

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

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REPORT FOR JANUARY 1 9 3 6

N.B.-Every section of this Report may be taken out separately

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References to the I. L. O.

Communique re. items on the agenda of the 20th I.L.Conference (issued by Government of India on 30-9-1935) is published by the September and October 1935 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay.

\* \* \*  
The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce during November 1935 publishes the substance of a communique issued by the Government of India on 11-12-35 announcing that the question of hours of work in the textile industry is one of the items on the agenda of the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*  
The Leader dated 8-1-1936, the Hindu dated 9-1-1936 and the Servant of India dated 16-1-1936 publish a statement issued by Mr. N.M.Joshi on 4-1-1936 on his work at the last meeting of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. and at the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference.

\* \* \*  
The Servant of India dated 9-1-1936 publishes a review of the work of the Preparatory Maritime Conference of 1935 sent from Geneva by Mr. H.C.E.Zacharias.

\* \* \* *publishes a*  
The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 24-1-1936 ~~of a~~ letter dated 6-1-1936 from the paper's Geneva correspondent, reviewing the activities of the I.L.O. during 1935.

\* \* \*  
The Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 21-1-1936, the National Call, Times of India and the Leader dated 22-1-1936, and ~~the~~ Indian Finance dated 25-1-1936 publish a news-item to the effect that the Government of India will move resolutions recommending the non-ratification of the Draft Conventions re. reduction of hours in glass-bottle works and general reduction of hours

to 40 per week.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 30-1-1936 publishes a message from the Special Correspondent of the Paper to the effect that there will be an important debate in the forthcoming session of the Legislative Assembly on the I.L.Convention re. the 40-Hour Week. The Government has announced its decision to move non-ratification of the Convention, while Mr. W.M.Joshi intends opposing the Government resolution.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 9-1-1936 publishes the report of a meeting held under the auspices of the South Indian National Association at Madras on 8-1-1936, when Mr. V.V.Giri addressed the meeting on "The Problem of Unemployment in India". In the course of his address, Mr. Giri referred in detail to the I.L.Convention of 1919 re. unemployment and deplored the fact that, in spite of the Convention having been ratified by the Government of India, no steps have up to now been taken to implement it.

\* \* \*

The September and October 1935 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a report of the second annual conference of the E.I.Railway Workers held at Dhanbad. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, in the course of his presidential address, observed that even under fascist rule there was greater consideration for the worker than in India, where the Government continued to ignore and defy the decisions of the International Labour Conference, and the recommendations of the Indian Labour Commission.

\* \* \*

Geneva Communique re. unemployment among professional workers (forwarded by this Office on 30-11-1935) is published in Federated India, Madras, dated 8-1-1936 (vide Encl.No.1 of H.4/58/36 dated 16-1-1936).

\* \* \*

The Servant of India, Poona, dated 9-1-1936 ~~and~~ publishes an editorial note under the heading: "India and the League". The article quotes the following opinion given by Babu Rajendra Prasad, the President of the Indian National Congress, on the subject of submitting India's case for self-government to the League of Nations for arbitration and decision:

"The League makes no distinction between a State which has a representative government and a State which has an autocratic government. It deals with the State and not with the people of the State. We all know that India was made a member of the League to give an additional vote to England in the affairs of the League and not because she is a sovereign State".

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 9-1-1936, the Times of India dated 10-1-36 and the National Call dated 11-1-1936 publish a news item to the effect that Dr. Khare will propose in the coming session of the Legislative Assembly the submission of disputes regarding rights of citizenship and ownership of land between Indian residents in South Africa and the South African Government to the League of Nations for settlement.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 21-1-1936 publishes a short editorial note on the resolution which Mr. Akhil Chandra Dutta intends moving at the forthcoming session of the Legislative Assembly recommending India's withdrawal from the League. The note observes that this proposal is untimely since "the League today is at last making some sort of a stand to prevent unprovoked aggression by collective action". India's opportunity for withdrawal will come, according to the note, if and when the League fails in its task of preventing aggressive wars.

\* \* \*

Communique re. world unemployment situation (issued by this Office on 25-1-1936) is published by the following: the Statesman dated 26-1-36, the Hindustan Times dated 26-1-1936 and the National Call dated 27-1-1936 (vide Encl. Nos. 1 to 3 of H.4/135/36 dated 30-1-1936).

\* \* \*

Communique on the I.L.O. publication: "Problems of Vocational Guidance" (issued by this Office on 29-1-1936) is published in the Hindustan Times dated 30-1-1936 (vide Enc. No. 4 of H.4/135/36).

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 10-1-1936 publishes a long editorial article commenting on Dr. Heinz Krause's article on "Some Aspects of the Problem of the Industrial Worker on the Land" published in the International Labour Review of December 1935.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 4-1-1936 publishes an editorial article under the heading: "Trade Union Unity". The article explains the fundamental points on which the All India Trades Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation differ in their views and in this connection the differences of opinion regarding sending of labour delegations to Geneva are dealt with. The article also pays a tribute to the I.L.O.'s contribution to the betterment of labour conditions throughout the world.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 9-1-1936 publishes an editorial article on the First Report (Perennial Factories) on "General Wage Census" issued by the Bombay Labour Office. Reference is made in the article to portions in the report dealing with the subject of leave with pay for workers and in this connection mention is made of the fact that the subject is included in the agenda of the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 10-1-1936 publishes a "London Letter" dated 27-12-1935 from the paper's London Correspondent. In the course of the "Letter" reference is made to the programme of the Lecture Conference organised by the League of Nations Union at London to be held in February 1936. Several items on the programme have reference to the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 7-1-1936 publishes a short report of the Madras Provincial Agricultural Labour Conference held at Srirangam on 5-1-1936. One of the resolutions adopted by the Conference recommended the nomination of Messrs. V.Ramadoss Pantulu and K.R. Avadhani as Indian labour delegate and adviser respectively to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Department of Industries and Labour with the Government of India have recently issued the Report of the Government delegates to the 19th I.L.Conference as Bulletin No.55 in the Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour Series (A copy of the publication has been sent to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/93/36 dated 23-1-1936).

\* \* \*

No items from the I.L.O.News Bulletin were published during the month in any of the Indian newspapers and periodicals received in this Office.

\* \* \*

The following message having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from a Geneva press correspondent was published in the Indian press during January 1936. (No messages relating to the I.L.O. emanating from Reuter or other European press agencies were published in the Indian press during the month).

1. Mr. H.C.E.Zacharia's review of the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference.

Workmen's Compensation for Occupational Diseases:

Views of Bombay Chamber of Commerce. +

Reference was made at page 11 of our August 1935 report to the views expressed by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce on the question of Workmen's Compensation for occupational diseases. The Chamber has recently expressed further views on the subject in the Excerpts from the Proceedings of its Committee during December 1935. The note says that in November 1935 the attention of the Committee was drawn by certain insurance members of the Chamber to the fact that as silicosis was of very gradual onset and as it could be contracted in diverse processes it had been decided in England to make provision for cases where death or disablement was caused by silicosis contracted during employment, by means of a special scheme quite distinct from the scheduled diseases under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Committee were informed that unlike the majority of industrial diseases silicosis seemed to be more widespread than was ever imagined, and whereas statistics might be produced, as they were in England, to show that few cases of occupational silicosis were known, except in the metal grinding industry where the incidence of the disease was known to be severe, it was found that when benevolent legislation was introduced and disablement qualified for the payment of compensation, large numbers of men who were labouring under physical disability as the result of silicosis, at once became pensioners. It appeared that the tendency in England was to extend the scope of the scheme from one industry to another and it already applied to metal grinding, the

~~the~~ refractory industries, the sandstone industry, hematite iron ore-getting and other various industries in which silica is handled. Even now, however, there was no assurance that further extension were not imminent and there were demands that silicosis should be recognised as a vocational disease amongst iron and steel workers.

In addressing the Commissioner of Labour on the above lines the Committee submitted a note giving a summary of the special legislation that obtained in Great Britain dealing with compensation to sufferers from silicosis. From this it appeared that in Great Britain the special rules were contemplated as soon as silicosis was admitted on the schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Act and that such rules were prepared later and were being enforced. The Committee asked the Commissioner to inform them of the terms in which the Government of Bombay had replied to the Government of India's letter and in particular whether the local Government had suggested any special conditions to be attached to the scheduling of this disease. +

National Labour LegislationMaternity Benefits for Women Workers in PerennialFactories in Bengal: Government Proposal for Legislation : +

It is understood that the Government of Bengal have recently sent a circular letter to industrial interests to elicit their views on the question of passing legislation in the province for the grant of Maternity Benefits to women factory workers. The Government have explained that the question of legislation in Bengal on the lines suggested by the Royal Commission on Labour was examined by the Local Government in 1932-33, but action was deferred as it was thought that, in view of the severe depression in trade, the time was inopportune for throwing an additional burden on industry. With the improvement in trade during the past year or two, this question has again been taken up by the Local Government who are of the opinion that it is prima facie a reproach to the province that its labour legislation should lag behind that of Bombay, the Central Provinces and Madras, and who feel that it is open to question whether trade depression constitutes any longer a valid ground for postponing legislation. The provisional view of the Local Government is that legislation should now be undertaken with a view to ~~mak~~ make compulsory maternity benefits for women employed in perennial factories in Bengal.

(The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce during Nov. 1935). +



Amendment to C.P. Factories Rules, 1935. +

Attention is directed to page 15 of Part III of the Central Provinces Gazette, dated 10-1-1936 where certain amendments to the schedule under rule 74 of the Central Provinces Factories Rules, 1935, are published.

Amendment to Bombay Rules made Under Indian Mines Act. +

Attention is directed to pages 1-4 of Part IV-A of the Bombay Government Gazette, dated 2-1-1936 where certain draft amendments to the rules under the Indian Mines Act, published in Bombay Government Notification in the Revenue Department No. 10029 dated 6-9-1934, are published.

Conditions of Work on Indian Railways, 1934-35\* +

As in previous years, the Railway Board's annual Report on Indian Railways for the year 1934-35 is published in two volumes. Volume I reviews the general administration, financial results of the working of railways, important developments occurring during the year, and various aspects connected with railway management and operation. Volume II is a compilation of financial and statistical summaries and statements covering the main heads of the capital and revenue accounts and exhibiting statistics connected with the various aspects of railway working.

Earning of Railways.— For the greater part of the year, Railways continued the improvement begun <sup>on</sup> the previous year. In the last two months, however, this progress was arrested; and, what is worse, the setback has continued in the first few months of the current financial year. Gross receipts of State-owned Railways for 1934-35 amounted to Rs. 902.0 million, or Rs. 35 millions better than in the previous year. The net loss from the working of the State-owned Railways decreased from Rs. ~~62.2~~ <sup>62.2</sup> millions to Rs. 41.2 millions. <sup>Rs 50.4 million</sup>  
~~only Rs. 50.377~~ was contributed to the general revenues. The earnings from passenger traffic on all railways, both State-owned and Company-owned, increased from Rs. 301.1 millions to Rs. 303.5 millions, while the earnings from goods carried increased from Rs. 596.7 millions to Rs. 624 millions.

The total earnings of all railways, including those with which the Government of India are not directly concerned, amounted to

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\* Government of India Railway Department (Railway Board) - Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1934-35 - Vol. I. - Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1936. - pp. 126.

Rs. 1028.1 millions, of which Rs. 643.5 millions or 62.6 per cent were from goods traffic, Rs. 303.5 millions or 29.5 per cent from passenger traffic and Rs. 81.1 millions or 7.9 per cent from parcels, luggage and other miscellaneous items.

Number of Staff.— The total number of employees on all Indian Railways and in the office of the Railway Board and other offices subordinate thereto (excluding staff employed on construction) at the end of the year 1934-35 was 705,087 as compared with 701,436 at the end of 1933-34. The total route mileage at the end of the year was 43,021. The following table shows the number of employees by communities on the 31st March 1934 and 1935. A similar statement showing details by railways is given as Appendix C of Volume II of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1934-35.

Indians.						
	Europeans.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Anglo-Indians & domiciled Europeans.	Other Classes.	Total
						Grand Total.
3-1934.	3,906	497,667*	151,636*	12,841*	35,482	697,530*
3.1935.	3,521	499,968	152,276	13,438	35,884	701,566
						705,087

\* Represents revised figures due to minor corrections made in the figures published last year.

Cost of Staff. — The total number of staff on open line on 31st March 1935 was more by 2,720 than on 31st March 1934 and on construction by 632, while the staff on loan from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service was less by 3. The increase in the total cost of staff including staff on loan from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service during the year 1934-35 as compared with the preceding year was Rs. 788,214, the cost of this year being Rs. 352,242,253.

Recruitment: Indianisation. (1) State-owned Railways.— During the year under review 59 appointments were made in the gazetted ranks, of whom 31 were Europeans, and 28 Indians. Of the 28 Indians, 8 were Hindus, 4 Muslims and 7 Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans.

Company-Managed Railways.— During the year under review the total number of appointments made in the superior service on Company-managed Railways was 31 of which, 12 went to Europeans and 19 to Indians, of whom 9 were Hindus, 4 Muslims, 3 Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans, 2 Indian Christians and 1 of other classes. The net total number of vacancies filled, permanent or temporary, was

39 of which 13 went to Europeans. The total actual appointments filled by Indians were 26, of which 14 were Hindus, 5 Muslims, 3 Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans, 3 Indian Christians and 1 of other classes. The ratio of Indian to European recruitment was 61.5 to 38.7 in respect of permanent appointments and 66.7 to 33.3 in respect of all appointments, whether permanent or temporary.

Review of Progress Since 1925.— The Indian element in the superior services has risen from 28.02 per cent on State-managed and 17.74 per cent on Company-managed Railways in 1925 to 42.57 per cent on State-managed and 35.83 per cent on Company-managed Railways in 1935.

Representation of Minority Communities in Railway Services.— Orders were issued in July 1934 by the Government of India, with the approval of the Secretary of State, reserving in the superior services 25 per cent of all vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment for Muslims and  $8\frac{1}{3}$  per cent for other minority communities, namely, Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Parsis, provided candidates of these communities possessing the minimum qualifications prescribed were available. In accordance with these orders, regulations for recruitment to the superior State railway services in India have been modified so as to provide for the reservation of 25 per cent vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment for Muslims and  $8\frac{1}{3}$  per cent for other minorities, and Company-managed Railways (except His Exalted Highness the Nizam's and Jodhpur Railways) have been asked to adopt these percentages in superior services recruitment on their railways. In the subordinate railway services, it was decided that 25 per cent of all vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment on Class I Railways as a whole (excluding the Burma, His Exalted Highness the Nizam's and Jodhpur Railways) should be reserved for Muslims, 8 per cent for Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans, and 6 per cent for other minority communities, provided candidates possessing the minimum qualifications necessary were available from these communities. And in order that difficulty in the application of these orders should be minimised as far as possible, it was decided at the same time to fix separate percentages on different railways, taking into consideration so far as Muslims were concerned, their population ratio in the area served by a railway and in the case of Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans and other minority communities ~~for~~ their existing percentages on each railway, in such a manner that on Class I Railways taken together Muslims would secure 25 per cent, Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans 8 per cent and other minority communities 6 per cent of vacancies, in future direct recruitment.

Improvement in the Service Conditions of the Staff: Hours of Employment Regulations.— The Hours of Employment Regulations have already been given statutory effect on four of the State-managed Railways, viz., North Western, Eastern Bengal, East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways. The question of extending the application of these Regulations to the Burma and Company-managed Railways continued to engage the attention of the Railway

Board during the period under review with particular reference to their application to the Madras and Southern Mahratta and Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways in the light of certain estimates received from those railways. It was decided to give statutory effect to the Hours of Employment Regulations on these two Railways from the 1st November 1935. With the extension of the Hours of Employment Regulations referred to above, six railway systems employing about 71 per cent of railway workers in India would by the 1st November, 1935 have been brought within the scope of these regulations.

Welfare Work.-(1) Education of Employees' Children.- During 1932-33 an officer was appointed to estimate the cost of introduction certain new rules for the grant of assistance to railway employees towards the education of their children. His report as regards certain railways and certain suggestions connected with the grant of educational facilities put forward by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation held in November 1933, were under consideration of the Railway Board and the Government of India. The Government of India have arrived at certain conclusions on the recommendations contained in the reports submitted by the officer on special duty and on the suggestions of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. Before orders are actually issued giving effect to these conclusions, it is proposed to discuss the matter at a meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways.

(ii) Staff Benefit Fund.- The Staff Benefit Funds established on State-managed Railways continued to function during the period under review and from the reports received from railways it was found that these funds continued to play a prominent part in providing certain amenities and affording certain forms of relief to subordinate and lower paid staff on Railways.

Recommendations of the Whitley Commission.- The recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour concerning railways continued to engage the attention of the Railway Board during the period under review. Orders were issued by the Railway Board to the Agents of State-managed Railways, with an invitation to Agents of Company-managed Railways to follow a similar procedure, in respect of certain recommendations of the Commission of minor importance, particularly those relating to leave rules, the raising and recovery of debts, indebtedness, health and welfare of the industrial workers. Other recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour of major importance, viz., those relating to the establishment of a Joint Standing Machinery for the settlement of disputes on railways and other cognate matters such as grant of facilities to recognised Unions, etc., continued to receive attention though final decisions were not reached during the period under review.

Restoration of Cuts in Salary.- In the last year's report, it was mentioned that the emergency reduction in pay, not exceeding 5 per cent, would continue during the year 1934-35 in respect of all Government servants including those of the Railway Department. During the year under review it was decided that the cut in the salaries of Government servants would not be reimposed after the 31-3-1935. (The Report of the Railway Board for 1933-34 was reviewed at pages 28-32 of our January 1935 report).

Wage Census of Perennial Factories in Bombay:Labour Office Report\*.

The lack of accurate and reliable statistics regarding industrial wages in India has been adversely commented upon and regretted by almost every Commission and Committee appointed in India since the beginning of the century. The Royal Commission on Labour in India deplored the paucity of information regarding rates of wages and earnings in Indian industries throughout their report and considered frequent enquiries into wages in various industries so necessary that they recommended that provision should be made in the Indian Factories Act for the compulsory supply of information regarding wages. The Government of Bombay were of opinion that the necessary prelude to the consideration of the Royal Commission's proposals regarding statutory minimum wages was the collection of full, accurate and up-to-date statistics of wage rates and earnings in as many industries as possible. The Labour Office, Bombay, therefore, approached the Bombay Engineering Employers' Federation and the Bombay and the Ahmedabad Millowners' Associations with proposals for instituting a general wage census which would cover as many trades and industries as possible. Representative labour leaders were also consulted on the subject. The programme outlined by the Labour Office is to cover all factories — both perennial and seasonal—; railways and road transport, docks, shops, hotels, hospitals, municipalities, banks, Government and commercial offices over a period of two to three years. The

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\* Labour Office Government of Bombay - General Wage Census - Part I Perennial Factories - First Report. - Report on Wages, Hours of Work and Conditions of Employment in the Engineering Industry in the Bombay Presidency (excluding Sind) May 1934.- Published by order of the Governor in Council. -Bombay: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery. 1935. -Price Annas 9 or 1ld. -pp.179

experience of the first part of the census, however, shows that this programme—if carried out in its entirety—is likely to be prolonged well beyond this period. A small enquiry covering workers in building trades in Bombay City has already been conducted and the results were published in the August 1935 issue of the labour gazette. A fairly comprehensive enquiry on a ~~xxx~~ sample ~~xxx~~ basis covering wages and hours of work in shops in Bombay is in progress and it is more than probable that the part of the census relating to seasonal factories will be conducted in the forthcoming winter and spring. The Labour Office has now published a report on wages, hours of work and conditions of employment in the engineering industry in the Presidency (excluding Sind). Salient features of the Report are given below:

Scope of the Report.— This report covers two large groups of workpeople: (1) all persons in all occupations in the 221 perennial factories in the Bombay Presidency proper which have been classified under the engineering industry; and (2) all workpeople in engineering occupations and in occupations ~~and in occupations~~ common to all factories who come from the remaining 471 non-engineering perennial factories covered by the general wage census in the Presidency. The total number of operatives covered by this report is 75,566 of whom 46,726 belong to the engineering industry and 28,840 to non-engineering concerns. Of these 75,566, 72,258 are men, 3,271 women and 37 children.

Details of Engineering Factories.— The 221 engineering factories comprise 44 railway and tramway workshops, 20 general engineering concerns, 19 motor vehicle assembling and repairing plants, 18 metalware factories, 15 gasliquid fuel, water pumping and refrigerating plants, 14 electricity generating and engineering concerns, 13 saw-milling and machine wood working plants, 11 stone crushing factories, ~~none~~ foundries, four shipbuilding and repairing yards and 54 others. The 44 railway and tramway workshops account for over 46 per cent of the workpeople employed in the engineering industry. The next largest category from the point of view of employment is shipbuilding and repairing which employs 11.42 per cent of workpeople.

Recruitment of Workers.— Unlike the cotton textile industry in the Bombay Presidency where labour is generally, if not always,

recruited through jobbers, there is a wide diversity in the methods of recruitment employed in the engineering industry. This is due to the higher degree of skill and efficiency required from individual workmen especially among the more skilled occupations. Trade tests and a period of probation are almost invariably insisted upon; but, in many of the larger concerns, particularly railways, suitable recruits are engaged as apprentices in different "trades" and are promoted to the status of "full workmen" on the completion of varying periods of training.

The total number of workpeople whose names were struck off the muster rolls of 221 engineering factories in the Bombay Presidency proper during the month of May 1934 amounted to 544, which gives a monthly labour turnover figure of 1.1 per cent for the 48,271 workpeople returned in the questionnaires as borne on the muster rolls of these 221 concerns. Unlike the textile industry, the engineering industry does not employ substitutes in place of permanent workers who may be temporarily absent; and, where substitution is resorted to, this is done mostly in the semi-skilled and unskilled occupations.

Payment of Wages.- The report refers to the lack of any standardisation of wages or agreed wage rates in the industries of the Bombay Presidency and the difficulty of arriving at any general idea of the method of wage payment owing to the existence of a bewildering complexity in the methods adopted in the calculation of earning from rates, other than hourly rates. The general tendency in the engineering industry, unlike the textile industry, is towards giving a consolidated pay rather than to give separate allowances. There are, however, a few exceptions in which allowances such as a house-rent allowance, a bad climate allowance, or a food-grain allowance are given. Nor is the payment of a bonus a general feature of the industry although here again there are certain exceptions. The monthly system of wage payment seems to be almost universal in the engineering industry of the Presidency as no fewer than about 97 per cent are paid on the monthly basis. The English calendar month is the period of wage payment in 89 per cent of the concerns, three concerns adopt the Hindus' calendar month, five pay wages bi-monthly, four weekly and two daily, while in one factory there is no fixed wage period.

The report gives details regarding the various methods adopted for wage calculation and points out that these are of an exceedingly complex character. Out of the 221 engineering concerns in the Presidency, only seven have adopted the hourly rate system and 85 the daily rate system. Much confusion arises in the interpretation of the term 'working day' where Saturday is a short working day and also as regards the calculation of wages for Sunday and holidays.

System of Fining.- Over 57 per cent of the engineering concerns in the Bombay Presidency, employing 28.30 per cent of the total labour force, do not resort to fining. Ninety-four concerns,



including all Government, railway, municipal and public bodies and public utility factories, employing over 71 per cent of the total number, inflict fines on their workpeople. The incidence of fines is however small.

Superannuation Benefits.- The engineering industry is far in advance of other industries in the Bombay Presidency in the provision which it makes for superannuation benefits and financial aid for its workpeople. Superannuation benefit schemes may be divided into two main types: (1) contributory and non-contributory provident funds; and (2) pensions and retirement gratuities. Provident funds are contributory when both the employed person and the employer subscribe to them. They are non-contributory when the employed persons alone subscribe to them.

Shifts and Hours of Work.- Out of the 221 factories in the Bombay Presidency which have been included in the "Engineering Industry" group, 183 or nearly 83 per cent work only one shift per day. Of the remaining 38 factories five work double shifts and fifteen others work three shifts per day. In 17 concerns only those workmen who are on continuous processes are divided into three shifts.

Nearly 60 per cent of the total number of workpeople employed in the engineering industry work a 48-hour week. 7,292 workers or a little over 15 per cent work for less than 48 hours; 5,125 or 10.61 per cent work between 48 and 54 hours per week; 3,365 or 6.97 per cent have a 54-hour week; and, the remaining 3,964 or 8.20 per cent work between 54 and 60 hours a week. It may, however, be pointed out that the weekly hours of work of the last group of 3,964 workpeople will have been reduced to 54 hours per week as a result of the new Factories Act which came into operation with effect from the 1st January 1935.

Leave with Pay. - The Report refers to the discussion in the 19th I.L. Conference on the subject of holidays with pay and says that holidays with pay for non-Government factory workers are almost unknown in India except in the case of the engineering industry in which, because of the inclusion of the railways, Government, municipal and other factories owned by public bodies, the privilege of leave with pay is enjoyed by a considerable proportion of the workers engaged in the industry. The leave rules vary considerably according to whether the factory is owned by a railway, by Government or other public bodies.\*

Mr. Bakhale's Shops Bill Inadvisable:Bombay Municipal Commissioner's Views. +

The following is a summary of the views on Mr. R.R. Bakhale's Shops Bill, expressed by ~~the~~ Mr. I.H. Taunton, Municipal Commissioner, Bombay City, in a letter addressed by him to the Bombay Municipality, advising it not to lend its support to the Bill:-

High Cost of Enforcement.- On this point the Commissioner writes "The Bill has no doubt been put forth in the interests of the health of the younger generation, However, as its provisions are (by clause 21) to be enforced by local bodies, this municipality will be required to undertake the work in this city, the cost of which is estimated at not less than Rs. 14,000 per annum for the minimum number of inspectors that would be necessary. Against this, there would be an uncertain revenue from fines which might quite well prove to be negligible."

Other Objections.- The Commissioner then mentions other objections to the bill. If the measure is enforced there will be vexatious interference with shopkeepers' business by inspectors. Secondly, the early closing of shops will cause inconvenience to the public. The provisions regarding compulsory holidays are so complicated that evasion seem to be easily possible. The limitation of hours of employment and the age of children to be employed will mean that those who would otherwise be doing fairly light work will merely loaf about the streets and get into mischief. In the absence of compulsory education, such enforced leisure will do more harm than good. Generally, the restrictions in the bill will reduce the earnings of the employees as well as the income of the shopkeepers.

(The Times of India, 9-1-1936) +

Madras Labour Department and the  
Depressed Classes, 1934-35.\* +

The following details regarding the work of the Madras Labour Department for the uplift of the Depressed Classes are taken from the Administration Report for 1934-35 submitted to the Government of Madras by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras. The Collectors of districts continued to be the responsible officers in the mofussil charged with the work for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes, with the Commissioner of Labour as the co-ordinating officer to ensure that sustained and well-directed efforts are being made for the betterment of the depressed classes. The ameliorative work for the depressed classes was carried out as usual under the following heads:-

- (1) Provision of house-sites.
- (2) Opening of schools, granting of scholarships, stipends, boarding grants, etc.
- (3) Provision of wells, tanks, etc, for the supply of drinking water.
- (4) Provision of sanitary amenities, such as pathways, burial grounds, etc.
- (5) Assignment of land for cultivation.

House-Sites.- House-sites for depressed classes are provided by the following two methods:- (a) Waste or poreamboke lands at the disposal of Government are assigned free of cost to needy persons among the depressed classes. (b) Private land is acquired and allotted in convenient plots to the depressed classes for the construction of houses where land at the disposal of Government is not available. The cost of acquisition is recoverable in instalments spread

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\* Government of Madras Public Works and Labour Department -G.O.No. 2507 L., 20th November 1935 - Labour Department - Administration Report, 1934-35. pp.43

over a number of years. During the year, an extent of 180.985 acres providing 1,465 house-sites was assigned under the first of the two methods mentioned above, bringing the total number of house-sites assigned <sup>by</sup> the method of free assignment to 35,169 up to the end of the year under report. No acquisition of land for house-site purposes was undertaken during the year.

Education.- The educational work on behalf of the depressed classes proceeded on the usual lines and consisted of:- (1) the maintenance of separate schools for the depressed classes; (2) the provision of scholarships and boarding grants for students of the depressed classes; (3) the grant of stipends for the training of teachers; (4) the maintenance of free hostels at important centres for the benefit of the students of the depressed classes; and (5) the grant of financial help to private associations and bodies engaged in the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes by maintaining schools, hostels, etc., for their benefit. Owing to paucity of funds, very few additional schools could be started in the year. There were 981 schools at the beginning of the year. 48 schools were started and 23 schools were closed during the year with the result that 1,006 schools remained at the close of the year. Of these, 991 were day schools, 14 were night schools and 1 school was a combined day and night school. 38,471 pupils, comprising 30,555 boys and 7,916 girls, were studying in these schools. These schools employed 1,298 teachers, of whom 1,294 or 99.7 per cent were trained teachers. A good number of scholarships and stipends for depressed class students were sanctioned by the Government.

(The working of the Labour Department for the uplift of the Depressed classes during 1933-34 was reviewed at pages 34-36 of our January 1935 report). +

Hyderabad Bhagela Agreement Regulations, 1936:

Nizam Prohibits Surviving form of Forced Labour. +

A communique issued on 2-2-36 by the Nizam's Government states that orders were issued 10 years ago to abolish the forced labour system, known as Begari, and also to regulate the right and duties of Balutdars and Sethsendhis. Subsequently, at the instance of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva, the Government of India invited the urgent attention of the Nizam's Government to the prevalence of the system known as Baghela in some Telangana districts in this State, as they considered that this form of labour contract was in effect a sort of forced labour.

The Baghela System.- Under this system, agricultural labourers who are not necessarily members of Depressed Classes borrow loans on the occasion of functions like marriage from big land-holders, subject to the condition that they will work for the creditor either for a specified or unspecified period till the loan is repaid. It often becomes necessary for such labourers to borrow additional loans before the previous loans are liquidated, with the result, that with their small wages ranging from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per mensem, it becomes impossible for them to liquidate the loan. As a result they have to serve their master for the whole of their life-time. Contracts of indentures are also sometimes drawn so that if the borrower does not carry out the terms of the debt, the debt descends upon his heirs.

Prohibitory Regulation issued.- A conference of Revenue Commissioners and Collectors was called to consider this question and ~~an~~ after further consideration and inquiries the Revenue Department came to the conclusion that, although the Bhagela system

does not prevail everywhere or even extensively in the State, it was yet desirable to legislate to the extent of regulating strictly the assistance that can be obtained from courts to enforce such contracts. ~~and of limiting the period in order that such agreements shall have validity.~~ In consultation, therefore, with the Legal Adviser, draft regulations known as the Hyderabad Bhagela Agreements Regulations have been prepared. These regulations apply throughout the State and have recently been sanctioned by a firman of the Nizam.

Bill to be Introduced later.- ~~MM~~ Ultimately, when further experience of local requirements has been obtained, it is proposed to place a Bill before the Legislative Council for an enactment on the lines of the Bihar and Orissa Act VIII of 1920.

(The Times of India, 4-2-36). +

Hours of Work in the Bombay Docks:Views of Bombay Chamber of Commerce. +

According to the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during December 1935, in October 1935 the Manager of the Bombay Port Trust Docks asked for the views of the Chamber on a proposal which had been received by the Chairman of the Port Trust that the working hours of the Port be reduced from the existing nine hours (8-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. and 1-30 p.m. to 3 p.m.) to eight hours, by cutting off half an hour at the beginning and end of the day.

After considering the question in consultation with the various Sub-Committees of the Chamber, the Committee informed the Docks Manager that the members of these Sub-Committees were unanimously against the proposal, as they felt that any shortening of the hours of work in the Docks could only have the effect of increasing the expenses of this port, and would tend to add to the difficulty already experienced in competing with other ports on the West Coast of India. As it was, certain members of the Chamber were complaining of the high shipping charges in Bombay as compared with those in force in other ports, and evidence was not lacking that these high charges were already drawing trade away from Bombay. The Committee felt that the time could hardly be less opportune for such a proposal, from every point of view, and not least because any action tending further to increase the charges of the port would undoubtedly re-act to the detriment of the Dock labourers themselves. +

24

Workers' Organisations.

Trade Union Movement in Bihar and Orissa, 1934-35.\*

Number of Registered Unions.- According to the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in Bihar and Orissa during the year ending 31-3-1935, only one Trade Union, viz., the Metal Workers' Union having its registered office at Jamshedpur, was registered during the year. No notice of dissolution of any registered Trade Union was registered under section 27(1) of the Act. Although steps for the cancellation of registration of the Golmuri Tinplate Workers' Union had already been taken as reported in the previous report, the registration of the union was actually cancelled in May 1934. The registration of the Metal Workers' Union brings the total number of registered Trade Unions existing at the end of the year to 5. No federation of unions was registered during the year.

Membership and Finance.- The total membership of the five trade unions during the year under review was 7,859 of whom 7,681 were men and 188 women. The opening balance of the 5 unions during the year was Rs. 744-8-11, income was Rs. 4,302-11-0, expenditure was Rs. 4111-9-9 and the closing balance Rs. 937-10-2.

Activities of the Unions.- No activities of Trade Unions or development of interest relating to the Trade Union movement worth mentioning were reported during the year under report.

(The Annual report on the working of the Indian Trade Union Act in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 28-29 of our November 1934 report).+

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926) in the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year ending 31st March 1935.-Supdt., Govt. Printing, Bihar and Orissa, Patna, 1935. -Price Annas 8 pies 6. - pp.3



Trade Union Movement in C.P. & Berar, 1934-35\*.

Registered Unions.- Three new unions, namely, (i) the Girni Kamgar Union, Nagpur, (ii) the Khamgaon Municipal Employees' Union, Khamgaon, and (iii) the Central Provinces and Berar District Council Employees' Association, Nagpur, were registered during the year. No union was dissolved during the period. The number of registered unions at the close of the year was 15.

Membership and Funds.-The total membership of all the unions at the beginning and end of the year stood at 8,968 and 10,260, respectively as compared with 7,305 and 8,968 in the preceding year. No political fund was maintained by any of the registered trade unions. The closing balance of the general funds of all the unions at the end of the year under report was Rs. 1,338-11-3.

Appeals.- No appeals were filed by the unions during the year under report against any decision of the Registrar.

Free Audit.- Only three unions, namely, (i) the Central Provinces and Berar Municipal Employees' Association, Nagpur, (ii) the Khamgaon Municipal Employees' Union, Khamgaon, and (iii) the Central Provinces and Berar District Council Employees' Association, Nagpur, availed themselves of the arrangement of free audit of accounts by auditors of the Co-operative Department.

(The Annual Report on the working of the Trade Unions Act in C.P. and Berar during 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 46-47 of our December 1934 report). +

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for the year ending the 31st March 1935.- Nagpur: Govt. Printing, C.P., 1935. - Price Annas five. - pp.3.

Trade Union Unity:Decision of the Working Committee of the N.T.U.F.

Acting on instructions issued by the General Committee of the National Trades Union Federation regarding the accomplishment of Trade Union Unity (vide pages 32-34 of our December 1935 report), the Working Committee of the Federation met in Delhi on 14-1-1936. The Committee had before it the proposal for further unity evolved at Bombay at an informal meeting of its Bombay members, held on 8-1-36.

The Bombay proposals were based mainly on the resolution adopted by the General Council of the Federation at its last session in Nagpur, but recommended the enlargement of the scope of the Joint Labour Board by investing it with plenary powers on definite matters, some of which were to be exercised by a majority vote and others only on the basis of common or joint consent by both the groups. It was suggested that on all industrial matters, except the question of strikes, the plenary powers should be exercised by a majority vote, while on all political issues and the question of strikes they should be exercised only by common or joint consent. Further, it was suggested that the Joint Labour Board should be expanded so as to comprise the General Council of the Federation and the Executive Committee of the Trades Union Congress and that voting at these Joint Conferences on issues where plenary powers are given on a majority basis, should be according to the strength of each organisation based on paying membership.

Mr. Giri who was not present at the last session of the Federation at Nagpur, put forward certain alternative proposals to achieve the same object. Mr. Giri's alternative proposals were: (1) The Federation, as a unit, to be affiliated to the Trades Union Congress; (2) The Trades Union Congress to accept the constitution of the Trades

Union Federation 'in toto';(3) The Executive to be formed in accordance with the above mentioned constitution;(4.)No foreign affiliation so far as the Trades Union Congress is concerned;(5) The affiliation of the Federation to the Trades Union Congress to remain in force for a period of one year and to lapse automatically unless renewed;(6) All political questions and questions of strike to be decided by a three-fourths majority of the Executive; and(7) On all industrial questions the decision to be by a majority vote. x

The Working Committee decided to forward both these sets of proposals to the General Council of the National Trades Union Federation as well as to the Executive of the All India Trades Union Congress, for their consideration. The Committee was prepared, in the event of the Executive of the All-India Trades Union Congress accepting either of these sets of proposals to recommend them for acceptance by the General Council of the Trades Union Federation. +

2nd Session of All India Press Workers' Conference, 1936,  
Madras: Minimum Demands of Press Workers.

The second session of the All India Press Workers' Conference was held on 5-1-1936 at Madras, with Mr. D.K.Dhole, President of the All India Press Workers' Federation, in the chair. Besides delegates from Madras, delegates from Bombay and Calcutta attended the conference. Mr. K.R.Ramanna of Benares presided over the Conference.

Minimum Demands.- Mr. P. Rajavadivelu, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in the course of his speech pointed out that press workers in India laboured under several hardships. Their standard of living was low. The imposition of wage-cuts and fines and the system of letting out work on contract had led to the condition of press workers becoming miserable. Child labour was another great evil. The Factory

Act should be amended as not to allow children below 16 to be employed in presses. Compulsory secondary education should be introduced. The Government should provide industrial training for children who had completed the secondary education course but were not willing to study further. Unemployment should be banished from the land. In conclusion he urged that the immediate demands of the press workers in India were the fixing of a 40 hour-week and the grant of privileges in respect of leave and pension on the basis enjoyed by Government servants.

The annual report of the All-India Press Workers' Federation was presented to the conference by Mr. R.R. Pednekar. The report detailed the activities of the various Press Workers' Unions in India started before and after the Federation came into existence.

Resolutions.- (1) Amelioration of Labour Conditions.- The first resolution stated that, whereas the Indian National Congress had abandoned the struggle for independence and had taken to constitutional opposition from within, and whereas acceptance of office, though in the name of wrecking from within, amounted to working the constitution and participating in the exploitation of the masses, and such deadlocks would not take them nearer to the goal of national independence, the conference was bound to call upon anti-imperialist organisations and groups to rally round a united front programme and to form Committees of Action in towns and villages to demand, among other things, fixation of standard wages for workers according to the rates prevailing in 1927, reduction of working hours to eight in the day and six in the night, provision of maternity benefits for women workers, reduction of rents and taxes, prevention of ejection of peasant workers from lands, and the provision of unemployment relief at the rates of Rs. 8/- per head in cities and Rs. 6/- per head per month in rural parts.

(2) Need for a Workers' and Peasants' Republic.- The second resolution declared that the world was on the brink of a series of imperialist wars for the redistribution of colonies and that it was the duty of the exploited masses in every country to utilise the crisis for over-throwing the regime of the exploiters and for establishing a free Workers' and Peasants' Republic.

(The Hindu, 6-1-1936)

(Report of the 1st session of the All India Press Workers' Conference, held at Lucknow in 1934, was given at pages 58-59 of our January 1935 report). +

11th Half-Yearly Meeting Between A.I.R.F. and the  
Railway Board, New Delhi, 13 & 14-1-1936. +

The 11th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All India Railwaymen's Federation was held at New Delhi on 13 & 14-1-1936. The delegation of the All India Railwaymen's Federation was headed by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and included Mr. S.C. Joshi, Mr. R.R. Bakhle, Mr. V.V. Giri, Mr. S. Guruswami, and eight others. The Railway Board was represented by Sir Guthrie Russell, the Chief Commissioner, Mr. P.R. Rau, Financial Commissioner, and others. The Federation submitted a memorandum to the Railway Board on the more important of the items on the agenda, a summary of which is given below:

1. Hours of Employment Regulations and Intermittent Workers.-  
Under Hours of Employment Regulations, there is no provision for recording the periods of inaction every day in each hour of duty for intermittent workers. This provision is essential. The definition of "essentially intermittent" work under Subsidiary Instructions works as a hardship. The definition should provide for a formula of equating "periods of inaction" to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of "continuous" work or the formula of considering passage of 4 trains either way in a shift as equivalent to continuous work may be adopted. This was adopted on S.I. Railway.

"Essentially intermittent" workers constitute about 18 to 20 per cent of the staff where Regulations are enforced. Most of them are required to be on duty for a major part of the day. Their services are mostly "on calls". On the E.I. Railway, only 8,500 out of 13,000 intermittent workers are housed in railway quarters near their places of work. In view of <sup>the hours</sup> 364 of duty they perform in a month and as they do not get any credit for the time taken <sup>to for</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>journeys between</sup> ~~and to~~ their place of work and place of residence, railway quarters or credit for the loss of time should be given.

Overtime.- The basis of calculation of overtime under the Rules is unsatisfactory. It is submitted that all work excess of normal roster should be credited for overtime. The practice of giving compensatory "offs" for overtime worked instead of remunerating the staff is being increasingly resorted to on most of the Railways. According to the spirit of the Act, overtime work should be compensated for by payment and breach of authorised rest by suitable periods of rest.

Appointment of 'Geneva staff' as on certain divisions of E.I. Railway should be extended to all areas where the Hours of Employment Regulations are in force.

Trade Unions to have Access to Rosters.- Trade Union representatives should be given direct access to all rosters that are required to be prominently displayed under the regulations, as Unions have no means of verifying complaints from the staff regarding hours of work.

Extension of Hours of Employment Regulations.- The Hours of Employment Regulations should be extended to the N.S. Railway and the Jodhpur Railway at an early date as their financial position is not bad.

men II. Recruitment of Staff.- While more than 10,500 retrenched and 5,000 G.I.P. ex-strikers are awaiting re-employment, more than 18,000 persons without any previous railway experience have been recruited on the ground that suitable men in the waiting lists were not available. The present procedure keeps those in waiting lists ignorant of the occurrence of vacancies except such as are officially intimated to any individual. No person who was not an ex-employee <sup>should be</sup> should be recruited on a permanent basis and every vacancy kept open for two months, during which time the concerned Unions may be informed of the occurrence of vacancies to intimate ~~to~~ the men concerned ~~about~~ the same.

An Employment Bureau which meets periodically to consider the claims of the retrenched should be constituted in all railways and union representatives given access to all information about vacancies in all departments. This experiment worked successfully in the B.N. and M. and S.M. Railways wherever tried. Constitution of such Employment Exchanges would go a step forward ~~in~~ fulfilling the ~~all~~ obligations incurred by the Government of India by ratifying the Washington Unemployment Convention. A Central Exchange to co-ordinate the ~~and~~ activities of local Exchanges should be constituted. Weekly Gazettes of the Railways should publish every month statistics of vacancies under various heads.

III. Discipline and Rights of Appeal.- The new rules do not allow an employee the benefit of an enquiry for a contemplated discharge as in the case of contemplated dismissal provided in Rule 7. The procedure laid down by the Whitley Commission in respect of disciplinary actions has not been adopted.

IV. State Railway Provident Fund Rules. - The present State Railway Provident Fund Rules, according to The Railway Board, give unfettered right to an employee to ignore his family in the disposal of his assets in the Provident Fund. The Federation desires that the Act should be amended to remove all doubts and protect the rights of the family, including widow, children and other dependants, against being completely denied any share under any circumstances.

The Act permits compulsory deposits being utilised as Life Insurance premia. The Federation desires that this may be allowed.

The Board have rejected the Whitley Recommendation to permit all staff to be members of the Fund. The present Rules do not permit 'menials' whatever be their pay and in some cases, inferior staff, even from being voluntary members of the Fund. These restrictions should be removed so as to make no difference between 'menial' and 'non-menial' staff.

V. New Scales of Pay.- The official enquiries conducted by the East Indian, ~~and~~ Eastern Bengal, and <sup>Madras &</sup> Southern Mahratta and the South Indian Railways for the Whitley Commission have revealed the fact that, in regard to staff drawing less than Rs. 50 p.m., for maintaining even a very low standard of living an average railway worker's family would have to incur an expenditure of more than Rs. ~~4~~ 30 to Rs. 50 per mensem. In the circumstances introduction of new lower scales like Rs. 13, and Rs. 16 on the M. and S.M. Railway is unjustifiable. All new scales affecting low-paid staff should be suspended. The Government of India, in introducing new scales of pay for the Postal Department have accepted the principle of standard scales classifying places in India and Burma into three different categories. The Federation submits that similar standard scales should replace the present widely differing rates of different railways ~~though~~ running through same territory.

VI. Consolidation of Allowances.- For staff like crew and other ticket checking staff, ~~Engineering~~ carpenters, travelling stores delivery staff, traffic letter delivery staff, traffic relieving staff, etc. the previously drawn allowance like running allowance of relieving allowance or travelling allowance have been either withdrawn or consolidated. In consolidating allowances, the staff have been subjected to monetary loss. The Board have stated that their policy is not to reduce the emoluments of the existing staff for the same work done. The Federation submits that consolidation of allowances should not be made in respect of low paid staff and the policy regarding new scales of pay should apply to allowances also.

The following is a summary of the proceedings of the meetings taken from a communique issued by the Railway Board with the concurrence of the A.I.R.F.

In opening the proceedings, Sir Guthrie Russell, Chief Commissioner of Railways, welcomed the delegates. Before proceeding with the agenda of the meeting, the Chief Commissioner of Railways informed the Federation that some of the subjects discussed at the last meeting were still under correspondence with the Agents of Railways concerned and that the Federation would be informed of the Railway Board's decisions as soon as possible. The Chief Commissioner then referred to the fall in earnings and added that there was likely to be a deficit in the railway budget again this year and that the Railway Board were not in a position to liberalise

the existing rules or to grant more concessions to the staff, but that any cases of real hardship that the Federation could prove the Railway Board would be prepared to consider.

Hours of Employment Regulations.- As regards the points raised by the Federation in their memorandum regarding the question of Hours of Employment Regulations, the Chief Commissioner of Railways said that it was impracticable to prepare a daily record of periods of inaction of each intermittent worker on account of the cost and labour involved, but if the Federation submitted concrete cases and could prove that staff were wrongly classified as intermittent workers the Railway Board would consider them; but they could not possibly agree to allow members of Unions as such to have access to rosters.

As regards the classification of intermittent workers, the X Chief Commissioner replied that the question was actually considered at the time of the issue of the Hours of Employment Regulations and it was not found practicable to adopt equated hours. The question of examination of the classification of staff received continual attention of the Supervisor of Railway Labour and his Inspectors and the classification was changed wherever necessary.

As regards the practice of compensatory 'offs' for over-time, the Chief Commissioner of Railways pointed out that this was covered by certain provisions of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930. The Federation submitted that the rate for overtime work should be the same for continuous and intermittent work. The Chief Commissioner stated that overtime work must be paid at the hourly rate in proportion to the hours of work and that the Railway Board could not agree to the same rate being paid to continuous and intermittent workers. The Federation contended that on completing the statutory maximum of working hours both the categories of employees would be in an equal state of fatigue, but the Chief Commissioner of Railways did not agree with this contention.

On the question of providing quarters for intermittent workers or counting the time taken by them to and from their place of work and their houses as 'on duty', the Chief Commissioner replied that the present Rules explicitly lay down that the time consumed for the to and fro journeys cannot be counted as on duty and that the Railway Board cannot relax the rule. The Chief Commissioner also referred to the policy of the Board which was to give quarters to those who were required to live near their place of work, and added that it was never intended to give quarters to workshop staff.

The Chief Commissioner, replying to the question of the "Geneva Assistant Station Masters" appointed for the purposes of weekly rest, said that the criterion was whether the staff under the Hours of Employment Regulations got their weekly periods of rest or not and not the method which was adopted to give them this weekly rest. If the Federation would put up specific cases in which the provisions of the Regulations were not complied with the Supervisor of Railway Labour would be asked to look into them.



The Federation said that difficulty arose in connection with the double duty and if the staff concerned could be given a calendar day off it would help matters. In this connection they referred to paragraph 21 of the Annual Report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations by the Supervisor of Railway Labour for the year 1933-34, wherein it was stated that the progressive modification of rosters had been made so as to allow employees a calendar day's rest instead of the legal minimum of twenty-four ~~x~~ consecutive hours and this had been attended with excellent results. The Chief Commissioner of Railways agreed to a calendar day's rest being allowed to ~~the~~ staff instead of the legal twenty-four consecutive hours 'as far as possible' without incurring additional expenditure.

As regards the extension of the Hours of Employment Regulations to the N. S. and Jodhpur Railways, the Railway Board said that the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930 was not applicable to railway servants who were subjects of Indian States working on railway lands within Indian States where jurisdiction over such lands had not been ceded to the British Government; ~~but~~ where it was otherwise the Railway Board would examine the suggestion.

Retrenched Staff.- The question of recruitment of retrenched staff ~~is~~ so far as it related to State-managed Railways was next discussed. The Chief Commissioner pointed out at the outset that it was merely the Federation's inference that the obligation was not being fully carried out. He added that so far as State-managed Railways were concerned he was satisfied that the policy of the Government had been actually carried out in effect. As regards ~~the~~ Company-managed Railways, he referred to the original orders under which the Company-managed Railways were invited to follow the instructions issued for the guidance of State-managed Railways as the former under their contracts enjoyed considerable freedom in matters of administration.

The Federation also suggested that Employment Bureaus be started on the lines of those which were stated to have existed on Bengal Nagpur and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways. The Chief Commissioner of Railways said that the Railway Board could not agree to this course, nor could the Board agree to give access to representatives of unions as such to official documents. The Chief Commissioner, however, agreed that the Federation may forward to the Railways concerned names, designations and addresses of retrenched staff and also agreed to discuss this question further with Agents of State-managed Railways in March 1936.

Discipline and Rights of Appeal.- Rules regulating discipline and rights of appeal of non-gazetted railway servants, so far as they related to State-managed Railways were next taken up. The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that the new rules had been in force for a very short time and the Railway Board were not prepared to liberalise them unless it was proved, after the Rules had been in force for a reasonable time that any of them caused hardship.

He added that right of appeal to the Railway Board had been allowed in cases where an Agent passed the original orders imposing any penalty and that provision had also been made in the rules for facilities being given to the employees concerned to prepare the defence in cases other than dismissal. The Chief Commissioner of Railways also stated that the Railway Board could not possibly allow a representative of the Union as such to accompany the worker.

New Scales of Pay.- The next subject discussed was the new scales of pay for inferior staff and low paid workers so far as they related to State-managed Railways. The Chief Commissioner said that while old scales of pay were based on imported labour (recruitment overseas) the new scales of pay which were for men in their own country were reasonable remuneration for the work done. In preparing these scales the employees were given generally a somewhat higher wage than that paid by private employers in or about the same locality.

The Federation quoted from certain family budgets prepared in connection with the supplementary information required by the Royal Commission on Labour, and stated that a large percentage of workers had a continuous deficit in meeting their domestic expenditure from their wages and they were constantly in debt as a result. The Chief Commissioner of Railways replied that he was not convinced that the revised scales of pay were inadequate nor did the Railway Board accept the accuracy of the family budgets which were prepared at that time. If the Federation prepared a detailed memorandum bringing out their points and submitted it, he would consider it. The Federation agreed to submit a memorandum.

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(The Hindustan Times, 14 & 16-1-36).

2nd All India Congress Socialist Conference,  
Meerut, 1936.

The second session of the All India Congress Socialist Conference was held at Meerut on 19 & 20-1-1936 under the presidency of Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya. Mrs. Chattopadhyaya devoted the major portion of her presidential address to an exposition of the Party's relation with the Indian National Congress and expressed the opinion that the Congress, by keeping in its fold zamindars, land-owners and employers of labour and by welcoming unity with other rights and political organisation, was betraying the cause

of labour. She also expressed herself definitely against India participating in any war.

The following is a summary of the more important resolutions adopted by the Conference:-

A Socialist State - The Objective of Indian National Congress.- An important resolution moved by Swami Sampurnanand and adopted by the Conference stated that the constitution of the Indian National Congress should be amended as to include adequate representation of exploited classes, such as workers and peasants and should have as its objectives ~~the~~ complete independence, ensuring power for the producing masses (including brain workers), (2) nationalisation of key industries, mines, banks etc., (3) abolition of landlordism and Indian States and (4) cancellation of debts.

Organisation of Peasants Party.- On the motion of Mr. Mohan Lal Gautam, a resolution was passed calling Provincial branches of the Party to organise peasants in their area and to send delegates to the forthcoming (1936) Lucknow Kissan (Peasants) Conference.

Socialist Party's Election Programme.- Another resolution laid down the following as the Party's election programme:

1. Abolition of the present land revenue system and its replacement by a graduated income-tax on agricultural incomes of Rs. 500 and above.
2. Abolition of landlordship and other forms of intermediaries between the State and the cultivator and the abolition of feudal and semi-feudal institutions.
3. Income from rural areas to be substantially spent on development of rural areas.
4. Introduction of a minimum monthly wage of ~~1~~ at least Rs. 30, a 40-hour week and grant of adequate housing, better conditions of work, unemployment and other forms of social insurance, as also of one month's leave with full pay every year.
5. Refusal of protection to industries where the minimum demands of the workers are not guaranteed.
6. Liquidation of debts of peasants and workers, both manual and intellectual.
7. Freedom of association, press, speech and organisation.
8. Provision of compulsory and free primary education and increased facilities for vocational, technical and higher education.

The text of some of the other important resolutions adopted is given below:-

Unemployment.- This Conference is of opinion that unemployment is inherent in the capitalist structure of society. It appeals to the unemployed middle class to join hands with the employed

workers and peasants to establish social ownership over the means of production. As an immediate basis of agitation, this Conference suggests such minimum demands as : (1) Unemployment insurance of Rs. 15 per month, (2) free supply of milk for every unemployed's child, (3) free housing accommodation for the unemployed and (4) construction of public works such as irrigation and drainage schemes, slum clearance to provide employment to ~~the~~ unemployed workers and (5) free compulsory primary education,

Amendment of Congress Constitution.— This Conference recommends to the Executive of Party to sponsor a resolution in ~~the~~ the next Congress session embracing, inter alia, the following points for the amendment of its present constitution with a view to its democratisation and to enable the masses to voice their demands through it:—

(1) The clauses relating to proportion of rural and urban representation be dropped. (2) Clauses relating to manual labour franchise and to compulsory wearing of Khaddar by office-bearers, candidates and members of elected committees of the Congress to be deleted. (3) Functional representation of workers and peasants, in consultation with the All India Trades Union Congress and Peasant organisations be provided. (4) Local organs of the Congress be enlarged and given larger powers of control, direction and initiative, and (5) Previous nomination of candidates for Presidentship of the Congress and declaration by them of their programme for the year to be arranged.

Relief of Indebtedness.— In view of the abnormal fall in prices and the corresponding increase in the burden of the peasantry, this Conference urges the immediate cancellation of arrears of rent, revenue and debts and reduction of rent and revenue by at least 50 per cent. This Conference further calls upon Provincial branches of the Party to observe an "All India Rent and Revenue Reduction Day" on a date to be fixed by the Executive Committee of the All India Congress Socialist Party.

Congress and the New Constitution.—This Conference expresses its emphatic opinion that whereas it is the inalienable right of the Indian people to frame their own Constitution, and whereas the new Constitution, as embodied in the Government of India Act, is thoroughly reactionary and retrograde and seeks to intensify the exploitation of the masses and strengthen imperialism by granting concessions to the upper classes at the cost of the overwhelming majority of the population and use them to thwart the working of the popular will, the only course open for the Congress is to adopt such measures as will make the working of that Constitution impossible.

With a view to this the Conference is of opinion that:

(a) In ~~the~~ Provinces where the Congress secures a majority it should abstain from forming ministries as that would, among other things, be a step towards the working of the constitution, and

create confusion in the ranks of the Congress and false illusions among the public and divert or dissipate the forces of direct action.

(b) In Provinces where the Congress fails to secure a majority it should use the Councils on the one hand for obstructing and exposing all anti-national measures and on the other hand as platforms for propaganda, particularly for voting the fundamental and immediate economic demands of the masses formulated by this Conference.

This Conference decides that a campaign be launched in furtherance of the policy adumbrated above and invites the co-operation in such a campaign of the Anti-Ministry Committee of Congressmen and the All-India Trade Union Congress.

The Conference appeals to delegates to the Lucknow Session of the Congress (1936) to support the policy set out in this resolution and to secure its acceptance by the Congress.

(The National Call, 22 & 24-1-1936)†

#### Conference of Representatives of Peasants'

Organisations in India, Meerut, 16-1-1936. †

A conference of the representatives of Kisan (Peasants) Organisations in India was held at Meerut on 16-1-1936 under the presidentship of Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya. Speeches were made at the Conference declaring that the object of the peasants' movement is to secure complete freedom from economic exploitation, and to achieve full economic and political power for peasants, workers and all other exploited classes. The main task of the Kisan association, it was stated, should be the organisation of peasants to fight for their immediate economic and political demands in order to prepare them for their emancipation from every form of exploitation. ~~from every~~ It is to stand for the achievement of ultimate

economic and political power for the masses through their active participation in the nationalist struggle for winning complete independence.

The Conference, recognising the urgent need for organising an All India Kisan Conference appointed a committee to organise the Conference at Lucknow in 1936, to co-ordinate and guide the activities of the various provincial peasants' organisations, and to bring into existence at the earliest moment an All India Kisan Congress. It was decided to submit a report on the work so far accomplished by the provincial organisations to enable the forthcoming Lucknow Conference, to gauge the situation, and to take necessary measures. Delegates from several Indian provinces, including Prof. N.G. Mangle, secretary of the Peasants' Group in the Legislative Assembly, were present at the Conference.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-1-1936) +

Intellectual Workers.Compulsory Leave As Alternative to Retrenchment:Garhwal District Board's Decision re. 900Primary School Teachers. ✓

An instance of employees, in this case teachers in primary schools, being compelled, owing to financial considerations, by the employers to take compulsory leave for a stated period as an alternative to the closing down of several schools and retrenchment of teaching staff is reported from Garhwal District in the United Provinces. The circumstances leading to the issue of the order re. compulsory leave are as follow:

For some time past the District Board, Garhwal, U.P. has been experiencing difficulties in balancing the budget of the primary schools under its control. As measures of economy the graded promotions of the primary school teachers had been held in abeyance for a considerable time and the pay of these teachers had been further cut down by 5 per cent. The Garhwal District Board, it appears, had recently received definite orders from the local Government to restore the practice of graded promotions, and to abolish the 5 per cent cut forthwith. An examination of the increased expenditure that would be entailed, <sup>if</sup> the system of graded promotions were to be restored and the 5 per cent cut in the pay of teachers discontinued showed ~~x~~ that a minimum sum of Rs. 10,000 would be needed to meet these contingencies. The abolition of a large number of schools and the dismissal of a number of teachers with a view to overcoming the financial difficulties would, on

the other hand, thr<sup>o</sup>w several men out of employment, and be disastrous to ~~the~~ primary education <sup>in</sup> of the district. Nevertheless, with a view to ease the budgetary position, a member of the District Board at first brought forward a resolution urging the closing down of 46 primary schools. The District Board, after thoroughly going into the question, dropped the resolution and issued orders in the first week of January 1936 instructing all teachers working in the primary schools controlled by the Board either to forgo 18 days' pay in a spirit of patriotism, or, in the alternative, to avail themselves of 18 days' compulsory leave without pay before March 1, 1936. The number of teachers affected by the order is over 900.

(The Statesman, 5-1-1936) +



The C.P. Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1936. +

Reference was made at pages 45-46 of our January 1936 report to the passing of the C.P. Debt Conciliation Act, 1933. The C.P. Government have published at pages 17-18 <sup>in C.P. Gazette, Part II dated 10.1.36</sup> a bill, to be introduced in the local Legislative Council, to amend the Act. The following is the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill:

The civil courts have set aside a number of agreements for debt conciliation made under section 12 of the Debt Conciliation Act on more or less technical grounds. These cases indicate the necessity for a more unequivocal provision for debarring the jurisdiction of civil courts.

Participation by a secured creditor in an agreement under section 12(1) of the Debt Conciliation Act extinguishes his mortgage lien on the assets of the debtor and places him on a par with the unsecured creditors who are parties to the agreement. Secured creditors therefore are averse to the conciliation of their debts, and particularly in view of section 15(1), often hasten to obtain a decree from the civil court after their debtors have made an agreement with other creditors. This in practice nullifies many agreements. In order to remove the present hesitancy on the part of secured creditors and to facilitate the conciliation of secured debts on a larger scale, it is considered necessary to amend the law to keep the mortgage lien of secured creditors unaffected by the agreement in such cases.

The proposed amendments will secure these objects. +

Employment and Unemployment.

Organisations of Unemployed Formed at Jwalapur  
and Negapatam. +

Recently a league of the educated unemployed was formed at Jwalapur, United Provinces, with the object of fighting the unemployment menace and to bring pressure on the Government and the public to take adequate steps for solving the problem. Mr. R. Swaroop is the Organising Secretary of the "Educated Unemployed League", Jwalapur. The league, it is reported, will start its work soon with the collection of statistics of the unemployed. Branches of the League, it is also announced, will be opened at Meerut and Benares at an early date.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-1-36)

In order to concert measures for relieving the unemployment problem, some of the leading citizens of Negapatam, Madras Presidency, held a meeting on 29-12-35. Mr. V.Srinivasa Iyengar explained the urgent need for giving some relief to the unemployed workmen in villages and towns, and suggested the revival of village industries to solve the unemployment problem.

It was resolved that an association, on the lines of the All-India Village Industries Association be formed for Negapatam. Mr. A.M.P.Subbaraya Chettiar was elected President, Messrs. V.Srinivasa Iyengar and V.Aiyaswami Aiyar were elected Secretaries and an executive committee was formed.

(The Hindu, 31-12-35) +

U. P. Unemployment Committee Report - 1935\* +

Reference was made at page 46 of the Report of this Office for November 1934 to the appointment of the U.P. Unemployment Committee with Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru as Chairman. The terms of reference were "to go into the question of unemployment among educated young men, and to suggest practical ways and means for reducing the same". The public sittings of the Committee were held from 10-1-1935 to 17-4-1935 and altogether 30 official and 97 non-official witnesses were examined. The report was released to the public in January 1936 (A copy of the Report was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/133/35 dated 30-1-1936).

The report begins with an account of the previous investigations in India relating to unemployment and the debates in Indian legislative bodies on the subject. It then proceeds to review the employment conditions prevailing in the more important professions <sup>and classes of employees:</sup> (a) Civil Engineers, (b) Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, (c) Graduates in Mining and Metallurgy, (d) Chemists, (e) Products of the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Cawnpore, (f) Bachelors of Commerce, (g) Medicine, (h) Public Health, (i) Subsidiary branches of Medicine - (1) Pharmacy, (2) Dentistry, (j) Law and Legal Education, (k) Accountancy, Architecture, Librarianship, Insurance, Secretarial Work, Veterinary

\* Report of the Unemployment Committee United Provinces 1935.- Allahabad: Supat, Printing and Stationery, U.P., 1936 -pp.398

Surgery, and Journalism; (B) Government Service; (C) Agriculture, and (D) Industries. The educational system in the United Provinces - in primary, secondary, and university stages, as also the facilities for technical, industrial and vocational education are then reviewed. Part V of the report deals with the educational systems in foreign countries and the incidence of unemployment among the educated in those countries. A number of notes by the Chairman and certain members of the Committee, as also eleven appendices are included.

The following is a brief summary of the more important findings in the Report:-

Unemployment Statistics.- Unemployment statistics, relating to educated young men, should be maintained by Government, the Universities, the Education Department, and other Departments and Local Boards.

Professional Studies.- A number of recommendations are made with a view to increasing the scope for employment in the learned professions— engineering, mining and metallurgy, commerce, medicine (including subsidiary branches - pharmacy and dentistry), public health, and law. With regard to law, the most overcrowded profession in the Province, the Report recommends that lawyers should be divided into two distinct and exclusive classes: (1) counsels, and (2) drafters, of legal documents. Recommendations are also made for improving the quality of legal education; for this purpose, the law course, it is recommended, should be extended to three years.

Government Service.- (a) Facilities for greater employment.- It is pointed out that certain Government departments, like the judicial department, are overworked. Provision of more posts in such departments, as also development of engineering and medical departments, is recommended. In the Settlement Department alone some 2000 to 3,000 employees have been retrenched; a graduated scheme of restoration of posts in departments where heavy retrenchment has been effected is recommended.

(b) Conditions of Recruitment. (1) University Qualifications not Needed for Subordinate Services.- Except in regard to those appointments, for which university education is necessary or useful, Government must prescribe their own standards for subordinate services and recruit new men, either through competitive

examination, or by selection, according to the needs of each department.

(2) Lowering of Age-limit.-In regard to the subordinate services, which attract by far the largest number of young men, the age-limit for entrance should be reduced. This will prevent a great deal of wastage at the universities, by enabling young men, after the completion of their secondary school education, to enter life, without the necessity of possessing university degrees.

(3) Public Service Commission.- The early appointment of a public service commission is recommended.

(4) Local Self-Government Service.- A local self-government service should be created, and appointments, which are at the present moment made by municipal and district boards, and in ~~many~~ regard to which there is very unhealthy canvassing, should, in future, be filled up out of a waiting list of candidates, maintained by the Ministry of Local Self-Government.

Agriculture as a Profession: (1) Agricultural Colonies.- It is extremely doubtful whether the schemes of colonization, which have been taken in hand, will make any appeal to that section of the educated classes, which has no connection with land; such schemes may be helpful in removing unemployment, in the case of those among the educated classes, who belong to the agricultural community.

(2) Subsidiary Industries.- It is very doubtful whether subsidiary industries, such as fruit-growing, dairy-farming, market gardening, floriculture, sericulture, poultry-farming, canning, pisciculture, spinning and weaving, carpet-making, clay-modelling, rope-making, pottery, ~~and~~ cattle-breeding will attract a large number of educated men, unless they are adequately trained and financed, or subsidised for such industries, though several of these industries can be and should be developed with advantage to the country.

(3) Educated Men as Farm Managers.- There is scope for the employment of educated men as farm managers and as estate managers, provided proper training is given to young men, and arrangements are made, for giving them opportunities to acquire practical knowledge of these subjects.

Industries. (1) A detailed industrial and economic survey of these provinces should be made, with a view to find out what industries, big or small, can be developed; (2) Industrial research workshops should be established, and, if possible, they should be located at different university centres; (3) For the proper organization and development of small industries, Government should take steps to collect authoritative information in regard to the running of small industries in Japan and in European countries; (4) The

recommendations of the Industries Re-organisation Committee <sup>regarding the</sup> special attention <sup>that</sup> should be paid to the marketing of the products of cottage industrialists, giving them expert advice, and carrying on ~~an~~ experimental research work, should be given effect to; (5) Steps should be taken - (a) to bring qualified educated men into touch with commercial houses for employment; and (b) to foster and encourage the organisation of co-operative stores, wherever possible, employing educated men who have received proper training in salesmanship, etc.

Industrial and Vocational Education.- (1) Regarding industrial training, the Report recommends: (a) that there must be adequate facilities for industrial training; (b) that, in addition to fully staffed and well-equipped central schools and commercial extension courses, arrangements should be made, for giving an industrial bias to the training, imparted at general educational schools; (c) that arrangements should be made with firms, factories and master-craftsmen, for taking students as apprentices, suitable fees being paid to them for the purpose; <sup>and</sup> (d) that elementary industrial schools for boys, and tuitional classes for artisans, should be maintained.

(2) An agency must be created for placing the products of these technical schools, and for establishing them in new careers. Without this, the multiplication of the industrially and vocationally trained young men, who cannot settle down in life, may accentuate the problem of unemployment.

Placing by Vocational Experts.- Regional vocational guidance authorities, consisting of teachers and representatives of other interests, such as commerce and industry, should be created, by the Ministry of Industries. ~~xx~~ ~~xx~~ The vocational guidance authorities should not only ~~xx~~ take an interest in vocational education, but should also be under an obligation to establish contacts with educational institutions and actual industries of the locality or the neighbourhood and to help the products of such schools in securing employment in such industries.

Guidance to Careers.- Parents should be advised in regard to the intellectual capacity of their boys and their suitability for certain careers. If there are no psycho-technical experts available among the head-masters or school masters, who have made a study of modern ~~x~~psychological methods, in the field of educational and vocational guidance, then one or two experts should be engaged, for a temporary period, from England, who would give the necessary training to ~~our~~ school masters, or, in the alternative, two or three school masters from India should be deputed to England, or other foreign countries, for the study of these methods.

### Recommendations re Education.

(A) Primary Education.— While it should be the aim of primary education to remove illiteracy, it should also be its principal aim to qualify boys, to become better agriculturists and more useful members of village communities. Primary education should be brought more into line with rural needs and agricultural conditions, and enable boys, reading in primary schools, to become more efficient members of the agricultural community. The age-limit, for the purpose of primary education, should be raised to 12 or 13 and every child should remain at school for at least six years. If this is done, primary education will not only become more efficient, but also find employment for a number of teachers.

(B) Secondary Education.— The High School Examination should have two kinds of certificates — one certifying completion of the course of secondary education and qualifying for admission to industrial, commercial and agricultural schools, and the other qualifying for admission to Arts and Science intermediate colleges. The Intermediate course, if the High School course is curtailed by one year, should be extended to three years, and should be of four parallel types: (1) Industrial, (2) Commercial, (3) Agricultural and (4) Arts and Science. Secondary schools should provide much more diversified courses of study, care being taken to give more practical than theoretical education to the boys. The industrial courses in secondary schools should aim at giving technical training, of general character, designed to develop skill of hand and eye and cultivate practical aptitudes, so as to predispose them towards industrial life.

(C) University Education.— No arbitrary limit for the admission of students into the universities should be prescribed, in view of the recommendations of (a) secondary education, (b) technical education and vocational education and (c) reduction of age-limit for the appointment to subordinate Government service, etc., which will have the effect of automatically reducing the number of students at the universities. There should be greater strictness exercised in the matter of admission. The universities should be under no obligation to take in men, who have passed their Intermediate Examination, or School Leaving Examination, in the third class, except in rare instances. While education in what are called humanities should not be discouraged, greater stress should be laid on scientific and vocational education. So far as research work conducted at the universities is concerned, universities should study the need of industries, and encourage such research, in particular, as may be of practical use to the industries. Steps should be taken to establish contacts between the science department of the various universities and industrialists and businessmen, and such departments should also undertake research, which may prove to be helpful to the industries, or to the economic development of the country.

Boards of Employment.— An Appointments Board for the graduates of all the five universities in the United Provinces, including the products of such institutions as the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, the Agricultural Colleges at Allahabad and Cawnpore, and the Engineering College at Roorkee, should be established, more or less modelled on the Appointments Board at Cambridge. Similarly, there should be a Board created, for the products of secondary schools, intermediate colleges, vocational schools, medical and agricultural schools and industrial schools. These Boards should be required to collect statistics of employment, among the graduates, of the universities, and the products of secondary schools, and intermediate colleges, etc.

Public Health.

Health Conditions in Asansol Coal Mines, 1934-35.\* +

The following information regarding health conditions in the Asansol Coal Mines is taken from the Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1934-35. The area of the mining settlement under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health is 413 square miles. The population in the middle of 1934 was 400,010, of which 47,659 were living in municipal areas and 335,021 were in other areas.

Vital Statistics.— During the year under review 11,133 births were registered in the settlement against 11,986 in the previous year. The birth-rate per 1000 of population was 29.1 as against 31.3 in the previous year. The corrected birth-rate on the estimated population is 27.8 in 1934 as against 30.3 in the preceding year. The fall in birth-rate is due to the after-effect of Malaria which broke out in epidemic form in the previous year almost throughout the Mining Settlement.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 8,567 as against 6,989 in the preceding year, the death-rate being 22.3 against 18.2 per 1000 in 1933. The corrected death-rate on the estimated population was 21.2 in 1934 against 17.7 per 1000 in 1933.

Infant Mortality.— 1876 infants under 1 year died during the year giving an infant mortality rate of 169.4 per 1000 births against 136.6 in the preceding year. The one single factor contributing to the rise in mortality among infants is the large scale prevalence of epidemic Malaria in the previous year.

Principal Causes of Death.— Fevers (including Malaria) were responsible for 3,593 deaths, pneumonia for 532 deaths, respiratory diseases for 506 deaths, Dysentery and diarrhoea for 454 deaths and cholera for 151 deaths. There were 3,331 deaths due to other causes.

Anti-Leprosy Measures.— The year under report marked a definite progress in the anti-leprosy campaign initiated by the Board of Health. Leprosy Relief Association—constituted in 1933—with its twelve divisions operated over an area comprising two-thirds of the Mining Settlement. The Association worked in collaboration with the Board's Leprosy Department and the work of all the divisions was

\* Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1934-35 -1935. - pp. 40-XLVI, Sanasaulky Press, Asansol.



was co-ordinated by a central Executive Committee—the Leprosy Board. The campaign aims at detailed survey and investigation, cure of non-infectious cases, treatment of early infectious cases in order to arrest the disease and make them non-infectious, segregation of infectious cases so that they may not infect the healthy, and, finally, education and mobilisation of public opinion into an organised effort to fight out the disease.

A Leper-Day was celebrated on the 19th November, 1934, in all Divisional areas. A re-organised scheme for <sup>the</sup> anti-leprosy campaign aiming at better co-ordination of the activities of the Board of Health and of the Leprosy Relief Association and providing for 2 more clinics was sanctioned towards the end of the year.

Health Propaganda.— Health propaganda received due measure of attention throughout the year. The ultimate object is to raise the level of public opinion and public knowledge on health matters and to teach people to follow approved methods of hygiene not because they are told, but because they have learnt by experience and believe that they are right. Attempt was made throughout the year to approach all classes of people and from as many angles as possible with a view to present a picture of health and disease. Thus, boys were given training in first-aid and ambulance work and taught principles of rural sanitation. Girls were given training in first-aid, home-nursing and mother-craft, and taught principles of personal and domestic hygiene. Lectures on health and hygiene were delivered by Sanitary Assistants in Primary schools. Among the workers, miners were given training in ambulance work; working mothers were invited to attend mothers' classes and health talks, baby-shows, and home-nursing demonstrations. In addition, lantern ~~and~~ lectures were given on health and disease <sup>and</sup> special propaganda on malaria and leprosy was conducted. Many travelling health exhibitions were also organised. The ~~the~~ Propaganda Officer visited 32 collieries and 164 villages during the year and delivered 241 lantern lectures. He supplemented the work of the epidemic staff by house-to-house visits and health talks. His services were much in demand in organising the anti-leprosy campaign throughout the Mining Settlement.

Maternity and Infant Welfare. - Three Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres were maintained by the Board for the benefit of working mothers and their babies—the centres being situated near important groups of collieries and were managed by trained Health Visitors under the supervision of a Lady Superintendent. There was an additional staff of three junior health visitors for three other areas.

(The Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 78-80 of our December 1934 report).

(A copy of the Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1934-35, reviewed above, was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/ 34 /36 dated 9-1-1936).

Health Conditions in Jharia Coal Mines, 1934-35.\* +

The Annual Report on the Working of the Jharia Mines Board of Health for the year 1934-35, published by the Government of Bihar and Orissa, gives the following details regarding health conditions in the coal mine area in Jharia.

Jharia Mines Settlement.- The estimated population for 1934 (excluding Dhanbad Municipality) is 521,243. The estimated population is arrived at by applying the annual increment to the last Census figures. There were 14,172 births during 1934 as compared with 16,112 in 1933. The rate of birth per million was 27.19 against 31.21 in 1933. The death rate showed an increase by 4.93, there being 9,521 deaths as against 6,886 in 1933. The rate of increase of population, i.e. the excess of the birth-rate over the death rate was 8.92 in 1934 as compared with 17.87 in 1933 and 17.01 in 1932.

Colliery Population.- According to the report the average daily labour force employed in 1934 was 57,265 as compared with 52,352 in 1933. Of these, 33,474 men and 4,854 women were underground workers and 14,119 men and 4,818 women were above-ground workers.

Accidents.- 634 accidents were reported during the year under review as against 547 during 1933. Of these 634, 75 were fatal, 456 reported as recovered and 103 minor, as against 83 fatal, 362 reported as recovered and 102 minor in 1933.

Water Supply.- In the course of the year, two collieries were connected to the Jharia Water Board mains, bringing the total number of connected collieries to 175. The previous policy of not asking smaller unconnected collieries to link up with Jharia Water Board supplies has been reversed on public health grounds. These collieries

\* Jharia Mines Board of Health.- Annual Report for the year 1934-35.- Supdt., Govt. Printing, Bihar & Orissa, Patna, 1935.-pp.29.

constitute a source of danger to the neighbouring ones and action is being taken to get the remaining ones linked up. During the year, notices were served by the Board on 14 collieries, requiring them to link up.

Housing in Colliery Areas.- Owing to the continued depression in the Coal Industry, there has been no change in the policy of the Board with regard to the housing of the labourers on collieries and the moratorium first granted in 1926 still continued in force throughout the year. The number of houses which obtained permanent certificate of fitness at the end of 1934 was 21,666 as against 21,086 in 1933 and that which obtained temporary certificates of fitness was 7,636 as against 8,048 in 1933.

Food Adulteration.- During the year 151 prosecutions were made under the food and Drugs Adulteration Act of which 124 ended in conviction, 14 were dropped, 1 was withdrawn, 1 was stayed and 11 were pending at the end of the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.- The depression in the coal trade not only continued throughout the year but actually became more acute. Under the circumstances, it had been very difficult for some of the collieries to give the same help to the scheme that they used to give during the more prosperous years. However, a fully equipped new centre has been started in Jharia which is the biggest town in the coalfields. A qualified Health Worker has been employed there and along with the Dai resides on the premises. As it is the first time a Centre has been established in a town in the coalfields, the public were naturally slow to appreciate its usefulness in the beginning, but it is reported that things are changing very rapidly for the better.

The Sijua Maternity and Child Welfare Centre although doing very useful work was without any equipment. The Board equipped the centre at a cost of Rs. 140 as the Colliery authorities could not do so due to trade depression.

Leprosy Relief Scheme.— The Dhanbad and District Leprosy Relief Fund maintains three outdoor clinics, one each at Jharia, Katras and Dhanbad. Efforts are being made to open another clinic in or near Dumra with the help of the local public and the local and district boards. Clinics are held twice a week at each place and ~~the~~ treatment given to old and new cases. Special efforts have been made during the year to induce all new cases to bring their families and children for examination with a view to detect ~~the~~ early cases which are the chief source of spread of infection.

The total number of patients who have passed through various clinics since the beginning of <sup>the</sup> leprosy work is 2,078. It is reported that only a fringe of the vast problem has been touched. The difficulties are great and manifold. Early cases, who are responsible for the spread of the disease, seldom come up for treatment and, to escape the stigma attached to the disease by society, conceal it as long as they can, thus doing great harm not only to themselves but also to those who come in immediate and prolonged contact with them. Moderately advanced cases who do seek treatment are very irregular in attendance. This is partly due to economic causes, <sup>the</sup> long distances which they have to cover in order to attend clinics, general apathy and the prolonged treatment required to make appreciable effect on the disease. There are others who, after a few injections, regard themselves completely cured and cease to attend till a relapse occurs.

Preliminary survey of all villages was completed during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Jharia Mines Board of Health. Special cards were prepared for each place giving a map and showing the infected houses with the names and particulars of the cases of leprosy. This preliminary work is being followed up with a view to ascertain early cases who were apt to be missed by the lay Inspectors. Special attention is being paid to infants, toddlers and school children.

(The Health conditions in Jharia Mines during 1933-34 are reviewed at pages 67-68 of our April 1935 report) +

#### Nutritional Survey of India:

##### Work of Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor. +

At pages 39-40 of the report of this Office for October 1935, reference was made to the progress of nutritional research in India. In view of the Resolution concerning the nutrition of workers adopted at the 19th session of the I.L.Conference, the following additional information regarding the work of the Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor, the only institution of its kind in India, is likely to be of interest to the Office. The information is taken from a press Note issued in the second week of January 1936 by the Government of Bengal:

Record of 18 Years' Work.- The Nutrition Research Laboratories established by the Indian Research Fund Association at Coonoor started work in 1917, and within the last 18 years, under its first Director Sir R. McCarrison laid the foundations of nutritional research in India. The institution realised early that faulty nutrition ~~is~~ an important factor ~~in lowering~~ <sup>the tendency to</sup> the health and ~~reducing~~ the longevity of a nation.

Survey of 300 food-stuffs.- Under its present Director, Dr. Aykroyd, intensive research work is now being carried on. With the help of two chemists a preliminary survey of about 300 food-stuffs considered as the minimum necessary for practical purposes and including all the widely-used and important foods has been undertaken at the Coonoor Laboratories. About 25 articles of food are examined every month and their energy value and content of proximate principles, calcium, phosphorous and iron are being estimated. Chemical and spectrophotometric determination of the content of vitamins A and C and of parotene in common Indian foodstuffs is also in progress, while other types of vitamins, such as vitamins B1 and B2, which cannot be chemically estimated, are being assayed biologically by feeding experiments on animals.

Experiments in Diet.- The problem of cheap, well-balanced diets so vital to this country is also being investigated. About seventeen diets resembling in a general way diets in habitual use in India, have been tested by feeding experiments on rats and by chemical analysis. They are now being applied to residential institutions for children in order to determine whether the laboratory finding will be corroborated by the experience of human communities. Examination of children in famine camps, schools, hostels, etc., is also being made with the object of establishing standards of average height and weight for the various classes of the Indian community, without which no progress can be made in the study of problems of human nutrition. Side by side the incidence of food deficiency diseases is also being studied.

Survey of Food Resources.- While the problem of nutrition has thus been receiving considerable attention mainly in its scientific aspects, what is needed, from the nation's point of view, is to associate the work at Coonoor with the larger problem of a comprehensive survey of the national resources of the country in food supply. The larger problem of assessing the national requirements and the country's resources in regard to food supply will have to be undertaken by the future Governments of India. The task is indeed one in which Government, politicians, economists and statisticians all will have to take a share.

(The Statesman, 12-1-1936). +

Women and Children.

10th All India Women's Conference, Trivandrum:

Text of Resolutions on Labour Subjects.+

Reference was made at pages 54-55 of our December 1935 report to the 10th session of the All India Women's Conference held at Trivandrum from 28-12-1935 to 2-1-1936. A summary of the resolutions adopted by the Conference also was given. The following is the ~~x~~ text of certain additional labour resolutions passed by the Conference:

1. Legislation re. Maternity Benefit Act. - We recommend that the constituencies in the different provinces do propaganda work for the passing of the Maternity Benefits Act in their own provinces, so that it may be possible to obtain an All India Maternity Act as soon as possible.

2. Welfare Work in Mining Areas.- We note with great regret that no action has been taken by the authorities in the mining area regarding recommendations made by the Commission of the All-India Women's Conference which visited the mines last year. We, therefore, recommend that a copy of the following Resolutions be sent to the authorities concerned urging immediate action:

(a) We recommend that the authorities in the mining area should bring all their houses up to the standard required in as short a time as possible and they should take into account the necessity of providing for more privacy.

(b) We recommend that latrines should be provided for the convenience of workers over the whole of the mining and factory areas and the people be encouraged to use them.

(c) We recommend that an adequate number of hospitals should be built to provide for the workers of all the mines and that ~~the~~ infant welfare-work be extended to bring it within the reach of all women workers.

3. Education of Workers' Children.- We urge again that primary schools be established for the education of the children of the miners and the factory workers.

4. Living Wage for Miners.- We urge that Government should fix a minimum price for coal at a sufficiently high level to enable labour and capital to earn a living wage and a fair return.

(Extracted from literature supplied by the  
Secretary, The All India Women's Conference, ) +

Agriculture.Rural Uplift in Baroda: Rs. Ten Millions Granted. +

In connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Gaekwar of Baroda, the State has created, in commemoration of the Jubilee, ~~of~~ a fund of Rs. 10 millions, the income of which is to be devoted to rural uplift. From the income, ~~of this~~, grants will be made for useful schemes like extensions of gamthans (villages) to relieve over-crowding, village water-supplies, communications, educative work of all kinds, etc. Special preference will be given (i) to the poorer areas which probably have been neglected in the past and (ii) to the needy of backward communities like the Raniparaj, the Antyajjas, the Thakardas, the Rabaries, etc. The amounts annually devoted on these works from the Fund will be in addition to the usual State expenditure on these works.

(The Hindu, 6-1-1936). +

Debt Conciliation Board for Sandur State.

It is understood that the Government of Sandur State contemplate the setting up, at an early date, of a Debt Conciliation Board on the lines suggested by the Committee appointed by the State to enquire into the problem of agricultural indebtedness in the State. The Board is to consist of an official president and two members of whom one will represent creditors' interests and <sup>the other</sup> ~~another~~ debtors' interests.

(The Times of India, 6-1-1936). +



Rural Indebtedness and Indebted Agricultural Labour  
in Hyderabad: Enquiry Ordered by Government. +

The Government of H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad (Deccan) has appointed a Special Officer to enquire into, among other <sup>matters</sup> things, the problem of agricultural indebtedness, regulation of land alienation and the question of the "Bhagela" system (indebted agricultural labour). The following information is taken from a communique issued on 23-12-35 by the Information ~~xx~~ Bureau of the State.

Agricultural Indebtedness.- The problem of agricultural indebtedness has been engaging the close attention of Government ever since the economic depression, ~~with the drop in all commodity prices, when~~ started some five years ago. Special and increasing attention has been paid to this problem in British India and it is now generally recognised that there is no single approach or solution to the problem, but that action from a number of different angles has to be tried. An Agriculturists' Relief Regulation was sanctioned by His Exalted Highness for the years 1341 F (1933-34) and 1342 F. (1934-35) and recently the Regulation has been re-applied for a further period of three years from commencement of 1345 F (1937-38) and the question of making its provisions more widely known and of studying its working will be among the duties of the Special Officer. Other enquiries will be made to consider the extent to which certain recent British Indian enactments for the relief of agricultural indebtedness would, as amended, be likely to suit the conditions of the State. Among these Acts are the Debt Conciliation Acts of the Central Province, the Money-lenders' Acts, the Usurious Loans Acts, etc.

Land Alienation.- In 1935 a Land Alienation Regulation was enacted which has not as yet been made applicable to any area.

The application of this Regulation as a test-measure to one or two districts is now being considered. When applied, Government will require to be kept closely informed of its effect and of the extent to which it succeeds in realising the objects for which it has been framed.

Indebted Agricultural Labour.- Government have had under consideration for some time the special problem provided by the "Bhagela system" or "gaidavandlu" (indebted agricultural labour). The early enactment of a Regulation which will enable relief to be given to agricultural labour of this type is under consideration. The working of this regulation, when sanctioned, and the bringing of its provisions to the notice of the classes concerned will form part of the special enquiries now to be started. (

(The Hindu, 25-12-1935). +

(For fuller details see pages 21-22 of this Report under section: "Conditions of Labour").

Migration.Grievances of Indians in South Africa:Deputation to Government of India. +

A representation regarding the various grievances of Indians in South Africa was made on 22-1-1936 by Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi, a representative of the South African Indian Congress, to Kunwar Sir Jagadish Prasad, Member-in-Charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands with the Government of India. The following is a summary of the important representations made to the Government.

The Slums Act and Racial Discrimination.- The Slums Act was passed by the Union Parliament in 1934. No definition is given in the Act of the words "slum" or "nuisance". The object of the Act is to clear slums in the municipalities of the Union and some municipalities, including Durban, are mentioned in the schedule to which this Act applies. The Act places enormous power in the hands of the municipalities and eliminates all right for an aggrieved party to seek the aid of an independent Board or of a court of law. The only appeal lies with the Minister of Public Health, who may delegate his power to hear appeals to the Central Housing Board, his Secretary being its chairman. From the beginning, the Indian Community began to entertain fears that the Act would be utilised as a means for racial discrimination and representations were made to the Minister of Health who gave promises that the Act would not be so utilised. Subsequent administration of the Act has shown that ~~the~~ expropriation of land as a result of slum conditions becomes ~~para~~ practically arbitrary with the avowed object of segregating the Indians and thereby imposing on them consequent financial losses.

Asiatic Land Tenure Act.- The Asiatic Land Tenure Act was designed to introduce a policy of complete segregation, and to restrict and curtail rights hitherto enjoyed by Indians in the Transvaal. Indians in South Africa have been opposed to the Act from the beginning. After the Act had been passed, they met in Conference in Johannesburg in 1932 and passed a resolution strongly protesting against the Act. Since then the Feetham Commission was appointed, to examine witnesses and investigate individual cases with a view to setting aside areas to Indians for trading and ~~taxo~~ residential purposes.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-1-36) +

Indian Employees in Iraq: Iraq Government's Assurance  
not to Pass Discriminatory Legislation. +

Recently a Bill was introduced in the Iraq legislature aiming at reserving certain classes of labour to Iraq nationals alone. This piece of legislation made Indian residents in Iraq apprehensive as to the measure's repercussions on them. The Bill has passed the Lower House and is at present before the Upper House. It is understood that the Government of Iraq has announced its decision to insert in the measure before its final passage a reciprocity clause providing that nationals of those countries which observe no such restrictions against foreigners, should be exempted from the operation of these laws. As there are no restrictions in India against Iraqis, it follows that Indian nationals in Iraq will not be affected by these labour laws.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-1-1936) +

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

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REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1936

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References to the I. L. O.

A Communique re. activities of the I.L.O. during 1935 (issued by this Office on 7-2-36) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 8-2-36, "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 11-2-36, the Railway Herald, Karachi dated 13-2-1936 and the Times of India dated 18-2-1936 (vide Enc. Nos. 11 & 12 of H.4/181/36 dated 13-2-1936 and Nos. 5 & 6 of H.4/200/36 dated 20-2-1936).

\* \* \*

A Communique re. action taken by the I.L.O. on the resolution passed by the 19th I.L.Conference re. wage-fixing machinery (issued by this Office on 3-2-36) is published in the following: the Hindustan Times dated 4-2-36 and the National Call dated 5-2-36 (vide Enc. Nos. 13 & 14 of H.4/181/36 dated 13-2-1936).

\* \* \*

A British Official Wireless message re. the White Paper issued by the British Government on its decisions on I.L.Draft Conventions is published in the following: the Hindustan Times dated 9-2-1936, the Times of India dated 10-2-1936 and the Hindu dated 10-2-1936( vide Enc. Nos. 16 and 17 of H.4/181/36 dated 13-2-36 and No.4 of H.4/200/36 dated 20-2-1936).

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 28-2-36 publishes a short editorial note under the caption: "Better Food". The note refers to the interest that is being taken by the League Organisations in the problem of nutrition.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labourer (a Tamil monthly issued from Madras) dated 10-2-36 publishes the translation of the reply sent by the Madras Labour Union to the circular letter issued by the Government of India inviting expression of views of industrial interests on the question of holidays with pay. The Union has strongly

supported the idea of holidays with pay and has suggested a paid holiday of three weeks for every 49 weeks of service.

\* \* \*

"Federated India", Madras, dated 5-2-36 and the Indian Labour Journal, dated 2-2-36 publish a news item to the effect that the Government intends moving in the current session of the Legislative Assembly a resolution recommending non-ratification of the I.L.Draft Convention re. general reduction of hours to 40 per week, and that Mr. N.M.Joshi would be opposing the resolution.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 31-1-1936 publishes a short editorial note on the labour subjects coming up for consideration before the current session of the Legislative Assembly. The note refers to the Government's resolution recommending non-ratification of the I.L.Convention re. the 40-Hour week, and says "but it is so clearly impossible of application to India today that it is unlikely to take up much time (of the House)".

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 2-2-1936 reproduces the above editorial note.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 3-3-36 and the National Call dated 4-3-36 publish the text of 4 resolutions to be moved by Sir Frank Noyce in the Legislative Assembly on 6-3-1936 recommending the non-ratification of the Draft Conventions re. the 40-hour week, reduction of hours of work in glass bottle works, reduction of hours of work in coal mines and maintenance of rights under invalidity, old-age and widows' and orphans' insurance, adopted by the 19th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 8-2-36 publishes a communique issued by the Government of India on 11-12-35 announcing that reduction of hours of work in the textile industry will be



one of the items on the agenda of the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*  
A Communique re. world unemployment situation during last <sup>the</sup> quarter of 1935 (issued by this Office on 25-1-1936) is published by the following: the Hindu dated 30-1-1936, the Times of India dated 3-2-36 and "Commerce and Industry" dated 4-2-36 (vide Enc. Nos. 3 to 5 of H.4/181/36 dated 13-2-1936).

\* \* \*  
The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 9-2-36 publishes an ~~app~~ article under the caption: "Relief of Unemployment" by S.C.Ray. The article examines the efforts so far made especially by the I.L.O. to combat the unemployment evil.

\* \* \*  
The Hindu of 11-2-1936 publishes an editorial note on the results of a recent enquiry conducted by the I.L.O. on the problem of unemployment among the educated classes.

\* \* \*  
The Report of the Second Session of the National Trades Union Federation, held in December 1935 contains numerous references to the I.L.O. The more important of them relate to the Asiatic Labour Congress held at Colombo in May 1934, <sup>U.</sup> work of Mr. Joshi in the Governing Body of the I.L.O. and in the Tripartite Maritime Conference, the relations with the Indian Branch of the I.L.O. and the speech of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, President of the 2nd Session of the Federation welcoming the Director of this Office to the Conference and the Director's reply.

\* \* \*  
The Times of India dated 4-2-36 publishes a review of the discussions on trade union unity which took place at Nagpur during the last Christmas week. In the course of the review, the views of ~~the~~ All India Trades Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation regarding co-operation with the I.L.O. are elucidated.

\* \* \*  
A Communique re. "Children and Young Persons under Labour Law"

(issued by this Office on 25-11-1935) is published by the following:  
 Federated India, Madras, dated 5-2-36 and January 1936 issue of  
 "Labour", Calcutta (vide Encl. Nos. 1 and 2 of H.4/181/36 dated  
 13-2-36).

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 1-2-1936 publishes a review of a  
 recent publication issued by Allen and Unwin: "The Ratification of  
 International Conventions" by Francis O. Wilcox. In the course of  
 the review references are made to I.L.Conventions.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 2-2-36 also publishes a review of the  
 book referred to above.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 11-2-36 publishes a Geneva  
 letter dated 18-1-1936 from the Geneva Correspondent of the paper  
 reviewing at length the I.L.O. publication: "Opium and the Workers".

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 9-2-36 publishes a  
 communique issued by this Office on 29-1-1936 on the recent I.L.O.  
 publication: "Problems of Vocational Guidance".

\* \* \*

The January 1936 issue of "India and the World", Calcutta,  
 publishes an appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "Social  
 and Economic Reconstruction in the United States".

\* \* \*

The Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 3-3-36 publishes a  
 long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "The Interna  
 national Labour Organisation and Social Insurance."

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindu dated 15-2-36 and other papers  
 publish a report of the debate in the Legislative Assembly on  
 14-2-36 on the Bill prohibiting loans and credits to Italy. Several  
 non-official members took part in the debate and in the course of  
 their speeches deprecated the idea of India being a member of the  
 League.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 14-2-36 publishes the report of a lecture delivered on 5-2-36 by Mr. T.W. Johnstone, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay, on "Factory Legislation in India", under the auspices of the Technological Association of the Department of Chemical Technology, Bombay. In the course of his speech Mr. Johnstone dealt with the influence exerted by the I.L.O. in improving factory legislation in India.

\* \* \*

The January 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, contains the following four references to the I.L.O.:

- (a) At pages 361-363 is reproduced the note on the 75rd session of the Governing Body published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 18-11-1935.
- (b) At page 363 is published a communique issued by the Government of India on 11-12-35 announcing that the question of reduction of hours of work in the textile industry will be one of the items on the agenda of the 20 session of the I.L.Conference.
- (c) At pages 363-364 is published a summary of the main conclusions arrived at in the recent I.L.O. report: "Opium and labour".
- (d) At page 370 is reproduced the note on "Protection of Juvenile workers in Japan" published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 23-to 30-12-1935.

\* \* \*

A Communique re. regional Labour Conference of the American Member States of the I.L.O. (issued by this Office on 26-2-36) is published by the Hindustan Times dated 29-2-36.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 25-2-36, the Times of India dated 27-2-36 and the National Call dated 28-2-36 publish an account of a tea-party arranged by Mr. N.M. Joshi in the Legislative Assembly Tea Room, New Delhi, on 24-2-36 in honour of Mr. Pelt of the League of Nations Secretariat. The party was attended by several members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Pelt spoke on India's membership of the League of Nations and the I.L.O. and the benefit this country derives from these two organisations and took the

opportunity to answer questions. Sir Cowasjee Jehangir made a fine speech eulogising the services rendered by the I.L.O. to India.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 26-2-36 publishes a short editorial note on the above. The note directs attention to Mr. Pelt's statement that the League is useful to India principally in the non-political sphere and says that India cannot hope to get any help from the League in her fight for political freedom. The note states in addition that the benefit derived by India through her membership of the League is not commensurate with the cost entailed by her annual financial contributions to the League.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 27-2-36 and the Times of India dated 29-2-36 publish an account of a meeting of the Empire Parliamentary Association held at New Delhi on 26-2-36 at which Mr. Pelt spoke on the benefits derived by India through her membership of the League of Nations and the I.L.O. Mr. Pelt also answered a number of questions about the League.

\* \* \*

No Indian newspapers and periodicals received in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

\* \* \*

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during February 1936:

1. A British Official Wireless message dated 8-2-1936 from Rugby re. the White paper issued by the British Government on I.L.O. Conventions.

National Labour Legislation.

The Central Provinces Unregulated Factories Bill,  
1936 (Bill No.17 of 1936).

On 27-1-1936 Rao Sahib R.A. Fulay introduced in the Central Provinces Legislative Council a Bill called "The Central Provinces Unregulated Factories Bill, 1936" to consolidate and amend the law regulating labour of women and children and to make provision for the welfare of labour." The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill explains that for a long time past there have been a great many abuses in the working of the unregulated factories, especially in the bidi-making factories, of the Central Provinces. The Royal Commission on Labour recommended that a separate Act embodying their recommendations should be introduced and that that Act should, in the first place, be made applicable to establishments employing 50 or more persons. The following are the salient features of the Bill, which follows the recommendations of the Royal Commission:-

Definitions.- (1) Section 2 defines an "unregulated factory" as one where, on any one day in the year not less than 50 persons are simultaneously employed, and to which the Factories Act, 1934, is not applicable, and wherein all or any of the following industries are carried on:- (i) cigar-making, (ii) bidi-making, (iii) mica-cutting and splitting, (iv) wool-making and cleaning, (v) shellac manufacture, (vi) carpet-weaving, and (vii) leather-tanning. The Local Government may, however, declare any factory employing only 25 persons, but satisfying the remaining conditions, as an unregulated factory.

Periods of Rest.- (2) Periods of rest provided for those who are not children are one hour at intervals not exceeding six hours, with a proviso which enables the rest interval to be split up conveniently. A period of rest of half an hour is to be given to each child working more than 5½ hours a day. Sunday is a day of weekly rest.

Employment of Women and Children.- (3) No child is to be employed unless a Certifying Surgeon certifies that he is not less than 10 years of age and is medically fit. No child is to be

employed for more than 7 hours in any one day, and the periods of employment of children shall ordinarily be between 9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. A child shall not be employed in two factories on the same day.

(4) No woman shall be employed in an unregulated factory for more than 11 hours in any one day and before 5-30 A.M. or after 7 p.m.

(5) No child shall be allowed to work over-time or to take work home after factory hours.

Other Provisions.— (6) Clauses are also included regarding sanitary arrangements, installation of mechanical contrivances for preventing inhalation of dust or impurity, lighting, water supply, etc.

( The drafting of the bill will have to be considerably improved before it becomes law).

(Summarised from pages 67-75 of  
Part II of the Central Provinces  
Gazette, dated 14-2-1936.)

The United Provinces Factories Rules, 1935.

Attention is directed to the United Provinces Factories Rules, 1935, made under the Indian Factories Act, 1934 (Act No. XXV of 1934), published at pages 191 to 220 of Part I of the United Provinces Gazette dated 8-2-1936.

Rules under the Indian Mines Act, 1923:

Draft Rules re. Medical Certification

of Persons below 17 years for Under-  
ground Work.

The Government of Bengal proposes to make certain amendments to the rules regarding the certification of fitness for the employment underground of persons below 17 years of Age. The draft amendments are published at pages 17-21 of Part I of the Calcutta Gazette dated 2-1-1936.

Payment of Wages Bill, 1935, passed.

At pages 15-20 of our January 1933 report was given the full text of the Payment of Wages Bill, 1933, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 1-2-1933 by Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of Industries and Labour with the Government of India. The Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the last Assembly before it could come to the Select Committee stage. A Bill based on the one which lapsed, but with several new features, was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 13-2-1935, and was referred to a Select Committee on 21-2-1935. A summary of the changes made in the Bill by the Select Committee was given at pages 10 to 12 of our September 1935 report. A motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted on 13-9-1935, but Government agreed to postpone discussion on the

Bill as amended by the Select Committee to the Budget Session of 1936. Discussion on the consideration of clauses was begun on 5-2-1936 and was continued on 7, 10 and 12-2-1936. The Bill was finally passed by the Legislative Assembly on 14-2-1936 and by the Council of State on 24-2-1936.

In the course of the debate on the consideration of clauses in the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State, certain changes were effected in the Bill as modified by the Select Committee. The most important of the changes was due to an amendment moved by Sir H.P. Mody to the effect that when ten or more workers go on a lightning strike the employer may deduct from their wages an amount not exceeding their wages for 15 days.

Sir H.P. Mody said that added point had been given to his proposal by Mr. Ulow's amendment that where an employer dismissed a workman without giving notice he had to pay the workman not only the wages due to him but also the amount due to him in lieu of notice. He pleaded for a measure of reciprocity and pointed out that employers were making concessions in restricting themselves to the amendment before the House. They were not asking for these rights against individuals but were confining themselves to the case of the lightning strikes that had caused great loss to the Bombay mill industry in recent times.

Sir Frank Noyce accepted Sir Hormusji's amendment. The Government of India, he said, had obtained the views of the Government of Bombay, which had had a more prolonged experience of lightning strikes than any other Government in India. Their views were generally in agreement with those of Sir H.P. Mody. They felt that if this amendment was accepted it would strengthen the hands of the Bombay Labour Officer in getting conciliation machinery going, and so preventing lightning strikes. Everybody knew the distress caused by these lightning strikes and they hoped that this amendment would make the workers think again before they struck work and so give an interval for conciliation machinery to get going.

Mr. Joshi said that the amendment would destroy the value of the Bill. He stressed the point that while the employer was, in the case contemplated, entitled to deduct from the men's wages the amount due for failure to give notice, the men, when discharged without notice, would have to go to court to recover



their dues. If men were absent for only one day, they could be made to forfeit 13 days' wages. Again, the employer could always find 10 men who were absent from a mill and allege that they were acting in concert. There was no minimum wage legislation in India, and if the workers held lightning strikes to protect their standard of life, who could blame them?

The amendment was carried by 65 votes to 44. The amended Bill was passed without a division by the Legislative Assembly on 14-2-1936.

Debate in the Council of State.— Consideration of the Bill as passed by the Legislative Assembly was taken up by the Council of State on 24-2-1936. Mr. A. G. Clow, speaking on the Bill, reviewed the history of the legislation and pointed out that it had not suffered from lack of deliberation.

Pandit P.N.Sapru, supporting consideration of the Bill, approved of its provisions as being generally in accordance with the views of the Whitley Commission. But a clause, he said, had been inserted at the last minute in the Assembly which was not considered by the Select Committee of the Lower House. X It was a clause sponsored by Sir H.P.Wody, penalising lightning strikes by deducting 13 days' wages, which had chilled the enthusiasm of labour for the measure. Pandit Sapru was sorry that such a good measure initiated by such good friends of Labour as Sir Frank Noyce and Mr. Clow should by this clause have been rendered so disappointing, and he appealed for a gesture on the part of Government to lessen its rigour. Incidentally, he suggested the creation of machinery for fixing minimum wages and for standardisation of wages.

Bill passed with two Important Amendments.— One of Pandit Sapru's amendments suggested that for lightning strikes the penalty should be the deduction of eight days' wages, instead of 13 days' wages ~~xxinstead of~~ as proposed in the original Bill. Sir Frank Noyce accepted the amendment, and informed the House that those members interested in the Bill in the Assembly were also agreeable

to this change.

In the original Bill as passed by the Assembly "lightning strike" was explained as "a strike resorted to without giving the notice which labourers were required to give either expressly by their contracts of employment, or impliedly by the terms of their service". A second amendment was to remove the expression "impliedly by the terms of their service". This was also accepted. Beyond these, no other change was made.

(Legislative Assembly Debates of 5,7,10 & 12-2-1936, and the Statesman of 15 & 25-2-1936).

In spite of the assurance given by Sir Frank Noyce that the Assembly would accept the amendment of Sir H.P.Mody with the modification effected by the Council of State, namely that the penalty for lightning strikes be reduced from loss of wages for 13 days to loss of wages for 8 days, workers' organisations all over the country are protesting against acceptance of the principle of loss of wages as a penalty for lightning strikes. The Joint Labour Board appointed by the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation passed the following resolution on the subject at a meeting held at Bombay recently:

"This joint meeting of the representatives of the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation emphatically condemns the adoption by the Legislative Assembly of Sir H.P.Mody's amendment to the Payment of Wages Bill as it is an attack on the workers' fundamental right to strike and to payment of wages earned by them, and is calculated to defeat the purpose of the Bill."

"This meeting is further of opinion that the modification made by the Council of State does not in any way alter the fundamental objection to the principle of the original amendment and requests the Legislative Assembly to reject the whole clause relating to the penalisation of strikes without notice".

(The Indian Labour Journal,  
1-3-1936).

Resolutions to the same effect have been passed by the Bombay and Ahmedabad Textile Labour Associations and the Madras Labour Union.

Conditions of work in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs

Department, 1934-35\*.

Financial Working.— The Posts and Telegraphs Department consists of the following four branches: Post Office, Telegraphs, Radio and Telephones. The financial results of the working of the Department for the year 1934-35 are summarised below:—

	Post Office.	Telegraphs.	Telephones.	Radio.	Total.
R	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts.	76,025,526	27,173,280	7,978,733	809,941	111,987,480
Expenditure.	73,591,558	27,961,248	5,612,018	1,028,093	108,192,917
Surplus(+) or deficit(-).	+ 2,433,968	-787,968	+2,366,715	-218,152	+3,794,563

The net results of 1934-35 show a total surplus of ~~Rxx~~ Rs. 3,794,563 as against a total deficit of Rs. 5,193,594 in 1933-34.

Strength of Staff.— On 31-3-1935 the total number of persons employed by the department was 120,265 as compared with 122,163 at the close of 1933-34. The figure includes 21,274 extra-departmental postmasters, stamp vendors and others, who are not Government servants in the strict sense of the term, and 2,566 members of the Audit and Accounts staff. Out of the remaining 96,425 employees, 473 belonged to the superior (gazetted) staff, which includes 144 divisional and other superintendents, 48 postmasters and 70 telegraph traffic officers, most of whom are in executive charge of the larger post and telegraph offices or of postal and railway mail service divisions; and 116 assistant and deputy assistant engineers most of whom are in executive charge of

\* Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department - Annual Report for the year 1934-35 - New Delhi: Printed by the Manager Government of India Press: 1936 - Price Rs.2-4-0 or 4s. - *pp. 99*

engineering sub-divisions or in comparable posts. The remaining 95 officers are actually holding higher charges such as are commonly regarded by the general public as controlling the business of the department.

Unions of Employees.- On the 31st March 1935, the number of unions or associations of employees of the department, recognised by Government, was 13. The total membership is reported to be about 42,000, the total number of whole-time permanent employees under the department being a little over 96,000.

Co-operative Credit Societies.- At the end of the year there were 58 co-operative credit societies working for the benefit of the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs department with a membership of 61,278 and a subscribed capital of Rs. 3,076,000. Loans amounting to over Rs. 6,336,000 were advanced to 25,946 members, compared with Rs. 6,188,000 to ~~25~~ 26,464 members during 1933-34.

Magnitude of Postal Business.- Excluding the air routes, there existed at the end of the year, over 168,000 miles of lines over which mails were conveyed by different agencies. Eighty new motor lines were opened during the year, forty-nine of these being in Bombay, Madras and Punjab Circles. The following figures give some idea of the volume of postal business transacted during the year:

Total estimated number of articles handled.	1,143,777,000
Total number of registered articles posted.	41,620,000
Total number of insured articles posted.	3,422,000
Value of insured articles posted.	.. Rs. 1,006,800,000
Postage charges realised.	... Rs. 64,751,000

Number of money orders issued. . .	..	39881,000
Value of money orders issued. . .	..Rs.	778,400,000
Value payable post collections...	Rs.	187,800,000

On the 31st March 1935 there were over 3,100,000 current savings bank accounts with a total balance of Rs. 585,000,000 and about 90,000 Postal Life Insurance policies covering an aggregate assurance of over Rs. 171,300,000. The above figures represented in most cases an increase in business as compared with the corresponding figures for 1933-34, due largely to the improvement in economic conditions generally.

(Conditions of work in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department during 1933-34 were reviewed at pages 23-24 of our March 1935 report). +

Madras Maternity Benefit Act: Period of  
Qualification for Benefit.

The Chief Inspector of Factories, <sup>Madras,</sup> has notified that, with the approval of Government, the following executive instruction has been issued for the guidance of Factory Inspectors and employers:-

"In counting the nine months period of employment specified in the proviso to Section 5(1) of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1934, any periods of authorised leave and periods of unauthorised leave up to a total of 14 days succeeded by re-employment, shall ordinarily be included."

(The Planters' Chronicle, Madras, 8-2-36) +

General Wage Census:

Labour Office Report on Printing Industry. +

At pages 14-17 of our January 1936 report was reviewed the first of the series of six reports in connection with Part I of the General Wage Census covering all perennial factories in the Bombay Presidency proper, published at the end of last year. That report covered wages, hours of work and conditions of employment in the engineering industry. The second report, which is due to be published shortly, is understood to deal with wages, hours of work and conditions of employment in the printing industry, and to cover over 9,000 workpeople in 100 printing concerns in the Presidency. As in the first report, the results <sup>will be</sup> ~~are~~ given by territorial areas.

(The Labour Gazette, January 1936).

Painting is "Repairing": Decision of Bombay

High Court in Case under "orkmen's Compensation A c t- +

Attention is directed to pages 335-337 of the January 1936 issue of <sup>the</sup> Labour Gazette, Bombay, where is reported the judgment of the Bombay High Court in an interesting case which went to the High Court in appeal against the award of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bombay. The three points which arose for decision were: (1) that the employer, the appellant, did not employ the deceased who was engaged by one Rama to whom the contract for painting the building had been given for a lump sum; (2) that the deceased laxman Pala was not a workman because his employment was

1.2. of a casual nature and he was employed otherwise than for the employer's trade or business; and (3) that he was not a workman according to the Schedule because he was not engaged in the construction, repair or demolition of a building, painting not being repair within the meaning of the Schedule. In the course of their judgment, the ~~xxx~~ Judges of the High Court decided that painting clearly falls within the meaning of the word "Repairs" in Sub-section (viii) of the Second Schedule to the Workmen's Compensation Act.

(The Labour Gazette, January 1936) +

Maternity Benefit Legislation in Bengal:

Views of Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta. +

Reference was made at page 8 of our January 1936 report to the circular letter sent out recently by the Government of Bengal to industrial interests to elicit their views on the question of passing legislation in the Province for the grant of maternity benefits to women workers. The Committee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, have informed the Government that they are agreeable to the proposal of the Government for undertaking legislation with a view to making compulsory maternity benefits for women permanently employed in perennial factories in Bengal. The Committee agree with the Royal Commission on Labour that in the absence of any scheme of state insurance against sickness in general in India, the entire cost of the benefit should be borne by the employer. The Committee however suggest that the Govern-  
-ment



should be empowered to exempt individual firms who have instituted schemes of maternity benefit of as liberal a character as laid down in the Act, from the provisions thereof.

The maximum period for the benefit, the Committee think, should be four weeks only with full pay. Further leave may be granted without pay for another maximum period of 12 weeks i.e. the total period should not exceed 16 weeks or four months.

The amount of benefit should be fixed at the rate of a woman's average daily earnings, calculated on the total wages earned during a period of three months preceding her confinement, or at the rate of 8 annas per day, whichever is less. The period of employment which would qualify a worker to obtain such benefit, should be fixed at 12 months.

(The Statesman, 20-2-36) +

Loyabad Colliery Disaster: Conference convened by  
Government to Improve Safety Measures. ←

In answer to two short notice questions put in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. N.M. Joshi and Mr. A. Chettiar, about the Loyabad colliery disaster which occurred in the Jharia Mining Area on 30-1-1936 and entailed 37 fatalities, Sir Frank Noyce, Member in charge of Industries and Labour with the Government of India, supplied the following information on 6-2-1936:-

The fire which occasioned the disaster was discovered in the colliery at 5 a.m. on the morning of January 30. Its cause is not yet known. The fire rapidly attained serious dimensions, but by about 6 a.m. all miners on night shift were safely removed. The management then attempted to isolate and control the fire by the usual method of erecting stoppings in all leading airways leading to the seat of fire. At about 12.30 ~~the~~ ignition of gases occurred in the fire area and this appears to have blown part of the workings with poisonous fumes. A number of persons employed were brought safely to the surface and although 23 of these had to be taken to hospital suffering from gas poisoning all these have survived.

Rescue parties, which included the Chief Inspector and Inspector of Mines brought up twelve persons of whom five died. Rescue operations were still in progress at about 5 p.m. when the second explosion occurred and the main roadway where the rescue party was working was flooded by poisonous gases and the rescue party had to be withdrawn. Shortly afterwards the Chief Inspector and three mining engineers again went down the mine but found the conditions such that work could not be safely continued and it appears by this time there was no possibility of any person being alive in the pit. The number of fatalities is believed to be 37, but might be as high as 40. Of the 23 taken to hospital 21 have already been discharged, being cured.

Sir Frank also said he presumed that the dependents of workmen killed would be entitled to secure compensation under law and the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation has power to take the initiative if necessary in order to secure that they are not left unaware of their rights.

(The National Call, 8-2-1936).

(For fuller details see pages 289-293 of Legislative Assembly Debates of 6-2-1936, Vol.I, No.4, 1936.)

In answer to supplementary questions, Sir Frank Noyce said that following on the Bagdigi accident which occurred some time prior to the Loyabad disaster, Government had decided to convene a conference of

of experts on 19-2-1936 with a view to improve safety measures in mines.  
(~~For~~ A brief report of the proceedings of the Conference is given in the  
section: "Public Health" of this report).+

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Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

Indian Colliery Owners' Association and Indian

Mining Federation:

Affiliation Scheme.

An effort is being made to affiliate the Indian Colliery Owners' Association at Jharla with the Indian Mining Federation at Calcutta. The proposals that have been mooted for this purpose are to the effect that the Association will deal with local questions and local affairs in Bihar and Orissa and follow up questions taken up by the Federation, while the Federation will deal with Central and Local Governments and Railways for all matters concerning the Indian section of the coal industry whenever necessary.

A scheme for determining the number of members of the Executive Committee and how they are to exercise their votes has also been evolved. Collieries in Bengal will be called the Ranee-gunj group and those in Bihar and Orissa the Jharla group. In one year the Chairman will be a member representing the Ranee-gunj group and next year the Jharla group. Under no circumstances shall the Chairman occupy his office for more than two successive years.

If any seat is given to the Federation in the Bengal Council or the Council of Bihar and Orissa, the same shall be filled up by the appointment of the Chairman of the Vice-Chairman as the case may be. The Chairman, for the time being, shall ipso facto be the member to be appointed to the Grading Board. For the Soft Coke Cess Committee, the selection would be made from the soft coke manufacturers

For local bodies local members will be selected or nominated as the case may be. For single nomination, selection would be made from the two groups alternately. It is also proposed to make <sup>the</sup> necessary alterations in the Articles of Association of both the bodies.

All these proposals, it is understood, will be considered at a special general meeting, to be held shortly.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 31-1-1936)+

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Workers' Organisations.

Trade Union Movement in the Bombay Presidency, 1934-35. \*

Number of Registered Unions.- During the year under report, nine new unions were registered, bringing the total number of registrations up to 31-3-1935 to 90. The registrations of 36 unions had been cancelled before 1st April 1934, and during the year under review, the names of the following five Unions were removed from the register:- (1) The Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, Bombay. (2) The Karachi Labour Union, Karachi. (3) The Bombay Seamen's Union, Bombay. (4) The Chalisgaon <sup>K</sup>albawata Girni Kamgar Union, Chalisgaon, and (5) The Karachi Electric Supply Corporation Ltd's. Employees' Association, Karachi. The first three unions had failed to submit their annual returns, the fourth had ceased to exist and the fifth had been dissolved. The net number of unions on the register on 31-3-35 was 49.

Classification of Unions. - Of the 49 registered unions at the end of the year under report, only 41 individual unions submitted annual reports. These 41 unions may be classified thus: railway workers' unions, including those of railway workshop employees - 10; tramway employees' unions - 1; textile labour unions - 6; unions of printing press employees - 3; unions of municipal workers - 5; seamen's unions - 2; docks and port trust employees' unions - 7 and miscellaneous unions - 7. Of the 41 unions, 2 were employers' unions.

Membership and Finance of Unions.- The total membership of the reporting unions increased from 51,778 to 53,552 during the year under report. The number of withdrawals from membership was only about two-thirds the number of accessions. It will be observed

\*Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Bombay Presidency for the year 1934-35-Bombay: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, - Price Anna 1 or 1d. pp.17

that the only groups that reported decreases in membership were "Tramways" and "Docks and Port Trusts". The female membership of registered trade unions increased from 591 to 485 in spite of the exclusion of the membership of the Kajugar Kamgari Union, Bombay, which consisted almost entirely of female workers.

The general fund was the principal liability of the majority of the unions. It formed the only liability of seventeen unions, while only four unions had liabilities other than the general fund. The total amount at the credit of the general fund account of all the unions was Rs. 404,801-5-6 and other liabilities amounted to Rs. 28,276-4-9 as against total "assets" amounting to Rs. 433,077-10-3. The figure for total assets includes an amount of Rs. 276,244-6-2 for unpaid subscriptions, the real value of which is very doubtful. The amount of cash assets was the largest in the case of the railway group and amounted to Rs. 26,863-6-6. To this sum the National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay, alone contributed cash assets mounting to Rs. 15,989-14-3. This union also held securities worth over Rs. 55,000 out of total securities, amounting to Rs. 79,492-5-6, held by six unions.

Political Fund.- The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay, continued to maintain its political fund.

Federations.- No federation of trade unions was borne on the register during the year under report.

Number and Membership of Registered and Unregistered Unions.- The total number of trade unions - registered as well as unregistered - in the Bombay Presidency was 103 with a membership of 115,186, while at the close of the year there were 114 unions comprising 110,723 members. Nearly half the total number of unions <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~ registered

under the Act. Of the remaining unions, 35 were associations of employees of the Postal and Telegraph Departments, consisting mainly of clerical workers. The enfranchisement of manual labour in the new constitution and the proposals to form trade union constituencies for the purpose of electing labour representatives to the reformed legislatures, have not only induced several of the existing unions to seek registration under the Act but also given an impetus to the formation of new unions amongst the hitherto unorganised workers in industries with a view to their ultimate registration. No fewer than 18 unions were registered during the year 1935 and half a dozen applications for registration were pending at the close of the year.

(The Annual Report on the working of the Trade Unions Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 42-44 of our April 1935 report),

~~11th~~ <sup>11th</sup> Annual Conference of All-Travancore Labour  
Association: Plea for British Indian Standards of Labour

Legislation. +

The 11th Annual Conference of the All-Travancore Labour ~~xxx~~ Association was held at Alleppey on 12-1-36 under the presidency of Mr. A. Thanu Pillai, member, Travancore Legislative Assembly.

Presidential Address.— Mr. Thanu Pillai in the course of his presidential address said that agriculture which was the mainstay of the State was becoming less remunerative and it was inevitable that the State should look to industries for future prosperity. He was of the opinion that the key industries should be controlled by the State. The Government themselves had adopted this policy by running rubber, kaolin and other factories



Review of State's Labour Legislation.- With the development of industries, suitable legislation for the well-being of labourers was indispensable. In Travancore, they could hope that the new Factories Bill, Trade Unions Bill and Workmen's Compensation Bill would soon be enacted into law. There were till now only two important measures of legislation in the State affecting labour, viz. the Breach of Contract Regulation, which was repealed recently and the Factories Regulation. However unsatisfactory and inadequate the Regulation might be, he believed that even in this there were provisions which, if put into force, would promote the well-being of the workers. But the Government had never cared to put them into force.

States' Legislation to be on a par with British Indian Legislation.- Mr. Pillai next referred to the Factories Regulation now before the legislature and replied to the objections raised by the employers' representatives to the Bill. It had been stated that conditions in British India and Travancore were different, and that it was not advisable to adopt here labour legislation on a par with that in British India. Similar objections were raised by employers in British India when the attempt to introduce modern labour legislation was made there. Large scale industries were organised in India on the western model and the labour problem that arose in the west as a result would inevitably arise in India. To solve these problems, they had to adopt similar measures whether it be in British India or in Indian States. The regulation of hours of work and working conditions, and the provisions for ensuring healthy conditions and cleanliness which were found in the Act were equally necessary for Travancore & also.

Opposition of Employers to Factories Bill.- The main opposition of the employers at present in Travancore was directed against the definition of factories contained in the Factories Bill. They would like the definition so amended as to bring within the ambit of the law only those factories which employed a minimum of 100 workers. Mr. Thanu Pillai said that if the amendment proposed by the employers was accepted a considerable section of the labouring classes would not get the benefit of the legislation. Mr. Pillai stressed the need for a contented and prosperous labouring class if industries should thrive. Proper measures should be adopted to safeguard the health and safety of women and children who formed the bulk of labourers in the cashewnut factories.

Social Insurance.- Mr. Pillai, proceeding, said that the Trade Union Bill was the most important piece of labour legislation now before the Travancore Legislature. The Trade Disputes Act would provide suitable machinery for composing differences between the employers and the employees. He hoped that the Workmen's Compensation Bill would also be soon introduced into the Legislature. Besides these measures, ~~in~~ he ~~wanted~~ wanted that proper laws should be enacted to provide living wages, to help the worker in infirmity and old age, and to meet other necessities of the labourer. He was definitely of the opinion that labour legislation in the States should, as far as possible, be identical with that in British India.

Representation in Legislatures.- Concluding, Mr. Pillai made a strong appeal for providing for the adequate representation of labour in the Travancore Legislature, as was done in British Indian Legislatures.

Resolutions Adopted.- The Conference passed resolutions welcoming the introduction of the Factories Bill, the Trade Union Bill and the Trade Disputes Bill in the Travancore Legislative Assembly, and requesting Government to introduce at the next Assembly Session the Workmen's Compensation Bill, which has already been published in the Travancore Government Gazette. The Conference recommended to Government and the Franchise and Delimitation Commissioner the introduction of adult franchise in view of the high ~~and~~ standard of literacy in the State, and also asked for the introduction of a Wages Bill in the legislature, guaranteeing a living wage to workers, in order to protect them from indiscriminate wage cuts. A motion asking for three seats for labour in the Travancore Legislative Assembly, and two in the Upper House, the Sri Chitra State Council, was also adopted.

(The Hindu, 13-1-1936, and the Times of India, 16-1-36). +

Intellectual Workers.

Organisation of Journalists/ on All-India Basis :

Statement Issued by Journalists' Association of India, Bombay. +

The Executive Committee of the Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, has recently issued a statement regarding the formation of an All-India Federation of Journalists' Association in the country.

The following are the main points brought out in the statement :-

Need for a Federal All-India Organisation.— The Journalists' Association of India was established in Bombay about 15 years ago with the object of protecting and promoting the interests of journalism and journalists in India. Since its establishment it has had as its members journalists from different parts of the country and the late Mrs. Besant and Mr. A. Rangaswamy Iyengar were its successive presidents. With the rapid growth of journalism and the increasing number of journalists in all parts of the country, it has been found that the interests of journalism and journalists can be most effectively served only by strong autonomous organisations in each province, affiliated to a federal body which will not have individual journalists as its members and whose headquarters will not be permanently located in any one city.

Draft Constitution of Federal Body.— The Executive Committee of the Journalists' Association of India feel that neither of the two existing All-India bodies — the Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, and the Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta— which have individual journalists of Bombay and Calcutta as their

members, who naturally have a dominating voice in the administration of their affairs, can <sup>discharge</sup> ~~fulfil~~ <sup>function</sup> the purpose of a federal body. The Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, therefore, <sup>will</sup> shortly ~~be~~ circulating to different provincial organisations a draft constitution for such a federal body and, if it meets with general approval, they will take steps to convert the Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, into a purely provincial organisation.

Provincial Organisations to be Started.- The Association calls upon journalists in those provinces where no provincial organisations exist to start such organisations, so that no time may be lost in bringing into being a federal body competent ~~enough~~ to speak in the name of journalists throughout the country and powerful enough to protect their rights and promote their interests.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-2-36) +

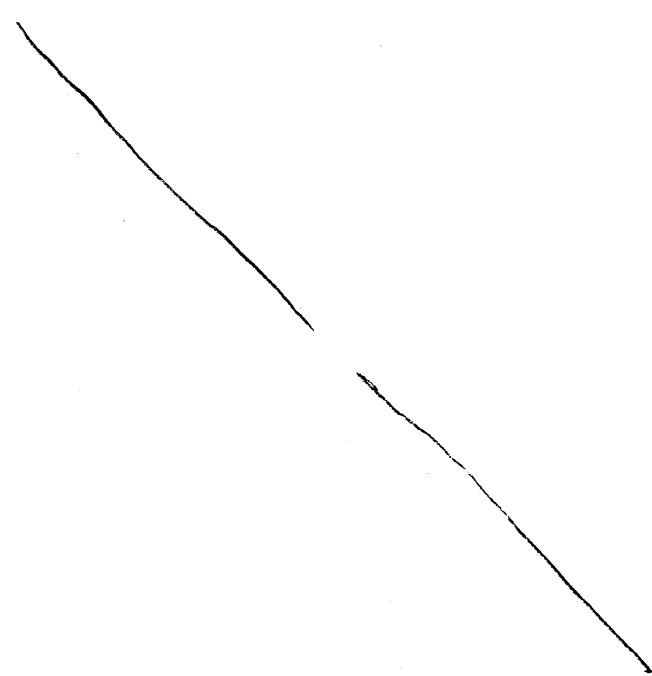
(Only a brief and casual mention is made about the above in the Times of India).

Economic Conditions.

Budget of the Government of India, 1936-37:

Cottage Industries and Rural Uplift Work to Benefit.

The Budget of the Government of India for 1936-37 was presented in the Legislative Assembly on 28-2-1936 by Sir James Grigg, the Finance Member. The outstanding features of the budget are: ~~the~~ a reduction in the surcharge on incomes from one-six to one-twelfth; the raising of the minimum taxable income from Rs. 1,000 per annum to Rs. 2,000; alteration in the postal rates whereby the weight of the one-anna letter will be increased from half a tola to one tola with an additional half anna charge for every additional tola; the allotment of Rs. 500,000 for the benefit of cottage and small scale industries and Rs. 2 millions for broadcasting; a grant of Rs. three millions for Agricultural Research; and a grant of Rs. 10.85 millions for provincial rural schemes.



Budget at a Glance.

Surplus carried forward from 1934-35:	...	Rs. 17.35 millions
Revised Estimates, 1935-36 -		
Revenue	...	Rs. 865.2 millions
Expenditure	...	Rs. 841.0 millions
Surplus	...	Rs. 24.2 millions.
Estimates for 1936-37 -		
Revenue	...	Rs. 873.5 millions
Expenditure	...	Rs. 853.0 millions
Surplus.	...	Rs. 20.5 millions
Total surplus available for disposal:	...	Rs. 62.05 millions.

Disposal of Surplus.- The surplus is disposed of in the following manner:

1934-35: The excess of Rs. 17.35 millions goes to Rural Development in consequence of the Assembly's agreement a year ago that any surplus should thus be disposed of. Grants are therefore proposed as follows:-

(1) Agricultural Research	...	Rs. 3.0 millions.
(2) Prevention and Cure of Malaria	...	Rs. 1.0 "
(3) Cottage and small woollen industries.	...	Rs. .5 "
(4) Broadcasting in villages.	...	Rs. 2.0 "
(5) Provincial rural schemes	...	Rs. 10.85 "
		Rs. 17.35 "

1935-36: From the surplus (revised estimate) of Rs. 24.2 millions it is proposed to allot to -

(1) Initial building equipment in Sind	...	Rs. 1.75 millions
( Initial building equipment on Orissa	...	Rs. 2.75 "
(The amount for Sind is smaller because Sind already has part of the buildings necessary for the new Government, while Orissa is not similarly well off).		
(2) Reserve credit for assisting the Central Budget <del>in</del> in the first year of Provincial Autonomy.	..	Rs. 19.7 mill
		Rs. 24.20 millions

(It is expected that this will cover the amount required in respect of all provinces except Burma. The separation of Burma is expected to cost Rs. 27.5 millions, but "if all goes well" Government expect at the same time to obtain an almost equal betterment in interest charges and revenue improvements.)

1936-37: It is proposed to use the coming year's estimated surplus of Rs. 20.5 millions as follows:

(1) (a) Abolition of taxes on income below Rs. 2,000. ....	Rs. 4.7 millions
(b) Reduction by half of surcharges on income-tax and super-tax. ....	Rs. 13.8 "
	<u>Rs. 18.5</u> "
(2) Increase from 2-tola to 1-tola in the weight of a letter carried for one anna.	Rs. 1.3 "
Surplus balance ....	<u>Rs. .7</u> "
	<u>Rs. 20.5</u> "

Rural Development.- Proposing the allocation of Rs. 17.35 millions available in the Rural Development Fund for various schemes of rural uplift, Sir James Grigg said:

"First.- A grant of Rs. 30 lakhs (Rs. 3 millions) for Agricultural Research. This will cover the Rs. 10 lakhs still outstanding of the block grant promised to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research when it was first established and a further Rs. 20 lakhs for financing other urgent schemes of research, some of which will be under the direct control and supervision of Government. These other schemes include sugarcane research, and investigations in connection with the dairying side of animal husbandry. This branch of the peasants' activity has not received sufficient attention in the past. Experience elsewhere emphasises its importance to the cultivator, both as a means of supplementing his income and of adding to his diet elements that make for good nutrition and, therefore, for good health.

Secondly.- A grant of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Indian Research Fund Association. Health is a vital factor in measures aiming at a general improvement in the conditions of village life and to ensure that the benefit of these Rs. 10 lakhs goes primarily to the rural population the Association will be required to devote the amount mainly to schemes connected with the prevention or cure of malaria.

Thirdly.- A grant of Rs. 5 lakhs for the benefit of cottage and small scale woollen industries.

Honourable Members are aware that the case for the protection of the woollen industry was examined last year by the Tariff Board and that for certain reasons, including the refusal of evidence on the part of an important section of the mill industry, we were unable to accept its claim to protection. But woollen manufacture is also carried on in cottages and in small scale workshops; and the Tariff Board's findings suggested that this branch of the industry

stood in greater need of assistance than the other. "Further, there was no reason why the action of the manufacturers should be allowed to prejudice its claims.

But, as the Tariff Board pointed out, in this case, a cottage industry is likely to derive more benefit from technical advice and assistance in marketing arrangements than from the imposition of protective duties. Government therefore propose to make a grant for the benefit of the cottage and small scale woollen industry amounting to Rs. 5 lakhs to be spread over 5 years and our intention is that it should be administered on lines somewhat similar to those adopted ~~xx~~ in the case of the corresponding grant for Sericulture except that, as research is not likely to be involved, the States will not participate in the allocation of funds. The actual execution of provincial schemes financed from this grant will be in the hands of the Provincial Departments of Industries.

Fourthly.- A grant of Rs. 20 lakhs to the Fund for development of broadcasting. This Fund is, of course, only available for capital expenditure; recurring expenditure is to be provided in the budget in the normal way. In my speech last year I emphasised that the expression "economic development and improvement of rural areas" was used "in a wide sense to cover any measure which will conduce to the amelioration of the conditions of the cultivators and rural classes". Broadcasting which now provides instructional lectures on agriculture and health ~~x~~ has a quite legitimate claim on this fund and the additional grant will help to satisfy the demand for such information over a larger area.

After these grants there is still left in the Fund Rs. 10.85 millions. We shall in all probability allocate the bulk of this to Provinces on a rural population basis for expenditure on schemes to be approved by the Government of India. But before deciding upon this finally, we shall review the results of last year's grants. It will be remembered that I circulated to the House on the 6th September last a full description of the schemes which had been approved by the Government of India in connection with the grants amounting to Rs. 92½ lakhs which have already been made to Provinces. We have called for full reports from local Governments as to the actual progress and results of their schemes. We expect that these will be available next month and in the light of them we shall decide whether any alterations are necessary in the conditions of our grants. I may point out that in the last two years the Government of India have allotted nearly, Rs. 35 millions in the way of special grants for rural purposes.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,  
dated 29-2-1935, pages 83-100). +



Railway Budget for 1936-37:Expenditure Entailed by Implementing Labour Legislation. +

The Railway Budget for 1936-37 was presented in the Legislative Assembly on 17-2-1936 by Sir Zafrulla Khan, Commerce Member, Government of India. The deficit for 1935-36 is estimated at <sup>Rs</sup>26<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> millions more than originally estimated. For 1936-37 the budget anticipates a deficit of nearly Rs. 35 millions, commercial and strategic lines taken together. This will be met by temporary loans from the depreciation fund. The budget estimate for 1936-37 assumes ~~an~~ an improvement of Rs. 12.5 millions over the current year, based on a slight increase in traffic anticipated and alteration in rates and fares made, and likely to be made, by railways. Sir Zafrullah revealed that travel without tickets cost the railway at least Rs. 10 millions per annum and that Government had therefore decided to propose amendments to the Indian Railway Act with a view to ensuring a stricter check. The Railway Member's speech was couched in a spirit of restrained optimism.

The total traffic receipts of 1935-36 of State lines are expected to reach Rs. 900 millions. The total working expenses amount to Rs. 640 millions. The total deficit of Rs. 45 millions (of which 20 millions are for strategic lines) will be met by a temporary loan from the depreciation fund which will stand at Rs. 90 millions at the end of the year.

The budget estimate for 1936-37 assumes receipts of Rs. 912.5 millions. This allows for an improvement of Rs. 12.5 millions over 1935-36 based on a slight increase in traffic anticipated and alterations in rates and fares made by railways. The total working

expenses of 1936-37 will amount to Rs. 645 millions and will be  
 1935-36  
 Rs. 5 millions more than in the ~~current year~~.

Causes of Fall in Revenue.- Analysing the main causes contributing to ~~the~~ fall in revenues, the Commerce Member held that the following reasons accounted for the fall:-

- (a) world depression and general collapse of commodity prices;
  - (b) striving after self-sufficiency by almost every country in the world, including India, and development of internal trade and production; and
  - (c) increase in motor competition, <sup>or</sup> and to a lesser degree, river and sea competition;
- to which should be added two factors tending to keep working expenses at a higher level than otherwise, namely, labour legislation and improvement in the service conditions of staff.

Hours Convention entails expenditure of Rs. 5 millions.- With respect to labour legislation, the Commerce Member pointed out that a stage had been reached where a halt might be called, at least for some time ~~more~~, especially having regard to the present financial position of railways, in the liberalisation of rules relating to the hours and conditions of work and the granting of further privileges to the railway staff.

*The application of* The Washington and Geneva Conventions to railways had meant an increase of about Rs. 5 millions per annum in working expenses. Increase of pay in pre-depression days to lower paid staff had cost a similar amount.

Turning to the action taken by ~~xx~~ railways to improve the position, he explained that during years of adversity railways had overhauled their expenditure, every item coming under their scrutiny. The result had been that working expenses had been reduced by about Rs. 60 millions per annum. Attempts had also been made by judicious increases or decreases in rates and fares to increase earnings.

Indian and Foreign railways.- ~~xxx~~ Comparing Indian railways with foreign railways with regard to the percentage yield ~~tho~~ of net revenue on capital invested, the Commerce Member said, "As against the rather gloomy picture of the present position of our railways, we have at least the consolation that our position is no worse than the position of other railways throughout the British Empire and throughout the world: in fact it is considerably better than <sup>most</sup> other countries."

The Future.- ~~xxx~~ Regarding the future he said: "The position, though causing anxiety and requiring ceaseless watchfulness, is not, by any means, desperate. Given a reasonable improvement in world conditions, regulation of motor transport on a fair competitive basis, a check on further concessions and privileges to railway staff, and legislation imposing an effective check upon ticketless travel, there is a fair chance that the financial position of railways will gradually improve and that they will, within a reasonable period, achieve a sound financial position." (The Times of India, 18-2-1936) ✕

Provision of Relief to Unemployed in Madras City:

Resolution in Madras Corporation. +

On 11-2-1936 Mr. Natesa Mudaliar moved the following resolution at a meeting of the Council of the Madras City Corporation:

"This Council resolves that a sum of at least Rs.10,000 be set apart to relieve the unemployed in the city."

In moving the resolution, Mr. Mudaliar said that in all countries of the West no man was allowed to starve. The States in those countries took care of the unemployed, and the aged people. Though the Government of Madras had not taken any steps to relieve the unemployed, he wanted that the Corporation of Madras at least should make a start. There were at least 5,000 people in the city who were unemployed and starving. Some steps should be taken to relieve the sufferings of the people due to unemployment.

Mr. K. Sreeramulu Naidu moved an amendment that the resolution be referred to the Standing Committee (Taxation and Finance) for consideration and report.

After some discussion, the amendment to refer the matter to the Finance Committee was put to vote and declared carried.

(The Hindu, 12-2-1936) +

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Public Health.

Safety First Association of India:

Progress during 1935. +

The Safety First Association of India, Bombay, has recently issued their Annual Report for the year 1935; a brief summary of the report is given below:-

Lecture-Demonstration Service.- During the year 1935, upwards of 60 lectures were given, and in this way over 20,000 young citizens were ~~entertained~~ <sup>instructed</sup> by the Lecture-Demonstrators of the Association in the various phases of "Safety". In addition four broadcasts in Marathi were given. Many of the schools are following up the ideas that have been given in these lectures and are integrating them ~~with and to the advantage of~~ <sup>into</sup> the curricula.

Industrial Safety Committees.- The Bombay Factory Inspectorate continued to do excellent work in forming Safety Committees. In addition to the factories mentioned in the report for 1934 (Vide pages 69-70 of our February 1935 report), Committees have been formed in the following factories:- Morarji Gokuldas Mills; Sir Shapurji Broacha Mills; Manchester Mills; The Toyo Pudar Mills; Elphinstone Mills; Pearl Mills; The Bombay Cotton Mills; Apollo Mills; The Madhusadan Mills; Century Mills; The Union Mills; Edward Sassoon Mills; Indian Manufacturing Co.; Khatau Makanji Mills.

Safety Industrial Service.- In order to further the interests of Industry, the Association is issuing a monthly press communique designed to keep Industry in touch with the Industrial Safety Movement. It is believed this service is of great value to Indian industry not only in preventing accidents, but also in improving the quality of production, increasing efficiency and decreasing costs.

"Safety News".- The Association's official monthly publication: "Safety News" continued to make its regular appearance.

Educational Activities.- The high-light in this field during the year under review was the acceptance of the principle by the Government of Bombay that Safety Education should be introduced into the schools. With this objective in mind the Association have designed a series of 11 Games-Lessons, illustrated by 24 posters on the following subjects:- 1. Walking; (2) Crossing the road; (3) Public service vehicles; (4) School safety patrol; (5) Traffic signals and road signs; (6) Riding as a passenger in a motor vehicle other than a public service vehicle; (7) The cycle; (8) The road; (9) Cycling; (10) The motor vehicle; (11) Motoring. During

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the year, greater attention has been concentrated on Road Safety. Plans are under way for the integration of Safety into Trade and Vocational Schools.

Activities Outside Bombay.-- Though no branch of the Association has been formed as yet outside Bombay, a certain amount of Safety work is being done in the Central Provinces and at Jamshedpur, and it is hoped that during the next year, branches will be formed to sponsor the movement in those parts. The Calcutta Rotary Club Public Service Committee are sponsoring the formation of a Branch of the Safety First Association in Calcutta.

(Summarised from a copy of the Report forwarded to this Office by the Secretary, Safety First Association of India, Bombay).

(The Annual Report of the Safety First Association of India for 1934 was reviewed at pages 69-70 of our February 1935 Report). +

#### Health of Children in Calcutta Schools:

##### Report of School Medical Inspectors. +

A scheme for the medical examination of school children in Government and aided secondary schools for boys in the city of Calcutta was started some years ago as an experimental measure and conducted by three Medical Inspectors of Schools under the administrative control of the Local Self-Government Department (Public Health), Bengal. From March 1, 1933, control of this work has been transferred to the Education Department and it is now carried on under <sup>the</sup> supervision of the Physical Director. The Government of Bengal has recently issued a press note on the report of the School Medical Inspectors for the Government and Government-aided schools in Calcutta for the year 1933-34, a summary of which is given below.:

General Remarks.-- The Inspector's remark that the success of the scheme of School Medical Service depends upon the education

of the public, co-operation of the teachers, earnest desire of the guardians for the improvement of their wards' health, arrangement for early and compulsory treatment and care of children by the guardians before they are sent to school. In a province like Bengal where the scheme is practically a new one and neither the teachers nor the guardians are educated enough to appreciate correctly the value of the work, it will require years to show some amount of appreciable success.

Apart from students who have definite defects, says the report, quite a large number is apparently in bad health. This may be due to prolonged neglect of health in the past, some digestive or respiratory troubles in infancy, <sup>and</sup> inherited constitutional or some other unknown hereditary factor. Poverty, want of nourishment, and unhygienic home surroundings are also contributory factors.

Common Ailments.— Of 4,534 boys examined during 1933-34, 2,273 or nearly 50 per cent were found to be defectives. Defects of the eye account for nearly 30 per cent of the defects, the commonest eye defect being defective vision with myopia found in a fair percentage. Enlargement of tonsils comes next with 27 per cent and diseases of the digestive system are responsible for 22 per cent of the defects. Nearly 10 per cent of the students were found to have carious teeth and 35 per cent to be victims of malnutrition. 90 per cent of the students do not take physical exercise at all and in consequence a large number suffer from constitutional defects from which they would otherwise have been free. There is no arrangement for lunch in any of the schools inspected. 10 per cent get refreshments from hawkers, while only 3 per cent of the students bring lunch from home which means that the great majority, nearly 87 per cent, go without any lunch.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-2-36) +

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Balanced Diet for Bengal Workers:

A.I.V.I. Association's Model Dietary Costing Under Rs.5 per Month.

The adoption of a scientifically balanced scale of diet, the cost of which will guide the fixation of a minimum wage for an artisan working either under the All India Village Industries Association (for details about A.I.V.I. see pages 30-32 of our November 1934 report), has been engaging the attention of the board of management of the A.I.V.I.A. for a long time. Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, a member of the board of management of the All-India Village Industries Association, interviewed by the Associated Press in this connection, made the following statement regarding the scale of balanced diet which may be adopted for Bengal.

Balanced Diet to cost under Rs.4/- per month. - It is admitted that the scale will vary from province to province. For Bengal, the following scale has been suggested. Criticisms are invited on it by scientists, who are dealing with problems of nutrition. The prescribed diet can be had in most of the Eastern Bengal Villages within two annas and a quarter <sup>per day.</sup> It supplies over 3,000 calories, a sufficient quantity of protein, mineral salts and vitamins. Of course woodsawers and such other hard-working people who require more calories will have to take more rice. In Western Bengal where fish is dearer eggs can be taken, which are comparatively cheaper. The prices will vary from place to place. Even in the same district, the price will vary from one village to another. But everywhere, by a little variation of this article or that, a scientifically balanced scale of diet can be had in the villages of Bengal within Rs. 4-8-0 per month.

Model Dietary Proposed. - The following gives the proposed scale:

Rice - 10 chhataks per day at Rs. 3-2 per maund -  $3\frac{1}{8}$  pice;  
Dal - 2 chhataks per day at Rs. 5 per maund - 1 pice; Vegetable -  
4 chhataks per day at Rs. 1-14 per maund -  $\frac{3}{4}$  pice; Mustard oil  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  chhataks per day at Rs. 20 per maund - 1 pice; Salt  $\frac{1}{2}$  chhataks  
and spices  $\frac{1}{4}$  pice; Lime, in season,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pice a day or other sour  
fruits  $\frac{1}{8}$  pice; Gur .4 chhataks per day at Rs. 5 per maund -  $\frac{1}{8}$   
pice; Fish 2 chhataks per day at Rs. 5 per maund - 1 pice. Where  
fish is dear, more than one egg can be substituted for the same  
cost. Milk 2 chhataks per day at Rs. 5 per maund - 1 pice; cheap  
fruits of the season -  $\frac{1}{2}$  pice; fuel (if coal 8 chhataks per day) -  
 $\frac{3}{8}$  pice.

Prevention of Beri-beri. - The quantity of rice provided  
for in the above scale includes puffed or parched rice and flat-  
tened rice (chira). In cooking rice just sufficient water should  
be added so that no liquid is to be decanted off. Anti-beri-beri  
factor being soluble in water, rice cooked in the ordinary way, as  
is done in Bengal, is no protection against beri-beri even if  
dhenki-husked rice is used.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-2-36) +



Safety in Mines:Tentative Agreements Reached at New Delhi Conference. +

A conference of representatives of the Government of India, technical experts, and representatives of mining interests was held at New Delhi on 19 and 20-2-1936 under the presidentship of Sir Frank Noyce, Member for Industries and Labour, Government of India. The Government of India had decided to convene a conference to improve safety measures in mines consequent on an accident in the Bagdigi Colliery last summer; the Loyabad colliery disaster which occurred on 30-1-1936 and which entailed a loss of 37 lives (for details see pages 20-21 of the section "Conditions of Labour" of this Report) served further to concentrate attention on the problem of safety in mines.

The Conference was attended by the following persons, besides representatives of the Government:-

Mr. R.H. Worthington, Mr. O. Pearce, Mr. L.A. Jacobs, Mr. J.E. Phelps and Mr. J.B. Wardlaw, representing the Indian Mining Association; Mr. K. Basu, and Mr. K.K. Nag, representing the Indian Mining Federation; Mr. A.L. Ojha, Rao D.D. Thacker Bahadur, Mr. G.S. Raval, and Mr. Nandlal J Parikh, representing the Indian Colliery Owners' Association; Mr. M.M. Mukherjee and Mr. J.K. Dholakia, representing the Indian Mine Managers' Association; and ~~the~~ Mr. D. Archibold, representing the Indian National Association of Colliery Managers (Indian Branch).

Though representatives of miners' organisations were not invited to the Conference, Mr. P. Bose of the Indian Miners' Association, Jharia, was present by special invitation. The experts present included the Chief Inspector of Mines.

The principal subject discussed at the Conference was emergency measures to deal with underground fires in coal-fields.

The Conference was convened specially to consider the situation in the Jharia coal field, and the view ~~generally~~ held was that further precautions were required in coal-fields generally. It was ~~generally~~ recognized that the measures regarded as desirable could not be put into effect promptly without legislation at an early date. A number of proposed emergency regulations ~~were~~ discussed, and general agreement was secured. Reference was also made to the suggestion in the report on the Bagdigi accident last summer that a Committee should be set up to go into the whole question of fires in coal fields.

Dr. D. Penman, Chief Inspector of Mines in India, had submitted to the Conference a number of suggestions to ensure safety in cases of spontaneous combustion and fires in mines (Apress & summary of Dr. Penman's suggestions is included in the batch of cuttings under the heading "Public Health" sent along with this Report).

Measures agreed upon.- Among the measures agreed to as desirable, were that no work should be done in a seam under another that is on fire, unless the strata is kept intact; no fires should be lighted within 20 feet of the top of shaft without special permission; keeping of plans of ventilation at each mine; every miner to be withdrawn from the mine upon indications of fire; and the setting up of mine rescue stations. (The Hindustan Times and the Hindu, 20-2-1936).

Following the Conference, the Government of India have decided to effect certain amendments to the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, in exercise of the power conferred by section 29 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923. (The draft of the proposed amendments is published at pages 172-173 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 22-2-1936). The draft will be taken into consideration by the Legislative Assembly on or after 25th May 1936. +

Women and Children.

Sessions of International Council of Women and

National Council of Women in India,

Calcutta, 30-1-36 to 5-2-36. +

Conferences of the International Council of Women and the National Council of Women in India were held at Calcutta from January 30th to February 5th 1936.

The International Council of Women, founded 48 years ago, represents 40 million women through the national councils of 40 nations. The present is the first occasion that a Conference of the International Council of Women was held in India. Among the important foreign delegates were Lady Pentland, Princess Cantacuzene, Miss Zellweger, ~~Miss~~ Dr. Girod, Madame Legrand, and Mrs. Margaret Sanger.

Several subjects of special importance to women and children were considered by the two Conferences. The following is a list of the more important subjects: (1) Rural Reconstruction - (a) Education and Industries, (b) Village continuation school courses, and (c) Village Schools; (2) Special curriculum for Girls Schools; (3) The Cinema; (4) Training of the Social worker; (5) The League of Nations; (6) Women and the Press; (7) Medical Inspection of Schools; (8) Housing and Health; (9) Maternal mortality; (10) Child Welfare; (11) Food and Health, and (13) Legal disabilities of women.

Resolutions Adopted.- The following are some of the more  
Joint  
important resolution adopted at the/session of the International  
Council of Women;and the National Council of Women in India:-

1. League of Nations. - The National Council of Women in India meeting in conference with members of the International Council of Women, representing forty National Councils of different countries, realising that only by international agreement and friendship can

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war be averted and civilization saved, urge their respective Governments to uphold by every means in their power the Covenant of the League of Nations.

2. Montevideo Treaty. - The Calcutta Conference of the National Council of Women in India endorse the principle laid down in the Equal Rights Treaty signed at Montevideo on December 26th 1933 - and urges the International Council of Women to follow closely ~~and the~~ developments in connection with this Treaty. Further it requests the International Council of Women to give the affiliated national Councils new information concerning this matter.

3. Rural Welfare. - (a) This Conference recommends to the National Council of Women in India to appoint a special sub-committee to examine and promote rural welfare. (b) This Conference considers the work of women in rural reconstruction is of vital importance and urges that they should be more fully associated with all schemes for the improvement of rural education. The Conference urges that the curriculum of rural schools should be better adapted to the needs of village life and in particular that more emphasis be placed on hand- work and vocational training.

4. Education. - (a) Girls Education. - This Conference recommends to the National Council of Women in India to discuss and formulate proposals for women's education in all its branches.

(i) In view of the deplorable condition of girls' education in India this Conference is of opinion that to improve the situation it is absolutely necessary to have a special Board for Girls' Education in every province consisting of representatives from all girl's schools and colleges - Government and non-Government - and also others - men and women - specially interested in girls' education, and that this Board besides suggesting improvements should also administer jointly the funds with the Education Department of the Provincial Government.

(ii) This Conference is also of opinion that as the hostel arrangements for college girls are far from satisfactory the Universities should be requested to have the system prevalent in ~~the~~ Western countries of having control over all such hostels by granting licenses and appointing a specially qualified woman to inspect and supervise them.

(b) Training of the Social Workers. In view of the rapidly growing demand for trained social workers and the fact that opportunities for such training are almost non-existent, this Conference urges that as soon as possible training courses for men and women be established both by the Universities and by suitable social organisations, similar to the Social Training School which will shortly be opened in Bombay.

5. Legal Disabilities. - This Conference is of opinion that all legal disabilities attached to women both civic and personal, should be removed.

It views with concern the growing tendency in some European

countries to deprive women of legal rights already obtained. It further resolves that it is in fullest sympathy with the efforts of Indian women's organisations, which are striving to obtain a whole-sale revision of the legal codes in India, so as to insure women's rights of property and inheritance, marriage and the guardianship of children, and hopes that their efforts will soon be crowned with success.

6. Nursery Schools.- In the opinion of this Conference there is great need for the establishment of Nursery Schools in India.

(a) Because there is a gap in the physical and mental education of children between the toddlers and school-going age; and

(b) Because of the large number of children in creches in industrial areas where there is no arrangement being made for training and discipline of any kind, ~~they request~~ <sup>the Government</sup> Government to take steps to establish a training school.

In view of the fact that it is better to develop round a nucleus it is recommended that the Government should ~~be~~ by grants and in other ways help in the immediate establishment of Nursery Schools which can act as training centres.

7. Medical Inspection.- In the interests of the future women of India, it is imperative that there should be a regular and systematic medical examination of all schools, especially girls' schools. This meeting recommends to N.C.W.I. to urge upon Government the necessity of taking steps to put this into effect at an early date.

(8) Franchise.- This Conference appreciates the rights granted to Indian women under the India Reforms Act, 1935, and expresses its gratitude to those women's organisations, and individuals who have helped to bring about the results achieved.

It urges all women to make the fullest use of the powers which they have obtained.

The Conference regrets at the same time, that some of the repeated demands of Indian women have been ignored and, in particular, that in Bengal and certain other Provinces matriculation, instead of literacy, has been made the educational qualification.

(9) Food and Health. -In view of the wide prevalence of ill health, anaemia, and food deficiency diseases in India and the great amount of suffering and death which result, a suffering which falls most heavily on the women and children, This Conference recommends to the National Council of Women in India to urge Provincial Councils to promote the formation of food committees. The Conference thinks that a good deal of improvement could be effected by such local committees if they took a keen interest in local food supplies and markets. Such committees might work on the following lines:-

(1) To educate public opinion; (2) To promote a good and cheap milk supply; (3) To increase the production of green vegetables; (4) To increase the production of ghi (butter); (5) To insure that whole grain cereals (e.g. unpolished rice) ~~were~~ <sup>are</sup> available in all markets; (6) To wage a campaign against adulterated foods.

