring to the principal activities of the National Safety First Association in Great Britain, Mr. Seers mentioned the following: ^{apparently} Safety education among children and the general public, comprising (a) promotion of safety teaching, essay competitions, etc., in schools; (b) design and publication of posters for display in schools, garages, on public hoardings, etc., as well as in factories and workshops; (c) making and display of films and lantern slides and organizing of lectures and special performances for children; (d) maintaining a continuous propaganda campaign through the press, broadcast, etc., as well as through the Association's official organ "Safety First"; (e) preparation of books, pamphlets, leaflets, ^{and} notes for lectures and for all classes of road users; (f) holding of conferences for the discussion of the means of accident prevention; (g) promotion of local "Safety First" branches to further the objects of the Association and to deal with local safety matters, more particularly safety instruction of the young; (h) organization of a National Safety Week annually. The second group of activities centred around Safety measures in industrial undertakings, factories, docks, etc., and comprised among others, the following:- (a) Periodical issue of posters and other propaganda dealing with accident prevention, (b) promotion of legislation covering all phases of industrial accident prevention, (c) personal assistance and ~~advice~~ ^{advice} from the Association's Travelling Safety Engineer. The third group of activities dealt with safety propaganda and measures among all classes of road users.

Referring to the handicaps to be overcome, Mr. Seers said that the opinion had been expressed that, while the idea was a sound one in theory, India was not ripe for such a movement and that it would be almost impossible to put the theory into practice. Mr. Seers said such an attitude would ^{be} ~~be~~ unduly pessimistic, and there was no reason why India should not be susceptible to education and propaganda. Even though it might take more time and greater effort to achieve results along the lines suggested, anything that could be done to promote precaution and prevent or reduce accidents was certainly worth undertaking.

~~After discussion a provisional a practical method of putting~~

After discussion a provisional committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. G.C. Seers, ~~W.B. Burford~~, W.B. Burford, W.T. Griffiths, N. Coombs (Chief of Fire Brigade), T. Maloney, (Secretary of the Bombay Millowners' Association), Modak (Bombay Municipality), and E.J. Fielden. It was also suggested that representatives of the Bombay City Police, Bombay University, Teachers' Association, and Boy Scout organizations might be invited to join the committee. The first meeting of the committee was fixed for December, 1931. (The Times of India, 7-11-31).

Action on the Whitley Report:

Government of India's Letter to Local Governments.

Reference had been made at pages 9-10 of the report of this Office for September 1931 to the probable lines on which the Government of India propose to take action on the Whitley Commission Report. The first step towards implementing the recommendations of the Commission was taken recently by the Government of India by the issue of a circular letter to all local Governments and administrations. The object of the Government of India's letter is to secure an early examination of the Commission's findings and to indicate the lines on which it is proposed to proceed in ^{respect of the} the consideration of the recommendations. "Even where the importance of the Commission's recommendations is recognised", the letter ~~says~~ says, "there may be a tendency to defer action until times are more favourable. The report has emerged at a time of unprece-

5. dented trade depression and acute financial stringency, There is also the impending revision of the constitution on which much thought and energy ^{is} are naturally concentrated. While these factors may delay progress in certain directions, they do not justify inaction. Apart from the fact that some of the recommendations involve little or no expense, it should not be overlooked, as observed by the Commission, that a generous policy in respect of labour is also a wise policy in respect of industry. In counting the cost, it is necessary also to bear in mind the advantages which are derived from the greater contentment of the general mass of workers. Further, by her membership of the International Labour Organisation, India is pledged to a policy of continuous progress. The Government of India, therefore, hope that the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour will receive early and sympathetic consideration by all concerned."

The Government of India have divided the recommendations of the Commission into the following six groups:- (1) Recommendations involving central legislation. (2) Recommendations requiring administrative action by the Government of India. (3) Recommendations involving provincial legislation. (4) Recommendations requiring administrative action by Local Governments and Administrations. (5) Recommendations requiring action by public bodies, e.g., municipalities, universities, etc. (6) Recommendations requiring action by employers and their organisations or by workers' unions.

With regard to the recommendations included in the first two categories, the Government of India will take the initiative, and will consult Local Governments and Administrations where necessary.

Proposals involving central legislation will, as far as practicable, be referred to Local Governments and Administrations before a Bill is introduced in the legislature, but the Government of India do not propose to observe this procedure in certain cases where the views of Local Governments and Administrations and of the interests concerned have already been received. In such cases Local Governments and the interests concerned will have a further opportunity of expressing their views if the Bill is circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinions thereon. The Government of India have asked that the recommendations falling within the other four categories should now be examined by the interests respectively concerned.

(Extracted from the Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for October 1931).

Abolition of Forced Labour in Bilaspur.

The most far-reaching administrative change brought about by the land revenue re-settlement operations, recently concluded, in Bilaspur zamindars (Central Provinces) has been the omission of beth begar, or the tenants' obligation to cultivate the proprietor's home farm lands, from the record of village customs. This custom dating back to the pre-British revenue system in Chhattisgarh ^{Sistrick, C.P.} has outlived its usefulness and was liable to be made the lever for oppression by unscrupulous proprietors and their agents; its abolition has generally proved acceptable, says the resolution of the Central Provinces Government, in confirming the revised settle-

ment proposed by Mr. T.C.S. Jayaratnam, I.C.S.

Referring to this change, Mr. Jayaratnam says in his report:-

"Under the orders of Government, the custom of beth begar has ceased to be recognized, and is not enforceable under the Land Revenue Act. Proprietors objected to the procedure. The objection is without substance. [Other major alterations and innovations introduced by the revised settlement are, according to the Government resolution, the notification of the Satgarh as a local area in which the Tenancy Act shall be in force with a view to protect the ignorant cultivators of waste lands from exactions at the hands of proprietors, the investigation of claims to protection under the Land Revenue Act, the inquiry into and the recording of the conditions on which protected villages are held under the Act, the drawing up and executing of formal documents containing these conditions and the preparing of the village wajib-ul-arz or record of customs in the revised form. (The Labour Gazette, November 1931, Vol. XI. No. 3).

Note on Bilaspur District.-

The following information

regarding Bilaspur District is taken from the Encyclopaedia Britannica, (14th edition) Vol. 3 - page 559:-

The District of Bilaspur, as now constituted has an area of 7,618 Sq. miles. The population of the area ~~as~~ included in the district is (1921) 1,231,765. Formerly migration was very limited but since the famines, there has been much emigration to the Assam tea districts and there is an annual movement of surplus labour to Kharagpur and Calcutta. The chief wealth of the district consists in its agricultural produce. There is coal in the Korba zamindari. Among local industries, hand-weaving is important. The district includes ~~a special privileged tenure~~. *Several large zamindari estates held on a special privileged tenure.*

Factory Administration in Bihar and Orissa, 1930*

Number of Factories, Operatives and Inspections.- The actual number of factories on the register in the year under report was 301, of which however 19 remained closed throughout the year but were retained on the register as having a prospect of being reopened in the near future. During the year 13 new factories were registered and 4 former factories were re-registered. No factories were removed from the register during the year. The total number of persons employed was 66,315 or 2,411 less than the previous year's total of 68,726. The decrease is attributable in general to depression of trade and industry. The total number of factories inspected was 243 as against 182 in the previous year and the number of factories uninspected was 39 as against 162 in the previous year. The improvement, appears more markedly in the actual number of inspections made. This was 387 as against 260 in the previous year.

Sanitation and Health of the Workers.- No serious defect in sanitation was observed. In a few instances where there was no proper outlet for sullage water, pucca drains were ordered and provided. No complaint of inadequacy of the drinking water-supply was heard, and no case of unsuitable water was observed. In ventilation there was some improvement on previous years. In some cases greater window or door space was ordered and provided. Though the lighting in some places remains unsatisfactory, there were some notable instances of improvement, and it is reported that the managements of some factories have yielded to persuasion and installed small electric lighting plants to the advantage of all concerned. The health of employees was normal. No epidemic and no industrial disease was observed by or reported to an inspector.

Wages.- The report states that the increase in the inspection staff made it possible to obtain more comprehensive and more accurate returns of the wages paid to the principal classes of factory workers than in previous years. Formerly, the figures were asked for in a supplementary form sent to each factory with the statutory annual return from and the response from most factories was scanty, and often unintelligible. In the year under report, figures ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx~~ were obtained on the spot by the inspector from the manager of every inspected factory, and care taken to assure a true record before handing the papers in at Ranchi for incorporation.

Women and Children.- The number of women employed during the year was 336 more than in 1929, the total being 6,439. This is at the rate of about one woman in every 10 employees. The number of children employed increased by 29 giving a total of 807 children, this is at the rate of about one child for every 82 persons employed.

*Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in the province of Bihar and Orissa, 1930, by H.W.Brady, M.I.Mech.E., M.I.Struct.E., M.I.E., Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar and Orissa. Patna; Superintendent, Govt. Printing, Bihar and Orissa, 1931. Price. Rs. 1-4-0. pp.33.

Accidents and Fencing of Machinery.- The fencing of machinery continued to improve. Previous progress in the adoption of expanded metal or latticed metal guards was maintained, and the number of accidents due to want of proper fencing was small. The Workmen's Compensation Act helped in this result, though its existence is not yet so widely known amongst illiterate workmen in remote places as it ought to be. The total number of accidents was 118 more than in the previous year, the total figure being 2,281. The increase is ~~mainly~~ mainly in minor accidents and is believed to have been due more to better reporting of trifling injuries than to the number of injuries actually occurring. The number of serious accidents was 33 less than in the previous year and the number of fatal accidents 15 more, the total being 36. Of these, 30 were in the heavy metals trade. The accidents due to rolling stock on lines increased from 59 to 65, those due to persons falling and falling objects from 1,139 to 1,282 and those due to electricity from 53 to 83. In 7 of the accidents the injuries were inflicted by personal violence with intention. The report states that more than half of the total number of accidents was due to the person falling or having something fallen upon him, both causes being very much within the control of the workers themselves. On the other hand, the accidents of which "working machinery" was the causing agent were only 196 (as against 238 in the previous year).

Prosecutions.- The number of convictions obtained was 17 and the number of persons prosecuted 29. 7 of the convictions were on charges relating to irregular or excessive hours or the withholding of holidays. 8 were on charges in respect of notices and returns and employment register.

(The working of the Indian Factories Act in the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1929 was reviewed at pages 14-15 of the report of this Office for October 1930).

**Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act,
during 1930-31*.**

The following information regarding the working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 30-6-1931 is taken from the Annual Report on the working of the Act submitted by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay.

Total Claims Paid.- Returns were received from 348 of the 353 factories amenable to the Act. The 5 factories that did not submit information employed very few women and probably did not give a benefit to any woman. There were on the average 51,950 women employed daily in the factories in the Presidency which submitted returns. The number of women who claimed maternity benefits under Section 6(1), was 5,963. The number of benefits actually granted was 5,231 and the cost was Rs. 121,325. In the previous year, 1,700 benefits costing Rs. 34,663 were given. It is obvious, therefore, that knowledge of the Act is now a very widely diffused and that the women are freely availing themselves of the privileges conferred by it.

Comparative Statistics.- The claims paid per 100 women in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur were 6.1, 18.1 and 13.5 respectively. These may be taken as a fair reflex of the claims paid in the textile industries in the three centres. Employment was more regular in Ahmedabad than in Bombay and there are fewer migrations to the villages from Ahmedabad than from Bombay. Despite these factors, however, it is thought that the birth rate amongst textile women in Ahmedabad is considerably higher than in Bombay.

Maximum Benefits.- The maximum benefit that may be earned is Rs. 24-8-0. The average benefit paid last year was Rs. 20-6-0, whereas in the year under review, it amounted to Rs. 23-3-0. This indicates that the women are availing themselves to a greater extent of the pre-confinement relief period. Cases still arise of women working almost up to the date of confinement, but these appear to be due to bad estimating on the part of the women. Most women take a longer rest than that assumed in the Act, and in an enquiry into this in 6 Bombay mills the ~~max~~ average pre-confinement period off work was found to be 48 days.

Attitude of Employers.- The report states that the Act has been of great assistance to working women, and a greater use is being made of maternity homes. It has, on the whole, worked smoothly, and this is, in great measure, due to the attitude of the employers in the large factories who have been guided more by the spirit than the letter of the law. The small employer has not been as liberal and it is thought that some women in the smaller factories do not receive benefits when earned. Special attention however was given to them by the Lady

* Annual Report on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929 for the year ending 30th June 1931. Price - Anna 1 or 1d. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1931. pp. 3

Inspector of Factories to ensure that the provisions of the Act are understood by the female employees. The choice in such concerns often lies between receiving a transitory benefit or losing employment. The Act is not reported to have led to any appreciable displacement of female labour in the large factories, but it is apprehended that the prosecution of claims in some of the smaller concerns would undoubtedly lead to the dismissal of women, of child-bearing age and their replacement by young persons, or by women unlikely to involve the employer in expense. The report is of opinion that in such concerns the wisest course appears to be to ensure that the women are acquainted with their rights and to take up any claims that are formulated by them.

Complaints.- A few cases were noticed where benefits were being paid at a rate lower than that provided by the Act or where reduced benefits resulted from an incorrect interpretation of the "week". Remedies, however, were promptly made. The Inspector also successfully represented the claims of women who had earned benefits in a concern that went into liquidation.

General remarks.- It is widely considered that the Act has led to a reduction in labour turnover and from this point of view it has benefited the employer. In one large mill, for example, 50 per cent. more women worked throughout the year than had previously been the case. The provisions of the Act have been recently extended to the districts of East and West Khandesh, Sholapur, Dharwar, Thana and Kaira and to the City of Poona by Government Notification No. 8178 dated 26th May 1931 in the Political Department. Representations have been ~~and~~ received from employers in certain areas that the flat rate of 8 annas per day applicable throughout the Presidency is unsuitable to their localities.

(The Working of the Act in the Bombay Presidency during 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 41-42 of the report of this Office for December 1930).

Employment of Women Underground in Mines:

Move for Total Prohibition.

A move towards the total prohibition of women underground workers in mines has been taken by the Association of Colliery Managers in India by issuing a circular letter to employers of coal-mining labour in the country, with reference to the difficulties which were apprehended in regulating the percentage of female labour employed underground in mines. The Association ^{is} ~~were~~ of opinion that within the next two or three years it would be found difficult to reduce the number of women labourers as required under the regulations, and that

this difficulty would be further enhanced should there, at any time, be a demand for large raisings of coal. It ^{is} ~~was~~, therefore, suggested that the present time ^{is} ~~was~~ opportune for the total withdrawal of female labour underground. If such action was taken now raisings would not suffer, labour would get settled down to the new conditions and later on, when large outputs were required, no difficulty would be experienced.

The Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, in their reply to the Colliery Managers' Association, stated that they were of opinion that the present procedure in connection with the ~~staggered~~ withdrawal of women from mines (for details vide pages 29-30 of March 1929 report of this Office) was satisfactory and appeared to be working smoothly. No great difficulty was apprehended in the immediate future in regulating the percentage of women permitted to work underground and the Committee felt that the elimination of female labour by easy stages of 3 per cent. was the most satisfactory way of dealing with the economic side of the question. The Committee were also of opinion that the present time was not opportune to throw out of employment a large number of women colliery labourers and ^{had} ~~in~~ view of the economic ~~at~~ situation, it was advisable to leave the matter well alone.

(Extracted from the Proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 17-11-1931).

Workers' Organisations.

A.I. National Federation of Textile Labour, Ahmedabad.

A conference of the representatives of the several textile labour associations in India met at Ahmedabad on 21 and 22-11-1931 under the presidentship of Mr. Shankarlal Banker and organised and inaugurated an all-India Federation of Textile Labour Unions to be known as the National Federation of Textile Labour. The objects of the Federation are: (1) to co-ordinate the activities of the various textile labour unions in the country which make up the Federation, (2) to promote the organisation of labour employed in the textile industry in India, (3) to advance the economic, social and political interest of textile labourers in India and (4) in due course to nationalise the textile industry.

Creed of Federation:- The means to be adopted for the furtherance of the objects of the Federation is to be always based on truth and non-violence. As at present arranged, the Federation will consist of provincial organisations of textile labour, having its central office at Ahmedabad. From each centre only one organisation would be admitted to the Central Body, either direct or through a provincial organisation. Only such bodies as agree to abide by the constitution and policy of the Federation, not to act in any manner prejudicial to the collective interests of the Federation and to satisfy the Federation that it has been organised and is being conducted on a definite trade union basis will be admitted into the Central Body. The business of the Federation will be carried on by the office-bearers elected at an annual conference and a Working Committee consisting of five to nine members.

Policy re. Industrial Disputes.- The Federation has adopted the following as its policy regarding industrial disputes in centres where it has got an affiliated body:-

In taking steps for procuring redress of the grievances of the members and others connected with the industry within the jurisdiction of an affiliated organisation and in case of all matters between the organisations and employers, the organisation adhere to the following principles:

Every endeavour shall be made to secure an amicable settlement by negotiations and conciliations.

Complete records shall be kept of the negotiations, representations and investigations concerning the aforesaid matters.

In all representations regarding the aforesaid matters, care should be taken to ensure strict accuracy and to preserve a conciliatory tone.

Arbitration and Strike.- If a satisfactory settlement is not possible by negotiation and conciliation, a demand for arbitration may be placed, and in such cases early information shall be given to the Working Committee.

If an offer for arbitration is not accepted or an award not carried out, or there is undue delay in submitting the matter to arbitration or carrying out an award, the affiliated organisation may, with the previous approval of the Working Committee, give a reasonable notice to the employer or body of employers concerned of its intention to declare a strike, provided that such notices shall not be given unless it has been ascertained through a ballot that at least ~~of~~ 75 per cent. of the workpeople to be directly involved in the dispute are in favour of a strike.

(The Times of India, 26-11-1931).

Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, 1930*

According to the Annual Report of the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, 1930, which has recently been issued, ~~by the Association,~~ the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association, in common with the country, passed through a period of unusual stress, during the year 1930. The Report points out that, while the primary trade union work and the existing social services were kept going, all the energy and the resources that could be spared were used for ^{the furtherance of the} national programme. Attention was given chiefly to that part of the programme, including boycott of foreign cloth and a campaign against the drink evil, which was calculated to promote the social and economic well-being of the working class. Apart from sustained activity in this direction, the outstanding features of the year, according to the report, were a revision of the constitution of the Association, the biennial elections of the Boards of representatives, the formation of a labour group in the municipality, a labour exhibition and a partial restoration of the cut in wages effected in the year 1923.

Constitution. - Owing to the changing needs and aspirations of the Association, a comprehensive survey of the constitution was undertaken during the year and the amended constitution was adopted by a special meeting of the Joint Board of Representatives in February 1930. Among the principal alterations was the definition

* The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad. Annual Report 1930. Labour Office, Ahmedabad. pp.70.

of the ultimate aim of the Association as the nationalisation of the industry. Among the objects of the Association has now been included the promotion of the civic and political interests of the workpeople. By a unanimous resolution on 30th July 1930, the Joint Board of Representatives restricted the membership of the Association to those abstaining from the use of liquor.

Membership Figures. - With the formation of the Clerks' Union, the number of Unions comprised in the Association increased from five to six during the year under review. The total membership of the Association stood at 17,673 at the beginning of the year, of whom 4,679 were women and 426 children below 15. In the second quarter of the year the number of members rose to 21,874 and at the end of the year ~~it was~~ it was 22,463. It is pointed out that among the major occupations in the industry, the weaving department has been a weak link in the chain of unity for a number of years. The progress of organisation in this section has been hampered by the intrigues and tyrannical hold exercised by the jobbers. At the beginning of the year, a campaign for setting up an effective organisation of weavers ~~with membership~~ was launched, and the measure of success it met with can be judged from the fact that in less than three months the number of weavers on the members' roll rose from 825 to 2,500.

Redressal of Grievances. - The number of complaints recorded during the year was 3,293. Of these 965 related to unjust rules and practices, 881 to unjust penalties, 605 to pay and allowances, 179 to sanitary arrangements and conveniences, 158 to hostility to the Union, 128 to conditions of work, 64 to hours of work, 63 to holidays, 52 to collection of subscription and 198 to questions of a miscellaneous character. It has been pointed out that the gradual change in the character of complaints is no less remarkable than the increase in their number. The number of petty complaints is diminishing; but, owing to a growing sense of self-respect and consciousness of personal rights among the workpeople, methods and practices with which they silently put up before are now resented and made subjects of complaint. It is also stated that one of the indirect consequences of the operation of the Maternity Benefit Act has been an increase in the number of complaints, the number due to this cause during the year being 206.

With the pending balance of 350 complaints at the commencement of the year, the total number of complaints dealt with during 1930 was 3643. Of these, 3238 were closed and 405 remained pending. 81 per cent. of the complaints were brought to a successful conclusion, one per cent. were unsuccessful, 6.9 per cent. had to be closed inconclusively, 2.4 per cent. were rejected as unreasonable or trivial and 0.6 per cent. were found to be false.

A Conciliation Board consisting of Seth Chamanlal, G. Parekh and Mr. Shankerlal G. Banker was set up to expedite the settlement of complaints referred to the Association.

Labour Disputes and Strikes. - According to the record

maintained by the Association, there were 33 strikes during 1930, involving directly 9851 workpeople and resulting in a time-loss of 19,415 working days. Of the 33 strikes, 20 ended in favour of the employees, two were compromised and 11 were unsuccessful. A sum of Rs.3422 was paid as strike aid. Thirty-four representatives and 56 other workpeople received victimization benefit amounting to Rs. 8194.

Restoration of Wage Cut. - As a result of the award in connection with the claim for the restoration of the wage cut, the wages of the workpeople rose, during the year under report, by 8 per cent. and 5 per cent. in the case of spinners and weavers respectively. The application of the award was extended to the minor departments so that those drawing below Rs.30 were treated on the same footing as spinners, and the upper grades were reckoned as weavers. The net effect of this advance in the scale, it is pointed out, is an increment of about Rs. 2-4-0 in the earnings of each operative.

Workmen's Compensation Claims. - The Association takes up all cases of accidents in mills involving employers' liability for compensation. The Compensation Department of the Association arranges for all steps including medical examination, medical certificates, service of notice, and applications and proceedings before the Commissioner for the Workmen's Compensation Act. In addition to the 41 claims of compensation pending at the commencement of 1930, 161 were added during the year. Forty-six claims remained pending at the close of the year. The amount of compensation awarded in respect of the claims settled during the year was Rs.17,423.

Medical Aid. - During the year, 345 patients were admitted for indoor treatment in the hospital maintained by the Labour Association. There is accommodation for 30 patients in the hospital. Outdoor relief was administered to 7,518 patients with a total attendance of 21,471. The total expenditure on medical aid amounted to Rs. 11,851.

