

C 6/2/9

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for January 1941.

N.B. ~~Every~~ Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. <u>National Labour Legislation.-</u>	
<u>Assam:</u>	
a) <u>Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940.</u>	1
<u>Sind:</u>	
a) <u>Sind Shops and Establishments Act, 1940.</u>	1-2
b) <u>City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Bill 1940: Status of Labour Representatives.</u>	2
c) <u>The Establishments Employees Contributory Provident Fund Bill, 1940.</u>	2-3
d) <u>The Hind Workmen Service Stability Bill, 1940.</u>	3
<u>Burma:</u>	
<u>The Payment of Wages Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1940.</u>	3
2. <u>Social Policy.-</u>	
<u>2nd Labour Ministers' Conference, New Delhi, 27 and 28-1-1941.</u>	4-7
3. <u>Conditions of Work.-</u>	
<u>Hours of Work:</u>	
a) <u>Application of Factories Act to Handloom Factories: Shorter Working Day and Weekly Holiday improve production.</u>	8
b) <u>Working of Hours of Employment Regulations in 1939-40.</u>	9-11
<u>General:</u>	
a) <u>Conditions of Work in Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, 1939-40.</u>	12-13
b) <u>Conditions of Service of Motor Drivers: Madras Government appoints Arbitrator to settle dispute.</u>	13
4. <u>Economic Conditions.-</u>	
a) <u>Establishment of Provincial Industrial Research Committee: Decision of Government of Bombay.</u>	14
b) <u>Protection of Indian Handloom Industry: Fact Finding Committee Appointed.</u>	14-15
c) <u>Trade of India in 1939-40.</u>	16-21
d) <u>Indian Textile Export Drive: Indian Central Cotton Committee recommends setting up of Central Export Organisation.</u>	21-22
e) <u>National Planning Committee: Next Meeting to be held in April, 1941.</u>	22
f) <u>State Control of Coal Industry urged: Report of Bihar Coal Reorganisation Committee.</u>	22
g) <u>Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India for October 1940.</u>	23
h) <u>Decisions of International Sugar Council, London, 6-1-1941: Protest by Indian sugar interests about Export Restriction.</u>	24.
5. <u>Social Insurance.-</u>	
a) <u>Need for Appointment of Medical Referees in Workmen's Compensation Cases: Bengal Government Contemplates Legislation.</u>	25

	<u>Pages</u>
5. <u>Social Insurance (continued).</u> -	
b) <u>Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in U.P. during 1939-</u>	25-26
c) <u>Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab in 1939.</u>	26
d) <u>Employees Benefit Fund: Profit-sharing Scheme instituted by Delhi Cloth and General Mills Co., Ltd.</u>	27-28
e) <u>Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Orissa during 1939.</u>	28
f) <u>Extension of Provident Fund Benefits: New Scheme inaugurated by Nizam's State Railway.</u>	28
g) <u>Extension of Provident Benefits in State-Managed Railways: Government's Announcement.</u>	29
6. <u>Migration.</u> -	
a) <u>Indians in Malaya, 1939: Report of the Agent of the Government of India.</u>	30-32
7. <u>Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants.</u>	
<u>Conditions of Service of Staffs of Private Colleges: Committee of Inquiry appointed by Bombay University.</u>	33
8. <u>Living Conditions.</u> -	
<u>Nutrition:</u>	
<u>Bengal Nutrition Committee: Bengal Government's effort to co-ordinate Nutrition Research.</u>	34
<u>Housing:</u>	
<u>Cheap Tenements for Inferior Municipal Employees: Bombay Government's Plans.</u>	35
9. <u>Organisation, Congresses, etc.</u> -	
<u>Workers' Organisations:</u>	
a) <u>Delegation of Powers to Provincial Governments re. Trade Unions whose Objects are not confined to one Province: To come into effect from 1-4-1941.</u>	36
b) <u>Trade Union Organisation in Bengal: Bengal Branch of A.I.T.U.C. appoints Committee of Inquiry.</u>	36
c) <u>Half-yearly Meeting between the A.I.R.F. and Railway Board, New Delhi, 8-1-1941.</u>	37-38
<u>Miscellaneous:</u>	
<u>4th Indian Statistical Conference, Benares, 2-1-1941.</u>	39
<u>Meetings Announced:</u>	
<u>14th Annual Meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry: To be held on 22 and 23-3-1941.</u>	40
10. <u>Public Health.</u> -	
<u>The Sind Opium Smoking Act, 1940.</u>	39
11. <u>Education.</u> -	
a) <u>Visual Education in Rural Areas: Bombay Government's Scheme.</u>	40
b) <u>The Sixth Session of Central Advisory Board of Education, Madras, 11 and 12-1-1941.</u>	40-43

12. Social Policy in War Time.-

Wages:

- a) Dearness Allowance for Railway Workers: Report of Court of Enquiry.
- b) Dearness Allowance for Workers in Tata Iron and Steel Co., Jamshedpur: Report of Board of Conciliation.
- c) Cost Price Shops for Baroda Textile Mill Workers: Arbitrator's Award in Dearness Allowance Dispute.

42-43

43-44

44

~~Wages~~

War Production:

- a) War and Bengal Industries: Bengal Government institutes Enquiry into Problems of Factories.
- b) Eastern Group Council: Sir Archibald Carter to be Chairman.

44

45

Employment:

- a) Government Service: Age Restriction for Candidates with War Service to be abolished
- b) Training of Skilled Mechanics: 15,000 to receive Training in 1941.

45

45

13. General.-

Anti-Fascist Organisation: National Democratic Union formed by Mr. M.N. Roy.

46-47

14. List of more important publications received in this Office during January 1941.

48-49

Assam.-

Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940.

Reference was made at page 3 of our March 1940 report to the Maternity Benefit Bill introduced on 29-2-1940 in the Assam Legislative Assembly by Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda (non-Official). On 31-3-1940, the Hon. Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri, Minister in Charge of Labour, introduced an official Bill on the subject. Both Bills were circulated to elicit public opinion thereon.

On 12-11-1940, Mr. A.K. Chanda moved that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The Labour Minister, speaking on the motion, pointed out that the Assam Government had received a communication from the Government of India ~~pointing out~~ that both Mr. Chanda's Bill and the Government Bill, since they sought to bring within their purview mines and oil-fields (which are Federal subjects), went outside the scope of provincial legislation. In view of this, he announced that the Assam Government had decided not to proceed with the original official Bill, but to introduce another leaving out mines and oil-fields from its scope. He suggested that Mr. Chanda also should amend his Bill on the same lines or withdraw it altogether in favour of the legislation introduced by Government.

On 14-11-1940, the Labour Minister introduced the modified Maternity Benefit Bill (published at pages 27 to 31 of Part V of the Assam Gazette dated 6-11-1940); the Bill was ~~xxx~~ referred to a Select Committee the same day.

Mr. Chand withdrew his Bill on 15-11-1940.

(Pages 1292 to 1294, 1353 to 1355 and
1404 of Part VI-A of the Assam Gazette
of 11, 18 and 25-12-1940.) +

Sind.-

Sind Shops and Establishments Act, 1940.
(Act No. XVIII of 1940.)

Attention ~~is~~ is directed to pages 35 to 48 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 23-1-1941, where is published the Sind Shops and Establishments Act, 1940, which makes provision for the regulation of hours of work in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, eating houses, theatres, and other establishments; the Provincial Government is empowered to apply the Act to other classes of establishments. The Act is to come into force in the first instance only in the City and Cantonments of Karachi and Drigh Road. The Provincial Government is empowered to fix the opening and closing hours of shops and commercial establishments; but it is provided that in no case shops are to be kept open after 9 p.m. Hawking is prohibited after closing hour. The working hours for employees are, (1) in shops, 9½ working hours per day, with a maximum over-time of 120 hours in a calendar year, and a maximum spread-over

of 12 hours in a day; (2) in commercial establishments, 54 per week, with a maximum over-time of 120 hours in a calendar year and a maximum spread-over per day of 12 hours; (3) in restaurants, theatres, etc., 10 hours per day, with a maximum spread-over of 14 hours in a day. All establishments covered by the Act are to give a day's rest with pay in a week. Wages for over-time are to be paid at $1\frac{1}{4}$ times the ordinary wage-rate. The Act also provides for 15 days' leave with pay in a year without power to accumulate.

Children under 12 are not to be employed in establishments covered by the Act and young persons (between 12 and 17 years) are not to be allowed to work before 6 a.m. and after 7 p.m.; the working hours of young persons are not to exceed 8 hours a day or 42 a week. +

Sind.-

City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1940: Status of Labour Representatives.

On 3-12-1940, Mr. N.A. Bechar (non-official) introduced the City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1940, in the Sind Legislative Assembly in order to remove the disability imposed by the provision in the City of Karachi Act that a representative of labour should be a labourer himself. It is pointed out in the Statement of Objects and reasons that it is interests which are to be represented and that labour must be given the unrestricted right to elect its spokesman. This kind of restriction imposed by the Karachi Municipal Act does not find a place in the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act. Further, the representatives of trade and commerce are not merchants themselves but paid managers of commercial firms, and there is no reason why officials of workers' unions should not be the representatives of labour. The workers' representative in the Sind Assembly is elected without such narrow restrictions, and as such it should be done away with in the case of the Karachi Municipal Corporation.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV,
dated 16-1-1941, pages 8 to 9.) +

Sind.-

The Establishments Employees Contributory Provident Fund Bill, 1940. +

On 3-12-1940, Mr. R.K. Sidhwa (non-Official) introduced in the Sind Legislative Assembly a Bill to make provision for the establishment and maintenance of contributory provident funds for employees in factories, shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, eating houses, theatres and other establishments, with a view to provide old-age relief. At present, employees in factories, commercial establishments and shops, when they retire are not paid any gratuity, provident fund or pension, just as is prevalent in Government and Local Bodies. This Bill makes it compulsory for employers to deduct six pies in the

rupee from an employee's salary and contribute an equal amount with interest, and ~~that the sum thus accruing should be paid to the employee at the termination of his service.~~ The Bill provides that only those employees who have put in service of two years and more will be entitled to the benefits of the Fund. This provision, it is pointed out, will safeguard the interests of both employers and employees so far as continuity of service is concerned.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 16-1-1941, pages 14 to 17.)

Sind.-

The Sind Workmen Service Stability Bill, 1940.

Dr. Popatlal A. Ehoopatkhar (non-Official) introduced on 3-12-1940 in the Sind Legislative Assembly the Sind Workmen Service Stability Bill, 1940, to ensure stability of service of workmen employed in firms, companies, commercial establishments, shops, hotels, hair-cutting saloons and such other concerns as are not covered by the Factories Act. The Bill makes provision for the establishment of an Employment Board with which all industrial and commercial establishments are to be registered, and no worker in such establishments is to be discharged or retrenched without the approval of the Board. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that Government service is attractive mainly because of security of tenure, and that the Bill intends to make private service attractive by ensuring an equal degree of security of tenure for employees.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 16-1-1941, pages 22 to 24.)

Burma.-

The Payment of Wages Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1940.

The Governor of Burma has promulgated an Ordinance to amend the Burma Payment of Wages Act so as to permit, with the written authorisation of the worker, deductions from his wages in furtherance of any war savings scheme.

(The Burma Gazette, Part I, dated 28-12-1940, page 1553.)

4

SOCIAL POLICY

2nd Labour Ministers' Conference, New Delhi, 27 and
28-1-1941. ✓+

The 2nd Conference of Labour Ministers convened by the Government of India was held at the Imperial Secretariat, New Delhi, on 27 and 28-1-1941, with the Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Labour Member of the Government of India, in the chair (The 1st Labour Ministers' Conference was held at New Delhi on 21 and 22-1-1940; a summary of the proceedings and the conclusions reached is given at pages 6-8 of the January 1940 report of this Office). Nine out of the eleven provinces of India had sent delegations, the two provinces not represented being Orissa and N.-W.F.P. Of the Indian States, Hyderabad, Baroda and Gwalior had sent representatives; the Director of this Office attended as Observer. The representatives of the Government of India were Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Labour Member, and Mr. M.S.A. Hydari, Secretary, Department of Labour.

Items on the Agenda.- The items on the agenda were:

1. Amendment of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 (re. Strikes and Lockouts).
2. Holidays with Pay.
3. Extension of legislation to Labour employed in commercial establishments and shops (Weekly Holidays).
4. Amendment of section 5 of the Factories Act (Declaration of all establishments using power and employing 10 or more persons as factories).
5. Recognition of Trade Unions.
6. Extension of maternity benefits to women employed in coal mines.
7. Sickness insurance.

Chairman's Opening Address.- In his opening address, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar pointed out that the Central Government, the Provincial Governments and employers and workers were all agreed that, despite the obsession of the war, the problems relating to the adjustment of differences ~~or relations~~ between Employers and Labour should not be postponed till after the war but that an attempt should be made immediately to try to solve them. He disclaimed all intention of hastily rushing through labour legislation, and pointed out that, though it was Government's intention to put before the Conference actual draft Bills on the various subjects that had been promulgated for discussion at the last Conference, on second thoughts it was felt that such draft Bills would be understood to commit far too deeply Provincial and State Governments or even the Central

Government, and therefore only memoranda on the various subjects have been circulated to Provincial and State Governments. Further, early in January 1941 he had separately consulted representatives of workers and employers on the subjects under discussion (vide pages 3 to 5 of December 1940 report).