The following resolutions relating to women workers in mines were adopted by the National Council of women in India:

1. Women Welfare Worker for Mines. - This Council has heard with pleasure of the Action of the All India Women's Conference in deciding to appoint a woman Welfare worker for the coal mine area.

2. Alternative Employment for Eliminated Women Workers. - In view of the present emergency situation in the coalfields, consequent upon the withdrawal of women from work underground, combined with the already low family income of miners, the N.C.W.I. urges upon the Government of India the immediate necessity of finding ways and means of providing alternative employment for the women thrown out of work.

3. Outstill System Condemned. - This Council strongly condemns the present Outstill System in Bihar and Orissa.

(Extracted from literature supplied to this Office by the National Council of Women in India, Calcutta.) and

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,  
1-2-36, 2-2-36, 5-2-36, 6-2-36 and  
7-2-36) +

Education.

Education of Railwaymen's Children:

Report of Sub-Committee Appointed by Central

Advisory Council for Railways. +

At a meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways, held on 14-9-1935, a sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. P.R.Rau (Financial Commissioner for Railways), Sant Singh, S. Abdul Hafeez, F.E.James and V.V.Giri, was appointed to examine & the proposals made by the Government of India relating to the policy of railways with regard to the assistance to be given to railway employees towards the education of their children. The Sub-Committee has submitted its report recently; a summary of the main recommendations made therein is given below. At the outset the Sub-Committee state that it is the intention of the Government that the proposals finally decided upon will be given effect to, as financial considerations permit and not necessarily at once; and the Sub-Committee's recommendations are, therefore, based on this understanding.

Claims of Inferior Staff.- A suggestion was made that inferior staff and labourers in general should be included in the benefits of this policy on the ground that the additional cost involved by including them will be inconsiderable. The Sub-Committee could not come to any definite conclusion on this, as there were no data before it of the costs involved. The Sub-Committee, therefore, recommends that steps should be taken to obtain an estimate of the number likely to take advantage of the benefits if so extended, and the additional cost resulting therefrom. It considers that skilled artisans who ordinarily earn much more than the ordinary labourer should be included, and that a minimum limit of

pay should be laid down for this purpose.

Claims of Temporary Staff.— It is recommended that such of the temporary staff as are eligible to subscribe to the Railway Provident Fund should be treated as quasi-permanent and included for benefit under the rules. It is agreed that the limit of assistance should be raised to the High School standard. The Sub-Committee does not recommend any extension of the limit of pay (viz., Rs. 300) beyond which assistance is not admissible at present; but it proposes that a subordinate officiating as an officer whose pay when officiating does not exceed Rs. 350 should continue to be eligible.

Maximum Limit.— The Sub-Committee agrees with the proposal that the present maximum limits of assistance (viz. Rs. 15 per child and Rs. 40 in all per parent) should not be increased.

Extension of Benefit to Adopted Children.— Three members of the Sub-Committee consider that it is undesirable on many grounds to extend the benefits to adopted children. The other two consider that one adopted child, when there are no children, should be included, provided the fact of adoption is evidenced by a duly executed registered deed of adoption.

Question of Assistance even when Ordinary Educational Facilities are Available.— Mr. Giri expresses the view that the suggestion of the Railway Board that even where educational assistance is available at a station, school fees of the employee's children should be borne by the Railway— should be considered when financial conditions are favourable. The rest of the Sub-Committee



are of opinion that the assumption on which this suggestion is based that railways have a responsibility for the education of the children of all their employees, is incorrect. They agree with the Government of India that there is no reason why the Railways should extend their responsibilities beyond what has been already accepted, viz., with regard to the children of employees who are, for administrative convenience, stationed at places where they cannot receive education.

(the Hindustan Times, 2225-2-36) +

Industrial Education in the United Provinces, 1934-35.\* +

Action on Recommendations of Re-organisation Committee.- In January 1934, the Reorganisation Committee appointed by the United Provinces Government towards the close of 1932, made important recommendations regarding the reorganisation of instructional institutions (vide pages 39-42 of our March 1934 report for a summary of the Recommendations). In accordance with the wishes of the Legislative Council, a committee of non-official members with the Secretary to Government, Industries Department, as Chairman, was constituted to consider these recommendations (vide page 80 of our September 1934 report). The report of this Committee, which was submitted in December 1934, (summarised at pages 77-78 of our February 1935 report) is now under the Government's consideration.

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\*Extract from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries, United Provinces, for the year ending 31st March, 1935. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, United Provinces, 1936. pages 39. Price, 12 annas.

Government Schools.— The number of Government schools remained the same as in the preceding year, viz., 25. The Government gave Rs. 943,039 as grant to these schools during 1934-35 as against Rs. 1,002,866 in 1933-34. The quality of students who sought admissions continued to be high. Out of 2,202 applications for admission received, 1,012 were admitted as against 2,213 and 1,039 respectively during 1933-34. The number of students on the rolls at the close of the year under review was 1,683 as against 1,481 during 1933-34. Of these 1,683 students, 212 were artisan students. During the year Rs. 33,621 were given away by way of stipends and Rs. 15,762 by way of scholarships. Out of 570 candidates who appeared for the annual examinations, 525 were successful.

Aided Institutions. During the year under review, there were 7 carpentry schools, 20 weaving, knitting and tailoring schools, 2 leather working schools, one metal working school and 17 miscellaneous industrial schools in receipt of grants in aid from the Government. The number of students in these institutions at the close of the year was 1,389. Government's share of the cost of the aided institutions amounted to Rs. 90,673 against Rs. 71,938 in 1933-34.

Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Cawnpore.— The Director of Industries continued as ex-officio Principal and the Sugar Technologist as ex-officio Head of the Sugar section of this Institute. The net expenditure amounted to Rs. 121,211 and the average daily number of students on the roll during the year was 113. The Sugar section continued to be popular and good material offered itself for enrolment. During the last five years 98 students completed their training at the Institute. Out of these 81 are reported to be employed, 4 are doing private business and 13 are either unemployed or their particulars are not known.

Agriculture.Rural Uplift in Baroda: Rs. Ten Millions Granted. +

In connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Gaekwar of Baroda, the State has created, in commemoration of the Jubilee, ~~of~~ a fund of Rs. 10 millions, the income of which is to be devoted to rural uplift. From the income, ~~of this~~, grants will be made for useful schemes like extensions of gamthans (villages) to relieve over-crowding, village water-supplies, communications, educative work of all kinds, etc. Special preference will be given (i) to the poorer areas which probably have been neglected in the past and (ii) to the needy of backward communities like the Raniparaj, the Antyajjas, the Thakardas, the Rabaries, etc. The amounts annually devoted on these works from the Fund will be in addition to the usual State expenditure on these works.

(The Hindu, 6-1-1936). +

Debt Conciliation Board for Sandur State.

It is understood that the Government of Sandur State contemplate the setting up, at an early date, of a Debt Conciliation Board on the lines suggested by the Committee appointed by the State to enquire into the problem of agricultural indebtedness in the State. The Board is to consist of an official president and two members of whom one will represent creditors' interests and <sup>the other</sup> ~~another~~ debtors' interests.

(The Times of India, 6-1-1936). +

Rural Indebtedness and Indebted Agricultural Labour  
in Hyderabad: Enquiry Ordered by Government. +

The Government of H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad (Deccan) has appointed a Special Officer to enquire into, among other <sup>matters</sup> things, the problem of agricultural indebtedness, regulation of land alienation and the question of the "Bhagela" system (indebted agricultural labour). The following information is taken from a communique issued on 23-12-35 by the Information ~~xx~~ Bureau of the State.

Agricultural Indebtedness.- The problem of agricultural indebtedness has been engaging the close attention of Government ever since the economic depression, ~~with the drop in all commodity prices, when~~ started some five years ago. Special and increasing attention has been paid to this problem in British India and it is now generally recognised that there is no single approach or solution to the problem, but that action from a number of different angles has to be tried. An Agriculturists' Relief Regulation was sanctioned by His Exalted Highness for the years 1341 F (1933-34) and 1342 F. (1934-35) and recently the Regulation has been re-applied for a further period of three years from commencement of 1345 F (1937-38) and the question of making its provisions more widely known and of studying its working will be among the duties of the Special Officer. Other enquiries will be made to consider the extent to which certain recent British Indian enactments for the relief of agricultural indebtedness would, as amended, be likely to suit the conditions of the State. Among these Acts are the Debt Conciliation Acts of the Central Province, the Money-lenders' Acts, the Usurious Loans Acts, etc.

Land Alienation.- In 1935 a Land Alienation Regulation was enacted which has not as yet been made applicable to any area.

The application of this Regulation as a test-measure to one or two districts is now being considered. When applied, Government will require to be kept closely informed of its effect and of the extent to which it succeeds in realising the objects for which it has been framed.

Indebted Agricultural Labour.- Government have had under consideration for some time the special problem provided by the "Bhagela system" or "gaidavandlu" (indebted agricultural labour). The early enactment of a Regulation which will enable relief to be given to agricultural labour of this type is under consideration. The working of this regulation, when sanctioned, and the bringing of its provisions to the notice of the classes concerned will form part of the special enquiries now to be started. (

(The Hindu, 25-12-1935). +

(For fuller details see pages 21- 22 of this Report under section: "Conditions of Labour").

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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REPORT FOR MARCH 1936.

(N.B.- Every section of the Report may be taken out separately).

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\* \* \*  
A communique re. the recent regional Labour Conference of the American Member States of the I.L.O. (issued by this Office on 26-2-1936) is published in the following: the Hindu dated 3-3-1936 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 8-3-1936 (Vide Enc. Nos. 3 and 4 of H.4/306/36 dated 12-3-1936).

\* \* \*  
The April 1936 issue of the Young Builder, Karachi, publishes a short note summarising the decisions of the recent regional Labour Conference referred to above.

\* \* \*  
The March 1936 issue of the Young Builder, Karachi, publishes an appreciative review of the pamphlet: "The 19th Session of the I.L.Conference, 1935". (Reprint from the September 1935 issue of the International Labour Review).

\* \* \*  
"Federated India", Madras, dated 25-3-1936 publishes an appreciative review of the Report of the 19th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*  
The Hindustan Times dated 6-3-1936 publishes a report issued by the Associated Press of India on the activities of the Mixed Committee on Nutrition Problems, Geneva.

\* \* \*  
The Hindu dated 21-3-1936 publishes a communique issued by the League Information Bureau on the problem of nutrition. References are made in the communique to the enquiry on the subject conducted by the League of Nations and the I.L.O.

\* \* \*  
The Leader dated 25-3-1936 publishes an editorial article on the pamphlet issued by the Information Section of the League of Nations regarding the question of nutrition in relation to public health and economic conditions.

\* \* \*  
~~A summary of the proceedings in the Legislative Assembly~~



The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 17-3-1936 publishes an article under the caption: "Problems of Nutrition: Government's Duty" contributed anonymously. The article deals with the investigations on the subject started by the League of Nations and the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

Press reports of the Legislative Assembly debate on resolution recommending non-ratification of Draft Convention re. 40-Hour Week are published in the following: The Hindu, the Statesman, the Leader, and the Hindustan Times dated 7-3-1936, the National Call dated 8-3-1936, the Times of India dated 9-3-1936, the Railway Herald, Karachi, dated 12-3-1936 and the Indian Labourer, Madras, dated 10-3-1936 (vide Enc. Nos. 7 to 14 of H.4/306/36 dated 12-3-1936, No.2 of H.4/335/36 dated 19-3-1936 and No.14 of H.4/361/36 dated 26-3-1936).

\* \* \*

Mr. Giri's speech in the Legislative Assembly on the above resolution was published in the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 15-3-1936.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 12-3-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption "Assembly Debate on a Shorter Week" commenting on the above resolution. The article summarises the views expressed by Sir Frank Noyce, Sir H.P.Mody and Mr. N.M.Joshi on the question and says that Indian workers have no reason to be dissatisfied with the progress of labour legislation in this country. The article says:

"During the last 15 years the labouring classes in India have won some valuable rights and privileges, for which credit is in a great measure due to the Geneva Organisation which has been carrying out investigations into existing conditions, bringing them to the notice of the peoples and Governments and suggesting measures to remedy suffering and injustice. The authorities of the International Labour Organisation themselves refer in their Year-Book to the interest which extra-European countries, among which they make particular mention of India, have been showing in the Organisation."

The article, however, criticises the attitude taken by Sir H.P.Mody and says that employers should, in the interests of harmonious relationships between them and labour, be thankful

to the I.L.O. "which has been conducting the labour class movement on right lines". The article refers to tributes paid to the work of the I.L.O. by employers' delegates to the I.L.Conference and suggests that Sir H.P.Mody's criticisms are to be taken as his personal views only and not as representing the opinion of Indian employers as a class.

The article also points out that, though a 40-hour week is not a practical proposition for some time to come, the Assembly should have adopted Mr. Joshi's amendment recommending the acceptance of the principle of the 40-hour week.

Extracts from the above editorial article are reproduced in the Statesman dated 24-3-1936.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 15-3-1936 publishes a long editorial article under the caption: "Joshi Idealism", on the Assembly resolution on the 40-hour week. The article deplors the rejection by the Assembly of Mr. Joshi's amendment.

\* \* \*

Summary of Council of State debate on a similar resolution as above is published by the following: the Statesman, the Hindu and the Hindustan Times dated 27-3-1936, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the National Call and the Times of India dated 28-3-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 30-3-1936.

\* \* \*

Press reports of the debate in the Council of State on resolution recommending that Indian delegations to international conferences should be led by Indians are published in the following: the Statesman dated 12-3-1936, the Hindustan Times dated 12-3-1936, and the National Call dated 13-3-1936.(vide Enc.Nos. 15 to 17 of H.4/306/36 dated 12-3-1936).

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 11-3-1936 publishes a news item to the effect that Dr. P.N.Banerjea, M.L.A., has given notice of an amendment to the official resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Convention concerning maintenance of migrant workers' pension rights. The amendment suggests that a committee be appointed to consider the question and report to the Assembly on or before 31-7-1936.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 13-3-1936, the Statesman, the Hindustan Times and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 14-3-1936 publish a summary of the proceedings in the Legislative Assembly on 13-3-1936. During question hour, Sir Frank Noyce, replying to an interpellation by Dr. P.N. Banerjea, stated that statistics regarding unemployment in India are not published by the I.L.O. since such statistics are not collected by the Government of India.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 25-3-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Evil of Griggism". The article deals with the question of unemployment in India and reference is made to the interest taken by the I.L.O. in the subject. It is stated that, in spite of this interest, the I.L.O. has not taken any steps to persuade the Government of India to start collecting statistics of unemployment in this country.

\* \* \*

The March 1936 issue of the Insurance World, Calcutta, reproduces (from "Commerce", Calcutta, dated 22-2-1936) the summary of an article contributed by Mr. S.C. Ray on: "The unemployment insurance need in India", and published in "Advance", Calcutta. In the course of the article references are made to the Draft Convention re. unemployment insurance and to the attitude of the Government of India towards the Convention.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 9-3-1936, the Hindustan Times dated 9-3-1936 and the Times of India dated 10-3-1936 publish the report of ~~the~~ an 'At Home' given by the Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, in honour of Mr. Pelt. In the course of his speech, Mr. Pelt referred to the valuable benefits India has derived through her membership of the League Organisations.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 9-3-1936 and the Leader dated 11-3-1936 also publish the above.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 15-3-1936 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 17-3-1936 publish the report of an interview given by Mr. A. Pelt at Lucknow to a few press correspondents. In the course of the interview, Mr. Pelt discussed the question to what extent the League and India need each other's services.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Partika dated 29-3-1936 publishes a letter dated 14-3-1936 from Geneva from its Geneva correspondent. In the course of the letter, reference is made to the recent visit of Mr. A. Pelt (Director of the Information Section, League of Nations) to India and the writer states:

"I notice that the League officials generally dwell upon the fact that India's contribution in comparison with her population is not so very large. But the Indian public is entitled to ask the League and all those who are paid to carry on propaganda on behalf of the League, why on earth should India contribute more than most of the Members of the League Council? What special privileges is India getting by contributing something like 20 lakhs of rupees a year? Some of the Latin-American States have been permanently defaulters in their contributions towards the League's upkeep - nevertheless they are in a better position than India in utilising the League machinery for the national disadvantages. I noticed another curious thing in Mr. Pelt's speeches. He has dragged in the International Labour Organisation with the League. Is it necessary to do so? The U.S.A., Japan and Brazil are Members of the International Labour Organisation without having anything to do with the League. Cannot India make a similar arrangement? In the opinion of your correspondent this can be done and will be a far better thing to do than to maintain the present anomalous situation with her membership in the League. It was cold comfort to Mr. Pelt's listeners to know that eight Indians are eligible for working in the League and in the I.L.O.

When all 'pros and cons' had been weighed in the balance, the Indian nationalist would find that it would be better to leave the League and seek collaboration with the international world through other channels; I would not, however, suggest anyone's assuming that I include the International Labour Organisation in the League. It is a separate institution and India can get some profit out of it by retaining her membership in it."

\* \* \*

The issues of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 8-3-1936 and 22-3-1936 reproduce the pamphlet "Labour's New Charter" issued by the General Council of the British Trades Union Congress.

(Copies of the pamphlet were sent to Indian periodicals by this Office).

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 9-3-36 publishes a summary of the speeches of Lord Strabolgi, Mr. Graham Hutton and Professor Richardson at the three-day conference on "The I.L.O. and World Planning" conducted under the auspices of the League of Nations

Union, London, at the London School of Economics.

\* \* \*  
The Times of India dated 6-3-1936 and the Hindustan Times dated 16-3-1936 publish a summary of the speech of Dr. R.R. Kuczynski at the Conference mentioned above.

\* \* \*  
The Leader dated 13-3-1936 reproduces an editorial note of the Manchester Guardian on the subjects discussed at the Conference mentioned above.

\* \* \*  
A communique re. the Second International Conference on Social Policy (issued by this Office on 23-3-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 24-3-1936, the National Call dated 26-3-1936, the Statesman dated 30-3-1936, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 28-3-1936 (vide Enc. Nos. 4 & 5 of H.4/361/36 dated 26-3-1936 and Nos. 1 & 2 of H.4/385/36 dated 2-4-1936).

\* \* \*  
A communique re. the I.L.O. report: "Opium and Labour" (issued by this Office on 10-3-1936) is published in the following: the National Call, the Hindustan Times dated 12-3-1936, the Times of India dated 17-3-1936, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 15-3-1936, "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 17-3-36, the Hindu dated 16-3-1936 and the Railway Herald, Karachi, dated 19-3-1936 (vide Enc. Nos. 5 & 6 of H.4/306/36 dated 12-3-1936, Nos. 6 to 8 of H.4/335/36 dated 19-3-1936 and Nos. 2 & 3 of H.4/361/36 dated 26-3-1936.)

\* \* \*  
The Hindustan Times dated 13-3-1936 publishes an editorial article on the above report. The article comments appreciatively on the report.

\* \* \*  
The Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 29-3-1936, the National Call and the Bombay Chronicle dated 30-3-1936 and the Times of India dated 31-3-1936 publish summarised reports of the presidential speech of Sir H.P. Mody at the third annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of India, held at New Delhi on 28 & 29-3-1936. In the course of his speech Sir Homi referred unsympathetically to the rapid output of Draft Conventions in recent years by the I.L. Conference.

Full text of Sir Homi's speech is published in "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 31-3-1936.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 30-3-1936 publishes a short editorial note on the above, in the course of which it says:-

"There will be wide agreement with his vehement protest against the latest Geneva Labour Convention seeking to establish a 40-hour week in factories. The Legislature has already refused to ratify the Convention as being outside the realm of practical politics in India and most people will agree that until the International Labour Conference attempts to pay a little more regard to realities its deliberations will continue to be mere waste of time and money."

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 31-3-1936 also publishes an editorial note on Sir H.P.Mody's speech, in the course of which it deprecates Sir Homi's reference to I.L.Conventions.

\* \* \*

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 7-3-36 and the February 1936 issue of "Jeebon Beema", a Bengali monthly of Calcutta, publish a review of the I.L.O. publication: "I.L.O. and Social Insurance."

\* \* \*

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 14-3-1936 publishes a note on "India and International Affairs" dealing primarily with the recent inauguration of an Indian Institute of International Affairs at New Delhi. In the course of the note reference is made to India's relationship with the I.L.O. and the League of Nations and the establishment in India of branch offices of these two organisations.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 20-3-1936 publishes a "Letter to the Editor" from Mr. A.R.N.Husain, Calcutta, under the caption "Working and Spending". The "Letter" deals with the Bombay Labour Office report on retail shops, and incidentally refers to the beneficent influence of the I.L.O. in improving the conditions of workers in this country.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 24-3-1936 publishes a news item to the effect that Mr. D.P.Khaitan has been elected president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry for 1936-37. In an attached note on the public life of Mr. Khaitan, prominent mention is made of his representation of Indian employers at the I.L.Conference of 1928 and of his membership of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. in 1929.

\* \* \*

The April 1936 issue of the Young Builder, Karachi, publishes a short note quoting from an article recently contributed by the General manager of the Tata Iron and Steel Works, to the effect that in one of the <sup>coal</sup> mines wages have fallen as low as three quarters of an anna per day. The note concludes with the query: "What is the I.L.O. going to do to check such flagrant social injustice?"

\* \* \*

The November and December 1935 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes the text of resolutions adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> second session of the National Trades Union Federation held at Nagpur in December 1935. Some of the resolutions referred to various aspects of the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

No Indian newspapers and periodicals received in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

\* \* \*

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during March 1936:

1. A "Geneva Letter" dated 14-3-1936 from the Geneva correspondent of the Amrita Bazar Patrika re. India's membership of the League of Nations and the I.L.O.

Ratifications.

Draft Convention re. 40-Hour Week:

Legislative Assembly Recommends Non-ratification.

On 6-3-1936, Sir Frank Noyce, Member for Industries and Labour, moved the following resolution in the Legislative Assembly:-

"That this Assembly, having considered the draft Convention adopted by the Nineteenth Session of the International Labour Conference concerning the reduction of hours of work to 40 a week, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he do not ratify the Convention."

In his speech moving the resolution, Sir Frank Noyce referred incidentally to the increased output of Conventions by the I.L.Conference in recent years and hinted at the possibility of adopting a different procedure for dealing with draft Conventions. He said:

"I cannot help thinking that the time has already come or is rapidly approaching when our procedure in dealing with draft Conventions should be somewhat different from what it has been in the past. It has been our practice, hitherto, to bring Conventions before the Assembly in the form of Resolutions, but our procedure in this respect, which does not appear to be the same as a number of other countries, is perhaps in some respects not ideal.

Recommending non-ratification, Sir Frank said that India should not ratify the Convention under discussion because enforcement of it would seriously lower the standard of living of workers since a reduction in hours would be followed by a proportionate reduction in wages. Referring to the 48-Hour Week Convention of 1919 he said that that Convention has not yet been ratified by many of the leading industrial powers in Europe and declared that the 40-Hour Week Convention had still less chances being accepted universally.

Mr. N.M.Joshi moved an amendment to the effect that India should ratify the Convention and take steps towards the reduction



of hours by stages so that 40-hours a week may be established in India as early as practicable. Mr. V.V.Giri supported the amendment. Mr. Joshi's amendment, was defeated when put to vote by 48 votes against 42 and the original resolution was carried.

(Summarised from the Legislative Assembly Debates of 6-3-1936 Pages 2019-2039).

Draft Convention re. 40-Hour Week:

Council of State Recommends Non- ratification.+

A resolution, similar to the one moved in the Legislative Assembly by Sir Frank Noyce, was introduced in the Council of State on 26-3-1936 by Mr. A.G.Clow, Secretary, Industries and Labour Department, Mr. P.N.Sapru moved an amendment recommending the acceptance by India of the principle of a 40-hour week and the adoption of steps to have hours of work reduced gradually to this level. Mr. Sapru's amendment was rejected by the House and the ~~original~~ original motion was adopted.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 27-3-36).

Draft Convention re. Reduction of Hours of Work:

(Glass Bottle Works): Council of State Recommends Non- ratification +

Mr. A. G. Clow moved the same day in the Council of State another resolution recommending non-ratification of the I.L.Draft Convention regarding reduction of hours of work in glass bottle works. The resolution was adopted by the House.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-3-1936). 1

National Labour Legislation.

The Madras Employees' Protection Bill, 1936. +

Mr. C. Basu Dev, M.L.C. has introduced in the current session of the Madras Legislative Council the Madras Employees' Protection Bill, 1936 (Bill No. 6 of 1936). The Bill provides for provident fund systems for employees in factories, shops and offices in the Madras Presidency. It also contains a clause whereby a permanent employee in an office, factory or place of business where not less than ten persons are employed shall not be dismissed or removed without just cause or without one month's previous notice in writing, notwithstanding any contract or agreement to the contrary. A permanent employee is defined as any person employed in whatever capacity and whether paid salary or wages under a permanent employer either for a continuous period of not less than three months or for a total period of not less than four months within a continuous period of six months. A permanent employer means an employer who has been carrying on business for at least one year and shall include corporations, companies and institutions. The Bill stipulates that permanent employers in all factories and offices employing more than ten workers shall place every year to each permanent employees' credit a sum equal to one-twelfth of the wages earned by him during the preceding twelve months. The employee may contribute to the fund a sum not exceeding the contributions made by the employer.

In the statement of objects and reasons of the bill,

it is pointed out that provident fund systems are already in vogue in various Indian railways, and that there is no reason why such systems should not be introduced for employees in factories and offices.

(Summarised from the text of the Madras Employees' Bill, 1936, published at pages 28-30 of Part IV of the Fort St. George Gazette dated 11-2-1936). +

The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1936. +

Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of Industries and Labour with the Government of India, introduced in the Legislative Assembly a Bill on 16-3-1936 to amend the Indian Factories Act, 1934. Sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Factories Act gives Local Governments power to notify as factories premises which have ten or more persons working in them or in their precincts. But a notification so issued extends only to the premises and not to the precincts and may thus apply only to part of the work. It is arguable, moreover, that places in the open air are not premises. The proposed amendment is intended to ensure that manufacture carried on elsewhere than inside buildings can be regulated when necessary. The text of the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1936 (L.A. Bill No.7 of 1936) is published at pages 31-32 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 21-3-1936. +

Amendments to Central Provinces Factory  
Rules, 1935: Rules re. Maintenance of Registers. +

Attention is directed to certain amendments to the Central Provinces Factories Rules, 1935, published at pages 274 and 283 of Part III of the Central Provinces Gazette dated 6-3-1936. The amendments relate to the rules regarding maintenance of factory registers. +

The Central Subordinate (Inferior) Services  
(Gratuity, Pension and Retirement) Rules, 1936. +

Attention is drawn to Notification No.F.6(48)-R II/35 dated 19-3-1936 of the Finance Department of the Government of India regarding rules to regulate the gratuities and pensions admissible, to, and the retirement of, members of the subordinate (inferior) services under the administrative control of the Governor General in Council, published at pages 373-375 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 21-3-1936.

The principal categories of Government servants covered by the Rules are lower paid staff like record-sorters, record-lifters, daftries and jemadars. The Rules which come into force from 1st April 1936 relate to compensation pension and gratuity granted in cases of discharge due to reduction of establishment, invalid pension and gratuity, superannuation pension and gratuity, and retiring pension granted on retirement from Government service after a qualifying period of 40 years. +

Rampur Factories Bill, 1936:

54-Hour Week for Factories. +

The Rampur Factories Bill, 1936, came up for discussion in the Legislative Council of the State on 17-3-1936.

The Bill is a complete code for the regulation of labour in factories, whether working for the whole year or in any particular season. The object of the Bill is to provide for direct supervision over factories. To achieve this, various provisions regarding the working time of labourers, their age and health and safety have been introduced. The Bill provides that there shall be appointed a Chief Inspector to see that all the provisions of the Bill are complied with, and that breach of any of the provisions shall be met with a fine or imprisonment.

Main Features.- The first chapter contains the preamble and definition. The second chapter deals with the appointment of an Inspector and Chief Inspector and certified medical practitioners. The third chapter, the most important, ~~it~~ deals with ways of protecting the health and safety of labourers in factories. It provides that there should be sufficient means for ventilation, and indicates the way of moistening the air. It also lays down provisions regarding the number of labourers in a factory, its extent and area, and provisions for adequate lighting. Safeguards against fire are also included.

Prevention of Accidents.- To save labourers from accidents ~~among~~ <sup>caused by</sup> machinery, the Act lays down that there should be fencing round machinery. Inspectors ~~are~~ are given authority to stop work whenever they deem that certain machinery cannot be used without danger to human life. Provisions are also made to allot a room to children under six years of age belonging to female labourers.

Hours of Work and Holidays.- Chapter four is mainly concerned with limiting hours of work of adult labourers. The maximum period of work in a week for an adult labourer is to be 54 hours in an ordinary factory and 56 hours in a seasonal factory. One day's holiday in a week is made compulsory, although under special circumstances this may be waived. The maximum working period for any one day is 10 hours in an ordinary factory and 11 hours in a seasonal factory. The Act lays down that no labourer shall work continuously for more than five hours.

(A requisition has been made for two copies of the Bill; when received, a copy will be forwarded to Geneva.)

(The Statesman, 18-3-1936). +

Bombay Shops Bill; Motion for Select Committee Rejected. \*

References were made at pages 28-29 of our July 1935 report to the first reading of the Bombay Shops Bill, 1934, introduced by Mr. R.R. Bakhale in the Bombay Legislative Council on 11-9-1934. On 20-3-1936 Mr. Bakhale moved the reference of the Bill to a Select Committee. In doing so, he referred to the recent report issued by the Bombay Labour Office on the working conditions of shop assistants and pointed out that the report showed that the number of workers affected was considerable and that their hours of work were ~~unreasonably~~ unconscionably long.

Several members, while supporting the principle of the Bill, were of opinion that changes were required to ensure efficiency in working. Dr. J.A. Collaco opposed the motion. He did not consider that any number of amendments would make the Bill acceptable to Bombay. The clause affecting the employment of children would throw out of employment many children, who were forced to work because they were orphans, or, perhaps, worked in order to supplement the income of widowed mothers. It was no use making such a ~~in~~ law unless they were able to provide for the unemployed children by way of doles.

Mr. S.D. Saklatvala (Bombay Millowners' Association), accepted the principle of the Bill, but it seemed to him to be "an undigested piece of work". The conditions in England did not apply to India, and it had to be remembered that in India shopping was not as a rule done by women as in England, so that the shops had to remain open until men were able to leave their work. Questions like that would have to be gone into thoroughly and the Bill properly amended before it could be acceptable.

Sir Robert Bell, Home Member, said: "The result of the circulation of the Bill showed very plainly that its principles had general support. They also had his support. The first point is whether the Bill is a practicable proposition. <sup>An important</sup> ~~The first~~ point that arose was whether the provisions of the Bill would be readily observed by the public who patronised the shops. One had to take into consideration the habits of the people and to find out whether shops were kept open at odd hours, in order to cater to the habits and requirements of the people, or whether the people adjusted themselves to the necessities of the shopkeepers. The other problem arising out of the Bill was in regard to the agency for the administration of the act. It was proposed that it should be administered by the local authorities, but the local bodies of Bombay, Ahmedabad and Hubli were against taking the responsibility. Poona and Sholapur, the two other towns in which the Bill was proposed to be made applicable, had not expressed any opinion." On these grounds the Home Member opposed the motion. [On 23-3-1936 the motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee was put to vote; it was defeated, 30 voting for the motion and 38 against.

(The Times of India, 23 and 25-3-1936). +

Conditions of Labour.Conditions of Employment in Retail Shops of BombayPresidency: Bombay Labour Office Report.\* +

References were made at pages 17-19 of our October 1934 report and at pages 28-29 of our July 1935 report to the Bill introduced by Mr. R.R.Bakhale on 11-9-1934 in the Bombay Legislative Council to prohibit in the Bombay Presidency the employment of children and to limit the hours of work of young persons in shops and to provide for their early closing. The report under review had its origin in the decision of the Bombay Legislative Council to circulate for opinion Mr. R.R.Bakhale's bill. The Government of Bombay, while not opposing the first reading of the Bill, were of opinion that it was essential to be in possession of definite information relating to the conditions of work and wages of shop employees before they could formulate any views on the subject. Government therefore instructed the Commissioner of Labour to conduct an enquiry for the information of Government and the Legislative Council. The following are the salient features of the report:

Features of the Report.- Like other Bombay Labour Office enquiries of a socio-economic character, the present enquiry was conducted by the 'interview' method by actually visiting the shops. No fewer than 3,506 or nearly 10 per cent of the total retail shops in Bombay City were covered. Information was collected not only on topics directly arising out of the Bill, but also on many other matters such as the wages of shop assistants, their conditions of service, etc., in order to obtain an accurate picture of the working conditions in shops.

Mr. Bakhale's Bill proposes that its provisions should apply to Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Poona, Sholapur and Hubli. Owing to the impending separation of Sind from the Bombay Presidency,

\* Report on an Enquiry into Wages, Hours of Work and Conditions of Employment in the Retail Trade of some Towns of the Bombay Presidency prepared by the Labour Office, Government of Bombay. -Published by order of the Governor in Council. -Bombay:Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, -Price As.4 or 5d. - pp. 99.



it was not felt necessary to make any enquiries in Karachi. As regards Ahmedabad, Poona, Sholapur and Hubli, it was impossible to make as full an investigation in these centres as in Bombay owing to the want of time and staff. A fairly comprehensive investigation was, however, possible in the case of Ahmedabad. The information collected for Poona, Sholapur and Hubli is not so full.

Besides dealing with the conditions of work and wages of shop assistants, the report also examines the laws on the subject in many countries of the world.

Statistics of Shops in Bombay City.- The following table shows the particulars relating to Bombay City of the number of shops visited, their per centage to total, number of assistants, average daily hours of work, and range of daily hours of work of great majority of assistants:-

Type of Shop.	Number visited.	Percentage to total.	No.of assistants.	Average daily hours of work.	Range of daily hours of work of great majority of assistants.
Grocery and Provisions.	536	15.29	888	13.54	12 to 15
Cloth and Clothing.	480	13.69	1,377	11.39	10 to 13
Restaurants.	314	8.96	2,247	13.14	10 to 15
Bidis and Pansupari.	282	8.04	1,009	14.47	9 to 16
Milk and Sweetmeats.	182	5.19	472	13.75	11 to 16
Tailoring.	180	5.13	494	10.40	9 to 11
Metals and Hardware.	165	4.71	325	11.78	10 to 12
Liquor and Toddy etc.	156	4.45	679	10.62	9 to 13
Charcoal and Firewood.	117	3.34	155	12.13	11 to 14
Vegetables and Fruit.	103	2.94	124	14.51	15 to 16
Leather Goods.	89	2.54	177	11.29	11 to 13
Gold and Silverware.	80	2.28	190	11.10	9 to 12
Cycle, Motor spare parts, Electric wares, etc.	74	2.11	255	10.36	8 to 12
Books and Stationery etc.	60	1.71	132	10.24	10 to 12
Laundries.	57	1.62	154	11.40	10 to 13
Chemicals.	48	1.37	247	10.68	8 to 12
Miscellaneous.	583	16.63	1,287	11.45	9 to 12
Total.	3,506	100.00	10,212	12.25	9 to 13

Total Strength of Shop-Assistants (Bombay City).- In the absence of an accurate estimate of the total number of retail shops in Bombay City, it is difficult to arrive at an estimate of the total number of shop assistants employed in retail shops. Assuming that there are between 25,000 and 35,000 shops in the city, the number of shop assistants would be anywhere between 75,000 and 100,000.

Age Distribution: Employment of Children.- As regards paid assistants out of 10,212, 9,128 or 89.39 per cent, were over 18 years of age. Apart from bidi shops, which employ a large number of women as bidi makers, there are few females employed as assistants in the ordinary retail shops in Bombay. Out of a total of 10,212 paid assistants only 380 are females. Contrary to general expectation, there appears to be very little employment of children under 12 in the retail trade of Bombay City, only 90 or 0.88 per cent, of the paid assistants covered by the enquiry being children under 12. It must however be borne in mind that the figures are based on the information supplied by shopkeepers, supplemented by the personal observation of the investigators and not on any age records, and it is therefore quite possible that a larger number of children are actually employed than is shown by these figures. Children are employed mostly in restaurants. The number of assistants between 12 and 18 years of age was 959 or 9.39 per cent of the total. Over 60 per cent of these are also to be found in restaurants. Liquor and other shops included in that category are prohibited from employing persons under 18 years of age under the Excise Regulations. Although no such prohibition exists in regard to the employment of persons under 18 years of age in the case of other categories, they seem to favour the employment of adult labour.

Statistics of Shops and Employees in other Centres.- It is estimated that in Ahmedabad there are about 8,000 retail shops and the number of assistants employed is about 16,000. The estimated number of retail shops in Sholapur is over 2,000. No reliable estimate of the number of shops or of assistants is available for Poona and Hubli although in the latter case, in the opinion of the Hubli Municipality, the number of retail shops is about 1,500.

It is reported that out of 16,000 shop assistants in Ahmedabad, about 2,000 were reported as being below the age of 12 and about the same number between 12 and 18. Nearly 1,500 out of the 2,000 children under 12 are employed in restaurants, the rest being in the clothing, pan (betels) and bidi (country cigarettes) grocery and footwear shops. Young persons between 12 and 18 are mostly employed in cloth shops, grain shops, pan-bidi shops and restaurants.

Hours of Opening and Closing. - There is a considerable diversity of practice as regards the hours of opening and closing in the different categories of shops. In Bombay City and Ahmedabad,

restaurants and pan-bidi shops are the first to open and the last to close, the normal opening and closing hours being 5 to 6 a.m. and 12 p.m. to 1 a.m. respectively. Cloth and clothing shops, both in Bombay and Ahmedabad, open at 8 a.m. or thereabouts and close between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Grocery and provision shops usually open between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. and close between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. Chemists' and druggists' shops, and cycle and motor accessories shops remain open for 10 to 11 hours, the opening hour being between 8 and 9 a.m.

Hours of Work and Rest Interval.— The average hours of work of shop assistants in Bombay City are 12.25 per day. The predominant range of the hours of work in restaurants, pan-bidi shops, grain and provision stores and cloth and clothing shops is 10 to 15, 9 to 16, 12 to 15, and 10 to 13 respectively. The daily hours of work in Bombay City are longest in vegetable shops (14.51) and shortest in books and stationery shops (10.24). In some restaurants and pan-bidi shops, the shift system prevails to a certain extent. The hours of work in restaurants and pan-bidi shops in Ahmedabad are longer than in most other types of concerns, being 12 to 16 and 9 to 12 per day respectively. In Ahmedabad, too, the hours in vegetable shops are very long being 14 to 15 per day. The longest hours in Ahmedabad, namely, 14 to 16 per day are however to be found in hair-cutting saloon. For Poona, Sholapur and Hubli no reliable information on the subject is available; but it would appear that except in the case of restaurants and pan-bidi shops, the hours of work in other categories of shops are lower than in Bombay and Ahmedabad.

Unlike workers in factories, assistants in retail shops do not have rest intervals at specified hours nor is the period of the interval uniform. Such intervals ordinarily vary from one to three hours. They are taken by ~~the~~ turns and are granted at the convenience of the owner.

Holidays.— No regular weekly holiday is granted in any of the shops in Bombay City, although chemists and druggists, dealers in motor accessories and hardware shops grant a half holiday on Sundays. Some shops in certain classes of trade such as the grain and cloth trade, remain closed on the new moon day. There is however, no uniformity of practice in this respect. Certain trades observe certain public holidays falling on Hindu, Muhammadan or Jain festival days. Otherwise the shops are open all the days of the year.

Owing to the system of pakie (religious holidays) which seems a special feature of Ahmedabad (although it is not altogether absent in Bombay) some of the important categories of retail shops there close on 30 to 40 days in the year. Details regarding this system have been discussed in the section dealing with Ahmedabad. In trades in which no trade organisations exist, the shops usually remain open practically throughout the year. Restaurants and pan-bidi shops almost invariably do.

Holidays with Pay.— With few exceptions, there is no system of granting leave with pay in retail shops either in Bombay or in Ahmedabad. Ordinarily the grant of leave depends on the individual caprice of the proprietor. Of the 2,845 shops in Bombay City employing assistants 442 were reported to be granting leave with pay to their assistants and 1,105 leave without pay, while in 1,298 cases there was no system of granting leave. Where leave is granted its duration is one month or less.

Wages.— A consideration of the wage position in shops is a matter of much difficulty because in some of the principal categories wages are paid both in money and in kind, the latter taking the form of free board and lodging. Of the 9,383 assistants for whom information is available for Bombay City, 6,019 or 64.15 per cent are in receipt of wages only and 3,364 or 35.85 per cent are in receipt of wages and free board and/or lodging. Of those in receipt of money wages only, less than 10 per cent receive a monthly wage of under Rs. 15, over 66 per cent are in receipt of a wage between Rs. 15 and Rs. 45 and the remainder receive more than Rs. 45. Of the shop assistants who are supplied with board and lodging in addition to their wages, 55.27 per cent earn less than Rs. 15 per month, 42.69 per cent between Rs. 15 and Rs. 45 per month and the rest above that. Wages in certain trades e.g. cloth and clothing, chemists' shops, liquor shops, etc. are much higher than in others such as restaurants, pan-bidi shops, etc. In contrast to Bombay, the period of wage payment most prevalent in Ahmedabad is the yearly and not the monthly.

An examination of the wages paid to shop assistants both in Bombay and Ahmedabad suggests that these do not compare unfavourably with the wages of skilled industrial workers in the Presidency although it is not possible to make any direct comparison as the work of the two classes is so dissimilar.

Of the shop assistants in Bombay, 86.92 per cent are paid monthly, 7.62 per cent daily and 5.46 per cent yearly. Those on a yearly basis of pay are mostly to be found in grain shops and those on a daily basis in bidi and pan-supari shops. Most of those on a yearly basis of pay are supplied with board and lodging by the shopkeepers. Among the monthly paid employees, assistants in restaurants and assistants in milk and sweetmeat shops are usually provided with board and lodging.

(A copy of this Report has been forwarded to Geneva by the Labour Office, Bombay, direct).

General Wage Census, Bombay:

Labour Office Report on Printing Industry\*. +

The Bombay Labour Office has just published the second of its series of six reports in connection with Part I of the general wage census covering perennial factories in the Bombay Presidency. The report deals with wages, hours of work and conditions of employment in the printing industry in the Presidency (excluding Sind). (The first report of the series, dealing with the engineering industry, was reviewed at pages 14-17 of this Office's January 1936 report).

Types of Factories and Number of Workers in <sup>Printing</sup> Building Industry.- The scope of the present report is of a limited character and mainly covers printing presses proper, including photozinc, fine art and litho presses and type foundries. In addition, several motion picture studios which use power for developing films, a gramophone record making factory and a photo studio which develops and finishes photographs for amateur photographers are also included in the enquiry because all these concerns have occupations which are to be found in printing presses. Only presses where twenty or more persons are employed and are classed as factories for purposes of the Indian Factories Act come within the scope of this enquiry. The total number of concerns coming under the purview of the present report in the Bombay Presidency proper is exactly 100. Of these 100, 56 printing concerns employ less than 50 persons each, 18 between 50 and 100, 13 between 100 and 150 and only 13 above 150. The three presses in the Bombay Presidency proper which employ more than 500 work-people each are the Times of India and the Government Central Presses in Bombay City and the Government of India Security Printing Press at Nasik.

The number of persons employed in the 100 concerns are 9,204, of whom 42 are women and 30 children. A little over 70 per cent of the total number employed in the industry are employed in concerns in Bombay City and a little over 22.6 per cent are employed in the Poona, Nasik and Ahmednagar area. The remaining three areas in which printing presses which are factories are to be found, have 18 concerns in all and these employ between

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\* General Wage Census - Part I-Perennial Factories - Second Report - Report on Wages, Hours of Work and Conditions of Employment in the Printing Industry in the Bombay Presidency (excluding Sind) - May 1934.-Prepared by the Labour Office, Govt. of Bombay.- Bombay: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery. - pp.92 - Price-Rs. 0-7-0 or 9d.

them 663 workers or under 8 per cent of the total number employed in the Presidency. The total number of workpeople for whom detailed figures for attendance and earnings were given in the census forms returned by concerns in the printing industry was 8,668 or 536 less than the total number reported in the questionnaires as employed. Of these 8,668 workers, 8,005 are process workers and 663 workers in engineering and "common" occupations in the printing industry.

Methods of Recruitment.— There is little uniformity in the methods adopted by different concerns for recruiting the labour required. Chiefly three methods are distinguishable: (1) a few concerns take apprentices and train them up; (2) some others recruit direct either by advertisement or through recommendations of other workers; and (3) in certain cases work is done by contractors ~~in~~ who engage the required number of workers.

Labour Turnover.— The labour force employed appears to be relatively stable. The statistics pertaining to labour turnover furnished by the various units in the industry show that out of a total of 9,204 persons employed in the industry only 106 or a little over 1 per cent gave up their employment during the month of May, 1934, (enquiry period) or were struck off the muster rolls for various reasons. The number of new hands taken on during the same period was 41. The industry does not employ substitutes in place of permanent workers who may be temporarily absent and none of the 100 concerns reported that any substitutes had been appointed during the month of May 1934.

Wages and Allowances.— According to the report, except in Government and railway printing presses where the posts in a particular occupation are graded, the governing factors as far as principles of wage fixation in non-government printing presses are concerned are (1) personal efficiency, (2) demand and supply of the type of labour required and (3) rates, so far as they can be ascertained, prevalent in other presses. In seven presses in Poona City more or less similar rates, as standardised by the Printing Press Owners' Association of Poona 12 years ago, obtained. Apart from this a standardisation of a very limited character, there is nothing like standardisation of wages in this industry in the Bombay Presidency and wage rates differ widely for persons doing the same type of work.

Except in the textile industry, the general tendency in most industries in the presidency is towards consolidation of wage and allowances; but in a few cases, allowances are given, besides basic wages.

Bonus.— Two of the three Government presses pay an annual bonus of one month's average pay to all piece workers for satisfactory work and regular attendance. No bonuses of any kind are paid in the third Government press or in any printing press owned by railway administrations. Many private presses grant bonus, invariably for good attendance and in some cases for length of service.

Overtime Allowance.- Very few concerns are reported to have paid enhanced overtime rates for extra time beyond normal daily hours. In many cases workers are called upon to put in compensatory time for time lost owing to late attendance or absence and in others workers who put in overtime are asked to take compensatory time off during specified working hours on the day following that on which overtime was worked. Many concerns reported that no extra rate was given unless the statutory weekly hours were exceeded and in a few cases no additional remuneration was even paid for overtime worked.

Methods of Wage Calculation.- Out of 100 factories in the Bombay Presidency proper which have been included in the printing industry, hourly rates of wages obtain only in three printing presses. Very few presses indeed have daily time rates and then only for certain categories of their workpeople. The majority of the concerns in this industry pay their workmen on monthly rates.

Pensions and Retirement Gratuities.- In the three Government of Bombay presses in the Presidency proper all workers, except temporary compositors on piece rates of wages, are entitled to pensions on retirement in accordance with the Bombay Civil Service Rules. Retirement is ordinarily at the age of 55 but if workers are physically fit and if their services are required they may be kept on up to 60. In railway printing presses service gratuities are paid instead of pensions. Very few private concerns grant pensions or gratuity to their staff on retirement. There are no schemes of sickness insurance in operation in any unit in this industry in the Bombay Presidency but one large private press in Poona gives a sickness benefit of full pay to married and half pay to unmarried workers if certified sick by a medical practitioner recognised by the firm.

Shifts and Hours of Work.- Out of the 100 factories, 83 worked only one shift per day, 13 presses worked two shifts and 2 three shifts; one press worked two shifts on Saturdays and one shift for all the other working days in the week and another two shifts as and when necessary.

There is a bewildering variety of daily and weekly hours of work in the printing industry in the Bombay Presidency proper and the weekly hours vary from as few as 33 to as many as 60 - the statutory hours permissible under the Indian Factories Act during the census year and before the 54-hour week for perennial factories was brought into effect. The greatest densities according to numbers employed are to be found in the 45 and 48-hour weeks. 2,600 workers in 19 concerns or 28.40 per cent of the total number employed enjoy a 45-hour week and 2,664 workers in 43 concerns or 29.01 per cent of the total number employed enjoy a 48-hour week. 2,106 workers in 18 concerns or 23 per cent of the total number employed had weekly hours varying between 48

and 54, but it is noteworthy that only 4 concerns, employing between them 115 workers or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent of the total number employed, had weekly hours in excess of 54.

Holidays with Pay.- The report refers to the interest in the question of holidays with pay created through the efforts of the I.L.O. and states that the printing industry comes next to the engineering industry in the matter of leave with pay privileges enjoyed by workers. In the printing industry, a little over 20 per cent of the factory workers employed in this industry in the Bombay Presidency proper enjoy leave with pay privileges of varying degrees. The leave rules of different administrations vary widely, and different sets of rules are adopted not only for different classes of employees of the same administration but also for the same or similar types of employees, according to the dates when they first joined service. 76 concerns employing about 6,600 workmen or 75.6 per cent of the total number employed in the industry grant no leave with pay to any of their workmen. 6 units employing about 625 workers grant discretionary leave with pay for varying periods. Regular leave with pay is granted by 18 concerns, employing 2,000 workers or 21.7 per cent of the total number employed, to most of their workmen. The period of leave ranges from 8 days in the year to one month privilege leave and 20 days casual leave every year.

(A copy of the Report reviewed above has been forwarded to Geneva by the Labour Office, Bombay, direct~~ly~~ +



Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

Employers' Federation of India:

3rd Annual General Meeting, New Delhi, 1936. +

The third annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at New Delhi on 28- & 29-3-1936, Sir H.P. Mody presiding.

The following is a brief summary of the presidential address:-

Progress of Federation.- Sir H.P. Mody said that the Employers' Federation of India was able during the last year to record a satisfactory increase of membership, which emphasised still further the representative character of the Federation. The Federation was representative of interests embracing about two-thirds of the entire labour engaged in organised industries in India.

Need for United Action.- The problems facing Indian employers were of a very acute nature. The manner in which the Federation during the last three years had voiced Indian employers' interests showed that there was no room for political differences in the Federation, and that employers, to whatever class or section they belong, have generally only one standpoint from which they should approach questions of policy. There are forces at work in this country - unfortunately seeming to be gathering strength-- which must increasingly draw employers together and which can only be countered by the united strength of all who believe in the evolutionary processes by which humanity is continually moving upwards. The development of a provincial or regional outlook was therefore a danger which must be guarded against.

Unjustifiable Additions to Employers' Burdens.- Referring to the tendency to invest employers with increasing responsibility for welfare work for their employees, he said: "I would like to sound a note of warning against the tendency to regard questions of housing, education and the like as matters which are properly the concern of employers. I am not referring of course, to welfare work in the accepted sense of the term, to which, I hope, employers in India will increasingly pay attention. My observation deals only with the fixing of the responsibility for matters which are the concern of the State in western countries, and which a great many people in India seem to regard as part of the burden to be legitimately thrown on employers."

I.L.O. Policy Compared to "Rake's Progress". Dealing with the accelerated pace of ameliorative labour legislation in India in recent years, he said: "I have had occasion recently to comment upon the rake's progress of the International Labour Organisation. Whether it be because of the employers' representatives not being adequately organised and knit together, or for any other reason, labour interests seem to be carrying a great deal before them,

with the result that on a question of fundamental importance, such as the 40-hour week, the International Labour Conference last year adopted the principle of the reduction of hours coupled with the condition that the standard of living was not to be affected. It may be that, whatever the Conference might say, few countries are likely to adopt such a startling reduction in the working week, except those which are faced with grave problems of their own and which are ready to try out any experiment, however desperate, to combat the economic collapse which threatens them. So far as India is concerned, it is criminal folly even to think of a 40-hour week in the present stage of her development. It would be a blow to her economic position which only philanthropic foreigners can contemplate with equanimity."

Review of Economic <sup>conditions</sup> Background. - Reviewing economic conditions, he said: "We are living in a very unhappy and topsy-turvy world. The best minds in every country have been engaged for the last few years in grappling with the problems which the War and its aftermath have created, but the general disequilibrium persists, and it will be some years before we can expect a return to normality. There was an improvement, however, in 1935, and India shared in the revival. The general level of prices, according to the Calcutta index, rose from 89 in 1934 to 91 in 1935. Not all industries, however, recorded a rise in the price level. It is on the production side that the curve shows the greatest rise. The number of working days lost on account of industrial disputes on the other hand, showed a welcome drop to 700,000 in the first 9 months of 1935 as compared to 1,786,000 and 4,569,000 in the corresponding periods of 1933 and 1934."

Over-production and need for Intervention by State. - Dealing with this important problem, he said: "I wish we could say that the substantial increases of production which took place in 1935 were an index to the prosperity of the industries concerned, We have reached the stage of over-production in several cases, and we are bound to be confronted very soon with the task of adjusting our internal economy. Problems of rationalisation must also claim our attention; the jute and coal industry are today engaged in grappling with it. While no one wants the interference of Government in the internal affairs of any industry, it is open to question whether a rigid attitude of neutrality is suited to the requirements of the <sup>time</sup> terms. All the accepted theories and policies round which the twentieth century civilization has been built up are in the melting pot, and it looks as if the State and the individual will have to work in closer co-operation in the industrial field than before."

Plea for further Protective Measures. - Pleading for the initiation of a more vigorous policy of protection for the countries large-scale and small industries, he said: "The machinery of the Tariff Board is out of date and inadequate, and needs to be radically revised. I also feel that the time has arrived when a new fiscal commission should be set up with a view to determining

what modifications in the accepted policy of protection are called for in view of the enormous changes that have taken place in the economic structure of the world. Such a commission would also be able to assess at its proper value the contention that the consumer's interests have suffered materially through the help given to industries. A great deal of confused thinking seems to be prevailing on the subject, and the country would undoubtedly benefit from an examination of its bearings at the hands of a body of experts and businessmen. I propose to take an early opportunity of elaborating my views and showing by facts and figures what enormous benefits India has derived through the establishment of most of its industries. For the time being, I content myself with reiterating my conviction that, in a world madly pursuing the path of economic nationalism, it would be the height of folly for this country to sit still and not take special measures for the protection of its vital interests. The problem of the smaller industries is one which is particularly susceptible to treatment by a bolder policy of protection and state-aid. Looked at from every point of view, an examination of the question has become imperative in the interests of this country."

Office-bearers for 1936-37.- Sir H.<sup>F</sup>.Mody was re-elected president for the fourth time and Sir Edward Benthall, Sir Homi Mehta and Mr. C.K.Nicholl (Chairman of the Indian Tea Association), were elected deputy presidents. The Federation agreed to consider the question of holding its next annual meeting in Calcutta.

(The Statesman, 29 & 30-3-1936) +

Millowners' Association, Bombay: Annual

Meeting for 1935-36. +

The annual meeting for 1935-36 of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, was held on 23-3-1936 at Bombay, Sir Joseph Kay, presiding.

Sir Joseph Kay in his presidential address directed attention to the fact that most of the textile mills showed little or no profit last year and that competition, internal and external, had played an important part in making the marketing of goods unremunerative. The following is a summary of the speech:

Efficiency of Indian Mills.— Sir Joseph maintained that the efficiency of Indian mills had improved, and was improving year after year. With an increasing population, he foresaw a further expansion.

Need to Regulate Output.— Discussing the need for regulation of output, he said: "This matter has had the consideration of your Committee on more than one occasion during the year, but it has not been possible to come to any working arrangement, due chiefly to the difficulty of getting upcountry mills to see eye to eye with us, and even amongst our own members there have been—and still are—differences of opinion on this important matter. If the present production continues, and imports remain at last year's levels, the country in 1935-36 will be asked to consume about 6,300 million yards of cotton piecegoods of all descriptions, including imports and handloom productions. This is a 25 per cent higher figure than ten years ago, but on the other hand prices have so declined that the total amount being spent on cotton piece-goods today is very much less than what it was ten years ago."

Output of Bombay City Mills.— Referring to the output of goods by mills in the City and Island of Bombay, he said in the first half of the last decade, Bombay's production averaged 900 million yards per annum; in the second half of the decade, the production averaged 1,100 million yards per annum. Both these five year periods were greatly affected by strikes and trade depression, but it is interesting to note that in 1931, 1932 and 1933, Bombay was producing practically the same quantity of piece-goods as she is producing today with partial double-shift working, i.e., 1,200 million yards in each of the three years concerned.

Fixing of Minimum Prices.— Dealing with the admitted overproduction in certain kinds of cloth, he advocated a policy of minimum price fixation and said: "I suggest to you that the solution of unremunerative rates is a minimum price fixing arrangement for certain standard cloths, an arrangement which in my view, does not—given the good will it deserves—present a great deal of difficulty, provided the main producing centres fall into line. Bombay should also investigate the possibility of increasing her overseas markets."

Labour Conditions.— Reviewing labour conditions, he said: "With the exception of small isolated strikes, labour has been contented and worked well throughout the year, and for once in a way we have had "peace in the industry". For this we have, in part, to thank the successful working of the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act, a measure which—despite its some what unusual character—has, as was expected by its sponsors, enabled the prompt settlement of individual grievances and prevented quite a number of disputes, which, had they not been settled satisfactorily without delay, might easily have led to serious stoppages of work. For the successful application of the Act for the development of more harmonious relations between employers and workmen, we have

to thank the Government Labour Officer, Mr. W. Gilligan, I.C.S. and our own Labour Officer, Mr. Dalal".

Minimum Wages for Time-workers.—"In 1934 the Association took a step forward by fixing a minimum wage for all time workers, to be adopted in all Mills in Bombay. I am glad to say that with the efforts of both the Labour Officers, there is now not a single mill in Bombay where any worker in a scheduled occupation is paid below that minimum. The next step to take will be to standardize wages for piece-workers—a matter which presents considerable difficulties, but, with that end in view, figures have been, and are being, collected of actual earnings of all classes of piece-workers each month from every member mill, data which will be useful and essential when this problem comes up for solution."

Other Reforms.—"Other reforms to promote the well-being of our workers have been initiated during the year, such as: the record card system for head jobbers, and a scheme to control and regularise the employment of "badlis". The Leave and Discharge Pass procedure has been revised and systematised, with the dual object of ensuring that workers are not irregularly dismissed, and that workers returning from leave in time are assured of re-employment. This type of work I now consider to be of paramount importance."

Mr. V.N.Chandavarkar was elected president for 1936-37. +

(The Times of India, 24-3-1936)

Workers' Organisations.Trade Union Unity:Mr. Giri's Proposals Favoured by A.I.T.U.C. +

Reference was made at pages 26-27 of our January 1936 report to the two sets of proposals for further unity in the trade union movement of this country, one evolved at Bombay at an informal meeting of the Bombay members of the National Trades Union Federation (held on 8-1-1936) and the other proposed by Mr. V.V.Giri. The Working Committee of the Federation, at its meeting held on 14-1-1936 at Delhi, decided to forward the two sets of proposals to the General Council of the N.T.U.F. as well as to the Executive of the All India Trade Union Congress. On 1-3-1936 an informal meeting of the representatives of unions in Bombay City affiliated to the A.I.T.U.C. was held, under the chairmanship of Mr. R.S. Ruikar, President, A.I.T.U.Congress, to discuss the question of trade union unity and Congress-Labour co-operation.

Trade Union Unity.- The meeting considered the two sets of proposals for unity which were forwarded by the Working Committee of the N.T.U.F. and decided to favour Mr. V.V.Giri's scheme. Mr. Giri's proposals are reproduced below:

(1) The Federation, as a unit, to be affiliated to the Trades Union Congress; (2) The Trades Union Congress to accept the constitution of the Trades Union Federation 'in toto'; (3) The Executive to be formed in accordance with the above mentioned constitution; (4) No foreign affiliation so far as the Trades Union Congress is concerned; (5) The affiliation of the Federation to the Trades Union Congress to remain in force for a period of one year and to lapse automatically unless renewed; (6) All political questions and questions of strike to be decided by a three-fourths majority of the Executive; and (7) On all industrial questions the decision to be by a majority vote.

Before full acceptance of Mr. Giri's proposals, the A.I.T.U.C. ~~wanted~~ wanted two points to be further elucidated by the Federation, viz., (1) the exact position, after amalgamation, of the N.T.U.F. as a group so far as foreign affiliation is concerned and (2) the attitude, after amalgamation, of the N.T.U.F. as a group towards political questions. Subject to a satisfactory elucidation of the position as regards these points, the meeting authorised the General Secretary of the A.I.T.U.C. to place Mr. Giri's proposals before the Executive of the A.I.T.U.C. No formal decisions were taken, but the unanimous sense of the meeting was in favour of bringing about trade union unity on the basis of Mr. V.V. Giri's formula, though keen dissatisfaction was displayed on the score that even Mr. Giri's proposals fell short of complete structural unity.

Congress-Labour Co-operation.— The other question discussed was the functional representation of trade unions in the Indian National Congress. Mr. R.S. Ruikar pointed out that the A.I.T.U.C. had passed a resolution demanding functional representation of trade unions and peasant unions in the Indian National Congress at its executive meeting held recently at Nagpur. The same question was raised by the All India Congress Socialist Party at the 2nd session of its Conference held at Meerut on 19 & 20-1-1936 (vide pages 34-37 of our January 1936 report). A decision on the question, Mr. Ruikar emphasised, has to be arrived at early so as to enable the A.I.T.U.C. to place its views before the Working Committee of the Congress and the Congress Socialist Party, for proper action at the time of the forthcoming Congress session to be held at Lucknow. The meeting expressed itself in favour of functional representation of trade unions in the Congress and suggested

that labour should be represented in primary Congress bodies through trade unions, on provincial Congress committees through provincial trade union congress committees, and on the All India Congress Committee through the A.I.T.U.C.. A small committee was appointed to draft a detailed scheme of functional representation in the Congress. The scheme is to be circularised to all affiliated unions. The General Secretary of the A.I.T.U.C. was authorised to forward a scheme for functional representation in consonance with the general view, to the Working Committee of the Congress and the Congress Socialist Party.

(The Indian Labour Journal,  
Nagpur, 15-3-1936) +

Trade Union Movement in the Punjab, 1934-35.\* +

Number of Registered Trade Unions.- The number of registered unions, including 3 federations, stood at 33 at the close of the year 1934-35 as against 31 x in the previous year. 7 applications were received for the registration of new trade unions. Of these, 5 resulted in the registration of the unions, while the remaining two were not ripe for registration when the year closed. 3 trade unions were removed from the register and their certificates of registration were cancelled under section 10 of the Act because the unions had ceased to function.

Membership and Finances of Unions.- Of the 30 unions and 3 federations, complete annual returns were not submitted by ten.

\* Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab. During the year 1934-35 - Lahore: Printed by the Supdt., Government Printing, Punjab, 1936. -Price Rs.0-12-0 or 1s-2d. + pp. 64 iv



The total number of members of the 23 unions from whom returns were received during year under report stood at 75,846, compared with 22,053 for 24 unions in 1933-34. As regards the three federations, the number of unions affiliated to them fell from 57 in 1933-34 to 48 during the year under report. The Punjab Provincial Trade Union Congress suffered a set back by losing 11 unions from its fold. The Punjab Labour Board, Lahore, which had the largest number of unions affiliated to it, did not register any change in the number of unions.

The opening balance of 23 unions from which full returns were received during the year was Rs. 5,065. The income during the year was Rs. 22,992, the expenditure Rs. 21,374 and the closing balance Rs. 6,682. The average income per union increased from Rs. 762 in the year 1933-34 to Rs. 999 during the year under report, the average expenditure from Rs. 639 to Rs. 929 and the closing balance from Rs. 212 to Rs. 290. As regards the three federations, the total income was Rs. 1,228 as against Rs. 781 last year. The expenditure increased from Rs. 694-0-3 to Rs. 1,082-2-0.

Activities of the Unions.— In the course of his report the Registrar remarks that there was no report from any union to show that any outstanding scheme of welfare activity was started during the year. He, however, expresses satisfaction at the steady progress made by the movement during the period under review, but regrets that majority of the trade union officials have not yet begun to realise their responsibility for the punctual submission of annual returns.

Free Audit of Unions.- As in the previous years, the facility of free audit of accounts was extended to all registered trade unions. Five unions only are reported to have taken advantage of the arrangement.

(The report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in the Punjab during 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 48-50 of our January 1935 report). +

Meeting of Peasants' Group of Legislative Assembly:

Demands Formulated. +

At a meeting of the Peasants' Group of Members of the Legislative Assembly held at New Delhi during the third week of March 1936 under the presidentship of Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, resolutions were passed demanding (1) the lowering of the incidence of land revenue and the stopping of periodical settlements, (2) adequate protection of conditions of peasants vis a vis land lords, and (3) introduction of legislation to abolish arrest and detention for civil decrees. A resolution was also passed expressing dissatisfaction at this year's budget<sup>of the Punjab for 1935-36</sup>, in that it had failed to give any tax relief to the peasants and urged provision for a recurring grant to the rural development fund and the lowering of charges on postcards.

Dr. Khan Sahib was elected President for the ensuing year, Sardar Mangal Singh and Mr. Murtuza, Vice-Presidents, and Prof. Ranga, Secretary.

(Commerce and Industry, 17-3-1936). +

Further Retrenchment in Railways:

A.I.R. Federation to Meet Railway Board. +

The Railway Board has invited the All India Railwaymen's Federation to discuss with it certain measures of further retrenchment in the personnel of Indian railways which it is intending to carry out in the near future. Mr. V.V. Giri, General Secretary of the Federation, has summoned a meeting of the Railwaymen's Federation at Delhi on 27-3-1936 and its representatives, after holding conferences with the Railway Board and ascertaining their intentions, will decide on the course of action which should be recommended to railway workers throughout the country, should the Railway Board persist in its policy of effecting further retrenchments.

Mr. Giri's feeling is that workers have endured several attacks already on their standards of life in recent years through short time, demotions, wage-cuts and revised scales of pay and must protect themselves against further encroachment, which he fears will lead to widespread unrest among workers. (The Hindu, 11-3-1936).

Commenting on the situation, the Indian Labour Journal, in its issue dated 22-3-1936, observes:

"We have seen a few years back how callously the Railway Administrations have axed the men despite all constructive suggestions on the part of the A.I.R. Federation to avert block retrenchments. Any proposal coming from the Railway Administration is bound to be one-sided and partial. The Administration means members of the Railway Board and Agents of various railways and heads of departments. They naturally would not raise their little finger against the top-heavy administration lest it should affect their own positions and those of their ~~brother~~ brother officers. All they would try to do would be to suggest the retrenchment of subordinate and inferior staff and hood-wink the public that all possible economies have been effected. Nothing short of an independent Commission consisting of Indians to examine the position impartially with a view to effect drastic changes so as to ~~reorganise the~~ reorganise the railways to suit present conditions would suit present conditions would meet the situation."

(The Indian Labour Journal, 22-3-1936).+

Industrial Research: Sir M.Visvesvaraya'sPlans for Reform of Indian Institute of Science. -

Sir M. Visvesvaraya, President of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, recently submitted two memoranda on the question of reforms needed in the Institute. The object of the Institute, according to its constitution, is "the promotion of advanced instruction and original investigation in all branches of knowledge and their utilisation for the benefit of India". In recent years the feeling has been growing that the Institute, the premier industrial research institution in this country, has not been keeping contacts with Indian industries, and Sir M.Visvesvaraya's memoranda indicates the lines on which the Institute should be reformed to enable it to work in closer co-operation with industrialists and thus enable it to be of greater service to the growing industries of the country.

Closer Co-operation with Industry.- The memoranda state inter alia that the time has arrived when research work done in the Institute should be expanded and developed in such directions and in such a manner that it might be of greater direct service to the industries in future. There is a widespread desire in the public mind that the industries and manufactures of the country and the Institute should come closer together and be more helpful mutually. The Institute should be able to supply the funds necessary for laboratory equipment, and trained men for investigation, under expert guidance, of problems sent to the laboratory by manufacturers.

Funds for Research Work.- Industries should normally supply the funds necessary to pay the salary of the research worker and the expense of the experiments conducted for them. When an industry which supplies funds makes a stipulation, the results of the investigation should not be made public for a year or two or until that particular industry is given reasonable time to get some benefit out of it.

Collection of Technological Data.- The Institute should commence collecting scientific and technological data for as many industries as possible under the following nine classes; textiles,

cotton, wool, silk and jute; steel, engineering and machinery industries; electrical industries; chemicals and dyes; paper, soaps and oils; sugar, food, drink, and tobacco; leather and rubber goods; and ceramic industries, and cement, lime, and glassware.

A Five Year Plan.- A general plan for five years should be prepared in advance, and a specific programme for the coming year, It is, however, not intended that the Institute should embark at once on any very ambitious programme. The earlier programmes may be strictly limited to the resources and funds of the Institute, the laboratory equipment, and the staff at present available. But the system, if adopted, will go far to bring the Institute into closer business relations with industries and automatically enhance its services and value to the country.

(The Times of India, 9-3-1936) .

#### I.J.M. Association's Demand for Control of Jute Output:

##### Government of India Declines to Take

##### Legislative Action. .

The Government of India, in its reply dated 26-2-36 to the Government of Bengal on the question of control of the output of manufactured jute, conveyed the decision that no legislative action for the purpose should be undertaken. The main points brought out in the letter are summarised below:-

Previous Proposals.- The letter begins by referring to various proposals put forward on this behalf from time to time. These include the original proposal of the Indian Jute Mills Association for the grant of statutory force to the agreement between the Association and outside mills, to which the Government of India replied in December 1934, the proposal to limit hours of work to 54, which was discussed in the letter of the Government of India of July 31, 1935, and some other schemes.

Demand for Monopoly.- These schemes, the letter points out, would have two main effects, namely, to ensure for a temporary period that (a) the production of jute goods in India shall be confined to those firms now engaged in it and (b) limits shall be set to the amount which such firms can manufacture.

The demands, if conceded, would grant to the existing companies a temporary statutory monopoly for the manufacture of jute goods, coupled with provisions to ensure that the benefits of this monopoly will be equitably shared among the beneficiaries and will not be impaired by unduly large production.

Government's three Conditions not satisfied.- Even to such a proposal the Government of India might have been prepared to agree, provided that three conditions were satisfied. They regret to find that none of the proposals satisfies any of these conditions.

Rationalisation.- The first condition was that the scheme should be required for the purpose of rationalisation, in other words, the legislation should carry with it the guarantee of such a change in the organisation of the industry as would remove and not merely suspend its present difficulties. So far from any such guarantee being afforded, the adoption of the temporary schemes would not place the industry in any more stable position at the end than it is now, in the absence of a substantial alteration in the organisation of the industry.

Consent of majority of Mills.- The second condition was that the scheme of rationalisation (not merely the scheme of restriction) should have the approval of the substantial majority of the mills. ~~So far from any scheme having this support~~ <sup>having such support</sup> No scheme of rationalisation has, so far as they Government of India are aware of, been formulated.

Cultivators' Interests.- The third condition was that the interests of the community in general and cultivators in particular were to be adequately protected. Actually none of the proposals contains any satisfactory safeguards.

No Legislative Action to be taken.- The considerations set out above have led the Government of India to the decision that no legislative action should be undertaken. The present instability is, in the view of the Government of India, traceable mainly to the fact that the industry is attempting to secure substantial profits while working on a system which involves unnecessarily high costs. The proper remedy, in the opinion of the Government of India, is not legislation, which will deprive some of their right to make the best use of the machinery they possess and others of their right to seek an outlet for their capital, but the creation of such market and manufacturing conditions as ~~will~~ will discourage unnecessary additions to the present productive capacity.

The Labour Point of View.- Discussing the great stress laid by the Association in their letter on the objections from the labour point of view to rationalisation, the letter adds: "The Government of India appreciate the evident anxiety of the

Association to avoid the introduction of conditions which they consider unfavourable to the workers, but they cannot themselves agree with the arguments used. They believed that the extension of the shift systems offers the best means of combining short hours of work for the operative with a lowering of overhead costs, and they invite attention in particular to the observations of the Whitley Commission on this subject. The hours now worked by one shift in most mills could probably be worked by two shifts without recourse to night work or to anything resembling the objectionable system of multiple shifts formerly common in the industry.

Even night shift working, is, in the view of the Government of India, open to less objection than can be taken to it in other countries and the working of double shifts of reasonable length in a number of mills sufficient to meet the demand would, in their opinion, be advantageous from the point of view of the workers who have suffered from the stringent restriction in force in recent years.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-3-36 and The Statesman, 3-3-36). +

The Small Industries Association, Bombay. +

An association<sup>to</sup> protect the interests of undeveloped industries of the country under the designation "The Small Industries Association" was recently started at Bombay, with Mr. Manu Subedar as President. The objects of the Association, among others, are:

1. To develop, and protect the small industries of India (For the purposes of this clause small industries shall include industries which are small in their relative importance to the industrial economy of India); (2) to collect and circulate statistics and other information relating to small industries; (3) to scientifically study comparative costs of production and the possibility of developing markets for products of small industries both in India and abroad; (4) to make representations to local, central or imperial authorities regarding legislation on all matters affecting small industries; and (5) to secure organised and concerted action on all subjects involving the interests of persons engaged in small industries, including regulation of conditions of employment of industrial labour in such industries.

(Extracted from "Rules and Regulations" of the Association forwarded to this Office by its Secretary).

The Association recently submitted a memorandum to the Government

of India demanding that substantial grants, earmarked for the development of cottage industries, should be made to local Governments who should be asked to set aside the funds for rendering financial assistance to organisations which undertake to: (a) form chain stores with headquarters at the capital of the province and branches in the district towns and all important villages; (b) supply machinery, on the hire-purchase system; (c) furnish patterns, ideas and designs, to village artisans and men engaged in small industries; (d) supply raw materials and semi-finished materials to producers at competitive prices; (e) develop marketing facilities, in particular, by eliminating middlemen both in the matter of supply of raw materials and in the sale of finished products. With regard to the allocation of grants to the different provinces, the memorandum desires that it should be based on: (a) the size of the rural population, and (b) the budgetary position of the provincial government.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-3-1936) +



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Employment and Unemployment.

U. P. Unemployment Report: Allahabad University

Committee to Study Recommendations. +

Reference was made at pages 43-47 of the report of this Office for January 1936 to the Sapru Unemployment Committee Report. The Allahabad University authorities to whom the report has been referred, is at present engaged in examining its recommendations. A committee of nine, with the Vice-Chancellor, Pandit Iqbal Narain Gurtu, as convener, has been appointed for the purpose. The Committee, it is understood, will submit a memorandum on the subject to the U. P. Government.

Meanwhile, a sub-committee consisting of Dr. C.H. Rice and Dr. Beni Prasad, which has already gone into the report, has, after preliminary study, expressed itself in favour of several of its recommendations relating to university matters. Thus, it favours the establishment of an Appointments Board. This body will be expected to keep itself in close touch with the Public Services Commission and to offer suggestions on recruitment to the various services and on the courses of education and training. The sub-committee admits that it would be desirable to employ tests of mental capacity and aptitude worked out by psychologists during a long course of experiments, as they would be useful in guiding the choice of different types of education, training, and vocation by young people. The sub-committee, therefore, recommends that departments of experimental psychology should be established in universities and that the services of trained experimental psychologists should be engaged for this purpose.

The sub-committee agrees that industrial workshops should be established at university centres for research in industrial problems, but states that financial difficulties are likely to stand in the way. It considers therefore that the universities should provide for this research in co-operation with the various industries. It endorses the view that primary education should be universalised for boys and girls. It also agrees that secondary education should be diversified into (1) industrial, (2) commercial, (3) agricultural and (4) arts and science courses, but emphasises that industrial, commercial and agricultural education must not be unduly narrow or specialised. It must comprise large elements of liberal education in the form of a regular study of physical or biological science, economics, sociology or civics as may be appropriate.

(The Statesman, 9-3-1936, and  
The Times of India, 13-3-1936). +

#### Council of State Debate on Unemployment

##### Among Educated Classes: Mr. P.N.Sapru's Resolution Adopted. +

On 25-3-1936 Mr. P.N.Sapru moved a resolution in the Council of State urging the Government of India to give effect to those recommendations of the United Provinces Unemployment Committee which would relieve unemployment among the educated classes.

(A copy of the U.P.Unemployment Committee Report was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/133/36 dated 30-1-1936)

Below is given a summary of the debate which followed:-

Mr. Sapru reviewed the salient features of the Report of the Committee over which Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru presided in the

United Provinces and said that the problem of unemployment, being essentially an economic one, the Government of India could, in the language of the Committee, help to give relief by co-ordinated effort from the Centre. Firstly, statistics regarding unemployment must be made upto-date, and there should be also a survey of economic conditions throughout India, as recommended by Professors Robertson and Bowley. Efforts should be made to organise production by the Government of India themselves undertaking the financing of bigger undertakings, like locomotive manufacture, motor~~a~~ manufacturing, mercantile marine, etc., through loans, at a time when money was cheap. An organisation should be started which would act as a thinking centre on economic matters, and on whose findings Government's policy could be evolved.

The fiscal policy of the Central Government also needed urgent revision, as the policy of discriminating protection laid down 15 years ago appeared not to satisfy the needs of India at present, especially in view of world conditions with import quotas, protective duties, bounties, subsidies, depreciated currencies, etc. The Tariff Board's procedure must be simplified and development of social services must form a vital part of Government's efforts to relieve unemployment. Education must be reconstructed, with a view to giving it a practical bias, and lastly, the legal profession needed to be reconstituted, eliminating the evil of toutting.

Sir K. Ramunni Mennon was of opinion that unemployment was largely due to economic maladjustment, so rampant in India. It was not a local problem within the sphere of Local Governments, and he urged the Government of India to assure the co-operation of Provincial Governments in giving effect to the recommendations made by the Central Advisory Board of Education. Most Provincial Governments were without funds, and he hoped that Government of India would earmark next year's surplus for substantial grants to the Provinces.

Mr. Shantidas Askuran emphasised that Government had not gone far enough to tackle the problem, and if they were sincere and faced the question boldly, a solution could be found. He suggested the appointment of a committee. Referring to communal unrest, the speaker thought that most of it was due to unemployment among the educated young men, and with provision of avenues for employment, the communal question would be largely settled.

Sir David Devadoss said that educated youths should be made to take to different walks of life and not merely hunt after Government or clerical service. In the development of agriculture, there was plenty of scope for employment. He suggested to the Government that instead of spending huge sums on the suppression of terrorism in Bengal, those sums could be usefully utilised for giving practical training in industrial pursuits to the unemployed.

Mr. Hossain Imam said that in a country where agricultural consumers formed 80 per cent of the population, their purchasing power must be increased before industrial expansion could be launched on a large scale. The present ratio of 1sh.6d. should be revised into 1sh.4d. The Government of India had not added one tola to its gold reserve. India did not want expansion of currency so much, but she certainly wanted the same amount of currency as she had when exchange was ~~x~~ fixed at 1sh.6d.

Lala Ramsarandas, supporting the resolution, quoted the steps taken in Japan to reduce unemployment by giving training to the educated youths in industrial enterprises.

Mr. A. G. Clow, Secretary of the Industries Department, admitted the tragedy of the situation. The Sapru Committee's Report was confined in the first instance to the problem as viewed in the United Provinces, though several aspects of the problem were common throughout India. The Report was published only a few weeks ago. The Government of India proposed to study it sympathetically, and take such action as was desirable on it, ~~abut~~ on the understanding that they did not commit themselves to accepting every one of the recommendations of the Committee.

The Report had suggested concerted action throughout India for effective solution of the problem. But it had emphasised that the problem centred round questions connected with education, agriculture and industries. All these subjects were Provincial Transferred subjects. Still, the Government of India had been playing an increasing part in order to secure co-ordinated development of these subjects. The Agricultural Commission was followed by the establishment of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the work of which in respect of sugar establishment was well-known. There was also the Pusa Research Institute. The Industrial Research Bureau was transferred to Delhi recently and its assistance would be available to secure the fullest possibilities of industrial development. The Government of India felt sure that giving technical assistance to scattered industries would be more helpful to manufacturers than the raising of the tariff wall.

Mr. Clow deplored the impression that in mere industrialisation lay the solution. On the other hand, ~~h~~ the Sapru Committee had rightly pointed out that the starting-point for any effort to solve the problem was overhauling the system of education, so as to make the educated youth a useful member of society. As one who had attended the meetings of the Central Advisory Board of Education. Mr. Clow paid a tribute to the work of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru on it and said that the recommendations of the Board had been forwarded to Provincial Governments for adoption. The difficulty there was finance.

Dealing with Mr. Hossain Imam's demand for inflation of currency. Mr. Clow maintained it was another form of taxation. He reiterated Sir James Grigg's remarks on the subject of protection

and said that it was chimerical to suppose that by absolute protection, India could solve her difficulties. Whatever the merits of protection, when it was viewed in relation to the question of employment, the House should remember that if there was a possibility of creating employment in some cases, there would be the opposite effect in other cases. Concluding, Mr. Clow said that there was not one single remedy for unemployment, but several remedies had to be adopted by all. Hence the co-operation of all was needed, and the Government of India welcomed that discussion.

Sir Jagdish Prasad, Member in Charge of Education, Health and Lands, winding up the debate, confined himself to the educational aspect of the problem of unemployment. He informed Mr. Ramsarandas that in Japan, University education was expensive, and was confined to the richer classes and scholarships were given to poor boys if clever. The Sapru Report had pointed out that India's faulty educational system was the root cause of educated unemployment in the country. To remedy the defects and to reconstruct the educational system, the Government of India have revived the Central Advisory Board of Education. They have also decided that if expert advice was required ~~that if expert advice was required~~ to give a more practical turn to secondary education, they would be prepared, within limits, to defray the cost of these experts. Thus, the House would see that the Government of India had not allowed the grass to grow under their feet in tackling this question of reform of university education without delay. At the same time, the Government of India could not undertake to dictate to Provincial Governments what their policy should be. They could only persuade and enlist their co-operation. This they were doing.

Resolution adopted Unanimously. - The resolution of Mr.

Sapru was adopted unanimously.

(The Statesman, 26-3-1936, and  
The Hindu, 26-3-1936) +

## Co-operation.

### Improvement of Handloom Weaving Industry:

#### Conference of Experts, Patna. +

A conference of the Directors of Industries, textile experts, and other officers of the various provinces and States attending the Bihar and Orissa Provincial Exhibition, and the All India Hand-weaving Exhibition, Patna, was held on 13 & 14-2-1936 to concert measures for the improvement of the handloom weaving industry in India. The following resolutions were passed by the Conference:

1. Organisation of Central Marketing Bodies.- This conference recommends that the Departments of Industries in co-operation with the Registrars of Co-operative Societies should start model central marketing bodies for hand-weavers in the different provinces and States and should organise the manufacture of handloom textiles on a mass production basis and the sale through weavers' co-operative societies, master weavers and other suitable agencies.

This conference is of opinion that there should be closer co-operation between the Co-operative and the Industries Departments; that the Co-operative Departments should be responsible for the organisation, finance and audit of the weavers' societies and the Industries Departments should be responsible for their technical development and for marketing.

2. Establishment of Textile Research Institutes.- This conference is of opinion that it would be of great advantage to the handloom industry if textile research institutes were established by the different provincial and State Governments.

This conference requests the Director, Industrial Intelligence and Research Bureau, to ascertain from the different provincial and State Governments the facilities for research that exist at present in each province and State and the work now being done and to communicate a consolidated statement of the results of his enquiries to each province and State.

3. Vocational Training.- This conference is of opinion that the education given in handweaving by various weaving schools in this country is defective inasmuch as sufficient attention is not given to the practical side of the training. The attention of the Government of India should, therefore, be drawn to the existence of this problem and they should be requested to consider the desirability of appointing a committee to investigate the

matter and to propose suitable reforms.

4. Organisation of Exhibitions.— This conference is of opinion that it would be of great advantage to the handloom industry if all-India hand-weaving exhibitions were held in different provinces in turn and that the Government of India be requested to extend their support to such exhibitions.

(The Indian Textile Journal,  
March 1936). +

Unfair Competition between Handloom and  
Textile Mill Industry: Meeting of Legislative Assembly Members. +

In order to concert measures to prevent unfair competition between the handloom and the mill industries, a meeting of members of the Legislative Assembly interested in the question was held on 14-3-1936 at New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Sir H.P.Mody, Mr. Mathradas Vissanji, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty and Mr. Avanashilingam Chetty on behalf of the mill industry, and Mr. V.V.Giri, Mr. Ananthasayanam Iyengar, Mr. Samuel Aaron and Professor Ranga on behalf of the handloom industry.

Discussion centred round the following five points: (1) question of supplying handloom weavers with mill yarn at cost price; (2) increase of the subvention now granted to the handloom weaving industry; (3) question of leaving certain kinds of production in lower counts to handloom weavers; (4) suitable revision of the Japanese Trade Agreement with a view to lessening Japanese competition; and (5) question of additional protection to cotton textiles in general. No definite conclusions were arrived at and as there was a feeling that the problem demanded closer study, it was agreed that another meeting should be held to continue discussion of the problem.

(The Statesman, 15-3-1936). +

Bombay Adult Education Association:

Annual Report for 1935.\* †

The Bombay Presidency Adult Education Association was inaugurated on 6-7-1934. The objects of the Association are: (1) to stimulate general interest in the education of adults; (2) to build up opinion as to the importance of adult education; (3) to bring together and to co-operate with the existing organisations engaged in the promotion of adult education so as to secure co-ordination of effort; (4) to survey the situation in adult education in the Presidency; (5) to suggest lines of advance and to promote new developments; and (6) generally to undertake such activities as may seem desirable for the furtherance of these ends.

At present the following activities are undertaken, and sub-committees have been formed to be in charge of them:-

- (a) extension lectures and classes for educated adults,
- (b) literacy classes for illiterates and vernacular lectures for workingmen, and
- (c) organisation and administration of the J.D.Bharda library and institute.

Extension Lectures and Classes for Educated Adults.- Adult education classes were started in November 1931, some years prior to the formation of the Association by a few professors of the local colleges. These professors have since joined the Association and have been appointed to the sub-committee managing the adult classes. From July 1935 a more extensive programme was started comprising (1) Two-year courses, (2) Tutorial work, (3) Modern language courses, (4) Terminal courses and (5) Public lectures.

During the earlier period, from November 1931 to March 1935, the total number which attended the classes was 365. The term July-October 1935 saw a great increase from an average of 85 to 250 in the number of those attending adult classes.

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\* The Bombay Presidency Adult Education Association - First Annual Report -1935.- Sukhadvala Building, Ravelin Street, Bombay.



Classes for Illiterates and Workers. - The General Motors India Ltd., in response to a demand from the workmen, <sup>added</sup> two more classes ~~were added in October and November~~, the cost of which is borne by the firm. In December 1935, through the co-operation of Sir Ness Wadia, four new classes were opened in mill premises, two in the Spring Mills and two in the Bombay Textile Mills. These classes are held for both night-shift and day-shift men, and the cost is borne by the Agents. By the end of December, 12 classes were being conducted by the Association. The total number of students on the roll was 266.

As regards the progress of these classes, the greatest difficulty has been that of securing regular attendance. Further, in the same class students of varying degrees of attainment and ability are found, so that the teacher has to give personal attention to each one of the students. But on the whole the progress made is encouraging, for the work is as yet at the experimental stage.

A further activity of the Branch consists in giving weekly talks to workmen every Sunday morning. From May, when the practice was first started, to the end of November, 40 such talks were given on various subjects such as gambling, the evils of drink, healthy habits, the folly of expensive marriage and funeral ceremonies, lives of saints, and simple talks on history and geography.

(A copy of the Annual Report of the Association reviewed above was forwarded to Geneva with our minute D.1/304/36 dated 12-3-1936). +

### Educational Reorganisation in Hyderabad State:

#### Vocational Bias Advocated in Special

#### Committee's Report. +

The Hyderabad correspondent of the Hindu, Madras, gives in the Hindu of 19-3-1936 an advance summary of the report on educational reorganisation in Hyderabad submitted to the Executive Council of the State by Mr. A.H. Mackenzie, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University, on behalf of a Committee of seven heads of departments appointed by the State to go into and report on the

Agriculture.Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1934-35\*

The crops dealt with in the report under reference are rice, wheat, sugarcane, tea, cotton, jute, linseed, rape and mustard, ~~xxx~~ sesamum, castor-seed, ground-nut, coffee and rubber. The estimates for these crops in the forecasts for earlier years did not relate to all the producing areas in India, but only to those tracts where the respective crops were grown on an extensive and commercial scale. Tracts of minor importance have been added gradually. At present the estimates for cotton, wheat, castorseed (in the case of castorseed, no estimates are framed for the mixed crop of the United Provinces), and jute, as also those for tea, coffee (in the case of coffee, estimates were hitherto framed for plantations having an area of 10 acres or more; but from 1931-32 statistics of smaller plantations having an area between five and ten acres are also included), and rubber, relate to all the tracts in India where these crops are grown to any extent, excluding certain unimportant outlying tracts such as Baluchistan, Kashmir, Nepal, and Sikkim. For other crops, however, the estimates relate to all the British provinces where they are grown to any considerable extent, but exclude Indian States, except certain States in the Central Provinces, the Rampur State in the United Provinces, the States in the Bombay Presidency, Khairpur State in Sind, the States of Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda, the Bhopal State in Central India and the Alwar and Kotah States in Rajputana in certain cases.

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\*Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Estimate of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India 1934-35. Published by Order of the Governor-General in Council. (37th issue). Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1936. No. 2882, Price Re. 1-2 or 2S. pp. 55.

Rice.— The total area under rice in 1934-35, according to the returns received from tracts comprising 97 per cent. of the total rice area of India, was reported as 81,869,000 acres, as compared with 83,042,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was, on the whole, fairly good. The total yield was estimated ~~xx~~ at 30,137,000 tons, as against 30,864,000 tons in 1933-34. To this figure should be added about 1,019,000 tons in respect of other tracts (Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Ajmer-Merwara, and certain Indian States) having an area of about 2,769,000 acres, for which no forecasts are made.

Wheat.— The total area under wheat in 1934-35, according to reports recently received from tracts comprising 98 per cent of the wheat growing area in India, was reported to be 34,491,000 acres, which is less than the area of the preceding year by 4 per cent. The crop was adversely affected in places by cold, frost, hailstorms, rust, etc., but its condition was reported to be, on the whole, fairly good. The total estimated yield was 9,725,000 tons, which is 3 per cent. greater than the yield of 1933-34. An addition of some 154,000 tons should be made to this estimated yield in respect of some other tracts (Burma, Madras, and the States of Kashmir and Benares), having an area of about 546,000 acres, for which no reports are made.

Sugarcane.— Reports regarding the acreage ~~x~~ under sugarcane were received from tracts comprising a little over 96 per cent. of the total area under sugarcane in India. The total area reported under sugarcane in 1934-35 was 3,478,000 acres, as compared with 3,311,000 acres in the preceding year. The estimated yield amounted to 5,134,000 tons of raw sugar (gur), which exceeds the last year's record crop of 4,896,000 tons ~~x~~ by 5 per cent. To this figure should be added approximately 185,000 tons in respect of other tracts, having an area of 125,000 acres, for which no separate estimates are made.

Tea.— The total area under tea in 1934 was reported to be 822,700 acres, as compared with 817,800 acres in the preceding year. The ~~xx~~ total production of manufactured tea (black and green) was calculated at 398,568,000 lbs., as against 383,722,200 lbs. in the preceding year.

Cotton.— Cotton is grown in all the provinces. The total reported area under cotton was 23,907,000 acres in 1934-35, as against 24,137,000 acres in 1933-34. Unfavourable weather conditions, especially cold spell and frost reduced the ~~xxx~~ yield of the crop. The total estimated outturn was 4,836,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, as compared with 5,108,000 bales in 1933-34, or a decrease of 5 per cent. The following statement compares the estimates of ~~xx~~ yield for the years 1933-34 and 1932-33 with the sum of exports and internal consumption (in thousands of bales). The figures of mill consumption are those compiled by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay, and refer in the case of mills in British provinces to Indian cotton alone. The estimate of mill consumption in Indian States refers to all cotton.

	1933-34 (1,000 bales)	1932-33 (1,000 bales)
Exports ... ..	3,269	2,868
Mill consumption . . .	2,336	2,361
Extra-factory consumption (conjectural) ...	750	750
Approximate crop ...	6,355	5,979
Estimated in forecast .	5,108	4,657

Jute.— The total area and yield of jute in 1934 were 2,670,000 acres, and 8,500,000 bales (of 400 lbs. each), which are 6 per cent. greater than those of the preceding year. The area and yield of jute in 1935 are estimated at 1,947,000 acres and 6,372,000 bales.

Linseed.— Reports were received from tracts comprising about 94 per cent. of the total area under linseed in India. The total area under linseed in all the reporting tracts in 1934-35 was 3,381,000 acres, as against 3,261,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fair. The total estimated yield was 418,000 tons, as against 376,000 tons last year. To this figure should be added some 28,000 tons for other tracts, having an area of 225,000 acres, for which no reports are made.

Rape and Mustard.— Reports were received from tracts containing about 96 per cent of the total area under rape and mustard in India. The total area under rape and mustard in all the reporting tracts ~~is~~ in 1934-35 was 5,332,000 acres, as against 6,034,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crops was reported to be fair. The total estimated yield was 9,000,000 tons, as against 943,000 tons in the preceding year. To this figure should be added some 50,000 tons in respect of other tracts, having an area of 294,000 acres, for which no reports are made.

Sesamum.— ~~Sx~~ Reports were received from tracts containing 89 per cent. of the total area under sesamum in India. The total area under sesamum reported in 1934-35 was 5,222,000 acres, as against 6,307,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be only fair. The total estimated yield was 408,000 tons, as against 541,000 tons in 1933-34. An addition of approximately 55,000 tons should be made to this figure in respect of other tracts, containing an area of about 706,000 acres under sesamum, for which no reports are made.

Castorseed.— Reports were received from tracts containing practically the whole area cultivated with castorseed in India. The total area sown in these tracts in 1934-35 was estimated at 1,450,000 acres and the yield at 106,000 tons, as against 1,534,000 acres with an estimated yield of ~~1x~~ 143,000 tons last year. Unfavourable seasonal conditions, particularly cold wave and frost reduced the yield of the crop to a great extent.

Groundnut.— Reports were received from tracts comprising a little over 98 per cent of the total area under groundnut in India. The total area under groundnut in these tracts in 1934-35 was reported to be 5,788,000 acres, which was 30 per cent less than that of the preceding year. The estimated yield (1,896,000 tons of nuts in shell) was also 43 per cent less than that of the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be only fair.

Coffee.— The total reported area under coffee in 1933-34 was 182,900 acres, the yield of cured coffee therefrom being estimated at 34,586,700 lbs.

Rubber.— The total area under rubber in 1934 was 225,000 acres, as against 177,100 ~~xx~~ acres in the preceding year. The total yield of dry rubber was 36,719,500 lbs, as against 12,915,200 lbs in 1933.

(The estimates of area and yield of principal crops in India during 1933-34 were reviewed at pages 90-94 of our March 1935 report).

Agricultural Statistics of British India, 1933-34\*

Volume I of the Report under review deals with the agricultural statistics of British Provinces, while Volume II deals with those of Indian States as far as they are reported. The year to which the returns relate ends on 30th-June, this being the generally recognised agricultural year, except in Assam where the year ends on 31st March and in the Central Provinces and Berar where it ends on 31st May.

Total Area and Population of India.—The total area of India is 1,816,000 square miles, or 1,162,383,000 acres with a population of 353 millions according to the census of 1931. This may be divided as follows:—

	Acres	Population.
(1) British Provinces (including Indian States within the political jurisdiction of Local Governments and Administrations)	686,891,000	274,382,000
(2) Indian States having direct political relations with the Government of India.	426,250,000	75,809,000
(3) Certain specially administered territories in the North-West Frontier Province (Tribal areas, etc.) not included under (1)	14,536,000	2,102,000
(4) British Baluchistan (including administered areas).	34,706,000	464,000
Total.	1,162,383,000	352,757,000

No returns of agricultural statistics are prepared either for item (3) certain specially administered territories in the North-West Frontier Province, or for item (4) British Baluchistan.

Total Area of British India.—The total area of the British Provinces (item 1 above) shown in this volume - 686,891,000 acres or 1,073,000 square miles - includes 19,557,000 acres, with a population of some 3 millions, belonging to Indian States, which are within the political jurisdiction of Local Governments and Administrations. Thus

\* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India.—Agricultural Statistics of India 1933-34 -Vol.I - Area, Classification of Area, Area under irrigation, Area under crops, Live-Stock, Land Revenue Assessment and Harvest Prices in British India.—Delhi: Manager of Publications-1936.—Price Rs.4-4 or 7s. pp. ix-381

deducting 19,557,000 acres belonging to Indian States from the total area of 686,891,000 acres included in British Provinces, the remainder, 667,334,000 acres represents the area of British territory according to professional survey. The agricultural statistics are, however, prepared in a number of provinces or parts of provinces from "village papers", i.e., papers prepared by the village accountants for the purpose of assessment and collection of land revenue. The area of British territory according to village papers for which statistics are given in this volume is 666,865,000 acres, as against 667,334,000 acres according to professional survey.

Classification of Area of British India.— The area of 666,865,000 acres is, for the purpose of Agricultural Statistics, classified as shown below:

	Acres (1,000)	Per cent.
Forests. ...	89,067	13.4
Not available for cultivation.	144,650	21.7
Culturable waste other than fallow	153,449	23.0
Current fallows.	47,453	7.1
Net area sown. ...	232,246	34.8
Total	666,865	100

The net area actually sown with crops during 1933-34 was therefore 232,246,000 acres, or 35 per cent of the total area, as against 228,076,000 acres in the preceding year. If, however, areas sown more than once during the year are taken as separate areas for each crop, the gross area sown in the year of report amounts to 267,160,000 acres, as against 260,391,000 acres in the preceding year.

Provincial Distribution of Sown Area.— The proportion of the net sown to total area and the number of population per 100 acres of sown area in each province are stated below.

	Proportion of sown to total area.	Population per 100 acres of sown area.
Delhi. ...	58 per cent.	299
United Provinces.	53 " "	134
Bengal. ...	49 " "	204
Punjab. ...	48 " "	82
Bihar and Orissa.	46 " "	156
Bombay. ...	42 " "	62
Central Provinces and Berar.	39 " "	63
Madras. ...	37 " "	136
North-West Frontier Province.	27 " "	108
Ajmer-Merwara. ...	20 " "	160
Assam. ...	17 " "	143
Coorg. ...	13 " "	119
Burma. ...	12 " "	80
British India.	35 " "	115

Irrigation Statistics.- The total area irrigated in 1933-34 was 50,508,000 acres, as against 49,882,000 acres in the preceding year. Of this area, 22,969,000 acres were irrigated from Government canals, 3,863,000 acres from private canals, 11,371,000 acres from wells, 6,553,000 acres from tanks, and 5,752,000 acres from other sources of irrigation. In India irrigation is ordinarily resorted to on an extensive scale in tracts where the rainfall is most precarious. In Lower Burma, Assam, eastern Bengal, and the Malabar Coast (including the Konkan), where the rainfall is ordinarily heavy, the crops hardly need the help of irrigation, unless there is an unusual scarcity of rain. Of the total area irrigated in 1933-34, the Punjab accounted for 29 per cent, the United Provinces 20 per cent, the Madras Presidency 18 per cent, Bombay 11 per cent, Bihar and Orissa 10 per cent, and the other provinces the remaining 12 per cent. The above figures of irrigated areas do not take into account areas sown more than once during the year with the help of irrigation, but indicate the extent of land actually irrigated. Counting areas sown more than once as separate areas for each crop, the gross area of irrigated crops was 54,683,000 acres in 1933-34. Of this area, 84 per cent was under food crops and the remainder under non-food crops. Of the former, 19,235,000 acres were under rice, 11,031,000 acres under wheat, 2,555,000 acres under barley, 1,347,000 acres under jowar, 1,057,000 acres under bajra, 871,000 acres under maize, 1,921,000 acres under sugarcane, and the ~~area~~ remaining 8,060,000 acres under other food crops. Of the irrigated non-food crop area, 3,475,000 acres were occupied by cotton.

Classification of Area Sown.- The gross area cultivated with crops covered 267,160,000 acres in 1933-34. The different classes of crops and the area occupied by each class are stated below:

	Acres(1,000)	Per cent of total.
Food-grains. ...	206,223	77.2
Condiments and spices. ...	1,467	0.5
Sugar. ...	3,364	1.3
Fruits and vegetables. ...	4,855	1.8
Miscellaneous food-crops..	1,756	0.7
Total food-crops.	217,665	81.5
Oilseeds. ...	17,794	6.7
Fibres. ...	17,626	6.6
Dyes and Tanning materials.	621	0.2
Drugs and narcotics. ...	2,241	0.8
Fodder crops. ...	10,207	3.8
Miscellaneous non-food crops.	1,006	0.4
Total non-food crops	49,495	18.5

(The agricultural statistics of British India for 1932-33 were reviewed at pages 87-89 of our August 1935 report).

The Bihar Agriculturists Relief Bill, 1936.

A non-official Bill to make provision for the relief of agriculturists from indebtedness was introduced in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council on 24-2-1936. As in other parts of India agriculturists in the province are heavily indebted and moneylenders are charging exorbitant rates of interest. The Bill requires the compulsory registration of all moneylenders and pawn-brokers in the province. Moneylenders and pawn-brokers who carry on their trade without such registration are liable to fine up to Rs. 50. The Bill also limits rate of interest to 12% per annum simple or 9% per annum compound in the case of secured debts and 15% and 12% respectively in the case of unsecured debts until a sum equal to the principal has been paid as interest or has accrued as interest; afterwards the rates of interest are halved. In passing a decree against an agriculturist-debtor, courts should direct that the total amount due from the judgment-debtor be paid in a number of convenient instalments spread over a maximum of six years. Every creditor should maintain a complete and full account of all loans made and interests realised, and it should be made available to the debtor when required. Creditors are also required to issue receipts for all sums paid by the debtor.

(Pages 36-46 of Part V of the  
Bihar and Orissa Gazette dated  
26-2-1936) +



The Assam Debt Conciliation Bill, 1936.

~~The~~

The Assam Government intend introducing in the current session of their Legislative Council a Bill to set up Debt Conciliation Boards to afford relief to agriculturists in their present state of heavy indebtedness. A resolution was moved in the September 1935 session of the Legislative Council that a committee should be appointed to enquire into the economic condition of the ryots with a view to recommend action for improving it. The Government, while opposing the appointment of a roving committee with no very definite object of enquiry, recognised the difficulties of the ryots in view of the fact that prices of agricultural produce had fallen while their debts remained constant, and undertook to consider the possibility of creating debt conciliation boards on the lines adopted by various other provinces. The present Bill is the outcome of this undertaking, and follows closely the enactment on the subject passed by the Central Provinces in 1933 (vide pages 45-46 of our January 1933 report). It is based on the idea that both creditors and debtors are prepared to revise the terms of their agreement in view of the recent fall in prices. The honest debtor gets the advantage of having his debt reduced to a limit, which in the opinion of an impartial Board he will be able to pay, while the reasonable creditor will obtain the assistance of Government in realising his reduced dues. The Bill differs from the Act on the subject recently passed in Bengal in that it gives the Boards no power to enforce a settlement in the absence of an agreement between the parties.

(Pages 115 to 121 of Part V of the Assam Gazette, dated 26-2-1936). +

The Agriculturists' Loans (Burma Amendment) Bill, 1936. +

A non-official Bill to amend the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884, in its application to Burma, with a view to extending the purposes for which the Local Government may grant loans to agriculturists, called the Agriculturists' Loans (Burma Amendment) Bill, 1936, was introduced in the Burma Legislative Council on 18-2-1936. The purpose of the Bill is to secure power to Government to lend money to agriculturists for the payment of existing debts and for the purchase of rights in agricultural land. Such help by Government is necessitated by the economic depression and the resultant fall in agricultural prices.

(Page 5 of Part III of the Burma Gazette dated 22-2-1936). +

The Burma Debtors' Protection Bill, 1936. +

A non-official Bill, called the Burma Debtors' Protection Bill, 1936, was introduced in the Burma Legislative Council on 21-2-1936, in order to make provision for the protection of small debtors in Burma by regulating the keeping of accounts by creditors. The Bill seeks to protect the agriculturists of the rural area and the clerks, artisans, the middle and the labouring classes in towns in Burma against further exploitation by certain classes of money-lenders. The classes enumerated above are very often victimised by money-lenders, who generally do not issue receipts for monies returned by debtors. The money lenders also do not

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keep clear accounts of transactions. Exorbitant rates of interests are charged, 24 per cent per annum being usually the minimum rate. The Bill follows the lines adopted in the Punjab Regulations of Accounts Act, 1930, and the Madras Debtors' Protection Act, 1934, with a few necessary additions, changes and verbal alterations to suit local conditions.

The Bill stipulates that every creditor shall- (a) regularly record ~~xxx~~ and maintain or cause to be recorded and maintained, an account showing for each debtor separately - (i) the date of the loan, and the rate per cent per annum of interest charged on the loan; and (ii) the amount of every payment received by the creditor in respect of the loan, and the date of such payment; and (b) give to the debtor or his agent, a receipt for every sum paid by him, duly signed and if necessary, stamped, at the time of such payment; and ~~(c) on requisition in writing made by the debtor, furnish to the debtor himself.~~ Similar provisions are also made for control of pawn-brokers.

(Pages 6 and 7 of Part III of the  
Burma Gazette, dated 22-2-1936)

Labour under the Reformed Constitution:Indian Delimitation Committee's Recommendations\*.

The following is a summary of the recommendations made in the report of the Indian Delimitation Committee regarding representation of labour in Indian legislatures under the reformed constitution:-

Representation of Labour in Existing Provincial Legislative Councils.- The representation allotted to labour in the provincial Legislative Councils under the existing constitution consists of three seats in Bombay, 2 seats in Bengal, and one seat each in the Punjab, Bihar and Orissa, the Central Provinces and Assam. In all cases this representation is secured by means of nomination by the Governor.

Proposed Distribution in Provincial Legislative Assemblies.- Under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 38 seats will be allotted to labour in the future Provincial Assemblies. Their distribution is as follows:-

Madras.	..	6
Bombay.	..	7
Bengal.	..	8
United Provinces.		3
Punjab.	..	3
Bihar .	..	3
C.P. and Berar. .		2
Assam.	..	4
Orissa.	..	1
Sind.	..	1

The Indian Franchise Committee, whose view was accepted by the third Round Table Conference and by the Joint Select Committee, recommended that these seats should be allotted partly to trade union and partly to special labour constituencies. The Government of India Act leaves the qualifications of electors and of candidates and the nature of the constituencies to be prescribed.

Difficulties of Securing Adequate Representation.- Discussing this aspect of the problem, the Report says: The first difficulty is the huge potential electorate, spread over a vast area with, except in rare cases, a deplorable lack of organisation among the workers themselves. In every province, the industrial workers extend over the whole province, and no scheme can be devised which will on the one hand tend to keep the few available constituencies compact and manageable, and, on the other, secure

\* Indian Delimitation Committee Volume I - Report of the Indian Delimitation Committee. - Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1936. - Price Rs. 1-4-0. - pp.xiii+314

adequate representation for the workers engaged in manual labour. The Whitley Commission and the Indian Franchise Committee, were inclined to the view that trade unions should be recognised as forming whole or part of labour electorates. The Delimitation Committee agrees with this view in the main, but owing first, to the weakness of the trade union movement in India and secondly to the objections of certain provincial governments the Committee recommends the adoption of trade unions as labour constituencies wherever such adoption is advisable, and the provision of special labour constituencies in those cases in which the creation of trade union constituencies is impracticable and in which there was no other method of representing labour effectively.

Stricter Supervision of Trade Unions.- Under the existing law, which is incorporated in the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, as amended by Act XV of 1928, Government has no power to inspect the registers of a trade union, or to satisfy itself whether the union is functioning properly, and whether its accounts are being regularly kept. Nor, as would appear from a judgment of the Calcutta High Court, has the Registrar power in the case of any union, which may have been declared to be an unlawful association under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, to refuse registration, if the same association applies again for registration under a different name. The report recommends that the existing law should be so amended as to invest local Governments with the power of inspecting the registers of the trade unions, and to make Government or professional audit of their accounts compulsory. The report further recommends that a tribunal should be constituted in each province in which labour seats exist the object of which would be to make a yearly review of the constituencies for the labour seats in each province. If the result of the investigations of the tribunal goes to show that any union had lost its representative character, or for any other reason had ceased to be in a position to fulfil the function for which it was designed, or that other unions had come into existence which could properly be included in a constituency or ~~and~~ could adequately replace un-organised labour, a report to this effect, with the recommendations of the local Government, should be made to Parliament, if necessary. In course of time, the Report hopes, that the seats which are assigned to "unorganised" labour will be converted by the necessary Order in Council into trade union seats.

Provincial Proposals.- Madras. - Six seats have been set aside in this province for representatives of labour. The total membership of registered trade unions in the province at the end of 1934 was 24,998, comprised in 32 unions. Of these 18 were in Madras City, with a total membership of 18,436, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Union and the Madras Textile Mill Workers' Union respectively accounting for 11,982 and 2,875 out of this total. The average number of workers in registered factories in 1933 was 138,000; the approximate number

of persons employed on plantation labour was over 100,000. The Committee recommends that two seats should be allotted to trade unions, the first to registered railway trade unions in the Presidency, with an electorate consisting of some 15,000 voters, and the second to registered trade unions of textile workers in the City of Madras, with a voting strength of approximately 3,000. The remaining four seats are to be filled from the following four special labour constituencies:- (1) Textile workers in Coimbatore and Malabar; (2) Dock and factory labour (excluding textile and railway labour) in the City of Madras and the district of Chingleput; (3) Dock and factory labour in certain centres in the districts of Vizagapatam and East Godavari; (4) Factory labour in certain selected centres in the districts of West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur.

Bombay.- Seven seats have been set aside in this province for representatives of labour. There are 43 registered trade unions in Bombay with a membership of 89,000. There are in addition 16,000 workers in unregistered trade unions. The average number of workers in perennial factories in Bombay is some 322,000. The report allocates the seats as follows: Bombay City and Suburban Textile Labour Unions -1; Railway Unions in the Presidency -2; Registered Unions of Seamen and dock workers -1; Gujarat textile trade unions -2; Sholapur Special Labour constituency -1.

Bengal.- Eight seats have been set aside in this province for the representation of labour. The industrial population of Bengal appears to exceed a million people. In the year ending 31st March 1934, there were 46 registered trade unions in Bengal, with a membership of 80,000. In the year 1934, the average number of workers in factories was 480,000. Of these 429,000 were employed in perennial factories, no fewer than 393,000 of that number being in the metropolitan manufacturing area. The Committee, in agreement with the proposals of the local Government, <sup>that</sup> of the 8 seats, 2 seats should be allotted to constituencies consisting of registered trade unions, and that the remaining six should be assigned to special labour constituencies, one of which should be set aside for plantation labour. The two trade union seats are allotted, one to registered unions of railway workers, with a membership of some 40,000, and the second to registered unions of water transport workers, with a membership of some 25,000. These two classes of union cover 65,000 out of 79,000 workers in registered unions in Bengal. The 6 remaining labour seats are allotted to special labour constituencies; three of which ~~should~~ are assigned to factory workers in specified districts, one to colliery workers, one to registered factories in Calcutta and the Sadar sub-division of the 24-Parganas district, and one to plantation labour in the Jalpaiguri and the Darjeeling districts.

The United Provinces.- Three seats have been assigned to representatives of labour in the United Provinces. There were five registered trade unions in the United Provinces in the year ending 31st March 1934, with a total membership of some 8,000. In 1934, the average number of workers employed in registered factories was some 113,000.

Of the 3 seats, the report allots, one seat to registered trade unions, to comprise all the registered trade unions in the province, and two to special labour constituencies. Of the two special labour constituencies, one is assigned to the representation of industrial factory labour in Cawnpore, which is the chief industrial centre of the province, with some 40,000 factory employees, and one to the representation of industrial labour in the four cities of Lucknow, Agra, Aligarh and Allahabad.

The Punjab.- Three seats are reserved for representatives of labour in this province. The Punjab contains one very large registered trade union, viz., the North Western Railway Union, the membership of which is understood at the present time to be some 40,000. There are in addition a number of small trade unions of minor importance. The average number of workers employed in registered factories in 1933, the last year up to which figures are available, was 48,000, of whom some 18,000 appear to have been employed in seasonal factories. Of the 3 seats, one seat is allotted to registered trade unions and two to special labour constituencies. The trade union seat is assigned to the N.W. Railway Union; the two special labour constituency seats are assigned one each to constituencies formed of persons employed in registered factories and mines in the following districts:- (a) Jullundur, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, (b) Jhelum, Rawalpindi and Attock.

Bihar.- Three seats are assigned to labour in the Bihar Legislative Assembly. One seat in the Federal Assembly is also allotted to Bihar labour. In the year ending 31st March 1934, there were four registered trade unions in Bihar and Orissa with a total membership of between 4,000 and 5,000. The total membership at the present time appears to be rather more than 8,000. The average number of workers in registered factories in the province in 1934 was 72,000. Bihar contains one large industrial centre, Jamshedpur, while there are also important mining interests in the districts of Manbhum and Hazaribagh. The report recommends the following distribution of the 4 seats: (1) Jamshedpur factory labour - 1; (2) Monghyr-Jamalpur factory labour - 1; (3) Hazaribagh mining labour - 1; (4) Registered mining and colliery trade unions in the Dhanbad sub-division - 1.

The Central Provinces and Berar. -Two seats are set aside in this province for representatives of labour. The industrial labour force of the province is stated to be about 128,000, but the number of persons employed in factories and mines which are subject to the provisions of the Indian Factories and the Indian Mines Acts, does not apparently exceed some 47,000. Of these some 29,000 are in regulated non-seasonal factories, and some 18,000 in mines. There are some fifteen registered trade unions with a total membership of about 9,000. Of the two seats, one is allotted to a compact constituency of registered trade unions, and the second to factory labour in selected districts. The trade union constituency will be based on the Nagpur Municipality, and it is estimated that the electorate will contain some 4,000 voters.

The factory labour constituency will be assigned to the Jubbulpore district, and will contain an electorate estimated at 5,500.

Assam.- Four seats are assigned to Labour in the Assam Provincial Assembly. All the four seats are allotted to the plantation labour of the province.

Orissa.- One seat is assigned to labour in Orissa. The report recommends that the electorate for it should be composed of the workers in all registered factories and mines throughout the province.

Sind.- One seat is allotted to labour in Sind. There are eleven registered trade unions in the province. Eight of these are unions of menial workers, and three only have a membership in excess of 500. The report recommends that the constituency should be composed of workers in factories registered under the Indian Factories Act in the headquarters towns of the province together with the town of Shikarpur. In addition to workers in the factories in question, members of registered trade unions connected with factory, labour, and also honorary members and officers of such unions, would be eligible for admission to the electoral roll. The electorate would be in the neighbourhood of 10,000.

Federal Assembly.- There will be ten Labour seats in the Federal Assembly. One is a non-provincial seat. ~~Nine~~ Nine are allotted to provinces, their distribution being as follows:-

Madras.	..	1,
Bombay.	..	2,
Bengal.	..	2
United Provinces.		1
Bihar	..	1
C.P. & Berar...		1
Assam.	..	1
Non-provincial seat.		1

Non-Provincial Seat.- The report recommends that on the occasion of the first election the non-provincial seat should be assigned to the National Trades Union Federation. The arrangement is only provisional; regarding more permanent arrangements, the report recommends that the non-provincial seat in the Federal Assembly should be allotted to "The National Trades Union Federation of India, or such other organisation of workers as may be selected by the Government of India for the nomination of the workers' delegate to the International Labour Conference under the provisions of Article 389(3) of the Treaty of Versailles".

Provincial Seats.- Madras.- The Madras seat is assigned to a special labour constituency based on the City of Madras and the adjoining district of Chingleput, the electorate in which would be formed of factory-workers, including railway workers, and dock and port labourers.

Bombay.- The two seats assigned to Bombay are allotted ont



each to two constituencies consisting of (a) registered trade unions in Bombay City; (b) registered trade unions in Ahmedabad City.

Bengal.- The two seats assigned to Bengal are allotted one each to (a) a registered trade union constituency consisting of the trade unions qualified to elect members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly in the registered trade union constituencies in that body; (b) a territorial labour constituency covering the area of the factory labour constituencies proposed for the Bengal Legislative Assembly. The electorate in this constituency will be composed of adult workers employed in factories with a minimum daily strength of 500 persons or over. Election would be on the indirect system on the basis of one Mukhiya for 250 voters.

The United Provinces.- The one seat assigned to labour should be filled by the two special labour constituencies, and the one trade union constituency electing the Province's three labour representatives in the Provincial Assembly.

Bihar.- The seat assigned to Bihar labour in the Federal Assembly is to be included in a rotating series with the labour seats in the provincial Legislative Assembly, and on the occasion of the first election under the new constitution, it should be filled from the Dhanbad trade union constituency.

Central Provinces and Berar.- The one seat assigned to labour in Central Provinces and Berar is allotted to a mining constituency based on the Chindwara district, with an electorate estimated at some 4,000.

Assam.- Regarding the one seat assigned to labour in Assam, the report recommends that the Governor acting in his discretion should assign it on the occasion of each election to one of the constituencies contained in the rotating series suggested for labour seats in the Assam Provincial Assembly.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

REPORT FOR APRIL 1936.

(N.B.-Every section of the Report may be taken out separately).

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References to the I.L.O.

The Excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during February 1936, publishes a note announcing the items on the agenda of the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 8-4-36 and Federated India dated 15-4-36 publish a news item to the effect that the non-official Indian delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference will be composed of Rao Sahib R.W.Fulay and Mr. Selvapathy Chetty representing workers and Sir Homi Mehta and Mr. Sodhbans representing employers. It is stated that Sir B.H.Mitra is not likely to lead the Government delegation and that Sir Atul Chatterjee is likely to be nominated for the purpose.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 3-4-36 publishes a news item to the effect that Lieutenant Sodhbans of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Lahore, has been nominated adviser to the Indian employers' delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 4-4-36, the Indian Labour Journal dated 5-4-36 and X the Hindustan Times dated 7-4-36 publish a news item to the effect that Rao Sahib R.W.Fulay, M.L.C., has been nominated Indian workers' delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times and the Bombay Chronicle dated 8-4-1936, the National Call dated 9-4-36 and the Railway Herald, Karachi, dated 23-4-36 publish a news item to the effect that Mr. Selvapathy Chetty of Madras has been invited by the Government of India to attend the 20th I.L.Conference as an adviser to the Indian workers' delegate to the Conference.

\* \* \*

A communique on the 74th Session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 6-3-1936) is published by "Federated India", Madras, dated 22-4-36.(vide Encl.No.1 to H.4/504/36 dated 30-4-36).

\* \* \*

A communique re. "Labour Conditions in French India: Complaint to the I.L.O" (issued by this Office on 14-4-36), was published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 16-4-1936, the National Call dated 18-4-1936, the Leader dated 19-4-1936, the Times of India dated 20-4-1936, "Commerce and Industry, Delhi,

the Hindu and the Bombay Chronicle dated 21-4-1936, the Railway Herald, Karachi, dated 23-4-36, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 25-4-36 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 26-4-36 (vide Encl.Nos. 8 to 13 of H.4/470/36 dated 23-4-36 and Nos. 8 to 11 of H.4/504/36 dated 30-4-36).

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 15-4-1936 reproduces a note from the Press Reports of the I.F.T.U. dealing with the protest entered by the workers' group in the Governing Body at its 74th session, regarding the persecution of certain labour leaders in Austria and Chile.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 8-4-36 reproduces from the weekly Bulletin of the I.F.T.U. a note on the resolution requesting the delegates to the I.L.Conference to support a 6-hour day for miners adopted at a meeting of the Miners' International Federation, held in Holland in January 1936.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 7-4-1936 publishes a news item to the effect that the British Government has given negative replies to the I.L.O. questionnaires re. reduction of hours of work to 40-per week in the iron and steel, building and engineering industries.

\* \* \*

The March 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the note on the Conference of textile workers in Great Britain to consider the 40-Hour week, published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 17-2-1936.

\* \* \*

The Industrial Bulletin dated 6-4-36 (issued by the Employers' Federation of India) publishes a note summarising the presidential speeches at the last annual meetings of the Employers' Federation of New South Wales and the Victorian Employers Federation, Melbourne. Both speeches contained unsympathetic references to the 40-hour week sponsored by the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The same issue as above publishes extracts from the report presented at the last annual general meeting of the New Zealand Employers' Federation, dealing, among other subjects, with the attitude of the Federation towards the question of a 40-hour week.

\* \* \*

The April 1936 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publishes an editorial article on the Railway Budget for 1936-37. In the course of the article references are made to the dilatory policy adopted by the Government of India in applying the Washington and Geneva Conventions re. hours of work and weekly rest to Indian railways.

\* \* \*

Resolution in Legislative Assembly recommending non-ratification of Draft Conventions re. Hours of Work in Coal Mines and Maintenance of Migrant Workers' Pension Rights: Summary of debates were published by the Hindu, the Hindustan Times, the Statesman and the Times of India of 16-4-1936 and the Leader, the Bombay Chronicle and the National Call of 17-4-1936.

\* \* \*

Attention is directed to the speeches of Mr. P.N.Sapru and Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das in the course of the debate on the resolution on unemployment in the Council of State on 25-3-36 (vide pages 468 and 485-487 of Vol. I No.12 of the Council of State Debates of 1936). Numerous references to the Director's Report to the 19th I.L.Conference and to other publications of the I.L.O. giving information regarding measures taken by various countries to alleviate unemployment were made by the two speakers, who were supplied with notes by this Office.

\* \* \*

A communique re. Blue Report on Holidays with Pay (issued by this Office on 25-4-36) was published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 26-4-36, the National Call dated 27-4-1936, the Statesman and the Times of India dated 28-4-36 (vide Enc.Nos. 3 to 6 of H.4/504/36 dated 30-4-1936).

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 28-4-1936 publishes a short note giving statistics of unemployment from figures recently issued by the I.L.O. for the first quarter of 1936.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 19-4-36 publishes a short article under the caption: "Public works and Unemployment". The article was sent to the paper by this Office.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 18-4-1936 publishes a short

editorial note on the above. The note supports the adoption of public works programmes as a measure for the alleviation of unemployment.

\* \* \*

The issues of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 12, 19 and 26-4-1936 reproduce from the March 1936 issue of the International Labour Review the article: "The Abolition of Unemployment in the U.S.S.R." by Prof. Boris Markus.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 8-4-1936 publishes the usual weekly contribution sent by this Office to the paper. The article deals with juvenile unemployment and refers in some detail to the work of the I.L.O. in this field.

\* \* \*

A communique re. the second International Congress on Social Policy (issued by this Office on 23-3-1936) is published by the Bombay Chronicle dated 1-4-1936 (vide Encl.No.1 of H.4/406/36 dated 9-4-1936).

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 15-4-1936 publishes the usual weekly contribution sent by this Office to the paper. The article deals with the forth-coming 2nd International Congress on Social Policy.

\* \* \*

"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 7-4-36 reproduces the item: "The Migration of Workers" included in I.L.O. News Bulletin No.9 (March 1936). (Copies of the Bulletin were forwarded to Indian newspapers and periodicals by this Office).

\* \* \*

"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 21-4-1936 reproduces the items: "The I.L.O. and Social Insurance" and "Opium and Labour" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.9 (March 1936).

\* \* \*

A communique re. the recent regional Labour Conference of the American Member States of I.L.O. (issued by this Office on 26-2-1936) is published in the March 1936 issue of "Labour", Calcutta (vide Enc. No.20 of H.4/406/36 dated 9-4-36).

\* \* \*

The March 1936 issue of "Contemporary India", Lahore, publishes a long article under the caption: "The I.L.O. and Social Reconstruction" contributed by the Director of this Office.

\* \* \*

The same issue as above reproduces an article on "Indian Labour Legislation, 1911-1935" contributed by Mr. N.M.Joshi to the Asiatic Review. References are made in the course of the article to the influence of the I.L.O. in hastening the pace of labour legislation in this country.

\* \* \*

The Director of this Office has been delivering a series of broadcast talks on social and economic developments in the post-war world with special reference to the work of the League of Nations and the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

Indian Finance, Calcutta, dated 9-4-1936 publishes the text of a broadcast talk by the Director of this Office on "Recent Tendencies in World Economics". The 'talk' contained several references to the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

"Federated India", Madras, dated 15-4-1936 publishes a review, of the pamphlet: "Labour's New Charter" published by the General Council of the British Trade Union Congress.

\* \* \*

The Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 18-4-1936 reproduces the text of the speech of Sir H.P.Mody at the third session of the Employers' Federation of India held at New Delhi on 28 and 29-3-1936. In the course of his speech, Sir Hormusji made unsympathetic references to the rapid output during recent years of Draft Conventions by the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 2-4-1936 publishes an editorial note under the heading: "Employers' Federation" commenting on the presidential address of Sir H.P.Mody at the 3rd annual meeting of the Employers' Federation of India, held at New Delhi recently. Dealing with Sir H.P.Mody's references to the I.L.O., the article says:

"It was time that somebody should speak with emphasis about the International Labour Organisation at Geneva. The trouble with the Organisation is that it does not recognise essential differences in various parts of the world and tries to produce all-embracing schemes which are fatuous in relation to local conditions. A typical example was the adoption of the principle of a forty-hour week for all countries coupled



With the conditions that the standard of living was not to be affected. At the moment this is an economic impossibility and for India it would be, as Sir H.P.Mody says, a criminal folly to adopt it. Why the International Labour Office continues to act as it does may be largely due to the fact that it is staffed by doctrinaires whose knowledge of practical business difficulties is nil."

\* \* \*

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during March 1936 publishes the presidential address of Sir Joseph Kay at the annual general meeting of the Association held on 23-3-1936. Stray references to the I.L.O. were made by Sir Joseph in the course of his presidential address.

\* \* \*

A news item from Allahabad to the effect that the I.L.O. is examining the Sapru Committee report on unemployment was published by the Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 6-4-1936, the Times of India, the Bombay Chronicle and the Leader dated 7-4-1936.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 5-4-1936 publishes the report of a meeting of those interested in the problems of workers and peasants held at Agra during the last week of March 1936. The meeting was addressed by Mr. N.K.Joshi and the Director of this Office; in the course of their speeches several reference were made to the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 31-3-1936 publishes an editorial note on the lecture delivered recently by Lord Amulree on "Industrial Arbitration" at the London School of Economics. In the course of the note reference is made to the work of collection of information bearing on industrial laws carried on by the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The leader dated 8-4-1936 publishes the reproduction of an article under the caption "Joint Families in Japan" contributed to "New Order" by "A Japanese". In the course of the article reference is made to the improvement in the conditions of labourers in Japan due to the adoption by the country of a number of I.L. Conventions.

\* \* \*

The following statement gives the list of Indian newspapers and periodicals which have published notes from the I.L.O. News Bulletin or commented on them & (The list is compiled only from

newspapers and periodicals received in this Office. In addition to these, copies of the News Bulletin are sent to over 140 addresses):-

1. "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 7-4-1936 reproduces item: "The Migration of Workers" included in I.L.O. News Bulletin No. 9 (March 1936).

2. "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 21-4-1936 reproduces items: "The I.L.O. and Social Insurance" and "Opium and Labour" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No. 9 (March 1936).

\* \* \*

No message having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents was published in the Indian press during April 1936. +

8

Ratifications.

Draft Convention re. 40-Hour Week:

Council of State Recommends Non-ratification.

Reference was made at page 10 of our March 1936 report to the adoption by the Council of State of a Government resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Convention re. 40-Hour Week. For verbatim report of the debate on the question, attention is directed to pages 509 to 517 of the Council of State Debates of 26-3-1936.

Draft Convention re. Reduction of Hours of

Work (Glass Bottle Works): Council of State Recommends  
non-ratification.

Reference was made at page 10 of our March 1936 report to the adoption by the Council of State of a Government resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Convention re. reduction of hours of work (glass bottle works). For full details regarding the debate, vide pages 517-518 of the Council of State Debates of 26-3-1936.

Draft Convention re. Hours of Work in Coal Mines:

Council of State Recommends Non-ratification.

Mr. A. G. Clow, Secretary, Industries and Labour Department, Government of India, moved a resolution in the Council of State on 15-4-1936 that the Council, having considered the draft Convention limiting the hours of work in coal mines (adopted by

the nineteenth session of the International Labour Conference) recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council that he does not ratify the convention. He pointed out that only a year ago ~~the~~ hours of work in mines were reduced and it was not proper to make any further radical reduction in ~~the~~ hours of work so soon, particularly as conditions in India were quite different.

The House adopted the resolution.

(The Statesman, 16-4-1936). +

Draft Convention re. Maintenance of Migrant Workers'  
Pension Rights. +

Mr. A. G. Clow moved in the Council of State on 16-4-1936 a resolution urging non-ratification of the Draft Convention concerning the establishment of an international scheme for the maintenance of rights under invalidity, old-age and widows' and orphans' insurance (adopted by the nineteenth session of the International Labour Conference). He emphasised that in India there was no system of co-ordinating these conventions which were largely designed/ to suit European conditions. India, he said, was separated by thousands of miles from those countries and there was no opportunity of working out mutual schemes of co-ordination.

The resolution was adopted.

(The Statesman, 16-4-1936), +

Draft Conventions re. Reduction of Hours of  
Work (Glass Bottle Works) and Hours of Work (Coal Mines)  
(Revised):Legislative Assembly Recommends Non-ratification. +

On 21-4-1956, Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of the Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India, moved in the Legislative Assembly two resolutions recommending non-ratification of the Draft Conventions concerning the reduction of hours of work in glass-bottle works and limitation of hours of work in coal mines(revised 1955).

The two resolutions were adopted by the House.

(The Statesman, 22-4-1956) -

11

National Labour Legislation.

The Indore Maternity Benefits Act, 1936.

The Indore State Legislative Council, at its meetings held on 6 & 7-4-1936, took up for consideration the Indore Maternity Benefits Bill, 1936, which was introduced in the Council by the State Government.

Main Provisions of the Bill.- The Bill regulates the employment of women in factories some time before and some time after confinement. After this Act comes into operation no employer shall knowingly employ a woman in any factory during the four weeks up to the day of her delivery and the four weeks immediately following that day and no woman shall work during that period. If a woman has been employed in the factory for not less than 11 months, she will be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of six annas a day in Indore city, and elsewhere at the rate of her average daily wages for a maximum period of eight weeks. 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. 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 notice of dismissal during such absence.

Debate in Council.- The Commissioner for Excise and Commerce, who introduced the Bill, made out a strong case for the Bill. Indore, he said, was a centre of textile industry and had made considerable industrial progress during recent years. The number of mills and factories had increased considerably and over 15,000 labourers, including about 2,500 women labourers, were working in these. For these women, he said, maternity legislation was absolutely necessary. Mrs. Kamlabai Kibe, appealed to the mill-owners to accept the resolution, if for no other reasons, on grounds of humanity.

Opposition of Employers.- The representatives of industrial organisations and business men opposed it on grounds of depression and bad days for the textile industry. The opposition was led by

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Seth Bhanwar Lal Sethi who believed that women would be ultimate sufferers if this Bill was passed into law as the millowners would be reluctant to give them jobs. The women supplemented their family income and their dismissal would consequently increase their hardship. Sir Hukam Chand, the leading business man of the State and the proprietor of several mills, said that the time was not opportune for the introduction of this Bill. Rai Bahadur Seth Hira Lal also opposed it.

Bill Passed.- The suggestion of Rai Sahib A.P. Bhargava to refer the Bill to a Select Committee and the amendment to reduce the period and the rate of benefits were rejected. The Bill, when put to vote, was passed by a very large majority.

(The Statesman, 14-4-1936).

(Requisition has been made for two copies of the Indore Maternity Benefits Act, 1936 and, when received, a copy will be forwarded to Geneva.)

#### The Code of Civil Procedure (Third Amendment)

#### Bill, 1935 (Amendment of Section 60): Select Committee's Report.

At pages 36-39 of our February 1935 report was given the full text of the Code of Civil Procedure (Third Amendment) Bill, 1935 (Amendment of Section 60), which seeks to prohibit the attachment of salaries below Rs. 100 per month. Below are given the more important changes made by the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly appointed to examine the Bill.

Extent of Salaries Exempt from Attachment.- The majority

of the Committee is of opinion that the extent to which salaries should be exempt from attachment should be reduced from one hundred rupees and half the remainder to sixty rupees and half the remainder.

They are unanimously of opinion that the extent to which salary is exempted from attachment should be the same in all cases whether the salary is that of a member of the classes specified in the proposed clause (i) of the draft Bill, or otherwise; and they are similarly agreed that the existing state of the law under which ~~xx~~ salaries other than those of members of these classes are exempt from attachment until they become due and payable, while the attachable portion of the salary of public officers and servants of a railway company or local authority is not so exempt, should not be disturbed.

Amounts Attached before they are actually Payable.— The provision of law under which the attachable portion of the salary of public officers, and servants of a railway company or of a local authority is liable to be withheld by the disbursing authority and remitted to the Court, that is to say, attached before it is actually payable, is rule 48 of order 21 of the Code of Civil Procedure, read with the implication contained in the existing Explanation to the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 60 of that Code. The proposed clause (h) of the Bill as drafted is defective because, read with the Explanation referred to, it would have the effect of implying that salary, except so far as made exempt by clause (h) might be attached whether before or after it was actually payable. To remedy this defect the Committee has provided that the attachable balance of salary other than salary of public officers, and servants of railway companies or local authorities shall remain unattachable until payable.

Minute of Dissent.— Sir Henry Craik, Sir N.N.Sirkar, Sir Frank Noyce, Mr. K.L.Gauba, Mr. Muhamad Azhar Ali and Mr. Khurshaid Mohamed have appended a minute of dissent disagreeing with the majority view according to which limit of salaries and wages exempted from attachment is reduced from Rs. 100 to <sup>12</sup>60.

(Summarised from pages 35 to 36 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 28-3-1936.) +

### The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment)

Bill, 1935 (Amendment of Section 51 etc): Select Committee's

#### Report.

At pages 32-34 of our February 193<sup>5</sup> report was given the text of the Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 13-2-3<sup>5</sup>



in order to prohibit arrest and imprisonment of honest debtors of all classes. The Select Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly to examine the Bill has recently submitted its report. Beyond a few verbal changes of a minor nature the Committee has not made any notable modification in the Bill.

(Pages 105 to 108 of Part V of the Gazette of India, dated 28-3-1936). \*

The Indian Mines(Amendment) Act, 1936.

( L. A. Bill No. 15 of 1936)

References have been made at pages 20 to 21 and 43-44 of our February 1936 report to the Loyabad Colliery disaster which occurred in the Jharia Mining Area on 30-1-1936. As a consequence of this the Government of India introduced on 8-4-1936 a Bill in the Legislative Assembly in order to concert measures of safety in mines. The salient features of the Bill are given below:-

Clause 2 seeks to enlarge the powers at present vested in the Inspector to issue orders applicable to individual mines where danger is apprehended. Any orders made under this section by an Inspector will be subject to appeal to the Chief ~~of~~ Inspector and in all cases the right of appeal to a Committee is provided. The powers are granted temporarily and can be limited to particular areas. It is intended that the whole question of danger from fires in mines should be subjected to expert examination before the period of two years expires.

Clause 3 seeks to enlarge in certain respects the power, vested in the Governor General in Council, to make regulations for safety purposes.

Clause 4 is designed to secure that central rescue stations will be established where they are required.

Clause 5 is designed to enable safety regulations to be made promptly when necessary. Under the present law, not only is previous publication necessary in all cases, but such publication can only be made after the draft has been referred to all

the mining Boards concerned and they have had the opportunity of expressing their views. It is proposed that regulations so made shall be of a temporary character. They will normally be superseded by regulations made in the ordinary way.

The Select Committee appointed by the legislative Assembly to examine the Bill has submitted its report on 16-4-1936. Only a few minor changes have been made by the Committee. As regards contemplated expert examination of the question of danger from fires in mines, the Committee considers that the terms of reference to the examining body should be somewhat wider, and should certainly include an examination of the methods of storing and using explosives.

In a separate note appended to the report of the Select Committee, Messrs. N.M. Joshi, V.V. Giri and N.C. Ranga suggest that the whole question of safety in mines should be the subject of investigation by the Committee proposed to be appointed. All causes—direct and indirect—of accidents in mines should be thoroughly inquired into, as also all remedies to prevent them. The Committee should also consider the question of the provisions for the proper enforcement of the Act and the Regulations and for ensuring adequacy of inspection. The Committee should include adequate representation of miners.

(Summarised from pages 134 to 140 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 11 & 18-4-1936).

The Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 21-4-1936.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-4-1936).

The Act received the assent of the Governor-General on 26-4-36. For text of the Act, vide pages 38-39 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 2-5-1936.

The Bombay Shops Bill: Motion for Select

Committee Rejected. +

Reference was made at pages 15-16 of our March 1936 report to the rejection by the Bombay Legislative Council on 23-3-1936 of leave to refer to a Select Committee the Bombay Shops Bill, introduced by Mr. R. R. Bakhale in the Council on 11-9-1934. The debate in the Legislative Council on the motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee is published at pages 1314 to 1339 and 1357 to 1964 of the Bombay Legislative Council Debates, Vol.XLIV (1936). +

The C.P. Adjustment and Liquidation of Industrial

Workers' Debt Act, 1936 (C.P. Act No.V of 1936). +

*at pages 24-25 of our January 1936 report*  
Reference was made to the C.P. Adjustment and Liquidation of Industrial Workers' Debt Bill, 1935, which was introduced in the C.P. Legislative Council in January 1935. The Bill as passed by the Council ~~and~~ (assent was accorded by the Governor General to the bill on 29-5-1936) is published at pages 440-448 of Part III of the Central Provinces Gazette dated 10-4-1936. +

Amendment ~~of~~ U.P.Factories Rules, 1935:Hours of work in Factories for Distillation andRefining Vegetable Oils. +

Attention is directed to a notification (No.933/XVIII-219 dated 25-3-1936) of the Industries Department of the United Provinces seeking to amend the U.P.Factories Rules (vide pages 403k to 404 of Part I of the U.P.Gazette dated 28-3-1936). The amendment regulates shifts, hours of work (daily and weekly) and weekly holidays of workers engaged in factories for distillation and refining of ~~xx~~ vegetable oils. +

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Conditions of Labour.

Maternity Benefit Legislation for Bengal:

Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce. +

Reference was made at page 8 of the report of this Office for January 1936 to the intention of the Government of Bengal to undertake legislation for making compulsory the grant of maternity benefits to women employed in the perennial factories of the Presidency and to a circular letter sent out in this connection by the Government to the industrial interests concerned. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, after examining the Government's proposal in consultation with the associated jute mill, engineering and tea interests connected with the Chamber, and with the actual recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India before them, have replied to the Government of Bengal on ~~10x~~ 19-2-1936 in the following terms:-

Jute and Engineering Industries favour Legislation. -  
While suggesting a more general extension of the schemes already in operation in Bombay and the Central Provinces, the Royal Commissioners stated clearly that they considered "Government should have the power to exempt individual firms whose existing schemes are shown to be at least as liberal as those laid down in the Act". All the mills in the membership of the Indian Jute Mills Association already pay maternity benefits to their women workers, and the Jute Mills Association would not, therefore, be opposed to the introduction of the compulsory legislation now proposed. In the Indian engineering industry also, voluntary schemes whereby maternity benefits are provided are already in operation, and the engineering interests agree that the compulsory legislation now proposed might be undertaken. Both the jute mill and the engineering industries stipulate, however, that provision should be made, as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour, for the exemption of individual firms whose existing schemes are shown to be at least as liberal as those laid down in the Act.

Tea Industry's Views.- This proposed legislation in its application to women employed in perennial factories would not, in the ordinary course, affect the tea industry, as tea factories

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are, of course, seasonal and would therefore be excluded from the scope of the Act. Under the Factories Act, 1934, however, Government have power to declare tea factories perennial if they work for more than 180 days in the year, and the possibility of the proposed legislation being made applicable to tea factories has engaged the tea industry's particular attention. No objection would be taken by the tea industry to the proposed legislation should Government decide to make it applicable to workers engaged on seasonal processes. In this connection, however, it should be noted that, in the majority of tea gardens, a system for the payment of maternity benefits is already in operation although the details vary on different gardens, and in different districts. The tea industry would prefer not to comment at present on the form the proposed legislation should take, but like the other industries concerned, they presume that an opportunity will be given to them to comment on the Bill when the progress with the proposed legislation has reached that stage.

(Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for January and February 1936). +

Quarterly Strike Statistics for Quarter Ending 31-12-1935. +

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the 4th quarter of 1935 ending 31-12-1935, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 36 disputes during the period involving 29,300 workers and entailing a loss of 271,767 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay, where 12 disputes involving 4,417 workers entailed a loss of 17,377 working days. Next come Bengal and Madras with 6 disputes each involving 10,063 and 3,368 workers and entailing losses of 102,168 and 15,183 working days respectively, Burma with 5 disputes involving 802 workers and entailing a loss of 29,683 working days, the Central Provinces with 3 disputes involving 4,700 workers and entailing a loss of 65,265 working days, the United Provinces with 2 disputes involving

2,523 workers and entailing a loss of 8,606 working days, Assam and Delhi with one dispute each involving 300 and 3,127 workers and entailing losses of 600 and 32,890 working days respectively, while there were no disputes in Bihar and Orissa and the Punjab.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 20 disputes which involved 20,862 workers and entailed a loss of 203,025 working days, and jute mills for 2 disputes involving 4,700 workers and entailing a loss of 59,300 working days. Engineering workshops were responsible for one dispute involving 188 workers and entailing a loss of 376 working days. Other industries were responsible for 13 disputes involving 3,550 workers and entailing a loss of 9,066 working days.

Of the 36 disputes during the quarter under review, 25 were due to wage questions, 3 to personnel and 8 to other causes. In 5 disputes the workers were successful, in 12 partially successful and in 15 unsuccessful. 4 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report.

(Strike statistics for the quarter ending 30-9-1935 are given at page 10 of our December 1935 report). \*

#### Industrial Disputes in British India, 1935.

According to a communique dated the 14th April 1936, on industrial disputes in British India during 1935, issued by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, the total number of strikes during the year (including 2 strikes

in progress on the 31st December 1934) was 145 and the total number of workers involved was 114,217, as compared with 159 strikes involving 220,808, workers during 1934. The total number of working days lost during the year was 973,457 as compared with 4,775,559 during 1934. The figures of number of workers involved and number of working days lost are the lowest yet recorded during the 15 years for which statistics of industrial disputes have been maintained by the Government of India. The strikes which involved the largest loss of working days were (1) the strike in the Kesoram Cotton Mill, Garden Reach, Calcutta, in which 5,000 workers were involved with a loss of 119,000 working days and (2) the strike in the Ahmedabad textile mills which involved 23,000 workers with a loss of over 93,000 working days. In all, cotton textile mills account for 38.6% of the strikes, 66.3% of the workers involved and 58.7% of the loss of working days. In 93 of the strikes, or 64%, the chief demand related to wages or bonuses. The number of strikes in which the workmen were successful in gaining any concessions was approximately 38.3% of the total number of strikes ended during the year.

During the year under review, there were 56 disputes in the Bombay Presidency involving 47,166 workers and entailing a loss of 242,214 working days. Bengal comes next with 29 disputes involving 25,872 workers and entailing a loss of 273,227 working days; Madras with 20 disputes involving 10,712 workers and entailing a loss of 50,705 working days; Assam with 15 disputes involving 7,201 workers and entailing a loss of 20,206 working days; Burma with 9 disputes involving 2,488 workers and entailing a loss of 120,311 working days, the United Provinces with 6 disputes involving



5,251 working days and entailing a loss of 102,142 working days, the Central Provinces with 5 disputes involving 11,850 workers and entailing a loss of 127,859 working days, the Punjab with 4 disputes involving 550 workers and entailing a loss of 3,903 working days and Delhi with 1 dispute involving 3,127 workers and entailing a loss of 32,890 working days.

Of the 145 disputes during the year, 91 were due to questions of wages, 21 to those of personnel, 10 to those of leave and hours, 2 to those of bonus and 21 to other causes. In 25 cases the workers were successful, in 29 partially successful and in 87 unsuccessful, while 4 disputes were in progress at the close of the year.

Classified according to industries, there were 56 disputes in cotton and woollen industries involving 75,728 workers and entailing a loss of 572,005 working days, 8 in jute mills involving 9,478 workers and entailing a loss of 73,502 working days; 4 in engineering workshops involving 1,272 workers and entailing a loss of 7,848 working days, 1 in railways (including railway workshops) involving 141 workers and entailing a loss of 398 working days. In all other industries together there were 76 disputes involving 27,598 workers and entailing a loss of 319,704 working days.

(The communique on Industrial Disputes in British India during 1934 is reviewed at pages 24-26 of our April 1935 report).

Demand for Reduction of Hours of Work  
in Baroda Factories: State Appoints  
Committee of Inquiry. +

With regard to the representations made by the labour unions in the State to reduce the weekly hours of work under the State Factory Act, which is to be amended, the Baroda Government have appointed a committee consisting of Dr. J.M.Mehta, Professor of Economics, Baroda College, Mr. Justice S.A.Sudhalkar, Mr. A.B. Pandya, Director of Industries and Labour, and Mr. Rasul Khan Pathan to submit concrete proposals after recording the necessary evidence.

(The Times of India, 14-4-36).+

Creches for Children of Women Workers of Bombay:  
Bombay Municipality to take Action.

Mrs. Lilavati Munshi, member, Bombay Municipality, moved a resolution at a meeting of the Municipality held on 24-4-1936, requesting the Medical Relief and Public Health Committee of the Municipality to report on the desirability of starting a municipal creche in each ~~of the~~ ward centre for the care of children of women workers "who have to go out for long hours for employment during the day and cannot therefore take care of their children".

Sir Jehangir Bomon-Behram moved an amendment that the Municipal Commissioner be requested to submit an estimate of costs for starting a creche in every ward. Sir Jehangir said that as the question of starting of ~~xxxx~~ creches was an important one concerning

the welfare of women and children, it was necessary to proceed straight-away instead of referring it to a committee for report. It would be sufficient x if the Municipal Commissioner submitted an estimate of costs.

Mrs. Munshi accepted the amendment of Sir Jehangir, which was carried as a substantive proposition.

A Creche in each Mill.- Another resolution of Mrs. Munshi regarding children of women workers employed in factories was also carried. The resolution read: "x In view of the fact that great hardship is caused in the care and nourishment of children of women workers employed in factories, the Mayor shall be asked to approach Government with a request that they will be pleased to move the Government of India to amend the Indian Factory Act so as to make it obligatory for every employer of women workers to provide a creche in the factory."

(The Times of India, & 27-4-1936)+

## Industrial Organisation

### Employers' Organisations.

#### 9th Annual Meeting of Federation of Indian

#### Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Delhi-1936.

The 9th Annual Session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at Delhi on 4 and 5-4-1936, under the presidentship of Mr. Padampat Singhanian, President of the Federation. The session was attended by a number of delegates representing the constituent Chambers of the Federation, but no member of the Government was present. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address:-

**General.-** The address referred briefly to the Federation's activities in 1935 and pointed out that the Federation had submitted memoranda to the Government of India on the following important subjects: the financial adjustment between India and Burma; revision of the Insurance Law in India; revision of the Income-tax Law in India; greater association of the Indian commercial community with the working of the Railway Conference; the Indo-Burma Trade Convention; and the formation of electorates for commercial constituencies.

**Federal Finance.-** Referring to this subject, Mr. Singhanian pleaded for a reduction in expenditure and said: The main sources of revenue to the Federal Government are the customs, income-tax, revenue from salt duty, excise duty, profits from currency and mint and contribution from railways. The expansion of revenue from these sources is doubtful. The main heads of expenditure are the administration charges and the defence expenditure. As there is practically no scope for raising revenue by way of taxation, the only course left open is to reduce the military expenditure to the pre-war level or to secure a contribution from the revenues of the United Kingdom towards meeting the excess of expenditure over that level as all the military maintained in India is not entirely in the interest of India but to safeguard the trade routes of the United Kingdom. Another ~~step~~ step that should be taken is the revision of the scales of remuneration of the Imperial and Provincial services.

**Railway Freight Policy.-** Speaking on the need for a revision of the freight policy of Indian railways, Mr. Singhanian said: In spite of repeated requests from the Indian commercial community, the Railway Board is following the freight policy which was once dictated in the past by considerations of the import trade of India.

India, with its vast population and long distances, affords a profitable field for the railways to so adjust their freight policy as to stimulate greater internal trade; the rate structure has not taken any notice of the precipitous fall in the prices of primary products which generally compete in the world markets. The exportable commodities of India are labouring under this handicap of transport facilities. The Indian railways should inaugurate a bold policy of freight reform to replenish their earnings by stimulating trade in primary products. ~~The~~ Motor transport, of which the railways have made a grievance, constitutes, to my mind, a healthy competition to the railways. If the motor owners as business-men find it profitable, even after payment of a heavy duty on petrol, licence fees and municipal taxes, to carry goods at a cheaper rate, I fail to understand why the railways, with an elaborate administration, should not find it profitable to offer cheaper freight rates and stimulate greater trade movement.

Economic Condition of the Masses.—Repudiating the suggestion that normal conditions were being restored in India made by the Finance Member on the occasion of the Government of India Budget for 1936-37, Mr. Singhanian said: In all other countries, the prosperity of the Government reflects the prosperity of the country; but in India, it does not reflect an improvement in the economic condition of the masses. The Government of India may congratulate themselves on having more than balanced budget, with a continuance of emergency taxation, but what is the state of things in the Provinces? Except Bombay (without Sind) and Madras, all the Provinces are experiencing deficit budgets. Even the slight improvement that has taken place in the economic condition of the masses is ascribable firstly to the protection given to the three main industries, namely the cotton textile, iron and steel and sugar, which have in their turn stimulated greater employment in the country; and secondly, ~~the~~ to the money that has come into the hands of the people during the last four years as a result of the export of gold on an average of Rs. 600 million a year against India's former purchase of, on an average, Rs. 300 million a year.

Devaluation of Currency.—On this subject Mr. Singhanian said: It is a happy sign that the devaluation of India's currency is no longer considered to be in the entire interest of the industrialists. It is a weapon which is being fully utilised by raw-producing countries in the world for purposes of developing their export trade. India's relations with the United Kingdom to which she is wedded—willingly or unwillingly—preclude the possibility of the Government of India accepting the suggestion of devaluation of the Indian currency, as such a step directly comes in conflict with the interests of the United Kingdom in India's market. I would ask the Government to consider another suggestion so often made by responsible people & representing

the commercial and industrial interests in the country regarding a substantial expansion of currency which would enable Provincial Governments to inaugurate capital expenditure schemes, thereby giving employment not only to the masses, but even solving, to some extent, the question of unemployment of the middle classes in the Provinces.

Protection of Indigenous Industries.— Stressing the need for adequate protection being accorded to indigenous industries, Mr. Singhanian said: It is ridiculous for the Government of India to deny to this country opportunities for ~~her~~ natural expansion of industries which command two great factors, namely, ~~the~~ abundant supply of labour and ~~the~~ enormous home market for consumption and therefore, it is very necessary that the Government of India should forthwith consider the question of revising their present fiscal policy, suitably in the interests of indigenous industries. The Britishers have two sets of standards—one for their own country and the other for countries under their political or economic control—in judging the utility of the policy of protection. The United Kingdom which was following the principles of free trade when it suited her requirements, has thrown those principles overboard beyond salvation, and she is now following a very active policy of protective tariff under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1921, whereby a number of items of import are subjected to prohibitive duties ranging from 30 per cent to 50 per cent. To trot out the <sup>the</sup> consumers' interests in India in season and out is to ignore the basic principles of economy.

Reserve Bank.— Urging that the Reserve Bank should pursue a policy of adequately financial indigenous industrial enterprises, Mr. Singhanian said:— Unless the Bank, with the credit of this country at its back, comes forward to supply finance for the industrial development of the country, it may not be possible for the indigenous industries to utilise the dormant financial resources of the country. The reduction of the Bank rate to 3 per cent is a welcome move taken by the Bank towards the creation of cheap money conditions in the market. The present money conditions warrant even a still further reduction in the Bank rate. In spite of money being available at cheap rates, ~~in~~ ~~the~~ indigenous industries did not reap any advantage, because of the policy of conservatism followed by the banks in the investment of funds at their disposal. This attitude of the banks is directly traceable to the policy of laissez faire of the Government of India towards industrialisation of the country.

Rural Credit Facilities. — Another direction in which the working of the Reserve Bank can directly be made to affect the life of the agriculturist is towards creating rural credit for the millions of agriculturists, who are at present under the influence of the sowcars in the mofussil. The attempts of the Provincial Governments in enacting debt relief laws purporting to give relief to agriculturists and landholders are sure to meet

with failure and may also result in destroying the credit which used to be available to agriculturists in the mofussil. The conditions of rural credit demand that there should be legislation on certain well-recognised principles of equity and justice with a proper safeguard against usurious interest and the Reserve Bank of India is expected to advise the Central Government towards enacting legislation on all-India basis which would fully take into consideration the existence of sowcars and money-lenders in the mofussil. Mere legislation to victimise the rural sowcar will not give any relief to the agriculturist. The inauguration of either land mortgage banks or co-operative credit societies and co-operative marketing societies is a direction in which the Provincial Governments should be advised to act ~~towards~~ giving relief to the agriculturist.

(Summarised from copy of the presidential address forwarded to this Office by the Secretary of the Federation).