Education. - The Association conducted 11 day schools, 10 night schools and three other schools. The total number of children at the end of the year in all the schools was 1579, and the total cost of educational work to the Association was Rs.43,342-8-6.

Housing Schemes. - The Secretary of the Association had suggested that the Municipality should build 5,000 tenements for the working classes, (Vide pages 21-24 of the September 1930 and pages 40-41 of the May 1931 report of this Office). During the year, the Working Class Housing Committee of the Municipality advised the Municipal Board to undertake the scheme on an experimental basis of building 500 tenements and to acquire certain areas for the purpose. The Committee suggested the raising of a loan of Rs.450,000, and a slight increase in the terminal tax on cotton,

coal, yarn and piecegoods for meeting the recurring charges. The Municipal Board approved the report of the Committee, but the scheme is still under consideration.

Other Activities. - Among the other activities of the Association were the granting of cheap loans, maintenance of restaurants, the running of grain shops, the receiving ~~XXXX~~, ~~XX~~ of complaints against the Municipality, the maintenance of institutions for physical culture, the maintenance of circulating libraries, the carrying on of temperance propaganda, the conduct of the weekly paper called the "Majoor Sandesh", etc. During the year, a census of literacy among the working classes was also taken which covered 3926 families with 13,604 persons. The percentage of literacy ranged from 11.83 in the Saraspur Chawls area to 30.94 in the Saraspur Village, the average being 20.9 per cent.

Appendices. - There are eight very informative appendices in the report. The first of ~~which~~ contains important resolutions of the Joint Board of Representatives, the second gives an analysis of complaints by their nature and results, the third gives the results of an enquiry into "Dining Sheds", "Water Supply", "Latrines and Urinals" and "Creche Accommodation", the fourth deals with the schools and dispensaries maintained by mills, the fifth gives details of the literacy census. In appendix VII details regarding the progress of the Housing Scheme of the Ahmedabad Municipality have been given.

Progress of the A.I. Postal & R.M.S. Union - 1930-31.

The following information about the working of the All-India (including Burma) Postal and R.M.S. Union for the year 1930-31 is taken from the annual report for the period ^{year 1930-31, in} issued by the General Secretary of the Union:-

Membership. - On the 31st March of 1930, the number of members on the roll was 27,110 as against 27,756 in the previous year. The details are as follow:-

Bengal and Assam - 8009, Bihar and Orissa - 1536, Bombay - 3663, Burma - 1456, Central Circle - 2394, Delhi - 220, Madras Circle - 5782, Punjab and N.W.F. - 2011, Sind and Baluchistan - 321, and United Provinces - 1718. The report states that as a whole the decrease in membership was slight in comparison with the previous year's figures and in view of the various disintegrating forces *at work*.

Finances. - The balances in hand in the beginning of the year was Rs. 3160-0-2, being the previous years' savings and the total amount of contributions received from the provincial branches was Rs. 6293-14-6. The total budgeted expenditure was Rs. 9296-0-0. The income thus fell short by Rs. 3002-1-6, but by observing strict economy in expenditure and abandoning propaganda work for the year a saving of Rs. 1728-3-6 was effected. The report points out that the finances are far from satisfactory.

Annual & Provincial Conferences. - The 10th Session of the Annual Conference was held in Madras on the 30th and 31st December 1930 and the council meeting on the 29th December 1930. Mr. S.C. Joshi, M.A., LL.B., presided. Rao Bahadur P.T. Kumaraswami Chettiar, M.A., President, Corporation, Madras, was the Chairman of the Reception Committee. 253 delegates from different Provinces attended. Annual Conferences were held in almost all the Provinces under the presidency of distinguished public leaders most of whom are members of the Legislative Assembly or Council of State.

Settlement with Sectional Unions. - At the Madras Conference of 1930 a scheme of amalgamation of the All-India (including Burma) Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union with the All-India Union, containing the terms provisionally accepted by representatives of the former Union on the one hand and by Mr. S.C. Joshi as representative of the latter ~~on the latter~~ on the other, was tentatively approved and Mr. S.C. Joshi was empowered to carry on further negotiations for effecting the amalgamation. The scheme was placed before the Annual Conference of the All-India (including Burma) Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union but the final adoption of the scheme was postponed. Pourparlers for settlement, however, were continued by Mr. Joshi with the representatives of the Union during the year and the excellent spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding displayed by that Union justify the hope that the amalgamation will be accomplished without further delay. The report notes that the All-India (including Burma) Administrative Offices Union and the Director-General of Post and Telegraphs Ministerial Staff Union have already been affiliated to the All-India Union on ~~the~~ a Provincial basis.

Communal Movements. - While, however, the gulf between the All-India Union and the sectional Unions has been well-nigh bridged ~~over~~ and the prospect of all the Unions coming under a common flag and working in complete union and agreement became brighter during the year, the Union was confronted with a serious menace by the

starting of several organisations on a communal basis. There was a serious communal schism in the Punjab organisation which baffled all efforts of the Union to effect a reconciliation and soon after the Madras Conference of 1930, an All-India Muslim Postal and R.M.S. Union was started in Delhi without any notice being given to the All-India Union. ~~As a result~~ A manifesto^{was} issued by the executive of the All-India Union to counteract the communal movement and giving assurance to the minority communities of the Union's sincere solicitude to redress their legitimate grievances. The report notes that although the manifesto had a pacifying effect generally on the ~~leaders of the movement~~ reasonable and saner sections of the communities concerned, it fell flat on the leaders of the movement. The Burman Postal and R.M.S. Union and the All-India (including Burma) Sikh Posts and Telegraphs Union in Lahore which are in a nebulous state took a cue from the All-India Muslim Postal and R.M.S. Union and established themselves as separate Unions on a communal basis. The Punjab dispute and the Muslim and other communal movements received the anxious attention of the All-India Council meeting held in Delhi in March 1931 and a decision to settle the dispute by arbitration was adopted. This move ultimately failed.

(Summarised from the Report published in the November 1931 issue of the Indian Post (Vol.2, No.11) pages 474-486.)

Resolutions passed at 11th Session of A.I. Postal Conference, 1931.

At pages 38-39 of the report of this Office for October 1931, a brief account was given of the proceedings of the 11th Session of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference held at Delhi on 31st October and 1st and 2nd November 1931. The following are some of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Conference

This Joint Special Conference of the delegates of the All-India (including Burma) Postal and R.M.S. Union and Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union, does not admit that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is working at a loss, or that any necessity really exists for retrenching subordinate employees either by reduction in the scales of pay of the future entrants. In case, however, on account of ^{the} general financial condition of the Government of India as a whole, any retrenchment is to be effected in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, this Joint Special Conference urges upon the Government to carry out the various suggestions made by the Union, in their Memorandum to the Retrenchment Sub-Committee (see pages 41-48 of our August 1931 report) to the extent to which it has not been done. This Joint Conference expresses its deep dissatisfaction

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against Government's action in it
~~and disappointment for departing from the declared policy of the~~
 Government to treat this Department as one of the public utility
 Department and not a Revenue earning one.

Retrenchment Condemned. - This Joint Special Conference is of considered opinion that many of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Sub-Committee are unwarranted, unjustified, one-sided and sure to result in creating discontent and invidious distinctions which will result in consequent inefficiency and deterioration in the morale of the service.

Graduated Cuts Advocated. - This Conference views with apprehension and anxiety the announcement by the Finance Member of the Government of India regarding the proposed uniform 10 per cent cut in the salaries of all Government ~~and~~ ^{and the} margin therein of the amount of income tax leviable as a new measure. In effect, therefore, the cut becomes ^{reversely} graduated cut. Justice demands the introduction of graduated cuts in salaries with percentages rising with the income and equity requires that living wage, which is beyond doubt not less than Rs.100 per month, be exempted and that ^{salaries} above this minimum may be cut at the rate of ^{not more than} 1 per cent ~~to~~ ^{and} 20 per cent. The Conference urges the Government to reconsider the position and introduce a graduated cut. (For actual rates of cuts see pages 29-30 ~~xxx~~ of this report).

Committee to Consider Retrenchment Recommendations. - A Special Committee be constituted with the following five members to prepare a thorough criticism of the report of the Retrenchment Sub-Committee and to make out a case that Postal Department is actually not running at a loss. - 1. Mr. S.C.Joshi, Mr. 2. Mr. N.C.Sengupta, 3. Mr. R.C.Chatterjee, 4. K.P.Iyengar, and 5. Mr. M.A.Tahar.

Referendum on Conditions of Work. - A referendum be issued to all the members of the Union explaining fully the present position on the issue of retrenchment and ~~and~~ ^{inviting} their opinion on or before the 16th December 1931 to the action they propose to take to protect their interests on the following points:- (1) No work beyond the hours presented by the Time-Test. (2) No work more than eight hours a day. (3) Attending office with a minimum dress.

Office-bearers for 1931-32. - Resolved that the following office-bearers be elected for the year 1931-32:-

Mr. Jamma Das Mehta - President, Mr. M.Asaf Ali, Vice-President, Lt.Sardar Surendra Pal Singh, Advocate - Vice-President, Mr. N.C. Sengupta - General Secretary, Mr. M.L.Topa - Honorary Secretary, Sardar Gubux Singh & Mr. Sadi Ram, (R.M.S) - Assistant Secretaries, Mr. A.N.Vaid - Treasurer, and Messrs. Mehra & Co. - Auditors.

(Extracted from pages 487-491 of the November 1931 issue of Indian Post Vol 2, No.11).

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Progress of Trade Union Movement in C.P., 1930-31*

The following information about the progress of the trade union movement in the Central Provinces is taken from the report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Central Provinces for the year ending the 31st March 1931, issued by the Registrar of Trade Unions, Central Provinces.

According to the report, no new trade union was registered and no registered union was dissolved during the year. Two of the 7 trade unions, viz., (i) the Model Mills Labour Union, Nagpur, and (ii) the Textile Labour Union, Central Provinces and Berar, Nagpur, appear to exist only in name. The number of trade unions which functioned in the province during the year was therefore five. The total membership of all the seven trade unions at the beginning and end of the year stood at 3,499 and 4,331, respectively, as compared with 2,514 and 3,499 in the preceding year. No political fund was maintained by any of the trade unions. During the year under report no appeals were filed by the unions against the decision of the Registrar, and hence no order has been passed by the Judicial Commissioner in second appeal. Similarly the registration of any union was not withdrawn or cancelled.

(The Annual report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Central Provinces for the year 1929-30 was reviewed at page 22 of the report of this Office for January 1931).

* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for the year ending the 31st March 1931. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. 1931. Price - Four Annas. PP. 3.

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4th Half-Yearly Meeting Between A.I. Railway Federation
and Railway Board,

The fourth half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All India Railwaymen's Federation will, it is understood, take place in the first week of December, when the following subjects will be discussed: (1) recognition of the Union rules and (2) ~~the~~ indebtedness of railway employees.

(The Hindu, 15-11-31)

Salaried Employees.

Rates of Cut in Salaries: Postal & Railway Departments.

The Government of India in a communique dated 3-11-31 have, with the approval of the Secretary of State, decided to adopt the following scale for the temporary reduction in pay in the two principal commercial departments under them, the Railway and the Posts and Telegraphs. It will be applied without exception to $\frac{1}{2}$ all pay and allowances of the nature of pay of all Government employees in these departments including daily-rated employees.

The Rates of Cuts. - The following are the rates of cuts:-
Where the pay and allowances of the nature of pay :- (1) Do not exceed Rs.30 per mensem, half an anna in the rupee for every complete rupee. (2) Exceed Rs.30 per mensem but do not exceed Rs.83-5-4 per mensem, one anna in the rupee for every complete rupee. (3) Exceed Rs.83-5-4 per mensem, ten per cent.

Exemption from Income-Tax. - The Boards of Directors of the State-owned Company-managed railways have given an assurance that they are prepared to co-operate generally in this scheme for a temporary reduction in pay. The employees of Government and of State-owned Company-managed railways, to whose emoluments it is applied, will be exempted from the new incometax or surcharges on the existing taxes on income proposed in the Finance Bill.

Date of Enforcement. - This temporary reduction will come into force on such date as may be fixed for a temporary reduction in the pay and allowances of other Government servants; and unless cancelled earlier, will terminate with the pay earned for March 1933.

Provident Fund, Gratuity & Pensions Unaffected. - Provident

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fund bonus and gratuity will continue to be calculated on the rate of pay which would have been drawn apart from the temporary reduction, and all employees to whose emoluments the temporary reduction is applied, will be given the option of contributing to their provident fund either on their pay or on their reduced pay. The temporary reduction will not operate to affect adversely the pension of any person and all pensions will be calculated as if the reduction had not been made. The temporary reduction will be applied to leave salary during leave on full or average pay, but not other leave salary.

(The Indian Post, November 1931,
(Vol. II, No. 11) Page 504).

Salary Cuts: A.I. Government & Employees Federation's
Protest.

At pages 48-50 of the report of this Office for October 1931 reference was made to the strong protests raised by organisations of Government employees against the decision of the authorities to cut their salaries by 10 per cent. The action of the Government of India has been copied by the provincial governments. Accordingly a 10 per cent. cut in the salaries of employees of provincial governments ~~ix~~ has been decided upon. The cut in salaries is continuing to evoke protests from the numerous organisations of government employees in this country. Below is given a short summary of the proceedings of a Conference of the All-India Government Employees Federation held at Delhi on 2-11-1931 to protest against the salary cuts:-

Conference of A.I. Government Employees' Federation, Delhi.- A Conference of the All-India Government Employees' Federation was held in Delhi on the 2nd November 1931 to protest against the cuts in salary, reduction in staff and the proposed additional taxation. Representatives of the unions of the employees in the offices under the various local governments and the Central Government, were present. Mr. S.G. Jog, M.L.A. presided.

Mr. S.C. Joshi, the General Secretary of the Federation, opened the proceedings with a short speech outlining the cut proposals ~~for~~ ^{of} the Government of India, and explained that any attempt to cut either the cadre or the pay of the subordinate services would be an act of cruelty. He read a short report explaining the work done by the Federation during the year, and exhorted the representatives to stand united in the hour of need.

In his presidential address, Mr. S.G. Jog admitted that there ^{was} ~~were~~ really no margin in the salaries of the subordinate employee to admit or any sacrifice. They were already granted a wage which was very short of a real living wage. He quoted facts and figures to illustrate that in India there was a top heavy administration and opined that a cut ~~(really)~~ ^{was} necessary in the princely incomes or the highly paid officers.

Resolutions Passed.- The following resolutions were then passed unanimously:-

(1) This Conference of the All-India Government Employees' Federation views with apprehension the announcement by the Finance Member of the Government of India, regarding the proposed uniform 10 per cent. cut in the salaries of all Government servants. The "cut" snatches away a greater portion from the low-paid staff than ^{from} the highly-paid ones, which is contrary to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committees, as well as to the cuts in ~~the~~ salaries effected in other countries. Justice demands the introduction of a graduated cut in salaries with a percentage rising with income, and equity, requires that the living wage should be exempted. The Conference urges the Government to reconsider the position and introduce a graduated cut of 3 to 20 per cent. in salaries with an exemption as recommended by the Army Retrenchment Committee.

(2) The Conference protests against the different proposals for cuts adopted by the different Local Governments and semi-governmental bodies and urges them to follow the uniform procedure of a sliding cut of 3 to 20 per cent. with exemptions as recommended by the Army Retrenchment Committee.

(3) This Conference protests against any retrenchment in staff that would, directly or indirectly, result in aggravating the conditions of those who are in service, and urges the Government not to resort to this method, and also that the service associations be freely consulted in the matter.

(4) This Conference protests against the proposed lowering of the limit of annual income for the purpose of levy of income-tax, inasmuch as ~~the~~ incomes which are quite short of a living wage, are thereby subjected to taxation. The Conference requests the Government not to lower the limit of Rs. 2,000 per annum to Rs. 1,000.

(5) This Conference requests all the associations of Government employees to organise an All-India "Fasting and Prayer Day" on the 15th of November, 1931 when all the Government servants will be observing a fast and will pray for sympathy for their cause and will hold meetings for the purpose.

(6) This Conference appoints the following ^{as} office-bearers of the Federation for the next year:- Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, Bar-at-Law, President; Mr. A.H. Kirtikar, Bar-at-Law, Vice-President; and Mr. S.C. Joshi, General Secretary. (The Hindu, 7-11-1931).

Indian Pay (Temporary Abatement) Bill, 1931.

At page 54 (3rd paragraph) of the report of this Office for October 1931, under the heading "Legislation re. Guaranteed Salaries" reference was made to the announcement made by Sir George Schuster, while introducing the Emergency Budget, of the undertaking of His Majesty's Government to introduce legislation in Parliament to reduce salaries which are guaranteed by the Government of India Act. The Bill came up for first reading in the House of Commons on 25-11-1931. The following are the main points of the Bill:-

(1) That the Bill shall have effect only on salaries received between December 1 of this year and March 31, 1933 inclusive.

(2) The abatement of pay will not exceed 10 per cent. inclusive of the surcharges imposed on income-tax and super-tax by the Indian Supplementary Budget.

(3) Pensions will not be affected. That means that where pensions are based on salaries their amount will not be reduced on account of the reduction of salaries.

(4) When a servant is on leave his pay will be subject to the cut only when his leave salary is equal to his full average pay. If he goes on leave on half pay, for example, he will draw a full half of his normal pay during his absence, whereas if his leave is on full average pay he will be subject to the new reduction of salary.

(5) The Secretary of State in Council is empowered to take "hard cases" into consideration and to grant exemption from the cut to the extent that he thinks necessary.

(The Statesman, 26-11-1931).

Economic Conditions.

Experimental Debt Conciliation Boards in C.P.

A press communique recently issued by the Central Provinces Government states:- The Central Provinces Government has had under examination the question whether it is desirable to establish Conciliation Boards on the lines suggested by the Royal Commission on Agriculture for the purpose of dealing with rural indebtedness and has decided to initiate in selected areas of that division experiments in debt conciliation on a voluntary & basis. The experiments will at the outset be limited to small blocks of villages, but it is hoped that the data thus provided will enable the Government to reach a decision regarding the & utility and further scope of the operations and regarding the lines which such legislation, as may be considered necessary, should follow. The question of taking similar action in other divisions will be examined in due course. (The Statesman, 29-11-1931).

The Bombay Regulation of Accounts Bill.

for the regulation of accounts
The following is the statement of objects and reasons of a Bill for the introduction of which leave was granted to Mr. Syed Munawar, M.L.E., at the meeting of the ^{Bombay} Legislative Council ~~of the Governor of Bombay~~ on 2-10-1931.

Despite the steady growth of the Co-operative Movement in the Bombay Presidency, professional money-lenders known as Marwaris, Pathans Banyas and other Sahukars, flourish in every town and village of the Presidency. Except for a small proportion of them who are honest, a very big number has acquired a reputation for ~~at~~ dishonesty, usury and other malpractices easily practised on the illiterate poor and labouring classes. It is common knowledge that interest at unconscionably high rates ranging from 24 to 300 per cent. is charged by many such money-lenders who induce people to borrow, deduct first month's interest from the principal before issuing the loan and recover the dues under threats of violence. No doubt, the Usurious Loans Act, passed by the Imperial

Legislature in 1918, provides a legal remedy, but this applies only to such cases of usury as are referred to courts of law. Numerous cases of substantially unfair transactions, however, do not come before courts of law not merely for economic reasons but because the poor, helpless people are afraid of harassment and victimisation by their creditors. Consequently, thousands of people belonging to the agricultural and labouring classes remain in life-long indebtedness almost invariably to the same moneylenders.

This Bill is thus a necessary adjunct to the Usurious Loans Act. Its purpose is to exercise a legal check upon unscrupulous money-lenders as also upon reckless borrowers who habitually indulge in the delight of borrowing.

The Bill is an adaptation of the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act, 1929, passed at the instance of that Government on the conviction that the profession of money-lending in that province has assumed a menacing aspect. The profession has admittedly become a worse evil in this Presidency, and this fact justifies the early introduction of this measure of social legislation. (The Labour Gazette, November 1931, Vol. XI, No.3).

(The Statement of Objects and Reasons of a similar Bill introduced recently in the Central Provinces was given at pages 51-52 of the Report of this Office for October 1931. Attention is also drawn to a brief note on legislation against usurious money-lending in India at pages 52-53 of the October 1931 Report of this Office.)

Tea Depression in Assam.

In a resolution published on immigration of labour in Assam for the year 1930-31, the Governor-in-Council, Assam, recognises that, though the Tea industry in the Province has been hard hit by acute and wide-spread trade depression necessitating curtailment of work, yet the managers and agents of the tea companies have endeavoured, as far as possible, to save their labour forces from the effects of the general depression. Unless, however, some improvement in the industry soon occurs, a serious situation may arise. Estates which have not sufficient reserve to enable them to carry on at a loss may be compelled to close down. The situation is being closely watched by the Indian Tea Association, as well as the Government, but the Governor-in-Council trusts that a serious collapse may be averted by a trade revival.

In the Surma Valley, the average earnings of men, women and children fell from Rs. 10-11-0 to Rs. 9-3-2; Rs. 8-6-1 to Rs. 7-10-5; and Rs. 5-6-2 to Rs. 5-3-6 respectively. In the Assam Valley, the average earnings fell from Rs. 11-1-7 to Rs. 10-2-7 for women and from Rs. 7-8-6 to Rs. 7-4-7 for children whereas, men earned Rs. 14-0-11 as compared with Rs. 13-8-7.

(The Statesman, 28-11-1931).

Protection of Bengal Industries: Proposed Trade Convention.

The report of the Public Committee under the chairmanship of Sir P.C. Ray under the auspices of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce on the relationship of the provincial economic situation with constitutional changes, ^{which} ~~was~~ issued on 25-11-1931 advocates the establishment of a Trade Convention. The Committee holds that the Trade Convention must have four reservations; first, that the Bengal Legislature should have the right to deal with the existing foreign steamship companies as it deems necessary; secondly, that new private limited companies must have half of the shares and half the directorate held by native-born provincials, unless the Legislature grants special exemption to them; thirdly, that partners and directors of the existing industrial companies in which one-third of shares are not held by provincials should not be permitted to sell shares without first offering them to the proposed Provincial Investment Trust and; fourthly, that a Bengal Arbitration Board with the Commerce Minister as Chairman should investigate the grievances regarding the refusal of accommodation by foreign banks or extension of dealing by European houses or with regard to the candidature for employment in foreign firms, all such enquiries being recognised as Parliamentary papers.

Regarding the regulation of restriction on inter-Provincial Trade, the Committee suggests a formula that any Province may be at liberty to levy a terminal tax on the basis of the origin of traffic, obtained from a specific provincial source, if it considers such an imposition will promote the best interests of the corresponding trade built up or proposed to be built up within the Province.