Dealing with certain fears entertained by Provincial Governments, he made it clear that the primary responsibility for consulting labour unions or even the Employers must rest, as it has always rested, on the Provincial and State Governments concerned, and that the Central Government took the initiative merely because consultation with an all-India body was more easy for the Government of India to undertake than for any single Provincial or State Government. He also gave out the assurance that there was no intention on the part of the Central Government either to run away with labour legislation irrespective of the wishes of the Provincial or to trench upon their sphere, and that the good offices of the Central Government and ~~rather~~ the Central legislature would be invoked to the extent — and only to the extent — that the main purpose of co-ordinated legislation - of a common group of laws applicable to all the Provinces — may be assured. He also referred to the difficulty that many industries were feeling on account of uncoordinated legislation - on account of one province going far ahead in regulating conditions of labour and other provinces or States lagging far behind, making for instability of the growth and development of industrial concerns, and pointed out that it was purely from that point of view and to enable Provincial Governments to utilise the machinery of the Central Government and the Central Legislature that the Conference was convened.

Concluding, he expressed the hope that it may be possible to convert these Conferences into Annual Conferences where problems of an all-India nature relating to the Employers and the Employed and to general labour conditions could be discussed. (Summarised from Press Communiqué No. F50/21/40-Pub. dated 27-1-1941 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India.)

Decisions. - The decisions reached at the Conference are summarised below:-

Strikes and Lockouts: 14 days' notice to be Obligatory. - The Conference generally agreed that the procedure suggested by the Central Government in their memorandum regarding prohibition of strikes and lock-outs during the period of conciliation might be adopted and legislation undertaken on those lines. The suggestion is that in all cases parties should be required to give 14 days' notice to the opposite party, sending a copy simultaneously to the Labour Commissioner or other officer appointed for the purpose. Such notice should contain a statement of reasons for the action contemplated. On its receipt it should be the duty of the Labour Commissioner or other officer appointed for the purpose either by himself or through his assistants to endeavour to obtain a peaceful settlement of the dispute. If his attempts at conciliation fail, the strike or lock-out can be started at the end of the fortnight if the parties desire to do so.

If a dispute is of ~~xxx~~ sufficient importance, the Government concerned will have time during the fortnight to decide whether it is necessary to appoint a board of conciliation or a court of inquiry under the Act. The Act should further provide that if a court of inquiry or a board of conciliation is thus appointed the strike or lockout should not be started for two months from the date of its

appointment or till its conclusions are published, whichever is earlier. It is also suggested that during the period of conciliation the status quo should be maintained both by employers and labour.

Holidays with Pay.- The conference generally accepted the suggestion that the time had come when all workmen should in the course of the year get a certain minimum number of holidays with pay; that the number should be prescribed as six holidays per year for ~~every year of~~ continuous service; and that continuity of service required in order to become entitled to such a holiday should not be affected by interruptions occasioned by sickness, accident, leave with permission of the employer or intermittent involuntary unemployment, if the duration of unemployment does not exceed, say, a period of one month in the course of the year.

Weekly Holidays for Commercial Establishments.- The principle of granting weekly holidays to persons employed in commercial establishments and shops was generally assented to by the conference provided that conditions of service and rights and privileges to which employees were entitled were in no way affected.

Amendment of Section 5 of Factories Act.- The proposal to amend the Factories Act so as to empower a provincial Government to notify once for all any establishments using power and employing 10 or more persons as factories was also generally accepted.

Recognition of Trade Unions.- On the question of recognition of trade unions, the conference generally considered that it was desirable to have Central legislation laying down conditions for recognition of trade unions by provincial Governments; that such legislation should lay down basic principles and provincial Governments should be empowered to add to the conditions laid down in the Central legislation, and that the basic conditions should be those proposed by the Madras Government (the Congress Government before it resigned) with modifications. These conditions are: (1) the union fulfils the requirements of the Trade Unions Act; (2) membership is not restricted on communal or other religious grounds; (3) the union shall submit a copy of the membership lists to the Government; (4) the executive of the union should meet at least once in the quarter and must be fully acquainted with all important matters relating to the union; and (5) that the union has been in existence at least for six months.

It was also suggested by the conference that Central legislation should also lay down that trade unions recognised by a provincial Government should be recognised by employers or employers' associations; that it should be left to provincial Governments to fix or not to fix minimum membership, and that provincial Governments should be free to confer such further powers or rights as they may consider desirable on trade unions recognised by them.

Extension of Maternity Benefits to Women in Coal Mines.- As regards extension of maternity benefit legislation to women employed in coal mines, the conference agreed that the Central Government should undertake legislation on the same lines as the existing legislation regarding factory labour and the rate should be eight annas or the daily wage whichever is less.

Sickness Insurance : Actuarial Survey of Selected Industries.- With reference to sickness insurance, it was agreed that a preliminary actuarial examination should be taken up and after such examination a scheme should be evolved involving contribution from employers and employees; that certain large industries such as the textile, cement, potteries,

iron and steel, should be taken up for the actuarial examination; ~~as well as~~ ^{that} certain small industries like mineral waters, hosiery and printing may be surveyed; and that the cost of the actuarial examination should be borne by the Central Government.

The decisions reached at the Conference are to be drafted in six official Bills for introduction in the 1941 autumn session of the Legislative Assembly. The subjects covered by the Bills are: prohibition of strikes and lockouts during conciliation; holidays with pay; weekly holidays in commercial establishments and shops; amendment of the Factories Act so as to declare all establishments employing 10 or more persons as factories; recognition of trade unions, and extension of maternity benefit legislation to women employed in coal mines. The draft Bills will also be circulated to a number of States Governments who agreed to send representatives to the Delhi conference. Hyderabad, Baroda and Indore were among the States represented at the conference, but a number of other States had agreed to be but were not actually represented. The increasing desire of the States to be associated with such gatherings is welcomed in Delhi as a sign of progress towards securing uniformity of labour legislation not only as between province and provinces but also as between provinces and States.

(The Statesman, 30-1-1941.) ✓ +

CONDITIONS OF WORK

8

Hours of Work

Application of Factories Act to Handloom Factories: Shorter Working Day and Weekly Holiday improves production. ✓

The Government of Bombay, by a wide use of the powers conferred by Section 5 of the Factories Act, had in recent years been including in the list of factories subject to the Act a number of establishments, mostly handloom concerns and bidi factories; in 1939, out of a total of 3,460 factories on the register, 1,337 belonged to this class of factories, classed as 'notified factories'. Criticism recently appeared in a Bombay newspaper alleging that the application of the provisions of the Factories Act had adversely affected the handloom industry in the Province, and that the effect on the contract workers of Sholapur and other centres had been serious. Denying this charge, the Director of Information, Bombay, in Press Communiqué No. 30 dated 23-1-1941, points out:

The Government of Bombay is well aware of the difficulties connected with the application of some of the provisions of the Act to handloom concerns and, in fact, has relaxed some provisions which handicapped the progress of the industry. The principal ones that now apply are those relating to the weekly holiday, the 10-hour limit of daily hours of work and the prohibition of night employment of women. With the application of these restrictive provisions, the industry seems to have directly benefited by an increase in production, as is shown in the annual factory report for 1939. There were 434 handloom factories registered under the Act in the Province in 1939, 395 being in the town of Sholapur. As a result of the application of the provisions of the Act, a regular weekly holiday and regular weekly hours were generally observed by them. A factory found that, working seven days a week and 11 hours a day, the average production in four weeks was 15.26 units, but it rose to 15.29 after the introduction of a weekly holiday and a 10-hour day. Owners and workers, particularly the children, were reported to have been well pleased with the changes effected and, it has been demonstrated that long hours and the absence of a weekly holiday are not only unfair but uneconomical.

(Summarised from Press Communiqué No. 30 dated 23-1-1941, issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.) ✓

Working of Hours of Employment Regulations in 1939-40.*

Scope of Application: Railways covered: Future Programme.- The Regulations, which, in the main, regulate the hours of work of Railway servants, and provide for the payment of overtime allowance and the grant of compulsory rest, were applied, in the first instance, to the North Western and East Indian Railways in 1931; to the Eastern Bengal and Great Indian Peninsula Railways in 1932; to the Bombay, Baroda and Central India, and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways in 1935; and to the Bengal and North Western Railway in 1937. Since the close of the year under report, the Regulations have been extended to the South Indian and Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railways. Government have also announced their decision to apply them to the Assam-Bengal and Bengal-Nagpur Railways before long. When this happens, all workers of Class I Railways in British India, who in 1938-39 numbered 634,507, would enjoy the benefits of these Regulations.

Number of Staff Covered.- The total number of staff employed on Class I Railways to which the Regulations were applicable on 31st March 1939 was 505,314. Classified according to railways, the staff covered is distributed as follows:- North Western - 101,244; East Indian - 133,761; East Bengal - 54,072; Great Indian Peninsula - 77,491; Madras and Southern Mahratta - 47,697; Bombay, Baroda and Central India - 62,659; and Bengal and North-Western - 28,390.

Protection of 'Excluded' Staff.- Running staff, staff engaged in supervision or management, and certain well-defined categories of inferior staff have been excluded from the scope of the Regulations. Their exclusion does not, however, absolve the Department of Labour from responsibility for watching over the conditions of their work. The Department has to satisfy itself that such staff - compediiously known as the 'Excluded' staff - have not been deprived of the protection of the Regulations without sufficient justification. Further, it is incumbent on the Department to scrutinise the hours of work of these employees with a view to suggest changes which may appear necessary on humanitarian grounds.

Inspection.- The following table gives the number of establishments inspected by the Inspectors of Railway Labour during the year under review:-

Railways Establishments.	<u>E.I.</u>	<u>N.W.</u>	<u>G.I.P.</u>	<u>B.B.& C.I.</u>	<u>E.B.</u>	<u>M.& S. M.</u>	<u>B. & N.W.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Transportation	614	659	441	448	177	369	235	2,943
Engineering	135	170	95	88	32	62	30	613
Power	111	107	99	91	41	50	46	545
Miscellaneous	129	121	97	225	47	49	10	678
	989	1,057	732	852	297	531	321	4,779

* GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR. Annual Report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on the North Western, East Indian, East Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula, Bombay, Baroda and Central India, Madras and Southern Mahratta and Bengal and North Western Railways, during the year 1939-40, by Mr. Abbas Khaleeli, I.C.S., Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour, Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Annas 7.

11

447 establishments in all were inspected during the year, giving an average of 319 to an Inspector, as against 353 last year. The considerable drop in inspections, the report points out, is due ~~to~~ principally to two reasons: first, inadequacy of inspection staff and additional work entailed by inspections under the Payment of Wages Act, and secondly, the ~~mutual~~ substitution of railway warrants for card passes issued by the railways to inspectors; it is also pointed out that unless the warrant system, which curtails travelling facilities, is changed, no great improvement in inspection standards can be expected.

Classification. - Workers whose employment is of a continuous nature - generally referred to as 'continuous' workers - may be employed for 60 hours a week on an average in a month; workers whose employment is declared to be essentially intermittent by the Head of a Railway - known as 'essentially intermittent' workers - may be employed for 84 hours in a week; further, it is only continuous workers that are entitled to a rest of not less than 24 hours each week commencing on Sunday. The report points out that Administrations are not over-generous in the matter of acceding to demands for changes in classification, since this generally means extra expenditure to them. Inspectors bring all cases of doubtful or wrong classification to the notice of the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour who, after further scrutiny, communicates these reports to Railway Administrations. Those which are of the border-line type are reported to the Administrations as "open to doubt", the Administrations being required to rectify matters. The report deplors the absence of machinery capable of resolving differences of opinion on the point, and points out that the Government of India is being approached with a suggestion to empower the Railway Board to make a final decision on 'challenged' classifications. The total number of cases reported in 1939-40, as open ~~to~~ to doubt, was 197 (246 in the previous year), and 'challenged' 470 (293 in the previous year). The number of cases in which classification was challenged is highest on the East Indian Railway, the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway being second; the report points out that the position must continue unsatisfactory till provision is made in the Rules, for resolving differences of opinion between Railway Administrations and the Department.

Continuous, Intermittent and 'Excluded' Staff. - Except on the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways where there has been an increase of .1 and .6 respectively, the percentage of 'continuous' workers has, during the year under review, fallen on all railways, the biggest drop being on the Bengal and North Western Railway. As regards the percentages of 'essentially intermittent' staff, the position has improved on all the railways except the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways, where there has been a drop of .5 per cent. and .3 per cent. respectively. There have been further exclusions of staff from the scope of the Regulations on the East Indian and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways, but on all other railways the percentage of 'excluded' staff has decreased the Bengal and North Western Railway leading in the process with a drop of 2 per cent.

Period of Rest. - There has been an increase in the percentage of workers entitled to periodical rest on two railways and a decrease on five. The position has deteriorated to the extent of 1.9 per cent. on the B. & N.W. Railway. As regards the percentage of staff enjoying a calendar day's rest, there has been an improvement in the case of four railways, the improvement being marked on the M. & S.M. to the

11

extent of 5.1 per cent. and 4.8 per cent., on the B. & N.W.; and a deterioration on three railways, the worst being on the B.B. & C.I. with 3.2 per cent. and next the G.I.P. with 2 per cent.