Resolutions Adopted.- The following are some of the more important of the 21 odd resolutions adopted at the session:-

Ottawa Trade Agreement. - The Federation congratulates the Legislative Assembly on passing a Resolution terminating the Ottawa Agreement against which the Indian commercial community has all along protested.

Export of Gold.- The Federation views with great disappointment Government's apathy to the continuous and heavy export of gold from India and strongly urges upon Government the desirability of taking steps for stopping the outgo thereof and the purchasing of gold by the Reserve Bank on the basis of export parity.

Taxation.- (a) The Federation invites the serious attention of the Government of India to the continued trade depression and to the existing disproportionately high level of taxation which this country is required to bear out of its scanty resources, and earnestly urges upon Government to consider ways and means by which the economic recovery of the country could be achieved and the burden of taxation relieved. The Federation protests against the policy of under-estimating ~~the~~ revenues and of diverting the resultant surpluses to non-recurring items of expenditure.

(b) The Federation further urges upon Government the vital necessity of effecting reductions in expenditure in every direction—Military, Civil administrations, Railways, etc.—and to utilise the savings thus made towards speedy recovery of normal trade and development of nation-building departments of the country.

Trade Barriers within India.- The Federation urges the removal of all barriers to free trade within the country between the different Provinces and States, and emphasises that, in the interests of the trade and industries of India as a whole, as also to minimise illegitimate diversion of trade from British Indian ports to State ports or vice versa, an early settlement with States—maritime or internal—concerning this and other questions is of

vital and essential importance.

Protection to Industries.- (a) The Federation records its considered opinion that an industry otherwise entitled to the grant of protection need not be required to satisfy the condition regarding abundant supplies of indigenous raw materials laid down in para. 97 of the Report of the Indian Fiscal Commission.

(b) The Federation views with great concern the Government of India's decision in rejecting the Tariff Board's recommendations regarding the grant of protection to the glass and woollen industries.

(c) The Federation urges that Government should place, with their recommendations, Reports of the Tariff Board within six months of their submission, before the Legislature.

Railway Finance.- (a) This Federation deplores the financial condition of the Indian Railways, which has been brought about in spite of frequent and grave warnings from the business community urging action in the direction of rigid economy, Indianisation and business-like management. The Federation urges upon Government to institute an enquiry at the hands of the Indian business representatives and financiers to go thoroughly into the financial condition of the Railways and to suggest changes both in policy and in systems of account, in the range of personnel, grouping, systems of rates and classifications, etc.

(b) The Federation is strongly of opinion that the contemplated increase of rates and freights to meet with the immediate situation is more likely to lead to further deterioration in some cases. The Federation feels that until the finances of the Railways are put on a firm basis to the satisfaction of the Legislature, it would be most unwise to install the proposed Statutory Railway Authority which might lead to even more acute mismanagement of India's most valuable assets.

Operations of non-Indian Industrial Concerns.- The Federation desires to ~~xxx~~ impress upon the Government the necessity of collection and publication of complete statistics and data in regard to the capital, production, growth and methods of competition of non-Indian industrial enterprises and concerns operating in India to enable the country to comprehend the problems relating to the establishment and growth of non-Indian concerns behind tariff walls.

Treatment of Indians Abroad.- The Federation views with apprehension the lukewarm attitude of the Government of India in regard to anti-Indian laws passed in foreign countries and British Colonies — the most recent cases being those of the Governments of Zanzibar and Iraq. The Federation wishes to point ~~xxxx~~



out the extreme desirability of taking effective steps of protecting and safeguarding Indian nationals and their interests abroad, and in case any such discriminatory laws are passed by a foreign Government, the Government of India should immediately retaliate.

Coal Industry.- In view of the most unsatisfactory position of the coal industry due to (1) burden of numerous local taxes like the road cess, Mines Board, Water Board and Chawkidari taxes, (2) surcharge on railway freight and terminal charges, (3) unhealthy competition on account of imported coal and oil fuel and (4) the recent change in the coal purchase policy of the Government of India for railways, which are more or less responsible for the wasteful methods of mining, with the consequential results of frequent colliery disasters, this Federation strongly urges on the Government of India to impose immediately adequate duty on imported coal and oil fuel, and to appoint a Committee of Enquiry for examining the present position of this important basic industry with a view to suggest remedies for its rehabilitation.

(Summarised from text of resolutions forwarded to this Office by the Secretary of the Federation).

Office-bearers for 1936-37. - The following office-bearers of the Federation for 1936-37 were then elected:-

President - Mr. D.P.Khaitan; Vice-President - the Kumaraja of Chettinad; Members (elected) -Mr. A.D.Shroff, Mr. Manu Subedar, Mr. Kasturbai Lalbai, Lala Shri Ram, Mr. G.D.Birla, Sir P. Thakurdas, Pandit K. Santanam, Mr. Padampat Singhania, Mr. F.M. Chinoy, Mr. Bahanukar, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, and Mr. Chunilal B. Mehta; Members (co-optd) -Mr. N.R. Sarkar, Mr. S.M. Bashir, Mr. B. Das, Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das, Babu Gurcharan Lal; Treasurers - Mr. A.L.Ojha and Mr. S.C.Law.

(The Hindustan Times 5 & 6-4-1936)

(A review of the annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, held in 1935 was given at pages 45-54 of the March 1935 report of this Office). +

Indian National Committee of the Inter-  
national Chamber of Commerce: 7th Annual Meeting, 1936-Delhi.

The 7th Annual Meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce was held at Delhi on 5-4-36, Mr. Padampat Singhanian presiding. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address:-

Stabilisation of Currencies.- Referring to the need for stabilisation of currencies, Mr. Singhanian said:

"The year 1935 made no headway, towards finding even a provisional solution for the stabilisation of the currencies. There are, no doubt, certain serious practical difficulties for even a provisional stabilisation, but I feel that in the interests of international trade, it is imperative now that a definite attempt should be made by countries like the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France to arrive at a provisional agreement towards stabilisation, as unless the rates of exchange are provisionally stabilised, the price structure on which depends the export trade of every country is bound to vary from time to time. There should be a tacit understanding by which competitive currency depreciation may be made impossible."

Bilateral Trade Agreements.- Dwelling on the evil of restrictions to international trade constituted by bilateral trade agreements, he said: "With bilateral trade agreements coming into prominence, the old era of triangular trade which stimulates recovery is fast disappearing. Bilateral trade agreements are based on concessions between two countries at the cost of ~~the~~ a third one. The economic life of many European countries is therefore running into narrower channels of economic nationalism far away from broad internationalism. Economic nationalism may be a temporary palliative, but it can never be made to pay in the long run."

India's Place in International Trade.- Pleading for India being given her due place in respect of international trade, he said: "India is still a raw material producing country and her life is mainly dependent upon the place which she occupies in the export trade of the world. It will be detrimental to her interests if there are import quotas, trade restrictions and exchange control operating in any of the manufacturing countries. The expectations held by those responsible at the Ottawa Imperial Conference for the creation of a healthy atmosphere in the international trade did not materialise. It would, therefore, be advantageous to India if she possessed sufficient powers of reciprocity and is free to enter into trade agreements with her

foreign customers as that would secure for ~~her~~ greater share in the export trade of the world".

Unfair Domination by Great Britain.- Referring to the growing industrial rival between nations ~~for~~ the unfair subordination of Indian interests to the interests of Great Britain, he said: "Outside India there are very powerful forces at work in industrial countries like the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, France and Italy. In their struggle for supremacy in the world markets, for economic or political control of countries producing raw materials, and for privileged markets for their industrial products, they are exploring all possible avenues, such as depreciation of their currencies, import quotas, exchange control and numerous other trade arrangements on barter system; all these have resulted in restriction of international trade. The United Kingdom is utilising all her powers to bully India without a thought for improving the purchasing power of the Indian agriculturists for securing a privileged market in the Empire for her manufactures. International commercial bodies should not ignore the existence of certain disabilities under which Indian national interests in commerce and industry are suffering under the present form of Government obtaining in the country."

Plea for Greater Interest in International Problems.- Concluding, he made an appeal to Indian industrial interests to take a greater degree of interest ~~x~~ in international matters and said: "The International Chamber is already a force in international economic and financial matters. India, as one of eight industrial countries of the world, is expected to take more active and intelligent part in the deliberations and activities of this Organisation. Unfortunately we, in India, have to devote much of our energy and time towards securing adequate and just relief from the administrators of this country, which leaves very little enthusiasm in us to give any thought to matters international. It is a handicap under which we have been labouring and may continue to labour for years to come, but we can no longer ignore the forces at work in international matters outside India."

Office Bearers for 1936-37.- The following office-bearers were elected for 1936-37 for the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce: President - Mr. D.P. Khaitan; Vice-President - Mr. Walchand Hirachand; Members of the Committee: Messrs. Padampat Singhanian, Hosainbhoy Lalljee, Kasturbhai Lalbai and G.D. Birla, Sir P. Thakurdas, Mr. Manububedar, Mr. A.D. Shroff, Lala Shri Ram, Mr. Chuni Lal B. Mehta, Mr. Dahanukar, Mr. Sodhbans and Mr. A.L. Ojah. Mr. Vidyasagar-Pandya was elected as the Treasurer. (The Hindustan Times, 5-4-1936).

(A summary of the presidential address of Mr. H. A. Lalljee at the 6th Annual Meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce held at Delhi in March 1935 is given at pages 39-41 of the report of this Office for March 1935)- A

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All India Organisation of Industrial Employers:

3rd Annual General Meeting-Delhi-1936.

The third annual meeting of the All India Organisation of Industrial Employers was held at Delhi on 5-4-1936 under the presidentship of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address:

Progress of Organisation.- The Organisation represents practically all the national industrial interests in the country. Referring to the progress made by the All India Organisation of Industrial Employers during the three years of its existence, Mr. Lalbhai said: Owing to the policy of the Government of India in introducing labour legislation on the lines of Conventions adopted at the International Labour Conferences at Geneva, it was found necessary to have an Organisation in the country representing national industrial interests to keep a vigilant watch over the proposals coming up for consideration at International Conferences and to safeguard the interests of Indian industries in matters relating to employment of labour in India.

Need for Intensive Industrialisation.- Referring to this aspect, he said: The necessity for a vast country like India with practically all the advantages of a large labour supply and home market and in a number of cases even of an abundant supply of raw materials to adopt a policy of intensive industrialisation, is now a cry taken up from all quarters; but the attention of the Government has to be drawn to the springing up of a number of foreign concerns backed by foreign capital behind the tariff structure of this country.

Competition of non-Indian Industrialists.- Referring to the competition from foreign industries established in India, he said: The question of foreign concerns creating vested interests behind the tariff wall in India was also discussed by the Indian Fiscal Commission and the Government of India too, from time to time, made their position clear by stating in 1922 that no concessions would be given to any firms in regard to industries in India unless such firms have a rupee capital and a proportion of Indian directorate and allow facilities for Indian apprentices to be trained in their workshops. The effect of such a move on the part of foreign industries is already being felt by some of the smaller industries. The Government of India should institute an investigation into the working of these non-national concerns and the extent of competition which they are offering within the country to indigenous manufacturers. The advent of foreign capital is bound to affect the working of the policy of protection. The creation of non-Indian vested interests in India is sure to retard the healthy growth of the political and economic life of the country.

Need for Mineral Survey.- If the attempt at the industrialisation of the country is to be genuine, the Government must undertake an extensive survey of the mineral resources of the country, and the country must know what resources have still remained unexplored. Besides this, the Government should not frustrate their own policy by counteracting the tariff or by resorting to other means which would have the effect of stunting the growth of an industry. Another very unhealthy principle adopted by the Government of India is the levy of excise duty on the production of certain industries, such as sugar, matches and iron and steel which were allowed to develop under the protective tariff.

Glass Industry and Protection.- Referring to the Government of India's decision not to accord protection to the glass industry, he said: The decision on this question has brought forward two issues of importance before the public, firstly, whether the Government were justified in delaying the publication of the report after its submission to them three years back. It is very difficult for an industry first of all to persuade the Government of India to agree to its demand for a reference to the Tariff Board, but once the inquiry is over, the Government should postpone consideration of the Report for such a long time. Another important issue that has come prominently before the public is the Government of India's disagreeing with the conclusions of the Tariff Board about the eligibility of the claims of the glass industry to the grant of protection on the plea that the industry does not fulfil one of the conditions laid down by the Fiscal Commission.

Industrial Research Bureau.- Concluding, the President congratulated the Government of India on their inaugurating the Industrial Research and Intelligence Bureau in order to organise and co-ordinate industrial research activities in the country. The Bureau had already taken in hand research work in soaps and oils and it expected to render technical help to Indian manufacturers in their supplying the requirements of the Indian Store Department.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-4-1936)

#### All India Organisation of Industrial Employers:

##### Report of Committee for 1935\*.

##### Membership.-

On 14-3-1936 the date on which the Report was submitted, the total number of members on the roll of the Organisation consisted of 10 industrial associations representing different industries

\* All India Organisation of Industrial Employers.-Report of the Proceedings of the Committee for the year 1935 -1936.-Kamla Tower, Cawnpore. - pp.10.

and 87 industrial concerns, making a total of 97 members. The ten associations were: (1) The Indian Salt Association, Bombay; (2) The Indian National Steamship Owners' Association, Bombay; (3) The Indian Sugar Mills Association, Calcutta; (4) The Baroda Millowners' Association, Baroda; (5) The Indian Glass Manufacturers' Association, Ogalevadi; (6) The Indian Colliery-Owners' Association, Calcutta; (7) The Indian Tea Planters' Association, Jalpaiguri; (8) The Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta; (9) The Delhi Factory-Owners' Federation, Delhi; and (10) The Ahmedabad Mill-Owners' Association, Ahmedabad. The 87 industrial concerns were distributed among the following industries thus: cotton - 20, jute -4, salt - 3, sugar -13, iron and steel -4, shipping -6, match manufacture -3, constructional engineering -7, cement and potteries - 5, oil extracting -3, drugs and chemicals -3, coal mining -3, glass -6, metal manufacturing -3, milling -2, tea gardens -2, and straw boards -1.

Office-Bearers.- The following constituted the executive of the Organisation during the year: President: Mr. Kasturbhai Dalbhai; Vice-President: Mr. G.D.Birla; Members of the Committee: Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Bombay, Lala Padampat Singhania, Cawnpore, Mr. I.D.Varshnei, Bahjoi, Mr. Adamjee Hajee Dawood, Calcutta, Raj Ratna Seth Chimanlal Girdharlal, Baroda, Mr. M. Jamal Mahomed Saib, Madras, Lala Shri Ram, Delhi, Mr. A.L.Ojha, Calcutta, Mr. Hooseinbhooy A.Lalljee, M.L.A., Bombay, The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das, C.I.E., Lahore, Mr. Jadu Nath Roy, Calcutta, Seth Mathuradas Vissanji, M.L.A., Bombay, and Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker, Calcutta. In addition, four members were co-opted to

the Committee during the year. The Committee held two meetings during the year, one on 31st March, 1935 in Delhi and another on 29th September, 1935, at Ahmedabad.

Relations with I.L.O.- 19th Session of I.L.Conference.- The Committee considered the report submitted by the Indian Employers' Delegate, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A.Lalljee, M.L.A., and his Adviser, Mr. K.Dutt, on the work done at the 19th Session of the International Labour Conference. The Committee recorded their thanks for the work done by the Delegation at the Conference. At the direction of the Committee, a copy of the Report was sent to all Members of the Organisation for their information. The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour were also supplied with a copy of the Report for their information.

20th Session of I.L.Conference.- The Committee agreed to recommend to the Government of India the following personnel for nomination of the Indian Employers' Delegation to the 20th Session of the International Labour Conference:- Delegate: Sir Hormusji M. Mehta, Kt., Bombay; Advisers: (1) Mr. Debes Chandra Ghose, Jalpaiguri, (2) Lt. Sardar P.S.Sodhbans, Lahore.

Maritime Technical Tripartite Conference.- The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour addressed a communication to the Organisation during August, 1935, informing the Committee that a technical tripartite meeting would be convened by the International Labour Office at Geneva on 25th November, 1935, to discuss the questions of:-

- (i) manning in conjunction with the question of hours of work on boardship, and
- (ii) holidays with pay for seamen.

The object of the Conference was to prepare grounds for the International Labour (Maritime) Conference which it was proposed to hold in 1936. The Government of India proposed, having regard to the character of the meeting and the importance of avoiding unnecessary expenditure, to ask the three Indian representatives on the Governing Body to attend the Conference. They enquired of the Committee of the Organisation whether they would approve of the nomination of Mr. D.S.Erulkar, Representative of the Indian Employers on the Governing Body or whether the Organisation would desire to suggest the name of any other gentleman in his place. The Committee of the Organisation addressed a communication to the Government of India on 2nd October, 1935 stating that while they approved of the nomination of Mr. Erulkar to represent Indian shipping interests at the forthcoming Maritime Technical Tripartite meeting, they desired to lodge a protest against the Government of India circumventing the rights of the employers' Organisation to choose its own representative on the plea of want of funds. They further expressed the view that the acceptance of such a procedure on the plea of financial stringency was objectionable in principle as the most suitable persons would not be made available to attend such Conferences and they urged upon the Government of India that the Committee's views should receive very careful and favourable consideration at the hands of Government.

Mr. D.S.Erulkar submitted a confidential report for the information of the Committee on the work done by him at the Tripartite Maritime meeting, but as the report was marked confidential, it was not printed and circulated to the members of the Organisation.

(A copy of the Report was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute D.1/384/36 dated 2-4-1936) ✓

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Workers' Organisations.

Further Retrenchment in Railways:

Meeting between A. I. R. F. and Railway

Board - 8 & 9-4-1936.

Reference was made at page 36 of the report of this Office for March 1936 to the contemplated retrenchment of staff in and Indian railways/to the invitation extended to the A.I.R.Federation by the Railway Board to discuss the subject with it.(The Railway Board, it is understood, proposes to retrench 189 men on the G.I.P. Railway, 30<sup>0</sup> men on the E.I.Railway and 3,000 men on the N.W.Railway— all of them State-owned railways. Information is not available as to the retrenchments proposed in the various Company-owned railways — The Indian Labour Journal, 12-4-1936). The meeting between the A.I.R.Federation and the Railway Board took place at New Delhi on 8 and 9-4-1936. The deputation from the Federation included, besides Messrs. Jamnadas Mehta, N.M.Joshi, and V.V.Giri, 10 representatives of affiliated unions. Mr. Jammadas Mehta led the deputation. The following is a brief summary of the proceedings:-

Subject Discussed.- The Chief Commissioner for Railways informed the Federation that the meeting had been arranged to discuss the general principles to be followed in the selection of staff for discharge in connection with future retrenchments and that the Railway Board were of opinion that staff should be selected on the basis of comparative efficiency in preference to the principle of short service, which the Railway Board had agreed to follow in connection with retrenchment in 1932.

Principle of Retrenchment—Short Service or Inefficiency? - The A.I.R.F. submitted a memorandum on the question whether short service or comparative inefficiency should be taken as the principle on which retrenchment is to be effected. The Federation adhered to the view that in case of future retrenchment, if any, the principle of short service should continue to be

followed as was recommended in the Murphy Committee's Report and accepted in a Railway Board Memorandum of 20th July 1932 (para 5).

Railway Board prefers Inefficiency Test.- The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that it was for the Railway Administrations to decide the number of employees required for the work to be done and certain reductions in the number of staff were inevitable. ~~and~~ added that the Board proposed to adopt the principle of selection on the basis of comparative efficiency as it was felt that, if the principle of ~~x~~ short service continued to be followed for some time more, there would be no staff with certain years of service who may be considered sufficiently qualified for promotion to higher posts, and in certain cases, owing to quick promotions enjoyed by certain staff with comparatively short service, there would be blocks in promotion. The Chief Commissioner added that the Federation had misunderstood the implications of the paragraph referred to.

Inefficiency Test would lead to favouritism. - Mr. Jammadas Mehta reiterated the Federation's objection to the Railway Board's proposal and added that the Federation questioned the right of ~~the~~ Railway Administration to discharge inefficient staff in accordance with the existing rules. He stated that if there were any inefficient men they may be, and were being, dealt with according to service rules. He pointed out that selection of men for block retrenchment on the basis of inefficiency would lead to insecurity of service, favouritism, injustice and discontent amongst the staff.

Joint Committees of Railway Officers and Workers.- The Chief Commissioner of Railways added that to secure the fairest selection it had been suggested that there might be committees consisting of two or three officers, with four assessors elected ~~for efficiency~~ from amongst the men concerned.

Need for Independent President.- Mr. N.M. Joshi made a suggestion that although he considered the present method of selection of staff for discharge by shortest length of service most suitable, if a committee for discharge of staff on comparative efficiency was to be continued, it should have a neutral chairman like an I.C.S. or Labour Officer unconnected with the Railway Administrations, and that his decision should be followed.

A.I.R. Objects to Joint Committees.- The Federation objected to committees including workers as assessors as they would not be free to give their opinion and would be afraid of losing their jobs if they spoke out their mind. But if such committees were ultimately appointed, the Federation insisted that Union representatives should be on the committees and, where there were no unions, the Federation should be allowed to nominate its representatives on such committees. The Federation suggested that they might agree to an independent officer, if he was alone, to deal with the question, but that if the officers of the

Railways were to sit with him on the committee, workers' representatives also should be allowed to sit as submitted before.

The Chief Commissioner of Railways agreed to consider the views put forward.

A.I.R.F. insists on consultation with Unions.- The Federation stated that it was understood that the present procedure of consulting recognised unions in connection with block retrenchment would be continued to be followed, and on the railways where there were no recognised unions the procedure of posting on notice boards notices regarding proposals of retrenchment would be followed.

The Chief Commissioner assured the Federation that the Railway Board had no desire at present to alter that procedure.

Future Reduction of Permanent Staff.- The Chief Commissioner also stated that the Railway Board were of the opinion that a procedure should be adopted for the future under which the permanent cadre of staff on State-managed Railways will be restricted to requirements for normal traffic and that certain personnel will be entertained on a temporary footing to cope with peak periods of traffic.

The Federation stated that this was an entirely new proposal and that they would submit their remarks after consulting their affiliated unions.

Recognition of Unions.- The Federation asked for a more generous policy of recognition of unions which had been registered under the Trade Unions Act, 1926, with particular reference to the franchise under the new constitution. The Chief Commissioner agreed to consider the matter.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 12-4-1936). +

#### A. I. T. U. C. Session to be held in May

#### At Bombay: Trade Union Unity and Joint Action with Indian National Congress.

The 1936 session of the All India Trade Union Congress will be held at Bombay on the 17th and 18th May 1936, under the presidentship of Mrs. Maniben Mulji. The following are excerpts from a communique issued in this connection by the Publicity

Secretary of the A.I.T.U.C.:-

Labour Representation in Indian National Congress.- The A.I.T.U.Congress session is meeting at a critical period of our national movement. The struggle carried on under the banner of the Indian National Congress is being given a new direction and efforts are being made to develop it as a real anti-imperialist struggle. With this view in mind a large section of the radical nationalist leaders are thinking of broadening the basis of the Indian National Congress, by inviting the affiliation of working class and peasant organisations to the Congress. By these means a greater contact will be established between the Congress and the toiling masses of the country.

A.I.T.U.Congress to Co-operate with Indian National Congress.- The All India Trade Union Congress has already given a lead in the matter and it has expressed its willingness to join the Indian National Congress collectively through affiliation of labour organisations to the Indian National Congress. The T.U.C.Session will undoubtedly pave the way for the attainment of this object. The session, therefore, will be useful in bringing a greater co-operation between the I.N.Congress and Labour.

Pandit Jawaharlal to Co-ordinate A.I.T.U.Congress and I.N.Congress Policies.- It is gratifying to note that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has consented to attend the T.U.C. Session and the presence of Jawaharlal will certainly help to ~~xx~~ clarify the situation and chalk out a common programme of action for the development of the anti-imperialist struggle. Opposition to the coming constitution is one of the burning issues which is bound to unite the ranks of those who stand for the complete independence of the country. ~~The~~ The Trade Union Congress and Indian National Congress must unite on the issue and agitate and work jointly for the rejection of the constitution. If these two powerful organisations meet ~~for~~ such a common programme of action they can really stir the whole country and thus develop the anti-imperialist struggle to a higher pitch. They can also unite for carrying on the economic programme ~~for~~ of the masses and wage a struggle for the amelioration of the conditions of the masses. The T.U.C.Session will consider all these questions and will give the desired lead to the country at such a critical period.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 27-4-1936)-

Prospects of Trade Union Unity.- At the forthcoming session of the A.I.T.U.Congress ~~•~~ further progress will be made with the efforts to restore unity in the Indian trade union movement by effecting an agreement between the A.I.T.U. Congress and the National Trades Union Federation. Discussing the prospects of restoration of trade union unity, the Times of India, Bombay, dated 27-4-36 writes:-

Prospects of Unity.-The All India Trade Union Congress which meets in Bombay in May for a two-day session, will be called upon to take decisions of a far-reaching character which, it is hoped,

will put the Labour movement in this country on the path of orderly progress. This can only be brought about if the moderate group in the movement, represented by the National Trades Union Federation, is able to put through its proposals, some of which aim at knitting together all sections of labour into a compact All-India body with a united front on all questions affecting the interests of Indian labour."

Mr. Giri's Proposals.- "Mr.V.V.Giri, M.L.A., of the Railway-men's Federation, will make a move at the Bombay session for the affiliation of the National Trades Union Federation to the A.I.T.U.C. It is understood that Mr. Giri will also move that the A.I.T.U.C. take no decision on any political issue or any strike, without a three-fourths ~~ia~~ majority in favour of such a decision. If these suggestions are accepted, then in future Indian Labour will assume greater responsibility for its actions both in the eyes of the public and Government."

Joint Action with Indian National Congress.- "But the most important thing the May session will have to decide is the amalgamation of the A.I.T.U.C. with the Indian National Congress. Attempts to achieve this in the past have not been successful, principally because the two bodies have very little common ground. Trade Union Congress circles are now making fresh attempts to effect this merger of the A.I.T.U.C. with the Congress, and the presence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who has expressed his willingness to attend the session, will, it is hoped, bring about a change in the attitude of Congressmen. The leaders of the Trade Union Congress now demand that Congressmen should allow the workers to participate in the Congress movement and, in return, the Congress should help the workers in their economic struggles."

(The Times of India, 27-4-1936).

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Economic Conditions.

The Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1936:

Provisions re. Managing Agents.

Attention is directed to the Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1936 (Legislative Assembly Bill.No.8 of 1936), the text of which, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons and Notes on Clauses, is published at pages 37 to 99 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 28-3-1936. The Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 23-3-1936 by Sir N.N.Sircar, the Law Member.

The Bill aims at a substantial overhauling of the existing law relating to companies - the Indian Companies Act, 1913. Stating the case for revision, the Statement of Objects and Reasons observes:-

Substantial material has accumulated in the form of communications and suggestions from Local Governments, public bodies and individuals, supplemented by publications in the press, indicating unanimity of opinion that the Indian Companies Act requires fairly extensive changes. The opinions received disclose a demand for power to deal with mushroom and fraudulent companies, for changes in the provisions relating to the issue and contents of prospectuses, for increased disclosure to shareholders of the financial position of companies and for increased rights to shareholders in connection with the management of companies, for modification of the present law applicable to managing agents, for changes in the provisions applicable to winding up, for special provisions to govern banking companies and for numerous other improvements.

Provisions re. Managing Agents.- The Bill includes a series of new sections dealing with the managing agents. A brief summary of the more important of these provisions is given below:-

Duration of Appointment -Section 87(a).- The maximum period during which a managing agent can continue to act without re-appointment is 20 years. The termination of the office of managing agent by virtue of this provision shall not take effect until all moneys due from the company to the managing agent are paid by the company to the managing agent.

Conditions of Appointment. -Section 87-B.- A company may remove a managing agent for fraud or breach of trust proved in a competent Court; a transfer of his office by a managing agent shall be void unless approved by an extraordinary resolution of the company; a charge or assignment of his remuneration or any part thereof effected by a managing agent shall be void as against the company; if a company is wound up either by the Court or voluntarily, any contract of management made with a managing agent shall be thereupon determined; the appointment of a managing agent, the removal of a managing agent and any variation of a managing agent's contract of management shall not be valid unless approved by the company by a resolution at a general meeting of the company.

Remuneration of Managing Agents. Section 87-C.- The remuneration of the managing agent shall be a sum based on a fixed percentage of the net annual profits of the company, with provision for a minimum payment in the absence of profits, together with an office allowance to be defined in the agreement of management; and any stipulation for additional remuneration in any form shall not be binding on the company unless sanctioned by the shareholders at the statutory or a general meeting of the company.

'Net profits' means the profits of the company calculated after allowing for all the usual working charges, interests on loans and advances, repairs and outgoings, but without any deduction in respect of income-tax or super-tax, or any other tax or duty on income or revenue or for expenditure on capital account or on account of any sum which may be set aside in each year out of the profits for reserve or depreciation or any other special fund. This section shall not apply to any company carrying on the business of insurance.

Loans to Managing Agents.- Section 87-D. - No company shall make to a managing agent of the company any loan out of moneys borrowed by the company, and no company shall make to a managing agent of a company any loan out of the surplus funds of the company except with the previous approval of three-fourths of the members of the board of directors.

Loans to Companies under same Management.-Section 87-E.- No company shall make any loan to or guarantee any loan made to any company under management by the same managing agent. In the event of any contravention of the provisions of this section, the company making the loan or giving the guarantee and any director or officer of such company knowingly and wilfully in default shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 5,000.

Purchase of Shares.- Section 87-F.- A company shall not purchase shares or debentures of any company under management by the same managing agent, unless the purchase has been previously approved by three-fourths of the members of the board of directors of the purchasing company.

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Restriction on Powers of Management.-Section 87-G.- A managing agent shall not exercise in respect of any company under management by the managing agent the power to issue debentures or to invest the surplus funds of the company, and no delegation of any such power by a company to a managing agent shall be valid.

Engagement in Competing Business.-Section 87-H.- A managing agent shall not, whether directly or as managing agent for another person, engage in any business which is of the same nature as or which is of such a nature that it directly competes with the business carried on by a company under the management of such managing agent.



Indian Central Jute Committee:

To Start Work in 1936. +

The Standing Finance Committee of the Central Legislature agreed on 21-4-36 to a proposal of the Government of India for the constitution of an Indian Central Jute Committee. Thus a scheme approved by the Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1927 has been brought near to fruition.

Stating the case for the constitution of an Indian Central Jute Committee, the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture of which the present Viceroy, the Marquess of Linlithgow, was Chairman, observed:

"For jute to retain its present position it is necessary that every effort should be made to improve quality, outturn and methods of manufacture and to maintain the relative cheapness of jute as compared with other fibres. We consider it most desirable that a jute committee which would watch over the interests of all branches of the trade from the field to the factory should be formed. In view of the fact that the export duty brings in so large a revenue to the Imperial Government, which is therefore very directly interested in the prosperity of the jute industry, we consider that this is a case in which the expenditure on additional research and on the promotion of the interests of the trade generally should be met from central funds."

Functions of the Committee.— The scheme had to be postponed owing to financial stringency, but there is now every hope that the committee will be at work in Calcutta in two months' time. The committee will be under the control of the Government of India and will undertake agricultural, technical and economical research, improvement of crop forecasting and statistics: the production testing and distribution of improved seeds; inquiries relating to banking and transport facilities and the improvement of marketing. It will also advise local Governments on any matters referred to it. The local Governments have accepted the view of the Government of India that there should be equality of representation between growers and manufacturers subject to a reserved power of nomination by the Governor-General in Council.

Personnel of Committee.— The committee will be constituted as follows:— Vice-Chairman of Imperial Council of Agricultural ~~Research~~ Research, Agricultural Adviser of the Council, three persons nominated by the Governor-General in Council, a representative of the Agricultural Department of the Government of Bengal, a similar

a similar representative from Bihar, a representative of the co-operative movement in Bengal nominated by Government of Bengal, two persons elected by the Indian Jute Mills Association, one representative elected by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, one representative of the jute trade nominated by Bihar Government, one representative nominated by the Government of Assam, and eight persons to represent agricultural interests, namely six representatives nominated by the Government of Bengal of whom one should be a representative of landowners and one may be an official, one representative of jute growers nominated by the Government of Assam who may be an official, one representative of jute growers nominated by the Government of Bihar.

Finances.- The committee will be financed initially by grants from central revenues. Grants should not exceed Rs. 500,000 in any year and will be made each year only to the extent that they can be profitably spent in the year and will be subject to the financial position of the Government of India at the time.

(The Statesman, 22-4-1936)+

Employment and Unemployment.Alleviation of Middle-Class Unemployment:Resolution in Kashmir State Assembly. +

In the 4th Session of the Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly held during March-April 1936, a non-official resolution was passed recommending the appointment of a Commission consisting of official and non-official members to suggest to the House ways and means for mitigating ~~the~~ unemployment <sup>among</sup> of educated young men in the State.

(The Statesman, 7-4-1936) A.

## Co-operation.

### Progress of Co-operation in Travancore, 1934 -35. +

Reviewing the administration report on the working of the Co-operative Department of the Travancore State during 1934-35, the Government of Travancore points out that the policy of rectification and consolidation of co-operative societies through better supervision and more efficient control, adopted by the Travancore Co-operative Department was pursued during the year 1934-35. Dormant and inefficient societies were weeded out and permission for registering new societies was granted very sparingly.

Number of Societies.— The total number of societies decreased from 1,781 in 1933-34 to 1,767 in 1934-35. During the year, 16 societies were registered and the number cancelled was 33. Of the total number of 1,767 societies on the rolls, 28 had not started work and of the remaining 1,739 working societies, 1,645 did purely credit work.

Working Capital of Societies.— The working capital of the societies decreased from Rs. 8,974,936 to Rs. 8,765,215. This fall is attributed to the economic depression and its repercussions on the agriculturists, the cancellation of a large number of societies in the year and the comparatively restricted financing of primary societies by the central banks. The average working capital per society was Rs. 5,183. The total share capital of the society also decreased from Rs. 3,618,722 to Rs. 3,543,802, the decrease being Rs. 74,920. The average paid-up share capital per society was Rs. 2,095 and per member Rs. 15, the same as in the previous year. The total receipts and disbursements under deposits were Rs. 3,319,730 as against Rs. 2,588,879 and Rs. 3,098,996 as against Rs. 2,320,247 respectively in the previous year. The Registrar has been asked to see that his instructions to the societies to invest without delay the uninvested portion of their reserve funds in the Central Bank or Taluk Banks are followed by the societies concerned. As a result of the Registrar's circular regarding the calculation of the divisible profits on the basis of revenue items actually collected, the majority of the societies had to show losses. The total loss sustained by the societies amounted to Rs. 358,530 against Rs. 412,278 in the previous year.

Loans.— As in the previous year, there was a decrease both in the number and the amount of loans granted by the Central Bank and the primary societies during the year. This was mainly due to the economic hardship of the ryots. As usual, the loans granted for the discharge of prior debts formed the bulk of the loans; the loans for trade and agricultural purposes ranking second

and third in order respectively.

Overdues.- The aggregate overdues under 'principal' increased from Rs. 3,366,399 to Rs. 3,740,875 giving a percentage of 67.3 against 62.6 in 1933-34 and under 'interest' from Rs. 855,132 to Rs. 1,092,170 giving a percentage of 69.8 as against 62.6 in 1933-34. The increase in the overdues of societies was an unsatisfactory feature of the movement.

(The Hindu, 25-4-1936). +

Protection to Handloom Industry:

No Agreement arrived at Meeting

of M. L. A's +

Reference was made at page 48 of our March 1936 report to a meeting of members of the Legislative Assembly, held on 14-3-1936 at New Delhi, to concert measures to prevent unfair competition between the handloom and the mill industries. No definite conclusions were arrived at at the meeting and it was agreed to have another meeting to continue the discussion. The proposed second meeting was held on 18-4-1936. The relations between the handloom weaving and cotton mill industry on the following five points were discussed: 1. Supplying yarn to handlooms at cost price. 2. Increase in subvention to handloom industry. 3. Allotment of certain kinds of production to handlooms only. 4. Suitable revision of Indo-Japanese Trade Agreement. 5. Additional import duty on cotton cloth with a countervailing duty on Indian mill cloth.

No agreement could be reached on most of the important points and the conversations have been dropped.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-4-1936) +

Education.Extension of Compulsory Education inCalcutta City: Education Officer's Scheme. +

The Calcutta Municipal Corporation has recently been planning to reduce the cost of extension of compulsory primary education and, in this connection, the Educational Officer of the Corporation has chalked out a scheme by which the cost of extension could be considerably reduced. At present the Corporation is spending Rs. 1 million yearly on primary education and, it is estimated, that extension of compulsory primary education to all parts of the City on the present lines would entail an expenditure of an additional Rs. 1 million yearly. The Educational Officer claims that the adoption of his scheme would ensure the realisation of the same objective for an additional yearly expenditure of Rs. 300,000. The following are the main features of the scheme.

Two Shifts of Pupils for Each School. - The scheme is based on experiments by the Educational Officer in 1925-26 in certain selected schools. The main feature of the scheme is the division of pupils in free primary schools into two shifts — one of infants under 7 years of age and the other of children over 7 years of age and the teaching of both shifts by the same staff of teachers. It has been found that nearly half the children of the Corporation Free Primary School are to be found in the infant class. Thus, in a school of 240 pupils, the infant section would have 120 pupils. If the infant section is held for 2½ hours in the morning, the teaching requirements of these small children can be fully met. ~~They~~ The released infants can also get the necessary rest in bed, so imperative for children below the age of seven at mid-day at home. The older children can come to school at mid-day after taking their meals, and a little rest. The number of teachers and the accommodation required for 120 children in each shift is obviously half of that required for 240 children.

Teaching of Handicrafts. - On the side of teaching, the most important change inaugurated is with regard to handicrafts. It is recognised that this subject should be part of the general education of every child so that he might, thereby develop certain necessary traits of character, such as seriousness of purpose and habits of sustained work.

Centralised School "workshops.- In imparting efficient instruction in handicrafts, the principal difficulty met with is lack of the money needed for well-equipped workshops in which practical instruction can be given, and, as a result, such instruction was confined to certain model schools. In the Educational Officer's scheme, this difficulty has been got over by making arrangements for the provision of a well-equipped workshops in central localities, which could be used by pupils from different schools. At the rate of half a day's practical instruction per week, these workshops can be made to serve 10 to 12 batches of pupils.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-4-1936) +

*(Reports of the above are not published in the Statesman or the Amrita Bazar Patrika).*

#### Vocational Education in Cochin State:

##### Proposals of the Director of Education. +

The Director of Public Instruction, Cochin State, has recently submitted to the State Government a scheme for the reorganisation of industrial education in the State. The scheme provides for two types of vocational schools. First, rural schools, where instruction will be imparted in auxiliary cottage occupations, designed for the use of children of the agricultural classes, and, secondly, a limited number of special technical schools, designed for the use of children of the artisan classes. The following is a summary of the main proposals:

Two Social Groups to be catered for.- In the prefatory remarks, the Director of Public Instruction points out that in respect of vocational education, the needs of two distinct social groups, with different occupational aims, have to be catered for. There are those to whom vocational education in cottage industries is the only possible preparation for the future, ~~also~~ there are also people who have hitherto followed liberal pursuits, but are turned now to industrial education on account of unemployment or, in rare cases, the possession of special aptitudes. They want training of a higher order. A bare living wage will not retain them in

manual occupations. Any scheme of industrial education if it is to be successful has to cater to the wants and ambitions of the two types of pupils referred to.

Vocational Education no Substitute for Primary Education.— One fact emphasised ~~and that~~ is that vocational education is not a substitute for primary education. In fact, to spread technical education and to make it a success, it is necessary to co-ordinate it with the general educational system. The Director of Public Instruction points out that nothing can achieve this end so well as the introduction of manual instruction, drawing, clay-modelling, etc., ~~into the~~ elementary schools according to a carefully graduated curriculum. Practical work at this stage should be resorted to for its educative value, not for its economic value.

Instruction in Auxiliary Occupations to be imparted in all Rural Schools.— The scheme is drawn out on the principle that since cottage industries as auxiliary occupations concern a very large section - in fact the major portion - of the population of the State, which is mainly or solely dependent on agriculture, the first thing to be taken into account is the farmer's boy or girl. Industries which are suitable as auxiliary occupations to farmers have to be taught not in special schools but in all rural schools in which the children of farmers are being educated.

Special Schools.— The scheme also provides for special technical schools. Though their number need not be large, the existing industrial schools in the State, it is pointed out, will not be sufficient. The aim of the existing industrial schools, as also of the new industrial schools, should be to conserve and turn to better account the hereditary talent and skill which one meets in the children who belong to the artisan communities or castes. Special schools cannot undertake mass education and admission will have to be restricted to those who belong to the hereditary craftsman classes and to pupils belonging to other communities who really mean to practice the industry which they seek to learn at school. There is no need and no justification for undertaking the industrial education of all; the Government should undertake at the expense of the tax-payer only what is both beneficial and necessary.

Course of Instruction in Special Industrial Schools.— The course of instruction in these central industrial schools, according to the Director, should include such industries as have an occupational value, such as hand-spinning and handloom weaving, carpentry and cane-work, smithy and metal work and needle work for girls. Considering the early age at which children are directed ~~into~~ industrial education and the comparatively short period devoted to elementary education, the Director strongly recommends the continuance of a part-time liberal education even in these industrial schools as a compulsory measure. It is suggested that



drawing also should be made compulsory as it is almost indispensable for the proper pursuit of the industries mentioned. It is essential, the Director concludes, that the teaching of industries in these central industrial schools should be made thoroughly practical, scientifically accurate and economically sound; and for this, workshop practice should be made an inseparable part of the curriculum. A better type of teachers ~~in~~ is also indispensable.

(The Hindu, 23-4-1936). +

Agriculture.

The Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act, 1935. †

Reference was made at page 70 of our August 1935 report to the Bengal Relief of Indebtedness Bill, 1935, introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council on 27-8-1935. The Select Committee to which the Bill was referred, changed the title of the Bill to the Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Bill, 1935. The Bill as passed by the Council (assent was accorded by the Governor General to the Bill on 29-3-1936) is published at pages 22-40 of Part III of the Calcutta Gazette dated 9-4-1936. †

The Bombay Debt Conciliation Bill, 1936:

(Bill No. VIII of 1936)

A Bill to make provision for the setting up of debt conciliation boards to relieve agriculturists from indebtedness was introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council on 24-3-1936 by Mr. V.N. Patil.

Main Features.— The basis of the Bill is voluntary settlement. The Board which is to be nominated by Government has no power to give an award. It is charged with the duty of endeavouring to bring about a fair and reasonable agreement between the debtor and his creditors. While it is made incumbent on all creditors to appear and make a true statement of their claims and produce all the documents in support thereof on pain of losing all their rights against the debtor, they are not compelled to agree to composition. There is however an inducement to the acceptance of a fair offer

in that the claims of those that agree have priority of execution except over secured creditors. This provision is also calculated to discourage future borrowings. There are also provisions to discourage intransigence <sup>by</sup> which ~~deprive~~ <sup>these</sup> others who refuse a fair and reasonable offer <sup>are deprived</sup> in subsequent civil court proceedings of costs as well as of interest on debts exceeding 6 per cent from the date of the certificate issued by the Board. A summary procedure has been provided for the recovery of amounts under agreement as arrears of land ~~Revenue~~ in the event of default by the debtor. Either a qualified debtor or a creditor can apply, but the Board can, for sufficient reasons, dismiss the application. This will enable it to refuse its help to those who are not bona fide agriculturists or whose application for relief is not a genuine one.

(Summarised from pages 80-90 of Part V of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 6-4-1936).+

#### The Assam Debt Conciliation Bill, 1936.

The Government of Assam introduced in the Assam Legislative Council on 11-3-1936 a Bill to make provision for the setting up of debt conciliation boards to relieve agriculturists from indebtedness. The Bill is the outcome of a resolution moved in the September session of the Council, 1935, that a Committee should be appointed to enquire into the economic condition of the rai-yats with a view to recommend action for improving it. Government, while opposing the appointment of a roving committee with no very definite object of enquiry, recognised the difficulties of the rai-yats in view of the fact that prices of agricultural produce had fallen while their

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debts remained constant, and undertook to consider the possibility of creating Debt Conciliation Boards on the lines adopted by various other provinces.

The present Bill follows closely the enactment passed by the Legislative Council of the Central Provinces in 1933. It is based on the idea that both creditors and debtors are prepared to revise the terms of their agreement in view of the recent fall in prices, which means that a greater value of goods has to be offered to liquidate old debts. The honest debtor gets the advantage of having his debt reduced to a limit, which in the opinion of an impartial Board he will be able to pay, while the reasonable creditor will obtain the assistance of Government in realising his ~~x~~ reduced dues.

The Bill differs from the Act recently passed in Bengal in that it gives the Boards no power to enforce a settlement in the absence of an agreement between the parties.. Its object is to take advantage of a general willingness to ~~xx~~ compromise which is believed to exist on both sides and to give legal sanction to any settlement which may be arrived at.

(Summarised from pages 239 to 245 of the Assam Gazette dated 1-4-1936). ✕

1st All India Peasants' Conference -Lucknow, 1936:

Economic and Political Demands Formulated. ✕

Reference was made at pages 37-38 of the report of this Office for January 1936 to the decision arrived ~~x~~ at by the leaders of the peasants' movement in India to hold the first All-India Peasants' Conference at Lucknow sometime during 1936. The 1st All India Peasants' Conference was held at Lucknow on 11-4-1936. It was

attended by a large number of kisans (peasants) from all over India and mostly from U.P. and Bihar. Twenty-one fundamental economic and political demands were formulated, embodying the rights of the Indian peasants. Abolition of landlordism, cancellation of debts and revenue arrears and the institution of a graduated land tax are among the economic reforms urged. Below are given the important resolutions adopted by the Conference:-

Objects Defined:- Freedom from Political and Economic Exploitation through Organisation.- The object of the Kisan Movement is to secure complete freedom from economic exploitation and the achievement of full economic and political power for peasants and workers and all other exploited classes.

The main task of the Kisan Movement shall be the organisation of peasants to fight for their immediate political and economic demands in order to prepare them for their emancipation from every form of exploitation.

The Kisan Movement stands for the achievement of ultimate economic and political power for the producing masses through its active participation in the national struggle for winning complete independence.

Landlordism to be Abolished.- Whereas the present system of ownership by landlords, ~~and~~ zamindars (U.P., Orissa, Bengal, Behar, Madras and Assam), taluqdars (U. P. and Gujarat), malguzars (C.P.), ishtimardars (Ajmer), khotes (Deccan), janmis (Malabar), inamdars, etc. — involving as it does the vesting of ownership of vast areas of land and of the right of collecting and enjoying enormous rent incomes, in a numerically limited privileged class, is iniquitous, unjust burdensome and oppressive to the peasants, and whereas the Zamindars, rack-rent tenants and neglecting irrigation, all such systems of landlordism shall be abolished, and all the rights over such lands shall be vested in cultivators.

graduated Land Tax.- Whereas the present system of land revenue and resettlement imposed by Government in ryotwari areas have proved too vexatious and resulted in the progressive pauperization of peasants, such systems of land revenue and resettlements shall be abolished and replaced by a graduated land-tax upon net incomes of Rs. 500 and more.

Agricultural Debts to be wiped off.- Provision of Agricultural Credit.- Whereas peasants have been persecuted and over-burdened by oppressive rural indebtedness and usurious rates of interest, whereas the burden of such debts and interest thereon has been more than redoubled by the fall in prices of agricultural produce and assets, whereas the lands of most of the peasants have either passed or are passing into the hands of absentee landlords, ~~and~~

sowcars and urban classes, peasants shall be completely relieved from all liability to pay old debts or interests thereon; furthermore the State shall immediately put into operation the necessary machinery to provide agricultural credit for the current needs of peasants.

Landless Peasants to be Provided with Lands. - This Conference demands that landless peasants be provided with land to cultivate on the basis of co-operative farming, and, since one-third of the total cultivable land is still unoccupied and vested in Government and landlords, this Conference resolves that all such lands be granted to the landless kisans.

Minimum Economic Demands. - The immediate minimum economic demands of the peasants have been formulated under the following 17 heads by the Conference:-

1. Cancellation of all arrears of rent and revenue.
2. Abolition of all land revenue assessment and rent from uneconomic holdings.
3. Reduction by 50 per cent of rent and revenue, and also of water-rates.
4. Abolition and penalisation of all feudal and customary dues and forced labour, including begar and illegal exactions.
5. Declaration of a 5 years' moratorium for agrarian indebtedness.
6. Holding of an immediate enquiry into the extent of repayment of the principal borrowed, and interest thereon by peasants, and the assessment of the assets and liabilities of the peasants.
7. Freedom from arrest and imprisonment for inability to pay debts, rents and revenue.
8. Immunity from attachment for all minimum holdings, stables, living quarters, household necessities, dairy and other cattle in execution of civil decrees and revenue and rent demands.
9. Lowering of freights upon transport of agricultural commodities and of third class-railway rates.
10. Abolition of all indirect ~~xx~~ taxes, particularly duties on salt, kerosene, sugar and tobacco.
11. Prohibition of dumping of food products.
12. Stabilisation of prices of agricultural products at the 1929 level by the necessary adjustment of exchange and currency policy.
13. Safeguarding of the Customary rights of peasants and workers to secure forest produce (grazing, timber, fuel); grazing fees should be halved and the regulation of the grazing and distribution of timber in forests should be vested in village panchayats.
14. Administration of all communal lands, howsoever originated, and grazing lands (Go-char) shall be vested in village panchayats.
15. Enactment of a Peasants' Union Act to safeguard fundamental rights by collective action.
16. The assurance of a minimum (living) wage to all agricultural

-cultural

workers and the extension of the Workmen's Compensation Act to all agricultural workers.

17. The redistribution of the burden of taxation, both provincial and central, jointly or variously so as to impose at least 75 per cent of the tax-burden upon the richer classes.

Political Demands.- In addition, the following four political demands have also been formulated:-

1. Adult franchise and functional representation in all legislatures.

2. Repeal of all anti-peasant, anti-labour and anti-national laws, ordinances and regulations in British and Indian India, and the release of all kisan labour and political prisoners whether sentenced or detained without trial.

3. Re-instatement of all peasants deprived of their lands, etc., owing to their participation in the movements for their economic and political freedom and also owing to their failure to pay revenue or rent during this economic depression.

4. Immediate establishment of free and compulsory elementary education for girls and boys, provision of medical and sanitary aid, and the establishing of a national housing policy.

*(The National Ball, 13-4-1936  
the Bombay Chronicle, 22-4-1936).*

#### Agricultural Indebtedness: Debt Conciliation

##### Boards to be set up by Legislation in Mysore

At pages 64-67 of our January 1935 report was given a summary of the recommendation of the Enquiry Committee appointed by the Mysore State to enquire into the question of agricultural indebtedness in the State. One of the recommendations of the Committee referred to the ~~drafting~~ <sup>drafting</sup> of a scheme of debt conciliation on a voluntary basis.

Passing orders on the Report of the Committee, the Government of Mysore has expressed their agreement with the Committee that a scheme of debt conciliation might be introduced as an experimental measure in a few selected areas. A permanent Board, for each local area, to deal with all the cases arising there, appeared to the

7. 64  
Government to be necessary. The Board's decision is to be regarded as a decree binding on the debtor and the creditor, if they agreed. Where there were several creditors, the decree would be binding only if the settlement was agreed to by creditors to whom not less than 50 per cent of the secured debts were due. When a settlement was arrived at, the Board would attempt to arrange payment to the creditor of the amounts of their debts as settled through a land mortgage bank or co-operative society and where this was not possible, the amount due would be recovered by the Deputy Commissioner as an arrear of land revenue.

It is understood that the Government of Mysore are planning to introduce a Bill, incorporating the above principles in the next session of the State Representative Assembly. ↵

(The Hindux, 23-4-1936).



General.

The 49th Session of the Indian National Congress,  
Lucknow, 1936 -

The 49th session of the Indian National Congress was held at Lucknow from 12 to 14-4-1936 under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. ~~Two~~ important items on the agenda of this year's session were (1) the question of office acceptance under the reformed constitution and (2) the formulation of an economic programme for peasants and workers.

A feature of the Presidential address of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the attack on the new Constitution Act and on the repressive policy of the Government towards national aspirations. He referred to the "decay" of British rule in India, which he declared was maintained by repression and espionage, and he referred in bitter terms to the "depths of vulgarity our rulers have descended <sup>into</sup> in their ardent desire to hold on to what they have got."

Referring to economic problems, he asked the Congress to coA-relate Indian events to world problems and thus keep them in their correct perspective. He said:

"~~In~~ I am convinced that the only key to the solution of the world's problems and of India's problems lies in socialism, and when I use this word I do so not in a vague humanitarian way, but in the scientific, economic sense. Socialism is, however, something even more than an economic doctrine; it is a philosophy of life and as such also it appeals to me. I see no way of ending the poverty, the vast unemployment, the degradation and the subjection of the Indian people except through socialism.

That involves vast and revolutionary changes in our political and social structure, the ending of vested interests in land and industry, as well as the feudal and autocratic Indian States system. That means the ending of private property, except in a restricted sense, and the replacement of the present profit system by a higher ideal of co-operative service. It means ultimately a change in our instincts and habits and desires. In short, it means a new

civilisation radically different from the present capitalist order. Some glimpse we can have of this new civilisation in the territories of the U.S.S.R."

"I should like the Congress<sup>to</sup> become a socialist organisation and to join hands with the other forces in the world who are working for the new civilisation. But I realise that the majority in the Congress, as it is constituted today, may not be prepared to go thus far."

As regards the Constitution Act, Pandit Nehru said that the Congress attitude towards it will be one of uncompromising hostility. He, however, agreed that the Congress should contest the forthcoming elections to the new provincial legislatures, and that Congress candidates should seek election on the basis of a detailed political and economic programme with a demand for a constituent Assembly in the forefront. But he definitely refused to agree to acceptance of office under the reforms.

Pandit Nehru emphasised the importance of Congress increasing its contacts with the masses and said that this is to be achieved by organising them as producers and then affiliating such organisations to the Congress ~~or have~~ <sup>thus ensuring</sup> full co-operation between the two. Such organisations of producers as exist today, such as trade unions and peasant unions, could also be brought within this sphere of mutual co-operation for the good of the masses and for the struggle for national freedom. Thus Congress could have an individual as well as a corporate membership, and retaining its individual character, could influence, and be influenced by, other mass elements.

Referring to the European political situation, Pandit Nehru said that India should not participate in any Imperialist war.

Resolutions.- The following is a summary of the more important

resolutions passed by the Congress:

Government of India Act, 1935.- The Congress passed a comprehensive resolution rejecting the Government of India Act, 1935, as it "in no way represents the will of the nation", emphasising the importance of having a constitution "based on the independence of India as a nation", and demanding the convening of a Constituent Assembly for the purpose of drawing up such a constitution. The resolution approved of Congress candidates contesting the forthcoming elections to provincial legislatures on the basis of a detailed political and economic policy and programme. The Congress Parliamentary Board was abolished and the work done by it was assigned to the Working Committee of the Congress. The resolution postponed the question of acceptance or non-acceptance of office by Congress members who are elected to the Legislatures, for decision to a special session of the All-India Congress Committee.

Indians Abroad.- The Congress reiterated its sympathy for Indian settlers in South Africa, East Africa and Fiji Islands and deplored the continued deterioration in their status and deprivation of personal and property rights in spite of past agreements and declarations of local and British Governments and assured them of its readiness to take such action as may be within its power to ameliorate their condition.

Co-operation between the Congress and the masses.- One of resolutions expressed the opinion that it is desirable to develop closer association between the masses and the Congress organisation, so that they may take their full share in the shaping of Congress policy and in its activities, and the organisation might become even more responsive to their needs and desires. With a view to this, and further to bring about closer co-operation with other organisations of peasants, workers and others which aim at the freedom of the Indian people and to make the Congress a joint front of all the anti-imperialist elements in the country, the Congress appointed a committee to suggest a revision of the constitution. The Committee is to report to the All India Congress Committee by the end of July, 1936, and its report is to be then circulated to provincial and district committees for opinion. The final recommendations of the All India Congress Committee on this report is to be placed before the next session of the Congress.

The Committee consists of Babu Rajendra Prasad, Messrs. Jai-ramdas Daulatram and Jai Prakash Narain.

The Socialist members of the Congress pressed for an amendment of the Congress Constitution to "provide, inter alia, for direct representation of organisations of peasants and labourers." This amendment was defeated both in the Subjects Committee as well as in the open Session of the Congress.

Agrarian Programme.- Mr. Phulabhai Desai moved the following resolution, which was adopted:

"This Congress is of opinion that the most important and urgent problem of the country is the appalling poverty, unemployment and indebtedness of the peasantry, fundamentally due to antiquated and repressive land tenure and revenue systems and intensified in recent years by the great slump in prices of agricultural produce. The final solution of this problem inevitably involves the removal of the British imperialistic exploitation, a thorough change of the land tenure and revenue systems and a recognition by the state of its duty to provide work for the rural unemployed masses.

"In view, however, of the fact that agrarian conditions and land tenure and revenue systems differ in the various provinces, it is desirable to consult Provincial Congress Committees, and such peasant organisations, as the Working Committee thinks fit, in the drawing up of a full all-India agrarian programme as well as a programme for each province. This Congress, therefore, calls upon each Provincial Congress Committee to make recommendations in detail to the Working Committee by August 31, 1936, for being considered and placed before the All India Congress Committee, having particular regard to the following matters:-

- (1) Freedom of organisation of agricultural labourers and peasants;
- (2) Safeguarding of the interests of peasants where there are intermediaries between the State and themselves;
- (3) Just and fair relief of agricultural indebtedness, including arrears of rent and revenue;
- (4) Emancipation of the peasants from feudal and semi-feudal levies;
- (5) Substantial reduction in respect of rent and revenue demands;
- (6) A just allotment of the State expenditure for the social, economic and cultural amenities of villages;
- (7) Protection against harassing restrictions on the utilisation of local natural facilities for their domestic and agricultural needs;
- (8) Freedom from oppression and harassment at the hands of Government officials and landlords; and
- (9) Fostering industries for relieving rural unemployment."

Congress and Indian States.- One resolution expressed the opinion that the people of States should have the same right of self-determination as those of the rest of India and that the Congress stands for the same political, civil and democratic liberties for every part of India. It was, however, pointed out that the struggle for liberty within the States has, in the very nature of things, to be carried out by the people of the States themselves.

Proportional Representation in A.I.C.C.- One of the official resolutions proposed the deletion of the clause providing for proportional representation by single transferable vote as a method of election to the A.I.C.C. The resolution was opposed by the Socialist members. The Subjects Committee passed the resolution by 37 votes against 32, but in the open session the resolution was defeated by 227 votes against 207.

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The New Working Committee.- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President, has chosen the following to constitute the members of the Working Committee: Seth Jamna Lal Bajaj; Acharya Kripalani (General Secretary); Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan; Babu Rajendra Prasad; Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel; Maulana Abul Kalam Azad; Mr. C. Rajagopalachari; Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose; Mr. Bhulabhai Desai; Mr. Jairam Das Doulat Ram; Mr. Shankar Rao Deo; Acharya Narendra Deo; Mr. Jai Prakash Narain; Mr. Achyut Patwardhan. Dr. Khan Sahib will act for Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan as long as the latter ~~is~~ is in prison.

A noticeable feature of the session was the great efforts made by the Congress Socialist Party to consolidate its position in the Congress organisation. Though it was not very successful in gaining its points, it made its influence felt at every stage.

(The Hindustan Times of  
10 to 17-4-1936).

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for May 1936.

(N.B.- Every section of the Report may be taken out separately).

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References to the I. L. O.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 11-5-36 publishes a news item mentioning the names of important people who left Bombay on 9-5-36 by S.S.Strathaird for Europe. In the list is included the name of Sir Homi Mehta, Indian employers' delegate to the 20th session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 18-5-36 publishes a brief news item to the effect that Mr. R.W.Fulay, before leaving Nagpur for Geneva to attend the 20th session of the I.L.Conference, was entertained at dinner on 13-5-36 by the Municipal Employees Association.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 18-5-36 publishes the report of an interview given by Mr. Fulay before he left Bombay for Geneva by the "Viceroy of India" on 18-5-36. Mr. Fulay, in the course of the interview, said that at the I.L.Conference he would plead for the removal of the inequalities of Asiatic labour and stress the need for revising obsolete I.L.Conventions. He also stated that Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty and himself will be attending the session of the International Federation of Trade Unions to be held at London in July next.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 11-5-36 publishes the report of an interview given by Sir Homi Mehta, Indian employers delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference. Sir H.Mehta dealt briefly with the items on the agenda of the ensuing Conference and pointed out that Indian employers were strongly opposed to any further reduction of hours of work. He also referred to the difficulties in the way of general adoption of a system of holidays with pay in India.

\* \* \*

A message dated 20-5-36 issued by the Associated Press of



India setting forth the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference is published in the Hindustan Times dated 21-5-36, the Statesman dated 21-5-36, the Hindu dated 21-5-36, the Times of India dated 22-5-36, the National Call dated 22-5-36, and the Leader dated 22-5-36.

\* \* \*

The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 23-5-36 publishes at page 602 the Government of India Resolution No. L 1537 dated 20-5-36 announcing the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 25-5-36 publishes an Associated Press message to the effect that Mr. S.N.Roy, I.C.S., has proceeded to Geneva as a Government delegate to the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 21-5-36 publishes a picture of Messrs. Fulay and G.C.Chetty.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 20-5-36 publishes a Reuter's telegram from London to the effect that Mr. Butler, Under-Secretary of State for India, in reply to an interpellation in Parliament regarding India's non-ratification of the I.L.Convention re. hours of work in mines, said that the Indian Legislature, before which the Convention was laid, adopted in 1932 a resolution recommending the examination of the possibility of reduction, as the result of which legislation was passed in 1935 reducing the maximum hours under ground from 12 to 9.

The same message is published in the Statesman of 20-5-36, the Hindustan Times of 20-5-36, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 20-5-36, the Times of India of 20-5-36, the Hindu of 19-5-36, the Leader of 21-5-36.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 23-5-36 publishes an editorial comment re. India's non-ratification of the I.L. Convention re. hours of work in mines. The note points out that, replying to a question on the subject in the House of Commons, Mr. Butler stated the number of hours had not been reduced below nine and that the authorities in India were "in the best position to judge the time and the pace of the advance in the matter and the readiness of Indian public opinion for it," and asserts that, while India does not want any dictation from Britain in this or any other matter, Indian public ~~o~~ opinion is strongly for a further reduction of hours in factories and mines. The note closes thus: "The need for the reduction is greater in <sup>a</sup> tropical country like India than in the temperate regions of Europe, particularly in mining work. But the Indian legislature is not representative enough and the Government dominate it instead of being responsible to it."

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 23-5-36 also publishes an editorial note having an incidental reference to India's non-ratification of the mining hours Convention.

\* \* \*

A communique issued by this Office on 5-5-36 on the proceedings of the 75th session of the Governing Body is published in the following: The National Call dated 8-5-36, the Times of India dated 9-5-36, the Leader dated 9-5-36, Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 12-5-36, the Railway Herald, Karachi, dated 14-5-36.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 9-5-36 publishes an editorial note commenting on the decision of the Governing Body to set up a permanent Agricultural Committee. The note urges that the Committee should undertake at an early date an inquiry into the extent of

agricultural unemployment in India and that the preliminary work connected with it should be started immediately.

\* \* \*

A press statement dated 15-5-36 regarding the date, items on the agenda etc., of the forthcoming special maritime session of the I.L.Conference is published in the following: the Hindustan Times dated 16-5-36, the Hindu dated 16-5-36, the Statesman dated 17-5-36, the National Call dated 18-5-36 and the Times of India dated 18-5-36. A summary of the same press statement is published in the Leader dated 18-5-36.

\* \* \*

A communique issued by this Office on 12-5-36 on the I.L.O. Blue Report on reduction of hours in public works is published in the following: The Hindustan Times dated 13-5-36, the Times of India dated 16-5-36, the Leader dated 17-5-36, Commerce and Industry, Delhi dated 19-5-36.

\* \* \*

Az communique issued by the Office on 19-5-36 on the I.L.O. Grey-Blue Report on reduction of hours of work in the textile industry is published in the following: The Hindustan Times dated 20-5-36, the National Call dated 21-5-36, the Statesman dated 21-5-36, Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 26-5-36 and the ~~xxx~~ Indian Labour Journal dated 31-5-36.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 20-5-36 publishes the usual weekly article contributed by this Office to the paper. The article deals with the need for introducing social insurance system for Indian workers.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 12-5-36 publishes an account of the developments in connection with the French India Labourers' Conference

scheduled to open at Pondicherry on 10-5-36. Messrs. V.V.Giri and A.Guruswamy, who were billed to speak at the Conference were, on arrival at Pondicherry, served with orders prohibiting them from addressing labour meetings in French territory and requiring them to quit French territory within two hours. The Conference was summoned with a view to ventilate labour grievances on the subject of non-application in French India of I.L.Conventions ratified by France. The account also includes a press statement on the incident issued by Messrs. Giri and Guruswamy; (The Hindu cutting was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute F.5/586/36 dated 21-5-36. All Indian papers have given publicity to the incident).

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 18-5-36 publishes an editorial note on the 40-hour week. It regrets the opposition of Great Britain, India and Japan to the proposal, points out that in the United States of America and Italy the 40-hour week has been introduced without any dire consequences, and hopes that at the 20th I.L.Conference many more countries will favour the proposed reduction.

\* \* \*

The Leader of 22-5-36 reproduces this editorial note of the Bombay Chronicle.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal dated 3-5-36 publishes an article under the caption: "Economic Features of the Post-War World" contributed by the Director of this Office. In the course of the article incidental references are made to the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \* *dated 10 and 17-5-36*

The ~~same~~ issue of the Indian Labour Journal published the ~~in~~ following: (1) A communiqué issued by this Office on 25-4-36 on holidays with pay; (2) a communiqué issued by this Office on 5-5-36 on the 75th session of the Governing Body; (3) a communiqué

issued by this Office on 12-5-36 on the Blue Report on reduction of hours of work in public works; and (4) an article by the Director of this Office on the Prague Conference on Social Policy.

\* \* \*

The April 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes the following: (1) a short account of the proceedings of the 74th session of the Governing Body; (2) an article entitled: "Welfare Schemes in Japanese Factories and Mines" reproduced from the March 1936 issue of International Labour Review, and (3) the notes on the following subjects from Industrial and Labour Information of various dated:

- (a) Industrial Earnings in Germany.
- (b) Labour Legislation in Iran.
- (c) Great Britain and Minimum Age in Agriculture.
- (d) Wages and Hours in the United States.
- (e) The Forty-hour Week in Hungary.
- (f) Shop hours in Italy.
- (g) Compulsory Trade Union Contributions in Bulgaria.
- (h) Regulation of Industry in Bulgaria.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 23-5-36 and the Leader dated 25-5-36 publish a Reuter's message dated 23-5-36 from Geneva to the effect that Italy will be attending the forthcoming 20th Session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

An article by Mr. N.M.Joshi under the caption "Labour Legislation in India" is published in the Hindustan Times dated 10-5-36, the Bombay Chronicle dated 27-5-36, and the Indian Labour Journal dated 31-5-36. In the course of the article several references are made to the I.L.O. and the influence that it has exerted on accelerating the pace of Indian labour legislation.

\* \* \*

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during May 1936:

1. A Reuter's message dated 18-5-36 from London to the effect that Mr. Butler, Under-Secretary of State for India, in reply to an interpellation in Parliament regarding India's non-ratification of the I.L. Convention re. hours of work in mines, said that the Indian Legislature, before which the Convention was laid, adopted in 1932 a resolution recommending the examination of the possibility of reduction, as the result of which legislation was passed in 1935 reducing the maximum hours under ground from 12 to 9.

2. A Reuter's message dated 23-5-36 from Geneva to the effect that Italy will be participating in the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference.

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National Labour Legislation.The Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1936. +

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 29 and 31A of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 (IV of 1923), as amended by the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1936 (XI of 1936), the Governor General in Council has made certain temporary regulations, having satisfied himself that for the prevention of the apprehended danger or the speedy remedy of conditions likely to cause danger it is necessary in making these regulations to dispense with the delay that would result from their previous publication and reference to Mining Boards. The regulations are called "The Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1936. They lay down conditions for the proper ventilation of coal mines and make it incumbent on the managers of a coal mine to keep at the office of the mine a plan showing the system of ventilation, and the positions of ambulance stations and telephones underground. They also lay down conditions for lighting of mines underground and for extraction of coal, certain spots, as river beds, etc, being marked off as prohibited areas for extraction of coal. The Regulations are not to come into force till 1st July 1936. The full text of the Regulations is published at pages 598-601 of Part I of the Gazette of India, dated 23-5-1936.

(Notification No.M.955 of the Department of Industries and Labour published in the Gazette of India, Part I -pages 598-601)  
(Date 23-5-36)

Conditions of Labour.

9

Hours of Work in the Jute Industry:Liberty to Work 54-hour Week. +

Reference has been made at pages 44 to 45 of the monthly report of this Office for July 1935 to working agreements in 1934 regarding hours of work in jute mills belonging to the Indian Jute Mills Association. Considerable changes have been recently introduced in the working hours of mills belonging to the Association.

Liberty to Work 54-hour Week.- From 1st October 1935 to the 10th November 1935, the Association Mills worked 40 hours per week, with  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the total looms closed down. From November 11, 1935, to February 16, 1936, the mills worked 40 hours per week, with only 5 per cent of the looms under seal. Between February 17, 1936 and April 1, 1936, the entire complement of looms was put into operation. The position as from April 1, is that the Association Mills have agreed not to work more than 54 hours a week single shift. Individual mills are, therefore, at liberty to work such number of hours not in excess of 54 ~~x~~ a week on single shift as they desire. As from April 6, mills in the Bird group have worked 45 hours a week. Other groups have adopted similar changes. It is understood that the average working hours of mills within the Jute Mills Association is at present 46.28 a week and this is, of course, liable to be ~~of~~ increased, as the situation demands, up to a maximum of 54 hours a week. As from the beginning of this financial year, the position is, therefore, this: no looms are under seal; each Association mill is at liberty to work up to 54 hours a week on single shift; the average working hours of



Association Mills are 46.28 a week; as for 'outside mills', they work much longer hours.

Economic Situation.- In these circumstances, production is sure to out-run consumption. The values of manufactured goods have already generally fallen to a level which leaves but very little margin of profit. The worsening of the situation can be alleviated if any one of two contingencies occur in the near future, that is to say, an enormous increase in the demand for jute manufactures or an arrangement between all mills in India for mutual protection and equality of working hours.

(Indian Finance, 16-5-1936). +

Working of Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in  
Bombay Presidency during 1935. +

According to the Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31st December 1935, submitted by the Officiating Commissioner of Labour, Bombay, to the Government of Bombay, no application for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation or a Court of Inquiry under section 5 of the Act was received during the year. In the report for 1934 reference was made to an appeal which the local Government had preferred to the High Court against the order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate acquitting eight labour leaders of the Bombay textile strike of April to June 1934, who had been prosecuted under sections 16 and 17 of the Act. The appeal was heard by the Honourable the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice N.J. Badia, who held that the decision of the Chief Presidency Magistrate was right and dismissed the appeal.

(Extracted from copy of the Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for the year ending 31st December 1935 forwarded to this Office by the Officiating Commissioner of Labour, Bombay),.

(Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for the year ending 31st December 1934, is reviewed at pages 22-24 of May 1935 report of this Office). +

Increased Pension <sup>Rates</sup> for Menial Staff:  
Government of India's Decision.

In 1935, Mr. N.M.Joshi had moved a resolution in the Legislative Assembly, urging that increased rates of pension should be sanctioned for the menial staff employed by the Government of India in its various departments. According to the present rules, such menial employees receive in the majority of cases only a maximum pension of Rs. 4/- per month even in cases of retirement after serving for the full period of pensionable service; in certain areas, however, the maximum pension is Rs. 6/- per month. These rates are too low compared with the rates of pension sanctioned for clerical employees. During the Assembly ~~last~~ discussions on Mr. Joshi's resolution, Sir James Grigg, the Finance Member, had made a statement to the effect that the matter would be receiving the sympathetic attention of the Government.

It is now understood that the Government of India have passed orders on the question of increased pensions for menial employees. Under the new decision which will have effect from April 1 1936, the maximum rate of pension has been increased to Rs. 8/- for rates of pay of Rs. 16 and above and for full period pensionable service. The Posts and Telegraphs Department, which maintains the bulk of menial employees, expects to meet the increased liability without their budgetary equilibrium being seriously upset. Besides, since for the first few years the number of pensioned employees would not be considerable, no department of Government would be faced with heavy Bills in this respect.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-5-1936). +

1K.

Factory Administration in Hyderabad State-1933-34\* +

Number of Factories.- During the year under report the number of factories on the register increased from 419 to 446. The net increment is the result of 34 factories being added and 7 factories being removed from it. Of the 34 factories added to the register during the year, 23 were newly erected and the remaining 11 had already existed but were registered as factories during the year.

Perennial and Seasonal Factories.- Of the 446 factories on the register 327 factories worked during the year and the others remained closed. Of the factories that worked 35 were perennial factories and 292 seasonal. 235 seasonal and 6 perennial factories were connected with the cotton industry.

Distribution of Factories.- The majority of the 449 factories are connected with the ginning industry, there being 151 ginning factories, 72 ginning and pressing factories. The other principal groups are: rice mills - 21, decorticating factories - 10, spinning and weaving - 6 and match - 2.

Number of Operatives.- The average daily number of operatives in all the industries, as estimated on the basis of the number of employees in the factories from which annual returns were received, was 26,296. Of the 26,296 employees, 8505 were employed in spinning and weaving mills, 5,914 in ginning and pressing factories and 2,907 in ginning factories.

Sex and Age Distribution.- Of the 26,296 persons employed, 16,202 were males, 9,888 females and 711 children. No case of employment of women during nights was detected, and the practice can now be said to have entirely stopped. 297 children were employed in the Spinning and Weaving Mills and 414 children in other industries, mostly in match factories, as compared with 328 children in the Spinning and Weaving Mills and 424 children in other industries during the previous year. 579 children were examined and granted certificates by the Certifying Surgeons as against 503 in the previous year. The practice of employing adults in place of children still continues and the total number of children working in factories is decreasing gradually.

Inspections.- Of the 327 factories that worked during the year, 268 were inspected, of which 215 were inspected once, 44 twice and 9 thrice.

Sanitary Conditions.- The general standard of sanitation in the factories showed gradual, though slow, improvement during the year, and the factory owners exhibited greater readiness to comply with the suggestions of the Inspecting authorities in the matter.

\* Report on the Administration of Factories and Boilers Inspection Department of H.B.N. the Nizam's Government for the year 1343 Fasli (6th October 1933 to 5th October 1934) (With the Government Review thereon)-Hyderabad-Deccan.- Printed at the Govt. Central Press. 1935.

Health.- The health of the employees in factories remained generally satisfactory throughout the year. In the newly established factories, the requirements of sanitation are more carefully attended to. Strict enforcement of restrictions on working hours, has led to marked improvement in the health of the employees particularly of those who work in ginning, rice and similar factories, where they have to work necessarily under unhealthy conditions, because of considerable dust in these places.

Wages and Strikes.- The scale of wages remained unchanged. No strikes were reported.

Accidents.- There were 11 serious and 49 minor accidents, and most of the minor accidents occurred in the 6 Spinning and Weaving Mills and the Shahabad Cement factory, and were with a few exceptions, due to negligence on the part of the persons injured. Several fatal and serious accidents occurred in unregistered factories, and in almost all cases the accidents were due entirely to absence of adequate protection of machinery. If correct and complete information were available, the fatal and serious accidents in the unregistered factories would number more than in the registered factories. Although it is provided that the Inspectors may inspect unregistered factories and issue instructions to protect machinery, really effective attempts in this direction cannot at present be made, because of inadequacy of the inspecting staff.

Workmen's Compensation Act.- The Workmen's Compensation Act is still under the consideration of the Government. At present, beyond advising the factory owners to pay adequate compensation in all deserving cases of accidents, there are no other means of making them realise their responsibilities in the matter. Some of the factory owners are, however, fully alive to these responsibilities, and pay adequate compensation of their own accord. +

Act  
Working of the Workmen's Compensation in India, 1934\* +

Review of Administration in the Provinces. - The total number of compensation cases included in Statement I (relating to factories, mines, railways, docks, and tramways) appended to the report increased from 14,559 in 1933 to 16,890 in 1934. Of the 16,890 cases, 16,868 cases occurred among adults and 22 occurred among minors. The number of cases resulting in death was 598, in permanent disablement 1287, and in temporary disablement 15,005. The total compensation paid increased from Rs. 813,949 in 1933 to Rs. 868,847 in 1934. Compensation paid in cases of death amounted to Rs. 371,762, in cases of permanent disablement to Rs. 294,151, and in cases of temporary disablement to Rs. 202,954. The average sum paid during 1934 per case fell from Rs. 55 to Rs. 51.4.

Increases both in the number of cases reported and the amount of compensation paid, were registered by Ajmer-Merwara, Bihar and Orissa, Burma, Madras and the N.W.F.P. There was a fall in the number of cases reported in Assam and the United Provinces, but the amount of compensation paid increased. While there were increases in the number of cases reported in Bengal, Bombay, the Central Provinces, Delhi and the Punjab, there were decreases in the amount of compensation paid in these provinces. The compensation paid in respect of accidents on railways rose from Rs. 273,202 to Rs. 284,900.

Ex-gratia payments. - In Bombay, ex-gratia payments to the extent of Rs. 2,000 were made by the employers in five cases in

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\* Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1934 together with a note on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. - Published by order of the Government of India - Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. - Price Annas 6 or 8d. - pp.5

in which the claims had been dismissed by the Commissioners. A case is also reported of a factory owner in that province who made an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 800 in respect of an accident involving the death of two workers. The work had been entrusted to a petty contractor from whom nothing could be recovered. The Railway authorities generally pay more than the compensation due under the Act for short periods of temporary disablement, the payment in certain cases being full pay for the period of disablement.

Passivity of Trade Unions.- The report notes that, as in previous years, Trade Unions did little to assist their members to obtain compensation. In Bengal, the Press Employees' Association, the Port Trust Employees' Association, the Seamen's Association, and the Workers' Claim Bureau, which was formed towards the end of the year, took an active interest in the settlement of claims. In the City of Bombay, the ~~General~~ Workmen's Claim Bureau and the Bombay Claims Agency handled the majority of cases on behalf of workmen. The Burma Labour Association continued to assist workmen during the year. The Calcutta Claims Bureau acting on behalf of insured employees, continued to render valuable assistance in the settlement of claims. In Burma, although only ten per cent of employers were insured against claims under the Act, their establishments included 31 per cent of the workmen. It is reported from Bengal that claims are often tenable against small manufacturing firms which are unable to pay the compensation required within the statutory period. In such cases, compromise is often the only way in which the employee can obtain any payment.

Applications filed before Commissioners.- The statistics of

proceedings before the Commissioners show an increase over those of the previous year. The number of applications under section 10 of the Act was 581 as compared with 509 in 1933 and 596 in 1932. The number of distribution cases filed under section 8 of the Act was 613 as against 454 in 1933 and 514 in 1932. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of was 21.05 as compared with 25.2 in 1933 and 23.9 in 1932. 1,159 agreements were presented during the year. Of the total number for disposal, 1098 were registered during the year without modification, 7 were registered after modification, 32 were not registered on account of inadequacy, or for other reasons, and 98 were pending at the close of the year.

Appeals before High Courts.— Sixteen appeals were filed during the year in the High Courts, two references made in Burma under section 27 of the Act were disposed of during the year.

Occupational Diseases.— Five cases due to lead poisoning were reported during the year; one in Bombay, two in Bengal and two in Burma. One of the two Bengal cases was pending at the end of the year. The Bombay claim was rejected. In the remaining cases compensation was paid.

Legislative Changes.— The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1933, came into force on the 1st January 1934. The important amendments, however, such as those relating to increased scales of compensation, the reduction in the waiting period and the inclusion within the scope of the Act of many more classes of workmen, etc., took effect only from the 1st July 1934. There are indications that the amendments which enable the Commissioner to take the

initiative to a limited extent in fatal accidents are proving useful in securing compensation for dependents in such cases. Another effect of the amendments appears to be an increase in the proportion of petty claims, since the increase in the scales of compensation has made it more worth while to pursue such claims; but it seems probable that a substantial number of such cases do not come to light. The coal industry and small industries have been most affected by the increased scales of compensation, on account of the level of wages in these industries.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in India during 1935 is reviewed at pages 43-45 of the report of this Office for February 1935). +

Workmen's Compensation Act: Proposed Extension of  
Benefits to Persons Employed in handling  
heavy goods: Views of Bengal Chamber  
of Commerce. +

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has recently been addressed by the Government of Bengal with reference to a proposal put forward by the Central Government, at the instance of the Government of Bombay, involving the extension of the benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, to persons employed in the handling of heavy goods. The fact that such occupations are hazardous is generally recognised, but as the Government of India point out the difficulty is to draft an addition to Schedule II



of the Act which will give a substantial direct benefit and will not at the same time bring within the scope of the Act persons whose employment is entirely unorganised.

Government of India's Views. - On this point the Government of India observes:-

"These difficulties are inherent in the present structure of Schedule II to the Act, the form of which was dictated by administrative considerations and until it is possible to extend the benefits of the Act to persons whose employment is entirely unorganised there can be no complete remedy. The Government of India, who agree with the Government of Bombay that the inclusion of persons employed in the handling of heavy goods is desirable, are inclined to the view that the most effective addition would be one which is exceedingly wide as to persons, but is restricted under the proviso to section 2(3) to the gravest injuries, e.g. those resulting in death. With an addition of this kind the numerical criterion would disappear and in practice claims would be likely to arise only where goods were handled in large quantities, i.e., in occupations that were more or less organised."

Bengal Chamber's Views. - The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce considered the matter in consultation with the Indian Jute Mills Association, the Hydraulic Press Association and the Workmen's Compensation Standing Committee of the Calcutta Accident Insurance Association. In replying to the Government of Bengal they have communicated the Chamber's approval of the proposal to extend the benefits of the Act to persons employed in the handling of heavy goods, but they have expressed the opinion that the right to compensation should not be limited to injuries resulting in death. Such a restriction would inflict hardship on workmen who had the misfortune to be permanently disabled, and the Government of Bengal have accordingly been informed that, in the opinion of the Chamber, it would be only equitable to extend the right to compensation to include all cases in which serious permanent disablement is sustained, that is to say disablement involving 50% or greater loss of earning capacity. The insurance interests consulted by the Chamber consider that no insuperable administrative difficulties are likely to arise from such an extension of the benefits of the Act. (Extracted from Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for March 1936).†

Industrial Organisation.

Workers' Organisations.

15th Annual Session of A.I.T.U. Congress-17 & 18-5-36-

Bombay: Restoration of Unity in Trade Union Ranks. +

The 15th annual session of the All India Trade Union Congress was held at Bombay on 17th and 18th May 1936, Mrs. Mulji Maniben Kara presiding in the absence, owing to imprisonment, of Mr. Ruikar, the President-elect. The session was attended by a large number of delegates from constituent trade unions. A number of leaders of the Indian National Congress, including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and the Congress Socialist Party were also present at the session.

Both Mrs. Mulji Maniben Kara, president of the session, and Mr. S.P. Jhabvala, chairman of the reception committee, in the course of their addresses, laid stress on the necessity for immediate unity in labour ranks and for forming an anti-Imperialist front of all elements in the country fighting for independence. They urged closer contact between the trade unionists and the Indian National Congress and welcomed Pandit Jawaharlal's efforts in this direction. While Mr. Jhabvala wanted the leaders of the National Trade Union Federation to give up their present attitude and to unite, Mrs. Mulji Maniben Kara was prepared to accept Mr. Giri's compromise proposal for merging the two wings of the Labour Party for a year, but urged Mr. Giri and his friends not to insist on a three-fourths majority as regards decisions on political questions, and suggested a two-third majority instead. Both maintained that unity must be achieved, as that alone would enable them to fight the forces working against them.

The following are relevant extracts from the speech of Mr. Jhabvala:-

The Capitalist Offensive.- "I would like to indicate in brief the problems that are facing us. On the one hand, we are faced with an inhuman offensive against the standard of living of the working-class. From the imperialist railway losses to the nationalist textile owners there is only one cry - reduce the working-class wage to the lowest standard possible. And then there is that big and specious word "rationalisation" which simply means unemployment for thousands and intensification of work for those on the job. This situation imposes heavy tasks upon the Trade Unions."

General Strike - the only effective weapon.- "The Trade Unions have so far failed in their role as the organs of the class struggle of the Indian working-class. ~~They~~ They have failed to adapt themselves to the new situation and to tackle as a question of practice, the nation-wide organisation of the General Strike as the one weapon of effective action against the capitalist offensive".

Need for United Front.- "At a time when only united centralised leadership of the Trade Union Movement can beat off the offensive of the capitalists, the leaders of the National Federation of Trade Unions continue to divide the ranks of the workers, in spite of repeated offers for a united working-class movement. What do these people fear? The A.I.T.U.C. is prepared to meet them in every way if they agree to two conditions: (1) Acceptance of class-struggle; (2) Internal Trade Union democracy. But it is just these two conditions that they seem to fear."

Affiliation to Indian National Congress.- "The A.I.T.U. Congress also must shed off its old skin and start on a new path. The immediate problem is how best to forge a powerful united-front against Imperialism. This can only be done by co-operation with other organisations - ~~as~~ especially mass-organisations. Politically, the biggest mass organisation in the country is the Indian National Congress. We have a two-fold task to perform. We have to maintain our class-identity and class out-look without which we will not be able to fulfil our role as the leader of the struggle and secondly we have to become an integral part of the Indian National Congress machine. This two-fold task can only be achieved by the method of collective affiliation, i.e., by affiliating our trade unions or class organisations to the Indian National Congress. The method of collective affiliation will lessen the danger of losing our class-identity and merging ourselves ideologically with other sections. It will enable us to shape the policy of the Indian National Congress <sup>and</sup> to influence it from time to time without fear of losing our identity. On the other hand, if we were to advise the workers to join the Indian National Congress, individually, this will lead to nothing but disaster."

Rejection of Reformed Constitution.- "We cannot but look upon with grave concern the recent resolution of the Lucknow Congress

on <sup>the</sup> ~~issue~~ <sup>issue</sup> of constitution. The National Congress decided to postpone this issue and thereby it left the door open for an acceptance of the Constitution. If ~~the~~ reactionary leadership today succeeds in pinning the National Congress to an acceptance of the Constitution, it will be ~~the~~ most serious political disaster for the country at large. The T.U.C., if it has to fulfil its role as a national organ of ~~the~~ class-struggle, must fight for a new type of state - a state which will embody the democracy of the millions. The only formula that can be a concrete one today is that of a democratic state with no standing army, no police, no bureaucracy; but a people's militia, elected officials, judges, etc."

Presidential Address.- Mrs. Mulji Maniben Kara, in her presidential address, reviewed the world situation from the labour point of view, referred to the inroads on democratic principles made by the forces of capitalism under the auspices of dictatorial forms of government like Facism and Nazism, and directed attentions to the gains secured by socialists in France and Spain. Discussing the political situation in India, she insisted on rejection of the Reforms, which she described the "new Charter of Slavery", and urged that the Trade Union Congress should join forces with the Indian National Congress in the fight for Swaraj. Pleading for unity in labour ranks, she recommended acceptance of Mr. Giri's proposals in this behalf. The following are extracts from the presidential address:-

Exploitation of workers by capitalists.- During the last few years, especially since the onset of the world economic crisis, the condition of the masses has become progressively worse and worse. The effects of the crisis on India, which is predominantly an agricultural country, have been more disastrous in their sweep, duration and intensity. And consequently the attempts of the capitalist class in India to prop up its tottering structure by attacks on the living conditions of workers and peasants have been ruthless. Workers in each trade - and industry had to face these attacks taking the shape of wagecuts, retrenchments, rationalisation,

speeding up, etc. These attacks have not ceased. Every day we hear of fresh wage-cuts, fresh retrenchments, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> newer and more scientific methods of intensifying the exploitation of the working masses.

Dictatorship replaces Democracy.- Driven to the last ditch by the world economic crisis, the capitalists all over the world are throwing off the democratic mask which they had worn all these years. Democratic forms are therefore being replaced by autocratic, authoritarian forms of government.

Progress of Fascism.- Fascism has been enthroned in a number of European countries. And even in seemingly democratic countries like England, America and France, Fascist tendencies are growing to an alarming extent. In fascist countries no body's life or liberty is safe. Working class organisations are destroyed. No independent political activity or even thought is tolerated. Fascism started with alluring promises of economic recovery, of better living conditions for workers, peasants and the middle classes, of suppression of the tyranny of high finance, of return of good old days of progress and prosperity. The history of Italy during the last 15 years and of Germany since the enthronement of Hitler have conclusively proved the lying and demagogic nature of those promises.

Need for United Labour Front.- Dissensions in the working class movement have in every country facilitated the growth of fascism. In Germany it was the treachery of the Social Democratic Party and the ultra-left sectarian line of the Communist Party that contributed to the victory of Hitler. It is pleasant to know that the lessons of the German disaster have not been lost on the world working class movement. There is a greater disposition amongst the Social Democrats to work hand in hand with the Communists. And the Communists, ~~have~~ since July 1934, and especially after the 7th world Congress held in Moscow last August, have entirely changed their line, have rectified their ultra-left errors and have reverted to the Leninist tactics of the united front. The practical application of this was seen in France in February 1935 when all the anti-fascist elements combined together and with a supreme effort pushed back the black tide of the Fascist forces in France. We find more magnificent effects of the same in the results of the last French elections, in the victory of the left forces and in the possible formation of a left-wing people's united anti-fascist government. We have good news also from Spain. The united forces of the socialists, communists, anarchists, syndicalists and the radicals in Spain have defeated the parties of the Right ~~has~~ and have instituted a left-radical government under Signor Azana. They have won back the gains of the 1931 revolution.

India not to participate in Imperialist Wars.- Dealing with the threat of war, an inevitable concomitant of the capitalist system, she said: The war danger is not merely an academic issue. It is a live issue and a vital question for the millions of workers and peasants and peasants of India. We are not against war in principle. We would support and actively participate in a just war

for the defence of national independence. But not a man not a farthing for the next imperialist war, must be our slogan.

Rejection of the New Constitution.- Referring to the Indian political situation, she said: The reactionary character of the New Reforms has become manifest. The Constitution can be rejected only by mass action. It cannot be rejected by creating constitutional deadlocks and much less by accepting ministerial offices. A united front of all elements in the country opposed to the New Constitution must be immediately built up. Such a united front can be built up only on the basis of the rejection of the New Constitution.

No Boycott of Legislatures.- Rejection of reforms does not mean boycott of legislatures. Boycott of councils and elections was futile Gandhian tactics which has been now rejected by the Indian National Congress. Parliamentary and electoral activities are helpful when coupled with extra parliamentary activities for broadcasting national aspirations. Under the New Reforms some provisions are made for the election of labour representatives to the various legislative bodies.. Apart from the fact that the representation granted is extremely meagre, even the few seats that are granted can hardly be captured by the genuine and militant representatives of the working class.

Appeal to Join Forces with National Congress.- Urging that the All India Trade Union Congress should join forces & with the Indian National Congress, she said that the latter body is the only political organisation in the country which possesses an all India and broad mass basis. The All India Trade Union Congress, the central organisation of the working class movement in the country, must establish relations of close co-operation with the National Congress. We shall evolve the best forms and methods of establishing those relations and call upon the National Congress to make appropriate changes in its programme and structure - in the programme with the object of linking up the national struggle for independence with the daily struggles of the masses and in the structure for allowing us to participate in the Congress through our class organisations. In this struggle we can certainly count upon the support and sympathy of the Congress Socialist Party and other radical elements in the Congress and also upon the weighty support of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Trade Union Unity.- Dealing with the important question of trade union unity, she said: It is regrettable that we cannot have immediate structural unity. As the next best thing therefore I suggest that the Trade Union Congress should accept Mr. Giri's proposals. The acceptance of Mr. Giri's proposal imposes a number of restrictions on our activities, the most important being the provision that no political decisions can be taken without a three-fourth's majority. This will reduce the central organisation to a position of political inaction. And political inaction is the last thing to be desired especially in the coming years of fiercer and more decisive conflicts with the capitalists and the

Government, Efforts must therefore be made for the relaxation of the rigour of this condition by providing for a 2/3rds. as against 3/4ths. majority. Provision will also have to be made to impose the same condition on the Federation leaving the constituent unions of both the groups freedom of political propaganda and action.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's appeal for united action with

Congress.- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President. of the Indian National Congress and an ex-President of the A.I.T.Union Congress, who was present by special invitation then addressed the session on the need for the A.I.T.Union Congress and the National Congress presenting a united front in the struggle for political freedom. The following are the main points made out in the speech:

Co-operation between I.N.C. and A.I.T.U.C.- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that he had come to the Trade Union Congress session as President of the Indian National Congress to convey the sympathy and greetings of the Congress to the workers. The biggest and the largest organisation in the country today was the Indian National Congress. Hitherto ~~the~~ working class organisation had not taken their due share in the fight for political freedom which the Congress had been carrying ~~out~~. That was deplorable. The Congress was fighting the battle of the workers. Hence, the workers should make it a point to join the Congress and strengthen its hands. There was difference between the two organisations. One contained purely working class people, while the other consisted of all kinds of people. ~~Even workers should~~ The Indian National Congress and the T.U.C. could not become one, but contacts could be established between the two organisations. During the last 6 or 7 years the speaker had been working with a view to bring both the organisations closer.

Revolutionary and Evolutionary Methods.- Referring to the differences inside the trade union movement, he said there were two ways of running the trade union movement. One was the revolutionary way, the way which was advocated by one section of the T.U.C. which wanted politics also to be included in its work; while the other way was to run it on purely economic lines without having to do anything with politics. Now then, it was for the workers themselves to think about the two ways, and after being convinced of the way that they wished to follow, ~~they~~ should ask their leaders to ~~do so~~ follow that way.

Class War Unavoidable.- Referring to the question of the class struggle, he said that many do not like to have class war in the country. They unfortunately said so as a result of blindness. Class war was there already. It was going on at present, and there was no use shutting eyes to the realities, ~~and criticising.~~

Vested interests in the country, through their influence of money, were fighting hard to maintain their present position. The present structure of society was such that a few lived through exploiting the rest. Vested interests talked of love and mutual understanding, but why should they resent workers protesting against exploitation?

United Action Urged. - In the meetings of workers, a lot was said against the National Congress. It was possible that many of those things that were said were true. But no purpose would be served by abusing each other. It was essential that the strength of the Congress should be increased. Mutual abuse would take one neither here nor there. The goal aimed at could be reached earlier if there was mutual co-operation and constant contact.

Resolutions Adopted. - The following is a summary of the more important resolutions adopted at the session.

1. Reforms Condemned: Demand for Constituent Assembly. - The first resolution strongly condemned the Government of India Act, declared the determination of the working classes to adopt an attitude of irreconcilable hostility to the new Act, demanded a Constituent Assembly, and emphatically declared against office acceptance.

2. Support to Civil Liberties Union. - The second resolution condemned the suppression of civil liberties and accorded support to the Indian National Congress in its move to form a Civil Liberties Union.

3. Repression Condemned. - The third resolution condemned continued repression.

4. Release of Labour Leaders. - The fourth demanded immediate release of Messrs. Subash Chandra Bose, Ruikar, M Nimbker, M.N.Roy, Mukundalal Sircar and other labour leaders and detenus.

5. Greetings to Peasantry. - The fifth sent greetings to the peasantry.

6. Imperialist Wars condemned. - The 6th resolution condemned imperialist wars and called on the working classes to join hands with the Indian National Congress in conducting anti-war propaganda.

7. Greetings to Abyssinia. - The next resolution sent greetings to the people of Abyssinia.

8. Relations with Indian National Congress. - The 8th resolution defined the relations of the working classes and the Trade Union Congress with the Indian National Congress. It emphatically declared that the working classes must actively participate and play their due role in the national movement and establish relations



and close co-operation with the Indian National Congress, with the object of broadening and deepening the national struggle for Independence. Such co-operation was possible only if the Indian National Congress supported the working classes in their immediate economic and political demands and made suitable provision for participation of the workers in Congress through their class organisations. It urged the affiliated Unions to develop common action with local Congress organisations in order to (1) reject the new constitution, (2) oppose Imperialist wars, (3) defend civil liberties and (4) safeguard and advance working-class interests.

9. Thanks to Congress Socialist Party.- The ninth resolution welcomed the formation and rapid growth of the Congress Socialist Party and thanked the Party and Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru on the work done at Lucknow.

10. Trade Union Representation in National Congress.- The tenth resolution demanded collective representation of Labour on the Indian National Congress through Labour Unions.

11. Railwaymen's Grievances.- The eleventh resolution protested against the offensive adopted by the railway administration against workers and threatened an all-India Railway strike.

12. Joint Electoral Campaign with National Congress.- The twelfth resolution expressed the willingness of the Trade Union Congress to carry on an electoral campaign with the National Congress, provided the latter agreed to certain demands of the working classes, such as setting up labour candidates in predominantly labour areas, and to other labour and economic demands.

13. Trade Union Unity.- The thirteenth resolution expressed the All-India Trade Union Congress' preparedness to accommodate in a spirit of conciliation the demands of the National Trade Union Federation on all such issues as would not hamper the growth and struggle of the working classes, and accepted Mr. Giri's compromise proposal for a merger as a basis of unity, subject to the following provision, namely that the constitution of the National Trade Union Federation be accepted with such modification as may be necessary by the Executive Committee of the Trade Union Congress later on, provided that where it would not be possible to take any decisions on a political issue or strike for want of a three-fourths majority, the Trade Union Congress would be free to act according to its bare majority opinions in case the Federation insists on taking independent action in connection with such political questions or strike.

(For details of Mr. Giri's proposal vide pages 26-27 of the report of this Office for January 1936).

Office-bearers for 1936-37.- The following office-bearers have been elected for 1936-37:

President - Mr. Shivnath Banerjee of Calcutta. Vice-presidents -

Messrs. R. B. Khedekar, R.S. Ruiker, Narayandas Bechar and  
Rajaram Shastri. General Secretary - Mrs. Mulji Maniben Kara.  
Treasurer - Mr. V. B. Karnik.

Mr. R. B. Khedekar will ~~xx~~ act as President instead of Mr.  
Shivnath Banerjee, who is on bail.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 18-5-36,  
The Indian Labour Journal, 24-5-36,  
and the Hindu, 19-5-36)

Congress- Labour Co-operation: Labour  
Committee formed by Working Committee of  
Congress.

The Working Committee of the Indian National Congress which  
concluded its session at Wardha, Central Provinces, has appointed a  
Labour Committee whose duty it will be to keep in touch with the  
labour movement and endeavour to develop co-operation with it and  
advise the Working Committee on labour matters generally. The mem-  
bers of the Labour Committee are: Messrs. Jairamdas Daulatram,  
Shankarlal Banker, M.R.Masani, V.V.Giri and J.B.Kripalani.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 3-5-36).

French India Workers' Conference at Pondicherry

banned: Messrs. Giri and Guruswami externed. +

The workers of French India convened a conference to be held on 10-5-36 at Pondicherry to give expression to their grievances, and to appeal to the French Government to apply the Labour Codes of France <sup>to French India</sup> and to support the complaint lodged by <sup>the</sup> M. and S.M. Railway Employees Union of Madras to the I. L. O. against France. The Conference was to be presided over by Mr. V. V. Giri, M.L.A., and addressed by Mr. S. Guruswami, Assistant Secretary of the All India Railwaymen's Federation.

On 21st February 1936, M. Picquenard, on behalf of the French Government, in reference to a representation that ratified International Labour Conventions had not been implemented in French India, though local conditions, which were not materially different from the adjacent British Indian area, did not preclude such enforcement, gave an assurance to the International Labour Office that the question was being closely and sympathetically examined. The French Indian workers, being denied the benefit of vitally important labour protection measures regulating the right of trade union combination, working hours, weekly rest, accident compensation, etc., were aggrieved, and the Conference was convened to voice the protest against the continuance of such an unsatisfactory state of affairs.

On the arrival of Messrs. Giri and Guruswami at Pondicherry on 10-5-1936, the French authorities served them with an order to quit French territory immediately and prohibiting them from addressing public meetings in French territory. Messrs. Giri and Guruswami accordingly had to leave Pondicherry. The following are

relevant extracts from a communique on the incident issued by Mr.

Giri from Madras on 14-5-1936:-

"We were surprised at the action taken, especially when capitalists were allowed the right of combination through their Chamber of Commerce and the fullest latitude was given them in inflicting adverse service conditions on workers. We have submitted a strong protest to the Governor of French India, calling upon him to give reasons in fairness for the action taken and have proposed to pursue the matter by making representations to the French Government, <sup>the</sup> French Confederation Du Travail, <sup>the</sup> International Transport Workers' Federation and <sup>the</sup> International Federation of Trade Unions, Paris, to elicit information as to whether the Minister of Colonies condones the action of the local authorities in Pondicherry and to secure that French Indian workers are not denied freedom of speech and of association and the benefit of ratified International Labour Conventions".

The Conference which was to have been held at Pondicherry was also banned by the French authorities. The French workers thereupon held the Conference on the same day at Perambai, a small town in adjacent British territory, at which the following resolutions were adopted:-

1. This conference condemns the action of the French Governor ~~for~~ banning this conference from being held in French territory even after due permission was obtained in advance.

2. This Conference strongly protests against the attitude of the French Governor in issuing a quit order on Messrs. V.V.Giri, M.L.A. and S. Guruswami, who were to preside over and address the conference respectively.

3. This Conference appeals to the French Minister of Colonies to apply the French Labour Codes in French India as well.

4. This Conference supports the complaint lodged by the M. and S.M.Railway Employees Union of Madras <sup>with</sup> to the I.L.O. against France for not applying <sup>in</sup> to French India the conventions ratified by France, and appeals to the I.L.O. to pursue their efforts in the matter.

(The Hindu, 12-5-1936 and  
The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-5-36).+

Economic Conditions.Government of India's Loan of Rs. 120 Millions:Heavily Over-subscribed in spite of lowinterest rate. +

On 26-5-36 the Government of India successfully floated a new loan of Rs. 120 millions bearing  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cent interest, issued at Rs. 100 per cent, and redeemable at par not earlier than 1948 and not later than 1952. Though the loan was for Rs. 120 millions only, it attracted within five minutes of opening of subscriptions Rs. 300 millions, allotments being not more than 40 per cent, instead of the 50 and 60 per cent anticipated by the market. The manner in which the new loan was snapped up and heavily over-subscribed, furnishes proof of the extreme cheapness of money in the big money centres at the present time. The result must be particularly satisfying to the Government of India; never before in British Indian financial history has a loan been raised at such a low rate interest and closed within such a short time.

(The Statesman, 27-5-1936) +

Indian Cement Merger:

Combine with Rs.80 million Capital Projected. +

The leading Indian cement companies, numbering about 10, are at present engaged in sending circular letters to their shareholders giving details of a merger scheme which they have discussed in consultation with experts for more than a year.

Associated Cement Companies to start work from 1st July 1936.-

Its initiation and progress was largely due to the late Mr. F.E. Dinshaw of Bombay. The scheme is expected further to consolidate the position of the Indian cement industry, but the negotiations took a long time owing to the difficulty of valuing the properties of various companies by experts and acceptance of these valuations by the respective companies. It is understood, however, that an agreement has now been reached and the valuations accepted by the various directorates and, according to present plans, a merger company known as the Associated Cement Companies will start trading operations as from 1st July 1936.

Scheme to be subjected to Shareholders.- The new company will be floated with a share capital of Rs. 80 millions. Meetings of shareholders of various concerns will be convened in June 1936 to obtain approval of the new scheme and it is expected that it will be welcomed by them. As soon as the new company comes into existence, the factories of concerns intending to join it will become the property of the merger. The process of amalgamation involves the voluntary liquidation of the concerns joining the merger sooner or later, though some of them may continue as holding companies for a time. The directorate of the merger has not yet been finally

selected but it is stated that it will fairly represent the different interests, and will number about 20.

The names of the companies which are reported to have indicated their willingness to join the merger, subject to the approval of the shareholders are:- Pundi Portland Cement, C.P.Cement Co., Shahabad Cement Co., K Okha Cement Co., Katni Cement and Industrial Co., Punjab Portland Cement, Coimbatore Cement Co., United Cement Company of India, Gwalior Cement Co., and Indian Cement Co.

(The Statesman, 9-5-1936) +

India's Dwindling Coal Resources: Government of  
India to appoint Committee of Inquiry. +

The Government of India, it is understood, is proposing to set up a committee of officials, representatives of the industry and experts, to examine Indian mining methods. The committee will also examine the problem of India's dwindling resources in coal, which may be exhausted within a generation or less. One of the chief causes of wastage of the country's resources is the frequent fires occurring in Indian mines.

The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1936, designed to ensure greater safety in mines and which received the assent of the Governor General on 26-4-36 (vide pages 14 & 15 of the report of this Office for April 1936) will be brought into operation from the third week of May 1936.

(The Statesman, 14-5-1936).

The Hindu of 14-5-1936 in an editorial note welcomes the proposal. It says:

Vital Connection between Iron and Coal Industries.- It has been stated that while the iron ore available in India is "the best in the world" the coal available to produce pig-iron and steel out of it is "the poorest in the world". India contains iron ore sufficient to sustain for no less than 300 years an iron industry of the magnitude which Great Britain at present owns, but her supply of coal is limited. The coal resources have been estimated at 54 ~~a~~ billion tons, but out of this only 15 per cent of ~~xx~~ really first class coking coal could, it would appear, be produced. If the Indian iron industry is to be long-lived, then, the coal resources of the country should be conserved.

"Bord and Pillar" System.- Two causes militate against the conservation of coal. In the first place, the methods of mining employed in Indian collieries seem antiquated. The "bord and pillar" system is commonly used. Under this system, a good portion of the coal is left standing in pillars which are sometimes 100 ft. square. Owing partly to the weight these pillars have to support and partly to their nature, they constitute a source of danger to the miners as they may fall and the roof come down on them. Further, this process results in the waste of nearly a third of the coal available. It also contributes to fire in the mines and consequent destruction of coal and also of neighbouring property.

Wasteful methods of leasing by Owners.- There are other contributories to waste than the methods of mining. The system of ownership and mining rights in coal also leads to waste. The landlord is paid an initial sum (called salami) by the lessee, who ~~xxx~~ gets the mining rights from him, ~~xx~~ plus a royalty on the coal mined. Under this system, "the areas let off for working by the landlords have not been so arranged as to conduce to the economical working of the estate as a whole, but rather with the object of receiving as much as possible by way of salami". In other words, under this system, the interests of the nation have been found to conflict with the interests for the time being of the owner. It is the duty of the State to see that so valuable a commodity as coal is not wasted and that in national interests it is conserved for the benefit of the nation's industries.

(The Hindu, 14-5-1936) +



Jute Restriction Scheme: More Effective  
Measures than Propaganda Needed.

At pages 9-10 of this report (Section - Conditions of Labour) a brief account is given of the present arrangements with regard to hours of work in force generally in Indian jute mills. Indian Finance, Calcutta, dated 23-5-1936 in an editorial article under the caption: "Is Jute Restriction a Success?" reviews the working of the restriction scheme and makes out that not much success has attended the efforts of the Government of Bengal to restrict production. The article sums up the position thus:-

" The present position is this. The Government have been conducting restriction propaganda for two years. We have now experience of one year's crop as affected by the restriction propaganda. We are also in a position to attempt a rough and ready gauging of the crop in the second year of restriction. The conclusions that are revealed on an analysis of the relevant figures are not reassuring. In the first year of restricted crop, the actual production would turn out to be 1.5 millions in excess of the figure aimed at by the Government. The reduction in relation to the previous year's crop was 3 million bales according to Government intentions. Actually, the shrinkage in crop was only 1.5 million. Even of such reduction, the Department of Agriculture has admitted that it was partly due to the unfavourable climatic conditions at the sowing time, especially in North Bengal. As for the prospective crop in 1936-37 season, the aim of the Government is the same as last year, namely, 6 millions of bales; but present sowings indicate a crop in the vicinity of 10 million bales. In spite of propaganda for restriction, the agriculturists will be producing fully 4 million more than the figure suggested by the authorities. In the face of these facts, it seems certain that restriction propaganda, as such, has not been productive of any effect worth mention. On the other hand, the perusal of jute statistics for the past seasons will show that, even without any help in the form of organised propaganda by Government officials, cultivators have in a way regulated their output, influenced mainly by the prices realised for the crop of the previous year. For example, the total imports for 1931-32 season reached a figure of only 6.5 million bales against 11.2 millions in the previous year as the price of jute in 1930-31 was low.

A careful appreciation of the facts stated above will show that the Central Jute Committee will have to consider the question in right earnest; and they will have to devise or suggest some more effective measures than more organised propaganda if the cultivators are to be enabled to realise, and continue realising, a favourable price for their production."

(Indian Finance, 23-5-1936)4

Central Jute Committee Established:Functions and Personnel.

In paragraph 65 of their report, the Royal Commission on Agriculture recommended the formation on the lines of the Indian Central Cotton Committee of a Central Jute Committee which would watch over the interests of all branches of the trade from the field to the factory. This recommendation was accepted by the Government of India in principle but the question of giving effect to it had to be postponed mainly on ~~account~~ account of financial stringency. The position has now improved and after consultation with the Governments of Bengal, Bihar and Assam, it has been decided to set up a Central Jute Committee under the control of the Government of India.

Functions of Committee.- The functions of the Committee will be to undertake agricultural, technological and economic research, the improvement of crop forecasting and statistics, the production testing and distribution of improved seed, enquiries and recommendations relating to banking and transport facilities and transport routes and the improvement of marketing in the interests of the jute industry in India. The Committee will also be required to advise the Local Governments concerned on any points which may be referred to it provided that the subject matter of the reference falls within the prescribed functions of the Committee.

Composition of Committee.- Regarding the composition of the Committee, it is desirable that there should be equality of representation between growers and manufacturers subject to a reserve power of nomination by the Governor-~~General~~-in-Council so as to permit of appointments to the Committee to meet the requirements that may vary from time to time. The Committee will accordingly be constituted as follows:-

The Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, ex-Officio President of the Committee; The Agricultural Expert to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; Three persons nominated by the Governor-General-in-Council (Central Government); A representative of the Agricultural Department of the Government of Bengal nominated by that Government; A representative of the ~~am~~ Agricultural Department of Bihar nominated by that Government; A representative of the Co-operative movement in Bengal nominated by the Government of Bengal; Eight persons representing trade interests, viz., 2 members, elected by the Indian Jute Mills' Association, 1 member elected by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, 1 member elected by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce 1 member elected by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, 1 member elected by the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, 1 representative of the Jute Trade nominated by the Government of Bihar, 1 representative nominated by the Government of Assam; Eight persons representing agricultural interests, viz., 6 representatives nominated by the Government of Bengal of whom one would be a representative of the landowners and one may be an official, 1 representative of jute growers nominated by the Government of Assam, who may be an official, 1 representative of jute growers to be nominated by the Government of Bihar.

The duration of the appointment of members of the Council other than those members who are appointed by reason of the office ~~of~~ <sup>or</sup> appointment they hold will be three years.

The Financial Arrangements.- The Secretary of the Committee who will not be a member of it will be appointed by the Governor-General-in Council. The Government of India have decided to finance the Committee for the time being by grants from central revenue. The grants, which will not exceed Rs. 500,000 in any year, will be made each year only to the extent that they can profitably be spent in the year and will naturally depend upon the financial position of the Government of India at the time. The position will however be reviewed after five years, or earlier, if necessary. In 1936-37 a grant of Rs. 250,000 has been sanctioned for the Committee. The programme of work of the Committee will be subject to the approval of the Governor-General-in-Council and the Committee will be required to submit its budget annually ~~xxx~~ to him for sanction.

The Government of India have decided that the Committee should be registered as a Society under the Registration of Societies Act XXI of

1860 with headquarters at Calcutta in order to comply with the requirements of that Act. A meeting of those who will constitute the Committee will be convened as soon as possible after preliminary arrangements have been made to consider the terms of the Memorandum of Association and the Rules and Regulations which have to be filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

("Commerce and Industry", 2-6-1936.)

Increased Indian Tea Exports;

More Labour Employed by Industry in 1934-35. +

The Statesman dated 25-5-36 gives the following information regarding economic and labour conditions in the Indian tea industry from the publication: Indian Tea Statistics, 1934:

Increased Exports.- The total exports by sea of Indian tea during 1934-35, according to Indian Tea Statistics 1934, show an increase by 7 million lb. or 2 per cent as compared with 1933-34, the figures being 325,070,000 lb. and 318,291,000 lb., respectively. Similarly, there was an increase in exports by land, i.e., 22,117,000 lb. in 1934-35 as against 14,441,000 lb. in the previous year.

Imports into India.-The total imports in 1934-35 of foreign tea in India were 3,075,000 lb. or 1,641,000 lb. less than those in 1933-34. The quantity re-exported as foreign tea was 11,400 lb. Foreign tea mainly came from China (1,440,000 lb.) and Ceylon (312,000 lb.) and from other countries (1,123,000 lb.).

Fall in Prices.- The average price per lb. realised at public auctions during the year under review was 8 as.9 p. for tea sold with export rights, and 5 as. 2 p. for tea sold for internal consumption, as compared with 9 as. 7 p. and 4 as. 19 p., respectively, in the preceding year. The decrease in the price of tea sold with exports rights was mainly due to the poor off-take by consuming markets and consequent accumulation of stocks in London.

Increased Labour Force.- The total number of persons employed in the industry in 1934 was returned at 905,555, of which 847,858 were permanently employed and ~~57,697~~ 57,697 temporarily employed. Compared with the figures of the previous year, there was an

increase of 39,995 in permanent employees and 1,057 in temporary hands.

Increased Acreage.- The total area under tea in 1934 was 820,700 acres, as compared with 818,100 acres in the preceding year. Seventy-six per cent of the total area under tea in India lies in Assam, and in the two contiguous districts - Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri of Northern Bengal. The elevated region over the Malabar Coast in Southern India, including Travancore and Cochin States and the British districts of Malabar, Nilgiris and Coimbatore, contain 19 per cent of the total. The total number of plantations as reported was 5,132 in 1934 as against 4,974 in the preceding year.

(The Statesman, 25-5-1936) +

All India Village Industries Association:

Report of Work in 1935. +

At pages 30-32 of the monthly report of this Office for November 1934 reference was made to the starting of the All India Village Industries Association by Mahatma Gandhi and an indication was given of the aims and objects of the Association. The following facts regarding the work of the Association during 1935 is taken from a summary of the report of the Association for 1935 published in the Bombay Chronicle dated 12-5-36.

Minimum Wage Fixed on basis of 8-hour day. - The report points out that the All India Village Industries Association aims at giving every worker employed under its auspices a minimum wage calculated on the basis of eight hours efficient work, sufficient at least for his maintenance in accordance with a scientifically prescribed scale of minimum food requirements. It was therefore laid down as a duty on all connected with the Association to see that the workmen engaged in the industries promoted by them actually received remuneration never less than the scale prescribed, always bearing in mind that as and when circumstances permit there should be a progressive rise in the scale so as to reach a standard enabling a worker's family to be properly maintained out of the earnings of its working members.

Scope of Work.- The Association began its work concentrating attention on the following pressing needs of Indian villages:

Sanitation and Hygiene.- In this connection work was carried on in the way of introducing latrines, scavenging, preparing manure from human excreta, sweeping and repairing roads, building drains and filling up cesspools, cleaning wells and tanks, providing

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drinking water and the economic disposal of carcasses.

Diet.- Information on the nutritive values of various foods was called from experts and broadcasted. Experiments were carried on by the Central Office at headquarters. Such experiments related to the ways of preparing and cooking foods, the potentialities of various food articles already in use, introducing new articles into the diet, and generally improving the diet of the villagers within the means available to them.

Industries.- Incidental to the programme under the second head, were industries connected with food, such as pounding of rice, grinding of wheat, pressing of oil, preparation of 'gur' (jaggery) etc., to which attention was first directed. Following this, encouragement has been given and improvements made in the case of other dying and dead industries.

Method of Work: (a) Propaganda.- Several meetings were held and lectures delivered by those connected with the Association on its programme and the ideas underlying it. Leaflets have been published; charts and posters were made, ~~xx~~ especially, in regard to sanitation and hygiene and diet and exhibited at the time of fairs and conferences. Magic lantern slides and lectures were arranged. Exhibitions of village industries were organised in various parts of the country, especially in connection with the celebration of the Congress Jubilee.

(b) Research.- Inquiries into the condition of village industries have been undertaken in many places, especially in parts of Gujarat and C.P., where intense survey of village industries has been done and reports are being published. It is hoped that these inquiries and surveys will help workers to tackle the problem of village reconstruction more effectively during the coming years.

(c) Marketing.- To enable the villagers to sell their wares at the best prices, the Board has been anxious to formulate a workable marketing scheme. For this purpose a sub-committee was formed to try out in some village or group of villages any scheme they may put forward.

Cadre of Trained Workers.- To enable continuity and steadiness in work, the Board felt the need for a permanent cadre of paid workers in villages. Under this scheme, six workers have been employed. It has not been possible to report ~~xx~~ on the working of this scheme as it has been in operation only for a few months. Arrangements are being made to provide training for village workers. A school has been started in Naganvadi for the purpose and one is being organised in the Punjab.

Finances.- The total income of the Association for 1935 amounted to Rs. 47,950-2-3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> and the expenditure came to Rs. 8,795-8-10, leaving a balance of Rs. 39,154-9-5.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 12-5-1936). +



## Employment and Unemployment.

### Unemployment in Karachi City: Municipal Corporation Committee's Report. +

The Municipal Corporation of Karachi City, Sind, appointed in 1935 a committee of three members with Kazi Khuda Baksh, the Mayor, as Chairman to inquire into unemployment conditions in the city and to report on steps that can be taken in the direction of providing facilities for training in useful and practical occupations, in order to relieve the increasing distress due to unemployment. The following are the principal findings in the report which the Committee has recently submitted:-

Extent and Causes of Unemployment.- Regarding the extent of unemployment in the city, the report states that although no statistics are available indicating the exact extent of unemployment in the city, there is no doubt that unemployment prevails in an acute form among the educated middle class and the lower middle class, and that the city shares in the general economic depression prevalent all over the country and the consequent unemployment and distress. The committee is of the opinion that the principal factors responsible for the present acute unemployment are the faulty system of education, which is more or less of a purely literary character, the decay of old industries and the slow emergence of new ones, the general prevalent depression and the fall in prices of agricultural products.

Industrialisation and Vocational Education.- The committee strongly feels that, in spite of the depression, industrialisation would give greater opportunities to the youth of the city and open out to them new channels of employment. They feel that arrangements should be made to divert boys who are not suited for higher education to receive commercial and industrial training. The system of secondary and higher education in the country requires revision and new orientation. The committee cites the facilities existing in the West to equip boys for some practical avocation in life.

Trade Schools and Technical Training.- The Committee, while pointing out that the co-operation of Government and other public bodies such as the Port Trust and the railway are necessary for the work of relieving unemployment, recommends that a trade school should be opened for teaching two or three suitable trades, which should meet with everyday requirements of both the rich and the poor and involve a modest capital outlay of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5000.

The Committee suggests that a beginning should be made ~~by~~ by giving training in cloth dyeing and printing; leather work; confectionery and bakery; block making and printing and typography. As the institution progresses other trades could be added such as tailoring, fine lace work, dress making, mechanics apprentice course, and automobile apprentice course. Later on, as funds permit, the Corporation should establish a technical school in conjunction with the municipal workshop, a complete scheme for which is already with them.

Apprentice System in Factories.- Another recommendation of the Committee is to have a properly constituted board set up which should invite applications from boys desirous of getting commercial and industrial training and arrange for their admission to such training in local workshops, factories and mills. It should be laid down that every mill, workshop or factory in the city should admit a certain number of apprentices in proportion to their skilled labour and pay such apprentices during the course of their training. The apprentices should also have facilities afforded to them to receive training in the theory of their work.

(The Times of India, 6-5-1936) +

Public Health.

Leprosy Menace in Jharia Mines Area:

Leprosy Survey to be undertaken. +

~~With a view~~ <sup>To</sup> combat the grave leprosy menace in the Jharia Mines Board area, a meeting was held in the first week of May in the Office of the Jharia Mines Board of Health under the chairmanship of Mr. N. Bakshi, I.C.S., the additional Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad. Dr. L. Sen, Chief Sanitary Officer of Asansol Mines Board of Health, and Mr. A.D. Miller, Secretary ~~for~~ <sup>of</sup> Indian Mission to Lepers of Purulia, attended by special invitation.

Sample leprosy Survey.- The most important question discussed at the meeting was the nature and the scope of the leprosy survey to be carried out in this area. The correspondence with the authorities of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (Indian Council) in this connection was put on the table, and it was resolved that the services of Dr. Santra, the propaganda officer of the B.E.L.R.A., should be utilised for this purpose. The question whether the survey should cover the whole of the mining settlement or only a part thereof, was also gone into, and it was decided that for the present, owing to financial stringency, only a sample survey should be carried out at Jharia, Dhanbad, <sup>and</sup> Patrasgarh. The Chief Sanitary Officer, Asansol, kindly promised to depute a trained health visitor, while Mr. Miller also promised to depute another. A suitable number of young men of <sup>the</sup> right type will be appointed, on probation, for training in leprosy work during survey.

Hospital for lepers.- The question of establishing a hospital for lepers was considered and the proposed site at Tetulmari belonging to the Jharia Mines Board of Health was approved.

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It was decided to have 12 beds, ten for males and two for females. It was also decided to have a fully equipped outdoor clinic attached to the indoor hospital.

Travelling Clinic.- The question of reorganisation of the outdoor clinic was gone into with a view to ascertain whether those patients who cannot come to the hospital be served through a travelling clinic or whether they should be brought to the outdoor section of the hospital in a lorry and taken back to their homes. It was resolved that a travelling clinic attached to the hospital be arranged for serving those patients, particularly women and children, who owing to long distance and other socio-economic reasons may not attend the existing clinic. It ~~was~~ also decided to appoint <sup>an</sup> ~~most~~ efficient and experienced medical officer and other staff for treatment ~~of~~ lepers.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 11-5-36). +

Rural Hygiene Conference of Eastern Countries  
to be held in Java in 1937: Preparatory  
Committee's Work in India. +

In 1932 the Indian delegation to the League Assembly, supported by the Chinese delegation, proposed that the Health Organisation of the League of Nations should convene in the East a conference on rural hygiene. The conference, it is stated, will be held in July, 1937, at Java.

Meanwhile, a Preparatory Committee has already started work

in this connection in India. The members of the Committee are Mr. A. B. Hayes, former Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements (President), Prof. C. D. de Langon, former Dean of the Medical Faculty in Batavia, and Dr. E.J. Pampana, member of the health section of the League of Nations. It is the duty of the committee to study the importance of the various problems connected with rural hygiene, especially in eastern countries. Subjects like nutrition, agriculture, education, co-operative movement and rural reconstruction come within its scope.

The committee arrived in India on April 9, 1936, and has visited several provinces including the Bombay Presidency, Delhi, the Punjab and the United Provinces. The Commission will sail for Burma and proceed thence to Siam, Malaya, Dutch East Indies, French Indo-China, Philippine Islands, Ceylon and then return to India.

(The Times of India, Bombay, 6-5-36)+

## Co-operation.

### Progress of Co-operation in Hyderabad State, 1934-35.

Set-back in Rural Areas.- The Hyderabad Government's review on the report for 1934-35 of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, <sup>of H. State</sup> <sup>notes</sup> says that the continued economic depression ~~of~~ the last six years, due to low commodity prices, has further demoralised the movement in rural parts. In addition, ~~to this~~ excessive rainfall affected the cotton and ground-nut crops and the wet crops of some of the districts.

Satisfactory Progress of Urban Societies.- The urban movement, on the other hand, is making rapid strides steadily and satisfactorily, chiefly due to the fact that it is being conducted by the educated classes. The owned capital and reserves of all societies remained steady, which is satisfactory. The Dominion Bank has been affected by the prevailing conditions in as much as it could recover only Rs. 606,371 as against Rs. 1,621,470 last year. However, its total reserve shows an increase of nearly Rs. 100,000 amounting to Rs. 577,268 against Rs. 470,844 last year. It is also satisfactory to note that over-dues of interest have been fully provided for and that the Bank has managed to strengthen its financial position by enhancing the owned capital.

Four New Central Banks.- Four new central banks were registered during the year, making a total of ~~32~~ 39 against 35 last year. It is satisfactory to note that the central banks continued to pursue the policy of conserving ~~almost~~ all the resources and profit to meet the contingent loss on account of bad and doubtful debts. The collections amounted to Rs. 547,818 towards principal and

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Rs. 404,327 towards interest, against Rs. 393,963 principal and Rs. 703,821 interest last year. The present economic depression has greatly affected some of the central banks. The Government have, therefore, appointed a committee of official and non-official members to look into the question and suggest ways and means of improving the financial condition of the banks.

Non-Agricultural Societies.- The number of non-agricultural societies increased from 365 to 400 during the year. The owned capital continued to show progress in shares and reserve fund; it amounted to Rs. 2,169,585 as against Rs. 1,948,098 last year.

Agricultural Sale Societies.- It is satisfactory to note that the agricultural sale societies which made a beginning at Jalna, Raichur, Yadgir, Gulbarga and Sailu during the year with the closest co-operation of the Agricultural Department have been of value to the peasant class, and Government hope that they will continue to make progress. In addition to the cotton sale society at Kopbal, two more cotton sale societies have been started during the year and ~~it is satisfactory to note that~~ they are working satisfactorily.

(The Times of India, 5-5-1936) +

Women and Children.

Children in Bidi Factories in Hyderabad State:

Hyderabad Factory Act to Apply. +

The Government of Hyderabad State has decided, in exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (b) of sub-section 3 of Section 2 of the Hyderabad Factories Act, 1337 Fasli (1928), to class as a "factory" any bidi (country cigarette) manufacturing factory in which not less than 20 persons are simultaneously employed on any one day in the year. A notification issued in April 1936 by the Information Bureau of the State gives the following reasons for this decision:

1. On enquiry by the Factory Department it has been ascertained that the employment of child labour in bidi factories is very general, the proportion of child labour being in some cases as high as one third of the total strength of labour. In these factories, children of tender ages, form a considerable portion of the labour employed. These children are made to work along with adults such long periods as ten to eleven hours a day. Pledging of child labour by parents is prevalent to a considerable extent.

2. Sanitary conditions in the majority of these factories are very unsatisfactory. Employees, who include also a number of very young children, have often to work in crowded ill-ventilated rooms in a suffocating atmosphere of tobacco fumes.

3. Protection of child labour is one of the main objects of enforcing Factory legislation, and abuses relating to employment of children in "Bidi" factories are of a serious character.

(Extracted from a copy of the Notification issued in April 1936 by the Information Bureau, Hyderabad State. A copy of the Notification was forwarded to this Office).+



The Hyderabad Factories Act of 1928 contains the following provisions with regard to the employment of children:

Section 27. - Employment of Children.- With respect to the employment of children in factories the following provisions shall apply:

(a) no child shall be employed in any factory unless he is in possession of a certificate granted under section 7 or section 8 showing that he is not less than 12 years of age and is fit for employment in a factory and while at work carries either the certificate itself or a token giving reference to such certificate;

(b) no child shall be employed in any factory before half-past five o'clock in the morning or after seven o'clock in the evening;

(c) no child shall be employed in any factory for more than six hours in any one day.

(The Hyderabad Factories Act, 1927 (No. 11 of 1928), is included as Hyderabad 1 in the legislative Series, 1928).

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Education.

Overhaul of Educational System:

Central Government's Plans re. Vocational Training. +

The Government of India is planning to reorganise secondary education throughout the country in order to remove the defects arising from the too theoretical and academic courses of studies now in vogue and impart vocational bias to this stage of education. In this connection the Central Government has recently (May 1936) addressed a circular letter to the various local Governments drawing attention to the resolutions on the question passed by the Central Advisory Board of Education, the suggestions made in the Sapru Report on Unemployment and the resolutions of the Inter-University Conference. The provincial authorities, who are in charge of education, are asked to give serious consideration to the various propositions evolved by the educational and administrative experts.

(Leader, 15-5-1936)

Industrial Representation on Central Advisory Board of Education.- In addition to its plans for reorganising secondary education, the Government of India is also contemplating to increase the scope of activities of the recently set up Central Advisory Board of Education. The Board, it is understood is to be strengthened by the addition of representatives of industry. One of these is likely to be Lala Shri Ram of Delhi and another the nominee of the European Chambers of Commerce whose opinion is being sought. Presumably with the same object in view, it is proposed to invite two British experts on vocational training to assist the Board with recommendations on this development of the educational system so that when boys have completed their high

school course they may be offered a greatly improved variety of approaches to useful careers.

Changes in Law Course.- Another scheme that is engaging the attention of the Government of India relates to the changes and re-organisation of Law education in India. This has been considered necessary in view of the growing number of law graduates who are not able to absorb themselves in the legal profession.

(The Statesman, 6-5-1936). +

Remission of Agricultural Debts:

Work of C.P. Debt Conciliation Boards in 1935. +

In recent years, debt conciliation legislation has been passed in several Indian Provinces with a view to accord some measure of relief to the agricultural debtors, and a number of Debt Conciliation Boards have been set up to effect settlements between creditors and debtors. The report issued by the Government of the Central Provinces on the working during 1935 of the ten Debt Conciliation Boards in C.P. and Berar furnishes an indication of the successful manner of the functioning of such Boards. The salient points of the report are given below:

42 per cent of Debts Remitted.- The Boards dealt with debts amounting to Rs. 6.737 million effecting a remission of Rs. 2.818 millions, or 42 per cent of the claims on an average. In Berar, where debts are generally secured, the percentage of remission was not so high as in the Central Provinces. In 497 cases involving claims of Rs. 630,000, certificates were issued declaring that the creditors had unreasonably refused fair settlement.

Difficulties re. Conciliation of Secured Debts.- The conciliation of secured debts, states the report, continued to present difficulties, although all the Boards, particularly those in Berar, did succeed in settling a considerable volume of such debts. This was made possible partly by the informal practice of transferring to some creditors part of the property of debtors whose liabilities were disproportionately heavy.

Demand for More Boards.- The demand for more Boards continues, and the great rush of applications is unmistakable evidence that these boards have met a genuine want and brought appreciable relief to agriculturists.

(The Statesman, 1-5-1936). +

Agricultural Organisation in the Punjab:

Punjab Peasants Bureau Formed. +

To coordinate the activities of peasant groups in the Punjab, a new organisation, the Punjab Peasants Bureau, has been recently formed in the Punjab, with head quarters at Lahore, by prominent socialist workers in the province. The Bureau will collect information relating to the peasant movement in the province and try to publish the same in booklets. It will also publish from time to time bulletins about activities of peasants in the province so that public attention may be focussed on them and a favourable public opinion may be created for the proper and legitimate demands of the peasantry. The headquarters of the Bureau is located at Bradlaugh Hall, Lahore. As a preliminary step a circular letter is being issued to all the peasant workers of the Province, to whatever party they may belong, requesting them to supply information about various <sup>aspects</sup> ~~especially~~ of the peasant movement, past and present.

(The National Call, 28-5-1936). +

Progress of the Peasants Movement:

All India Kisan Committee Bulletin. +

The following information about the progress of the Peasants movement in various parts of India is taken from a bulletin issued in the third week of May by the All India Kisan (Peasants) Committee:

Co-operation with A.I.T.U.C.- The All-India Trade Union

Congress held in Bombay on May 17th and 18th took a great <sup>forward</sup> step ~~in~~ towards

cementing the solidarity of the city workers with the village peasants in their common struggle against British imperialism and capitalists and landlords. The All India Kisan Committee, which<sup>le</sup> presenting its greetings to the A.I.T.U.C., emphasised the urgent necessity of forging a fighting alliance of the peasants and workers to face the hardening partnership of foreign imperialism with the Indian capitalist classes. The Trade Union Congress, on its part, extended its greetings to the peasants of India, welcomed the establishment of Kisans organisations, and offered them "full comradely assistance in their struggle for land and bread."

Functional Representation of Peasants in Indian National Congress.- In the course of a reply to a letter addressed by Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram on behalf of the Mass Contact Committee appointed by the Lucknow Congress, Prof. N.G. Ranga, M.L.A., expressed himself in favour of establishing as <sup>strong a</sup> ~~great~~ contact or alliance as possible between the Congress and the organisations of workers and peasants. It however would do no good to either side to effect complete fusion between them. While the Congress was striving to achieve national independence, the peasants' organisations had to stand up for the class interests of the peasants and workers, while co-operating with the Congress for the attainment of national ideals. Prof. N.G. Ranga then submitted his detailed proposals for giving functional representation to Kisans in the National Congress.

Developments in the Punjab: Debt Relief Committees.- Spurred on by the growing burden of debt, the Punjab Peasants have been rapidly organising themselves in Karja (Debt Relief) Committees to

secure necessary legislation on the subject and to agitate for their economic and political emancipation. Hundreds of these Karja Committees have been formed in many districts during the last few months. As many as 120 such committees have been started in Jullunder District. A Karja conference is to be held at Saktar during the next month and vigorous propaganda is being carried on in the adjoining villages of Jullunder and Hoshiarpur Districts to ensure the success of the conference.

In a letter addressed to other political bodies, the Punjab Congress Socialist Party has pressed for the inclusion of the following peasants' demands, in the coming election manifesto:-

(1) Assessment of land revenue on the income-tax basis; (2) Abolition of agricultural debts of every nature and opposition to attachment of peasant lands and property in <sup>lieu</sup> view of debts. The Punjab Congress Socialist Party has also organised a special peasants' Bureau and appointed Comrade Ujagar Singh as Secretary (Bradugh Hall, Lahore).

Developments in Maharashtra.- The Peasants Enquiry Committee appointed by the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee presented its report on 22-5-36. After analysing the deep-rooted causes of the deteriorating conditions of the peasants, including ~~the~~ <sup>the factors like</sup> catastrophic fall in prices, old methods of farming, reduced fertility of the soil, heavy burden of land revenue, etc., the authors of the report have submitted the following main recommendations: (1) no assessment on uneconomic holdings giving a net income of less than Rs. 250; (2) graduated assessment on holdings yielding higher incomes; (3) reduction in rent, proportionate to

the fall in prices ~~2~~ (80% of land in the provinces ~~have~~ already passed into the hands of 29% of land-holders); (4) appointment of a committee to scale down all debts in view of the fall in prices; ~~and~~ (5) complete moratorium till the peasant is in a position to pay the reduced debts.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 31-5-36) +



Migration.Indian Immigrant Labour in Ceylon: Government  
of Ceylon to appoint Commission of Inquiry. +

In answer to a question in the Ceylon State Council put on 16th May 1936 by Mr. Goonesinghe, a Ceylon labour leader, Sir Graeme Tyrrel, the Chief Secretary, said that the Government of Ceylon was shortly going to appoint a Committee to inquire into the question of Indian labour immigration into Ceylon. This decision is made in response to a resolution adopted some time back by the State Council urging restriction of Indian immigrant labour. The Chief Secretary pointed out that, because of the reduction in employment on estates owing to the rubber and tea restriction schemes, the number of Indian labourers repatriated to India was exceptionally heavy in 1935.

(The Times of India, 18-5-36) +

Indian Labour in Ceylon: Overseas Indian Association's  
Memorandum to Government of India. +

In view of the ~~much~~ outcry raised in Ceylon against the continued immigration of Indian labour into Ceylon and the plans of the Government of Ceylon to appoint a Committee of Inquiry to go into the question and report on the action to be taken, the Overseas Indian Association, Royapettah, Madras, has recently submitted a memorandum to the Government of India, surveying the general position of Indian labour in Ceylon, making out a case for continued emigration to Ceylon, and directing attention to some of the more pressing grievances of Indian labour requiring

remedial action on the part of the Government of India. The main points raised in the memorandum are given below:

Indian Labour indispensable for Ceylon.- However much the Ceylonese may attempt to control and restrict immigration into Ceylon from India, it cannot be denied that the Indian labourer has come to stay in that Island. The impossibility of getting local labour, and, even when it becomes available, its unsuitability for estate work and the fact that the Indian worker <sup>is more efficient</sup> are undeniable. Free immigration of Indians has ~~throughout~~ become essential for the economic life of the Island.

Statistics of Indian labour in Ceylon.-At present <sup>there are</sup> more than 800,000 Indians in ~~the~~ Island, of whom nearly 700,000 are Indian labourers and their dependants. During 1934, 159,398 Indians migrated to Ceylon of whom 140,607 were labourers mostly from Trichinopoly, Salem and Tanjore, while emigrants from Ceylon totalled only 54,790. The phenomenal rise in immigration in 1934 as compared with the previous years, except perhaps 1927, is due to a rise in the price of tea and rubber, ~~though temporary~~. The demand for recruitment was so great that the labour requirements of estates was raised from a flat rate of  $1\frac{1}{8}$  labourers per acre to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  labourers per acre. Ceylon would require at least 50,000 emigrants in a year to replace those returning to India and ~~the~~ <sup>its</sup> labour requirements are likely to increase when the prosperity of the ~~xx~~ tea and rubber industries is fairly established and the acreage of plantations increases. To this extent at least, immigration will have to be encouraged.

Government of India's duty to ensure better labour conditions.- The problem is not only one of safeguarding the interests of the nationals of India who may in future years migrate to Ceylon, but also the interests of those who have already settled there. As long as Ceylon needs Indian Labour, - and without it she cannot get on in spite of the protestations of the Ceylonese - and immigration is permitted under the Indian Immigration Act, the Government of India will be perfectly justified in insisting on better conditions of labour. The memorandum ~~then~~ directs attention to the grievances of Indian labour in respect of methods of recruitment, minimum wages, lack of inspection of estates, enforced separation of workers from their families, chronic indebtedness, housing conditions and education of children.

Recruitment ~~xx~~ by Kanganies.- In spite of the Indian Immigration Act, and the Rules framed thereunder, the system of recruitment by kanganies is still occasioning a number of abuses and is unsatisfactory.

Minimum Wages.- The Minimum Wage Ordinance lays down a clear obligation on the part of the employer to give eight hours' work in the day and six days' work in the week and also guarantees the employee a minimum wage.

The Controller of Labour and the Agent to the Government of India should carry on investigations into the cost of living and examine how far the wages at a particular time are above or below the cost of living. From ~~the~~ reports published, it is seen that the adverse condition of the tea and rubber industries necessitated reduction even in the minimum wage; and if the wage is to be dependant on this factor as well, it is a misnomer to call it a minimum wage.

Provision for Sickness, Old-Age, Unemployment etc.- The minimum wage rates do not provide for sickness, old-age and other unforeseen expenses. To that extent the minimum wage rates do not meet the absolute needs of the labourers. This point needs examination as labourers who are incapacitated either by old age or sickness are left unprovided for. The Government of India must urge that the wages should be increased by at least 10 per cent and this increase should be set apart as insurance for unemployment, sickness or old age till such time as unemployment relief, old age pension and sickness insurance will be accepted as legitimate charges on the estates.

Inspection of Estates.- In view of the number of Ordinances affecting labour, including the recent Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, the need for inspection of all the estates at least once a year should be recognised to ensure that the laws are being strictly observed. At present, the only way of approaching the Agent for redress of grievance, is by means of petitions. The number of petitions in 1933 and 1934 were 2,468 and 1,473 respectively. It is impossible for the Agent to investigate all these cases, and therefore, it is suggested that an Inspectorate should be created at the rate of at least one Inspector for 200 estates, so that either the Agent or the Inspector can at least pay one visit to every estate during the year. Periodical inspections will prevent the abuses existing in connection with payment of minimum wages, harrassment of labourers by kangannies and estate staff, etc.

Separation from Families.- Though the planting community seems to be fully aware that the separation of families is contrary to public policy, the practice seems to be still going on in some estates and often when a husband is discharged the wife is detained on the pretext she is unwilling to accompany the husband. The Government of Ceylon have not moved in the matter and enacted a provision such as that which exists in the Labour Code of Malaya by which separation of families or any attempt to separate them is made an offence. The Government of India will be perfectly justified in demanding immediate enactment of such a law.

Financial Help to Labourers to Prosecute Labour Cases.- The Agent to the Government of India does not generally undertake prosecutions of cases on behalf of labourers or give financial assistance <sup>The memorandum demands that at least</sup> in cases where the offences are against Labour Ordinances and the Controller of Labour for some reason fails to take the action warranted by the gravity of the offence or even when action is taken the result is unsatisfactory, the Agent should

be free to render assistance.

Indebtedness to be Combated through Co-operative Societies.-  
~~The~~ Indian Labour in Ceylon is always in a state of chronic indebtedness. The basis on which Minimum Wage is fixed, which does not enable the labourer to save anything to meet his other wants, therefore requires further examination. Thrift and Better-living Societies should be organised in each estate. In every estate there should be a co-operative credit society. The Government of Ceylon should realise their moral obligation to provide the necessary staff for organising and supervising the working of these Societies. Besides Credit Societies, organisation of Co-operative Stores for labourers, one in each estate or one for two or three estates as the case may be, will prove a great boon. The Government of India should put pressure on the Government of Ceylon to undertake this work seriously.

Right to Repatriation. - The memorandum demands that though the rules regarding repatriation are being interpreted liberally, it is necessary to lay down statutorily that every immigrant unwilling to stay in the Island for any reason, should be repatriated.

Housing Problems.- Every estate should be compelled by law to provide adequate housing accommodation of an approved design. Ordinance No.27 of 1921 empowers the Principal Medical Officer to make rules with the approval of the Government, for the location of cooly lines, plans for their construction, etc. for provision of sanitary conveniences such as latrines, drainage and water-supply. It is not known how far this Ordinance is being enforced. This, with the Housing Ordinance, will help a great deal to better the lot of the labourer. The Government of Ceylon should by rule or Ordinance insist on the estates fulfilling the minimum requirements suggested by the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

Health and Medical Wants.- The Government of India should call for a report every year from the Government of Ceylon whether deaths due to preventable diseases cannot be checked by taking suitable measures and how far such measures have been effective. The enactment of a Maternity Benefit Act and provision for infant care are reforms long overdue. If Ordinance No. 9 of 1912, dealing with Medical wants is not sufficient to enforce provision of adequate medical and sanitary facilities, the Government of Ceylon should not hesitate to promulgate another Medical Wants Ordinance making it obligatory on the estates to provide necessary medical wants.

Needs of Children: Education, hours of work, etc.- Out of 1,474 estates, only 587 estates maintain schools for the children of the labourers. A large number of children of school-going age are not receiving the benefits of education. Every estate should be required to maintain one or more schools and parents should be induced to send their children to the same. A free mid-day meal

may prove attractive. As children above 10 years of age can be employed in the estates, automatically the school-leaving age becomes ten. It should be raised to twelve by prohibiting the employment of children earlier. It is also necessary to consider if children between 12 and 16 years should be required to work for eight hours and whether it is not necessary to provide further educational facilities for them till the age of 16 years. At any rate, a reduction in the hours of work in their case is called for.

Government Deputation for Ceylon.- Finally, the memorandum demands that the deputation which the Government of India intends to send to Malaya to study labour conditions there, should be instructed to visit Ceylon also for a similar purpose. In support of this request, the memorandum points out that the questions of emigration to Ceylon and Malaya stand on the same footing and are governed by the same set of rules framed under the Indian Immigration Act.

(The Hindu, 5-5-1936) +

Zanzibar Indians and Clove Legislation:

Mr. G.S. Bozman's Mission.

The Government of India has deputed Mr. G.S. Bozman, I.C.S. to proceed to Zanzibar as an "observer" on behalf of the Government of India and to help the Indian community there in connection with the Binder inquiry into the working of the clove legislation.

The Binder inquiry is not expected to exceed three weeks, and Mr. Bozman will be returning to India immediately after the conclusion of the inquiry. Mr. Bozman will help the Zanzibar Indian Association, which is the only recognised body that has been speaking in the name of the Indian community <sup>in Zanzibar,</sup> to watch the results of the working of the clove legislation.

While proceeding to Zanzibar and also on his return journey, Mr. Bozman will probably meet Mr. Pandya and other representatives of the Indian community in Kenya and have discussions with them before returning to India, sometime in July 1936.

(The Times of India, Bombay,  
27-5-1936). +

GENERAL

India's New High Commissioner in London.:Sir Firoze Khan Noon Succeeds Sir B.N.Mitra. +

A Government of India press communiqué dated 8-5-1936 announces that Malik Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Minister, Punjab Government, has been appointed the High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom, in succession to Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, when the latter vacates office.

Malik Sir Firoz Khan Noon was educated at the Aitchison Chiefs College, Lahore, and at Wadham College, Oxford, and was called to the bar from the Inner Temple, London. He practised at the Bar for nine years, when he was appointed, Minister, Punjab Government, in January, 1927, an office which he has continuously held up till now. He was the youngest Minister appointed in India, and has been elected member of the Punjab Legislative Council, from 1920 onwards. Sir Firoz Khan Noon is the first non-official from public life to be appointed High Commissioner for India, and is the first Muslim to be appointed to this office.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-5-1936) +

Congress President's Advocacy of Socialism:

Protest Manifesto issued by Businessmen. +

The advocacy of a socialistic form of Government for India by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President of the Indian National Congress, in his presidential address at the Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress in April 1936 had created apprehensions in the minds of a certain section of Indian businessmen, and these apprehensions were given expression to some time after the Congress session in a statement issued by Mr. A.D.Shroff, Vice-President of the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay.

On 15-5-1936, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave an important interview to the press in Bombay, in the course of which he explained his views regarding socialism. The interview began with a reference to Mr. A.D.Shroff's criticisms of his presidential address at the Lucknow Session of the Congress. The following is a brief account of the interview:-

Giving his views on expropriation, Pandit Nehru said that people with property were practising exploitation, If this system meant the exploitation of one individual by another then it should be changed lock, stock and barrel. If a man of private property did not want to exploit another man, he would have no complaint against such a person. The zamindari and capitalist systems were bound to collapse. ~~As to when,~~ that would happen, was a question of time. Regarding expropriation of private property, he said that there could be a mutual agreement between a Socialist State and the Capitalists and landed classes. They could be compensated to some extent, though not in full. But there might be upheavals which could not be checked by human power and the present social order was tending in that direction. Everything would have to be re-arranged all over again, when the new order came into being. Socialism was the embodiment of complete democracy and in a Socialist State no one would have any grievance against another.

Asked about the difference between Communism and Socialism, he said that so far as the final objective was concerned, there was not much difference between Socialism and Communism. In

Communism, each person would take what he needed, while in Socialism one would get according to what he did. He did not agree that Socialism would result in inertia and laziness, because the masses were assured of security. He quoted the example of Soviet Russia. The object of Socialism and Communism was to ~~bring~~ bring about a change in human habits, instincts, desires and urges. The whole atmosphere should be changed in this direction.

To a question regarding the Socialist programme in the country, he said that he wanted to win over the Congress and the country to the Socialist programme. But he had no desire to do anything by way of forcing the issue. It would create many difficulties in the way of the Congress working as a joint front. But the economic problem in India could not be solved, he thought, by any other way than by Socialism. The greatest problem in India was the land problem. But no problem could be solved unless the country had political power. In the fight for political power, he wanted the co-operation of all elements in the country that wanted political power for India. All the anti-imperialist forces should co-operate, though they might be opposed to his views on Socialism. There was nothing behind the scenes on this question and that was why he openly gave expression to his views in his presidential address at Lucknow. Except for his speech, there was not the faintest suspicion of Socialism in any of the Congress resolutions at Lucknow.

On the political issue, there was a desire to strengthen the Congress by bringing in mass elements by taking up the economic demands of the masses. Referring to class-war, Pandit Nehru said that, when a Socialist talked of it, he talked of something that he did not desire to exist. The Socialist talked of a thing that already existed in the present order of Society, in some form or other. Giving his views on industrialisation, he said that he advocated industrialisation in its broad theory, but that did not mean that he agreed to all that an individual industrialist did. Though industrialism brought with it many evils, it would help the Socialists to reach their goal. (The Bombay Chronicle, 17-5-36)

The views expressed by Pandit Nehru in the course of the interview, as also in the course of several public addresses at Bombay, occasioned protests from certain sections of businessmen in the City. On 19-5-36 a joint manifesto over the signatures of 21 businessmen, including Sir Naoroji Saklatwala, Sir Purushottamdas Thakurdas, Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, Sir Phiroz Sethna, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Sir Shapoorji Billimoria, Sir Homi Mody and Messrs. V.N. Chandavarkar, Walchand Hirachand, Mathradas Vissamji, ~~and~~ K.R.P. Shroff and A.D. Shroff ~~it~~ was issued giving expression to these protests.



In the course of the manifesto, the signatories say:

"Mr. Jawaharlal in his presidential speech at the Lucknow Congress said:

"I see no way of ending the poverty, the vast unemployment, the degradation and the subjection of the Indian people except through Socialism. That involves a vast revolutionary change in our political and social structure, ending the vested interests in the land and industry as well as the feudal autocratic Indian states system. That means ending private property except in a restricted sense and replacement of the present profits system by a higher ideal of co-operative service."

"This has been described as a new x civilisation and illustrated by what is happening in Soviet Russia today. We have no hesitation in declaring that we are unequivocally opposed to ideas of this kind being propagated, as in the present conditions of widespread economic misery in the country they are likely to find a ready, though unthinking, reception. We are convinced that there is a grave risk of the masses in the country being misled by such doctrines into believing that all that is required for the improvement of their wellbeing is the total destruction of the existing social and economic structure. The inculcation of any such ideas into the minds of the unthinking millions of this country would lead to a situation, wherein, not only the institution of private property, ~~by~~ but peaceful observance of religion and even personal safety are likely to be jeopardised.

"The business community and the propertied classes of this country have played not a small part in the furtherance of the national movement for the achievement of political freedom and have supported all practical measures for the amelioration of the lot of the toiling masses of this country and for the correction of inequalities in wealth by taxation on the basis of ability to pay. Whenever the larger interests of the country have demanded alterations in the existing laws, they have co-operated with other sections of the community in bringing about the necessary changes in consonance with the needs of the times.

"But reforms in order to remove the known evils are quite

different from a destructive and subversive programme which declares to every man with a stake in the country whether small or large that it is wrongful for him to own his business or property and that he is rendering no service to the community which would justify him in the expectation of legitimate protection of his interests by the state. We also consider it necessary to declare it as our firm opinion that such <sup>an</sup> ideal, apart from creating disorders in course of time, cannot but result in ~~xxx~~ causing further divisions in this country and impeding the achievement of the common purpose of all patriotic Indians, namely, self-government for India."

(The Bombay Chronicle, 21-5-36)

Commenting on the controversy, the Bombay Chronicle of 21-5-36 in the course of a leading article says:

A few businessmen of Bombay and the local Anglo-Indian papers have been making an attempt to scare away the business community as a whole from the Congress by misrepresenting its policy and that of its present President. The latest shape the attempt has taken is the manifesto issued by twenty-one businessmen in Bombay. The twenty-one businessmen command influence in Bombay, but that they do not represent the business community as a whole has been amply demonstrated during the President's visit. The present Congress policy and programme are not socialistic, except in a broad humanitarian sense, nor has Pandit Jawaharlal made an attempt to impose upon the Congress a Socialist programme. He has rather repeatedly declared that Socialism is not the immediate issue before the country, that he has no desire to make it the immediate issue, and that the most urgent problem before the Congress is to secure independence and that he would strive his utmost to concentrate on this issue the united efforts of all. Most businessmen have supported the Congress policy and will continue to do so.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 21-5-36)

1427/36

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for June 1936.

(N.B: Every section of the Report may be taken out separately).

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References to the I.L.O.

A communique re. items on the agenda of the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference (issued by this Office on 3-6-1936) is published by the following:- The Hindustan Times, The Statesman, The Hindu and the Times of India, <sup>dated</sup> 4-6-1936, the Bombay Chronicle, dated 5-6-1936, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 6-6-1936, "Commerce and Industry", dated 9-6-1936 and "Kaukab-i-Hind", Lucknow, dated 12-6-1936.

... ..

A communique re. the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference (issued by the Government of India) is published in the Indian Textile Journal, dated 15-6-1936 and the May 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

... ..

The March and April 1936 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a short note giving the personnel of the Indian workers' delegation to the 20th I.L. Conference and the agenda of this year's session.

... ..

A British Official Wireless message dated 4-6-1936 from Rugby re. the British delegation to the Conference is published by the Hindu dated 6-6-1936.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 2-6-1936 from Rome re. cancellation of the Italian workers' delegation to the 20th I.L. Conference is published by the following: the Statesman, the Times of India and the Bombay Chronicle, dated 4-6-1936.

... ..

The Hindustan Times dated 4-6-1936 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 7-6-1936, publish an article contributed by the Director of this Office on the 20th session of the I.L. Conference.

... ..

The Hindustan Times dated 8-6-1936 publishes a picture of Mr. R.W. Fulay, M.L.C., Indian Workers' Delegate to the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference.

... ..

A photograph of some of the members of the Indian Delegation to the 20th I.L. Conference was published by the Times of India, dated 25-6-1936, and the Hindustan Times, dated 29-6-1936.

... ..

The Hindustan Times, dated 1-7-1936, publishes the photograph of Mr. Bramsnaes, the President of this year's session of the I.L. Conference

... ..

The Hindustan Times, dated 1-7-1936, publishes a photograph of the 20th I.L. Conference in session.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 4-6-1936 from Geneva re. the opening of the I.L. Conference on that date was published by the following: the Hindustan Times, dated 5-6-1936 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Leader, the Times of India, the Statesman, the Bombay Chronicle, and the National Call, dated 6-6-1936.

... ..