(The Times of India, 27-11-1931).

Enhanced Income & Super Tax Rates:

Pretest by Millowners' Association, Bombay.

At pages 53-54 of the report of this Office for October 1931 a brief summary was given of the principal features of the Emergency Budget introduced in the Assembly on 29-9-31 by the Finance Member of the Government of India. The proposed increases in the Income-tax and Super-tax ^{rates} have evoked an emphatic protest from the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay. The Committee contends that the enhanced rates will cripple industrial activity. The following are relevant extracts from the representation made in respect of the new Income-tax proposals to the Finance Member by the Secretary of the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association on 2-11-31:-

1. Increasing Taxes on Diminishing Incomes. - "The Finance Member has himself stated that his estimated receipts from taxes on income for the year 1931-32 would be about Rs.12.5 million less than the receipts originally budgetted for during the year. This itself is a very important admission. If receipts from this source failed to respond to Government's expectations, the position could have no other meaning than that the earning capacity of the industries of the country had greatly deteriorated. The importance of this situation does not appear to have been adequately appreciated by Government, for, in spite of a gradually diminishing income, the assessee is being asked to pay more and more in the shape of Income-tax.

2. No Equality of Sacrifice. - The Prime Minister of Great Britain and His Excellency the Viceroy have enunciated the salutary principle of equality of sacrifice by the various sections of the community to tide over the present difficult period, and on this basis, the new tax burdens should, in the opinion of my Committee, have been more evenly distributed over the population as a whole and the various existing and potential sources of revenue.

3. Retrenchment of Government Expenditure Inadequate. - My Committee are also strongly of opinion that the bulk of the anticipated revenue deficit could and should have been met by retrench-

ment in expenditure, and that any new taxation which it might be necessary to impose should have been such as would encourage and not retard the development of industries, on which depends the economic recovery of the country which is of such vital importance in the present situation.

4. Increased Income-Tax Rates Not Accompanied by Relief

Corresponding to that Given in England. - Industries will be very seriously handicapped by the new taxation, and it is difficult to see how new capital, which is admittedly necessary, can be attracted for industrial development in the face of these new burdens, an excessively high bank rate, which the Finance Member has admitted has largely been brought about by currency contraction, and the higher prices which will have to be paid for certain classes of imported stores and raw materials. Generally speaking it may be said that the bulk of the working capital for all the important industries of the country is drawn from the public in the shape of fixed deposits at rates usually higher than bank rate, which means that today working capital for industrial purposes is difficult to obtain at anything less than 9 per cent, whereas in ~~England~~ England, France, Japan and the United States of America, the rates for working capital are probably round about 4 per cent. With the Government of India borrowing money on Treasury Bills at something like $7\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, an investor would naturally expect a return of at least 10 per cent. net before he could be persuaded to invest in new capital issues, and on this basis, the gross profit prior to deduction of Income-tax on the new basis would have to be very high. How difficult it would be to achieve this result with the new rates of Income and Super-tax is apparent when one considers that a company with a profit of Rs. 600,000 would have to pay out nearly Rs. 1,48,437 in Income and Corporation Tax. It might be urged by Government that similar high taxation is imposed on industries in England, but in answer to this, it is pertinent to point out that in England, assesseees are allowed to set off their losses in one year against profits earned in subsequent years. In addition, it is pertinent to mention that, with the latest increase of 11 per cent in company Income-tax in England, a corresponding increase has been given in the statutory allowance for depreciation. If there is any justification whatsoever for the imposition of taxes on incomes corresponding in degree to those in England, then my Committee maintain that, in justice, assesseees should be allowed similar concessions and the burden of double and treble taxation, which now exists, should be entirely done away with. One of the steps that might be taken towards the accomplishment of this would be the abolition of company Super-tax altogether.

5. The High Income-Tax Rates in England NO Justification for Imposition of Similar Rates in India. - It is a favourite

argument of the Government of India, and one which has even been printed in the Income-tax Manual, that hitherto the rates of taxation on incomes in India are considerably less than in the United Kingdom. It is conveniently forgotten, when this argument is put forward, that the conditions in the two countries, one a highly developed industrial country and the other almost entirely agricultural, are vastly different, and that in India, no matter what rate of taxation on income is imposed, would the total revenue derived from that source form the great proportion of the country's total revenue that it does in Great Britain, since Income-tax payers in India form almost an infinitesimal part of the population. Today the total number of assesseees is about 330,000, or less than one-tenth of one per cent. of the total population of the country.

6. Increase in Income Taxation Unreasonable Compared to Increases

Recorded in other Sources of Revenue.— In 1913-14, the total revenue derived by the Government of India was about Rs.870 millions and the yield from taxes on income was about Rs.30 millions. In 1931-32 (according to the revised Budget) the total revenue will be about Rs.1340 millions and the yield from taxes on income about Rs.180 millions. In other words, out of a total increase of Rs. 410 millions in revenue, taxes from income alone account for about Rs. 150 millions.

7. Taxation on Incomes of Rs.1,000.— A Gross Injustice.— The proposal to introduce a new class of assesseees whose annual income list between 1,000 and 2,000 rupees per annum is, in the opinion of my Committee, morally indefensible. Taxation of such meagre incomes during a period of rising prices like the present especially, is utterly unjustified. The unfairness of the proposal is forcibly brought out by the fact that the total income of this class of assesseees only amounts to the same figure as the unemployment dole given to a married man with one child in England.

8. Burden of Income Taxation on Middle Class Heavier in India

Than in England. — Similarly, a comparison with the incidence of taxation on incomes up to about Rs.7,500 indicates that, up to this limit, the average Indian taxpayer is being asked to bear an excessive burden. Let us take, for example, the case of a typical taxpayer, namely, a married salary earner with two children, in England and India, with income of Rs.2,000, Rs.3,000 and Rs.5,000 per annum. In England, the assessable income is computed after providing for the following allowances:—

- (1) One-fifth of the earned income up to maximum of £ 300 as a personal rebate.
- (2) Personal allowance for married men ... £ 150
- (3) Allowance for first child ... £ 50
- (4) Allowance for subsequent children ... £ 40 each
- (5) The first £ 175 of "taxable income" to be charged at half the standard rate, viz., 2s.6d.

The British salary earner does not pay any tax on Rs.2,000 and Rs.3,000, whereas the Indian taxpayer is called upon to pay Rs. 78-2-0 and Rs.117-3-0 respectively, per annum. On Rs.5,000, the British taxpayer pays Rs.100 as tax, while the Indian taxpayer pays something like Rs.292-15-6, or nearly three times as much as the British taxpayer.

9. Economic Unsoundness of Taxation of High Individual Incomes. The rates of income and Super-tax which it is proposed to impose on incomes of Rs.30,000 to Rs.60,000 per annum will mean an increase about 80 per cent, whereas in England, there has been an increase of only 11 per cent, during the same period. On Super-tax, the rates in India have been increased 25 per cent. and only 10 per cent in England in the same period. When a man's income reaches Rs.600,000 under Government's proposals, he will have to pay away nearly half of the amount in Income-tax and Super-tax, and in the great majority of cases, will have already further contributed, indirectly but very substantially, to the revenues of the country by way of Corporation Tax. It may be urged that in England, he would be mulcted in similar taxation, but against this it has to be pointed out that the social amenities provided at the expense of Government are infinitely greater than in India.

(Extracted from the Printed Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during October 1931.).

K.

Agrarian Unrest in U.P.: Peace Efforts Fail.

Reference was made at pages 55 to 57 of the report of this Office for October 1931 to the growing unrest among the agrarian population of the United Provinces owing to ^{its} ~~their~~ inability to pay rents. The Congress party in that province, which has taken the leadership of the tenants, has threatened the Government with starting a no-^{rent}-~~tax~~ campaign in the Province if the Government ~~ment~~ would not make remissions in rents on the lines suggested by the Congress. The Commissioner of Allahabad met the Congress leaders of Allahabad district on 3-11-31 to discuss the issue, but details of what transpired at the meeting are not known. The Provincial Congress Committee, sent a letter on 4-11-31 to the Chief Secretary to the U.P. Government intimating that the Congress leaders would be ready to meet the Officials, whom the Government might select for the purpose, to discuss the agrarian situation on a provincial basis before resorting to Satyagraha. The reply of the Chief Secretary was received by the Committee on 12-11-31 and a meeting of the Council of the Provincial Congress Committee was summoned on 15-11-31 to consider the Government's reply. (The Hindu, 13-11-31).

The decision of the U.P. Government which was announced on 5-11-31 to make a remission amounting to Rs.10.9 millions in the rents which fall due this month has not satisfied the Congress.

The Council of the U.P. Congress Committee held its sittings on 15- and 16-11-31 and after reviewing the situation passed the following resolutions on the action to be taken:-

"The Council, having heard the statements of the representatives of the Allahabad District regarding their conference with the Government officials and having considered the correspondence, is of the opinion that the attitude of the Government is thoroughly unsatisfactory, and unless sufficient relief is forthcoming to alleviate the distress of the peasantry, they will have no alternative but to withhold payment of rent and revenue.

"The Council also notes that, pending negotiations with the Government, definite advice is being sought by the agriculturists regarding the payment of the Kharif demand. The Council therefore authorises the Allahabad District Congress Committee to advise the agriculturists to withhold payment of rent and revenue during the pendency of the present negotiations.

"The Council also authorises the Sub-Committee appointed at Lucknow to issue such directions to the Allahabad District Congress Committee as the situation may from time to time demand.

"The Sub-Committee is further empowered to consider the agrarian situation in other districts and give permission to take defensive action where and when necessary."

It is understood that the Sub-Committee consists of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Purshottamdas Tandon, Mr. T.A.K. Sherwani, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Pandit V.N. Tewary, Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Mr. Krishen Dutt and Mohanlal Saxena. (The Hindu, 17-11-31).

The Allahabad District Congress Committee met on 18-11-31 with Mr. Purshotamdas Tandon in the Chair and decided to advise the agriculturalists to withhold payment of rents pending negotiations with the Government. The Allahabad District Kisan League - an organisation of the tenants of the district - concurred with the attitude of the Congress party and decided to support the Congress in the no-rent campaign, if it was ultimately settled to launch it. (The Pioneer, 21-11-31).

According to an Associated Press of India message dated 27-11-31, the Chief Secretary of the United Provinces Government has informed the Congress leaders that, in view of the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Council of the U.P. Congress Committee, no further discussion with Government officials on the subject of reduction of rents in Allahabad District can take place. (The Pioneer, 29-11-31).

VDS.

Social Conditions.Bill to Amend Madras Immoral Traffic Act, 1930, Passed.

At pages 66 to 67 of the report of this Office for July 1931 reference was made to a Bill introduced in the Madras Legislative Council to amend the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930. The Madras Legislative Council passed the Bill on 30-10-1931.

(The Statesman, 4-11-1931.)

Public Health.

Ahmedabad Industrial Housing Scheme:

Action by Municipality.

Reference was made at pages 61-62 of the report of this Office for October 1931 to a resolution moved in the Ahmedabad Municipality Council advocating the construction of about 500 sanitary houses for the workmen of the city. At a meeting of the Municipal Council held on 13-11-31, the resolution after further discussion was adopted and sanction was accorded to raise a loan of Rs.450,000 for the building of model sanitary houses. It was decided to give the houses, when built, to labourers on a hire-purchase system. The scheme is to be financed by the proceeds from the increased terminal tax which the municipality is proposing to levy on cotton and iron.

(The Times of India, 17-11-31)

First Aid for Workers: Bombay Millowners' Scheme.

The Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, with the aid of the local Brigade of the St. John Ambulance Association, has recently initiated a scheme for the organisation of "First Aid" in industrial undertakings. It was apprehended that such a scheme may not evoke ~~satisfactory~~ satisfactory response from the mill-operatives. Such fears have, however, been set at rest as a large number of candidates, drawn from all sections of mill labour, particularly dispensary attendants and section heads, and in general, all those whose presence at a point of accident could be procured within a

reasonable time and with minimum inconvenience to the mills, have volunteered for the training in these classes.

For the sake of convenience, but primarily to overcome language difficulties, ^{all} ~~all~~ candidates not being able to follow instructions in English, three different centres in Bombay City have been opened, where classes are held in English, Gujarati and Marathi. The three centres ~~are~~ are at Currimbhoy Workmen's Institute, Delisle Road; Social Service League Hall, Kala Chowki Road (~~next to Venus Cinema~~); and Kohinoor Mill Institute School Room. It is estimated that the full course of training will cover four months at the end of which period, ^a special examination will be held, and certificates and badges of the Order distributed to the successful candidates. The entire expenses in connection with the scheme are being met by the Bombay Millowners' Association. Instructors are honorary workers.

Another feature of the scheme, which makes it specially attractive from the point of view of the workmen, is that there is every probability of a special remuneration being sanctioned for "trained men". A "First Aid" volunteer corps drawn up from the employees of the mills concerned will constitute a very useful adjunct to the existing medical facilities, and may go a long way in alleviating the suffering and preventing complications, when, for several reasons, the presence of a medical man cannot be procured immediately. About 37 mills are participating in the scheme and it is likely that, when the first batch has finished their training, another batch will be called up from the reserve list maintained by the Association.

(The Times of India, 16-11-1931).

(A copy of the cutting from the Times of India, dated 16-11-1931, has been forwarded to Geneva (Chief of the Employers' Organisations Service) with this Office's minute F 6/1365/31, dated 3-12-1931).

Migration.

Forthcoming Cape Town Conference: Prospects of Revision of Cape Town Agreement.

Reference was made at pages 68-69 of the March 1931 report of this office to the proposals regarding the revision of the Cape Town Agreement which was concluded between the Government of India and the Union Government of South Africa five years ago. The Conference was to have taken place in September last, but the date was later postponed to sometime in January 1932 so as to facilitate the attendance of some of the members of the Round Table Conference who were also to participate in the Cape Town Conference. According to a communique recently issued by the Government of India, the Indian delegation to the Cape Town Conference is to consist of the following members:-

Leader.- Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council.

Members.- Sir Geoffrey Corbett, Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir Darcy Lindsay, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and Mr. G.S. Bajpai (member and Secretary). Sir Kurmā Reddi, Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, will be an additional member.

The Government of the Union of South Africa will be represented by Dr. D.F. Malan (Minister of the Interior), Mr. C. Pirow (Minister of Justice), Mr. E.G.J. Jansen (Minister of Native Affairs), Mr. P. Duncan (Member of the House of Assembly) and Mr. G. Heaton Nicholls (Member of the House of Assembly). (The Statesman, 9-12-1931).

The Indian Delegation leaves for Cape Town by the middle of December. The chief task of the Conference will be to review the Cape Town Agreement. Two of the main points which that Agreement settled were (1) that there should be a scheme of assisted emigration and (2) that there should be an uplift of the Indian community both educational and social.

The following extracts from an editorial published in the Hindu of 21-11-1931 reflect Indian nationalist opinion with regard to the

principal matters that are likely to be discussed at the Conference:-

"The two topics that will naturally attract the largest amount of attention are the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill and the working of the Cape Town Agreement. So far as the former is concerned, its object is, as is well-known, to drive Indians out of their places of business without any adequate compensation, restrict such few facilities for trading as they now possess, and drive them out of the gold areas. There appears to be an impression among Europeans that the Cape Town Agreement has not worked satisfactorily because more Indians have not taken advantage of the assisted emigration scheme. As a matter of fact, however, the number of Indians who have been repatriated is over 9,000 and unemployment and the failure of the Union Government to help unemployed Indians are necessarily forcing more Indians to take advantage of that scheme.

"But Europeans are not yet satisfied. Perhaps nothing would please them better than that the country should be freed of the whole of the Indian community. The essence of the Gentlemen's Agreement was that those Indians who remained should be provided with all facilities which would enable them to become full-fledged citizens. Far from adopting measures of uplift, the Union Government have, by resort to successive measures, been following a policy of pin-pricks. The attempt to introduce the Liquor Act, the consequence of which would have been to dismiss all Indians employed in the liquor and catering trades, the passing of the Immigration Amendment Act, the replacement of Indians employed on the railways and other public utility concerns by Europeans and the attempt to pass the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill, are examples amply justifying the charge that the Union Government have been acting contrary to the spirit and letter of the Cape Town Agreement. The task of securing justice for the Indian community is very difficult in the circumstances". (The Hindu, 24~~th~~ 22-11-1931).

Repatriation from South Africa: Discontinuance Urged.

References have been made in the earlier reports of this Office to the conditions of repatriated Indians, especially those repatriated from South Africa (vide pages 57-60 of January 1931 and pages 90-91 of ^{reports of this office} May 1931~~1/2~~). Opinion has been growing in Indian circles, both here as well as in South Africa, that the conditions of the repatriates are not satisfactory and that the scheme should be abandoned. Indian opinion is becoming more and more insistent on this point and is much exercised over the Union Government's policy of repatriating unemployed Indians in South Africa under shelter of the Cape Town Scheme.

Mr. K. Natarajan, Honorary Secretary of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, in the course of a letter addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education, Health and Lands, on the question of Indian repatriation from South Africa says

"I am directed by the Council of my Association to bring to your notice for immediate action the Indian unemployment situation in South Africa. It has been, ^{on} more than ~~an~~ one previous occasion, stated that the assisted repatriation scheme under the Cape Town Agreement has failed. It is also the opinion of Mr. Venn, Commissioner for Asiatic Affairs in South Africa, if, as is rumoured, he has reported, on his investigations in India, that this country is not in a position to ~~assimilate~~ assimilate repatriates from South Africa. His report has not been published and accordingly, I cannot say how far the rumour is correct. However, the fact remains that the present policy of the Government of the Union of South Africa to repatriate unemployed Indians under the shelter of the Cape Town Agreement is inequitable. The representatives of the Government of India at the forthcoming Cape Town Round Table Conference should make it clear to the Government of the Union of South Africa that India cannot agree to the continuance of further repatriation of Indians as a condition of their treatment as an integral part of the population of the Union. An official assurance on this point will allay public anxiety". (The Hindu, 18-11-1931).

Indians in Malaya, 1930*

The following information regarding Indians in Malaya is taken from the Annual Report of the Agent of India in British Malaya for the year 1930.

Indian Population in Malaya.— According to the provisional totals of the census taken on the 2nd April 1931, Indians in Malaya numbered 627,720 out of a total population of 4,381,342, the increase over the corresponding figures at the previous census being 156,054 or 33.1 per cent. and 1,023,288 or 30.5 per cent. respectively. The difference between the increase in the number of Indians, disclosed by the last census, and the nett excess of 183,942 arrivals over departures during the past decade is probably due to further migration of Indians from British Malaya to adjacent countries and excess of deaths over births.

*Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1930. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1931. Price Rs. 2.10 or 4s.9d. pp. 35.

About 70 per cent. of the Indian Immigrants in Malaya might be considered as labourers employed in rubber estates, tin mines, Government Departments such as Railways, Public Works Department, Harbour Boards, Municipalities, Sanitary and Rural Boards, etc., in firms and companies and under private persons. The rest are engaged in trade, business and learned professions.

Recruitment of Labour.— There are two systems of recruitment, viz., (1) the Kangany system for recruited emigrants and (2) the voluntary emigration system for non-recruited emigrants. Out of 17,744 and 44,862 adult males and females admitted at Madras and Negapatam respectively, 6,650 were rejected at the former place and 28,956 at the latter; finally 11,094 adults (7,041 males, 4,053 females) from Madras and 22,556 (17,778 males, 4,778 females) from Negapatam were sent over to Malaya with their minor dependants, as compared with 19,155 adults (11,611 males, 7,544 females) from Madras and 50,921 adults (40,322 males, 10,599 females) from Negapatam during 1929. The fall in the number of the emigrants during the year under report is due largely to the slump in rubber. Of the total number of 24,819 adult males and 8,831 adult females thus sent to Malaya, 3,041 adult males and 1,547 adult females came under the category of "non-emigrants" under the provisos to section 2(1)(b) of the Indian Emigration Act, as they had not less than five years' previous residence in Malaya.

The bulk of the unskilled labour for Malaya came as usual from Trichinopoly (6,246), Tanjore (6,134), South Arcot (5,295) North Arcot (5,200), Salem (3,978) and Malabar (3,630). Out of the 42,771 assisted emigrants from South India during 1930, 27,650 (21,153 adults, 4,222 minors, 2,273 infants) were recruited labourers and 15,121 (12,886 adults, 1,610 minors and 625 infants) non recruited labourers. The recruitment of labour was suspended in August 1930. The percentage of adult non recruited labourers to total adult assisted emigrants was 38 during 1930 as against 37 in 1929 and 41 in 1928. There were 30,112 (26,343 deck passengers, 3,769 first and second class passengers) ordinary passengers from South India in Malaya who paid their own passage, as compared with 32,069 in 1929. Of the deck passengers that arrived during 1930, 6,880 persons are reported to be petty traders and businessmen, and the remaining 19,463 persons (or 74 percent) belong to labouring classes. Besides these arrivals, 1,203 deck passengers came over to Malaya in the year by the Messageries Maritimes Lines.

Repatriation and Departures.— The total number of departures or deck passengers including those repatriated was 151,735 (121,792 adults, 20,429 minors, 9,514 infants) during the year under review. Of these, the figure 77,761 (56,063 adults, 15,873 minors and 5,825 infants) represents the number of Indians who were repatriated. The report states that there was an unprecedentedly heavy exflux of Indian immigrant labourers and others during the year, owing to unemployment and to the unwillingness of labours to work on the reduced wages. Un-employment amongst ~~amongst~~ Indian labourers has been rife since August 1930, and there was a huge rush of applications for repatriation at the Labour Offices. It demanded special measures to cope with the situation, special staff had to be engaged and repatriation camps opened and extra special steamers chartered for the conveyance of the repatriates. Repatriates were provided with free clothing wherever necessary, and given free passage by rail and steamer till they reached their destination in India. They were also paid a cash

bonus of Rs.10 each, but in the case of able-bodied labourers who were repatriated on the ground of unemployment the payment of cash bonus was stopped towards the end of the year. The cost of repatriation is borne in part or in whole by the Malayan Governments, the Indian Immigration Fund and employers of labour according to the circumstances of each case. Repatriation charges during 1930 amounted to \$ 1,519,549. ~~as~~ as compared with \$ 161,685 during 1929.

Recruiting Licenses.- Only 2,234 recruiting licences were issued during the year as compared with 5,312 in the preceding year. As a result of the slump in rubber the issue of licences was suspended in August 1930, simultaneously with the reduction of wages and of labour forces employed in Rubber Plantations. Licences were refused in 42 cases as compared with 40 in the previous year.