Working outside Rostered Hours. - Quite a large number of cases in which employees were found working outside their rostered hours, some occasionally and many habitually, were reported by Inspectors; most of these cases relate to the Goods Staff. It is pointed out that cases of over-work are in the majority of cases attributable to insufficiency of staff to cope with the work, and that the question of devising more effective methods for ensuring compliance with the Regulations requires immediate examination.

Administrative Changes. - The year under report witnessed important changes in the organisation of the Department administering the Regulations. Till now, two separate organisations, independent of each other, had existed: one for conciliation work on railways and the other for supervision of Railway labour. The Government of India decided to merge these two organisations into one, with the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour at the head of the Department, and a Deputy Supervisor of Railway Labour under him. The new arrangement came into force from the 5th December 1939. Under this arrangement the ~~Head~~ Head of the Department, whose headquarters have been fixed at Calcutta, carries out the duties of conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, and is responsible for the proper administration of the Hours of Employment Regulations and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in so far as it affects railways. The Deputy Supervisor of Railway Labour, who is stationed at New Delhi, is required to attend to the day-to-day duties of supervision under the Hours of Employment Regulations and the Payment of Wages Act. This arrangement has proved satisfactory, one direct result of the new arrangement being the development of closer contacts between this Department and organised labour on railways.

(The report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations during 1938-39 was reviewed at pages 3-5 of the report of this Office for May 1940.)

Conditions of Work in Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, 1939-40.*

Financial Working.- The Posts and Telegraphs Department consists of four Branches: Post Office, Telegraphs, Telephones and Radio. The financial results of working of the Department for the year 1939-40 are summarised below:-

	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Telegraphs</u>	<u>Telephones</u>	<u>Radio</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts	83,181,509	28,340,669	12,140,659	1,189,520	124,852,357
Expendi- ture	77,813,898	28,342,950	8,594,745	1,141,513	115,893,106
Surplus(+) or Deficit(-)	+5,367,611	- 2,281	+3,545,914	+ 48,007	+ 8,959,251

Strength of Staff.- On 31-3-1940 the number of persons employed by the department was 118,020 as compared with 117,151 at the close of 1938-39. The figure includes 21,869 extra-departmental agents who are not whole-time servants of Government and 2,898 members of the Audit and Accounts staff. Of the remaining 93,253, 438 belonged to the superior (gazetted) staff, including 137 divisional and other superintendents, 44 postmasters and 58 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 104 assistant and deputy assistant engineers, most of whom are in executive charge of engineering sub-divisions or in comparable posts. The remaining 95 officers are holding higher charges controlling the business of the department.

Compassionate Gratuities.- The Department makes grants to the dependants of employees on comparatively small salaries, who die in active service and leave their dependants in indigent circumstances. The object is to enable the dependants to tide over the immediate financial difficulties following the death of the wage earners. During the year a total sum of Rs.53,402 was granted in 264 cases.

Compensation under Workmen's Compensation Act.- Certain classes of employees of the Department are covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act in respect of death or injuries received while performing their duties. During 1939-40, a total sum of Rs.4,283-7-0 was paid as compensation in 18 cases. Extraordinary family pensions were also granted in 21 cases amounting in all to Rs.219-5-0 per month to the dependants of employees who lost their lives in the discharge of their duties.

Unions and Associations.- On 31-3-1940 the number of All-India organisations of postal employees recognised by Government was 11. The number of whole-time permanent employees in the Department is about 93,000 and the number of part-time employees who are eligible for membership of the recognised Unions and Associations is 21,900. The

membership reported by the various Unions or Associations is 38,435.

Co-operative Credit Societies. - At the end of the year there were 58 co-operative Credit Societies working for the benefit of the staff with a membership of 68,421, as compared with 66,043 in the previous year. The subscribed capital was Rs.2,957,000 and deposits by members totalled Rs.2,416,000. Loans amounting to about Rs.7,746,000 were advanced to 26,138 members, as compared with Rs.7,990,000 advanced to 27,298 members during the previous year.

Volume of Postal Business. - Excluding air routes, there existed at the end of the year over 158,000 miles of routes over which mails were carried by different agencies as compared with over 157,000 during the previous year. The increase occurred both in the mileage covered by runners and boats and by motor lines by about 500 and 900 miles respectively, 55 new mail motor lines having been introduced during the year. The following figures give some idea of the volume of business transacted by the Department during the year:-

Approximately.

Total estimated number of postal articles handled	1,255 millions
Number of registered articles posted	39.3 millions
Number of insured articles posted	2.5 millions
Value of insured articles posted	Rs. 773 millions
Number of money orders issued	42 millions
Value of money orders issued	Rs. 758 millions
Amount collected from the value-payable post	Rs. 149 millions

(Summarised from the Report on the work of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, 1939-40. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price annas 8 or 9d. pp.80.) ✓

Conditions of Service of Motor Drivers:

Madras Government appoints Arbitrator to settle dispute.

The Madras Motor Drivers' Association representing drivers and conductors employed in some of the motor bus companies in Madras city and their employers represented by the Madras City Suburban Bus Companies Association having applied for the nomination of an arbitrator to settle outstanding points in certain disputes between them, the Government of Madras has appointed Mr. V. Ramakrishna, I.C.S., Commissioner of Labour, as arbitrator and referred to him for decision, and final award the following points:-

Fixation of wages, confirmation of the existing staff, grant of additional remuneration to drivers and conductors working on buses run by means of producer gas, supply of uniform to workers, grant of bonus or provident fund to workers, grant of dearness allowance and grant of sick leave and casual leave.

(The Indian Express, 23-1-1941.)

Establishment of Provincial Industrial Research Committee:Decision of Government of Bombay. ✓

The Government of Bombay has recently appointed a Provincial Industrial Research Committee under the Chairmanship of the Adviser to the Governor of Bombay in charge of Industries, for a period of two years in the first instance. Its functions will be to advise the Government in regard to the co-ordination of (1) industrial research work in the Province; (2) new items of industrial research work and the laboratories and agencies in the Province to which they may be allotted; and (3) applications for research grants and the amount of financial assistance for the conduct of industrial research to be granted in each case.

The Chairman will have power to coopt, from time to time such scientists, industrialists, Government experts or other private gentlemen as he may consider necessary, to help in the examination of particular problems which may come before the Committee. The Committee is required to hold its meetings in Bombay not less than once in three months.

(Communiqué No. P-19 dated 17-1-1941¹
issued by the Director of Information,
Bombay.) ✓.

Protection of Indian Hand-Loom Industry:
Fact-Finding Committee Appointed. ✓ +

The problem of safeguarding the position of the handloom industry and, at the same time, reconciling the conflicting interests of the handloom and the mill industries has been under the consideration of the Government of India for the last few years, and has been raised more than once ^{at} ~~in~~ the Industries Conferences. At the recent Handloom Conference held at New Delhi, on the 6th and 7th December 1940, the representatives of certain Provincial Governments, the mill and the handloom industries, who attended the Conference were unanimous in recommending that a fact-finding committee (handloom and mills) should be constituted immediately to investigate certain facts relating to the handloom and mill industries (vide pages 11 to 12 of our December 1940 report). This recommendation was placed before the Twelfth Industries Conference held at Lucknow on the 16th and 17th December 1940 which fully endorsed it (~~in~~ vide pages 10 to 11 of our December 1940 report). It has accordingly been decided to constitute a fact-finding Committee, with effect from 15-1-1941, with Dr. P.J. Thomas as the Chairman and Mr. B.P. Adarkar as Secretary.

Terms of Reference.- The terms of reference of the Committee are as follow: (1) To make a survey, with the assistance of Provincial and State Governments, of the extent of the handloom industry in each province and of the kinds of handloom products produced and the number of persons engaged in the industry; (2) to make a report on the marketing organisations both for the purchase of yarn by the handloom weavers and for the sale of the handloom products; (3) to compare the nature of the products of the ~~and~~ handloom industry in each area surveyed with the corresponding mill products and to find the nature of the competition between the two; (4) to investigate the kind of yarn used in the handloom industry and types of production for which different kinds of yarn are used; and (5) in particular to investigate how far an enactment prohibiting the mills from using yarns of low counts would help the handloom industry in maintaining its production.

(Resolution No. 110-Ind. (16)/40 dated 25-1-1941; The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 25-1-1941, pages 128 to 129.),

Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay.- The views of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, on the subject of safeguarding the handloom industry and reconciling the conflicting ~~claims of the handloom and mill industries~~, expressed in its reply to a communication addressed to it in October 1940 by the Department of Commerce, Government of India, are summarised below:-

The suggestions made to the Government of India for safeguarding the handloom industry were: (1) Imposition of an excise duty on mill-made cloth. (2) Imposition of a terminal tax on mill products. (3) Restriction of mill output by prohibiting mills from producing certain classes of cloth. (4) Imposition of cess on mill products. (5) Reduction of duty on ~~yarn~~ yarn. (6) Fixation of quota and of particular counts between the handloom industry and the mill industry. After a careful examination of the issues involved, the Committee of the Millowners' Association was of the opinion that it would be inappropriate and injudicious to discuss these suggestions unless and until it had been definitely ~~proven~~ proved, firstly, that the Indian handloom industry was in a depressed condition, and, secondly, that it was due to competition from the Indian cotton mill industry. The Indian cotton mill industry is a protected industry, its case for protection having been proved before competent tribunals, and the Committee strongly felt that no action, which was likely to reduce the margin of protection accorded to it by the legislature, should be taken until the necessity of taking such action from the point of view of the handloom industry had been established beyond doubt before a competent tribunal.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during November 1940.) ✓

Trade of India in 1939-40.* ✓

General World Conditions.- The Review of the trade of India for 1939-40 opens with a general review of the repercussions of the war on European economic conditions. It is pointed out that the recession which started in the autumn of 1937 had spent itself by the end of 1938 and in the early part of 1939 business activity in many countries was in a moderately rising phase, and that increase in armament activity was the principal factor which influenced business conditions during this period. Economic conditions in many countries after the outbreak of war were largely shaped by the measures taken by Governments to mobilise national resources for purposes of war or defence, by the disorganisation of international trade and shipping which created severe shortages of certain commodities and surpluses of others and the general dislocation of the financial system of the world. In belligerent countries, the State had to direct its energies towards securing the diversion of a sufficient amount of productive resources from their normal channels to those in which they were to be used for purposes essential for the prosecution of the war. Secondly, the State had to induce the maximum effort at saving on the part of the individual ~~in~~ so that, on the one hand, the needs of private consumption might be kept within what was currently available to satisfy those needs and, on the other hand, the money thus released from private consumption might be made available to the State either for providing for the consumption ~~of~~ of the fighting forces or for the production of non-consumable goods required for the war, ~~without resorting to inflation.~~ Control of trade, industry, prices and exchanges and a determination to resist inflation were the main features of British and French economic policy. The other problem of a war economy, namely, restriction of private consumption, was also tackled along new lines. Rationing was of course an obvious method of keeping down consumption, but a general check on private consumption was provided by increased taxation and a vigorous campaign for saving.

Repercussion on Industry.- In spite of the moderate increase in economic activity which took place in many countries during the first eight months of 1939, the general industrial outlook was not viewed with confidence, as is seen from the fact that prices of industrial shares showed a declining trend during this period. Even after the outbreak of war when industrial activity was raised to a high pitch and prices of almost all commodities assumed a sharp upward movement, the response of the industrial share market continued to be of a feeble and halting character in many countries. In the United Kingdom, U.S.A., Belgium, the Netherlands, and Canada, for instance, there was a remarkable decline in the value of industrial shares, but India and Japan, it is pointed out, were exceptions to this wide-spread recession in share values. The index for India (1927-28 = 100) for March 1940 was 122 as compared with 101 in March 1939 and that for Japan (1929 = 100) was 152 in January 1940 as against 123 in January 1939.

Indian Agricultural Conditions.- Commodity prices in India showed a slight recovery in the first five months of 1939-40, but with the exception of a few commodities like jute, sugar and tea, the prices

* Statistical Research Branch, India. Review of the Trade of India in 1939-40. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price Rs.3-2-0 or 5s. pp. ix + 314.

of agricultural produce in general still remained on a low level up to August 1939. The situation, however, was radically altered by the outbreak of war in September 1939 and there was a sudden rise in prices accompanied by a spate of speculative activity in commodity markets. By the latter half of January 1940, prices began to come down, as natural tendencies to reaction asserted themselves, aggravated by special circumstances including the announcement regarding the Excess Profits Tax, so that speculators began to unload their holdings, and during the last quarter of 1939-40, the prices of many agricultural commodities assumed a sharp downward trend, though the levels prevailing at the end of the year were still substantially higher than those before the outbreak of war.

Industrial Conditions. - "The war of nerves" which was proceeding in Europe for several months before the actual outbreak of hostilities in September 1939 was the main depressing influence on economic conditions during the first five months of the year under review. A few encouraging signs were noticeable in certain parts of the industrial system, such as the rise in the prices of tea and jute, the increased activity in the iron and steel industry, and the satisfactory trend of the export trade. But the effect of these was largely offset by the prevailing political uncertainty which stifled all industrial initiative and enterprise. With the outbreak of war, however, there was an almost instantaneous change in the situation, and a feeling of extreme optimism took the place of the earlier pessimistic mood. There ~~was~~ was a wave of speculative activity in all markets and prices rose precipitously. The boom reached its peak in December 1939, after which, however, a reaction set in. On the whole, however, the outlook for Indian industries remained distinctly more hopeful at the end of the year than what it was before the outbreak of war.