A communique re. the Director's Report to the Conference (issued by this Office on 6-6-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times, dated 7-6-1936, the National Call, dated 8-6-1936, the Times of India, dated 12-6-1936, the Leader, dated 13-6-1936, and the Bombay Chronicle, dated 15-6-1936.

... ..

A second communique on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 9-6-1936) is published by the following: the National Call, dated 12-6-1936, the Leader, dated 13-6-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle and the Times of India, dated 25-6-1936.

... ..

A third communique on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 12-6-1936) is published by "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 16-6-1936.

... ..

A fourth communique on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 15-6-1936) is published in the following: the Hindustan Times, dated 16-6-1936, the National Call, dated 17-6-1936, the Times of India, dated 19-6-1936 and the Hindu and the Leader, dated 20-6-1936.

... ..

The Statesman, dated 3-6-1936, publishes a summary of the Director's Report to the 20th session of the I.L. Conference.

... ..

"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 9-6-1936, publishes a review of the Director's Report.

... ..

The Leader, Allahabad, dated 15-6-1936, publishes a leading article under the caption; "The Armament Race". The article, quoting extensively from the Director's Report, directs attention to the hollowness of industrial prosperity based on warlike preparations and asserts that conditions are becoming more and more favourable to the outbreak of international anarchy.

... ..

The Hindu, Madras, dated 12-6-1936, publishes a leading article on the Director's Report. Pointing out that "Mr. Butler's impartiality and regard for facts cannot be questioned", the article directs attention to the hollowness of industrial prosperity achieved as ~~xx~~ the result of increased production of war materials. It also points out that the unemployment figures given in the report do not include those of India and China, "which together account for nearly half the world's population and probably for more than half the world's unemployed". Regarding the plea made in the Report for unfettered resumption of international trade, the article points out that economic nationalism or "swadeshi" is an article of faith with vast undeveloped countries like India.

... ..

The Times of India, dated 25-6-1936 publishes an article under the caption: "Social and Economic Problems of the World"; the article is based on the observations on the present economic position made by the Director in his Report to the 20th I.L.Conference.

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 21-6-1936, publishes a long and appreciative article bringing out the salient features of the Director's Report to the 20th I.L.Conference.

... ..

A Reuter's message, dated 13-6-1936, from Geneva re. the speech of Mr. Sodhbans on the Director's Report is published by the following: the Hindustan Times and the Hindu, dated 14-6-1936, the Times of India dated 15-6-1936, and the Leader, dated 16-6-1936.

... ..



A Reuter's message, dated 15-6-1936, from Geneva re. the speech of Mr. R.W. Fulay on the Director's Report, is published by the following: the Hindustan Times and the Hindu, dated 16-6-1936, the Times of India, dated 17-6-1936 and the Leader, dated 18-6-1936.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 15-6-1936 from Geneva re. Sir B.N.Mitra's speech on the Director's Report, is published by the following: the Hindu, dated 16-6-1936, the Times of India, the Hindustan Times, and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 17-6-1936, and the Leader, dated 18-6-1936.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, Bombay, dated 18-6-1936, publishes an editorial note on Sir B.N. Mitra's speech referred to above. The speech is characterised as "irresponsible and obnoxious".

... ..

A communique re. Sir B.N. Mitra's speech on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 24-6-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times, dated ~~26~~ 27-6-1936 and the Times of India, dated 29-6-1936.

... ..

The Leader dated 28-6-1936 publishes an editorial article commenting on the above speech. The article takes exception to the remarks made by Sir Bhupendra regarding the ventilation of grievances against the Government of India by Indian employers' and workers' delegates at the Geneva Labour Conference. The article maintains that such ventilation of ~~gk~~ grievances is not irregular and states that it was "highly objectionable on the part of the Government of India's representative to question the right of the workers and employers to place their grievances before the Conference".

... ..

A communique re. Mr. H.B. Butler's speech in reply to the debate on the Director's Report is published by the Hindustan Times, dated 28-6-1936.

... ..

The Leader, Allahabad, dated 17-6-1936, publishes an article under the caption: "The I.L.O.", in which, while handsome tribute is paid to the work of the I.L.O. and the belief is expressed that Indian labour has benefited greatly by its association with the Organisation, doubts are raised about its future. It is pointed out that the I.L.O. is only an adjunct of the League and the failure of the League will adversely affect the I.L.O.

... ..

The Hindu, dated 5-6-1936, publishes a leading article on the 20th session of the I.L.Conference. The article points attention to certain practical difficulties in the way of the adoption by India of a 40-hour week, and states:-

"So far as the question of the forty-hour week is concerned, the justification for it is two-fold. The introduction of a forty-hour week is advocated on the ground that in the event of its adoption, work will be available for more people and that those who already had work will get a quota of extra leisure which is bound to do them good. One small difficulty there is in the way of this argument being accepted. The advocates of a forty-hour week do not favour any reduction in the wages of the workers as a result of the change. In other words, the change should be brought about, they would seem to suggest, at the expense of some other factor of production or of the consumer — a suggestion which, in practice, may prove none too easy to adopt."

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle dated 10-6-1936 publishes a short report of four Preparatory Technical Conferences held under the auspices of the I.F.T.U. at Paris from 8 to 11-5-1936 to further the 40-hour week proposal. It is stated that the I.L.O. was represented at these Conferences by the Director and two other officials.

... ..

A communique on the Grey-Blue Report on Reduction of Hours in the Textile Industry (issued by this Office on 19-5-1936) is published by the Hindu, dated 28-5-1936 and the May 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

... ..

The Statesman, New Delhi, dated 14-6-1936 publishes a leading article on the 40-hour week. The failure of the League to maintain peace, it is pointed out, should not be allowed to obscure the solid achievements of the I.L.O. in alleviating human suffering and ensuring social justice. Regarding the proposal for a 40-hour week, it is of opinion that in the present conditions of economic nationalism the proposal is premature. It says:

"Competition ~~is~~ such that there is no room for all-round increases in wage-bills, which is what the 40-hour week would involve. The argument that reduction in working hours leads to greater efficiency and higher output may be true up to a point, but it overlooks the fact that in the more progressive States today the hours of work are neither excessive nor onerous. In the course of time the hours of factory work will no doubt tend to become less and already the 5-day week is within sight. But such changes must come gradually and be adapted to economic conditions".

... ..

The Times of India, Bombay, dated 11-6-1936, publishes a leading article on the 40-hour week proposal. The article says that there is little chance of the Conference adopting a Convention embodying the 40-hour week and asserts that the opposition of employers is not due to obstructionist or selfish reasons. While approving the principle for humanitarian reasons, it is of opinion that economic facts make its immediate translation into practice inadvisable. It blames the I.L.O. for allowing its zeal for the betterment of labour to out-run its discretion.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 17-6-1936, and the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, dated 15-6-1936, publish an article on the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry. The article was contributed by this Office.

... ..

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 27-6-1936, publishes an article under the caption: "The 40-hour Week". The article points out that a 40-hour week will have serious effects on Western countries and that, as far as India is concerned, such a change will spell disaster to both employers and workers. Sir H.M. Mehta's arguments opposing the move are justified in the article.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 24-6-1936 publishes an article under the caption: "World's Industrial Parliament! What the I.L.Conference has done and is doing", contributed by the Director of this Office.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 9-6-1936 from Geneva re. Sir Homi Mehta's speech opposing a 40-hour week for the textile industry is published by the following: the Statesman and the Hindu, dated 10-6-1936, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Bombay Chronicle and the Times of India, dated 11-6-1936, the Leader, dated 12-6-1936 and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 16-6-1936.

... ..

A note correcting certain inaccuracies in the speech of Sir Homi Mehta on the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry is published by the Hindustan Times, dated 17-6-1936, the Leader, dated 19-6-1936, and Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 23-6-1936.

A note to the same effect is published by the Times of India, dated 15-6-1936.

... ..

A communique re. Sir Homi Mehta's speech on the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry (issued by this Office on 16-6-1936) is published by the following: "Swarajya, dated 19-6-1936, the Hindustan Times, the Times of India, the Leader, and the Hindu, dated 20-6-1936, the Bombay Chronicle, dated 22-6-1936, the Statesman, dated 24-6-1936, "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 23-6-1936, and the Indian Labour Journal, dated 28-6-1936.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, Bombay, dated 12-6-1936, publishes two editorial notes on the 40-hour week proposal. Re. Sir H.Mehta's opposition to the proposal, the paper observes:

"Sir Hormusji Mehta talked of efficiency, the plight of the textile industry and the interests of workers, which all depended on the 54-hour week being maintained — in theory! This cynical complacency is typical of capitalism. But we are glad Mr. Fulay exposed the assertions of Sir Hormusji Mehta".

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 14-6-1936, publishes a leading article under the caption: "Paris and Geneva: The Forty Hour Week". The article refutes the arguments advanced by Sir H. Mehta against the 40-hour week proposal, directs attention to the French "New Deal Bill" initiated by M. Leon Blum, and warns the reactionary elements in the I.L.Conference against goading workers to desperation.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 9-6-1936 from Geneva re. speeches of Sir Homi Mehta and Mr. R.W. Fulay on the proposal for a 40-hour week, and the gloomy prospects of the Convention on the subject is published by the following: the Hindu, dated 10-6-1936, the Hindustan Times, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Bombay Chronicle, dated 11-6-1936, and the Leader, dated 12-6-1936.

... ..

A communique (issued by this Office on 17-6-1936) re. the speech of Mr. R.W. Fulay on the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry, is published by the following: the Hindustan Times and the Times of India, dated 22-6-1936, the Hindu, dated 23-6-1936, the Bombay Chronicle dated 25-6-1936, and the Indian Labour Journal, dated 21-6-1936.

... ..

The Times of India, dated 18-6-1936, publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Hot Air at Geneva", criticising Mr. Fulay's speech on the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry. The article states that unemployment in India is not so bad as it is in other countries; that dissatisfaction <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ more apparent than real and that Indian labour leaders <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ mere agitators. The article also refers to Sir Homi Mehta's references to the decline of the Indian textile industry as an argument against the 40-hour week. In this connection it is remarked:-

"As we remarked the other day, the Labour Office report on a shorter working week for the textile industry was largely based on arguments propounded by international organisations of textile workers and ran counter to the views expressed by the International Cotton Federation. The plan ignores local differences and conditions affecting textile industries in various parts of the world. It is only the theorist who can believe that arrangements for the working of industries can be applied universally. This is the root trouble with the International Labour Office. Most of its plans show zeal outrunning discretion. It is time that the countries affiliated to the Office showed as much realism about its weaknesses as they are beginning to show about the political side of the League of Nations, of which the Labour Office is a part".

... ..

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 20-6-1936, publishes an editorial article on the above speech. The article criticises certain inaccuracies in Mr. R.W. Fulay's statements regarding unemployment in India.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 18-6-1936, re. postponement of consideration of the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry is published in the following: the Hindu, dated 19-6-1936, the Statesman, the Times

of India, the Bombay Chronicle, and the Hindustan Times, dated 20-6-36, and the Leader and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 21-6-1936.

... ..

The Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta, dated 21-6-1936, publishes a short editorial note deploring the decision of the I.L. Conference to postpone consideration of the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry to next year.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 22-6-1936, publishes an editorial note under the caption: "The Forty-Hour Week" on the postponement of consideration by the I.L.Conference of the question of the 40-hour week. The note deplores the hostile attitude of certain Governments and employers towards the question, and congratulates France on its recent decision to enforce a 40-hour week.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 19-6-1936 from Geneva re. the decision of the Conference to refer the 40-hour week proposal for the iron and steel industry, to a drafting committee, is published by the following:- the Hindu, dated 20-6-1936, the Bombay Chronicle, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Pioneer, the Statesman and the Hindustan Times, dated 21-6-1936, and the Times of India, and the Leader, dated 22-6-1936.

... ..

The June 1936 issue of Railway Labour, the organ of the E.B.Railway Indian Employees' Association, Calcutta, publishes a communique issued by this Office on 25-4-1936 on the I.L.O. Blue Report on holidays with pay.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 23-6-1936 from Geneva re. Mr. Chelvapathy ~~Chetty~~ Chetty's speech in support of holidays with pay is published by the following: the Hindu, dated 24-6-1936, the Hindustan Times, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, and the Bombay Chronicle, dated 25-6-1936, the Statesman, dated 26-6-1936, and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 30-6-1936.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1936 from Geneva re. the adoption of a Draft Convention re. holidays with pay, is published by the Bombay Chronicle and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 26-6-1936.

... ..

The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 28-6-1936 publishes an editorial note on the above. The note commends Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty for supporting the Draft Convention and recommends that the Government of India should ratify it.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 26-6-1936 publishes a short editorial note commending Mr. Chetty's support of the scheme of holidays with pay. The note recommends that the Government of India should ratify the Convention.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1936 from Geneva re. the speeches of Mr. R.W. Fulay and Sir Homi Mehta, on the resolution on "Dumping" is published by the Bombay Chronicle, dated 26-6-1936 and the National Mail, dated 27-6-1936.

... ..

The Hindu of 25-6-1936, the Times of India and the Hindustan Times of 26-6-1936, the Leader dated 27-6-1936 and the Indian Labour Journal Nagpur, dated 28-6-1936 also publish the message. In addition, it is



stated that the Conference adopted a Draft Convention re. holidays with pay and that the session came to a close on 24-6-1936.

... ..

A Reuter's message, dated 14-6-1936, from Geneva re. Egypt's decision to join the I.L.O., is published by the Hindustan Times, dated 15-6-1936 and the Leader, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Bombay Chronicle and the Times of India, dated 16-6-1936.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle dated 28-6-1936 publishes a news item dated 17-6-1936 received by the United Press of India from London to the effect that the I.L.O. has invited Egypt to join the Organisation and that the Egyptian Government has expressed willingness to accept membership.

... ..

~~The Hindustan Times, dated 28-6-1936, publishes a news item emanating from Pondicherry to the~~ The Bombay Chronicle dated 29-6-1936 publishes an editorial note on the above news item. It states:

"The Organisation may be capitalist-ridden, but it has certainly made consistent efforts to ameliorate, to some extent, the condition of labour in the countries that are its members. If it has not done more or, if there are certain "member-states", the workers of which have been deprived even of the reforms adopted by the I.L.O. Conferences from time to time, the responsibility rests entirely with Governments concerned".

... ..

The issue dated 6-6-1936 of the Financial News, Bombay, publishes a note under the caption "International Labour Questions" published in its "Topics of the Week" columns. The note pays a compliment to the I.L.O. on the record of good work that it has established, ~~in the past.~~

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 25-6-1936 from Brussels re. legislation regarding minimum wages, holidays with pay, 40-hour week, etc. adopted by the Belgian Government, is published by the Statesman and the Hindustan Times, dated 26-6-1936.

A Reuter's message, dated 26-6-1936 from Paris on French Labour legislation re. the 40-hour week, holidays with pay, etc. is published by the following: the Statesman, and the Hindustan Times, dated 27-6-1936, the Bombay Chronicle, dated 28-6-1936, and the Leader, dated 29-6-1936.

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 28-6-1936, publishes an editorial article under the caption: "An Object Lesson to Indian Workers" on the promulgation of legislation in France and Belgium regarding holidays with pay, 40-hour week, etc. It is pointed out that such legislation is the result of pressure brought to bear on the Government by the workers. The article advises Indian workers that unless they also adopt the methods adopted by the French and Belgian workers, India is not likely to ratify any more Draft Conventions or to fully implement even some of the ratified conventions.

... ..

The March and April combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a communique issued by this Office on 14-4-1936 on "Labour Conditions in French India: Complaint to the I.L.O."

... ..

The Hindustan Times, dated 28-6-1936 publishes a news item emanating from Pondicherry to the effect that French Labour Laws have been made applicable to French India. It will be recalled that this action has followed certain complaints made to the I.L.O. on the backwardness of labour standards in French India.

... ..

The Industrial Bulletin dated 15-6-1936 ~~publishes~~ (issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay), publishes a note on the Bill prohibiting employment of women on underground work in mines, recently

passed by Belgium. The adoption of the Bill, it is stated, will enable Belgium to ratify the I.L.Convention on the subject.

... ..

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 20-6-1936, publishes a short editorial note on the announcement of the Government of India that employment of women in underground work in mines will be prohibited from 1-7-1937. \* The note remarks that this reform will affect the industry adversely by increasing cost of production, as male labour is costlier than female labour.

... ..

A communique re. the 76th Session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 11-6-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times, dated 12-6-1936, the Indian Labour Journal, dated 14-6-1936, the National Call, the Hindu, the Bombay Chronicle, and the Times of India, dated 15-6-1936, and the Railway Herald dated 25-6-1936.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, Bombay, dated 19-6-1936, publishes an editorial note applauding the decision of the Governing Body to place the question of the workers' right of free association on the agenda of the next year's session of the I.L.Conference.

... ..

The Leader, Allahabad, dated 17-6-1936, publishes a note giving certain details of the Maritime Session of the I.L.Conference to be held in October 1936.

... ..

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for April 1936, publishes a note explaining that the Government of India are collecting opinions on the proposal of the I.L.O. to raise the minimum age for employment at sea from 14 to 15. The Chamber has

approved of the suggestion.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 1-6-1936, publishes a news item sent by air mail from Geneva giving figures of unemployment taken out from the unemployment statistics collected by the I.L.O.

... ..

"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 2-6-1936, publishes an article entitled: "Industrial Competition between the East and the West" contributed by the Director of this Office. In the course of the article several references are made to the ideals and work of the I.L.O.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 10-6-1936, publishes an article entitled: "Urgent Need for Social Insurance in India" in the course of which attention is directed to the work of the I.L.O. in the sphere of social insurance. The article was contributed by this Office.

... ..

The Times of India, dated 25-6-1936, publishes an article under the caption: "League and Nutrition". In the course of the article reference is made to the resolution on the subject of nutrition adopted by the 19th I.L.Conference and to the co-operation of the Office in the work of the Mixed Committee on the subject set up by the League of Nations.

... ..

The Hindustan Times, dated 2-6-1936, publishes a news item to the effect that the Preparatory Committee for the Far Eastern Conference on Rural Hygiene to be held at Java is now touring the countries of the Far East to secure first-hand information on health conditions in these countries. The message directs attention to the fact that the I.L.O.

is participating in the preparatory work for the Conference and will be represented at it.

... ..

The Leader, Allahabad, dated 9-6-1936, publishes a review of the March 1936 (Vol.2, No.1) issue of Contemporary India. The review contains a reference to the article under the caption: "The I.L.O. and Social Reconstruction" contributed to the number by the Director of this Office.

... ..

The Times of India, dated 2-6-1936, and the Bombay Chronicle, dated 3-6-1936, publish a report of the presidential address delivered by Mr. N.M. Joshi at the first annual Conference of the New G.I.P. Railway Staff Union held at Manmad on 31-5-1936. In his speech Mr. Joshi refers to the dilatory tactics pursued by the railway authorities in the matter of applying the Hours & Convention to Indian Railways.

... ..

The issue dated 6-6-1936 of the Financial News, Bombay, publishes a note under the caption: "Railwaymen's Grievances" in its "Topics of the Week" columns. The note comments on Mr. Joshi's speech ~~delivered~~ referred to above.

... ..

The Hindu, Madras, dated 10-6-1936, publishes a contribution from its Simla correspondent in which a query is raised about the position of Burma, after separation from India, with regard to representation at Geneva.

... ..

The Hindustan Times, Delhi, and the Hindu, Madras, dated 12-6-36 publish a press summary of the report of the Servants of India Society for 1935-36. In the course of the report, reference is made to

Mr. Joshi's membership of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. and to his championship of I.L.Conventions in the Legislative Assembly.

... ..

The Proceedings of the Madras Chamber of Commerce during 1935 publishes the presidential address delivered by Sir William Wright at the Annual General Meeting of the Chamber held on 25-12-1935. In the course of his speech Sir William made the following reference to the I.L.O.:

"Resolutions of Committees of the League of Nations passed in all good faith at Geneva, and which might apply to highly organised industrial countries, are so often completely unsuitable & in India. In many cases they have the unfortunate effect of penalising the good employer or honest merchant, actually at times to the very serious detriment of the employee who has perhaps for many years been accustomed to the benefit of welfare schemes which would be either curtailed or cancelled by the operation of legislation, inaugurated probably with exactly the opposite intentions".

... ..

No Indian newspapers and periodicals received during the month in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

... ..

The following messages having references to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during June 1936:-

(1) A Reuter's message dated 4-6-1936 from Geneva re the opening of the 20th session of the I.L. Conference.

(2) A British Official Wireless message, dated 4-6-1936, from Rugby re. British delegation to the Conference.

(3) A Reuter's message dated 2-6-1936 from Rome re. cancellation of Italian Workers' Delegation to the Conference.

(4) A Reuter's message dated 9-6-1936 from Geneva re. Sir Homi Mehta's speech on the 40-hour week for the textile industry.

(5) A Reuter's message, dated 9-6-1936, from Geneva re. the speeches of Mr. R.W. Fulay and Sir H.M. Mehta on the 40-hour week.

(6) A Reuter's message dated 13-6-1936 from Geneva re. Mr. Sodhban's speech on the Director's Report.

(7) A Reuter's message dated 15-6-1936 from Geneva re. Mr.R.W. Fulay's speech on the Director's Report.

(8) A Reuter's message dated 15-6-1936 from Geneva re. Sir B.N. Mitra's speech on the Director's Report.

(9) A Reuter's message dated 18-6-1936 from Geneva re. postponement of consideration of the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry.

(10) A Reuter's message dated 19-6-1936 from Geneva re. the decision of the Conference to refer the 40-hour week proposal for iron and steel industry to a Drafting Committee.

(11) A Reuter's message dated 14-6-1936 from Geneva ~~re~~ re. Egypt's decision to join the I.L.O.

(12) A Reuter's message dated 23-6-1936 from Geneva re. Mr. Chelva-pathy Chetty's speech in support of holidays with pay.

(13) A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1936 from Geneva re. the speeches of Mr. R.W. Fulay and Sir H.M. Mehta on the resolution on "dumping".

(14) A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1936 re the adoption of a Convention on holidays with pay.

(15) A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1936 from Geneva re. the termination of the 20th session of the I.L. Conference.

(16) A Reuter's message dated 25-6-1936 from Brussels re. certain labour laws giving effect to a few I.L. Conventions.

(17) A Reuter's message dated 26-6-1936 from Paris about certain French labour measures re. the 40-hour week, holidays with pay, etc.

(18) A news item received by the United Press of India from London regarding Egypt's acceptance of membership of the I.L.O.

(19) A news item received by the Bombay Chronicle from Geneva by air mail re. latest figures of unemployment collected by the I.L.O.

... ..

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATIONDraft Regulations for Prohibiting Employment of  
Women underground in Mines.

Attention is directed to page 803 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 13-6-1936 in which is published the text of certain Draft Regulations for prohibiting the employment of women underground in mines.

The principal provisions of the Regulations are given below:

(1) Total Prohibition after 1-7-37. - On or after the 1st day of July 1937, no woman shall be permitted to enter for purposes of employment or be employed in the underground workings of any mine.

(2) Exemptions. - The prohibition shall not apply to (a) women holding positions of management who do not perform manual work; (b) women employed in health and welfare services; and (c) any other women who may occasionally have to enter the underground workings of a mine for the purpose of a non-manual occupation.

The Draft Regulations will be taken into consideration on or after the 1st October 1936. ~~Any~~ Any objection or suggestion which may be received in respect of the draft before the date specified will be considered by the Governor-General in Council.

(Government of India Gazette Part I -  
dated 13-6-1936 - page 803). -

Supplementary Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1936.

At page 8 of the Report of this Office for May 1936 reference was made to The Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1936, notified on 23-5-1936. The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has issued on 27-6-1936 a set of supplementary regulations, called the Supplementary Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1936. The



Regulations provide that no liquid oxygen explosive shall be used in any underground part of ~~an~~ mine and lay down certain conditions for the firing of shots in mines. The Regulations apply only to coal mines. The full text of the Notification (No. M.1055 of the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, dated 23-6-1936) is published at pages 868-869 of Part I of the Gazette of India, dated 27-6-1936.

(Extracted from pages 868-869 of Part I, Gazette of India, dated 27-6-1936). +

22

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR.

Quarterly Strike Statistics for Quarter Ending 31-3-1936. +

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the first quarter of 1936 ending 31-3-1936, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 31 disputes during the period, involving 30,718 workers and entailing a loss of 318,002 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bengal where 13 disputes involving 13,619 workers entailed a loss of 120,971 working days. Next comes Bombay with 6 disputes involving 7,795 workers and entailing a loss of 62,852 working days, Madras with 5 disputes involving 5,227 workers and entailing a loss of 48,203 working days, Assam with 2 disputes involving 1,150 workers and entailing 18,600 working days, Bihar, Burma, the Central Provinces, the Punjab and the United Provinces with one dispute each involving 370, 212, 1,700, 220, and 425 workers and entailing losses of 6,290, 616, 57,949, 715, 1,806 working days respectively,

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 15 disputes involving 16,355 workers and entailing a loss of 183,696 working days, jute mills for 2 disputes involving 8,587 workers and entailing a loss of 62,174 working days, engineering workshops for one dispute involving 52 workers and entailing a loss of 78 working days. Other industries were responsible for 13 disputes involving 5,724 workers and entailing a loss of 72,054 working days.

Of the 31 disputes during the quarter under review, 17 were due to wage questions, 4 to personnel, one to leave and hours and 9 to other causes. In 9 disputes the workers were successful, in 8

partially successful and in 9 unsuccessful. 5 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report.

(Strike statistics for the quarter ending 31-12-~~1935~~ 1935 are given at pages 19-20 of our April 1936 report). +

Absenteeism in Bombay Mills: More Effective Control  
of "Badlis" (Substitutes) Proposed

An outline of a scheme ~~for~~ control of the employment of 'badlis' (substitutes) adopted by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, with a view to reducing the enormous turnover of labour in Bombay cotton mills, was given at pages 44 to 47 of our June 1935 report. Since the beginning of 1936, the question of increasing the effectiveness of the system was engaging the attention of the Labour Advisory (Managers') Sub-Committee of the Association. Statistics were regularly collected in member mills in order to ascertain how the system had been working, and, in particular, with a view to finding out how the total number of individual badlis employed during a month in each mill compared with the average daily absenteeism. As a result of the investigations made by the Sub-Committee, it was found that, while the badli control system was working fairly satisfactorily, it could be made more effective if the cards issued to the badlis contained the following instructions in Marathi:-

(1) All persons carrying badli cards should present themselves for work every morning with their badli cards; otherwise their cards are liable to be cancelled;

(2) They will be given first preference of employment as badlis, and those who have been attending work regularly will be given first chance of employment in permanent vacancies.

(3) They must not roam about in the departments, but must wait in a place allotted for ~~the purpose of employing~~ badlis.

(4) If substitutes carrying badli cards, but not employed for that day, find that a new man without a card has been engaged on the type of work they have been doing, they must report the

matter to the Head of the Department.

(5) If badli work is not given to them, they must obtain the signature of the Head of the Department before leaving the mill.

In certain instances, the limited success which had attended the introduction of the system appeared to the Sub-Committee to be due to an inadequate appreciation of the scheme by departmental heads. They, therefore, suggested that the position might be improved if all departmental heads were supplied with instructions/sheets as follow:-

(1) Ascertain how many badlis are required on an average in each jobber's section.

(2) Assign to each head jobber a corresponding number of badli card holders.

(3) Every ~~xxx~~ day the departmental heads shall fill up vacancies from among the badli card holders of the respective sections controlled by each head jobber.

(4) Only on very rare occasions will the number of badli card holders of a particular section be less than that of the actual vacancies in that section.

(5) In such cases, the selection may be extended to the badli card holders of the other section, where there may be a surplus.

(6) If possible, the engagement of badlis should be made either just outside the department or at a convenient place in each section, so that the badli card holders need not loiter about in the department. Once they know that engagements are made at a particular place and that if they do not wait there, they will lose the ~~xxx~~ day's chance, all loitering in departments will be reduced to a minimum.

(7) All badli card holders must be particularly directed to obtain the signature of the head of the department on their cards on days on which they got ~~xxx~~ no work. Preference for badli work should be given to such card holders who get their cards signed properly.

Decisions of the Committee- The proposals made by the Sub-Committee were endorsed at a meeting of the Committee held early in May 1936, and member mills were recommended to adopt them in toto. During the course of discussion in the Committee, it was suggested that the real success of the badli control system could only be assured if Managers maintained a careful check on the number of new badli cards issued each month, and that the number of badli

cards issued during any month at any mill should eventually not exceed a figure more than 50 per cent. in excess of the average daily absenteeism.

(Summarised from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during May 1936). +

#### Factory Administration in Mysore, 1934 - 1935\* +

The following details regarding factory administration in the Mysore State during the year ending 30-6-1935 are taken from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce of the State for the year 1934-35.

Number and Classification of Factories- There were 206 factories on the register of factories at the beginning of the year. 5 factories were added during the year and 2 were struck off leaving 209 on the register at the close of the year. 51 of the 209 factories were seasonal and the rest ~~1~~ non-seasonal. Grouped under important industries, there were 51 cotton ginning and decorticating factories, 49 food, drinks, etc. factories, 35 textile factories, 21 engineering works, 21 brick and tile factories, 16 ~~at~~ oil mills, 9 printing presses, 3 chemical factories and 2 hides and skins factories.

Number of Operatives- The average number of persons employed daily in all the factories was 17,757 as against 18,709 in 1933-34. The number of adults employed fell from 17,038 to 16,086 and that of children from 1,693 to 1,449.

341 out of 1,449 children employed in the factories were examined by the certifying surgeons and 325 children were granted certificates

Inspection- 165 factories were inspected during the year as against 86 in the previous year. 137 factories were inspected once, 27 twice and one thrice. 44 factories were not inspected during the year and of these 10 did not work.

Accidents- The total number of accidents reported during the year was 119 as against 109 in the previous year. Of these, 1 was fatal, 59 serious and 58 minor.

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\* Administration Report on the Working of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year ending 30th June 1935, with the Government Review thereon. pp.29. (A copy of the Report was forwarded to Geneva with our Minute D.1705/35 dated 25-6-1936).

Safety Measures and Health Precautions.- In some cases it was found that provisions made for ventilation and lighting and for the supply of drinking water were not adequate and the Inspector of Factories took action to remedy the defects. Fencing and guarding of machinery was reported to be fairly satisfactory.

Hours of Work.- The daily and weekly hours of work were regulated by the owners in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation. Rest intervals were granted in the majority of factories as provided for in the State Factories Regulation. The weekly holiday in almost all the factories was Sunday.

Prosecutions.- No prosecutions were instituted during the year. Greater care, it is reported, was taken to enforce the provisions of the Factories Regulation.

Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories.- The number of ginning factories working in the State was 30 and of pressing factories 6. The factories were inspected by the Ex-officio Inspectors of Factories appointed under the Regulation. All the pressing factories in the State continued to send the weekly return as required by the Rules framed under the Regulation. One of the pressing factories was irregular in sending the return and the proprietor was prosecuted. The total number of bales pressed during the year in the pressing factories was 16,889 as against 21,019 in the previous year.

Labour Disputes and Industrial Relations.- During the year under report, there were 3 labour disputes, one in the Kolar Gold Fields and two in the textile mills in the Mysore and Bangalore. Except for these three cases, the relations between the employers and the employees in the industrial concerns in the State were harmonious. The seasonal conditions were satisfactory. There was a slight rise in the prices of food grains and other articles consumed largely by the labouring classes as compared with the level of prices in the previous year. The demand for labour was steady and there was no change in the level of wages.

The term of the Board of Conciliation constituted by the Government for the settlement of industrial disputes and the promotion of industrial peace, expired on 30-6-1934 and the Board was reconstituted with effect from 31-7-1934. The continuance of the Board is reported to have a salutary effect on the relations between employers and employees in the State.

Trade Union Legislation.- The question of the introduction of legislation providing for the registration of trade unions in the State, as in British India, was engaging the attention of the Department and the Board of Industries and Commerce for some time. The subject was, on a reference from the Government, considered again by the Board at a meeting held on the 20-3-1935. The Director was asked to ascertain the views of the large employers of labour, labour organisations, etc. regarding the need for introducing legislation.

Welfare Work.- The mining companies and the textile mills were, as usual, devoting much attention to improvement in the conditions of labour. The welfare departments of the mining companies and the Bangalore Woollen, Cotton and Silk Mills, Co., have been doing good work.

(Factory administration in Mysore in 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 28-30 of our April 1935 report).+

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Working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation in  
Mysore State, 1934 - 1935\*

Number of Cases.- The total number of cases that came up before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation was 209 during the year as against 176 in 1933-34. 197 cases were disposed of and 12 cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the 197 cases disposed of, 52 related to accidents which proved fatal, 20 to non-fatal accidents and 125 to memoranda of agreements. The number of claims in the mining industry was 203 and in the textile factories one.

56 claims were contested during the year, of which 10 were dismissed and 25 allowed. Out of four appeals preferred to the High Court three were disposed of leaving one pending, at the close of the year.

Amount of Compensation Paid.- The total amount deposited with the Commissioners during the year was Rs. 31,528-4-0, as against Rs. 36,914-6-0 in 1933-34. A sum of Rs. 31,063-8-0 was distributed amongst the dependents of the deceased persons as compared with Rs. 33,186-8-0 the previous year. A sum of Rs. 944-12-0 was pending distribution at the close of the year.

Returns under Section 15.- The annual returns under Section 15 of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation for 1933-34 were received from ~~175~~ 175 factories out of 206 factories in the State. Returns were also received from the mining companies and other concerns in the mining area. It is stressed that unless the Regulation is suitably amended to provide sanction for non-submission of returns under Section 15 of the Regulation, it would not be possible to get the returns from all the factories. Draft amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Regulation to

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\* Administration Report on the Working of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year ending 30th June 1935, with the Government Review thereon. Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore. General and Revenue Departments. G.O.No.D.4760-I. & C. 109-35-2, dated 7th February 1936. pp. 29.

bring it into conformity with the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act as amended up-to-date, have been submitted to Government for needful action.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation in Mysore during 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 31-32 of our April 1935 report).+

#### Hours of Work in Jute Mills;

##### Working Time Agreements in 1935. +

At pages 44-45 of our Report for July 1935 was given a summary of the decisions taken by the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, during 1934 for curtailment of hours of work. A brief review of the measures taken or in force during the 1935 is given below:-

Working Agreements, -1935.- The hours and conditions of work at the mills in the membership of the Association have, during the year under review, been governed by two separate, but closely connected, agreements, namely:- (a) The Indian Jute Mills Association Working Time Agreement, dated 6th October 1931, and (b) The "Terms of Arrangement with the Outside Mills", as adopted on 21-1-1933, and subsequently signed by the "Outside Mills". (For details, vide pages 20-21 of our June 1934 report).

Details of Working Agreements.- (a) Machinery. Throughout the year, four member mills of the Association, the Premchand Mill and the five "Outside Mills" worked with their full complement of machinery. The other Association mills, who, by the terms of the Association's working time agreement had worked throughout 1932, 1933 and the greater part of 1934 with 15% of their total looms closed down under seal, pursued the policy which had been begun in November 1934, of gradually increasing production by the ~~unsealing~~ unsealing of small percentages of their looms. Release each time of 2½% of the total complement of the looms of each mill took place on 1-11-1934, 1-5-1935, 5-8-1935 and



11-11-1935. At a meeting held on 12-11-1935, it was decided to release the remaining 5% from seal on 17-2-1936.

(b) (Hours of Work.- With the exception of the Premchand Mill, who work under the agreement on precisely the same conditions as apply to the outside mills, all the mills in the membership of the Association worked for forty hours per week throughout the year. In accordance with the provisions of the terms of ~~arrangement~~ <sup>agreement</sup> between the Association and ~~of~~ the outside mills, the outside mills were at liberty, in order to achieve the extra production to which they were entitled as the result of the Association mills' unsealing of looms, to work for 55 hours 35 minutes per week as from 1st November 1934; 57 hours 10 minutes per week as from 1st May 1935; 58 hours and 45 minutes per week as from 5th August 1935; and 60 hours 20 minutes per week as from 11th November 1935.

Termination of Agreement with Outside Mills.- At pages 44-47 of our September 1935 report were given full details of the various ~~reasons~~ reasons which led to the Association at a meeting held on 30-9-1935, to decide to terminate the working time agreements, after the requisite six months' notice, by 31-3-1936. The main reason for the move was the unfair advantage taken by the outside mills of the shorter working week and reduction in number of working looms <sup>observed</sup> observed by the Association mills.

New Agreement Operating from 1-4-1936.- At the meeting held on 30-12-1935, the Association adopted an agreement operating from 1-4-1936 in supersession of the agreement terminating on ~~the~~ 31-3-1936. The essential features of this new agreement are that:- (a) unless previously suspended, modified, or cancelled, its provisions take effect on and from Wednesday the 1st April 1936; (b) the mills in the membership of the Association shall be entitled to work up to but not exceeding 54 hours per week on single shift, with no night work; (c) no member of the Association may acquire any interest whatsoever in any jute mill not in the membership of the Association; arrangements with mills not in the membership of the Association which are in existence on the date the agreement comes into operation not being affected, however; (d)

no member of the Association may, during the currency of the agreement, erect or place orders for any extra productive machinery or erect any extra relative buildings; (e) the Committee are authorised to arrange for the employment of Association Inspectors, each of the mills in the membership of the Association agreeing to give such facilities at all times as ~~may~~<sup>any</sup> Inspector may from time to time reasonably require for the purpose of enabling him to carry out his duties; (f) complaints or questions of any breach of the agreement are to be dealt with under the Rules and Regulations of the Association as from time to time in force and any offending member shall be liable to a fine which may extend to the total amount of such member's deposit under the rules of the Association, or to expulsion from the Association, or to both; (g) the agreement may, by resolution of the members of the Association, be suspended, modified or cancelled on fourteen days' notice being given by the Association at any time prior to or after the 1st April 1936.

(Summarised from pages 24-29 of the Report for 1935 of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta). +

### Retrenchment in Railways:

#### Selection Committee and Principles of Retrenchment. +

A Selection Committee has been appointed by the G.I.P. Railway authorities to consider the retrenchment of the surplus staff of the Railway and ~~that~~ it will begin to function shortly. The services of Mr. A.W. Pryde, Labour Officer of the Government of Bombay, have been loaned to the Committee in an advisory capacity. The Chairman of the Committee is the Chief Engineer of the Railway. The Committee has been appointed in accordance with the decision of the Government of India, who have instructed all State-managed railways to effect retrenchment on the general principles laid down in a circular issued by them.

Principles of Retrenchment.- Among the principles are (1) the staff to be discharged should be selected on the basis of comparative efficiency, the least efficient being selected for discharge; (2) the men selected for discharge, if they so desire, should be allowed to appear personally before the Selection Committee; (3) no appeal will lie against the decision of the Selection Committee; and (4) the staff selected for discharge should not be borne on the waiting list for re-employment.

(The Times of India, 29-6-1936). +

Enforcement of Conventions.Conditions of Mining Labour in C.P. and Berar, 1935\*. †

Supply of Labour.— According to the Annual Review on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31-12-1935, the year saw a further slight improvement in the condition of the mining industry generally; and in spite of somewhat lower prices than those that ruled last year the demand for coal continued to be brisk and the manganese trade showed further signs of revival. Two coal mines, 18 manganese mines and three other mines, including one of graphite and two of minor minerals were opened during the year. The total number of working mines thus rose from 74 to 93. There was an increase of 80 per cent in the labour force employed in manganese mines, 2 per cent in coal mines and 6 per cent in limestone mines mostly in the Jubbulpore district. The supply of labour was ample and as usual mostly local.

Wages.— The level of wages, which are paid on a piecework basis, continued to be steady, although the amounts earned by individual labourers inevitably exhibit wide variations. The average earnings of male labourers employed in coal mines ranged from Re.0-6-0 to Rs.2 for surface work as against Re.0-6-0 to Re. 0-8-0 earned by women, the corresponding figures for underground work being Re. 0-4-0 to Re.0-8-0 for men and Re. 0-6-0 to Re.0-8-0 for women. In manganese and other mines unskilled male labourers earned on an average from Re.0-3-0 to Re.0-7-6 a day and women from Re.0-2-0 to Re.0-3-9 per day, while skilled labourers earned from Re.0-6-0 to Re.1-9-0 per day.

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\* Annual Review on the District Reports on the working of the Indian Mines Act, IV of 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1935. Nagpur, Government Printing, C.P. 1936. Price - Annas Four. pp. 6.

Relations with Employers.- Relations between labourers and employers continued to be cordial. The year was marked by a complete absence of strikes and other labour disputes.

Health of Labour Force.- The general health of the labourers was on the whole satisfactory but epidemics broke out in several districts. The more important of the epidemic diseases were cholera (92 attacks with 37 deaths), smallpox (54 attacks with 4 deaths), influenza (527 attacks with no deaths) and malaria (2,696 attacks with no deaths). The dispensaries at the Bharweli and Tirodi mines in the Balaghat district maintained by the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company, Limited, continued to do good work in combating epidemic and other diseases.

Sanitation and Housing.- Sanitary conditions in mining camps were generally fair and some efforts are being made to improve them. Special attention is being directed to the camps at Tirodi in Balaghat district where sanitary arrangements have been reported to be defective. In pursuance of the orders issued by Government, the provision of adequate latrine accommodation on the surface is receiving the attention of colliery owners, and the labourers have now to be persuaded to use them. Water supply generally was ample either from wells provided by mine owners or from nalas adjoining mining camps.

Last year's review stressed the desirability of mine owners providing adequate housing accommodation for their labour force and the Government expresses satisfaction at the improvement that ~~it~~ has taken place as a consequence. The Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company have undertaken a substantial programme of construction with a view to providing housing accommodation for their entire labour force at the Bharweli and Tirodi mines and land is being acquired for the purpose. In the Bilaspur district temporary huts have been provided for imported labourers. Satisfactory progress is recorded in all other districts

except Chanda. A great deal yet remains to be done and the Governor in Council again impresses on colliery owners their responsibility, from the humanitarian and business point of view, of providing reasonably ~~x~~ sanitary and adequate housing accommodation for their labourers.

Prices of Food Stuffs and Clothing.- The prices of food stuffs and clothing continued to be low and enabled the miners to maintain themselves and their families. They obtained their requirements as usual from markets in the mining camps or from weekly bazars held in the neighbouring villages.

Education.- The special schools for labourers' children continued to be maintained in the Chhindwara, Jubbulpore and Chanda districts, and another school was opened in the first named district. Elsewhere the labourers' children attend the neighbouring village schools.

Accidents.- The number of accidents rose slightly from 104 in 1934 to 107, of which 26 (as against 20 in the previous year) were fatal, 71 serious and the rest minor. The majority of the accidents were due as usual to negligence on the part of employees and not to any lack of precautions on the part of the management. 15 cases were dealt with under the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Chhindwara district and a total compensation of Rs. 5,627-12-0 was paid to the victims of accidents or to their dependents. At a mine in Chanda district the widow and son of the victim of a fatal accident were compensated privately by the payment of Rs. 105 instead of Rs. 300 to which they were entitled under the Workmen's Compensation Act. In Chhindwara and Chanda printed copies ~~at~~ <sup>in</sup> the vernacular of the more important provisions of the Act were distributed to mine labourers.

Inspection.- The majority of the mines were inspected by district magistrates except in the Nagpur district. The civil surgeon, Bhandara, inspected the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company's mines in

Bhandara and Balaghat districts and the civil surgeon, Chanda, inspected all the mines in that district and gave instructions in regard to sanitation in the mining camps. Government considers that district magistrates and civil surgeons should inspect a fair proportion of the mines situated within their charges.

Hours of Employment and Employment of Women and Children.- The ~~majority of the mines~~ hours of employment on surface workings varied from  $6\frac{2}{3}$  to 10 and for underground work from 6 to 9 ~~hours~~ per day. The regulations prohibiting the employment of women underground are being generally observed by mine owners. No case of employment of children under 13 years of age was detected.

Receipts from Mines.- The provincial receipts from mines rose from Rs.297,036 to Rs. 400,755 owing to an improvement in the coal trade and the revival of the manganese industry. Of the total revenue, Rs.200,276 was derived from coal mines, Rs. 104,216 from manganese mines and Rs. 96,263 from mines for other minerals. The pit's mouth value of coal fell from Rs. 3-14-0 to Rs. 3-10-0 per ton in the Chhindwara district, while it rose from Rs. 3-3-0 to Rs. 3-6-0 in the Chanda district.

(The Annual Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1934 is reviewed at pages 50-52 of our June 1935 report). \*

#### Factory Administration in Burma, 1935.\* +

Number of Factories.- ~~According~~ <sup>in 1935,</sup> The Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in Burma, covers the first year's working of the Factories Act, 1934, which came into force in Burma on 1st January 1935,

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in Burma for the year 1935. Rangoon: Supdt. Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma, 1936. Price.- Rs. 2-0-0 = 3s. pp. 30.

superseding the Indian Factories Act of 1911 as subsequently amended. According to the report, the number of establishments registered as factories under the Act in Burma, excluding the Northern Shan States, at the end of the year 1935, was 1,013 as against 1,003 in 1934. Of these, 965 were working during the year as against 946 in 1934. 30 new factories were registered and 20 deleted. A small factory for the manufacture of rubber shoes and other rubber articles was started, and the returns show 7 more cotton ginner<sup>ies</sup>~~ies~~ and 10 more rice mills working than in 1934. Of the total factories working, 51 were classified as seasonal under the Act and 914 treated as pe<sup>re</sup>rennial. Rice mills and vegetable oil mills were formerly treated as seasonal for statistical purposes. The Act now precludes this and they have to be classified as perennial.

Number of Operatives.- The total number of persons employed in factories in Burma, excluding the Northern Shan States, was 90,322 as against 85,829 in 1934. The increase was distributed mainly over the rice milling and cotton ginning industries. Government and local fund factories showed a slight increase in the total number employed, but that increase was not in paid labour but in jail (saw mill and carpentry) workshops.

Employment of Women and Children.- During the year 11,924 women were employed in factories as against 11,285 in 1934. As in previous years they were distributed chiefly amongst rice mills, cotton ginneries, match factories and textile factories.

The annual returns show 638 adolescents and 88 (as against 217 in 1934) children as being employed. Of these totals, 486 adolescents and 44 children purport to be employed in the rice milling industry. The persons referred to would be part of the coolie labour provided by contractors for carrying of paddy. The new classification is little

understood, and any young person is referred to as a boy or girl up to the age of 20 or so. The figures for ~~adults~~ adolescents are quite unreliable. The figure for children, it is remarked, appears this year to be a nearer approach to the truth.

Hours of Work,— The Act of 1934 lays down a 60-hour week in the case of factories which are, or can be notified as, seasonal under the Act. In all other factories the weekly maximum has been reduced from 60 to 54 except for workers on continuous processes who may work 56. In saw mills and rice mills, now classed under perennial factories, a 60-hour week was previously general. Saw mills have reduced their normal milling hours to 54 weekly, which has probably added to production costs. Rice mills still retain in most cases a 12-hour milling day for 6 days a week with separate night shifts in the busy season. The result is that during these 12-hour milling shifts each worker has now to be given at least 3 hours rest interval, the intervals being taken turn by turn. The inspectorate has found it very difficult, particularly in the smaller mills, to <sup>ascertain that</sup> ~~get the necessary~~ procedure for recording these intervals <sup>are granted</sup> ~~instituted~~ satisfactorily, and with the existing small staff no adequate check is possible. In the past, when a 2-hour interval was sufficient, the inspectorate were satisfied that, in view of the intermittent nature of the work of attending to the plant, each worker could take at least 2 hours' rest in a 12-hour shift and recording of the times was waived. The same cannot be assumed in respect of a 3-hour interval and the new Burma Factories Rules, 1935, made under the Act now require the times of the intervals to be recorded.

Other industries have not been greatly affected by the further restrictions in hours of work. Engineering works have usually observed a 9-hour day or less in the past. Some establishments engaged on continuous processes may have had to increase their staffs slightly to comply



with the requirement of a weekly holiday for each worker.

The calculation of overtime rates has always given some trouble owing to the fact that it has to be assessed on an hourly basis, whereas so many workers are paid normally on a monthly rate. The difficulty is now further increased by the distinction between daily and weekly overtime.

Exemptions to Rules re. Hours of Work.- Conditions under which exemptions from hours of work restrictions may be enjoyed have been codified in the Burma Factories Rules, 1935, due regard having been paid to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour and to certain International Conventions on Hours of Employment ratified by British India. Permission for a limited amount of overtime in order to deal with exceptional press of work was granted during the year to a few private concerns and to the Government Press.

Wages.- Returns received from a few selected factories show ranges of wages almost identical with those in last year's report. No marked rise or fall occurred in wage rates in any of the main industries.

The Report remarks that it is likely that the new Payment of Wages Act will upset to a certain extent traditional customs. Unless it can be strictly enforced in all factories, it may merely cause inconvenience to the well-organised large firms where methods of payment of wages are ~~are~~ already satisfactory, and be a dead letter to the numerous smaller concerns where abuses do exist.

Sanitation and Health.- The co-operation of such local authorities as exist has as usual been invited in regard to sanitary matters. New rules have been designed to secure a greater degree of cleanliness both in factory buildings and latrines. Standards are not likely to improve however until more frequent inspection is possible. No unusual cases of industrial disease were noted.

Safety Provisions.- Although the proportion of accidents due to machinery and which can definitely be ascribed to lack of protective gear is not unduly high, such accidents usually involve serious injury. Occupiers of many of the smaller factories still give little attention to maintenance of such protective gear, and in many cases the workers themselves fail to appreciate the value of the protection afforded.

Lead Rules, 1935.- The Hazardous Occupations (Lead) Rules, 1935, made under the Act by the Governor-General in Council came into force on 19th February 1935. They relate however to the employment of women, adolescents and children only. Further provisions for the protection of adult male workers are under consideration.

Accidents and Prosecutions.- Reported accidents comprised 18 (as against 17 in 1934) fatal, 264 (as against 293 in 1934) regarded as serious, and 953 (as against 1,072 in 1934) minor, making a total of 1,235 (as against 1,667 in 1934) accidents. Perennial factories accounted for 1,218 accidents with 14 deaths, 257 serious injuries and 947 minor injuries. 8 fatal cases out of 17 cases of accidents in seasonal factories suggest that a large majority of non-fatal accidents in seasonal factories are not reported.

Convictions were obtained in 33 cases against 19 in 1934. Fines ranged from Rs.10 to Rs.150 and the average was Rs.40. Of the 33 convictions, 10 were in respect of offences connected with hours of employment. The new provisions of the Act as to hours had in each case been previously brought to the notice of the firms concerned.

Inspection.- The Chief Inspector and the Assistant Inspector made 730 inspections during the year. Inspectors of Boilers acting as ~~addn~~ Additional Inspectors made 105 inspections and Civil or Medical Officers 16. Factories not inspected numbered 214. The volume of

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work of an administrative and special technical nature ~~involved in~~ the inspectorate has increased very substantially in recent years owing to extended legislation and rapid advances in scientific discovery. New industrial processes spring up almost daily in the West, and are apt to be copied by small firms in the East without expert guidance and in ignorance of potential dangers to the operative. A continual study of these matters has to be made. The Payment of Wages Act is likely to ~~x~~ throw considerable further work on the department if it is to operate fairly on all classes of factory and benefit the persons who really need its provisions. The hours of work restrictions of the Factories Act will similarly operate unfairly unless means for enforcement are adequate ~~xxxxx~~ Proposals for essential strengthening of the whole-time staff are under consideration.

(Factory Administration in Burma in 1934 is reviewed at pages 37-40 of our June 1935 report).

Workers' Organisations.Trade Union Unity:Negotiations Committee to meet in July 1936. +

References was made at pages 19-27 of the Report of this Office for May 1936 to the discussions at the last session of the A.I.T.U.C. on the question of **Trade Union Unity**. (For resolution adopted on this subject see page 26 of our May 1936 report).

The following information about further action to be taken for bringing about unity is taken out from a message dated 7-6-1936 issued by the Associated Press of India:- The National Trade Union Federation has ~~received~~ received in the first week of June an official communication from the A.I.T.U.C. with regard to the nature of further action which the A.I.T.U.C. is proposing to take for bringing about structural unity. The A.I.T.U.C. has appointed a committee to negotiate with the Federation on the basis of Mr. V.V. Giri's proposals as modified by the A.I.T.U.C. session at Bombay. The meeting of the committee appointed by the T.U.C. with the office-bearers of the N.T.U.F. is expected to come off only by the middle of July 1936, as Messrs. N.M. Joshi and R.R. Bakhale will be busy with the anniversary of the Servants of India Society at Poona from June 8 ~~to~~ for about a month.

After this informal meeting, at which both the bodies will try to settle the points which yet remain unsettled, a meeting of the General Council of the National Trades Union Federation will be convened at a central place like Nagpur, or perhaps at Calcutta. The nomination of delegates to Geneva may probably be included in the agenda to ensure a thoroughly representative gathering. While in certain quarters it is

felt that the question of electing the delegate to Geneva and the advisers should be taken up before the question of affiliation, so that the prospective candidates may not come in the way of unity, Mr. Bakhale is inclined to leave election of delegates to the combined executive of the new Trade Union Congress.

~~The~~ The Hindustan Times, 8-6-1936) +

Plea for Working Joint Labour Board pending Unity:

Appeal by A.I.T.U.C. President. +

Following the decision of the A.I.T.U.C. at its last session held at Bombay on 17 and 18-5-1936, to negotiate <sup>a settlement</sup> unity with the N.T.U.F., vigorous efforts are being made to bring about unity in Indian labour ranks. Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, President, A.I.T.U.C., has issued a statement to the press in the first week of June, in which he points out that up to now full use of the Joint Labour Board, which formed a sort of half-way house to unity, was never made, and makes a plea for efficient working of the Board pending the successful termination of the negotiations for unity. The following is a summary of the statement:-

A.I.T.U.C. desires Unity.- After reviewing the various efforts made for restoration of unity, he says; "It was confidently expected by many that the Bombay session of the A.I.T.U.C. would see the merging of the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Federation of Trade Unions. Though this consummation, ~~xxxx~~ devoutly wished for, has not been fully achieved, we can surely comfort ourselves with the idea that we are today nearer structural and organisational unity between these two great bodies than any time during the last few years. Mr. V. V. Giri had made certain proposals for unity. These are far from perfect. As a matter of fact, if accepted, they will give rise to a number of anomalies and in regard to some important measures of the Trade Union Congress, acceptance of Mr. Giri's terms would mean absolute surrender on the part of All-India Trade Union Congress. But the majority of the delegates seemed to be ready for unity almost at any cost. So, those terms, with very little modifications, were adopted. Mr. Giri has already expressed his approval of the position taken by the Trade Union Congress. It is expected that the National Federation of Trade Unions will also endorse these unreservedly.

Plea for working Joint Labour Board.- "But some prominent members of the National Federation of Trade Unions, however, feel that the machinery of Joint Labour Board was not worked at all. Without ~~apportioning~~ <sup>putting</sup> our blame on any one, one can easily admit the correctness of this complaint. Besides willingness, many things more are necessary to make the Joint Labour Board function. The huge distance of one industrial place from another in India is a stumbling block. However, much we desire to see structural unity established at the earliest possible date, let us not neglect the existing Joint Labour Board and let us work it for all it is worth, till unity is achieved. The problems of rival unions, joint action, ~~and~~ demonstrations against oppression, ~~and~~ selection of candidates to municipalities and councils and many ~~etc~~ other common problems can be tackled immediately by the Joint Labour Board. I feel it also necessary to form provincial Joint Labour Boards in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, so that regular meetings and functioning of these boards may be possible and the maximum of benefit derived from them. I am sure, such Joint Boards and <sup>joint</sup> joint activities resulting therefrom will ~~make~~ <sup>make</sup> the way for structural and organisational unity smoother and easier".

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 5-6-1936) +

#### Assessing Chances of Trade Union Unity:

#### Mr. Jammadas Mehta Points out Difficulties. +

Mr. Jammadas Mehta, President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and a former President of the National Trades Union Federation, discussed on 18-6-1936 the question of organisational unity in the Indian labour movement in the course of an interview ~~in the course of~~ <sup>as</sup> given to a representative of the Times of India. In the course of the interview, Mr. Mehta directed attention to certain fundamental differences in outlook between the labour groups concerned, and said that, owing to this and other factors, like temperamental incompatibility etc., the prospects of unity being restored immediately is not very hopeful. The following is a brief summary of ~~the~~ Mr. Mehta's views:-

After reviewing the results of the various attempts at restoration of trade union unity, Mr. Mehta said:-

(1) Demand for Structural Unity.- "Since 1935, the Trade Union Congress leaders, ~~a~~ particularly Mr. R.S. Ruikar, have felt the necessity for further rapprochement between all labour wings. A conference of representatives of two bodies was called in Bombay in August

1935, when an all-India Joint Labour Board was formed consisting of the representatives of the two bodies, with Mr. V.V. Giri as chairman and Mr. Ruikar as secretary. This Board did not function for more than four months, when Mr. Ruikar pressed for "structural unity" in place of the Board. A further attempt was, therefore, made in that direction at Nagpur.

(2) The N.T.U.F.'s Alternatives.- "The National Trades Union Federation promised to make its own proposals in regard to the question of "structural unity". In January last, the Federation met and made two alternative proposals to the A.I.T.U.C.: (a) that the Joint Labour Board should be enlarged so as to comprise the executives of both these bodies, and its scope and authority should extend to all labour questions, except ~~the~~ ~~the~~ those of strikes, political issues and foreign affiliation; (b) that the Federation would be willing to affiliate itself to the Trade Union Congress as an experiment for a year on the basis of the constitution of the Federation.

(3) Counter Suggestions of A.I.T.U.C.- "This was the offer before the A.I.T.U.C. at its recent session in Bombay, but the Congress did not accept either of the two proposals. The Congress made certain counter-suggestions, which were matters of policy, relating to foreign affiliation and strikes. In view of these facts, it is doubtful whether it can be said that unity has been achieved. The Federation will have carefully to consider the counter-proposals of the Trade Union Congress. The whole question is therefore once again in the melting pot. Besides, the temperamental incompatibility of the leaders of the two bodies has recently become more conspicuous, as will be seen from the controversy that is going on between them in the Press. While both sides honestly feel the need for unity, the real difficulty is that they differ sharply in matters of principle and method.

(4) The Class-War Issue.- "The fundamental difference is that, while the Federation emphasises that the trade union movement should, as far as possible, confine itself to the amelioration of the working conditions of the industrial classes by legislation and negotiation, the Trade Union Congress places greater stress on the class struggle side of the movement.

(5) A.I.T.U.C.- A Minority.- "One of the reasons which made the leaders of the Trade Union Congress reluctant to accept the experimental affiliation for a year was their knowledge that in regard to both the number of unions and their membership, the Congress was far behind the Federation. Under the constitution of the Federation, which the Trade Union Congress was bound to accept, ~~both in the Executive and the combined~~ body, the Congress would be in a permanent minority, a position which was naturally unacceptable to the Congress. This is the stark naked fact which cannot be ignored. I may add that the public have been mystified as to where exactly the question of unity stands, in spite of the resolution passed at the recent session of the Trade Union Congress. They should have no difficulty now in understanding the whole position".

(The Times of India, 19-6-1936).

Mr. Giri's Views on Unity Issue: "No Choice but to Unite"

The following press statement dealing with the points raised by Mr. Jammadas Mehta in the interview given by him to the Times of India has been issued by Mr. V.V. Giri:

"Without entering into controversies, which I temperamentally avoid, I might clarify the position in regard to Trade Union Unity.

No new Issue to be brought in.- After formulation of definite proposals for bringing about structural unity, ~~and~~ any discussion on the question should be confined to those proposals. No new issue could or should be raised, especially by those who were a party to those proposals. At its meeting in Delhi in January last when the Working Committee of the National Trades Union Federation made two sets of alternative proposals, the said Committee was "prepared, in the event of the Executive of the All-India Trade Union Congress accepting either of the proposals to recommend them for acceptance to the General Council of the Federation". Now that the Trade Union Congress has accepted one of the proposals, the only course left is to recommend it to the General Council of the Federation for acceptance. I believe arrangements are being made for convening a meeting of the General Council of the Federation.

The "Class Struggle" Issue.- As for "class struggle", I fail to see how this question could ~~be~~ arise at this stage. Whether a trade Union is an organ of class struggle or not was discussed at length at three Unity Conferences and the following was finally incorporated in the Constitution of the National Trades Union Federation:-

"A Trade Union is an organ of class struggle; its basic task, therefore, is to organise the workers for advancing and defending their rights and interests; and although collective bargaining is the necessary implication of a Trade Union and although in the transitional period to socialism negotiations, representations, joint action and other methods of collective bargaining must remain an integral part of trade union activities, labour and capital cannot be reconciled within the capitalistic system".

Imaginary Difficulties.- We cannot complain of what we have ourselves created or agreed to after mature consideration. The difficulties imagined do not exist at all and, even if there should be any, they are not insurmountable. The acceptance of my proposal on the part of the Trade Union Congress leaves no other choice to the Federation Committee than to recommend it to the General Council of the Federation for approval and thus make unity an accomplished fact.

( The Indian Labour Journal, 3-7-1936 ).



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Rejoinder to Mr. Mehta's Statement by Mrs. Mulji. \*

Mr. Jammadas Mehta's statement to the Times of India about the question of "Structural Unity" in the Indian labour movement has evoked a rejoinder from Mrs. Maniben Mulji, General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress. Below are summarised the main points brought out in the statement issued by Mrs. Mulji in this connection.

A Mischievous Statement.- Mr. Mulji points out at the outset that the views of Mr. Mehta are not representative of the N.T.U.F. and lacks in authority, and accuses Mr. Mehta of mis-statement of facts. According to Mrs. Mulji, Mr. Mehta's action is calculated to create a rift in the relations between the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation, at a stage when the latter is seeking affiliation as a unit in the All-India Trade Union Congress. The relations between the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation are not only cordial, but are creating the basis for "structural unity". At this juncture an interview of this nature from Mr. Jammadas Mehta can have no other object but to disrupt the unity of the Indian working class.

Rank and File of Federation for Unity.- After pointing out that it was the Girni Kamgar Union and not the A.I.R.F. that took the initiative for restoration of unity, and that the A.I.T.U.C. continued these efforts, though "at every stage the N.T.U.F. has found some issue or other as a pretext to break the unity move, till the Joint Labour Board was formed in August 1935, Mrs. Mulji says:- "Since then, as Mr. Jammadas admits, Mr. Ruikar, on behalf of the A.I.T.U.C. has pressed for structural unity. In December last, the T.U.C. made another effort and agreed to ~~xxx~~ yield on the issue of representation at Geneva, in the interests of unity. Still the Federation leaders stubbornly x

refused to yield, very much to the dissatisfaction of their own rank and file. The joint meeting was abortive. But the militancy of the workers in the Federation asserted itself, and under pressure from below, the issue of unity was again raised at their general meeting and the outcome was Mr. Giri's proposals".

No "Counter-Proposals".- Regarding the action taken by the last A.I.T.U.C. session on Mr. Giri's proposals, Mrs. Mulji says:- "It is now a well-known fact that the A.I.T.U.C. accepted Mr. Giri's proposals at the last session. The modifications to the constitution suggested are of a minor character, which, given the goodwill and the desire to unite, can be mutually adjusted as they do not involve principles of a fundamental nature; and a joint meeting has been called for the purpose. It is a travesty of the facts to state that they are "counter proposals" of the A.I.T.U.C. This, undoubtedly, is Mr. Jammadas's attempt to create a smoke-screen for a retreat even from the position taken up by the Federation in Mr. Giri's proposals."

Fundamental Differences.- On this point, Mrs. Mulji says:- "In pointing out the fundamental differences between the N.T.U.F. and the A.I.T.U.C. as a difference between "the amelioration of grievances through negotiations and legislative activity", on the one hand, and "laying greater stress on the class struggle" on the other, Mr. Jammadas pays lip sympathy to the desire for unity on both sides. This difference is of Mr. Jammadas's creation. A genuine trade unionist cannot separate the two. He should not only have recourse to negotiations and legislative activity, but also resort to collective withdrawal of labour in order to create sanctions for collective bargaining. If he denies this principle, Mr. Jammadas is not a trades unionist, and he has no business to dabble in the workers' movement. If he accepts it as a principle, where does he differ from the A.I.T.U.C.? — is it in

actually resorting to direct action?"

Not Afraid of Majority Decisions.- Regarding Mr. Mehta's charge that the A.I.T.U.C., being in a minority, is fighting shy of the necessity to accept ~~the~~ majority decisions, Mrs. Mulji says:- "The final insinuation that the A.I.T.U.C. does not want unity because it would be in a minority is mischievous. The All-India Trade Union Congress group has considered this point and has agreed to abide by majority decisions on representation to Geneva and the political programme and has conceded the principle of foreign affiliation to the N.T.U.F. as a unit, in the interests of unity. It still stands by this decision and calls upon the Federation ~~group~~ to unite. If the Federation group will be in a majority, then why is Mr. Mehta afraid of "structural unity" and why is he putting obstacles in its way?"

Appeal for Unity.- Mrs. Mulji closes with ~~one~~<sup>an</sup> appeal for unity, and says:- "Finally, let me say to the N.T.U.F. trade unions that, in spite of the political differences between us, there is still a basis for unity on the principles of trade unionism and internal democracy. Unity is necessary to meet the increasing offensive on the standard of living of the working class and the intensifying repression in the country".

(The Times of India, 22-6-1936).+

Congress and Labour Organisations:

Liaison Work of Sub-Committee.

Reference was made at page 27 of the Report of this Office for May 1936 to the formation of a Labour Sub-Committee by the executive of the Indian National Congress. Dr. Narasingham, the Secretary of the Sub-Committee, has issued early in June 1936 a press statement drawing the attention of all Trade Unions and labour organisations in the

country to the fact that the Congress Labour Sub-Committee is at present engaged in collecting all relevant information regarding labour organisations. Office bearers of such central organisations and unions have already been approached, but those who have not been approached are requested to correspond with the Secretary of <sup>the</sup> Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee is collecting from labour organisations and trade unions copies of their constitutions, annual reports, etc. The Congress Labour Sub-Committee has announced its intention to maintain the closest contacts with Indian Trade Union organisations.

(The Hindu, 4-6-1936). +

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Intellectual Workers.

Service Conditions of Working Journalists;

Efforts to Collect Data by Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta.

The Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta, is at present engaged in collecting statistics of wages, <sup>and data about</sup> hours of work, leave and holidays, provident fund, if any, and other special conditions of service of working journalists serving in newspapers and periodicals in all the provinces of India, with a view to inaugurating a campaign for the improvement of conditions of service <sup>there</sup> of working journalists. It is felt that it would not be possible to expect any improvement in the situation without direct negotiation with the employers, and this again is impossible if adequate facts and figures are not made available. The General Secretary of the Association has, therefore, issued a circular letter to all working journalists in India requesting information, among others, on the following points:- (1) The capacities in which the journalist has served in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> paper and other papers with a statement of the length of service in each paper; (2) present salary; (3) working hours; (4) leave, casual and general, ordinarily allowed in a year; (5) provident fund, if any, with a statement as to when it was established, the employers' and the workers' contributions, etc;.

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(The Bombay Chronicle, 24-6-1936).

*(Not published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika or the Statesman.)*

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.Economic Condition of Indian Textile Industry:Statistics of Production, 1930-1935. +

In his speech opposing the adoption of a 40-hour week for the textile industry, Sir Hormusji Mehta, Indian Employers' Delegate at the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference, adduced the weak economic condition of the Indian textile industry as one of the reasons for India's inability to subscribe to such a Convention. In this context, Sir H. Mehta stated that ~~the~~ the textile industry was going down hill in India and that during the past four years 20 per cent. of the industry has been scrapped, including 6 million spindles and between 20 and 30 thousand looms. Mr. Fulay, the Indian Workers' Delegate at the Conference, in his speech supporting the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry, refuted Sir H. Mehta's statement about the decadence of the industry and said, <sup>"It was stated,</sup> ~~that~~ 20 per cent. of the industry had been scrapped. Apparently, that may seem to be true, but in reality what has happened is that the mills have merely changed their places — that is to say, new mills have come into existence in Northern India, in South India, and in the States, and the number of mills actually has increased".

The discrepancy between the statements made at the Conference by the employers' and workers' delegates, has occasioned surprise in India. The Simla correspondent of the Times of India, Bombay, after making special enquiries in the Government of India Secretariat reported this to his paper on 12-6-1936:

"Sir Hormusji Mehta's statement at Geneva this week regarding the condition of the textile industry in India has come as a shock to official circles, and, in the absence of any explanation of his extraordinary figures, continues to be a puzzle.

"Sir Hormusji, in supporting his statement that the textile industry in India is 'going down hill', is said to have quoted figures indicating that since 1931-32, two-thirds of the spindles and one-sixth of the looms engaged in the industry in India at that date have been

scrapped. This comparison is made with figures available from the Department of Industries, according to whose statistics, production except for 1934-35 (when there was a small drop), has been steadily increasing, and we are asked to believe that this increase has been effected simultaneously with a two-third reduction in spindles. Unfortunately, the Department of Industries have no figures of the number of spindles and looms in operation from 1933-34 onwards, but up to 1932-33 there was a steady annual increase.

"Statistics of the number of persons employed in the industry show that the number in 1934 was slightly in excess of those employed in 1931 so that this makes the figures Sir Hormusji is alleged to have quoted still more puzzling. Some elucidation from authoritative bodies, like millowners' associations, would be welcomed".

(The Times of India, 15-6-1936)

The Hindustan Times, Delhi, which also inquired into the matter, gives the following information in its issue of 17-6-1936:

"Enquiries made in Simla show that statistics do not bear out the allegation made last week at Geneva by Sir Hormusji Mehta that the textile industry in India is "going down hill". ~~The textile industry was going down~~ The most recent statistics available show that conditions in this industry in India are continuing satisfactorily. For example, the number of persons employed last year in British India totalled 385,065, while in 1933 the figure was 364,217. So far as production is concerned, the eleven-month period of 1935-36 compares very well with last year, while last year shows a substantial increase on the previous year.

"The actual figures are given in tabular form below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Spindles</u>	<u>Looms</u>	<u>Production</u>
1935-36 (for 11 months only)	Figures not yet published	Figures not yet published	699,447,879 lbs. 3,278,039,145 yds. 2,671,402 doz.
1934-35	..	..	(( 736,578,133 lbs. ) ( 3,397,107,287 yds. ( 2,412,231 doz.
1933-34	..	..	( 645,860,855 lbs. ( 2,945,051,727 yds. ( 1,587,152 doz.
1932-33	9,166,934	130,705	( 694,901,057 lbs. ( 3,109,898,949 yds. ( 1,693,312 doz.
1931-32	8,908,330	173,551	( 672,258,000 lbs. ( 1,454,003 doz.
1930-31	8,802,339	171,725	( 590,358,000 lbs. ( 1,279,048 doz.

Production quantity (in lbs.) and their equivalent (in yards).

~~The~~ Statement showing the number of persons employed in the cotton textile industry:-

	<u>1930</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1935</u>
In British India	353,451	382,525	397,358	<del>383,885</del> 364,217	385,065	figures not available.
In Indian States.	51,297	54,246	56,207	figures not available ----		
Total	404,748	436,771	453,565			

(The Hindustan Times, 17-6-1936) +

Reorganisation of Statistical Branch (Commerce Department):

Unemployment Statistics to be Collected. +

The need for reorganising and developing the statistical side of the Commerce Department of the Government of India have in recent years been stressed several times in the Legislative Assembly. The general complaint is that the present machinery, owing to several reasons, is unable to provide the public with complete, reliable and up-to-date trade statistics, as <sup>are now done</sup> ~~is now done~~ in England and the United States. In particular, it is being felt that the absence of reliable and comprehensive statistical information about the incidence of unemployment in India, is standing in the way of Government pursuing an active policy of combating unemployment. At present, difficulty is being experienced owing to the location of the main Office of the Statistical Branch of the Commerce Department at Calcutta, and, Government is, therefore, planning to transfer the entire office to Delhi. The reorganised Statistical Office, ~~when~~ it is understood, may make a beginning with the difficult task of collecting unemployment statistics.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-6-1936). +



Indian Iron Merger Scheme:General Plan Outlined. +

The London Correspondent of the Statesman, in a message dated 16-6-1936 to his paper says that, as a result of prolonged discussions in Bombay and London between the Bengal Iron Company and representatives of the Indian Iron and Steel Company and Tata Steel interests, the general plan for an amalgamation has now been agreed in principle. Firstly, the Bengal Iron and Indian Iron and Steel Companies, already closely connected will be amalgamated. A new steel company with a capital of about £3,500,000 is also being formed, in which the merger undertaking along with Tata Steel interests will participate on a share-holding basis. Broadly, this will be the structure of the scheme which will bring together all the leading Indian pig iron and steel producing interests, eliminating unnecessary competition. Simultaneously both the Indian Iron and Steel Company and Bengal Iron Company will take the opportunity to clean up their balance sheet position. The negotiations are incomplete, but an official statement is likely to be issued very shortly.

(The Statesman, 18-6-1936). +

Report of Special Tariff Board:Protection to Cotton Industry Lowered.\* +

The Report of the Special Tariff Board set up by the Government of India on 10th September 1935 to make an enquiry regarding the level of

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\* Report of the Special Tariff Board on the Enquiry regarding the level of duties necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian Cotton Textile Industry against imports from the United Kingdom of cotton piecegoods and yarn, artificial silk fabrics and mixture fabrics of cotton and artificial silk. Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1936. Price Re. 1-10 or 2s.9d. pp. 135. PTB-SCR.

duties necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian Cotton Textile Industry against imports from the United Kingdom of (a) cotton piecegoods, (b) cotton yarn, (c) fabrics of artificial silk and (d) mixture fabrics of cotton and artificial silk, has been published. The terms of reference of the Board were:-

"To recommend on a review of present conditions and in the light of the experience of the effectiveness of the existing duties, the level of the duties necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian Cotton Textile Industry against imports from the United Kingdom of (a) cotton piecegoods, (b) cotton yarn, (c) fabrics of artificial silk and (d) mixture fabrics of cotton and artificial silk. By adequate protection is meant duties which will equate the prices of imported goods to the fair selling prices for similar goods produced in India".

Findings and Recommendations.- Below are given the principal recommendations of the Report:-

The Board recommends that on cloths of bordered grey (i.e., chadars dhotis, saris and scarves) bleached goods and coloured goods (excluding prints) the duty necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian cotton textile industry against imports from the United Kingdom should be 20 per cent. ad valorem.

On plain grey goods the duty necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian cotton textile industry against imports from the United Kingdom should be 20 per cent. ad valorem or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  annas per lb. whichever is higher.

On an examination of the c.i.f. c.i. price and the mills' realisation price of closely comparable samples submitted by importers, the Board has also come to the conclusion that its recommendation regarding the duty necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian textile industry against imports of cotton piecegoods is justified.

Having regard to the fact that the Indian textile printing industry is yet in its infancy and that sufficient costings have not been given to justify equation of prices, the Board makes no recommendation regarding the duties necessary in the case of printed goods.

In the case of artificial silk and mixtures of cotton and artificial silk, the Board finds that in view of the dominating position attained by Japan and of the overriding influence exercised by that country where supplies and prices of artificial silk goods and mixtures in India are concerned, the Board does not feel justified in attempting to equate the prices of such goods imported from the United Kingdom to the fair selling prices of similar goods produced in India and on the information and data produced the Board is unable to make an accurate estimation either of the protection afforded by the present tariff or of the level of duties necessary to afford adequate protection against imports from the United Kingdom of fabrics ~~or~~ of artificial silk and mixture fabrics of cotton and artificial silk.

The Board has estimated the fair selling prices of yarns of different counts produced by Indian mills and has followed a method similar to that adopted in the case of cloth costings. The Board has compared these fair selling prices with the ~~at~~ c.i.f. c.i. prices of imported yarns of the same counts, but finds the comparison complicated by the consideration that different brands of the same counts of yarn are sold at varying prices.

The Board finds that on counts of 40s the duty required to afford adequate protection varies from nothing to 2.84 annas per lb. and on counts of 50s from nothing to 0.89 annas per lb. and on counts of 60s from nothing to 10.9 per cent. ad valorem. On a review of the whole position the Board has come to the conclusion that the existing levels of duty afford adequate protection to the industry and recommend that on yarn of counts of 50s and below the duty should be 5 per cent. ad valorem or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  anna per lb. and on counts above 50s, 5 per cent. ad valorem. +

### Indian Textile Interests Indignant.

The Report has evoked indignant protests from Indian textile interests. The following extracts from an editorial article published in "Indian Finance", dated 27-6-1936 express the Indian point of view:-

In spite of the terms of reference being left open, the enquiry was prejudiced, from the start, in favour of a reduction of duties. The Government of India have only been anxious, for reasons of policy, that such action should be based on the findings of a Tariff Board. Now that the recommendations of the Board are to their liking, and it is possible to suggest that prompt action is called for in the interests of the trading community, the Government of India have given effect to the Board's recommendations by a notification under Section 4, (1) of the Indian Tariff Act, which vests in them the necessary powers.

Neither the elaborate procedure of a Special Tariff Board, nor the legality of the Government's action thereon, can detract from the fact that a paramount problem of our national economy has been decided by executive action without the Legislature having an opportunity to consider it from a broader standpoint of public interest than what the Government of India, not to speak of the Tariff Board, can be expected to bear in mind. The country and the Legislature can acquiesce in such action only if the conclusions of the Board and the reasoning behind them were altogether beyond challenge. As it is, the soundness, of the Board's conclusions is far from self-evident.

If it is remembered that the extent of protection now afforded ~~is~~ is the result of an arbitrary averaging and that the goods, which are sufficiently dissimilar to stand in the way of comparison of costs and prices, are, at the same time, sufficiently similar to make them essentially competitive, it will be realised that there is the gravest risk in reducing the duty on plain grey piecegoods to 20 per cent. ad valorem or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ~~annas~~ annas per lb., whichever is greater, and the duty on bordered grey bleached and coloured piecegoods to 20 per cent. ~~ad~~ ad valorem.

It is only natural that the report of the Board and the action of the Government of India thereon should be treated by the Indian public with an outburst of indignant protest. Bombay business leaders have expressed their apprehension that the reductions in the scales of import duties might not only cut into the profits of the more efficient mills, but would have the effect of sending into liquidation a number of other units which may be considered to be reasonably efficient. It may be said that India has her obligations in this regard on account of the Ottawa Pact, the Indo-British Trade Pact and the Mody-Lees Pact. But the Ottawa Pact had already been denounced; and once it is realised that the Mody-Lees Agreement is ~~x~~ of an unofficial nature, it will be seen that Government need not be in any undue hurry to effect the reduction in the import duties on cotton goods. We trust the Assembly will lose no time in bringing this question up for discussion and re-establishing faith in the continuance of the policy of protection to Indian industry. +

### Possibilities of Indian Glass Industry:

#### Survey by Industrial Research Bureau Expert. +

As a result of a recommendation made by the Industrial Research Council at its first session held in July 1935, Mr. E. Dixon, Assistant director of the Industrial Research Bureau, has made a survey of the Indian glass industry, and submitted a report on economic conditions in the industry. The following is a brief summary of the report:-

Location.- At present the glass industry in India is located in five main areas — the United Provinces, Bengal, the Bombay Presidency, the Central Provinces and the Punjab. The chief glass-making centre is the United Provinces, which includes Ferozabad, the home of the bangle industry.

Small-Scale Operations.- Most Indian glass works were found to be small, though there are a few large works. During the early days of the industry, it is pointed out, many foreign experts were employed in India, but few apparently adapted themselves successfully to Indian conditions. It is observed that the industry bears the stamp of the Japanese more than any other influence. At Panipat in the Punjab there is a branch of the glass industry, said to be more than 200 years old, where spangle glass to the value of Rs. 20,000 is manufactured annually.

Raw Materials.- India possesses all the principal raw materials required for the manufacture of glass with the exception of soda ash. Supplies of coal and refractory materials in India are discussed, and there appears to be a promising future for exploitations of valuable deposits of Sillimanite and Kyanite which have recently become of considerable importance. Nearly all Indian glass furnaces are pot furnaces and the pots ~~of~~ for these are mostly imported. It is suggested that there is a promising future for Indian-made pots.

Import Figures.- Figures of imports are carefully examined. The glass bangle industry is holding its own against foreign competition, but bottles and phials are coming into India in increasing numbers. The chief exporter to India is Japan, whose prices are so low that Indian factories cannot at present compete. Though there is a large demand for funnels and globes for lamps in India, there is only a small import which shows that this section of the industry is holding its own. On the other hand the amount of sheet and plate glass imported is steadily increasing, while practically all table-ware is imported.

Production Figures.- Statistics of the industry are stated to be most difficult to obtain, but a number of valuable figures are given in the survey. For example, it is estimated that the value of bangles made in factories, as distinct from those made in cottages, together with the value of the glass made for supply to the cottages, is about Rs. 3 millions annually.

Quality.- Discussing the quality of Indian glass-ware, the report says that it cannot be described as good, and that cheapness is usually the sole manufacturing consideration. This is put down as being due to lack of supervision and not necessarily to any want of skill on the part of glass-blowers. Practically all glass-articles are copies of imported wares. "Very little glass-ware of a distinctive nature is produced, and it seems remarkable that Indian art, much of which is expressed in geometric designs, has not been utilized in this very beautiful medium as a mode of expression".

Main Conclusions.- Below are given the more important of the conclusions reached in the report:-

The soda ash content of Indian glass is unnecessarily high and the lime content is low, resulting in glass of inferior quality. The various costs for materials vary widely in different localities, being greatly influenced by railway freights, but soda ash, weight for weight, is everywhere very much more costly than the other bulk materials. In spite of this, the cost of coal consumed is the heaviest of the charges for materials in the manufacture of ordinary white glass. In the manufacture of bangles ~~at~~ the cost of colouring agents is sometimes greater than the cost of coal. The fuel consumption is very high in relation to the quantities of glass melted.

Cost of Production Unnecessarily High.- The report concludes with the finding that the manufacturing costs of Indian glass are unnecessarily heavy, as fuel and soda ash are used to excess because of the wasteful furnaces employed. The additional expense so incurred has no justification as the resulting glass is deteriorated by the large quantities of soda ash used.

(The Statesman, 26-6-1936). +

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Employment and Unemployment.

Educated Unemployed in Madras Presidency:

Census Ordered by Government of Madras. +

To ascertain the extent of educated unemployment in the Madras Presidency, the Government of Madras have just ordered a census of the educated unemployed to be taken by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras. The graduates of the Madras, Andhra and Annamalai Universities and holders of Diploma in Economics or European languages who are not at present employed, will be invited to send their names to the Commissioner, giving particulars of previous employment, if any, and the nature thereof. When they are in possession of the necessary statistics, the Government will set about devising means of tackling the problem.

(The Hindu, 23-6-1936). +

Settling Graduates on Land:

Details of Punjab Scheme. +

The Punjab Government has in hand a scheme for settling university graduates on the land and turning them into practical farmers. A novel feature of the experiment is the provision of such amenities of life as are normally wanting in rural areas and the <sup>absence of</sup> ~~presence~~ of which in towns make the intellectual classes drift to towns.

The idea is to allot two squares of land each to over 100 graduates, but these persons must not otherwise be in possession of land and should be prepared to work the land themselves and not leave it in the hands of tenants. In fact, it is being considered whether it would be better not to let these graduates acquire proprietary rights and give them a sort of permanent tenancy so that they may stick to land. The idea of

the authorities is that the houses of these settlers, though made of mud, should be of such design as to be suitable for middle class families. Each house will have its own garden and lawn for tennis court. Government would give all the assistance necessary to make the graduates develop community life and live in concord, irrespective of the difference in religious beliefs. Club life and games would be encouraged.

It is hoped that the amenities for social life and enjoyment provided, would induce the graduate-settlers to stick to the land. The scheme has passed through the preliminary stages, and a Board, including the Commissioner of Development, Punjab, <sup>and</sup> the Nili Bar Colony Officer, will shortly be constituted to select proper graduates for the purpose.

(The Times of India, 2-6-1936). +

#### Cigar Making as a Cottage Industry;

##### Training Class for Unemployed Opened in Rangpur, Bengal. +

Faced with the growing incidence of unemployment, efforts are being made by several District and Local bodies to stimulate decaying cottage industries and to start new ones. An experiment of this kind, with great possibilities of success, is reported from Rangpur, Bengal.

Rangpur occupies a prominent place among the tobacco-growing tracts of the world, but no tobacco industry has so far developed in this district, although raw materials exported from this place have been manufactured into finished products in Burma, Java and Ceylon. In order to introduce cigar-making as a cottage industry in the tobacco area, Mr. S.K. Ghosh, I.C.S., the District Magistrate of Rangpur, has initiated a scheme of cigar-making. A training class has already been opened with eight young men of the locality.

The cigars turned out here compare favourably with those of Burma and Madras. It was learned on enquiry that a young man after three months training can easily turn out 200 cigars per day and earn Re.1/- daily. An ordinary labourer working in his spare time can earn four four to six annas per day.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 2-6-1936).

Unemployment In Mysore States;State's Relief Measures Reviewed in Light of Sapru Report. +

The report on unemployment conditions in the United Provinces of the Sapru Committee is continuing to attract serious attention in other Provinces of India, as also in the more advanced Indian States. The Government of Mysore State recently made a detailed examination of the Report with reference to conditions in Mysore and have issued a statement showing what is actually being done by way of unemployment relief in the light of the suggestions made by the different departments of the State.

The examination has been made in consultation with the Heads of Departments and their views obtained. A review of the replies received indicate that (1) in a large number of cases, continuous action on the lines recommended by the Sapru Committee is already being taken; (2) in some cases, the conditions are somewhat dissimilar and the recommendations do not apply. This is so especially in regard to the recommendations about medical and legal practitioners, and (3) in some cases the possibility of adopting the recommendations with necessary modifications need to be further examined.

Some of the main points referred to by the Government are as follows

Public Works.- The expenditure on public works is being maintained by the Mysore Government at a fairly high level. In recent years, there has been a large development of irrigation and there are at present in hand projects to cost about Rs. ~~4.25~~ millions. The Public Works Department of the State is encouraging engineering graduates who come forward to take up contracts. Employment is also being found for them in connection with village improvement works.

Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.- No difficulty has been experienced in placing Mechanical and Electrical Engineering graduates in Government and private institutions for receiving practical training. Arrangements have also been made with the Kolar Gold Fields for training and recruiting local people.

Accelerated Pace of Industrialisation.- The manufacture of steel and rolled sections has just been started in Bhadravati. The manufacture of pharmaceuticals has been established on a permanent basis. The



lac industry is being developed and an organisation created for industrial research. Factories for the manufacture of electrical materials, cement, paper and spun silk are being established either by Government or with Government aid. Schemes for the starting of new industries are under the active consideration of the Board of Industries which consists of officials and non-officials interested in industries and commerce. Sericulture is a very important subsidiary occupation in the State and owing to outside competition the industry is in a very bad way. With the additional allotments made by Government, arrangements are being made for the increased distribution of disease-free seed and cross-breed layings to the sericulturists and other measures are also being taken to help the industry through the present crisis. The rates ~~of~~ charged for power have been recently reduced in the interests of small industries.

Vocational Training:- Committee Reports.- One of the important recommendations of the Sapru Committee relates to vocational training and the reform of elementary and secondary education. The need for similar action has long been felt in Mysore and a Committee was appointed by Government. The Committee has just submitted their report. The conclusions and recommendations of the Sapru Committee will be of great help to Government in formulating their final conclusions and the action to be taken to implement them.

Technological Studies and Cottage Industries.- A Technological Institute will soon start work at Bangalore and the various industrial and weaving schools are being reorganised so as to increase their usefulness to the community. The Khadi Centre at Badanwal organised by Government and the various District Board centres are doing very good work to popularise spinning and weaving in the villages and some rural reconstruction centres have been started where poultry farming, bee-keeping, etc. are being taught. A scheme for starting more centres with the co-operation of the Village Improvement Committees is being formulated.

Tobacco Cultivation.- Tobacco cultivation and poultry farming are receiving special attention of Government and some progress has already been achieved in both these industries.

Further Study Needed.- The following recommendations deserve to be examined in detail by the Government and the officers concerned:-

(a) Maintenance of unemployment statistics by Government, University and the Education Department.

(b) Grant of subsidies to medical men to settle in rural areas.

(c) The compulsory retirement of all Government employees who have attained 55 years. This is the rule and is invariably followed except in the case of ministerial officers.

(d) The reduction of the limit of age for people entering the subordinate service.

(e) Passing orders on the report of the vocational Committee and implementing the decisions.

(f) The development of subsidiary agricultural industries such as fruit growing, dairy farming, market gardening, poultry farming, etc.

(g) To bring up-to-date Mr. Sambasiva Aiyar's Industrial Survey of Mysore.

(h) The introduction of small industries and the study of the work done in Bengal, Japan and European countries.

(i) Establishing contacts between the Science Departments of the Mysore University and the Institute of Science and industrialists and businessmen; and lastly, (j) Securing for the people of the Mysore State an adequate share in the "All-India" services.

(The Hindu, 2-6-1936). +

Unemployment in U.P.:

Action taken by U.P. Government on Sapru Report. +

The following information about the action <sup>in fact</sup> by the Government of the United Provinces on the recommendations of the U.P. Unemployment (Sapru) Committee Report is taken from a communique issued in the middle of June 1936 by the Industries Department, U.P. Government:-

Rs. 400,000/- Annual Grant.- The United Provinces Unemployment Committee's report was discussed by the Legislative Council on March 2 and 3, 1936. Government then undertook that if the Legislature voted additional taxation, they would earmark Rs. 300,000 per annum for the purposes mentioned in the Report and an additional Rs. 100,000 for schemes of expansion or improvement in various transferred departments which would also have, as their result, reduction in unemployment among educated young men. The taxation measures (Stamps and Court-fees) were adopted by the Council in March. Accordingly, the following schemes of recurring expenditure have been accepted:-

Details of Distribution.- (1) Practical training for industries in a special colony at Cawnpore under almost commercial conditions, Rs. 25,000; (2) State-aid in the establishment and running of (a) an industrial credit company, Rs. 150,000 (only Rs. 100,000 in the first year); ~~131~~ (b) a company for marketing and small-scale finance, Rs. 50,000; (3) (A) Practical training in agriculture - (a) under almost commercial conditions on the Fyzabad Farm, and (b) on departmental farms, Rs. 10,000; (B) instruction in estate management - (4) Provincial Employment Board, Rs. 15,000; (5) training in certain subsidiary agricultural industries and grants-in-aid for their development, Rs. 25,000; (6) additional provision for veterinary training, Rs. 3,000; (7) additional provision for ~~subsidiary~~ subsidies to rural medical practitioners, Rs. 7,000; (8) enhancement of the amount placed at the disposal of the Board of Indian Medicine, Rs. 15,000; (9) establishment of six centres of agricultural improvement in canal areas, (The expenditure is expected to rise to about Rs. 30,000 per annum later on), Rs. 20,000; (10) additional provision for grants-in-aid for the establishment of fixed rural dispensaries, Rs. 15,000; (11) extension of the district Health Scheme to four out of the remaining 18 districts, Rs. 55,000; and (12) revival of three travelling dispensaries, Rs. 9,000.

The full text of the Communique, explaining in greater detail the schemes referred to above, is published in the Leader, Allahabad, dated 15-6-1936.

(The Leader, 15-6-1936). +

Social Insurance.Health Insurance Scheme for India:Government of India Consults Local Governments. +

According to the Associated Press of India, the Government of India is at present considering the possibilities of inaugurating ~~an~~ Health Insurance Scheme for India. At the last session of the Legislative Assembly, several members had pressed the desirability of Government taking action in the matter, though hitherto the difficulties caused by the size of the country and the unorganised state of industries and of labour have stood in the way of a serious consideration of the question. The Local Governments have been asked by the Government of India to submit reports on the subject, and it is understood that one or two Local Governments have already forwarded their reports. It is anticipated that the Government of India will be in a position to form its conclusion by the end of October of the current year. Inquiries go to show that there is very little chance of the Government of India dealing legislatively with the matter, but provincial replies may indicate the desirability of a thorough enquiry into this most complicated question.

(The National Call, 13-6-1936).+

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Leprosy in Jute Mill Areas: Action by Indian  
Jute Mills Association in 1935. +

Reference was made at page 83 of our July 1935 report to the measures taken during 1934 by the Indian Jute Mills Association to eradicate leprosy in jute mill areas. Particulars of the activities undertaken in this field in 1935 are given in the Report for 1935 of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association; a brief account of the work done is given below:-

Report of Leprosy Propaganda Officer.- During June 1935, Dr. B.N. Ghosh, M.B., the Leprosy Propaganda Officer, made a comprehensive tour of the jute mills with the object of inspecting and reporting on the arrangements for the treatment of lepers. As a result of Dr. Ghosh's observations and findings, the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association forwarded to the Committee of the Association a "Report on Leprosy in the Jute Mills under the Indian Jute Mills Association" in which the following proposals were made for improving the anti-leprosy work being done in the mills —

(a) Training of mill doctors.— All mill doctors should, if possible, be trained to diagnose and treat leprosy.

(b) Treatment clinics.— The standard of work in the present treatment clinics should be improved and the necessary equipment and accommodation provided and steps should be taken to secure the regular attendance of all patients in the mills who are suffering from leprosy. This might be made a condition of their being allowed to continue their work. It is also advisable that more clinics be opened in mills where there are no clinics at present, and that the medical officers of these mills should receive the necessary training in order to carry out the work effectively.

(c) Examination of newly recruited workers.— In order to prevent cases of leprosy, particularly infectious cases of leprosy, being recruited in the mills, all newly recruited workers should be examined by the mill medical officers.

(d) Re-examination of for leprosy of all mill workers.— It has been suggested that all the mill workers might be re-examined for leprosy. Since the survey of 1929-30, cases of leprosy dismissed from one mill have taken up work at other mills, and many new workers have

been recruited and it is advisable that steps should be taken to detect the many unknown cases of leprosy which undoubtedly exist.

Defects of Existing Arrangements.- The report stated that of the 84 mills under the Indian Jute Mills Association, arrangements for the treatment of lepers had been made in 36. In 48 mills there were no arrangements for the treatment of leprosy. The following comments were made regarding existing treatment centres:-

(a) In some of the centres the work is being done in a satisfactory way; in other centres the doctor in charge has not the necessary knowledge to do the work effectively and some of the doctors are not ~~kna~~ keen on the work;

(b) Some of the clinics have satisfactory accommodation and some of them have not; and

(c) in some of the mills in which there are clinics and provision for treatment, only a few of the patients working in the mills attend.

Member Mills consulted re Intensification of Campaign.- The Committee considered that it was important that the anti-leprosy work done in the jute mills should continue, that it should be extended and that it should be made more effective. They accordingly issued a circular to members asking them to state:-

(a) whether, if they had not already done so, they were agreeable to send their mill doctors to undergo a course of instruction in leprosy work;

(b) whether, if they had not already done so, they were prepared to provide the necessary equipment and accommodation for leprosy clinics at the mills under their control; and,

(c) whether they desired that a re-examination for leprosy of all jute mill workers should take place or not.

Replies to the circular have recently been received from all members; the information contained therein has been passed on to the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association for consideration and further report.

(Summarised from pages 95-97 of the Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association for 1935). +

Nutrition Advisory Committee Set Up:  
Viceroy Addresses First Meeting of Committee,  
Simla. 18-20th June 1936. +

The Indian Research Fund Association has recently set up a Nutrition Advisory Committee. The first meeting of the Committee was held from 18 to 20-6-1936 under the presidentship of Col. Jullu. His Excellency the Viceroy opened the meeting.

Reasons for Setting up the Committee.- General Sprawson, Director General of the Indian Medical Service, in inviting the Viceroy to open the meeting, explained that the reason why an advisory committee on human nutrition ~~was~~ had not been formed so far was, first, that Sir Robert McCarrison, who was until recently in India, himself constituted sufficient advisory authority on the subject of nutrition. Now, however, the scope of the work had broadened and the number of workers in the field had increased. Secondly, spade work was necessary in the analysis of the common food stuffs of India; they now had sufficient data to start a practical examination of the nutritional state of the country and, thereafter, advise on what might best be done to improve the condition of the people.

Viceroy's Speech.- The Viceroy, who is very much interested in the problems of nutrition, in his introductory speech recalled that the Royal Commission on Agriculture (of which he was the Chairman) had laid stress upon the immense importance to India of the subject of human ~~at~~ nutrition and, recommended the setting up of a nutrition committee. He said:-

"In no country is the subject of greater importance than in India. During the last 10 years, public opinion in this country has shown an **evergrowing** interest in the problems of human nutrition, and the time has come when all concerned should apply themselves with renewed energy and enthusiasm, not only to the active prosecution of research in this

in this field, but also to the practical application in the homes of the people of the fruits of that research in terms of the diet of the population both in the rural areas and in the towns.

"The Royal Commission on Agriculture envisaged the setting up of a central institute of human nutrition, but lack of funds has hitherto prevented the implementing of that recommendation. The Commission also advised that a link should be established between nutrition research and agricultural research. I have faith that the future will witness the founding of such a central institute of human nutrition. Agricultural research will shortly be in full swing at the new Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research at Delhi. The inauguration of this station affords an excellent opportunity to create a permanent liaison between research workers in human nutrition and those engaged in agricultural research. The appointment of an expert in human nutrition to work in the Delhi Agricultural Institute would be welcomed by the whole staff of agricultural research workers.

"The time has come to press forward with the difficult matter of making available to the general public the fruits of research in human nutrition. This, of course, is a function that belongs to the Provincial Governments and their officers. There is opportunity however for further exploration of that principle of joint endeavour between the provinces and central research institutions. The Nutrition Institutes at Coonoor and Calcutta have to their credit much work of the utmost value. I hope, the provinces will make the fullest use of that material, and that they will suggest for investigation by the central institutes any special problems with which they ~~may~~ may be confronted.

"The question how best to convey to the public the essential facts of diet in its relation to health is one that is deserving of close and systematic study by all concerned. Whether we are concerned to advance among the rural population improved agricultural practice or better nutrition, our best endeavours will achieve little that will endure unless and until literacy is imparted to the women of the countryside".

Proceedings of the Committee.- The Committee sat for three days (18, 19 and 20-6-1936) and has arrived at certain conclusions regarding the ~~directions in which~~ <sup>work</sup> has hitherto been done, and plans for the future. These recommendations will be placed before the Governing Body which meets some time in August or September 1936. While the recommendations of the Committee will not be made public until they have been examined by the Governing Body, it is understood that among the subjects discussed were the following:- (1) Analysis of Indian foodstuffs; (2) animal experiments in connection with food and deficiency diseases; (3) malnutrition; (4) a cheap spectographic method of examining food values,

and (5) field work. It is claimed that enough data has been collected to determine the nutritive value of the diet of the people of India in various territories. The experts have not at present drawn up charts offering alternative diets, which can be eaten by the masses of the people, but they expect that public health departments in the provinces will form their conclusions from the results forwarded to them. It is understood that about Rs. 90,000 will be spent on nutrition work in India during 1936.

(The Statesman, 19 and 23-6-36)

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Women and Children.Finding Work for Displaced Women Mine Workers:Bihar Government's Efforts to Introduce Handloom Weaving. +

The Bihar ~~Government~~ Government are, it is understood, investigating the possibility of finding employment for the women who will be thrown out of work by the new rules prohibiting women from working in mines.

Handloom Weaving.- In this connection inquiries are being made regarding the introduction of handloom weaving among these women workers. But any scheme to introduce weaving among them in the coalfields of Jharia must, it is felt, necessarily start with the establishment of an institution to teach weaving by an intensive course extending over a year. This would enable them to produce coarse cloth of the nature and design used by the workers in mines so that there may not be any difficulty in marketing. It is suggested that a central weaving institute at some central place like Jharia may be started with about 100 women at a time who should be granted stipends. If it is found difficult to persuade them to come to join such a central institute, the alternative proposal is that there may be a number of smaller institutes at centres to be scattered over the coalfields.

Points for Investigation.- The specific points that the Government have asked officers in Jharia to inquire into are the following:-  
(1) whether the scheme of introducing handloom weaving among the women in coalfields is likely to be successful; (2) whether it would be advisable to establish one weaving institute at some central place or should there be a number of institutes scattered over the coalfields; (3) whether it is anticipated that there will be difficulty in disposing of <sup>the</sup> coarse cloths to be manufactured by these women.

Initial Capital.- As regards <sup>the</sup> capital which will be required for carrying on the business of weaving by these women, it is being <sup>ascertained</sup> ~~inquired~~ whether it is likely to be provided by the learner herself or from her husband's savings or whether a weavers' co-operative society should be established. As an alternative it is proposed to fix the stipend during training at Rs. 6 and putting by each month Rs. 2 to the credit of the learner to be made over to her at the end of the training period. This system is followed in Bihar technical schools.

(The Statesman, 22-6-1936). +

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Agriculture.

Debt Conciliation Boards for Mysore State;

Main Features of Government Bill. †

The Bangalore Correspondent of the Statesman gives in the paper's issue dated 1-6-1936 details of a Bill providing for the setting up of conciliation boards to relieve agriculturists' indebtedness on the lines of the Central Provinces and Madras Acts on the subject which the Government of Mysore is planning to introduce in the Mysore Representative Assembly.

Main Provisions.- The scheme is on a voluntary and not compulsory basis; the main provisions of the Bill are:-

(1) The Measure applies to agriculturists who earn a living mainly by agriculture and whose debts exceed Rs. 100.

(2) It provides for the appointment of debt conciliation boards consisting of a chairman and two members, appointed by the Government, who shall hold office for three years.

(3) Any creditor or debtor wanting the intercession of the board may apply to it and notice is sent to the creditors and debtor and creditor brought face to face with each other.

(4) If creditors to whom not less than 50 per cent. of the debts are due and the debtors agree to an amicable settlement, the agreement is recorded by the board and registered and it has the same effect as a civil court decree.

(5) Amounts due under the agreement, if unpaid, are recoverable by the Deputy Commissioner as land revenue arrears and, if they are not so recovered, the amount may be recovered as if a civil court decree had been passed for its payment.

(6) In case there is no settlement and a creditor is responsible for refusing to agree to an amicable settlement, the board shall grant the debtor a certificate in respect of the debts owed by him to such creditors. If a creditor subsequently sues in court for the recovery of the debt in respect of which a certificate has been granted the court shall not allow the creditor the costs of the suit or interest at more than six per cent. after the date of the certificate.

(7) If after registration of an agreement, any unsecured creditor sues for the recovery of a debt, any decree passed in such a suit shall not be executed as against the assets of the debtor set apart in the agreement until all amounts regarded as payable under such agreement have been paid.

Jurisdiction of Civil Courts Barred.- There are also provisions in the Bill which act as deterrents to creditors who refuse to be accommodative and as inducements to those who are helpful. Finally, jurisdiction of a civil court is barred in respect of any matter pending before the board, whose order will be final.

(The Statesman, 1-6-1936). †

Maritime Affairs.Raising Minimum Age for Admission of Children to Employment at sea to 15: Bengal Chamber of Commerce approves Suggestion.

The Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, as amended in 1931, fixed 14 years as the minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea. Though India~~y~~ has not ratified the Convention fixing the minimum age for employment at sea at 14, adopted by the I.L.Conference of 1920, the amendment effected in 1931 makes India conform to the requirement of the 1920 Convention<sup>in</sup> respect of the minimum age for admission to employment at sea. The Government of India have recently circulated for opinion the proposal of the I.L.O. to raise the minimum age for employment at sea from 14 to 15. The views of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on this suggestion were invited by the Shipping Master, Calcutta, and the Chamber Committee, after consultation with their Shipping Sub-Committee, ~~in the matter~~ <sup>replied</sup> that they saw no objection to the raising of the minimum age limit to 15 years.

(Summarised from the Abstract ~~Extracts~~ of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for April 1936). +

0247

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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REPORT FOR JULY 1936.

N.B.-Every section of this Report may be taken out separately.

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References to the I. L. O.

The Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for 1935 (Vol.I), the Report of the Indian Jute Mills Association for 1935 and the Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for 1935, publish their recommendations regarding the nomination of the Indian employers' delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes the summary of a communique issued by this Office on 4-6-1936 on the opening of the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 19-7-36 publishes a picture of the 20th I.L.Conference in session.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 12-7-1936 publishes another picture of the 20th I.L.Conference in session.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 3-7-1936 publishes a group photograph of the Indian delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

A photograph of some members of the Indian delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference was published by the following: The Hindu dated 4-7-36, the Illustrated Weekly of India dated 12-7-36 and the National Call dated 20-7-1936.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 1-7-1936 publishes the usual weekly article contributed to the paper by this Office. The article is based on the chapter dealing with social insurance in 1935, in the Director's Report to the last I.L.Conference.

The same article is also published in the July 1936 issue of the "Insurance World", Calcutta.

\* \* \*

The Mirasdar, dated 29-6-1936 reproduces the note on the Director's Report published in the May 1936 issue of the Monthly Summary of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of the Indian Review publishes a short note bringing out the salient features of the Director's Report to the last I, L. Conference.

\* \* \*

A communique re. the speech of Sir B.N.Mitra in the course of the debate on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 24-6-1936) is published by the following: The Hindu dated 29-6-1936, the Leader dated 5-7-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 6-7-1936.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 15-7-1936 publishes a letter dated 2-7-1936 from its Geneva correspondent, giving the full text of Sir B.N.Mitra's speech in the course of the debate on the Director's Report to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 29-6-1936 publishes an editorial note on the above speech. The note criticises Sir Bhupendra's remarks condemning bilateral trade agreements. The note also refers to his plea for employment of more Indians on the staff of the I.L.O. and says:

"In his plea for the appointment of a larger number of Indians on the staff of the I.L.O., however, Sir Bhupendranath has the backing of the entire Indian public. India has been one of the major contributors to the finances of the League —and one of the regular payers. (Not a small matter, when the number of defaulters is on the increase). Her claims for better representation are legitimate and deserve better consideration than they have received so far."

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 13-7-1936 publishes an editorial article under the heading "A Propagandist Speech" commenting on the speech of Sir B.N.Mitra referred to above. The article strongly criticises his reference to "adequate government measures for alleviating famine conditions" and states that Sir Bhupendra's own Province — Bengal — is experiencing a serious famine at the present time. The article characterises the speech as <sup>a</sup> propagandist one, and says that on several points it is not based on facts.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 11-7-1936 publishes an editorial article criticising the remarks of Sir B.N.Mitra on "Planning" in India, made in the course of the speech on the Director's Report.

\* \* \*

A communique re. the speech of Mr. R.W.Fulay in the course of the debate on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 3-7-36) is published in the following: the Hindustan Times dated 4-7-1936, the Leader and the Hindu dated 9-7-1936 and the Indian Labour Journal dated 12-7-1936.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 10-7-1936 publishes a short editorial note commenting favourably on Mr. Fulay's <sup>paper</sup> speech urging the holding of an Asiatic Labour Conference. The strongly supports the plea for the holding of such a Conference at an early date.

\* \* \*

A communique re. the reply of Mr. H.B.Butler to the debate on



his Report (issued by this Office on 26-6-1936) is published by the following: the Hindu dated 30-6-1936 and the Indian Labour Journal dated 5-7-1936.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes an editorial article reviewing the Director's Report to the 20th I.L.Conference. The article pays a compliment to the work of the I.L.O. (The article is based on a communique on the Director's reply to the debate on his report, issued by this Office on 26-6-36).

\* \* \*

The Report of the Indian Jute Mills Association for 1935 publishes at pages 62 and 307-313 the correspondence between this Office and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the question of supplying information for the I.L.O. report on reduction of hours of work in the textile industry.

\* \* \*

A communique re. the Grey-Blue Report on Reduction of Hours in the Textile Industry (issued by this Office on 19-5-36) is published <sup>in</sup> by the May 1936 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta.

\* \* \*

A communique re. the speech of Mr. R.W.Fulay at the 20th session of I.L.Conference on the 40-hour week for the textile industry (issued by this Office on 17-6-1936) is published by the following: the Leader dated 3-7-1936, "Commerce and Industry" dated 7-7-1936 and the July 1936 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay.

\* \* \*

A communique re. the speech of Sir Homi Mehta at the 20th session of the I.L.Conference on the 40-hour week for the textile industry (issued by this Office on 16-6-36) is published by the following: "Federated India" dated 8-7-1936, the June 1936 issue of "Insurance and Finance Review", Calcutta, and the July 1936 issue of the Indian Teextile Journal, Bombay.

\* \* \*

"Kaukab-i-Hind", Lucknow, dated 3-7-1936 publishes an Urdu communique issued by this Office on 17-6-1936 summarising the speeches of Sir H.M.Mehta and Mr. R.W.Fulay on the proposal for a 40-hour week for the textile industry. The communique is published in Roman script.

\* \* \*

The June 1936 issue of "Labour", Calcutta, publishes a short editorial note under the heading: "Workers' Dream". The note comments on the proposal for a 40-hour week in certain industries and warmly endorses the proposal.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 15-7-1936 reproduces a note published in the Bulletin of the I.F.T.U. under the heading "International Labour Conference: Employers' Attack on 40-Hour Week." The note is contributed by Mr. W. Schevenels.

\* \* \*

"Federated India", Madras, dated 22-7-1936 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 12-5-1936 on the Blue Report on Reduction of Hours of Work in Public Works.

\* \* \*

The Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the year 1935 (Vol.I) publishes at pages 99-101 the views of the Chamber on the question of holidays with pay. The Chamber expressed the view that legislation on the subject is neither practicable nor desirable.

\* \* \*

The Report of the Indian Jute Mills Association for 1935 publishes the presidential speech of Mr. H.B. Burn, Chairman of the Association, at the annual general meeting held on 31-1-1936; in the course of his speech Mr. Burn referred to the Geneva proposals regarding holidays with pay and said that the Committee of the Association expressed itself against the adoption of any national legislation on the subject.

\* \* \*

The same Report as above publishes at pages 56-58 a summary of a circular letter sent out by the Government of India to industrial bodies for eliciting their views on the question of holidays with pay.

\* \* \*

The Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1935 publishes the views of the Association on the question of holidays with pay. The Association expressed itself against the adoption of the proposal for a paid holiday.

\* \* \*

A communique re the speech of Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty on the proposal for holidays with pay (issued by this Office on 30-6-1936) is published by the following: the Indian Labour Journal, dated 5-7-36 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 8-7-1936.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 1-7-1936 publishes the summary of the above speech, sent to it by its Geneva correspondent.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 3-7-1936 publishes a letter from the Geneva correspondent of the paper giving extracts from the speech delivered by Mr. R.W.Fulay in moving his resolution on the question of "dumping".

\* \* \*

A communique re. the speech of Mr. R.W.Fulay in moving his resolution on "Dumping", (issued by this Office on 5-7-36) is published by the following: The Hindustan Times dated 5-7-1936, "Commerce and Industry" and the National Call dated 7-7-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle and the Indian Labour Journal dated 12-7-1936.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 30-6-1936 publishes an editorial note on the above subject. The note expresses approval of the resolution moved by Mr. Fulay.

\* \* \* *\*of 4th July 1936.*

7 The Malabar Advocate, Travancore, reproduces the above editorial note.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 4-7-1936 publishes a news item giving details regarding the amendment moved by Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty to Clause I of Article 22 of the Draft Convention re. Regulation of certain special systems of recruiting workers, at the meeting of the Committee on the subject.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 4-7-1936 publishes an editorial note on the above. The note supports the amendment moved by Mr. Chetty and regrets the action of the Chairman of the Committee in ruling the amendment out of order.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 12-7-1936 publishes a short note on the complaint preferred by the Indian workers' delegate before the Conventions Committee of the last I.L.Conference re. the unsatisfactory manner in which the Washington Hours' Convention is being implemented by India as regards hours of work in railways.

\* \* \*

A communique re. the work accomplished by the 20th I.L.Conference (issued by this Office on 13-7-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 14-7-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 22-7-1936.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 26-7-1936 publishes a letter dated 19-7-1936 from Montreux from the paper's Swiss correspondent in the course of which the results of the 20th I.L.Conference are reviewed. The letter expresses dissatisfaction at the non-adoption of the 40-hour Conventions.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 20-7-1936 and the Leader dated 21-7-1936 publish a picture of Messrs. Fulay and Chelvapathy Chetty taken on their arrival at Bombay after attending the 20th I.L. Conference.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 18-7-1936 publishes interviews given by Messrs. Fulay and Chelvapathy Chetty to the Times of India regarding the work of the 20th I.L.Conference. Mr. Fulay expressed disappointment at the results of the Conference due to the non-adoption by it of the majority of the 40-hour week conventions considered by it. The following views are extracted from the report of the interview:

"We were greatly disappointed to find that after three weeks' deliberations, discussions and negotiations in the various committees set up to consider the question of the 40-hour week in various industries including textiles and other subjects such as holidays with pay, only two conventions, one relating to a 40-hour week in public works, and the other relating to holidays with pay, were passed with the requisite two-thirds majority. The other conventions were all defeated. Although the question of reduction of hours of work in the textile industry is on the agenda for next year for final decision, it may be taken as a certainty that this convention will also be defeated at the next session."

"It would be in the fitness of things if members of the Central Legislature took up the question of convening the Asiatic Labour Conference by securing the active co-operation of the Indian Government for such a regional conference, followed by the establishment of a committee of employers, workers and Government representatives of the various Asiatic countries to work out some plan of industrial production and exchange of goods".

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 21-7-1936 publishes the report of an interview granted by Mr. Fulay to the representative of the Hindustan Times. The views were the same as those expressed in the interview given to the Times of India.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 19-7-1936 publishes an 'interview' given to a representative of the paper by Mr. G.Chelvapathy Chetty on the result of the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 20-7-1936 publishes a picture of a reception accorded to Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty at the <sup>Central</sup> Madras Railway Station, on his return from Geneva.

\* \* \*  
The Bombay Chronicle dated 24-7-1936 <sup>publishes the report</sup> of an interview given by Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty on the results of the 20th I.L.Conference. He expressed disappointment at the results of the Conference and at the increasing reluctance of the Government of India to ratify I.L.Conventions.

\* \* \*  
An article re. entry of Egypt into the I.L.O.(contributed by this Office on 13-7-1936) is published by the Indian Labour Journal dated 19-7-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 22-7-1936.

\* \* \*  
A communique re. the 75th session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 5-5-1936) is published <sup>in</sup> by the May 1936 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta.

\* \* \*  
A communique re. the 76th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. (issued by this Office on 11-6-1936) is published in the June 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

\* \* \*  
The Hindu dated 2-7-1936 publishes a news item to the effect that Mr. N.M.Joshi will be attending the forthcoming meeting of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*  
The Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1935, publishes the recommendations of the Association regarding the personnel of the Indian Employers' Delegation to the Maritime Technical Tripartite Meeting of 1935.

\* \* \*  
The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during April and May 1936 publishes the views of the Chamber on the report of the Preparatory Maritime Meeting held in 1935.

\* \* \*  
A communique re. <sup>the</sup> agenda and date of the ~~X~~ Second Maritime session of the I.L.Conference to be held in October 1936 (issued by the Government of India on 10-7-1936) is published by the following: The Hindustan Times dated 11-7-1936, the Hindu dated 10-7-1936, the Bombay Chronicle dated 12-7-1936 and the Times of India dated 13-7-36.

\* \* \*

The June 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes the items on the agenda and the date of the forthcoming Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during June 1936 publishes a note on the items on the agenda of the forthcoming Maritime Session of the I.L.Conference. The Association has recommended the nomination of Mr. M.A.Master as Indian employers' delegate to the Conference.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes a note summarising the recommendations of the Chamber regarding the personnel of the Indian Employers' delegation to the forthcoming Maritime Session of the I.L.Conference--

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 12-7-1936, the Bombay Chronicle and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 13-7-1936, the Hindu dated 14-7-1936 and the Times of India dated 16-7-1936 publish a news item to the effect that the Southern India Chamber of Commerce has recommended Mr. M.A. Master, for nomination as Indian employers' delegate to the Maritime session of 1936.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 27-7-1936 and the National Call dated 30-7-1936 publish a news item about the recommendations of the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce regarding the nomination of the Indian Employers' delegation to the 21st (Maritime) Conference. The Chamber has recommended Mr. M.A.Master and Mr. D.S.Erulkar for nomination as employers' delegate and adviser respectively.

\* \* \*

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during April and May 1936 publish the views of the Chamber on the question of raising the minimum age for employment at sea.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of the Hindustan Review, Patna, publishes a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. Year-Book, 1934-35.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 5-7-1936 publishes an appreciative review of Mr. E.J.Phelan's book: "Yes and Albert Thomas".

\* \* \*

The June 1936 issue of "India and the World", Calcutta, publishes an appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "Recreation and Education."

\* \* \*

The May 1936 issue of the New Review, Calcutta, publishes an appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "Children and Young Persons under Labour Law". The same cutting includes reviews of "Trade Unionism and Labour Disputes in India" and "The Factories Act" (with Notes and Comments) in the course of which references are made to the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

A communique on the world unemployment figures for the 2nd quarter of 1936 (issued by this Office on 25-7-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 26-7-1936, the Statesman dated 27-7-1936, and the Times of India and "Commerce and Industry" dated 28-7-1936.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 29-7-1936 publishes a short editorial note on the above. The I.L.O. is warmly complimented for collecting the statistics and dissatisfaction is expressed at the Government of India for not making any efforts so far to collect unemployment statistics for India.

\* \* \*

The June 1936 issue of the Bulletin of the National Council of Women in India, Calcutta, publishes a short editorial note on the meeting of the Committee of Representatives of the International Students' Organisations at Geneva in April last. Reference is made to the suggestion made by the Committee to the I.L.O. to set up an international centre of information to facilitate the educated unemployed finding employment. The note states that this is a move in the right direction and emphasises the point that the I.L.O. should try to find out openings outside India for the educated unemployed of India.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 15-7-1936 publishes an editorial article under the heading "Our Railway Mandarins" on the recent proposals for staff retrenchment in State-owned Railways in India. In the course of the article reference is made to the unsatisfactory manner in which the I.L. Convention re. Hours of work has been implemented by Indian railways.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 30-6-36 publishes a short editorial note on the promulgation of legislation in France regarding holidays with pay, hours of work, etc. The note congratulates

French workers on their victory and draws the attention of Indian workers to the potency of the general strike as a means to secure better conditions of work.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 1-7-1936 publishes a news item from Pondicherry regarding the application of certain French labour laws in <sup>French</sup> India.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 3-7-1936, the Indian Labour Journal dated 5-7-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 12-7-1936, publish an article under the caption "France's Labour Laws: Decision to apply them to French India". The article refers to the complaint~~x~~ made to the I.L.O. regarding the non-application in French India of I.L. Conventions ratified by France, and shows how the complaint to the I.L.O. has borne fruit. The article was contributed by this Office and was published anonymously.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 8-7-1936 publishes a news item from Brussels, received by air mail, relating to the announcement by the Belgian Government of the introduction of a 40-hour week, holidays with pay, etc. in Belgium.

\* \* \*

The June 1936 issue of "India and the World", Calcutta, publishes an article on "The Economic Features of the Post-War World", contributed by the Director of this Office. In the course of the article, references are made to the work of the I.L.O. towards effecting a world-wide improvement of economic conditions.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 5-7-1936 publishes an article under the caption "Social Insurance in India" contributed by this Office on 15-4-1936 and published anonymously.

\* \* \*

The June 1936 issue of the Bulletin of the National Council of Women in India, Calcutta, publishes an article under the caption: "The Status of Women" contributed by Dr. Girod. The article deals with the efforts of the League of Nations to raise the status of women and numerous references are made to the interest of the I.L.O. in the question as it affects women workers.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 2-7-1936 publishes the report of a



joint meeting of the European and Indian Progressive Groups at Bombay on 30-6-36 at which the League of Nations was the principal topic for discussion. The chief speakers were Messrs. Jammadas M. Mehta and Mr. R.H.Parker. In the course of their speeches, references were made to the beneficent influence of the I.L.O. in improving conditions of labour of workers the world over.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 26-7-1936 publishes a news item from London, sent by air mail, summarising a speech delivered by Mr. Sodhbans at a luncheon given by the Master Cotton Spinners, Manchester. A casual reference is made in the news item to the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 1-7-1936 publishes a short editorial note on the retirement of Sir B.A.Mitra. Reference is made to Sir Bhupendra's services to India at Geneva.

\* \* \*

Financial News, Bombay, dated 4-7-1936 publishes a note under the heading "The Social Activities of the League", dealing with the researches in the field of nutrition conducted by the League. Prominent mention is made of the collaboration of the I.L.O. with the League in this <sup>sphere of</sup> research work.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 2-7-1936 publishes a note received from Geneva by air mail describing the International Summer Courses organised by the International Federation of League of Nations Societies, the Institute of International Studies and the Institute of International Relations.

\* \* \*

The June 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces from the May 1936 issue of the Ministry of Labour Gazette, the Report of the British Ministry of Labour for 1935. The Report contains references to the relationships between the Ministry and the I.L.O. during 1935.

\* \* \*

The June 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces a note from Industrial and Labour Information dated 4-5-1936 ~~on~~ entitled: "National Labour Office in Venezuela".

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 23-7-1936 publishes a short editorial note in which a casual reference is made to the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

No Indian newspapers and periodicals received during the month in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

\* \* \*

The following messages having references to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during July 1956:-

1. A 'Geneva Letter' from the Geneva correspondent of the Hindu re. Mr. Fulay's speech on "Dumping".
2. A 'Geneva Letter' from the Geneva correspondent of the Hindu re. Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty's speech on Holidays with Pay.
3. A news item received by air mail from Geneva re. International Summer Courses organised by the International Federation of League of Nations Societies.
4. A news item received by air mail from Brussels by the Times of India re. labour laws relating to 40-hour week, holidays with pay etc. adopted in Belgium.
5. A Letter from Montreux from the Swiss correspondent of the Amrita Bazar Patrika re. the results of the 20th I.L. Conference.
6. A news item <sup>sent</sup> from London by air mail to the Hindostan Times re. the speech of Mr. Sodhbans at a lunch given by the Master Cotton Spinners, Manchester.

National Labour Legislation.

Besetting an Industrial Establishment Prohibited:

The C.P. Protection of Debtors Bill, 1936. +

A Bill to provide for the protection of debtors from molestation and intimidation by creditors is proposed to be introduced in the next session of the Central Provinces Legislative Council (vide pages 249-250 of Part II of the C.P. Gazette dated 10-7-1936). The Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill states that it is desirable to protect debtors from money-lenders and their hirelings, who rely upon the threat of violence rather than the processes of law. The Royal Commission on Labour had recommended that the besetting of an industrial establishment for the recovery of debts should be made a criminal and cognizable offence. The Bill goes further and seeks to combat the evil not only of besetting but also to protect all persons indebted to money-lenders from molestation and intimidation. According to the Bill a person "who with intent to ~~and~~ cause another person to abstain from doing or to do any act which he has a right to do or to abstain from doing-

- (a) obstructs, or uses violence to, or intimidates, such other person, or
- (b) persistently follows such other person from place to place or interferes with any property owned or used by him or deprives him of or hinders him in the use thereof, or
- (c) loiters or does any similar act at or near a house or other place where such other person resides, or works, or carries on business, or happens to be,

shall be deemed to molest such other person:

Provided that a person who attends at or near such house or place in order merely to obtain or communicate information shall not be deemed to molest." +

4

~~Children in~~ Bidi Factories in Hyderabad State:

Regulation re. application of Factories Act receives Sanction.

Reference was made at pages 49-50 of our May 1936 report to the decision of the Government of Hyderabad State to declare Bidi factories in which not less than 20 persons are simultaneously employed on any one day in the year as a "factory" within the meaning of the Hyderabad Fact ries Act, 1337 Fasli (1928). According to a Notification issued on 1-8-1936, (a copy of which has been forwarded to Geneva <sup>*Evide our minute A8/893 /36 dated 6-8-1936*</sup>), the draft regulation has now received the sanction of H. E. the President and has, therefore come into force.

(From a copy of the Notification dated  
1-8-1936 forwarded to this Office )

Conditions of Labour.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in C. P.

and Berar, 1935.\* +

Award of Compensation under Section 10.- The year opened with 19 pending applications, 13 of which related to fatal accidents and 6 to permanent disablement. During the year 38 applications were filed of which 22 related to fatal accidents, 15 to permanent disablement and one to temporary disablement. Two were received by transfer from the Commissioner under the Workmen's Compensation Act, Bombay. Seven were dismissed for non-appearance, 7 were admitted by the opposite party, 11 were allowed in full or in part after contest and 9 dismissed after contest. 25 applications were pending at the close of the year.

Deposits under Section 8.- 9 proceedings were pending from the previous year and 31 were filed during the year under report. 34 were ~~filed during the year under report~~ disposed of and 6 remained pending. One application for deposit under section 8(2) was filed and disposed of during the year.

Employers' Returns under Section 16.- According to the annual returns furnished by the employers, there were 392 cases of accidents for which compensation was paid during the year. Of these, 31 resulted in death, 46 in permanent disablement and 315 in temporary disablement and 315 in temporary disablement. The compensation paid was Rs. 10,605-0-0 for fatal accidents, Rs. 8,733-12-7 for cases of permanent disablement and Rs. 3,463-13-11 for cases of temporary disablement. No minors were involved in accidents and no cases of

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\* Report on the Administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923) in the C.P. and Berar during the calendar year 1935.- Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. 1936.-Price Annas ten. -pp-9

occupational diseases were reported.

It is remarked that the working of the Act is, on the whole satisfactory, that that returns are not received punctually from the owners of factories and mines and are still incomplete. Ten returns were received from Insurance Companies on behalf of their clients.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the C.P. and Berar during 1934 is reviewed at pages 24-25 of our August 1935 report). +

Working of Workmen's Compensation Act in the  
Bombay Presidency, 1935. +

Amendments in the Act and Rules..- The only amendment in the Act during the year was the addition to Schedule II, of persons employed, otherwise than in a clerical capacity in the occupations of (a) the felling or logging of trees, (b) the transport of timber by inland waters, (c) the control or extinguishing of forest fires and (d) elephant catching operations.

The Workmen's Compensation (Transfer of Money) Rules which had been under consideration were finally published during the year. They are called the Workmen's Compensation (Transfer of Money) Rules, 1935. These Rules prescribe the procedure for the transfer to any part of His Majesty's Dominions or to any other country, of money deposited with a Commissioner under the Act, for the benefit of any person residing or about to reside in such part or country and vice versa.

Proceedings before Commissioners..- The number of cases

pending at the beginning of the year under report was 58 and those received during the year numbered 412, an increase of 110. The total number of cases dealt with during the year was thus 470 of which 238 were cases of award, 43 were miscellaneous proceedings and 189 voluntary deposits. Of the 238 cases of award, 78 were in respect of fatal accidents, 105 of permanent disablement and 55 of temporary disablement. Of the 189 deposits, 144 were for fatal accidents and 45 for non-fatal accidents of which 10 were in respect of accidents to women and minor workmen and the rest to other workers. Of these 45 deposits 41 were in respect of permanent disablement and 4 of temporary disablement. It will thus be seen that the total number of cases in respect of fatal accidents, permanent disablement and temporary disablement dealt with in this return come to 222, 146 and 59 respectively excluding the 43 miscellaneous applications.

Of the 238 cases of award, 3 were transferred to other Commissioners, for disposal, one was withdrawn and three summarily dismissed before issuing notices to the other side. In the remaining 231, a prima facie case having been made out, notices were issued to other parties. In 43 of these 231 cases, liability was admitted while the remaining 188 were contested. In 46 of these, compensation was allowed in full; in 82 in part; and 24 were dismissed leaving a balance of 36 to be disposed of at the end of the year. The total number of cases disposed of during the year was 413 as against 295 last year and 296 in 1933.

Cases of Agreements.— In all, 409 agreements came before the Commissioners for registration of which 30 were pending from last year and 379 were received during the year. Of these 409, 399 were

in respect of permanent disablement and ten of temporary disablement, there being no agreement tendered for commutation of half-monthly payments. The total number of agreements disposed of during the year was 380, of which 366 were registered without any modification and 12 were registered after some modification. Registration was refused in two cases and the remaining 29 were pending at the end of the year. The total compensation paid in the 378 agreements that were registered was Rs. 87,738 as against Rs. 74,677 last year when the agreements registered numbered 336.

Wage Classes of Workmen.- The form of this return has been revised and a separate column provided for showing the cases of women. The cases of minors have been deleted from this return. The total number of persons getting compensation was 291, of which 273 were men and 18 women. Of these 291 cases, 123 were cases of fatal accidents, 118 of permanent disablement and the remaining 50 of temporary disablement. The wage classes most numerous represented this year were Rs. 21 and Rs. 40 with Rs. 30 as the next group as against Rs. 20 and Rs. 40 respectively last year.

Returns from Employers.- Out of 2,112 employers in the Presidency who are expected to submit returns under the Act, 1,696 submitted returns. Of the 1,696 returns received during the year, 1245 did not report a single accident. Insurance companies submitted returns on behalf of 61 employers. The average number of workers employed daily was 413,726 adults and 2845 minors. The total number of accidents reported was 4,095, in 2 of which the injured workmen were minors in whose case the disablement was temporary. Of the remaining 4,093, 46 were fatal accidents, 293 resulted in



permanent disablement and 3754 in temporary disablement. The total compensation paid was Rs. 166,905-11-2 of which Rs. 38,679-14-0 were paid in respect of fatal accidents, Rs. 74,559-10-10 in respect of permanent disablement and Rs. 53,666-2-4 for temporary disablement.

Industrial Diseases.- The only case of industrial disease reported during the year concerned a diver employed on the construction of a bridge. The disease was 'compressed air illness or its sequelae' as a result of which the man suffered from Aphasia (loss of speech) increasing deafness and general weakness. He was compensated on the basis of permanent total disability.

General Remarks.- The Act worked smoothly during the year greatly helped by the assistance received from the Insurance Companies who represented the employers in about 50 per cent of the cases. No Trade Union except the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, took any part in settling claims on behalf of workmen. That Union during the year settled 184 cases of which seven related to fatal accidents, 65 to permanent disablement and the remaining 112 to temporary disablement. The Union was successful in settling 92 compensation claims by correspondence with employers or their Insurers.

(Taken from a summary of the Report published in the June 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay). +

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act  
in Burma, 1935\*.

Legal Changes.— An addition was made to Schedule II of the Workmen's Compensation Act so as to include persons employed, otherwise than in a clerical capacity, in the occupations of (a) felling or logging of trees, (b) transport of timber by inland waters, (c) control or extinguishing of forest fires, and (d) elephant-catching operations among workmen to whom the Act applied. The question of extending this addition, as well as the other amendments of the Act, to the Federated Shan States is being considered by the Local Government at the instance of the Government of India.

Rules under section 35 of the Act, called the Workmen's Compensation (Transfer of Money) Rules, 1935, were made by the Government of India.

Number of Workers and Compensation Paid.— During the year under review, the total average number of adult workers employed per day in Burmese factories coming under the operation of the Act was 138,761 as against 120,653 in the previous year. Altogether 1,366 returns were received of which 58 were from establishments which did no work in 1935 and 11 were from establishments which are not required by the Government of India's notification to submit returns; thus there were strictly 1,297 returns from establishments required to report. Of these 2 belonged to railways, 960 to factories, 221 to mines, 2 to tramways, 1 to Port Commission, to to fire brigades, 24 to oil-  
*extracting*  
~~winning~~ establishments, 8 to rubber estates, 60 to establishments

\* Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Burma for the year 1935.—Rangoon: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma -1936. -Price Rs. 1-8 or 2s.3d.

(other factories) for generation etc. of electricity and 17 to establishments for production, etc. of cinematograph pictures. Only 118 of the 1,297 returns showed any payment of compensation. Compensation paid in 1935 amounted to Rs. 91,122, the corresponding amount for 1934 being Rs. 51,776. The number of casualties was 2,153 made up of 40 deaths, 95 cases of permanent disablement and 2,018 cases of temporary disablement; for the previous year the corresponding figures were 1,129, 30,75 and 1,024, the number of cases of temporary disablement in 1935 being almost double the number in 1934. The average cost of compensation per workman employed rose from Rs. 0.43 to Rs. 0.66, while the cost of compensation per person killed or injured fell from Rs. 46 to Rs. 42. Casualties were at the rate of one per 64 workmen instead of one per 107 <sup>of 1934</sup> (or 155 instead of 94 per 10,000).

Workmen's Compensation Commissioners.- With effect from the 1st January 1935, the District Magistrates of the Hanthawaddy and Insein Districts were appointed Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation for their respective districts, and the Assistant Labour Commissioner continued to be Commissioner for the Rangoon District only. There were no other changes in the list of Commissioners in Burma (including the Federated Shan States), and the number of Commissioners at the end of the year was 51, i.e., 39 in Burma proper and 12 in the Federated Shan States, as against 49 at the end of the preceding year.

Applications before Commissioners.- The total number of proceedings filed increased from 121 in 1934 to 151 in 1935.

(The Working of the workmen's Compensation Act in Burma during the year 1934 is reviewed at pages 47-49 of our July 1935 report). +

22

Whitley Commission Recommendations: Action  
taken by the Millowners' Association, Bombay. \*

In the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during June 1936, is published a statement submitted to the Government of Bombay by the Association, setting forth the action taken by it to implement the various recommendations made by the "Royal Commission on Labour in India. This year's statement supplements the information on the subject submitted in June 1935 (vide pages 51-53 of our July 1935 report). The Committee at the outset expressed the hope that Government would appreciate the fact that, in the existing condition of the Cotton Mill Industry of this country, and particularly that section of it which is located in the City and Island of Bombay, progress in the direction of welfare measures of the nature suggested by the Commission was bound to be somewhat slow.

The following is a summary of the action taken by the Association on various recommendations of the Whitley Commission:

Jobbers and Engagement and Dismissal of Labour.- The policy outlined in the previous report had been continued during the current year. Each complaint of irregular dismissal was investigated personally by the Association's Labour Officer, and whenever found to be genuine, steps were taken to set matters right. The net result had been that workers were beginning to realise that the Jobber could not dismiss a workman, and that a dismissal should be authorised by the Head of the Department and a proper discharge pass given.

As regards the engagement of labour, considerable progress had been made during the year in curtailing Jobbers' powers. Since the institution of the system of 'badli' cards for the control of labour turnover and the regularisation of 'badli' ~~Employment~~ data was collected from time to time from each member mill as to the number of badlis employed in all departments (vide pages 23-25 of our June 1936 report). The object of this control had been to eliminate the power of the Jobber to engage the labour required to fill temporary vacancies. Mills were advised to make it a rule to

ensure that preference was given to badli card holders when permanent vacancies occurred. In addition, a system of "internal promotions" was being encouraged in all mills with the dual purpose of improving 'esprit de corps' and of providing an incentive to efficiency. In this connection, it is stated that an experiment is being tried in one mill where all the recruiting is done by Heads of the various departments direct, with the help of the Association's Labour Officer. Under the scheme, the help of the Jobber has been completely eliminated. The scheme, which has been working for about two months, has proved fairly successful, and after further experience has been gained, it is proposed to extend the system to other mills.

Appointment of Labour Officers for Individual Mills.- Experience during the last eighteen months had shown that the engagement of a special labour officer in each individual mill was unnecessary. The Government Labour Officer and the Association's Labour Officer between them were in a position to look into practically all the grievances of the work-people, and by close collaboration they had achieved satisfactory results.

Efforts to Reduce Bribery.- Efforts to reduce bribery and other forms of corruption had been continued. One of the most prevalent types of bribery was the payment to Jobbers, Naikeens, etc. of regular or occasional sums of money during the course of or when obtaining employment. The extent of this type of bribery had been very considerably reduced by reducing the Jobber's powers in respect of engagements and dismissals. When cases of bribery had been detected and proved, drastic punishment had been inflicted.

The record card system for Head Jobbers and Naikeens employed in mills had been completed and kept up-to-date, and mills had been recommended not to engage new Head Jobbers or Naikeens outside their own labour force without consulting the Association. The system was being extended to Weaving Line Jobbers also, and it was eventually hoped to prevent any undesirable persons from obtaining supervisory posts.

Leave Facilities.- The improved leave pass system introduced last year was working extremely well, and extensive use was being made of the leave facilities granted by mills. Where an operative obtained a leave pass before going away on leave, he was assured of re-employment on his return provided the leave granted was not exceeded. The only disadvantage of the existing system was that leave applications were presented at irregular intervals.

Education of the Workers.- For a number of years, increasing attention was being given to the education of the workers in mills. In addition to the facilities provided by mills in the way of technical education, it was understood that night classes for mill workers had been introduced in a few mills by the mill authorities themselves. Moreover, special facilities had been given to the Adult Education Society to open schools for adult-mill workers and their children, and between February 1935 and February 1936, 14 ~~lik~~ literacy classes were started, the total number of students enrolled in all the classes being nearly 320.

Certain proposals recently put forward by the Director of Industries, Bombay, having for their object the vocational training of educated youths had received the full support of the Association, and every effort was being made to ensure that individual mills supplied the preliminary information required by the Director of industries preparatory to the actual introduction of the Apprentice Scheme.

Safety First.- Steady progress had been maintained in the education of mill workers in safety first methods. First aid classes had been established in several mills, and in addition, mills had been encouraged to send students to the general first-aid classes organised by the voluntary workers of the St. John Ambulance Association. Further, articles on safety first were regularly inserted in the "Girni Samachar", and the Millowners' Mutual Insurance Association continued to issue safety first posters to member mills free of charge. They also encouraged non-member mills in Bombay and upcountry to purchase safety first posters at nominal charges, and had printed special posters for the use of Ahmedabad Mills.

Provision of Creches.- Taking into consideration the position of the industry in Bombay, satisfactory progress regarding the provision of creches had been made during the year. The number of properly organised creches in Bombay Mills had increased to 28 compared with 25 two or three years ago. Although the increase in numbers was not large, it had to be borne in mind that the number of working Mills in Bombay was less than formerly, and that a number of creches were unavoidably closed down when the Currimbhoy group of mills went into liquidation. Most of the Currimbhoy group of mills had re-opened under new owners, but so far all of them have not established creches.

Rest Places for workers.- It was understood that the rest places provided by member mills were not being fully utilised by the operatives, most of whom appeared to prefer to take their mid-day meals in the open air and inside the Departments. Some progress had been made with regard to the canteen system. Successful canteens were being run in four mills of the E.D.Sassoon Group, where cheap and wholesome meals were being provided at very reasonable prices to an increasing number of workers. The crown Mills had also established a canteen to supply cheap meals to workers some months ago, which was reported to be working well.

Wages.- The minimum scale of wages adopted by the Association had been enforced in all member mills in Bombay. The question of standardising the wages of piece workers had been receiving constant attention. Information regarding the wages of piece workers, particularly of two loom weavers, in member mills was being collected from month to month. On an examination of the data collected, the Labour Advisory (Managers) Sub-Committee came to the conclusion that it would be advisable to aim at equalization of earnings in preference to equalization of rates as a first step, and that the Association's policy should continue to be the investigation and

raising of wages in mills where earnings were particularly low. The Association had, therefore, been concentrating on earnings and was keeping a close watch on the wages of two loom weavers in all member mills. In brief, the idea was to remove inequalities in earnings, and at the same time to ensure where wages were high, that no reductions were made unless very special reasons existed.

Welfare Work.- Individual mills and the Association had been giving full support to the extension of welfare work in its broadest sense. Several mills had started or had undertaken to start co-operative credit societies in their mills during the past few months. Two or three mills had started workers' clubs where facilities for sports of various kinds, reading, music etc., were provided free of charge to the workers. Another means of welfare work of a general character was being encouraged in the shape of financial assistance and other facilities to the Bombay Branch of the Baby and Health Week Association and to the Naigaum Social Service Centre, both of which bodies were doing excellent work among the mill workers in a variety of ways.

The Association was spending more time and thought to questions affecting the welfare and efficiency of labour than at any time in its history, and at the last annual general meeting, the retiring Chairman, Sir Joseph Kay, made the following statement:-

"I foresee a development of the utility of our Association as a result of the increase in the number of problems relating to labour matters with which the Association, its labour sub-committees and the Labour Officer are called upon to deal. In the near future, it will probably be necessary to set up a separate department or section in the Association to deal exclusively with labour and welfare matters. This department working in conjunction with the Government Labour Officer should not only be in a position to prevent strikes and adjust workers' grievances, but should also be an effective instrument in bringing about a number of valuable internal reforms and universal standards of working conditions in Bombay.

The possibilities of experimental work with a view to discovering means of improving output and efficiency should be considered by large individual employers and by associations of employers."

Increasing Efficiency of Workers.- The efficiency systems of which the objectives were the improvement of individual output, efficiency and earnings were being steadily introduced in various mills, and satisfactory progress had been made during the last twelve months. Some progress had also been achieved in the introduction of special machinery, like the Casablanca or High Draft system in spinning, High Speed Warping, Self Stripping devices on Cards, Universal winding etc, which were calculated to improve working conditions, output and efficiency. A member mill had also introduced the Bedaux system in some of its Departments. Under this system, the work on every occupation was minutely studied and a time scale was allotted for the performance of particular operations, due allowances for rest were added, and bonuses paid to workers who produced more than the standards laid down. The system had, however, proved only a qualified success, but the experiment was indicative of the anxiety of employers to improve the efficiency of their workers.

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers  
for Various Centres in India  
for May 1936. +

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India showed irregular changes during May 1936 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.-- The index number (Base: July 1914) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in May 1936 remained unchanged at 100. The average in the year 1935 was 101.

Ahmedabad.-- The index number (Base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad remained unchanged at 69; in 1935 the average was 71.

Sholapur.-- The index number (Base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur rose to 71. The average for 1935 was 72.

Nagpur.-- The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in May 1936 remained unchanged at 58.

Jubbulpore. The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in May 1936 rose by 1 point to 54.

Rangoon. The index number (Base: 1931) of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers declined by 2 points to 92 (provisional figure).

(Extracted from Monthly Survey of Business Conditions  
in India, May 1936). +



Working of Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932-34.\* +

The Government of India have recently issued a press note summarising the Report of the Controller of Emigrant Labour on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932, during the year ending September 1934. The Act came into force on 1-8-1933 and the present report covers the first year's working of the Act.

Statistics of Recruits and Licences.- According to the figures ~~in~~ given in the Report 47,688 persons were newly recruited for Assam as against 38,907 in the previous year. Of the 47,688, recruits 37,005 came from Bihar and Orissa.

Licences were issued during the year to 72 local forwarding agents for recruitment in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Bombay, the Central Provinces, Madras and the United Provinces which are controlled emigration areas. No application was refused, but two were held over owing to lack of adequate information about accommodation and feeding of assisted emigrants.

Congestion in Labour Market. - The Report states that there is no doubt that a considerable number of those recruited as assisted emigrants ought to have been treated as non-assisted. They concealed their previous residence in Assam in order to be sure of repatriation at the end of three years. Much more labour was available than could be accepted, and many were the deceptions practised on local forwarding agents by would-be emigrants.

The new system of sheets containing detailed information of the conditions under which labourers were recruited was found to work well.

Fraudulent Recruitment.- There were 64 cases of illegal and fraudulent recruitment. Recruitment was confined mainly to the gardens situated in the districts of Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Darrang and Nowgong and the frontier tracts of Lakhimpur and Sadiya. The Surma Valley districts have now a substantial permanently settled force, and less than 300 persons were recruited for these districts. There was no recruitment for any garden in the Goalpara District and only one garden in the Kamrup District labour under the Act. In these two districts the local population is steadily increasing, and it is said to be improbable that there will ever again be any considerable recruitment ~~x~~ from outside.

Amenities provided en route to Gardens. - The Tea Districts Labour Association has greatly improved its existing accommodation and put up new buildings of excellent pattern at Ranchi. They also constructed new depots at other centres to provide rest and hot meals for the emigrants arriving from different provinces. Messrs. Medland Rose and Company, constructed an entirely new Depot for emigrants

*\* Annexure 2. Part I on the Working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act (XXII of 1932) for the year ending 30th Sept. 1934. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Printed by Manager, Govt. India Press, New Delhi. Price Rs 8/- or 10 d. ~~1/2~~*

at Naimati. Since the introduction of this Act, all assisted emigrants are, under the Rules, detrained once in every 24 hours to have a cooked meal outside the train, and once in every 48 hours for a rest of at least 9 hours. This has made the journey much easier, especially for children. Qualified doctors have been retained at different depots, and arrangements made for treatment of the sick.

Housing and Welfare.- In the great majority of gardens in the Assam Valley and elsewhere, rent-free houses are provided. The houses are frequently built of mud plastered bamboo and grass walls and thatched roofs. In many gardens there is a better type of house with an iron frame and corrugated iron roof.

In recent years many gardens have spent large sums on malaria control, and the results are reported to have been excellent, involving an average reduction of malarial sickness by fifty or sixty per cent, except in areas which could not be brought under control.

Children and Schools.- The total number of children living on tea estates in the Assam Valley was 340,724 ~~with~~ and the total number of ~~56~~ tea garden schools<sup>56</sup>. The corresponding figures for the Surma Valley were 139,046 and 42, respectively.

Emigration Certificates.- Over 30,000 emigration certificates were issued by the Controller of Emigrant Labour in respect of assisted emigrants.

Wages and Labour Conditions.- In the Assam Valley, the average monthly earnings of men, women and children settled on the tea gardens showed a slight decline. In the Surma Valley, there was a similar fall in the case of men; but those of women and children rose slightly. Customary concessions such as free housing, medical attendance, maternity benefits etc., were continued throughout the year. One day a week was ordinarily observed as a holiday without pay. The number of disputes between employers and labourers that came to the notice of the magistracy was 27, of which 15 complaints were made by labourers and 12 by employers.

Settlement of Indians in Assam.- Over 181,000 acres of garden land in Assam were held by labourers who resided on the garden. Apart from this, 341,987 acres of Government land were settled with ex-garden labourers in the Assam Valley, and 36,456 in the Surma Valley.

Repatriation.- As the Act came into operation only on the 1st of October, 1933, no emigrant labourer will be due for repatriation in the normal course until October 1936. On special grounds, however, 142 labourers with 124 members of their families, a total of 266 persons, were repatriated by their employers.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-7-1936). +

Working Conditions in Ceylon: Report of  
The Controller of Labour, 1935.\*    +

The Administration Report of the Controller of Labour, Ceylon, for 1935, is divided into two parts: the first contains a general review of working conditions in Ceylon and the second deals with the conditions of life and work of Indian immigrant labour in the Island.

Labour Legislation. - (1) The Trade Unions Ordinance, No.14 of 1935, which makes provision for the supervision and registration of Trade Unions and at the same time gives them a number of important privileges came into operation on 1-11-35.

(2) Factory Legislation. - The report of the Committee appointed to revise the Mines and Machinery Protection Ordinance, No.2 of 1896 was approved by the ~~Minx~~ Executive Committee of the Hon. the Minister with slight modifications and steps are being taken to draft the necessary legislation.

(3) Amendments of the Labour Ordinances. - The Indian Labour Ordinance, No.27 of 1927, was amended by Ordinance No.34 of 1935 to give legal force to the agreement with the Government of India providing for the free issue of rice at the rate of  $\frac{1}{8}$  bushel per month to each working man and each widow with one or more non-working children, or alternatively free issue of meals to children under 10 years of age. The new Ordinance came into operation on October 18, 1935.

Unemployment Relief. - A sum of Rs. 300,000 was provided in the 1934-35 Estimates for unemployment relief works. The usual grant from Government was half of the amount to be spent on each scheme, the remaining half being found by the local body concerned. Besides providing relief through public works, the Government also gave Rs. 98,050 to be distributed by Government agents as charitable allowance at various rates to poor persons, Rs. 22,200 to Friend-in-Need Societies and Similar Societies and Rs. ~~411,650~~ 411,650 as special

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\* Administration Report of the Controller of Labour for 1935 - Part I - Civil (O). - July 1936. - Printed at the Ceylon Govt. Press, Colombo. To be purchased at the Govt. Record Office, Colombo. - Price 40 cents.-pp. 41.

grants towards flood and malaria relief and relief during periods of food shortage.

Industrial Disputes.- There were no important strikes or industrial disputes during the period under review. Two minor strikes occurred in Colombo, and no strike or lockouts were reported from Government departments employing large forces of labour. Personal relations between planters and labourers have been uniformly good and no cases of strikes or lockouts were reported. Contractual relations between planters and labourers were satisfactory. Desertions without due notice were reported to be less frequent and the practice of giving cash inducements has practically ceased.

Workmen's Compensation.- The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, No.19 of 1934, came into operation on 1-8-35. In the short time during which it has been in operation, the Ordinance, it is reported, has already proved its utility. The agency firms have rendered most valuable assistance to the Commissioner in making known to estate labourers through the estate superintendents, the benefits provided for injured workmen by the Ordinance. The great majority of cases reported have come from estates. Among other classes of labour the terms of the Ordinance are naturally not as yet very well known. The Commissioner has invited the Trade Unions to assist him by explaining to their members to what benefits they may become entitled under the Ordinance.

Returns received from 2,159 employers show that there were 12 accidents resulting in death, 6 resulting in permanent disablement and 715 resulting in temporary disablement during the period ending 31-12-1935 in respect of which Rs. 8,050 was paid as compensation in respect of fatal accidents, Rs. 1,120.20 in respect of permanent disablement and Rs. 8,101.24 in respect of temporary disablement.

A short summary of the Ordinance in English was embodied in a circular and supplied to all estate superintendents and other employers. A circular under the heading "Notice to Workmen" in the vernaculars was also sent out to all estate and industrial workshops for exhibition in conspicuous places.

Indian Immigrant Labour.- Part II of the Report deals with the conditions of life and work of Indian immigrant labour. The subjects dealt with are the activities of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour, Statistics relating to immigration of Indian labourers to and from Ceylon, issue of recruiting licenses, repatriation and conditions of labour in the Ceylon estates under the heads of health and vital statistics, education, liquor consumption, crime, savings, estates of deceased Indians and inspections.

Figures re. Migration of Indians to Ceylon: - Practically all passenger traffic between Ceylon and South India is either by rail and ferry via Talaimannar-Dhanushkodi, or by a sea voyage of about 150 miles, between Colombo and Tuticorin. The annual average number of Indians who travelled over these two routes to Ceylon from 1914, when the Dhanushkodi route was opened, until the beginning of 1924, when Government control over assisted emigration had been fully established, was 148,696 of whom 75,557 were unassisted and 73,139 assisted. Since 1924, the average number has been 209,519 for the years 1924-1935 of which 108,963 were unassisted and 100,556 were assisted immigrants. In 1935 the number of arrivals was 147,447 (104,429 unassisted immigrants and 43,018 as assisted estate labourers). The decrease in the number of assisted labourers arriving in Ceylon in 1935 was due to poor demand for labour by the tea and rubber industries.

Emigration of Indians from Ceylon.- During 1935, the number of Indians who left Ceylon for India was 152,755 of whom 43,036 were estate labourers. The number of Indians repatriated under Ordinance No.1 of 1923 and the scheme of 1924 at public expense during 1935 was 6,252 as against 2,304 in 1934.

Special Scheme of 1935.- This scheme was sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor on April 5, 1935, for the repatriation of those Indian labourers employed on tea estates placed on a care and maintenance basis, for whom no further employment could be found elsewhere. No application was received for repatriation under ~~that~~ this scheme.

Population and Vital Statistics.- According to the half-yearly returns furnished by superintendents of estates the mean population of Indian labourers on estates was 679,201 in 1935, as against 650,564

in the previous year. At the beginning of 1935 the population was 688,354 consisting of 223,374 men, 209,563 women, and 255,417 children. By the middle of the year the figure fell to 675,564 (215,824 men, 205,357 women, and 254,383 children) and by the end to 673,686 (214,097 men, 204,658 women, and 254,931 children.) There was thus a fall of 12,790 during the first half of the year, and 1,878 during the second half, or a total fall of 14,668 during the year.

25,759 births were registered during the year (12,836 of males and 12,923 of females), as against 23,346 in 1934. There was an increase of 2,413 births or 10.3 per cent. The birth rate was approximately 37.9 per 1,000 of the mean population, as against 35.9 in the previous year and 34.4, the rate among the total population of the Island for the year 1935. 18,133 deaths (8,776 of males and 9,357 of females) were registered among the Indian labourers on estates, as against 13,709 in the previous year. ~~This~~ This shows an increase of 4,424 deaths or 32.3 per cent during the year reviewed. The excess of deaths of females over those of males has been a recurrent feature of the vital statistics of the Indian labourer population. The mortality rate for the year was approximately 26.7 per 1,000 of the mean population, as compared with 21.1 in the previous year and 36.6 the rate for the entire population of the Island in 1935. These rates disclose two important features: that there was a large increase of mortality on the estates during the year which might almost wholly be ascribed to the epidemic of malaria in the early part of the year, but that the epidemic was much less disastrous on the estates than in the rest of the Island.

Medical Facilities.- There are 70 Government hospitals, including 4 infectious diseases hospitals at Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Galle, and Badulla, and 107 dispensaries in the planting districts where Indian immigrant labour is employed. There are 53 midwives employed in these hospitals and 63 under Health Units situated in the planting districts. There are 84 estate hospitals and 727 estate dispensaries.

Wages.- At the beginning of the year 1935, the legal minimum rates of wages applicable for a working day of 9 hours, including time not exceeding 1 hour taken for the midday meal were as follows:-

	<u>Men.</u>		<u>Women.</u>		<u>Children.</u>	
	Ceylon Cur-		Ceylon Currency.		Ceylon Currency.	
	rency.					
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
Up-country. ..	0	49	0	39	0	29
Mid-country. ..	0	43	0	35	0	25
Low-country.. ..	0	41	0	33	0	24

With the issue price of rice at a rate not exceeding Rs. 4.80 per bushel. These rates are still in force.