Labour Force at end of 1929 and 1930.- There was a considerable decrease in the number of south Indian labourers employed in rubber estates in Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and the Unfederated Malay States (excepting Kedah). The number employed in Government Departments was slightly on the increase in the S.S. (due probably to the Air, Naval and Military Bases and other special works at Singapore) and on the decrease in the F.M.S. and Kelantan (U.M.S.), while it was almost the same in the States of Kedah and Johore. The position of Indian labourers as a whole at the end of 1929 and 1930 was as follows:-

	On 31-12-1929	On 31-12-1930
1. Straits Settlements	52,669	43,653
2. Federated Malay States	209,232	164,799
3. Unfederated Malay States:-		
(i) Johore	34,642	30,025
(ii) Kedah and Perlis	34,436	34,009
(iii) Kelantan	5,355	4,247

Local engagements of Indian labourers registered during 1929 and 1930 by the labour Department of Malaya, on payment by employers of \$ 1.00 per labourer were 149,074 and 120,792 respectively. The above figures under "Local Engagements" give a rough idea of the extent of desertion and migration of labourers from one place of employment to another. An appreciable reduction during 1930 is noticeable, but this was perhaps due to the want of scope for employment during the latter part of the year under review. The actual figures of Indians, Chinese, Javanese and other labourers on 31-12-1930 were as follow:-

	Indians.	Chinese.	Javanese and others
Straits Settlements	43,653	17,634	7,743
Federated Malay States	164,799	67,628	12,499
Unfederated Malay States	30,025	29,643	7,965

Economic Position of Indian Labourers.- The vast majority of Indian labourers are employed in rubber plantations as tappers, weeders, factory hands and miscellaneous workers. Government and Public Departments also employ a much larger number of Indian labourers than Chinese and others. Nearly 70,000 Indian labourers are also employed on tin mines in the F.M.S. where the Chinese preponderate. In special works such as the Naval, Air and Military Bases at Singapore, in Hydro-electric works of Perak, in the Oil installations of Singapore, and in the oil fields in Brunei, Indian labourers are preferred.

Wages.- The general level of wages paid to Indian labourers in rubber estates until October 1930 was the standard minimum wages of 50 cents for adult males, 40 cents for adult females and 20 cents for working children in the areas which are easily accessible and fairly healthy; and of 58 cents for adult males and 46 cents for adult females in the less healthy or remote areas. Weeders were generally paid the minimum wages as set forth above. Tappers earned a bit more than weeders and factory hands a few cents more than the tappers. In special works such as the Naval, Air and Military Bases, Hydro-electric Works and Oil fields, higher rates prevailed. With the onset of the slump in rubber, retrenchment in the rank and file of the industry was resorted to. A special meeting of the Indian Immigration Committee was called at the instance of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Governments, on the 16th July 1930 to consider the revision of the standard rates with a view to granting suitable relief to the industry. Leading planters from different parts of Malaya and their Agency House representatives were present at this meeting and urged that retrenchment in all other directions had been made or was contemplated; that a temporary cut in Indian labourers' wages was imperative as an alternative to huge reduction of Indian labour forces; and that the reduction would not cause much hardship to the labourers as they could forego their savings in a time of crisis and as food prices had ~~fallen~~ fallen to some extent in sympathy with the general trade depression. The Committee decided on an all-round 20 per cent. cut in wages, but this cut is to be restored as soon as the industry is in a position to pay the former rates to the workers. The decision of the Committee was approved by the Straits Settlement and Federated Malay States Governments and the following temporarily reduced standard rates of wages were fixed: 40 ~~per~~ cents for adult males, 32 cents for adult females and 16 for working children in healthy and easily accessible areas and 47 cents for adult males and 37 for adult females in less healthy and remote areas.

Co-operative Societies.- The Co-operative movement amongst Indian labourers, initiated more than five years ago, has made rather very slow but yet steady progress. There were 75 co-operative societies on 31-12-1930 as compared with 68 at the end of 1929. The membership on the other hand, fell from 13,850 in 1929 to 13,121 due to reduction of labour forces. The Director of Co-operation, S.S. and F.M.S. stated in his ~~XXXX~~ Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 1930 that these societies are generally popular amongst Indian labourers, but that several estates which had contemplated forming societies had to postpone action until the position became clearer. According to the report, the movement has touched the merest fringe of the Indian labour population working in over 3,000 places of employment. It is hoped that the movement will make appreciable progress throughout the country, when it emerges from the present severe depression. The educative cinematograph film referred to in our last year's report (vide page 73 of December 1930 report) was made good use of during the year.

Indebtedness.- The labour laws do not permit employers to make deductions from the labourers' wages except for the supply of rice and currys stuffs or the payment, in anticipation of wages, of small cash advances for the purchase of provisions. The labourers may, however,

obtain loans from managers for marriages and other ceremonies and repay the same in easy instalments. No interest can be charged under the law for any such advances made to labourers. In some estates, debts on account of recruiting advances paid to kanganies may be outstanding against them. On the whole, indebtedness of labourers to their employers is not very apparent, but their indebtedness amongst themselves probably accounts, amongst other things, for the numerous "bolters" from estates and other places of employment.

Health and Welfare.- The report states that complete records of vital statistics for the whole of Malaya are not available, but observes that a general decrease in the number of deaths and in the death-rates is noticeable during 1930. The main scourge of the South Indian labour is malaria. The incidence of sickness and deaths on account of this disease seems to be still high. Antimalarial measures have been under operation for several years past, and yet, the fatality amongst Indians has shown no appreciable signs of decrease. Only a few estate hospitals have qualified resident Medical Officers. The report states that the Agency has for long been recommending the appointment of qualified dressers, and of a trained staff of midwives in estate hospitals; but these matters are still awaiting solution.

Housing and Water Supply.- All the estates and other places of employment are periodically visited by the inspecting officers of the Labour Department, and orders are issued under the provisions of the labour laws governing health, housing, water supply and sanitation, wherever necessary. The improvement in housing accommodation, water supply, sanitation, etc., was however impeded by the rubber slump.

Workmen's Compensation.- The Workmen's Compensation Enactment passed in the Federated Malay States at the beginning of the year 1929 has not been given effect to, pending the passing of a similar Ordinance in the Straits Settlements. Public opinion on this question has been expressing itself strongly. At the Fourth All-Malaya Indian Conference held at Teluk Anson (Perak, Federated Malay States), a resolution was unanimously passed urging the need for placing this measure on the Statute Book and of giving effect to it without delay. Though the Government Departments, such as the Railways, Public Works Department, etc. have been paying compensation to the victims of accidents or their dependants, as the case may be, in accordance with the Federated Malay State Workmen's Compensation Enactment, the report states that private employers have most ungenerously refused to do so in certain very deserving cases, in spite of their having been approached by the Controller of Labour, Malaya, at the instance of the Agency.

Education.- The present report also, as the previous ones did, has drawn attention to the inefficiency of the teachers employed in most of the estate vernacular schools. Most of the teachers are kanganies or labourers with scanty knowledge of even their vernacular languages. A scheme for vernacular Tamil teachers is stated to be still under the consideration of the Malayan Governments. Since it has been found impracticable to train vernacular teachers locally, the report states that it should not be difficult to secure sufficient

sufficient number of trained elementary school teachers from South India through the Malayan Emigration Officers at Madras and Negapatam. The appointment of an Inspector of Tamil schools, which was suggested in Mr. Duckworth's report on the condition of Tamil schools, has since been created and filled. It is hoped that, with the revival of trade conditions which is at present a great stumbling block to progress in every direction, efforts will be made to improve the efficiency of the teachers. The majority of vernacular schools are not registered and are not in receipt of grants-in-aid.

Legislative Changes.- The Straits Settlements Labour Ordinance, 1923, was amended during the year by Amendment Ordinance No.6 of 1930 and the F.M.S. Labour Code, 1923, by enactment No.9 of 1930. The following are the chief among many other minor amendments:- (i) exhibition of notices specifying the standard rates of wages wherever such rates have been legally introduced, and (ii) authorising the Controller of Labour to order the erection of group hospitals wherever necessary. The Immigration Restriction Enactment No. 24 of 1930, following mutatis mutandis the provisions of a similar Ordinance passed in the Straits Settlements in the year 1928, was placed on the Statute Book of the Federated Malay States, whereby the Government is empowered to prohibit by proclamation the influx of immigrants into the Federated Malay States in times of unemployment and other emergencies.

Political Status of Indians.- Indians have, in common with other communities, no political or municipal franchise. There is an Indian Member on the Federal Council and another Indian member on the Straits Settlements Legislative Council. There is also one Indian member on the State Council of Perak in the Federated Malay States. Indians have not been nominated so far on the State Councils in the other Federated or Unfederated Malay States. Several Indian gentlemen are also serving as members of Municipalities, Sanitary and Health Boards. Indian gentlemen have also been appointed as Honorary Justices of the Peace in the Straits Settlements and in the Federated Malay States.

Note on Population and Geographical Divisions of British Malaya.- The Straits Settlements comprise Penang, Singapore, Labuan and Cocos Islands and Province of Wellesely, 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.

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 for the 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, a State Council with the Malay Sultan as its President.

The Unfederated Malay States of Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan Trengganu ~~in~~ 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.

The following table shows the provisional population figures of the 1931 census:-

Political Division.	Area sq.miles	Total popu- lation all races.	Indian Population		
			Males	Females	Total
Straits Settlements	1,600	1,112,850	98,264	34,473	132,737
Federated Malay States	27,648	1,711,793	248,724	134,705	383,429
Unfederated Malay States	27,354	1,556,699	76,695 22,882	34,859 72	111,554
Total	56,602	4,381,342	423,683	204,037	627,720

(The Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for 1929 was reviewed at pages 69-74 of the report of this Office for December 1930. Attention is also drawn to pages 64-70 of June 1931 report of this Office).

Closer Union of East Africa: Joint

Parliamentary Committee's Report.

References have been made in the earlier reports of this Office to the scheme for a closer union of East Africa and to the views of the Indian Community on the question (vide pages 58-59 of the October 1929, pages 59-62 of the March 1930, pages 76-79 of the June 1930 and pages 90-91 of the April 1931 reports of this Office.) The Joint Parliamentary Committee which was appointed to go into the whole question has recently submitted its report to Parliament. The following is a brief summary of the report of the Committee:-

Scheme for Closer Union:- As regards the scheme for closer union, the Committee is of opinion that this is not the time for taking any far-reaching step in the direction of a formal union. In fact, they consider that for a considerable time to come, the progress and development of East Africa as a whole can best be assured by each

of the three territories continuing to develop upon its own lines, which they consider to be still experimental.

Plan for Economic Co-operation.- The Committee next give a plan for economic co-operation in respect of transport, customs, scientific services, posts and telegraphs, commercial law and defence. The report urges the appointment of an advisor on transport. The Committee recommend that the machinery of a Governor's Conference should be increasingly utilised for the purpose of ensuring continuous and effective co-operation and co-ordination, not only of the particular economic services already referred to, but in regard to all matters of common interest to East Africa. They are of opinion that the Governors of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika should meet regularly in conference, not less often than twice a year.

Progress of Natives.- The Committee declare that the Natives have on the whole benefited from the settler community, but referring to the relations between the natives and non-natives, the report says: "Nor is it possible to leave out of account the effect of Native development both in limiting the supply of wage labour upon which White development depends, and in creating a formidable competitor to that development". The Committee consider that the matter may be summed up briefly by saying that the doctrine of paramountcy means no more than that the interests of the overwhelming majority of the indigenous population should not be subordinated to those of a minority belonging to another race, however important in itself. At the same time it is most important to give adequate security to those European and other non-Natives who have settled in the country, and who have ~~settled~~ made a permanent home there, often under very difficult and trying conditions. As regards native political development, it should be on the

lines of local tribal councils followed by District and Provincial Councils which may ultimately grow to a Central Native Council.

The Position of Indians.- As regards the Indian question, the report says: "Indians have, from its inception, rejected communal franchise, and have demanded a common roll in which their representatives would be prepared to accept qualifications for voting based on an educational and a property standard. Although the Indian community have elected their ~~give~~ representatives, these are under a pledge to take no part in the Council until the common roll is substituted for the existing electoral system. The views of the Indian community remain inflexibly opposed to those of the Europeans. The Committee have carefully considered the arguments for and against the common roll. While not denying that strong arguments ~~for~~ ~~xx~~ have been brought forward on both sides, they feel that it would be impracticable, under the present conditions, to advocate the adoption of the system of common roll representation in preference to the existing system of election. They would, however, add that, if at some future date, changes were made in the situation, the desirability of introducing the common roll should be re-examined without prejudice and the decision of the Committee, as recorded above, should not be allowed to militate against the adoption of the common roll, should it later be deemed desirable.

Incidence of Taxation.- The Committee have had much contradictory evidence as to the incidence of taxation, and as to the respective shares of that taxation borne by the African, the Indian and the European communities. It should include a careful and detailed examination of the financial situation with ~~x~~ respect to (a) the contribution made to taxation, both direct and indirect, by the different

racial communities; (b) railway freights and import duties with a view to discovering the extent to which each community benefits or suffers by them; (c) the amount of money expended in the interests of each community in particular, and (d) the degree and manner in which financial responsibility should be conferred on the Native Councils.

Land Question.- In regard to the granting of land to the natives, the Committee has declared that in view of the nervousness among the Native population as regards the land question, a full and authoritative enquiry should be undertaken immediately into the needs of the Native population present and prospective, with respect to land within or without the reserves held either on tribal or on individual tenure. Pending the conclusion of this enquiry no further alienation of Crown land to non-Natives should take place except in exceptional cases with the sanction of the Secretary of State. (The Hindu, 3-11-1931)

The following extracts from an editorial article published in the Hindu of 3-11-1931 reflect Indian nationalist opinion on the Joint Committee's Report.

"The Joint Committee's report has blasted once for all, if the recommendations are in any manner to be final as they wish them to be, all hopes of social and political equality which may have been entertained by the non-white populations as a result of the previous declarations of His Majesty's Government. So far as the Indian community is concerned, the Committee would appear to have been bewildered by the arguments, for and against, advanced before them and considered that safety lay in refusing justice to the weaker side. The summary of the report issued from Simla is silent as regards the composition of the Kenya Legislative Council and the numerous grievances felt by the Indian community in regard to their representation in the services, facilities for education, and other matters. The Indian community will not, we believe, be disposed to accept this inequitable and unjust decision upon a matter which has been a subject of keen controversy for so many years.

So far as the Natives are concerned, there is to be, if the Joint Committee's report is to be the final word on the subject, a reversal of the policy indicated in the White Paper of last year. The Joint

Select Committee define the doctrine of paramountcy of Native interests as meaning no more than that the interests of the overwhelming majority of the indigenous population should not be subordinated to those of a minority belonging to another race, however important in itself. This is very different from the intentions of those who drafted the White Paper. Paramountcy, according to the White Paper, means that the interests of the Natives should be superior to those of other settler communities, and that whenever the interests of the Natives come in conflict with those of other races, the latter should be subordinated to the former. This policy is now being sought to be reversed.

With the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee that the time has not come for closer union many will agree as ~~xxx~~ closer union would inevitably lead to the consolidation of the reactionary forces and result in the permanent subordination of the native races. The report on the whole has been drafted along the lines dictated by the white settlers of Kenya who may well congratulate themselves upon the success of their endeavours". (The Hindu, 3-11-1931).

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for December 1931.

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The Hindu of 9-12-31, and the Pioneer and the Hindustan Times of 10-12-31 publish a communique issued by the Government of India on 8-12-31 announcing the Agenda and date of opening of the next Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference.

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The Hindu of 11-12-31, the Pioneer and the Times of India of 12-22-31, the Hindustan Times of 13-12-31, the December 1931 issue of the Trade Union Record (Vol.II.No.10) and the November 1931 issue of the M. & S.M.Railwayman (Vol.3 No.5) publish a communique issued by the Government of India on 10-12-31 announcing the items on the Agenda and the date of the 16th session of the International Labour Conference and inviting recommendations from organisations of employers and workers regarding the personnel of the Indian employers' and workers' delegations to the Conference.

* * *

The Times of India of 12-12-1931 publishes an article under the caption "Labour in the East : The Need for an Asiatic Conference" contributed to it by Dr.Lanka Sundaram. In the article, Dr.Sundaram traces briefly the history of the move for holding an Asiatic Labour Conference. The article concludes with a detailed exposition of the advantages that are likely to be derived from holding such a conference. Describing the advantages, Dr. Sundaram says:

" A regional labour organisation in the East is a healthy proposal. Special problems affecting Asiatic countries can be dealt with by that organisation in a satisfactory manner. I would only instance the question of plantation labour conditions in the East on which no international labour legislation is so far available. An Asiatic Labour Conference can adequately tackle this question. Incidentally, overproduction of rubber, tea and other

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agricultural products in the East can be restricted, prices stabilised; and the wages of plantation workers, already low, need not be threatened. Further, an Asiatic Labour Conference is much more convenient for the attendance of the governments concerned, and an agreement reached at such a conference can be easily endorsed by the Geneva Conference without delay, trouble and expense, and without saddling countries not interested in the specific problem on which such local agreement is reached."

* * *

The Hindu of 6-12-31 publishes under the caption "India's Entry into the League" a fairly long summary of Dr. Lanka Sundaram's article: "India and the International Labour Organisation", originally published in the October 1931 issue of the Asiatic Review (Vol. XXVII New Series No. 92).

* * *

The October, November and December 1931 (combined) issue of "Equity" (Vol. II Nos. 5, 6 & 7), the Organ of the Assam Bengal Railway Indian Employees Association, publishes a summary of the statement made in the Council of State on 5-10-1931 by the Law Member of the Government of India, regarding the Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents adopted by the 12th International Labour Conference.

(A summary of the statement was given at page 16 of the report of this Office for October 1931).

* * *

The 6th session of the All-India Women's Conference which was held at Madras from 28-12-31 to 1-1-32 passed, among other resolutions, resolutions dealing with traffic in women and children, disarmament, and representation of women in Indian delegations to

Geneva Conferences; The full text of the resolutions passed by the Conference is given at pages 54-57 of this report in the section dealing with women and children.

(The full report of the Conference is published in the Hindu of 29, 30 and 31-12-1931).

* * *

The Pioneer and the Statesman of 25-12-31 publish summarised reports of a speech delivered by Sir B.L.Mitter, Law Member, Government of India, and a delegate to the 1931 session of the League Assembly, on the subject of "India and the League of Nations". In the course of the speech, Sir B.L.Mitter referred to India's position in the International Labour Organisation and to the difficulties connected with the ratification of I.L.Conventions by Indian States.

* * *

According to the Pioneer of 24-12-31, the 12th Madras Provincial Conference of Postmen and Lower Grade Staff, which was held on 19-12-31, recommended the name of Mr. Basudev, M.L.C., President of the Madras Provincial Central Labour Board, to be included in the personnel of the Indian workers' delegation to the 16th I. L. Conference.

* * *

In the course of a memorandum submitted to the Railway authorities on the subject of retrenchment in Eastern Bengal Railway by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, the Federation points out that the application to Indian railways of the Washing-
-ton

and Geneva Conventions on hours of work and weekly rest has been unduly delayed. The memorandum states:-

"The introduction of the Washington and Geneva Conventions ~~are~~ long over due. It is being deferred year after year for reasons best known to the Administration. In 1930-31, the E. B. Railway spent about Rs.2 lakhs for building quarters for the additional staff that would be required with the introduction of the Convention regulations. Still, the application of Conventions was held in abeyance. According to the calculation made by the Administration prior to Retrenchment, about 800 additional staff would be required to give effect to these Conventions. This number represents the lowest estimation. The Federation is advised that the number should have been in the neighbourhood of 1500. However, it is an undoubted fact that had the Washington and Geneva Conventions been put into operation, as it should have been, considerable numbers of the so-called surplus men could have easily been absorbed."

(The text of the memorandum is published at pages 14 - 20 of the November 1931 (Vol.IV, No.35) issue of the E.B. Railway Labour Review).

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The Servant of India of 10-12-31 (Vol.XIV No.49) publishes in full the speech delivered by Mr. N.M.Joshi in the Federal Structure Sub-Committee of the Indian Round Table Conference on 17-11-31 pleading for the listing of labour legislation as a Federal Subject. In support of his plea for making labour a federal subject, Mr. Joshi points out that if labour legislation ^{not} is made federal, the present protection given by the I.L.O. to labour in India will be reduced to a material extent. At present, India is in a position to ratify the Conventions passed by the various sessions of the I.L.Conference and to that extent workers in India secure protection. If India is to have a Federal Constitution and the Federal Government is not given power to ratify Geneva Conventions the protection afforded to labour in the country will be diminished. Mr. Joshi impressed upon the Conference

the importance of the problem by referring to Article 405 of the Peace Treaty and pointing out the difference between a Recommendation and a Convention. Speaking about the ratification of Geneva Conventions by India as a whole, and not by British India alone, as is now the case, Mr. Joshi said:

"The present position is that India as a whole is a member of the League of Nations. But it is only British India that takes part in the Conferences of the International Labour Organisation. Although India as a whole is a member of the League of Nations, it is British India alone that ratifies the Conventions. My Lord Chancellor, this procedure is an irregular one. British India alone cannot ratify Conventions. If Conventions of the International Labour Organisation are to be ratified, they must be ratified by the whole of India. But although this procedure is an irregular one, the irregularity is tolerated because it is neither the interest of the International Labour Organisation nor the interest of the workers in India to create a difficulty and prevent ratifications, a result which will happen if we insist upon the whole of India ratifying Conventions. But this difficulty will be removed when we have a Federal Government and a Federal Legislature. We shall have a Government and a Legislature that will deal with the whole of India. The present difficulty caused by the Government of India not having power to deal with labour matters as regards the Indian States will be removed when we have to deal with labour matters. Therefore, the present anomaly of British India alone ratifying the Conventions need not be continued."

"Under the present constitution proposed by the Federal Structure Committee there is no mention made as to which is the authority which is to ratify the Conventions of the International Labour Organisation; but I take it that, as external matters are left to the Crown to be dealt with, the ratification of the International Conventions will be a Crown subject. Lord Chancellor, this creates a difficulty. The Crown will have the power of ratifying the Conventions passed at the International Labour Conference, but we are not leaving it to the Crown to legislate on labour matters. The Crown cannot ratify Conventions and not be able to implement these Conventions, because the Crown will have no power to legislate on labour matters. Therefore, the proper authority for ratifying Conventions is the Federal Government and the Federal Legislature, which should be empowered to pass legislation on labour matters. Lord Chancellor, if India, on account of the present constitution as proposed, is unable to ratify the Conventions of the International Labour Conference - which will happen if we leave the ratification in the hands of the Crown, which will have no power to legislate on labour matters -

India will lose very much of its prestige in the International World. At present, especially in the International Labour Organisation, India has got some prestige as leading the Asiatic countries in the matter of labour legislation; but if India is unable to ratify a Convention, India will lose that prestige; and, not only that, but on account of India being unable to ratify Conventions of the International Labour Organisation, both Japan and China will not ratify Conventions of the International Labour Organisation."