Industrial Profits. - One of the most sensitive barometers of industrial conditions is to be found in the movements of share values. A marked upward or downward movement in share prices over a period nearly always indicates an improvement or deterioration in business conditions. The experience of 1939 amply illustrates how a rising trend of share prices inspired by a genuine improvement in the industrial situation can develop into an unhealthy boom due to blind speculation. Prices of industrial securities in India showed a temporary recovery after the Munich Pact of September 1938, but from the following December, prices began to fall again and continued generally on a low level till the outbreak of war. In April and August 1939, prices of ordinary shares slumped heavily owing to the adverse political situation. From September, however, a marked improvement set in which later developed into a boom taking the index to 131 in December 1939, the highest level reached since March 1937. Thus, within the first four months of war, prices of industrial shares advanced by more than 31 per cent. A hectic rise of this nature was bound to be short-lived. In January 1940, the Excess Profits Tax was announced and the index number registered a sharp drop to 121, but it recovered to 122 in February and remained steady at that level in March. The net appreciation of share values at the end of 1939-40 as compared with the preceding year was 22 per cent.

Industrial Prices. - Prices of industrial products were generally on a higher level in the year under review than in the preceding year. With the adoption of a concerted plan for restriction of output by the jute mills in January 1939, the ~~position~~ position of the industry greatly improved. After the outbreak of war, there was a hectic rise in the prices of jute manufactures, prices reaching their record levels for many years. Prices of iron and steel also recorded a substantial

advance during the year owing to the shortage of steel in the world markets as compared with the heavy demand from the armament industries in all countries. Among other industrial products the prices of which rose even before the outbreak of war, tea and sugar deserve special mention. The statistical position of tea had greatly improved as a result of the reduction in the export quota at a time when the world demand for tea was increasing. Prices of sugar showed a pronounced upward tendency in April and May 1939, which was mainly due to the short crop of the season, and though the increased imports from Java checked this tendency in the next three months, it was resumed after the outbreak of war and was further accentuated owing to the higher basic prices fixed by the Sugar Syndicate. On the other hand, the position of the cotton textile and coal industries was not satisfactory during the five months preceding the outbreak of war. The cotton mill industry was suffering from over-production and consequently the prices of cotton manufactures declined steadily till August 1939. The improvement which came about after the outbreak of war was also not fully maintained and towards the end of the year prices fell again, with the result that the average level of prices for 1939-40 showed only a small increase over that for 1938-39.

Industrial Production : Stimulus of War Needs.- Industrial production in India was generally maintained at a much higher level during the year under review than in the preceding year. Under the stimulus of high prices, production was expanded in most industries after the outbreak of war. The output of jute manufactures increased by 5 per cent. in 1939-40 as compared with 1938-39. The iron and steel industry was fully booked with orders resulting in a considerable increase in its output, the production of finished steel rising to 804,000 tons which was 11 per cent. higher than in the preceding year. Production of paper attained a new record, amounting to 1,416,000 tons which exceeded the previous year's figure by 232,000 tons. Coal raisings increased to 25,056,000 tons, a level which was not reached during the past ten years. As a result of the larger crop of sugarcane, more than 13,70,000 tons of sugar of all kinds are likely to be produced in India during the 1939-40 season as compared with only 7,67,000 tons produced in the preceding season. The only important exception to this general trend towards expansion of output was cotton manufactures the production of which showed a decrease during the year. Owing to the record production of 1938-39, the industry was burdened with heavy stocks and had, therefore, no incentive to maintain its output at the expanded rate of the previous year.

Apart from the major industries mentioned above for which production statistics are available, a large number of other industries received a powerful impetus as a result of the conditions created by the war. The woollen mill and tanning industries are two important examples. Several articles which were never produced in India could now be produced either because their supply from abroad had completely ceased or because their prices had risen high enough to make their production economical. The work of the Supply Department of the Government of India is of great interest in this connection. Its chief function is to procure supplies necessary for the prosecution of the war which include supplies essential for firms engaged on war contracts, for the maintenance of the utility services and for concerns of national importance. Under the Department's stimulus, new markets have been developed and some of the existing markets expanded for both new and old products, the output of both new and old products has been increased to meet war demands and new sources of supply have been found for certain essential raw materials.

To solve the technical difficulties connected with industrial development, the Government of India has set up a Board of Scientific and Industrial Research to advise Government on proposals for instituting specific researches, to help specific institutions in scientific study of problems affecting particular industries and to make proposals for the establishment of research studentships, scholarships and fellowships. The Government has also announced that it was prepared to consider the question of assuring specified industries, the starting of which was considered essential under conditions created by the war, of such measure of protection against unfair competition from outside India after the war as might be necessary to enable them to continue their existence.

Industrial Disputes.- The total number of strikes during 1939 was 406, the highest figure on record for many years. The number of men involved was also higher than in the preceding year, being 409,000 as compared with 401,000 in 1938. The number of working days lost was, however, considerably less, being 4,993,000 as compared with 9,199,000 in 1938. The two industries to suffer most from strikes were cotton and jute. They accounted for 43.5 per cent. of the strikes, 68.8 per cent. of the workers involved and 49.2 per cent. of the loss of working days. In 234 disputes, the chief demand related to wages or bonuses. The rise in the cost of living after the outbreak of war aggravated the labour unrest, and was responsible for a widespread agitation for dearness allowance. Towards the end of the year, the cotton mill industry in Bombay was involved in a general strike which continued from the 4th March to the 13th April, 1940. On the whole, the labour situation in India showed a distinct deterioration during the year under review.

Money Market.- The Money market in India evinced a firm tone in the beginning of April 1939, when owing to the seasonal demand for money the inter-bank call-rate was quoted at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Thereafter with the advent of the slack season the rate gradually receded to 2 per cent. in May. Monetary conditions were fairly easy in the next three months during which the market was well supplied with funds. The war scare in September which caused large current account withdrawals from banks accentuated the tendency, but the stringency was soon relieved when the market received large sums of money by way of proceeds of sales of sterling and gold to the Reserve Bank. Call money was available at $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. even in September and the rate improved to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in October, $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in December and 2 per cent. in January 1940.

Rupee-Sterling Exchange.- India's exchange position improved considerably during the year under review. A growing favourable balance of trade and consequent accumulation of sterling resources in the hands of the Reserve Bank were the principal features of the exchange situation during 1939-40. Immediately after the outbreak of war, exchange control was introduced. The Central Government promulgated the Defence of India Ordinance, 1939, part XIV of which contained Financial Provisions, providing, inter alia, for (i) restrictions on purchase of foreign exchange, (ii) acquisition by the Central Government of foreign exchange, (iii) restrictions on purchases and export of securities. On the 14th September, the Reserve Bank issued an explanatory memorandum to the public giving the general lines of the exchange control instituted in India. All foreign exchange transactions were required to be put through authorised dealers who were to carry out the Reserve Bank's directions regarding the purchase and sale of foreign exchange. No

restrictions were placed on the purchase and sale of Empire currencies with the exception of Canadian, Newfoundland and Hongkong dollars, while the purchase and sale of non-Empire currencies was restricted to genuine trade purposes travelling expenses and small personal remittances. The total balance of trade in merchandise of India and Burma together in the year under review amounted to Rs.770.6 million in favour of the two countries as compared with Rs.432.1 million in 1938-39. The increase in the balance of trade of India and Burma together was largely responsible for the favourable exchange position during the year under review.

Trading Conditions.- India's foreign trade position showed a distinct improvement during the year under review, as judged by the total value of trade and the balance of trade. The total value of the foreign trade in private merchandise in 1939-40 amounted to Rs.3,700 million as compared with ~~Rs.3,220~~ Rs.3,220 million in the preceding year and Rs.3,630 million in 1937-38. Thus, the total trade of India was the largest in the last three years. The export trade received a strong impetus owing to the heavy demand created by the war for various kinds of raw materials and foodstuffs, though the shortage of shipping prevented the country from reaping the full benefit of the situation. The increased off-take of Indian goods by the Allied and Empire countries more than made up the loss due to the cessation of trade with the enemy countries. The total value of India's exports to all countries including Burma in the year under review amounted to Rs.2,030 million as compared with Rs.1,630 million in the preceding year and ~~Rxrx1,520 million in 1937-38~~ Rs. 1,810 million in 1937-38. ~~The value of imports also increased,~~ but not to the same extent as that of exports. It amounted to Rs.1,650 million as against Rs.1,520 million in 1938-39 and Rs.1,740 million in 1937-38. The increased pressure on productive capacity in the Western countries, the cessation of trade with the enemy and the shipping difficulties necessarily caused a dislocation of the import trade. The increase in the value of imports is, therefore, remarkable, though it is mainly due to the rise in prices. In respect of the balance of trade, the position was distinctly satisfactory. During the preceding two years, 1937-38 and 1938-39, the balance of trade in merchandise had been reduced to Rs.160 million and Rs.170 million respectively. During the year under review, it increased to Rs.480 million. Thus, in spite of the abnormal conditions created by the war, India was able to enjoy more satisfactory trading conditions during the year under review than in the preceding two years.

Balance of Trade.- The merchandise balance of trade in favour of India in the year under review increased to 483.3 million as compared with Rs.174.2 million in the preceding year and Rs.158.8 million in 1937-38. During the year under review, India's net exports of gold amounted Rs.346.7 million as against Rs.130.6 million in the preceding year and Rs.163.4 million in 1937-38. Though imports of silver also increased, the balance of transactions in treasure still remained high at Rs.302.7 million as against Rs.118.9 million in 1938-39 and Rs.143.6 million in 1937-38. If these transactions in treasure are added to the merchandise transactions, the total visible balance of trade in favour of India amounts to Rs.786 million in 1939-40 as compared with Rs.293.1 million and Rs.302.4 million in 1938-39 and 1937-38 respectively. India's balance of trade position was thus distinctly better during the year under review than in the preceding two years. It may be added that the visible balance of trade of India in 1939-40 was the highest in the last four years.

Quantum of Trade of India.- India's exports and imports were higher in 1939-40 not merely in value but also in volume. The index relating to the quantum of exports was 105.9 in 1939-40 as compared with 102.2 in 1938-39. Similarly, the index showing the quantum of imports was 90.5 in 1939-40 as against 88.7 in 1938-39.

Trade Restrictions.- Soon after the declaration of war, the Central Government imposed restrictions on the export trade in a large variety of articles. Trading with the enemy was ~~tax~~ already an offence under the Defence of India Act, 1939, but in addition steps had to be taken to see that supplies did not reach the enemy by indirect channels. Steps had also to be taken to conserve supplies of all essential articles, whether for the requirements of this country or for those of the Allied countries. With these objects in view, an elaborate system of export restrictions was devised. Exports of certain articles were completely prohibited, and those of certain others were permitted only under licence. Export licences were issued for some articles by the Department of Supply and for others by the Export Trade Controller. In cases where the ruling considerations were those relating to economic welfare rather than to supply problems, it was provided that no licences were required if the articles were consigned to or destined for any part of the British Empire including Mandated Territories. Among the articles the exports of which were restricted mainly for conservation of supplies, raw wool and mica deserve special mention. ✓

Indian Textile Export Drive:

Indian Central Cotton Committee recommends setting up of Central Export Organisation. ✓

Following the loss of continental markets for Indian cotton, the Indian Central Cotton Committee appointed some time back a "Wider Markets" Sub-Committee to ~~investigate and~~ make recommendations for the purpose of setting up an organisation for the expansion of textile exports. In this connection the Sub-Committee had invited the opinion of the various Chambers of Commerce and other commercial bodies and submitted its report to the Indian Central Cotton Committee, which, it is understood, has recently adopted a resolution on the subject to be forwarded to the Government of India. The resolution contains the following recommendations:-

~~(1) directions to the Department of Supply and the Indian Stores~~

The Government of India, in cooperation with the manufacturing and trading interests, should take effective measures to expand the consumption of cotton goods, and cotton and woollen mixtures in this country and their export overseas. These should include inter alia:-

(1) directions to the Department of Supply and the Indian Stores Department that, except in such cases where it is absolutely essential,

to ask for cloth requiring the use of long staple imported cotton, specifications for their requirements should be so framed or altered as to encourage the use of Indian cotton; (2) representations to all Colonial Empire Governments to ensure that India's cotton goods are admitted to those countries on the same terms and conditions as are accorded to British cotton goods; (3) the adoption of suitable measures for restricting the import of cotton goods and artificial silk yarn and piecegoods into this country; (4) the establishment of a central export organisation with suitable arrangements for the ~~the~~ inspection of goods before export and the deputation of a trade delegation to other countries for the purpose of carrying out propaganda and exploring the possibilities of introducing Indian cotton manufactures.

(Industrial Bulletin issued by the
Employers' Federation of India,
No. 310 dated 27-1-1941.)✓

National Planning Committee:

Next Meeting to be held in April 1941.