Education.— The total number of registered estate schools at the end of September, 1935, was 608, as compared with 587 at the end of 1934. The total number of estate children of school-going age for 1935 was 72,924 (males 42,159 and females 30,765), of whom 37,958 (males 27,283 and females 10,675) were attending schools — a percentage of 52.19. The corresponding figures for 1934 were ~~69~~ 69,540 (males 40,187 and females 29,353), of whom 35,638 (males 25,543 and females 10,095) were attending school— a percentage of 51.25. 32 schools which satisfied the required conditions were registered for grant during the year.

Housing.— The following return illustrates the position of estate housing for 1935 in the various planting districts as regards tea, rubber, cacao, cardamoms, and coconut estates employing Indian labourers:—

Number of estates employing Indian labourers. ...	1,660
1. Number of estates for <del>which</del> which statistics have been secured. ...	1,606
2. Number of Indian labourers employed and resident on these estates. ...	463,192
3. Number of Indian labourers employed by these <del>xx</del> estates but not resident thereon. ...	2,519
4. Number of unemployed young and aged dependants of Indian labourers on these estates. ...	199,731
5. Number of non-Indian labourers employed by and <del>and</del> resident on these estates. ...	23,123
6. Number of non-Indian labourers employed by these estates but not resident thereon. ...	31,832
7. Number of unemployed young and aged dependants of non-Indian labourers on these estates. ...	9,776
8. Number of permanently built labourers' rooms on these estates. ...	217,074
9. Number of permanently built labourers' rooms on these estates constructed or fully reconstructed after January 1, 1922. ...	182,839
10.(a) Cost or present value of all the permanently built labourers' rooms on these estates. .Rs.	78,996,901

- (b) Cost or present value of the permanently built labourers' rooms constructed or fully reconstructed after January 1, 1922, on these estates. ... Rs. 68,239,193  
(c) Cost of rooms built during 1935 on these estates.. Rs. 999,195

(The Administration Report of the Controller of Labour for 1934 was reviewed at pages 39-43 of our report for July 1935). +

Textile Workers in Ahmedabad: Employers

Contemplate Wage Reduction.

References were made in the January 1935 and earlier reports of this Office to the Ahmedabad labour dispute due to wage reduction consequent on the shorter hours prescribed by the Indian Factories Act, 1934, coming into force. A satisfactory settlement of the dispute was arrived in Delhi in January 1935 with the help of Mahatma Gandhi. It is now understood that the Ahmedabad employers are contemplating a wage cut. It is alleged that the terms of the Delhi agreement of 1935 have not been strictly followed by the millowners for a long time and that a general cut in wages has been made in the Mangaldas group of mills. On workers refusing to accept the 5% cut sought to be effected, lock-out notices were put up. The group is understood to be attempting to reopen the mills with new labour on lower wages. Allegations are also made that some of the mills are working up to 11 hours per day, in contravention of the Factories Act. The local labour union is reported to be moving in the matter.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 26-7-1936) +



Maternity Benefits in Bombay for 1935\* +

According to the Note on the working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act in Bombay during 1935, appended to the Annual Factory Report for 1935 for the Bombay Presidency, returns were received from all the factories amenable to the Act.

Of the 49,114 women employed in factories daily, 4,322 claimed Maternity Benefits under section 6(1). Of these, 3,895 were paid benefits for actual births, and 29 were paid benefits under section 7. Rs. 94,351-5-6 were paid during the year as benefits as against Rs. 97,879-8-9 in 1934.

(The Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefits Act during 1934 was reviewed at page 60 of our July 1935 report). +

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\* Annual Factory Report Bombay Presidency, 1935 (including a Note on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act).--Bombay: Printed at the Govt. Central Press 1936.-- Obtainable from the Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Bombay. - Price -Annas 2 or 3d. pp.57.

56

Enforcement of Conventions.

Working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on

Indian Railways, 1935-36\* .

Extent of Application of Regulations: The Hours of Employment Regulations were applied to the North Western and East Indian Railways from 1-4-31 and to the Eastern Bengal and Great Indian Peninsula Railways, one year later, from 1-4-32. In the autumn of 1935, the Regulations were extended to two company-managed lines with effect from 1-11-35 (Gazette Notification No. L35LG46, dated the 5th June 1935) namely the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. The position now is that all State-managed Railways, with the exception of the Burma Railways, have been brought within the scope of the Regulations together with two of the largest company-managed systems, so that the majority of Railway servants in India are now protected by the Regulation. The total number of employees on all Class I Railways at the close of the year 1934-35 was 670,072, while the numbers on the six railways on which the Regulations have been applied amounted to 473,110. This is a little over 70% of the total figure which includes the Burma Railways. It may be mentioned that the total number of staff on all Class II Railways only amounts to 25,279, so that the exclusion of this class from the above figures makes no appreciable difference in the percentage given. Even on those Railways, which have not yet been brought formally within the scope of the Regulations, there is reason to believe that the hours of work of the majority of employees fulfil the provisions of the law.

Inspection.- The addition of two more railways to those already under the Regulations necessitated the recruitment of four additional Labour Inspectors. This raises the number of Inspectors to 10, and a junior Labour Inspector, as a leave reserve, has lately been appointed with effect from 1st February 1936. These Inspectors now work to a programme of inspection drawn up in the Supervisor's office every six months. In view of the fact that the Regulations have only lately been applied to the two company-managed systems,

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\* Govt. of India Railway Department - Annual Report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on the N.W., E.I., E.B and G.I.P., Bombay, Baroda and Central India, and M. & S.M. Railways during the year 1935-36 by the Supervisor of Railway Labour. - Simla: Govt. of India Press - 1936. - ~~xxxx~~ pp.14.

no regular programme of inspection has as yet been laid down, so that the 4 Inspectors appointed for these railways are able to devote their attention to such stations and categories of staff as appear to need special scrutiny.

The policy adopted by Labour Inspectors since the introduction of the Regulations of rectifying minor irregularities in consultation with, and through the agency of, local supervisory officials, it is stated, will continue to be followed. This ensures rectification of many infringements the moment they are detected and reduces correspondence which would otherwise be necessary. Supervising subordinates, moreover, are now beginning to understand and appreciate more fully the underlying intentions and the legal provisions of the Regulations, with the result that in collaboration with Labour Inspectors they are in a better position to solve the minor difficulties which often arise due to fluctuations in the volume of traffic or alterations in time tables. Registers for recording the results of inspections or making suggestions for the better application of the Regulations are now being maintained at most stations, sheds, etc., and the Inspectors have been instructed to make full use of them. Administrations are advised of the infringements reported by the Labour Inspectors, or detected by the Supervisor himself during his tours, in a periodic summary; any points in dispute being settled by subsequent correspondence.

Hours of Employment.- Although instances are still reported where employees are either working occasionally or habitually outside their rostered hours, such cases are generally confined to well defined categories of staff which are principally those having to do with the movement of ~~ix~~ trains or those who come ~~into~~ into direct contact with the public. The report points out that it is all the more necessary, therefore, that Administrations should concentrate their attention on eliminating infringement of the Regulations in ~~xxx~~ respect of these categories. At some stations where supervision is good, individual offices are definitely locked up during 'intervals' when nobody is rostered to be on duty. The practice is a good one and it is recommended, should be encouraged. The extent to which goods clerks work beyond or outside their rostered hours has been

referred to in previous annual reports, and although some improvement is reported to be noticeable, many cases still come to light in which the Regulations are not being strictly complied with. As regards station masters, it is to be admitted that gradually they are relinquishing the concentration of authority in their own hands, which used to bring them on duty outside their rostered hours, although there is still room for further improvement in this respect.

Periods of Rest.— Infringements regarding the periodic weekly rest laid down for continuous workers are now mainly confined to Transportation and Commercial staff. Here again, station masters are gradually realising that they must relax the concentration of certain daily duties in their own hands and that while they are off duty, assistant station masters must be considered to be in sole charge of the station. Nevertheless, there are grounds for believing that a number of continuous station masters do not absent themselves entirely during their 24 hours rest whether it falls on a calendar day or forms part of two consecutive days.

In the same way that goods clerks are often found working outside their rostered hours, they are also sometimes discovered on duty when they should be enjoying their weekly rest. There is reason to believe on some railways that a habit of booking goods other than perishables and live stock on Sundays, has grown up as a consequence of anxiety on the part of the Administration to provide all possible facilities to merchants in attracting traffic, more especially in meeting road competition.

General Remarks.— This is the fifth Annual Report issued by the Supervisor of Railway Labour, and by this time it is apparent that the railways on which the Regulations have been in force for four or five years, should have overcome all the initial difficulties in the application of the Regulations. The Supervisor remarks that either the difficulties, or the time taken to overcome them, appear to have been most marked on the Eastern Bengal Railway. The initial application of the Regulations is one thing however, and the satisfactory maintenance of an adequate standard of application is another. In the latter respect, attention must be drawn to some falling off on the East Indian Railway. This is not in respect of such questions as classification—though even here there is room for improvement—as in the general standard to which rosters are adhered to,

the adequate display of up-to-date rosters and above all the interest—or lack of interest—which supervising subordinates take in the hours of work of the staff under them. Without such interest, slackness is sure to creep in. The fact that this Administration has a separate personnel organisation and had at one time ministerial staff who had specialised in the Regulations, make it all the more difficult to account for the deterioration in the standard of application. From such scrutiny as has been possible so far to make on the Bombay Baroda and Central India and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways, it would appear that the standard of application on these Lines is higher than ~~than~~ that which obtained on the other railways when the Regulations were first introduced. This is partly due to the fact that all Railways have, according to instructions issued years ago, been working to the provisions of the Regulations where this could be done without additional expenditure, so that those Railways to which the law is now being formally applied, have had greater opportunity for prior investigation of the problems involved. This is not to say that the standard on these two systems is as high as has now been achieved on the North Western and Great Indian Peninsula Railways, but there is no reason why that standard should not be reached in the course of a year or two ~~wh~~ when preliminary difficulties in the introduction of the Regulations have been overcome.

(The report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on Indian Railways during 1934-35 was reviewed at pages 25-28 of our September 1935 report). +

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Factory Administration in Bengal, 1935.\* †

Number of Factories.— According to the annual Report on the Administration of the Factories Act in Bengal during 1935, the number of factories on the register at the close of the year was 1,739, an increase of 67 compared with the previous year. 1,302 were perennial factories and 437 were seasonal. 113 factories were brought on to the register, and 46 were removed from the register. 144 factories did not work during the year. These included 59 rice mills, 17 jute presses, 15 general engineering works and 11 oil mills. The powers conferred on Local Government by section 5(1) under which any premises employing 10 or more workers may be declared to be a "factory", were exercised on 3 occasions.

Emergence of Rubber Industry.— A special feature referred to in the Report is the emergence of a new industry in Bengal — the rubber industry. The first rubber factory in Bengal was started in 1932. In 1935 there were 10 rubber factories, employing 4,500 workers. The principal articles manufactured are rubber-soled shoes (total daily output is estimated at between 75,000 to 100,000 pairs per day), cycle tyres and tubes, and latterly motor tyres. It is interesting to note that the machinery employed in the rubber shoe factories is almost entirely Japanese and that until some time ago the skilled departmental heads were all Japanese — but Indians are now taking over control.

Number of Operatives.— The average daily number of workers employed in registered factories is as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Adolescents.	Children.	Total.
In perennial factories.	398,420	49,951	6,768	1,570	456,709
In seasonal factories.	43,839	7,782	4,111	758	56,490
Total.	442,259	57,733	10,879	2,328	513,199

The report observes that there has been greater activity during the year in most of the factories in the province. Trade, generally continued to improve and a large number of previously unemployed workers have again obtained employment. During the year, the number of workers employed in factories increased by 33,811, and this number, together with the increase of 24,370 in 1934, makes a total increase of 58,181 in the past two years. The following table shows the respective increases in the principal industries:—

	No. of workers.		Increase.
	1935	1934	
Jute mills. ...	263,399	251,741	11,658
Tea ...	19,315	16,112	3,203
Iron and steel smelting and rolling mills ...	9,398	6,691	2,707
Shipbuilding and engineering.	13,123	10,705	2,418
Cotton (spinning, weaving and other) factories. ..	27,883	25,591	2,292
General engineering ...	23,568	21,291	2,277
Railway workshops.....	26,508	25,173	1,335
Rice mills. ...	13,951	13,509	442

\* See footnote, next page.

The increase of 11,658 in the number of workers employed in jute mills is due to the decision of the Jute Mills' Association to further increase production. (vide pages 28-30 of our June 1936 report).

Women, Adolescents and Children.- At the close of the year the number of women workers employed in factories was 57,733, as against 56,981 in the previous year, an increase of 752. The number employed in jute mills was 37,520, and in cotton mills 1,863, the remaining 18,350 being distributed throughout the other industries. In factories other than rice mills, instances of illegal employment of women were comparatively few. On seven occasions only were the infractions considered sufficiently serious to warrant prosecution. Convictions were obtained in each case.

In regard to the new class of worker (adolescent) created by the Act of 1934, the sections of the Act applicable to them have not been strictly administrable on account of the non-publication of the Bengal Factories Rules, 1935, and the lack of the prescribed certificates of fitness. From discussions with factory managers it is evident that there is a tendency to dispense with the services of youths who appear to come within the definition of adolescent, in order to avoid conflict with the law.

The average daily number of children employed in registered factories was 2,328 as against 3,789 in the previous year, a decrease of 1,461. The elimination of child labour from the jute mills, continues, and has now reached a point when it can almost be said that children are not employed. The 278 still remaining are scarcely worth taking into account when it is remembered that ten years ago the number employed was 26,500. Illegal employment of children was discovered on 26 occasions, the irregularities consisting of employing children either without medical certificate, or for more than 5 hours per day. On two occasions only were the offences considered sufficiently serious to justify prosecution proceedings. Convictions were obtained in both cases. During the year 1,212 children were examined by the Certifying Surgeons, and of that number 936 were certified as being 12 years of age or over and physically fit for employment, and 254 were certified as 15 years of age or over. ■ 3,636 adolescents were examined by the Certifying Surgeons, and of that number 3,527 were certified as fit for employment as adults and 109 were rejected being either under 15 years of age or physically unfit.

Inspection.- During the year a total of 3,420 visits were made by the Inspectors of the department to registered factories and 208 to unregistered concerns. 852 factories were visited once, 279 twice, 159 three times, and 182 more than three times. The figures include 576 special visits for investigation into complaints, enquiry into accidents, collections of statistics, etc., and also 222 surprise visits outside legal working hours. 123 factories were not inspected. Many of these were known to be closed and the others were unimportant concerns in rural areas, most of which

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\* Government of Bengal Annual Report on the Administration of the Factories Act in Bengal for the year 1935.-by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal.- Supdt., Govt. Printing Bengal Govt. Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1936. Price Annas 8 or 10d. pp.72

were inspected in the previous year.

Working Hours.- The Act of 1934 which came into force on the 1st January 1935 reduced the legal limits of working hours in perennial factories from 11 to 10 per day and from 60 to 54 per week; consequently, in those industries which have all along been working the maximum permissible, viz., the cotton mills, iron and steel smelting factories, flour mills, match factories, mustard oil mills, paint works, chemical works and glass works, the working week has been reduced to 54 hours. Otherwise, there has been no material change. The jute mills, with one or two exceptions, continued to work the 40-hour week and in the other industries the normal hours, generally, are from 48 to 54 per week. In regard to the jute mills, however, the present controversy with respect to excessive production by the few mills outside the control of the Jute Mills' Association, is likely to result in a return to longer hours and probably to the old system of multiple or overlapping shifts with all the infractions of the Act that it entails. Actually, one or two mills are already working elaborate multiple shift systems. In one of these, the productive machinery runs 72 hours per week and the system is such that at times 10 relays of workers, whose hours of work overlap, are at work at the same time. In such circumstances it is obviously impossible to ensure that the statutory limits laid down by the Act are being observed. It is reported that there have been few wholesale breaches of the working hours provisions of the Act during the year. Many irregularities were discovered, but these, as a rule, were technical infractions, or otherwise of a nature which could more properly be described as border-line cases in which few workers were involved. ~~Max~~ Moreover, as the new Act only came into force at the beginning of the year and consequently was not understood by employers, the work of Inspectors in connection with registers, notice of periods of work, etc., was mainly advisory.

Contract Labour.- In respect of workers employed through contractor in the shipbuilding and engineering industries, the working hours provisions of the Act are not being applied. Under the old Act, the problem of finding a practicable means of regulating the employment of such workers defied solution and, in consequence, it was decided to hold the matter in abeyance pending the promulgation of the new Act and Rules. These are now in force and it is expected, therefore, that the question will be re-examined at an early date.

Wages.- As far as could be ascertained wages rates, generally, remained steady in the principal industries but, in some few cases, total earnings have been slightly affected by the reduction of the legal limit of weekly hours from 60 to 54. The only instance of a reduction in rates which has come to notice concerns rice mills in one or two mufassal areas which, on account of the shortage of paddy consequent on the prolonged drought and meagre monsoon, found it necessary to reduce wages slightly in order to make the mills solvent.



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Sanitation.- The reports of Inspectors show that improvements are being effected gradually. Sanitary conditions in the jute and cotton mills and the larger factories generally, leave little to be desired, hence the efforts of Inspectors have been directed mainly to the smaller concerns. Orders relating to the painting and lime-washing of factory interiors, the maintenance of drains and factory compounds in a sanitary condition, and the removal of filth and rubbish, were necessary on numerous occasions. A number of orders, also, were issued to provide additional latrine accommodation or to erect new latrines. Legal action to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Act and Rules concerning latrines was resorted to on two occasions only.

Generally, it can be said that there are few factories in the province in which an adequate supply of drinking water is not available.

Ventilation and Lighting.- The report states that progress in the matter of ventilation is being made slowly but steadily.

Housing Conditions and Welfare.- As a result of better trade conditions, a number of the larger factories are again in a position to pursue their policy of improving year by year the housing accommodation and other amenities provided for their workers. Generally the improvements effected during the year under review consisted of the replacement of old and unsuitable houses by new ones of better design, extensions and repairs to existing houses, additional tubewells and better arrangement for the supply and distribution of drinking water, the provision of bathing places and recreation grounds, enlargement or refitting of dispensaries, additional beds in maternity wards, additions to medical and welfare staffs, and further provision for the education of workers' children.

The scope and activities of the various welfare centres connected with jute mills and other large factories have been fully reported on in previous years. These continue to carry on their good work and to make improvements and extensions gradually.

Health. - The general health of industrial workers is reported to have been normal, ~~that~~ there was no epidemic disease during the year.

Accidents.- Of the 5,351 accidents during the year, 41 were fatal, 1,205 were serious and 4,105 were minor. Women were involved in 56 serious and 58 minor accidents and children in 1 minor accident. Compared with the previous year these figures show a decrease of 15 fatal accidents, but an increase of 203 serious and 1,008 minor, i.e., and increase of ~~1,514~~ 1,196 in the total accidents reported. The report points out that reduction in accidents is largely dependent on educating the workers in safe practices and enforcing the same, and this point is borne out by an examination of the circumstances of the accidents which occurred during the year under review, a very large proportion of which were primarily due to the inability of the injured worker, or some other person, to realise the danger.

Safety.- Further progress in the safeguarding of machinery and plant has been made during the year. In the smaller factories such as rice and oil mills the most noticeable improvement is the more general use of steel in the construction of fencing. Also, more attention is now being paid to details of design and construction, and in this connection the department's handbook "Safety in Factories" has been of valuable assistance to both factory managers and Inspectors.

In last year's report reference was made to the policy of encouraging adult male workers in jute mills to wear "shorts". This policy has been further pursued, and it is recorded that not only in jute mills but in many other factories also, shorts are gradually replacing dhoties and loin cloths as the factory dress.

(Requisition has been made for a copy of the book "Safety in Factories" mentioned in the report; when received it will be forwarded to Geneva).

(Factory Administration in Bengal during 1934 is reviewed at pages 32-38 of our August 1935 report). +

Factory Administration in Bombay, 1935\*

Number of Factories.- According to the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the Bombay Presidency during 1935, the number of factories subject to the control of the Act increased from 1,900 to 1,999. 164 factories were added to and 65 were removed from the register. The net increase of 99 was made up principally of factories that became amenable to the Act by reason of the change in the definition of a factory and to increased industrial activity in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sind. Two large mills in Bombay restarted work, whilst several small industries have been installed in two former mill buildings. As against ~~1,678~~ 1,678 last year the number of working factories in the period under report was 1,746. Of these, 937 were perennial and 809 were seasonal concerns. 243 of the perennial and 668 of the seasonal factories were connected with cotton industry.

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\* Annual Factory Report Bombay Presidency, 1935 (including a Note on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act) - Bombay. Printed at the Govt. Central Press 1936.- Obtainable from the Supdt., Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay. Price-Annas 2 or 3d.-pp.57

Number of Operatives.— The number of operatives employed in all industries, based on the annual returns received from the factories and including an average of the persons working on night shifts in the textile industry, was 420,716 compared with 375,833 last year. Employment in the textile industry increased materially, and particularly so in Bombay, where an increase of 23,566 has been recorded. The average for persons employed on the night shifts in the Bombay cotton textile mills increased by 12,576 from 14,236 to 26,812.

Employment of Women and Children.— The following table shows the number of women and children employed in the last five years:

	Women			Children.		
	Bombay	Mofussil.	Total	Bombay	Mofussil	Total.
1931	29,459	44,018	73,477	100	3,741	3,841
1932	29,916	44,061	73,977	114	2,678	2,792
1933	22,456	43,702	66,158	62	2,050	2,112
1934	22,195	43,748	65,943	44	2,103	2,147
1935	26,378	43,857	70,235	69	1,872	1,941

The number of children employed touched a new low level. Owing to increased activities, more women obtained employment, but the Maternity Benefit Act appears to have had a restricting influence on their employment, particularly in Ahmedabad. Cases against four factories for the irregular employment of women resulted in the imposition of fines totalling Rs. 549, whilst a court in Bombay imposed a fine of Rs. 200 on an occupier who was found employing two uncertified children at midnight.

Inspections.—Of the 937 perennial factories, 215 were inspected once, 245 twice, 173 thrice and 272 more than three times, while 32 factories were not inspected. Of the 809 seasonal factories, 452 *were inspected once, 258 twice, 59 thrice and 15 more than thrice,* while 25 were not inspected.

Accidents.— During 1935, 6,789 accidents were reported (36 fatal, 1,677 serious and 5,076 minor) as against 6,004 in the previous year (41 fatal, 1,527 serious and 4,436 minor). The rate per 100 persons employed rose from 1.60 in 1934 to 1.62.

General Remarks.—It is remarked that as regards the reduction in hours of work from 60 to 54, on the whole, there was no widespread attempt to defeat the law, but constant vigilance was necessary and several cases had to be instituted. In the smaller factories, little

regard to the change was paid, and in several instances the inspectors at their visits found concerns working the longer week. It was not always easy to distinguish between deliberate law breaking and ignorance, and in view of all the circumstances, it was felt that the paying of the workers at the overtime rate laid down for exempted concerns was the best way of dealing with the matter. On the whole, factories adjusted themselves to the new conditions quicker than was expected, and although the delay in the passing of the rules with its new forms and notices, combined with the pressure of work, prevented a meticulous examination in some industries where a few technical difficulties may reveal themselves, the scheme of the Act is on the whole adhered to fairly closely.

(The Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency for 1934 is reviewed at pages 55-60 of our July 1935 Report). +

Industrial Organisation.Employers' Organisations.Small Industries Association, Bombay: First GeneralMeeting, 4-7-1936. +

Reference was made at pages 40 to 41 of our March 1936 report to the inauguration in Bombay of the Small Industries Association and to the objects of the Association. The first general meeting of the Association was held on 4-7-36 with Mr. Manu Subedar as President. In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Subedar explained that the aim of the Small Industries Association is to bring into a common organisation, factories which have been established in large numbers all over the country, but which have hitherto not been brought into a common fold and have not, therefore, been in a position to study the common problems which they have to face, to articulate their many and genuine grievances and to draw the attention of the public as well as the authorities to any hardships to which they are subjected.

Speaking on the problems facing the small industrialists, Mr. Subedar regretted that the Government have not yet taken a census of production in India. He stressed the magnitude and importance of small industries in the economic life of the country and protested against the recent proposals for increasing freight rates on railways. He pleaded that small industries would be hit heavily by such increase in freight and said that those industries which are hit in this manner by having to pay extra on their raw material or by having important market centres where they are sending their goods cut off through an increase of freight, deserve some consideration. As the price of manufactured articles has generally fallen, the existing

freights already constitute a higher percentage and further increase would make the position really anomalous. Mr. Subedar declared that due to various taxes and duties, industry is migrating to Indian States. He expressed satisfaction at the opposition put up by the Indian Employers' Delegate at Geneva to the proposal for a 40-hour week for industry. He welcomed all genuine measures for the amelioration of Indian labour not only as it would improve the efficiency of the workers, which, he added, is very low in India, but because of broad human considerations. But a rate of labour legislation more rapid than in competing countries like Japan is to be deprecated.

(The Leader, 9-7-36.  
The Bombay Chronicle, 6-7-36)

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Workers' Organisations.

12th Half-Yearly Meeting between A.I.R.F. and the  
Railway Board, Simla, 9 & 10-7-1936.

The 12th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All India Railwaymen's Federation was held at Simla on 9 and 10-7-36. The deputation from the Federation included, ~~besides~~ Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the President, Mr. V.V. Giri, the General Secretary, the Assistant Secretary and twelve representatives. The main questions discussed at the meeting were: (1) the Railway Board's rules relating to staff retrenchments in State-owned railways, issued recently, and (2) the new reduced scales of pay for staff in State-owned railways. The following is a summary of the proceedings of the meetings taken from a communique issued, with the concurrence of the A.I.R.F., by the Railway Board.

I. Staff Retrenchment. (a) Federation's Opposition.- In regard to the Railway Board's proposals relating to staff retrenchment affecting about 4,000 workers, the Federation submitted at the outset that they did not accept the necessity for retrenchment and added that, owing to retrenchment, the remaining staff had to over-work and as a result they fell ill frequently. The Chief Commissioner of Railways said that the Federation's contention could not be accepted.

(b) Leave Reserves.- The Federation next stated that in 1929, Sir George Rainy had promised that adequate leave reserve would be provided on the railways, but so far no such provision had been definitely made or communicated to the Federation. The Chief Commissioner of Railways pointed out that he could not recollect the promise, but that, so far as the Railway Board were aware, there had been no complaints about reasonable leave not being granted to railway employees.

(c) Voluntary Retirement Suggested.in preference to Retrenchment. - The Federation next submitted that to avoid further retrenchment attractive voluntary retirement terms may be offered to the staff. The Chief Commissioner of Railways replied that the Board had already issued instructions allowing the terms which were given in connection with the retrenchment of 1932, and that the Railway Board did not consider any voluntary retirement terms necessary in connection with the application of the test of comparative efficiency.

(d) Re-employment of Retrenched Staff.- The Federation next submitted that there should be no further retrenchment of staff as normal wastage should be sufficient to avoid anticipated discharge of about 4,000 men, and that recruitment of outsiders should be entirely stopped till all the retrenched staff borne on the waiting lists had been appointed and all surplus staff had been absorbed. The Chief Commissioner of Railways pointed out that these arguments had already been brought forward at previous meetings at which he had stated that outsiders had been appointed by Railway Administrations when there was no suitable staff available from the waiting lists or in cases where men failed to respond to offers of employment or did not accept these for one reason or other. He added that the undertaking given by the Government regarding re-employment of retrenched staff had been carried out and would continue to be carried out in respect of retrenched employees still borne on the waiting lists.

(e) Establishment of Employment Bureaux. - The federation suggested that with a view to facilitating the speedier re-employment of retrenched staff ~~and~~ Employment Bureaux may be established on railways on which Union representatives may be associated. The Chief Commissioner said that he could not agree to the establishment of such an Employment Bureau, but he thought he had no objection to State-managed Railway administrations supplying to recognised Unions particulars of retrenched staff borne on the waiting list.

(f) New Scales of Pay for Re-employed Staff.- The Federation next submitted that retrenched staff should not, on their re-appointment, be brought under the new scales of pay or other adverse service conditions affecting the ~~new~~ entrants. The Chief Commissioner of Railways referred to the decision under which such staff are entitled to the new scales of pay and are governed by the service conditions applicable to new entrants and added that the Railway Board could not accede to the request of the Federation.

(g) Surplus Staff and Hours of Employment Regulations.- The Federation next submitted that surplus staff should not be retrenched, but utilised to implement the Hours of Employment Regulations on the railways on which they had not been given effect pending statutory application of these Regulations. The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that he could not agree to the suggestion. Under the existing financial conditions surplus staff had to be discharged.

(h) Contract Labour. - The Federation next submitted that the giving of work on contracts by railway administrations should be discouraged and more work should be done departmentally so that retrenched staff may be absorbed to a larger extent than at present. The Chief Commissioner said that the most economical method would be adopted in each case.

(i) Demand for Court of Enquiry.- In conclusion, the Federation submitted that there should be no further retrenchment and that if the Railway Board did not agree to it, they might join the Federation



in their application for the appointment of a Court of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act. The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that he could not agree to such a course.

II. New Scales of Pay. (1) Scales too low.- As regards the new scales of pay, the Federation submitted that they were not consulted before any enquiry was made; the new scales of pay were based on no method and that the Railway Board at their last meeting had stated that if the Federation could prove that the new scales of pay were inadequate for any particular category of staff they would be prepared to consider them. The Chief Commissioner of Railways replied that the new scales of pay were for persons who may enter the service as new entrants and who were not even members of Unions and that it was for the Federation to prove that the scales of pay for any categories of staff were inadequate.

(2) No Uniformity in New Scales.- The Federation then submitted that there was no justification for difference in the scales of pay for the same category on different railways, ~~xxxxxxx~~ and added that scales of pay for clerical staff on the different railways were different, even to the extent of ~~xxx~~ 100 per cent as between the South Indian and two other Railways e.g. Bengal Nagpur and Great Indian Peninsula Railways. The Federation further stated that the reduction in the scales of pay on the same railway was not uniform. The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that the scales of pay on the different railways were adequate and the rates were slightly higher than what other employees were paid in the same localities.

(3) New Scales not Standardised.- The Federation submitted that the scales of pay had not been standardised in the same way as another Government department, the Posts and Telegraphs, had done, and that there was considerable variation regarding the areas between the railways and the posts and telegraphs. The Chief Commissioner of Railways replied that the scales of pay were fixed taking into consideration the work done by the different categories of the staff and these were adequate remuneration for the work done. The Federation contended that the scales of pay had not been based on any living wage standard and quoted figures from the Labour Gazette published by the Labour Office, Bombay, and referred to certain evidence given by the South Indian and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways before the Royal Commission on Labour. The Federation added that, commensurate with the minimum standard of living, the wage for no category of staff should be less than Rs. 30 per mensem. The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that the Railway Board had not accepted the family budgets prepared in connection with the evidence given before the Royal Commission on Labour and added that, according to the Report by the Labour Office of the Government of Bombay on General Wages Census, Railways pay better than private employers. He added that he could only repeat that the revised scales of pay were adequate remuneration for the work done by the different categories of staff.

(4) Court of Enquiry Demanded.-In conclusion, the Federation submitted that while revising the scales of pay there had been no fixed standard followed as between the different Railways or on the same Railways. Some scales of pay had been reduced drastically and taking the difference between maximum of the old and the new scales of pay it meant a considerable loss of ~~any~~ emoluments of employees and urged that the Railway Board should have another enquiry made into the matter with a view to scales of pay being fixed in accordance with the living wage standard. The Federation submitted that if the Railway Board do not agree to it they might join with the Federation in their application for the appointment of a Court of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act. The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that he could not agree to such a course.

III. Grievances of Accounts Staff.- The Federation next submitted the grievances due to the withdrawal of certain acting allowances hitherto enjoyed by the Accounts Staff and complained that certain undertakings in this respect given by the Railway Board have not been carried out. The Financial Commissioner, while not prepared to concede that the department had not carried out the promises, was prepared to consider the possibility of mitigating the hardship caused by the withdrawal of these irregular acting allowances.

Leave Reserve.-The next point raised was about the insufficiency of the leave reserve ~~for~~ the Account Department. The Financial Commissioner said that so far as he could see the leave reserve in the Accounts Department was not appreciably less than in other departments of railways, but the point would be examined by the Controller of Railway Accounts.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-7-36). +

#### Meeting of Council of A.I.R.F: Threat of General

##### Strike to Protest against Retrenchment. +

The General Council of the All India Railwaymen's Federation met at Simla on 10-7-36. The Council considered the situation arising out of the threatened staff retrenchment in railways and the proposed lower scales of pay and passed the following resolution:

That this meeting, having taken note of the serious situation created on the Railways by the action of the Railway Board in issuing orders regarding (1) retrenchment of about 4,000 employees and (2) lowering scales of pay without proper enquiry and without any consultation and affecting hundreds of thousands of employees, resolves, since a dispute has arisen between the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Board, to approach the Government

with a formal request, under the Trade Disputes Act for the appointment forthwith of a court of enquiry. Meanwhile, the Federation, fully cognisant of the fact that the well-being and livelihood of thousands of Railway workers now menaced, calls upon all affiliated unions to bring home to their members the gravity of the issues involved and to take immediate steps to intensify organisational activity with a view to offer the maximum of resistance, in such manner and by such methods as the All India Railwaymen's Federation at its next convention may decide upon, to the Railway Board's attack on wages, security of service and the standard of living of railway workers. Should the Federation fail to achieve satisfaction in its demand for the withdrawal of retrenchment effected or proposed to be effected by the Railway Board, the Federation, having considered the attitude of the Railway Board in the matter of staff retrenchment and the new scales of pay, feels that resistance through strike on railways is the only effective remedy available and calls upon the affiliated unions to organise workers to get prepared for the same at the earliest date.

Resolved that the above be considered at the forthcoming meeting of the convention in Bombay.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-7-36). +

Trade Union Movement in Madras, 1934-35.\* +

Membership.- According to the annual report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Madras Presidency during the year ending 31-3-1935, 5 unions were registered under the Act and the registration of 11 unions was cancelled. The cancellations were ordered either on the ground that the unions had ceased to exist or had failed to submit their annual returns. The total number of registered trade unions functioning on 31-3-1935 was 32. The year opened with 23,932 members in the 28 unions which sent returns and closed with 24,889 members, of whom 2,135 were females. There was a further serious decrease in the membership of the M and S. M.

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\* Government of Madras - Public Works and Labour Department G.O.No. 1231, 16-1-1936 - Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for 1934-35. pp. 6.

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Railway Employees' Union, Madras, which fell from 11,982 to 7,858.

General Funds.- The opening balance of the 28 reporting unions amounted to Rs. 23,879-10-7 and the closing balance to Rs. 25,160-4-10. The number of unions which availed themselves of the benefit of free audit by official auditors is seven. Even the smaller unions which have few members in them prefer to have their ~~unions which have few members in them~~ prefer to have their accounts audited by their own paid or other auditors, instead of applying for free audit by official auditors. Some of the unions which had their accounts audited by official auditors in the previous year did not apply for free audit this year. It is pointed out that it would be all to the good of the unions and would inspire more confidence in unions on the part of the workers they try to represent if official audit was compulsory.

(The Trade Union Movement in Madras for the year 1933-34 was reviewed at page 51 of our February 1935 report). +

#### Progress of Trade Unionism in India, 1934-35.\* +

Registered and Unregistered Trade Unions. - As in previous years, the statistics accompanying this note relate only to trade unions which (a) are registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and (b) have submitted returns. Registration under the Act is not compulsory and the number of unregistered unions is large. In Bombay, according to the Bombay Labour Gazette for February 1936,

(| there were, on the 1st December 1935, 128 unions with a membership  
\* Note on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 during the year 1934-35 with comparative statistics for 1933-34 and 1934-35.- Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1936. Price Annas 10 or 1s.

of 111,891, of which only 56 with a membership of 95,506 were registered. 55

|| Difficulty in getting Returns. -The report states that the usual difficulties were experienced in collecting the returns. Statistics are available only for 183 of the 213 registered trade unions in existence on the 31st March 1935.

Statistics of Unions and Membership.- The number of registered unions increased from 191 in 1933-34 to 213 in 1934-35, of which 183 (against 160 in the previous year) submitted returns. The number of registered trade unions increased in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Bombay, Burma, the Central Provinces, Delhi, the Punjab and the United Provinces. Madras recorded a decrease of six trade unions. There was no change in Ajmer-Merwara. As in previous years, the group comprising the largest number of unions was that with a membership of 100 to 299.

The total membership of the unions which submitted returns was 284,918 as against 208,071 in the previous year. This represents an average membership of 1,557 per union during 1934-35 as against 1,300 during the previous year. An increase of nearly 54,000 in membership occurred in the Punjab, of which about 52,000 was due to the North Western Railway Industrial Workers Union and the N.W. Railway Union.

Organisation of Women Workers.- The number of women who are members of registered trade unions increased to 4,837 during the year under report from 2,999 in the previous year. The figures for 1934-35 amount to 1.7 per cent of the total membership of those trade unions which submitted returns as compared with 1.4 per cent for the previous year.

General and Political Funds.- The total income and the balances

in hand rose from Rs. 503,257 to Rs. 528,697 and from Rs. 550,180 to Rs. 569,981 respectively. The average income for 1934-35 was Rs. 2,920 per union and Rs. 1-13-8 per member, as compared with Rs. 3,126 and Rs. 2-6-8 respectively in 1933-34. Disparity between the actual income from subscriptions and that which would have accrued on the basis of the prescribed membership rates and the reported membership was very marked in some cases; thus in Bengal, in one union in the Railway group in which the annual subscription was Re. 1 payable in advance, realisations from members numbering 1,326 at the close of the year were Rs. 116-4-0. In another union belonging to the Water Transport group, in which the annual subscription varied from annas eight to Rs. 4 according to the pay of the member, the realisations from a membership of over 15,000 amounted to Rs. 1,576 only. The figures of "unpaid subscriptions due" to the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay, are particularly striking. Out of Rs. 267,000 which represent the assets of this union Rs. 265,000 were stated to be unpaid subscriptions. In the Punjab the income from membership fees etc. of the North Western Railway Industrial Workers' Union, Lahore, in which there was a reported increase of membership from 243 to 27,642 amounted to Rs. 432 only.

The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay, maintained its political fund with 3,404 subscribers during the year. The income of this fund amounted to Rs. 2,171 and the closing balance was Rs. 790.

Withdrawals and Cancellations.— 24 unions ceased to exist or had their certificates of registration cancelled during the year— 4 in Bengal, 4 in Bombay, 1 in Delhi, 1 in Bihar and Orissa, 11 in

Madras and 3 in the Punjab. In Bengal, 1 other union was dissolved and 2 unions were amalgamated in a new union which was registered during the year. In Bombay 1 union was dissolved.

General Remarks. - The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, remained unchanged during the year. No appeal was filed under section 11 of the Act against the refusal of Registrar of Trade Unions to register a union or against the withdrawal or cancellation of a certificate.

(A copy of the "Note on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, during the year 1934-35" was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/897 /36 dated 6-8-1936).

(The Note on the "Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act during 1933-34 was reviewed at pages 59-63 of our August 1935 report). +

#### Bombay Trade Unions and Elections under New Constitution:

##### Certificate Refused to G.K.Union.-

Among the registered trade unions in Bombay Presidency, hardly 10 have been able to obtain certificates of recognition from the Governor of Bombay, in connection with the forthcoming elections to the Bombay Legislative Assembly/ constituted under the Reformed Constitution. A large number of these unions were either disqualified as they were not registered or did not apply for a certificate.

The ~~only~~ total number of registered trade unions in the Presidency is 44 with a total membership of about 90,000. The recognised unions fall within four labour groups, namely the Bombay City and Suburban Textile Union Constituency (one seat), the Ahmedabad Textile Union Constituency (two seats) the (Bombay) Railway Union Constituency (two seats) and the Trade Union of Seamen and Dockworkers

(Bombay) Constituency (one seat). The voting strength of all the recognised unions qualified to exercise their franchise, is a little over 27,000, Of this, about 20,000 voters belong to the Ahmedabad Textile Union Constituency. A special labour constituency with one seat has been created for Sholapur.

So far as the textile trade unions are concerned, three of them applied for the certificate of recognition, and only one has been qualified. That body is the Bombay Millworkers' Union. Among the unions which failed to satisfy the prescribed test was, the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, the membership of which is stated to be 6,700, for the reason that it has not been in existence for a period of two years, as required by the Order-in-Council governing the election of labour representatives to the provincial legislature. Though the Girni Kamgar Union was founded in 1928, it did not exist in the official records of the Registrar of Trade Unions, Bombay, for about a year during 1934-35 as its registration was cancelled in October, 1934, for non-submission of annual returns to the Registrar. The Union was, however, registered as a new one by the Registrar in August 1935. It is on account of this technical defect that certificate was refused by the Governor. In the Railway Union's ~~Constituency~~ Constituency, no fewer than eight applied and five were enfranchised. In this constituency the G.I.P. Railway Workers' Union, with a membership of 10,000, is the biggest trade union. Only two out of seven dockworkers' and seamen's unions have been enfranchised. Among these unions, the strength of the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay, is over 23,000.

(The Times of India, 28 & 30-7-36)  
and the Bombay Chronicle of  
27-7-1936). +



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Economic Conditions.

Control over Coal Mining Methods:

Government of India invite views of Provincial Governments.

Towards the end of June 1936, the Government of India sent a circular letter to local Governments and bodies concerned, inviting their views before 15-8-1936 on the question of control of coalmining methods. The main issues on which opinions are invited are:

(a) Is further control over mining methods necessary to ensure safety and, if so, what restrictions are desirable for this purpose?

(b) Should methods of mining involving serious avoidable waste be prohibited generally?

(c) Is it desirable that sandstowing be enforced and, if so, to what extent?

(d) Is the scheme for compensation essential or desirable in connexion with compulsory sandstowing and

(e) should funds be raised for coal research to be directed towards securing better use of coal?

Opinions, when received, will be examined by a Committee of Inquiry which will probably meet in November, 1936.

The Government of India, after several reports on the control of coalmining methods and a survey of the Indian coal-fields, have come to the conclusion that the mining methods employed in the country are unsatisfactory and the danger to life from fire and other accidents has considerably increased. They are of opinion that a re-examination of the position is essential for which the appointment of a committee is proposed.

(The Statesman, 22-6-1936) +

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Employment and Unemployment.

Problem of Unemployment in India:

Resolution to be moved in the Legislative Assembly. +

Babu Mohanlal Saxena, M.L.A., has tabled the following resolution regarding measures to combat unemployment menace in the country, to be moved in the forthcoming autumn session of the Legislative Assembly:-

In view of the growing menace of unemployment in the country and the acute distress caused thereby, this Assembly recommends to the Governor-General in Council forthwith to devise and adopt remedial measures, and suggests the following amongst others for consideration and adoption:-

(a) Central Unemployment Board.- The establishment of a Central Unemployment Board for collecting, and periodically publishing, statistics regarding unemployment in the country, its nature and extent, and coordinating the activities of the various provincial boards established in this behalf.

(b) Industrial Development Board.- The establishment of an Industrial Development Board with a majority of non-official members, including leading economists and industrialists, with the object of preparing a scheme for starting new industries and financing the existing ones, in particular cottage industries, with the sole purpose of absorbing the unemployed and providing subsidiary work to the partially employed.

(c) Loan of Rs. 250 Millions.- The raising of a loan of Rs. 250 millions by the Central Government for financing the above mentioned scheme, or any other scheme approved by the Assembly for fighting unemployment.

(d) Unemployment Insurance. - The institution of a scheme of unemployment insurance amongst industrial workers.

(e) Budget Provision for 1937. - The provision of a sum of at least Rs. 5 millions in the next year's budget for meeting the cost of remedial measures as suggested above and for assisting the provinces for tackling the unemployment problem.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-6-1936) r

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Combating Unemployment:

A New Organisation formed in U. P.

With a view to tackle the unemployment problem among the educated classes in the United Provinces a meeting of graduates and undergraduates was held recently at Lucknow in the second week of July under the Chairmanship of Babu Mohanlal Saxena, M.L.A. The meeting decided to inaugurate a provincial organisation with the following aims and objects: (1) to focus public opinion on the problem of unemployment and to devise ways and means to solve it effectively; (2) to maintain a register of the unemployed graduates and under-graduates of the province; (3) to inculcate amongst them a spirit of self-reliance and to prevent the waste of energy by directing it into proper and useful channels; (4) to arrange for the training of the unemployed in business, trade and industry by enlisting the sympathy and co-operation of businessmen and industrialists; (5) to assist the unemployed in earning their livelihood by starting small trades and industries, coaching schools and tutorial classes; and (6) to guide and co-ordinate their activities in general.

The meeting appointed a committee to organise the Association. A meeting of the unemployed will be held during the first week of August next.

(The Leader, 19-7-1936) ~

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Middle Class Unemployment in C.P.: Resolution

Adopted by Legislative Council. +

Mr. C.B.Farakh moved in the Central Provinces Legislative Council on 28-7-1936 a resolution urging the local government to appoint a special committee of non-officials, officials and experts to investigate the subject of unemployment in the Central Provinces and Berar, especially among the educated classes, and to suggest ways and means to remedy it.

In moving the resolution, Mr. C. B. Farakh drew attention to the existing unemployment among all classes. The committee he proposed would bring the employer and the employee together, helping to ease the ~~xxxx~~ position. A number of educated men could be absorbed in small industries. The Maharastrian and Hindustani young men were loath to take to industrial pursuits involving manual labour. He also suggested the setting up of an unemployment bureau. He advocated industrial, technical and vocational education, of which there was lack in the province.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. A.L.Binney, in the first instance opposed the unemployment bureau idea since it did not form part of the resolution. Then he voiced the opposition of the Government to the motion because they considered that no useful purpose would be served by the appointment of the committee to investigate a problem which had been already exhaustively examined elsewhere in India and in this province, where a committee was appointed by the Council in 1930 which died a natural death owing to the dissolution of the Council. He declared that the unemployment problem was not so acute in the province. Even when famine or scarcity was not declared,

Government opened test works for the unemployed among agriculturists. Governments were probably the greatest employer of educated labour. But the use of public revenues for the employment of educated persons beyond the requirements of Government was unjustifiable. In the light of the report of the Sapru Committee and other committees, the Government, the Chief Secretary said, were doing all they could to relieve unemployment. The Chief Secretary also directed attention to the increased scope for employment in agriculture and industries, and referred to the practical bent introduced in the schools of the province to enable the students to earn their living by the pursuit of some calling or other.

On the motion being put to the House, it was declared carried. Although government were opposed to the appointment of the committee, they did not claim a division.

(The Times of India, 30-7-1936). \*

Educated Unemployed in the Punjab: Government to  
Start Unemployment Bureau.

The Punjab Ministry of Local Self-Government is ~~now~~ expected to announce early in August a plan for the establishment of an Employment Bureau to relieve unemployment among the educated classes in the provinces. This Bureau will be the beginning of a campaign to solve this problem. The Industries Department will start by recording statistics of unemployment among all classes of graduates and students passing out of intermediate colleges, secondary schools and industrial and technical schools and institutes, and help to bring together employers and unemployed, who will be

invited to make applications to the Director of Industries stating their qualifications and the posts for which they consider themselves fit.

When the educated unemployed have been registered, their names will be forwarded to Government and private employers who have suitable vacancies. The Government will not guarantee employment but the method chosen will bring together employer and unemployed and also reveal the true state of unemployment in the province and the categories of qualified men among whom it is most severe.

(The Statesman, New Delhi,  
28-7-1936). +

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Co-operation.

Progress of Co-operative Movement in Burma, 1934-35. +

General Remarks.- In his annual report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Burma during the year ending 30-6-35, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the Province remarks that liquidation work continued to absorb the energies of the Department as in previous years and extension, expansion or propaganda work were not pursued during the year under report. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, public enthusiasm which was on the wane lately was aroused to a considerable extent when non-officials organised an all-Burma Co-operative and Agricultural Conference at Mandalay on 2 and 3-1-35 to discuss the present stagnation in the Co-operative movement and to devise ways and means of reviving it.

Statistics of Societies and Membership.- There were 2,138 societies of all kinds at the close of the year under review as against 2,165 at the close of the previous year. Of the 2,138 societies, 11 were Central Banks, 150 non-agricultural credit societies, 1,453 agricultural credit societies and 524 other societies. The total membership of the 2,138 societies was 75,494 as against 75,592 during 1933-34.

General Features.- The closure of all credit by financing banks had the immediate effect of stopping work in the living societies. The activities of these bodies therefore merely consisted of collecting old debts and making part repayments of their dues to the Central Banks without a corresponding return from them in the way of small loans in order to keep the movement going. The condition of these moribund societies may be said to have gone from bad to worse owing to increased indebtedness to outside money-lenders whose rates of interest were usually exorbitant. Another disturbing feature was the rapid accumulation of land in the hands of the official liquidators whose activities merely resulted in more lands being bought in because of lack of buyers at auction sales conducted by the revenue authorities.

During the year of report a scheme of reconstruction of both the living and the dead societies was prepared and submitted for t

\* Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1935.- Rangoon: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1936.-Price. Rs.1-8 = 2s.3d. -pp.84

HK.2

the consideration of Government. The main features of the scheme are the speedy disposal of the accumulated land to members of societies who could afford to purchase them by yearly payments of small amounts spread over a period of 10 to 15 years, the reduction of old debts by setting them off against shares, deposits and reserves and the revival of the working of these societies under a new set of by-laws which have been carefully framed to avoid the pitfalls of the past. The two most noticeable features of the new scheme of work are the encouragement of thrift and the linking of credit with marketing of crops by which all repayments of loans will in future be made mostly in kind.

Outlook for the future.- The present report, it is stated, is a record of failures and set-backs of the co-operative movement in Burma. There has been no progress made in any direction whatever. The demoralising effects of the numerous liquidations all over the province have had their repercussions amongst the living societies, for all transactions in the latter are now at a complete standstill. The outlook for the future, however, is not sombre, for the Government has recently agreed in principle to the introduction of the reconstruction scheme which in effect is a debt conciliation process. It is proposed to effect a general reduction of bad debts against the reserve funds which at present exist only on paper and old loans will be made payable in small instalments spread over a series of years according to the members' repaying capacities. The land will be given back to members on a rent-purchase bond by which its current value will be recovered by yearly instalments spread over a period not exceeding 15 years. In this way it is hoped to recover a considerable portion of the loan granted by Government to the Burma Provincial Bank (no in liquidation). A new set of model by-laws have been framed and co-operative marketing has for the first time been linked with credit. The collection of debts will in future be made mostly in kind. But these ideals can only be realised by the provision of a very strong supervising agency and it is hoped that funds will be provided for the purpose. By an intense concentration on the work of the primary co-operative societies, the Department expects to make considerable improvement and progress in the near future.

(The progress of Co-operative Movement in Burma during 1933-34 was reviewed at page 71 of our April 1935 report). +



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Co-operation.

Enquiry into Co-operative Movement in Mysore:

Report of Committee. \*

References were made at page 50 of our September 1935 and page 45 of our October 1935 reports to the appointment by the Mysore Government of a Committee under the chairmanship of Dewan Bahadur K.S.Chandrasekhara Iyer, Retired Chief Justice, Mysore High Court, to enquire into the present state of the Co-operative movement in the State and to make recommendations for laying down a sound policy for the future. The Committee has recently submitted its report, a short summary of which is given below.

Present Position of the Movement.- Summing up the present position of the co-operative movement in the State, the report says: "The movement has indeed been passing through a critical period in Mysore in common with other parts of India. Attention has, for some time, been concentrated in Mysore on efforts to strengthen existing societies and improve their working and management, on the speeding up of recoveries, the reduction of overdues, and the scrutiny of loans and the sufficiency of the security therefor, and generally on measures for ensuring the financial stability and soundness of primary and central institutions. This, of course, is the only prudent policy for the abnormal period through which the movement has been passing".

Dangers of being Over-Caution.- But the above policy is not a policy which can create enthusiasm. Nor is it one which can be indefinitely pursued, if the movement is to grow and thrive. As a matter of fact, it is to be feared that the stress laid on caution and consolidation is having the untoward consequence of starving even good societies and honest members. The danger of stagnation has become real; and the question whether the pace of advance in organisation and development cannot now be accelerated is assuming importance.

Immediate Outlook.- The ~~ix~~ immediate outlook is not by any means discouraging or such as to cause despair to those to whom its welfare is primarily entrusted. Meanwhile, it is quite necessary to complete the process of rectification already undertaken, a process, which, though undoubtedly tedious and difficult, cannot be delayed or dispensed with. The position is not peculiar to Mysore. The years 1928-29 to 1934-35 have been years of anxious questioning and searching of heart everywhere.

Recommendations(1) An Advisory Committee on Co-operation to be Formed.— The Report recommends that no important change of policy should be embarked upon without consultation with responsible non-official opinion. ~~As~~ As one means of making such opinion always available when required, the Committee support the suggestion made for the formation of an advisory committee - at first wholly nominated. Such a committee should be of special help in connection with the framing and alteration of rules, by-laws and forms of accounts. Both officials and honorary workers should be encouraged to study ~~a~~ co-operative developments in other parts of the country.

Relief to Borrowers.— There is need for effective legislative action, on the one hand, to control the transactions of money-lenders and minimise unscrupulous and dishonest practices on their part, and, on the other, to afford relief to borrowers from some of the harsher <sup>methods</sup> ~~incidents~~ of unrestricted usury. Some sort of restrictive control is necessary over the transactions of professional money-lenders. Such control ~~is~~ is not likely to be effective without provision, among other things, for compelling this class of persons to obtain licences, to maintain regular accounts of their transactions, to grant receipts in due form for all payment received and to abstain from charging excessive interest or compound or penal interest. Provision has also to be made for helping the debtor to pay off the conciliated debt immediately. No organisation save Government can command resources adequate for debt conciliation on an extensive scale; but where the amount involved is likely to be very large, and the number of cases to be dealt with is quite considerable, direct liquidation by Government agency is impracticable. The help of the Land Mortgage Bank may be utilised in all cases where the debtor can offer adequate security and has sufficient surplus income from which to pay the instalments of the debts according to settlement.

Voluntary Debt Conciliation.— Direct conciliation through the medium of co-operative and land mortgage societies may occasionally be possible, But it can only be done on a purely voluntary basis, and on the understanding that in all such cases the societies are prepared to help the debtor to discharge his liabilities and in the last resort to take them over themselves.

Co-operation and Uplift of the Ryot.— The final solution of the problem of rural poverty lies in a material improvement of the economic position of the ryot population, through the steady pursuit of a policy aimed directly at that end. Such a policy will make provision, among other things, for actively helping the agriculturist to adopt improved methods of cultivation familiarised through demonstration and instruction, and by the advance of any necessary capital; for the introduction of subsidiary occupations which will tend to add to his ordinary income from agriculture; and for the steady expansion of education among the rural population.

Long Term Loans.— The combination of short and long term finance is inadvisable and likely to lead to disastrous results.

Long term finance should be left entirely to land mortgage and other special institutions.

Rate of Interest.- The rate of interest charged on loans, namely, 8 per cent is too high under existing conditions, and far beyond the capacity of the ordinary agriculturists. The rate charged should not, as a rule, exceed 6 per cent.

Redemption of Debts of Government Servants.- It is necessary to ~~to~~ devise a scheme for the redemption of the existing outside debts of officials, ~~preferably~~ preferably through the agency of departmental societies.

(The Hindu, 14-7-1936). +

Agriculture.The Central Provinces Debt Conciliation(Amendment) Bill, 1936.

Attention is directed to pages 247-248 of Part II of the Central Provinces Gazette, where a Bill to amend the Central Provinces Debt Conciliation Act, 1933, is published. The Bill makes provision for: (1) the verification of statement and particulars of debt in order to prevent the submission of false statements of debts by creditors; (2) the Boards being empowered to order the production of any document required to trace the history of any particular debt; (3) the deposit of amounts due under an agreement if the creditor refuses to accept it, or if there is a dispute about the personality of the creditor and (4) a board to review its orders on its own motion, if necessary. +

Maritime Affairs.

Problems of Seamen: Views of Bombay Chamber of  
Commerce on Report of the Preparatory Maritime Meeting, 1935. †

In March 1936, the Government of India sent out copies of the Report of the Preparatory Maritime Meeting held at Geneva in November-December 1935, to industrial organisations, inviting expression of their views. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce in communicating its views on the Report, endorses the views of the shipowners' representatives at the Conference. Commenting on some of the points raised in the Report, the Chamber states that international legislation of this nature in the past had tended to penalise the good shipowner and the good shipowning country and had made it harder to compete with both the non-signatory countries and with signatory countries which did not honour their international agreements to the full. Germany, Italy and Soviet Russia, all large shipowning countries, did not appear to be parties to these discussions, while there were also countries of lesser importance remaining outside the proposed legislation.

Manning.- As had been stated in the discussions, international regulation of manning, etc., could not fairly be attempted without international wage scales. The Committee consider that an international manning scale should be supported subject to the above proviso. The requirements of various types of vessels, the variety of propelling machinery, of auxiliaries and of cargo gear and the diversity of navigational and trade conditions would make it essential to have a complicated scale of manning. The scales suggested hardly met these requirements. The Committee are definitely opposed

to a

to a manning scale for stewards (other than those catering for officers and crew) and also to regulation of hours of work for stewards attending on passengers. The Committee's information is that stewards themselves did not want to be tied down as they regarded their work more as personal service than general service. They usually received compensation for any extra work performed in the shape of tips and their work was not hard or continuous especially in the ~~max~~ eastern or any other seasonal trade. The requirements of passengers must be given first consideration more especially in competitive trades. An attempt to regulate hours of work of waiters ashore ended in failure as it was found to be impracticable to apply such legislation to catering business. It was obvious that the difficulties would be greater still on board ship.

Leave with Pay. - Leave with pay to seamen would entail a complete reorganisation of the system of engagement and the inherent possibilities of abuse were so great that the Committee considered it would be better to abandon the proposal altogether. Officers and engineers were already provided for in most lines and in any case their Associations could deal with points affecting their interests. The case of a subordinate rating is different. In the majority of cases, his service with a steamer or line is not continuous and on discharge he seeks employment with the first steamer requiring hands. Presumably if he were entitled to leave he could not sign on again with the same line until his leave period had expired. This might result in his having to wait a long time for another ship. Alternatively he might sign on at once in another vessel and the purpose of the leave would be lost. In the latter case leave

pay would only be an increase in wages, which in the present parlous state of British shipping cannot be justified; in fact, it might prove to be suicidal. If it resulted in further handicapping<sup>of</sup> the shipowner in world competition the only sequel would be increased unemployment.

(Summarised from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during April and May 1936).

Raising Minimum Age for Admission of Children to  
Employment at Sea to 15: Views of Bombay  
Chamber of Commerce.

were  
At page 75 of our report for June 1936 ~~xxx~~ summarised the views of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the proposal of the I.L.O. to raise the minimum age for employment at sea from 14 to 15. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce also has expressed the view that it had no objection to the minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea being raised from 14 to 15 years, provided Article 5 of the Draft Convention of 1920 was not altered and section 37B of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act was retained in its present form. Article 37B of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act exempts a young person employed on nominal wages when he is in charge of his father or other adult near male relative.

(~~3~~ Summarised from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during April and May 1936).

Migration.Disabilities of Indians Overseas:Committee to suggest Retaliatory Measures urged byAssembly Resolution. +

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar, M.L.A., and others of the Assembly Congress Party have given notice of the following resolution to be moved at the next session of the Assembly:-

"Whereas the condition of Indians overseas is giving serious cause for concern in consequence of their ever-increasing disabilities and hardships, and whereas all the methods of persuasion and representation employed by the Government of India on their behalf have proved utterly inadequate, this Assembly recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council to appoint a committee of the members named below (names will be supplied later) to propose effective measures retaliatory or otherwise to remedy the present state of humiliation and distress of Indians abroad and to secure complete repeal of all discriminatory laws and rules, directly or indirectly affecting them or prejudicing their interests."

The Foreign Department of the All India Congress Committee issued in the last week of June 1936 a statement reviewing the position of Indians in South Africa and the various disabilities that have been imposed on them from time to time. The following points are extracted from the statement:-

Forthcoming Visit of S.African Delegation.- The acceptance by the South African Union of the Government of India's invitation to pay the country a visit of courtesy and goodwill has again brought to the fore the question of Indians in colonies.

Mr. Beyer's Visit.- Ten years ago, a similar delegation to this country headed by Mr. Beyer is ~~said~~ said to have produced tangible benefits. The Asiatic Bill of 1925 discriminatory against Indians was replaced by an agreement informed by racial understanding and good-will known as the Cape Town Agreement, 1927. A number of visits and delegations and conferences between the two countries have since taken place, it is said, to the good of India.

Disabilities of Indians.- An unofficial estimate of the Indian Imperial Citizenship Association puts the total number of Indians in South Africa at ~~2 million~~ <sup>2,39,988</sup> in 1935. According to the 1926 official estimate they numbered 173,792 of whom 151,390 lived in Natal. The European settlers of Natal, to say the least, are no votaries of



the principles of racial harmony. As far back as 1894, they had proposed a law depriving Indians of the Parliamentary franchise and, after a minor setback, they finally put through the Disfranchisement Act of 1896. Finally in 1925, the Indians were further deprived of their municipal franchise. The stories of other public and social indignities, reserved tramcars and derogatory epithets and of economic disabilities are too well known to be repeated here.

Plight of Transvaal Indians.- The Province of Transvaal with a population of 15,747 Indians has a still more revealing history. By the law of 1885, Indians were debarred from ownership of land in proclaimed areas, which means, of good lands; the Gold Law of 1908 deprived them of the right of residence in these areas; by the Asiatics Amendment Act of 1919 they could start no new business; and finally, the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act of 1932, the crowning piece of the edifice, has withheld from them both the right of residence and trade except in their own bazars.

Reasons behind S. African Visit.- Referring to the international context in which the visit is taking place, the statement says: South Africa, in recent months, has shown a nervous anxiety. She is afraid of Italian aggression and German plans. Mr. Pirow, the Defence Minister, who a year ago would not listen to joint Imperial defence is only too eager to have it now. It is also interesting to observe certain newer trends among the Indian colonists. The Colonial Born and Settlers' Association of Transvaal founded in July 1933 appears to be aggressively dissatisfied with the South African Government's schemes of assisted emigration of Indians back to India or elsewhere. And assisted emigration seems to have been the basic item in the Cape Town Agreement, 1927. The Association's work for inter-racial co-operation and understanding in South Africa appears to be directed towards <sup>closer</sup> ~~near~~ relations between Negroes and Indians.

(The Hindu, 29-6-1936) +

6

General.

Bombay Provincial Liberal Conference:

Resolutions re. Social and Economic Programme of Party. +

The Bombay Provincial Liberal Conference held its annual session at Sholapur on 18 and 19-7-1936 under the presidentship of Sir Cowasji Jehangir. The following resolutions having reference to the Liberal Party's programme for economic and social uplift of the masses, and to Indians abroad, were among those adopted by the Conference:

Liberal Party's Economic Programme.— This Conference is of opinion that every effort should be made to put up Liberal candidates for both the Chambers of the Bombay Legislature and recommends to the Liberal Associations in the Presidency to take active steps in this behalf.

The Liberal candidates shall appeal to the electorate on and undertake to carry out the following programme:—

(a) to secure an early revision of the new Constitution with a view to the attainment of Dominion Status at the earliest possible date;

(b) Ministers will resign office if the safeguards or reserved powers of the Governors are exercised unreasonably or arbitrarily for interfering with the responsibility of Ministers, or if the Governor acts against the spirit of the Constitution;

(c) to promote and support legislation having for its object the improvement of the condition of the agriculturists, by

- (1) a reform of the land revenue system;
- (2) protection of the interests of agricultural tenants;
- (3) relief of agricultural indebtedness by such measures as debt conciliation and legislation for debt redemption through extension of the policy of establishing land mortgage banks and improvement of existing co-operative agencies;
- (4) encouragement of indigenous industries and particularly cottage industries by all possible measures;
- (5) establishment of a system of compulsory primary education, particularly for the labouring and Scheduled Classes;
- (6) rural uplift through such measures as improved sanitation, medical relief, better housing, improved animal husbandry, etc.
- (7) measures for relieving unemployment both of industrial and agricultural labour and of the educated classes;
- (8) legislation for protecting the interests of and improving the condition of industrial and agricultural labour;
- (9) removal of untouchability by all suitable means.

Indians Abroad. (a) Zanzibar.- This Conference records its satisfaction at the unanimous report of the Agricultural Indebtedness Commission appointed by the Zanzibar Government which supports the conclusions arrived at by Mr. K.P.S. Menon, I.C.S., who, in his report to the Government of India, exposed the one-sided character of the anti-Indian decrees and requests the Government of India to press for the repeal of these decrees.

(b) South Africa.- This Conference, while strongly opposed to the principle of residential and commercial segregation of Indians, on which the Asiatic Land Tenure Act of the Union of South Africa is based, urges the Government of India to press upon the Union Government the justice and necessity of providing adequately for the existing and the future needs in dealing with the report of the Feetham Commission. This Conference also urges the Government of India to take steps to protect the rights and interests of Indian settlers in connection with the operation of the Union Slums Act.

This Conference accords a cordial welcome to the deputation from South Africa which is visiting India and trusts it will lead to a better understanding between the two countries.

(c) Fiji.- This Conference expresses its acute dissatisfaction with the recommendations of the Fiji Legislature to substitute nomination for election to the Fiji Legislative Council and urges the Government of India to represent to His Majesty's Government that the proposal will injuriously affect Indian interests and will be greatly resented in India.

(The Servant of India, 23-7-1936). +

0102/12

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

REPORT FOR AUGUST 1936.

N.B. Every section of this Report may be taken out separately.-

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References to the I. L. O.

"Indian Swarajya", Bezwada, dated 16-8-1936, publishes a long article under the heading "Progress in Practical Application of the 40-hour Week" based on the chapter on the subject in the Director's Report to the last I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of "Indian Post" publishes a communique issued by this Office on 17-6-1936 on the speech delivered at the 20th session of the I.L.Conference by Mr. R.W.Fulay on the question of a 40-hour week for the textile industry.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 4-9-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Needed a Permanent Tariff Board". In the course of the article an incidental reference is made to the resolution moved at the 20th session of the I.L.Conference by Mr. Fulay on the subject of "dumping".

\* \* \*

"Federated India", Madras, dated 29th July 1936 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 30-6-1936 on the speech delivered at the 20th session of the I.L.Conference by Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty on Holidays with Pay.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 30-7-1936 publishes a short editorial note regretting the rejection of the amendment to the Draft Convention on recruiting of native labour, proposed by the Indian workers' delegate.

\* \* \*

The Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 3-8-1936 publishes a summary of the Resolutions adopted by the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 8-8-1936 publishes an article giving a brief account of the work of the 20th I.L.

Conference, contributed by Mr. F.E.James.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 27-7-1936 publishes the report of a meeting of the members of the City Civic Centre, Perambur, at which Mr. C.Chelvapathy Chetty delivered an address on the proceedings of the last I.L.Conference. Mr. Chetty summarised the achievements of the Conference and stressed the beneficent influence of the I.L.O. in the sphere of alleviating conditions of work in this country.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 15-8-1936 publishes the report of a public meeting held at Madras on 14-8-1936 under the auspices of the Madras Youngmen's Labour League. At the meeting, speeches were made by Mr. G.Chelvapathy Chetty and several others on the position of labour in India. In the course of his speech, Mr. Chetty referred to the work accomplished by the 20th session of the International Labour Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 20-8-36 publishes the report of a meeting held at Madras on 19-8-1936 to present an address of welcome to Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty on his return from the Geneva Labour Conference. In the course of the speeches made on the occasion, references were made to the work of the I.L.O. in general, as also to the work of the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

A statement made by Sardar P.S.Sodhbans on the last session of the I.L.Conference which he attended as Adviser to Indian Employers' delegate was published in the National Call dated 20-8-1936, the Hindu dated 18-8-1936, the Leader dated 21-8-1936 and the Hindustan Times dated 25-8-1936. Mr. Sodhbans expressed regret that the I.L.O. is mainly interested in European countries and that adequate attention is not being paid to Indian conditions.

He condemned the practice of sending fresh delegates to the Conference every year, and suggested that men with previous experience of the Conference should be sent. He also deplored the fewness of the number of advisers sent every year by the Government of India. Another point about which Mr. Sodhbans expressed dissatisfaction was the very limited number of Indians employed in the Secretariat of the I.L.O. and the League of Nations.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 22-8-1936 publishes a picture of Mr. P.S.Sodhbans taken on his return to India after attending the last session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of "Labour", Calcutta, publishes a communique issued by this Office on 11-6-1936 on the 76th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 30-7-1936 publishes a news item to the effect that the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce, Rangoon, has recommended Messrs. M.A.Master and D.S.Erulkar for nomination as Indian employers' delegate and adviser respectively to the forthcoming maritime conference.

\* \* \*

A similar recommendation made by the United Provinces Chamber of Commerce was published in the following: the Statesman dated 30-7-1936 and the Leader, the National Call, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Times of India and the Bombay Chronicle dated 31-7-1936.

\* \* \*

A news item to the effect that the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay has recommended Mr. M.A.Master for nomination as the Indian Employers' Delegate to the forthcoming Maritime



session of the I.L.Conference was published in the Hindustan Times dated 8-8-1936 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 10-8-1936.

The Times of India dated 7-8-1936, the Bombay Chronicle dated 9-8-1936, the National Call and the Leader dated 10-8-36 publish the above news item and, in addition, ~~add~~ in the same ~~item~~ the various items on the agenda of the Conference.

\* \* \*

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for June 1936, publishes the Government of India communique dated 15-5-1936 regarding the agenda of the 21st (Maritime) session of the I.L.Conference. The Chamber ~~re~~ recommends Sir George Campbell for nomination as Indian Employers' delegate to the Conference.

\* \* \*

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for June 1936 publishes the agenda of the 21st (Maritime) session of the I.L.Conference. As regards recommendations for the nomination of the Indian Employers' Delegation to the session, doubts are expressed about the competence of the Chamber to make recommendations as the session is a maritime one. The Chamber has suggested that the Associated ~~adm~~ Chambers of Commerce should urge the Government, in such cases, to consult shipping interests through the Associated Chambers.

\* \* \*

A communique re. Provisions of the French Decree regulating Labour conditions in French India (issued by this Office on 6-8-1935) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times and the Statesman dated 10-8-1936, the National Call dated 11-8-1936 and the Hindu dated 12-8-1936.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 30-7-1936 publishes a communique issued by this office on 25-7-1936 on world unemployment statistics for

for the second quarter of 1936. The communique is based on a Geneva communique on the subject.

\* \* \*

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 8-8-1936 publishes a short summary of the above.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 5-8-1936 publishes a summary received from Geneva by mail of the unemployment statistics recently issued by the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 27-7-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 30-7-1936 publish a news item received from Geneva by mail summarising the proceedings of the meeting of the Joint Committee of ~~the~~ Major International Associations held in July 1936. In the course of the summary several references are made to the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 16-8-1936 publishes an article on the last meeting of the Joint Committee of Major International Associations contributed by Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office. Particular attention is directed in the article to the problem of unemployment and the work ~~for~~ of the I.L.O. to lessen the incidence of unemployment.

\* \* \*

A communique re. the ratification by Great Britain of certain Draft Conventions of the 17th and 19th session of I.L. Conference (issued by this Office on 15-8-1936) was published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 16-8-1936, the Leader dated 20-8-36 and the Hindu dated 19-8-1936.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 25-8-1936 publishes the summary of the speech delivered on 22-8-1936 by Mr. Jammadas Mehta, Mayor of Bombay, on the occasion of the anniversary celebration

of the Social Training Centre, University Settlement, Byculla, Bombay. Mr. Mehta devoted the major portion of his speech to a discussion of the activities of the I.L.O. and its achievements.

The Times of India dated 25-8-1936 publishes a summary of Mr. Mehta's speech referred to above.

\* \* \*  
The Leader dated 30-8-1936 publishes an editorial article on the interim report of the Mixed Committee on Nutrition. The article emphasises the necessity of Governments giving effect to the suggestions of the Committee.

\* \* \*  
The Hindustan Times dated 3-9-1936 and the National Call dated 4-9-1936 publish news item (received by mail) summarising the policy decided upon by the British delegation to the forthcoming World Youth Congress to be held at Geneva. The programme of the delegation includes the advocacy of a 40-hour week, abolition of over-time and night work for young persons and of child labour.

\* \* \*  
The Hindustan Times of 2-9-1936 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 1-9-1936 on the speech made by Miss Frances Perkins, Secretary for Labour of the United States, on the occasion of a luncheon given by the I.L.O. in her honour.

\* \* \*  
The National Call dated 4-9-1936 publishes a short editorial note on the tribute paid by Miss Frances Perkins to the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*  
The Hindustan Times dated 3-8-1936 publishes a long and appreciative review of the publication "Yes and Albert Thomas".

\* \* \*  
The Bombay Chronicle dated 12-8-1936 publishes reproductions of the items: "Holidays with Pay", "Reduction of Hours of Work"

and "Recruiting of Native Labour" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No. 11 (July 1936). The News Bulletin was forwarded to the paper by this Office.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 19 & 20-8-1936 publishes an article under the caption: "Placing" of unemployed Graduates: Japan's Example - An Incentive to India, contributed by this Office. In the course of the article reference is made to the efforts made by the I.L.O. to fight the unemployment menace.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 23-8-1936 publishes a summary of the above article.

\* \* \*

A news item to the effect that Sir Frank Noyce, Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department, Government of India, will be moving in the current session of the Legislative Assembly a resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Convention re. maintenance of migrant workers' pension rights, was published in the Statesman and the Hindu dated 29-8-36 and the National Call dated 30-8-1936.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 25-8-1936 publishes a press communique issued by the Government of Bombay regarding the stoppage of the system of impressment of bullock carts for the conveyance of the baggage of touring Government Officers. This step was taken in pursuance of the Draft Convention re. Forced labour.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 18-8-1936 publishes an 'interview' given by Dr. V.S. Ram on the eve of his leaving India for Geneva to join the League Secretariat. In the course of the 'interview' Dr. Ram referred to the good work done by the Indian Branches of the I.L.O. and the League of Nations.

\* \* \*

A news item received from Geneva by mail giving the ~~fix~~ figures of the amount to be paid by the United Kingdom, U.S.S.R. and France towards the funds of the League of Nations in 1937 was published by the Hindu dated 3-8-36, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 5-8-36, the National Call dated 6-8-36 and the Leader dated 7-8-36. The news item mentions that the combined 1937 budget of the League of Nations, the I.L.O. and other League organisations will show a decrease of £5000/- from the 1936 budget.

\* \* \*

The following statement gives the list of Indian newspapers and periodicals which have published notes from the I.L.O. News Bulletin or commented on them. (The list is compiled only from newspapers and periodicals received in this Office. In addition to these, copies of the News Bulletin are sent to over 140 addresses):-

1. The Bombay Chronicle dated 12-8-1936 reproduces items: "Holidays with Pay", "Reduction of Hours of Work" and "Recruiting of Native Labour" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.11 (July 1936.)

\* \* \*

The following messages having references to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during August 1936:-

1. A news item received from Geneva by mail re. contributions of United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R. and France to the League budget for 1937.
2. A news item from Geneva received by mail re. ~~the~~ world unemployment statistics issued recently by the I.L.O.
3. A news item from Geneva received by mail re. the proceedings of the last meeting of the Joint Committee of Major International Associations.
4. A news item received by mail from London re. the British delegation to the forthcoming session of the World Youth Congress.

Ratifications.

Abolition of Forced Labour in Bombay: Government  
Prohibits Impressment of Bullock Carts for Conveyance of  
Baggage of Touring Government Officers.

Since the acceptance by the Government of India of the resolutions of the Indian Legislature on the draft convention and recommendations concerning Forced Labour, adopted by the 14th session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in 1930, the Government of Bombay have had under consideration the question of the abolition of the system of impressment of bullock carts for the conveyance of the baggage of Government officers when on tour. This system has been in existence for many decades in the past and from time to time Government have laid down rules for the guidance of Government servants when resorting to impressment. As far back as July 1922 Government explained in an exhaustive press note their general policy in regard to the system.

Though there have been no complaints in connection with the working of the present system, the improvement in travelling facilities which has taken place, has altered materially the conditions in respect of transport, which compelled resort to impressment. Motor transport has largely taken the place of transport by bullock cart and on the comparatively few occasions when carts are required they are normally obtainable on hire at reasonable rates without difficulty. Government have therefore decided to terminate a system for which there is no longer a definite need, and have directed that impressment of carts for the conveyance of baggage of officers on tour should cease.

Hitherto under the orders of Government it has been the practice for the Commissioners of Divisions to notify every year for the information of all departments under Government the current rates of cart hire in each district. Though Government have now directed an abandonment of the system of impressment of carts, they propose to continue the existing practice of notification of the market rates of cart hire for the guidance of all officers of Government whenever they find it necessary to employ carts for the transport of their kit.  
(Taken from Press Note No. P-215 dt. 22-8-36 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay, and copy of which was forwarded to this office

National Labour Legislation.

The C.P. Regulation and Inspection of Mines Rules, 1924:  
Amendment Proposed by Government.

Attention is directed to pages 1005 to 1013 of the Central Provinces Gazette dated 31-7-1936 where the draft of certain amendments to the C.P. and Berar Regulation and Inspection of Mines Rules, 1924, is published. The amendments are in reference, mainly, to the maintenance of register of persons working below ground and the grant of medical certificates to adolescents and are consequent to the passing of the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1935.

The Hazardous Occupations (Lead) Rules, 1936.  
(Notification No.L.3050 dated 12-8-1936)

The following draft of certain rules which the Governor-General in Council proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (4) of section 33-of the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934), and in supersession of the rules published with the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour No.L.3050, dated the 19th February 1935, is published at pages 1052-to 1054 of the Gazette of India dated 15-8-36.

Draft Rules .

1. (a) Title and application.- These rules may be called the Hazardous Occupations(Lead) Rules, 1936.

(b) They shall apply to all factories in which any operation specified in the Schedule is carried on.

2. Declaration of occupations as Hazardous.- The operations specified in the Schedule are declared to be hazardous operations when carried on in any factory.

3. (1) Definition of "lead compound".- In these rules "lead compound" means any compound of lead, other than galena, or any mixture which contains a compound of lead, other than galena (but does not include an alloy containing lead);

Provided that the compound or mixture when subjected to the treatment prescribed in sub-rule (3) yields to an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid a quantity of soluble lead compound exceeding, when calculated as lead monoxide, five per cent of the dry weight of the portion taken for analysis.

(2) In the case of paints and similar products and other mixtures containing oil or fat the "dry weight" means the dry weight of the material remaining after the substance has been thoroughly mixed and treated with suitable solvents to remove oil, fats, varnish or other media, and the treatment referred to in sub-rule (1) shall be applied to the material so remaining.

(3) The treatment referred to in sub-rule(1) shall be as follows:

A weighed quantity of the material which has been dried at 100°C and thoroughly mixed shall be continuously shaken for one hour, at the common temperature, with 1,000 times its weight of an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid containing 0.25 per cent by weight of hydrogen chloride. This solution shall thereafter be allowed to stand for one hour and then filtered. The lead salt contained in the clear filtrate shall then be precipitated as lead sulphide and weighed as lead sulphate.

4. Sampling.- When an Inspector suspects that any substance used or intended for use in any factory contains a lead compound he may at any time take for analysis sufficient samples of that substance:

Provided that the manager of the factory may, at the time when a sample is taken and on providing the necessary appliances, require the Inspector to divide the sample into two parts and to make and seal and deliver to him one such part.

5. Prohibition of employment of women, adolescents and children.- No woman, adolescent or child shall be employed in any factory in any of the operations specified in items(i) to (viii) inclusive of the Schedule.

6. Medical certification and examination.- (1) No person shall be employed in any factory in any of the operations specified in the Schedule unless:-

(a) a special certificate of fitness in the Form appended to these rules (not reproduced here) granted to him by a certifying surgeon appointed under section 12 of the Factories Act, 1934, is in the custody of the manager of the factory; and

(b) he carries with him while at work a token giving reference to such certificate.



(2) Every person employed shall be medically examined by a certifying surgeon at intervals of not more than six months, and a record of such examinations shall be entered in the Form appended to these rules (not reproduced here).

(3) If at any time the certifying surgeon is of opinion that any person is no longer fit for employment in any of the operations specified in the Schedule, he shall cancel the special certificate of fitness of that person.

(4) No person whose special certificate of fitness has been cancelled shall be employed in any of the operations specified in the Schedule unless the certifying surgeon again certifies him to be fit.

7. Exhaust draughts.-- Where gas, dust or fume is produced in any of the operations specified in the Schedule, provision shall be made for drawing the gas, dust or fume away from every such person by means of an efficient exhaust draught so contrived as to operate on the gas, dust or fume as closely as possible to the point of origin:

Provided that where the provision of an efficient exhaust draught is not reasonably practicable respirators of a type approved by the Inspector shall be provided by the occupier and worn by every person working under such conditions.

Explanation.-- "Efficient exhaust draught" means localised ventilation effected by heat or mechanical means, for the removal of gas, vapour, dust or fumes so as to prevent them (as far as practicable under the atmospheric conditions usually prevailing) from escaping into the air of any place in which work is carried on. No draught shall be deemed efficient which fails to remove smoke generated at the point where such gas, vapour, fumes or dust originate.

8. Floors and work-benches.-- (1) The floor of every room, in which any person is employed on any of the operations specified in the Schedule, shall be of smooth cement or other smooth impervious material.

(2) The top of every work-bench in every such room shall be of smooth impervious material.

9. Washing facilities.-- The occupier shall provide and maintain in a cleanly state and in good repair for the use of persons employed on any of the operations specified in the Schedule either-

- (i) a trough with a smooth impervious surface fitted with a waste pipe without plug, and of sufficient length to allow at least two feet for every five such persons employed at any one time, and having a constant supply of warm water from taps or jets above the trough at intervals of not more than two feet; or
- (ii) at least one lavatory basin for every five such persons employed at any one time, fitted with a waste pipe and plug, having either a constant supply of hot and cold water or warm water laid on, or (if a constant supply of heated water be not reasonably practicable) a constant supply of cold water laid on, and a supply of hot water

always at hand when required for use by such persons; together with, in either case, a sufficient supply of nail brushes, soap or other suitable cleansing material, and clean towels.

10. Food, drink and tobacco.— No food, drink or tobacco shall be brought into, or consumed in, any room in which any person is employed upon any of the operations specified in the Schedule.

11. Protective clothing.— Adequate protective clothing such as overalls in a clean condition shall be provided by the occupier and worn by every person employed on any of the operations specified in the Schedule.

Provided that the Chief Inspector of Factories may grant exemption from the operation of this rule to such extent as he deems suitable, where he is satisfied that its observation is not necessary for safeguarding the health of the operatives concerned.

12. Tools and apparatus.— All tools and apparatus used in any operation specified in the Schedule shall be kept clean.

13. Exemption of casual operations.— If it appears to the Chief Inspector of Factories that owing to the casual nature of any operations specified in head (ix) of the Schedule, the application of any provisions of these rules is not necessary for safeguarding the health of persons employed on these operations, he may grant exemption from such provisions to such extent and on such conditions as he may deem fit.

#### SCHEDULE.

(i) Work at a furnace where the reduction or treatment of zinc or lead ores is carried on:

(ii) The manipulation, treatment, or reduction of ashes containing lead, the desilverising of lead, the refining of dross containing lead or the melting of lead or old zinc:

(iii) The manufacture of alloys containing more than ten per cent of lead:

(iv) The use, except solely in the solid state, of metallic lead or of alloys containing more than ten per cent of lead:

(v) The manufacture of any oxide, carbonate, sulphate, chromate, acetate, nitrate, or silicate of lead:

(vi) Mixing or pasting in connection with the manufacture or repair of electric accumulators:

(vii) Handling or mixing of lead tetra ethyl:

(viii) The cleaning of work-rooms where any of the processes aforesaid are carried on:

(ix) Every other operation involving the use of any lead compound or the cleaning of work-rooms where any such operation is carried on.

The Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1936:

Introduced in Assembly on 31-8-1936.

Sir Frank Noyce introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 31-8-1936 a Bill to amend the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in order to incorporate certain changes in the light of experience gained in the working of the Act during the last few years. The Royal Commission on Labour reviewed the Act, and it was criticized in certain minor respects by two Courts of Inquiry appointed under it. The salient features of the Bill are summarised below:

Scope of the Act.- The Bill proposes to include inland steamer services which are an indispensable means of communication in certain areas and also power plants as essentially public utility services. The provisions of the Act relating to conciliation are limited to disputes between employers and workmen. The Bill will ~~now~~ apply these also to disputes between employers and employees which threaten to interfere with trade and employment. It is made clear that discharged workmen, despite their discharge, will be considered workmen for the purpose of the Act <sup>in which suchmen are involved</sup> ~~so that disputes~~ may come within the meaning of the Act.

Illegal Strikes and Lockouts. - An amendment proposes that the presence of the chairman of the Court of Inquiry is not necessary at every sitting. The Bill makes it clear that it is not necessary to constitute an offence under the Act for an employer to lock out all his workmen without due notice and that a partial lock-out should also be punishable.

It is proposed to assist local Governments to decide promptly

whether their intervention is necessary by ensuring that any threat of stoppage is brought to their notice.

An amendment provides that a declaration of a lock-out or strike as illegal for the protection of the community must be accompanied by reference of the dispute to a Court<sup>n</sup> of Inquiry or Board of Conciliation and that the period for which the declaration of illegality subsists is limited to two months. The relevant<sup>a</sup> section reads as follows:

"The Governor-General-in-Council, in respect of industries, business and undertakings, carried on by him or under his authority or a Railway company and the Local Governments in respect of other business industries or undertakings within their respective provinces may, if satisfied that a trade dispute has caused, is causing, or is likely to cause serious and prolonged injury or hardship to the community or any section of the community or to employers or workmen generally or to any class of employers or workmen, by notification in the "Gazette of India", or the local official "Gazette" as the case may be, declare that for a period of two months from the date of the notification any strike or lock-out then in being or thereafter taking place which has or professes to have as one of its objects the furtherance of that trade dispute, is an illegal strike or lockout: provided that no such notification shall be issued unless on or before the date of issue the Governor-General-in-Council or the Local Government as the case may be has made an order under section 3, referring the trade dispute in question to a Court of Enquiry or a Board of Conciliation."

The machinery of the Act is not suitable for use in the earlier stages of a dispute, but it is at these stages that conciliation can be most useful. A new section in the Bill is designed to facilitate the appointment and work of conciliation officers who will not be responsible, as Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation are, merely for investigation and settlement of disputes, but will be charged with the duty of preventing disputes.

(The Statesman, and the Hindustan Times dated 1-9-1936).

(The Text of the Bill is published at pages 294-297 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 5-9-1936) +

(A copy of the Bill has been sent to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/1021/36 dated 10-9-1936).

The Central Provinces Shops and Bidi Manu-  
facturing Establishments Bill, 1936.

Rao Sahib R.W.Fulay (Workers' Delegate to the 20th I.L. Conference) introduced in the Central Provinces Legislative Council on 6-8-1936 a Bill to prohibit the employment of children and to limit the hours of work of young persons in shops and bidi manufacturing establishments and to provide for their early closing. According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the Bill is a piece of social legislation calculated to regulate the conditions of employment of those persons who are working ~~in~~ in shops and to secure for them periodical leisure which, it is recognised, is essential for the general welfare of the community. The conditions of employment of the working classes working in factories, railways, mines and other industrial concerns are to some extent regulated by the Indian Factories Act, Indian Railways Act, the Indian Mines Act and similar legislation. Those working in offices and firms have their conditions of service regulated either by rules made by Government or by practice. But there is no law or rule which regulates the conditions of employment of ~~what are~~ known in Great Britain and other countries as shop assistants. There is also no legal restriction on the hours during which shops ~~can~~ can remain open. It will be admitted that there are shops which open early morning and are closed only after midnight. Such long working hours necessarily entail long stretches of work on the part of the shop assistants and mean absence of well regulated rest. This Bill seeks to remove this social evil to

to the extent to which it is possible to do so under the existing circumstances.

This Bill is largely modelled on the lines of the shops legislation in Great Britain where this legislation was first enacted in 1886. The chief features of the Bill are:-

(1) Children under the age of twelve years are prohibited from employment. (Section 7).

(2) Young persons under the age of 18 years are prohibited from being employed in a shop for a longer period than 70 hours, including meal times, in one week. (Section 6). This provision is not applicable to a person wholly employed as a domestic servant.

(3) On at least one week day in each week, no shop assistant shall be employed in a shop after half past one o'clock in the afternoon. (Section 4).

(4) Intervals for meals are regulated in accordance with the first schedule to the Act. (Section 4).

This provision is not applicable to those persons who are members of the family of the occupier of the shop, maintained by him and dwelling in his house. (Section 4).

(5) In the case of shops of refreshments, an alternative provision to a weekly half-holiday is provided if the occupier agrees that -

(a) he shall not employ any shop assistant for more than 65 hours in one week, exclusive of meal times;

(b) he gives him 32 whole holidays on week days every year with six consecutive holidays on full pay;

(c) he gives him 26 whole holidays on Sunday every year.

(d) he regulates his intervals for meals in a prescribed manner. (Section 5).

(6) Every shop shall be closed not later than one o'clock on one week day in every week (Section 8).

This provision is not applicable to certain shops which do business or trade mentioned in the second schedule to the Act.

(7) The local authority is given the power, to be confirmed by the Governor in Council, fixing the hours on the several days of the week at which all shops or shops of any specified class are to be closed. The hour so fixed shall not be earlier than seven o'clock on any day of the week. (Section 9).

This provision is not applicable to certain shops which do business or trade mentioned in the third schedule to this Act.

(8) Every shop shall be closed not later than nine o'clock in the evening on one day in the week and eight o'clock on other days. (Section 13).

This provision is not applicable to certain shops which do business or trade mentioned in the third schedule to this Act.

(9) In the case of restaurants, the closing hours will be ten o'clock in the evening on one day and half-past nine o'clock on other days. (Section 14).

(10) Similar provision is made for shops dealing with tobacco and smoking requisites under certain conditions. (Sec.15).

(11) Power to grant exemption from closing hours is given to the local authority in the case of exhibitions or shows. (Sec.16).

(12) Power to suspend the operation of the Act and of the closing order on special occasions like the Christmas holidays, the Diwali, Pateti and Ramzan is given to the Governor in Council. (Section 17).

(13) Retail trade or business is controlled. (Section 19).

In view of the fact that many young persons and children are employed under the most insanitary conditions in bidi manufacturing establishments throughout the provinces, the provisions relating to the employment of young persons and the prohibition regarding employment of children are made applicable to such bidi manufacturing establishments throughout the province.

The other provisions of the Bill are identical with those in Mr. R.R. Bakhale's Bill on the subject introduced on 11th September 1934 in the Bombay Legislative Council. (This Bill was not adopted by the Bombay Legislative Council-vide page 16 of our April 1936 report). +

Conditions of Labour.Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in MadrasPresidency, 1935\*.

Returns under Section 16.- In 1935 there were 1,560 factories, 224 mines, 445 estates, 232 establishments producing and exhibiting cinema pictures, 58 establishments generating, transforming and supplying electrical energy and 32 manufacturing and handling explosives which had to send returns under section 16. The returns from factories and workshops were as usual collected through the Inspectors of Factories. The rest submitted their returns direct. The return forms were returned undelivered from 77 establishments relating to touring cinemas and from 113 mines with the endorsement that the mines were closed. Returns were not also received from 74 factories which were in commission during the year. The number of defaulting factories during the previous year was 63.

Statistics of Accidents and Compensation.- Accidents were reported in 191 returns. 45 cases of death, 58 cases of permanent disablement and 1,090 cases of temporary disablement were reported in these 191 returns as against 15 ~~cases~~ cases of death, 68 cases of permanent disablement and 875 cases of temporary disablement reported during the previous year. The compensation reported to have been paid in cases of death, permanent disablement and temporary disablement was Rs. 25,280, Rs. 16,003-7-10 and Rs. 10,239-9-7, respectively, as against Rs. 11,917-8-0, Rs. 11,809-14-6 and

Rs. 8,268-5-0, respectively, paid during the previous year. No.  
\* Government of Madras Development Department ~~Rs.~~ G.O.No.1076, 3rd July 1936.- Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1935. - pp.11



compensation was paid in 9 cases of death, 3 cases of permanent disablement and 34 cases of temporary disablement.

Number of Cases Filed.- The number of cases pending at the commencement of the year was 40. The total number of cases filed for disposal during the year was 192 as against 166 cases filed during the previous year. Of these 232 cases, 200 cases were disposed of during the year and 32 cases were pending at the close of the year. All the 32 cases have since been disposed of.

General.- The usual permission was given to the Calcutta Claims Bureau to submit returns on behalf of employers who insured their liability under the Act with insurance companies which were members of the Bureau. The total number of establishments on behalf of whom the insurance companies submitted the returns was 110. In their annual report, the Claims Bureau has commented on the promptitude with which cases are disposed of in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, and on the advantage of having a single officer responsible for Workmen's compensation. During the year references as to practice and interpretation of the Act were usefully exchanged with the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation in Bombay, Calcutta and Rangoon.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Madras Presidency in 1934 is reviewed at pages 21-24 of our August 1935 report).

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Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act

in Bihar and Orissa, 1935.\*

According to the statistical returns for Bihar and Orissa under the Workmen's Compensation Act, for the year 1935, the daily average attendance of persons employed is reported to have been 157,461 adults and 806 minors as compared with 145,440 adults and 1,296 minors in 1934. There was no case of occupational disease during the year under review, 146 persons lost their lives as the result of accidents, 102 persons were permanently disabled, and 2,341 suffered from temporary disablement; the corresponding figures in 1934 were 152, 115 and 2,152. The total sums paid as compensation for the three classes of accidents were Rs. 84,260-13-0, Rs. 30,351-0-10 and Rs. 47,557-4-4 respectively, against Rs. 64,542-6-6, Rs. 31,495-26 and Rs. 41,797-12-0, respectively, in the previous year. Out of these amounts of compensation, Rs. 69,884, Rs. 6,316-14-10 and Rs. 2,770-13-7 were paid through the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation, respectively, for fatal accidents, permanent disablement and temporary disablement. The average amount paid as compensation for a fatal accident was Rs. 577 and for permanent disablement Rs. 297, as compared with Rs. 425 and Rs. 274 in 1934. There were 102 cases of such disablement and 87 agreements were filed.

It is pointed out that the provisions of the Act are fairly widely known mainly through the exhibition of vernacular abstracts of the Act. The report points out that the work involved in the administration of the Act is still manageable under the existing arrangements and does not require the appointment of a wholetime Commissioner.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bihar and Orissa in 1934 is reviewed at pages 25-26 of the report of this Office for August 1935.)

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\* No. 3898 Com. Govt. of Bihar - Revenue Department - Dated 6-8-1936 -  
XL-24

Statistical returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1935.

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Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act,

Bengal, 1935.\*

General Remarks.-- The Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation in Bengal in his annual report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in that Province during 1935 says that the year under review is a record of marked increase in the Commissioner's work both on the judicial and on the administrative sides. Total applications filed under different sections of the Act rose from 722 in the year 1934 to 1,037 in 1935. The increased number of applications was followed by corresponding addition to the number of "trust accounts". The total number of petitions dealt with under this head in 1935 amounted approximately to 1,200 - a considerable increase on the figures given for last year. The total amount invested by the Commissioner under section 8(7) of the Act was Rs. 108,750 as against Rs. 55,139 in 1934 and Rs. 7,603 in 1925. In addition to the applications referred to above, there were 164 proceedings under section 10A in respect of fatal accidents reported. In 35 cases the employers filed statements denying their liability for compensation. The dependants of the deceased were traced by local enquiries and advised to claim for compensation in all cases in which the denial of liability by the employers did not appear to be warranted by the facts stated by them, or gathered from other sources.

It may be noted that under the present Act not every employer is required to submit a report to the Commissioner of accidents resulting in death. It is apprehended that there may be some suppression of claims for this reason by unscrupulous persons, and by those who are not subject to the Mines Act or the Factories Act. If the local Government includes—as it is understood the intention is —fresh classes of employers within the ambit ~~and~~ of section 10B, the situation will improve, and with the increase of knowledge amongst the public affected each year, the danger will eventually disappear, as it has done in England.

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\* Government of Bengal Commerce Department - Annual Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during the year 1935 - Supdt., Govt. Printing Bengal Govt. Press, Alipore, Bengal.—Price As. 3 or 4d. pp.12

Claims Bureau and Trade Unions.- The Manager, ~~at~~ Calcutta Claims Bureau, continued to act for the insurance companies constituent of the Bureau in the entire spirit of the Act and was in all cases of much assistance to the Commissioner. The Indian Seamen's Union, the Workers' Claims Bureau and the Press Employees' Association continued to take an active interest in Workmen's Compensation Cases. The Indian Railwaymen's Union at Khargpur, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, also rendered some assistance to its members in realising compensation. The majority of contested claims on behalf of workers on the Eastern Bengal and East Indian Railways were, however, filed as usual through the bar which suggests that the Trade Unions on those two railways are not alive to the services which they could render to their members in respect of bona fide claims. The activities of Jute Workers' Unions which were so noticeable in the past were less marked in 1935. In the coalfield area of Raneeungunge and Asansol in which a large number of accidents occur, there appears to be no organisation of any sort to aid claimants, illiterate and ignorant as these usually are.

Statistics of Accidents and Compensation.- According to 2,068 returns received during the year, there were 709,597 adult workers and 17,653 minors employed in factories, railway workshops, tramways, ports and mines. During the year there were 131 accidents resulting in death, 332 in permanent disablement and 3,396 in temporary disablements (including 9 cases of minors) in respect of which compensation was paid. An amount of Rs. 88,705 was paid in respect of deaths, Rs. 76,061 in respect of permanent disablements, and Rs. 36,876 in respect of temporary disablement. Rs. 35-3-0 was paid in respect of temporary disablement of minors.

Occupational Diseases.- During the year under report only one claim was instituted for compensation for alleged lead poisoning, which remained pending at the end of the year. One case of occupational disease pending from last year was disposed of during the year 1931, ~~for~~ compensation amounting to Rs. 3,390 was paid for disease resulting in permanent disablement.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal in 1935 was reviewed at page 15-17 of the Report of this Office for September 1935). +

Working of the Madras Maternity Benefits

Act during 1935\*.

The Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1934, which is made applicable to the whole of the Madras Presidency came into force on the first day of April 1935. It applies only to women employed in non-seasonal factories. The Madras Maternity Benefit Act is largely based on the Bombay and Central Provinces Acts and is designed to prevent the employment of women for sometime before and at least four weeks after confinement and to provide for payment of a maintenance or maternity benefit to them during the period. The Chief Inspector of Factories appointed under section 10(2) of the Factories Act is made responsible for the due administration of this Act and the rules made thereunder. The Act being new, many employers and most employees are still unfamiliar with its provisions and the total number of claims has been few. Inspectors, however, during their visits, have been taking steps to make them widely known to all women workers and to employers of such. Its interpretation has not always been easy. The chief points raised have been whether it applies to unmarried women, whether Sundays, which are normally holidays and not paid for, are to be counted as days of absence from work and paid for—the act speaks of weeks of absence and not days—whether notice given more than three weeks before confinement is allowable and how the problem of absenteeism is to be dealt with. The Government have ruled that the Act applies to all women, that the week is a seven-day week for purposes of payment of

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\* Report on the Working of the Factories Act in the Madras Presidency for the year 1935- Madras:Printed by the Supdt., Govt. Press. 1936.-pp.32

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benefit, and after consultation with important employers of female labour and with the approval of Government the Commissioner of Labour issued executive instructions that leave with permission up to any period and absence without leave which was condoned by re-employment up to a total of 14 days would not operate to break the nine months period of continuous employment prior to notice which is required by the Act. A woman, who within the nine months prior to notice is absent without leave for more than 14 days in all, forfeits her claim.

Some employers, especially those on the West Coast, who have to compete with the factories in Travancore and Cochin, calculating the probable number of cases on the Madras birth-rate and the fact that most of their female employees were of child-bearing age, had dismal forebodings of a heavy increase in labour costs, but possibly due to ignorance of the Act or birth-control methods claims seem to have been very few. It was also apprehended at the beginning that there would be a considerable decrease in the employment of women, but the returns show that there has been no fall in the employment of women workers. Though one old fashioned Indian employer naively expressed to the Chief Inspector that any woman showing signs of pregnancy was immediately got rid of and this practice is possibly followed by those like him, there has been co-operation with the administration by the big well-managed factories and the managers have sometimes followed the spirit more than the letter of the law and benefits were paid in 31 cases to a sum amounting to Rs. 356-8-0, though there was no legal obligation to do so. Having regard to the average rate of woman's wages in

this Presidency, the rate of benefit allowed at 8 annas a day is liberal and so also the period of seven weeks. If a woman gives notice sufficiently early she can draw in all Rs. 24-8-0 to which she subscribes nothing against a probable wage total of Rs. 7-14-0 to Rs. 10-8-0 if she were working instead.

A sum of Rs. 7,143-12-0 was paid in all to 354 women and 2 nominees of women who died in child birth. +

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers  
For Various Centres in India for June 1936. +

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India showed irregular changes during June 1936 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (Base: July 1914) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in June 1936 remained unchanged at 100. The average in the year 1935 was 101.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (Base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad rose by 2 points to 71; in 1935 the average was 71.

Sholapur.- The index number (Base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur declined by 1 point to 70. The average for 1935 was 72.

Nagpur. - The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in June 1936 remained unchanged at 58.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in June 1936 rose by 1 point to 55.

Rangoon.- The index number (Base: 1931) of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers declined by 1 point to 91 (provisional figure).

(Extracted from "Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India, June 1936).

What Congress has done for Labour: Article in the

Indian Labour Journal. +

Attention is directed to an article published under the caption: "Congress and Labour" in the issues of Indian Labour Journal dated 23 and 30-8-1936. The article is a review of the Congress policy in regard to labour questions and gives a detailed account of Mahatma Gandhi's role in developing the Ahmedabad Labour Union, ~~xx the xx~~ one of the important labour unions in India. The article also reviews the work of the various Labour Sub-Committees appointed recently by the Congress to maintain closer contacts with the labour movement. +



Anti-Indian tendencies in Ceylon: Resolution  
in State Council demanding Repatriation of Indians  
from the Island. +

It is understood that a motion that has been tabled in the Ceylon State Council asking for immediate legislation "to repatriate non-Ceylonese who, by securing for themselves employment which the Ceylonese are capable of undertaking, have caused unemployment among the Ceylonese". Attention has been drawn in particular to the influx of domestic servants in the cinnamon gardens. The Indian domestic servant, it is said, demands higher wages than his Ceylonese prototype. It is therefore not unlikely that when Indians are preferred it is because of their greater efficiency, or because there is not a sufficient number of Ceylonese available for service. This jealousy in Colombo is directed mainly against dock labourers, domestic servants and certain classes of traders. There have been frequent fights and free use of the knife around the docks and among domestic servants of the two races there has always been a ~~an~~ sort of armed neutrality, becoming active on occasions.

From a communication from the correspondent of the Times of India to that paper, it appears that the main reason for the present move is economic. The unemployment among the educated and the working class of the indigenous population is being attributed solely to the presence of nearly 900,000 ~~of~~ Indians, (about one-fifth of the ~~entire~~ population) in various occupations.

The danger at present threatens only the civic rights of Indians. Their vast interest in commerce, (Indians practically

control the local rice, grocery and piece goods trade) and their property in land and real estate have never been in any danger. All Indians who can prove a continuous stay of five years in the Island are enfranchised by the Donoughmore Constitution. This has given great influence to Tamil immigrant labour on tea and rubber estates, and in some up-country constituencies they are in majority. Attempts have been made to curtail this right, and many local public bodies have passed resolutions urging that the political rights of Indians should be restricted. In some extreme cases, resolutions have requested Government to remove the names of Indian Tamil coolies from voters' lists. The only party which has adopted hatred to Indians as its major policy is the "Labour Party of Ceylon". It is not the only Socialist party in the Island, and it has hardly any influence outside Colombo city. The leader of this Party, Mr. A.E. Goonesinghe represents Colombo Central in the State Council. His utterances have throughout been violently anti-Indian.

A committee appointed by the State Council is already inquiring into this question, collecting statistics and data, ~~tax and rent~~ to find out the actual reality of the problem, whether it is true, as Ceylonese maintain, that the wages paid to Indians are lower, or whether Sinhalese labour is not as efficient as Indian labour. If any steps towards the restriction of immigration is taken, they will be based on the findings of this Committee.

(The Statesman, 28 2-8-36 and the Times of India 5 and 13-8-1936)

Labour Situation in Pondicherry.-

For some time back labour in Pondicherry, French India, has been carrying on an agitation over the absence of proper regulations of labour conditions and the unrest came to a head during the fourth week of July last. The workers of the Gaebele Mill struck work on 25-7-1936 and they were followed by the workers of Savana mill. On 28-7-1936 the strike spread to the Rodier Mill. Some officials of the affected mills were locked in by the workers and were refused permission to leave unless their grievances were redressed. On 30-7-1936 the Police attempted to rescue the mill authorities and came into clash with the workers and firing was resorted to by the police as a result of which, according to a United Press of India message, twenty were killed and sixty-five injured. The Official estimates are however, eight dead and five injured. The Savana Mill was soon in flames, though it is not known whether the fire was caused by Police shooting or by the workers.

On 12-8-1936, an informal meeting of the elected members of the various local Councils was held at the instance of H.E. the Governor for the purpose of drafting a labour regulation for French India. A scheme has been drafted by His Excellency to form a kind of Labour Union for French India and it will be sent to France for being approved by the Minister of Colonies before its introduction in French India. The draft of the scheme has not been released to the press, but it was made available to the members present at the meeting. It is understood that this scheme deals with various problems affecting the labourers and the

facilities, which are to be given to the women labourers, the fixing of the working hours per day and per week, organisation of unions, general sanitation of the Mill areas, education of the mill hands, and other matters connected with their condition of life and work. In order to profit from the working of labour laws in British India, the Mayor of Pondicherry invited Messrs. V.V. Giri and S. Guruswamy, Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively of the All India Railwaymen's Federation for a discussion.

Messrs. V. V. Giri and S. Guruswamy, along with two labour leaders of Pondicherry, waited on H.E. the Governor of French India on 19-8-1936 and fully discussed the situation with him. The Delegation later issued a statement on the results of the interview. A brief summary of the statement is given below:-

Labour Legislation in French India.- As regards the remedying of the grievances through legislation, the Governor exchanged views regarding the lines of immediate labour legislation possible to suit French labour conditions and promised to make necessary recommendations to the Colonial Minister conveying the views of the delegation also to him.

Conditions for Reopening of Mills. - The delegation addressed the urgent necessity of re-opening the mills without further delay. The following was the basis on which the reopening of the Mills was pressed: 1. No victimisation. 2. The terms of settlement allowed to the Rodier Mills and delayed application to the other Mills to be immediately enforced. 3. A French Indian Labour Union, to be allowed to function ~~and~~ to deal with the interim situation in regard to dealings with employers and the Government. 4. A Labour Commission, representative of French Trade Union officials, to investigate into the recent Mills tragedy and outstanding workers grievances with special reference to compensation for the victims of the shooting tragedy. 5. Application of the ratified International Labour Office conventions and the French Labour Code. The delegation felt that in the interests of industrial peace all possible steps should be taken to reopen all the Mills without any victimisation.

Governor's Reply.- The Governor explained the present position and stated he had himself asked for an enquiry into the recent shooting tragedy by the Colonial Inspector. He asked the co-operation of the delegation to disarm the workers of all lurking suspicions and to convey his sympathy for them. As regards

the reopening of the Mills, the Governor regretted that he could not be definite and hoped to be able to communicate further information to the delegation shortly. His Excellency desired that there should not be any false propaganda in British India against French India. He expressed his readiness to meet the delegation whenever required.

(The Hindu, 20-8-1936, and  
the Times of India, 3-8-1936) +

### Retrenchment in Indian Railways: Country-wide

#### Protests Against Staff Reduction.

Reference was made at pages 49-52 of our July 1936 report to the proposals of the Railway Board to effect ~~the~~ staff retrenchment affecting 4000 workers and to introduce new scales of pay, and to the threat of the Council of the All India Railwaymen's Federation to declare a general strike if the retrenchment was decided upon. The 23rd August 1936 was observed "All India Railway Retrenchment Resistance Day" by railway workers in numerous centres at which meetings were held and resolutions protesting against the proposed staff retrenchment and new scales of pay and suggesting the declaration of a general strike were adopted. The workers have received full support from the Indian National Congress as is seen from the following resolution adopted by the All India Congress Committee at its session held at Bombay during the <sup>week</sup> third of August 1936:

The Working Committee has learned with grave concern that orders have been passed to retrench about 4000 lower grade employees of state-owned railways and reduce the scale of pay of lower grade workers retrospectively from 1931, whereas no such policy has been applied to all the higher grades. The Committee considers the demand of railway workers for a Court of Inquiry to examine the question of such retrenchment and reduction of pay and for the suspension of retrenchment pending the result of the inquiry as very fair, and regret that the railway authorities should have rejected such a proper demand.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 30-8-1936)

5. 13  
Wage Dispute in Ahmedabad Textile Mills:

Situation Growing Worse.

Reference was made at page 34 of the July 1936 report of this Office to the contemplated wage reductions in the Ahmedabad textile mills and to the growing unrest among the workers on account of this move of the employers. On 7-8-1936, Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Secretary of the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, issued a statement on the situation in which the following points were made out:

Mr. Nanda's Statement.- He acknowledges that hitherto, barring stray cases of evasions and disputes regarding interpretation, the millowners have on the whole, carried out faithfully the terms of the Delhi Settlement in respect of wages and rationalisation. (vide pages 37-40 of our January 1935 report). With the object of safeguarding the interests of the workers as well as of the industry, the Delhi settlement imposed on the parties certain further obligations, in the fulfilment of which ~~it has~~ ~~is~~ delay has occurred. This refers mainly to the clauses in the settlement regarding registration of employees, standardisation of wages and evolving a scheme for automatic adjustment of wages in future. According to the settlement, all the then existing employees in the industry should have been registered before 30th June, 1935, so that no new person can enter as long as any among the old are without employment. It was further agreed that earnest efforts would be made to standardise the wages of piece-workers as soon as possible after 1st January 1936, and such standardisation should not involve any cut or increase. There are, undoubtedly,

very large variations at present between the scales of wages in the different mills in Ahmedabad for the same class of work. This disparity is causing acute heart-burning among workers as well as the millowners and has become a constant source of friction. In view of the present tendency of some of the mills to reduce wages, the Textile Labour Association<sup>has</sup> had an interview ~~xx~~ with the Millowners' Association at which the desirability of an immediate standardisation of wages has been pressed. The situation has been complicated by the closing down of a few mills resulting in the unemployment of a large number of workers. The closing down of a mill owing to internal difficulties does not itself create any dispute. Difficulty arises where the workers have reasons to suspect that there is a secret intention of starting work again with a new complement on a reduced scale of wages.

Later Developments.- By the middle of the month under review, the situation took a turn for the worse and a few of the mills announced substantial reductions in wages and, in cases where the workers refused to accept the reduced wages, lockouts were declared with the idea of reopening with fresh complement of labour. The Textile Labour Union, as also Mahatma Gandhi, appealed to the Millowners' Association to desist from such wage cuts and lockouts as they constitute breaches of the Delhi Agreement. (The Bombay Chronicle 18-8-1936). The millowners, however, claim that they are paying wages which are 25% higher than wages in Bombay mills and that they cannot afford to continue such high rate of wages any more. (The Times of India 19-8-1936). By about 16-8-1936, 11 mills representing an aggregate of 269,680 spindles and 6,681 looms

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had closed down of were about to close (The Times of India, 20-8-1936). In the meanwhile, meetings were being held between the millowners' and <sup>H.L.</sup>Labour Associations to find a solution. The millowners have started collecting statistics of wages in different mills with a view to standardisation. (The Times of India, 20-8-36). Till 4-9-1936 the negotiations between the Millowners' Association and the Labour Association for a provisional agreement for standardisation of wages have not proved successful. The Millowners Association are considering the question of a wage cut or, as an alternative measure, working short time. It is understood that before finally deciding this question a deputation on behalf of the millowners will see Gandhiji and seek his advice.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 6-9-1936).



## Enforcement of Conventions.

### Factory Administration in Madras, 1935\*.

Number of Factories.- The year opened with 1,687 factories under the operation of the Act. 112 were brought on to the register during the year, and 239 factories were struck off the registers during the year for the following reasons: 31 factories were kept closed for a number of years; in 18, machinery was dismantled; in 175, no proof of employment of over 19 persons was established; in 3, the premises ceased to be occupied as factories; in 2, factory buildings were completely burnt down; in 9, the notifications were cancelled by Government as registration was no longer considered necessary; and one was found to be subject to the Indian Mines Act. The number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 1,560. Of these, 1,491 were in commission during the year as against 1,553 in 1934, the remaining 69 being closed for various reasons. Of the 1,491 factories in commission, 952 were perennial and 539 seasonal.

Number of Operatives.- The average daily number of operatives employed in the 1,491 factories that were in commission during the year was 162,745 as against 146,779 in 1934. Of these 4,451 operatives (4,443, in perennial and 8 in seasonal) were employed in Government and Local Fund Factories and the rest in private factories. 55,342 operatives were engaged in the cotton spinning and weaving industry during the year; while, 6,650 were employed in jute spinning and weaving mills.

Number of Women, Adolescents and Children.- 39,655 women, 9,851 adolescents and 6,495 children were employed in the registered factories during the year. Practically every adolescent worker was declared fit for adult's work.

Certification of Children and Adolescents.- The number of certificates issued during the year was 34,949 as against 10,724 in 1934. The abnormal increase is due to the issue of certificates to adults and adolescent workers under the new Act, who were on the

\* Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Madras Presidency for the year 1935 -Madras Printed by the Supdt., Govt. Press, 1936.-pp.32.

border line of the legal qualification, and an extraordinary rush for certificates in one district due apparently to a belief that possession of a certificate would be a passport to employment. Prosecutions were instituted for violation of sections 51 and 52 in 24 cases. Convictions were obtained in 22 cases and 2 cases were withdrawn.

The Chief Inspector, during his inspections of textile factories especially considered that some of the children, who were not fit for work in factories, had been certified fit for employment and that in the case of "adolescents", fitness to work as adults had been too easily interpreted, age apparently being taken as the sole qualification. In certain textile factories in Coimbatore numbers of boys of poor physique were found working nine-hour night shifts. He instructed the managers to get these children re-examined and also requested the Certifying Surgeons to be more strict in regard to physical fitness when granting certificates. The Surgeon-General was also asked to issue general instructions to all medical officers likely to act as Certifying Surgeons, while Factory Inspectors were directed to pay particular attention to this aspect of child and adolescent labour.

Inspections.— Of the 1,491 factories that were in commission during the year, 289 were inspected once, 656 twice, 387 thrice and 90 more than three times. The total number of inspections by all Inspectors including 651 made by Additional Inspectors was 3,137 as against 3,400 in the previous year. 69 out of 1,491 factories in commission were not inspected during the year by the departmental officers.

Wages.— Comparison of the rates of wages for 1934 and 1935 shows that in respect of skilled labour there has been a slight increase in the case of engine drivers, oilmen, fitters, rivetters, boiler-smiths, blacksmiths, moulders, bricklayers, compositors, weavers and spinners in jute mills and decrease in the case of firemen, turners, printers' machinists, weavers and spinners in cotton mills. For unskilled labour both male and female coolies in jute and cotton presses show a rise as also female agricultural labour, while wages of male and female coolies in ginning factories, female coolies in rice mills and male agricultural coolies show a fall.

The reduction in the hours of work seems to have adversely affected wages in the cotton textile industry. In the textile mills much of the work is on a piece-rate basis, and the operatives have not made up for the shorter hours worked by improved production. From information furnished by one large textile concern it would appear that the situation caused by reduced hours of working was met by not giving an increase of wages that would otherwise have been given. There seems little hope of a real rise in industrial wages until agricultural wages rise and until in the textile industry the competition of Japan is mitigated.

Hours of Employment: (i) Rest Interval.— The rest interval of one hour prescribed by section 37(a) of the Act was observed by 1,325 factories. Two printing presses in Madras and one printing press in Trichinopoly availed themselves of the provisions of section 37(b) of the Act. Exemption from section 37 applicable to the majority of operatives was availed of by 94 factories on the usual condition that sufficient time though not a fixed period was allowed for meals. Returns were not received from 69 factories.

(ii) Weekly Holiday.— Sundays were observed as holidays in the case of 645 factories. Substituted holidays were granted in 763 factories in lieu of Sundays worked. Exemption from section 35 had been availed of in 114 factories subject to the condition that no persons would be allowed to work for more than 13 days without a holiday for a whole day. Returns were not received from 69 factories.

(iii) Weekly Hours (a) Perennial Factories.—The number of perennial factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above 42 ~~and above 42~~ was 61 for men and 109 for women; above 42 and not above 48 was 167 for men and 74 for women; above 48 was 688 for men and 508 for women. The 30-hour week for children was observed in 136 factories.

(b) Seasonal Factories.—The number of seasonal factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above 48 was 33 for men and 62 for women; above 48 and not above 54 was 113 for men and 96 for women; above 54 was 360 for men and 341 for women. The 30-hour week for children was observed in 5 factories.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents reported this year shows an increase from 1,508 to 1,605 mainly due to the increase of minor accidents in the railway workshops and an increase in serious accidents in miscellaneous factories, but the frequency rate for the Presidency is 0.0038 as against 0.004 in 1934. All serious accidents were carefully enquired into by the Inspectors. In textile mills, workers still continue to take risks with moving machinery notwithstanding all warnings. Of the 1,605 accidents, 19 were fatal and 420 were serious accidents.

(The Report of Factory Administration in Madras during 1934 is reviewed at pages 30-32 of our August 1935 report). ,

27

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

43rd U.P.A.S.I. Conference, Coonoor, 1936. +

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India was held at Coonoor on 12, 13 and 14-8-1936 under the presidentship of Mr. A.E.J. Nicolls, Chairman of the U.P.A.S.I. The Conference was attended by His Excellency the Governor of Madras, who addressed the Conference, as also by officials of the Governments of India, Madras and Mysore.

Annual Report. - In the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the past year, references to labour legislation and Draft Conventions adopted by the I.L. Conference figured prominently. The views expressed by the Association on holidays with pay, sickness insurance and recruitment of native labour are summarised below:

(i) Holidays with Pay. - On the question of paid holidays, the Association pointed out that no objection could be made from a purely humanitarian point of view, but that holidays with pay were not ordinarily granted in the leading countries in any important industries. In practice, most employers give special private concessions of leave in addition to the public holidays which are so numerous in this country, particularly in South India. Normally, employees would not welcome any rigid arrangement regarding leave which would debar them from taking it as they do now, at times convenient to themselves for their social and other purposes. In regard to plantations, a large proportion of the labour employed go back to their villages for a considerable period each year before returning to the same or some other plantation for a further season's work. Hence the Association expressed the opinion that the attitude of the Government of India to any convention on this question should be that they are unable to ratify it and, as regards the planting industry in South India, the Association is strongly opposed to any suggestion that estate factory ~~in~~ labour, should come within the scope of any legislation which may be contemplated for India in this respect.

(ii) Sickness Insurance. - In a letter, dated 15th June 1935, the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, informed the Association that the Government of India desired to elicit opinion as to the feasibility of a statistical enquiry as to the incidence of sickness among labourers with a view to examining the possibility of legislation for the insurance of industrial workers. The forms required to be filled in by the Government of India were exceedingly

elaborate and would have been impossible to complete with any degree of accuracy without dislocation of work and undue expense. While it is true that an enquiry of this nature had been suggested by the Royal Commission on Labour, their report gave adequate reasons why the application of any sickness insurance scheme to plantation labour was unnecessary, even if the Government considered it to be practicable in industrial centres, and the Association reiterated the opinion, which has been expressed so often in connection with other labour social schemes, that not only is the proportion of estate labour in plantation factories very small, ~~but~~ ~~it~~ but it is actually agricultural labour and is recruited and employed as such and not as factory labour. Whilst there do exist arrangements whereby sick pay, free food and medical attention is given to estate labour, these amenities are not so much a matter of fixed scales, as the individual discretion of the manager of an estate, who knows his labour and has to consider such factors as the earnings of the family, which are of course of primary importance, and of which there is little or no parallel in purely industrial areas.

(iii) Recruiting of Native Labour.-- A questionnaire, issued by the International Labour Office, Geneva, on the subject of regulation of certain special systems of recruiting workers, was communicated to the Association by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras. The Executive Committee informed the Commissioner of Labour that the Association did not consider it necessary, at the present juncture, to submit a detailed reply to all the questions put by the International Labour Office, and pointed out that there should be as little interference as possible with the free movement of labour working on estates. The Association is opposed to any suggestions which would interfere with the existing well-organised agencies for recruiting labour or hamper their work, as also to a system of giving licences, the establishment of Government agencies and detailed rules relating to travelling expenses, transport, subsistence, etc. It was further pointed out that the permanent settlement of labour on estates was increasing and that the proposed definition of "recruiting" did not strictly apply to plantation labour in South India.

Presidential Address.-- Conditions in the tea, rubber and coffee industries were the principal subjects dealt with by Mr. Nicolls in the course of his presidential address.

General Conditions.-- Reviewing the general economic conditions, Mr. Nicolls said that there has been a perceptible domestic recovery throughout the world, and as far as the United Kingdom is concerned, Board of Trade returns relating to overseas trade show continued improvement. This is reflected to a certain extent in tea and rubber prices, but not in the case of coffee, and the tendency to further improvement, which was hoped for last year, has undoubtedly been checked by the state of war, which has

existed between Abyssinia and Italy, and the consequent feeling of political insecurity which now prevails in Europe and the Far East. India's withdrawal from the Ottawa Agreement is causing grave misgivings in the minds of those who are interested in tea and coffee, for, unless a fresh trade treaty is negotiated in six months' time, under which favourable treatment is given to these two industries, they stand to lose the preference of 2d. and 1d. per lb., which they enjoy respectively, at the present time. This will mean that they will be forced to compete on unequal terms with other empire Countries, which continue to enjoy the preference.

The Tea Industry.- As far as the Tea Industry is concerned, conditions appear to have improved since last year. There can be little doubt that this is due partly to the measures of restriction, which the industry has so wisely adopted, and partly to the intensive advertising campaign which has been launched by the International Tea Market Expansion Board.

The Rubber Industry.- Turning to the rubber industry. Mr. Nicolls said that the position is more satisfactory than it was a year ago. Prices in 1935 were disappointing for producers, and in spite of the heavier incidence of restriction were lower than in the previous year when they were much influenced by speculation. In recent months the effect of the increased percentage of restriction for the six months, January to June, has been clearly marked and the statistical position of the Industry has been improving steadily. The present price is not so encouraging, and hardly appears to reflect the improvement in the statistical position, but this is possibly due to the early announcement which was made of the increased export allowance for the second half of the year, and a growing feeling that the International Committee intend stabilising prices at about present levels.

The Coffee Industry.- In the Coffee Industry the year has been marked by the passing of the Coffee Cess Act, whereby a maximum Export Cess of Re. 1 per cwt. may be levied, on all coffee exported from India. The Indian Coffee Cess Committee which was appointed to administer the funds decided, however, that for the ~~first~~ last two years a Cess of As. 8 per cwt. was sufficient. The object of the Cess is to collect funds for advertising Indian Coffee, both in this country, and in the United Kingdom, with a view to increasing consumption, and obtaining better prices. The passing of this Act definitely indicates a step forward in the history of the coffee industry in India.

The coffee industry in South India is passing through the most serious depression, which has been experienced, at any rate, during the last 30 years, and probably during its life time. Prices last year were lower than they have been for many years and have now fallen below the economic level. Unless there is a marked improvement in the near future, the majority of small owners will be faced with ruin. There are various contributory causes, such as over-production,

loss of markets, and alleged loss of quality, Here again it is hard to obtain accurate statistics.

Reorganisation of the Association.- Four years ago a Committee was set up to examine the question of the recommendation of the Association. In spite of their efforts, no scheme was forthcoming, which would satisfy all three of our main products, and the matter was therefore dropped. During the past season, however, a leading member of the planting community placed before the Executive Committee the frame-work of a new scheme on which discussions might take place. A sub-committee of three members was appointed, and proposals have now been put forward, which, with a few amendments, appear likely to satisfy all interests.

Resolutions were adopted accepting the main provisions of the reorganisation scheme and recommending a regulation of exports and restriction of output of Tea.

(The Hindu, 12-8-1936 and the Planters' Chronicle, 22-8-1936).



Workers' Organisations.Meeting of the All-India Kisan Committee,Bombay, 21-8-1936.

A meeting of the Committee of the All India Kisan (Peasants') Conference was held at Bombay, on 21-8-1936 with Swami Sahajanand Saraswathi as president. The meeting drew up a manifesto and statement of demands of the Kisans of India. The Kisan Manifesto demands the abolition of the Zamindari, Talukdari and all other systems of absentee landlordism prevalent in the country. The proprietary rights of these lands should be vested in the tenants. It further demands the abolition of the present system of land revenue and seeks for its replacement by a system of land tax which exempts all net income below Rs. 500. It also demands the cancellation of debts of the peasants and the Kisans all over the country.

The immediate and minimum demands stated in the manifesto call for at least 50 per cent reduction in the existing rent and revenue charges upon the peasantry, moratorium for five years on all debts and interest charges, penalisation for exacting feudal dues and employing forced labour, immunity from attachment of minimum holdings and implements and personal necessities, freedom from imprisonment for the recovery of arrears of rent and revenue and debts, as well as various other provisions indispensable to ensure the minimum standard of life and comfort for the tillers of the soil. (A detailed summary of the manifesto, embodying the demands of Indian agricultural labour, will be given in our next report).

The All India Kisan Committee forwarded this manifesto embodying the fundamental and immediate demands of the peasantry, to the All India Congress Committee for incorporation in its election manifesto. The Congress Manifesto has since been published and been adopted by the All India Congress Committee without incorporating <sup>in their entirety,</sup> the points raised in the Kisan Manifesto.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 28-8-1936). +

### Congress and Labour: Recommendations of Labour

#### Sub-Committee of the A.I.C.C. +

The All India Congress Working Committee appointed a Labour Sub-Committee in April 1936 "to keep in touch with the labour movement and endeavour to develop co-operation with it and advise the (Congress) Working Committee thereon" (vide page 27 of our May 1936 report). The Labour Sub-Committee, after holding <sup>several</sup> a number of meetings, arrived at a number of important decisions on 19-8-1936. The following summary of the main decisions is taken from a statement issued on 19-8-1936 by the Labour Sub-Committee:

1. Development of Trade Unions.- Whereas the growth and development of trade unions in the country on healthy lines is urgently needed in the best interests of both labour and industry, the Committee presses upon the employers in the country the necessity of giving facilities to the workers for building up labour organisations, and giving recognition to 'bona fide' unions, for the purpose of negotiation, and refraining from victimizing workers who participate in the work of organisation or in legitimate union activities.

2. Workers in Protected Industries to Share Benefit.- Whereas the Committee is of opinion that industries receiving protection from the State should be under a legal obligation to give adequate wages to their workers and generally accord fair treatment to them, the Congress Parties in the legislatures

are recommended to secure suitable legislation to achieve this end. Whereas it has been brought to the notice of this Committee that in many Indian States the legislation regarding factories, payment of wages, compensation for accidents and maternity benefit, as well as the administration of laws relating to labour does not come up to the level obtaining in British India, the Committee urges the authorities of the States to take immediate steps to raise the conditions in these respects at least to the standard prevailing in British India.

3. Congress to take Interest in Labour Unions.— The Congress Labour Committee is of opinion that Congress Committees should take more active interest in questions affecting the welfare of industrial labour and give all such help as they can to the unions working on principles and policies which are not in conflict with the principles and policies of the Congress and, where no labour unions exist, the Committees should, through a suitable agency, help the workers to organise unions on the above lines.

4. Collective Representation of Organised Workers in Congress Committees.— Referred to Mass Contacts Committee.— This Committee has been asked by some Labour organisations to consider the question of making provision in the Congress constitution for the collective representation of organised workers and, pending such changes in the Congress constitution to consider the question of devising a machinery for joint all-India, provincial, district and local committees for developing joint action and for establishing a closer contact between the workers and the Indian National Congress. As however these constitutional and organisational matters are already under the investigation of the Mass Contacts Committee specially appointed by the Congress to go into the whole question of developing closer association between the masses and the Congress organisation and bringing about closer co-operation with organisations of workers, peasants and others, and the Mass Contacts Committee has been receiving the opinions of Congress and Labour organisations on the question, this Committee is of the view that that Committee would be the proper body to deal with these matters. The scheme of collective representation of organised workers, supported by the All India Trade Union Congress and the All India Press Workers Federation and other views on the question submitted to this Committee, should therefore be forwarded to the Mass Contacts Committee for its consideration.

5. Special Labour Seats.— The All India Trade Union Congress has asked this Committee to urge on the Working Committee the desirability of the Congress not putting up candidates in the special Labour and Trade Union constituencies, in the election to the provincial legislatures and of favourably considering the names suggested by Trade Unions as Congress candidates in

the case of general constituencies - with a large labour vote. In view however of the fact that the Central and Provincial Parliamentary Committees are dealing with this matter, these suggestions may be forwarded to the Central Parliamentary Committee for consideration.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 20-8-1936)

Executive Committee Meeting of the A.I.T.U.C.:

Cooperation with Indian National Congress.

The question of co-operation between the Indian National Congress and the Trade Union Congress was considered at the Executive Committee meeting of the All India Trade Union Congress held on 17 & 18-8-1936 at Bombay with Mr. R. Khedgikar in the Chair. The main item on the agenda of the meeting was the discussion of the report of the Congress Contact Sub-Committee appointed at the Bombay Session of the All India Trade Union Congress. Mrs. Maniben Mulji, The Secretary of the Sub-Committee, submitted a report and there was a prolonged discussion over the question of contact with the Indian National Congress and the difficulties in the way of co-operation. After considering the pros and cons, the Committee passed a resolution asking the Congress Contact Sub-Committee to meet the Congress Labour Sub-Committee and insist on direct representation of Labour on Congress Committees; ask for a Joint Committee for anti-Imperialist activities in the country; and to press for the acceptance of candidates suggested by the A.I.T.U.C. as Congress Candidates

in the forthcoming elections to the Provincial Legislatures, especially in constituencies where Labour votes are predominant.

Other Decisions: Trade Union Unity. - The Committee directed the Unity Sub-Committee to bring about unity between the National Trades Union Federation and the All India Trade Union Congress without in any way surrendering the basic principles of the A.I. T.U.C.

Direct Representation of Labour in National Congress. - A decision to popularise the idea of direct representation of Labour in the Indian National Congress Committees, through meetings, demonstrations, etc., was taken.

A.I.T.U.C. and Election to Legislatures. - The Committee decided to put up candidates both in the General and special labour constituencies and the Provincial Trade Union Committees were empowered to nominate candidates in their constituencies. A Committee consisting of Messrs. V.B. Karnik, V.D. Chitale and Harihar Nath Shastri was nominated to draft the Election Manifesto of the A.I.T.U.C. in pursuance of its programme. It is understood, the draft will be ready in a few days.

Co-operation with Kisan (Peasants) Organisations. - To ensure greater contact of the A.I.T.U.C. with the Kisan movement and to explore all avenues thereof, a sub-committee was formed to negotiate with the All-India Kisan Congress.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 19-8-36, and  
The Indian Labour Journal, 30-8-36) +

17

Intellectual Workers

Benefit Scheme for Journalists: Proposals of

Indian Journalists' Association,

Calcutta.

At the 5th meeting of the Executive Council of the Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta, held at the Office of the "Kesari", on 12-8-1936 under the presidentship of Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, the President of the Association, details were given of a scheme of benefits <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ journalists that the Association is planning to set up. The proposals are: (1) the award on a non-contributory basis of Rs. 250/- to the family of a member at his death, and (2) an award of Rs. 15/- per month for 6 months to a member in case of unemployment. The meeting discussed the proposals, but decision was postponed pending the submission of the final recommendations of the Benefits Sub-Committee.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 17-8-36)

Proposals Adopted.— The principles of non-contributory benefit to the members of the Indian Journalists Association in case of unemployment and decease as recommended by the Executive Council were accepted by the general members at the half-yearly meeting of the Association held ~~at~~ on the 23rd August 1936, with Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, the President in the chair.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-8-36)

10 + 7

## Economic Conditions.

### Production Costs in India and Japan:

#### Reasons for Japan's Industrial Efficiency.

The subject of production costs in Indian and Japanese factories, and, more particularly, in textile factories has recently been engaging considerable attention in this country. It is being asserted in several quarters that one of the factors enabling goods manufactured in Japan to penetrate the Indian market, is 'sweating' of the factory-hands in Japan. Commenting on this subject, "Evesdropper" of the Indian Finance, writes in the issue dated 15-8-1936 of the weekly:

"It is curious to note that the allegation of sweated labour in Japanese mills receives no confirmation from the few Indian businessmen who have visited Japan and observed and noted things with eyes that see and ears that hear. Sir Lallubhai Samaldas, far from joining the usual trade against Japanese methods, confessed that he was profoundly impressed by the undoubted efficiency and unique technique of Japan. Maganlal Ghia, who has just returned from a two months' tour in the Far East, is convinced that, if there were no quota basis and if there were only import duties, the nimble Jap could jump over any the most strenuous hurdle. "No one can compete with Japan" said Ghia. "No one in the world. Everything is just perfect. Everything is hundred per cent efficiency. Completest team work in every stage of each industry, between industry and industry, and between industry and national life. I should lay special stress on three outstanding features of Japanese industry. Firstly, the cost of power to mills in Japan works out to a third of the cost of power in Indian mills. One of the hugest generating plants in the world has been established in the heart of the industrial area and supplies power at 1½ ples per unit. It is no hydro-electric source of power, mark you, it is power generated from thermal stations fed by coal imported from Korea and Manchuria. Secondly, labour, in terms of money earned per labourer, is slightly dearer than in India but, in terms of work turned out, is several times cheaper. To say that labour in Japan is underpaid or overworked or ill-treated would be a gross lie. The ideal plan of training and employing labour is to be found in Japan. Girls working in mills are happy as queens. They are provided with cleanest dormitories, most wholesome food, every manner of amenities such as swimming bath, free cinema, night schools, etc. There is no girl

worker in the mills who is not able ~~to~~ to put by a considerable saving, and this too, after being provided with clean, healthy and happy life and surroundings. Labour in Japan is carefree, young, vigorous, full of interest and zest and perfectly contented. The whole world will have to adopt the plan and methods of labour in Japan. Thirdly, all mill stores are manufactured in Japan and the incidence of cost to mills on account of mill stores is perhaps a third of what it is in India." Ghia knows what he is talking about on the cotton mill industry and does not see much hope for Indian mills unless more and more industrialists in this country, instead of decrying Japanese methods, study them reverently and adopt them intelligently."

(Indian Finance, 15-8-1936) +

An All India Economic Conference: Suggestion  
at Meeting of Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay. +

The second quarterly general meeting of the Indian Merchants' Chamber was held at Bombay on 11-8-1936 with Sir Rahimtoola M. Chinoy, the President of the Chamber, in the chair. In his presidential address, Sir Rahimtoola dealt with a number of important points relating to the development of Indian industries. The following is a summary of the speech:-

Indian Companies Act Amending Bill.- Referring to the Chambers' views on the Bill amending the Indian Companies' Act, and the changes proposing<sup>3</sup> to be introduced into the managing agency system, Sir Rahimtoola said: The representation drafted by your Committee and forwarded to Government steers a middle course between two sets of opposite views, - one view being that the present Companies' Act is all that can be desired and that there is no necessity for changing it, and the other being that the whole of the Companies' Act needs to be overhauled and the managing agency system abolished. The interests of the country lie, to my mind, in steering a middle course, as the situation with regard to industrialisation demands the continuance of the managing agency system, though under certain safeguards and restrictions. The Select Committee of the Legislature is now sitting to consider the question, and its Report will soon be submitted to the Assembly.



Tariff Board Report.-- Referring to the recent report of the Tariff Board, recommending a reduction on duties on British piece-goods, he said that ~~it~~ <sup>at</sup> occasioned great disappointment and resentment. Further, what was more surprising was that the Government of India should have displayed such indecent haste in giving effect to the Tariff Board's recommendations by executive orders over the head of the Indian Legislature, without giving the Legislature an opportunity of considering the Tariff Board's recommendations. In this connection, he pointed out that the Federation of British Industries and other commercial organisations in Great Britain were pressing the Government for increasing the duties on foreign imports and emphasised if British industries stood in need of protection, the need for protection of Indian industries was much greater.

Development of Agriculture.-- Referring to the present Viceroy's efforts to develop Indian agriculture, he commended this policy, subject to certain reservations. He said: "The development of agriculture will proceed apace only if, side by side, there is the development of industries. India does not surely, want to go back to the condition of being purely an agricultural country, depending for all her requirements in manufactured goods on foreign countries".

Inter-Provincial Trade Barriers.-- Another point dealt with was the need to abolish all inter-provincial trade barriers. Sir Rahimtoola said that provincial rivalries in the industrial sphere have already begun to play their part with communal rivalries. He said that when Federation comes into being these difficulties will be intensified.

Speech of Mr. A.D.Shroff.-- The following is a summary of the speech of Mr. A.D.Shroff, Vice-President of the Chamber:

Trade Agreement with Japan.-- The operation of the fixed quota assigned to Japanese imports of piecegoods made possible the expansion of the production of the Indian cotton mills, but the continuous decline in the prices of Japanese imported piecegoods has severely reduced the margin of profit to the Indian manufacturer, and has in many cases, been driving cotton mills either to close down or to work at a definite loss. The quota granted to Japan should now be reduced, if the Indian industry is to be allowed a living chance of securing fair selling prices for its products. In putting forth this demand, the non-official advisers had full support of the cotton trade, the interests of which are also proposed to be safeguarded by the insistence of Japan being called upon to buy a minimum of one million bales of Indian cotton every year.

Review of Industrial Conditions.-- Reviewing industrial conditions generally in India, Mr. Shroff pointed out that cotton, jute and coal all three were in a bad condition. The steel industry, the cement industry and companies for the supply of

electricity were in a fairly strong position and provided purple patches in an otherwise drab situation. But, the plight of the agriculturists and their growing indebtedness due to a fall in commodity prices were the outstanding factors of the economic situation. The rehabilitation of agriculture, a subject in which the Viceroy is taking keen interest, is an essential necessity.

Safeguarding of Small Industries.- Referring to this subject, he pointed out that a very important lacuna in the existing agreement with Japan is the omission to safeguard the position of small industries in India, most of which are in a state of infancy and have grown up under the incidental protection provided by the present level of revenue customs duties. All these small industries lack both organisation and resources to secure necessary protection for their growth and expansion and have in recent years had to face increasing competition from Japanese imports, which are being put on the Indian market at almost continuously declining prices.

An All India Economic Conference.- Urging the necessity for an all India economic Conference, he said that such a conference was necessary for framing a national economic programme. The holding of such a conference, Mr. Shroff pointed out, ~~that~~ would serve a two-fold purpose. First, it will not make possible for Government any longer to evade their responsibility on the score of a lack of constructive lead by Indian public opinion; and secondly on the eve of the inauguration of the new Provincial Governments such programme, in so far as it may be carried out by Provincial Governments, may well serve as a guiding star to the elected Ministers.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 13-8-36)

#### Indian Cement Merger:

The Associated Cement Companies, Ltd., Registered.

Reference was made at pages 31-32 of our May 1936 report to the proposed merger of several Indian Cement Companies. The Combine, called the Associated Cement Companies, Ltd., was registered as a Joint Stock Company on 4-8-1936. The registered office of the Company will be in Bombay. The official operations of the Company will start by the first week of October 1936. The following are the main features of the scheme:-

Complete Unified Control.— The entire industry will now be concentrated in the hands of one company — production, sales, research, finance, propaganda and publicity will ~~be~~ all be under one unitary control. Although the history of industry in India contains several instances of co-operation, combination or association, either for specific purposes or for one or more branches of activity, there has not been another instance where an entire industry in the Indian sub-continent has been concentrated and centralised in one controlling authority. In the case of the A.C.C. the component companies simply cease to exist as so many separate units and indistinguishably merge themselves into the new organisation. In other words they efface themselves. The industry will become the company and vice versa.

Consumer's Interests.— The fear has been expressed by some people that this latest development in the Indian cement industry will place the consumer at the mercy of the A.C.C., but, in the case of a commodity like cement, the consumer is hardly likely to suffer from a virtual monopoly. There is no danger of the Indian industry taking advantage of its unique position and putting up ~~a~~ prices; for, apart from the danger of foreign competitors capturing Indian markets, the main desire of the promoters of the merger is so to manage the industry as to be able progressively to reduce the cost of cement and thereby ~~be~~ popularise its use by bringing it within the reach of the poorest pocket.

Price Reduction.— In fact, it is generally recognised that the promoters of the merger are as much concerned with the development of the cement industry in India as with the securing of the maximum yield on investment. During the last six years the reduction in the price of Indian cement amounts to about Rs. 10 per ton. A stage has been reached when any more reduction, which is necessary further to popularise cement, cannot be made by individual concerns with due regard to the shareholders' interests. It became evident therefore that an amalgamation was necessary if the managers of the industry were to continue the dual policy of reducing the price and giving a satisfactory return on investment. Hence it is that the merger is as much in the interest of investors in cement as in that of the industry and the consumer.

Rationalisation.—

One of the essential improvements contemplated under the merger is the abolition of the quota system so that the fullest advantage can be taken of the production capacities of the existing works favourably situated with regard to the markets, production in less economic centres can be restricted, and other more suitable centres developed. It is not, of course, in the field of sales alone that the A.C.C. will develop the industry. Centralisation of research and the resultant discovery of the cheapest and most efficient methods of production, unitary control in the purchase of raw materials and packing material and frequent adjustments of production in specified areas in relation to foreign competition and changing local needs are some of the more abiding improvements which is hoped will place the industry in an impregnable position and ensure its progress from strength to strength.

Statistics of Output and Consumption.— The following table illustrates the progress in the past six years:—

Year.	Indian output	Consumption of Indian Cement.	Imports	Total consumption.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1930	559,856	563,929	68,000	631,929
1931	587,806	587,306	62,500	649,806
1932	582,182	582,182	59,000	641,182
1933	..	614,612	43,307	657,919
1934	..	729,312	51,800	781,112
1935	(roughly)	846,000	43,000	889,000

Five-Year Scheme of Planned Development:U.P. Enquiry Report.

~~ON THE BASIS OF MRX XXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The U.P. Government had set up some time back a committee consisting of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Mohammed Obaidur Rahman, Dr. Radha Kamal Mukerji, Mr. M.L. Gupta and Lala Hari Raj Swarup to draw up a five-year plan of economic development for the province and to suggest the financial measures necessary to give effect to their recommendations. The Committee's Report, a summary of which is given below, has been published recently:-

Areas of Economic Planning.- As regards the areas of economic planning, the report says that two considerations are important: (1) to select areas where conditions of rural development have been stabilized, and (2) to select regions and areas where conditions of economic life are particularly backward. In the former areas concentration and co-ordination are likely to create a change in the morale of the masses more quickly. The unit of economic attack should be a circle of 12 to 15 villages with a resident organizer trained in rural reconstruction work. As far as possible the following sections of developmental activities should be concentrated upon in each circle: improvement of agriculture, consolidation of holdings, crop planning, cattle improvement, agricultural marketing, irrigation development, cooperative organization, rural industrial employment, improvement of roads and transport, rural housing and sanitation, and removal of illiteracy.

Broadcast Demonstration.- A period of three to five years, the report states, seems adequate for the first intensive effort in each circle of 15 villages. In the meanwhile, broadcast demonstration will be carried on at a greater or less distance from each rural reconstruction centre. Thus the programme of economic planning will be dual, one part being intensive planning in circles of 15 villages with a resident organizer in each, and the other, broadcast propaganda in concentric circles with the headquarters of the resident organizer as their centre covering the largest number of villages possible.

Work of Organizer.- During the five years the organizer should be able to stabilize a co-operative society, a seedstore and a primary school in each village of his circle so that at the end of the period of his stewardship the village will be able to look after the agricultural, economic, sanitary and other improvement work without the direct help of any government agency.

Details of the Organisation.- The organization of economic planning is envisaged as follows:- A resident organizer in each circle of 15 villages, a district development officer, assisted by an inspector and touring staff, an agricultural engineer in every district and an expert in fruit farming in every district. There should be a whole time Rural Development Commissioner for the province, preferably of the grade of a Commissioner.

Agricultural Planning.— The crux of agricultural planning, according to the report, centres round the problems of consolidation of holdings and crop planning. The majority of the holdings in the Indo-Gangetic Plain, central and east, are undersized; it is futile to apply any economic planning to their case. Considering the importance of compactness, the following legislative measures have been suggested:—

(1) If 33 per cent. of the zamindars and tenants of a village so apply, the village should be consolidated into compact blocks by order of a court, a form of "chakbat" partition being applied.

(2) Cases of exchange of contiguous plots should be exempted from the usual stamp and registration charge.

(3) Transfer of plots below five acres should be refused registration, if it is not to made to the co-sharer, or to the owner or tenant of adjoining land.

(4) No tenancy should be divisible if by such division it would lead to plots of less than five acres.

(5) A tenant should have the right of pre-emption over a vacant holding adjoining his plot at the market rate.

(6) A zamindar may not lease vacant lands less than five acres in area to new tenants who have no other holding in the village.

(7) Exproprietary and occupancy tenants should be granted the right of sale in favour of a co-operative consolidation society or of a tenant who wants to secure contiguous plots.

Selection of Crops.— Crop planning under the conditions of heavy population pressure must be approached from a new angle, namely, devising for each zone a judicious crop rotation which may ensure the most economical use of land and men on the farm and yield the highest number of calories per acre of holding. The fixation of definite quotas of sugarcane areas for each province by an all-India arrangement will have to be considered, immediately as it is estimated that India will be self-sufficient with regard to its supply of sugar at an early date. Delay would mean the expansion of the cane area to an extent which will effect both soil resources and the prices of cane, and aggravate the effects of the present agricultural depression.

Industrialisation.— The committee think that in order to plan the development of various pioneer industries it is necessary that an industrial survey of the province should be undertaken at an early opportunity. In view of the coming industrial exhibition, a survey like this will be of special importance. The establishment of a stock exchange at Cawnpore, as recommended by the Industrial Finance Committee, would give an impetus to the development of joint stock enterprise. These are obvious advantages in this province for a better regional distribution of industries which may bring factories nearer the sources of their raw materials instead of being concentrated in one or two towns.

There are bright possibilities of the establishment of large scale industries in some important directions and the Government may help by offering facilities of technical guidance and research or granting favourable terms of contract and concessions, such as cheap supply of wood, lac and other raw materials from Government forests, and of water from canals.

But the chief feature of industrial planning, says the report, will be the development of rural industries by State help through specially created services of technical advice and marketing. Many of the village and cottage industries already enjoy larger than provincial markets, such as Benares toys and the brass ware of Moradabad. The U.P. Industrial Finance Committee have recently gone through the question of financing the industries of the province. The Planning Committee endorses the recommendations for the establishment of an Industrial Credit Bank to give long and short major and minor industries. Taqavi loans should also be given directly to artisans and those engaged in minor industries.

Co-operative Movement.- The spearhead of the economic offensive in the village, says the report, must be the co-operative movement. Any lasting form of rural uplift rests on the collective spirit and co-operative endeavour applied to every phase in the social and economic life. A practical step towards unifying cooperative work and other developmental activities would be to appoint panchayats in the villages where cooperative societies exist, entirely from the members of such societies. An important factor responsible for the weakness of the co-operative movement in the province is the lack of a central co-ordinating agency like the Provincial Co-operative Bank. Government should take steps to establish such a bank on the lines suggested by the U.P. Banking Inquiry Committee to function as a central banking and financing institution.

Illiteracy.- Referring to illiteracy the report says:- "A big scheme of expenditure for primary education will ultimately have to depend upon some form of provincial tax or cess, and it must of necessity be of the nature of a plan for at least five years at the outset. No accurate estimates of revenue and expenditure can be prepared at this stage. The dual problem is to get rid of hundreds of superfluous primary schools on the one hand, and to increase the efficiency of those which are maintained by improving accommodation, equipment and the number ~~of~~ and training of teachers. In municipal areas compulsory attendance should be for four years first and every effort should be made to bring into line the recalcitrant municipalities."

Financial Aid.- It is considered necessary to initiate a separate Rural Development Fund to which should be credited at the outset all the grants received periodically from the Government of India for developmental works such as grants for rural development, road development, cane development, and handloom weaving. Any budget provisions for rural development from the Provincial Government should also be credited to this fund. Besides, the U.P. can ~~justifiably~~ justifiably lay claim on a portion of the income derived by the Central Government from excise duties on sugar and matches, about half of the former and a substantial portion of the latter being contributed by this province. Should the consolidated funds, as suggested above, prove inadequate, it is recommended that a small tobacco tax be levied. If the proceeds of this tax be earmarked for rural development it will not be objectionable and may bring in a fair amount of revenue for the Rural Development Fund.

(Commerce and Industry, 1-9-1936).

## Employment and Unemployment

### Unemployment in B. & O. : Memorandum of Unemployment

#### Association to Government Unemployment Committee.

Reference was made at pages 74-75 of our July 1935 report to the appointment by the Bihar and Orissa Government in July 1935 of an enquiry committee to devise ways and means of mitigating unemployment among educated youths in Bihar and Orissa. The B. & O. Unemployment Association has recently submitted a memorandum to the Committee, adumbrating a detailed scheme, the salient features of which are given below:

(a) Ministry of Unemployment.- There should be a special portfolio to deal with unemployment under a Minister whose chief duty would be to deal with this problem. It will be his duty to organise, supervise, control and co-ordinate the various measures designed to check unemployment. He may be assisted by an advisory Board consisting of representatives of different communities of the province to be elected by the Legislative.

(b) District Employment Associations.- There should be an association in each district styled the "Employment Association", or any other suitable name that may be thought of, which will be entrusted with the task of dealing with and determining the education and career of all young men of the district. If necessary it may have sub-branches.

(c) Agricultural and Industrial Schools.- There should be an agricultural school and an industrial school in each district to give training in these subjects to young men according to modern methods. The industrial schools should be equipped to give practical training in the various industries, particularly those which are peculiar to the district as also training in tailoring, motor-driving, etc.

(d) Industrial Banks.- In order to provide youngmen trained in these agricultural and industrial schools with the means to follow their career there should be agricultural and industrial banks in each district to supply the necessary capital. Capital may be provided by means of long term loans on personal security or collateral security.

(e) Government to acquire Lands.- In order to provide youngmen taking to agriculture, Government should acquire lands wherever they may be available. If a young man trained in agriculture has no lands of his own to cultivate, he may be given lands to the extent of 15 to 30 bighas per head on suitable rental.

(f) Industrial Survey.-- There should be an industrial survey of the entire province with a view to select small industries which can profitably be adopted. Training in the industrial school should be confined to those industries. In this connection the association invites the attention of the Committee to the 'Demonstration scheme' introduced in Bengal by the Department of Industries and to Sir ~~Lyniel~~ <sup>Lancel</sup> Hamilton's colonisation scheme <sup>at</sup> of Gosaba.

(g) Marketing Facilities.-- Marketing facilities should be provided at suitable centres for the villagers to sell off their products by the establishment of Marketing Unions.

(h) Other Measures.-- Other measures which will go to relieve unemployment are detailed below:-

(i) Provision of dispensaries in villages. This is also called for in view of the growing unhealthiness in villages.

(ii) All Government officers including ministerial officers must compulsorily retire at the age of 55. There is too much of laxity at present in enforcing this rule.

(iii) To relieve overcrowding in the Bar, practising lawyers must be made to stop working after practising for 30 years or attaining the age of 60, which ever may be earlier.

(iv) Primary education should be made compulsory. All Government appointments including ministerial posts to be made by competition. This will ~~check~~ indirectly check mediocres from rushing in for education.

(v) A set of rules should be framed for making appointments by public bodies other than Government which should be made binding on them. Similarly a set of model rules should be framed for business firms, factories, mill, big land holders, merchants and traders to guide them in making appointments. In these rules stress should be laid in giving preference to the natives of the Province, against foreigners.

(vi) New high schools and colleges should not be opened without proved necessity and sanction obtained for the Minister-in-charge.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 23-7-1936) +



Co-operation.Progress of Co-operation in the Bombay Presidency, 1934-35.\* +1934-35\*

Number of Societies.- According to the Annual Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency for the period 1-4-1934 to 30-6-1935, the number of societies in the Presidency decreased from 5,816 in 1933-34 to 5,770 during the year under review, but the membership increased from 602,967 to 632,439. The year also witnessed increase in the total working capital and reserve fund of these societies from Rs. 161,675,129 in 1933-34 to Rs. 168,201,461 in 1934-35 and from Rs. 14,598,445 to Rs. 17,455,186 respectively. The increase in the number of members, the working capital and the reserve fund of all the societies, in spite of reduction in the number of agricultural societies, indicates the results of the policy of rectification and consolidation pursued by the Department. During the year, 139 societies were liquidated and only 99 were registered. The 5,770 societies working in the year under review were made up as follow: Central Banks, 16 (15,814 members); Agricultural Societies, 4,730 (300,699 members); non-Agricultural Societies, 906 (313,880 members); Unions, 116; and Insurance Societies, 2.

Agricultural Credit Societies.- The total number of agricultural credit societies has been reduced to 4,465 from 4,502 in 1933-34. There is now a very keen demand for registration of credit societies in the rural areas. The policy of consolidation and rectification has led to growth of popularity of these societies. The general standard of management of these societies has been improved. The membership shows a decrease from 236,869 to 228,227,458 as a result of weeding out of undesirable members. The working capital showed a decrease from Rs. 38,738,973 in 1933-34 to Rs. 37,533,847 in the year under review. This has been explained

\* Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) for the fifteen months ending 30th June 1935.-Bombay:Supdt., Government Printing and Stationery, 1936.- Price Annas 6 or 6d -pp.149

as due to the liquidation of several societies. The reserve fund of these societies, however, increased from Rs. 7,088,678 to Rs. 7,603,376.