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New India of 17-12-31 (Vol.V.New Series No.38) publishes at pages 7-9 an article contributed by Mr. N.M.Joshi under the caption "Labour under the Future Constitution". The article is an exposition of his point of view on the subject expressed as a representative of Indian labour at the Federal Structure Sub-Committee of the Indian Round Table Conference.

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The Hindu of 26-12-31 and the December 1931 issue of Indian Labour Journal, (Vol.IX,No.3) publish in full the speech delivered by Mr. V.V.Giri, Barrister-at-Law, the Secretary of the All-India, Railwaymen's Federation, at the plenary session of the Round Table Conference on 30-11-31 on the subject of the place of labour in the contemplated federal scheme. Mr. Giri supported Mr. N.M. Joshi's plea for making labour a federal subject and referred, in the course of his speech, to the difficulties that are likely to arise in the matter of ratification of I. L. O. Conventions if labour is not made a federal subject.

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The following three references to the I. L. O. occur in the annual Report of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, for the year 1930:-

(1) The text of the speech of Mr. Amritlal Ojha, Indian Employers' Delegate to the 14th I.L. Conference, at the meeting of the Committee of the Indian Merchants Chamber on 20-9-1930, on his experiences at the Labour Conferences is given at pages 560-563.

(2) The correspondence between the Chamber and the Government of India regarding the justification for the statement made by Sir Geoffrey Corbett, an Indian Government Delegate to the 13th Conference, before the Credentials Committee of the Conference that the Government of India had been carrying on negotiations with the Indian and European Chambers of Commerce in India for several years for the purpose of securing agreement in selecting the employers' delegate to the sessions of the Conference is given at pages 563- 569.

(3) The recommendations of the Chamber regarding the personnel of the Indian Employers' delegation to the 15th I.L. Conference are given at pages 90 and 729-733.

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In the course of a review of two books "Labour and Textiles" and "Labour and Lumber" contributed by Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this office, to the Servant of India and published in its issue of 31-12-31, reference is made to the great advantages that are likely to accrue to labour in the United States if the country were to become a member of the I.L.O.

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The Servant of India of 10-12-31, (Vol. XIV. No. 49) publishes at page 593 a short and appreciative review of the book "The Work of the International Labour Organisation" issued by the National Industrial Conference Board, New York (pp. 197 - price \$ 2.50).

National Labour Legislation.

Rules Framed Under the Indian Merchant Shipping Act.

The following notification is published in the Gazette of India, dated 5-12-1931, (No.49-part I, page 1146):-

No.80 M.II dated 5-12-1931.

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 375 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, (XXI of 1923), the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following rules prescribing the conditions of employment of young persons as trimmers ~~of~~ stokers in coasting-ships, namely:-

1. No young person employed as a trimmer or stoker shall be required to perform duty at sea for a total period exceeding six hours per day of twenty-four hours. A period of duty shall not exceed three hours at a time and the intervals between periods of duty shall not be less than eight hours.

2. No young person employed as a trimmer or stoker shall be required to perform duties in port, in the engine or boiler rooms, not being watchkeeping duties, for a longer period than seven hours per day excluding time off for meals. If the port duties include tending fires and ordinary watchkeeping duties, the hours of duty shall be as prescribed in Rule 1 for duty at sea.

3. A young person employed as a stoker shall not be required to tend more than two fires nor to clean and relay more than one fire during any one watch.

4. No young person shall be engaged as a stoker in a

ship where the stokehold temperature measured at the stokehold bulkhead at a point remote from ventilator shafts is or exceeds 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

5. A young person employed as a trimmer shall not be required to take part in the cleaning and relaying of fires.

6. A young person shall not be engaged as a trimmer in a ship where the bunker temperature is or exceeds 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

(The Gazette of India, 5-12-1924
No. 49 Part I page 1146)

CONDITIONS of LABOUR

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Immigrant Labour in Assam - 1930-31*

The Government of Assam has recently published the annual report on conditions of immigrant labour, mainly in the tea-gardens, for the year ending 30-6-31. The report is divided into two parts: (1) Immigrant labour in the Assam Valley Division, and (2) Immigrant labour in the Surma Valley & Hill Division. The following information relating to the conditions of life and work of the immigrant labour population is taken from the report:-

General - Depressed Condition of Tea Industry. - The Assam Government's resolution on the Report states that "acute and widespread trade depression severely affected the tea industry in the year under review. The loss of markets, over-production and the competition of foreign countries brought the price of tea so low that heavy losses were incurred. This necessitated a curtailment of work, but although there was ~~in~~ a fall in the average wages, the Governor in Council is glad to know that managers and agents have endeavoured, as far as possible, to save their labour forces from the effects of the general depression. Unless, however, some improvement in the industry soon occurs, a serious situation may arise. Estates, which have not sufficient reserves to enable them to carry on at a loss over a long period, may be compelled to close down. The situation is being closely

* Report on Immigrant Labour in the Province of Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1931 - Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press - 1931. - Price 1s.9d. - pp.24.

watched by the Indian Tea Association as well as by the Government, but the Governor in Council trusts that a serious collapse may be averted by a trade revival."

Fall in Recruitment & Wages. - The depression was responsible for a further reduction of recruitment especially in the Surma Valley where the number of immigrants was only 1,994, while in the Assam Valley the number fell from 53,370 to 51,525. The strength of the total resident labour force at the end of the year had fallen from 1,088,962 to 1,065,154.

The marked improvement in wages which had been the feature of recent years was inevitably checked in the year under review by the acute depression of the industry. There was an appreciable fall in the average cash earnings calculated on the average working strength of all classes, except men in the Assam Valley. In the Surma Valley the average earnings of men, women and children fell from Rs. 10-11-0 to Rs. 9-3-2, Rs. 8-6-1 to Rs. 7-10-5 and Rs. 5-6-2 to Rs. 5-3-6, respectively. In the Assam Valley the average earnings fell from Rs. 11-1-7 to Rs. 10-12-7 for women and from Rs. 7-8-6 to Rs. 7-4-7 for children, whereas men earned Rs. 14-0-11 as compared with Rs. 13-8-7.

The Government's resolution on the report states: ~~that~~
^{It}₂ is fortunate for the labour force that the fall in wages was accompanied by a decrease in the prices of food and other necessities, ~~and~~ and that when allowance is made for the other concessions enjoyed by the labourers in the form of free housing, medical attendance, firewood, grazing and land for cultivation, their condition did not compare unfavourably with that of the village population of Assam."

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Whitley Recommendations. - The Report of the Royal Commission on Labour was published after the close of the year and the recommendations of the Commission are engaging the earnest consideration of the Governor in Council.

Conditions in Assam Valley.

Recruitment & Labour Strength. - The number of labourers recruited during the year under report dropped from 53,370 to 51,525. The decrease is reported to be mainly due to the depressed condition of the industry.

At the close of the year, the garden population in Assam Valley was 743,014 against 753,362, a decrease of 10,348 or 1.37 per cent. on the population of the preceding year.

The total strength of the adult labour force was 434,593 (234,294 men, 190,299 women). There was no unusual change in the distribution of coolies over the provinces of origin. The coolies of the Division were, according to the Report, generally well off. The birth-rate was 31.95 against 32.60 and the death-rate was 22.59 against 21.77 in the previous year. There were no serious epidemics among the coolies during the year under report. No garden was reported as unhealthy during the year.

Wages & Concessions. - The average wages of men rose from Rs. 13-8-7 to Rs. 14-0-11 while those of women and children decreased from Rs. 11-1-7 and Rs. 7-8-6 to Rs. 10-12-7 and Rs. 7-4-7 respectively. It is explained that the decrease in average wages for women and children is due to the fact that under the crop restriction scheme the coolies were less frequently engaged in tioca work and gardens were less frequently hoed than in the past. These figures represent cash earnings only and exclude the value of other concessions in the shape of free housing, free medical attendance, free firewood and grazing ~~of~~ ground and land for cultivation free of rent or at a nominal rent. Besides these, many gardens allowed maternity leave with full or half pay for a period of four to six months. Though there has been a slight decrease in the average wages of women and children, no hardship however was felt as the prices of food-stuffs and other necessary articles also fell during the year. The standard of living of the coolies is not considered to be in any way inferior to that of the neighbouring villagers.

Land Held by Coolies and Ex-Coolies. - During the period under review, the coolies working in the gardens held 115,182 acres of land, of which 15,248 acres were held by coolies directly as settlement holders under Government, 91,581 acres as tenants of gardens, and 8,353 acres as tenants of other land-holders. During the same period, 317,396 acres were held by ex-~~tea~~ garden coolies as settlement holders directly under Government and 18,934 acres as sub-tenants.

Relations with Employers. - Generally speaking, relations between employers and employed were good. According to the report, there was a decrease in the total number of complaints filed by labourers, ^{and} but an increase in the number of complaints brought by managers against labourers. The depression in the tea industry, which shows little sign of lifting, has resulted in a certain amount of unrest amongst the labour force. At the close of the year, several batches of labourers recruited from the Bombay Presidency left the gardens on which they were employed and demanded repatriation, complaining that Assam was unhealthy and that their earnings were too low.

Inspections. - The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 539 against 532 in the previous year. Of these, 278 were liable to inspection, but only 218 gardens were inspected during the year under report.

Conditions in Surma Valley & Hill Division.

Recruitment & Strength of Labour Force. - The total garden population, working and non-working, living in garden lines and on garden land at the close of the year was 322,140 as compared with 335,600 at the end of the year 1929-30. The number imported during the year fell from 6,426 in the previous year to 1,994. The condition of the industry is reported to be responsible for the fall. There was no unusual change in the distribution of the labour force over the provinces of origin and more than half the number of the adult labourers belonged to the United Provinces, Bengal and Bihar as in the previous year. The adult labour force in the division consisted of 186,915 coolies (95,870 men, 91,045 women).

Health Conditions. - The report states that although the death-rate increased from 19.43 per mille per annum in the preceding year to 21.21, the general health of the coolie population continued to be good and no serious epidemic was reported during the year. The birth-rate increased from 31.11 to 32.55. The ratio per mille of deaths to strength among adult labourers was 22.11 against 19.83 in the previous year. The death-rate amongst the Assam coolies was highest of all (37.58) and that amongst the United Provinces, Bengal and Bihar coolies came second (21.25).

Land Held by Coolies. - The coolies on the gardens held 53,464 acres of land against 51,171 acres in the preceding year. Of the total area, 3,858 acres were held directly under Government, 46,827 acres as tenants of gardens and 2,779 acres as tenants of land-holders. The average rent realised per acre of land under the gardens was Re. 1-13-11 against Rs. 6-7-10 per acre by land-holders.

Relations with Employers. - The report states that generally the relations between employees & employers were satisfactory. There were 3 cases of disturbances in Cachar & 5 cases of disturbances in Sylhet.

(The conditions of Immigrant Labour in Assam during 1929-30 ^{are} reviewed at pages 7-10 of the report of this Office for November 1930).

Recruitment of Labour for Assam :

Labour Board's Report, 1930-31*

The following information regarding the recruitment of Indian labour for Assam during 1930-31 is taken from the Annual report on the working of the Assam Labour Board for the year ending 30th June 1931.

Local Agencies. - At the close of the year, 39 Local Agencies were at work, distributed as follows:- Bengal - 1, Bihar and Orissa - 16, United Provinces - 5, Central Provinces - 10, and Madras - 7. During the year, two local agencies of the Tea Districts Labour Association were opened and two local agencies were closed.

Recruitment. - The total number of persons recruited during the year under review, was 50,552, as against 58,150 in the previous year, and the number of garden sardars at work, was 32,544, as against 42,829 in the previous year. The average number of recruits per sardar was 1.55 as against 1.35 in the previous year. The supply of labour has been plentiful during the year under report, and the report states that the numbers recruited would have been even higher but for the fact that several gardens had to close down recruiting during the latter months of the year under review, owing to trade depression. A comparison with last year's figures, shows that the average of advances to sardars for each adult recruit, has fallen in 24 and risen in 9 agencies. No cases have occurred in which Local Agents have been found to be extravagant, or indiscreet, in the matter of giving advances to garden sardars.

The recruiting prospects for next year are not encouraging, as owing to the slump in the tea trade many gardens have closed down recruitment. The problem which confronts a great number of gardens, is rather to provide employment for their existing labour forces, than to increase the number of their workers.

Experimental Free Recruitment in C.P. - The Government of the Central Provinces introduced a system of free recruitment in certain districts as an experimental measure for 6 months from 15-11-1930, in order to afford greater freedom to movement of labour from these districts to the Assam tea gardens. The experiment proved very successful and the concession was extended for a further period of one year, with effect from the 15th May 1931. 1,687 persons were recruited by 1,349 recruiters and

* Annual Report on the Working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending 30-6-31. Resolution No.L-1723 dated New Delhi the 12th November 1931, of the ~~Ministry~~ Department of Industries and Labour, Government of India. - pp.9.

and Sardars from the 15th November 1930 to the 30th June 1931, under the Central Provinces free recruiting scheme. This works out at an average of 1.25 for each recruiter or sardar. Though the average is lower than in the old-established recruiting grounds, it is, ~~on the whole~~ reported to be satisfactory, considering that a new recruiting area was being opened up, and that, owing to trade depression, the demand for labour was not very keen. The report observes that, in spite of the large measure of freedom allowed, the experiment did not give rise to any abuses. This is a good augury for the success of a general system of freer recruiting, such as has been recommended by the Royal Commission on labour. The question of the introduction of a free recruiting scheme in Bengal and Madras is under consideration with the Governments of these provinces.

Illegal Recruitment. - The total number of garden sardars prosecuted for offences in connection with recruitment, was 69 as compared with 107 in the previous year. 23 garden sardars were returned to their gardens without prosecution, on account of minor irregularities, as against 88 in the previous year. Similar offences were, occasionally, differently treated from district to district.

(The Annual Report on the Working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending 30th June 1930 is reviewed at pages 26-27 of the Report of this Office for December 1930.)

Quarterly Strike Statistics (British India)

Period ending 30-9-1931.

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has published in a press communiqué dated 22-12-1931, the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 30-9-31. During the period under review, there were 45 disputes involving 49,284 workers and entailing a loss of 480,661 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency, where 16 disputes involving 30,030 workers entailed a loss of 341,714 working days. Bengal comes next

with 12 disputes involving 8,110 workers and entailing a loss of 60,783 working days. There were 5 strikes in Assam involving 1,385 workers and entailing a loss of 2,125 working days; 4 strikes in the Punjab involving 1,300 workers and entailing a loss of 20,160 working days; 3 strikes in the United Provinces involving 1,669 workers and entailing a loss of 15,997 working days; 2 strikes each in the Central Provinces and the Madras Presidency involving 1,300 and 5,290 workers and entailing losses of 31,992 and 7,490 working days respectively and 1 in Burma involving 200 workers and entailing a loss of 400 working days.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 23 disputes involving 38,238 workers and entailing a loss of 445,517 working days. There were 3 disputes each in the engineering workshops and railways, including railway workshops, involving 802 and 1,630 workers and entailing losses of 3,814 and 3,654 working days respectively, 2 disputes in Jute Mills involving 211 workers and entailing a loss of 791 working days, 1 in Mines involving 400 workers and entailing a loss of 1,800 working days and 13 in other industries involving 8,003 workers and entailing a loss of 25,085 working days.

Of the 45 disputes during the quarter, 23 were due to questions of wages, 9 due to those of personnel, and 13 to other causes. In 7 disputes the workers were successful, in 16 partially successful and in 18 unsuccessful; 4 disputes were in progress at the end of the quarter.

(The statistics of industrial disputes for the quarter ending 30-6-1931 are summarised at page 42 of the August 1931 Report of this Office).

Labour Conditions in Kolar Gold Fields:

Enquiry Report.

Consequent on the labour troubles in April 1930 in the Kolar Gold Fields, to which reference was made in the April 1930 report of this Office (see pages 18-20), the Government of Mysore appointed in June 1930 a Special Officer to enquire into and report on the economic and social conditions of workers in the Kolar Gold Fields (vide page 30 of the June, 1930 report of this Office). The Special Officer's report has recently been published by the Mysore Government. The following is a brief summary of the more important of the recommendations contained in the Report:-

Principal Recommendations.-(1) Payment of attendance bonus to contract labour, as is now being paid to company labour. (2) Weekly payment of wages. (3) Improvement of the income of families by promoting subsidiary occupations for unemployed and part-employed members by encouraging, among other things, of hand-spinning, making of bamboo hats, baskets, etc. required by the mines, and cultivation of vegetable plots and of plots of land in the neighbourhood. (4) Licensing of the profession of money lending, providing for the regulation of the rate of interest, the maintenance of clear accounts in Tamil or English, the suppression of "double-bonds", blank bonds and other reputed malpractices and the recovery of loans in easy instalments by deductions from wages. (5) Improvement of drainage system in cooly lines. (6) Building of concrete or masonry housing in place of the present "thatti" huts. (7) Improvement of the comforts and amenities of the lines by (a) providing electric lights, (b) planting of shade and fruit trees, (c) providing parks and playgrounds, (d) providing facilities for bathing and washing clothes near the lines and (e) encouraging well-kept backyard kitchen gardens. (8) Improvement of the sanitation, conservancy, lighting and water-supply arrangements of the cooly colonies in the Sanitary Board area and improving the amenities of these cooly colonies in the same manner as suggested above in respect of the lines. (9) Extension of the supply of milk to ill-nourished children, provision of creches for children of working women and grant of maternity benefit to women employees. (10) Inauguration of a provident fund for all employees. (11) Starting a technical school in the Fields with facilities for training in useful crafts, and vocations and in the use of mechanical appliances, including mining appliances. (12) Providing free cinema shows of approved instructional and devotional films, including those understood to be available & with the Indian Central and Provincial Governments, organising Kalakshepams, Bhajans (prayer parties) lectures, etc. and music and folk plays suited to local tastes. (13) Revising the local Temperance Society and strengthening temperance

propaganda with the aid, if possible, of the Bangalore Temperance Federation. (14) Reorganisation of the Mine Panchayats on a more really elective basis and utilising them for the free representation of complaints and grievances and of suggestions for the improvement of working and living conditions.

Wages of the Labourers.- Discussing the question of wages in the Fields, the Report says that the wages, especially of the lowest paid class of underground company labourers, are by no means liberal. Underground work is particularly hard and risky and has been getting harder and riskier as the mines go ~~deeper~~ deeper and pressure and temperature mount up. Some of the mines are nearing a depth of 7,000 feet. Rock bursts are becoming more frequent. Yet the wage of the underground cooly has remained practically stationary except for attendance bonus ~~at~~ which was introduced in 1918 and increased in 1920. The report, however, does not recommend an immediate increase in wages, and in support of this attitude says:- "Taking the habits and circumstances of the labouring classes as they are, it might perhaps be doubted whether an all-round increase in wages would in itself lead to a better standard of living in any manner proportionate to the heavy burden which such increase would certainly place on the industry, the continuance of which means so much to the State and its people".

Economic and Social Conditions.- The report directs pointed attention to the chronic indebtedness of the workers and notes that the one disturbing factor that emerges from the statistics is that the expenditure of families in income groups below Rs. 40 a month is more than the income, resulting in a monthly deficit. The mitigation of the drain caused by interest charges, the report states, is a matter of the greatest importance. Referring to the drink evil, the report says:- "Drink is the largest item of unproductive expenditure in the labourers' budget, next only, perhaps to interest charges. The Kolar Gold Fields account for about 75 per cent. of the total consumption of country-brewed beer in the State, and hold the palm for toddy consumption. The provision of better housing and a more cheerful and attractive environment in the lines is itself a temperance measure of the first magnitude".

Analysing the wages bill, the report observes that the total wage bill of the Mining Companies for 1929 was nearly 7.25 million rupees. Indian labour accounted for nearly Rs. 5 millions or 68 per cent. of the total wage bill. Of this Rs. 5 millions, company labour got 56 per cent. and contract labour 44 per cent.

(The Hindu, 10-12-1931).

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✓ Action on the Whitley Report: Proposed Legislative Measures.

Reference was made at pages 9-11 of the Report of this Office for November 1931 to a circular letter sent by the Government of India to all the local Governments and administrations asking them to examine the recommendations of the Whitley Commission and to indicate the lines on which it is proposed to implement them. According to an Associated Press message, it is understood that, among the legislative measures, that may be ready for consideration at the coming session of the Legislative Assembly to give effect to the Labour Commission's recommendations, may be those to repeal the Employers and Workers (Disputes) Act, 1860, and two bills amending the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Trade Disputes Act and a third ~~for~~ for the abolition of the Assam Labour Board and its replacement by ~~a~~ new machinery proposed for the purpose. It is also learned that the Government may sound the Assembly regarding the draft convention adopted at Geneva on the hours of work in mines.

(The Hindu, 16-12-31).

Forced Labour in Koti State (Simla Hills).

The following paragraph relating to the prevalence of forced labour in Koti State, one of the Simla Hill States, is taken from the Hindustan Times, Delhi, of 6-12-31:-

For sometime past there has been a great agitation

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amongst the Koti State Kolis (an untouchable class in the Simla Hills) with regard to begar (forced labour), which is levied from them by the State authorities. They had made several representations to the State authorities for the abolition of this practice, but without success. Finally, they appealed to the Rana Sahib of Koti State, and they requested the Rana to impose some tax upon them in lieu of begar, but that appeal also proved ~~unavailing~~.

On 2-12-31 a deputation of about 200 persons waited upon Mr. Salisbury, I.C.S., who has recently taken over charge as Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent, Hill States, Simla, and laid before him their grievances. Mr. Salisbury gave them a patient and sympathetic hearing and has promised to give the matter his early consideration.

Retrenchment on Railways:

Result of Federation's Discussion with Railway Board.

Reference was made at pages 30-33 of the Report of this Office for October 1931 to the meeting of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation with the Railway Board on 30-10-31 to discuss the decision of the latter to discharge 10,000 additional railwaymen. ~~Further discussion~~ (A printed copy of the report of the proceedings of the meeting of 30th October has been forwarded with this Office's minute D/1364/31 dated 3-12-1931). Further discussions on the question took place between the Federation and the Railway Board at a meeting held on 2 and 3-12-31. The following communiqué

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has been issued by the Government regarding the result of the discussions:-

The subject of further discharges of railway employees was discussed between the Railway Board and the All India Railwaymen's Federation on the 2nd and 3rd December. The Railway Board explained that the surplus staff fell into two broad categories:-
(a) staff forming, more or less, a distinct unit engaged in some particular form of work for which the need has either been totally eliminated or has temporarily disappeared in the present abnormal conditions; and

(b) staff of which the number required for the ordinary day-to-day working depends on the volume of business offering.