According to a statement by Prof. K.T. Shah, Hony. General Secretary, National Planning Committee, in ~~in~~ consultation with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President of the Committee, who is now in the Dehra Dun jail, the Chairman's imprisonment is not to hold up the work of the Committee, and the meeting of the Committee which was to have been held on 20-12-1940, is now to be held during the Easter Holidays, 1941. It is pointed out that of the reports so far submitted 14 are final, 12 of these have been considered by the Committee; two of them still await to be considered and will be taken up at the next meeting of the Committee. Of the rest, 10 are interim reports which are to be completed by the time of the next meeting of the Committee.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-1-1941)..

State Control of Coal Industry Urged:
Report of Bihar Coal Reorganisation Committee.

Control and management of the coal industry by the State on the lines of the Court of Wards and the appointment of a Joint Coal Commission consisting of representatives of the Governments of Bengal, Bihar and the Central Provinces to supervise the whole operation of the industry are understood to be some of the main recommendations of the Coal Reorganisation Committee appointed by the Congress Ministry in Bihar about two years ago to suggest ways and means for safeguarding the coal industry in the province. As the reserve of coal which can be used for metallurgical purposes is being rapidly exhausted, the Committee is also understood to have pointed out to the Government the necessity of taking immediate action on some of its recommendations.

The Committee, during the period of its enquiry, examined the representatives of mining interests, and mining engineers to the Government of India and Bengal and the Indian Railways. The report is expected to be submitted to the Government very shortly. (The A.B. Patrika, 6-1-41)

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various
Centres in India for October 1940. ✓

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during October 1940 as compared with the preceding month :-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in October 1940 rose by 1 point to 113. The average for 1939 was 106 as compared with 105 for 1938.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during October 1940 remained stationary at 79. The average for 1939 was 73 as against 71 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during October 1940 remained stationary at 75. The average for 1939 was 74 as compared with 72 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in October 1940 rose by 4 points to 75. The average for 1939 was 63 as against 61 for 1938.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in October 1940 remained stationary at 72. The average for 1939 was 59 as against 57 for 1938.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during October 1940 rose by 1 point to 109. The average for 1939 was 100.

(Extracted from the Monthly Survey of
Business Conditions in India for
October 1940.) ✓

Decisions of International Sugar Council, London, 6-1-41:
protest by Indian sugar interests about Export Restrictions.

The International Sugar Council which met in London on 6-1-1941, according to a Reuter message dated 15-1-1941, decided unanimously to continue the existing International Sugar Agreement, which inter alia places certain restrictions on export of Indian sugar. The decision has created considerable dissatisfaction among Indian sugar interests, and the following extracts from a leader of the Hindu dated 17-1-1941 may be taken as reflecting Indian opinion on the subject:-

"It is notorious that the existing quotas for the various countries which the Council accepted as valid for another period, are exceedingly unfair to India. The quota for India was fixed at a time when the industry in India was in its infancy and in a half-productive stage. It is high time it was revised in India's favour. India to-day is capable of meeting not only all her internal requirements, but also part of the world demand. Yet she cannot, thanks to the International Sugar Agreement to which the Government of India is a party, export by sea her output to any country other than Burma till May 1942. The Indian sugar interests have, for thoroughly valid reasons - one of which is the outbreak of the war resulting in the repudiation of the Agreement by powerful interests - agitated for the securing for India release from the obligations which the Agreement unfairly imposes on her, but the Government of India have not succeeded in obtaining this, if indeed they made any serious effort."

(The Hindu, 17-1-1941).+

Need for Appointment of Medical Referees in Workmen's Compensation Cases: Bengal Government Contemplates Legislation. ✓

Reference was made at pages 10 to 11 of our November 1939 report to a suggestion made to the Bengal Government by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for amending the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, so as to provide for the appointment of medical referees. It is now understood that the Bengal Government has decided to introduce legislation in the local Legislature at an early date to amend the Act in this respect in its application to Bengal.

(Abstract of Proceedings for of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for October, November and December 1940.) ✓

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in U.P. during 1939.* ✓

Statistics of Workers and Accidents during 1939. - The number of factories increased from 505 to 525 and the average daily number of workers employed in the registered factories showed corresponding increase from 155,985 in 1938 to 159,739 in the year under report; 94.8 per cent. of this force was adult male. The total number of accidents during the year under report was 2,632 against 2,380 of last year. Of these ~~and~~ accidents 37 were fatal, 447 serious and 2,148 minor. Practically all the accidents recorded as serious were due to the fact that the injured persons had to remain off duty due to accidents for more than 20 days. The study of figures over the last three years, i.e. 1937, 1938 and 1939 shows that not only the number of accidents has been continuously on the upgrade, but also that the incidence of accidents per 100 workers had also been going up. In 1937 the incidence was 1.39, in 1938, 1.53, and in 1939, the year under report, 1.65. There are reasons to believe that this increase in the number of recorded accidents is partly due to vigilance and care being exercised by the supervisory staff and consequently there being better reporting on the part of the mill authorities. The fact, however, remains that the majority of these accidents were in sugar factories.

Compensation Statistics. - During 1939, Rs.62,080 was awarded as compensation in respect of 16 cases, Rs.28,370 in respect of 24 cases of permanent disablement and Rs.11,656 in respect of 1,226 cases of temporary disablement. No minors were involved in accidents in respect of which compensation was paid.

General. - The year opened with a pending list of 52 cases. 127 cases were instituted during the year as against 106 in the previous year.

* 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 1939. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P., India. 1940. Price 2 annas. pp.11.

43 cases were received for disposal from other Commissioners and 10 were transferred. There were thus 212 cases for disposal out of which 152 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 60.

The majority of those awarded compensation under the Act drew monthly wages not over Rs.21. Out of 99 fatal accidents, 71 victims came from this class of wage earners; of 31 permanent disablement, against 19 were of this class. Similarly, 5 out of 9 temporary disablement cases belong to this wage class. Even making allowance for the fact that the larger number of workers belong to this wage-earning group, ~~the fact that the larger number of workers belong to this wage-earning group~~, the fact remains that there are more accidents in this class of workers than there are in others. The main explanation for this is that no particular attention is paid to train the labour force in safety-first-methods and in the case of sugar factories from which the majority of accidents come, the labour force is specially migratory and still less educated in safety-methods. It is remarked that, given more attention on the part of the factories for the organisation of safety-first committees in mills and with other similar attempts made to educate the workers in safety-first-methods, perhaps the incidence of accidents could be decreased with corresponding saving to the factories in compensation money. The Labour Welfare ~~Committee~~ of the Department will take up this work in the future, but real and satisfactory progress can be made ^{only} with the co-operation of the mill organisations. Perhaps it will be to the advantage of the factories if they could get themselves insured for the purposes of this Act as third party insurance is done in the case of motor vehicles. ✓

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab in 1939.* ✓

According to the annual report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab during 1939, there were 36 fatal accidents (23 in factories, 6 in mines, 2 in concerns generating, transforming or supplying electrical energy, 3 in concerns producing natural petroleum and natural gas and 2 in establishments employing workmen for extinguishing fires), against 29 in 1938. The number of cases of permanent and temporary ~~ma~~ disablements were 95 and 1,068 respectively against 50 and 1,126 in the previous year.

Rs.29,540 was paid in respect of 36 fatal accidents, Rs.29,652-3-11 in respect of 95 cases of permanent disablement and Rs.13,236-2-5 in respect of 1,068 cases of temporary disablement. 1 minor each was involved in cases of permanent and temporary disablement in respect of which Rs.60 and Rs.2-15-0 respectively were paid as compensation. There were no cases of occupational diseases in respect of which compensation was paid.

* Annual Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab for the year 1939. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1940. Price Rs.1-10-0. pp.3 + xiii.

Employees Benefit Fund:

Profit-sharing Scheme instituted by Delhi Cloth and General Mills, Co., Ltd.

Below are given details of the Employees Benefit Fund instituted by the management of the Delhi Cloth and General Mills Co., Ltd., Delhi, at the Directors' meeting held on 7-12-1940:-

Sources of Income. - The sources of income of the Fund are:

- (a) percentage of the total dividend as sanctioned by the Directors from time to time, which, until changed, will be a sum of money equal to 15 per cent. of the total sum of money declared payable to shareholders as dividend at the rate of from 6 per cent. to 12 per cent., and thereafter at $15\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. if the dividend is 13 per cent., 16 per cent. if the dividend is 14 per cent., $16\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. if the dividend is 15 per cent., 17 per cent., if the dividend is 16 per cent., $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. if the dividend is 17 per cent., 18 per cent. if the dividend is 18 per cent. (b) The interest accruing on the Fund invested. (c) The money left by members, who have either been dismissed or left service voluntarily before they are entitled to the payment of gratuity. (d) Any gift made by the Company.

Disbursement Heads. - The disbursement of the fund will generally be under the following heads: (1) Expenditure incurred in the welfare activities of the Company at its various branches. (2) Company's contribution to the workmen's provident fund. (3) Gratuities to be awarded in lump sums or annuities as follows: (a) A gratuity of about Rs.1,500/- will be awarded to every person entitled to the benefits of the fund and who has completed 20 years continuous service or more under the Company, though it be partly prior to the date of starting this scheme. (b) A gratuity equal to at least one month's wages for every completed year of continuous service under the Company, in case of retirement due to sickness or permanent disability. (c) In case of death, the Board of Trustees, taking into consideration dependants like a mother and/or wife and/or minor children, will fix such pensions and for such periods as they think proper. (4) The Fund shall be equally divided annually amongst all the employees with more than one year's continuous service under the Company, after deducting the expenditure under clauses 1, 2 and 3 above. The quota of each member shall be entered in his Employees Old Age Gratuity Fund Pass Book every year.

Administration. - The Fund is to be administered by a Board of seven trustees, of whom four shall be the elected representatives of the workmen, and three shall be nominated by the Company. The Board shall appoint an Honorary Secretary, who shall ordinarily be one of the Welfare Officers of the Company.

General. - The Board of Directors has powers to alter or stop the scheme at any time they think fit, but in no case will the money already with the Trust revert back to the Company. As the Fund is purely ~~gratuitous~~ gratuitous, the employees will have no claim over it under the Payment of Wages Act. In order that the employees may enjoy the full benefits of the Fund by continuity of service for at least 20 years, the Company has agreed ~~that~~ to constitute an Appellate Board to deal with cases where an employee feels that he has been unjustly discharged or dismissed. The Board shall consist of a nominee each of the Officer of the Department concerned and of the workmen concerned, and a nominee of the Company who will preside over its meetings. Such appeals are

to be decided within 48 hours of their being filed. Workmen include all employees of the Company such as operatives, maistries, clerks, etc., but not the officers. It is estimated that, under the scheme, every worker retiring at mature age or becoming incapacitated will normally get a fairly large sum over and above his wages, compensation (if any) under the Workmen Compensation Act, and Provident Fund.

(Summarised from a copy of the Constitution of the Board of Trustees of the Employees Benefit Fund of the Delhi Cloth and General Mills Co., Ltd., Delhi, forwarded to the Office by the Company.) ✓

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Orissa during
1939.* ✓

The daily average number of persons coming under the Workmen's Compensation Act employed in Orissa in 1939 is reported to have been 4,681 adults and 5 minors against 4,170 adults and 13 minors in the previous year. During the year under report there were 3 deaths, 4 cases of permanent and 2 cases of temporary disablement while in the previous year there was one case under each of the three classes of accidents. The amounts of compensation paid were Rs.1,500, Rs.1,218-11-0 and Rs.4-8-0 respectively for the three classes of accidents while the corresponding figures in 1938 were ~~Rs.900~~ Rs.900, Rs.504 and Rs.9-5-6.

There was no case of occupational diseases in the year under report. ✓

Extension of Provident Fund Benefits:
New Scheme inaugurated by Nizam's State Railway. +

According to a communiqué issued by the General Manager, the Nizam's State Railway, the State Railway Board and His Exalted Highness's Government have agreed to his proposal for extending the provident fund benefits to all railway employees who have more than sixteen years' service and all permanent employees of three years' service who are drawing not less than Rs.15. A new provident fund with a minimum rate of interest of three and a half per cent. guaranteed by the Government is being inaugurated for this purpose, membership being optional. This extension of the provident fund scheme will operate as from February 1, 1941.

(The Hindu, 24-1-1941). +

* No. 98-Com, dated 8-1-1941, Government of Orissa: Law, Commerce and Labour Department:- Statistical returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1939. pp.4.

Extension of Provident Benefits in State-Managed
Railways: Government's Announcement.

The Government of India has recently issued a Communiqué on the extension of provident fund benefits to all workers on State-managed railways with over 16 years service; the communiqué is reproduced below:

The Government of India has had under consideration for some time the question of extending the provident fund benefits to certain employees on State-managed railways who have not so far been allowed to subscribe. These employees are mostly on low rates of pay and up to date the only provision which has been made in the conditions of service to meet their needs on superannuation has been a gratuity consisting of a certain number of months' pay based on the length of their service. It has therefore been decided that all workers, irrespective of pay or status, who have more than 16 years' service, should now be allowed at their option to take advantage of the provident fund scheme which has already been in operation with regard to more highly paid employees for many years.

In addition to these new entrants to the fund, the Government has also decided that all employees drawing over Rs.30 a month, of whatever status, who have not been subscribing in the past, will now be allowed to subscribe to the provident fund. This improvement in the terms of their service affords a large body of lower paid railway servants an opportunity of making a more adequate provision for their retirement than has been possible in the past.

(The Statesman, 12-1-1941.).