Agricultural Non-Credit Societies.— The Report remarks that the agricultural non-credit institutions are a vital link in the chain of rural economy, but it is hardly possible to push on these activities, on anything like a large scale with the limited staff at the disposal of this department. At present the sale societies are the most outstanding feature of this type of co-operative activity though the increase in the number of co-operative protection and fencing societies is also a very hopeful sign. A scheme for the organisation of sugar-cane growers on a co-operative basis is also under contemplation in this Province and as <sup>the</sup> Government of India propose to subsidise it by means of a subvention from the sugar excise, it will not be long before it is launched. Cotton sale societies continue to make steady progress. During the year under report 2 more societies were registered, while four societies in Surat District which were in a moribund condition had to be wound up. The total number of societies was 26 as against 28 at the close of the previous year. Although sale societies in general are playing an important part in rural economics, their further progress is considerably hampered by various difficulties. For example, there are at present no proper facilities for grading and pooling, and upto-date information as regards marketing conditions is not always available. The Registrar is considering the question whether a wholesale society should not be registered, which would serve as a clearing house of information and work as a federation of the sale societies by co-ordinating their activities and giving them adequate facilities in marketing.

Agricultural Societies and Rural Uplift.— Agricultural societies can promote rural uplift in three ways. Credit societies and some non-credit societies make contributions towards village improvement. In Bombay, in the year under report, apart from liberal contributions to earthquake funds and the Jubilee Fund, 472 societies have contributed Rs. 50,310 for education, sinking of wells and allied purposes. Agricultural non-credit societies

of the type of Implement Societies, Crop Protection Societies, Sale Societies and the Taluka Development Associations, all in their <sup>way</sup> own/enhance the economic well-being of the villager. But the societies which are specially concerned with rural uplift, particularly the moral awakening of the villager, are the Better Living and Rural Reconstruction Societies. The number of such societies has increased from 7 to 14. When the villagers begin to appreciate the benefits of Better Living Societies, it is remarked, their number will yet increase.

Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank.- The existence of surplus resources in excess of the requirements continues to be the chief feature of the working of the co-operative banks. This favourable feature of the money market has been utilised for lowering the rates of interest on deposits which at present are on a par with those of the best joint stock banks. The demand for advances from members of societies continues to be slack, though it has shown some improvement, and the low return on investments has prevented the banks from reducing their lending rate to the extent that they would have otherwise done.

Producers' Societies.- The number of producers' societies fell from 14 to 12 and their membership from 671 to 592 during 1934-35. Two societies were cancelled during the year under review. Of the remaining, very few are in a really prosperous condition, while some of them continue to be lethargic as before. The obvious implication is that such societies would respond only to improvement in world conditions. The figure in the total value of articles produced shows a slight increase. Though little progress was possible, there is still a profit of Rs. 1,214.

Weavers' Societies.- There were 46 such societies with a membership of ~~1815~~ 1815 during 1934-35 as compared with 49 societies with 1957 members in 1933-34. The working capital, however, showed an increase from Rs. 234,042 to Rs. 235,806. These societies continue to struggle bravely. The curtailment in the purchasing power of the agriculturists, the keen competition of the mills and the general illiteracy and the backwardness of the weavers keep these societies down. However, the registration of district

industrial associations in Dharwar, Poona and Nagar Districts would greatly assist these societies. They would cheapen the cost of production by securing raw material at cheap rates and by the supply of improved appliances. The facility of marketing the finished product through the agency of these associations would enable the weaver to get better price for his finished goods and the expert guidance as regards the marketable patterns will, it is hoped, enable the weaver to hold his own against the competition of the mills.

(The annual Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency during 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 79-80 of our August 1935 report). +

Progress of Co-operation in C.P. and Berar, 1934-35\* +

Statistics of Societies and Membership.- According to the report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year ending 30-6-1935, the condition of agriculturists continued much the same as in the preceding year. During the year 71 new societies were registered and the registration of 130 societies was cancelled. The number of co-operative societies of all types therefore declined further from 3,794 to 3,735 of which 3,512 were primary agricultural credit societies. In consequence the total membership also declined to 112,075 as against 114,389 in 1933-34.

Financial Position.- Recoveries of the loans of central banks due by societies amounted to Rs. 1,542,955. Cash advances during the year under report showed a slight increase. The increase was, however, confined to the Central Provinces; elsewhere the advances were meagre. The total loans outstanding against members of societies in the Central Provinces decreased slightly from Rs. 6,874,824 to

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\* Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 30th June 1935 -Nagpur:Govt. Printing, C.P.1936.-Price Re. 1-8-0. - pp.32+xx

Rs. 6,831,709, while in Berar they went down from Rs. 11,233,720 to Rs. 10,796,663. The financial balance sheet of the cooperative movement as a whole discloses that the outside liabilities amount to Rs. 17,980,685 against which the movement possesses assets estimated at Rs. 21,592,603. The total assets comprise Rs. 10,195,404 or 46.7 per cent in cash and liquid assets and Rs. 2,571,501 or 12 per cent in other fixed assets. It is remarked, however, that despite a succession of adverse years the intrinsic financial position of the movement, however, continued still to be sound.

General Position.- It is remarked that every attempt is being made to put the movement on its feet again and the defects brought to notice from time to time are being remedied. New societies are formed only of honest and solvent agriculturists who are reported to have understood the main principles of co-operation. Fresh financing is confined to short-term loans for agricultural purposes only. In order to prevent over-financing which led in the past to the concentration of large loans in a few individuals, a rule has been recently framed by Government which lays down that no member of a primary credit society shall, at any time, be granted a loan exceeding Rs. 250 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 500 in Berar. In order to ensure proper supervision and control over the societies and the field staff, the Registrar has introduced the group system and established central boards in each institute area. The extensive campaign for the education and training of members which is to be undertaken shortly, will, it is hoped, help materially in resuscitating the co-operative movement in the province.

(The progress of Co-operative movement in the C.P. and Berar during 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 48-50 of our September 1935 report). +

Women and Children.

Nurses Bureau Bombay to be Established from 1-9-1936.

It is proposed to establish from 1-9-1936 a Nurses Bureau in Bombay intended to assist nurses in private practice by placing them in direct contact with medical men and members of the public who may require their services. The Bureau, which will be run on the same lines as similar institutions in most large cities, will maintain a roster of qualified and diploma ~~nurses~~ nurses and masseuses, members of which will be registered with the Medical Council, Bombay. All appointments will be filled in rotation. The chief object of the Bureau is to eliminate the inconvenience and trouble which doctors and patients have hitherto experienced in trying to get hold of the services of qualified nurses.

A subsidiary object of the new Bureau will be to establish a club for nurses at its headquarters, where they will be able to meet and will have social facilities, including a lounge and a reading room.

The Joint Secretary and then ~~Treasurer~~ Treasurer of the Bureau are Sister C. McDonnell and Sister A. Myatt, and its present location is Jaiji Mansion, Merewether Road, Apollo Reclamation.

(The Times of India, 20-8-1936).

Indiscriminate

/ Juvenile Employment in India:

Need for Preventive Action.

The Illustrated Weekly of India of 23-8-1936 publishes a two-page illustrated article on "India's Over-worked Children" contributed by its "Special Investigator". The article draws attention to the social evils of indiscriminate juvenile employment in India. Juveniles are most commonly employed in work like pasting wrappers and scissoring leaves for bidi-rolling, and as office-boys, waiters in cheap restaurants and night cafes, and hawkers of vegetables, etc. Certain employers prefer to employ child labour because of the low wages that could be paid, while certain selfish parents choose to remain idle and live on the earnings of their young children.

It is pointed out that, while in western countries 'office-boys' occasionally develop into heads of businesses, in India conditions do not favour such transformations. "Once an under-dog, always an under-dog" is more or less the rule in India, and hence the denial of opportunities to children to obtain a proper education by turning them into wage-earners at an early age seriously injures the future prospects of such children. A strong plea is made in the article for regulation of conditions of work in shops which in urban centres like Bombay, employ a large number of juveniles. The provisions of the Factory Act, it is pointed out, are often circumvented by splitting workers into small groups, and thus making each unit too small to come under the Act. In cities,

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juveniles are also employed as decoys and trained in criminal ways by designing individuals. The article closes by pointing out that social service institutions are the best agencies for ~~cleaning~~ cleaning with the evils of juvenile employment.

(The Illustrated Weekly of India,  
Bombay, 23-8-1936). +



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Education.

Recommendations of the Elementary Education

Committee of the Madras Provincial Economic Council.

The Madras Provincial Economic Council appointed sometime back a Committee to consider ways and means for expanding elementary education in the Madras Presidency and to consider the possibility of introducing compulsion in all villages and towns with a population of 5000 and over. It is now understood that the Committee has prepared its report; a brief summary of the report is given below:

Prevention of Wastage.— The Committee, it is understood, has recommended that no boy should be admitted into a lower elementary school before he is at least  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years of age and no girl before she is five. To eliminate stagnation of children in the two lowest standards, due to poverty of the parent, it appears to be the recommendation of the Committee to minimise the expense to the parent as far as possible by more liberal subsidies to poor parents for books and school equipment, a reduction in the number of text-books required, a less frequent change of text-books and an adjustment of school hours, holidays and vacations to suit local conditions of harvest, agricultural operations, festivals, market days, etc.

Reorganisation of Elementary Education.— Reorganisation of the constitution of lower elementary schools, it is reported, has also been suggested by the Committee in the following directions: The normal elementary school course should be a five standards course, to be completed ordinarily in five years but double promotions should be encouraged to shorten the course for intelligent pupils. Incomplete and inefficient schools should be eliminated by refusing Government grants to all schools, except the complete school,

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the feeder school and the isolated school. Grants-in-aid should be assessed as at present, but the rules should provide for relating the total amount of grant to the distribution of pupils in the different standards and to the number of literates in the two highest standards and for the fixing of a minimum attendance figure before the school could qualify for grant. Provision should be made for bonuses for pupils of backward communities who pass out of the fifth standard successfully.

Revision of Syllabus.-The Committee is understood to have recommended the preparation of a class by class syllabus, the holding of an examination in each school at the end of the fifth standard, revision of the course of training for elementary school teachers, so as to correspond with the revised syllabus, elimination, as soon as possible, of untrained teachers, increase in the number of training schools for elementary school teachers, and employment of women teachers more largely for the two lowest standards.

Compulsory Education.- It is understood to be also the recommendation of the Committee that parents should be encouraged to send their children to school by persuasive methods, the village munsif being made responsible for seeing that children of school-age in his village attend school.

~~Compulsory Education~~ The Committee considers that a wholesale introduction of compulsion is impossible. Their view is reported to be that compulsion should not be introduced in any area unless there are a sufficient number of school buildings, complete schools and trained teachers. When these conditions are fulfilled, the

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the Committee is of opinion, compulsion should be applied primarily to backward communities. It should be applied to girls equally with boys, and should be free, aided institutions being compensated for the loss of income by enhanced grants. The law should be rigorously applied, in the first instance only to boys between ages of six and eight and to girls between five and seven, children being compelled not only to attend school but to remain there until they pass out of the fifth standard.

It is also the opinion of the Committee that the child who is attending school voluntarily and who is in the standard appropriate to his age should be compelled to remain in school till he passes out of the 5th standard and that this modified form of compulsion may be usefully introduced even in areas where conditions make the compulsion of all children of school age impossible.

(The Hindu, 20-8-1936) +

Migration.Indian Migration to Malaya and Ceylon-1935\*.

Emigration for unskilled work was permitted only to Malaya and Ceylon during the year. Madras and Negapatam continued to be the ports of embarkation for Malaya and Dhanushkodi for Ceylon.

General Conditions Affecting Migration. - (a) Malaya. Statistics of Emigrants.- Assisted emigration to Malaya was resumed in May 1934 on a non-recruited voluntary basis. Recruitment by kanganies was allowed only in the case of a few tea and oil palm estates which had not developed a close touch with Indian labour. The Government of India decided to continue assisted emigration to Malaya, subject to certain limitations on numbers (22,000 emigrants for the period January 1935 to September 1935 and 6,000 for the period October 1935 to January 1936) upto the end of January 1936. The price of rubber continued low and the labour requirements as estimated by the Malayan Emigration authorities were satisfied by assisted recruitment of about 21,000 labourers. Many labourers however including persons who were refused assisted passages by the Malayan Emigration authorities went to Malaya as ordinary deck passengers paying their own passages. The number of unassisted labourers that proceeded to Malaya from this Presidency is estimated as 26,296. Continuity of employment, cash payment and the comparatively higher rates of wages prevailing in Malaya coupled with the insufficient or untimely rains in the Presidency and the consequent irregular demand for agricultural labour are believed to be the factors responsible for this.

Wage Conditions.- Wages in the estates in Malaya vary according to localities. The wages of male labourers above the age of 16 are from 40 cents (about 10 annas) upwards and of female labourers above the age of 15, from 32 cents (about 8 annas) upwards. In the estates for morning work of about 6 hours, the minimum rates offered are 30 and 25 cents (about Re. 0-7-6 and 0-6-3) for males and females respectively. Children above the ages of 10 get 10 to 20 cents (about Re. 0-2-6 to 0-5-0) per day. The majority of the labourers who work on rubber estates begin their work at about 6 a.m., and stop at about 3 p.m. No labourer is bound to work for more than 6 days in a week. When a labourer is employed on a monthly agreement, he is given work for not less than 24 days in the month excluding holidays. If a labourer is not given work for 24 days, the estate is bound to pay him for each day on which he is not given work, but offers himself for it and is fit to work so as to make up the 24 days.

Labourers' Monthly Budget.- According to data furnished by the Agent of the Government of India at Malaya, the minimum monthly budget of a single Indian labourer in Malaya, based on the price rates of 1935, came up to Rs. 6.57 Malay dollars or Rs. 9-13-9. ~~xx~~  
 \* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 for the year 1935.-Bangalore:Printed at the Mysore Residency Press, and Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1936.-Price -As.7 or 9d.- pp-30.

It has been suggested, however, that the quantities provided in the budget were not sufficient and that they have to be added to and that some addition should also be made for savings and cost of passages home. At present, the aim of the Labour Department in Malaya is to enable a man and a woman to earn jointly not less than 16 dollars (about Rs. 24) a month. This wage does not provide much for saving or extra expenses but that it is better than can be got in South India, is proved by the numbers who pay their own passages across.

(b) Ceylon. - Statistics of Emigrants. - There was a remarkable fall in the number of emigrants to Ceylon as after the large recruitment of previous year, the estates found their labour forces practically sufficient 8,795 emigrants and 34,223 non-emigrants proceeded to the colony during the year. Only 'old' labourers returning to Ceylon after a short stay in India, close relatives accompanying such labourers and persons intending to join their relatives already on the estates were given assisted passages.

Wage Conditions. - The minimum cash wages in force in Ceylon during the year are shown below:

	Men.			Women.			Children.		
	A.P.(Cents)			A. P.(Cents)			A. P. (Cents).		
Low-country estates.	6	7	(41)	5	3	(33)	3	10	(24)
Mid-country estates.	6	11	(43)	5	7	(35)	4	0	(25)
Up-country estates.	7	10	(49)	6	3	(39)	4	8	(29)

The price of rice which the estates have to issue to the labourers remained at Rs. 4-12-10 per bushel.

Recruitment. - (a) Malaya. - Malaya gets its labour from two sources from the Madras Presidency: (a) labourers who are assisted to emigrate and (b) labourers who proceed as deck passengers at their own cost. Persons of the first category are assisted by the Malayan Emigration authorities. Persons of the second category do not come under the scope of the Indian Emigration Act: but they have to be taken into consideration in studying the conditions of the labour market in Malaya. The Malayan Emigration authorities continued during the year their system of quotas for estates and restricted assistance mainly to those who had already been in Malaya or their connections.

During the year an amendment to the Indian Emigration Rules was suggested to the Government so as to provide for return to their homes at the Emigration Commissioner's cost of would be emigrants who had come to the place of accommodation on letters offering employment, but were rejected as no longer required or unsuitable by the emigration authorities. The rule will apply to Ceylon emigration also.

The number of kangany licences issued during the year was small, 32 at Avadi and 10 at Negapatam. As usual, the Tamils supplied the greater portion of the emigrants, Malayalees and Telugus forming a small percentage.

(b) Ceylon. - Owing to the lack of demand for labour in the colony, recruitment was practically at a stand-still during the year. Licences for recruiting were rarely granted. Recruiting was done

only on 27 licences during 1935. 371 emigrants including dependants were recruited and passed to Ceylon on 30 licences. Most of the emigrants (8,424) that proceeded to Ceylon during the year were non-recruited and were mostly labourers 'old' to Ceylon but of less than five years' standing. The emigrants were as ~~xx~~ usual drawn mainly from the agricultural labouring classes in the Tamil districts of South India. As usual, emigration to Ceylon was generally in family groups. The percentage of females to the total number of emigrants was 35. +

### Indian Workers in Malaya:

#### Scheme for Permanent Settlement.

The question of encouraging Indian~~x~~ workers permanently to settle down in Malaya and become Malayan citizens is engaging the attention of both the authorities and the planting community in whose interests Indian labour is largely imported into the country. The Hon'ble Mr. C.D.Ahearne, Federal Secretary, and former Controller of Labour, Malaya, has outlined a scheme to encourage Indian emigrant workers in ~~may~~ Malaya to settle down in that country.

The main features of the scheme are the grant of free plot of land and a hut to each worker, and the provision of facilities on ~~an~~ modest scale for the growing of vegetables, etc., and for the breeding of live-stock for domestic purposes. By thus giving the Indian worker vested interests in the country of his adoption, it is hoped, he will soon become a self-supporting and permanent Malayan citizen. According to the plan, in future, labour would be recruited from the children of the Indian settlers and, it is hoped, that the migratory flow from India to Malaya would eventually stop.

The Malaya Committee of the Rubber Growers' Association of London fully supports this suggestion and the United Planting Association of Malaya have appointed a land committee fully to consider the matter. (The Hindu, 4-8-1936).

The following are extracts from a leading article on the subject published in the Hindu of 4-8-1936:

So far as the planting industry is concerned, the advantages of settlement are obvious. To mention one advantage, under the settlement scheme, "labour would be recruited from the children of the settlers and the migratory flow between Malaya and India would stop" with all its uncertainties and attendant evils. It is significant that the suggestion has been made by Mr. Ahearne, an experienced official who, having been Controller of Labour for a period, knows alike the labour needs of the estates and, though to a less extent, the feelings of the labour population in the Colony.

We think the idea of permanent settlement is one which should be welcome to Indians. A number of Indians have invested large sums of money in the country. They hold among them some 200,000 acres of land. It is not merely the Nattukottai Chettiars that hold property, but also numbers of middle class Indians who served in Malaya as Government employees and professional men. As for the workers, the existing system involving periodical visits to India in slack seasons disturbs the home life of many and causes considerable hardship to all. The unsatisfactory sex ratio, the neglect of children, the divorce from family life amid strange surroundings and other depressing conditions are inescapable concomitants of the present system. Nor are the political results of the existing arrangement less disastrous. Formerly the Indian community enjoyed a position, numerically and otherwise second to that of none. Today, however, Indians constitute but the third largest community, numbering less than 15 per cent of the population. It will not do for Indians to be content with the altogether sub-ordinate place now allotted to them in the life of the country. The interests they have built up are such that they could not give them up and accept wholesale repatriation. The present system must be replaced by colonisation, it being understood that the Indian will be accorded the same rights and privileges in his country of adoption as are accorded to other immigrant communities. (The Hindu, 4-8-1936)

It is understood that the Government of India would shortly be sending out a non-official public man with an Indian Civil Servant of the Education Health and Lands Department of the Government of India to report on the conditions of Indian workers in Malaya.

## General.

### The Congress Election Manifesto, 1936:

#### Attitude to Labour and Social Problems. +

The Indian National Congress, having decided to participate in the ensuing elections under the Reformed Constitution, had entrusted its Parliamentary Committee with the task of drafting an election manifesto setting forth the official policies and programmes of the Congress with regard to all important political, economic and social issues. The draft of this important document was submitted at the meeting of the All India Congress Committee which met at Bombay on 22-8-1936. The following are relevant extracts from the manifesto which are likely to be of interest to the Office. (The full text of the manifesto is included in the press cuttings of the month sent along with this Report):

Economic Situation of India.— The Manifesto traces in brief the history of the struggle of the National Congress during the last 50 years for the freedom of India. Dealing with conditions during the last few years, it states:

"These years have seen the development of an economic crisis in India and the world which led to progressive deterioration in the condition of all classes of our people. The poverty stricken masses are today in the grip of even more abject poverty and destitution and this growing disease urgently and insistently demands radical remedy. Poverty and unemployment have long been the lot of our peasantry and industrial workers; today they cover and crush other classes also—the artisan, the trader, the small merchant and the middle class intelligentsia. For the vast millions of our countrymen, the problem of achieving national independence has become an urgent one, for only independence can give us the power to solve our economic and social problems and end the exploitation of our masses."

Political Situation in India and the World.— "The growth of the national movement and the economic crisis resulted in intense repression of the Indian people and suppression of civil liberties, and the British Government sought to strengthen the imperialist bonds that envelop India and to perpetuate



the domination and exploitation of the Indian people by enacting the Government of India Act of 1935.

"In the international sphere, crisis follows crisis in an ever-deepening degree and a world war hangs over the horizon. The Lucknow Congress called the attention of the nation to this grave situation in India and the world, and declared its opposition to participation of India in an imperialist war and its firm resolve to continue the struggle for independence of India."

Labour Programme of the Congress.— After rejecting the new India Act as totally unacceptable and declaring the intention of the Congress to make a vigorous move to fight for the civil liberties of the people, the Manifesto deals with labour problems and states:

(i) Problem of Unemployment.— "At the Karachi session of the Congress in 1931, the general Congress objective was defined in the Fundamental Rights resolution (vide pages 1 to 3 of the March 1931 report of this Office). That general definition still holds. The last five years and the developing crisis have, however, necessitated further consideration of the problems of poverty and unemployment and other economic problems. With a view to doing this, the Lucknow Congress laid particular stress on the fact that the most important and urgent problem in the country is the appalling poverty, unemployment and indebtedness of the peasantry, fundamentally due to antiquated and repressive land tenure and revenue systems and intensified in recent years by the great slump in the prices of agricultural produce and called upon the Provincial Congress Committee to frame a full agrarian programme. The agrarian programme which will be drawn up by the All-India Congress Committee on behalf of these Provincial Committees will be issued later."

(ii) Problem of Agricultural Indebtedness.— "Pending the formulation of a fuller programme, the Congress reiterates its declaration made at Karachi that it stands for reform of the system of land tenure and revenue and rent and equitable adjustment of the burden of agricultural debt, giving immediate relief to the smaller peasantry by substantial reduction of agricultural rent and revenue now paid by them and exempting uneconomic holdings from payment of rent and revenue. The question of indebtedness requires urgent consideration and the formulation of a scheme including the declaration of a moratorium and enquiry into the scaling down of debts and the provision of cheap credit facilities by the State. This relief should extend to agricultural tenants, peasant proprietors, small landholders and petty traders".

(iii) Industrial Labour.— "With regard to industrial workers, the policy of the Congress is to secure to them a decent standard of living, hours of work and conditions of labour in conformity, as far as the economic conditions in the country permit, with international standards, a suitable machinery for

settlement of disputes between employers and workmen, protection against economic consequences of old age, sickness and unemployment and the right of workers to form unions and strike for the protection of their interests."

"The Congress has already declared that it stands for the removal of all sex disabilities, whether legal or social or in any sphere of public activity. It expressed itself in favour of maternity benefits and protection of women workers. The women of India have already taken a leading part in the freedom struggle and the Congress looks forward to their sharing in equal measure with the men of India the privileges and obligations of the citizens of a free India. The stress that the Congress has laid on removal of untouchability and for the social and economic uplift of Harijans and backward classes is well-known. It holds that they should be equal citizens with others with equal rights in civic matters. Encouragement of khadi and village industries has also long been the principal plank of the Congress programme. In regard to large industries, protection will be given, but the rights of workers and producers of raw materials will be safeguarded and due regard will be paid to the interests of village industries."

This manifesto will be supplemented in due course by Provincial Committees which will deal with provincial problems. There are <sup>two</sup> appendices to the manifesto, namely, the Karachi Fundamental Resolution and the Lucknow Agrarian Resolution.

The Manifesto has been very favourably received in nationalist circles, as also by labour groups.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 23-8-1936) +

## INDIAN BRANCH

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The August 1936 issue of Railway Labour, Calcutta, publishes a communique issued by this Office on 11-6-1936 on the 76th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The May and June 1936 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a summary of the proceedings of an informal meeting of the Bombay Provincial Committee of the National Trades Union Federation held on 15-5-1936 at which Messrs. R.W. Fulay and Chelvapathy Chetty were given a warm send-off to Geneva to attend the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Illustrated Weekly of India dated 30-8-1936 publishes the picture of Mr. P.S.Sodhbans taken on his return from Geneva where he attended the 20th I.L.Conference as the Adviser to the Indian Employers' Delegate.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 14-9-1936 publishes a picture of the Indian delegates to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the note on the results of the 20th session of the I.L.Conference from "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 29-6-1936.

\* \* \*

The May and June combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a review of the work of the 20th session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a communique issued by the Government of India dated 10-7-1936 announcing the date and agenda of the 22nd(Maritime) session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The May and June combined issue of the Trade Union Record

publishes the date and agenda of the forthcoming maritime sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Government of India Communique dated 11-9-1936 announcing the personnel of the Indian non-official delegation to the forthcoming 21st and 22nd (Maritime) sessions of the I.L.Conference was published by the following: the Statesman dated ~~12-9-1936~~ 12-9-1936, the ~~National Call dated 13-9-1936~~ Hindustan Times dated 12-9-1936, the Hindu dated 12-9-1936, the National Call dated 13-9-1936, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 13-9-1936, the Times of India dated 14-9-1936 and the Leader dated 14-9-1936.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 11-9-1936 announces that Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim Serang has been nominated the adviser to the Indian Workers' Delegate to the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) Sessions of the Conference. A picture of Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim Serang is also published.

\* \* \*

A picture of Messrs. Aftab Ali and Mohamed Ebrahim Serang, Indian Workers' Delegate and Adviser, respectively to the forthcoming Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference, is published in the Hindustan Times dated 24-9-1936, the Hindu dated 27-9-36 and the Leader dated 29-9-1936.

\* \* \*

The Government of India communique dated 25-9-1936 announcing the personnel of the Government delegation to the forthcoming Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference is published in the following: the Statesman dated 26-9-1936, the Bombay Chronicle and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 27-9-1936, the Leader and the Times of India dated 28-9-1936 and the Leader and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 30-9-1936. The Hindu dated 30-9-1936, in addition

to publishing the communique, gives the personnel of the non-official delegation also.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 11-9-1936 preproduces a statement laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly on 7-9-1936. The statement shows the expenditure incurred by the Government of India since 1924-25 in connection with Indian delegations to the League Assembly and the International Labour Conference.

\* \* \*

The National Call, dated 30-9-1936, publishes the summary of a speech on the work of the I.L.Conference at Geneva, delivered by Begum Shah Nawaz (Adviser to the Government Delegation to the 19th I.L.Conference), before the N.W.Railway Workers' Conference, on 28-9-1936. The speaker dealt at length with the problem of unemployment in India and the various measures advocated by the I.L.O. for relief of unemployment, and criticised the Government for not having taken adequate measures to deal with the unemployment situation, in spite of India having ratified the I.L.Convention on the subject.

\* \* \*

Federated India, Madras, dated 23-9-1936, publishes a note on the last meeting of the Joint Committee of Major International Associations, which summarises the resolution on unemployment passed by the meeting.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 16-9-1936, publishes the usual weekly contribution of this Office to the paper. The contribution gives details regarding the meeting of the Joint Committee of Major International Associations held recently at Geneva. In the course of the article extensive references are made to the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, dated 17-9-1936, publishes a short summary of two resolutions tabled by Mr. Hosain Imam and Sir Phiroze Sethna advocating India's withdrawal from the League and the reduction of India's contribution to the League respectively. The summary of the resolutions was published in all the papers.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times, dated 23-9-1936, publishes a report of the debate on Mr. Hosain Imam's resolution referred to above, in the Council of State on 22-9-1936. The resolution advocated the withdrawal of India from the League. An amendment was moved to this Resolution by Sir Phiroze Sethna suggesting that India do not withdraw from the League, but that India should be allowed a substantial reduction in her financial contribution to the League. The report of the debate was published in all Indian papers.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times, dated 25-9-1936, reproduces Sir Phiroze Sethna's speech in moving his amendment referred to above.

\* \* \*

The National Call, dated 25-9-1936, publishes an editorial article under the heading: "The League's Services to Humanity: Need for a Balanced Judgment". The article deals with the debate in the Council of State over the resolution advocating India's withdrawal from the League, and deprecates such a step. It says that the League has justified its existence in so many ways, especially in its efforts to alleviate the conditions of workers through the I.L.O. It states:

"In the zeal to haul the League over the coals for its failures in the political and diplomatic fields, its critics are manifesting a lamentable tendency to forget the very significant services that the League has rendered in the economic, social, and humanitarian fields. Political memories are notoriously short, and the failing, it would appear, has vitiated our judgment of the League also. The International Labour Organisation, which has



contributed so materially for the improvement of labour conditions the world over, and to whose beneficent influence on employer-employee relationships in India successive Indian employers' and workers' delegations to the I.L.O. Conference have borne eloquent and convincing testimony, is an important and integral part of the League machinery, and, whatever our criticism of the League itself might be, it will be sheer ingratitude for India to forget the very material services that the I.L.O. has rendered for accelerating the pace of labour legislation in this country and awakening public opinion about the imperative need for improving the standard of living of the worker and increasing his efficiency, and thus regularising the rhythm of industry and speeding up production."

\* \* \*

The Indian Social Reformer, dated 26-9-1936, publishes an editorial note deploring the fact that the Resolution of Mr. Hosain Imam referred to above was not passed in its original form.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, dated 16-9-1936, ~~xxxxx~~ publishes a long editorial article under the caption: "Leave the League Quickly".

The article advocates Britain's withdrawal from the League.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 23-9-1936, publishes the report of a debate held on 17-9-1936 under the auspices of the Allahabad University on the question whether India should withdraw from the League or not. Many prominent persons took part in the debate, and the resolution advocating India's withdrawal from the League was carried.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 10-9-1936 publishes an editorial note under the caption: "Unemployment and Government's Dilatoriness". In the course of the note reference is made to the tardy manner in which the Government of India has acted upon the suggestions of the I.L.O. to minimise unemployment.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, dated 30-9-1936 publishes a cable received from a correspondent of the paper to the effect that the International Cotton Committee which met during the last week of September 1936 reaffirmed its opinion that a 40-hour week in the

cotton textile industry <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ impracticable.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times, dated 1-10-1936, publishes the Government reply to an interpellation in the legislative Assembly on 30-9-36 on the subject of Forced Labour. Sir Henry Craik, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, in Charge of the Home Department, detailed the action taken by the Government of India to implement the I.L. Convention on the subject. The Government statement is published in all other Indian papers.

\* \* \*

The National Call, dated 17-9-1936 <sup>publishes</sup> ~~of~~ a short editorial note under the caption: "No 'Sweating' of Labour". The note refers to the allegations of "sweated" labour in Japan and states that there is no "sweating" of labour in that country if the evidence of disinterested and independent witnesses are to be believed. In this connection reference is made to M. Maurette's report on labour conditions in Japan.

\* \* \*

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 17-9-1936, records the views of the Association on the point whether Silicosis should be included in the occupational diseases scheduled under the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 8-9-36, publishes a short editorial note on the recent plot to murder President Roosevelt. In the course of the note reference is made to the progressive labour policy of the President and to the wholehearted manner in which he is cooperating with the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 16-9-36 publishes an editorial article on the proposed conference of French colonial administrations. In

the course of the article, reference is made to the intervention of the I.L.O. in the matter of improving labour conditions in French India and to the sympathetic attitude taken by the French Government in the matter.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 15-9-36 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "British Labour and Communism: An Example for Indian Labour". In the course of the article warm support is accorded to the policy of the moderate section of Indian labour of working in cooperation with the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

A news item to the effect that ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> Indian labour leaders have sent a cable congratulating Senor Cabellero on his appointment as Premier of Spain is published in the following: the Hindu dated 8-9-36, the Hindustan Times dated 9-9-36 and the Indian Labour Journal dated 13-9-1936.

\* \* \*

The September 1936 issue of the Modern Student publishes an article under the caption "Industrial Competition between the East and the West" contributed by the Director of this Office. In the course of the article, extensive references are made to the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The issue dated 7-9-36 of the Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, publishes a short summary of the portions referring to the present economic outlook in the Presidential address of Sir Walter Citrine at the 7th Congress of the International Federation of Trade Unions. Sir Walter's remarks regarding the present unemployment situation and the work of the I.L.O. in this field are also summarised.

\* \* \*

The Guardian, Madras, dated 24-9-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption; "Intellectual Cooperation". The article reviews the various activities of the League in the sphere of intellectual cooperation. In the course of the article mention is made of the recent enquiry conducted by the I.L.O. in collaboration with the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation into the social consequences of progress in mechanisation.

\*                      \*                      \*

No Indian newspapers ~~and~~<sup>or</sup> periodicals received during the month in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

\*                      \*                      \*

The following messages having references to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during September 1936 :-

1. A news item received from a London correspondent of the Statesman re. the decision of the International Cotton Committee re. proposal for a 40-hour week in industries.

Ratifications.Silicosis not to be classed as Occupational Disease;Indian Mining Association's Views. .

The printed report of the proceedings of a meeting of the Managing Committee of the Indian Mining Association <sup>Calcutta,</sup> held on 17-9-1936 at ~~at~~ Calcutta, records that the Committee of the Indian Mining Association is in agreement with the views of the Calcutta Accident Insurance Association that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce should recommend the Associated Chambers of Commerce to ask the Government of India for an assurance that Silicosis would not be scheduled as an occupational disease under the Indian <sup>Workmen's Compensation Act</sup> Act, and for a further assurance that, in respect of any legislation in connection with Silicosis, Government would only act within the limits of the resolutions attached to the recommendation in this regard of the 1934 International Labour Conference.

The circumstances leading to this expression of views of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association are thus set forth in the printed report of the proceedings of the Committee:

"A letter dated 22nd August had been received from the Calcutta Accident Insurance Association enclosing a copy of a letter they had addressed to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the question of Silicosis. The letter explained at some length the position of the Government of India as a result of the discussion which took place at the 1934 session of the International Labor Conference on the question of including Silicosis in the draft Convention concerning occupational diseases which was adopted at the 1925 session of the International Labour Conference. It appeared that in accepting the recommendations of the Occupational Diseases Committee to add "Silicosis with or without pulmonary tuberculosis, provided that Silicosis is an essential factor in causing the resultant incapacity or death" to the trades to be scheduled in this respect, namely, "those industries or processes which are recognised in national laws or regulations as involving exposure to the risk of Silicosis", the 1934 Conference qualified its acceptance by three resolutions setting out factors to be borne in mind, and the Government of India's Delegate on that occasion suggested, but did not press the point, that Silicosis should be excluded from the list of occupational diseases. The letter went on to say that in pursuance

of its obligations to consider ratification of this and other amendments to the Convention on occupational diseases, the Government of India had invited expressions of opinion from Local Governments and was now understood to be considering legislation to include Silicosis in the list of occupational diseases contained in Schedule III of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act. Under Section 2(3) of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, the Governor General in Council has power to make any additions to Schedule III, and may therefore include Silicosis therein, but not without giving three months prior notice of his intention to do so. In this connection, the Calcutta Accident Insurance Association suggested that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce should recommend the Associated Chambers of Commerce to ask the Government of India for an assurance that Silicosis would not be scheduled as an occupational disease under the Indian Act, and for a further assurance that, in respect of any legislation in connection with Silicosis, Government would only act within the limits of the resolutions attached to the recommendation in this regard of the 1934 International Labour Conference".

The Committee of the Indian Mining Association realised that the matter was a very important one from the point of view of mining interests, and they have informed the Calcutta Accident Insurance Association that they supported the representations made to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Forced Labour in India: Action taken by Government  
of India on I.L. Convention. +

In answer to an interpellation in the Legislative Assembly on 30-9-1936 by Professor N.G. Ranga, Sir Henry Craik, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council in charge of Home Affairs, stated that acting on the recommendation of the Assembly contained in a resolution of the Assembly and the Council of State regarding the I.L. Draft Convention on Forced Labour, the Government of India had obtained from the Local Governments information of the forms of forced or compulsory labour obtaining in various provinces wherever these appeared to fall within the definition of forced or compulsory labour prohibited by the Convention. The Government of India have requested Local Governments to put a stop to them. The Convention does not require that forced or compulsory labour for public purposes should be suppressed immediately, but Local Governments have been asked to see that, where it cannot be immediately abolished, it is restricted to the narrowest possible limits, and abolished as soon as possible and, in the meanwhile, regulated as required by the Convention.

(The Statesman, 1-10-1936) +

11

National Labour Legislation.

The Madras Employees' Protection Bill, 1936:

Motion for Reference to Select Committee Lost. ✓ +

Reference was made at pages 11-12 of <sup>our</sup> March 1936 report to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Council of the Madras Employees' Protection Bill, 1936, by Mr. C. Basudev. On 29-8-1936 Mr. C. Basudev moved in the Council that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The Law Member, on behalf of the Government, opposed the Bill. He said that the Government would not commit itself to a measure which was of an one-sided nature. The Bill was intended to give benefit only to a small number of people. The Bill would affect <sup>a large number of</sup> small but growing commercial and industrial concerns. The financial burden would be too heavy for those concerns to bear. Instead of a blessing, the measure might prove a drag on the employees also. If small concerns were affected, ~~these~~ <sup>in them</sup> employees would be thrown out of work and the problem of unemployment would become still worse. It was hardly fair to pass such a ~~one-sided~~ <sup>one-sided</sup> measure.

The motion, when put to vote, was lost by 44 votes against 25.

(The Hindu, 29 & 30-8-1936). +

The Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1936. +

Attention is directed to pages 1076 - 1080 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 22-8-1936, where <sup>is published</sup> the draft of certain rules which the Governor General in Council proposes to make in exercise of powers under Section 26 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, read with Section 22 of the General Clauses Act, 1897. The rules relate to procedure and relate to such subjects as form of application, presentation of application, registration of application, etc. ✓

Amendment to Indian Coal Mines Regulation, 1926:

Accumulation of Underground Coal Dust Prohibited. +

The Government of India have under active consideration <sup>certain</sup> measures calculated to increase safety in underground work in mines. An amendment has been announced by the Government of India to the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, ~~1926~~ 1926, which lays down definite rules regarding the prevention of accumulation of coal dust in underground parts of mines, as also ~~for~~ the conducting of blasting operations in mines. The amendment to the Regulations is published at pages 1148-1149 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 29-8-1936. ✓+

Amendment to Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1924:

Rules Re. Production of Documents. +

The Gazette of India dated 12-9-1936 publishes at pages 1180-81 of Part I a draft amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1924. The amendment relates to rules regarding the production of documents and to applications presented to a Commissioner other than the one to whom they should have been presented. ✓



The Madras Artisans' Protection Bill, 1936.

( Bill No.25 of 1936 ) +

Mr. Ganala Ramamoorthy has introduced in the current session of the Madras Legislative Council a Bill to regulate the conditions of work of artisans in the Madras Presidency. In the course of the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, it is pointed out that innumerable measures have been made for the amelioration of the condition of the agriculturists, while the labourers employed in the cottage industries have been left alone, though they could have been brought under general workers and the provisions of the Indian Factories Act made applicable to them. The attention of the whole country is now drawn to the development of the village industries, but nothing tangible can be achieved in that direction without the aid of proper legislation.

If home industries, it is remarked, have to be put on a sound basis, protection of the workers therein and extending <sup>protection of</sup> the provisions of the Madras Debt Conciliation Act, 1936, ~~to them~~ and those of the Madras Elementary Education (Amendment) Act, 1935, to the children <sup>of those</sup> employed in them, making elementary education compulsory for them, <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ imperative.

It is well-known that ~~these~~ artisans' workshops are kept under most insanitary conditions and that the employers are notoriously hard-hearted in <sup>troubling</sup> ~~teasing~~ even children by making them work till midnight, not very seldom the whole night. The workers are treated as slaves, as they are always indebted to the employers. A measure remedying all these defects is felt necessary. The present measure is therefore intended to secure the aforesaid objects and help the

rural, industrial and economic progress of the country.

The salient features of the Bill are provisions regarding inspection, health and safety of workers, ~~and~~ medical inspection of children, and regulation of hours of work . Children under 12 are not to be employed, and those between 12 and 15 are not to be employed for more than 5 hours per day. Hours of work for adults are <sup>to be</sup> 11 hours per day and 60 hours per week. No woman shall be allowed to work except between 6 A.M. and 7 p.m. and unless there are at least three women simultaneously employed in the workshop.

The Artisans' workshops covered by the bill are workshops where (1) Iron, (2) Steel, (3) Brass, (4) Bronze (5) Bell-metal, (6) Copper, (7) Zinc, (8) Tin, (9) Aluminium, (10) Wood, (11) Ivory, (12) Stone carving, Engineering, (13) Mounting of precious stones, (14) Machinery (tools), (15) Gilding and Electroplating, (16) Silver, (17) Gold and other metal work is turned out.

(Summarised from pages 314 to 328 of Part IV of Fort St. George Gazette dated 15-9-1936). +

The Mysore Maternity Benefit Bill, 1936. +

A Bill was introduced in the Mysore Legislative Council some time back to regulate the employment of women in factories sometime before and sometime after confinement, and to provide for the payment of Maternity Benefit to them. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that in the Mysore State there is no statutory provision on the subject at present, though there are certain rules for the grant of maternity benefit

to the women employed in the industrial concerns under the control of the Department of Industries and Commerce. It is proposed in the Bill to provide for the payment of maternity benefit to women workers for a maximum period of eight weeks, four before confinement and four thereafter. Provision is also made for prohibiting employment of women in factories during that period and for preventing them from working in any factory during the said period. The bill is based on the Bombay Act VII of 1929 as amended by Act V of 1934.

(Summarised from a copy of the Bill sent to this Office by the Government of Mysore.)

A copy of the Mysore Maternity Benefit Bill, 1936, was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute A.8/894/36 dated 6-8-1936. ✓

Prohibition of Slavery in Hyderabad: Hyderabad

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill Introduced. ✓

By orders of the President of the Executive Council, the Judicial Secretary of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government has introduced an amending Bill to the Hyderabad Penal Code providing for the abolition of traffic in slavery. The Bill provides that the person importing or exporting slaves, selling, purchasing or otherwise trafficking, shall be liable to imprisonment for life or for a period extending to 10 years and also <sup>shall be</sup> liable to a fine. In the statement of the objects and reasons of the Bill, the Judicial Secretary points out that changed times require the total abolition of slavery. ✓

(The Hindustan Times, 20-9-1936) ✓

The Cochin Trade Unions Regulation, 1936. +

His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin gave his assent on 27-8-36 to the Cochin Trade Unions Regulation providing for the registration of trade unions and defining the law relating to registered trade unions in Cochin. The salient features of the Regulation are given below:

Definition of Trade Unions. - "Trade Union" means any combination, whether temporary or permanent formed primarily for the purpose of regulating the relations between workmen and employers or between workmen and workmen, or between employers and employers, or for imposing restrictive conditions on the conduct of any trade or business, and includes any federation of two or more Trade Unions:

Provided that this Regulation shall not affect.—

- (i) any agreement between partners as to their own business;
- (ii) any agreement between an employer and those employed by him as to such employment; or
- (iii) any agreement in consideration of the sale of the good will of a business or of instruction in any profession, trade or handicraft.

Registration of Trade Unions. - Any seven or more members of a Trade Union may, by subscribing their names to the rules of the Trade Union and by otherwise complying with the provisions of this Regulation with respect to registration, apply for registration of the Trade Union under the Regulation.

Cancellation of Registration. - The certificate of registration may be withdrawn or cancelled by the registrar (1) on the application of the Union for withdrawal (2) when the certificate was obtained by fraud or mistake, (3) on the extinction of the

trade union, or (4) on the contravention of the provisions of the Regulation.

Objects for which General Funds may be spent.- The General Funds may be spent, besides on salary, establishment and administrative purposes, on safeguarding the interests of members or of the union through legal proceedings etc., Conduct of trade disputes and payment of compensation to victims of disputes, payment of death, old-age, sickness, accidents or unemployment allowances, and on other measures of general welfare of the members.

Political Fund.- Registered trade unions are allowed to raise and maintain a political fund. ✓

(Summarised from a copy of the Regulation forwarded to this Office by the Cochin Government. A copy of the Regulation was forwarded to the Geneva Office with our Minute D.8/ 1113/36 dated 8-10-1936) +

18

Conditions of Labour.

Defence of Common Employment in Compensation Cases

Not to Prevail in India: Decision of C.P.

High Court. +

Whether the defence of common employment should be allowed to prevail in India in compensation cases was discussed by a bench consisting of the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Pollock at the Nagpur High Court in a long-drawn<sup>out</sup> civil suit filed by Mrs. Rukhmini Bai Godbole against the G.I.P. Railway administration for damages of Rs. 40,000/- as compensation for the death of her husband who was a time-keeper in the said railway.

Facts of the Case. - The facts of the case are that in October 1928, Permanent Way Inspector Patel and the deceased time-keeper, named Godbole, went on an unprotected trolley in a tunnel just about the time when a train was expected to pass through it. The occupants of the trolley found that the engine of the train was approaching and leapt from it, taking shelter close to the walls of the tunnel. The trolley, left unprotected on the railway track, was smashed by the running engine, the driver of which did not seem to have noticed its presence. A splinter of the trolley struck Time-Keeper Godbole, and, as a result of the injuries sustained, he died. His widow Rukhmini Bai sued the G.I.P. Railway under the Fatal Accidents Act, claiming Rs. 40,000 as damages. The trial court at Betul granted a decree of Rs. 26,000 against the G.I.P. Railway, against which order an appeal was filed by the Railway in the court of the Judicial Commissioner, Nagpur. Messrs. F.H. Staples and M.B. Niyogi, Additional Judicial Commissioners, heard the appeal and came to differ on all conclusions of law and facts.

Differing Views of Judicial Commissioners. - Mr. Staples, Additional Judicial Commissioner, held that there was no negligence on the part of the driver of the Railway Administration and that the defence of common employment was available to the Railway in barring the plaintiff in the matter of holding the employer railway responsible for the neglect of a common employee, like the driver.

Mr. Niyogi, Additional Judicial Commissioner, held that the defence of common employment was not looked on with favour in

England and that the Employers' Liabilities Act had reduced its value. He also expressed the opinion that in view of the conditions in India this defence should not be allowed to prevail, although this defence was a part of the common law of England.

The point of difference thus arose as to whether in India the defence of common employment should be allowed to prevail. The Allahabad High Court and the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Sind, had held in favour of allowing this defence in favour of employers.

High Court Decision.— The point was then referred to a third judge, when the Judicial Commissioner's Court was succeeded by the Nagpur High Court. The bench concurred with the view of Mr. Niyogi, that such defence should not be allowed to prevail in India as a matter of equity and good conscience. The High Court has now issued a rule that the appeal of the G.I.P. Railway will be heard on such points as may not have been properly discussed by the Additional Judicial Commissioners, as also <sup>on</sup> the question of award of damages. ✓

(The Leader, 14-9-1936) +

Alternative Work for Women Eliminated from under-  
ground Work in Mines & Problem under Consideration of  
Government of India. +

It is reported that the Government of India are contemplating the provision of suitable work for women when they are eliminated from working underground after July, 1937. The Additional Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad has suggested that they be trained in weaving institutes to be started in Jharia, Kustore and Sijua. There is already an <sup>weaving</sup> ~~in~~ institute at Kustore. ✓

(The Statesman, 21-9-1936). +

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various  
Centres in India for July 1936. ✓

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India showed irregular changes during July 1936 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (Base: July 1914) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in July 1936 rose by 1 point to 101. The average in the year 1935 was 101.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (Base: Year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad remained unchanged at 71; in 1935 the average was 71.

Sholapur.- The index number (Base: Year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur remained stationary to 70; the average for 1935 was 72.

Nagpur.- The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in July 1936 rose by 1 point to 59.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in July 1936 rose by 2 points to 57.

Rangoon.- The index number (Base: 1931) of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers declined by 1 point to 90 (provisional figure).

(Extracted from "Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India, July 1936).

(The cost of living index numbers for various centres in India during June 1936 were given at pages 26-27 of our August 1936 report).+



Strike Statistics for Quarter ending 30-6-1936.

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the second quarter of 1936 ending 30-6-1936, published by ~~the~~ the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 49 disputes during the period, involving 42,740 workers and entailing a loss of 358,337 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bengal, where 16 disputes involving 32,045 workers entailed a loss of 201,545 working days. Next comes Bombay with 12 disputes involving 3,714 workers and entailing a loss of 22,377 working days, Madras with 9 disputes ~~and entailing~~ involving 2,094 workers and entailing a loss of 16,465 working days, Assam with  $\frac{3}{2}$  disputes involving 633 workers and entailing 2,053 working days, the Central Provinces, the Punjab and the United Provinces with 2 disputes each involving 245, 929 and 849 workers and entailing losses of 2,455, 4,619 and 7,621 working days respectively, and ~~Bangalore~~ Bangalore, Bihar and Orissa and Burma with 1 dispute each involving 1,800, 370 and 61 workers and entailing losses of 83,700, 17,441 and 61 days respectively, while no dispute was reported from Delhi.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 12 disputes involving 6,170 workers and entailing a loss of 28,055 working days, jute mills for 7 disputes involving 27,620 workers and entailing a loss of 161,420 working days. Other miscellaneous industries were responsible for 30 disputes involving 8,950 workers and entailing a loss of 168,862 working days.

Of the 49 disputes during the quarter under review, 27 were due to wage questions, 8 to personnel, 4 to leave and one to bonus, and 9 to other causes. In 9 disputes the workers were successful, in 7 partially successful and in 24 unsuccessful. 9 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report. (Strike statistics for the quarter ending 31-3-1936 are given at pages 22-23 of our June 1936 Report).

Regulation of Leave ~~to~~<sup>of</sup> Bombay Mill  
Operatives: Rules Framed by Millowners' Association,  
Bombay. +

The question of systematising the procedure for the grant of leave to Bombay mill-hands had for some months past been engaging the attention of the Millowners' Association, Bombay. The matter was, in the first instance, considered in detail by the Labour Advisory (Managers) Sub-Committee, which submitted the following proposals, which it was suggested might be recommended for general adoption by all mills in Bombay:

(a) Requests or applications for non-urgent leave of more than 7 days' duration should be received by the heads of the departments only on two fixed days during the ~~7~~ week.

(b) If the head of the department or the manager agrees to grant leave, the date for the commencement of the leave should be 3 days after the application date, that is to say, if the request for leave is received on Monday, the leave should commence from Thursday. The applicant should get his leave pass only on the day the leave is to commence.

~~(c)~~ The three days which would elapse between the application for leave and the date of departure, <sup>on leave</sup> on leave would make it easier to arrange for suitable 'badlis' and payment of earned wages where necessary.

(c) In cases of sanctioned leave of less than 7 days duration, previous notice need not be demanded and the leave pass should be issued on the day the request for leave is made.

(d) If the head of the department or the manager is satisfied that leave exceeding 7 days is of an urgent character, then the rule regarding previous notice might be waived.

(e) It would be advisable to post notices in the departments and at the gate informing the work-people of the dates on which requests or applications for long leave would be received and the procedure which would be followed.

The Committee of the Association approved these proposals and advised member mills in the City to introduce the system in their mills. At the same time, the Committee also approved of a further suggestion made by the Sub-Committee in regard to the wages

to be paid to 'Badli'(substitute) operatives acting as Doffer and Line Jobbers. It was proposed that Badlis for the posts of Doffer Jobbers and Line Jobbers should be paid the rates of wages which were paid to the permanent operatives in whose posts the badlis were working. A recommendation to this effect was forwarded to all mills in the City and Island. ✓

(Summarised from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during August 1936). +

Wage Dispute in Ahmedabad Textile Mills:

Parties go in for Arbitration. +

Reference was made at pages 33-35 of our August 1936 report to the wage dispute in Ahmedabad textile mills. By the beginning of September, the millowners, as a result of mutual consultations and discussions, had indicated the urgent necessity for reduction of the working week due to large accumulation of stocks ~~of~~ or for a general wage cut. In the meanwhile, negotiations were being carried on between the Millowners' Association and the Labour Association in regard to the standardisation of wages. The view of the majority of the millowners is that to achieve standardisation, action should be taken by the machinery for industrial conciliation set up by the Ahmedabad mill industry.

On 12-9-1936, the Secretary of the Millowners' Association addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Labour Association,

drawing the latter's attention to "the critical position of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry", and suggesting immediate relief in the shape of a wage-cut. The letter states that there is every danger of a number of mills being obliged to close down to the detriment not only of the mill industry but also of workers.

The Millowners' Association, therefore, finds it necessary to ask for the acceptance of a cut of 20 per cent in the present scale of wages with effect from October 15. In case the Labour Association is unable to accede to this request, it is urged that arrangement be made for very early arbitration in the matter, not later than September 20, so as to arrive at a final decision through all stages of arbitration by October 15. (The Bombay Chronicle, 14-9-1936). The Labour Association rejected the proposal, but agreed to arbitration.

Later reports show that Mahatma Gandhi has expressed his willingness to hear the case prepared by the Millowners' Association in justification of 20 per cent reduction in the wages of the mill employees as soon as the Labour Association has prepared its case against the proposed reduction. Representatives of both the associations will be going to Wardha soon for this purpose. Mahatma Gandhi will act as arbitrator on behalf of the Labour Association, and Beth Chimanlal Parikh on behalf of the Millowners' Association. The case will be submitted to an umpire in case of a difference of opinion between the two arbitrators.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 14-9-36, and the National Call, 26-9-1936) +

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Ambernath Match Workers' Strike.

The following is a brief summary of the developments in connection with the match workers' strike of the Western India Match Factory Company, at Ambernath.

Cut in Wages.— The Match Factory Workers' Union made repeated representations in December 1935, February and May 1936 to the management to restore the cut of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a pie in the piece rate prevailing in the box closing department. The Labour Office of the Government of Bombay was also duly informed as early as in the month of December, 1935. On the 20th of July 1936 workers made a final representation for restoration of the cut. On the 24th of July 1936 the management turned it down. On the 25th July 1936 the workers of the Box Closing Department struck work. On the 27th July 1936 the management tried to work the box closing department with a contingent of new workers recruited from the Criminal Tribes Settlement. Workers in other departments struck work as a protest against this move of the management. A lock out was declared on the same date announcing that the re-opening of the factory would be subject to terms and conditions which the employers might deem fit to impose. On the 1st of August 1936 the wages for the first fortnight of July became due for payment. The employers refused to make payment until the chawls owned by the company were vacated. On the 8th August the workers formulated their demands and submitted the same to the Labour Office on the 13th of August. On the 13th August Mr. N.M. Joshi wrote a letter to the Home Member, Mr. Turner, requesting the Government to intervene in the dispute. The Labour Office was also approached.

Government Refuses to Intervene.— On the 26th August Mr. N.M. Joshi received a reply from the Government intimating their inability to intervene. On the 27th August the workers' delegates saw the management. On the 28th August the management informed the delegates that none of their demands will be granted and that there would be a reduction in the number of workers when the factory ~~will be~~ reopened. On the 1st of September the management tried to reopen the factory. The workers refused to resume work unless and until their grievances were redressed.

Repression of Workers.— On the 24th August, the Resident Magistrate of Kalyan, the district in which the factory is situated, ordered the arrest of several leaders of the workers. Arrests of leaders continued, till on the 16th September, Mr. Parulekar, a member of the Servants of India Society and a leader of the workers, was arrested, but he was released on 18th September by the orders of the Presidency Magistrate, Girgaum, Bombay. The strike is still continuing.

(The Bombay Chronicle,  
23 & 29-9-1936).

Labour Situation in Pondicherry. 4

Reference was made at pages 30-32 of our August 1936 report to the labour situation in the textile mills in Pondicherry. By the middle of September the authorities of the Gaebele Mills notified that they are willing to re-open their mills, subject to the labourers agreeing to certain conditions. The following are the conditions mentioned by the authorities :

For the present only day work will be resumed. Most probably the number of labourers will be reduced. Those labourers who agree to work in the Mills will be deemed to be bound by this condition. The Mill will work between 7 to 12 in the morning and 1 to 5 in the evening, and thus work at the rate of 9 hours per day. The salary fixed for every labourer will be given as daily wages. A labourer in the weaving department can work at two sets and thus he can try to increase his wages. The wages of other labourers will be reorganised.

Spoiled pieces will be given away to labourers at the rate of 12 annas per every piece worth one rupee.

No bonus will be given this year to the labourers. Five weeks of leave with wages will be granted to women labourers. One and a half <sup>times</sup> the ordinary wages will be given to the labourers for the extra work done over and above 54 hours in a week. The agreement reached on 3rd July which has not yet been enforced will be discussed at the next meeting of the mill authorities when a favourable decision will be taken. Children below 15 years of age will not be entertained for work hereafter. The notification assures the labourers that their interests will be looked after by the mill authorities and that the benefits to which they are entitled will be extended to them gradually. (The Hindu, 16-9-36)

The Rodier Mills and the Savana Mills did not put up similar notices. The workers decided not to accept the conditions of the Gaebele Mills, which, however, engaged the services of some labourers to clean the machinery and to do other miscellaneous work. The strikers picketed the mills to dissuade workers from attending to this work. The situation worsened when the police arrested some of the picketers. No settlement has been arrived at till the end of the month.

## Enforcement of Conventions.

### Factory Administration in C.P. and Berar, 1935\* ✓ +

Number of Operatives and Inspection.— According to the Annual Report on the Administration of the Indian Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1935, there were 1,017 factories (159 perennial and 858 seasonal) in C.P. and Berar on the Factories Register at the close of 1935 as against 972 in 1934. 56 new factories were registered and 11 factories removed in the course of the year. Of the 1,017 factories, 696 (152 perennial and 544 seasonal) were actually working during the year. The increase in the number of perennial factories is due to the registration of small weaving sheds and electric power stations and 14 rice mills (seasonal factories) being declared non-seasonal factories. The decrease in the number of seasonal factories was mainly in ginning and pressing factories. All the 696 factories were inspected during the year; 229 factories were inspected once, 243 twice, 138 thrice and 86 more than thrice. The total number of inspections was 1,558 during the year as against 1,764 in 1934. The average daily number of workers employed by the factories decreased from 60,503 (40,416 men, 19,624 women and 463 children) to 59,896 (40,501 men, 18,799 women and 596 ~~ma~~ adolescents and children). Decrease in number of workers is reported in gin and press factories, while increases are recorded in cotton, spinning and weaving mills, distilleries and in cement and rice mills.

Health and Safety.— The report states that appreciable progress has been noticed in perennial factories with regard to the fencing and guarding of dangerous machinery. Suitable clothing was provided for

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\*Report on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1935. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P., 1936. Price - Re.1-8-0. pp. 36

certain classes of workers according to rules. Numerous requisitions had to be made for the provision of proper guards and safety devices and for the repair of existing ones in seasonal factories, where progress in this direction is too often hampered by continual changes in the management and lack of technical knowledge to carry out inspectors' suggestions in an efficient manner. Non-seasonal factories continued to maintain the improvement made to secure adequate ventilation. The general health of the operatives in all the factories was reported to be good. No report of ~~the~~ outbreak of ~~an~~ epidemic among the industrial population was received and no case of any occupational disease was noticed. The operatives took full advantage of the dispensaries maintained by the large perennial establishments.

Housing and of Operatives and Welfare Work.- It is observed that there has been no progress in the provision of houses to workers. The larger concerns which have provided housing accommodation to a majority of workers have maintained the quarters in a sanitary condition and effected repairs wherever necessary. Crèches do not appear to be wholly popular with the operatives; those attached to the seven cotton mills and one pottery works housed 187 babies. The mill management has, however, been trying to popularise the free use of crèches.

Accidents.- Altogether 564 accidents were reported during the year under review, of which 7 were fatal, 48 serious and 509 minor. There is a large increase in the number of minor accidents, some of which are of a trivial nature and do not need any explanation. The increase is mainly in the Bengal Nagpur Railway workshop at Nagpur and cement and textile factories.

Hours of Work and Holidays.- As usual the larger perennial factories conformed strictly to the rules regarding the hours of employment and weekly holidays. Breaches of section 37 (intervals for rest) were noticed in a few cases and prosecutions were launched against.



managers of four factories. Ten cases of breach of sections 34 (weekly hours) 36 (daily hours), and 38 (spreadover) resulted in conviction and fines. As a result of surprise visits, prosecutions were launched in seven cases for employment of women beyond the hours specified in section 42, and all the accused persons were heavily fined.

Wages.— There was a general fall in wages to the extent of 6.6 per cent., primarily owing to the continued trade depression.

Maternity Benefit.— The number of women who claimed benefit ~~made~~ under the Maternity Benefit Act during 1935 was 552 as against 567 in 1934. Of these, 506, as against 511 in 1934, were found to be entitled to it and the employers paid Rs. 9,206 as against Rs. 8,908 in 1934.

(Factory Administration in C.P. and Berar during 1934 was reviewed at pages 21-22 of the Report of this Office for September 1935). /+

Factory Administration in N.W.F. Province, 1935. +

The annual report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1935 states that during the year the total number of factories subject to the Factories Act increased from 27 to 29 which included 17 Government and Local Fund Factories. The water supply, lighting and general sanitary conditions of the factories were generally found to be satisfactory. The total number of operatives employed in all factories increased from 1,099 to 1,147, the increase being due to the newly-registered factories which found employment for 95 persons. Of the 1,147 operatives employed, 1,115 were males and 32 females. Four accidents were reported to have occurred during the year, one of which was serious. One factory fire was reported to have occurred during the year. There was, however, no loss of life or injury to any worker caused by the fire.

(The Statesman, 23-9-1936) +

Workers' Organisations.

Meeting of the All India Kisan Committee, Bombay,

21-8-1936: Fundamental Rights of Indian Peasants Enunciated.

A brief reference was made at pages 44-45 of our August 1936 report to the meeting of the All India Kisan (Peasants\*) Committee at Bombay on 21-8-1936, at which a manifesto and statement of demands of the Kisans of India were adopted. The following are the main points brought out in the manifesto.

Object of Kisan Movement.-" The object and main task of the Kisan movement are stated in the following resolution passed at the first All India Kisan Congress held at Lucknow on the 11th April 1936:-

The object of the Kisan movement is to secure complete freedom from economic exploitation and the achievement of full economic and political power for the peasants and workers and all other exploited classes.

The main task of the Kisan movement shall be the organisation of peasants to fight for their immediate political and economic demands in order to prepare them for their emancipation from every form of exploitation.

The Kisan movement stands for the achievement of ultimate economic and political power for the producing masses through its active participation in the national struggle for winning complete ~~xxx~~ independence."

Poverty of the Masses.-" The one outstanding fact of Indian economic life is the grinding poverty and utter misery of the vast peasant masses which comprise 80 per cent of its population. No political or economic programme which has the audacity to ignore their needs and demands can by any stretch of imagination be labelled a national programme. Every organisation claiming to represent the people of India must place the interests of the bankrupt and much exploited ryots, tenants and agricultural labour in the forefront of its programme if it is to vindicate its claim. Inasmuch as the Indian National Congress is today the only effective political body with a country-wide organisation claiming to champion the cause of the masses, it must necessarily make the solutions of the problems of the peasantry the chief plank of its political and economic policy."

Plight of Peasants.-" The terrible conditions of the Indian peasants is too well-known to need repetition. The tenants are oppressed by Zamindars, Talukdars and Malguzars, Inamdars and other landlords. The peasant-proprietors have to bear the yoke

5.2.

of a harsh system of land Revenue. The Agricultural labour receive, if at all, starvation wages and work, and live in conditions bordering on slavery. But, unfortunately, while the condition of the peasantry dominates the whole political and economic life of the country, the peasants themselves have been most backward politically and organisationally. The results are twofold; firstly the peasants have been deprived of all the ameliorative legislation that could have been passed during the last 16 years, even by the present legislatures, if the legislators had felt obliged to satisfy the peasants and, secondly, the political movement itself in the country has remained more or less unconcerned with both the immediate and basic problems of the peasantry. The fundamental cause that makes for their present starvation is the land tenure and revenue and credit system.

Organising Peasants.— After expressing the opinion that the political ideal of the movement is independence and the form of Government which it favours is one which derives its strength and support from the peasantry, the Manifesto contains the following <sup>remarks</sup> as regards the organisation of the peasants:

"The Kisan Sabha means the unity of the peasants. By organising the peasants, by setting them on their feet, the Kisan movement not only enables them to put a stop to the thousand and one harassments and extortionate practices of the landlords, and land-revenue officers and Sowcars and their agents, but also advances them greatly toward the goal of political freedom, thereby strengthening as nothing else can the movement for national independence. Fortunately, the Kisans all over the country are becoming more and more conscious, politically and economically, of their basic problems. The All-India Kisan Committee is an expression of this awakening among the peasantry. They have at last realised that they must fashion out their own militant class organisations if they are to make any sustained advance towards their goal. The Kisan Sabha represent not only the rayat, the tenants and the landless labourers, but in some places the petty Zamindars also. In other words, it represents and speaks and fights for all those who live by the cultivation of the soil." ~~India, as a dependency of~~  
~~Britain must be transformed~~

Fundamental Demands.—"India, a Dependency of Britain must be transformed into a free, progressive and democratic India of the masses. The fight for such an India can only effectively be conducted on a programme based on the grievances and demands of the Kisans of India. While the fight for these basic changes goes on, the peasants must also fight for all that can be gained within the framework of the existing economic order. Only in this manner can they prepare themselves for the bigger struggle, the objective of which must be kept ever present in the minds of the Kisans.

To this end, we frame the following charter of fundamental and minimum demands of the Kisans, the Provincial Kisan Sabhas having the right to supplement it by a list of their local needs:

(i) Abolition of Zamindari System.— Whereas the present systems of Zamindari (in the U.P., Orissa, Bengal, Behar, Madras,

and Assam), Talukdari (in the U.P., and Gujerat), Malguzari (in the C.P.), Ishtmdari (in Ajmer), Khotes (in Deccan), Zanmis (in Malabar), Inamdari, etc., involving as they do the vesting of ownership of vast areas of land and of the right of collecting and enjoying enormous rent income in persons divorced from land <sup>are</sup> iniquitious, unjust, burdensome and oppressive to the Kisans, and whereas the Zamindars, etc., rack-rent their numerous tenants while neglecting the irrigation sources, all such systems of the landlordism shall be abolished, and all the rights over such lands be vested in the cultivators, and these Kisans <sup>be</sup> made to pay income-tax like the Ryotwari ryots.

Whereas the present systems of land-revenue and resettlement imposed by Government in Ryotwari areas have proved too vexatious and resulted in the progressive pauperisation of peasants, all such systems of land revenue and resettlement shall be abolished and replaced by a graduated land-tax upon net-incomes of Rs. 500 and more (for a family not exceeding five as recommended by the Taxation Enquiry Committee).

(ii) Rural Indebtedness.—Whereas the peasants have been over-burdened by oppressive indebtedness and usurious rates of interest; whereas the lands of most of the peasants have either passed or <sup>are</sup> passing into the hands of ~~xxx~~ absentee landlords, sowcars and urban classes, the peasants shall be completely relieved from all liability to pay their old debts or interest thereon, and the State shall immediately put into operation the necessary machinery to provide agricultural credit for peasants' current needs.

(iii) Provision of Land to Landless Peasantry.—This Committee demands that landless peasants and those having less than five acres each be provided with land to cultivate on the basis of co-operative farming (without the right of alienation), and, since one third of the total cultivable land is still unoccupied and vested in Government, while there is a large number of landless peasants, this Committee resolves that all such lands be granted to the landless Kisans.

(iv) Minimum Demands.—The peasants will immediately take all possible steps to achieve the following minimum demands:

1. Cancellation of all arrears of rent and revenue.
2. Abolition of all land revenue assessment and rent from uneconomic holdings.
3. Reduction by at least 50 per cent of rent and revenue and also of water rates; in no case shall the rent charged by landlords be more than what the Ryotwari ryots have to pay to Government in the neighbouring District or Province under similar circumstances; and in regard to the tenants of the proprietary ryots suitable tenants' legislation must be passed for their relief.
4. Immediate grant of the right of permanent cultivation,

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without the right of alienation, to all tenants and actual cultivators of the lands of Zamindars, Talukdars, Inamdars, Malguzars, Ishmardars, Zamis, Khotas, etc.

5. Grant of the right of remission of rent for all tenants of landlords whenever crops fail and the stoppage of all resettlement operations, and all kinds of enhancements of the rent or land revenue and survey and settlement of all Zamindari, etc., lands.

6. Immediate imposition of an adequate and graduated income-tax, death duty and inheritance tax upon all the agricultural revenues of landlords and merchants.

7. Abolition and penalisation of all feudal and customary dues and forced labour, including Begar and illegal exactions.

8. The declaration of a 5 years' moratorium for all agrarian indebtedness.

9. An immediate enquiry into the extent of amounts borrowed, interest thereon and the assessment of the assets and liabilities of the peasants.

10. Freedom from arrest and imprisonment for inability to pay debts, rents and revenue.

11. Immunity from attachment of all minimum holdings, stables, living quarters, household necessities, dairy and other cattle in execution of civil decrees and revenue and rent demands.

12. Rate of interest, charged by private money-lenders not to exceed 6 per cent per annum, compound interest being penalised.

13. Licensing of all money-lenders.

14. Advancement of State credit, co-operative and land mortgage credit at not more than 5 per cent simple interest and for 40 years. Land Mortgage Banks shall be established in important centres.

15. Lowering of the freight <sup>rates</sup> upon the transport of agricultural commodities and third class railway rates, and the development of canal and road transport.

16. Abolition of all indirect taxes, particularly duties <sup>on</sup> salt, kerosene, sugar, tobacco and matches.

17. Introduction of one pie post card.

18. Prohibition of dumping of food products.

19. Stabilisation of prices of agricultural products at 1929 <sup>the</sup> level by the necessary adjustment of exchange and currency policy and other methods.

20. Safeguarding the customary rights of peasants and workers to secure forest produce (grazing, timber, ~~fuel~~), the abolition of grazing fees, the regulation of grazing and distribution of timber in forests to be vested in village Panchayats, the throwing open of tanks, rivers, etc. ~~xxxharain~~ to peasants, <sup>and</sup> granting of licenses to peasants for bearing fire arms to protect themselves, their cattle and crops from wild animals.

21. The administration of all communal lands howsoever originated, and grazing lands <sup>to</sup> vest in village Panchayats.

22. The enactment of a Peasants' Union Act to safeguard the <sup>peasants'</sup> fundamental rights by collective action.

23. Assurance of a minimum wage and the extension of the Workmen's Compensation Act ~~xxxx~~ to all agricultural workers.

24. The redistribution of the burden of taxation, both Provincial and Central, jointly or variously so as to impose at least 75 per cent of the tax-burden upon the richer classes, and the redistribution of the public expenditure so as to spend and devote 75 per cent of it for the welfare of workers and peasants.

25. Compulsory fixation of a minimum fair price for sugar-cane on a rising scale to give the fullest benefit of Sugar Protection Act to Kisans and to suitably protect the cultivators of jute and coconut by fixing suitable minimum prices.

26. Development of cooperative state-marketing and thus the prevention of the exploitation of peasants by middlemen, and Abolition of all kinds of "charity" deductions made by merchants, and transference of all such present funds to the peasants' associations.

27. Development of the irrigation and drainage facilities for protecting peasants from famines, the taking of all other steps to insure peasants against such calamities, and the establishment of tank restoration funds in all the areas, and financing the timely repairs and improvements of all irrigation and water supply sources.

28. The development of gardens and intensive cultivation, supply of cheap and tested seed and useful fertilisers, popularisation of latest methods of cultivation and the promotion of the agricultural and industrial operations of the State in close consultation and co-operation with Kisan Sabhas.

29. The provision of cattle insurance, fire-insurance and health insurance.

30. Establishment of a village Panchayat for the administration of the civic affairs of every village, the function of distribution of irrigation water supply being entrusted to it.

31. Vesting of power in the Kisan organisations, as in the case of the Sarada Act, to bring to book all those officials (particularly of the P.W.D., Excise, Revenue, Railway and Police <sup>departments</sup>) who take bribes from peasants and workers and exempt ~~the~~ peasants and workers who are obliged to give bribes from any penal punishments.

32. Passing of an agricultural Insolvency Act.

33. Adult franchise and functional representation in all legislatures.

34. Repeal of all anti-peasant, anti-labour and anti-national laws, ordinance and regulations in British and Indian India and the release of all Kisan labour and political prisoners, whether sentenced or detained without trial.

35. Re-instatement of all peasants deprived of their lands, etc. <sup>As their connection with</sup> the movements for the economic and political freedom and also owing to their failure to pay revenue or rent during this economic depression.

36. Immediate establishment of free and compulsory education for girls and boys, medical and sanitary aid, provision for drinking water and a national housing policy.

37. The grant of the right to all peasants to bear arms.

The Committee recommended to the All India Congress Committee to incorporate the minimum demands enumerated above in the Congress Manifesto and make it obligatory on all Congress Candidates to pledge themselves to this ~~or~~ programme.

The Congress Manifesto (vide pages 75-77 of our ~~September~~ August 1936 report) did not however, incorporate all the points raised in the Kisan Manifesto.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 26-8-1936) +

Annual Meeting of Press Employees' Association,  
Calcutta, 1936. +

The annual meeting of the Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, was held on 26-9-1936 at the Indian Association Hall. Mr. Abdul Karim presided.

President's Speech.- The president, in the course of his speech, said that the watchwords of modern life and progress were combination, agitation and organisation. Trade Unionism was therefore the order of the day in every country and labour was everywhere organising to perfect and prove itself to make its voice felt in the conduct not only ~~of~~ social life, but even ~~of~~ politics. He was glad therefore that for 30 years they have done such useful work in their field as was proved by their general and sectional annual reports. He was also glad that they have forced recognition of their Trade Union status. ~~and secured the latest certificate of Registration under the Government of India Legislative Assembly Order of 1936.~~

Continuing, the speaker said that he was glad to note that the Government Press ~~has~~ generally given sympathetic hearing to their representatives, specially since the formal recognition of their beneficent activities in 1920. He hoped that they would continue to get and deserve more and more confidence and respect even from private presses by their effective service, helpful conciliation ~~and~~ arbitration, powerful organisation and unity. It was regrettable, however, that the Railway Press authorities seem unduly antagonistic to them although they have occasionally had to invite their opinions and suggestions in their difficulties. It was also regrettable that

large printing contracts had been given to the outside presses, and at the same time, old hands in Government Presses have been reduced and retrenched on the plea of dearth of work.

Office-bearers for 1936-37.- The following office-bearers with a strong Executive Committee were elected for the coming year:

President - S.J. Mrinal Kanti Bose, Vice-Presidents - Sjs. Satyendra Chandra Mitter, Maulvi Mohabul Huq, K.C. Ray Chaudhury, Prohlad Chandra Ray, Beharilal Sen, Sailendra Nath Ray, A.K. Mazumdar, Munshi Golam Sarad and Amanuddin Chaudhury. General Secretary.- S.J. S.C. Sen, Secretary - S.J. Hirendra Nath Ray. Organising Secretary - S.J. Indu Bhushan Sarcar.

Resolutions Adopted.- The following are some of the more important resolutions adopted:

All India Federation of Press Employees.- This meeting is of opinion that the establishment of an All-India Federation of the Press Employees would be a great stimulus to the growth of fellow-feeling, co-operation and solidarity among the workers in general and the press-employees in particular and invites the respectful attention of press workers all over India to consider the practicability of such an institution.

Piece-Work System Condemned.- That this meeting is deliberately of opinion that the conditions under which the piece-system is worked in all Government and other presses are iniquitous, complex and opposed to the principles of humanity, and this meeting urges the immediate abolition of the system.

Contracts given to Outside Presses.- That this meeting consider that the present practice of giving work to outside presses is detrimental to the interests of Government Press Employees, without there being any substantial saving to the tax-payer, and urges on the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to abandon the practice as early as possible.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28-9-1936) +



Economic Conditions.Steel Merger Scheme:Indian and Bengal Iron Companies to Combine. ✓ +

Arrangements are well in hand for a merger of the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Calcutta, and the Bengal Iron Company. The scheme for the amalgamation has now been approved by the Boards of Directors of both Companies and efforts are being made both in Calcutta and in London to expedite the settlement of final details so as to enable the full detailed scheme to be placed before the shareholders of both the Companies at as early a date as possible for their consideration.

It is hoped that it may be possible to arrange for meetings of shareholders both in Calcutta and in London to be held at the latest by the middle of November 1936. The financing of the new Steel Company, it is proposed, will be undertaken by the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. ~~and~~ in conjunction with Messrs. Burn and Co., Messrs. Bird and Co., and Messrs. Haes and Sons.

Bigger Merger Scheme Contemplated.- Indian Finance, Calcutta, dated 5-9-1936, commenting on the proposed merger says:-

"After this fusion of Bengal Iron into Indian Iron is put through, the stage is set trim and ready for the flotation of what is really the much-talked-of steel merger. In the early half of 1936, the venue of discussions was Bombay; and, in the last few months, the scene has shifted to London where the representatives of Indian Iron, Bengal Iron, x Tata Iron and other interests had met constantly, exchanged ideas, clarified all relevant issues and arrived at an unanimous agreement. The outcome of these conversations is an agreement to provide Rs. 50 millions towards the capital of the new steel works".

(Indian Finance, 5-9-1936 and  
Bombay Chronicle, 2-9-1936). +

Indian Cotton Mill Industry;

Steady Expansion in Production. +

Attention is directed to an article under the caption "Indian Cotton Mill Industry: Steady Expansion in Production" published at page 363 of the Indian Textile Journal for August 1936. (This monthly publication is being regularly received in the Geneva Office).

The author points out that ~~steady~~ steadily increasing production at a satisfactory rate has been the special feature of the Indian cotton mill industry for some years past. The following statistics for the last three years from 1st April to 31st March of each year <sup>furnish</sup> ~~form~~ evidence of this growth:-

1933-34	1934-35	1935-36
(Production in million yards).		
2,945	3,397	3,570

Within two years the production went up <sup>by</sup> ~~to~~ 625 million yards or by more than 20 per cent.

Yarn Production.- The article also gives production figures of yarn. The yarn production according to the principal centres was as follow:-

	<u>1934-35</u>	<u>1935-36</u>
	<u>(Production in million lbs.)</u>	
Bombay City	265	304
Ahmedabad	179	166
Madras	103	113
Bengal	41	41
U.P.	99	107
C.P.	45	46
Indian States	148	155

Export Trade Position.- The exports of Indian piecegoods have shown some advance during the last three years, and in 1935-36 stood at 71,000,000 yards. The chief purchasing countries were Ceylon, Iran, ~~Sia~~ Straits Settlements and Portuguese East Africa, while

Bombay and Madras were the chief exporting ports. The exports of yarn however suffered a heavy setback and fell from 12,000,000 lbs. to 9,000,000 lbs.

Effects of Japanese Competition.- Owing to the Japanese competition, India has lost much of the export trade that naturally belonged to her, for example in Nepal and Afghanistan. Japanese goods are first exported to India and thence re-exported to the neighbouring countries and get refund of duties paid. That is the reason why Indian industrial interests ask for modification of the terms of the existing Indo-Japanese pact.

(The Indian Textile Journal, August 1936.)  
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Employment and Unemployment.

Government of India Examines Sapru Committee's Report:

Provisional Conclusions Arrived at. ✓

At pages 43-47 of our January 1936 report was given a summary of the recommendations made in the Report of the Unemployment Committee of the United Provinces which was presided over by the Rt. Honourable Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. The Government of India has been examining that Report with a view to adoption of measures of an all-India character to solve the problem of educated unemployment, and it is now understood that the Government has arrived at certain provisional conclusions. It seems the opinion is held that so far as the educational deficiency of the existing system is ~~concerned~~ <sup>is concerned,</sup> in turning out employable men, steps may be taken to have a thorough enquiry conducted by experts from abroad. A number of such experts may be needed to cover the entire range of the subjects which may usefully be included, ~~by giving the present academic education a vocational tinge.~~ Enquiries about such experts are probably already being made from the authorities in England. With the help of Sir George Anderson, the Government of India is fully seized of the question, and though its conclusion may take time to mature for publication, it is reported that the examination of the subject has been conducted for months, and that the various aspects of the case have been examined, especially in the light of the opinions of the Sapru Committee.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-9 -1936) +

Vocational Training of Ex-Detenus: Bengal  
Government's Scheme to Solve Unemployment.

During the last one year, the Government of Bengal was carrying on an experiment in giving vocational training to the many political detenus in Bengal jails. According to a Press Note issued recently by the Bengal Government, ~~on the subject~~, it was in August 1935 that the Government decided to give to selected detenus ~~a~~ training at the expense of the State which would enable them to assist in developing the natural resources of the country both to their own profit and to the advantage of the country at large. It was anticipated that ~~that~~ it would take about a year to impart the necessary instruction in industrial occupations, but the great majority of the men selected for training have made such progress that it has been found possible to reduce this period by one-fourth. The first batch, numbering about 57, whose conduct and general attitude have been satisfactory, will finish their training by the end of September, 1936. They will then be released from all restraint imposed on them.

Financial Aid Necessary.- The question has naturally arisen as to whence the further assistance, if any, that might be required to enable the trained men to establish themselves in business is to come. The Government realise that such inability to obtain capital might result in some cases ~~on~~ the training which had been given at the expense of the tax-payer being entirely wasted, and have therefore decided to supplement the training by assuming also the responsibility for the provision of credit facilities. They propose to make available on loan for groups of four to eight ex-detenus, sufficient funds to provide premises, plant and ~~initial~~ initial working capital to enable them to establish small factories in the vicinity of Calcutta.

Advantages of Co-operative Working.- The advantages which it is hoped will be derived from the establishment of groups of partners working together are two. There will be a reduction in overhead charges, and the men, it is hoped, will continue to work,

as they have been trained, with their own hands. If factories were started by individuals they would almost certainly have to employ a number of skilled workmen in order to obtain an output sufficient to cover running expenses and furnish a profit; while one of the main principles of the system of training undertaken by the Government ~~was~~ that the detenus should not become employers of labour, but should themselves be practical craftsmen and perform the actual process of production.

Technical Advice.- To supply the guidance that will be required by the ex-detenus on the technical side of their ventures, there will be a small staff working under the Ministry of Agriculture and Industries whose duty it will be to provide skilled supervision and technical advice. A small marketing organisation will also be set up, whose function it will be to put the producers in touch with the best sources of supply and also with the most remunerative markets.

Conditions of Loan.- Loans to ex-detenus will carry interest at the rate of 6 per cent in view of the ~~x~~ rate charged on the Government loans to agriculturists. A small charge of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on turn-over will be made for the technical advice provided by the supervising staff, while the charge for the services rendered by the marketing organisation will be at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent also on turnover. Detenus now under instruction in agriculture at Moslandpur will complete their course of training in January 1937, and it is intended that assistance on similar lines should be given to them to enable them to establish small farms in groups of about 8.

Wider Application of Scheme: Development of Cottage Industries.- When the training scheme was inaugurated, the hope was also expressed that it might represent the beginning of a determined attack upon the general problem of unemployment. The Government consider that, so far as small industries are concerned, the general facilities for training which are available under the various schemes established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Industries during the last few years are reasonably adequate. But the bugbear of finance remains, and the Government have decided that they would not be justified in providing the generous aid which it is proposed to give to ex-detenus if they were not prepared at the same time to make a substantial contribution towards an endeavour to improve the credit facilities available generally to those who may be contemplating the establishment of small industries. The scheme which, subject to the approval of the Legislature, they are prepared to adopt will be dependent upon public support being forthcoming in the necessary degree, but they think it will be universally recognised that no attempt to solve the problems of unemployment can offer any hope of success in the long run unless it has not only the support of public opinion but the practical backing of the investing public so that it may contain in itself the elements of expansion according to the measure of initial success achieved.

Details of the Scheme. - The scheme proposed, which is avowedly experimental, is based upon that adopted in Great Britain with the approval of Parliament for dealing with the problem of the "depressed areas". The following is a summary of its main features:

(1) An Industrial Credit Corporation to be set up as a public company registered under the Companies Act for the purpose of making loans to approved applicants to enable them to establish small industries in Bengal.

(2) The Government to contribute towards the administration expenses of the company for a period of five years a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,000 a year.

(3) In respect of the first loans issued, up to an amount not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs, the Government to make good from public funds one-half of any loss incurred; and, as the first and subsequent loans are repaid and the sums thus set free are reissued as further loans, Government will similarly accept liability for one-half of any loss incurred. Profits earned after making adequate provision for reserves will accrue entirely to the shareholders.

(4) Undertakings established with the assistance of loans to be systematically inspected under arrangements to be agreed upon between the Government and the Corporation, such inspection to include the giving of technical advice and guidance.

(5) The position of the Corporation to be reviewed at the end of ten years with a view to a decision as to whether it should be continued with or without Government assistance or be wound up.

(6) The arrangements between the Government and the Corporation to be embodied in a formal agreement which will contain such supplementary provisions as may be found necessary.

It is contemplated that on the establishment of such a Corporation, the finance required by ex-detenus, according to the scheme set out in the earlier part of this note, should be provided through that medium.

The Government reserve for further consideration the extension of the proposed credit facilities to exdetenus trained in agriculture and to other persons who may have completed satisfactorily an agricultural training in an institution approved by Government. Proposals for the establishment of one such institution are already under consideration.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, and the Hindu dated 1-9-1936). +

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Fighting Unemployment in C.P.: Local  
Government Appoints Committee. ✓+

The Government of India has offered to give provincial Governments the benefit of the advice of foreign experts in vocational training and this offer has been accepted by the C.P. Government. In order to do the exploratory work and collect data as a preliminary to consultation with the experts, the C.P. Government has appointed a committee of the following members:-(1) The Director of public instruction (chairman), (2) the Director of industries, (3) Sir Sorabji Mehta, Kt., C.I.E., (4) Rao Bahadur G.R. Kothare, L.M.E., M.L.C., (5) Mr. L.G. D'Silva, B.A., (6) the Inspector of Industrial Schools (secretary), and (7) Dr. V.S. Jha.

In a communique issued during the first week of September 1936, the C.P. Government explaining the need for such a committee, says:-

Growing Menace of Unemployment.- The serious state of unemployment among the educated classes is engaging the attention of educationists all the world over. The gravity of the situation in this country has been emphasised by responsible bodies such as the Inter-University Board and the newly-formed Central Advisory Board of Education, both of which recommend a reconstruction of educational policy in such a way as to afford 'diversions' to pupils at the end of suitable stages of instruction. It is hoped, thus, to prevent the present overcrowding in a few selected professions and open out a greater variety of professions and occupations for the educated classes.

Vocational Education.- The present system leads inevitably from the primary school to the University, and one of the items in the educational programme of this province is the revision of the school course so that every child may be able to earn his living in a way best suited to his particular abilities and leanings. In order to effect a re-orientation of our educational policy, there is general agreement that the chief need of the moment is the establishment of separate vocational institutions where, in addition to an irreducible minimum of literary studies, a pupil can be taught the elements of a trade or profession and passed out fully equipped as a wage-earner. The addition of a vocational subject to the curriculum of the existing schools will not be sufficient of itself to divert suitable pupils from purely academic studies and will only serve to aggravate the present unsatisfactory position.

(The Leader, 2-9-1936) +



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Debate on Communism and Unemployment:

Sir P. Sethna's Resolution in Council  
of State. +

On 28-9-1936, Sir Phiroze Sethna moved the following resolution in the Council of State:

"This Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council that, in order to prevent the growth of communistic ideas advocated and propagated by the President of the Congress and others, well-considered measures be adopted as early as possible for relieving unemployment, particularly among the educated lower and middle-classes and for reducing poverty and distress among the vast agricultural and labour population and for promoting their welfare generally."

Sir Phiroze Sethna's speech.- In moving the resolution, Sir Phiroze Sethna said:

Pandit The Advent of Communism.- The Government must have noticed ominous portents on the political horizon of this country. Recently, socialistic and communistic ideas have received an impetus from the vigorous propaganda carried on by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President of the Indian National Congress. The rise of Socialism or Communism is not quite new in the country. There is a distinct Socialist Party within the Congress organisation which has been carrying on its activities and making a good deal of noise within recent years. Its influence within the Congress and outside is steadily growing, and the leaders of that party seem to be confident that the Congress will become a Socialistic organisation in the very near future. Communism also, though perhaps not so active, and growing in influence, seems to be capturing the minds and hearts of an increasing number of young men.

Pandit Jawaharlal's Advocacy.- Nevertheless, until Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became the President of the Congress and began his propaganda in favour of what it is difficult to decide, whether it is Socialism or Communism, socialistic or communistic ideas did not receive widespread or close attention from those who believe and feel that such ideas are extremely harmful and are calculated to retard not only the political but the entire national development of India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru enjoys amongst his countrymen an amount of influence and popularity which cannot be claimed by any other socialistic or communistic leader. His advocacy of Socialism and Communism have strengthened forces which seek to destroy the existing political, social and economic order, and raise on its ruins a new order, socialistic or communistic. I am using both these words because it is not quite clear whether he himself makes any distinction between the two.

Socialism and Capitalism.- My resolution does not content itself with a mere expression of disapproval. In the second part of the resolution I make some proposals for which I claim no originality, for these proposals are generally regarded not only as a cure but as a preventive against the spread of communistic ideas. A carefully adjusted socialistic programme without trying to destroy private property, without showing any unfairness and hostility to capitalism, without seeking to foment class struggle and to do away with capitalism altogether may not be open to any objection. But socialism in the unqualified and unrestricted form in which it is advocated is impossible without excessive governmental control and regimentation, and such control and regimentation is an evil which men cannot or ought not to submit to. These objections apply with greater intensity & greater force to Communism. Capitalism may not be all that it should be, There are undoubtedly bad capitalists and there are good ones. Capitalism might well be improved and liberalised. But because capitalism is not yet what it should be and some capitalists are not what they ought to be, it does not follow that capitalism and capitalists must be destroyed root and branch.

Need for Lessening Unemployment.- I now come to the second and constructive part of my resolution. The vital causes leading to communism are to be found in increasing unemployment particularly among the educated middle classes and in the dire poverty and distress among the vast bulk of the population. If there had been no such unemployment and if the British Government had long ago taken measures to reduce the poverty of the people and raise their standard of living, I have no doubt whatever that this problem of meeting Socialism and Communism would not have arisen at all. More than two generations have passed since the late Dadabhoi Nowroji drew the pointed attention of the Government to the poverty of India and constantly impressed upon them the duty of removing it. It is only recently that the Government seems to have awakened to the vast and deep seriousness of the problems of Indian poverty. Any further delay will make the situation so hopeless as to be beyond improvement. It ~~is~~ is the apathy—the culpable apathy—of the Government in this respect that is really responsible for the growing hold of socialistic and communistic ideas upon the people, in particular upon the youth of this country.

Sapru and Labour Commission's Recommendations.- The immediate problem before the Government is to concentrate their resources and attention ~~for~~ <sup>on</sup> relieving unemployment, reducing poverty and, in general, improving the economic condition of the people. Fortunately, we have at the head of Indian affairs a Viceroy who takes a keen interest in the material welfare of India and whose one ambition seems to be to raise the ~~their~~ standard of life of the people. His report on agriculture, when he presided over the Agricultural Commission, is a monumental document. If measures are taken in accordance with the recommendations in that report, with regard to the improvement of the condition of the agricultural population, and in accordance with the Sapru Committee's recommendations, as regards unemployment, and, further, if the recommendations of the Labour Commission are also carried out, the country feels confident

that within a short time socialistic and communistic ideas will die an inevitable death for want of sustenance, but not until and unless such measures are taken. *will they die out.*

The Debate, - Mr. Barua, Mr. P.N.Sapru, Sir R.N.Choksy, R.B. Lala Ramsaran Das, Mr. Vellingiri Gounder, Mr. A.G.Clow, Mr. M.G. Hallett and Sir Jagdish Prasad participated in the debate which followed.

Mr. A. G. Clow, Secretary, Department of Industries and Labour in his speech did not deny that the problem of remedying Socialistic inequality confronted them on all sides, but the Government were doing their best even before Communism came to be understood as a real menace to India. The difficulty lay in making those in positions of power in industries, realise the necessity of treating labour as a living part of enterprise. As regards the welfare of labour, Mr. Clow recalled the conditions 16 years ago and now. Though welfare of labour was a provincial subject, labour legislation was a central subject. The progress made in these 16 years was very creditable and Mr. Clow hoped <sup>that</sup> in the new Councils, with representatives of Labour, further progress would be made. There were still factory owners who victimized leaders of labour. Employers should recognize the need of collective expression of labour as in England.

Mr. M.G.Hallett, the Home Secretary, said that the Government of India always regarded communism and terrorism as public enemies, and dealt with them with laws which the Council had passed from time to time. The Communist Party ~~was~~ declared unlawful in August, 1934, and remained so till today. Mr. Hallett detailed some of the measures outlined in the debate in the Assembly on agricultural indebtedness, and said ~~that~~ <sup>when</sup> the new constitution starts ~~we will~~ <sup>have</sup> the new Governments ~~tackling~~ these problems with even greater vigour and efficiency.

Sir Jagdish Prasad, Member in Charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, referred to irrigation schemes, the Agricultural Commission's report and the Debt Conciliation Boards in certain provinces. He believed that evolutionary changes, and not armed conflict, would benefit the people.

Sir P. Sethna, in his speech closing the debate, pointed out that it was noteworthy that no non-official speaker wanted Communism in India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the symbol of Communism and his doctrines were opposed by Congress leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Rajendra Prasad.

Resolution Carried. - The resolution was put and carried without a division.

(The Statesman, 29-9-1936) +

A reference to this debate, with a special mention of Mr. Clow's contribution to the discussion, might usefully be made in "Industrial and Labour Information". The verbatim report of the debate is published in the Council of State Debates of 28-9-1936. Mr. Clow's speech is reproduced in the Hindustan Times of 8-10-36; a cutting of the speech is sent with the press cuttings accompanying this Report.

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Social Conditions.

Criminal Tribes in Bombay Presidency: Working  
of the Settlements, 1935-36.\*

Population. - According to the Report on the Working of settlements established under the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency, during the year ending 31-3-1936, the total population of settlements, as it stood on 31-3-1936, was 8,183 as against 8,199 in the previous year. There is thus a slight fall of 16. During the year, 158 registered persons with 283 dependents, were interned in settlements on the recommendation of the Police; 41 persons living in settlements and free colonies were registered and interned under section 16 of the Criminal Tribes Act (together with their 68 dependents) as they had proved by their conduct that it was unsafe to release them from settlements or to allow them to reside in free colonies. About 19 persons for whom Government orders for internment have been obtained, had not yet arrived on account of some being in jail and others absconding. During the year 541 persons in all, were released on licence and 114 persons in all, were recalled to settlements for breach of conditions of licence. The population of the free colonies as it stood on 31-3-1936 was 7,099 as against 6,865 in the last year.

Employment.- The Report observes that owing to unstable economic conditions, and long continued trade depression and its after effects, great efforts were needed to keep the people in various settlements employed during the year. 1,525 men, 727 women and 93 half-timers are employed in the Spinning and Weaving Mills, Railway Workshops or Factories. It is remarked that all settlement managers found it very difficult to secure employment for the members of their settlements.

Health, Housing and Sanitation.- Most of the settlers live in huts of their own construction. These huts look untidy and frail, but settlers are gradually realising the advantages of a substantially built house. Where this is not possible, decent and spacious huts are being built.

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\* Annual Administration Report on the Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31-3-1936-Part I.-Bombay:Printed at the Government Central Press 1936.-Price Annas 2 or 3d.-pp.33.

The general health of the settlers and of those living in free colonies, has been good on the whole, except for stray outbreaks of cholera in some of the settlements and Free colonies.

The infant welfare centres and the school children's clinics, in <sup>the</sup> Sholapur and Hubli settlements, have continued to do good work and the scientific treatment of venereal diseases at Hubli has proved to be of great value. Treatment for venereal disease has been introduced in the Reformatory Section of <sup>the</sup> Bijapur Settlement.

Education - General and Vocational.- Education in settlements is compulsory for both boys and girls. Out of a total population of 8,183 in the settlements proper, the numbers of children attending the day and night schools are 1,856 and 357 respectively, and out of a population of 7,099 in the free colonies, the corresponding numbers are 1,294 and 223. Thus the number of children attending day and night schools per thousand of the population is 270.4 for settlements and 213.6 for free colonies. In addition, 335 children from settlements and free colonies, attend outside vernacular schools and 16 children attend English schools. A few boys are being sent to English High Schools in the towns. 280 non-criminal tribe children, and 76 children of the Criminal Tribes from outside, attend settlement schools. In general, the school work has been satisfactory during the year and the results of Government settlement schools, in examinations are on the whole quite satisfactory and encouraging.

73 boys have been apprenticed in various trades, such as carpentry 31, tailoring 6, smithy 5, weaving 27, motor driving 3, and "chappal" <sup>shoe</sup> making 1. There are 206 children in the manual training classes of settlement schools. During the year, 25 boys have passed the examination in carpentry and drawing, and 9 in the examination in weaving. Training in Agriculture is given to 44 lads in agricultural settlements. Special attention is paid to manual training in most of the settlement schools. But the problem of finding employment as masons and carpenters for boys leaving school has become increasingly difficult.

Cooperation.- The Co-operative Credit and Producer's Societies in settlements have had a satisfactory year. Special attention is being paid to increase the deposits from settlers in order to provide them with a small capital for purchasing lands or building houses on

the eve of their discharge on licence. The effect of <sup>the</sup> depression is seen in the accumulation of deposits. In Hubli alone, during 1934-35, the Co-operative Society advanced Rs. 5,820 as loans for house building. During 1935-36 the amount was Rs. 2,140. The Society has had to refuse some deposits and return other deposits as there was no useful demand for loans. The total deposits of all settlements as they stood on 31-3-1936 amounted to Rs. 36,847-12-8. The amount of share capital was Rs. 17,875-6-0.

Discharge from Settlements. - During the year, 91 registered persons with 294 dependents have been discharged on licence from settlements to free colonies attached to settlements. 46 registered persons with their 110 dependants have been allowed to return on licence to their villages; thus the total number of persons discharged from settlements is 541 of whom 137 were registered persons and the rest were dependents. As against this, 114 persons in all were recalled to settlements for violation of the terms of the conditions of their licence. The total number of ex-settlers who were being supervised on licence at the end of the year was 1,000 registered persons with 3,260 dependents. The percentage of recalls of registered persons works out at 2.8 per cent.

Free Colonies. - The total population of free colonies stood at 7,009 during the year under review. The practice of building good houses on free colonies is continued. The free colonies at Hubli and Gadag are reported to be worthy of special mention. As reported in the last year, the policy of release on licence to villages, as distinguished from release on licence to free colonies, has been almost abandoned in respect of wandering tribes as there is very little hope of turning them into good cultivators. The only hope for members of these tribes is to keep them permanently in organised colonies in industrial areas under supervision and gradually absorb them in the ordinary population of the locality.

Special Institutions. - The Women's Home attached to <sup>the</sup> Hubli settlement, which has been established for troublesome and immoral women of all settlements has continued its beneficent work. ~~and~~ During the year, 25 women were admitted and 21 were discharged. At the close of the year, 14 were left in the home. The Women's Home attached

to <sup>the</sup> Bijapur settlement contained all women at the time of submitting the report. This Home is intended for women who are too old and hardened to be suitably kept at Hubli Women's Home and who, it is feared, would have a bad moral influence on the younger women. The Children's Homes at Hubli, Sholapur and Baramati closed the year with 90 inmates of whom two are absconding. 21 children have been discharged from these homes and 26 were newly admitted during the year. Only in extreme cases are children separated from their parents and placed in these homes. The Children's Homes at Hubli and Sholapur have been declared as Certified Schools under the Children Act.

(The Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency during the year 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 78-82 of our July 1935 report).

#### Census of Vagrants in Mysore City: Economic and Health Conditions.

A census of vagrants in Mysore City, conducted at the instance of the president of the Mysore City Municipality, by the Statistics Department of the Maharaja's College, Mysore, in collaboration with the municipality, has just been completed.

In all, 527 vagrant families consisting of 701 persons, of whom 577 were males and 124 females were enumerated. The causes of vagrancy are varied and of deep human interest. Chief among them are domestic unhappiness, severe economic pressure, a religious complex and an inborn vagabondizing propensity. Those born with the tramp temperament are the most curious. A happy vagrant of this tribe admitted his preference of vagrancy to a job on Rs.10 a day, month.

Religion and Education.- By far the largest number of vagrants were Hindus, their number being 561 (466 males and 95 females) out of a total of 701. Moslems number 122 (96 males and 26 females),

and Christians 18 (15 males and three females). There were many multi-linguists among the vagrants. More than 17 per cent (123) of the vagrants could read and write one or more of five languages. One of these vagrants had received training in shorthand and type-writing; one had studied up to the Secondary School Leaving Certificate standard and three had passed the Lower Secondary examination. Nearly half the number of vagrants were in the prime of manhood, that is, between the ages of 20 and 39, and over a fourth of the total were children and young persons below 19.

Economic Conditions.- Begging was the occupation of 146 vagrants. More than 300 were engaged in a wide variety of crafts and occupations. The economic conditions of the vagrants may be gauged from their personal effects and possessions as well as from their ascertained earnings. Several of them were in comparatively affluent circumstances. Some of them owned houses and jewels. Over a hundred had cash up to Rs. 40. Some earned more than a rupee a day. The earnings of others ranged from four annas a day to about a rupee a day. Some of the vagrants had dependants, earners among them being only 448 males and 31 females.

Health.- Some of the vagrants were suffering from contagious and loathsome diseases. Thirteen were insane; more than 40 were defectives, the scourge of blindness, full or partial being the largest single affliction.

(The Statesman, 13-9-1936) +



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Social Conditions.

1st Punjab Social Service Conference, 1936. +

Arrangements are being made for the holding of a Punjab Social Service Conference, the first of its kind, on 13 and 14-10-1936 at Lahore. A large number of experienced social servants and social workers are expected to assemble on the occasion for deciding upon and taking measures <sup>of</sup> ~~for~~ social service to the people on non-political and non-communal lines.

The objects of the Punjab Social Service Conference are:-

~~To~~ To consider and take steps to form a federation of social service organisations in the Punjab. ~~with the following objects:-~~

~~a.~~ a. To promote the study of social problems and to act as a centre of information and ~~a~~ advice for social service organisations and their workers.

~~b.~~ b. To focus public opinion on the need of organising social service on proper lines throughout the province and to popularise the ideals of social service.

~~c.~~ c. To collect and publish information about the various agencies engaged in the work of social service in the Punjab.

~~d.~~ d. To provide opportunities for mutual exchange of views and experiences of social service workers about important aspects of social service.

~~e.~~ e. To consider any other questions affecting social service work in the Punjab, as may be deemed proper.

(The Statesman, 16-9-1936) +

Co-operation.Progress of Co-operative Movement in India, 1934-35<sup>\*</sup>. +

The Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during 1934-35 give a detailed record of the main statistics relating to co-operative societies in the several provinces of British India (with the exception of Baluchistan, where the co-operative movement has, as yet, made little progress), and in the Indian States of Mysore, Baroda, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Kashmir, Travancore and Cochin for the year 1934-35.

Number of Societies and Membership.— 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 105,083 in 1933-34 to 106,011 during 1934-35. The number of societies per 100,000 inhabitants fell from 32.8 to 31.8 in British India and from 43.1 to 40.8 in Indian States for which figures are given and fell from 34.1 to 33 for the whole of India. The total number of members of primary societies in India increased from 4,316,222 in 1933-34 to 4,409,637 during 1934-35. The number of members of primary societies per 1,000 inhabitants fell from 13.5 to 13.3 in British India and from 17.3 to 16.3 in Indian States for which information is available, and fell from 14 to 13.7 for the whole of India. The working capital for all India rose from Rs. 957,258,000 in 1933-34 to Rs. 968,852,000 in 1934-35 and the

<sup>\*</sup>Seventeenth Issue. NC-SCM/35. Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during the year 1934-35. Published by Order of the Governor-General in Council. Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1936. No.3001. Price Re.1-10 or 2s.9d. pp. 21.

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working capital of co-operative societies expressed in terms of annas per head of population decreased from 51 in 1933-34 to 50 in 1934-35 in British India and from 38 to 37 in Indian states for which statistics are given and from 50 to 48 in the whole of India.

Finances.- In 1934-35, 615 Provincial and Central Banks with a membership of 85,195 individuals and 89,084 societies had reserve funds amounting to Rs. 16,871,067, working capital amounting to Rs. 293,997,103 and profits amounting to Rs. 3,917,939. There were 92,920 agricultural societies with a membership of 3,008,152 in 1934-35 having reserve funds amounting to Rs. 72,474,951, working capital amounting to Rs. 342,234,574 and profits amounting to Rs. 11,209,977. Similarly, in the case of non-agricultural societies, 11,428 societies with a membership of 1,387,753 had reserve funds amounting to Rs. 18,634,126, working capital amounting to Rs. 216,247,151 and profits amounting to Rs. 7,222,310. +

Women and Children.

11th Session of A.I. Women's Conference to be Held  
at Ahmedabad in December 1936. +

~~On~~ The 11th session of the All-India Women's Conference will be held in Ahmedabad in the third week of December 1936 under the presidentship of either Rani Laxmibai Rajwade of Gwalior or Mrs. Cousins.

The resolutions to be moved at the annual session will be under three heads, educational, social, and labour. The educational resolutions will deal with the differentiation to be made in the status of the Matriculation and the School Final examinations; mass education and broadcasting in relation to mass education; hostels for women; need to withhold Government grants from communal institutions and abolish communal hostels; voluntary efforts for adult education; and summer camps for women.

The social and political resolutions will deal with support of legislation relating to the welfare of women and children, the introduction of Children Acts in those provinces and states where they do not exist; the establishment of rescue homes; rural reconstruction; the proper control of religious endowments; the removal of untouchability and the inclusion of women in Cabinets and the Administration under the new constitution.

The resolutions concerning labour will include the housing problem, social insurance, an All-India Maternity Act, and child labour.

(The Times of India, 26-9-1936).+

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Education.

Vocational Training in C. P.:

Committee Appointed to Reorganise Educational System. +

The Central Provinces Gazette, dated 28-8-1936, publishes a resolution of the local Government appointing a Committee ~~x~~ to enquire into the present system of education with a view to exploring possibilities of giving it a vocational trend.

The resolution points out the following salient features of the present position:

"Diversification" to Suitable Professions.- The serious state of unemployment among the educated classes is engaging the attention of educationists all the world over. The gravity of the situation in this country has been emphasised by responsible bodies such as the Inter-University Board and the newly-formed Central Advisory Board of Education, both of which recommend a reconstruction of educational policy in such a way as to afford "diversions" to pupils at the end of suitable stages of instruction. It is hoped, thus, to prevent the present overcrowding in a few selected professions and open out a greater variety of professions and occupations for the educated classes.

Literary Weightage Undesirable.- The present system leads inevitably from the Primary School to the University and one of the items in the educational programme ~~xx~~ of the ~~xxxx in~~ Central Province is the revision of the school course so that every child may be able to earn his living in a way best suited to his particular abilities and leanings. It is not desirable that only the interests of those whose training ~~x~~ includes a university course should be considered; it is unfair that the educational programme should be heavily weighted on the purely literary side. The end of each stage of instruction should be regarded as a landing place from which a pupil can set forth on some satisfactory and profitable career. This applies particularly to the Middle and High School stages in which the courses of instruction, while broadening the minds of the pupils, should enable them at the same time to take up occupations for which other than literary skill is needed.

Separate Vocational Institutions.- In order to effect a re-orientation of the present educational policy, there is general agreement that the chief need of the moment is the establishment of separate vocational institutions where, in addition to an irreducible minimum of literary studies, a pupil can be taught the elements of a trade or profession and passed out fully equipped as a wage-earner. The addition of a vocational subject

to the curriculum of the existing schools will not be sufficient of itself to divert suitable pupils from purely academic studies and will only serve to aggravate the present unsatisfactory position.

Committee Appointed.— The Government of India has offered to give Provincial Governments the benefit of the advice of foreign experts in vocational training and this offer has been accepted by the Local Government. In order to do the exploratory work and collect data as a preliminary to consultation with the experts, the Government of the Central Province has appointed a Committee composed of the following members:—

(1) Director of Public Instruction - Chairman. (2) Director of Industries. (3) Sir Sorabji Mehta, Kt., C.I.E., (4) Rao Bahadur G.R. Kothare, L.M.E., M.L.C. (5) Mr. L.G.D'Silva, B.A. (6) Inspector of Industrial Schools. (7) Dr. V.S. Jha - Secretary.

The Committee has issued a questionnaire to collect data.

(Pages 747-751 of Part I of the C.P. Gazette of dated 28-8-1936)

*\*Reference to the appointment of this Committee is also made in the Section: "Employment and Unemployment" of this Report.*

## Agriculture.

### Agricultural Statistics of Indian States, 1933-34\*. +

The following details regarding agricultural statistics in Indian States are taken from Vol. II of Agricultural Statistics of India, 1933-34. This volume deals with statistics for Indian States as far as reported. As in the previous issues, summary tables have been inserted to show the total figures relating to area, the classification of area, and the area under crops for each State or group of States, and the totals for all the reporting States. These statistics are defective for comparative purposes, as additions have been made in the number of reporting States from time to time. It should be noted that, for the reasons explained in subsequent paragraphs, the agricultural statistics of Indian States are incomplete. They are also of far less accuracy than those of British Provinces published in Volume I. As these States comprise one-third of the total area of India, the importance of the statistics relating to them can scarcely be over-estimated.

Area and Population of Indian States.— The total area of Indian States is about 461 million acres (720,000 square miles), with a population of 81 millions according to the Census of 1931. These States are divided, for purposes of agricultural statistics, into two main classes, namely, (1) States within the jurisdiction of Local Governments and Administrations, and (2) States having direct political relations with the Government of India.

States within the jurisdiction of Local Governments and Administrations.— The total area of these States is 34,093,000 acres, with a population of 5 millions. The agricultural statistics dealt with in this volume relate, so far as this class of state is concerned, only to 26 States in the Punjab and the United Provinces, for which alone information is available. The total area of these 26 States

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\* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India.—Agricultural Statistics of India 1933-34 Vol. II.—Area, Classification of Area, Area under Irrigation, Area under Crops, Live-Stock, and Land Revenue Assessment in certain Indian States.—Delhi: Manager of Publications 1936.—Price Rs. 5 or 8s. 3d. —pp. 332

is 7,414,000 acres and the total population 1,644,000.

States having direct political relations with the Government of India.- The total area of States coming under the second category is 426,861,000 acres with a population of 75,807,000. Returns were received from 44 States in this category leaving a total area of 251,360,000 and population of 53,713,000. The total area of ~~z~~ all the seventy reporting States named above amounts to 258,774,000 acres with a population of 55 millions. These States, therefore, contain about 56 per cent of the total area, and 68 per cent of the total population, of the Indian States.

From the total area of all the seventy reporting States (258,774,000 acres), deduction must be made of 113,981,000 acres, comprising chiefly unsurveyed areas and lands held on jagir, muafi, and other privileged tenures, for which statistics are not available. The net area actually covered by these statistics is, therefore, only 144,793,000 acres by professional survey, or 144,953,000 acres according to village papers.

Classification of Area.- The area of ~~z~~ 144,953,000 acres is classified, for purposes of agricultural statistics, under the heads shown below:-

	Thousand acres	Per cent.
Forests. ...	17,476	12.0
Not available for cultivation	27,329	18.9
Culturable waste other than fallow ...	17,153	11.8
Current fallows. ...	11,791	8.2
Net area sown. ...	71,204	
Total.	<u>144,953</u>	<u>100</u>

The net area sown, however, excludes areas sown more than once in the year. If areas sown more than once are taken as separate area for each crop, the gross area sown in the year of report amounts to 75,722,000 acres.

Classification of Area Sown.- The gross area cultivated with crops in the reporting States was, as stated above, about 76 million acres in 1933-34. The different classes of crops and the area occupied by each, so far as details are available, ~~are~~ are stated in the following table:



	Thousand acres.	per cent of total
Food-grains	52,976	70.5
Condiments and spices.	363	0.5
Sugar.	242	0.3
Fruits and vegetables	665	0.9
Miscellaneous food crops.	<u>1,734</u>	<u>2.3</u>
Total food crops.	<u>55,980</u>	<u>74.5</u>
Oilseeds.	7,195	9.6
Fibres.	7,254	9.6
Dyes and tanning materials.	3	...
Drugs and narcotics.	447	0.6
Fodder crops.	3,086	4.1
Miscellaneous non-food crops.	<u>1,171</u>	<u>1.6</u>
Total non-food crops.	<u>19,156</u>	<u>25.5</u>

(The Agricultural Statistics for Indian States for 1932-33 are reviewed at pages 59-60 of our December 1935 report). +

Rural Indebtedness: Appointment of Committee

of Enquiry Urged in Legislative Assembly. +

Mr. N.C.Chunder, M.L.A., moved in the Legislative Assembly on 24-9-1936 a resolution urging the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry into rural indebtedness and to devise ways and means and provisions of laws by which the interests of agriculturists could be fully safeguarded, ~~and whereby <sup>thereby</sup> extricate them from their present miserable plight.~~ In moving the resolution, he emphasized that agricultural indebtedness had been growing since Sir Frederic Nicholson had reported on the co-operative credit system. While the Banking Commission had estimated the burden at Rs. 9,000 million, Sir. M. Visvesvarayya had put the figure Rs. 500 millions higher. Anyway, every member of the agricultural population was indebted to the extent of Rs. 50. Britain and other countries of the Empire had made serious attempts to tackle the question as <sup>a</sup> national problem. The Government of India, he urged, should do likewise.

Dr. De Souza's Amendment.- Dr. De Souza moved an amendment substituting the resolution by another recommending the Government to take immediate action on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, the Banking Inquiry Committee and the Civil Justice Committee for relieving agricultural indebtedness, and to appoint a special officer with three non-official advisers to suggest measures in consultation with local Governments on the lines of those recommendations. He said that it was true that agriculture was a provincial subject like public health, but asked had not the Viceroy announced that the Central Government would appoint a Board of Public Health? Similarly, the Central Government could lay down a policy for the provinces in the matter of rural indebtedness.

European Group's Views.- Mr. Morgan agreed with the mover in desiring to do something to relieve the indebtedness of the agricultural population, which was estimated at Rs. 10,000 millions, but he feared that the methods by which they sought to achieve a solution were bound to differ from province to province. Rural indebtedness, he pointed out, is a vast problem and a great deal has already been done by the Government. The House has voted funds for rural development Acts which have been passed by local

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legislatures, marketing boards have been set up, research institutes established, irrigation schemes put into operation, and so forth all with the object of improving rural conditions and anything which contributes towards the improvement of rural conditions cannot be entirely barren of good results. The very fact that the aggregate of these beneficent activities must present an impressive picture and yet the plight of the rural areas still leaves a great deal to be desired, serves to indicate the very vastness of the problem which has to be tackled.

Speaking on the causes of rural indebtedness, Mr. Morgan said that indebtedness is caused by a number of circumstances, some of which are within the control of the cultivator and some of which are, by the very nature of the work upon which he is engaged, outside his control. In the first place, there are ancestral debts which are inherited from generation to generation. There are debts incurred through improvident expenditure on domestic ceremonies, such as marriages. But the remedy for debts of that nature can only come with the progress of social education. Then there are the debts which are caused through failure of crops, the replacement of cattle and the rebuilding of houses destroyed by fire, flood and storm. These latter debts are for the most part outside the control of the cultivator. They are circumstances which are always present and which cannot be eliminated from agriculture. Then, finally, one might mention the usurious rates of interest which the cultivator is called upon to pay because his credit is not good. The rate of interest varies between 36 and 60 per cent and it is easy to see that, with such rates of interest, a small debt can soon grow to formidable proportions.

All the same, Mr. Morgan was not convinced of the necessity for a special committee. The problem is partly educational and no solution can be entirely effective or successful until the cultivator himself realizes the necessity for the avoidance of all unnecessary debts. The main problem, however, is to increase the cultivators' income. An improvement in agricultural prices is the first and most urgent requirement. There are also many other directions in which the problem might be tackled. There is the suggestion for the consolidation of holdings. Then there is the cultivation of ancillary cottage industries such as dairy farming and so forth, so that the cultivator may have other sources of income. There is the improvement of livestock and improved transport and marketing facilities. In the nature of things the problem of rural indebtedness is necessarily a provincial problem and must be tackled by the provinces themselves.

Government Reply.— On behalf of the government Sir G.S. Bajpai, Mr. M.L. Darling and Sir Henry Craik opposed the resolution. Sir G.S. Bajpai gave a recital of what had been done hitherto by provincial Governments and the Government of India, and advised the Assembly to wait until the volume of legislation recently passed by several provinces had borne fruit and their results studied. The Government of India did not disclaim responsibility merely on the ground that the subject could be handled by provincial

Governments, but the House must recognise the limitations of the Government of India. Three years after the Banking Inquiry Committee had reported there was a conference of provincial Finance Members and others when the question of rural indebtedness was examined. The Government adopted a policy of liberal remissions to cultivators, and efforts were also made to check the rates of interest on agricultural borrowings.

Sir Henry Craik felt that the <sup>case</sup> argument for an inquiry was unconvincing. Already 30 Acts had been passed in the provincial legislatures and a few more were under the consideration of provincial legislatures. A provincial Government was recently asked to report on the effect of these Acts on the position of indebtedness. Such replies as had been received indicated that it was too early to give any correct appreciation, but that so far as could be seen, the effect had been certainly favourable. ~~At any rate, the capacity of money lenders had been less of late.~~ Six months hence each province would have autonomy and if an inquiry was now instituted they would be perfectly entitled to say "We do not want a committee of inquiry". Why invite that certain rebuff from the provinces?

Resolution carried.- The House divided, on the resolution, which was carried by 74 votes to 41. +

(The Statesman, 25-9-1936)

Maritime Affairs.Reduction of Hours of Work in Madras Docks.

The Madras Port Trust has~~ed~~ revised the by-law relating to hours of work in the port docks~~xx~~ reducing them from twelve to <sup>per day.</sup> ten hours. The new by-law has come into effect since 15-9-1936.

(The Hindu, 16-9-1936)-

Migration.Indians in Ceylon, 1935: Report of the Agent of the  
Government of India\*.

Statistics of Indians in Ceylon: According to the Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1935, out of a total population of 5,617,000 in Ceylon, about 775,000 were Indians. The number of Indian labourers and their dependants on estates on the 31-12-1935 was as follows:-

		Total	Men.	Women.	Children.
Workers.	...	470,471	208,874	193,453	68,144
Dependants.	...	203,553	5,351	11,286	186,916
Total.	...	674,024	214,225	204,739	255,060

Immigration Figures.- The number of Indian estate labourers who immigrated into Ceylon during the year 1935 was 43,018 as against 140,607 in 1934. It will be seen ~~therefrom~~ that with the exception of 1933, which was the worst year of depression, the figure for 1935 is the lowest since 1923. During the year under review, the number of Indian estate labourers who returned from Ceylon to India at their own cost was 43,036 as against 54,790 in 1934 and 46,626 in 1933. While during the years 1930 to 1933 departures exceeded arrivals from India, in 1934 there was an excess of about 85,000 arrivals into Ceylon over departures to India. In 1935, however, the numbers of arrivals and departures were about the same. The flow of immigration into Ceylon is generally a rough index of the prosperity of the tea and rubber industries in the Island. 1930 to 1933 were years of depression when there was a heavy fall in the immigration of

\* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1935.-Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1936. Price Re.1-2 or 2s. pp. 59 +

estate labourers into Ceylon. At the beginning of 1934, the industries began to recover and consequently there was brisk recruitment of labourers from India, and a considerable excess of immigration over emigration. In 1935 the number of immigrants into Ceylon was considerably less in view of the fact that there was heavy recruitment during the previous year and the labour force on estates was slightly in excess of requirements. During this year the number of emigrants from Ceylon was also proportionately small.

Repatriation. - The total number of estate labourers repatriated from Ceylon to India during the year 1935 was 6,252, as against 2,304 in 1934 and 42,343 in 1933. A special scheme for the repatriation of those labourers who were discharged from estates which were closed down or placed on a "care and maintenance" basis, but could not secure employment elsewhere, was sanctioned by the Ceylon Government in April 1935. But no labourer was repatriated under this scheme.

Minimum Wages on Estates. - There was no change in the minimum rates of wages in estates during the year under review from those prevailing since 16-11-1934.

~~Workmen~~ Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. - The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, which was passed by the State Council on 11-12-1934 was brought into force by a Proclamation in the Ceylon Gazette on 1-8-1935. The Controller of Labour is the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation. The total number of accidents during the year 1935 among Indian labourers, reported to have resulted in temporary disablements, was 546. Compensation in these cases was paid by the employer direct, and the information regarding the exact

13.  
amount paid in each case is not available. There was no case of permanent disablement reported to the Commissioner. There were seven fatal cases of accidents among Indian labourers in Ceylon in which compensation was awarded during the year.

Trade Unions Ordinance.- This Ordinance came into force from 1-11-1935. The Controller of Labour has been appointed the Registrar of Trade Unions. The Ordinance stipulates that all existing Trade Unions should register themselves within three months from the 1st November 1935, and that all new Trade Unions should get registered within three months of their coming into existence. This does not, however, affect Indian estate labourers among whom there are no Trade Unions.

Indebtedness of Indian Labourers.- The Agent has called attention to the chronic indebtedness of the Indian labourer and has suggested remedies such as a fortnightly payment of wages to estate labourers, the starting of subsidiary occupations and the setting up of cooperative stores and thrift societies on estates. It is reported that there were 14 cooperative stores at the end of 1935 and that such stores are becoming very popular.

(The Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for 1934 is reviewed at pages 56-60 of our October 1935 report). 1



Restrictions on Indians: Position in  
British Empire. +

A statement showing the disabilities which Indians suffered in the Empire Countries was laid on the table of <sup>HC</sup> Assembly on ~~1-9-~~ ~~31-8-~~ 1936 by the Government of India.

New Zealand.- It showed that in New Zealand there was no restriction to enter that country, if the formalities regarding the possession of a valid passport were fulfilled. Nor were there any restrictions on temporary visits for the purpose of business. The only disability from which Indians suffered in this Dominion was their exclusion from the benefits of the Old-Age Pensions Act, but the practical consequences were not serious as the total Indian population was approximately 1,100 only.

Australia.- In Australia too there was no restriction for entry nor on visits for purposes of business. Business of course means wholesale business and does not include retail business and hawking. The resident Indians, so far as the Government were aware, were not subjected to any economic restrictions.

Canada.- As regards Canada (including British Columbia) the position was the same as in Australia. The only disability from which Indians suffered there was their exclusion from municipal, provincial and federal franchise in the province of British Columbia.

Union of South Africa.- Permission should be obtained before entering the Union of South Africa (which includes Natal, the Transvaal and the Cape Colony) as a visitor. Similarly, permission must be obtained before visiting the country for the purpose of business. ~~The~~ Entry for permanent settlement was not allowed and, in the Transvaal, Indians "may not own land or even occupy it in certain areas". There were certain restrictions against Indians in regard to ownership of fixed property, residence, franchise and trade licences.

British Guiana.- Absolutely no restrictions existed against Indians ~~in~~ in British Guiana and Trinidad. In the former country all immigrants landing there were required to show the police an amount of 96 dollars; while in the latter country persons not born or domiciled in Trinidad were required to deposit £ 50 which amount was refundable at the end of twelve months.

Kenya and Jamaica.- Similarly, there were no restrictions against Indians in Jamaica and Kenya. In Jamaica, Indians who have been born there ~~xxx~~ or who have completed ten years' residence possessed the same political rights as the native population, while in Kenya Highlands in practice Indians were not allowed to to own or lease land for agricultural purposes. In Kenya,  
★

Asiatic or African emigrants, without visible means of support or who were likely to become paupers or <sup>become</sup> a charge on the colonial revenues, were required to pay a deposit of 200 shillings or furnish security to that amount.

Uganda, Tanganyika, etc..- Under the local laws there were no restrictions against Indians in Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyasaland and Mauritius. In Uganda, Asiatic or African emigrants without visible means of support or who were likely to become paupers or a charge on the colonial revenues, were required to pay a deposit of 200 shillings or furnish security to that amount. In Tanganyika, a non-native entering the territory has to produce a passport duly issued to him not more than five years before the date of his arrival. He has also to pay a deposit of £ 100 for himself and £ 50 per child or each dependant. In Nyasaland, the Immigration Officer could demand a deposit of £50 from an immigrant on his arrival in the country which amount was returnable at the end of six months, if he were able to show that he was not likely to become a public charge. In Mauritius, all immigrants were required to prove on landing that they would be able to maintain themselves in the Colony for at least one year. Doubtful cases were required to deposit a security of Rs. 200.

Zanzibar and Northern Rhodesia..- There were no restrictions against Indians in Zanzibar and Northern Rhodesia too. In Zanzibar, under the ~~Alienation~~ Alienation of Land Decree 1934, the alienation of land by Arabs and Africans to others, including Europeans, was prohibited except with the sanction of the British Resident, and new immigrants were required on arrival either to deposit Rs.100 or give a guarantee of an equivalent amount. In Northern Rhodesia, there was no formal discrimination against Asiatics entering the Colony, but each individual case was scrutinised as to fitness to enter the Colony (i) on economic grounds and (ii) on standard or habits of life.

British Somaliland, Malaya etc..- There were absolutely no restrictions whatever in British Somaliland, British North Borneo, Malaya and Gold Coast Colony against Indians. The Government of India had no information regarding restrictions for establishment of industries, entering into services, owning residential and other property and for agricultural purposes in respect to the latter colony.

Ceylon..- As regards Ceylon, Indians did not suffer any restrictions. So far as the Government of India were aware, there was no statutory bar to the appointment of lawfully resident Indians to the Civil Services in all the Colonies and Dominions, except Ceylon and Malaya. Indians, like other non-Ceylonese, unless they were domiciled in Ceylon and possessed a Ceylon domicile of origin, could not purchase Crown land set apart for systematic development by "Ceylonese" under the Land Development Ordinance, No.19 of 1935.

Fiji Landing permit should be obtained beforehand from the Secretary for Indian Affairs before an Indian could land at Fiji

and the Immigration authorities might demand a deposit of £50 in the case of any person who was likely to become a charge on the colonial revenues.

Southern Rhodesia.- With regard ~~to~~ to the self-governing colony of Southern Rhodesia, an Indian was required to obtain permission before landing or before starting a business. Indians were prohibited from entering the Colony for permanent residence. Resident Indians enjoyed municipal and political franchise on the same basis as Europeans. There were, however, restrictions in regard to (1) the grant of licences to Indians for purposes of trade in Native areas and (2) the sale or lease to Indians of Crown lands situated in proximity to native areas.

No Restrictions on Dominion Nationals in India.- Finally, the statement mentions that the Government of India have placed no conditions on the entry into India of the nationals of any of the Dominions and Colonies above referred to.

(The Statesman, 4-9-1936) +

Indian Labour in Malaya: Statement on Conditions of Work laid in the Legislative Assembly.

A brief statement on the conditions of work on Indians in Malaya was laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly on 3-9-1936: The salient features of the statement are given below:

Standard Minimum Wage.- Standard rates of wages for Indian labourers in Malaya were fixed for certain key areas after an elaborate enquiry. They were not only based on a labourer's daily and monthly family budget, but included provision for dependents, passages and old age.

Immigration Committee.- This is a statutory body composed of (1) The Controller of Labour, Malaya, (2) The Deputy Controller of Labour, Malaya, (3) The Director, Medical Services, (4) The Director, Public Works, (5) The Director, Drainage and Irrigation, (6) The General Manager, Federated Malaya States Railways, (7) The Chairman, United Planting Association of Malaya, (8) A planting representative from each of the States or settlements of Kedah, Province Wellesley, Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Malacca and Johore, (9) An Indian member representing the Colony, (10) An Indian member representing the Federated Malaya States, and (11) A prominent business man usually living in Penang. Out of 17 members, only 7 represent planting interests. It has also been

invested with the functions of a wage board. In all enquiries relating to fixing of wage rates, the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya was closely associated and the rates were settled in consultation with him.

Labour Settlements.- There are a few successful Indian settlements in Malaya, e.g., at Bagan Serai in the Perak State, near Chua and in Sungei Ujong in Negri Sembilan, and it is understood that the question of inducing Indian labourers to settle down permanently in Malaya is receiving attention.

Housing of labourers.- Under the labour laws of the Colony, employers are required to build separate lines for labourers of different races according to standard designs. The usual back to back barrack lines type of housing is falling into disfavour and slowly yielding place to single line barrack type and to detached and semi-detached single room and double room cottages for married labourers. The housing conditions are reported to be, on the whole, satisfactory.

Co-operative movement.- The Co-operative Department has been doing excellent work, so far as estate labourers' societies are concerned, and gives promise of great advance in the future. The number of such societies has already increased from 172 to 198 and the number of members from 26,322 to 31,577. There are now seven Indian Co-operative officers.

Estate schools.- Under the local labour laws, schools have to be maintained by employers in estates where there are 10 or more children between the ages of 7 and 14. There are 581 Tamil schools (including one Malayalam and 3 Telugu aided schools) with 20,240 pupils of the labouring classes in Malaya. The number of aided estate schools has increased from 314 to 356 in the Federated Malay States and the grant-in-aid paid by Government which had been reduced to \$6 per year per pupil in Tamil schools has been restored to the original figure of \$8 per year per pupil.

Sex ration.- Under rule 23 of the Indian Emigration Rules, men who are unmarried or unaccompanied by their wives cannot be assisted to emigrate to any one country in any one year to a number exceeding one in five of the total number of persons so assisted. The rule has not so far been applied to Malaya, but there is no evidence that this has resulted in increasing the sex-disparity in that country. The exemption of Malaya from this rule, however, is not permanent.

Free emigration.- Recruitment of assisted emigration has been done by the headman of Indian labour gangs who are known as Kanganies, but in recent years only voluntary assisted emigration has taken place.

Steamer convenience.- On board the steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company which runs a fortnightly service between India and Malaya, there are inspectors and inspectresses

to look after the emigrants. There are also food inspectors and there have been no serious complaints about feeding, etc., during the last year. Nor have there been any complaints about the treatment of females in the quarantine camps maintained by the Malayan Governments in Malaya.

Medical relief.- Hospitals are maintained by estates either singly or conjointly ~~with~~ a group of estates for the treatment of labourers. They are generally in charge of dressers, the majority of whom hold pass certificates for the local tests of 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade dresser. Where no qualified registered medical practitioner is employed, arrangements are made for periodical visits by such practitioners. Serious cases from estates are sent for treatment to the nearest Government hospital at the cost of the estates.

Maternity Benefits.- The labour laws provide for maternity allowances to working married women in case of child birth for one month before and after confinement. Women are often reluctant to go to hospitals for confinement and the provision of maternity wards in some estates themselves has proved ~~for~~ of great advantage.

Creches.- Creches are provided in most estates where young children are kept in charge of ayahs when the mothers go out for work and some estates provide free milk for children in the creches.

In some cases orphans are removed to the Indian Labourer's Decrepit Home in Kuala Lumpur where they are looked after and sent to school. Christian orphans are generally handed over to the nearest convent. In most cases orphans continue to remain on the estates in which their parents worked where they are adopted and looked after by other labourers.

Representation in Legislatures.- There is no political franchise in Malaya and members of all public bodies are nominated by Government. There is one Indian member nominated to the Legislative Council and one member to the Federal Council. There is also one Indian member nominated to the Negri Sembilan State Council. There have been nominations of Jaffna (Ceylon) Tamils to the Perak, Selangor and Johore State Councils to represent Indians and Ceylonese.

Repatriated Labourers.- Repatriation is allowed on grounds of ill-health, old-age, family affairs, etc., and the repatriates are sent to their villages on their arrival in India at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund. The very heavy repatriation that took place in 1931 was due to unemployment as a result of the economic depression. An asylum has been provided for disabled, sickly and decrepit labourers in the Home for decrepit Indians in Kuala Lumpur which is under the supervision of the Deputy Controller of Labour. They are kept in the Home till they are discharged as fit for work.

(Legislative Assembly Debates of 3-9-1936,  
Vol. VI No.4).-

Indian Labour in Ceylon;

Sir E. Jackson to Conduct Inquiry. +

The Ceylon Government has decided to appoint a Commission to inquire into the question of Indian immigration to Ceylon, with Sir E. Jackson as the sole member of the Commission.

Suggestion for Indian and Ceylonese Members.— When the vote for expenses for the immigration commission was taken up in the committee sessions of the State Council on 11-9-1936, several members criticised the composition of the Commission with Sir Edward Jackson as sole commissioner. Mr. Bandaranaike, Minister for Local Administration, who led the criticism, declared that such a commission would be valueless and favoured the association of one Indian representative with one Ceylonese.

The Chief Secretary explained that the post of sole commissioner was offered to Sir Edward Jackson, who accepted it on <sup>that condition</sup> ~~those terms~~. He was already on the way to Ceylon, and he would have to be consulted before any change could be made by the Governor, though the speaker had no doubt that the Governor would take into consideration the views of the House. Mr. G.C.S. Corea, Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce intervening, expressed dissatisfaction that a member of the Board of Ministers who presented the whole estimate of expenditure with the seal of approval of the Board should come before the House and attack one item.

Mr. Natesa Iyer said that in his view the best arrangement was either to have all interests represented — Indian labour, Ceylonese labour and European planters — or otherwise have only one man in the commission, he being an independent individual.

(The Times of India, 14-9-1936).+

General.The Viceroy's Address to the Indian Legislature, 21-9-1936. +

The Marquis of Linlithgow, Viceroy of India, addressed both Houses of the Indian Legislature at a joint session on 21-9-1936. His speech, unlike the speeches on such occasions of his predecessors, did not deal in detail with the various measures which engaged the attention of the Government of India during the period reviewed. He made only a relatively brief reference to those questions which have come under the direct consideration of the Legislature or of the Government of India, but ~~devoted~~ <sup>devoted</sup> the major portion of his speech to reflections of a general character regarding India's political future. Portions of his speech dealing with subjects which are of interest to the I.L.O. are reproduced below:-

Middle-Class Unemployment.- "The first in importance among these matters is unquestionably the problem of middle-class unemployment. I have spared no effort since I assumed office to familiarize myself with the various aspects of this problem and with the possible methods of grappling with it. It is one with the complexity and the difficulty of which you are familiar. My Government are actively investigating the avenues opened up by the very valuable report of the Sapru Committee, and they are leaving nothing undone to devise methods of dealing with what is one of the fundamental issues of the present day in most countries of the world."

Indians Overseas.- "The position and the difficulties of Indians overseas have always been ~~most~~ matters in which Indian public opinion and this Legislature have shown the keenest concern. The past months have been marked by several developments of interest and importance. Representatives of the Government and the Parliament of South Africa are already in India, and I take this, the first public opportunity that has presented itself, of ~~to~~ extending to them the warmest of welcomes on behalf of India as a whole. My Governments have, I am glad to say, been able to afford Indians in Zanzibar the expert guidance and advice of one of my officers in connexion with the difficulties which they have been experiencing.

"The question of the reservation of the Kenya Highlands has been settled on a basis which represents the admission of the principle for which India has consistently contended. The decisions taken as to the future composition of the Legislative Council in Fiji may be regarded as satisfactory from the Indian standpoint. The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Act of 1936 will be of material benefit to Indians in the Transvaal. It is but natural that India should display a continuing and active interest in the problems affecting her citizens overseas. ~~And it is a source of keen satisfaction to me on this,~~

zens overseas. And it is a source of keen satisfaction to me on this, the first occasion on which I address the Legislature, that the recent record of achievement in safeguarding those interests should have been so encouraging".

Problems of Nutrition: Central Public Health Advisory Board to be Established.- "Two problems to which I attach the utmost importance are that of public health, and the problem of nutrition as affecting human beings and animals alike. The problem of nutrition is at all times one of vital concern to any country, and on its solution <sup>hangs</sup> essentially the future of India as a whole. No effort that can be made to ameliorate conditions and to assist in the solution of this problem can be too great; and you may rest assured of my own continued and abiding personal interest in it.

"Hardly less material in its relation to the development and progress of India is the problem of Public Health. In this field, in particular, cooperation and the maximum degree of continued and co-ordinated effort between the Central and the Provincial Governments is essential. I am most anxious that all possible assistance should be available to those concerned with the investigations of the many difficult issues that arise, and with the practical application of such remedial measures as may be required. I am accordingly taking active steps for the establishment of a Central Public Health Advisory Board which, in collaboration with the Provincial Governments, and with a constitution somewhat analogous to that of the Central Advisory Board of Education shall apply itself to the realization of this idea".

Rural Development.- "I have, since I assumed my present office, done all that lies in my power to stimulate and encourage rural development, and the response after even so short a time has in my judgment been most encouraging. But in devoting my attention to agriculture and its problems, I have not ~~if~~ ignored the legitimate claims of industry, and I am taking a close interest in the problems of industry and in particular in the coordination and development of industrial research. In this connexion I cannot but affirm my conviction that no steps can be taken which will be more effective in promoting the expansion of commerce and industry than those designed to enhance the purchasing power of the rural population".

(The Statesman, 22-9-1936).



India's Membership of the League: Resolution  
in the Council of State Advocating Secession.

The Honourable Mr. Hosain Imam moved in the Council of State on 21-9-1936 a resolution urging the Government of India to give notice of withdrawal from the League of Nations and <sup>to</sup> stop forthwith payments of the annual contributions.

Mr. Imam's Argument.- In moving the resolution Mr. Imam said that the League has not fulfilled its purpose, ~~not that~~ India ~~disbelieved in~~ <sup>did not</sup> the League's ideals of peace and security. India was like a share-holder in a company; and when the managing agents mismanaged, the shareholder could only get out of the concern. The ideals which prompted President Wilson to start the League had all failed as the League took shape. The powers and functions of the League were left indefinite, flexible, diplomatically experimental. As regards the first ideal, disarmament, the League has so far failed. Since 1923, far from disarmament, there was a race in armaments followed by unilateral pacts with Powers even not belonging to the League. The League did not interfere in the quarrels between nations, as for instance, when China, which was for many years a member of the League, was robbed of her territory by Japan. The crowning shame was the conquest of Ethiopia by Italy. Though Ethiopia believed in the League's potentialities, nothing was done to save the Negus from the loss of his throne. Sir Samuel Hoare, ~~who~~ <sup>who</sup> had honesty enough to tell Ethiopia that she could not be saved was sacrificed. Was it conceivable that 52 nations were powerless to impose ~~their~~ <sup>of</sup> will in the face of one? Greater latitude given to Mussolini or Hitler meant greater weakness for the League. Had England, who regarded herself as protector of other people's liberties become so powerless even with her Army, Navy and Air Force?

The League had also failed as regards safeguarding of minorities. It failed too, regarding mandates. Mr. Hosain Imam referred to the fact that while Mesopotamia got self-government first and foremost and Syria had been promised a constitution, the situation in Palestine was allowed to go from bad to worse by making it a home for Jews, and the smuggling of 5,000 Jews annually was continued with the connivance of the mandatory power. When the Arab population protested, martial law was threatened. The only good the League had done was as regards social and economic welfare through the International Labour Organisation, ~~whereof~~ <sup>whereof</sup> India could be a member without being a member of the League even as Brazil was now a Member.

Sir Phiroze Sethna's Amendment.- Sir Phiroze Sethna moved an amendment to Mr. Hosain Imam's resolution, suggesting not India's secession but a substantial reduction of India's annual contribution, preferably from this year, as the League's ~~own~~ inability to prevent war had shaken India's confidence in the League. But India had a special grievance inasmuch as she had

never yet been made a permanent member of the Council of the League nor any Indian had so far been appointed to any position of control or direction, which, he pointed out, was due to the fact that the principal posts were filled according to diplomatic and political considerations. Sir P. Sethna averred that India's contribution of Rs. 1,450,000 annually was certainly not justified. The conduct of the League in the Italo-Ethiopian war was indefensible and if it (the League) was to be resurrected, the root causes <sup>of the failure</sup> should be removed. Sir Otto Niemeyer had emphasised utmost economy. Instead of the costly luxury of the League, the amount could be more profitably spent in the development of national services.

P.N. Saprú's Support to Sir Phiroze's Amendment.— Mr. P.N. Saprú agreed with Sir P. Sethna and disagreed with Mr. Hosain Imam, If India withdrew from the League, she would be deprived of the present opportunities of co-operating with the social and humanitarian work which the League was doing. The League was but an imperfect instrument in an imperfect world. India should co-operate with the progressive elements of the world in reconstructing the League.

Government Accept Amendment.— Mr. Spence, Secretary of the Legislative Department, said he would accept the amendment of Sir P. Sethna ~~if~~ if he deleted the reference to a substantial reduction of the contribution this year. India's contribution was originally assessed at 65 units, but it had been reduced by progressive stages to 55 out of 951 units. If the Allocation Committee's view was accepted, India's assessment would be 53 units out of 935. On behalf of the Government, Mr. Spence promised whenever a further revision was undertaken to urge a further substantial reduction. India, he pleaded, should not withdraw from purely mercenary motives. In extenuation of the present high assessment, he said: A country which, for purposes of representation in the Governing Body of the International Labour Office has been included among <sup>states</sup> members of the "chief industrial importance," cannot in the nature of things expect to be assessed to anything but a very substantial contribution, and the most favourable recommendation which it appeared ~~at all~~ reasonable to anticipate was reduction of say 10 units in lieu of reduction of two units recommended by the Committee.

The Government strongly opposed the original resolution for withdrawal. He agreed that as regards the Italo-Abyssinian crisis the League had exhibited sheer failure and futility, but the test of statesmanship lay in setting aside emotion and reaching a decision in accordance with the dictates of reason. The League Assembly was now in session at Geneva, making earnest efforts to ensure the implementing of the primary purpose of its existence. This was not the proper time for the Council to betray levity of outlook. While three States, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras, recently notified withdrawal, Egypt was on the point of seeking admission. Why then withdraw from the League, into which it would be difficult to seek re-entry later unless and until she attained a fully self-governing status.

Sir Phiroze Sethna's Amendment Carried.- The House divided and carried Sir Phiroze Sethna's motion for substantial reduction of India's annual contribution to the League by 35 votes against 6. The original resolution was therefore not put to vote.

(The Hindu and the Statesman, 23-9-36).

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1936.

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References to the I. L. O. +

The Indian Swarajya, Madras, dated 4-10-1936 and the Leader dated 5-10-1936 publish a communique issued by the Government of India on 25-9-1936 announcing the personnel of the Government delegation to the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) sessions of the I.L.Conference.

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The Times of India dated 19-10-1936 publishes a long article under the caption: "Regulating Conditions of Seamen's Service: I.L.O's Special Maritime Session" contributed anonymously. The article reviews the work of the earlier maritime sessions and the programme of work before this year's sessions.

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The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 18-10-1936 publishes a "Geneva Letter" dated 9-10-1936 sent by the paper's Geneva Correspondent. The letter deals with the work of the 17th session of the League Assembly. Reference is made in the letter to the unduly small number of Indians on the staff of the League, as also to the arrival in Geneva of Sir Firoz Khan Noon to attend the Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 29-10-1936 publishes a special interview granted to some correspondents of Indian papers in London by Mr. Aftab Ali, Indian workers' delegate to the 21st and 22nd I.L.Conference. He expressed satisfaction at the work accomplished at the two sessions and at the sympathetic attitude adopted towards workers' aspirations by the Indian employers' and Government delegates. The report of the interview was sent to the paper on 27-10-1936 by the Special Correspondent of the paper in London.

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The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 30-10-1936 also publishes the above, sent by the paper's special correspondent in London.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 30-10-1936 publishes a short editorial note on the above. The note expresses gratification at the successful termination of the Conference.

\* \* \*  
A communique re. the agenda of the 23rd session of the I.L. Conference (issued by the Government of India on 18-10-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 18-10-1936, the Bombay Chronicle dated 20-10-1936 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 1-11-1936.

\* \* \*  
A communique re. "I.L.O. Year-Book, 1935-36" (issued by this Office on 20-10-1936) is published by the Hindustan Times dated 21-10-1936, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 1-11-1936 and "Commerce and Industry" dated 3-11-1936.

\* \* \*  
The Hindu dated 26-10-1936 publishes a report briefly referring to the I.L.O. Year-Book, 1935-36" sent to the paper from London on 13-10-1936 by Reuters.

\* \* \*  
A news item to the effect that Mr. N.M. Joshi left India on 24-10-1936 for attending the 77th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. is published by the following: the Hindu and the ~~Statesman~~ Statesman dated 25-10-1936, the Bombay Chronicle, the Times of India and the Leader of 26-10-1936 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika and the National Call dated 28-10-1936.

\* \* \*  
The Hindustan Times dated 9-10-1936 publishes the summary of the Legislative Assembly proceedings of 8-10-1936. During question time, Sir Frank Noyce informed Mr. N.M. Joshi that there was no proposal before the Government to increase the number of advisers to the Indian Labour Delegate to the I.L. Conference. The reply of Sir Frank Noyce was published in all papers.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 3-10-1936 publishes a news item to the effect that a notice of a resolution advocating the withdrawal of India from the League and discontinuance of the country's financial contribution to the League signed by about 100 Members of the Legislative Assembly has been given to be moved during the Autumn Session of the Assembly.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 30-9-1936 publishes the Government reply to an interpellation in the Legislative Assembly on 30-9-1936 on the subject of forced labour. The Government detailed the action taken by the Government of India to implement the I.L.Convention on the subject.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 9-10-1936 publishes a summarised report of an interpellation and the Government reply thereto on the subject of the abolition of forced labour made in the Legislative Assembly on 8-10-1936. (The interpellation and reply are published in all papers).

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 2-10-1936 publishes an editorial article on the Council of State debate on Sir Phiroze Sethna's resolution regarding the communist menace in India. Reference is made in the article to the rapid progress in recent years of labour legislation in India; in this connection, it is pointed out that the I.L.O. has been one of the principal agencies lending stimulus to labour legislation in India. The article concludes thus: "Mr. Clow waxed eloquent on the progress with regard to ameliorative Labour Legislation achieved by the Government of India during the last 16 years. We wonder whether, in claiming exclusive credit for this excellent record, he was not really stealing the thunder of the International Labour Office at Geneva. We are sure Mr. Clow himself will admit that for the real stimulus for accelerating the



pace of labour legislation in this country, the Government of India is considerably indebted to the I.L.O."

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The October 1936 issue of the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes an editorial note on the statement regarding the expenditure incurred by the Government of India since 1924-25 in connection with the sending of Indian delegations to the League Assembly and the I.L.Conference laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly on 7-9-1936.

\* \* \*

The October 1936 issue of the Hindustan Review, Patna, publishes a long and appreciative review of "Yes and Albert Thomas" by E.J. Phelan, contributed by the Director of ~~the~~ this Office.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 17-10-1936 publishes a short editorial article on the late Sir Lalubhai Samaldas. In the course of the article, Sir Lalubhai's views on industrial conditions in Japan are recalled, and a reference is made, in this connection, to M. Fernand Maurette's report on the subject.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 8-10-1936 publishes a news item dated 29-9-1936 from London received by air mail giving details of the debate in the meeting of the Committee of the International Cotton Federation over the question of the adoption of a 40-hour week.

\* \* \*

The Annual Report of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, <sup>Bombay,</sup> for the year 1935 makes the following references to the I.L.O.:

(a) The views expressed by the Committee of the Chamber on the question of the grant of holidays with pay, are published at pages 87-88 and 523-528 of the Report. The Committee expressed the opinion that the introduction of any system of holidays with pay in India will be impracticable and undesirable.

(b) The views of the Committee of the Chamber on the draft convention concerning workmen's compensation for occupational diseases (revised 1934) are published at pages 84-86 and 512-518 of

the Report. The Committee expressed the view that "the initiative in regard to legislation in India should come from the demand of recognised trade unions and the labour people". It was felt that ratifying the Conventions and the Recommendations of the I.L.O. had placed India in the matter of labour legislation far in advance of her competitors". On these grounds the Committee expressed opposition to the ratification of the revised Convention of 1934.

(c) The recommendations of the Chamber in regard to the nomination of the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference are published at page 107 of the Report.

\* \* \*

The Report of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for 1935 contains at pages 201-205 the views of the Committee of the Chamber on the question of the grant of holidays with pay. The Chamber expressed the view that the system is not suitable for Indian conditions.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 29-10-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Planned Economy for India". The article advocates strongly the adoption of schemes of economic planning for India and, in this connection, makes several references to the latest Director's Report to <sup>Re</sup> I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 27-10-1936 publishes a long editorial article under the caption: "Unemployment". The article deals with the efforts that are being made in India to fight the unemployment menace, and in this connection reference is made to the world figures of unemployment (I.L.O. statistics) and to the speech of ~~Mr~~ Mr. Husseinbhoj Laljee, Indian Employers' Delegate at the 19th I.L. Conference, regarding the unemployment situation in India.

\* \* \*

A communique re. the world unemployment figures for the 3rd quarter of 1936 (based on the I.L.O. communique on the subject) sent out by this Office is published by the Hindustan Times dated 28-10-1936, the National Call dated 29-10-1936, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 1-11-1936, and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi,

dated 3-11-1936.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 5-10-1936 and the National Call dated 6-10-1936 publish a message to the effect that M. Justin Godart has been deputed by the French Government to tour all French colonies, protectorates and mandated territories to study their labour and social conditions. The message also refers to the long association of M. Godart with the I.L.O. \*

No Indian newspaper or periodical received during the month in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

\* \* \*

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during ~~September~~ October 1936:-

1. A "Geneva Letter" from the Geneva correspondent of the Amrita Bazar Patrika re. Indian representation on the Staff of the League Secretariat and the arrival of Sir Firoz Khan Noon at Geneva to attend the Maritime Sessions of the Conference.
  2. A news item from London received by the Times of India by air mail re. the debate on the 40-hour week in the meeting of the Committee of the International Cotton Federation.
  3. An interview given in London by Mr. Aftab Ally re. the last two sessions (Maritime) of the I.L.Conference, sent by the London correspondents of the Bombay Chronicle and the Amrita Bazar Patrika.
  4. A Reuters report summarising the salient features of the "I.L.O Year-Book, 1935-36." +
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National Labour Legislation.

Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill re.

Prohibition of Arrest and Imprisonment of Honest Debtors

Passed by Legislative Assembly. ✓ +

At pages 32-34 of our February 1935 report was given the text of the Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 13-2-1935 providing for prohibition of arrest and imprisonment of honest debtors of all classes. A motion for the circulation of the Bill to elicit public opinion was carried by the Assembly on 18-2-1935; and it was referred to a Select Committee on 13-9-~~1935~~<sup>1935</sup>. The Select Committee's Report on the Bill was published at pages 105-108 of Part V of the Gazette of India of 28-3-1936. On 13-10-1936, Sir Henry Craik, Member in Charge of ~~the~~ the Home Department, moved consideration of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee. Several amendments were moved, but all of them were lost. The Bill was passed by the Assembly on the same day.

(The Statesman, 14-10-1936). +

The Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1936: Motion for

Circulation for eliciting Opinion Carried in Assembly. ✓

Reference was made at pages 14-15 of our August 1936 report to the introduction of the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1936, in the Legislative Assembly on 31-8-1936. On 13-10-1936, Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of the Industries and Labour Department ~~of~~ of the Government of India, moved the circulation of the Bill to elicit opinion on it. In doing so, <sup>he</sup> emphasised the following considerations:-

2.

Firstly, whereas the present section declares certain strikes and lock-outs illegal from the outset, no strike lock-out under the new clause will be illegal until notified; secondly, whereas under the present section an illegal strike is always illegal, it is illegal only for a limited period under the new clause; thirdly, under the existing section there is no guarantee that any genuine grievances behind a strike will be investigated; the new clause gives such guarantee; and, fourthly, public utility service strikes will be placed in exactly the same position as a strike in an ordinary industry in respect of investigation of the grievances, though the men in a public utility service will not be allowed to go on strike without notice. Continuing, Sir Frank Noyce said that the appointment of conciliation officers had proved very successful, and had been introduced in the Bill, though the time was not ripe for making their appointment compulsory.

Mr. Joshi's Criticisms.— Mr. N.M. Joshi sincerely regretted that Sir Frank Noyce should, towards the end of his term of office, be associated with legislation so hostile to labour interests. The only main provision of the Bill which had the speaker's approval was that relating to conciliation officers. When he had reconciled himself to the original Act, he thought the advantages of the machinery for settlement would outweigh the disadvantages penalizing employees of public services. The past seven years' experience had entirely changed his attitude. The Act had been applied only three times, and provincial Governments had instead used Section 144 and other repressive laws to break strikes. He had come to the conclusion that it was not in the interests of the working classes that there should be any Act for settling trade disputes until provincial Governments were friendly to the working classes. He opposed the inclusion of inland steamer services and power plants in the definition of public utility services, mainly for the reason that these were run by private enterprise. None of the safeguards in the English Act was found in the Indian Act, and the Government had copied the Canadian Act only partly. He favoured the entire adoption of the Canadian proposals, which, in that Dominion, had meant that two-thirds of the applications for investigation of disputes were admitted, and prevented strikes. The Government's revised clause made it possible for them to declare every strike illegal, whereas the original clauses had confined such declaration to a general strike like that which occurred only once in a generation, and was not likely to occur in the speaker's lifetime.