The above categories do not include staff engaged for purely temporary purposes whose services must necessarily terminate on the completion of the work for which they were employed.

After full discussion the following formula was arrived at: While maintaining their preliminary objection on principle to any further discharges being made while the Court of Enquiry is still sitting and adhering to their view that the proposed cuts in pay should offset the necessity for any further discharges of staff, the Federation will not further press their objection to the discharge of about 1,200 men out of the 1,600 in category (a).

The 1,200 include:- 134 ferry staff on the North Western Railway whose work has ceased on the abandonment of the ferry; 100 workshop staff on the Burma Railways with which neither the Federation nor the Court of Enquiry is concerned; 775 men from the closing down of the Tatanager work-shops; about 140 men in the Matunga workshops, G.I.P. Railway; and about 150 accounts staff who have been employed on experiments which are being discontinued and on special work which has ceased.

The Railway Board could hold out no hope that 775 men, rendered surplus by the closing down of Tatanager workshops, could be absorbed elsewhere and the discharge of the full number will be proceeded with forthwith; but efforts will be made to absorb the surplus G.I.P. Railway workmen and the surplus accounts staff and the remaining 400 men who fall under category (a). Though not influenced by the argument of the Federation in regard to the Court of Enquiry, the Railway Board are prepared to take no further action until the end of January 1932 in the matter of discharge of the 3,400 men in category (b) so far as State-managed Railways which are concerned. ~~to adopt the same procedure.~~ The Railway Board are also prepared to have a discussion with the President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation before the end of January 1932.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-12-1931).

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the President of the A.I.R. Federation, issued on 7-12-31 a statement to the press setting forth the views of the Federation regarding retrenchment of railway employees. Mr. Mehta declares in the statement that the Federation was opposed to any kind of retrenchment whatsoever and that it agreed under protest to a cut on a graduated scale, exempting salaries below Rs.10, only if no staff retrenchment is effected in the meanwhile. Mr. Mehta makes it clear that the Federation cannot countenance both staff retrenchment and wage cuts simultaneously under any circumstances. The statement further says that the General Council of the Federation has resolved to call upon the affiliated unions to consider the situation and to formulate proposals for resisting retrenchment; and that the Federation is prepared to support all reasonable proposals, including a general strike, if the majority of the unions is in favour of such action. Regarding the future plans of the Federation Mr. Mehta says: "I am sure in any resistance that we of the railways might put forward, we shall get the cordial co-operation and support of the postal employees. I ~~propose~~ I propose as soon as I return to Bombay to call a Joint Conference of the Central organisations of the postal and railway employees, to devise ways and means for the fight that is ahead".

(The Pioneer, 11-12-31).

Retrenchment in Railways:Proceedings of Court of Enquiry.

Reference was made at pages 29-30 of the October 1931 report of this Office to the proceedings of the Court of Enquiry appointed to enquire into the question of retrenchment in railways. The Court began its sittings at Bombay on 9-9-31 and after collecting evidence regarding retrenchment in the Great Indian Peninsula and the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railways, ~~re~~-assembled at Madras on 12-10-31 to conduct its enquiries with regard to retrenchment on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and the South Indian Railway. After the Madras sittings, the Court re-assembled on 3-11-31 at Calcutta where retrenchment measures adopted in the East Indian, Assam Bengal, Bengal Nagpur, Eastern Bengal and Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railways were enquired into. After its sittings at Calcutta, the Court re-assembled at Lahore and resumed sittings from 4-12-1931, collecting evidence regarding retrenchment in the North Western Railway. The tour of the Court of Enquiry concluded with Lahore.

The Court returned to Bombay and resumed its sittings on 24-12-31 when Counsel for the various Railway administrations and Counsel for the workers addressed the Court. The Railway administrations were represented by Sir Jamahedji Kanga, Advocate-General,, Bombay, Major Wagstaff of the Railway Board, and Mr. T.G. Bhagat instructed by Little and Co., solicitors. The All-India Railwaymen's Federation was represented by Messrs. Jamnadas Mehta, President, ~~and~~ S.C. Joshi, Vice-President, and V.R. Kalappa, Acting General Secretary of the A.I.R. Federation. The Court expects to close its public sittings by the end of December 1931 and then to begin drafting its report. •

Mofussil Labour & Wages (Bombay Presidency) -1930-31.

Attention is drawn to an article on "Mofussil Labour & Wages - 1930-31" (Bombay Presidency) published at pages 371 - 377 of the December 1931 (Vol XI, No.4) issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

Mill Workers' Welfare in Calcutta: Survey by Dr. Balfour

Dr. Balfour, a lady doctor, from Bombay, has commenced a survey of the Calcutta mill areas at the request of the Indian Jute Mills Association. The object of the survey is to determine the welfare needs of the women and children of the district and to suggest groupings of various mills for this purpose. It is estimated that Dr. Balfour's work will take about four months to complete and it must be regarded as a step in one of the directions indicated in the Whitley Report.

("Capital" - (Calcutta), 19-11-31)

HK.

Industrial Organisation.Employers' Organisation.

Commerce of

Annual Meeting of Associated Chambers of India
& Ceylon, Calcutta, 1931.

The annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon for 1931 was held at Calcutta in the Royal Exchange Hall on 14 & 15-12-31. The Governor of Bengal opened the the proceedings before a large gathering of delegates and prominent business men of Calcutta. Among the distinguished visitors present were, Sir George Schuster, Sir George Rainy and Sir Joseph Bhore (members of the Viceroy's Executive Council), and the Executive Councillors and Ministers of the Bengal Government. Referring to the campaign for boycott of British goods, initiated by the Congress, Sir Stanley Jackson, the Governor of Bengal, in his opening speech said:

"The Premier's statement in the matter of discrimination against British interests must, I think, have given you a large measure of satisfaction. Thousands of millions of British capital have been sunk in India in the development of trade, with what advantage to the country and its inhabitants is patent, save to those who for their own reasons, venture to question the obvious. The satisfactory utilisation of this capital and the attraction of more, necessary for development, can only be assured by confidence and sense of security and assurance of equality of opportunity and fair dealing in trade. The roots of British trading have gone deep down into the soil of India. The magnificent tree which stands today, sound and strong without any sign of decay or corruption, could only have attained its wonderful proportions through the stimulation of British enterprise and the fostering of traditional British fair-dealing and integrity. Who would venture to try to uproot it?"

The following is the text of some of the more important of the resolutions passed at the meeting:

Need for Further Economy. - While admitting that the financial position calls for emergent measures and recognising the action taken by Government in the direction of retrenchment, the Association contemplates with apprehension the heavy burden that is thrown by the Indian Finance (Supplementary and Extending) Act upon the commerce, industry and trade of India and indeed upon every interest and community in the country, and earnestly represents to the Government of India the supreme importance of exercising, and of continuing to exercise, every possible economy in expenditure consistent with good government and efficiency,

The Delhi Pact & British Trade. - This Association is of opinion that, as the economic principles embodied in the Delhi ~~xxxx~~ Agreement of March 5, 1931 between the Government of India and Congress have proved susceptible to continued misapplication in restraint of trade, it is incumbent upon the Government to take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that the trade of the country shall in future be carried on by all classes of the community with that freedom which the provisions of the Delhi Agreement appear to have been intended to secure.

Income Tax on Provident Funds. - This Association draws attention to the inequitable effect of the Provisions of the Income Tax (Provident Funds Relief) Act, 1929, inasmuch as these in practice result, in certain cases, in subjecting to income tax employees who would not otherwise be liable, or in making them liable at higher rates, to such an extent that employers have seriously to consider whether in the interests of these employees they are justified in applying for recognition.

Double Super-Tax. - This Association has examined the Government of India's suggestions for the exemption of certain companies from double super-tax, and considers that the proposal to refuse the concession to all holding companies should be withdrawn.

Taxation of Foreign Liquor. - That as a corollary to the resolution adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Association in 1930 recommending that arrangements be made to secure uniformity in the taxation of foreign liquor in India, this Association now recommends that it is desirable that the Government of India should take steps to obtain uniformity in the various Provincial excise rules, and particularly in those relating to the import, export, and transport, ~~and~~ of Indian made foreign spirit, as between Provinces.

Profession Tax. - That this Association, while recognizing that the imposition of a profession tax as now levied by municipalities in the Madras Presidency and as proposed in Bombay may be regarded as a widening of the basis of taxation in the municipal sphere, and as such may be recommended in preference to increasing

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the rates of taxation upon existing sources of revenue, considers that, inasmuch as the tax is based primarily upon the income of the individual or upon the profits or turnover of business, it is encroaching upon a source of revenue, which at present belongs to the Central Government. This Association considers that this aspect of municipal taxation should receive the attention of the Central Government before vested interests have been allowed to grow and become a source of embarrassment to their resources.

Law re. Hire-Purchase System. - With a view to encouraging sales under agreements such as hire-purchase agreements, or sales subject to payment by instalments, this Association recommends to the Government of India that legislation should be introduced which will effectively protect the rights of the seller until he has received payment in full, particularly in cases where the sale is of machinery which has to be attached to the freehold.

Plea for Specific Duties. - Seeing that various interpretations have been placed on Sections 29 and 30 of the Sea Customs Act and that difficulty has arisen in ascertaining the meaning of "real value" necessitating a reference to the Privy Council, and (2) Seeing that Section 10 of the Indian Tariff Act does not give importers full protection in the case of changes in tariff valuations, the Association recommends that, whenever practicable, the Government of India should adopt specific duties in place of tariff valuations.

(The Statesman, 17-12-31)

(For a brief account of the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce for 1930 vide pages 45-46 of the report of this Office for December 1930).

VDS.

Industrial Organisation.Workers' OrganisationA.I.T.U.C. Executive Council Meeting, Bombay.

The following details about the meeting of the Executive Council of the All India Trade Union Congress held at Bombay on 28-12-1931 are taken from a communique issued to the press on 28-12-1931 by the General Secretary of the A.I.T.U.Congress:-

"The Executive Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress met in the office rooms of the Girni Kamgar Union at Bombay on the 28th December 1931. A large number of Unions from Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces and Berar, and Bombay, were represented at the meeting.

"The prominent among those present were Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. J.N. Choksey, Mr. Mukundalal Sarkar, Mr. P.M. Naidu, Mr. V.B. Karnik, Mr. V.H. Joshi, Dr. Gavande, Dr. S. Rangaswami, Mrs. Ushabai Dange, Mr. Zulmiram Chowdhury, Mr. S.N. Mookerjee of Jamshedpur, Mr. N.K. Sarkar and Mr. T.N. Datta of Calcutta and several other leaders of labour Unions.

"Mr. R.S. Ruikar, Chairman of the Council, in opening the proceedings, reviewed the situation that has arisen in the country owing, among other things, to ruthless retrenchment, wage-cut, new taxation and repressive measures taken by the Government and the capitalists against the labour movement. The Chairman reminded the members that the time had come when the working class movement should put up a strong fight against the repeated attacks launched upon it and for that a programme of joint action had become a matter of immediate necessity. He strongly pleaded for a united front.

Activities since Calcutta Session.- "Mr. R.S. Ruikar, Chairman of the Council, then submitted a short survey of the activities of the A.I.T.U.C. since the last session held in Calcutta (For particulars, vide pages 49-54 of the report of this Office for July 1931). The General Secretary's report shows that the A.I.T.U.C. now represents 104,500 organised workers in India and it records that, since a clear cut policy and programme for the Congress was laid down in the Calcutta session, a large number of Unions has now rallied round the All-India Trade Union Congress and thus it claims to be the most representative body of labour in India. The report further states that since July 1931 there have been about 25 strikes in different industries of the country, and the causes in most of the cases have been attributed to retrenchment, wage cuts and short working hours and days. After the General Secretary's report was noted, the Bombay Hawkers' Union and the Bombay Bank Peons' Union were affiliated to the A.I.T.U.C.

Resolution regarding Unity.- The question of outstanding importance, viz., unity among the different groups of Trade Unions

was then taken up. A lengthy discussion then centred round the report submitted by the "Unity" Committee which was appointed at the Calcutta Session and the following resolution was unanimously carried:-

"This Committee is of opinion that the Executive Council should depute three persons on behalf of the All-India Trade Union Congress to carry on negotiations with the All-India Trade Unions Federation and other groups of the trade union movement for bringing about structural unity and in the meantime this Committee be authorised to carry out a joint programme of action as regards opposition to wage-cuts, retrenchment, ~~xxx~~ new taxation, unemployment and repressive measures, against trade union movement either by the Government or by the employers, in consonance with the spirit of the resolutions that may be passed by the Executive Council in this connection".

"A Committee consisting of Messrs. R.S. Ruiker, S. Mukunda Lall, Kumar Brojesh Singh, M. John, Subbash Chandra Bose, V.H. Joshi, Zulmiram Chowdhury, Dr. J.N. Choksey, Mr. V.E. Karnik, was appointed to carry out into effect the Unity resolution".

(The Hindu, 31-12-1931).

Other Resolutions.- At the adjourned meeting of the A.I.T.U.& Congress held on 29-12-1931, a number of other resolutions were passed. The Council considered several questions bearing on wage-cuts and the present situation in the country and passed several resolutions. It entered its strong protest against the retrenchment in the railways and the "victimisation" of 5,000 G.I.P. railway strikers, and noted with regret that the efforts of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation had not been able to redress their grievances. Therefore, the Council considered that the time had come when a joint protest by the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Railwaymen's Federation and other railway unions should be immediately made in an effective manner by resorting to an all-India one-day strike, preferably on 4-2-1932, to be followed by a general strike in all railways ~~in~~ if necessary.

The Council also protested against the enhanced taxation and retrenchment and wage-cuts in all Government departments. It opined that cuts in wages and retrenchment were no remedy for the present

economic depression. On the contrary, higher wages, short hours of work and insurance against unemployment should be the policy of the Government, and the Council appealed to all working classes and trade unions in India, including the Railwaymen's Federation, All-India Government Employees' Unions and the Central Unions in the Posts and Telegraphs Department to resist these "attacks" and to observe an all-India one-day strike on 4-2-1932. (The Times of India, 31-12-31)

The claim of the A.I.T.U. Congress that it represents the majority of workers in this country, as well as the decision to declare a one-day strike are strongly repudiated by moderate labour opinion. The following extracts from an editorial comment on the subject published in the December 1931 issue of the Indian Labour Journal (Nagpur), the Official Organ of the B.N. Railway Indian Labour Union, are illustrative of the attitude of the moderate section of Indian labour:-

"Workers have never seen a greater betrayal of bankruptcy of trade union action than the talk of one day's hartal. The president of the Trade Union Congress who held a conference in Bombay on the 29th December wants to fight retrenchment and wage-cut with a hartal for 24 hours. That his representative character is questionable is another story. Whether there can be two All India Trade Union Congresses, whether one of them is not bogus, and whether or not one of the Presidents is an imposter, are matters that we do not propose to deal with here. We have, however, no misgivings as to the bluff and bluster underlying the hope held out that in the 24 hours' strike the deep-rooted capitalist exploitation will come to an end. We do not ignore the fact that by a series of political hartals a dormant nation has been made a live wire. But those hartals which are meant to rouse indifferent folks to political consciousness are altogether different from industrial strikes. The implication of an industrial strike is to paralys~~e~~e the industry concerned and the cessation of work until a satisfactory settlement is reached. If the workers who go on strike, resume before any settlement is effected, they are doomed. Therefore, a one day's strike is out of question in trade union politics, a well organised strike to the finish, or no strike at all. Let not railwaymen allow themselves to be used as pawns in the deep game for leadership".

(Extracted from pages 55-56 of the December 1931 issue of Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, Vol. IX, No.3).

The Punjab Provincial Trade Union Congress, 1930-31.

The following information regarding the working of the Punjab Provincial Trade Union Congress during 1930-31 is taken from the annual Report of the Congress for the above period. The Punjab Provincial Trades Union Congress, Lahore, is claimed^{*} to be the only central and federated body of the "active" and "functioning" trade unions and labour organizations of the Punjab. It was organised in 1928 and was registered on 10-10-1929 under the Indian Trade Unions Act. According to the Report, the object of the Congress is to promote healthy trade unionism in the Punjab, which has been much neglected hitherto. This object has been endorsed by the Royal Commission on Labour in India in their Report.

The total number of trade unions and labour organizations affiliated to the Congress at the end of the year under report was 13 as compared with 10 in the previous year. Six of these unions have already been registered under the Trade Unions Act and the registration of the rest is under consideration.

The following is a list of the affiliated unions:

1. The Scavengers Union, Lahore ; 2. Ratepayers Association, Lahore ; 3. The Upper India Homeopathic Association, Lahore; 4. The Municipal Employees Union, Lahore; 5. The Carpenters Union, Lahore; 6. The Municipal Union, Sargodha; 7. The Mechanics Union, Lahore; 8. The Tailors Union, Lahore; 9. The Masons Union, Lahore; 10. The Katibs Union, Lahore; 11. The Punjab Process Servers Union, Lahore; 12. The Tonga Workers Union, Amritsar and 13. The Punjab Labour Bureau.

Some of the unions have more than 800 members.

The Congress is duly recognised by the Punjab Government and the Government of India as required under the Trade Unions Act. In the year under report no strike was sanctioned by the Congress under the rules, although the Tonga workers Union, Amritsar, and the Scavengers Union, Lahore, were on the verge of going on general strikes, which were however, averted by the timely intervention of the Congress.

The Report complains that the old prejudice against trade unions is still persisting among a few officials of the Government Railway Department, and Local Bodies and among millowners.

(The E.B. Railway, Labour Review,
November 1931, Vol. 1V No. 35, pages 20-21)

There is no genuine trade unionism in Punjab except among the Railwaymen and the Khewra Salt Miners. This "Congress" is a mouthed body.

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Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, 1930-31.

According to the annual report of the Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, for the year 1930-31, there was a fall in membership during the period under review due to various reasons, the most important being the drastic retrenchment in some of the bigger presses, including the Government and railway presses. While in the preceding year the membership of the Union was 1,973, at the close of the year under report it was 1,569. As a result of ~~the~~ representations *made by* of the Association, the Eastern Bengal and East Indian Railway authorities abandoned the piece system in favour of monthly salary system in their printing presses. The efforts of the Association in the direction of raising the scale of remuneration of the piece-workers in the Government of India Press and in getting the rules regarding leave and holidays in the Government as well as railway presses *suitably altered* were successful. An effort to bring about an improvement in the sanitary conditions of the printing rooms of presses was also made. The most crying grievance of the press workers was found to be the insecurity of the tenure of service. During the year under review, the Association tried to put a stop to the practice of making delay in the payment of wages by taking legal action against a few proprietors. Several meetings were arranged for educating the workers in their rights and responsibilities. Steps were taken to help those members who were needy in arranging for the education of their children. During the year under review, a sum of Rs. 122-8-0 was paid out under the provisions of the death benefit scheme. The Association also rendered service to its members as an employment bureau. Besides doing propaganda to prevent lead poisoning, help was given to get

compensation for accidents and occupational diseases. During the year under review, representations were made for reduction of hours of work of compositors, especially those who operate on mono or lino machines. As in previous years, the Association tried to settle, as far as possible amicably, disputes between the workers and their employers. The Association also made efforts for getting the Factories Act amended so as to include those factories which employ less than 20 persons. In spite of economic depression the collection of subscription on the whole is reported to be satisfactory.

(The Trade Union Record, December 1931, Vol.II, No.10).

(For earlier references to conditions of labour of press employees vide, pages 41-43 of the July 1931 report (Conditions of Labour of Printing Press Employees in India); page 19 of the June 1931 report (Wages and Hours of Work in Printing Presses in Bombay City, 1929); and pages 52-53 of the July 1930 report (Conditions of Work of Press Employees, Central Provinces)).

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Intellectual Workers.

7th A. I. Educational Conference, Bangalore, 1931.

The 7th session of the All India Educational Conference was held at Bangalore (Mysore State) from 28 to 30-12-31. In the absence of Sir C.V.Raman, the president-elect, Mr. N.S.Subba Rao, Director of Public Instruction, Mysore State, presided over the Conference. The Conference, it may be noted, is annually organised by the All-India Federation of Teachers' Associations which is affiliated to the World Federation of Education Associations and which was responsible for organising the First All-Asia Educational Conference, Benares in 1930. The Conference is open to teachers, educationists and educational administrators and inspectors of all types - the University, the secondary and primary and the technical - both men and women of the country, and is the only indigenous organisation in the country which keeps education in the forefront of its programme.

Besides sectional meetings, pedagogical papers and resolutions, an All-India Educational Exhibition was also held in connection with this year's Conference. The following subjects received special attention this year: (1) Primary and pre-Primary Education. (2) Secondary Education. (3) University Education. (4) Adult Education. (5) Women's Education. (6) Experimental Psychology and Education. (7) Educational Administration. (8) Education of Defectives. (9) Art Education. (10) Health Education. (11) Teachers' Training. (12) Business Education. (13) Religious and Moral Instruction. (14) School Inspection. (15) Professional solidarity and how to achieve it. (16) Vocational training.

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The following are some of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Conference:-

That in view of the serious un-employment among the educated classes, all Governments be requested to institute enquiries regarding the solutions to be adopted to relieve the situation.

Universities should pay more attention to the technological aspects of education than to literary studies.

Resolved that instruction in High Schools and colleges be in the vernacular.

That while this conference views with horror the anarchical crimes of which some students have been involved, ~~this conference~~ it puts on record the extreme desirability of maintaining the sanctity of educational institutions.

The next session of the Conference will be held at Lahore in 1932.

(The Hindu 31-12-31).

Recognition of A.I. Postal & R.M.S. Union Withdrawn.

References have been made at pages 23-26 of the November 1931 report of this Office to the progress of the All-India ~~and~~ Postal and R.M.S. Union during 1930-31 and to the resolutions passed at the 11th session of the A.I. Postal Conference, 1931, held at Delhi on 31st October and 1st & 2nd November 1931. Among the subjects which are engaging the anxious attention of Indian postal employees are the decisions re. retrenchment, and cuts in salaries ^{made} ~~decided upon~~ by the authorities (see pages 29-30 of the November 1931 report of this Office). At the 11th session of the A.I. Postal Conference it was decided to appoint a special committee

to study the Retrenchment Committee's recommendations and also to take a referendum on the advisability of initiating joint action on the following lines:

(1) Not to work beyond the hours presented by the Time-Test. (2) Not to work more than eight hours a day, and (3) attending office with minimum address (see page 26 of November 1931 report). The Conference, at the suggestion of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the President, also decided to take a referendum on the desirability of wearing a black badge on the right arm by way of protest against the cuts in salaries. (page 556, December 1931 issue of Indian Post, Vol.2, No.12).