Indians in Malaya, 1939;*Report of the Agent of the Government of India.* ✓

Indian Population^m Malaya.- According to the annual report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for 1939, the estimated Indian population on 31-12-1939 was 744,908, being 13.8 per cent. of the population of Malaya.

Immigration.- 287 persons were assisted to emigrate to Malaya under the Indian Emigration Act. 23,674 persons came over as deck passengers paying their own passages, of whom, 2,166 persons - or 9 per cent. only have been classified by the Labour Department of Malaya as labourers and the remaining number as traders and others. The total immigrants during 1939 were 23,961 of whom the labour immigrants were 2,453. It is not impossible that some labourers came under the classification of petty traders.

31,949 persons returned to India as deck passengers paying their own passages, of whom 12,106 persons or 38 per cent. were presumed to be labourers. 10,775 labourers were repatriated. Six repatriates died on the voyage to India.

Strength and Distribution of Indian Labour.- The presumed Indian labour population in Malaya at the end of 1939 including dependants was ~~595,928~~. This includes ~~418,770~~ (283,514 workers and 135,256 dependants), employed on estates, mines, factories, Government and Public Departments. ~~Though Indians predominate on the estates in Malaya; nearly three-tenths of the total labour population working on the estates is made up of workers of other races. On the other hand, 199,547 Indians, representing 95.65 per cent. of their total number on the estates, were employed on plantations owned by Europeans.~~ Of a total labour force of 242,451 of all nationalities employed on the European-owned estates, 199,547 or 82.3 per cent. were Indians.

Sex-Ratio.- The sex-ratio for the Indian population as a whole in the F.M.S. is low and in this respect the Indians compare unfavourably with the immigrant Chinese and the indigenous Malay; the ratio comes to 195 males per 100 females. The sex-ratio among the labourers employed outside the estates is low, the gross ratio being 227 females to 1,000 males. The sex-ratio among the labourers employed on the estates is more satisfactory by comparison, the gross ratio being 670 females to 1,000 males.

Economic Conditions.- The situation which Indian labour on the plantations had to face in 1938 arising out of the presence of a labour surplus on the estates, ~~and~~ under-employment, reduction in wages and low quotas ruling under the International schemes for controlling the output of rubber continued throughout the greater part of the year though the position improved after the outbreak of war in Europe. During the first half of the year the problem of regular employment for all the labour retained on the estates was attended with difficulties, though they were to a certain extent overcome by allowing the estates to carry increased stocks of rubber and by the absorption of some surplus labour in replanting and new planting ~~programme of works.~~

*Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya for the year 1939. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Re.1-4-0 or 2s. pp.37

Wages.- With effect from 1-5-1938, rates of wages for Indian labourers on estates were reduced from 50 cents for men and 40 cents for women to 45 and 35 cents respectively. The production quota then was 60 per cent. and the average price of rubber was 5.21/32d. per lb. With effect from 1-10-1939, the United Planting Association of Malaya recommended that the wages of South Indian workmen be 50 cents. a day for men and 40 cents for women. The reduction of the wages in 1938 and their subsequent restoration in 1939 were both brought into effect as a result of agreement among the employers of Indian estate labour. The statutory rates of wages in certain 'Key' areas have continued to be 40 and 32 cents since 1930.

War and Cost of Living.- After the outbreak of war, there was some increase in the cost of food-stuffs. Though the price of rice remained within fair and reasonable limits, the price of different food-stuffs and other necessities of life went up. Among special items, the passage rates to India were increased by 25 per cent. It is difficult to state the percentage increase over the pre-war level owing to lack of reliable estimates. They range from a conservative estimate of 15 per cent. to as high as 30-40 per cent.

With effect from November 1939, the Governments of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States sanctioned a cost of living allowance to daily and monthly paid labourers and workmen employed under the public authorities. The cost of living allowance does not bear a fixed percentage to emoluments but is a flat rate allowance paid on a monthly basis. It also automatically provides, with every ascertained variation in the cost of living budgets of 10 cents, for an increase or decrease being made by 10 cents, 15 cents and 20 cents respectively. The cost of living allowances are payable every month at the rates gazetted. When they were first gazetted the rates stood as follow:- (i) \$1.00 p.m. for those whose wages are not more than \$1.00 a day; (ii) \$1.50 p.m. for those whose wages are over \$1/- and not more than \$2/- a day; (iii) \$2.00 p.m. for those whose wages are \$2/- a day. The cost of living allowances were since revised.

At the outbreak of war the minimum wage paid to Indian unskilled labour employed in Government departments was 50 cents a day for men. Indian labourers and artisans employed by public authorities in Malaya have been receiving the cost of living allowances. Indian labour employed on the estates did not receive any cost of living allowance. On a few estates after strikes had occurred Indian labourers' wages were increased to 55 cents for men and 45 cents for women.

Medical Relief.- The number of hospitals ~~for the~~ further decreased from 211 in 1938 to 204 during the year under review; the number of group hospitals also decreased from 86 to 73, and that of residential medical practitioners in charge of hospitals from 27 in 1937 to 22 in 1938. (The figures relating to medical practitioners in 1939 are not available). The report points out that it was not possible to obtain any information regarding the reasons for the decrease.

Nutritional Survey.- A valuable report on 'Nutrition in the Colonial Empire' was issued by His Majesty's Government in July 1939. The report records the conclusions reached after a survey of information available in the Colonial Empire. On the subject of nutrition of paid labourers, the report states that there is abundant evidence that in some occupations where it is not customary to provide the employee and his family with food, the wages earned are not sufficient to provide

adequate nutrition. In such cases increased wages may even be justifiable as a purely economic proposition on the ground that they will lead to a more than proportionate increase in efficiency.

In a recent survey conducted on 37 estates in the F.M.S. and embracing nearly 3,600 children and adults - mostly Tamils - the authorities of the survey have stated that sub-nutrition of a serious degree was found among the young Tamils on the plantations. Individuals whose physical condition cannot but be designated as poor, were numerous. While making allowance for such contributory causes as Malaria and Helminthiasis, the authorities of the survey make it plain that the low vitality of the Indian labour population is mainly due to sub-nutrition.

Labour Legislation:

(1) Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Bills.- The Malayan Government published in June, 1939, the Trade Unions and Industrial Courts Bills for the registration and control of Trade Unions and for the establishment of machinery for the settlement of trade disputes. The Trade Unions Bill follows closely the provisions of the Ceylon Trade Unions Ordinance, 1935, but differs from the corresponding Indian and Ceylon enactments in two important particulars. The Malayan enactment provides for the compulsory registration of trade unions and renders all unregistered trade unions unlawful associations. Secondly, it imposes a strict control over the trade unions in the procedure relating to registration. The Industrial Courts Bill is based on the Imperial Industrial Courts Act, 1919, with suitable modifications to suit local conditions. It makes provision for the settlement of trade disputes through a standing Industrial Court and Courts of Enquiry.

(2) Workmen's Compensation Legislation.- The Workmen's Compensation enactments which are in force in the Straits Settlements, F.M.S. and the Unfederated Malay States of Johore, Kedah and Trengganu apply to workmen of all nationalities. During the year, the Government of Kelantan enacted a Workmen's Compensation Enactment. In the Malayan enactment, the definition of dependant is less favourable than in the Indian enactment which places a wife, a minor legitimate son, an unmarried legitimate daughter or a widowed mother in a special category, which ipso facto entitles them to compensation and requires no proof that they were actually dependent on the deceased workman at the time of his death; whereas the Malayan enactments require proof of actual dependence and the extent of dependence in such case.

(3) Holidays with Pay.- The F.M.S. Government sanctioned during the year 9 days' leave with pay in a calendar year to daily paid employees employed under public authorities. The question of the grant of a similar concession in the Straits Settlements was under consideration by the Government of the Colony. ✓

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC
SERVANTS.

Conditions of Service of Staffs of Private Colleges:
Committee of Inquiry appointed by Bombay University..

The Senate of the Bombay University has at its meeting held on 25-1-1941 decided to appoint a Committee to investigate the conditions of service, particularly the scales of salaries, of professors, lecturers and other teaching staff employed in private colleges in the province. The decision is the result of serious allegations recently made that the governing bodies of some of the private colleges were taking undue advantage of the educated unemployed and employing on low and absolutely inadequate salaries.

(The Indian Express, 27-1-1941). +

Living Conditions

34

Nutrition.

Bengal Nutrition Committee:

Bengal Government's effort to Co-ordinate Nutrition Research. *

In order to initiate a uniform nutrition policy in Bengal and to stimulate and co-ordinate nutritional researches & in different institutions operating in the province, a committee with Lieut. Colonel A.C. Chatterjee, Director of Public Health, as convener, has been set up by the Government of Bengal. This committee to be known as "The Bengal Nutrition Committee", is expected to function as an authoritative body and to be the agency of nutritional publicity work on sound lines. Ten specialist sub-committees have been formed under it to deal with different aspects of the nutrition problem, such as diet surveys, diet in relation to public health, basic researches, food technological researches and publicity work.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-12-1940.) +

Housing

Cheap Tenements for Inferior Municipal Employees:
Bombay Government's Plans. ✓

The Consulting Surveyor to the Government of Bombay has prepared ~~two type~~ designs of ~~cheap tenements~~ for the accommodation of Harijan employees (mostly sweepers belonging to the municipal establishment) of municipalities in the Province.

The municipalities have been advised by the Government to frame estimates for constructing tenements on the basis of local rates of materials and that the monthly rent to be charged should be only enough to cover interest on the capital cost at not more than 4 per cent. and the maintenance charges of the cottages. The municipalities are required to explain the plan and estimates to their Harijan employees and to ascertain how many families would prefer to live in such quarters on monthly tenancy. After ascertaining the probable accommodation required, they must select suitable sites within three months. If any municipality cannot construct the cottages from its surplus funds, it has been suggested that it should, within a month after selection of the site, apply to the Government for permission to raise the necessary loan in the open market. As soon as funds are available, the cottages should be constructed with the least possible delay.

If any municipality desires to construct similar quarters for its non-Harijan inferior servants, it will be encouraged to do so.

(Extracted from Press Communiqué No.39 dated 29-1-1941 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.) ✓

Workers' Organisations. ✓Delegation of Powers to Provincial Governments. re. Trade Unions
whose objects are not confined to one Province: To come into
effect from 1-4-1941. +

Reference was made at page 8 of our January 1940 report to the approval of the First Labour Ministers' Conference of the Government of India's proposal to delegate powers to provincial Governments in respect of trade unions whose objects are not confined to one province. In pursuance of that decision, the Government of India has now notified that it has decided to entrust to the Government of each province with effect from 1-4-1941 the functions of the Central Government in relation to trade unions whose objects are not confined to, and whose head office is situated in, that Province.

(Notification No. L-3006 dated 16-1-1941: The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 18-1-1941, page 108.) ✓ +

Trade Unions Organisation in Bengal:Bengal Branch of A.I.T.U.C. appoints Committee of Inquiry. +

A committee consisting of nine members, with Mr. V.R. Kalappa (President of the All-India Trade Union Congress) as Chairman, was formed by the general council of the Bengal branch of the Trade Union Congress and some other labour representatives, "to go into the list of Unions of Bengal affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress and report on the affairs of the unions and recommend their affiliation or disaffiliation so that only bonafide unions which are really functioning may be on the affiliated list". The committee may also recommend amalgamation so that there may be greater solidarity in the movement.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 8-1-1941.) +

Half-Yearly Meeting between the A.I.R.F.
and Railway Board, New Delhi, 8-1-1941.

The half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held in Delhi on 8-1-1941. The meeting discussed the grievances of the employees of the Bengal-Dooars Railway on their transfer to State railway service; the grievances of ex-apprentices and retrenched employees; the working of the rules regulating discipline and the rights of appeal of non-gazetted railway ~~servants~~; servants; and the age of compulsory retirement for inferior servants. The deputation from the All-India Railwaymen's Federation included ~~besides~~ Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, President, ~~and~~ Mr. S. Guruswami, General Secretary, and 12 ~~other~~ delegates from various unions affiliated to the Federation.

Grievances of Employees of Bengal-Dooars Railway.- The Federation represented that the staff of the Bengal-Dooars Railway had not been given all the privileges enjoyed by the staff of the Eastern Bengal Railway with which the Bengal-Dooars Railway was being amalgamated, while they had lost some of the concessions which they had enjoyed previously. The Federation contended that the Bengal-Dooars Railway employees should be given the scales of pay admissible to similar non-gazetted staff of the Eastern Bengal Railway. The Chief Commissioner of Railways, Mr. L. Wilson, pointed out that the Railway Board, after careful consideration, had already decided that the Bengal-Dooars Railway staff would be equitably treated if they were given the same scales of pay as they had received hitherto for the same kind of work which they would continue to perform. Mr. Wilson pointed out that the Board had not been given sufficient time to examine the statement of grievances which had only been received from the Federation in the Board's office the day before, but he assured the Federation that apart from the matter of pay the statement would be examined and that any question of undue hardship in relation to particular classes of staff would receive full consideration.

The Federation then urged that all the staff without exception should be absorbed on the Eastern Bengal Railway so that there would be no need for the institution of a waiting list, to which the Chief Commissioner replied that amalgamation necessarily resulted in some reduction of staff, but in this case the number of men who were not being absorbed at once was not large and he did not think there would be great difficulty in their early absorption.