Mr. Morgan. — Mr. Morgan offered a few criticisms on the various clauses, and hoped that on another occasion ample opportunity would be afforded to discuss the various aspects of the Bill.

Mr. Giri.— Mr. Giri said that the workers doubted the bona fides of the Government, as they had never seriously attempted to use the 1929 Act for the benefit of the workers. The weapon of the strike, he said, was an inherent right of the workers.

Sir Frank Noyce's Reply.— Sir Frank Noyce answered the various points raised in the debate and repudiated the suggestion that local Governments used their administrative power in breaking up strikes. He promised to give sympathetic consideration to the views which would come as a result of the consideration of the Bill.

(The Statesman, 14-10-1936). +

Payment of Wages(Railways) Rules, 1936. ✓

The draft of certain rules which the Governor General in Council proposes to make under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, (IV of 1936), and the General Clauses Act of 1897 is published at pages 1367 to 1373 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 17-10-1936. The rules apply in respect of payment of wages to persons employed upon any railway (including factories) under ~~the~~ a Railway Administration. The principal provisions relate to the maintenance of registers needed for the application of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936: register of fines, register for recording deductions for damage or loss, register of wages, etc. The rules also define the persons who are authorised to impose fines, and the procedure to be followed in imposing fines and deductions. +

Labour Legislation in Baroda: Government Appoints  
Committee to Suggest Improvements. ✓

The Bombay Chronicle dated 15-10-1936 publishes the following news item regarding a Committee appointed in Baroda State to make recommendations regarding measures to afford statutory protection to workers in the State:

"The Baroda Government appointed a Committee to investigate into European nations' labour legislation and to suggest methods of legislation for the State suitable to local conditions".

Information received in this Office goes to show that the Committee is presided over by the Minister in Charge of the

Judicial Department of the State, and that the particular aspects of labour legislation that the Committee has been asked to examine are : (1) industrial insurance, (2) hours of work and minimum wage, and (3) social insurance for workers. The Committee has been further asked to adapt such provisions <sup>of European legislation</sup> on the above subject, with suitable modifications, as can profitably be introduced in the State. +

Fresh Occupational Diseases included in Schedules  
of Workmen's Compensation Act. ✓ +

According to a notification (No.L-1821 dated 28-9-1936) published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India in the Gazette of India (page 1302 of Part I dated 3-10-1936), the Government proposes to add to the list of occupational diseases specified in Schedule III of the <sup>workmen's compensation</sup> Act the following:

<u>Occupational disease.</u>	<u>Employment.</u>
Arsenical poisoning or its sequelae.	Any process involving the production, liberation or utilisation of arsenic or its compounds.
Pathological manifestations due to:- (a) radium and other radio-active substances; (b) X-rays.	Any process involving exposure to the action of radium, radio-active substances, or X-rays.
Primary epitheliomatous cancer of the skin.	Any process involving the handling or use of tar, pitch, bitumen, mineral oil, paraffin or the compounds, products or residues of these substances.

Addition to Schedule II. - By the same notification, the Government of India has signified its intention to add to Schedule II

of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, persons employed in any occupation involving the handling and manipulation of radium or X-rays apparatus, or contact with radio-active substances.

Any suggestions or objections with regard to these, it has been notified, should reach the Government of India by 3-1-1937. +



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Conditions of Labour.

Forced Labour Prohibited in Barwani State. +

The Council of Administration of the Barwani State has recently prohibited by a resolution the resort to "begar" (Forced labour) within the State. According to the resolution, the use of impressed bullock-carts has been forbidden. Carts required for State use <sup>should</sup> ~~should~~, <sup>hereafter,</sup> be hired by the department concerned by private arrangement with owners of carts or with private contractors. The existing rates for the use of bullock-carts supplied to touring officers and to officers on transfer ~~have~~ been raised by 50 per cent. For the use of a pair of bullocks (joti) for dragging beams of timber from the interior of the forest to the place of storage, the rate has been fixed at nine pies per mile per joti. The wages of workers, for transport of State stores or for luggage of State officers on duty, have been fixed at six pies per mile per labourer. Every person employed on the occasion of a 'beat', <sup>(in shooting parties)</sup> ~~should~~ be given two annas per day or part of a day. The labourers <sup>should</sup> ~~should~~ be paid for the full period they have been kept out of their homes whether they ~~were~~ actually employed for beat or not. For other miscellaneous labourers employed by the Forest Department, the wages have been fixed at three annas a day.

(The Statesman, 14-10-1936)

Note.- Barwani is an Indian State in Central India; ~~in the~~ ~~Satpura mountains~~; Area, 1,035 sq. miles; population, 141,110 (Census of 1931). +

Forced Labour in Indian States; Government of  
India's steps to induce Prohibitory Legislation. †

On 8-10-1936, Sir Henry Craik, Member in Charge of the Home Department of the Government of India, in reply to certain interpellations by Mr. V.V.Giri, informed the Legislative Assembly that steps have been taken to induce all Indian States, which have not already taken action, to enact legislation in regard to forced labour on the lines of legislation now prevailing in British India, and <sup>that</sup> the Political Officers concerned have been requested to ask the States to ensure that the laws so enacted are duly enforced.

Mr. Giri referred to the recent order of the Government of Bombay prohibiting the exaction of certain forms of forced labour (vide page 9 of our August 1936 report), and asked the Government whether it will consider the advisability of asking other Provincial Governments to follow the example of the Bombay Government. Sir Henry said that such a course has already been taken.

Mr. N.M.Joshi asked whether the Government would publish the Local Governments' reports on the subject, to which the Home Member replied that the Government hoped to publish a summary of them.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-10-1936) †

Sickness Insurance in India: Views of Indian  
Merchants' Chamber, Bombay. ✓ +

Reference was made at pages 12-14 of our May 1935 report to the views of the Government of India on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India regarding the provision of sickness insurance ~~schemes~~ schemes for industrial workers. The Government of India sent a circular letter on 30-4-1935 to all Provincial Governments to elicit the views of industrial interests on the subject; ~~and~~ the views of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Mining Association, the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Union and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce were summarised in our Reports (vide pages 34-36 of July 1935, 38-39 of August 1935, 18-19 of October 1935 and 10-12 of November 1935 reports). The views expressed by the Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber on the subject <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ published in the Annual Report of the Chamber for 1935 and <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ summarised below:

Workers' Unwillingness to Contribute: The Committee feel that it will not be possible to ask workmen to make their contributions towards this insurance. The workmen in India <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ still unorganised and have not realised the benefits of trade union organisation by making regular contributions. Until the trade union organisation grows, there seems to be no hope of securing any voluntary contributions from the workmen; and if it is imposed by law, it might lead to reduction of his real wages.

Employers Unable to Contribute.- With regard to contribution by employers, it is very doubtful whether <sup>Indian</sup> industries in <sup>their</sup> ~~its~~ present condition can bear additional charges. The provision of schemes

to which employers are compelled to contribute will invariably result in a general reduction of wages.

Scheme Unsuitable for India.- Workers are not concentrated in India in the same manner as <sup>in other countries</sup> ~~elsewhere~~ abroad. Sickness Insurance is not yet adopted <sup>by</sup> ~~in~~ all industrial <sup>advanced</sup> countries. It is more important that if such a scheme is instituted, its administration should be efficient and its operation should be beneficial to the class of workers for whom it is intended.

It seems more important in India to strengthen the machinery for medical relief <sup>in</sup> ~~at~~ the hands of Municipalities and in urban areas generally where ~~the~~ industry is located. Such medical relief is at present financed partly by voluntary contributions but largely from municipal taxation to which employers and employees are indirectly contributing. It is not yet demonstrated that this method could not be more suitable for Indians, if its volume and scope are extended, so that relief can reach all those who are in need of it.

The illiteracy of the workman and his inability to grasp the idea of insurance contribution whose benefit he can derive only if and when he needs it, are going to be the rocks on which every proposal which might be put forward with the very best motives, might break to pieces.

The Qualified Support to Experimental Measures.-The Committee fully sympathise with the object of the proposal of the Government and states that if workable schemes are forthcoming they would be glad to support them; but difficulties mentioned above seem to be insuperable. If any scheme is at all adopted, the Committee are of opinion that it would have to be for selected industries and for selected districts as an experiment.

The All India Spinners' Association and  
Minimum Wage. +

Reference was made at page 26 of our October 1935 report to the resolution adopted by the All India Spinners' Association prescribing the payment of a minimum scale of wages to spinners whose earnings have hitherto been wholly inadequate for their maintenance. The resolution was one mode of expression of Mahatma Gandhiji's insistence that the welfare of the producers of khadi should be made the chief objective of the khadi movement. The following information regarding the working of the minimum wage scale is taken from the annual report of the All India Spinners' Association for 1935.

Reasons for Standard Payment.- It is mentioned in the report that ~~what~~ the spinners received in payment for their labour so far was by itself piteously low, but having regard to the fact that agriculture is the main occupation of the mass of the people and spinning is treated as an auxillary source of income, as also the fact that the average earning of an agriculturist did not very much exceed the full time income of a spinner, spinning was looked upon as rendering substantial help to the poor. But the point of view which has now emerged is that spinning should not serve the poor merely as a supplementary work, but it should be made capable of serving wherever necessary as an independent occupation also. It was also perceived that the welfare of the artisans depended not merely on the scale of money wages, but on the benefit in terms of nourishment, health and efficiency which they derive from the expenditure. It is well known that a considerable portion of the meagre resources of the villagers is wasted owing to ignorance, and if earnest endeavour is made to remove it, it would lead to an improvement in their standard of living and securing for them the necessities of life on a considerably lower money wage than would otherwise be possible.

Basis of Wage-Fixing.- Whatever doubts the proposal may have raised in the beginning, the principal workers of the different branches earnestly set about to make plans for introducing the increased wages in their provinces as soon as the programme was adopted. Investigations were immediately started at the centres of production to ascertain the diet suited to the habits of the people residing in the spinning areas, and with the data obtained a proper scale of minimum food requirements was prepared in consultation with medical experts. The money value of the scale was

7.2

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calculated on the basis of the food prices prevalent in the locality, and this together with the cost of the khadi clothing required, was fixed as the minimum wage for eight hours' efficient work. Although there is considerable variation in the staple food required by the people in different parts of the country, the minimum wage has worked out on the above basis from two to three annas per day. The spinning rates calculated on this scale gave an increase from 25 per cent to 75 per cent in the different provinces on the old rates.

Results of Working.- These increased rates were adopted in the various provinces in the beginning of the current year, though some of the branches introduced them very much earlier. The report states that it is difficult at this stage to say definitely ~~as to~~ how the new scheme will work out, but it is stated that the fears entertained have been dispelled to a considerable extent and a feeling of optimism has come to prevail amongst those who are working out the scheme. It is true that in some of the centres difficulty was experienced at first in inducing the spinners to agree to adopt khadi for their wear, but the reports recently received show that the higher wages offered have helped to overcome the difficulty, and a considerable number of spinners have been registered to work under the new scheme.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 14-10-1936). +

Wage Dispute in Ahmedabad Textile Mills:

Arbitration Proceedings Delayed. +

1936

References were made at pages 33-35 of our August/and pages 23-24 of the September 1936 Reports of this Office to the wage dispute in Ahmedabad Textile industry. It was mentioned there that the Millowners' Association and the Labour Association agreed to submit the question to arbitration by Mahatma Gandhi and Seth Chimanlal Parikh, representing the workers' and employers' interests respectively. According to the newspaper reports of the month, by 15-10-1936, both sides had prepared their cases and consulted Mahatma Gandhi's convenience in respect of suitable date for hearing the case. No suitable date to suit all the parties could be fixed in October; moreover, Seth Chimanlal Parikh, one of the

arbitrators expressed inability to serve on the Board of Arbitration on the ground that arbitration proceedings on the proposed wage cut would necessarily be protracted and that he could not spare time for the purpose. On 26-10-36, soon after submitting his resignation, ~~then~~ Seth Chimanlal Parikh started working one of his mills with a ~~new~~ new complement of workers on the reduced wages scales. On this the Textile Association declared a strike in the other four mills of Seth Parikh. The situation has not registered any improvement by the close of the month.

(The Times of India, 26-10-1936)  
and the Hindu, 23-10-36) +

Strikes in Baroda and Indore.- Due to reductions in wages ranging from 15 to 25 per cent in the textile industry of Baroda and Indore, the workers in several of the mills in the two States are now on strike.

(The Times of India, 26 &  
27-10-1936) +

## Workers' Organisations.

1st Delhi Provincial Labour Conference, Delhi, 15<sup>th</sup> 10-1936.

The First Delhi Provincial Labour Conference was held at Delhi on 15 & 16-10-1936 with Mr. Sorabji Batliwala, Barrister-at-law, Bombay, as President. The Congress was well attended by local workers. In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Batliwala criticised the attitude of the Indian National Congress towards the working classes. He said that the Congress merely extended lip sympathy and was not exerting itself actively in the cause of the workers and peasants. In labour strikes, <sup>he said,</sup> it seldom happened that rightwing Congress men espoused the workers' cause. Mr. Batliwala defined India's political goal as complete independence and exhorted the workers and peasants to organise themselves. He also referred to the growing menace of unemployment in the country.

The Conference passed a number of resolutions, the more important of which are summarised below:

1. Sympathy with Strikers.— A resolution was passed expressing sympathy with the workers of the Ambernath Match Factory and with the textile workers of Ahmedabad, Baroda, Cawnpore and Beawar who are on strike, and condemning the repressive measures adopted by the authorities against the strikers.

2. Greetings to Russian Workers.— "This Conference sends its greetings to the workers and peasants of Russia for their heroic and remarkable success of building up a new society free from exploitation in the ~~midst~~ midst of other societies ~~in~~ in the world based on all forms of bondage and exploitation".

3. Other Resolutions.— Resolutions were also passed (1) condemning the Government of India Act as "~~leading to~~" strengthens "the economic and political domination of India by British imperialism"; (2) demanding the repeal of the Trade Dispute's Act and other anti-labour legislation; (3) condemning the race in armaments; (4) viewing with alarm the increasing incidence of unemployment among the working classes; and (5) demanding that collective affiliation should be accorded by the Indian National Congress to the workers' and peasants' unions in order to make the Congress a genuine mass organisation.

(the National Call and the Hindustan Times of 17-10-1936).



22d Annual Conference of the Bengal Congress

Socialist Party, Calcutta, 4 to 6-10-1936. ✓

The second annual conference of the Bengal Congress Socialist Party was held at Calcutta from 4 to 6-10-1936 under the presidency of Mr. Yusuf Meher Ally of Bombay. In the course of his presidential address Mr. Meher Ally condemned the new Indian constitution and expressed the opinion that Congressmen who enter legislatures should not accept office. He pointed out that Ministers under the reformed constitution will be powerless to take effective action in respect of problems connected with unemployment, agricultural debts, nationalisation of industry, etc.

As regards the relations between the Party and the Congress, Mr. Meher Ally said that the task of the socialist was not to make the Congress a big Socialist Party, but to make it an organisation which should fight for complete national independence and to make it a genuinely anti-Imperialist organisation. They did not want to raise the issue of Socialism in the Congress at the present time nor did they want to divide the Congress at the present moment into Socialist and anti-Socialist camps. In the meantime they should preach the gospel of Socialism and look forward to the time when their ideals would be accepted by the country.

A summary of the more important resolutions passed by the Conference are given below:-

1. Anti-labour Laws Condemned.- The conference adopted a resolution condemning the measures taken by the Government to suppress civil liberties, and registered its emphatic protest against

the promulgation of the Public Security Act in predominantly labour areas like Calcutta, 24-Parganas, Howrah, etc., as it was calculated to suppress the workers' basic right of assembly, organisation and expression and, thereby, to prevent them from active participation in the electoral campaign at a time when labour had been enfranchised for the first time.

The conference demanded the immediate repeal of all acts calculated to suppress civil liberties, such as, <sup>the</sup> Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, Regulation III of 1818, <sup>the</sup> Public Security Act, <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ Trade Disputes Act, and radical revision of the Indian Trade Unions Act, Wage Payment Act, Press Act, etc.

2. Indian Constitutional Reforms.— The conference declared that the only constitution that would be acceptable to the Indian people is one drawn up by a national Constituent Assembly elected on universal adult suffrage and composed of the representatives of the exploited and oppressed masses of people, provided that those who have opposed and betrayed the struggle for independence shall have no place *in it*.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 6 & 7-10-1936)

(The first session of the Bengal Congress Socialist Party's Conference was held at Calcutta in September 1935; a reference to it is made at pages 38-40 of our September 1935 report).\*

K.

Progress of Trade Union Movement in Burma, 1935-36. +

The following is a brief review of the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in Burma for the year ending 31-3-1936.

Legal Changes.- No legal changes by way of amendment of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, or of the Burma Trade Union Regulations, 1927, were made during the year under report.

Registered Trade Unions.- There were five registered trade unions in Burma at the beginning of the year. Three trade unions were registered during the year, namely, the Burma Master Plumbers' Union on the 11th July 1935, the Race Horse Syces' Samiti, Burma, on the 28th October 1935 and the Burma Compounders' Association on the 29th October 1935. There were thus eight registered trade unions at the end of the year. Returns were received from 6 of the 8 unions. The remaining two unions—the Seamen's Union of Burma and the Burma Master Plumbers' Union—ceased to function during the year and hence reports were not received from them. The year opened with 2,562 members in all the 8 unions, and closed with 4,689 members.

No Federation of trade unions in Burma has applied for registration yet.

Applications for Registration.- Applications for registration were received during the year from five trade unions, three of which were registered. The remaining two applications which were pending at the end of the year were from the Anglo-Burman Seamen's Union and the Burma Labour Union.

Political Fund.- No political fund has been constituted by any of the registered trade unions.

Trade Unions of Government Servants.- No rules similar to the rules for the recognition of associations of their industrial employees (including railway employees) issued by the Government of India in February 1934 have yet been framed by the Government of Burma in respect of their industrial employees. The Local Government does not propose to take up the framing of such rules till associations of its industrial employees are formed and a need for the rules arises.

Unregistered Trade Unions.- The difficulty of preparing a complete list of unregistered trade unions, mentioned in the previous reports, is still reported to continue and no list of unregistered trade unions is attached to the report.

General.- Although there has been some increase in the number of registered trade unions during the last two years, there is still a hesitation on the part of unregistered trade unions in Burma to take advantage of the provisions for registration afforded by the Act. The membership of the registered trade unions, except the Burma Railways Employees' Union and the Rickshaw Owners' and Pullers' Association, is inconsiderable, and the bulk of the workers employed in large industrial establishments still remain unorganised. The progress of the trade-union movement, it is pointed out, depends largely on the raising of the standards of literacy and intelligence among industrial workers. Under the Government of Burma Act, 1935, membership of a recognised trade union is a qualification for the labour franchise, and this may prove an additional stimulus to the growth of trade-unionism in Burma.

(Summarised from a Cyclostyled copy of the annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in Burma for the year ending 31-3-1936, forwarded to this Office by the Labour Commissioner, Burma.)

(The Progress of the Trade Union Movement in Burma in 1934-35 was reviewed at pages 34-35 of our November 1935 report). +

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Economic Conditions.

State Action in Respect of Industries, 1928-35\*

Report issued by the Industries and Labour Department  
of the Government of India.+

The Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India has recently issued a bulletin reviewing the action taken by the State (including the Central and Provincial Legislatures) in regard to the various matters affecting industrial development in India during the seven years, 1928-35. This review was undertaken as the result of a resolution adopted at the Fifth Industries Conference held in Simla in July 1933 that it was desirable to have an All-India review from time to time of industrial development and State action in respect of industries. The only review of this kind hitherto published by the Government of India is "The State and Industry" by Mr. A.G.Clow, which surveyed the relations between Government and Industry in India from the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms up to the autumn of 1928. A brief summary of the salient features of the report is given below:

General Policy.— In dealing with general industrial policy, the review points out that at the beginning of the period under report the Central Government though deprived of the responsibility for industrial development under the reformed constitution, had, broadly speaking, obtained through tariffs extensive powers for assisting the economic position of industries. The provinces, on the other hand, had in theory almost unlimited powers to assist industries, but their financial resources, their technical equipment, and the difficulty of dealing with industries of all-India importance on a provincial scale contributed to confine their activities largely to the less organised forms of industries. Despite the growth of provincial self-consciousness, there was a swing back to the desire for activity at the Centre and for co-ordination. This led in 1933 to the resumption—at the request of provincial Governments—of the Industries Conference. In addition,

\* Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour. -No.57 - State Action in Respect of Industries 1928-35 - September 1936.—Published by order of the Government of India - Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1936. Price Rs. 1-12-0 or 3s. -pp.92

industries themselves tended more and more to look to Government for assistance. During the period under review every industry of any importance, and a great number of minor industries, approached the Government (and generally the Central Government) for legislative measures of one kind or another, and in most cases assistance was given.

Economic Depression.— The period under review has included the greatest economic depression in modern times, but although its effects in India were serious enough, India suffered on the whole much less than western countries. The following figures of employment in factories, mines and railways afford an indication of the curtailment of activity:

Year.	Factories.	Mines.	Railways.*	Total.
1927	1,553,382	269,290	655,777	2,478,449
1928	1,520,315	267,671	670,969	2,458,955
1929	1,553,169	269,701	682,169	2,505,039
1930	1,528,302	261,667	651,159	2,441,128
1931	1,431,487	230,782	612,892	2,275,161
1932	1,419,711	204,658	591,696	2,216,065
1933	1,405,402	206,507	595,584	2,207,493
1934	1,487,231	229,381	600,877	2,317,489

\* Figures are for financial year and exclude the number of operatives in "Railway Workshops" which are included in the figures under "Factories".

The depression severely affected profits and created difficulties for many industries, but, as the figures show, the contraction of actual industrial activity was much smaller than in western countries. Several industries continued to advance, and in many others the numbers employed at the depth of the depression were comparable with those of the prosperous period of 7 or 8 years before. The depression was accompanied in the official sphere by another wave of retrenchment. The Central Department of Industries and Labour, as a result of the retrenchment campaign of 1922-23, had been compelled to abandon much of its industrial activity, and presented little scope for further contraction in this field. But on the Provincial Departments, the effects were, in many directions, scarcely less severe than those of the earlier retrenchments.

Technical Education.— The importance of the advancement of technical and industrial education has long been appreciated both by the educated public and the Government, but progress in this direction was for some time slow. This was due partly to the hereditary aversion on the part of young men from the manual exertion which industrial or technical courses frequently demand and partly to the limited field of employment which industry offered. But conditions have been slowly changing. The stress of unemployment among the middle-classes has brought home to parents and sons alike the increasingly small value from the pecuniary point of view of the purely literary type of education imparted in schools and colleges and the imperative necessity of seeking new fields of employment in industrial fields. The gradual development of

industry has steadily widened the effective demand for the services of those who have received industrial training and has thus stimulated the expansion of schools and colleges to meet the need. There are indications indeed that in some areas and spheres of employment the provision of technical education has outstripped the demand for trained men with the result that the unemployment which has for some time been marked among students who were trained for academic courses is now apparent among those who have received technical training. State encouragement of technical education found expression in the award of scholarships for technical studies abroad as well as in the country, establishment of institutions for imparting vocational training, encouragement of apprenticeship and other forms of training, and in the award of ~~sch~~ stipends.

Development of Cottage Industries.— Regarding the development of cottage industries, the review says: "The extent and importance of the handloom industry in India are not generally appreciated. The following figures taken from the Report of the Cotton Textile Tariff Board published in 1932 and the Census Tables of 1931 respectively give approximate estimates:

	No.
Handlooms ...	1,984,950
Workers engaged in cotton and silk weaving and spinning.	2,575,000

The consumption of cotton yarns by handloom weavers in the Presidency of Madras from April to October 1933, was about 42.7 million pounds, while the value of the annual production of the Benares weavers alone is estimated at Rs. 11.25 millions. Even in a smaller and less developed province, like Assam, handlooms consume about 12 million pounds of yarn every year, which is woven into cloth valued at about Rs. 20 millions and aggregating in length about 27,000 miles."

Brief indications are given of the way in which training and demonstration parties have succeeded in various provinces in assisting this industry. But, as the review points out, the handloom industry is not confined to the class of hereditary weavers. It provides a subsidiary occupation to the agriculturist at the season when agricultural work is slack and thereby enables him to use time profitably which would otherwise be wasted. Institutes for the encouragement of weaving are now established in all the major provinces. Following the conclusion of the Indian Tariff Board in 1932 that the position of the handloom weaver had deteriorated because of the removal of the cotton excise duty and the imposition of a protective duty, the Government of India decided to spend about Rs. 500,000 every year for five years in developing the industry. Schemes were formulated and discussed at the Sixth Industries Conference in July, 1934. Commenting on these schemes, which provide for improvements in marketing, appointment of technical experts and supply of materials on cheap rates, the review states:—

"The progress achieved in these schemes during the short period since their inception is encouraging. The necessary staff has been appointed in most of the provinces. The organisations through which it is proposed to carry on work have also been set up."

Similar action was taken by the Government of India with a view to assisting the silk industry in India, a grant of Rs. 100,000 a year for five years from 1935-1940 being made. An Imperial Sericultural Committee was set up, and met in New Delhi in 1935, when schemes submitted by local Governments were scrutinized. All the approved schemes are now in operation and allotments have been made to Madras, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Burma. More recently, the Government has taken an important step to aid the cottage and small scale woollen industries by making a special grant of Rs. 500,000 to be spread over five years, and a Woollen Industry Committee has been set up to advise the Government of India on the question of allotments.

Intelligence and Technical Assistance.- The evolution of services giving information about industry and trade generally, and the provision of technical assistance has progressed rapidly and is becoming more and more valuable. Publications for the dissemination of commercial intelligence have become numerous, while useful surveys of different industries are being increasingly undertaken. The period under review is remarkable for the successful efforts made by the Governments of Madras, the Punjab, and the United Provinces to develop the hydro-electric resources of the country. This has resulted in factories being set up to utilise local materials and the provision of cheap power to industrial consumers.

Financial Assistance.- One chapter in the review surveys the financial assistance to industries granted by the Central and Provincial Governments by means of legislative measures regarding State-aid, Provision of loans and grants, etc.

Research and Investigation.- One of the recent developments has been the establishment of the Industrial Research Bureau by the Government of India, which has already undertaken a heavy programme of work and is contributing valuable observations on industrial methods. Valuable work is also being done by the Dehra Dun Forest Research Institute in the study of Indian woods for all kinds of purposes. The metallurgical Inspectorate at Tatanagar has been making numerous tests of various materials of value to numerous Indian industries. The Geological Survey has added to the knowledge of the vast stores of India's mineral resources. In addition, provincial institutions and laboratories have been conducting experiments of great benefit to industry throughout the country.

Development and Restriction.- Another aspect of the relation between the State and industries has been the necessity for the development and restriction of certain industries. The Indian Cotton Cess Act and the Indian Lac Cess Act are important examples. Numerous miscellaneous measures are detailed in this connexion.

Other Features.- Two chapters are devoted to a picture of



the various fiscal measures for the assistance of Indian industry. In this section of the review the most important items dealt with are iron and steel, cotton and other textiles, and sugar, each of which is fully treated. Among other articles receiving protection are:- paper, salt, matches, wheat, silver thread and wire, silver plate and like manufactures, magnesium chloride. The removal of certain tariff anomalies on the recommendation of the Tariff Board also proved of great assistance to industry. The review closes with a chapter on the general policy followed by Government of affording all possible encouragement to the development of industries in India by showing a definite preference in making purchases for articles of indigenous manufacture.

(A copy of the Bulletin "State Action in respect of Industries, 1928-35" was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute D.1/1111/36 dated 8-10-1936). +

#### Indian Mining Problems: Report of Second

##### Subsidence Committee. +

An authoritative survey of the question of conserving existing coal reserves of India has been made by a special committee of experts of the Mining and Geological Institute of India. This committee known as the Second Subsidence Committee, has recently submitted its report to a meeting of the Mining Institute at the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad. The report refers to the extraction of Indian coal seams, mainly of the Jharia field, and supplements the work of a previous committee whose findings were published in 1922.

Indian Conditions.- Except in a few rare instances, the Indian miner has yet to be trained to the more difficult and arduous task of working seams of coal of less than four to five feet thick. In most instances the seams worked are of considerably greater thicknesses. Thus, on extracting the pillars of a relatively

thick seam, which are often over 20 feet thick, the resulting subsidence of the roof-rocks is comparatively great, possibly from five to 12 feet or more, and fracturing and subsidence is likely to continue within the higher rocks for several hundreds of feet above the mine and, in many instances, may eventually continue to the surface strata resulting in the irregular fracture and depression of the ground surface to the extent of several feet. Such surface subsidence is naturally liable to result in changes in the direction of important drainage lines, the collapse of buildings resting on the subsided area and in the dislocation of railway tracks and damage to water pipe mains within its limits. Surface subsidences of this nature have also in the case of the Jharia field, unfortunately in some instances, been responsible for the loss of life both of the occupants of the buildings in the area and in the mines below.

Control of Subsidence Essential.- One of the main problems in connexion with coal mining in India is, therefore, to control this subsidence during the process of extraction of the coal pillars so that the results at the surface can be foreseen and their damaging effects reduced to a minimum. Unless such collapse is controlled it is also liable to set up such severe stresses on the coal pillars which may remain in the mine that the latter may be crushed and further extraction of coal may be an extremely dangerous procedure or even quite impossible. In this way a large proportion of a seam may be entirely lost.

During the rains, or where the workings are under rivers, there is danger that uncontrolled collapse may result in the flooding of the mine by water draining in along the fissures from the overlying strata. Or, again, in crushing, sufficient heat may be generated in coal pillars as to result in the ignition of the crushed coal by so-called spontaneous combustion and in the end a "district" or perhaps the whole mine may have to be abandoned as a result of fire.

Conditions in Jharia.- One of the principal causes of anxiety is the fact that the coals of the Jharia field comprise a very large proportion of the "coking coal" reserves of India. These valuable Jharia coals have, in the past, and are still being used for many purposes other than the Indian iron and steel

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industry,—for railway locomotives, general steam-raising purposes, etc. A very large proportion of the seams of the field has already been developed in the "first working" and the question of the extraction of the pillars—representing 50 to 70 per cent of the seam—is now acute.

In the Report it is shown that such extraction has in a number of cases been carried out successfully, usually by the partial stowing of the void with stone or sand. But such stowing has often added to the cost of working by more than one rupee per ton of coal won and, with best quality coal selling at a price of about Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-8 per ton at the pit's mouth, such methods obviously could not be continued economically except under very abnormally favourable conditions. Sand-stowing has, in fact, been brought almost to a standstill in the "Jharia field".

Prevention of Waste.— The Report shows that in other instances attempts have been made to extract the pillars with inadequate stowing, with the result that mine workings have collapsed or caught fire, important reserves of good quality fuel have been lost and, in some cases, these disasters have unfortunately been attended with the loss of the lives of a number of the miners. To allow coal to remain standing in pillars for long periods, also means that it weathers and deteriorates, the pillars weaken and eventually the task of extracting these pillars becomes much more hazardous and perhaps economically impossible,

It is quite obvious that, without some form of stowing, large quantities of India's reserves of good quality fuel will be lost entirely, and the report hopes that, in the not distant future, the conditions of the industry will be such as to permit the successful extraction of these reserves, which India can ill afford to lose.

(The Statesman, 15-10-1936). †

Conservation of India's Coal Supplies and  
Safety of Miners: Government of India Appoints Enquiry  
Committee. †

A resolution by the Government of India in the Industries and Labour Department announces Government's decision to appoint an expert Coal Enquiry Committee with Mr. L.B. Burrows as Chairman to <sup>enquire into</sup> the methods of extracting coal with a view to secure the safety of those employed in this work and to prevent avoidable waste of coal. The enquiry of the Committee will be limited to coal fields in Bengal, Bihar and Central Provinces, and its headquarters will be in Calcutta. The Committee is expected to assemble about the end of November 1936 and make a report by the end of February 1937. When the report is received, it is understood, it will be referred to the coal interests concerned, and if legislation is found necessary, it will be undertaken in the Simla session of the Assembly in August 1937.

Government Communique.- The Government resolution in this connection runs as follows:-

The Government of India have for some time, had under consideration the question of devising measures for conserving the coal assets of this country by improving the methods of extraction and preventing avoidable waste. The serious extension of fires in the main coalfields has added urgency to this problem and by increasing the danger to life brought into prominence the necessity of affording greater protection to persons employed in mines.

Emergency Measures.- Certain emergency steps have been taken with the concurrence of the Legislature for the protection of the miners, but the Government of India have reasons to think that these are not likely to prove adequate in future years. A very large amount of coal is now standing in pillars and its extraction must necessarily involve a larger degree of danger than is ordinarily attendant on the driving of galleries by which the bulk of the coal has been extracted in the past. It is also probable that losses of coal due to fires and collapses will in the future be more extensive than they have been in the past unless **proper** steps are taken.

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The Scope of Work of Committee.- The Government of India have accordingly decided, as already announced in the Legislative Assembly, to appoint a Committee of experts to inquire into the methods of extracting coal underground and to report on the measures which should be taken (i) to secure the safety of those employed on this work, and (ii) to prevent avoidable waste of coal.

Safety in Mines.- In connection with part ~~ix~~ (i) the Committee are asked to consider specially

- (a) the dangers arising from underground fires;
- (b) the dangers arising from collapses of workings; and
- (c) the suitability of the explosives in use, and of the methods of using and storing them.

Conservation of Coal.- In connection with part (ii) the Committee<sup>are</sup> asked to consider specially:

- (a) the control that should be exercised over mining methods to ensure that a substantial proportion of the coal is not rendered incapable of extraction;
- (b) the extent to which it is desirable and practicable to enforce the partial or complete filling of the space from which coal is removed by incombustible material; and
- (c) the manner in which the cost of any action that may be recommended should be met.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-10-1936)

(The text of the Government Resolution is published at pages 239-240 of the Gazette of India Extra-Ordinary dated 29-10-1936)

The following views on the Coal Inquiry Committee expressed by Mr. Amritlal Ojha, ex-chairman of the Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta, in the course of an interview given by him to the Associated Press in the second week of October are indicative of the point of view of Indian coal interests:

<sup>4</sup> The alleged bad methods of mining which are considered as the causes of wastage of coal and for the improvement of which the Government are so anxious, are due to the plight of the industry for which both Government and public inaction to improve the economic condition of the industry <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ more or less responsible. The Government and the public, no doubt, want to see the

existence of the coal industry. But, at the same time, both want to have fuel cheap, and that by taking advantage of the most unfortunate position in which one finds the industry placed in this country. Compared with the position of the coal industry in other countries and the action taken by the Governments of the different countries for its well-being, or even compared with the action taken by the Government of this country to help other major industries, one can say without any exaggeration or any fear of contradiction that the coal industry has been entirely ignored and many a time made subservient to other industries.

In these circumstances, in my opinion, it is essential that any attempt to introduce better mining methods with a view to preventing the wastage of coal resources of the country must be preceded by an attempt to put the coal industry, which is on the verge of collapse, on a sound footing. To force the industry to introduce improved mining methods which are bound to add to the cost of production, when it finds difficult to make the two ends meet, not to speak of any profit, is like placing the cart before the horse. I would, therefore, suggest that the Committee should not only enquire into the present mining methods for their improvement, but should also consider the question in its commercial aspects and to do this the terms of reference should be widened and the personnel be made a representative one."

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 10-10-1936),

Problems of Indian Sugar Industry: 5th Annual  
Conference of Indian Sugar Technologists' Association,  
Cawnpore, 18 & 19-10-1936. +

The 5th annual convention of the <sup>Indian</sup> Sugar Technologists'

Association was held in the ceremonial hall of the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore, on 18 & 19-10-1936. Sugar technologists from all over India attended the meetings. Mr. V.P.Iyer, the Vice-President of the Association, presided.

Presidential Address.— The president, in his address, reviewed the progress made by the Association during recent years, the effect of the protective duty on sugar, the equipment and manufacturing conditions in factories and the problems of employment in sugar factories. A number of technical papers dealing with various branches of the sugar industry, namely, agriculture, engineering, manufacture and utilization of by-products were discussed at the convention. Important suggestions for the improvement of the industry in several directions were also made.

Annual Report for 1935-36.— The following are extracts from the annual report for 1935-36 presented at the session:

Production Statistics.— Surveying the development of the sugar industry during 1935-36, Mr. R.C. Srivastava, the Secretary of the Association, during the course of his annual report said that the most outstanding feature was the large increase in production of sugar directly from cane, which attained the record figure of about, 900,000 tons as against 578,115 tons and 453,965 tons in 1934-35 and 1933-34, respectively. This was due to an excellent crop and well distributed winter rains in Northern India which allowed the crop to remain in the fields without deterioration much longer, thus giving the factories a long working season. Taken along with the sugar refined from gur and that produced by the indigenous open pan process, the total output of sugar in India was approximately 1,050,000 tons and was almost sufficient for the entire home consumption.

Factory Improvements.— The operating efficiency of factories showed improvement during the last season, but this was due to some extent to the better quality of cane harvested. There was still considerable room for improvement in efficiency of operation. Another matter calling for attention was the quality of sugar manufactured by Indian factories. An official review dealing with this subject which was published for the first time this year disclosed the fact that with the exception of a few factories, the quality of sugar generally produced by Indian sugar factories was not high.

Need for Increased Efficiency.— With the large increase in production which was taking place, combined with the recent devaluation of Dutch currency, sugar prices were likely to decline. Improvement in efficiency and in quality of sugar would then become matters of much greater importance. It was hoped, that factory owners would now devote more attention to improving the efficiency of their

plants and the quality of their product than merely to increasing their output. Plants would have to be brought up to date and none but the best technical staff would be required to operate these, if the desired results were to be obtained. The practice of engaging technical staff for the crushing season only was also a serious contributory cause of inefficiency in operation.

Progress of Association.- Dealing with the problems of the association itself, Mr. Srivastava said that it was gratifying to record that the progress which the association had shown last year had been maintained during the year under report. The heavy work connected with the collection and compilation of technical returns from factories had been disposed of without delay. During the year 71 factories supplied monthly manufacturing returns, as against 64 during the previous year. A new form was introduced this year for obtaining principal machinery data from factories. This had provided, for the first time, information relating to mechanical equipment of a large number of Indian factories. This was of value not only for correlating the operating results of different factories, but also for laying out new factories and making improvements in the existing ones.

(The Statesman, 23-10-1936) +

Railway Enquiry Committee Appointed: Improvement  
of Railway Finances and Co-ordination of  
Rail-Road Transport. +

A communique issued on 19-10-1936 by the Government of India announces that, in view of Sir Otto Niemeyer's Report (paragraph 31(2)) and the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee, the Government of India have appointed a Railway Enquiry Committee, consisting of Sir Ralph L. Wedgwood, Chief General Manager, London and North-Eastern Railway, and Mr. W.A. Stanier, Chief Mechanical Engineer, London, Midland and Scottish Railway.

The Committee will be assisted by Mr. A. Forbes, Chief General Manager's Assistant for Rates and Statistics in the London and North-Eastern Railway. Mr. L. H. Kirkness, Secretary Railway Board, and Mr. B.M. Strouts will act as Joint Secretaries.

The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows: "To examine the position of Indian State-owned railways and to suggest such measures as may otherwise than at the expense of the general budget (1) secure improvement in the net earnings, due regard being paid to the question of establishing such effective co-ordination



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between road and rail transport as will safeguard public investment in railways, while providing adequate services by both means of transport, and (2) at a reasonably early date, place railway finances on a sound and remunerative basis.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-10-1936). +

Indo-Japanese Trade Agreement to Terminate on 31-3-37:  
Negotiations for Fresh Agreement . +

The Government of Great Britain communicated on 22-10-1936 to the Japanese Government <sup>its decision</sup> to terminate on 31-3-1937 the Indo-Japanese ~~Agreement~~ Trade Agreement. At the same time, an assurance was given to the Japanese Government of India's desire for the continuance of the negotiations for a fresh agreement proceeding at Simla, and expressed the hope that they would end successfully.

(The Statesman, 23-10-1936). +

The Company Law Amendment Bill: Assembly  
Passes Third Reading on 7-10-1936. +

After a debate extending over eighteen days in the course of which a record number of amendments were tabled and considered, the Legislative Assembly passed on 7-10-1936 the Companies Law Amendment Bill.

Mr. N.M. Joshi withdrew his amendment which sought to protect Provident Fund and other funds constituted by a company for the benefit of ~~x~~ employees, on receiving an undertaking from Sir N. Sircar that an amendment to the Bill would be moved in the Council

of State to the effect that the Provident Fund money, consisting of employers' and employees' contributions, would be invested in trust securities, that in the case of funds which had accrued up to the time of <sup>the</sup> passing of the Act, companies would be allowed 10 years' time within which to invest the funds in trust securities, that the amounts to be invested should consist of equal annual instalments spread over 10 years and that <sup>the</sup> interest accruing would be invested without taking into account the period of 10 years. The amendment of Mr. N.G.Ranga, proposing that each company shall ~~also~~ distribute part of the profit among the workers and also provide benefit schemes for workers was objected to by Sir H.P.Mody and disallowed by the President.

(The Hindustan Times and the Hindu,  
dated 8-10-1936)

Indian Opinion on the Bill. - The following extracts from an editorial comment of the Hindu on the Bill express the Indian point of view on the subject:-

An Advance on Existing System.- The Companies Bill has been universally acclaimed in India and for the excellent reason that half a loaf is better than no bread. In the first place, the Bill tightens up the company law in one important direction. The provisions embodied in the new Bill in such clauses as 41 and 60 make it difficult for people whose only activity is to promote bogus companies and make money at the expense of the unwary sections of the investing public to ply their trade.

Safeguards for Efficiency.- The State could not however be content with discouraging the growth of bogus concerns. Joint stock companies must not only be bona fide undertakings; it is essential that they must also be efficient, that those who seek to manage them are not only honest, but apply their minds actively to the fulfilment of the trust reposed in them. A number of changes which the Bill makes are meant to tighten up the law regarding the duties and responsibilities of directors. Dummy directors are as much a source of danger to joint stock concerns as dishonest directors and few will seriously complain of the obligations which the Bill lays on those who accept such an important and fiduciary position as that of a director of a joint stock company.

Managing Agents Curbed.- Another reform which this Bill brings about is that relating to that unique institution in Indian industrial organisation—the managing agents. The managing agency system today has fallen on ~~evil~~ evil days. Nevertheless the general consensus of opinion is in favour of the retention of the system; and the Bill, in accordance with this view, has sought to mend it and not end it. In future, managing agency contracts placing the managed company at the mercy of the managing agents for all time and on their terms will be virtually null and void. The tenure of office of managing agents will be subject to periodical revision at the desire generally of the shareholders; and provisions have been inserted in the Bill with a view to bringing home to the managing agents the fact that their office is in the nature of a trust and they are ultimately accountable to the shareholders in regard to matters on which the soundness and prosperity of the company they manage depend.

Control by Shareholders. - The debates in the Assembly have shown how in regard to many points there is a feeling that the safeguards provided in the Bill against chicanery, fraud and unfair dealing on the part of promoters and the management of companies provided in the Bill are not adequate. But defective as the Bill is, there will, we think, be general agreement that the broad principles underlying it are sound. The insistence on the giving of the widest possible publicity to the exact state of affairs of a company as ascertained by independent audit, the vesting in the shareholders of the right to call for information and accounts and otherwise to control the action of the directors and their policy, the minimising of the opportunities available to the management to act against the interests of the company, the emphasis laid on the accountability of the directors and the managers to the shareholders—these are well understood and recognised principles of sound control over corporate organisations; and if the Bill has met with general support it is because of the feeling that on the whole these principles find recognition in the Bill.

(The Hindu, 8-10-1936) +

## Employment and Unemployment. +

### Action taken on Sapru Report: U. P. Government

#### Sets up Unemployment Board. +

References were made at pages 43-47 of the January 1936 and page 62 of the June 1936 reports of this Office to the Report of the Sapru Committee on unemployment in U.P., and the action taken by the U. P. Government on some of the recommendations of the Committee. The U. P. Government has announced further action on the Report; ~~from which~~ it is understood that the Governor of the Province has sanctioned the establishment of an Unemployment Board, for a period of three years in the first instance, consisting of 25 members.

Composition of the Board.- The constitution of the Board will be as follows:- The Hon'ble Minister for Education or his nominee, (Chairman); the Director of ~~the~~ Public Instruction, U.P. (Vice-Chairman); the Vice-Chancellors of Allahabad, Lucknow, Agra, Benares and Aligarh Universities, (the Vice-Chancellors may nominate suitable persons to represent them on the Board generally or at any particular meeting); One member elected by the Provincial Legislative Council; one member elected by the Provincial Legislative Assembly; one nominee each of the United Provinces Chamber of Commerce, Upper India Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce; the Director of Industries, U. P.; the Director of Agriculture, U.P.; the Chief Engineer, Hydro-Electric Branch, U.P.; a nominee of the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, U.P.; the Principal of one of the vocational institutions in the United Provinces, nominated by the Government; a nominee of the Industrial Credit Company (when formed); the chairman of a Municipal Board nominated by the Government; the chairman of a District Board, nominated by Government; a member of the Provincial Public Service Commission (nominated by the Commission when it is established); two other nominees of the Government, and two members to be co-opted by the Board to ~~and~~ secure other interests.

Functions of the Board.- The functions of the Board will be as follows:

1. To collect, compile and supply to educational institutions and individual institutions information regarding openings for educated men in service, professions and business, and generally speaking, act as a clearing house for information regarding employment:
2. To register the names of candidates for various appointments and bring their names to the notice of employers.

3. To act as an accredited channel for inquiry and communication between individual candidates, their institutions and their committees, on the one hand, and intending employers on the other;

4. To keep ~~the~~ educational institutions in touch with matters of interest, from the point of view of their bearing on suitability for employment;

5. To indicate to educational authorities the amount of employment available, present and probable; and also the lines along which the various classes of students should be educated for purposes of employment;

6. To review and co-ordinate the work of all agencies for employment in the province and collect and supply statistics;

7. To advise the Government on all questions relating to unemployment; and

8. To set up committees and make rules for the disposal of business.

~~Appointment Committees~~- The Provincial Board will begin work shortly through two or more small executive committees. The Board and the meetings of its committees will be held at Allahabad or Lucknow.

Appointment Committees.- It is being suggested by the Government to the five universities in the province that they should create appointment committees, and to all recognised intermediate colleges and high schools that the management should appoint advisory committees for employment. In the case of Government Intermediate Colleges and high schools, the functions of an advisory committee for employment will be included amongst the functions of the school committee. In any Government high school or intermediate college in which no school committee exists arrangements for the creation of an advisory committee for employment will be made. The departments of the Government controlling vocational and professional institutions are being instructed to take steps to attach advisory committees to such institutions, where committees are already in existence, <sup>and</sup> to include the functions of an advisory committee for employment ~~amongst~~ <sup>along with</sup> the functions of the committee.

Appointment committees of the Universities and the advisory committees for employment referred to above will be primarily responsible for advice to students regarding their prospects of employment and for endeavouring to place in employment <sup>the</sup> students of the institutions to which they are attached. For this purpose they are to include influential persons of the locality, in particular persons connected with industry and business, who may be helpful in finding employment for the students of the institutions. The appointment committees and advisory committees for employment will bring to the notice of the Employment Board cases of students whom they have been unable to place in employment, and will assist the provincial Unemployment Board with such information as may be

required. The appointment committees and the advisory committees will doubtless find it convenient to take the assistance of the staff of the institutions to which the Committees belong.

Registration Fees.- Fees for (a) the registration of candidates for appointments, and (b) such other specific services as it may be requested to render, will be prescribed by the Board, subject to a minimum of Re. 1 for the registration of a student who has passed the High School or any Intermediate Examination of the Board of High School and Intermediate Education or any equivalent examination, and of Rs. 2 for graduates or those who have passed an examination equivalent to a degree examination.

(The Leader 10-10-1936.) +4

Relief of Educated Unemployment in Hyderabad State:

Scheme for Settling 200 Graduates on Land. +

A five-year plan for Hyderabad at an expenditure of Rs. 116,000 and a Government investment of Rs. 500,000 for undertaking an experiment in rural reconstruction with 200 educated young men to start with, was formulated at a meeting of the Hyderabad Economic Association held on 22-9-1936 with Mr. S.M.Azam, M.A., Principal, City College, in the chair. The scheme was outlined by Mr. Narsing Rao, Editor, "Rayat", an authority on matters relating to rural development.

Unemployment Conditions in Hyderabad.- Mr. Narasing Rao, in the course of his speech, said that the unemployed figures in India were roughly estimated at fifty millions, of which one and a half millions were educated. While unemployment was a universal evil, unemployment among the educated classes is a special problem in India. No figures were available with regard to Hyderabad, and the speaker suggested that the State Government should conduct an enquiry and, once in five years, collect statistics of unemployment, its duration, the qualifications of the unemployed, etc. He pointed out that recently the Excise Department of the State received 750 applications for a handful of lower-grade posts, and felt that appalling revelations would be found if the actual state of affairs prevalent in the State was ascertained.

Size of Economic Holdings.- Hyderabad has a total area of 52.9 million acres, of which, according to the 1934-35 Government reports, only 30 millions were under cultivation. Prof. S.K.Iyengar, Special Officer for Economic Investigations, had pointed out in his reports, that a 25-acre holding could be worked on an economic basis; the educated agriculturist would require a minimum of 75 acres. If 1.2 million acres were to be treated as cultivable waste, they would give employment to 16,000 educated persons. Land was also available under the Nizam Sagar, Wyra and Palar Projects, as the ryots, who held extensive tracts of dry lands there were incapable of converting them into wet lands and were willing to ~~resign~~ them.

Details of the Scheme.- Pointing out the agricultural potentialities of the State, Mr. Narasing Rao said that those who were to be recruited to rural life should be given a year's training at Government expense in farm management, animal husbandry, poultry and dairy farming, rural economics, and horticulture, along with practical training in agriculture. The course should aim at creating not agricultural scientists but scientific agriculturists. The students should be given stipends of Rs. 20 per mensem for the year, and the land should be leased out to them free of cost for ten years and at half rates for a further period of ten years. The Government should grant a Taccavi loan of Rs. 2,000 to each trained youth for equipping himself with a well, cattle, implements, etc., and the rate of interest should be low. To safeguard the social interest, they might be grouped into batches of three persons for each village and provided with model houses at a low cost of Rs. 500 at some nominal rent. A library and reading room, with arrangements for indoor games and a tennis court, should be provided, and there should be co-operative unions, credit unions and sales unions for at least a group of villages.

Financial Arrangements.- To inaugurate such a programme, Mr. Narasing Rao suggested that an Unemployment Bureau should be started, not only to collect statistics but to chalk out a five-year plan and work it. The scheme should be experimented with only 200 persons at the beginning, either Intermediates or graduates. The Government should spend Rs. 116,000 in this connection Rs. 48,000, on training the educated and Rs. 66,000 for sixty-six villages. A further investment of Rs. 500,000, Rs. 400,000 for Taccavi loan and Rs. 100,000 for building model houses, should be made. He hoped that H.E.H. the Nizam's Government, which had spent freely on progressive plans and had an Industrial Trust Fund of Rs. 10 million, would consider his plan, by which villagers would ultimately benefit in every way.

(The Hindu, 28-9-1936)+

Combating Middle-Class Unemployment in Bengal:

Review of Measures taken by Bengal Government. +

References have been made in the earlier reports of ~~our~~ <sup>this</sup> Office to the various measures adopted by the Government of Bengal from time to time to alleviate middle-class unemployment. The Industries Department of the local government has recently issued a press note reviewing the various measures so far adopted. The main features of the measures adopted by the Department of Industries of the Government of Bengal to grapple with the problem of middle class unemployment are: (1) Training young men in useful industries. (2) Research work for introducing new and improved methods of manufacture, particularly to help the small industrialists who cannot afford to ~~make~~ <sup>conduct</sup> experiments of their own. (3) Provision for industrial intelligence and marketing organisation. A summary of the work done under each of these heads is given below:

Industrial Training.- Under the Unemployment Relief Scheme which was first put in operation in 1932-33, 28 demonstration parties were established on the more important cottage industries likely to afford remunerative occupation to a large number of workers, viz., soap-making, leather goods, pottery, brass and bell-metal ware, cutlery, jute and wool weaving and umbrella making. Four more demonstration parties have since been established to popularise and introduce coir manufacture as a cottage industry in the deltaic districts of the province. Regular training in tanning leather, and in boot and shoe and leather goods manufacture is being given in the Tanning Institute at Tangra and in the Boot and Shoe making depot in Calcutta. Theoretical and practical training in the advanced arts of hand-loom weaving and dyeing is given in the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore. Students are also given training in silk-weaving, dyeing and printing on cottage industry lines in the Government Silk Weaving and Dyeing Institute, Berhampore. There are, besides, various technical and industrial institutions in the province where technical and industrial education is imparted.

As a result of this training in schools as well as by demonstration parties, a large number of small factories have been established by the trained apprentices in Calcutta, and <sup>in</sup> Muffussil and more than 11,000 students are known to have been provided with



improved opportunities of employment - some of whom have started business of their own in the respective industries.

Industrial Research.- The results of researches in many industries proved useful not only to small workers but also to factories. Researches in soap making and soft soap were carried on with satisfactory results. Researches were also carried on into other technical problems such as varnishes, gloy paste, lesser known oil seeds, etc., Minor technical problems requiring ~~more or less~~ practical experiments were also solved in the Industrial Research Laboratory for the benefit of small industrialists. In the brass and bell-metal industry, the manufacture of brass and German silver tea spoons by a process of sand moulding, and of brass dolls and images by a process of clay moulding has been standardised. The introduction of a new kiln designed by the department and the evolution of new processes of glazing for ornamental pottery have proved beneficial to the pottery industry. Experiments were carried out in the laboratory on "Majolica" ware glazes, earthenware bodies for manufacturing "chota hazri" sets and "Parian" bodies for manufacturing figures, etc., and the results obtained are expected to advance the development of the industry in fruitful channels. The manufacture of parasols, fancy umbrella handles and walking-sticks has been standardised. It is gratifying to note that the improved methods of manufacture evolved as a result of these researches and experiments have been greatly appreciated by small industrialists.

Industrial Intelligence.- Prospective industrialists are assisted by the department on matters relating to the lay out of factories, selection of raw materials and machinery, as also in the selection of site, recruitment of labour, etc. All enquiries are sympathetically treated and any proposal, which on examination, appears to possess elements of success is encouraged. The ~~in~~ two Industrial Surveyors employed under the unemployment ~~relief~~ relief scheme were fully engaged in exploring avenues of marketing and assisting small industrialists in the difficult task of finding a market for their products. The survey of the cottage industries in the Noakhali district was completed during last year and that relating to the Nadia district ~~is~~ is in progress.

Financial Assistance.- The scheme for the general extension of credit facilities from persons intending to establish small industries in Bengal which was announced recently when fully implemented is expected to further relieve the problem of unemployment.

Main Features of Work Accomplished.- The Unemployment Relief Scheme was ~~is~~ inaugurated, as an experimental measure to relieve unemployment among the bhadralok (middle) classes. The experiment has been eminently successful, and the experience of this province is being taken advantage of not only by some of the other provinces, but also by some of the Indian States as well. The value of the scheme has been found to lie in providing honest and honourable employment for the unemployed educated young men. It has also been instrumental in providing trained or skilled labour for the industries. The following are in brief, the achievements of the scheme:-

(1) It has created an industrial atmosphere in the province, which was almost wholly agricultural with <sup>only a few</sup> moribund indigenous industries;

(2) It has encouraged the establishment of new factories for the manufacture of various articles of utility and everyday use;

(3) It has provided facilities for the supply of trained labour for the industries; and

(4) It has reduced unemployment.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 19-10-36) +

All India Conference of Unemployed to be held  
in Delhi: Proposal of All India Unemployed  
Relief League. +

Under the auspices of the All India Unemployed Relief League, an All India Unemployed Conference is being convened in Delhi during the Christmas holidays. All the Indian universities are being requested to send their respective economic experts to take part in it. Prominent men of India like Sir T.B.Sapru, Sir Pheroz Sethna, Sir P.C.Ray, and leading capitalists and philanthropists are also being approached to participate in the conference. The conference will discuss, among other matters, <sup>the questions</sup> what speedy and practical measures can be adopted to carry out the objects of the League, and under what circumstances the capitalists will support the League in opening mills, factories and other commercial enterprises.

(The Statesman, 23-10-1936) +

Educated Unemployment in U.P.: Proposal to  
Form an Association of Unemployed.

A proposal to set up an Association of Educated Unemployed Persons in the United Provinces is made in a circular letter issued by a group of persons from all the principal cities of the United Provinces. The circular states that it is the earnest desire of the organisers to engender a corporate spirit among educated unemployed persons and, by a collective effort, to find a solution for the unemployment problem.

The organisers' objects are to establish an employment bureau which will maintain a register of unemployed persons with their qualifications and abilities, collect information regarding avenues of employment and bring employers into close touch with unemployed persons. Within the proposed Association, it is intended to set up an Assembly of Guides consisting of heads of Government departments and eminent non-officials and representatives of the public. This Assembly will assist in formulating the policy of the Association and in achieving its objectives. In addition to setting up the employment bureau, the Association aims at making a thorough study of the situation to ascertain new sources of employment, and to establish institutions, business centres and colonies which will absorb unemployed educated persons within them. It proposes further to train technical experts who will be needed for the creation of these new business concerns.

Among its subsidiary objects are the supply of industrial and commercial information to business men, the holding of meetings

and arranging of lectures, publishing of magazines, journals and leaflets, and representing the cause of educated unemployed persons on public bodies. The Association proposes to hold a meeting of representatives of the various districts in the United Provinces in the near future. The convener of this meeting is Mr. G.M.Sinha, Allahabad.

(the Statesman, 15-10-1936) +

Problem of Educated Unemployed in the Punjab:

60 Graduates Settled on Land. +

On 16-10-1936 the Revenue Member with the Punjab Government awarded, on behalf of the Government, to 60 university graduates lands under the Government's plan to encourage educated young men to take to agricultural life and farming. All the selected recipients were present and appeared thoroughly happy at commencing their career as farmers.

In the course of his speech on the occasion, the Revenue Member said that it was the beginning of an experiment which if successfully worked, might very likely be extended further and help in solving the problem of unemployment among the educated young men. Under the scheme, lands are given to agricultural graduates who are being intentionally scattered in different chaks (villages), and in different colonies, so that they may be able to impart to their fellow villagers, by practical example, the gains that are to be derived from modern methods of farming. As at present arranged there ~~will~~ will be at least two agricultural graduates in one chak, so that they may be company for each other.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-10-1936) +

Public Health.

Problem of Over-crowding in Bombay Municipal  
Chawls: Results of Investigation by Labour Sub-  
Committee of B. P. W. C. +

The Labour Sub-Committee of the Bombay Presidency Women's Council has been devoting of late great~~a~~ attention to the problem of over-crowding in the municipal chawls (tenements) in Bombay City. It recently undertook an enquiry on the subject by making house to house visits in the chawls. It was decided to concentrate for the present, on the chawls occupied by Mahars (scavengers), since it was alleged that these are the chawls in which overcrowding is most rife, the Gujarati and Kathiawari families being less tolerant of housing two families in one room. Those chawls occupied by workers from U.P. were also included, since they presented certain problems of their own.

The report points<sup>out</sup> at the outset that, owing to a certain amount of suspicion about the object of the enquiry and to other practical difficulties, the information gathered is not very accurate, but maintains that it gives a fair indication of the situation regarding overcrowding in the chawls. The results of the investigation are summarised below:-

Number of Conservancy Staff and Accommodation Available:- The Conservancy Branch of the Bombay Municipality employs a total of 2718 Mahars and 412 U.P. workers, most of whom work as scavengers. Of these 2171 Mahars and 341 U.P. workers are accommodated in various types of chawls scattered over the city from Mahim to Colaba. The total number of rooms available for their use at present is 1294. It is understood that about 618 labourers in the scavenging department of the Municipality live elsewhere in the city, either because they can stay with friends, or because there is no room available for them in the Municipal chawls. For instance, a number of Mahars live (rent free) in huts of tin and Zavli leaves, which they themselves have erected on Municipal ground. As chawl rooms become available, it is intended to transfer these families to them, but the fact remains that at present the necessary rooms are not

available. As far as rents are concerned for those who live in the chawls, men employees pay As.8 per month, and women employees pay As. 5 per month. Men and women who live in the Municipal chawls, and are classed as "outsiders", not being in Municipal employment, pay a monthly rent of Rs. 2/- and Re.1/- respectively.

Classification of Chawl Rooms.- A certain amount of difficulty was experienced in the classification of the rooms. In the enumeration of the number of rooms occupied by one married couple employed in the Municipality and their children, it was found necessary to include in this category also rooms where such couples had taken an "outsider" adult not employed by the Municipality. For purposes of calculating the number of rooms required for the housing of Municipal workers, difficulty arises when a room is occupied by more than two adults all closely related to each other and all or most of whom are Municipal employees. Looking to the size of rooms, the residence in them of more than one couple and their children should be prohibited, but this principle could not be enforced in all cases since the custom of joint family life is prevalent to a great extent. The investigators found that in about 227 rooms out of the total of 1138 rooms visited, there were housed together in each room more than 3 adults and the children who belonged to them. In some cases as many as six adults in one room were found.

The Problem of the 'Outsider'.- The problem of the "outsider" (i.e., the tenant who is not in Municipal employment), is one of the chief difficulties in the way of estimating the extent to which the present accommodation is inadequate. In a city where the housing problem is so acute, tenants are very prone to take in relatives or village connections, whether they work in the Municipality or not. It is not easy to check this, even when the point of overcrowding has been reached. A certain amount of freedom and consideration has to be given, and in the case of relatives, it is inevitable that the desire of members of the same family to live more economically by living together will be very strong. In view of the size of the rooms however, it is very desirable that the number of adult occupants should not exceed three, and that those actually employed by the Municipality should always have preference over 'outsiders'. For purposes of assessing rent, labourers' wives who are not employed under the Municipality, are counted as "outsiders". For the purpose of estimating housing needs of Municipal labourers, the Committee has on the other hand, not regarded the unemployed wife of the Municipal labourer as an "outsider".

In a large number of cases, the wives of Municipal employees are temporarily or permanently in their villages. An attempt was made to get some idea of the number of these. The uncertainty of their presence in the chawl made it difficult to estimate the extent of overcrowding at all accurately.

Conditions of Life of U.P. Tenants.- At Bapty Street, Dadar, Phalton Road and Colaba are quarters where workers from U.P. are housed. Most of these workers have their wives in U.P., and visit them once in a year or two. There is no home life for them in

Bombay, and many of them complained that they would like to bring their wives to Bombay if only there were rooms for them to live in. In some rooms in Bapty Street, there are 5,6,7 and 8 men living in each room. The actual floor space, if entirely covered with beds, holds at most five, and a number of men take their charpoys (beds) out into the lorry shed near by. In a semi-permanent shed in Phalton Road about 26 men were housed. The shed was found to be in an extremely dilapidated condition, and the men complained that the rain beats in. The Municipal stables are in much better repair. Sanitary conveniences were inadequate, and as the shed was built very near the refuse loading depot, the smell was most foul. Privacy and home life, are, of course, non-existent. No lights are provided, ~~here~~ there were only two taps in the open yard for water supply and bathing, and the nearest lavatories at their disposal were the public latrines across the road from the entrance to the chawl compound. The conditions under which these U.P. labourers are housed are stated to require immediate improvement.

Health of Tenants. - In the course of the enquiry, sidelights have been thrown on a number of interesting points. Among these are the extent of polygamy, and a number of cases in which widows frequently found shelter and protection by staying with a man (it may be a distant relative), who is either unattached, or who may have a family of his own. The need for compulsory primary education is insistent. The Committee has been struck by the comparatively small number of children per family. Many couples are childless and it is unusual to find one with more than one, two or three children. It has to be remembered that infant mortality is high, and large numbers of children died in infancy. Blindness was perhaps the most common permanent defect, though other defects were also occasionally met with. Where cases of sickness came to notice, such as tuberculosis and dysentery, the grave dangers of overcrowding were very apparent.

Estimate of Fresh Requirements. - The Committee have estimated that at least 370 additional rooms are required and have recommended to the Municipality either to build new chawls or to take over additional accommodation in the Improvement Trust Chawls as has been done in the past.

(Summarised from the Report of the Sub-Committee, copies of which were supplied to this Office. A copy of the Report has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/ 1248 /36 dated 29-10-1936) +

Nutrition.Food Adulteration in Bombay City:Municipality Tightens Preventive Laws. ✓ +

Various aspects of the problem of adulteration of food have in recent years been engaging the attention of the Bombay Municipality, and as a result efforts are being made to tighten the application of the laws on the subject. Legislation providing more deterrent punishment for food adulterators in the City has already been passed, and the rules for enforcing it are under the consideration of the Bombay Municipal Corporation. It is expected that as soon as they are approved by the Corporation, Government sanction will follow without delay, and the amended Act may almost immediately be put into operation. The defects and drawbacks in the law have now been remedied and infringers of the law will not only have to pay higher fines, but the repetition of an offence might lead them to jail.

In 1935, the Health Department of the Bombay Municipality took 1,660 samples of ghee and 1,097 samples of butter. Of these, 104 and 16 respectively were found to be adulterated, giving a percentage of 6.3 and 1.4. In 1934, 2,317 samples of ghee and 1,752 samples of butter were taken, of which 136 and 19 were not genuine, ~~the percentage being 5.8 and 1.~~ The slightly higher percentage of adulteration in 1935 does not necessarily mean a set-back in the campaign against the fakers. More probably it is the result of better methods of detecting offences. Prosecutions were launched against all persons found to offer for sale adulterated ghee or butter. As many as 102 persons were convicted in 1935 for ghee and 24 for butter



adulteration. The fines ranged from Rs.5 to Rs. 75, depending on the proportion of the adulteration. The total amount of fines in 1935 for both ghee and butter adulteration amounted to over Rs. 5,000. The campaign of "sampling" and prosecutions is being vigorously pursued this year also. It is, however, felt that not until the provisions of the new legislation are fully enforced can an effective blow be struck against the food adulterator.

(The Times of India, 8-10-1936)+

Health of Calcutta University Students: Report  
of the Students' Welfare Committee. +

The 16th Annual Report, referring to the year 1935, on the medical examination of the healths of the students of the Calcutta University conducted by the Students' Welfare Committee of the University shows that the health of students of the University deteriorated during 1935. The Committee observe: "During the year the proportion of students found to be suffering from defects was 63 per cent, as compared with 56 per cent for 1934 and 62 per cent for 1933.

Analysis of Medical Inspection Results.— The following table gives an analysis of the findings of medical inspection of a limited number of students and shows the incidence of various defects:

Names of diseases.	Figures for college students given in percentage - No.of students- 925.	Figures for school students given in percentage - No. of students -875,
effective Vision.	29.40	20.43
malnutrition.	28.54	33.90
enlarged Tonsils.	12.43	19.75
caries(dental)	12.43	25.68
skin Diseases.	11.78	15.98
lung Diseases.	6.32	3.54
enlarged Liver.	3.46	8.67
enlarged Spleen.	3.13	2.4
gynorrhoea.	2.16	0.57
heart Disease.	1.27	2.72
tuberculosis.	0.11	0.17

There has been a slight decline in the incidence of malnutrition, defective vision and enlarged tonsils among both the college and school students. Among school students there has been an increase in the incidence of caries (dental), skin diseases, lung diseases, ~~and~~ enlarged spleen, enlarged liver and heart disease. The increase is due to the fact that (1) a large number of students from maffasil schools was examined for the first time during the year and (2) many students were found to be suffering from the effects of epidemic dropsy.

Defect Cards Issued.- The Medical Board attached to the Students' Welfare Department examined the health of 1,933 students. This brings the total number of students examined till 31st December, 1935, to 32,061. The number of defect cards issued by the Department during the year was about 1,300 as against 1,100 for 1934. 241 students were recalled for special examination of health. From these, 178 students were kept under observation for various periods as against 50 for 1934. The majority of these cases improved considerably under treatment and were subsequently referred to the University Organiser of Physical Education.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-10-1936) +

Women and Children.Women Workers in Ahmedabad: Inquiry re. ProfessionsConducted by Jyoti Sangh. +

Jyoti Sangh, an institution run by Miss Mrudula Sarabhai, daughter of the Ahmedabad mill magnate, Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai, with the object of ~~enlightening~~ <sup>helping</sup> women to achieve their economic independence, is conducting an inquiry into the professions and trades followed by women in and around Ahmedabad. It has so far inquired into about 70 professions and trades in which women are engaged, ranging from sweepers' work to work in telephone and telegraph offices. Women's trades and professions have been divided into two sections, intellectual and industrial. The first consists of professions like nursing, teaching and private tuition. Such professions yield an average income of about Rs. 30 per month. The second division consists of <sup>physical</sup> ~~simple~~ labour, in which are included embroidery and knitting and manual labour, which includes all work done by women of the labouring classes. Some women make ropes, brooms, baskets and carpets and sell them in the market. They earn ~~about~~ eight annas per day. Some women make country ~~the~~ bidis (cigarettes), but they are paid less than men and do their work at home. In some factories men and women work together, the women at less wages, though machinery is fast displacing both sexes.

At the conclusion of the investigation, it is understood, a report will be published.

(The Times of India, 9-10-1936) +

## Agriculture.

### Rural Reconstruction in India: Government's Review of work in villages. +

The progress of rural reconstruction in India was the subject of a report laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly on 15-10-36. The report showed in detail how new life was being brought to India's hundreds of thousands of villages, by the efforts of the Government of India and the provincial governments. The data from which the report was compiled is derived from statistics supplied by the Provincial Governments, <sup>which</sup> ~~who~~ have been responsible for the administration of a vast scheme of rural improvement sanctioned by the Government of India 18 months ago. A substantial sum of money was set aside for the campaign (vide pages 66-68 of our report for February 1935) and the report details the multifarious ways in which this has been spent and the results ~~it has~~ produced. Some of the novel features of the programme are: (1) Organisation of shows for horses, goats, poultry etc., (2) Organisation of Better Living Societies; (3) Distribution of communal village medicine chests; (4) Organisation of baby shows; (5) Lectures on health, agriculture, etc., (6) Setting up of communal loud-speakers for villages and (7) anti-malaria campaigns.

General Apathy Overcome. - According to the various provincial reports, as a result of the reconstruction measures, local apathy and fatalistic resignation have given place in many areas to active interest, and there is a stir and a new note of hope. Agricultural improvements have received fresh impetus, demand for improved seeds is growing, demonstration plots are being opened in village centres, seed unions are being formed, better agricultural methods and practices are being adopted and cattle breeding is being taken up with earnestness.

Health and Sanitation. - In Bombay the health schemes comprised purchase of medicine chests, campaign against guinea-worm, baby shows, nurseries, improvement of the conditions of midwifery and propaganda of knowledge of first-aid. In the U.P., ~~the~~ Health Units have been established, for groups of villages. Besides carrying on the general items of health work, which include soakage pits, manure pits, ventilators, improvement of water supply, etc., the special features of the health units are the provision of medical relief by means of mobile dispensaries under the charge of medical officers, maternity and child welfare work under the care of health visitors assisted by trained midwives, and general anti-epidemic work such as inoculation, vaccination, etc. Intensive health propaganda has been carried out. In Burma the anti-malarial measures comprised the free distribution of quinine and the breeding of larvivorous fish (which feed on the larvae of malarial mosquitoes).

In Madras, House surveys <sup>are</sup> were being carried out with the object of getting as much information as possible about the houses and their occupants. The health inspectors surveyed all the 8,017 houses in the Health Unit area. They are now going over the same houses advising the people to carry out improvements, especially in the matter of removal of rubbish accumulated in the backyards.

Roads, Bridges and Water Supplies. - In many provinces roads and bridges have been constructed to connect important villages with each other and with railway stations and trunk roads. Particular attention was paid to the supply of irrigation water by digging tanks, ~~spring~~, masonry or tube wells.

Education. - The Government of India's grant has been mainly utilised for opening night schools and constructing school buildings. Touring libraries have been started in some provinces and grants made in deserving cases for literacy schemes, for boy scouts and girls guides and training colleges. Propaganda work has been mainly concentrated on training classes for rural workers, magic lanterns and slides, gramophones, and leaflets and posters on various subjects such as tree and mango planting, trench, latrines, advantages of clubs, and cattle diseases. In Bombay, for example, a few publicity vans have been purchased to facilitate the dissemination of instructive matter pertaining to rural hygiene.

Agricultural Improvements. - In Bombay, schemes were formulated by the district authorities to suit local conditions. They cover a large number of useful objects, such as improvement of the quality of cotton paddy and bajri seeds and of sugar-cane, introduction of upto-date agricultural implements, <sup>and the</sup> construction of manure pits. In certain centres, attention has been concentrated on <sup>cattle</sup> ~~cattle~~ breeding and improvement in the breed of goats. Among the miscellaneous objects on which the grant is expended may be mentioned plant-pullers grafts, bunding, pig-killing and egg-sale societies. In the United Provinces, to provide facilities for marketing, the products of village cottage industries, 27 subsidised shops have been opened. In twelve selected districts of the province fruit culture has been organised on an extensive scale.

Fruit plants and seeds have been supplied to 720 villages; the work of planting is nearing completion. A special scheme for the improvement of goats and poultry is in force. Fifteen stud bucks for breeding of village goats have been placed at five different centres. Several successful goat shows have been held, at which 214 goats were exhibited, there being 189 exhibitors from 36 villages. Two poultry farms have been opened. In the Punjab, in addition to work on fruit nurseries, a canning hall has been constructed and machinery worth Rs. 5,000 for the canning of fruits and vegetables has been purchased. Experiments have already been made with the manufacture of lemon squash, lime juice cordial and tomato ketchup with very promising results in regard to both taste and cost. A farm has been opened in the Central Provinces to supply seeds, a long-felt want. Large quantities of seeds are at present imported from outside the district. Ten temporary veterinary officers were appointed in Bengal and were posted to several districts, where they are carrying out propaganda for the improvement of live-stock and making arrangements for the transport of approved bulls.

Land Tenure.— One of the worst obstacles in the improvement of agriculture has been the traditional custom in most areas of splitting up land between descendants. This is one of the many problems that has been tackled, as well as the equally difficult one of the wholesale system of borrowing money at extortionate rates of interest. A great advance has been made in the Punjab during the last two years in the method of consolidation of land. In 1934-35, 100,000 fields were reduced to less than 17,000. But the process goes further than mere consolidation of fields. Village roads were straightened and new connecting roads were made, which sometimes included a circular road round the village, on the outside of which each landowner is given a small plot for keeping his manure. If possible, ~~too~~ spaces were left for a school playground and for a tree nursery. New wells were sunk, waste lands were brought under cultivation; litigation about boundaries virtually ceased and production increased. The outstanding feature of the work in North Orissa according to the reports was the insistence of the villagers themselves contributing substantially to the schemes by supplying labour free and arranging themselves to take work on contract at low rates.

(The Statesman, 16-10-1936) +

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Meeting of the Peasants' Group of the Members of  
the Legislative Assembly: Resolutions on  
Agricultural Indebtedness, etc. ✓+

A meeting of the Peasants' Group of the Members of the Legislative Assembly <sup>was held</sup> ~~met~~ at Simla on 15-10-1936 under the presidentship of Dr. Khan Saheb. The more important of the resolutions passed by the Group are given below:

1. Indian Currency Valuation. - This Peasants' Group of M.L.A's protests against the refusal of the Government of India to devalue the rupee by an expansion of the currency in circulation, by de-linking the rupee from pound sterling, and thus leaving the rupee to find its own level in relation to purchasing power parity and by undertaking a suitable campaign of industrial and economic reconstruction, and thus place India in a better position to withstand competition from the rest of the world.
2. Famines and Floods in Certain Provinces. - This Group views with great concern the daily increasing sufferings of the peasants and workers of the United Provinces, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Berar, Bengal, Bombay, and Assam owing to the ravages of floods and famines, and protests against the half-hearted attempts of the provincial Governments to offer adequate relief to the sufferers.
3. Central Rural Reconstruction Board. - This Group requests the Government of India to make the rural development grant an annual feature of the central budget and to constitute a Central Rural Reconstruction Board, on the lines of the Road Development Committee of the Central Legislature, to supervise the allocation and utilisation of the rural development grant, and to advise and co-ordinate the attempts of Provincial Governments to effect rural reconstruction.
4. Representation in Committee. - This Group is glad that the Central Railway Advisory Committee has recommended that one seat at least ought to be provided for the peasants' representative on every local Railway Advisory Committee, and that the Commerce Member has agreed to take a representative of the Indian Planters' Association on to the Indian Tea Cess Committee as soon as the Indian planters organise themselves, and appeals to all those interested in the welfare of peasants to develop their regional organisations as soon as possible, and urges upon Government the need for giving representation to peasants' organisations on all quasi-Government committees which deal with peasants' problems.

5. Government's Apathy about Rural Indebtedness.— This Group expresses its deep disappointment at the Government's attitude of not taking action on the Legislative Assembly's Resolution on agricultural indebtedness, and urges upon Government the immediate necessity to declare a triennial moratorium for all rural indebtedness, to suitably amend the Usurious Loans Act, to penalize rates of interest higher than 12 per cent, to exempt at least agriculturists from imprisonment for civil decrees, to exempt a prescribed minimum holdings of peasants and a minimum quantity of grain from attachment for civil decrees, and to establish debt settlement committees all over India to scale down rural debts in proportion to the fall in prices.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-10-1936)+

Successful Working of Punjab Debt Conciliation Boards:

Cheaper and Speedier Legal Relief. +

The Amritsar correspondent of the Statesman has contributed a brief review on the working of the Debt Conciliation Boards appointed by the Punjab Government pursuant to the provisions of the Punjab Indebtedness Relief Act. These courts which have been set up as an experimental measure have been reconstituted for another year by a notification of the Punjab Government. There is one board in each division and the five boards are <sup>Situated</sup> at Amritsar, Jhang, Panipat, Garhashanker in the Hoshiarpur district and Kahuta in the Rawalpindi district. There are three members <sup>in</sup> of each board, usually with a retired Extra Assistant Commissioner as chairman.

Cheaper and Speedier Justice.— The boards are reported to have administered justice in the presence of both parties, giving their verdict forthwith, without going into the intricacies of law and without hearing any arguments from lawyers. The procedure is simpler and the litigation is cheaper. In many cases liabilities



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have been promptly paid; and in other cases instalments have been arranged. Both debtors and ~~the~~ creditors have realised the great facilities available through these boards, and have sought their help. In Amritsar there are nearly 80 cases filed in a month and the disposal is quick, since no arrears are allowed to be left. The board has also to travel a good deal, since most of the evidence is examined on the spot.

These boards, it is reported, have affected the Government's revenue from civil justice, since there are fewer suits in the places where Boards exist. Civil litigation is affected for another reason too. There remains no imprisonment for a civil liability, and thus the average creditor is reluctant to go to the courts. Money-lending business in the rural areas is considerably reduced.

(The Statesman, 24-10-1936) +

#### Agricultural Indebtedness in Madras: Government

##### Action on Mr. Sathianathan's Report.

Reference was made at pages 55 to 61 of our September 1935 report to the salient features of the Report on Agricultural Indebtedness in the Madras Presidency submitted by Mr. W. R. S. Sathianathan, I.C.S., Special Officer appointed by the Government of Madras to enquire into the question. (A copy of Mr. Sathianathan's Report was sent to Geneva with out minute D.L/1820/35 dated 17-10-35). In consultation with the High Court and the Board of Revenue, orders have been passed by the Government of Madras on the recommendations of the Special Officer contained in paragraphs 61 to 68 of his report.

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Protection of Debtors.- The Special Officer suggested in para 61 that (1) the Madras Debtors Protection Act, 1934 should be brought prominently to the notice of the public and that the attention of all civil judges should be drawn to its provisions; (2) that the creditor should be made to render a full and complete statement of accounts to each of his debtors once in six months showing the total interest and principal due separately and all the transactions relating to the loan which transpired in the previous six months; (3) that section 6(1) of the Madras Debtors' Protection Act, 1934 should be amended so as to provide that if the Court finds that a creditor has failed to maintain proper accounts he will not only be refused his costs, but will also be disallowed interest from the date on which accounts ceased to be correctly maintained, and (4) that section 6(2) of the Act should be so amended as to provide that a penalty for not giving a receipt or not furnishing a statement of accounts to the debtor should be loss not only of interest, but also of costs.

The Government have accepted suggestion (1) and have taken necessary action thereon; they are unable to accept the other suggestions.

Registration of Money-Lenders.- The Special Officer recommended (para 62) that money-lenders should be compelled to register themselves and that no money-lender who has failed to register himself can claim costs or interest above 6 per cent in a court of law. The question is engaging the attention of Government.

Speeding-up Law Processes.- The Special Officer suggested that (para 63) the work of the civil courts should be speeded up and that the law relating to debts could be improved with advantage. The Government do not consider that any special instructions are necessary in regard to the work of civil courts, which is being supervised by the Hon'ble the Judges.

Improvement of Debt Laws.- As regards the recommendations of the Special Officer (para 64) for improvement of the law relating to debts, the Government state that the question of amending the Usurious Loans Act, 1918 is under the consideration of the Government. The Hon'ble the Judges have issued a circular directing all civil courts to apply the Usurious Loans Act, with greater regularity and precision in all proper cases, including those in which the defendant is ex parte. The Government do not consider it desirable to give instructions to courts regarding the maximum rates of interest to be allowed under the Usurious Loans Act. The provisions of section 6-A of the Madras Debtors' Protection Act, 1934, as amended by Madras Act IV of 1936, are considered adequate.

Principle of 'Damdupat'.- The Special Officer suggested (para 65) the introduction of the principle of damdupat. The principle is already embodied in section 16 of the Madras Debt Conciliation Act 1936 which provides that in any scheme of debt conciliation under the Act, no creditor shall be allowed a greater amount in satisfaction of both principal and interest than twice

the amount of the principal of the debt, and if the debt was incurred before the 1st June 1933, twice the amount due on that date. The Government do not consider that any further legislation is necessary on the subject.

Malpractices of Moneylenders.— In para 66 of his report the Special Officer recommended that provision should be made to penalise the common practice of money-lenders of taking promissory notes or other document for larger sums than the amount actually lent. The Government do not consider that the suggestion is feasible.

Repayment of Agricultural Loans.— The Special Officer recommended (para 67) that the attention of civil judges may be drawn to rule 11 of Order XX of the Code of Civil Procedure advising them to apply the rule with greater frequency and sympathy to agriculturist debtors. He also suggested that, if the circumstances of the case permit, an agriculturist may be ordered to repay his loans in small instalments of not less than Rs. 20. The Judges have issued a circular as suggested by the Special Officer but the Government state that they are unable to accept the Special Officer's suggestion that a minimum for the instalments by which the agriculturist debtor should be permitted to repay his loans should be fixed. They consider that the amount of the instalments should be left to the discretion of the court.

Right of Mortgages.— As for the suggestion that in no case should a mortgagee be entitled to more than the mortgaged property in full satisfaction of his entire dues except costs, the Government consider that the suggestion, if given effect to, is likely to affect the credit of the agriculturist, and are at present unable to accept it.

Position of Sureties.— The Special Officer recommended that specific provision should be made to the effect that the properties of the sureties ought to be sold only after the properties of the principal debtor are exhausted. The Government consider that such provision will involve a protracted enquiry as to who is surety and who is principal and will introduce complications and state that they cannot, therefore, accept the recommendation. The Special Officer suggested that a decree-holder should not be permitted to purchase the property of the judgment-debtor except for a reasonable value to be fixed by the court after due enquiry. The suggestion is under the consideration of Government.

Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt.— The abolition of civil imprisonment the Government Order states is a matter for central legislation.

(The Hindu, 26-10-1936)

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Maritime Affairs.

Uniforms for Indian Seamen: Plea for  
Free Supply by Employers. +

A press statement issued by the Office of the All India Congress Committee in the last week of September 1936 states that one Mr. Ananda Mohan Sahay has written from Japan to the Foreign department of the Government of India drawing their attention to the poor and shabby attire of Indian crews of ships going to China and Japan. Some shipping companies it is reported, provide uniforms and clothings to some sections of the crew, but no Indian crew is supplied with such uniforms. *If* the Companies employing Indian crew are asked by the Government of India to see to it that Indian seamen are properly dressed when ships are in foreign ports and that they are supplied with a couple of suits at the expense of the companies, the present state of affairs would end.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,  
2-10-1936). +

## Migration.

### Indians in Malaya, 1935: Report of the Agent of the Government of India.\* +

Indian Population in Malaya.- According to the Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1935, the total population of Malaya at the end of 1935 is estimated at 4,611,450. Of these, the number of Indians is estimated at 638,714 against 624,009 at the census taken on 1st April 1931. The influx and efflux of Northern and Southern Indians by sea, land and air from 1-4-1931 to 31-12-1935 shows a post census gain of 17,181 Northern Indians and loss of 33,882 Southern Indians to Malaya, the net loss being 16,701. This, however, is more than compensated for by the excess of births over deaths during the period, the net result being a slight increase in the total population. The Indian population in Malaya can be classified under two main heads, permanent, i.e., those who have made Malaya their permanent home, and non-permanent, i.e., those who are in this country only to earn their living and will eventually go back to India. The permanent population is roughly about one-fifth of the total. Another main classification is, labourers and non-labourers. These two classes are found under both permanent and non-permanent population. About 70 per cent of the total will be labourers and the rest non-labourers.

Immigrants.- Indian immigrants to Malaya fall under two classes:- (1) assisted from the Indian Immigration Fund, and (2) unassisted or paying their own passages across. The assisted immigrants are either (a) recruited or (b) non-recruited or voluntary.

(i) By Recruitment.- Recruitment is now practically suspended, a limited number of licences only being issued to tea and oil-palm estates which are of recent growth and have no proper labour connections with India, and also to employers whose labour connections were with remote parts of the Madras Presidency. In 1935 only 50 licences were issued for three oil palm estates and one tea estate. The number of persons recruited was 1,862 (1,318 adults, 276 minors and 268 infants).

(ii) By Voluntary Assisted Emigration.- The Government of India allowed voluntary assisted emigration to continue during 1935 subject to a maximum quota of 35,000 adults up to September 1935 (including the excess arrivals of 13,000 adults in round figures during 1934 over the quota of 20,000 fixed for that year), and an additional quota of 6,000 for the period, October 1935 to January 1936, pending further examination of the question of wages etc. The immigration quota system adopted in 1934, whereby the Controller of Labour, Malaya, fixed the number of additional labourers required

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\* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1935.- Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1936.- Price Re. 1-4 or 2s. -pp.43.

by estates which offered satisfactory rates of wages and other conditions of employment, and forwarded lists of such estates with the necessary particulars to the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya, and to the Protectors of Emigrants at Madras and Negapatam, was followed only during the months of January and February in 1935. It was discontinued thereafter as it was found to be working unsatisfactorily, and as there were indications of the supply probably exceeding the demand. Assisted emigration was subsequently restricted only to labourers who produced identification letters from their employers guaranteeing employment on arrival in Malaya.

(iii) By Unassisted Emigration.- 38,807 adults and 3,477 minors arrived in Malaya by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers during the year by paying their own passages. The corresponding figures for 1934 were 39,598 adults and 2,983 minors respectively. Of the total arrivals 21,958 adults and 2,208 minors were presumed labourers, as compared with reduction in the number of labourers paying their passages across during the year, though the number of assisted labourers was kept down as low as possible. The number of passengers who came to Malaya by the Messageries Maritimes vessels was 1,159 during 1935, against 1,578 in 1934.

Departures.- Departures also fall under two classes (1) assisted or repatriated at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund and (2) unassisted. During the year under report, 4,537 adults and 1,040 minors were repatriated as compared with only 1,409 adults and 362 minors during 1934. Ill-health, old age, family affairs, etc., are the grounds on which repatriation is generally allowed.

The number of deck passengers who left Malaya for South India paying their own passages by the B.I.S.N. Company's boats during 1935 was 29,189 adults and 1,404 minors as compared with ~~23,556~~ 23,556 adults and 1,238 minors during 1934. Of the departures in 1935, 13,364 adults and 735 minors were presumed labourers, as compared with 8,196 adults and 527 minors in 1934. The number of passengers who left by the Messageries Maritimes Line during the year was 477 against 399 in 1934.

Strength of Labour Force.- The bulk of the Indian labour forces is employed in rubber and other estates. A fairly large number is employed in the several government departments, while the number employed in mines and factories is comparatively small. The position so far as Indian labourers are concerned is that there were 231,475 labourers employed of whom 183,205 were in estates, 4,594 in mines, 5,940 were in factories etc. and 37,736 in government departments. Of the 231,475 workers, 33,871 were in the Straits Settlements, 141,941 were in the Federated Malay States and 1,992 in the Unfederated Malay States.

Wages.- Standard rates of wages for Indian labourers for a 9 hours working day were fixed for certain key areas after an elaborate enquiry. These rates, which were in force until October 1930, were 50 cents for adult males and 40 cents for adult females

in class I or easily accessible and fairly healthy areas, and 58 cents for adult males and 46 cents for adult females in class II or less healthy and remote areas. The trade depression brought about a reduction in these standard wages. Other experiments like reduction in hours and number of working days etc. were also resorted to reduce the wages bill. The recovery which set in in 1934 brought with it a rise in wages in the majority of estates to 40 cents for men and 32 cents for women in 1935. The Controller of Labour has requested employers to pay the labourers 40 cents and 32 cents respectively for men and women for the morning tapping task only and for the customary days weeding task or other field work, which does not ordinarily exceed  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 hours.

Maternity Benefits and Child Welfare.- The labour laws provide for the payment of maternity allowances to working married women in cases of child birth, for one month before and one month after confinement. These allowances are generally paid. The report remarks that unless the managers of estates take a personal interest in the matter, the chances are that the money is not spent for the benefit of the mother and child, but is appropriated by the husband of the woman or by someone else. The women are generally reluctant to go to hospitals for confinement.

Creches are provided in most estates where young children are kept in charge of ayahs when the mothers go out to work. Some estates provide milk and kanji for these children at the creches. It is desirable, the ~~the~~ Agent remarks, that a little more generosity should be shown in the distribution of free milk to the children. The ayahs employed are mostly old women who are not fit for any other work in the estate. If trained nurses are employed, they can not only look after the children better but can also attend to the maternity cases in the estates.

Education of Workers' Children.- Under the labour laws, schools have to be maintained by employers at places of employment where there are ten or more children between the ages of 7 and 14. There were altogether 581 Tamil schools (including one Malayalam and 3 Telugu aided schools) with 20,240 pupils mostly of the labour class in Malaya, against 82,700 dependent children of whom not less than half may be assumed to be of school-going age.

Workmen's Compensation.- Workmen's Compensation legislation providing for payment of compensation for personal injuries and deaths resulting from accidents arising out of and in the course of employment in certain classes of work has been in force in the Straits Settlements, F.M.S. and the Unfederated States of Johore and Kedah. Particulars in regard to number of cases dealt with etc. are given below:-

1. No. of cases reported	..	..	1,667
2. No. of cases not reported.	..	..	22
3. No. of applications for compensation.	..	..	30
4. No. of cases settled by agreement.	..	..	86

5. No. of cases disposed of in open court in favour of-		
(i) claimants.	..	21
(ii) employers.	..	4
6. No. of cases pending.	..	9
7. No. of fatal accidents reported.		37
8. No. of prosecutions for breach of the law.		2

An important judgment was given by the Supreme Court, F.M.S., in November 1935, in dismissing the appeal filed by the Raub Rubber Estates, Ltd., Pahang. The point raised in appeal was whether the death of the labourer from administration of formic acid by mistake for liquid quinine while he was on sick leave on the estate, constituted an accident which arose out of and in the course of employment. The learned Judge agreed with the finding of the Magistrate and Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation that the health and well-being of the labourers are matters of direct concern to the employer in his own interest, that employers were under a legal obligation in such matters as health, housing etc. on estates, and that the taking of the medicine though voluntary was one of the ordinary incidents of the life of an estate workman and incidental to employment on that estate.

Legislation.- Certain minor amendments to the Labour Ordinance and the Malacca Agricultural Medical Assessment Ordinance in the Straits Settlements were passed during the year. The second schedule in the S.S. and F.M.S. Workmen's Compensation Ordinance and Enactment was also ~~amended~~ amended so as to extend the scope and benefit of this legislation to workers on estates and other plantations on which not less than 25 labourers are employed on any one day of the year. Other minor amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Enactment in the F.M.S. were made and in Kedah the Labour Code and the Workmen's Compensation Enactment were amended in order to bring them into line with similar legislation in the Straits Settlements and F.M.S. The new Indian Immigration Enactment in Trengganu came into force on 5th July 1935.

Some important provisions of the Straits Settlements Money Lenders Ordinance passed early in 1935, namely, licensing of money lenders by persons appointed as Registrars under the Ordinance, to which strong objections were raised by the interests concerned, were repealed and other minor amendments were also made towards the end of the year.

Political Status of Indians.- Political franchise is unknown in Malaya. Members of all public bodies are nominated by the Government. At present there is one Indian nominated member on the Legislative Council of the Colony, and one member on the Federal Council. There is also one member nominated to the Negri Sembilan State Council. There are no Indian members on any other State Council. Indians have been nominated on some Municipal Sanitary Boards.

(The Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for 1934 is reviewed at pages 62-65 of our December 1935 report). +



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Anti-Indian Agitation in Ceylon: Statement issued

by 30 Assembly Members. +

Thirty members of the Legislative Assembly, of all parties, have issued in the second week of October 1936 a statement relating to the position of Indians in Ceylon. The following is a summary of the statement:-

Plight of Indians in Ceylon.- The situation of Indians in Ceylon is causing very great anxiety. The cry for their repatriation is gathering force and the State Council of Ceylon has already passed a resolution to this effect. The relations between India and Ceylon have been very friendly from time immemorial. In fact, it is almost mainly through Indian labour and Indian enterprise that Ceylon attained her present state of prosperity. Not only were enterprising Indian merchants welcomed, but immigrant Indian labourers were eagerly invited to Ceylon, because (as stated by Mr. Bandaranaike himself in the State Council when moving a resolution for restrictions and effective control of immigration into Ceylon on November 16, 1933) "as a result of the opening up of land originally under coffee and later under tea and rubber, it became necessary to have some form of labour which Ceylon in that period was, it must be admitted, not in a position to supply".

Testimony of Times of Ceylon.- In support of this contention, the Statement quotes the following extract from a leading article published in the "Times of Ceylon" dated 8-10-1936:

"Work of a certain description does not attract the Ceylonese and for that kind of work Indians will always be wanted. The suggestion that Indians undersell the Ceylonese in the labour market is not true. As a rule, the Indian asks for higher pay and generally gets it."

Persecution of Indians.- Despite this denial of employment in public services, boycotts, insults and even assaults are becoming the lot of Indians in Ceylon. Mr. A.E. Goone Sinha, a Labour leader and Member of the State Council desires that "Indians should be kicked out of Ceylon", while the Hon'ble Wade Silva, a responsible Minister of the Crown, describes the Indian community in Ceylon as "one million parasites". Above all this comes the proposal to repatriate Indians (vide resolution passed by the State Council on June 11, 1936).

Possibility of Retaliation by India.- The Statement points out that there are over one million Indians in Ceylon, who constitute one-fifth of the population of the Island, and that the path to peace and prosperity does not lie through boycott, humiliation and even assault, as occasionally happens, of Indians. It closes with a

plea for co-operation and goodwill, and draws attention to the fact that if good understanding is not established, India will be forced to take retaliatory action.

Prominent among the signatories are Mr. G.B.Pant, Mr. F.E. James, Mr. Aney, Sir Mohamed Yakub, Maulana Shaukat Ali and Mr. N. G. Ranga.

(The Hindustan Times, 16-10-1936)+

General.

Labour and the Coming Elections:

Manifesto issued by A.I.T.U.C. +

In view of the forthcoming elections to the Provincial Legislatures constituted under the Reformed Constitution, the All India Trade Union Congress has issued a manifesto enunciating its policy and programme. The manifesto urges the necessity of building up a broad Anti-Imperialist Front against the new Constitution and for National Independence. It also proclaims the support of the organised workers of India to the Indian National Congress in the elections, though in the ordinary course the T.U.C. would have entered the contest on its own class basis. At the same ~~the~~ time, it is declared that the elections should be fought on a distinct Electoral Platform on the basis of the democratic rights of the masses and their immediate economic demands. A summary of the Manifesto which was released for publication in the last week of October, is given below.

Opposition to Reforms.- The Manifesto condemns the Government of India Act of 1935 and denies the right of the British Parliament to frame India's constitution. It characterises the Government of India Act of 1935 as an attempt on the part of British Imperialism to consolidate certain concessions to vested interests without affording any relief to the masses. It appeals to peasants, artisans, petty shop-keepers, tradesmen, etc., constituting the overwhelming majority of the Indian population and to ~~the~~ their organisations, and, in particular, to the Indian National Congress, to organise an effective mass struggle against the new Constitution and for the attainment of National Independence. The Manifesto points out that, side by side with this mass struggle outside and as a complement to it, the working class will also participate in the parliamentary activity with the object of exposing the sham Constitution<sup>and</sup> of utilising the legislatures as platforms for agitation, propaganda and organisation. It is with this object that the working class will participate in the coming elections.

A.I.T.U.C. to Support Congress Candidates.- It calls upon the Indian National Congress to adopt in constituencies with a large labour vote only such candidates as are suggested by and enjoy the confidence and support of the Trade Unions in the locality. It is confidently expected that the Indian National Congress will accede to this demand of the working class. It has also offered to co-operate with the Congress in conducting a joint electoral campaign on the basis of a clear acceptance of the demands of the masses. In all these campaigns conducted jointly with the Congress or independently of it, unions are advised to take particular care and to raise the class issues in the most unequivocal form and to give expression to the class demands and the class aspirations of the workers.

Electoral Platform: Minimum Immediate Demands.- The working class demands that the elections should be fought on the basis of an Electoral Platform embodying the following immediate economic and political demands of the overwhelming majority of the population.

(1) Provision by legislation of a minimum living wage of Rs.30 per month, old age pensions, unemployment and maternity benefit, sickness insurance, an 8-hour day, paid holidays of a month in a year, decent housing, etc.

(2) Recognition of trade unions and enforcement of collective agreements.

(3) Refusal of protection to industries without making adequate safeguards for the workers and the producers of raw materials concerned.

(4) 50 per cent reduction in land tax and rent.

(5) Abolition of the land revenue system and its replacement by a graduated income-tax on agricultural incomes above Rs. 500; and grant of moratorium for at least 3 years on all payments of rent, interest, etc.

(6) Tenancy legislation guaranteeing to the tenants fixity of tenure, equitable rent not exceeding  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the produce, income from improvements effected by the tenants or the state, total or partial exemption from payment of rent in case of total or partial failure of crops etc.

(7) Liquidation of debts where capital with interest at the rate of 6 per cent had been paid off.

(8) Provision of cheap credit with interest not to exceed 6 per cent per annum.

(9) Provision of grants from the State for the improvement of agriculture and village sanitation, and for the development of rural industries.-

(10) Abolition of all indirect taxes.

(11) Provision of adequate facilities for the grazing of village cattle, collection of manure, fire-wood, etc.

- (12) Free and compulsory primary education.
- (13) Adequate facilities for vocational and higher education.
- (14) Statutory guarantees for freedom of press, speech, association and organisation, and the withdrawal of all repressive and restrictive laws.
- (15) Release of all political prisoners, detenus, etc. and the cancellation of all restrictive orders.
- (16) Legislation controlling rents and guaranteeing to the tenants certain basic rights against the landlords.
- (17) Municipalisation or nationalisation of public utility services.
- (18) Drastic reduction in the expenses of the civil administration and provision <sup>for</sup> increased expenditure on nation building Departments.
- (19) Full control over ratio, currency, credit and prices to be exercised in the interests of developing industries and thereby securing to the masses higher standards of living.

Labour Representation.- On this point, the Manifesto says that though the Constitution has granted a few special seats to the workers, compared to the special representation granted to the vested interests the number of seats granted to the workers is extremely small. And even the small representation granted to the workers is nullified to a large extent by the imposition of stringent conditions as regards payment of dues, preparation of rolls etc., which put the Unions affiliated to the Trade Union Congress to a great disadvantage when compared to Reformist Unions, and by the refusal to grant the requisite certificate to the mass Unions. The Manifesto declares firm opposition to acceptance of Offices under the new Constitution.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 29-10-36).+

INDIAN BRANCH

1999

N.B.-Every section of this Report may be taken out separately.

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References to the I.L.O.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 8-11-1936 publishes a "Letter" sent from Geneva by the paper's Geneva correspondent reviewing the work of the last session of the League Assembly and the Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 8-11-1936 publishes a picture of Sir Firoz Khan Noon in conversation with M. Paal Berg at Geneva where they attended the recent Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference. (The photograph which was supplied by the Geneva Office was sent to the paper by this Office).

\* \* \*

Pictures of the Indian Delegation to the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L.Conference were published in the following: the Hindu dated 9-11-1936, the Times of India dated 12-11-1936, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 13-11-1936, the Bombay Chronicle dated 15-11-1936 and the National Call dated 23-11-1936.

(Photographs received from Geneva were supplied to some of the above papers by this Office).

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 15-11-1936 publishes a picture of Sir Firoz Khan Noon with his Secretaries taken at Geneva.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 18 & 27-11-1936 publishes the first two instalments of a long article under the caption "The Seamen's Charter" contributed by the London correspondent of the paper. The article reviews the work of the last two (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 22, 25 & 26-11-1936 publishes the above article in three instalments, sent by the same correspondent

\* \* \*

A communique reviewing the last two (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L.Conference (issued by this Office on 17-11-1936) is published in the following: the Hindustan Times dated 19-11-1936, the Hindu dated 22-11-1936 and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 24-11-36.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 27-11-1936 publishes an editorial article on the above. The article comments favourably on the work



achieved by the Conference. *The article also refers to the activities after I.L.C. during November 1936.* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 29-11-1936 publishes a "Letter" dated 20-11-1936 sent from Geneva by the paper's Swiss correspondent. The "Letter" deals with the discussions on the question of hours of work for seamen at the 21st (Maritime) Session.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 3-11-1936 publishes a "Letter" dated 24-10-36 sent from Lausanne by the paper's Swiss correspondent in the course of which the work of the Maritime Sessions of the I.L. Conference is reviewed.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 7-11-1936 publishes the report of a meeting of Indian seamen held on 3-11-1936 in London under the auspices of the Hindustani Social Club. The meeting was attended by some members of the Indian delegation to the recent Maritime Sessions of the I.L. Conference. Mr. Aftab Ali, who addressed the meeting, reviewed the work of the Maritime Sessions of the I.L. Conference, and expressed satisfaction at the work accomplished. The message was sent to the paper by its London correspondent.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 29-11-1936 *publishes a* ~~of a~~ long letter dated 7-11-1936 from London from the paper's London correspondent reviewing the meeting of Indian seamen referred to above.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 17-11-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 20-11-1936 publish a "Letter" from London dated 4-11-1936 from their London correspondents. In the course of the letter, reference is made to the activities in London of Messrs. Aftab Ali and Mahomed Serang, who attended the last two (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L. Conference as representatives of Indian workers.

\* \* \*

*issued* The Times of India dated 21-11-36 publishes a short statement on landing at Bombay ~~issued~~ by Messrs. Aftab Ali and Mahomed Serang on their mission to Geneva. In the course of the statement, they expressed ~~ed~~ satisfaction with the results of the two (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L. Conference.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 25-11-1936 publishes the report of a meeting of Indian seamen held at Bombay on 21-11.1936 to review

the work done by the Indian workers' delegation at the 21st and 22nd Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Aftab Ali and Mahomed Serang.

\*       \*       \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 25-11-1936 publishes a report of a reception accorded to Mr. Aftab Ali on his arrival at Calcutta after attending the last two sessions of the I.L.Conference. In his speech on the occasion, Mr. Aftab Ali reviewed the work of the two sessions of the Conference.

\*       \*       \*

A communique re. the 77th session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 30-11-1936) is published by the Hindustan Times dated 2-12-1936.

\*       \*       \*

The Times of India dated 30-11-1936 publishes a news item received by air mail from Geneva summarising the Report of the Director to the 77th session of the Governing Body.

\*       \*       \*

The Times of India dated 26-11-1936 publishes a news item received from Geneva regarding the decision of the Governing Body to invite the League of Nations to co-operate with the I.L.O. in the matter of convening an international conference of the coal producing countries.

\*       \*       \*

The Hindu dated 24-11-1936 publishes a "Letter" dated 14-11-36 sent from Fribourg by the paper's Swiss correspondent in the course of which the reasons for overlooking Spain's claims in connection with the election of the Chairman of the Governing Body at the last meeting, are explained. The letter also gives an appreciative review of M. Fernand Maurette's talk at Geneva on "The economic situation of today", delivered on the last Armistice Day.

\*       \*       \*

A communique re. <sup>the</sup> activities of the I.L.O. during November 1936 (issued by this Office on 24-11-1936) is published by the Hindustan Times dated 26-11-1936 and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 1-12-1936.

\*       \*       \*

A communique re. the 23rd session of the I.L.Conference (issued

by the Government of India) is published by the following: the Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 14-11-1936, the Railway Herald, Karachi, dated 5-11-1936 and the October 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 21-11-1936 publishes a news item to the effect that several commercial bodies in Calcutta have recommended Mr. Karam Chand Thapar for nomination as the Indian Employers' delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference. It is also mentioned that Sir H.P.Mody has been recommended by numerous employers' organisations outside Bengal.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 27-11-1936 publishes a news item received from Geneva regarding the proposal of the Polish Member in the Migration Committee of the I.L.O. to hold an International Migration Conference.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 5-11-1936 publishes a report sent by mail from Geneva of a luncheon party given by Dr. V.S.Ram of the League Secretariat on 9-10-1936 in honour of the Indian delegates to the League Assembly and the Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* *Re* \* \*

A communique re. *Re* World unemployment situation during the 3rd quarter of 1936 (issued by this Office on 27-10-1936) is published by the following: the Hindu dated 2-11-1936 and the Leader dated 5-11-1936.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 30-10-1936 publishes an editorial article on the above, in the course of which Government's apathy in collecting Indian unemployment statistics is deplored.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 6-11-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Training Camps for the Unemployed". In the course of the article, the suggestion is made that camps for the unemployed on the lines indicated in certain publications of the I.L.O. should be started in India.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 19-11-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption "Reduction of Unemployment in U.S.: Will Government of India follow Suit"? The article pays tribute ~~the~~

to the efforts of the Roosevelt administration to reduce unemployment in the United States and points out that the United States closely followed the programme chalked out by the I.L.O. in this behalf. The Government of India, it is suggested, should follow the lead of the United States and work on the lines indicated by the I.L.O. to reduce unemployment.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 9-11-1936 <sup>publishes</sup> of a long and appreciative review of "The I.L.O. Year-Book, 1935-36". (The review was supplied to the paper by this Office).

\* \* \*

"Indian Finance", Calcutta, dated 7-11-1936 also publishes a review of the I.L.O. Year-Book, 1935-36. (An extract of the review was sent to Geneva with this Office's <sup>minute</sup> H.1/1295/36 dated 11-11-1936).

\* \* \*

A communique re. the I.L.O. Year-Book, 1935-36 (issued by this Office on 19-10-1936) is published by the following: the October 1936 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, and the November 1936 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay.

\* \* \*

The October 1936 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, publishes a review of "Social Insurance in 1935" (Reprint of Chapter III of "The I.L.O. Year Book, 1935-36"). (A copy of the publication was forwarded to the Journal by this Office.).

\* \* \*

A statement issued by Mr. C.C. Biswas on his return from Geneva after attending the last League Assembly, is published in the following: the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Times of India and the Hindustan Times dated 7-11-1936.

Mr. Biswas expresses dissatisfaction with India's position in the League.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 8-11-1936 publishes an editorial note on the above, supporting the views expressed by Mr. Biswas.

\* \* \*

The Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 9-11-1936 publishes a note on the recent Japanese enactment prohibiting night work of women and young persons in Japanese mines. It is pointed out that this legislative

measure is the result of Draft Conventions prohibiting night work of women and young persons.

\* \* \*

The November 1936 (Special Supplement) issue of the Commercial Review, Alleppey, publishes an article under the caption: "Industrial Competition between the East and the West" contributed by the Director of this Office. References are made in the article to the role of the I.L.O. in minimising the adverse effects of such competition on workers' standard of living.

\* \* \*

The Servant of India, Poona, dated 12-11-1936 publishes an appreciative review of the book: "The League of Nations" by Kathleen E Innes (Hogarth Press). The review makes incidental references to the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The November 1936 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, reproduces the article: ~~on~~ "India and the 40-Hour Week" originally published in the Asiatic Review.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 5-11-1936 publishes the full text of the first of a series of broadcast talks on "The Human Factor in Industry" delivered by Mr. D. Shiva Rao, the President of the National Trades Union Federation. In the course of the talk, Mr. Shiva Rao traces the influence of the I.L.O. in promoting the working class movement in India. The text of the speech was published in several Indian papers.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 7-11-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Roosevelt returns to the White House: Promise of a New Economic World Order". In the course of the article attention is drawn to the support accorded by the Roosevelt administration to the programmes of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 5-11-1936 publishes a short editorial note under the heading "French India Inquiry" in which the objects of M. Justin Godart's visit and his connections with the I.L.O. are reviewed.

\* \* \*

The Report of the Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 1935 contains the following references to the I.L.O.:

- (a) At pages 101-105 is published the I.L.O. Questionnaire (with the views of the Association thereon) relating to holidays with pay. The Association is opposed to the proposal.
- (b) At pages 128-132 is published the views of the Association on the I.L.O. Convention re. Workmen's Compensation for Occupational Diseases. (Revised 1934). The Committee, while offering no comments in respect of other diseases, is of opinion that silicosis may be included as an occupational disease.

\* \* \*

No Indian newspaper or periodical received during the month in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

\* *& pictures* \*

*Sent by* The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during November 1936.:-

1. A report of a meeting of Indian seamen in London held on 3-11-1936 at which Mr. Aftab Ali spoke, sent by the London correspondent of the Bombay Chronicle.
2. A Reuter's message dated 3-11-1936 from London re. above.
3. A "letter" dated 24-10-1936 from Lausanne to the Hindu by its Swiss correspondent regarding 21st and 22nd (Maritime) sessions of the I.L. Conference.
4. A "letter" from Geneva regarding the Maritime Sessions of the I.L. Conference, and published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 8-11-1936.
5. A message from Geneva regarding the luncheon party organised by Dr. V.S. Ram.
6. A picture taken at Geneva of Sir Firoz Khan Noon with his Secretaries.
7. Pictures of the Indian delegation to the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) sessions of the I.L. Conference.
8. An article under the caption: "The Seamen's Charter" contributed by the Geneva correspondent of the Bombay Chronicle and the Amrita Bazar Patrika.
9. A "letter" dated 4-11-1936 from London regarding the activities of Mr. Aftab Ali in London.
10. A "letter" dated 20-11-36 from Geneva regarding the last Maritime Sessions of the I.L. Conference.
11. A "letter" dated 14-11-1936 from Fribourg regarding the election of the Chairman of the Governing Body.

12. A "Letter" dated 7-11-1936 from London regarding ~~the~~ a meeting of Indian seamen in London.
13. A message from Geneva received by air mail regarding the Report of the Director to the 77th Session of the Governing Body.
14. A message from Geneva received by air mail regarding the holding of an ~~x~~international migration conference.
15. A message from Geneva received by air mail regarding the international conference of coal producing countries.

National Labour Legislation.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1936

(Act XXI of 1936) .

Reference was made ~~px~~ at page 7 of our October 1936 report to the passing by the Legislative Assembly on 13-10-1936 of the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1935, providing for prohibition of arrest and imprisonment of honest debtors of all classes. The Act received the assent of the Governor General on 27-10-1936 and is published at pages 63-64 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 7-11-1936.

The Hazardous Occupations Rules, 1936 :

Draft of Rules Published by the Government

of India. .

Attention is directed to pages 1420 to 1423 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 31-10-1936 to the draft of certain rules which the Governor General in Council proposes to make ~~in~~ exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (4) of Section 33 of the Factories Act, 1934. These rules will be taken into consideration on or after 31-1-1937. The rules are called:

1. The Hazardous Occupations (Miscellaneous) Rules, 1937.
2. The Hazardous Occupations (Aerated Waters) Rules, 1937.
3. The Hazardous Occupations (Rubber) Rules, 1937.
4. The Hazardous Occupations (Chromium) Rules, 1937.
5. The Hazardous Occupations (Cellulose Spraying) Rules, 1937.
6. The Hazardous Occupations (Sand Blasting) Rules, ~~1936~~ 1937.

1. Miscellaneous Rules. - These rules provide:-

(1) No child shall be employed in any factory in any of the operations specified in the Schedule.

(2) No adolescent shall be employed in any factory in any of the operations specified in items 1 to 8 inclusive of the Schedule.



(37) No female adolescent shall be employed in any factory in any of the operations specified in items 8 and 9 of the Schedule.

The Schedule is as follows:-

1. The manufacture or recovery of any of the following:
  - (a) Carbonates, chromates, chlorates, oxides or hydroxides of potassium, sodium, iron, aluminium, cobalt, nickel, arsenic, antimony, zinc or magnesium.
  - (b) Ammonia and the hydroxide and salts of ammonium.
  - (c) Sulphurous, sulphuric, nitric, hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, hydriodic, hydrosulphuric, boric, phosphoric, arsenious, arsenic, lactic, acetic, oxalic, tartaric or citric acids and their metallic or organic salts, and
  - (d) Cyanogen compounds.
2. A wet process,
  - (a) when carried on for the extraction of metal from ore or from any by-product or residual material; or
  - (b) in which electrical energy is used in any process of chemical manufacture.
3. The manufacture or production of carbon disulphide or the production or use of hydrogen sulphide.
4. The manufacture of bleaching powder or the production or use of chlorine gas in any process of chemical manufacture.
5. The distillation or use of gas tar or coal tar, or any product or residue of such tars, in any process of chemical manufacture.
6. The utilization of nitric acids in the manufacture of nitro compounds.
8. Melting and blowing glass and mixing, grinding and sieving glass-making materials.
9. Vitreous enamelling.
10. Handling wool, hair, bristles, hides and skins.
11. Mixing, grinding and sieving ceramic materials in the dry state.
12. Grinding materials for the manufacture of portland cement and burning and grinding cement clinker, in portland cement factories.
13. Mixing and handling yellow orpiment.

2. The aerated Waters Rules.- These Rules declare the manufacture of aerated waters and processes incidental thereto as hazardous and provide for adequate safety precautions, such as fencing of machines, provision of face guards and gauntlets, etc.

3. The Rubber Rules.- The Rubber Rules apply to factories where work on rubber mixing machines is carried on and the use of

any organic solvents in the manufacture of goods containing rubber, is involved. These ~~rules~~ prohibit the employment of children in such factories.

4. The Chromium Rules.- These rules declare operations involving the use of soluble Chromium compounds as hazardous and prohibit the employment of women, children and adolescents in factories involving such operations, and lay down certain stipulations regarding protective clothing to be given to workers.

5. The Cellulose Spraying. Rules.- The spraying of cellulose ester paints and lacquers is ~~not~~ declared to be a hazardous operation when carried on in any factory. The Rules prohibit the employment of children and adolescents in factories where such operations~~is~~ are carried.

6. The Sand Blasting Rules.- Sand blasting is declared to be a hazardous operation when carried on in any factory. The Rules prohibit the employment of women, children and adolescents in such factories, and lays down certain stipulations regarding the protective clothing to be supplied to adult male workers in such factories.,

#### Prohibition of Slavery in Hyderabad: Hyderabad

##### Penal Code (Amendment) Bill Passed. +

Reference was made at page 15 of our September 1936 report to the introduction of the Hyderabad Penal Code (Amendment) Bill in the Hyderabad State Legislative Council providing for the abolition of traffic in slavery. According to a communication received in this Office from the Government of Hyderabad State, the Bill has been passed by the Legislative Council, but has not yet received the assent of His Exalted Highness the Nizam. The text of the Act is reproduced below:

Preliminary.

Whereas, it is expedient to amend the Hyderabad Penal Code; it is hereby enacted as follows:-

Short title  
date of commen-  
cement and local  
extent.

1. This Act may be called "An Act to amend the

Hyderabad Penal Code"; and it shall come into force in the whole of H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions from the date of its publication in the Jarida.

Buying or selling ~~for~~ purposes of slavery.

After Section 307 of the Hyderabad Penal Code, the following Section 307A shall be inserted:-

307 A. Whoever habitually imports from any foreign country into H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions, or exports from the Dominions to any foreign country, or removes from one place to another or buys, sells, traffics or deals in slaves shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to the term of imprisonment for life; ~~and~~ and shall also be liable to fine.

In a communique dated 3-10-1936 issued by the Information Bureau of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government, it is explained that the introduction of the Amending Act is not to be construed as an indication that this iniquitous social system has hitherto been tolerated by H.E.H. the Nizam's Government. The fact is that slavery was abolished and made penal in this State simultaneously with the other parts of India, as ~~is~~ evident from the provisions of the Hyderabad Penal Code. The recent measure is designed merely to add to the Hyderabad Code the provisions of section 371 of the Indian Penal Code which relates to habitual dealing in slaves. +

Maternity Benefit for Bengal: Government

Decision to Enact Legislation. +

Reference was made at page 8 of <sup>the</sup> ~~our~~ January 1936 report of this Office to the intention of the Government of Bengal to undertake legislation for making compulsory the grant of maternity benefits to women employed in the perennial factories of the Presidency, and to a circular letter sent out in this connection by the Government to the industrial interests concerned. It is understood that the replies received by the Local Government indicated ~~that there is~~ a general consensus of opinion amongst employers in favour of the proposal. The Local Government have, accordingly, decided to proceed with the legislation which is modelled on the lines of the Bombay and Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Acts.

(Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for September 1936).+

The Indore Trade Unions Bill, 1936, Introduced in

Indore Legislative Council. +

In the second week of November 1936, Mr. S.T. Dravid introduced in the Holkar State (Indore) Legislative Council, ~~The~~ Indore Trade Unions Bill, 1936, intended to provide for the registration of trade unions and, in certain respects, to define the law relating to registered trade unions in Indore. In introducing the Bill, Mr. Dravid pointed out it was essential that there should be some law for the proper control and expenditure of the funds of trade unions.

Mr. Bhanwar Lal Sethi, opposing the Bill, said that there was no necessity for such legislation and <sup>that</sup> no useful purpose would be served by the Bill. He referred to the strikes in 1926 and 1934 in Indore and said that the unions failed to find a solution, ~~and~~ the disputes <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ only settled by Government intervention. He added that the unions had not been successful elsewhere, and considered that the Bill would create unnecessary difficulties.

The suggestion of Rai Sahib Bhargava to circulate the Bill for public opinion was rejected. Mr. Rege moved an amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee of the House. The proposal was accepted and the Select Committee, consisting of seven members, was asked to submit its report within three months.

The Bill is a non-official one.

(The Statesman, 11 & 12-11-1936).

The C.P. Unregulated Factories Bill, 1936,  
Passed by Legislative Council on 7-11-1936.

Reference was made at pages 7-8 of our February 1936 report to the introduction by Rao Sahib R.W. Fulay on 27-1-1936 of a Bill to regulate the labour of women and children and to make provision for the welfare of labour in factories to which the Factories Act, 1934, does not apply. The Select Committee to which the Bill was referred submitted its report on 1-10-1936 <sup>(The report)</sup> ~~which~~ was published at pages 645-660 of Part II of the Central Provinces Gazette dated 30-10-1936. The Bill as amended by the Select Committee was taken up for consideration on 7-11-1936, and was passed by the Legislative Council on the same day.

(The Times of India, 9-11-1936).

Besetting an Industrial Establishment Prohibited:

The C.P. Protection of Debtors Bill, 1936, Passed.

Reference was made at page 13 of our July 1936 report to the C.P. Protection of Debtors Bill, 1936. The Bill was introduced in the C.P. Legislative Council on 6-8-1936 by the Home Member with the Local Government and on the same day was referred to a Select Committee. The Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, was passed by the Council early in November 1936. The Act is designed to protect debtors from money lenders and their hirelings, who rely on the threat of violence rather than on the processes of law. The measure makes molestation and intimidation of debtors punishable with simple imprisonment extending to three months or a fine of Rs. 500 or both.

(The Times of India, 9-11-1936)

Registration of Trade Unions in Travancore:

S.M.P. Assembly Passes ~~XIII~~ Third Reading of Bill on 21-11-36.

At pages 18-19 of our August 1935 were given details of the Travancore Trade Union Bill. The Bill was taken up for discussion by the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly of the State on 20-11-1936. In the course of the discussion an amendment was moved deleting the provision relating to compulsory registration of trade unions; the amendment, however, was not adopted. Another amendment to the effect that "not less than three-fourth of the total number of officers of every registered trade union shall be persons actually engaged or employed in any trade or industry with which the trade union is connected" was adopted. The Bill passed through its ~~x~~ second and third readings on 21-11-1936.

(The Hindu, 23-11-1936)

Conditions of labour.

Pondicherry Textile Strike: Agreement arrived at  
in Rodier Mills. +

References were made at pages 30-32 of our August 1936 report and at page 26 of our September 1936 report to the labour dispute in the textile mills in Pondicherry. It is now understood that, as the result of the personal interest taken by His Excellency M. Crocid<sup>le</sup>phia, the Governor of French India, a settlement between the management of the Rodier Mills and their workers has been arrived at on 31-10-1936. The salient features of the settlement are as follow:-

1. All the workers of the Mill who apply for resumption will be taken back, with the exception of 100 workers of whom 50 superannuated ~~xx~~workers will be pensioned off.

2. The duration of work per day is fixed at 9 hours from the 1st November 1936, the duration of work per week being 54 hours.

3. The daily rate of wages paid to the workers under <sup>Re</sup>9-hour day will be maintained at the rate which existed previously under a 10-hour day.

4. The wages for piece-workers will be so adjusted (under a 9 hour-day) that it will not fall below the old wages.

5. Workers who have put in a service of 25 years in the Mill will be entitled ~~for~~ to a pension of 40 per cent of their last wages.

6. On the request of the workers, the Manager of the mills can form a Mutual Benefit Fund by deducting ~~a~~ 5 per cent of their wages which will bear an interest of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

7. The ~~spoiled~~ <sup>spoiled</sup> pieces during work will be handed over to the workers, <sup>at a</sup> ~~charge~~ <sup>of</sup> 75 per cent of their value.

8. In case of death of a worker, one of his sons will have the preference of appointment when it is filled.

9. For the year 1936 no bonus will be allowed. For the coming years, a bonus ~~will~~ which will be a sum equal to the wages of two fortnights will be utilised, with the approval of the Board of Directors, for welfare work ~~for~~ the workers.

10. Women-workers will enjoy maternity benefit of five weeks' leave with wages.

11. Overtime work during day will be remunerated at 150 per cent of the normal wages, and night work at 200 per cent of the normal wages.

12. Minimum daily wages of children working in the mill is to be 4 as. 3 pies.

13. A local Medical Officer will be posted permanently in the Mill during the hours of work.

14. Operatives who are disabled owing to accidents when at work will have free medical treatment and will be entitled to full wages during the period of their incapacity for work.

It is understood that a settlement is being effected in the Gaebele mills also. The Rodier and Gaebele mills started work on 18th November 1936.

(The Hindu, 3 & 17-11-1936)



M. Justin Godart's Mission. +

Senator Justin Godart, who has been deputed by the French Government to study labour conditions in the French Colonies, had a busy time in India since his arrival at Pondicherry.

On the 7th November, he was presented with an address of welcome by the Pondicherry Municipality. On the 15th November, a delegation on behalf of the unemployed men and women of Mahe waited on him at the Government House, Mahe, and presented a memorandum which pointed out that, as the result of the economic depression, migration of labour from Mahe to other parts of India and to oversea countries had ceased, <sup>Mahe</sup> unemployment was rife in Mahe. The memorandum urged the need~~x~~ for industrial undertakings and other ameliorative schemes, and pending their inauguration, prayed that the Government might be given unemployment doles or subsistence allowance. On the 18th November <sup>M. Godart</sup> ~~he~~ visited Karikal where a civic address was presented to him.

On the 20th November, he returned to Pondicherry and on the 21st he attended the formal opening of the French India Assembly by M. Crocicchia, the Governor. At the conclusion of the ceremony, M. Godart addressed the members of the Assembly. ~~Referring~~ Referring to his mission, he said that he would not leave French India without having elaborated a definite <sup>code</sup> ~~text~~ of laws to govern conditions of work, which he would ask the Minister to promulgate here without delay, after having consulted those who were affected by it. He also pointed out that while it was essential that labourers should have the support of the law to obtain justice, it was also important that they should understand that, even if their rights had been

proclaimed and sanctioned, they would not be in a position to get due respect until they knew how to organise and impose on themselves discipline and order.

On the 23rd November, a labour delegation, consisting of Mr. Giri, M.L.A., Mr. Guruswami, assistant secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, and two Pondicherry labour leaders, met him to discuss labour legislation in French India. The following report of the interview is taken from a press statement issued by Mr. Giri.

48-Hour Week.- The first point that the delegation stressed was with reference to the introduction of shorter hours of work. They pleaded that at least the 48-hour week should be ~~legislated~~<sup>introduced</sup>. M. Godart felt the force of the argument and thought that it may be possible to introduce 48-hour week legislation, providing for a transition period of about two years to realise this end.

Right of Association.- The next question the delegation stressed was in regard to the recognition of the right of association for ~~tax~~ workers for trade union purposes. The British Indian practice of providing for election of a few non-workers to assist the trade unions and at the same time to protect the worker office-bearers from fear of victimisation was discussed. This aspect was taken note of by M. Godart for consideration. The desirability of machinery for dealing with trade disputes was discussed at much length. The Indo-Chinese legislation which provided for conciliation and arbitration machinery was taken as the basis for framing future measures for French India for the settlement of disputes. M. Godart felt that this was a reasonable suggestion.

Implementing of Ratified I.L. Conventions.- The question of implementing labour conventions ratified by France, such as the conventions relating to unemployment and maternity benefit, workmen's compensation, old age pension, paid holidays, prohibition of employment of young persons in factories and also the employment of women and young persons during nights were discussed in great detail with a view to devising suitable measures for French India with the least possible delay.

Social Legislation.- The questions of unemployment insurance, provision for the constitution of employment exchanges, organisation of public works, compulsory education of children and regulation of fines and utilisation of the same for workers' welfare work were considered, and they received sympathetic attention at the hands of M. Godart.

labour Representation in Assembly.- Another important matter that was discussed related to the delimitation of constituencies on the basis of vocation. Representation of labour in the Assemblies and reference of all public measures that affected the interests of the labourers to them through the constitution of industrial councils were also dealt with.

Need for Labour Legislation.-The delegation strongly emphasised that the workers looked to their future only in the introduction of suitable labour laws for the improvement of their condition, and the settlement accepted in regard to the recent disputes was reached on the understanding that their <sup>case</sup> ~~case~~ for grant of better conditions through legislation was not prejudiced. M.Godart agreed with this view.

Minimum Wages.- The need for minimum wage fixing machinery and suitable decrees for ensuring security of tenure were also stressed.

M.Godart's Reply.- In conclusion, M.Godart stated that while labour laws may improve the position of labour, the right solution lay in the ~~direction of~~ proper and effective organisation of labour. He assured the delegation that while French India may not have had as many labour laws as desirable hitherto, they would not only not be behind British India, but may even serve as a model.

It is understood that M. Godart will shortly be paying an unofficial visit to Delhi.

(The Hindu, 11, 17, 20, 23 and  
24-11-1936). +

It is announced that M.Godart is arriving in New Delhi on 3-12-1936 and is staying here for two days.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-12-36)

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Ambarnath Match Workers Call Off Strike. +

Reference was made at page 25 of our September 1936 report to the developments in connection with the match workers' strike of the Western India Match Company, at Ambarnath, Bombay Presidency. After being on strike for nearly three and a half months, the workers decided to call off the strike from 5-11-1936. The decision is understood to be the result of fresh talks with the Management who have agreed to take back all the workers on the wages prevalent at the time of the strike. No new wage-cut will be made. The question of the black-legs employed at reduced wages during the strike, it appears, will be solved in a way that will not lead to any loss of employment to the old workers. The black-legs, obviously, will gradually be eliminated in the course of two or three weeks.

*Chronicle*  
(The Bombay ~~Call~~, 7-11-1936). 1

The Ahmedabad Textile Strike Situation:

Prolonged Negotiations. +

At pages 17 to 18 of the report of this Office for October 1936, reference was made to the dispute with regard to wage cut in progress in the Ahmedabad textile industry. On the 30th October 1936, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, President, Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, had a long conference with Mahatma Gandhi, one of the arbitrators, and on 1st November, the leaders of the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, also conferred with Mahatma Gandhi. (The Bombay Chronicle, 3-11-1936). On 3-11-1936, the Labour Association sent a letter to the Millowners' Association complaining of further inroads by the employers on the workers' rights even while the arbitration negotiations were going on, and threatening to initiate a general strike if no satisfactory reply was received. (The Times of India, 5-11-1936). On the 7th November the Millowners' Association replied to the effect that it was prepared to cooperate with the Ahmedabad Labour Union in all efforts made by it to maintain harmonious relationships between employers and workers. (The Times of India, 10-11-36). In view of the assurance given by the Millowners' Association, the joint representative board of the Textile Labour Association passed a resolution on 11-11-36 for postponement of the general strike. The resolution, however, insisted on a reference to arbitration of the question of unemployed workmen of mills which have employed new men at reduced wages, and urged the <sup>grant of</sup> ~~secretary to give~~ relief to workmen who have gone on strike, as well as the workmen who act as black-legs on account of unemployment. (The Times of India, 13-11-1936).

The long delay that has taken place in the arbitration proceedings is sorely trying the patience of the workers and on 22-11-1936, the Secretary of the Labour Association, voiced this feeling, when at a meeting of the workers, he announced that if the Millowners' Association created further delays in submitting the ~~the~~ question of the wage-cut to arbitration, the workers will declare a general strike in a week's time. Meanwhile, a strike is going on in seven mills which have reduced wages without waiting for the decision of the arbitrators. (The Bombay Chronicle, 24-11-1936).

Threat of General Strike on B.N. Railway:

Sequel to Demotions and Retrenchment.

About 600 members of the staff of the Loco and Carriage Department of the Bengal Nagpur Railway at Bhojudih initiated a strike on 6-11-36. The grievances of the strikers are the transfer of a number of old employees without consulting the Union, an increase in hours of work, and reduction of wages. The strike soon spread to other centres, and the Railway administration having failed to redress the grievances of the workers, an emergent meeting of the Central Council of the B.N. Railway Indian Labour Union held at Bhojudih on 15-11-1936 passed a resolution to the effect that notice for strike in all departments, branches and sections in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway ~~should~~ be issued immediately with a view to secure redress of grievances. Resolutions were also passed at the meeting requesting the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to support the direct action decided upon by the ~~said~~ Union, and also to give notice within a fortnight for strike on other

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railways affected by the offensive of the employers under the guise of economy. The period of notice is due to expire on 30th November and the strike is to begin on 1-12-1936, but as Mr. V.V.Giri, President of the B.N.Railway Indian Labour Union and General Secretary of the A.I.Railwaymen's Federation, has wired to Mr. Kalappa, General Secretary of the Union, not to initiate the strike before he (Mr.Giri) reaches Bhajudih, the strike is likely to be delayed by a few days.

(The Indian Labour Journal Special Supplement dated 29-11-1936, and the Hindustan Times, 27-11-1936). +

## Enforcement of Conventions.

### Factory Administration in the United Provinces, 1935.\*

General Remarks. - The Chief Inspector of Factories, the United Provinces, remarks in his annual report on the administration of the Factories Act during 1935 that the new Factories Act came into force from 1-1-1935, and as was to be expected the introduction of an entirely new Act caused a certain amount of dislocation. For several months his office received a large number of enquiries and requests for explanation, in particular with regard to "adolescents", the difference between seasonal and non-seasonal factories, rest intervals, spread over and overtime. Absence of new rules increased the difficulties, particularly in respect of the various exemptions which had been issued in the past under section 30 of the Act of 1911; on the whole, however, the Act worked as smoothly as could be expected.

Statistics of Factories. - The total number of factories ~~1~~ on the Register at the close of the year was 579, as against 566 in the previous year; 55 factories were registered and 40 removed from the register. Of the 579 factories, 236 were seasonal and 343 non-seasonal. The total number of factories that worked during the year was 496 (296 non-seasonal and 200 seasonal) as against 477 (255 non-seasonal and 222 seasonal) 1934. Annual Returns were received from only 488 factories out of the 496 factories that were in commission during the year.

Number of Operatives. - The average daily number of workers employed in the registered factories, as obtained from the annual returns received, was 139,260, against ~~124~~ 125,986 in the previous year; nearly 95 per cent of this is adult male labour. About 64 per cent of the total number of workers were employed in perennial factories and 36 per cent in the seasonal concerns. The increase of over 10 per cent in the number of workers is mainly due to the

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1935 by the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers.-Allahabad: Supdt., Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1936. Price Rs. 2-0-0. pp.48



existing factories employing more workers and partly to the registration of new factories. The number of workers employed in each class of factory is given in the statement below:

Class of factory.	Number of workers.		
	1935	1934	Increase or decrease.
Government and Local Fund factories.	17,880	17,372	+508
Textiles. ....	43,590	38,788	+4,802
Engineering. ....	6,395	5,845	+550
Minerals and metals...	529	381	+148
Food, drink and tobacco.	45,345	41,281	+4,064
Chemical dyes, etc....	5,143	4,155	+988
Paper and printing...	3,454	3,097	+357
Wood, stone and glass.	3,835	3,098	+737
Skins and hides. ....	3,716	3,447	+269
Gins and presses. ....	9,204	8,346	+858
Miscellaneous. ....	169	176	-7
Total...	139,260	125,986	+13,274

X Employment of Adolescents, Women and Children.— The average number of adolescents employed in factories was 1,220 (1,011 in non-seasonal and 209 in seasonal factories). Out of a total of 1,220 adolescents, 1,178 or 96.5 per cent are reported to have worked as adults and only 42 as children.

There were 5534 women in employment as against 5,383 in 1934. Of the 5,534 women workers, 3,390 or 61 per cent were employed in seasonal factories, as compared with 64 per cent in 1934. Since 1931 the number of women employed has steadily decreased, but in the year under report there was an increase of 151. The proportion of women to the total number ~~xx~~ of workers was however just under 4 per cent as compared with 4.3 per cent in 1934.

The average number of children employed daily was 464 as against 387 in 1934. 398 out of a total of 464 children were employed in non-seasonal factories. The decline in the number of children employed, which had continued for several years, was checked in 1934 when there was an increase of 11; in the year under review there was a further increase of 77 child workers. The increase is due mainly to a printing press in Allahabad employing

a larger number of child workers and to 35 children being employed in the newly registered grass farms. The proportion of children compared with the total number of workers is still only a little over 0.3 per cent.

Inspection. - The number of inspections and visits made during the year was 1,250 against 985 in 1934, an increase of 245. 226 factories were inspected once, 135 ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx~~ twice, 70 thrice and 61 more than three times; four factories were not inspected.

Sanitation, Fencing and Ventilation. - Sanitary conditions in most factories were on the whole satisfactory and considerably better than a decade ago. In a number of cases however warnings were given and attention drawn to the necessity of regularly flushing and cleaning drains and latrines. Ventilation is steadily improving, but in some of the older factories it is difficult sometimes to make much real improvement without drastic reconstruction.

Fencing and guarding has improved greatly during the past few years and in the majority of factories is of a high standard; wooden fencing is gradually being replaced by metal.

Accidents. - 2,153 accidents, 31 fatal, 449 serious and 1,653 minor, were reported during the year under report, as compared with 39 fatal, 412 serious and 1,648 minor in 1934.

Hours of Work. - In the non-seasonal category the weekly hours of 8 factories were not more than 42 and in 52 factories they were above 42, but not more than 48 hours. The weekly hours of 231 factories were above 48. In the seasonal category the weekly hours of 13 factories were not more than 48 and in 21 factories they were above 48, but not more than 54 hours. The weekly hours of 163 factories were above 54.

Ten cases were instituted by the Department for breaches of sections 34, 35, 36, 38 and 42 of the Act and convictions obtained in all the cases. The large majority of the factories worked to the full weekly limit of hours permitted by the Act.

Housing and Welfare Work. - 602 additional quarters, i.e.,

478 single and 124 double, were constructed in 23 districts during the year under report. Sugar factories were again responsible for the bulk of the new construction.

The Chief Inspector states that there is no notable expansion in the welfare sphere to record; the existing welfare work however continued as usual.

Health of Factory Workers. - The health of factory workers was generally good and no case of occupational disease came to the notice of the Department.+

Industrial Organisation.Employers' Organisations.Indian Railway Conference Association Meeting,New Delhi, 1936. +

This year's meeting of the Indian Railway Conference Association was held at New Delhi from 21 to 28-11-1936. The agenda of the Conference consisted of a large number of questions dealing with the work done during the year by the civil, mechanical and electrical engineering departments, review of the operation of the Railways, as also of the public health services on railways, and colour vision rules for employees.

The proceedings of the Conference was formally opened by His Excellency the Viceroy. In his opening address, His Excellency traced the part played by Indian Railways in the economic development of the country and dealt briefly with the serious financial condition of the railways during the depression. He stressed the need for effecting economies in railways and referred to the recent appointment of a committee with Sir Ralph Wedgwood as chairman, to examine railway finances and recommend such measures as will expedite their rehabilitation and further the co-ordination of transport. Concluding, he said that the depressing features of retrenchment would be largely mitigated if it is borne in mind that the prime purpose of economy should be to prepare the way for new enterprise and for better service to the public.

Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, Commerce and Railway Member, Government of India, in his speech (read in Sir Muhammad's absence due to illness by Sir Guthrie Russell) at the opening session,

referred to the uneconomic competition from road transport and pointed out that with regard to passenger earnings at least, the situation is ~~not~~ capable of considerable improvement. Complaints, in many cases well-founded and justified, continue to reach Government of lack of consideration, want of courtesy and absence of helpfulness on the part of the railway staff towards passengers. There is a great deal of room for improvement in the arrangements for the booking of third class passengers, the standard of cleanliness of third class waiting halls and carriages, and the timings and connexions of trains.

The President of the Conference, Mr. H.N.Colam, Agent of the M. & S.R.Railway, in his speech referred to the present rating structure and said that there has been an insistent and fairly widespread demand for complete revision of this rating structure, and it would seem that the more important changes are:-

(i) that it should be correlated to some economic plan designed to effect the economic recovery of the country;

(ii) that the differences between the charges for the same commodity on different railways (and presumably in different localities on the same railway) should be abolished, largely and perhaps entirely;

(iii) that the charges at telescopic rates should be based on the total journey mileage and not on the separate journeys on different railways passed over as at present.

(iv) that the existing power of the Railways to quote special rates should be ~~abolished~~ abolished or at least severely curtailed and there is a demand that the charges to be made, should be decided by a body largely consisting of representatives of trades, business, etc.

Mr. Colam elaborately discussed the dangers in effecting changes in the present rating structure, as such a change, he argued, would bring about dislocation in trade. The President next referred to the question of road-rail competition and said that broadly

speaking, there are three ways of meeting the situation. If things are left as they are at present there can be only one result: railways will eventually have to be subsidized out of taxes one way or other, either directly, or indirectly by writing down the capital invested. If, however, lorry traffic is to be allowed to develop unchecked and railways are to be run as commercial concerns, it will be necessary, ~~x~~ sooner or later, to revise the rating structure so as to eliminate as far as possible those features which make a quite unnecessary present to the lorry of a considerable, and the most paying part of, the potential traffic. More valuable commodities and short-distance traffic would be charged less, and to compensate for the loss of revenue involved the charges on the less valuable commodities and on the longer distances would be increased. Failing acceptance of either of these two alternatives ~~bankrupt~~ railways or a revision of the rating structure with all its attendant disadvantages, there would seem to be only one other course open, regulation and restriction of road traffic. The need for regulation is almost universally admitted and the points that require attention are known, but, he complained, very little is being done.

The Proceedings of the business meetings of the Conference were not open to the press. The session concluded on 28-11-1936. ~~xxx~~ Sir William Brayshay, Agent, B.E. & C.I. Railway, was elected president for 1937.

(The Statesman, 22-11-1936, and the Hindustan Times, 29-11-1936).

Workers' Organisations.

Progress of Trade Union Movement in B. & O., 1935-36.\* +

Number of Registered Unions.- According to the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in Bihar and Orissa during the year ending 31-3-1936, no Trade Union was registered under the Act during the year under report, nor was the registration of any Trade Union cancelled. There was no case of amalgamation of Trade Unions under section 24, nor of removal of the head office of any Trade Union from the province of Bihar and Orissa to another province or from another province to this province. The total number of registered Trade Unions in the province at the end of the year remained therefore the same as in the last year's report, namely 5. There was no case of refusal of registration.

Membership and Finance.- The total membership of the five trade unions during the year under review was 16,030 of whom 14,568 were men and ~~122~~ 462 women, as against 7,859 members (7681 men and 188 women) in 1934-35. The opening balance of the 5 unions during the year was Rs. 937-10-2, income was Rs. 4,592-2-6, expenditure was Rs. 8,534-6-8 and the closing debit balance Rs. 3,204-10-0.

Activities of the Unions.- No important activities of Trade Unions in general or developments of interest relating to the Trade Unions' movement during the year under report have been reported.

(The Annual report on the working of the Indian Trade Union Act in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1934-35 is reviewed at page 24 of our January 1936 report).

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\* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926) in the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year ending 31st March 1936. - Supdt., Govt. Printing, ~~XXXXXX~~ Bihar, Patna. 1936.- Price Annas 8 pies 6.- pp.3. +

## Economic Conditions.

### Economic Survey of Mysore State: Resolution Carried in STATE ASSEMBLY

At the October Session of the Mysore State Assembly, Mr. T. Madiah moved a resolution on 31-10-1936 urging the Government of the State to conduct a survey of the economic condition of the people of the State. In support of the resolution, speakers emphasised the necessity for ~~an~~ organisation similar to the Board of Economic Advisory Council of Madras, to collect exhaustive and reliable statistics about the conditions of trade and commerce ~~and~~ exports and imports of Mysore State, which would give an accurate idea of their resources.

In opposing the resolution, the Government spokesmen said that the Government did not think that a special economic survey as such was necessary. Mr. S.G. Sastri, Director of Industries, referred to the approximate cost that a survey would ~~involve the~~ <sup>entail</sup> ~~State, in~~ and he asked the House to consider what the commensurate benefit ~~of that~~ was going to be. In view of the present economic condition, they could ill afford to spend a large sum in conducting a survey into the economic conditions of the people of the State.

The resolution was pressed to <sup>~</sup>division and was declared carried..

(The Hindu, 2-11-1936).



State Control of Economic Policy:

Viceroy's Speech at Chelmsford Club. +

Important pronouncements on the trend of world economic policies and on the increasing dominance of the doctrine of economic self-sufficiency were made by Lord Linlithgow at a dinner at the Chelmsford Club, New Delhi, on the 28th November, at which he was the guest of honour.

After referring briefly to the present conflict between the communist, the totalitarian and the democratic ideals, and stressing the fact that the stability of democratic institutions can only be brought about by a long period of disciplined evolution, the Viceroy directed attention to the rise and spread of the doctrine of economic self-sufficiency, and asserted that the tendency was of even greater import than the present day clash between different forms of government. The policy of economic self-sufficiency, the Viceroy pointed out, was being prosecuted by practically all States today, whether communist, totalitarian or democratic. Analysing the root causes of the tendency, he said that a more powerful motive than even the desire to maintain economic self-sufficiency during times of war, was the almost universal tendency of States to regulate and control their own internal economy. Elaborating this point, the Viceroy said:

"A great part of the world is moving rapidly in the direction of national control of those economic functions which have hitherto lain within the discretion of the individual, and in the future, international trade is going to be largely determined by that fact. Whether under a Communist regime in Russia, a totalitarian dictatorship in Germany, Italy or Poland, or a political democracy in France, the United States, throughout the British Commonwealth and

in Scandinavia, governments are everywhere, to a greater or less degree, taking over responsibility for directing the economic activities of the individuals that compose the national State. And in truth it is not merely governments, it is society itself that is becoming in that sense interventionist."

Discussing the results of the tendency, the Viceroy emphasised the fact that the more closely States ordered economic activities within their own borders, the more were they compelled to order their external trade to conform to their internal policies. Thus economic self-sufficiency led inevitably to the regulation of exports and imports. Judging from present trends, he was inclined to think that the tendency was not likely to be short-lived. Unlike certain optimists, he did not think, for example, that the recent devaluation of French currency in terms of gold can be taken as a harbinger of any general sweeping away, in the near future, of international trade barriers. On the other hand, agreeing with the views of the League correspondent of "The Times", he was of opinion that the new protectionism was vastly more complicated and more effective than the old, that economic barriers, import restrictions, export subsidies and exchange regulations will be used increasingly as instruments of national policy in the years to come, and that Government direction of trade in accordance with national policy has introduced a new and incalculable factor the extent of which is only just beginning to be understood.

Referring to the policy of the Government of India, the Viceroy said:

"Practical statesmanship today lies in facing facts and in applying ourselves to an endeavour in the world as it is to promote the greatest possible amount of co-operation between the different national economic systems; and within the constellation of States whose common bond is the British Imperial Crown, to shape our economic policies with due regard to those limitations upon international trade to which I have referred, and which, if I read the signs aright, are not destined soon to be removed." (The Stateman, 29-11-36) +

8th Industries Conference:

Session to be held in Lucknow on 7 & 8-12-36. +

The Government of India have issued invitations to the leading provinces and states to participate in the eighth Industries Conference which is proposed to be held at Lucknow on 7 & 8-12-1936. The ~~dates~~ have been selected to enable those attending the conference to visit the United Provinces Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, which will open at Lucknow on 5-12-1936. The following items have been placed on the agenda of the Conference:

Review of Provincial Schemes.- Following the grants of funds by the Legislative Assembly, allotments amounting to Rs. 1,072,600 have been made to the different provinces, with the assistance of which various schemes have been ~~put~~<sup>put</sup> in operation. The conference will be asked to review the progress of the provincial schemes and to consider allotments for the year 1937-38, including grants for holding exhibitions and competitions for cotton handloom fabrics or machinery in provinces, and a small special grant for the introduction of the hand-weaving industry among the women workers in Bihar who are excluded from underground work in mines.

Industrial Rules.- The conference will be asked to consider the question of rule-making powers under Acts affecting industry in the concurrent field, with special reference to electricity and boilers, to secure uniformity after the introduction of provincial autonomy.

Other Items.- The conference will also be asked to consider the following subjects:- The standardisation of weights and measures

1.2.  
throughout India; the publication of fuller trade statistics regarding important manufactured and semi-manufactured goods produced in the country and the raw materials consumed therein, along with the figures of inter-provincial movements of these articles, and the removal of inter-provincial barriers to trade in the pharmaceutical and drug industry in India.

Development of Sericulture.--The minutes of the second meeting of the Imperial Sericultural Committee will also be placed before the conference for its consideration. Following that meeting, grants amounting to Rs. 82,000 were allocated to various provinces for the development of the sericultural industry during 1936-37. The Sericultural Committee will hold a session at Lucknow after the Industries Conference.

Encouragement of Small-Scale Woollen Industry.-- The Government of India have decided to make a grant of Rs. 500,000 spread over five years, for the benefit of the cottage and small scale woollen industries. They intend that this grant should be administered in the same manner as a similar grant given to the sericultural industry, and applied for the benefit of those provinces in which there is a substantial cottage and small scale woollen industry. The first meeting of the Woollen Industry Committee was held on 4-7-1936, and a second meeting is to be held just after the conference.

(Commerce and Industry, 1-12-1936), .

Extension of Protection for Sugar Industry:

Appointment of Tariff Board under Consideration. \*

As the existing protective duty on sugar ends by March 1938, an inquiry into this industry has to be instituted early in 1937. The Government of India therefore is actively considering the question of appointing a Tariff Board and an announcement regarding its personnel is shortly expected.

The necessity for an early inquiry is rendered urgent by reason of the fact that revenues derived from import duty on sugar have been fast diminishing in recent months. Whereas the import duty in 1934-35 amounted to Rs. 58.1 millions, that in 1935-36 was <sup>Rs.</sup> 32.4 millions, that is Rs. 5.7 millions ~~less~~. For the current financial year the Government of India estimated a revenue of Rs. 20 millions. But in the six months ending September 1936, the revenue derived is only Rs. 3.3 millions. This huge drop in revenue has seriously upset the calculations of the Government.

Whenever the inquiry is ordered, the Board will have a more than usually complicated task inasmuch as competition within the country has been so keen that it will be difficult to assess what a fair selling-price of sugar is. Moreover, the Board will have to determine what is a fair return to the sugarcane grower, and in this matter the position differs very much not only from province to province but even within the same province.

(The Statesman, 12-11-1936). \*

## Employment and Unemployment.

### Sapru Committee's Report on Unemployment: Statement re. Action taken on Recommendations by U.P. Government. +

The following is the summary of a statement showing the action taken by the Government of the United Provinces on the report of the Unemployment (Sapru) Committee which was laid on the table in the U.P. Legislative Council recently.

#### Schemes for which Funds were Allotted.

Commercial and Industrial Training Colony.— A selection committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J.A.H. Duke was appointed in connection with the appointment of a Superintendent for the Colony and its recommendations are expected soon. Negotiations for renting suitable premises are in progress. About half a dozen industries have been selected as prima facie suitable for the colony and lists of the requisite machinery and equipment have been drawn up.

Industrial Credit and Marketing Companies.— Substantive supplementary estimates are being presented to enable Government to make further progress with negotiations for the flotation of private companies.

Practical Training in Agriculture.— This scheme provides for the training of 20 students. Of these 16 were selected, but actually 13 have joined the farms. Since no change can be made in the curriculum of the Agricultural College, Cawnpore, without the approval of the Agra University, the scheme for instruction in estate management will take some time. The question of fitting in such instruction with the ordinary tutorial work at the agricultural schools is under examination.

Employment Board.— Government orders setting up a provincial Employment Board have already been issued. (vide pages 39-41 of our October 1936 report).

Subsidiary Agricultural Industries.— Three students for a two years' course for the Dairying Diploma have been selected and are under training at the Agricultural Institute, Maini. As the Lyallpur College has demanded a high fee per capita for training in the canning and preservation of fruits, the alternative of setting up such a course at Cawnpore has had to be examined. The syllabus for training in the organised supply of eggs, poultry, etc., has been drawn up and the selection of suitable candidates desirous of

~~undergoing~~

undergoing this training is expected to be completed soon.

Veterinary Training.- Selection of students for deputation for veterinary training has been made.

Rural Medical Practitioners.- Inquiries are in progress with a view to secure the selection of promising medical graduates and licentiates willing to settle down to medical practices in the rural areas, and applications have been invited. Government orders for placing the additional grant at the disposal of the Indian Medical Board have been issued.

Agricultural Centres.- Six centres of agricultural improvement in the canal areas have been set up and work has started.

Rural Dispensaries.- In connexion with grants for fixed rural dispensaries, the selection of dispensaries for the receipt of such subsidies is proceeding. Several of them have already been selected. The extension of the District Health Scheme to four districts has been completed, and the scheme for the revival of three travelling dispensaries is already in operation.

Recommendations for which Funds have not  
been Provided.

Practical Training Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.- As recommended a committee has been set up and a circular letter has been issued to non-official members inquiring whether they would serve. Work will begin only on Sir William Stampe's return.

Medicine.- The question relating to the investigation of the efficacy of indigenous drugs, etc., is being referred to the authorities of the Medical College, Lucknow.

Public Health.- A rule has been drafted prescribing that one-third of the number of assistant superintendents of vaccinations should be recruited from among Licentiates of Medicine, but before its issue, certain points require examination and are receiving it.

Law.- The question of reorganisation and reform of legal education is under examination in consultation with the universities and other interests.

Government Service.- The question whether a Local Self-Government Service should be created and other connected recommendations will be left for the new Government. Some of the other recommendations are under examination.

Industries.- It is hoped shortly to issue a resolution on the reports of the Industries Reorganisation, Industrial Schools and other Committees.

*(The Education Committee, dated 1906)*

Industrial Education.- Government orders asking the Director of Public Instruction to set up advisory committees charged with the duties of advising students as to careers and of endeavouring to find employment for the ex-students of the institutions have already been issued.

Educational Reorganisation.- A committee under the chairmanship of Right Hon'ble Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru has been set up and the Secretary has started the preliminary work.

(The Statesman, 6-11-1936) +

Unemployment in B. & O.: Report of Enquiry

Committee Appointed by Government.\* +

Reference was made at pages 74-75 of our July 1935 report to the appointment by the Bihar Government in July 1935 of an enquiry committee to devise ways and means of mitigating unemployment among educated youths in Bihar and Orissa. The Report of the Committee has been issued recently; the salient features of the Report are given below:

Features of the Unemployment Problem in the Province.- The Committee is of the opinion that unemployment, in its widest sense, is considerable among the educated classes, but it is mainly under the category of indirect and provisional unemployment where a person is unable to secure a post suited to his qualifications. It considers that while serving as a kind of insurance against unemployment, the joint family system has developed serious disadvantages inasmuch as it tends to sap initiative and to weaken individual effort. The fact that only a limited number of educated Biharis have secured employment in industry, even in posts for which they are qualified is to a large extent due to their reluctance to make a small beginning in industry. ~~like boys from other provinces.~~

Allowing for the overflow of candidates with higher qualifications, it is estimated that the number of matriculates in excess of the requirements of Government, local bodies, banks and private

\* Report of the Unemployment Committee, Bihar 1935-1936. -Supdt., Govt. Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1936. Price Re.1 -pp.226



educational institutions would be about 500 each year. Most of this excess could be absorbed in the industries and railways of the province, but the majority of these posts are now held by outsiders. The output of those with higher qualifications than the matriculation examination is slightly in excess of the number of posts requiring these qualifications, but the surplus is almost entirely absorbed in posts requiring lesser qualifications. The supply of graduates in arts and science is not unreasonably in excess of the demand, but an unduly large proportion study for the law with the result that the incidence of unemployment is shifted from the category of graduates to that of lawyers.