On 28-12-31 Mr. T. Ryan, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, intimated Mr. N.C. Sen Gupta, the General Secretary of the A.I. Postal & R.M.S. Union, that the Official recognition hitherto accorded to the Union could not be continued any longer, and stated that it was not proposed to proceed further in the matter for 15 days within which period further representations on the subject may be made to the Director General. The principal reasons for the withdrawal of recognition of the Union were:-

(1) The General Secretary of the A.I. Postal Union substantially misrepresented the situation resulting from the cuts in salaries in the course of a speech made at Calcutta on 26-11-31 and was thus guilty of misleading postal employees. (2) That the proposed referendum on the four points mentioned earlier was objectionable.

On 6-1-32 the General Secretary of the A.I. Postal Union replied to the Director General. The following are the main points in the letter:-

(1) That the 15 days period allowed in the letter dated 28-12-31 should be extended to 20-1-32 so that the General Secretary may call a Council Meeting of the Union. (2) That ~~the~~ (The General Secretary) repudiated the statements attributed to ~~have been made by~~ him in his speech of 26-11-31 (the cutting of a report of the speech published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika (Calcutta) dated 26-11-31 was enclosed to substantiate the repudiation), and (3) that the decision to issue a referendum on certain questions was not tantamount to their adoption.

On 7-1-32, the General Secretary sent a letter requesting that the time limit may be extended to 31-1-32 to enable Mr.

4. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the President of the Union, to attend the Council meeting.

On 11-1-32 the Director General sent his reply to the General Secretary of the Union to the following effect:-

(1) No extension of the time-limit originally prescribed can be agreed to, as he (the Director-General) has reasons to believe that the extended period would be used by the Office-bearers of the Union for further agitation. (2) The General Secretary's repudiation of the statements made by him in his speech on 26-11-31 does not carry conviction, that the cutting of the report from the Amrita Bazar Patrika is a very brief one, and that the Director General has no reason to doubt the accuracy of the detailed report of the speech that has reached him, (3) that the tone of certain speeches etc. published in the November and December 1931 issues of the Indian Post, the Official Organ of the Union, furnishes sufficient evidence of the desire of the Union to foment disaffection among postal employees, (4) that the official recognition accorded to the Union and all ~~provincial~~ provincial branches affiliated to it is withdrawn and will not be restored unless certain conditions are fulfilled, (5) that, in the circumstances, no further correspondence on the subject can be held with the Union, (6) that Government, while having no desire to interfere with the legitimate and constitutional activities of the Union, will no longer tolerate the agitation of the staff and their deception by misleading addresses by outsiders, and (7) that Government is prepared to welcome application for recognition of either the existing Union or another in its place, provided it is officered by responsible members of the staff and is prepared to conduct its activities with a proper sense of responsibility.

On the same date 11-1-32 the Director-General issued a special General Circular (General Circular No.40) inviting the attention of all postal employees to the correspondence between himself and the General Secretary. The following are relevant extracts from the Circular:-

The staff will see that as the outcome of a campaign led by non-official persons and persistently supported by false and misleading statements and by inflammatory incitements to the staff concerned to be false to their duties, it has been found necessary to withdraw official recognition from the above-mentioned Union and its branches.

I trust, therefore, that it will not be long before the staff will find it possible to secure fresh recognition either of the existing Union or of a newly constituted one to be established

in its place, the objects of which will be such as are generally recognised as legitimate for such a body and the constitution of which will be entirely acceptable to the Department. I must say however that I should be bound to regard continued membership of an Association such as the All-India Union, if it persists in allowing itself to be dominated as hitherto by non-officials and administered in the manner to which exception has now been taken, as inconsistent with the duties of Government officials.

The Heads of Postal and Telegraphs Circles are already in possession of full instructions as to the action they should take in the event of any concerted attempt by the staff to impair the orderly working of this important public utility Department. I have already indicated that some of the retrenchment measures approved by Government, or recommended by the Retrenchment Sub-Committee for adoption, are not intended to affect the existing staff of the Department but to apply only to new entrants. Should, however, particular members of the staff, notwithstanding the explanations which have now been afforded to them, allow themselves still to be misled into adopting such measures as those contemplated by the terms of the Referendum it is obvious that they will have no ground for complaint if action should be taken by the administration which will result in their being replaced by outside candidates for employment, of whom there is no lack.

Economic Conditions.

Cotton Mills in India - Statistics for 1931.

The Bombay Millowners' Association have issued their Mill Statement for the year ending August 31, 1931. The Statement contains the names of cotton spinning and weaving mills, working and in course of erection, with the names of agents and owners, the capital paid-up, number of spindles and looms, the quantity of cotton consumed, the average number of hands working daily, and the number of days worked by each mill from 1st September, 1930 to 31st August, 1931. The Statement, which had been published formerly in two parts, has this year been published in three parts. The first part contains, as usual, particulars of mills in Bombay City and Island, and of mills in course of erection recently registered, and a statistical survey of the progress of the industry since 1890. The second part contains particulars of mills in Ahmedabad and other mills in the Bombay Presidency, and the third part contains particulars of mills outside the Bombay Presidency. The separation of mills in Ahmedabad from mills in other parts of the Presidency has been effected so as to facilitate comparisons with Bombay City and Island and other important centres of the industry.

Idle & Working Mills. - Out of the 339 equipped mills in India, 25 were completely idle during the year, of which 8 were located in Bombay City and Island, 3 in Ahmedabad, 7 in other parts of the Presidency, and 7 outside Bombay Presidency. In addition, a number of mills were either completely or partially closed for temporary periods during the year, particulars of which

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will be found in the remarks column. Of the 17 mills reported to be in course of erection last year, 6 have now started working, and out of the 24 mills reported to be in course of erection this year, 13 are expected to be working shortly.

Total Spindles and Looms. - Of the 3,427,000 spindles erected in Bombay City and Island Mills, an average of 2,703,000 were working daily. Of the 77,000 looms erected in Bombay City and Island Mills, an average of nearly 63,000 worked daily during the year. The average number of work-people employed daily in the City and Island was 129,000. These figures do not include particulars of night work. In Ahmedabad, the proportion of spindles and looms working was considerably higher than in Bombay City and Island. On the average, out of 1,744,000 spindles, 1,619,000 worked daily, and out of 40,000 looms, 37,520 worked daily. The total number of spindles in the country as a whole amounted to 9,312,000, of which, on the average, 8,094,000 were working daily. The total number of looms in the country ^uamounted to 182,000, of which, on the average, nearly 158,000 worked daily. The mills consumed during the year 1,317,000 candies of cotton.

Paid-up Capital. - The paid-up capital of the industry decreased as compared with last year from Rs.40,4.3 millions to Rs.402 millions, or .54%. The number of spindles increased by about 200,000, and the number of power looms increased by 3,200 during the year.

(The Times of India,
13-12-31).

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The Railway Budget:Board Faces Serious Deficit.

The Railway Board is now taking stock of the financial position of the railways with a view to prepare a budget statement for presentation at the next session of the Assembly. It is apprehended that railway earnings may be at least Rs. 120 millions down compared with the estimates. Economy to the extent of Rs. 50 million is to be effected so that the deficit would be brought down to about Rs. 70 millions. But the serious aspect of the situation is that the railways will not be able to honour the convention under which they are required to pay to the general revenue Rs. 50 million of contribution. The railway authorities claim that this contribution was payable either from profits, which do not exist, ^{now} or from the Railway Reserve Fund, which has already been wiped out, and now that the railways cannot meet even their full interest charges on capital invested, there is no question of paying a contribution to the general revenues.

(The Times of India, 31-12-31).

Banking Committee Report: Mysore to Consider Adaptation.

The Government of Mysore have appointed a Committee consisting of three representatives of the Mysore Bank and three Government Officers to study the material furnished in the report of the Indian Central Banking Inquiry Committee and the recommendation made therein, (For summary of the recommendations in the Report relating to Provision re. money-lending and co-operation,

see pages 45-49 of the September 1931 Report of this Office), to examine how far they are applicable to conditions in Mysore and to formulate proposals for developing the organisation and expanding the operations of the Mysore Bank in close association with Government for the general improvement of banking service in the State. The Finance Secretary to Government will be the convener of the Committee, which is required to meet as early as possible and submit a report of the result of its deliberations to Government in four months.

(The Hindu 10-12-31)

15th Session of Indian Economic Conference, Bombay:

Papers on Indian Labour Problems.

One of the important features of the 15th session of the Indian Economic Conference, which is to open at Bombay under the auspices of the University of Bombay on 2-1-32, will be the reading of several papers on Indian labour problems. Besides a general discussion on Indian labour problems, papers will be read on the following subjects: Mr. Jaffar Hassan - "Labourers and the Standard of Living in India", Mr. Radha Kamal Mukerjee - "Food & Food Requirements of Indian Labourers", Mr. B.R.Subba Rao - "Labour Turnover & Productive Cost", and Mr. E.V.Narain Swami - "Towards Industrial Peace". The delegates will also visit the Wadia Maternity Hospital, Children's Home and Dispensary connected with the Spring Mill at Dadar, Bombay.

(The Times of India,
25-12-31).

U.P. Cottage Industries:
Committee of Investigation.

The Government of the United Provinces have decided to appoint a small committee with the Director of Industries as Chairman to investigate the possibilities of developing cottage industries in those districts of the Province where, as a result of the completion of hydro-electric projects, cheap electric power is now available. The personnel of the committee is as follows:-

Director of Industries, Chairman; Mr. Hickey, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Department; Mr. Duke, Oil Expert to the Government; the Registrar, Co-Operative Societies (for his nominee); the Sugar Technologist, Cawnpore; Mr. Vishwanathan, Third Agricultural Engineer to the Government; Mr. Alcock, Consulting Engineer of Calcutta; Mr. Bolam, of the United Provinces Electric Supply Company; and Mr. Murthy, Principal of the Cawnpore Textile School.

The Committee, which is expected to carry out a detailed survey, both as regards existing industries and new ones which can be started in view of cheapness of power available, will shortly assemble at Cawnpore for preliminary work and then visit the Grid area in order to secure first-hand knowledge of local conditions before formulating its proposals.

(The Statesman, 2-12-34).

Agrarian Unrest in U.P.: Issue of Ordinance.

Reference was made at pages 40-41 of the report of this Office for November 1931 to the breaking off of negotiations between the United Provinces Provincial Congress Committee and the U.P. Government regarding the remissions to be allowed in payment of rents by the tenants. The final rupture was brought about

by the Government informing the Congress leaders that, in view of the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Council of the U.P. Congress Committee on 15 & 16-11-31 (Vide pages 40 -41 of November 1931 report) no further discussion with Government officials on the subject of reduction of rent in Allahabad district could take place. Sardar Vallabhai Patel, President of the All-India Congress, declared that as far as the Congress was concerned the door was still open for negotiations and that the Congress would suspend the operation of the resolution passed by the U.P. Congress Council if the Government on its side would suspend the collection of rents pending the result of further discussions. Since Government did not show any desire to resume negotiations, the Congress began to organise mass meetings throughout Allahabad District at which, according to Congress reports of 11-12-31 more than 100,000 tenants of the District took a pledge not to pay rents. (The Hindu, 11-12-31) On 12-12-31, such meetings of tenants organised by the Congress were banned by the U.P. Government and the Congress leaders were prohibited from addressing public meetings. On 14-12-31 the Viceroy promulgated an Ordinance "The U.P. Emergency Powers Ordinance, 1931" - with a view to providing against instigation to illegal refusal of payment of revenue liabilities and to confer special powers on the Government of the U.P. and its officers for the purpose of maintaining law and order in the province.

Soon after the passing of the Ordinance, the U.P. Government began a series of arrests of Congressmen in the province, including Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru. This Ordinance as well as the recent Bengal Ordinance for the suppression of terrorism, precipitated the present political crisis and the resumption of hostilities between the Congress and the Government of India.

Employment and Unemployment.

Statistics of Unemployment in Delhi Province: Plan for Register.

It is understood that, as a means of dealing with the unemployment problem in Delhi Province, the Local Government is making arrangements to collect up-to-date statistics of the unemployed, and an unemployment register will be kept at the Industrial Surveyor's Office. The co-operation of employers of labour will also be sought. Besides helping the unemployed in getting work, the Government is considering a programme of industrial education, for it has been recognized that cottage industries afford a solution of the unemployment problem, especially in rural areas where workers have no subsidiary occupation in seasons when there are no crops.

Although Delhi is one of the most important trading centres in Northern India, it has hitherto lacked a suitable agency for the collection of trade statistics. To meet the increasing demand for statistical intelligence, a comprehensive scheme for the collection of statistics relating to trade, production, prices of commodities and employment was sanctioned by the Government towards the close of 1929. The work of collection, compilation and publication of the statistics was undertaken by the Industrial Surveyor, Delhi, from the commencement of the year 1930.

The most difficult branch of statistical work, it is stated, related to labour in the Province. Figures of employment in the principal productive industries, numbering 8 and involving 24,516 workpeople, were collected during the year. The number of operatives at work was 22,326 and average absenteeism in industry as a whole amounted to 7.2 per cent. The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work reported during the year was 3. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 11,192.

(The Statesman, 20-12-1931).

Public Health.

Health Conditions in Asansol Coal Mines, 1930-1931.*

The following information regarding the health conditions of the mining population in the Asansol Coal Mines during 1930-31 is taken from the Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1930-31. The area of the mining settlement under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health is 413 sq. miles and the population in 1930 in the settlement was 329,353, of which 41,035 people were living in municipal areas.

Vital Statistics. - Births & Deaths. - During the year 8,032 births were registered, being 902 less than that of the previous year. The birth rate per 1,000 of population was 24.3 against 28.0 in 1929 and 24.2 in 1928. The birth rate was lower than that of the province as a whole which stood at 29.3 and 26.6 in 1929 and 1930 respectively. There were 99 still births registered during the year against 75 in the preceding year. Male births exceeded female births by 182. The proportion was 105 to 100.

The number of deaths registered during the year from all causes was 6,980, against 7,896 in 1929. The death rate per 1,000 of population was 21.1 against 23.2 in the previous year. The rate of mortality for the province for the year under report was 22.4 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality. - The number of deaths among infants under 1 year was 1,038 and the mortality rate per 1,000 births was 129.2 against 145.0 in the preceding year. The provincial infant mortality rates for the corresponding years were 179.9 and 187.3 respectively. As much as 56% of total infant deaths occurred among babies under 1 month.

Principal Causes of Deaths. - The principal causes of deaths in the Settlement were (1) fevers, (2) respiratory diseases, (3) dysentery and diarrhoea, (4) Cholera and (5) small-pox.

The number of deaths returned as due to fevers other than influenza during 1930 was 1,694, with a death rate of 5 per mille. This figure is reported to be the highest on record for the last ten years. Respiratory diseases were responsible for 1,214 deaths

* Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1930-31.- 1931 - Saraswati Press Asansol. - pp. 19.

during the year under review, with a death rate of 3.6 per mille. There were 264 deaths with a death rate of .8 due to dysentery and diarrhoea, against 190 deaths with a death rate of .5 per mille in 1929. In the year under report, there were 453 attacks of cholera and 207 deaths, against 1,076 attacks and 518 deaths in 1929. The death rate due to cholera during the year was .63 per mille. The incidence of death due to small-pox also showed a decline during the year under review. There were 170 cases of small-pox with 20 deaths during the year, as against 354 with 42 deaths in 1929. 44 deaths were recorded from child-birth during or within 14 days of labour against 51 in the preceding year.

Vaccination. - The total number of vaccinations performed during the year 1930-31 was 63,798, as against 29,880 during the previous year. Of these, 16,394 were primary and 47,404 re-vaccinations, compared with 14,017 and 15,863 respectively in the previous year.

Improvement of Water-Supply. - Collieries depend for their drinking water supply on wells suitably distributed on the coal field. In a few cases only is 'pit water' used for domestic purposes and chlorination is insisted on. Wells have been provided in the more important villages by the Local Board. Those not so provided depend exclusively on ground tanks. Both these sources of village supply are supervised by the staff of the Board of Health. During the cholera season ground tanks in villages are reserved with the owner's permission by the Chief Sanitary Officer for drinking and other purposes. Wells and tanks, suspected to be infected with cholera vibrio, are sterilised and guarded at Board's expense.

Health Propaganda and School Hygiene. - A whole-time propaganda officer was appointed as an experimental measure in July 1930. He visited different collieries and villages and during the second half of the year, delivered 54 lantern lectures on epidemic diseases, general sanitation, personal hygiene, infant welfare and other allied subjects. In addition, the Sanitary Assistants delivered weekly lectures throughout the year in primary schools - the lectures being based on a primer on elementary hygiene. The School Medical Officer employed by the Board carried on medical inspection of school children in Primary and High schools throughout the year. Altogether 69 schools were visited and 3,060 school children examined out of a total of 3,799 on the rolls.

Medical Aid to Women. - The Board maintained 3 midwives during the year. Their duties comprised free maternity service during labour, attendance on simple gynaecological cases, advice to expectant mothers and post-natal supervision, health talk to women folk in villages and collieries. In all, 139 labour cases were conducted, 304 gynaecological cases attended and 490 lectures delivered by midwives during the year. Two classes were held by one midwife for training of "dais" (country midwives), a suitable reward having been offered to attract them to the classes. 18 country dais were trained during the year.

Finances of the Board.- The financial position of the Board was on the whole sound and satisfactory during the year under review. There was no loan outstanding. No grant was received from Government or any public body during the year under report. The expenses of the Board were met by a cess levied at the following rates:-

On mine-owners at Re.1-12-0 per 100 tons on the average raisings of coal during the past 3 calendar years. On royalty-receivers at 22% of the annual average road cess payable for the past 3 financial years. The cess assessed on mine-owners for the year under report amounted to Rs. 97,890-2-0 as compared with Rs. 100,917-10-0 for the preceding year. The decrease was due to decrease in the rate of assessment by Re. 0-2-0 per 100 tons during the year under report. The cess assessed on royalty-receivers for the year under report amounted to Rs. 16,148-5-0 as compared with Rs. 17,820-9-0 in the previous year.

(The Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 71-74 of the Report of this Office for July 1931.).

Safety First Association of India, Bombay:

Industrial Safety Sub- Committee.

Reference was made at pages 7-9 of the November 1931 report of this Office to the formation of a Safety First Association in Bombay. The first meeting of the provisional committee of the Association was held on 3-12-1931 when the programme of work of the Association was formulated.

The meeting appointed the following sub-committees:-

General Purposes and Financial Committee, Industrial Safety Committee, Public Safety Committee, Road Safety Committee, School Propaganda Committee, and Press Bureau Committee.

The following Office-bearers were elected for the Association which will have its offices in the W.I.A.A. Magazine office, Temple Bar Building, Esplanade, Bombay:-

Chairman - Mr. G.C. Seers, Manager of General Motors
India Ltd., Hon. Secretary - Mr. W.B. Burford.

(The Times of India, 8-12-31).

Slum Clearing in Madras.

Reference was made at pages 66-68 of the Report of this Office for October 1931 to the inauguration of the Bogipalayam housing scheme in Madras. Since the opening of the scheme, Madras citizens have taken a keen interest in the eradication of slums in the city. The Madras Sanitary Welfare League, which recently conducted an enquiry into the slums of Madras, and Mr. Dann, Director of Town planning, have been chiefly responsible for arousing public interest in this subject.

In the course of a speech on Madras slums recently delivered by Mr. Dann before a public meeting in Madras, ~~he~~ pointed out that the Madras Corporation was trying mainly the three following methods in its efforts to abolish the slums of the city:-

Acquiring the slums and providing pucca houses and renting them to the poor. Mr. Dann is of opinion that this system cannot be adopted by any large scale for financial reasons.

Near Cochrane Basin, the Corporation is providing roads and drains and sanitary plinths, leaving the tenant to build his house thereon. Under this scheme also a considerable deficit is expected. The scheme is on an experimental basis at present.

The third method is that of providing roads and drains, leaving the existing huts untouched where they do not encroach on the roadways. If this method is continued, large expenditure has to be incurred with no adequate return on the money expended. This method, according to Mr. Dann is unsatisfactory, as it leaves the housing conditions as they are, improving the surroundings only.

(The Times of India, 31-12-31).

Anglo-Indian Colonisation Schemes:

Report of Bishops' Conference.

References have been made at pages 37-38 of the February 1931 report and 47-48 of the ~~December~~ November 1931 report of this Office to a co-operative colonisation scheme for Anglo-Indians sponsored by Mr. E.T. Mc Cluskie, M.L.A. The Anglo-Indian Community is at present passing through a time of great difficulty owing first, to the general economic depression and, secondly, to the growing pace of Indianisation in the services due to which the youths of the community are not able to enter in large numbers into such services as the railway and telegraph services which hitherto used to be special preserves for them. The closing of these avenues of employment has placed the Anglo-Indians in a position of great economic difficulty, and colonisation schemes, on a co-operative basis, like the one sponsored by Mr. Mc Cluskie, are being formulated by leaders of the community ^{to} find employment for ^{the} unemployed members of the community. At the same time the opinion is entertained in certain quarters that Anglo-Indians are not fitted for agricultural pursuits and that, therefore, great caution has to be exercised before any considerable capital is invested in such enterprises. Colonisation schemes are also being advocated as a means for providing employment for the growing body of educated unemployed among Indians generally. Mr. Hassan Imam, a leading barrister of Patna and a former judge of the Calcutta High Court, it is understood, has a scheme for offering 40,000 acres of land on his estate at Japla, Shahabad District, Bihar & Orissa, to build up an agricultural colony for educated Indian youths out for an agricultural career. (The Pioneer: 1931-12-31)

In view of the increasing importance of such colonisation schemes and the contribution that it is hoped they would make for mitigating the incidence of unemployment, the report dealing with colonisation schemes for the Anglo-Indian community drawn up by the Bishops' Conference on the Present Distress in the Domiciled Community which held its sitting in Calcutta early in December 1931 is given below:-

General. - The subject of colonization has been brought forward from time to time ever since 1860. The present crisis has revived this old project. We do not regard ourselves as competent to pass judgment on any individual schemes; we have neither the data nor the qualifications essential to the formation of a competent opinion, but there are certain general considerations which should be borne in mind when determining whether the salvation of the community is to be sought in this direction or elsewhere, which we feel bound to suggest. It will be time enough to examine individual schemes when we are satisfied from a preliminary inquiry, that the project is a feasible one.

Essentials of Success. - In our opinion no such scheme can secure success unless it has behind it a strong, sustained co-operative effort. Hard toil, loneliness, frugal living, keen competition have to be faced. In the past, experiments of this character have not revealed the existence of such a spirit in the Anglo-Indian Community, and failure has resulted. But past failure need not necessarily hinder us from making a fresh attempt.