Grievances of Ex-Apprentices.- As regards grievances of ex-apprentices and retrenched employees on State-managed railways, the Federation complained of the recent orders of the Railway Board discontinuing, as a war measure, the supply of lists of vacancies to recognised unions which, it was contended, handicapped organised labour. They then suggested that ex-apprentices, that is apprentices for whom employment was not found after the completion of their apprenticeship, should be considered to have some claim for subsequent employment before those who completed their apprenticeship in subsequent years and who, under the present conditions, might be found employment immediately, without any break in their service. The present procedure, they contended, resulted in junior hands being given permanent posts before

their seniors. If waiting lists were maintained for such ex-apprentices and they were given preference in the matter of vacancies, these anomalies would not occur; the currency of such waiting lists might be at least two years.

The Chief Commissioner pointed out that the Agreements of apprentices definitely laid down that no guarantee of permanent employment after the completion of apprenticeship was given, nor was it possible to foresee five years ahead exactly how many vacancies there would be. Even if the prior claim of ex-apprentices was admitted, this would only result in other apprentices who had subsequently completed their course being refused employment, for the number of vacancies would remain the same. Apart from this, however, there were serious administrative difficulties in maintaining waiting lists, nor would the interests of the service be served if men who had just completed their apprenticeship and were ready to fill vacancies were to be laid off in preference to others who had been out of work for a considerable period. There were, in fact, many complications and difficulties in the submission made by the Federation which, even if they could be overcome, might only result in transferring a sense of grievance in one lot of men to another lot of men.

Grievances of Retrenched Employees.- The Federation complained that in regard to the employment of retrenched staff in general, who had been borne on waiting lists, junior hands had been re-employed earlier and in preference to senior staff, which, in some cases, meant that the former were eligible for the old rates of pay and the latter for the revised scale.

The Chief Commissioner referred to the orders issued by the Board which provided for the re-employment of such staff in the inverse order of their retrenchment and pointed out that the question of suitability to fill ~~xxxxx~~ vacancies, the difficulties of ~~xxxxx~~ getting into touch with retrenched staff and other factors militated against meticulous compliance with the Board's intensions, but he was not aware of any general complaint in regard to this matter.

Age of Retirement.- The Federation urged that inferior servants should ordinarily be permitted to continue in service up to the age of 60.

The Chief Commissioner referred to recent orders issued by the Board, which provided that, although the staff joining service after July 31, 1940, should be required to retire on attaining the age of 55, yet those in service, prior to that date were to be dealt with in accordance with the existing practice. That practice had in the past differed on different railways, and he could not admit that because in one system no limit had been specifically laid down another system which had normally required such staff to retire at 55 should be made to alter their procedure, more especially in view of the policy which had been laid down for the future.

The Federation contended that in the absence of explicit orders to the contrary past practice on State Railways should be adjusted to the provisions of the Establishment Code, and that on the East Indian Railway those who had been adversely affected by the non-application of these provisions should be given relief. The Chief Commissioner asked the Federation what class of employees they had particularly in mind, to which the Federation answered that office chaprasis on the East Indian Railway deserved special consideration. The Chief Commissioner agreed to look into their case.

(The Statesman dated 10-1-1941, and Hindustan Times dated 12-1-1941.) +

The Sind Opium Smoking Act, 1940. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 50 to 60 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 23-1-1941 where is published the Sind Opium Smoking Act, 1940. The Act penalises the smoking of opium either alone or in company, as also the opening, keeping or having charge of opium "dens". ✓

Visual Education in Rural Areas:
Bombay Government's Scheme. +

The Government of Bombay has launched in January 1941 a scheme of visual education and publicity. The main features of the scheme are described below:-

The Government has purchased a hundred projectors to be distributed among the various districts on a population basis. Each projector will be passed on from village to village in a given area so that it will be in constant use. Each fortnight a completely new 45-minute programme of films, comprising a newsreel and two other features, is to be prepared and distributed by the Director of Information, Bombay. The first programme was released at five centres in the province in the third week of January, 1941; as each fortnight brings a new programme five more projectors will come into use until in ten months or so the full hundred are employed. In other words, villages throughout the province will receive an endless chain of programmes with a new show each fortnight. The features will have a definite educational value, many of them dealing with such subjects as health, sanitation, agriculture and social welfare. They will be silent, for the use of sound projectors, besides being much more costly, is dependent on an electricity supply. The hundred projector circuit, it is understood, is being inaugurated at a cost of about only Rs.50,000.

(The Times of India, 23-1-1941.)+

The Sixth Session of Central Advisory Board of
Education, Madras, 11 and 12-1-1941. +

The sixth session of the Central Advisory Board of Education was held at Madras on 11 and 12-1-1941. The subjects discussed included the inauguration of measures to provide an efficient system of medical inspection and treatment of children in schools, ~~the provision of suitable meals at schools,~~ in the case of under-nourished children, the extension of physical training facilities in schools and the constitution of a committee to assist in the better planning and equipment of school buildings. The meeting also considered the views of the provincial governments on the recommendations of the Adult Education Committee of the Board of 1939 and the views of the provincial Governments on the recommendations of the second Basic Education Committee of the Board, also of 1939. Reports from provincial Governments on

recent or prospective developments in primary and adult education were also discussed. The views of provincial Governments and universities on the proposal to withhold ~~emoluments~~ of scholarships ~~of~~ students whose parents could themselves provide for them ~~students~~ and the report of the committee of the Board appointed last May to examine the adoption of a uniform scientific terminology in regional languages evoked a lengthy discussion, and the Board was of the opinion that the details should be considered in committee.

The Proceedings of the Board were not open to the press, but the meeting decided that its proceedings when confirmed are to be made available to the public.

The Board accepted the invitation of Sir Akbar Hydari on behalf of the Nizam's Government to hold its next meeting at Hyderabad.

(The Hindu, 11-1-1941 and Statesman,
13-1-1941.) +

Wages

Dearness Allowance for Railway Workers:
Report of Court of Enquiry.

Reference was made at pages 49 to 50 of our August 1940 report to the setting up of a Court of Enquiry with Mr. Justice P.N. Rau as Chairman to investigate the question of dearness allowance for railway employees, with particular reference to the G.I.P. Railway. The Court, in its recently published report, has recommended the grant of a monthly allowance of Rs.3/- per head to employees whose earnings do not exceed the subsistence level for their area. In order to make the relief more equitable to those on the margin, the Court proposes that such adult employees also, whose earnings exceed the subsistence level for their area only by an ~~anna~~ amount less than Rs.3/-, should be granted an allowance sufficient to make the difference equal to Rs.3/-. Employees below 17 years of age are recommended half the above rates. The Court feels that there need be no discrimination in the grant of the allowance between employees who entered service before and those who entered service after the outbreak of the war. It is recommended that the allowance be granted with effect from 1-10-1940.

General Considerations.- In making these recommendations, the Court has taken into consideration the increase of 11 per cent. in the cost of living of the general consumer; the additional increase in the budgets of the lowest paid employees and those of employees who were living on the margin of solvency just before the war; the need for reducing to a minimum the burden on general revenues; the relief likely to result from the opening of cost-price grain shops for railway employees and the advantages in simplicity and uniformity of a flat rate of cash bonus over ~~rates~~ rates varying from employee to employee or even from one group of employees to another.

In framing their recommendations, the Court has confined relief to those classes of workers for whom, on the Court's calculations, relief is imperatively needed, and have not extended relief to any class beyond the present "poverty line". In the Court's opinion those on unskilled rates should be given first consideration in any proper scheme of relief. The Court is opposed to the principle, sometimes adopted, of granting a dearness allowance at a fixed percentage of the income on the grounds that it gives more to those who have already more and ignores the fact that the increase in the cost of living, which the allowance is meant to neutralise, is greater in the lower income groups than in the higher.

Subsistence levels.- For the purpose of granting the allowance the Court advocates three subsistence levels: the Bombay level of Rs.35/- per month, for the Bombay Kalyan section; the urban level

of Rs.30/- per month for the Poona-Igatpuri section, and a rural or semi-rural level of Rs.25/- per month for other sections, with certain exceptions. In the Court's view, the urban level should apply to any town with a population of not less than Rs.20,000, to the railway settlements at Manmad, Ehusaval and Dhond, and to any other area that the Railway Administration may think fit to classify as urban for this purpose. These estimates are, however, only for the limited purpose of the present enquiry and are not meant to lay down a general living wage for all purposes.

Quarterly Revision.- As regards the regulation of allowances in future, the Court strongly emphasises the continued need for strict price control, especially in the remote places in the interior and recommends revision of the rates every three months, no change being made in the allowances in force until the cost ~~1~~ of living index figures fall or rise by full five points.

Additional Relief Measures.- The Court further recommends that the question of opening cost-price grain shops for railway employees should be sympathetically considered. It believes that such shops should operate as a useful check on profiteering by traders, particularly in the remote places in the interior.

The Court also suggests that the railway authorities should consider the feasibility of issuing milk free or at reduced rates to the children of the lower paid railway employees at convenient centres. There are already three Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres on the G.I.P. Railway at Ehusaval, Manmad and Jhansi. If to the other activities of these centres there is added the free or half-free issue of milk to the children of the lower paid railway employees, not only would the children be benefited, but the attendance at the centres would also increase.

(Note issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, on 22-1-1941).

(A copy of the report of the Court was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's minute D.1/82/41 dated 30-1-1941).+

Dearness Allowance for Workers in Tata Iron and Steel Co., Jamshedpur:
Report of Board of Conciliation.

Reference was made at page 40 of our October 1940 report to the details of the dearness allowance granted to its workers by the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Jamshedpur. The Tata Workers' Union being dissatisfied with the allowance given by the Company, the Bihar Government appointed a Board of Conciliation to settle the dispute, with the following as its terms of reference: (a) the quantum of relief to be granted to the employees of the Company; (b) the grade of employees to be benefited by the scheme; and (c) the date from which the relief granted is to commence. The Board has succeeded in bringing about the following agreement between the parties:

Dearness Allowance Rates.- The Company agrees that war-time dearness allowance at the following rates shall be given to all employees of the Company, who are working at Jamshedpur and who are in receipt of wages, allowances, bonuses or other emoluments, (excluding, however, the

profit-sharing bonus) - whether on the daily, weekly or monthly basis - upto and including Rs.125 a month; employees getting Rs.50 and below - Rs.2-8-0 per month; employees getting between Rs.50 and Rs.75 - Rs.3 per month; employees getting between Rs.75 and Rs.100 - Rs.3-8-0 per month; and employees getting between Rs.100 and Rs.125 - Rs.4 per month.

The allowance is to be paid with effect from 1-8-1940.

(The Bihar Gazette, Part II, dated 8-1-1941, pages 1 to 3.)

Cost Price Shops for Baroda Textile Mill Workers:
Arbitrator's Award in Dearness Allowance Dispute.

Mr. C. Desai, who was appointed in August 1940 by the Government of Baroda as arbitrator in the dearness allowance dispute in the textile mills of Baroda, has recently given his award. The ~~dispute~~ operative part of the judgement is that for the present each mill shall open a shop in its compound from which ~~the necessities of life, including cloth manufactured in the mill, at cost price.~~ The establishment charges and the loss owing to shortage in weight, etc., shall be borne by the mill concerned. Regarding wage increase, the judgement records: "I have examined the conditions of the mills upto August 1940, when my appointment as arbitrator was made, but I learn from quotations of market rates in the papers that since then the prospects of the mill industry are improving. But one has to see how far this state of things continues to enable one to decide the question of an increase in wages without prejudice to any party. I, therefore, order that the issue with regard to an increase in the wage bill be held over for six months and that it be decided by the end of that period in the light of fresh evidence that the parties may be able to adduce on the point."

(The Hindu, 29-1-1941.)

War Production

War and Bengal Industries:
Bengal Government institutes Enquiry into Problems of Factories.

An enquiry, it is understood, is being made by the Government of Bengal to ascertain the extent of difficulties that the war has created in the way of normal functioning of existing factories. The enquiry covers heavy and medium-sized industries and well-organised home industries.

The Government is seeking information under the following heads: finance, supply of raw materials, technical hands, marketing, transport and supplies to the Government. After the enquiry, the Government proposes to hold a conference of manufacturers and factory-owners for a fuller discussion of the problems.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28-1-1941.)

Eastern Group Council:

Sir Archibald Carter to be Chairman. +

References were made at pages 40 to 41 and 31 to 32 of our October and November 1940 reports respectively to the Empire Eastern Group Conference which met at New Delhi in October and November 1940 to co-ordinate war production in the Eastern Group of the Empire. It is now understood that Sir Archibald Carter, Permanent Secretary to the Admiralty, Great Britain, has been selected by His Majesty's Government to be the Chairman of the Eastern Group Council, which is being set up in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference.

The Group Council will be an autonomous body independent of the Government of India, but working in close collaboration with all the Empire countries and having representatives on it from Australia, India, New Zealand, and South Africa. The Council will also have a representative of the British Ministry of Supply Mission to India, who, in all probability, will work as the Secretary to the Council.

Mr. M.S.A. Hydari, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, has been appointed the Indian representative on the Council (Mr. H.C. Prior, I.C.S., has succeeded Mr. Hydari as Secretary of the Labour Department.) +

Employment.

Government Services:

Age Restriction for Candidates with War Service to be abolished.