Absorption of Youths in Government Service.- The Committee has stated that Biharis are very poorly represented in the all-India services, and it is suggested that, in consultation with the University, the local Government should consider the possibility of making arrangements for coaching candidates for the examinations for these services. Young men, however, should be discouraged from pursuing their educational career with the sole object of entering Government service. Recruitment to all provincial and sub-ordinate services should, as far as possible, be made by competitive examinations, subject to communal adjustments. For Ministerial posts requiring matriculation as the minimum qualification, the age limit should be reduced; shorthand and typewriting should be made additional subjects at the competitive examinations for selecting candidates for such posts.

Recruitment to all clerical posts under local bodies should also be by competitive examinations. For other posts, selection should be made strictly on merit, subject only to communal adjustments.

The local Government should take steps to secure recognition of the civil engineering diploma of the Bihar College of Engineering for the posts of engineering supervisors and wireless operators under the Posts and Telegraphs Department. A representation should also be made to the Railway Board that vacancies in all the sub-ordinate services of the railways arising within the province should be filled up exclusively by local men.

Compulsory Retirement of Government Servants at 55.- All officers of Government should be compelled to retire at the age of 55, or even earlier if they have lost energy for active service, and this rule should not be relaxed except in the case of officers having specialised or expert knowledge.

Unemployment among Doctors and Lawyers.- The Committee found very little unemployment among the passed students of the Veterinary College. But in the case of medicine, about 30 per cent of the medical graduates and licentiates are unemployed or under-employed. While the towns are over-staffed with doctors, the rural areas are badly in need of medical aid. Doctors should be encouraged to set up country practices and should be induced to reduce their fees to suit the pockets of the villagers. The system of subsidising

country doctors should be extended.

About 40 per cent of the lawyers in the province, the Committee states, are unable to earn even a pittance, and only about 20 per cent are earning a decent income. It is suggested that the number of passes in law examinations should be restricted either by raising the standard or by some other means. The Committee finds that there is scope for the employment of more educated young men as insurance agents.

Settling Unemployed in Agriculture.- According to the Committee, the question of diverting educated young men to agriculture or at least preventing their migration to towns is very important. As subsidiary industries to agriculture, the Committee suggests fruit and vegetable gardening, canning and preservation of fruits as a cottage industry, poultry farming, dairy farming and cattle-breeding, bee-keeping, sericulture and pisciculture.

Employment in Industries.- There are more than 45,000 posts carrying a pay of Rs. 20 or more in the large industries of Bihar and Orissa, of which less than half are held by local men. Steps should be taken to secure adequate representation of Bihari educated young men in the industries of the province. In the iron industry, there are 17,218 posts carrying a pay of Rs. 20 or more at Jamshedpur of which only about 35 per cent are held by men from Bihar and Orissa. Most of these men are holding only inferior posts, the representation of Biharis being very poor both in supervisory and in clerical posts. To ensure better recruitment of Biharis to these senior supervisory posts, the Committee recommends that scholarships should be granted by the local Government to promising boys wishing to study mechanical and electrical engineering and metallurgy at Benares or abroad. Arrangements should be made for the practical training of boys in iron and steel works.

Industrial ~~Building~~ Development. - The Committee advises the Government to obtain expert opinion on the possibility of generating electric power by steam at convenient places from which electricity can be carried by high tension distribution to the countryside. In the beginning an experiment in rural electrification may be made from the existing power stations at Patna and Bhagalpur.

The difficulties facing the coal industry in the province should be carefully examined by the Central Bureau of Industrial Intelligence and Research. The leading mica factories should be induced to take some unemployed Bihari under-matriculいたes as apprentice-sorters with a view to their promotion to more senior posts if found suitable.

That the seasonal staff employed in sugar factories should be made permanent and engaged in the off-season in agricultural propaganda and distribution of seeds and manure, is another recommendation of the Committee.

Of other large industries which could absorb young men of the province, the Committee mentions the lac industry, and points out that the recent researches at the Lac Research Institute in

pressure moulding of lac and preparation of varnish are expected to have far-reaching effects on the industry by providing an independent market for lac in India. A few scholarships should be granted to selected science students for training in lac manufacture processes. ~~The~~ Agricultural Department should carry out experiments with new and improved varieties of tobacco in order to revive the tobacco industry. The Government should also develop the glass industry, for which Bihar has natural facilities.

For developing the large industries, Government should themselves start demonstration or pioneer factories with the help of experts. State aid should be granted liberally to finance educated young men in setting up cottage and small industries and in organising the manufacture and marketing of the products of cottage workers.

Expert to Advise on Suitability of Career.- The Committee also suggests that some selected educationist should be trained in Europe in industrial psychology and be attached to the staff of the Director of Public Instruction, keep in touch with local industries and advise parents and headmasters of schools on the suitability of careers for boys of school-leaving age.

Unemployment Census.- An unemployment census is not recommended as this would involve considerable difficulty and expense and would lose its value after a very short time. In place of such a census, all colleges and high schools, technical and industrial institutions and half-time vocational schools should maintain detailed occupation registers of passed students and submit annual reports, from which the Information Bureau should compile an annual statement for the information of Government and the public. +

*(A Paper on the Report has been forwarded to Geneva with our Minute D. 1351/36 D. 3-12-1936).*

#### Unemployment in Kashmir:

##### Questionnaire Issued by Enquiry Commission.

Reference was made at page 51 of our April 1936 Report to the resolution recommending the appointment of a Commission to devise ways and means to solve the unemployment problem in the State, which was passed by the Kashmir State Assembly. The Unemployment Commission appointed by the State pursuant to the resolution has recently issued a comprehensive questionnaire in connection with the enquiry.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-11-1936) +

Aid to Unemployed in the United Provinces:  
Government Scheme to start State-aided Industrial  
Credit Companies. +

The Government of the United Provinces, with the approval of the Legislature, has finally decided to float State-aided private industrial credit, marketing and financing companies for helping the youths unemployed/of the Province to set up small industries and market their products. The subscribed capital of the industrial credit company or banking corporation may be about Rs. 3.0 millions and its paid-up capital about Rs. 1.5 millions. This company will be expected to work with its own capital plus long-term deposits plus borrowing; but the company will have the power of issuing debentures subject to certain restrictions. It will be possible for the bank to accept certain classes of deposits, from the general public, and accept fixed deposits, maintain current accounts and do ordinary banking business for its ordinary customers, i.e., to whom it has furnished long-term loans.

Government's Assistance to the Company.- The Government's assistance to the company is likely to assume the following forms: (a) dividend on the paid-up capital may be guaranteed at a rate not exceeding a specified percentage, (b) interest on such debentures as may be issued with Government's previous sanction may be guaranteed at a rate not exceeding a specified percentage, (c) if necessary, Government may contribute up to a specified proportion towards the expenses of the management. The tax-payers' interests will be safeguarded by stipulating that Government's further assistance would be

liable to be withdrawn if the bank should go on incurring recurring losses or making net profits, exceeding specified limits. At the same time, in order to further the objects of the Government's industrial policy, the maximum rate of interest normally chargeable to industrialists will be prescribed. ~~Every effort is being made to~~

Every effort is being made to bring the scheme to maturity as early as possible, so that financial facilities may be made available to those unemployed educated youths who can and are willing to set up industry.

Marketing Scheme.- The scheme for a marketing and financing company is likely to remain linked to the scheme for the proposed credit company, as its capital has to be under-written by the marketing company. It is contemplated that a substantial portion of the capital so under-written should continue to be held by the credit company, and that the latter's directorate should be represented on the marketing company's board. The marketing company will be empowered to buy and sell goods, especially the produce and products of the U.P., to accept them on a consignment basis and do general commission work. In connection with the marketing company scheme, it is proposed to fix the rate of commission, interest and other charges leviable, so as to reduce the burden on small industrialists and dealers. The marketing company, apart from marketing the goods, will do a certain amount of educative propaganda. It will also make small advances for raw materials or against finished goods left with the company for sale.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-11-1936) +

Public Health.

Reducing Accidents in Industry: Award for Bravery

instituted by the Safety First Association of India. +

The Safety First Association of India, started in 1932, (vide pages 51-52 of our November 1932 report), has been exerting itself to secure a reduction of accidents among industrial workers. The Association has set up an Industrial Safety Service. This is releasing each month an article dealing with the different aspects of industrial efficiency and safety. The Association, in its campaign to conserve life and property, has recently introduced an award for bravery. It takes the form of a silver medal with a ring and ribbon together with a Diploma. The award is open to persons engaged in industry in India, Burma and Ceylon. Its object is to recognise "conspicuous acts of merit or gallantry involving personal risk or other special circumstances performed by any person to save human life and limb from accidental death or injury."

(The Times of India, 26-11-1936) +

Health Condition of Factory Workers in Punjab:  
Medical Officer of Health of Factories Appointed..+

The Royal Commission on Labour in India, in emphasising the necessity for taking measures to ensure the health and well-being of labour, remark at page 70 of their report:

"Many of the questions which arise in connection with factory administration require medical knowledge, and with the growing complexity of Indian industry, the need for this knowledge increases. It is in the larger factories that the need for inspection from a medical point of view is greatest; but there are few factories where some medical supervision is quite unnecessary. We recommend that in every province there should be one officer with medical qualifications appointed as an Inspector of Factories, who should be primarily responsible for inspection from the medical standpoint. In the less important industrial provinces, where there may not be work for a full-time officer, an assistant of the Director of Public Health could undertake these duties. In the chief industrial provinces there is ample work to justify the appointment of more than one such medical inspector."

In pursuance of the above recommendation of the Whitley Commission, the Punjab Government have appointed as an experimental measure, for a period of two years, an officer ( a District Medical Officer of Health) specially conversant with industrial hygiene and diseases who should act as Medical Officer of Health of Factories. The new officer is also to act as Statistical Officer in the Public Health Department until financial conditions improve.

(The Statesman, 16-11-1936)..+

## Nutrition.

### India's Food Supply:

Note Published by Mr. V.K.R.V.Rao. +

Mr. V.K.R.V.Rao of the Andhra University has recently published a valuable note on the food supply of India. It is the purpose of the note to analyse the food supply of British India from the standpoint of its dietetic content in the form of proteins, fats and carbohydrates and to inquire how far the amounts available per adult equivalent of the population come up to the standards laid down as desirable by the British Medical Association. The statistics used in this note are based, partly on official sources, and partly on information collected by the author during the course of his research on "The National Income of British India". It must not be forgotten that, as the problem has been tackled from the point of view of national supply, questions of distribution have been deliberately left out of account and <sup>the</sup> our figures of the average quantities available per head are therefore in excess of what is actually available for the large mass of the population.

Food Supply per Adult.- The food supply available per adult equivalent of the population in 1931-1932 in British India came to 2.7 lbs. a day and was made up of the following items.

		lbs.
Cereals, including pulses	...	1.35
Vegetables and fruits	...	.60
Milk and milk products	...	.53
Vegetable oils	...	.03
Sugar	...	.14
Fish and Meat	...	.08

The value of this food supply in terms of proteins etc is given in the following table, as also, for purposes of comparison, the standard quantities considered necessary in an adult diet by the British Medical Association.

Description.	Quantity available per man unit.	Quantity required as per B.M.A. scale.	Surplus + Deficiency-
Proteins 1st class (in grams)	17	50	-33



Description.	Quantity available per man unit.	Quantity required as per B.M.A. scale.	Surplus + Deficiency -
Proteins 2nd class (in grams)	68	50	+18
Fats (in grams).	39	100	-61
Carbohydrates (in grams)	698	500	+198
Calorific value	3,573	3,390	+183

Deficiency of Proteins and Fat.- It will be noticed from the above table that there is a grave deficiency of first class proteins and fats in the food supply available per adult, while there ~~is~~ is an excess of second class proteins and of carbohydrates. It is true that there is an excess of second class or vegetable proteins, but vegetable proteins are more difficult of absorption, particularly in the case of India; and in any case they can never take the place of proteins of animal origin such as are to be found in milk, meat and fish. When it is further remembered that consumption of milk in India is usually restricted to the middle and upper classes, while meat and fish are only of occasional use, it is obvious that this deficiency of proteins must be even greater in the case of the large mass of the population. And even a casual glance at the weight, height and chest formation of Indian children makes it clear that they have lacked the necessary supply of protein in their daily food.

Problem of Animal Proteins.- The most important problem, that faces the Indian food reformer is how to increase the element of animal proteins in the nation's food supply. One way of doing it would be to increase the supply and consumption of meat and fish in the country. In spite of the efforts of enthusiasts like Dr. Moonje however, the growth of meat-eating in this country does not show any signs of expansion, and climatic and traditional considerations do not seem to favour any rapid rise in it either. Under the circumstances, hope for improvement has mainly to be placed on an increase in the supply and use of milk products.

Problem of Milk Supply.- According to the estimates which have been worked out in detail, the present milk supply of the country is placed at 36,000 million lbs. (with a margin of error not exceeding 25 per cent), giving a daily average of half a pound or a fourth of a seer per adult equivalent of the population. The liquid consumption of milk is estimated at .36 lb a day in this predominantly vegetarian country. The nation's output of milk needs to be increased immediately and in immense measure, if its food-supply is to contain the necessary amount of body-building proteins. This increase in milk supply is not impossible of achievement. The difficulty with Indian cattle is not in numbers but in quality. Mr. Duckham has appropriately summed up the situation with the remark that "the cattle population of India is the largest, the most dense per acre of cultivated area and person and probably one of the least efficient in the world". Bad breed and low feed

are mainly responsible for the small output of milk in this country. It is possible both to better the quality of the breed and to increase the quantity by improving the quality of cattle food.

Indian Diet Compared with those of China and Japan.- This deficiency of the costly animal proteins and the accompanying excess of the cheap carbo-hydrates are precisely what one would expect in the case of a poor country like India. It is interesting to note that the peculiarities of Indian food supply are also to be found in other oriental diets; for, according to a recent analysis of some Chinese and Japanese family budgets, there was found a similar deficiency of animal proteins and of fats and an excess of carbo-hydrates. The need for food reform is evident; and economic considerations seem to suggest that the problem is one of undernutrition rather than of malnutrition.

(The Hindu, 18-11-1936) +

Food-Planning for India: Dr. Radha Kamal

Mukherji's Analysis of the Problem. +

Dr. Radha Kamal Mukherji gave a broadcast talk from the Delhi Station early in November, 1936 on "Food-planning for India"; the salient features of ~~from~~ the talk are summarised below:

Food Shortage in India.- Laboratory studies show that in India and China the average basal metabolism is about 10 to 15 per cent below American or European standards. McCarrison's estimate of 3,000 to 4,000 calories as the standard requirement of adult Indian workers seems, on this consideration, to be too high. The rice zone in India corresponds ~~with~~ with a warm and moist region, where an adequate diet would be represented by 2,400 calories and 70 grams of protein a day. Allowing for the entire Indian population a standard food requirement of 2,800 calories per adult, and deducting for seeds, wastage and export of food-stuffs, it has been estimated that there is food shortage in India at least to the extent of the amount needed for 40 million mouths, provided that every other "average person" obtains his or her physiological requirement. India threatens to reach 400 millions by 1941, and, in spite of her increase of total cultivated area and area under food grains, she shows a steady decline in her food position. The wheat acreage in India has been almost stationary and has remained at the level of 35 million acres since 1921; while the average yield has actually fallen in recent years. A food deficiency of 10 per cent

today <sup>necessitates</sup> ~~challenges~~ a new population policy and systematic food and crop planning on a country-wide scale, guided by agricultural science and sagacious social foresight.

A tour of investigation recently undertaken in the famine-stricken areas in Bengal by the speaker and others revealed that the dietetic standards fell to the level of 1,200 to 1,500 calories per adult worker in the test works, as compared with the physiological requirement of at least 2,000 calories. Raw skin surface, nutritional ~~xx~~ oedema, xerophthalmia, ulcer, and such malnutrition diseases revealed a state of chronic under-feeding.

Remedies.- Dr. Mukherji says that an attempt should be made to rationalise crops and diet. A survey of agricultural conditions shows that, on the whole, the cultivator sadly needs guidance in order that his agricultural adjustment in the cane ~~xxx~~ zones succeeds better than by following the principle that all will be to the good if he only directs his farming operations according to the market. As regards the Indian dietary, a more adaptive and appropriate method in India to enlarge and improve the dietary is the rationalisation of animal husbandry and improvement of supply of milk and milk products. Unfortunately, here we are handicapped seriously by ancient and time-honoured religious beliefs and prejudices. India maintains considerable numbers of inefficient and uneconomic cattle, which eat up the fodder required for the better and more efficient cattle, which might have provided nutrition for the people and increased the total outturn for the cultivator.

India must realise the urgency of her problems of food-inadequacy and unbalance. Within the limits set by the poverty of the cultivator, the smallness of his holding, the necessity of his producing several crops a year from the same acre, which definitely limit his selection of crops and hence of foods, much may be achieved by judicious crop-planning. Agriculture must now be approached from a new angle in India, viz, devising for each agricultural region an adaptive crop rotation which may ensure the most economical use of land and of man and animal labour on the holding and at the same time yield the highest number of calories per acre. That is the primary adjustment required. An increase in the production of peas, grams and pulses in substitution of grain, which yields less protein per unit of land, and of oil-seeds of various kinds yielding various oils and fats, encouragement of potatoes and all kinds of root crops, of vegetables, fruits, milk and fish, refrigeration, canning and fast transport, —all these would make the best out of a chronically deficient food situation. Above all, Indian dietary customs must become flexible and religious-beliefs modified, in order that Indians may eliminate all kinds of wastage and uneconomical beliefs which they can ill-afford in a land that cannot feed one-tenth of its people.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-11-1936).

Co-operation.Re-organisation of Small Industries: Scheme Suggestedby Director of Industries of Baroda State. +

Mr. A.B.Pandya, Director of Commerce, Industries and Labour, Baroda State, speaking on "the Re-organisation of Small Industries" at the Rotary Club at Baroda on 13-11-1936 suggested three ways in which the reorganisation of the small industries could be made possible: (1) the decentralization or sub-division into independent units for production of different parts or processes; (2) greater use of cheap electric power in smaller industries and, (3) the starting ~~up~~ of organisations dealing with production, distribution and financing of the concerns, to be carried out either by private individuals with their instinct of profit and exploitation and, therefore, of initiative and successful competition, or by State agency. He thought it was a waste to allow a craftsman to buy his raw materials at a price enhanced by his need of credit or to see him sell his finished wares at a price determined solely by his need of hard cash and ability to resist a hard bargain that leaves him barely a fair wage.

Dealing with the question of the efficiency of Indian labour, Mr. Pandya said: "Some people have harped, in and out of season, on the inefficiency and costliness of Indian labour, seeming to believe that this was a condition peculiar to Indian people and not capable of remedy. I want to enter a strong protest against what is, I earnestly believe, a libel on the working classes. I would lay the blame entirely at the door of the employers and the labour managers. In a country where a carpet or a handloom weaver

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gets about two annas a day, where workers in brass chase beautiful patterns on machine-stamped brass trays at the rate of Rs. 2 per 100; where itinerant blacksmiths offer a wrought iron ladle for half an anna, it is unjust to say that the labour is neither cheap nor efficient."

(The Statesman, 19-11-1936)+

## Women and Children.

### Y.W.C.A. Regional Conference, Colombo, -21 to 28-10-1936.

A Regional Conference of representatives of the Young Women's Christian Associations in Asia and the Far East was held at Colombo from 21 to 28-10-1936 under the chairmanship of Mrs. H.B. Hensman, President of the Madras Y.W.C.A. and one of the Vice-Presidents of the World's Y.W.C.A. India, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya, Siam, China, Korea, Japan, the Netherland East Indies, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippine Islands were represented at the Conference. In addition, there were present at the Conference visitors from Great Britain, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, Canada and the U.S.A.

Special Subjects Discussed:- The following four subjects were discussed by the Conference:- (1) The place and contribution of women; (2) The message of the Y.W.C.A. in Asiatic countries; (3) leadership; and (4) International relations. A short summary of the principal findings of the Discussion Groups on these topics are given below:

(1) The Place and Contribution of Women.- The Discussion Groups were of opinion that a thorough study of this subject should be encouraged in all the national Young Women's Christian Associations. Such a study should explore all the implications of the fact that it is not in married life alone that man and woman form a complete whole, but also in the wider sphere of public life, where each has a specific contribution to bring, without which public life would be incomplete. It was urged that woman must be considered as a "person", and not only in her function as a wife or mother, economic independence being one of the important factors to be borne in mind. The study must also take into full consideration the varying conditions existing in different countries and even in various parts of one country.

In connection with this subject the following were recognised as special responsibilities of the Y.W.C.A.: (a) Education of girls and married women in order to enable them to raise the standards of home life; (b) Creation in married women a sense of responsibility towards society and a desire to give voluntary service. It was stressed that the Y.W.C.A. should also regard it as its task to take

an active part in national campaigns for social welfare, child welfare, etc.

(2) The Message of the Y.W.C.A. in Asiatic Countries. - On this subject the following points were emphasised: (a) Implications of Association policy: first, as regards individuals and social justice, especially as regards relations between the Association and its own employees; secondly, as regards its hostels - whether the object of the Association is to provide cheap board and lodging or to create a social conscience on underpayment and inadequate wages; and thirdly, as regards its policy in national and international politics. On the last point, the Groups were of opinion that the Association's identification with political movements was unwise, but that at the same time sympathy with legitimate national aspirations and promotion of the study of national culture were essential. Education of the Western public on the cultural value of Asiatic civilisations and interpretation of Eastern women to the West and of Western women to the East were considered as essential steps for breaking down the barriers of mutual distrust. (b) Membership. - It was found essential that the Association should reach out to all classes of people, and work with, and not for, even the poorest in the community.

(3) Leadership. - The Groups found that the Association should train indigenous leaders to guide the new generation and carry on the work of the Y.W.C.A. though considerable difficulty was being experienced in finding proper candidates to be trained for leadership.

(4) Y.W.C.A. and International Questions. - The Discussion Groups found that the contribution of the Y.W.C.A. to the solution of international difficulties is dependant upon its ability to make each National Association a working demonstration of cooperation between races and nationalities within its own life. There seemed to be general agreement that the Association, as an international Christian organisation, has a responsibility for making its members aware of international questions and of their own relationship to them. It was recognised that there are special difficulties in carrying out programmes of education on international questions in associations in countries under foreign control. If the Board is in the main made up of representatives of the governing nation, it may come to think that such a education is undesirable, for the development of national consciousness is often an inevitable result. It was suggested that in a world of close inter-relationships, the Association has a responsibility to correct misinformation and to arouse awareness of the relations between the policies of national governments and the creation of world discord or world co-operation. The Y.W.C.A. must help to bring about an understanding of the basic causes of international conflict.

How the Y.W.C.A. can help. - Through Conferences, Study Groups,

lectures, committee work, correspondence between the members of the Association in the various countries, personal contact with people of other countries, the use of material sent out by the World's Y.W.C.A. and the exchange of workers between countries, the Y.W.C.A.'s programme of education can be carried out. In countries where freedom of speech and group action are impossible, the National Association may have to rely more on informal ways of education in its own fellowship than on the building of public opinion.



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Agriculture.

Improving Agricultural Research in India:

Experts from England to hold Enquiry. +

The Government of India sometime back invited Sir John Russell and Dr. N.C.Wright, two agricultural research experts of England to examine the work done by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and to report on any further possibilities and to offer the Council general advice. The experts have arrived in India on 4-11-1936. Sir John will study questions relating to agricultural farming in all its aspects. Dr. Wright has considerable experience in dairying methods in various countries, and his knowledge and advice, it is expected, will improve the livestock and milk supply of this country. During their stay in Delhi, the experts will discuss with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research all questions regarding agriculture and dairying in this country.

(The Times of India, 5-11-36)+

Rural Development in U. P: Statement in

Legislative Council.

A statement showing the progress of rural development in the United Provinces, up to 30-6-1936, was laid on the table of the local Legislative Council by Sir Jwala Srivastava, Education Minister, in reply to a question on the subject. The following is a summary of the statement:-

Nature of the Schemes.- The rural development schemes of the United Provinces Government are in three parts: (1) the main scheme, (2) departmental schemes and (3) the Kumaun scheme. They are in force since October 1935. These three schemes are parts of a unitary and comprehensive scheme of rural development which is in operation in the 48 districts of these provinces. The departmental schemes are certain special schemes which are worked in close association with the main scheme. They supplement the local efforts and resources under the main scheme and primarily benefit the areas selected for development. The Kumaun scheme meets the special needs of the three hill districts.

The Main Scheme.- Under the main scheme, 270 rural development circles have been established in the province. Each circle comprises a group of twelve villages. A resident organiser is stationed in the central village of a circle. A village organisation has been set up in each village and there is in each district a rural development association, so as to co-ordinate the various activities for effecting improvements in the rural areas. A discretionary grant of Rs. 5,000 a year has been allotted to each district officer. This grant is to be expended by him on objects of public utility in the rural development circles of his district. An officer has been placed on special duty to supervise the working of the whole scheme. Educative propaganda is being carried on by holding fairs and exhibitions for farmers. During the comparatively short period of the operation of this scheme encouraging and satisfactory progress has been made. It has to a large extent succeeded in securing concentration of work, co-ordination of different activities, and a balanced all-round development of village life; the sanitary, the cultural and the economic aspects have all been taken up together and tackled fairly effectively.

As a result, local apathy and fatalistic resignation have given place in many areas to active interest, and there is a stir and a new note of hope. Agricultural improvements have received fresh impetus, demand for improved seeds is growing, demonstration plots are being opened in the village centres, seed unions are being formed, better agricultural methods and practices are being adopted and cattle breeding is being taken up with earnestness. A concentrated drive is being made for improving rural sanitation and hygiene.

Departmental Schemes: (1) Agricultural Schemes.- In areas which still remain unserved by canals and tube-wells, irrigation facilities have been provided by undertaking boring operations within existing wells of the ordinary type. Under this scheme 2,250 wells will be sunk and nearly one-third of this number have been repaired so far. In each case, two-thirds of the cost of boring has been met by the owner of the well. Another source of increasing the water-supply for irrigation purposes is by the construction of small village reservoirs or embankments. In this scheme also the villagers meet a part of the cost, mostly in labour.

In twelve selected districts of the province, fruit culture has been organised on an extensive scale in the rural development circles.

A special scheme for the improvement of goat and poultry is in force.

(2) Public Health Science.-- Nearly 3,000 villages have been supplied with village medicine chests. These chests have proved extremely popular. Nine 'health units' have been established; each comprising a compact area of about 50 villages. Besides carrying on the general items of health work which include soakage pits, manure pits, ventilators, improvement of ~~raw~~ water supply, etc, the special features of the health units are the provision of medical relief by means of mobile dispensaries under the charge of medical officers, maternity and child welfare work under the care of health visitors assisted by trained midwives, the training of indigenous dais and general anti-epidemic work, such as inoculation, vaccination, etc. Intensive health propaganda has been carried out by lectures, homely talks, magic lanterns and cinema shows.

(3) Industrial Schemes.-- To provide facilities for marketing the products of village cottage industries, 27 subsidised shops have been opened. Five supervisors have been appointed to organise cooperative societies of ghee producers and they are doing useful work. Five cooperative stores have been opened in order to help in the marketing of the products of selected industries.

(4) Propaganda. - Suitably selected papers and periodicals as well as departmental journals and pamphlets have been broadcast in the 3,000 odd villages included in the rural development scheme, as also in other villages. A few posters are being printed. Useful agricultural information dealing with the practical fruits of research is being translated into the vernacular and communicated in simple and homely language to the people in rural areas.

The Kumaun Scheme.--Special schemes are in force in the hill districts of Naini Tal, Almora and Garhwal. A lump provision of Rs. 25,000 has been made to Naini Tal and Rs. 12,500 each to Almora and Garhwal to finance certain approved schemes. In the Naini Tal district a scheme costing Rs. 6,500 for pipe water supply for Haldwani has been taken in hand. Twenty-five diggis (water tanks) have been constructed at a total cost of Rs. 10,000. The construction of anti-malaria drains is in progress. In addition, efforts are made to supply good agricultural seeds and improve ~~xxx~~ live-stock.

(The Leader, 13-11-1936). +

Rural Welfare and Improvement of Agriculture  
in Madras: Report of Sub-Committee of Provincial  
Economic Council. +

Reference was made at page 43 of our November 1935 report to the appointment of a sub-committee of the Madras Provincial Economic Council in November 1935 to go into the question of agricultural development of the Presidency and to submit a ten-year plan for the purpose. The Committee has recently submitted its report. The salient features of the report are summarised below:

Supply of Seeds.-The Government should continue for the present to be the sole agency for the distribution of improved seed. Two more paddy breeding stations should be opened, one in the Vizagapatam district and the other in the Chingleput district, for evolving semi-dry, dry and drought resistant varieties of paddy and varieties suitable for cultivation in the months of September and October in the South-West monsoon. A farm should be started in the Godavari Agency areas for work on wheat, fruits, vegetables and other crops suitable to that locality.

Protection to Coconut Industry.- An increased import duty should be imposed on copra, cocoanut and cocoanut oil in order to afford some protection to the local cocoanut growing industry.

Propaganda.- A Deputy Director should be appointed to be in sole charge of propaganda and publicity which require greater attention and closer co-ordination. A suitable cinephotographic and projection equipment should be purchased and suitable films produced for propaganda purposes.

Organisation of Agriculturists.- Associations of agriculturists and others interested in the development and improvement of agriculture should be formed in every important village and for every firka, with a central Association to co-ordinate their work, the Associations working under the auspices of District Economic Councils.

Rural Uplift and Cottage Industries.- A trained Rural Guide should be appointed, one for each group of villages, in one or two taluks in each district to begin with, for rural uplift work under the guidance of the District Economic Council. The training of Rural Guides in suitable centres, preferably in Agricultural Farms and Schools, should be the concern of the Provincial Government. Effective steps should be taken early to develop cottage industries.

Fragmentation of Holdings and Unemployment.- Consolidation of cultivation on a large scale on a co-operative basis should be encouraged with a view to forming large scale farms. Steps should be taken to divert the attention of the educated youth to agricultural pursuits, and facilities should be made available to them on the lines of those adopted by the Travancore Government. Land Colonisation Schemes for Harijans and unemployed boys should be formulated. A survey should be made of waste lands and the possibilities of cultivation by tractors should also be examined.

Training in Agriculture.- The Director of Agriculture should be requested to examine the syllabus of the Agricultural College with a view to seeing whether the students can be given a few lessons in economics. Facilities should be afforded at Agricultural Farms for training elementary teachers in agriculture. An agricultural graduate should be appointed in every High School to supervise and conduct gardening classes, to teach nature study and generally to give an agricultural bent of mind to the students.

The Report also contains recommendations regarding the improvement of live-stock, increasing irrigation facilities, starting of research in fruit-preservation, extraction of sugar, etc. As regards the organisation of agricultural credit, the recommendations in the Report are:

Agricultural Credit.- Co-operative societies should forecast their requirements long in advance of the cultivation season, and get the loans sanctioned by the central bank, drawing the money only as and when necessary. Loans for the purchase of agricultural implements should not be disbursed in cash, nor new loans for payment of kist be paid to the members direct. Crop loans should be given to cultivators who agree to market their produce through loan and sale societies. A system of controlled credit should be adopted with a view to reducing overdues and preventing indebtedness. There should be a central committee at the headquarters of the Government, consisting of the heads of Revenue, Co-operative, Agricultural and Industries Departments, with non-officials representing co-operation, banking and agricultural interests and economists to plan credit work in the agricultural, co-operative and industrial departments. To carry out the plans formulated by the Central Committee there should be a committee in each district consisting of the local officials and some non-officials.

The Sub-Committee has, further, suggested to the Economic Council to conduct an enquiry into the subject of rural income and standard of living. It has also suggested that the Provincial Economic Council or a committee thereof might function as a board of economic inquiry and future economic inquiries should be conducted under its auspices.

11

Migration.

Indian Labourers in Malaya: Government of  
India Appoints Delegate to Enquire into their ~~their~~  
Conditions of Work.

The Government of India has for some time had under consideration a proposal to send a deputation to Malaya to examine the conditions of Indian labour there. The Malayan Government itself expressed a wish that such a deputation should be sent, and the proposal *had* received the approval of the Standing Emigration Committee of both Houses of the Indian Legislature. The Government of India has now appointed the Right Honourable V.S.Srinivasa Sastri, as their delegate. Mr. Sastri will sail from Calcutta on 20-11-1936 and will be accompanied by Mr. G.S.Bozman, I.C.S., at present Additional Deputy Secretary in the Department of Education, Health and lands, as adviser.

Terms of Reference.— The Delegation's terms of reference are:— To examine the condition of Indian labourers in Malaya with special reference to (i) the rate and payment of wages (ii) hours of work (iii) the provision made for residence, medical treatment and education and for subsidiary occupation, e.g., by the allotment of land for cultivation (iv) sex ratio (v) political and social status, and to make recommendations as to (a) what improvements are desirable in respect of these or any other matters in the interest of the Indian labour force already in Malaya, and (b) whether assisted emigration to Malaya should be permitted ~~in~~ in future~~s~~ and, if so, on what conditions.

Background of the Problem.— There is an interesting background to the deputation to Malaya. As early as 1929, the Malayan Government invited the Government of India to send some~~one~~ to see things for himself and judge whether the Malayan Government was right in securing the exemption of Malaya from the sex ratio. This ratio was fixed by rules under the Indian Emigration/ Act, 1922, in order to prevent a recurrence of conditions in various parts of the world where Indian labour had gone in the past and suffered for want of a proper sex ratio. The rules fixed the ratio at 1,200 males to 800 females. Ceylon is free from the operation of the ratio and Malaya

has also been hitherto exempted. The Government of India was thinking of sending a deputation in 1930 when a depression occurred in the rubber trade and resulted in the repatriation of about 150,000 Indian labourers. It was therefore not a proper time to send a deputation to Malaya. In 1934 prices began to look up and assisted non-recruited labour was subsequently allowed by the Government of India, after consultation with the Standing Emigration Committee of the Assembly, to proceed to Malaya.

Minimum Wages. - As wages had been reduced in 1930 by about 30 per cent in Malaya, the Government of India took up the question of raising the standard wage. The Malayan Government agreed to restore 10 per cent of the cut which had been secured by a pro rata reduction in the cash rate of daily wages for short work. As regards the rest of the wage cut, the Malayan Government argued that the cost of living had fallen in Malaya by about 25 per cent so that no hardship was caused.

Mr. Sastri's deputation will investigate whether the Malayan Government's contention was right and whether the wages offered were adequate or inadequate. In fact the primary function of the deputation will be to inquire into the question of wages, and the sex ratio, which was originally the main issue, is now probably a subsidiary one.

(The Statesman, 19-11-1936) +

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for December 1 9 3 6

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References to the I.L.O. +

A communique re. <sup>re</sup>work of the 77th session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 30-11-1936) is published by the following: the Bombay Chronicle dated 5-12-36 and the Leader dated 11-12-1936.

\* \* \*

A communique re. "Economic Developments in 1936" (based on a Geneva communique on the subject issued by this Office on 4-12-36) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 7-12-36 and the Leader dated 11-12-1936.

\* \* \*

A communique re. "World Agricultural Situation in 1936" (based on a Geneva communique on the subject and issued by this Office on 15-12-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 16-12-36 and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 22-12-1936.

\* \* \*

The December 1936 issue of the Insurance World, Calcutta, publishes a long review of the I.L.O. pamphlet: "Social Insurance in 1935" (Reprint from "I.L.O. Year-Book, 1935-36").

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal dated 6-12-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 9-12-1936 reproduces the article: "The Seamen's Charter" from the November 1936 issue of "Headway", London. (Copies of the article were sent to this and a few other papers and journals by this Office.)

\* \* \*

The issues of the Bombay Chronicle dated 4 & 11-12-1936 publish further instalments of the article: "The Seamen's Charter" sent by the London correspondent of the paper.

\* \* \*

The Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 14-12-1936 publishes a brief review of the work of the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

A communique reviewing the last two Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference (issued by this Office on 17-11-36) is published by the following: the December 1936 issue of the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 6-12-1936.

\* \* \*

The National Call and the Indian Labour Journal dated 13-12-1936 publish a long review of the book: "Yes and Albert Thomas" by E.J.Phelan. The review was contributed by the Director of this Office.

\* \* \*

The November 1936 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, <sup>publishes</sup> of an article under the caption "Reduction of Working Hours", reproduced from the Postal Advocate. The article reviews the movement for a reduction of hours of work in industry. References are made in the article to the efforts made by the I.L.O. in this field.

\* \* \*

A short summary of a communique re. the various committees meeting at Geneva in November 1936, (issued by this Office on 24-11-1936) is published by the Railway Herald dated 6-12-1936.

\* \* \*

The proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 19-11-1936, publishes a note stating that the Association has recommended Sir H.P.Mody for nomination as the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

A message to the effect that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has recommended Sir H.P.Mody

and Mr. G.L.Mehta for nomination as the Indian Employers' Delegate and Adviser respectively, to the 23rd I.L.Conference.is published by the Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 22-12-1936 and the National Call dated 23-12-36.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 6-12-1936 publishes a "Swiss Letter" dated 28-11-36 from Lausanne sent by its Swiss correspondent. Reference is made in the course of the letter to Senor Caballero's connection with the I.L.O. and to the non-observance of the two-minute silence on Armistice Day by the League and the I.L.O. Secretariats.

\* \* \*

The Times of India and the Bombay Chronicle dated 17-12-1936 publish the report of a lecture delivered at the Nagpada Neighbourhood House by Mr. A.N.Mehrban of the Bombay Labour Office on 8-12-36 on the work of his office. In the course of the lecture, references were made to the influence of the I.L.O. in improving labour conditions in India.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 11-12-36 publishes a summary of a speech delivered by Miss G.M.Van Asch Wan Wijck at the Calcutta Rotary Club on the activities of the World's Y.W.C.A. at Geneva. In the course of the speech, reference was made to the manner in which the Y.W.C.A. co-operated with the work of the I.L.O. and the League.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Times of India dated 22-12-1936 publish an article under the caption:"The World's Refugees:Nansen Office Dissolving."

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 10-12-1936 publishes the report of a lecture on India's status in the League delivered at

the Calcutta Y.M.C.A. on 7-12-1936 by Mr. C.C.Biswas, one of the Indian delegates to the 17th Session of the League Assembly. Mr. Biswas expressed the view that India occupied a low status at Geneva and complained that Indian representation in the League Secretariat was meagre.

Summaries of the lecture were published by the Statesman of 10-12-1936 and the Hindustan Times <sup>of</sup> ~~dated~~ 13-12-1936.

\* \* \*

The All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, Calcutta, has published the Report of the Indian Employers' Delegation to the 20th Session of the I.L.Conference on the work done at the Session. (A copy of the Report was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/1415/36 dated 23-12-36).

\* \* \*

The issues of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 6, 13 and 20-12-1936 publish a long article under the caption: "The Rise of Labour Legislation in India" by Mr. R.K.Das of the I.L. Office, Geneva.

\* \* \*

No Indian newspaper or periodical received during the month in this Office, published items from the I.L.O.News Bulletin.

\* \* \*

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and sent by Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during December 1936:-

1. Fresh instalments of the article:"The Seamen's Charter" contributed by the Geneva correspondent of the Bombay Chronicle..

National Labour Legislation.

The Punjab Mines Rules, 1936. +

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 30 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, as amended by Act No.V of 1935 (vide pages 11-17 of our April 1935 report), the Governor of the Punjab in Council has made rules in supersession of the rules published under Punjab Government Notification No. 3224-D dated 14-7-1927. The present Rules are published as Notification No.5041-I & L-36/36332 dated 23-11-1936, of the Industries and Labour Department of the Local Government, at pages 1443-1450 of Part I of the Punjab Gazette dated 27-11-1936. They deal with sanitary and health standards in mines; ambulance, first-aid and rescue work; registration of workers; safety provisions; abandonment of mines; inquiry in case of accidents; medical certificates of fitness, etc.

Maternity Benefits for Delhi:

Bombay Maternity Benefit Act extended to Delhi Province. +

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 of the Delhi Laws Act, 1912 (XIII of 1912) the Governor General in Council has extended to the Province of Delhi the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, (Bombay Act VII of 1929) subject to the following modifications, namely:-

1. For section 2 the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

"2. It shall come into force on such date as the Chief Commissioner may by notification in the Gazette of India direct."

2. In clauses (a) and (b) of section 3 for the words and figures "Indian Factories Act, 1911" the words and figures "Factories Act, 1934" shall be substituted.

3. In sub-section (1) of section 5 the following shall be omitted, namely:-

"in the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad and Karachi, and elsewhere at the rate of her average daily wage calculated to the nearest quarter of an anna on the total wages earned during a period of three months immediately preceding the date on which she gives notice under sub-section (1) of section 6, or at the rate of eight annas a day, whichever is less."

4. In sub-section (2) of section 12 the words "of a Presidency Magistrate or" shall be omitted.

5. In section 14-

(1) In sub-section (1) and in clause (e) of sub-section(2) for the words "Governor in Council" the words "Chief Commissioner" shall be substituted;

(2) in clause (a) of sub-section (2) for the words and figures "section 35 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911", the words and figures "section 41 of the Factories Act, 1934", shall be substituted;

(3) in sub-section (4) the following shall be omitted, namely:-

"Such rules shall be laid on the table of the Bombay Legislative Council for one month previous to the next session thereof and shall be liable to be rescinded or modified. If any rule is modified the Governor in Council may accept the modification and re-issue the rule accordingly or may rescind the rule."

(Notification No.L.1844 dated 26-11-1936 of the Department of Industries and Labour published at pages 1573-74 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 5-12-1936).+

The C.P. Protection of Debtors Bill, 1936:

Discussion Preparatory to Enactment.

Reference was made at page 15 of our November 1936 report to the passing of the Central Provinces Protection of Debtors Bill, 1936, by the Local legislature on 6-11-1936. The debate on the Bill as modified by the Select Committee, which was held on 5 and 6-11-1936, is reported at pages 29-46 and pages 49-53 of the C.P. Legislative Council Proceedings, Vol. XIII, Nos. 1 and 2. +

The C.P. Unregulated Factories Bill, 1936:

Debate Preparatory to Enactment.

Reference was made at page 14 of our November 1936 report to the enactment on 7-11-1936 by the Central Provinces Legislative Council of the C.P. Unregulated Factories Bill, 1936. The Bill as modified by the Select Committee was taken<sup>up</sup> for consideration on 7-11-1936 and the debate on it is reported at pages 115-120 of the C.P. Legislative Council Proceedings, Vol. XIII, No. 3. +



Prohibition of Slavery in Hyderabad:

Hyderabad Penal Code (Amendment) Act Gazetted. +

At pages 11-12 of our November 1936 report was given the text of the Hyderabad Penal Code (Amendment) Act, 1936, which was recently passed by the Legislative Council of the Hyderabad State. According to communications received in this Office from the Government of the State, the Act received the assent of H. E. H. the Nizam on 6-11-1936 and was published in the Government Gazette dated 23-11-1936. +

Regulation of Child Labour in India:

Legislation under Consideration of Government  
of India. +

It is understood that the Government of India may shortly address Provincial Governments on the subject of legislation to protect child labour in unregulated industries. A draft bill may be sent for eliciting their opinions.

At the Industries Conference held last year, the Government of India put forward certain proposals as a basis for legislation. They were that employment of children below ten years should be prohibited, that children between 10 and 14 should not be asked to work for more than 7 hours, that there should be a weekly holiday, <sup>and</sup> that there should be no overtime and no work at home, ~~and so on.~~ These proposals, however, did not appear to have been favourably received by representatives of certain important Provincial Governments on various grounds.

The Royal Commission had suggested that legislation for child labour should first be applied to big factories and then gradually extended to small factories, but the Government of India's proposal at the Industries Conference was that legislation should first be applied to certain selected industries in which the conditions of employment of child labour were known to be particularly bad.

The subject did not come up before this year's Industries Conference, but it is understood that the Government of India have the subject actively under consideration and are engaged in preparing a draft bill.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-12-36).

Conditions of Labour.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act  
in the Punjab, 1935.\* +

According to the Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab during 1935, the year under review was the first year in which, subsequent to the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, returns in the revised forms prescribed by the Government of India have been submitted by the employers. The revised returns give information only regarding (i) the number of cases in which compensation has been paid, and (ii) the amount of compensation paid.

Statistics of Accidents and Compensation. - The following table gives details of the number of accidents in which compensation was paid and the amount thereof:

Accident.	Total No. of Persons Employed.	Accidents.			Compensation paid for		
		No. resulting in			Death		
		Death	Perm. Dis- ablement.	Temp. Dis- ablement.	Death	Perm. Dis- ablement.	Temp. Dis- ablement.
					Rs. L. P.	Rs. L. P.	Rs. L. P.
.	20,937	7	33	537	6040-0-0	12815-7-0	6169-6-4
.	2,276	4	3	23	2731-11-9	385-8-0	322-1-6
cerns.	1,549	...	5	36	...	1119-5-6	585-11-6
	24,492	11	44	616	9371-11-9	14918-6-6	7077-7-4

X Number of Cases and Proceedings. - 17 proceedings filed under section 10 were pending from the previous year. 35 fresh proceedings

\* Annual Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab for the year 1935.-Lahore: Supdt., Government Printing, Punjab. 1936.-Price Rs. 1-5-0 or 2s. - pp. 3+xi

11

were filed during the year under report, and 5 were received from other Commissioners. Of these, 3 were disposed of without notice to the other party, 23 were admitted by opposite party, 3 were allowed ex-parte and 13 were contested. Of the contested cases 5 were allowed, 1 was allowed in part and 7 were dismissed. 10 cases were pending at the close of the year under report.

52 agreements were filed with the Commissioners during the year, and 12 were pending from the previous year. Of these, 59 were registered as filed, leaving 5 pending at the close of the year.†

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act  
in U. P., 1935.\* †

According to the Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the United Provinces during 1935, the Act on the whole worked smoothly in the province during the year under report, and no particular difficulty in its working ~~was~~ reported to have been experienced by the Commissioners.

Statistics of Workmen and Accidents.— The average daily number of workers employed in the registered factories was 139,260 against 125,986 in the previous year; nearly 95 per cent of this is adult male labour. The number of accidents rose from 2,099 to 2,135, comprising 31 fatal, 449 serious and 1,655 minor accidents.

During 1935, compensation <sup>was paid</sup> amounting to Rs. 38,864 in respect of

\* Report together with the prescribed Returns on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923) in the United Provinces for the Calendar year 1935.—Allahabad: Supt., Printing and Stationery, U.P., India, 1936.—Price 5 annas. —pp.7

56 cases of death, Rs. 14,967 in respect of 60 cases of permanent disablement and Rs. 14,593 in respect of 1,016 cases of temporary disablement. The total amount of compensation paid came up to Rs. 68,224, as against Rs. 46,725 in 1954 for 44 cases of death, 32 cases of permanent disablement and 726 cases of temporary disablement.

The majority of the persons to whom compensation was awarded drew Rs. 18 per mensem or less. 37 out of 56 victims of fatal accidents and 23 out of 34 of permanent disablements belonged to this wage class.

Statistics of Cases and Agreements.- The year opened with a pending list of 20 cases before the Commissioners. During the year 95 cases were filed as against the same number in the previous year, 50 cases were received from other provinces and three were transferred. Thus out of 140 cases in all 105 were disposed of leaving a balance of 35.

During the year 60 agreements for payment of compensation were registered ~~xxx~~ against 45 in the previous year. Of these 47 were for cases of permanent disablement and 13 for cases of temporary disablement. As usual, Cawnpore topped the list with 27 agreements.,

Madras Labour Department and the Depressed  
Classes, 1935-1936\* +

The following details regarding the work of the Madras Labour Department for the uplift of the Depressed Classes are taken from the Administration Report for 1935-36 submitted to the Government of Madras by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras. The Collectors of districts continued to be the responsible officers in the mofussil charged with the work for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes, with the Commissioner of Labour as the co-ordinating officer to ensure that sustained and well-directed efforts are being made for the betterment of the depressed classes. The ameliorative work for the depressed classes was carried out as usual under the following heads:-

- (1) Provision of house-sites.
- (2) Opening of schools, granting of scholarships, stipends, boarding grants, etc.
- (3) Provision of wells, tanks, etc., for the supply of drinking water.
- (4) Provision of sanitary amenities, such as pathways, burial grounds, etc.
- (5) Assignment of land for cultivation.

House-sites.-- Owing to financial stringency, the department was prepared to take up acquisition of house-sites this year, as in the last three years, only when the entire cost of the house-sites was deposited by the applicants before acquisition proceedings were taken up, the cost of the portion of the acquired land required for streets and other communal purposes only to be borne by the

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\* Government of Madras Development Department G.O.No.1768 dated 8th October 1936.-Labour Department -Administration Report, 1935-36.

Government. There were seven applications for acquisition on these terms. An extent of 12.05 acres comprising 2,083 sites was acquired at a cost of Rs. 3,161-8-8. During the year, however, an extent of 166.49 acres providing 989 house-sites was assigned from land at the disposal of Government. This brings the total number of house-sites assigned under the method of free assignment to 36,192 up to the end of the year under report.

Education.- The work on behalf of the depressed classes in the field of education was continued on the usual lines and consisted of: (i) the maintenance of separate schools for the depressed classes; (ii) the provision of scholarships, boarding grants and grants for purchase of books and payment of fees to pupils of the depressed classes; (iii) the grant of stipends for the training of teachers; (iv) the maintenance of free hostels at important centres for the benefit of the students of the depressed classes; and (v) the grant of financial help to private associations engaged in maintaining schools, hostels, etc, mainly for the benefit of the depressed classes. Some changes have been made in the methods of administration of scholarships, boarding grants and elementary schools, which, it is hoped, will lead to improved results and more careful selection of recipients of assistance.

As additional funds were not available few new schools were opened and attention was mostly devoted to an attempt to improve the working of existing schools and reduce the stagnation referred to in last year's report.

Criminal Tribes Settlement.- The number of settlements during the year continued to be 6. The settlements at Aiznagar,

Konnur, Sitanagram, Sitragunta (including the Reformatory) and Siddhapuram continued to be managed by the Government agency while the Stuartpuram Settlement was managed by the Salvation Army. The population of the settlements on 31-3-1936 was 5,392. In addition to the above, there are in the settlements certain exempted and unregistered settlers. Their strength was 1358.

Employment of Members of Criminal Tribes.- Out of 1,421 families in these settlements, not including the Konnur settlement, 907 families were engaged in agriculture. The Aziznagar Settlement is running weaving, carpentry and leather goods industries. The value of sales in the year under review of goods produced in the settlements came to Rs. 4,725 for woven goods, Rs. 3,436 for carpentry works and Rs. 3,020 for leather goods.

About 1,100 settlers of the Stuartpuram settlement are employed in the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company Factory at Chinnai and their earnings during the year amounted to Rs. 40,700. At Sitanagram, the quarries provide work for almost all the families. During the year a sum of Rs. 16,400 was paid as wages to the settlers employed in the quarries.

(The work of the Labour Department for the uplift of the Depressed Classes during 1934-35 was reviewed at pages 19-20 of our January 1936 Report.) . +



11

## Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers

for various centres in India for August and September 1936. +

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India showed irregular changes during August and September 1936 as compared with July 1936.

Bombay.— The index number (Base July 1914) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in August 1936 remained unchanged at 101.

The index number of the cost of living in September 1936 rose by 1 point to 102. The average in the year 1935 was 101.

Ahmedabad.— The index number (Base: Year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad remained unchanged at 71.

The index number of the cost of living rose by 1 point to 72; in 1935 the average was 71.

Sholapur.— The index number (Base: Year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur rose by 2 points to 73.

The index number of the cost of living rose by 3 points from the August figures to 75. The average for 1935 was 72.

Nagpur.— The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in August 1936 remained stationary at 59.

The index number of the cost of living in September 1936 also remained stationary at 59.

Jubbulpore.— The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in August 1936 rose by 3 points to 60.

The index number of the cost of living in September 1936 remained stationary at 60.

Rangoon.— The index number (Base: 1931) of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers remained unchanged at 90 (provisional figures).

The index number of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers declined by 1 point to 89 (provisional figure).

(Extracted from "Monthly Survey of  
Business Conditions in India", August  
and September 1936 issues).

(The Cost of living index numbers for various centres in India during July 1936 were given at page 20 of our September 1936 report).

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Labour Conditions in Assam Tea Gardens, 1934-35\*.

Report of Controller of Emigrant Labour. †

General.- On the 1st October 1933, the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act came into force, and the Assam Labour and Emigration Act was repealed. Simultaneously, the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board with headquarters in Calcutta, became Controller of Emigrant Labour, with headquarters in Shillong. The change of headquarters was made in conformity with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour in India that the Controller under the new Act should direct his attention less to the recruitment of labourers and more to their forwarding to the tea gardens, and in particular to their treatment on the tea gardens.

Amendments to Act.- No amendment was made in the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act during the year; nor was there any change in the extent of its application. Certain minor changes were made during the year in the Provincial Rules under the Act in Bengal, the Central Provinces and Madras.

Conditions of Tea Industry.- Conditions in the industry during the period under review have generally shown some improvement since the opening of the new season's sales in June. By a steady reduction in the United Kingdom stocks the statistical position is better, this situation being aided by a reduction in the percentage of quota released for export. An agreement was again reached amongst producers to regulate production. A satisfactory feature of marketing conditions has been the rather higher prices realised for the better quality teas. Taken together these factors may be said to point to more favourable prospects in the industry; but results during 1935, whilst they may show appreciable improvement with some

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act (XXII of 1932) for the year ending the 30th September 1935. Shillong; Printed at the Assam Govt. Press. 1936.-Price Annas 8 or 10d. pp.43.

profits, postulate the need for continued economy in expenditure to keep down costs with the diminished crop allowed under the regulation schemes.

Recruitment.- As during the previous year, recruiting was carried on in the five provinces (Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces, Madras and United Provinces), which have been declared to be controlled emigration areas, through Local Forwarding Agents licensed for various districts. The number of licenses issued by the Controller was 63. Others were renewed locally by District Magistrates. The Bombay Presidency continued to be an uncontrolled recruiting area.

Provincial Distribution of Recruits.- 18,764 souls were recruited for Assam as assisted emigrants and members of their families during the year, as against 47,688 during the previous year. The ~~xxx~~ provincial distribution was as follows: Bengal -268; Bihar and Orissa -13,121; Central Provinces -1432; Madras -2872; United Provinces -356; and Bombay -725. Normally, recruitment in the controlled emigration areas continued to be carried on under the Sardari system. But 662 souls were recruited by other means during the year. 3,993 non-assisted emigrants (i.e., ex-garden coolies returning to Assam within 2 years) and members of their families were also forwarded to Assam during the year as against 8,231 in the previous year.

Cost of Recruitment.- The average cost of recruitment through the Tea Districts Labour Association in 1934-35 was Rs. 57-1-6 per soul and Rs. 76-15-6 per adult, as against Rs. 49-2-0 and Rs. 66-3-0 respectively in the previous year. The 16 per cent rise in the year under report is due to the small recruitment of labourers resulting in a larger proportion of the standing overhead charges being debited to each. Throughout the year under report many times as much labour was available for recruitment as was required. Bad harvests were general throughout the recruiting areas: and agricultural wages continued to fall. Consequently employers were in a position to make such stipulations as they thought fit with regard to the class of recruits that they would accept: and many restricted recruitment to married couples; and some, in view of the obligation to repatriate at the end of three years, added the additional stipulation that there should be no infant children, or that there should not be more than 2 children per family.

Labour Conditions on Tea Estates: Labour Population.-The total population of adult labourers working and not working on tea estates in Assam was 620,728 at the end of the year under report, as compared with 625,041 in the preceding year, and of children 515,841 as compared with 503,958 in the previous year, making a total population of 1,136,569 as against 1,128,999 in the preceding year. The number of new emigrants arriving in Assam during the year was 19,968 as against 47,960 previous year.

Average Earnings.- In the Assam Valley, the average monthly earnings of men, women and children settled on the gardens fell from Rs. 7-7-7 to Rs. 7-2-11, Rs. 5-14-4 to Rs. 5-7-3, and Rs. 4-3-8 to Rs. 3-5-3 respectively. In the Surma Valley, the average monthly earnings of men, women and children settled on tea gardens rose from Rs. 5-6-3 to Rs. 5-10-9, Rs. 3-11-10 to Rs. 3-12-4 and ~~Rs.~~ Rs. 2-10-2 to Rs. 2-11-5 respectively. The usual concessions of free housing, medical treatment, maternity benefits, and, where available on the garden, free grazing and fire wood, and land for cultivation, sometimes free of rent, and sometimes at concession rates, were continued throughout the year. The water-supply is good in most gardens.

Vital Statistics.- Vital statistics show a satisfactory margin ~~of~~ of births over deaths, viz., 35.86 births per mille ~~xx~~ and 22.56 deaths per mille as against 37.21 and 22.55 respectively in the preceding year. There was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease in tea districts during the year.

The majority of the tea garden labourers belong by habit and heredity to the drinking classes. It is estimated by the Excise Department that the tea garden population is responsible for about two-thirds of the consumption of country spirit in the province of Assam.

Education of Children.- The total number of children living on tea estates in the Assam Valley at the beginning of the year under report was 359,653. The total number of tea garden schools in the Assam Valley during the year was 54 as against 56 in the previous year, and the number of pupils attending them was 1,581 as against 1,730 in the previous year. In addition, 1,206 pupils are reported to have attended ordinary primary schools. In the Surma Valley there were 144,305 children living on tea gardens at the beginning of the year; and there were 42 tea garden schools attended by 1,429 pupils during the year as against 42 schools attended by 1,448 pupils in the previous year. In addition 1,543 pupils are reported to have ~~xxx~~ attended ordinary primary schools as against 1,731 pupils in the preceding year.

Money Remittances.- The total remittances by money order from the tea districts to the ten chief recruiting districts during the year under report are reported by the Postmaster General to have been Rs. 535,827-3-0: out of which Rs. 304,436 was sent to Ranchi Ranchi district, Rs. 92,558 to Sambalpur district, Rs. 49,089 to the Santal Parganas, Rs. 25,677 to Singhbhum, and Rs. 22,141 to Raipur district.

Land Holdings.- 154,422 acres of garden land in Assam are held by labourers who still reside on the gardens. These labourers are tenants at will, and can as yet acquire no right of occupancy. Ordinarily it is a condition of their tenancy that they continue

to work as labourers on the garden.

14,421 acres of Government land are held by tea garden labourers in the Assam Valley, and 3,860 by tea garden labourers in the Surma valley.

Ex-tea garden labourers hold 2 329,478 acres of Government land in the Assam Valley, and 36,889 acres in the Surma Valley.

Labour Disputes.- During the year, there only six complaints made by labourers against managers, and three by managers against labourers, as against 15 and 12 respectively during the previous year.

The three cases brought by managers against labourers were all for rioting.

There were also 22 labour disturbances on tea gardens during the year. ~~Five~~ Five of these were strikes of from a few hours up to four days in duration on account of the reduction of wages.

The strikes passed off peacefully.

Repatriation.- No emigrant labourers can be due for normal repatriation under section 7 before the first October, 1936, as the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act only came into operation on the 1st October, 1933. During the year however 1,372 emigrant labourers and members of their families were repatriated by their employers for various reasons. Of 1,372 souls repatriated, 762 were emigrant labourers and 610 were members of their families. The reasons for repatriation were dismissals, ill-health, unsuitability for garden labour, mental deficiency, refusal to accept reduced wages, death of wage/earning member of family, etc. +

The B.N.Railway Strike begins on 13-12-1936. +

Reference was made at pages 23-24 of our November 1936 report to the threat of a general strike on the Bengal Nagpur Railway as a result mainly of increase of hours of work, reduction of wages and demotion of staff. The efforts of Mr. V.V.Giri, the President of the Union and General Secretary of the A.I.Railway-men's Federation, to bring about an amicable settlement having failed, a general strike was declared on 13-12-1936 at Kharagpur. By 17th December the number of strikers had swelled to 40,000 out of a total number of 60,000 employees of the railway. According to a communique issued by the Agent of the Railway on 17-12-36, the strike called by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union has resulted during the course of the <sup>previous</sup> ~~last~~ three days in the abstention from work of practically the whole of the Indian labour force of the Khargpur Workshops, and the absence from duty of about 80 per cent of the Indian inferior staff of the Loco., Carriage and Wagon, Transportation and Commercial Departments at most of the main headquarter stations on the railway. Certain elements of the Indian Supervising and Clerical Staff of the Loco., Carriage and Wagon, Transportation and Commercial Departments have also struck work, but the major portion of this class of staff are carrying out their normal duties. There has been no change in the situation.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 20 to 27-12-1936 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, 19-12-1936). +

According to a United Press of India message dated 5-1-1937, Mr. V.V.Giri has applied to the Government of India for the appointment of a Conciliation Board under the Trade Disputes Act for a settlement of the dispute.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-1-1937)

The Ahmedabad Textile Strike Situation:

Arbitrators give differing Awards: Case submitted to Umpire. +

References were made in our reports for August 1936 et seq. to the dispute in regard to wage cuts in progress in the Ahmedabad textile industry. Towards the close of ~~the~~ November 1936, the Ahmedabad Millowners Association appointed Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai as one of the arbitrators in place of Seth Chimanlal Parekh, who resigned in October. Representatives of the Millowners' Association and the Textile Labour Association of Ahmedabad met the Board of Arbitrators consisting of Mahatma Gandhi and Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai from 2 to 4-12-1936. Differing awards were given by the arbitrators towards the middle of December 1936 upon which, at the close of the month, Mr. Govindrao Madgaoukar, an ex-Judge of the Bombay High Court, was appointed umpire by the two arbitrators. (The Bombay Chronicle, 24-12-1936). The latest reports go to show that the umpire is at present engaged in studying the case. (The Statesman, 4-1-1937). +

Poidih (Asansol) Colliery Disaster, 18-12-1936. +

On 18-12-1936 a serious explosion took place in the Poidih Colliery, near Asansol, as a result of which the whole of the shaft-head was blown away. The European Manager of the Colliery and 208 miners, of whom 63 are women, lost their lives. The Chief Inspector of Mines with the Government of India proceeded to the

colliery to hold an enquiry. Frantic efforts were made to rescue the miners trapped underground, but without success as the debris thrown up by the explosion barred ingress. Moreover, the presence of carbon monoxide was detected in sufficiently dangerous quantities. A conference of experts, including the Chief Inspector and Chief Mining Engineers of the Equitable Coal Company and Andrew Yule Company was held on 21 & 22-12-1936. It was unanimously agreed that the mine should be sealed because (a) it was clear after the first inspection that ~~none~~ ~~as~~ no one below could have survived the explosion; (b) there was danger of fire; and (c) no progress could be made without several days' hard effort to clear a way through the pit at the risk of further loss of life. On 22-12-1936, the pits were sealed and the pit-mouths declared danger zones.

Poidih colliery is at Radhanagar, in Burdwan district, and was opened as recently as 1929. The mine is owned by the Bengal Coal Company, Ltd., whose managing agents are Messrs. Andrew Yule and Co.

(The Statesman, 19, 23 & 24-12-1936)

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## Labour Conditions of Factory Operatives

in Baroda State, 1934- 1935.\*

Number of Factories.- The number of working factories subject to the control of the Factories Act during the year was 116 as against 126 in the previous year. Of these 116 factories, 27 were perennial and 89 seasonal. 15 factories out of the perennial class and 84 out of the seasonal class were connected with the cotton industry. 16 factories were added to and 23 factories removed from the register of factories during the year. The cotton ginning and pressing factories worked only intermittently during a very short period on account of the shortage of cotton crops.

Number of Operatives.- The total number of factory operatives in 1934-35 (year ending 31-7-1935) was 25,245, as against 25,959 in the previous year. Of these, 21,395 were employed in the cotton industry and 3,849 in other industries. The sex distribution was: men - 20,582, women - 4,025, and children 577.

Wages.- The average monthly pay of higher paid skilled labour suffered a slight decline in 1934-35. Thus the average pay of foremen was Rs. 87/- per month in 1934-35 as against Rs. 95/- in 1933-34, of fitters Rs. 55/- (Rs. 58/- in previous year) and of blacksmiths Rs. 53/- (Rs. 57/- in previous year). The average wages of masons, firemen, spinners and oilmen showed slight increases. The average wages of daily paid labour was for men Rs. 0-9-0 (1933-34 - Rs. 0-9-4), women - Rs. 0-7-6 (1933-34, Rs. 0-7-8) and youths - Rs. 0-7-0 (1933-34 - Rs. 0-7-0).

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\* Annual Report of the Department of Commerce, Industries and Labour, Baroda State for the year 1934-35 ending 31st July 1935.-Baroda State Press, 1936. - Price Re. 1-0-0. -pp.126

Inspection.- According to the report, with the exception of a few, all the perennial factories were inspected more than twice, and the seasonal factories once and in some cases more than once.

Sanitation in Factories.- The report notes that suitable drainage facilities for disposal of trade waste are not provided in some of the textile and dyeing factories. In some factories drainage was seldom undertaken until insisted on by the Inspector and constant persuasions <sup>was</sup> ~~are~~ found to be necessary for maintenance of drainage. Statutory lime-washing of the walls of latrines, urinals and departments of factories has been insisted on and generally complied with. There is need for considerable improvement in the ventilating and cooling systems. Provision of modern ventilating, cooling and humidifying plants requires expenditure of a large sum of money and this kind of provision is not made except in a few mills. The factory owners are, however, getting alive to the fact that expenditure in this direction results in increased efficiency of workers under comfortable working conditions.

Safety Measures.- During the year under review, the Inspectorate made great efforts to have fencing and guarding round machinery provided where necessary. There is still room for great improvement in this direction. Right clothings were supplied to workers who were employed in hazardous work.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents amount to 120, out of which 97 were minor, 20 serious and 3 fatal, as against 91 in the last year, out of which 80 were minor, 9 serious and 2 fatal. No accident was reported from cotton ginning factories. The report points out that it is difficult to account for the increase of the

number of accidents this year, but suggests ~~say~~ that it may be due to the increased vigilance of the Inspectorate in seeing that all accidents are duly reported.

Strikes.- There was no labour strike of long duration in any factory during the year. Minor ones of short duration which occurred in the City of Baroda, and in the towns of Tetlad, Kalol and Sidhpur were settled amicably.

Welfare Work.- Of the 16 perennial cotton mills in the State, 10 provided medical relief on the allopathic system, and 3 provided medical relief on the ayurvedic or indigenous system. These mills also provided housing accommodation on a limited scale for the workers, the actual accommodation provided <sup>being</sup> about 2000 tenements. 9 mills provided canteens; 3 mills provided canteen shops, and 10 mills provided cheap grain shops.

Revision of Factory Act.-During the year, the State appointed a Committee consisting of official and non-official members to consider what amendments were necessary in view of the new factory legislation in British India. The Committee has not completed its work.

Maternity Benefits.- The report points out that women workers in factories do not appear to take benefit of the Maternity Benefit Act. Out of 1548 women workers employed in perennial factories only one woman is reported to have claimed maternity benefit under the Act. The report ascribes this either to ignorance of the benefit conferred by the Act or to apprehensions entertained by women workers that if they ~~claimed~~ maternity benefits they may be discharged from service.

Workmen's Compensation Act.- The Indian Workmen's Compensation Amendment Act was applied to the Paroda State with necessary changes during the year. It extended the scope of its applicability and compensation. During the year compensation amounting to Rs. 5,259 was paid to workers in cases of accidents which occurred in industrial concerns, as against Rs. 3,145 in the preceding year.

Conciliation Board.- The Conciliation Board was maintained during the year, but no case was referred to it.

(The report on the conditions of labour of factory operatives in Paroda State during 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 23-25 of the report of this Office for September 1935). 4

Enforcement of Conventions.

Labour Conditions in Indian Mines, 1935.\* +

The Indian Mines Act, 1923, applies to British India only and not to the Indian States. As in the previous years the report deals with the following classes of mines: coal, iron, manganese, lead, silver, gold, tin, wolfram, chromite, copper, gems, mica, salt, slate, lime-stone, stone, clay and a few other minerals.

Number of Persons Employed.-During the year 1935 the daily average number of persons working in ~~the~~ and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 253,970, as compared with 229,381 in the previous year. The increase was 24,589 persons, or 10.72 per cent. Of these persons 129,381 worked underground, 59,882 in open workings and 64,707 on the surface. The numbers of men and women, respectively, who worked underground, in open workings and on the surface were as follows:-

	Men		Women.	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Underground...	119,860	109,023	9,551	11,193
In open workings..	45,689	38,431	14,193	12,173
Surface.	48,548	44,753	13,159	15,805
Total	214,067	192,210	36,903	39,171

The increase in the daily average number of persons employed in 1935, as compared with 1934 is reflected in the larger quantity of minerals produced, the increases being most marked in coal, ~~a~~ iron ore, and manganese.

Number of Women Workers.- The number of women employed underground was 9,551, or 7.38 per cent of the total number of men and women employed underground. The percentage of women employed underground in coal mines was 8.99, as compared with 10.94 per cent.,

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\* Indian Mines Act, 1923. - Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1935. - Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1936. - Price Rs. 2-6 or 4s. 3d. *PP 205*

in 1934, 13.14 per cent in 1933, 14.84 per cent. in 1932 and 13.81 per cent in 1931. The provincial distribution of the women who worked underground was as follows:-

Province	Number of women employed underground.		
	In coal mines.	In salt mines.	Total.
Bengal. ..	3,575	..	3,575
Bihar and Orissa.	5,136	..	5,136
Central Provinces.	765	..	765
Punjab	..	75	75
Total	9,476	75	9,551 in 1935

as compared with 11,193 in 1934.

Distribution of workers: Coal mines.- The daily average number of persons employed in coal mines was 159,254, which is 7,879 more than the number employed in 1934. Of these persons, 42,209 were males employed in cutting coal, 24,066 were males employed as loaders of coal and 22,931 were women. Annual returns relating to coal mines for the year ending 31st March 1935, show that 219,695 persons who should ordinarily have been at work but were absent, on a selected day in February, the 21st of the day selected 219,695 persons were either at work or were prevented from attending work. This figure is 59,641 more than the average number of persons employed in coal mines during 1935. Some of the percentages of absentees are as follows:-in mines from which returns were received 7.1; Jharla 8.2; Raniganj 8.6 and the Central Provinces 7.9. It is probable that the reason for the low percentage of absentees in the Jharla coalfield is that a larger proportion of the labour force is resident at or near the mines than in the other areas.

Average Output of Coal per person.- Figures showing the average output of coal per person employed are given below:-

	Tons of coal per person employed.			
	Underground and in open workings.		Above and below ground.	
	1935	1933-34	1935.	1933-34.
British India. . .	185	181	132	130
Bengal and B. & O.	189	185	134	135
Assam.	138	150	120	104
Baluchistan	59	50	59	56
Central Provinces.	162	155	116	114
Punjab.	113	105	78	66

There was an all-round increase in the average output of coal per person employed except in Baluchistan, in which output was seriously affected by the quetta earthquake. The increase may be ascribed partly to the increased demand for coal and partly to the increased output from the extraction of coal in pillars. In comparing the figures with similar figures in other countries it should be remembered that both men and women are employed in Indian coal mines.

Workers in Other Mines.- The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 94,716, which is 13,710 more than the number employed in 1934. 77,374 were men and 17,342 were women. Of the women, 75 worked underground in salt mines.

Wage position.- In most cases there has not been much change in the average daily earnings. The daily earnings of coal miners, however, in the Raniganj coalfield were 2 annas and 3 pies less than in December 1934, and in Jharia coalfield 3 pies less. In the Central Provinces daily earnings remained about the same as in 1934. The earnings of mica miners in Bihar and Orissa were one anna and three pies higher and there was a considerable increase in the earnings of salt miners.

Accidents.- During the year 1935 <sup>in</sup> ~~at~~ mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1933, there were 202 fatal accidents, which is 25 more than in 1934 and 24 more than the average number in the preceding five years. In addition to the fatal accidents, there were 642 serious accidents involving injuries to 869 persons, as compared with 679 serious accidents involving injuries to 692 persons in the previous year. The so-called "serious" accidents reported are those in which an injury has been sustained which involves, or in all probability will involve, the permanent loss of or injury to the sight or hearing or the fracture of any limb or the enforced absence of the injured person from work for a period exceeding twenty days. 312 persons were killed and 918 persons were seriously injured. The latter figure includes 49 persons injured in fatal accidents. The number of persons killed was 103 more than

in 1934. 284 persons killed were men and 28 were women. In one case 62 lives; in one case 19 lives; in one case 11 lives; in five cases 6 lives and in eleven cases 2 lives were lost. The increase in the number of persons killed over the previous year was mainly due to the large number of lives lost in two accidents by explosions of inflammable gases and coal-dust at Bagdigi and Furhurbaree collieries.

Causes of Accidents.— There was an increase in the death rate of men employed underground and in open workings and a decrease in the rate for men employed on the surface. With respect to women there was an increase in the death rate underground and on the surface and a decrease in open workings. The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows:—

	No. of fatal accidents.	Percentage of total number of fatal accidents.
Misadventure. ....	122	60.40
Fault of deceased....	35	17.33
Fault of fellow worker.	10	4.95
Fault of management.	10	4.95
Fault of management.	10	7.42
Total.	202	100.00

Health and Sanitation.— (a) Asansol.— The Asansol Mines Board of Health held four special and eleven ordinary meetings during the year. The birth-rate in the mining Settlement fell from 29.1 in 1934 to 21.3 per thousand in 1935. The health of the mining population was on the whole satisfactory. The general death-rate for all ages was lower than that of the preceding year, being 21.3 against 22.3 per thousand. There was considerable decrease in the infant mortality rate from 169.4 per thousand in 1934 to 146.5 in 1935. Deaths from fevers including malaria showed appreciable decline compared to the previous year. The total sickness, as registered in the colliery dispensaries, was appreciably less during the year —the monthly sickness rate fluctuating between 4.6 per cent to 7.2 per cent in 1935 against a range of 5.0 to 9.8 per cent in 1934.

The leprosy campaign was reorganised during the year. The medical personnel was provided by the Board of Health while the maintenance of the clinics was undertaken by the local leprosy



Relief Association. Two new clinics were opened during the year. This brings the total to 11 and provision has been made for three more with a view to serving the entire mining population.

Anti-malaria work was carried out in two highly malarious areas - one of which includes an important group of collieries. A definite improvement in the malariousness of the places has been noticed as a result of the campaign.

(b) Jharia. - During the year the Jharia Mines Board of Health held twelve ordinary <sup>and</sup> four special meetings and five joint meetings with the Jharia Water Board. The estimated population of the Settlement was 544,559 persons. The death rate was 20.45 per thousand, as compared with 18.27 in the previous year. Along with the rest of the province, the coalfield suffered from an outbreak of cholera, there being 893 cases with 447 deaths, as compared with 916 cases with 413 deaths in the previous year. The number of deaths on the collieries from cholera was 42, as compared with 51 in the previous year. The total number of anti-cholera inoculations administered was 26,437. There were 1,186 cases of suspected small-pox with 58 deaths, as compared with 959 cases with 71 deaths in the previous year. 445 samples of food were analysed in the Board's laboratory and prosecutions were ordered in all cases of adulteration. With a view to improve the colliery housing still further, the moratorium granted in 1926 was withdrawn with effect from 1st April 1935, and all collieries were requested to remodel one-fifth of their non-standard houses to Board's standards. Subjects chosen for propaganda work were leprosy, maternity and child welfare, general hygiene and sanitation and ventilation in the mines. Anti-leprosy work was extended by the opening of a new fully equipped centre.

Inspections. - During the year, 1,172 mines were inspected, many of them being inspected several times; 3,315 separate inspections were made. On the suggestion of the Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan who stated that most of the coal mines in Baluchistan had been closed down as a result of the Quetta earthquake, the Baluchistan mines were not included in the annual tour of the mines in Northern India. The cause and circumstances of nearly all fatal

accidents and serious accidents of importance, and all complaints of breaches of regulations and rules were investigated. Many inspections were made at the invitation of mineowners, superintendents or managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. In the major coalfields a large proportion of the time of the Inspectors is occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwelling houses and roads by reason of the underground working of coal mines, in dealing with underground fires, and in examining protective works against the risk of inundation. In addition a large number of inspections of the sanitary conditions <sup>in</sup> ~~at~~ mines were made by medical officers as Ex-officio Inspectors of Mines. +

Factory Administration in B. & O., 1935.\* +

Statistics of Factories. - The number of factories on the register at the beginning of the year was 659, and 18 factories were taken on the register during the year under report. Of the new registrations electric power stations formed the majority. 5 factories were struck off the register during the year, leaving a balance of 672 factories at the end of the year. Of the 672 factories on the register, 66 remained closed throughout the year, and out of 609 working factories, 246 were perennial and 36 seasonal.

Number of Workers. - The number of persons employed in factories during the year was 86,327 against 78,224 in the previous year.

The increased number of persons employed were mainly spread over iron and steel, textile, and brick and tiles manufacture. Sugar

\* Annual Report on the Working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province of Bihar and Orissa 1935. By the Chief Inspector of Factories Bihar. - Supdt., Govt. Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1936. - Price Rs. 1-8. - pp. 30.

and shellac manufacture showed small increases.

Women and Children.- The number of women workers during the year under report was 6,517 as against 5,540 in 1934. Of this increase, 62 per cent was absorbed in the iron and steel industry and 25 per cent in the brick and tiles manufacture. The number of adolescents employed in factories during the year was 253. Of these, 60 per cent were certified as fit to work as adults and 40 per cent as children. The number of children employed during the year was 207 as against 254 in 1934.

Inspections.- The number of factories inspected during the year was 296 as against 286 in the previous year and the total number of inspections made was 519 as against 404 in 1934. Of the factories inspected, 100 were in the cotton textile industry, 100 in the iron and steel industry, 100 in the brick and tiles industry, and 96 in other industries.

Sanitation, Ventilation etc.-The provisions of the Factories Act and of the rules with regard to sanitation and water-supply in factories are reported to be generally observed. The disposal of effluents from rice mills and sugar factories & has been found to be a difficult problem. The jurisdiction of the Factories Act does not extend beyond the factory premises and the Act is, therefore, helpless to control any unsatisfactory external arrangement for discharge of effluents outside factory limits. The solution lies more in the hands of the local authorities than of the Factories department.

The water-supply is generally in compliance with the prescribed standards of good quality. Ventilation and lighting in factories have continued to improve.

Health of employees.- The health of workers appears to have

been normal. No epidemic and no case of industrial disease was observed by or reported to an inspector.

Wages.- As compared with the last year, the rates of wages showed slight increases in 5 trades, slight decreases in 9 trades and no changes in 16 trades.

Safety.- As in the previous years, the safeguarding of machinery and the adoption of other safety measures in factories continued to receive constant attention of the inspectors and the standard of fencing has in general considerably improved. The general progress on the working of Safety Committees in factories may be described to be steady. The number of such Committees formed up till now (mostly in larger factories) represents a little over 10 per cent on the number of working factories. Some of these Committees are well organised and take adequate interest in the cause of safety of workpeople. The activities shewn in this direction were chiefly confined to the framing and enforcing of their own Safety Rules and to the stricter compliance with the requirements of the Factories Act and the Rules relating to safety.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents during the year was 2,884 against 2,481 in 1934. Of these, 2,712 accidents occurred in perennial factories and 172 in seasonal factories. The increase in the number of accidents over last year's figure is chiefly under the head "minor", and of this increase 75 per cent was reported from Railway workshops. There was no change in the rate per 100 employees in the province as a whole under the heads "Fatal" and "Serious".

(The working of the Indian Factories Act in Bihar and Orissa during 1934 is reviewed at pages 18-20 of our September 1935 report).

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

Employers' Federation of India: 4th Annual

General Meeting, Calcutta, 1936. +

The fourth annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at Calcutta on 22-12-1936, Sir H.P. Mody presiding. The following is a brief summary of the Presidential address:

State Control of Industries.— Sir H.P. Mody referred to the Chelmsford Club speech of His Excellency the Viceroy (vide pages 34-35 of our November 1936 report) in the course of which His Excellency expressed himself in favour of State-control of industries, and said that while there is a great deal in His Excellency's analysis of the situation with which one must agree, the inference to be drawn does not seem very clear. It would help in the discussion of a problem which must ~~soon~~ soon become insistent, if employers were to know the reaction of the Government of India to the policies which even strongholds of economic orthodoxy have been compelled to pursue in face of the 'malaise' which has overtaken the world. The question is whether the Government of India, confronted as they are with a new world situation, and with the lessons of other countries before them, are applying their minds to the question of the policy they should pursue towards Indian industrial development. Sir Hormusji declared: "I am not inviting any wanton or day to day intervention in the domestic concerns of any industry. I am merely inquiring whether Government have been actively considering what is being attempted in countries like Great Britain, and whether their settled policy is going to be one of non-intervention at all costs. I see a time coming when, for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of well established industries, something more will be required of the state than an occasional application of the dose of protection".

Protection.— As regards the general issue of protection, Sir Hormusji said: "The Finance Member has facetiously observed, on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, that what I was asking for was 'more and more protection with less and less inquiry and for longer and longer periods'. I refuse to admit its implications as embodying the settled policy of Government. I hope it is not their intention to give less and less protection after longer and longer inquiry and for shorter and shorter periods, or, to put it in another form, more and more imports, less and less production, greater and greater unemployment. As regards the major industries, the question arises whether the principles laid down by the Fiscal Commission do not require to be revised and rendered more liberal in their application when the whole world

is moving towards a policy of intense economic self-sufficiency and there are no portents on the horizon indicating a return to pre-war conceptions of international trade, or normalcy, to use a horrid new coinage. Very exaggerated contentions have been advanced by the protagonists of both points of views, and it therefore gives me particular pleasure to quote the very balanced judgment which the Member for Industries and Labour, Sir Frank Noyce, has recently pronounced on the subject. He said: "the real arguments for industrialisation ~~xx~~ in India are that the consequent diversification will render the economic life of the country less precarious than if it depends on agriculture alone, that the capital of the country will be made more mobile by opportunities of industrial investment, that a higher standard of life in industrial centres will exert some influence in gradually raising the standard of life in the country and breaking down the innate conservatism of Indian labour, and lastly, that industrial enterprise will have the effect of quickening initiative and practical intelligence and thereby contributing certain new elements to the national character."

Protection and Smaller Industries.- Coming to the question as it affects the small-scale industries, Sir Hormusji emphasised that their growth through a more active policy of protection might help in the establishment of a proper balance between agriculture and industry. Properly appreciated, there should be no conflict between agriculture and industry. Those engaged in industrial development recognise the fundamental position that an increase in purchasing power can only come from the well-being of the masses, and that serious attention must be paid by industrialists to this fundamental problem, if a conflict between the town and countryside is to be avoided. In one important direction there have been recent developments which go to establish the interdependence of agricultural and industrial undertakings. Hydro-electric generation schemes are being applied to problems of irrigation, and there has been a great development, in Northern India particularly, of the system of electrically operated tube wells directed towards the same object. Industry is thus trying to subserve the interests of agriculture. The question of animal husbandry and of food supply in the neighbourhood of large industrial centres might also engage the attention of those who are concerned with the well-being of workers in large scale industries.

Review of Labour Legislation.-(1) Payment of Wages Act.- During the year under review some important legislation of vital concern to employers has been enacted. The Payment of Wages Bill was placed on the statute book. A spokesman of the Government of India has termed it a workman's charter, and there is no doubt that the measure is of a far-reaching character. The regulations to be framed by Local Governments under the Act are being considered at the present moment, and it is possible that different conditions may obtain in different provinces in the administration of the Act.

When the final rules are published by the various Local administrations, it will be necessary to examine them with a view to finding out whether there are any considerable inequalities, and whether some sort of uniformity cannot be brought about.

(2) Trade Disputes Amendment Bill.- The Trade Disputes Amendment Bill is before the country for its opinion. As members may be aware, the Federation addressed the Government of India in September 1934, urging them to amend the Act in consonance with certain principles enunciated in their representation. In view of later developments, the Federation felt that both the Trade Disputes and the Trade Union Acts ought to be suitably amended if industrial peace was to be assured. Government have undertaken, however, only a part of the reform which is called for, and the Bill now before the country aims principally at the prevention and control of industrial disputes and the establishment of conciliation machinery. In a measure like this, different considerations must apply to different provinces in matters of detail, but there are certain general features with regard to which there should be unanimity of opinion, and it is proposed to communicate to the Government of India the considered views of the Federation.

Advent of Socialism.- Sir Hormusji, in conclusion referred to the advent of socialism in India, and said: "In my address last year I spoke of certain forces in this country which seemed to be gathering strength and which could only be countered by the united efforts of all who believe in the evolutionary processes by which humanity is continually moving upwards. The menace to which I referred has come appreciably nearer during the last few months, and from very influential quarters the doctrine of expropriation, or what is tantamount to it, is being insistently preached. It is being dinned into the ears of the people of this country that the ills from which the masses are suffering cannot be cured, except by a very drastic reorganisation of the whole basis of society. This is a challenge to all who have a material stake in the country, and if it has to be met, the policy of inaction and self-complacency will have to be abandoned. Incidentally, it must bring home to employers of the old school, if there be any left, a realisation of what they owe to the vast body of wage-earners engaged in the manufacture of the articles of necessity to which, very largely, industrial production in this country is at present confined. I have always deprecated excessive intervention on the part of the state in the domain of labour legislation; too often burdens are imposed which the industries concerned are unable to bear in the present stage of their development. I am equally strongly, however, an advocate of every measure, voluntarily undertaken, calculated to ease the burden of life and improve the lot of the poor and the oppressed, and I ~~now~~ hope that employers in this country will pay increasing attention to the amelioration of the conditions of work of the labour engaged in their establishments. The new constitution will impose upon

employers in this country, as upon other interests, added responsibilities. I know that at the present moment it is somewhat futile to expect that commercial and industrial interests will bestir themselves with a view to organise their forces. A time must very soon come, however, when the necessity for organisation is sharply brought home to us; and when that day arrives, I hope we shall not be found wanting."

Office Bearers for 1937.-Sir Hormusji Mody was re-elected president and Sir Edward Penthall and Mr. C.K.Nicholl (president, Indian Tea Association) were re-elected deputy-presidents of the Association for 1937.

(From a communication<sup>Sent</sup> to this Office  
by~~from~~ the Employers' Federation of  
India and the Statesman of 25-12-1936)

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Annual Report of the Employers' Federation  
of India for 1936. +

According to the annual report of the Employers' Federation of India, submitted to the 4th annual meeting<sup>of the Federation</sup> held at Calcutta on 22-12-1936, the year closed with 22 members having 1,700,000 workers under their control.

Legislative Enactments.- The outstanding legislative measures of interest to employers referred to in the report are the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1936, the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1936 and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

Co-ordination of Industrial Legislation.- It was reported last year that the Federation had decided not to approach Government for the time being with regard to co-ordination of industrial legislation, but to watch the situation in the light of developments that might take place. During the course of the year it was observed that several States had passed legislation based upon that in force in British India, and some had introduced Bills for that purpose, while others had not shown any indication of their intentions in this matter. The President obtained detailed information on all these questions and had it circulated to the members for their confidential information. As soon as Provincial Autonomy is introduced, the Federation will have to consider the question further, particularly in view of the fact that labour legislation will then become a concurrent subject and its



administration with regard to important matters will pass completely into the hands of Local Governments. The Industries Conference this year has discussed some of the questions which would arise under the new Constitution, and it is reported that the Conference came to the conclusion that powers of co-ordination with regard to the administration of certain matters might be reasonably exercised by inter-provincial boards. In view of the fact that Provincial Autonomy will be introduced in a few months, and in view also of the fact that certain States do not still seem inclined to follow the legislation in force in British India, the Federation, the report states, will have to consider the matter at an early date.

The Federation has during the year also taken up the question of Workmen's Compensation in the States.

International Labour Conference.- The report next refers to the Indian employers' delegation to the 20th, 21st and 22nd sessions of the I.L. Conference. In certain memoranda on the items on the agenda of the Conference supplied to the Employers' delegation to the 20th session, it was pointed out that, <sup>in respect of the 40-hour week,</sup> besides the general considerations of rising costs and lower production, ~~of which a summary was given in the last Report,~~ the various industries in India which would be affected had some special difficulties to face. On the question of Holidays with Pay, the President drew the attention of the Delegate and Adviser to the fact that the Government of India had, in their reply to the International Labour Office, opposed the proposal for a Convention more or less on the same grounds as the Employers' Federation of India had taken. Government, however, had suggested that a Convention on the principle and a Recommendation giving guidance on the details were open to less objection. The Federation, taking Indian conditions into consideration, felt bound to oppose any Convention, but the opinion was expressed that all that employers' organisations in India could do was to encourage individual experiments in this direction.

On their return from the Conference, both the Delegate and the Adviser sent in Reports of their work at Geneva. They stated they had discussed the questions before them with the International organisation of Industrial Employers and had worked fully in co-operation with that body. Both the Delegate and the Adviser were appointed to committees of the Organisation and were asked to speak on its behalf. In the course of the proceedings of the International Labour Conference, the Delegate and the Adviser were members of seven out of the twelve Committees of the Conference. In the open sessions of the Conference, they participated in discussions on the question of the 40-Hour Week in the textile and steel industries and on the proposal for Holidays with Pay, and on the Annual Report of the Director of the International Labour Office.

Publications.-In addition to the weekly Bulletin, the Federation issued early in 1936 a publication entitled "An Industrial Survey for 1935" in which a review was given of the economic activities of the various administrations and organisations in this country and also of certain declarations of policy made by Government. It is intended to publish a more comprehensive review for 1936.

(From a communication \* sent to this Office by the Employers' Federation of India). +

18th Annual General Meeting of the Associated  
Chambers of Commerce of India - Calcutta, December 1936.

The 18th session of the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in India was held at Calcutta on 21 and 22-12-1936 under the presidentship of Sir Edward Benthall. The Director of this Office attended the meeting by invitation. The meeting was formally opened by H.E. the Viceroy.

Viceroy's Address.- In his opening address, the Viceroy comprehensively reviewed economic conditions in the country, directed attention to evidences pointing to an upward trend in trade and industry, and optimistically concluded with the assurances that the upward swing might be taken as a definite indication of the dawn of better times.

Agriculture and Industry.- Emphasising the insistent need for an all-round improvement of the conditions of life and work of the Indian agriculturist, the Viceroy referred with satisfaction to the feeling increasingly entertained by all classes

of the population that the prosperity of commerce and industry in India is very largely conditioned by the ~~prosperity~~ prosperity of the agriculturist. He complimented the Association on its willingness to accord full support to all measures designed for the improvement of agricultural conditions, and, in particular, for its readiness to cooperate with the work of the agricultural experts whom the Government of India had brought down from England for this purpose.

Problem of Unemployment.-- Taking the question of unemployment next, to which reference was made in Sir Edward Benthall's welcome speech, the Viceroy said that the problem of unemployment was the most depressing problem of the day. Referring to the effort made by the Association to enhance employment possibilities and the approach that ~~it~~ it had made in this connection to the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, he said that he attached the greatest importance to such collaboration between employers and those who are in a position to influence potential employees, and emphasised the fact that ~~it~~ in the formulation of agreed programmes of action between educational authorities and prospective employers lay the best hopes for a reduction of the incidence of educational unemployment. He complimented the Presidency of Bengal on the active steps it had taken to combat unemployment and said that if much still remained to be done it was not the result of a failure on the part of the local Government to realise the gravity of the situation. Dealing with the future programme of activities in this field, he said:

I am confident that the several provinces to which you

belong can look for the whole-hearted and active co-operation of the firms which you represent and of my Chambers of Commerce in giving any practical assistance to deal with unemployment, and I feel sure that your anxiety to take all steps in your power to grapple with it and to reduce the number of those who are at the present time its victims is as great as is my own. The problem, which is world-wide in its incidence, is a most difficult one, but the extent of the damage and suffering which it inflicts must serve to stimulate us to greater efforts in seeking means wherever possible to remove its cause, or at least to mitigate its severity".

Economic Nationalism.- Referring to the recent trend towards aggressive economic nationalism observable in several countries, the Viceroy said:

"There is much in the existing outlook that I do not relish. I do not like the rise of what is called economic nationalism, with the inevitable debasement of standards of living which must flow from its ruthless exercise, and with the whole hurtful apparatus by which it is prosecuted, designed for the purpose of inhibiting the international exchange of commodities. Nor do I believe, for reasons some of which I touched upon in a recent speech to the Chelmsford Club (vide pages 34-35 of our November 1936 report) that this unfortunate tendency is likely soon to disappear. It is not possible to regard with satisfaction such part of the revival of business as is founded in a widespread increase in the manufacture of warlike material, for—quite apart from the hazard of war—there can be no doubt but that this is a kind of activity which, when it is undertaken on a scale appropriate to present-day requirements, must profoundly disturb the normal organisation of the trades most affected, with the very real prospect that when the tide turns, those important industries may find themselves precipitated into a period of enforced deflation with consequences profoundly prejudicial to business as a whole."

Indications of Recovery.- The Viceroy closed his speech with a note of optimism, and directed attention to the indications which went to show that "business everywhere was travelling with slowly gathering speed upon the upward curve of one of those major and cyclical movements of trade which, impelled by forces still too little understood, now rise like a mighty tide to penetrate even the remotest back-waters of commerce, and then again, for reasons equally obscure, after a due interval of time subside."

The Political Situation.- Stressing the fact that India was on the brink of great political changes, the Viceroy appealed to the Association to take a serious view of Indian politics and to send the best men available as representatives of commerce and industry to the legislatures.

Resolutions Adopted.- Resolutions were passed (1) urging that the creation of a Department of Communications in the Central Government be expedited, (2) opposing the continuance of preferential tariff on Aden Salt, (3) suggesting certain amendments to the Indian Companies Act, 1936, (4) opposing the unification of the Code and plain language rates for telegrams and cablegrams, (5) suggesting improvements in the services rendered by the Posts and Telegraphs Department, (6) urging the starting of an Indian Central Statistics Bureau, (7) suggesting the early removal of the remaining surcharge on income-tax and super-tax, (8) urging legislation to fix uniform standards of weights and measures; and (9) urging grant of protection to the Indian engineering industry.

(The Statesman, 22-& 23-12-1936)+

Workers' Organisations .

3rd Annual Session of All India Congress

Socialist Party Conference - Faizpur, 23 & 24-12-36. +

The Third Annual Session of the All India Congress Socialist Party Conference was held at Faizpur on 23 & 24-12-1936 under the presidentship of Mr. Jaiprakash Narain.

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address, Mr. Jaiprakash Narain expressed impatience with the slowness of the growth of the political movement in India and said that the nation must so work as to make Swaraj possible within five years. Dealing with the poverty of the Indian masses, he affirmed that the Government of India's gift of Rs. 10 millions for rural uplift was only by way of counter-blast to Mahatma Gandhi's village uplift programme. He pointed out that an attempt must be made to relate the dire needs of the peasants with the struggle for independence, to make that struggle itself a struggle for reduced rents, revenue, freedom from debt, a more just distribution of the burden of taxation, and a juster system of tenancy. A similar programme should be evolved to meet the needs of the industrial worker also. He urged that the Congress should identify itself further with the masses and forge out of mass unrest a mighty weapon against imperialism. He urged that provision should be made for giving organised sections of the masses collective representation in the Congress. Referring to the fear that if such a scheme were adopted the Congress would become the cockpit of a clash of interests, he asserted that such fears were groundless and were unworthy of the Indian National Congress.

Messages from Other Organisations.- Fraternal delegates then addressed the conference and conveyed the greetings of respective organisations to the Conference. Dr. Collin d'Silva, fraternal delegate on behalf of the Socialists of Ceylon, said the anti-Imperialist front could be achieved only by the working classes and peasants, and hoped Socialists would capture the Congress and win freedom for India.

Mr. Karnik, on behalf of the All India Trade Union Congress, declared that the workers were not going to rest till a workers' Government was established, but they realised that, for that, first national independence was essential.

Mr. Rameswara Prasad of the All India Students' Federation, hoped that all anti-imperialist organisations would assemble on one platform.

Mr. N.G.Ranga, M.L.A. representing the Indian peasants

movement, said that millions of peasants were being organised in India in a militant fashion. The Congress Socialists had done for the peasants much more than any other organised political party in the country. Kisans were becoming more and more class conscious. It would not be very long before they were found to be an invincible phalanx in the anti-imperialist struggle. Mr. Ranga advocated collective representation in the Congress for workers' and peasants' organisations.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in the course of a message to the Conference, pointed out that the cause of India was best served by building up a powerful anti-imperialist joint front in the country, and that the National Congress ~~was~~ the only organisation which can function as such a joint front.

Mr. Reginald Bridgeman, International Secretary of the League against Imperialism and for National Independence in London, sent a message of greetings to the Congress Socialist Conference, which says:

"The situation in Europe never has been more critical than it is today. I do not wish to strike a pessimistic note. On the contrary, the creation and triumphant maintenance of the Peoples' Front in France and in Spain represents one of the most important successes in the workers' struggle for democracy and freedom against reaction". In conclusion, he stressed the need for the most solid anti-imperialist front being built up in India and in Britain not only on a national basis but internationally, as is being achieved very successfully in Spain today. The message expressed the fear that the new constitution may serve in India as the screen for the establishment of a Government <sup>which</sup> with its permanent reactionary majority, will possess a thorough-going Fascist character.

Resolutions Adopted.- Resolutions were adopted at the Conference congratulating Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his re-election as Congress President, welcoming Mr. M.N.Roy ~~on~~ on his release from prison, extending sympathy to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway strikers, calling all Indian railway workers to initiate a general strike and thus demonstrate sympathy with the B.N.Railway strikers, reaffirming the unequivocal condemnation of the new constitution, welcoming the robust and militant tone of the Congress election manifesto and deploring the action of the

Congress Parliamentary Board in refusing the candidature of Socialists in several provinces and opining that it violated the spirit of the Congress election manifesto, calling upon the country to observe hartal on 1st April 1937, the day on which the new constitution will be inaugurated, condemning imperialist wars, protesting against the repressive policy of the Government of India, and urging a boycott of the forthcoming coronation celebrations.

The Conference terminated on 24-12-1936.

Mr. Jaiprakash Narain was elected General Secretary of the All India Congress Socialist Party, and Messrs. M.R.Masani, Namboodiripad, Dinkar Mehta and Sampurnanand were elected Joint Secretaries.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 23,24, and  
25-12-1936) +



2nd Session of All India Kisan Congress,

Faizpur, December 1936. +

The second session of the All India Kisan (Peasants) Congress was held at Faizpur on 26 & 27-12-1936 under the presidency of Professor N.G.Ranga, M.L.A.

Mr. V.M.Bhaskute, Chairman of the Reception Committee, ~~xxxx~~ welcoming the delegates directed attention to the abject poverty and misery of the Indian peasant. He said:

"The average peasant holding today is less than one-eighth of what it was even 75 years ago; that means that in the course of 3/4 of a century the toiling peasant has been robbed of 7/8th of his land. Side by side with the vil~~la~~ge sowkar, big business has now entered vigorously into the predatory game of despoiling the peasantry. The most noteworthy examples of this process in our province are the expropriation of peasants by the Tata Hydro-Electric Companies and by the Belapur Sugar Syndicate, and these are not solitary examples. The landless peasant becomes either a pitiful serf of his landlord, or a wage-slave in big or small factories, or, as is most often the case, a recruit in that crowning creation of capitalism—the reserved~~d~~ army of labour, the vast toiling mass of the unemployed millions. The peasant, who continues to remain the nominal proprietor of his little patch of land is so oppressed by the burden of debt, that he is virtually a slave of the sowkar."

Outlining a programme of action for Indian peasants, he said:

"The first and most essential step in the direction of the emancipation of the peasantry, is the abolition of all the vestiges of feudalism, the cancellation of the whole burden of debt and the apportionment of sufficient land to each toiling peasant. This, in short, is the programme of the Agrarian Revolution, which is not possible within the ~~x~~ frame-work of Imperialist rule, and therefore the struggle for complete national independence becomes of vital importance for the peasantry. The Imperialist exploitation of the masses in our country takes place not only directly, but also—and in fact to a larger extent—indirectly, through the Indian exploiting classes, who are able to secure a liberal commission in the business, and it is not possible in the name of national unity, to make peace with the latter while carrying on war against the former."

Discussing relations with the Congress, he said: "The Indian National Congress is the biggest rallying ground today for the anti-imperialist forces in the country. But constituted as it is

today, the anti-imperialist masses cannot come to the top and impress their ideology and method of struggle on the organisation as a whole. Hence, ~~the~~ independent class-organisations of the workers and peasants, like the Trade Union Congress and the Kisan Congress, have to take up, not merely the economic but also the political struggle of the exploited masses for emancipation. The National Congress, embracing as it does ~~it~~ within its fold the bourgeoisie and landlords also along with the exploited peasantry and workers, is forced to either sit on the fence ~~or~~ intervene on the side which is against the class-struggle and hence on the side of the dominant class. This situation prevents the Congress from being considered today <sup>as</sup> an already accomplished United Front of all genuine anti-imperialist forces. But in order that the national struggle, which is a struggle of the masses, should be an all powerful United Front against Imperialism, it is necessary that the workers and peasants must rally to the National Congress in an organised manner and with a clear-cut programme of their own for the development of the national struggle, and for the transformation of the National Congress into a powerful organ of the United Front."

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address, Professor Bhaug asserted that Indian peasants were organising themselves to ~~now~~ inaugurate a socialist ~~state~~ of society in the country. Such a state of society, ~~he~~ defined, as one in which every one is assured of a minimum amount of food, clothing, housing, culture and pleasure, and all are made the beneficiaries of the fruits of all public utilities, property and mineral resources, and in which no set of individuals is remunerated more than others without any good or valid ground of contribution made to society. Discussing the attitude of Kisans' organisations <sup>to</sup> ~~with~~ the Indian National Congress, he said:

"It is to centralise and guide our independent, but mutually dependent, propagandistic, organisational and ideological campaigns so as to make them most effective and least wasteful, we need the Indian National Congress. It is our common forum. Unfortunately the Congress is not quite as advanced, clear-headed and convinced in its massive ideology as we would like it to be, if it is to play its historic role ~~as outlined above~~ successfully. But it is the duty of every section of the masses to struggle hard and revolutionise its attitude towards the masses as a whole ~~and every one of our sections in particular~~. To this end functional

representation has to be provided in the Congress for the peasants, working class, youths, women and middle-class functionaries."

Directing attention to the dual/nature of the fight that Indian workers have to wage, he said: "Unlike the working classes of other countries which enjoy their own political freedom, we have to be fighting at one and the same time both British Imperialism in all its manifestations and Indian Medievalism with all its ramifications. At every stage, our zamindars and capitalists are obstructing our struggle for Swaraj. It is however largely true to say that in direct proportion to our success in our anti-zamindari and anti-capitalist campaign, the strength of the British domination comes down. Hence the edifice of safeguards for the vested interests so scrupulously built up in the 1935 Government of India Act. Therefore, we have to organise ourselves so intensively, so class-consciously and so determinedly as to be able to carry on our double-sided struggle to a successful end."

Stressing the need for the cultivation of class consciousness by the Indian peasants, he said: "The rich and the landed are highly class conscious, but it is not conducive to the progress of humanity and so it is bad. The class consciousness of our masses is yet in its early development; but when fully developed, it will do a tremendous amount of good to the society at large because it will succeed in putting an end to the present-day exploitation of our society by the religious and social, political and economic vested interests. The class war is unnoticed as long as the masses allow themselves to be exploited without any effective or visible effort to stop or minimise it. But once the masses refuse to be downtrodden and exploited, class war comes to the surface. But to say that workers and peasants create it is to libel them. It only speaks to the bankruptcy of honest thought on the part of some of our intellectuals and leaders."

Resolutions Adopted.— The Congress adopted resolutions: (1) protesting against high rents and the conditions of tenants, (2) appointing a committee consisting of Messrs. Indulal Jagnik, Ranga and Shahjanand to enquire into agrarian conditions of peasants, (3) stressing the necessity for a militant organisation of peasants, (4) opining that the existing famine relief code is inadequate, and (5) appointing another committee of Messrs. Ranga, Indulal Jagnik, Shahjanand and Bankim Mukherjee to go into the constitution of Kisan Congress.

The Congress also decided that the next <sup>session of the</sup> All-India Kisan Congress Committee will meet in April 1937, to consider the results of provincial elections, and that the next session of Kisan Congress will be held in Bengal in April, 1938.

Office Bearers for 1937:— The following office-bearers were elected for 1937:— President - Professor N.G. Ranga; Working Secretary - Swami Shahjanand; Joint Secretaries - Messrs. Indulal Jagnik, Bankim Mukherjee and B. Bedi.

(The Bombay Chronicle and the Hindu,  
26 to 28-12-1936). +

## Intellectual Workers.

### Conditions of Work of Journalists.

#### Minimum Standards of Journalists' Association of India, Bombay. +

The Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, had appointed a Sub-Committee some time back to inquire into the actual wages and working conditions of journalists in Bombay City and submit<sup>a</sup> report. The Executive Committee of the Association recently considered the report, and formulated a number of recommendations embodying the minimum amenities demanded by working journalists. A special general meeting of the Association was held at Bombay on 1-12-1936, and after discussion of the Executive Committee's recommendations, adopted them. The following are some of the recommendations:

Salaries.- Decent salary; the scale of salary to be fixed, having due regard to the arduous nature of the work and other circumstances attending it.

Regularity in payment of salaries; date of payment not<sup>b</sup> be extended beyond ten days after the end of the month for which payment becomes due.

Fixity of Tenure.- Security of service to be ensured by the strict observance of the rule that every case of discharge or *Resignation* should be preceded by two calendar months' notice on either side.

Increments.- Increments in salary at stipulated intervals, and on a graded scale.

Leave Facilities.- One month's privilege leave and 15½ days' casual leave in a year.

Six months' leave with half pay on production of medical certificate, in case of illness.

Six days off in a month.

Seven hours' work in the day; six hours' work at night.

At least 5 holidays in a year to be observed by all newspapers and news agencies.

Provident Fund.- Benefit or provident fund, on approved principles employers contributing an amount equal to that of the beneficiaries.

Apprentices. - On the question of apprenticeship, in the best interests of the profession, the following minimum requirements should be satisfied:

(a) That not more than one apprentice to every six full-time members of the regular editorial staff should be engaged on the staff of newspapers and news agencies.

(b) That the apprenticeship period should not in any case exceed 12 months at the end of which, all possible efforts should be made to absorb the recruit~~xxx~~ into regular staff.

(c) That the recruit should be paid a living wage during the period of apprenticeship.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 4-12-36) +

## Economic Conditions .

### Trade of India in 1935-36.\* +

Agricultural Conditions.- A review of the conditions in India during the year under review indicates a steady, if not spectacular, improvement. Despite the large industrial advance made in recent years, India's prosperity depends, in the main, on good harvests and satisfactory prices for her commodities. Agricultural conditions during the year under review were, on the whole, fair. Agricultural prices, on the whole, made distinct recovery. Prices of rice were firmly held in spite of a diminished overseas demand. Jute was on a much higher level owing to the smaller crop output. Cotton prices during the year under review were also maintained well on the whole. The improved world demand for oils and fats was reflected in the higher price-level of most oilseeds. The prices of groundnuts, castor seed and sesame oil improved. Linseed prices made a distinct recovery in the last two quarters of the year. Tea, in its third year of restriction, made a moderate recovery in prices. Wheat prices also were better than in the preceding year. The price level of rubber also was satisfactory, but the coffee market continued depressed.

Industrial Conditions.- Turning to industrial conditions, while there was improvement in several directions, there was some deterioration in others. The cotton textile industry broke its previous record of production, but both internal and external competition were severe, and in spite of prices being marked down, large stocks remained in hand at the end of the year. The voluntary scheme of restriction of production in the jute industry broke down in the year under review and the prices of jute manufactures declined. Larger overseas demand, however, absorbed the increased production of the year, a testimony to the general improvement in trade and industrial conditions. The iron and steel industry increased

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\* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India.-Review of the Trade of India in 1935-36 - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. - Delhi:Manager of Publications -1936.-Price Rs.3-2 or 5s.6d. - pp.xxiv + 364

its output and sales. The production of cement also increased and negotiations were in progress during the year for the unification and control of the industry on its marketing side. Sugar production reached a new record and the Indian sugar industry is approaching a stage when it will be able to meet the entire internal demand. The problem before the sugar industry is now one of orderly marketing and the avoidance of wasteful competition. There was larger production of matches, paper, wheat flour, heavy chemicals and petrol, but there was a small decline in the production of kerosene oil. In the mining industry, coal did not show much improvement, but the demand for mineral ores showed a large improvement. Non-speculative industrial securities generally showed a small appreciation, but speculative industrial securities were on the down grade, jute and cotton shares, in particular, showing a dull record. Cheque clearances, as well as the average active circulation of currency notes, were higher than in the preceding year. Foreign trade showed a slightly larger export surplus in merchandise value, but the increased demand for commodities and manufactures. The gross customs revenue realised in 1935-36 was Rs. 563 million, as compared with Rs. 544 millions in the preceding year.

Industrial Strikes.- Industrial disputes during 1935 were few and the number of workers involved and the loss in working days were the lowest in the fifteen years for which statistics are available. The strikes which accounted for the greatest loss in working days during the year occurred in the Keshoram Cotton Mills, Calcutta, in which about 5,000 workers were involved with a loss of 119,000 working days, and in the Ahmedabad Textile Mills which affected 20,000 workers and resulted in a loss of over 93,000 working days.

Rupee Sterling Exchange and Gold Prices.- The rupee-sterling exchange remained steady throughout the year sustained by the continued export of gold. Fluctuations were few and the average rate for the year was 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>32</sub>d. The exports of gold during the year amounted to 4,122,735 fine ozs. valued at Rs. 383.1 millions. Prices of gold during the year were on a higher level than in 1934-35. The total exports, however, declined.

The Money Market.- Money conditions during the year were exceptionally easy. The continued exports of gold enabled the market to receive large supplies of funds through sales of sterling to Government. On the 28th November, the Reserve Bank of India rate was reduced from  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to 5 per cent at which it still remains. In August, the Government of India issued a medium-term rupee loan for Rs. 150 millions at 3 per cent, and applications for the loan amounted to nearly Rs. 500 millions. The gilt-edge market underwent some violent fluctuations during the year at the time of the Italo-Abyssinian crisis and the crises in the silver market in Bombay. Except for such temporary relapses, gilt-edge was very firm and prices rose.

Company Flotations<sup>a</sup>.- Of joint stock companies registered with an authorised capital of Rs. 500,000 or more during 1935-36, six companies having among them an aggregate authorised capital of Rs. 5.3 millions, had, as their object, the manufacture of chemicals and allied products. Companies for iron and steel manufacturing accounted for Rs. 157.5 millions, one company alone having an authorised capital of Rs. 150 millions. Ten electric supply companies had between them an authorised capital of Rs. 3.1 millions. Two cement companies were floated during the year, of which one in Burma had an authorised capital of Rs. 3.5 millions. Twenty-seven companies with a total authorised capital of Rs. 29.3 millions were floated for cotton manufactures. Five jute mills had between them an authorised capital of Rs. 13.3 million. Of two paper mills with an aggregate authorised capital of Rs. 11.0 millions, one in Bengal accounted for Rs. 10 millions. Nineteen companies were formed with the object of manufacturing sugar, and they had between them an aggregate authorised capital of Rs. 21.8 millions. Thirteen companies having between them an authorised capital of Rs. 16 millions were floated for the purpose of producing cinema pictures. Two companies, having between them an authorised capital of Rs. 2.5 millions, were floated for the purpose of manufacturing rubber goods.



Balance of Trade.-- The total value of the imports of private merchandise into India advanced from Rs.1,320 millions in 1934-35 to Rs. 1,340 millions in the year under review, while exports, including re-exports, advanced by Rs. 90 millions from Rs. 1,550 millions to Rs. 1,640 millions. For purposes of comparison it may be mentioned that the total value of the imports in 1932-33 and 1933-34 was Rs. 1,350 millions and Rs. 1,150 millions, and of exports, including re-exports, Rs. 1,350 millions and Rs. 1,510 millions respectively. The visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure in 1935-36 was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 670 millions, as compared with Rs. 760 millions in 1934-35. The transactions in treasure on private account resulted in a net export of treasure amounting to Rs. 365.3 millions, as against Rs. 525 millions in the preceding year. Net exports of gold amounted to Rs.373.3 millions, while silver showed a net import of Rs. 12.5 millions. Net exports of currency notes amounted to Rs. 2.9 millions.

Imports.-- Imports of cotton piecegoods showed a decline of Rs. 7.2 millions in value. Imports of cotton piecegoods declined by Rs. 11.5 millions, but the loss was partly made up by larger imports of cotton twist and yarn. The total quantity of piecegoods imported, however, actually increased from 944 million yards to 947 million yards. The most noticeable feature of the year's trade in cotton piecegoods was the striking advance made by Japan in all branches, notably in printed and grey goods. The share of the United Kingdom declined correspondingly. Not less striking was Japan's advance in the imports of cotton twist and yarn. The total quantity imported increased by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs. or 31 per cent to 44 $\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs., and most of this increase was absorbed by Japan. Among other items in the "textiles" group, there was a decline in the imports of artificial silk yarn, piecegoods of artificial silk mixed with other materials, silk piecegoods, piecegoods of silk mixed with other materials and woollen piecegoods. On the other hand, imports of artificial silk piecegoods showed a further improvement and the increase under this head in the last two years was sufficient to offset the decline in the imports of silk piecegoods and piecegoods of silk or artificial silk mixed with other materials. Imports of raw wool, raw silk and silk yarn were well maintained. In respect of all these articles, Japan continued to be the most important source of supply.

In the "Metals" group, there was a pronounced improvement in the imports of iron and steel materials. The total quantity imported rose by 22 per cent to 446,000 tons, the value of the imports rising by 13 per cent to Rs. 72 millions. There was a general improvement

in the imports of machinery and millwork, the total value of the items included under this head improving by Rs. 10 millions. Cotton and mining machinery and sugar machinery, however, showed no improvement, but there was a significant increase under jute mill machinery. Imports of electrical machinery, as well as of electrical instruments and apparatus, also showed considerable increases. In general, imports of capital goods and consumers' goods of a durable character were larger than in the preceding year. Imports of metals, other than iron or steel, of which a large portion consists of metals in the semi-manufactured state, showed in the aggregate some decline owing to smaller imports of mixed or yellow metal and copper sheets. There were increases in the imports of hardware. Imports of motor cars, which had shown a marked increase in 1934-35, showed a fall in the year under review. Among other luxury goods, imports of exposed cinematograph films showed a small decline. Wireless instruments and apparatus, however, showed a large improvement. Imports of precious stones further declined. Imports of liquor were well maintained. There was also a considerable increase in the imports of proprietary and patent medicines.

Under "Mineral oils", while imports of kerosene declined, those of fuel oils and petroleum improved. The year also saw larger imports of chemicals, coal-tar dyes and paper and pasteboard. There were also increases in the imports of provisions and oilman's stores. Imports of salt, cigarettes and cigars showed small increases, but those of unmanufactured tobacco and tobacco for pipes and cigarettes declined.

Exports.- On the export side, there was some decline in the demand for Indian cotton, the shipments during the year totalling 3,397,000 bales with a recorded value of Rs. 337.7 millions, the fall as compared with the preceding year being 93,000 bales in quantity and Rs. 11.8 millions in value. The shrinkage in exports was primarily due to lesser demand from Japan which took 1,759,000 bales, or 295,000 bales less than in 1934-35. Exports to some of the Continental countries also declined. The larger use of Indian cotton in Lancashire was reflected in the increased off-take of the United Kingdom. In 1935-36, the United Kingdom took 456,142 bales, which was 109,000 bales more than in 1934-35. Exports of Indian piecegoods showed some improvement in the year under review, but overseas exports form only a small proportion of Indian mill production.

Foreign demand for raw jute continued to increase and the exports during the year totalled 771,000 tons as compared with 1933-34. Owing mainly to the restriction on the 1935 crop, much higher prices were realised, the average declared value of the exports in 1935-36 being Rs. 177-11-5 per ton as compared with Rs. 144-7-3 in 1934-35. The increased output of Indian jute mills during the year was accompanied by a revival of demand from foreign centres. The total exports of gunny bags improved from 425 million to 459 million.

The quantity of tea exported declined from 326 million lbs. to 312½ million lbs. as a result of a reduced export allotment. The recorded value of the exports in 1935-36 was Rs. 1980 millions as compared with Rs. 2010 millions in 1934-35. Exports of foodgrains and flour showed, in most cases, a decline. The total value recorded under this group, however, rose from Rs. 118.4 millions to Rs. 124.1 millions owing to the higher price of rice. Exports of oilseeds of all kinds were valued at Rs. 105.3 millions as against Rs. 105.4 millions in 1934-35. Exports of metals and ores showed a striking improvement, manganese ore, wolfram ore, pig lead and pig iron being the principal items included in this group. Raw wool also had a better market and both the quantity exported and the value realised showed marked increases.

The Quantum of Trade.— The volume of exports, as compared with 1927-28, was at its lowest in 1932-33, while that of imports showed the greatest decline in 1931-32. Since then both imports and exports have recovered, but, while in the case of exports there has been a continuous improvement from 1933-34, imports, which made an earlier recovery, declined sharply in volume in 1933-34. In the last two years both imports and exports have advanced and the volume of exports is now about 12 per cent less than the pre-depression level of ~~1927-28~~ 1927-28, while the volume of imports is about 13 per cent less. As compared with 1933-34, exports have recovered by 18 per cent; imports have improved by 31 per cent from the 1931-32 level.

Tariff Changes.— The changes in the tariff made under the various Acts passed during the latter part of 1934 and the earlier part of 1935 were dealt with in the preceding year's Review. (See page 41 of our December 1935 Report). Since then three Acts have been passed, introducing certain changes in the tariff. (1) The Salt Additional Import Duty (Extending) Act, 1936, extended the operation of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931, for two years, i.e., to the 30th April, 1938, subject to a reduction of the rate of duty from 2½ annas to 1½ annas per maund. (2) The protective duties of Rs. 1-8 per cwt. on wheat and wheat flour and of 12 annas per Indian maund on broken rice expired on the 31st March, 1936, but the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1936, imposed an import duty of Re. 1 per cwt. on wheat and wheat flour and of 12 annas per maund on broken rice for a further period of one year. The Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 26th April, 1936, but the duties imposed by it were actually brought into force on the 9th April, 1936, under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931, and are to remain in force till the 31st March, 1937. (3) The Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Act, 1936, reduced the permissible length of silk and artificial silk tents, the imports of which had been specially stimulated by the concessional treatment, from 4 yards to 2½ yards. The Act also imposed an alternative specific duty of 12 annas per lb. on cotton knitted apparel of weight not exceeding 4 lbs. per dozen and of 12 annas per lb. on those of weight exceeding 4 lbs. per dozen.

Balance of Trade.- The visible balance of trade in private merchandise and treasure together in favour of India was Rs. 670 millions in the year under review. In 1933-34, the balance in her favour was Rs. 930 millions and in 1934-35, about Rs. 760 millions. The transactions in treasure on ~~xxx~~ private account resulted in a net export of treasure amounting to Rs. 361 millions of rupees, as against Rs. 522 millions in the preceding year. Net exports ~~xx~~ ~~xx~~ of gold amounted to Rs. 373.6 millions while silver showed a net import of Rs. 12.7 millions. The net exports of currency notes amounted to Rs. 2.9 million.

(The Trade of India in 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 37-41 of our December 1935 report). +

8th Industries Conference, Lucknow, 7 & 8-12-1936. →

The eighth session of the India Industries Conference was held at Lucknow on 7 & 8-12-36. This was the first time that this Conference met at a centre other than the headquarters of the Government of India. Lucknow was fixed as the venue of this year's conference at the invitation of the Government of the United Provinces so as to enable the delegates from the various Provinces and Indian States to attend the Lucknow Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition. The Conference was attended by representatives of the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, and by the Ministers and Directors ~~xxx~~ in Charge of the Industries Departments of the Provinces and of the more important Indian States. Sir Frank Boyle, Member for Industries and Labour with the Government of India, presided over the Conference.

Among the problems discussed by the Conference were the progress of schemes for the development of the handloom industry in various provinces; allotments for 1937-38; the introduction of hand-weaving industry among the women workers who are being excluded from underground work in Jharia coalfields; the grant for the all-India hand-weaving exhibition and competition to be held along with the U.P. Exhibition at Lucknow. Rule-making power in the Acts affecting industry with special reference to electricity and boilers ~~will~~ <sup>was</sup> also ~~be~~ considered. The other items on the agenda were the standardization of weights and measures throughout India; publication of fuller trade statistics regarding important manufactured and semi-manufactured goods in the country and raw materials consumed

therein, along with the figures of inter-provincial movements of these articles; removal of inter-provincial barriers to trade in the pharmaceutical and drug industry in India and matters arising out of the proceedings of the second session of the Industrial Research Council and <sup>the</sup> minutes of the second meeting of the Imperial Sericulture Committee and first meeting of the Woollen Industry Committee.

Presidential Address: Growth of Indian Industries.— In the course of his presidential address, Sir Frank Royce traced the growth of Indian industries during the last 34 years. He said: "Those were the days before that great enterprise, the Tata Iron and Steel Works, was established—the days when India imported 2,000 million yards of cotton piecegoods and manufactured only a quarter of that amount, the days when the factory production of sugar was trifling, the days when the output of coal, that valuable index to industrial activity, was less than one-third what it was last year. The position in regard to cotton piecegoods and sugar is now completely reversed. Last year the imports of cotton piecegoods had fallen to less than a thousand million yards, whilst mill production had increased to 5,600 million yards. The production of factory sugar was over 926,000 tons, some four and a half times the quantity imported, and the disparity between home production and imports will be very much greater this year. The output of pig iron has increased by about 75 per cent with other iron and steel manufactures in somewhat similar proportion, the sux output of cement by about 50 per cent, of matches by 30 per cent and of paper by 20 per cent."

State-aid to Industries.— Speaking on State aid accorded to Industries by Government—Central, Provincial and Indian States—; Sir Frank said that it has provided an organisation which has great potentialities of usefulness. That organisation falls into four parts. In the first place, there is the Industries Conference itself successfully revived in 1935 after being in abeyance for over a decade, which furnishes a forum for the discussion of industrial questions of common interest to the whole of India, a forum the value of which should become more and more apparent in the days ahead when there may develop a tendency for the Centre and the Federal Units more and more to go their own ways. In the second place, there is the Industrial Research Council by whose advice, the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and Governments of Indian States are guided in questions of policy in connexion with industrial research. The Council has so far held two meetings, in July 1935 and in July 1936. In the third place, there is the Industrial Research Bureau at the headquarters of the Government of India which is, so to speak, the executive agency of the Council,

and lastly, there is the Research Branch of the Government Test House at Calcutta, where research approved by the Council is carried out. The accommodation at the Test House is rapidly outgrowing its expanding needs and the question of enlarging it and of placing the Research Bureau on a permanent footing is engaging the active attention of the Government. Three Bulletins have already been published by this Bureau one on the glass industry, the second being a bibliography of industrial publications published in India since 1921, and the third a highly technical aspect of the annealing of copper bar. Six more bulletins are nearly ready for the Press and should appear early next year.

The Conference and its connected organisations have made the small and cottage industries ~~their~~ first care. Though, as time goes on, they may and will be able to render service to the larger industries, it is hoped that the smaller industries will always receive their special consideration. For it is to the development of the smaller and scattered industries, away from the big industrial centres which have in so many cases only too faithfully copied the evils which have accompanied industrialisation in the West, that there lies the best hope of raising the standard of living and with it, the cultural level of the countryside.

Planned Economy.- On the question of economic planning, Sir Frank ~~said~~ "Opponents, notably those who advocate planned economy, forgetting the close association between planned economy and dictatorship and the entirely unsuitable field for dictatorship presented by a country on the eve of great constitutional changes, will say that we might have covered a bigger field. There is so much to be done in this vast country that I readily admit there are other things I would have liked to have tackled, but I do claim that, considering the financial and constitutional difficulties under which we have laboured, we have no reason to be ashamed of our record."

Handloom Industry.- So far as the handloom grants are concerned, the progress made appears to be very satisfactory. A sum of nearly Rs. 1.1 millions has so far been allotted for expenditure on approved schemes and so far as can be judged, these sums and the amounts which provincial Governments are providing from their own revenues for this purpose are being wisely spent. Since the last session of the Conference the Government of India have made a further grant of Rs. .5 millions to be spread over five years for the benefit of the small scale and cottage woollen industry, and a committee has already been set up to advise on the administration of this grant.

Glass Industry.- The most important work undertaken by the Research Bureau during its short existence has been its work on glass. Its survey of the glass industry has drawn attention to the difficulties under which the industry is working and has enabled the Bureau to put forward concrete suggestions for carrying out research

in the laboratories of the Central and Provincial Governments and some of the Universities. The Government of India have accepted the suggestions which directly concern it and research on the lines proposed has been undertaken at the Test House.

Middle-Class Unemployment.- The question of middle class unemployment, Sir Frank reminded the Conference, figured as an item on the 1953 session, but nothing much could be done by the Conference for various reasons. In the first place, it was agreed that it was a problem that could not be solved by any steps that could be taken on the industrial side alone, and in the second place it was felt by a section of the Conference that there was little prospect at that time of getting public opinion to support the steps that seemed best calculated to secure an agreement on the position. But a good deal has happened since then. The problem has received attention in many directions; it has been explored by further committees, including the important committee presided over by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru which was set up in the United Provinces, and certain aspects of it have been engaging the very close attention of educational experts and of the Central Advisory Board of Education. There is an increasing volume of support for some of the remedies that may be necessary and increasing determination to face up to the difficulties of the problem. The question of the development of schemes of apprenticeship is one on which a conference, composed of the kind of men who can do it, might be able to offer very valuable advice. There has been, and is still, a tendency to concentrate on academic teaching, even in the technical sphere, and to forget that the most important part of education for industry is generally that which only work in the industry can give.

There is no cut and dried solution of this great problem, for it does not owe its origin to any single factor and it will not be solved except by concentrated advance in many directions. In the light of Sir Frank's experience and of the thought he has given to the question over a long period spent partly in a Department of Education and partly in a Department of Industries he ventured to place before the Conference a few conclusions to which he has come. He said: "On the educational side of the question, I am satisfied that those responsible should endeavour to bring the educational results of the country into closer correspondence with its needs. I think you will probably all agree that on the more technical side of education it is impossible to justify the production of specialist officers for whom there is no particular demand."

"When you come to education of a more general and cultural type, the position is in at least one respect different, for it can be claimed that cultural education represents an enrichment of life, whatever the subsequent career of the student. But there are two further questions which those who encourage our young men to pursue academic careers must face. In the first place, they



must ask themselves whether the student who goes to a University is looking merely for cultural enrichment or whether he is looking ~~x~~ for a definite economic advantage as well and whether he would be prepared to go on if we told him frankly that he would be provided with the first and not with the second. In the second place, they must ~~z~~ ask themselves whether, educational resources being what they are, it is right to devote a substantial part of them in providing young men with an education which leads many of them into the desert, while those in other spheres of society are still unable to secure even the rudiments of literacy. The final suggestion that I would throw out for your consideration is that we can do little if we concentrate our attention too much on the educational ~~of the~~ middle class. Their prosperity depends, to a much greater extent than is often recognised, upon the welfare of the masses, and little can be achieved on the industrial side without a definite rise in the standard of living and in the demands of the bulk of the population. It is a fairly easy matter to demonstrate that in present conditions even if we were to make in this country everything that we now import, the result would, as Sir George Schuster put it, be but a ripple in the surface of India's economic life. Put an increase in the demands from the villages would give a great stimulus to industry and would open up a multitude of new careers. I suggest that in the end it is in the village rather than in the colleges or the industrial areas that we must find a lasting solution."

The following is a summary of the proceedings of the Conference:-

Boilers and Electricity Acts. - In consequence of the fact that the Government of India would no longer possess powers to frame rules and regulations under the Boilers and Electricity Acts, the general conclusion reached was that the powers might suitably be exercised by Inter-Provincial Boards.

Handloom Industry. - The Conference discussed handloom grants and reports of the progress made by various provincial representatives and recommended small increases in the grants to Bihar ~~xxx~~ in view of the difficulty created by the separation of Orissa, and also to the Central Provinces, Assam, Orissa, Sind and the P.W.F. Province.

Women Workers of Mines. - The question of a grant for the purpose of teaching handloom weaving to women formerly working in coal mines was also considered, but the general conclusion was that expenditure in this direction would hardly be consonant with the main objects for which handloom grants were given.

(The Statesman, 8 & 9-12-36)+

Stimulating U.P. Industries :

Intensive Development Scheme outlined by  
U.P. Government. +

The Government of the United Provinces had appointed in 1932 a Committee presided over by the Minister of Industries, U.P., to scrutinise the working of the Industries Department of the U.P., and to suggest how it might work more efficiently and intensively for the industrial development of the province; its report was published in March, 1934. In addition, the work of the Department of Industries was also commented upon incidentally<sup>a</sup> by the following committees: The Industries Reorganisation Committee, 1934, The Industrial Schools Committee, 1934, and the Industrial Finance Committee, 1935.

The Industries Reorganisation Committee had recommended the appointment of a special committee of industrial, banking and commercial experts to examine the questions relating to (1) the provision of suitable, adequate and reliable machinery for industrial finance; and (2) facilities for marketing for small industrialists. In addition, the United Provinces Unemployment Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru surveyed, inter alia, the scope for the employment of educated young men in industries and in that connexion took into consideration the three reports mentioned above. The reports of three other committees appointed (1) to investigate the possibility of developing cottage industries in the grid area, (2) to draw up a practical scheme for the development of such industries on co-operative lines and (3) to draw up a plan of economic development for the United Provinces are being awaited.

Government's Decisions.- The extensive ground covered by the reports of these committees contain numerous suggestions for constructive work according to a plan, as funds become available. The Government of the United Provinces have in a recent resolution reviewed the reports of these various Committees, and announced their decisions on the major recommendations made in them. Without minimizing the importance of industrial and technical education, the U.P. Government accept the recommendations of the Industrial Reorganisation Committee that, for the present, the department should pursue the following as its main objectives:-

1. The intensive development of a few selected major industries so as to help them in all practicable directions including production, finance and marketing.
2. Assistance to industries generally, and cottage and minor industries particularly in marketing the articles produced.
3. Industrial finance, primarily for minor and cottage industries.
4. Helping middle class educated young men to set up, on their own in industry or business or, failing that, to find employment therein.

Development of Major Industries.- A majority of the Committee recommended sugar, oil and glass as the major industries to be selected for intensive development, while a minority has recommended various leather industries in preference to glass. The Government holds, however, that with its present and prospective resources the Department should concentrate on the three major industries proposed by the majority, though it should also keep in close touch with other major industries and render them such assistance as might be practicable.

Commercial Intelligence.— Government agree that the Department should take up systematically the collection, compilation and dissemination of commercial intelligence for the benefit of persons already engaged, or proposing to engage, in business or industry; and that, in particular, steps should be taken to build up detailed monographs relating to selected industries, undertake a survey of the markets—provincial, Indian and foreign—for the industrial products of the province, <sup>to</sup> compile surveys of the commercial potentialities of the cottage industries of the province, and <sup>to</sup> bring and keep up to date the district ~~and~~ industrial surveys which were carried out over a decade ago.

Industrial Education.— As regards technical and industrial education, Government accept the recommendations of the Provincial Schools Committee. They are inclined to hold that, in order to give fuller scope to local patriotism, enthusiasm and philanthropy, elementary schools in districts should ordinarily be "aided" rather than Government institutions. The principles governing the establishment of technical and industrial educational institutions will thus be:

(a) wherever possible, the bent of students undergoing general education and, in particular, their aptitude for vocational careers, will be ascertained, and their capacity for manual work will be developed;

(b) those who have an aptitude for industry will be encouraged to pass on to elementary industrial schools supplying a definite local need and imparting a certain amount of preliminary training;

(c) endeavours will be made to have at least one central school for each important provincial industry or phase of industry;

(d) commercial extension courses for a year ~~or~~ or two will be provided to enable students to be taught and helped to carry on commercial operations on their own; under proper guidance from the school authorities;

(e) wherever necessary or desirable, steps will continue to

be taken to secure apprenticeships with factories, firms and individuals;

(f) to meet the needs of artisans tuitional classes will be held by master craftsmen staying in their midst sufficiently long to ensure that knowledge about new technique or new or improved designs is imparted or some specific improvement is effected.

(Summarised from pages 317-322 of the U.P.  
Government Gazette dated 5-12-1936). +

## Public Health.

### Health Conditions in Asansol Coal Mines, 1935-36.\* +

The following information regarding health conditions in the Asansol Coal Mines is taken from the Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1935-36. The area of the mining settlement under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health is 413 square miles. The population in the middle of 1935 was 405,341, of which 47,659 were living in municipal areas and 335,021 in other areas. The Mining Settlement consists of about 130 collieries, 490 villages and the two municipal towns of Asansol and Raniganj.

Vital Statistics.- During the year under review 10,381 births were registered in the settlement, against 11,133 in the previous year. The birth-rate per 1000 of population was 27.1 as against 29.1 in the previous year. The corrected birth-rate on the estimated population is 25.6 in 1935 as against 27.8 in the preceding year.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 8,165 as against 8,567 in the preceding year, the death-rate being 21.3 against 22.3 per 1000 in 1934. The corrected death-rate on the estimated population was 20.1 in 1935 against 21.2 per 1000 in 1934.

Infant Mortality.-The total number of infant deaths recorded during the year was 1521 against 1876 in 1934. The infant mortality rate calculated on 1000 births was 146.5 against 169.4 in the preceding year. Figures lead to the inevitable conclusion that prenatal factors i.e., adverse causes operating on the expectant mother by way of inanition, illhealth and indifferent hygienic habits contribute largely to the high infant mortality during the first month of the baby's life.

Principal Causes of Death.- Fevers (including malaria) were responsible for 3,045 deaths, cholera for 616 deaths, pneumonia for 532 deaths, respiratory diseases for 490 deaths and dysentery and diarrhoea for 390 deaths. There were 3,092 deaths due to other causes.

\* Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1935-36.- pp.45+ Tables..

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Anti-Leprosy Measures. - The Leprosy Relief Association was started in August, 1933, with a view to organise anti-leprosy campaign in Mining Settlement in co-ordination with the Board of Health. The campaign aims at detailed survey and investigation, treatment of leprosy cases, by opening Leprosy Clinics suitably distributed throughout the Mining Settlement, educative propaganda, home visiting of lepers and also organisation of village committees, to assist in segregation of infectious cases of leprosy resident in villages and collieries. Owing to <sup>the</sup> extensive area involved, the Mining Settlement has been divided into 12 convenient divisions - each about 25 sq. miles in area. Two more Divisions have since been constituted to cover the entire ground.

As many as 1218 fresh cases were detected during the year making a total of 4171 known cases. The average incidence in villages was 1.4%, in collieries 0.9% and in schools 1.75%. The history of infection, as far as could be traced, is also tabulated in the statement. The majority of school children suffering from leprosy are in the non-infectious stage and are permitted to attend school provided they take regular treatment.

Health Propaganda. - Health Propaganda was carried out during the year on the same lines as reported ~~on~~ in the previous year. For the general population lantern lectures were arranged throughout the year by the Propaganda Officer of the Board. He visited 43 collieries and 231 villages and delivered 197 lantern lectures during the year on prevailing diseases, maternity and infant welfare, personal and rural hygiene. He also carried out house-to-house propaganda in 77 areas in connection with epidemic outbreaks. The staff of the leprosy department carried out educative propaganda on leprosy by means of home visiting ~~home visiting~~ and lantern lectures.

Maternity and Infant Welfare. - There are 4 Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres - at Sitalpur, Sitarampur, Ghusick and Ushagram. All the activities are directed towards the improvement of the health of the mother and the baby. The scheme aims at bringing about a positive condition of good health and is not limited to the narrow groove of giving medical relief to ailing children or offering free maternity service at random.

Hours of Work and Weekly Rest. - It was during the year 1935 that special Rules were introduced with a view to ensure proper distribution of work and rest for employees in the mines. A day's rest in the week has been compulsory for all labour working both above and under-ground. While the total period of work per week was already restricted to 54 hours of under-ground labour, the same limit has now been enforced for those working on the surface. In case of underground working a limit of 9 hours per shift has also been introduced. Lastly, for all surface workers except a few, ~~specified labour~~ one hour's rest has been enforced after 6 hours' work.

Employment of Women excluded from Underground Work.- Work was at first readily found on the surface for the women debarred from underground employment. Later on, as the number increased, the situation became more difficult. The problem of devising suitable employment on the surface for such women, it is remarked, will have to be faced in order to come to a satisfactory solution of the economic condition of the miner and his family. The rate of wages for the miner remained almost the same as in the preceding year. The weekly earnings of miners were probably higher than during 1934 owing to many of the miners working a greater number of days per week. Even then there is no doubt that the family income on the whole has decreased. Apart from that, the very fact that the partner is no longer contributing to the family expense will put the miner's wife at a disadvantage in the disbursement of the "family" income, while unemployment by itself will have a prejudicial effect on the mental outlook of the miner and his dependants. Cottage industries, the produce of which find a ready sale amongst the employees of the colliery was started in one colliery in Jharia Coal-Field in 1934 and is reported to have met with success - the work being on the contract system.. With a view to offer facilities for training of miners' wives, it has been decided by the Ramkrishna Centenary Committee, Asansol, to open training centres at suitable places throughout the Mining Settlement in co-operation with the management of collieries through the agency of paid and experienced workers. It is hoped that the Committee will succeed in giving a start to the much needed relief for the miners' families and that the management of collieries will feel inclined to give effect to specific schemes of employment for the unemployed women.

Sickness Insurance and Maternity Benefit.- The question of making provision for workers during sickness—as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour in India—was raised during the year by the Government of India for consideration of the local governments and of industrial concerns. A correct estimate of the incidence of sickness among workers for a number of years is necessary to arrive at the cost of any benefit which a scheme is to provide. Then again the scheme of sickness insurance involves payment of financial benefits in addition to medical aid which, in the case of the coal-field, is already provided for through the agency of colliery dispensaries. The question to be considered is how far medical attendance and cash benefits can be co-related and whether the scheme should be on a contributory basis or not. The special problem in the coal-field is the peculiar character of the majority of mining labour who are primarily agriculturists and hence are of a floating type. Any scheme of sickness insurance rightly includes maternity benefit during and immediately after the period of confinement. A large number of women continue to be employed on the surface who are likely to benefit by the scheme. (The Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 48-49 of our January 1936 report).

(A copy of the Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1935-36, reviewed above, was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/1394/36 dated the 17th December 1936). +



Agriculture.Agricultural Indebtedness in Madras: TheUsurious Loans (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1936. +

The Government of Madras proposes to introduce in the current session of the Madras Legislative Council a Bill to amend the Usurious Loans Act, 1918. The necessity for the amendment is that on a review of the working of the Usurious Loans Act, in the Presidency, it has been noticed that the powers conferred on Courts by the Act have not been utilized with any degree of uniformity, mainly owing to the fact that the powers conferred by section 3 are discretionary. The Government, after consulting the High Court, consider that it is desirable to make the exercise of such powers obligatory on Courts, when circumstances justifying such exercise exist.

The opportunity has been taken to make it clear that relief should be afforded if the transaction as between the parties was substantially unfair and that such unfairness should be presumed if the rate of interest charged is found to be excessive. The presumption is made rebuttable by proof of special circumstances justifying the high rate of interest. Having regard to the fact that agriculturists in this Presidency are, as a class, unable to bear the burden of loans at compound interest, *provision has been made in the Bill that if compound interest* is charged on loans advanced to agriculturists, such interest should be presumed to be excessive.

The Bill is made applicable to suits pending on the date when it becomes law as well as to suits instituted subsequently.

*Gazette*  
(The Fort St. George, dated 24-11-1936,  
pages 359 to 361 of Part IV).

## Migration.

### Strike of Indian Workers of Singapore Municipality. +

On 1-12-1936, 2,500 Tamil (Indian) workers employed in the Singapore Municipal Sewage Department, struck work, and in sympathy with them the whole Indian contingent of the Municipal labour force, numbering about 13,000 downed tools. The demands of the strikers are: (1) The wages of all labourers should be increased to a minimum of 60 cents a day. (2) There must be an increase of 10 cents a day <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ the wages of all skilled workmen. (3) A labourer should not be ordered to work for more than eight hours a day. (4) All overtime work should be paid at double the rate of ordinary wages. (5) For days upon which labourers are prevented from doing work on account of rain or any similar hindrance, full wages must be paid. (6) In the case of illness, a labourer should be given free medical aid and should be paid his ordinary wages during the period that he is detained in hospital. (7) Water and light must be supplied to labourers free of charge. The present practice of cutting off water connections at 8 p.m. and restoring it at 5 a.m. must be discontinued. (8) Those labourers who are unable to get accommodation in the coolie lines should be given a rent allowance of \$ 1.50 per head. (9) All labourers should be paid full wages for days which are declared public holidays, whether they are taken for work or not. (10) No labourer should be dismissed from work without a thorough investigation by the head of the department. (11) The prosecutions commenced against some of the labourers in connection with the strike should be withdrawn. (12) All labourers who are on strike now on returning to work must be given the full wages for the

period they were on strike.

Negotiations for ending the strike were started by the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya <sup>and</sup> the Deputy and Assistant Controller of Labour who urged the strikers to return to work giving an assurance that an inquiry would be held into their demands for increase in wages and that other grievances would be considered, including the question of housing and food. Negotiations, however, broke-down suddenly owing to the ~~same~~ decision of the authorities, ~~namely~~, that 800 workmen would not be taken back and that the prosecutions instituted against 60 strikers would not be withdrawn. Fresh efforts are being made to settle the strike amicably.

(The Hindu, 17-12-1936)+

#### Control of Clove Trade in Zanzibar:

##### Mr. Binder's Recommendations. +

History of the Case.- As a result of representations made by the Government of India, the British Colonial Office <sup>one of its officers,</sup> deputed Mr. Binder, to report as to what modifications are necessary in the system of control over the clove industry of Zanzibar in the permanent economic interests of the Island. The enquiry by Mr. Binder was necessitated by the establishment of the Clove-Growers' Association and its operations in the clove trade of the island. Indians had objected to it on the ground that the decree which permitted its establishment had given virtual monopoly of trade to the Association by making private export subject to licence, secondly by imposing a heavy licence fee, thirdly by making the

Association itself the licensing authority, and lastly by exempting the Association from all fees, including the special export levy which every exporter had to pay, but which though nominally paid by the Association was placed to its credit. The complaint was that by discouraging the Indian exporter, it drove him out of the trade, and as the Indian middleman bought cloves from the grower to sell to the exporter, it knocked him out as well. And as there were no Indian buyers of clove, large or small.

Government of India's Attitude.- The Government of India supported the Zanzibar Indians and argued that the remedy provided by the Clove Decree went beyond the requirements of the disease (unstable prices and speculative dealings). A minimum price, they said, should be fixed for the grower and that the Industry should be free from other restrictions. Failing this, they contended that there should be a fresh enquiry, When two years had elapsed in the operation of the Clove-Growers' Association, the enquiry by Mr. Binder was instituted, and Mr. Bozman was sent as observer on behalf of the Government of India, at the request of the Indian National Association.

Mr. Binder's Recommendations.- Mr. Binder's definite recommendation is to give to the Association monopoly of internal buying together with the power to fix the purchase and selling price. At the same time, the Indian small buyer might be employed by the Association as its buying agent paid on a commission basis. The Association thus becomes the organisation for co-operative buying and stocking. In another portion of his report, Mr. Binder suggests the appointment of two representatives of exporters (who are now mostly Indians) on the Advisory Committee of the Association with a view to discussing the actual fixing of prices, etc. As for export of cloves (40 per cent of which is bought by India), licences would be issued not by the Association as hitherto, but by the Government themselves and the export licence fee will be reduced to such a sum as will be within the means of the small exporter, who will be encouraged to explore new markets and bring orders. The export levy is also to be abolished.

These recommendations of Mr. Binder mark a definite improvement on the existing position so far as the export trade is concerned.

As for growers of clove, this is over 20 per cent under Indian control by reason of the fact that the lands are mortgaged to Indians. To the extent prices are ~~x~~ stabilised by the operations of the Clove-Growers' Association, to that extent the Indian grower might be said to benefit by the recommendations of Mr. Binder, who gives complete powers to the Association in this respect. As for alienation of lands, Mr. Binder suggests to the Government of Zanzibar to publish the revised formula defining an agriculturist and a non-agriculturist without racial discrimination. He also recommends the raising of the moratorium under suitable restrictions and the rates of interest to be limited. Mr. Binder, concluding, observes that if his recommendations are adopted, they would serve to broaden the economic position and provide the electorate with the desired basis of a satisfied agricultural and trading community.

The Report of Mr. Binder has been published by the Government of India without any comments. It is reported that early steps will be taken to ascertain Indian opinion here and in Zanzibar. The Indian press has expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. Binder's recommendations.

(The Statesman and the Hindu,  
12-12-1936). +

General.  
The 50th Session of the Indian National  
Congress - December 1936. +

The 50th session of the Indian National Congress was held at Faizpur from 28~~to~~ 30-12-1936 under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. A feature of the session was that <sup>it was the first</sup> ~~a~~ session of the Congress <sup>to be</sup> ~~was held for the first time~~ in an Indian village. This departure of holding Congress sessions in villages and not in urban centres as hitherto, which, it is reported, will be maintained in future years, is interpreted to signify a closer identification of the Congress with the Indian agriculturist masses. The session was also remarkable for the fact that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who holds ~~a~~ Socialist~~is~~ view~~s~~, was chosen as the president for a second consecutive session. In a statement issued ~~by~~ previous to his election, Pandit Nehru had, however, affirmed that his socialistic views will be subordinated to the majority rulings of the Congress, and that for the present ~~he~~ would be content if attention was concentrated on achieving the independence of the country.

Reception Committee Chairman's Address.- The following are the main points brought out in the address of Mr. Shankar Rao Deo, the Chairman of the Reception Committee:-

After welcoming the delegates to the first village session of the Congress, he said: "Imperialism has yielded us constitutional reform on the one hand and repression on the other throughout the last half a century. The Rowlatt Act and the Amritsar massacre followed in the wake of the Montford Reforms. It was the rare good fortune of this land, to have amongst us Mahatma Gandhi who could offer a new and dynamic lead at such a time. He placed before the nation his programme of Non-cooperation. The National Congress accepted in full the Gandhian programme of Non-cooperation, and with the new programme came a new leadership."

Today there are on the platform of the National Congress three distinct groups. The advocates of the legislative programme,

the non-cooperating votaries of constructive work and village organisation, as well as those who stand by the mobilisation of the workers and peasants. Yet all these groups are united in their faith in the potency of Satyagraha as a powerful weapon of mass action. It is a token of our past grandeur that we have hit upon non-violent mass resistance as the peculiar technique of our struggle ~~we can~~ <sup>in our</sup> march steadily on towards ~~our~~ <sup>the</sup> goal of Swaraj. Our immediate task is the liberation of our people from the death grip of British Imperialism. Hence, the Congress becomes the spear-head of anti-Imperialist resistance and the nation gathers under its standard."

Presidential Address: -Demand for Constituent Assembly.- In his presidential address Pandit Nehru pointed out that the real object before the nation was to build up a powerful joint-front of all the anti-Imperialist forces in the country, and that the basis of it was to be anti-Imperialism and independence. The immediate demand of this United National Front was to be for a Constituent Assembly leading to a democratic State where political power has been transferred to the mass of the people.

Socialism and the Congress.- Explaining the immediate objective of the Congress, the President observed: "We do not fight for Socialism in India today, for we have to go far before we can act in terms of Socialism. The Congress stands today for full democracy in India and fights for a democratic State and not for Socialism."

Council Entry and Office-Acceptance Issue.- Clarifying the Council entry programme and its implications, the President emphasised that Congressmen entered Legislatures "not to co-operate with the apparatus of British Imperialism, but to combat the Act and seek to end it, and to resist in every way the attempts of British Imperialism to strengthen its hold on India". According to the President, acceptance of office was a negation of the policy of rejecting the Act, and he challenged the Pro-office section to demonstrate that office-acceptance was the way to non-co-operate with the Act and to end it.

Wrecking the Constitution.- Elucidating the congress programme of wrecking the Constitution, he observed: "Our policy is to put an end to the Act and have a clean slate to write afresh. Thus our opposition to the Federal part of the Constitution Act is not merely a theoretical one, but a vital matter which affects our struggle for freedom and our future destiny." In reply to critics who urged that the new constitution was fool-proof against wrecking tactics, he observed: "The constitution cannot be wrecked by action inside the Legislatures only. For that, mass action outside is necessary and that is why we must always remember that the essence of our Freedom struggle lies in mass organisation and mass action."

Indian States and the Federation Idea.—“The present federation that is being thrust upon India is a federation in bondage and under the control politically and socially, of the most backward elements in the country. The world has gone on changing and hovers on the brink of yet another vast change. But not so the Indian States; they remain static in this ever-changing panorama, staring at us with the eyes of the early nineteenth century. We cannot recognise these old settlements of more than a hundred years ago as permanent and unchanging. The Indian States will have to fit into the scheme of a free India and their peoples must have, as the Congress has declared, the same personal, civil and democratic liberties as those of the rest of India”.

Mass Contacts.— Stressing the need for mass contacts, he referred to the gradual transformation of the Congress from a small upper class body, to one representing the great body of the lower middle classes, and later the masses of this country, and said that the Congress had to be democratised still further. He also referred to the proposals made during the last year of affiliating other organisations, of peasants, workers and others, which also aim at the freedom of the Indian people, and thus to make the Congress the widest possible joint front of all the anti-imperialist forces in the country. “The Congress has an extensive direct membership among these groups; probably 75 per cent of its members come from the peasants. But, it is argued, that functional representation will give far greater reality to the peasants and workers in the Congress. This proposal has been resisted because of a fear that the Congress might be swamped by new elements. Any decision of this issue will make little difference at present. For there are few well-organised workers' or peasants' unions in the country which are likely to profit by Congress affiliation. There is not the least possibility of any swamping, and, in any event, this can easily be avoided. Now or later some kind of functional representation in the Congress is inevitable and desirable”.

Rights of Labour.— Dealing with the rights of labour, he referred to the B.N. Railway Strike, and said: “A great railway strike is now in progress. For long the world of railway workers has been in ferment because of retrenchment and reduction in wages and against them is the whole power of the State. Some time ago there was a heroic strike in the Ambernath Match Factory near Bombay, owned by a great foreign trust. But behind that trust and supporting it we saw the apparatus of Government functioning in the most extraordinary way. The workers in our country have yet to gain elementary rights; they have yet to have an eight hour day and unemployment insurance and a guaranteed living wage”.

World Peace Movement.— “The Congress must line up with all the progressive forces of the world and must stand for world peace. Recently there has taken place in Europe a significant development in the peace movement. The World Peace Congress, held at Brussels in September last, brought together numerous mass organisations on a common platform and gave an effective lead for peace”.



"The problem of peace cannot be separated from imperialism, and in order to remove the root causes of war, imperialism must go. We believe in the sanctity of treaties, but we cannot consider ourselves bound by treaties in the making of which the ~~Indi~~ people of India had no part, unless we accept them in due course."

League of Nations.- "The League of Nations has fallen very low and there are few who take it seriously as an instrument for the preservation of peace. India has no enthusiasm for it whatever and the Indian membership of the League is a farce, for the selection of delegates is made by the British Government. We must work for a real League of Nations, democratically constructed, which would in effect be a League of Peoples. If even the present League, ineffective and powerless as it is, can be used in favour of peace, we shall welcome it."

Resolutions Adopted.- The session adopted on the whole 21 resolutions. Among these, the important ones were resolutions: (1) welcoming the efforts of the World Peace Congress to ensure universal peace and according India's support to it, (2) condemning the civil war in Spain and expressing sympathy with the Spanish Government, (3) declaring India's unwillingness to take part in future ~~imperialistic~~ wars of Great Britain, (4) condemning the Government's "forward" policy on the North West Frontier, (5) sympathising with detenus and demanding the release of political prisoners, (6) urging more active action by the Government for the betterment of the conditions of ~~Indians~~ overseas and for removing the numerous disabilities under which they laboured, (7) expressing concern at the alarming frequency in recent years of colliery disasters and recommending the adoption of more efficient safety provisions, (8) expressing sympathy with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway strikers, (9) advocating the taking of more efficient steps by the Congress to ensure closer contacts with the Indian masses,

(10) protesting against the suppression of civil liberties by the Government, (11) rejecting the Reformed Constitution, (12) urging the desirability of summoning by April 1937<sup>7</sup><sub>^</sub> a national Convention of Congress members of the provincial and central legislatures, members of the All India Congress Committee and such others as the Working Committee of the Congress might recommend, (13) demanding redress of the grievances of Indian agriculturists, (14) soliciting the support of the country for Congress candidates in the elections, (15) advocating non-participation in the coronation celebrations, and (16) recommending the observance of an hartal on 1st April 1937, the day on which the new Constitution comes into existence.

The following **is** the personnel of the Working-Committee of the Congress for 1937:-

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Babu Rajendra Prasad, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Seth Jammalal Bajaj, Acharya Kriplani, Sjt. Bhulabhai Desai, Acharya Narendra Dev, Sjt. Achyut Patwardhan, Sjt. Shankerrao Deo, Babu Sarat Chandra Bose, Pundit Govind Vallabh Pant, and Sjt. Jairamdas Daulatram.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 27 to 31-12-36)+