The Colonies. -

Selection of a Site. - (a) ~~In the~~ Assuming then the existence of a stout heart to face the inevitable difficulties, in which direction ought we to turn to find a suitable site? Should we look outside of India or within her borders? Turning to countries abroad, we naturally look first at the Colonies within the Empire. Here we are bound to recognize the existence of a strong colour prejudice which has closed the doors of most of the colonies, to those who are not of pure European antecedents. A few individual members of the domiciled European Community, especially boys from Kalimpong, have found their way to the Dominions and made good, but the settlers desired are those of the British farmer class and men with some capital of their own which will save them from becoming a drag on the Community. We know of no Colony which will welcome the settlers of mixed parentage.

(b) Outside British Empire. - Turning to other countries, we know that in the past a number of Sikhs settled in Argentina, but such colonists are no longer welcome. We have not examined the possibilities of sites in countries nearer India such as the Seychelles, the Mergui Islands or Siam, but we doubt whether openings would be found there.

(c) The Andamans. - The Andamans, which were once the scene of an attempted colony, have certain advantages which will keep it to the front as a possible site; it is at once near to markets including those in India whence the colonists would go, who would thus feel less cut off from their old home and many of their friends and relations.

(d) Within India. - Within India difficulties have to be faced from which a colony outside of India would be free. We have here the conflict of cultures, which if no longer on purely racial lines, does issue from the fact that the great bulk of those who win their living by manual toil are content with a far lower standard of comfort than that which the Anglo-Indian regards as his right. It is with this class that the colonists would be largely brought into competition; their success would depend upon their being able to win from the soil a larger outturn than their Indian competitors. To do this their methods would have to be mechanized and this would only be possible where large fields could be obtained. That, in most cases, involves work in a climate which is not conducive to hard labour, and the cultivation of crops which leave only a small margin of profit after the actual cost of production has been met. In Eastern Bengal, to mention but one instance, a careful investigation shewed that the profit, taking the average over a period of five years, varied from Rs.37-8 per acre in the case of rice to Rs.70 in that of jute, which was at that time the most profitable crop. How many acres would a family have to cultivate to be able to maintain a standard of comfort such as that to which the average Anglo-Indian has been accustomed? It must be remembered too that in the above instance the cost of production was for Indian labour.

Other Forms of Work. - Other forms of work than agriculture might be adopted by the colonists. Fruit farming has been mentioned, but it is well to remember that at the present time, fruit from the United States and South Africa is in Calcutta underselling the produce of Kulu and Kashmir. Up country this may not be the case, but the matter would need investigation.

Inclusion of Indians. - ~~And~~ In India too, the question of the inclusion or exclusion of Indians from the colony would have to be faced. Their inclusion would be desirable from the point of view of breaking down racial barriers and shewing that absence of racial feeling which is essential if all are to live together in true amity as fellow citizens of their common mother-land, but unless they share the same ideals or the standard of comfort to be attained and the same ideal of life and conduct to be followed, the colony will lack the unity which should characterize it, if it is to be successful and retain its members.

Finances. - The question of financing the scheme will require early consideration. There are four possible sources - Bank credit - Public investment - the Colonists' own capital and the contributions of the charitable public. We should be inclined to say that unless a scheme was such as could secure

the assistance of ~~Bank~~ credit, the Colonist would be ill advised to risk his savings in it and the investor might well hesitate to take up the shares. We doubt whether much in the way of charitable contributions would be forthcoming for such a scheme, nor indeed do we think that such should be sought. A colonization scheme to be successful should be self-supporting.

Conclusion. - Our conclusion then, based upon these general considerations, is that while we do not wish to rule out absolutely any carefully thought out scheme which may be put forward, we do most earnestly advise no one to participate in any scheme which has not been submitted to most careful scrutiny by competent critics and, after examination from every point of view, proved itself in their judgment to be industrially and economically practicable and from the financial point of view sound. Apart from such a competent and unbiassed opinion, we cannot advise our friends to seek the solution of their difficulties in this direction. Sd/- Fossa, Calcutta, President of the Bishops Conference on the Present Distress in the Domiciled Community.

(The Statesman, 16-12-31).

Women & Children.6th A.I. Women's Conference, Madras, 1931.

The sixth session of the All India Women's Conference on Educational and Social Reform was held at Madras, from 28-12-31 to 1-1-1932 under the presidentship of Mrs. P.K. Roy. Started originally as an organisation for the advancement of women's education, it has within the short period of six years come to occupy a very prominent place among those ^{bodies} which speak authoritatively on all matters concerning women. The Conference passed a number of resolutions advocating (1) the immediate introduction of compulsory primary education for all girls as well as boys, (2) the wider diffusion of physical culture, with special stress on the importance of popularising indigenous games and systems of training, (3) the extended and systematic introduction of medical inspection, (4) provision of increased facilities for adult education, (5) that there should be a nice balance of the practical, the aesthetic and the cultural sides of life represented in the curricula of girls' schools and ^{that} special attention should be paid to domestic science and the cultivation of the mother tongue, (6) and adequate representation of women on all public and private educational bodies. With regard to political matters, the Conference stuck to its memorandum presented to the Round Table Conference, which enunciated the principle of a fair field and no favour and asked for adult suffrage, mixed general electorates and no nomination, reservation or co-option for women.

The following is the full text of some of the more important

resolutions passed by the Conference:-

Protest against Retrenchment. - This Conference places on record its deep concern that all over India the reductions proposed because of the present financial stringency have fallen most heavily on Education and Public Health, and appeals to all Governments to refrain from retrenchment in the sphere of women's education, on which the progress of the nation largely depends.

Compulsory Primary Education. - This Conference reiterates its demands for immediate compulsory primary education for all girls as well as boys of every community. It calls upon all Governments and local bodies to work out a scheme for a steady and rapid expansion of this education, and it urges all local committees to agitate until this is achieved and primary education is put on a sound financial basis both by private and public endowments.

Representation on Educational Bodies. - This Conference is of the opinion that in the interest of girls' education, women should be appointed on all private and public bodies dealing with education.

Adult Education. - This Conference is of the opinion that in view of the appalling illiteracy prevalent among the masses, the Constituent Conferences should organise classes for adult education and encourage every activity in this direction by all possible means.

Abolition of Caste Distinctions. - This Conference, which has always stood for unity, urges all its members to work for this great cause. It feels that to achieve this (a) in separate schools for different denominations of communities or castes such distinctions should be gradually abolished; (b) ~~it feels very strongly that~~ caste distinction in the application forms for admission into educational institutions should be discontinued; and (c) it calls on the Department of Education and the heads of schools and colleges and hostels to abolish these distinctions in all hostels under their management.

Disarmament. - This Conference, realising the vital importance of Disarmament for the peace and happiness of the world, urges the women of India to give their wholehearted support and sympathy to the World Disarmament Conference to be held in Geneva in February 1932, and calls upon all Governments to reduce their Army and Navy.

Devadasi System. - This Conference urges the trustees of temples in Madras City to abolish the Devadasi service and congratulates the Durbars of Mysore, Travancore, Cochin and Pudukottah States for having taken a lead in this matter.

Maternity Welfare. - This Conference reiterates its previous resolutions on the need for extensive increase of maternity and child welfare work, and presses for the training and registration of midwives and for propaganda on public health and sanitation.

Representation on League Delegations. - This Conference realising the importance of questions like child labour, traffic in women and children and child mortality which form part of the discussions in the League of Nations and Imperial Conference, requests the Government to include women representatives of the All-India Women's Conference in the Indian Delegations to the League of Nations and the Imperial Conference.

Juvenile Delinquency. - This Conference draws the attention of the Women's Organisations throughout India, (including the States), to the problem of juvenile delinquency and urges them to make a study of the subject in all its aspects, as well as to organise clubs and shelters for delinquent, neglected and destitute children so as to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Miss Shorne (Calcutta) in moving the resolution referred to the Reformatory Schools Act of 1891 and the Children Acts of Bombay, Bengal and Madras. The main drawback of these acts was that they were worked only in the presidency towns and the immediate suburbs. It was therefore necessary that the women's conference should press upon the Government to have an All-India Children's Act provision being made for (1) separate remand homes for children, (2) children's courts with women magistrates (3) appointment of suitable probation officers, preferably women, to befriend and supervise the children, (4) establishment of separate sections for juniors and seniors, and (5) special treatment for the mentally defective.

Beggar Problem. - This Conference, while strongly disapproving of the prevalence of professional begging, urges Legislation for its prevention, and calls upon (a) the public to co-operate by diverting their charities in this sphere towards the creation and support of institutions and for the provision of beggar-homes, work-houses, infirmaries and leper asylums; (b) calls upon the local bodies to provide such homes where they do not exist and to enforce any legislation for the eradication of this evil.

Training of Social Workers. - This Conference is of opinion that centres should be established for training social workers, particularly with a view to work in rural areas.

Birth Control. - Mrs. Rajwade (Bombay) moved: - In view of the immense increase in the population of the country and having regard to the poverty and the low physical standard of the people this conference is in favour of appointing a committee of medical women to study and recommend ways and means of educating the public to regulate the size of their families.

Miss Kemchand (Bombay) and Miss Ouerkirk (Travancore) opposed the

the resolution on religious , moral and other grounds.

Mrs. Hensman (Madras) moved the following amendment:

In view of the immense increase in the population of the country and having regard to the poverty and the low physical standard of the people, this Conference is in favour of educating the public to realise the economic menace of overpopulation.

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi moved ^{an} the following amendment to

the effect that efforts should be made to educate the public through the spread of health and moral education, through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and special mother and father-craft clinics.

After lengthy discussion the Conference resolved:-
"to appoint a committee of women to educate the public through a larger number of health, maternity and child welfare and special mother-craft and father-craft centres."

Industrial Workers. - This Conference calls upon the Government of India immediately to take necessary steps to implement the Report of the Whitley Commission with regard to labour conditions of women and children in India.

This Conference calls upon its local committees and upon all women in industrial areas to do whatever voluntary work may be possible to help women and children so as to improve their conditions.

Miss Copeland, who moved the above two resolutions, said: The recommendations of the Commission were, born of deep sympathy with the labourers, and a careful study of their problems. There were a large number of recommendations affecting women employees in industrial centres and almost all of them were yet to be implemented by the Government. Legislation, should be undertaken on the basis of some of the recommendations and the great work turned out by the Commission should not be wasted.

Traffic in Women & Children. - This Conference condemns the existence of Traffic in Women and Children, an evil which should be eradicated at all costs, and appeals to the women to work for the establishment of a larger number of rescue homes, and strongly recommends the appointment of women as police officers, doctors, and probation officers, to help in the enforcement of the act for the ~~suppression~~ suppression of traffic in women and children.

Office-Bearers for 1932. - Rajakumari Amrit Kaur, Chair-woman; Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Honorary Organising Secretary; Mrs. Malini Sukhthankar, Secretary for Social Reform Section; Mrs. Menon, Secretary, Educational Section; Mrs. Maneklal Premchand, Treasurer; Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Begum Shah Nawaz, Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, Mrs. Miles Irving, Mrs. Ammu Swaminathan, and Mrs. P.K. Sen, Vice-Presidents.

(Summarised from reports in the Hindu of 29, 30 & 31st December 1931 and 1st & 2nd January 1932).

National Council of Women in India:

Forthcoming Labour Conference.

A special conference of the National Council of Women in India is to be held sometime in February 1932 in connection with the Biennial Conference of the Council to discuss some of the outstanding problems of industry in so far as they affect women and children. A standing sectional Committee on Labour of the National Council of Women in India, which is affiliated to the International Council of Women, was first formed in July 1931 with representatives from Provincial Councils and the Council's affiliated bodies. The Committee arose out of the general interest taken by the Council in industrial questions. While the objects of the National Council of Women in India is to promote the welfare of women and children in the country in all its aspects, socially, morally, and educationally, the Council takes special interest in all industrial problems affecting women and children. It has a special standing sectional committee on legislation which has for its object the ^{stimulation of} legislation to improve the social and economic conditions of women and children.

The standing sectional committee on labour of the National Council of Women in India supplies information on labour questions referred to it by the International Council of Women and co-operates with other countries on industrial questions affecting women through the headquarters of the International Council of women. Besides this, the labour committee is constantly engaged in studying labour conditions in unregulated industries and visiting industrial areas in the country in order to gain first hand information on labour conditions.

(Indian Social Reformer, 5,12-1931, Vol.XLII, No.14).

Agriculture.

New Branch for Study of Agricultural

Meteorology.

The Times of India, Bombay, dated 15-12-31 gives the following summary of a Special Note regarding a scheme for the opening of a branch of Agricultural Meteorology published in the latest annual report of the Meteorological Department of the Government of India:-

The scheme may be said to owe its origin to the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture of 1928 and was elaborated by the department in consultation with a few agricultural experts. It proposed the creation of a temporary branch of agricultural meteorology to study the subject statistically and experimentally. About statistical studies, it may be observed that if satisfactory correlation between weather conditions and crop yield and crop areas can be established, crop forecasting and the final estimates of production will be improved.

Details of the Scheme. - Since there is no better deterrent to uncontrolled speculation in agricultural commodities than a good supply of agricultural statistics and, since the cultivator eventually gains by all improvements in marketing, he stands to benefit in the long run from the results of investigations on such subjects. As regard the experimental and biological parts, the proposal was made under two heads - routine and research. Under routine comes the standardisation of the meteorological and physical data collected at experimental farms. Under research the proposal aimed at selecting and standardising the best methods for the measurement of radiation, evaporation, soil temperature and so on. Soil temperature, ultra-violet radiation and other kinds of radiation, the amount and quality of sunlight, the temperature of the leaves, and stems of the plants, the wind forces on the plants are all, as one can readily conceive, phenomena which a research worker may want to know when correlating the results obtained on experimental farms.

Financial Aspect. - The aim is to be able to specify the

local weather and climate of each crop, or, as some modern workers now call it, the micro-climate of each crop. The employment of two agricultural meteorologists and subordinate staff is contemplated for a period, primarily, of five years, involving an annual recurring expenditure of about Rs.40,000. The proposal was placed before the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research who agreed to give the grant that was required. It is intended that the officers when appointed should be in constant touch with agriculturists and meteorologists and be able to give advice in course of time to agriculturists about meteorology and to the meteorological department about types of forecasting that could profitably be undertaken on behalf of agriculture.

(The Times of India, 15-12-31).

Maritime Affairs.

Opening of Indian Sailors' Home, Bombay.

Reference was made at page 54 of the report of this Office for January 1931 to the laying of the foundation stone of the Indian Sailors' Home, Bombay, on 14-1-31 by the Governor of Bombay. The building which has been completed now was opened by Sir Frederick Sykes, the Governor of Bombay, on 16-12-31. The following information about the objects of the Seamen's Home, the class of sailors which it is intended to cater for, and the financial arrangements made for the working expenses of the Home is taken from the speech delivered by Mr. W.R.S. Sharpe, Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust, on the occasion of the opening of the Home:-

Objects of the Home. - The total floor area is nearly 17,000 square feet and the building will provide accommodation for 400 ~~and~~ to 500 visitors. The floating population of Indian seamen in the Port of Bombay is estimated to average about 5,000; about 75 per cent are Mahomedans, 20 per cent Goanese and the remainder Hindus. The Goanese possess their own clubs with adequate living accommodation; the Hindu and Mahomedan deck-crews are recruited mostly from the coastal districts of the Presidency and generally proceed to their homes immediately ^{after} being paid off, not returning to Bombay until they are required to join up again. They have their own particular ^{chawls} and rooms reserved for temporary residence, when passing through Bombay. It is the Mahomedan engine-room and stoke-hold crews recruited in distant parts of India who are most in need of housing accommodation. These men, - Pathans, Peshawaris and Pubjabis, - form a large proportion of the floating seafaring population and there are often from 800 to 1,000 of them in Bombay waiting their turn for employment and living mostly in the Nagpada district under deplorably squalid and insanitary conditions. The chief object of this Home, - though it will of course be open to Indian seamen of all castes and creeds, - is to ameliorate the living conditions of these particular classes who are forced to remain in Bombay for lengthy periods and for whom nothing in the shape of social welfare has yet been attempted.

Management and Finances. - The original estimated cost of the building was Rs. 312,000; the final revised estimate is Rs. 269,000. As regards the future management of the Home, the Committee responsible for its construction will hand over to a

representative Committee of Management appointed by the Government of India. This Committee, which includes representatives of the Government of India, the Government of Bombay, the Port Trust, the Bombay and Indian Merchants' Chambers, the National Seamen's Union, the Royal Bombay Seamen's Society and the Shipping Master, will also undertake social welfare work among those who make use of the Home. As regards the working cost, the balance available from the capital investments will be about Rs.75,000 of 5 per cent. Government of India Bonds. The Government of India has undertaken to contribute Rs. 10,000 annually and the Bombay Port Trust Rs.5,000 annually. These sums will yield an income of over Rs.1,500 a month which, together with any small charges levied for the accommodation provided, should be sufficient to cover the working expenses without the necessity of appealing to public charity. Financially, therefore, the institution starts its career under very favourable conditions.

(The Times of India, 18-12-31).

Recruitment of Seamen in Bombay:

Employers insist on Right of Selection.

References have been made at page 81 of the July 1931 report and page 71 of the August 1931 report of this Office to the demand made by the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay, of the various shipping companies in the city, that, with a view to to alleviate unemployment among Indian Seamen, shipping companies should change crews every year and give a chance to seamen on the unemployed list by engaging them. It was also mentioned in the July 1931 report that, while several shipping companies agreed to the Union's demand, the British India Steam Navigation Company refused to do so and that as a result the Union had started picketing at the gate of the office of the Company. The differences between shipping firms and the Union have been accentuated in the intervening period. The following Note on the

subject of Recruitment of Seamen in Bombay published in the printed Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during November 1931 sets forth the views of shipping companies which claim the right to select their own saloon crew:-

Recruitment of Seamen in Bombay.

Representations were received recently by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce from certain Steamship Companies employing Indian seamen in regard to the difficulty that had been experienced by them in obtaining suitable saloon crews for their passenger steamers.

Defects of Rotational Employment: Unsuitability of Recruits. - From inquiries made by the Committee it appeared that there was undoubtedly, at the moment, a certain amount of unemployment among seamen, but the existing state of affairs had to a great extent been brought about by the increased number of men who were desirous of taking up a seafaring life, the number being far in excess of the demand. This applied particularly to the type of men employed in the Steward's Department of passenger steamers. Most of the men available for recruitment were unsuitable by reason of lack of experience in passenger steamers and the agents of the liners visiting this port had received several complaints recently in regard to the inferior service on board their steamers on this account. The National Seamen's Union of India was formed ostensibly for the purpose of relieving the unemployment which prevailed among seamen at this port, and one of the objects of the Union was to find employment for all in rotation. The Union on the 12th August last passed a resolution to the effect that Saloon, Deck and Engine-room crews should work only for a period of 12 months on one ship and then get their discharge in favour of others, with the object of distributing employment as evenly as possible. It was further resolved that any ratings seeking re-employment should in future register with the Union and take their turn, as vacancies arose in any steamer, in accordance with the Union's roster. To avoid any breach in this connection it was agreed that seamen should apply only through the Union and not through the Government Shipping Office or the Steamship Companies' Offices, as previously.

Whitley Commission's Views. - The Royal Commission on Labour in India in their report strongly condemned the system of rotational employment. On page 179 of their report they stated that "a rigid system of rotation combined with the limitation of the period of continuous employment, would mean that no seaman could hope to be employed for more than one year of every

three or four. Such a policy would make every seaman an inefficient and starved worker. It would also react unfairly on those who, by their industry and diligence, would otherwise secure reasonable continuous employment."

Need for Trained Crew. - In the past Shipping Companies in Bombay had trained crews, especially saloon crews, for their own particular requirements, and in order to maintain an efficient staff for their passenger steamers, and as far as practicable, they had distributed employment amongst their regular employees as evenly as possible. The resolution passed by the Union was, however, nothing short of dictation to the Shipping Companies in the matter of selection and recruitment of seamen, and being impracticable was not acceptable to the Companies who must retain the right of selecting their men. Deck crew, saloon stewards, bakers, butchers, pantrymen, cooks, etc., with a little experience in cargo steamers were not in any way qualified for appointment to large passenger steamers. The pilgrim trade also needed both deck and saloon crews who had considerable experience in this particular traffic. It was conceivable and in fact probable that the engagement of inexperienced men might lead to considerable trouble during pilgrim voyages. On the other hand experienced and trained ratings who had discharged themselves voluntarily from passenger steamers would be wasted on cargo vessels and, in any case, they would be very reluctant to accept employment on cargo ships at lower rates of pay than they would receive on passenger ships.

Union's Resolution Lacking in Authority. - It appeared to the Committee that the resolution passed by the Union did not represent the wishes of the very large majority of seamen and that the Union's suggestion that there was a great deal of unemployment among seamen was exaggerated. The resolution was apparently passed by men out of employment and probably at the strong instigation of the Union's officials. The Committee were informed that since the resolution was passed several crews had discharged themselves ex. steamers in Bombay on expiration of their Articles but the new ratings sent for selection by the Union, through the Government Shipping Office, had in practically every case not been out of employment for more than four months. In one instance very recently a rating was undoubtedly ~~intimidated~~ intimidated to sign off and he was replaced by a man out of employment for one day only.

Undue Pressure on Crews. - It had been reported to the Committee that the Union was rigorously picketing seamen who had been on a ship for more than a year and that many such men were intimidated into leaving their ships. The men admitted this frankly to the ship's and shore officials with whom they had to deal but they were afraid to do so before the Government Shipping Master or Police. Under these circumstances it was impossible actually to prove cases of intimidation, though they undoubtedly existed. It was also alleged that forcible detention of discharge

certificates was resorted to with a view to compelling all ratings to become members of the Union whether they cared to or not, presumably to increase the Union's funds, but this again was difficult to prove as the men were afraid to come forward.

Committee's Protest to Bombay Government: Right of Selection insisted upon. - In addressing the Government of Bombay to the above effect the Committee stated that they understood that the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay, was recognized by Government as a Trade Union. All Shipping Companies in Bombay were prepared to work with the Union in the best interests of all concerned provided constitutional and practical methods were adopted by the Union. The position, as it stood, however, was very unsatisfactory and the Committee expressed a hope that the Government of Bombay would take such steps as they might deem advisable with a view to checking the present unconstitutional methods of the Union and also preventing the Union from exceeding its authority. As already stated the Shipping Companies must have the right of selecting their own men. The Committee feared that if immediate steps were not taken by Government to protect the interests of the Shipping Companies in Bombay who have been the means of providing employment for thousands of Indian seamen the companies would be compelled in self-defence to recruit their crews from other centres and this would only add to the number of unemployed in this port.

(Extracted from the Excerpts from the
Proceedings of the Committee of the
Bombay Chamber of Commerce for November
1931.)