It is understood that the Government of India, with the approval of the Provincial Governments, has decided to waive restrictions in respect of age ~~xxx~~ in the matter of appointments to Government posts ~~in favour~~ of candidates with a record of war service. Further, it has been decided that candidates with war service are to be given preference in appointments to civil posts under the Central and Provincial Governments. The term 'war service' includes both field service and service as technicians and mechanics whether in India or outside.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-1-1941.) +

Training of Skilled Mechanics:

15,000 to receive Training in 1941.

It is learned that the scheme of the Labour Department of the Government of India for the training of technical personnel to man the expanding war industries is meeting with satisfactory response. A large number of recruits have been selected from the many thousands of ~~applicants~~ applicants and they are being enrolled in training institutions in various parts of the country, which are being enlarged and equipped. The scheme contemplates the training of 15,000 technicians during 1941.

(The Statesman, 12-1-1941.).

Anti-Fascist ~~Labour~~ Organisation:
National Democratic Union formed by Mr. M.N. Roy.

A new organisation - the National Democratic Union - was set up early in January, 1941, at a Conference of independent politicians and public men convened at Calcutta by Mr. M.N. Roy, the Socialist leader. The main plank of the new Organisation, which aims at making a strong appeal to Indian labour, is determined opposition to Fascism in all its forms and whole-hearted co-operation with the Government's war efforts, as opposed to the Gandhian policy of non-cooperation.

In support of the new Organisation, a rally of industrial workers, presided over by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, was held ~~at~~ Calcutta on 5-1-1941, at which the following resolution was adopted.

We declare our determination to support the war efforts of the British and allied governments until Fascism and Hitler are crushed and suppressed workers are liberated. We believe that the British workers are not fighting for their own interests only, but also for our own interests, and we stand for solid unity in both spirit and action. We condemn those Indian labour leaders who are still playing into the hands of the Trade Union Congress and other reactionary parties for not supporting the war against Fascism.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 7-1-1941. For the resolution on the War adopted by the A.I.T.U.C., see pages 44-45 of the report of this Office for September 1940.)

Mr. M.N. Roy, in his opening speech, pointed out that Fascism broke up all working class organisations, reduced wages of the workers, and suppressed trade unions. He asserted that nationalist prejudice and the short-sightedness of a certain section of the Indian leaders have until now prevented the Indian working class from ~~xxx~~ realising the far-reaching implications of the present situation. Not only has the Indian National Congress adopted a policy which amounts to helping the victory of Fascism, but even the Trade Union Congress, which claims to represent the interests of the working class, has, for all practical purposes, endorsed this harmful policy.

The newly-formed organisation is making vigorous efforts to canvass public support, particularly of workers, and with this purpose in view anti-Fascist labour rallies have been held under its auspices at several industrial centres. At the rally held at Jamshedpur on 12-1-1941, Mr. Roy deplored the fact that the workers of India had not up to the present shown real enthusiasm for war effort and said that this was due to misleading propaganda in the name of nationalism, anti-Imperialism and socialism. (The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 14-1-1941.)

At a meeting of the Bengal Provincial Committee of the National Democratic Union held at Calcutta on 24-1-1941, Mr. Aftab Ali (President, Indian Seamen's Union) who has been elected a Vice-Chairman of the Union, ~~presenting~~ stressed that the policy of the A.-I.-T.U.C. with regard to the war has made it necessary for the Indian workers to create a

new Central Organisation. According to present plans, an All-India Convention of the National Democratic Union is to be held at Delhi early in March 1941, and along with this an All-India anti-Fascist Labour Conference also is to be held. (The Hindu, 26-1-1941.)

The following are extracts from editorial comments on Mr. Roy's new move published in the Leader dated 10-1-1941:-

"Mr. M.N. Roy's labour rally in Calcutta may mislead people who are not in the know..... Mr. Roy has the support of European 'big business' who control many of the jute and cotton mills. Since he has been saying that the Moslem League must be accepted as the only body representing the entire Moslem community of India able to 'deliver the goods', it is not at all surprising that he should have been assisted in getting together a rally which, for obvious reasons, has been boomed in certain quarters. It is strange, however, that Mr. Roy and his group were scarcely to be seen at the session of the All-India Trade Union Congress in Bombay held only three months back. He himself did not attend and his followers in the Congress did not count more than half a dozen. One or two of them who tried to oppose the war resolution adopted eventually unanimously by the Congress were simply howled down and got a hearing only on the earnest entreaties of Mr. N.M. Joshi to the audience..."

(The Leader, 10-1-1941.).

48

List of more important publications received in this
Office during January 1941.

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1939-40. 1940. Printed by the Oriental Press, Asansol.
- (2) Annual Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab for the year 1939. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, Lahore. 1940. Price Re.1-10-0.
- (2) Report on the work of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, 1939-40. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price annas 8 or 9d.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Madras, for the year ending 31st March, 1940. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1940. Price 12 annas.
- (2) Review of the Trade of India in 1939-40 (Statistical Research Branch, India). Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Rs.3-2-0 or 5s.
- (3) The Federation Research Department Publication No.2: Provincial Debt Legislation in relation to Rural Credit by N.G. Abhyankar; issued by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, 28, Perseus Road, New Delhi. Price Re.1/- or 1s.6d. 1940.
- (4) The Indian Economic Conference, Twenty-fourth Session - Presidential Address by D.R. Gadgil, M.A., M.Litt.(Cantab.), Director, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona. Mysore, 28-12-1940.
- (5) Annual Report of the Director of Industries, Bihar, for the year 1938-39. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1940. Price Annas 12.
- (6) (i) The Indian Cotton Mill Industry - Its Potentialities as a source of supply for Piecegoods to the East and Near East Empire Markets during the war.
(ii) The Mineral Resources of India.
(iii) Indian Hides and Skins.
(iv) India's Raw Materials.
(v) Lac in India.
(vi) The Jute Industry in India.
(vii) The Sugar Industry in India.
(viii) Indian Glass Industry.
(ix) The Story of Indian Coffee.
(x) Paper Making in India.

(Booklets issued by the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India). Printed by the Times of India Press, Bombay.

Social Insurance.-

- (1) 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 1939. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P., 1940. Price 2 annas.
- (2) Annual Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab for the year 1939. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1940. Price Rs.1-10-0.

Migration.-

Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya for the year 1939. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Re.1-4-0 or 2s.

Agriculture.-

- (1) Proceedings of the Third Meeting of the Crops and Soils Wing of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India. Held at New Delhi from the 6th to 9th December, 1939, with Appendices. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Rs.3-10-0 or 5s.9d.
- (2) Annual Report of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, 1939-40. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Rs.2-6-0 or 4s.
- (3) Report of the Tenancy Committee, Hyderabad-Deccan. Government Central Press, Hyderabad-Deccan. 1940.

Co-operation.-

- (1) Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar for the year 1939. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1940. Re.1-8-0.
- (2) Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Province of Madras for the year 1938-39. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, 1940. Price 12 annas.
- (3) ~~Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Baroda State for the year 1938-39. 1940. Price Re.1-12-0.~~

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) B.N.Railway Indian Labour Union - 19th Annual Report. Kharagpur.
- (2) Review on the working of the Trade Unions/Act, 1926, in the Delhi Province during the year 1939-40.
- (3) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Province of Bihar for the year 1939-40. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941. Price Annas 3.

Education.-

Report of the School Leaving Certificate Examination Committee (Masani Committee). (Draft).

Social Policy in War Time.-

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. Court of Enquiry constituted under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, to investigate the question of dearness allowance for railway employees. Vol./- Report. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price 12 annas or 1s.

General.-

Summary Proceedings of the Forty-Second Meeting of the Indian Central Cotton Committee held on the 8th and 9th August 1940. Price Re.1/- /.

Report for February 1941.

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. <u>National Labour Legislation.-</u>	
<u>Government of India:</u>	
<u>The Indian Railway (Amendment) Bill, 1940: Bill Withdrawn.</u>	1
<u>Assam:</u>	
<u>Exemption of certain allowances of Public Servants from Attachment for Debt.</u>	1
<u>Bengal:</u>	
<u>The Draft Bengal Shops and Establishments Rules, 1941.</u>	1
<u>Bombay:</u>	
(a) <u>Exemptions of Clerical Staff from Operations of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1940.</u>	2
(b) <u>Amendment re. Returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act.</u>	2
(c) <u>Extension of Factories Act to "Jerda" Factories.</u>	2
<u>British Baluchistan:</u>	
<u>Declaration of Railway Workshops as Continuous Process.</u>	2
<u>Madras:</u>	
<u>Employment of Women in Fish-curing Concerns.</u>	3
<u>Punjab:</u>	
<u>The Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940: Date of Commencement and Rules.</u>	3
<u>Sind:</u>	
<u>Extension of the Maternity Benefit Act to City of Hyderabad (Sind) and other Places.</u>	3
<u>Cochin:</u>	
<u>Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1941: Bill referred to Select Committee.</u>	3-4
<u>Burma:</u>	
<u>Burma Industrial Disputes Settlement Bill, 1941.</u>	4
2. <u>Conditions of Work.-</u>	
<u>Industrial Health and Safety:</u>	
<u>Medical Facilities for Colliery Labour: Enquiry into Present Conditions made by Indian Mining Association.</u>	5
<u>Inspection:</u>	
(a) <u>Registration Fee for Bengal Factories: Factory Inspection Department to be made self-supporting.</u>	6
(b) <u>Appointment of Chief Inspector of Shops and Commercial Establishments, Punjab.</u>	6

	<u>Pages</u>
2. <u>Conditions of Work.-</u> (continued)	
<u>Holidays with Pay:</u>	
Holidays with Pay for Industrial Workers: Bihar Government contemplates Legislation.	7
<u>Wages:</u>	
Salary Reduction Illegal under Payment of Wages Act: Sind Chief Court's Decision.	8
<u>General:</u>	
(a) Labour Conditions in Indian Mines: Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines, 1939.	9-11
(b) Conditions of Work in Khewra Salt Mines: Government of India appoints Court of Enquiry.	11-12
(c) Labour Conditions in C.P. Coal-fields: Inquiry instituted by C.P. Government.	12
(d) Judicial Officers to hear Appeals by Railway Workers: Non-official Resolution defeated in Assembly.	13
3. <u>Economic Conditions.-</u>	
(a) Recommendations of Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee: Action taken by Bombay Government in Economic Sphere.	14-15
(b) Industrial Research Utilisation Committee constituted by the Government of India: 1st Meeting held on 1-2-1941 at New Delhi.	15-17
(c) Depressed Condition of Textile Industry in Bengal: Mill-owners' Association's reply to Inquiry by Chief Inspector of Factories.	17-18
(d) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during November 1940.	18
(e) Railway Budget for 1941-42.	19-20
(f) Budget of the Government of India for 1941-42.	20-21
(g) Indo-Burma Trade Negotiations: Indian and Burmese Delegations meet at New Delhi on 4-2-1941.	21-22
4. <u>Social Insurance.-</u>	
Extension of Maternity Benefit Legislation to Women in Coal-Mines: Views of Indian Mining Association.	23
5. <u>Employment, Unemployment and Vocational Training.-</u>	
(a) Working of the Bihar Employment Bureau in 1938-39	24-25
(b) Revision of Madras Famine Code: Recommendations of Enquiry Committee and Government's Orders thereon.	25-28-29
(c) Legislation to ensure adequate Personnel in Utility Services: Bengal Government's Move.	28
(d) Registration of Unemployed in Assam: Government's Scheme.	29
6. <u>Migration.-</u>	
(a) Problems of Indian Emigrants in Burma: Burmese Premier outlines Remedial Measures.	30-31
(b) Indian Immigration into Ceylon: Enquiry into Problem by Colonial Office.	31
(c) Failure of Indo-Ceylon Negotiations: Government of India's Communiqué re. November 1940 Exploratory Conference.	32-33

7. Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants:-	
(a) Government Servants and Indebtedness: U.P. Government's Order.	34
(b) Bribery and Corruption among Government servants: Findings of Burma Government Committee.	34-35
8. Co-operation.-	
Development of Cottage Industries and Part-time Occupations: Action taken by Bombay Government on Recommendations of Economic and Industrial Survey Committee.	36-37
9. Public Health.-	
1st All-India Prevention of Food Adulteration Conference, Delhi, 21-2-1941.	38
10. Education.-	
(a) Recommendations re. Education of Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee: Action taken by Bombay Government.	39-40
(b) Encouragement of Adult Education in Bombay: Recent Government Decision.	40-41
(c) Visual Education in Rural Areas: C.P. to copy Bombay Scheme.	41
(d) The Punjab Primary Education Act, 1940 (Act XVIII of 1940).	42
11. Social Policy in War Time.-	
<u>Wages:</u>	
(a) Dearness Allowance for Railway Workers: Court of Enquiry's Report under consideration by Government of India.	43-44
(b) Dearness Allowance for Low-Paid Government Employees: Bombay Government considering a Grant.	44
<u>Compensation for War Injuries:</u>	
Compensation for War Injuries of Indian Seamen: Resolution for Payments from Central Revenues moved by Commerce Member in Central Assembly.	44-46
<u>Price Control:</u>	
The Burma Control of Prices Order, 1941.	46
12. <u>List of more important publications received in this Office during February 1941.</u>	47-48

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION. ✓

Government of India.-

The Indian Railway (Amendment) Bill, 1940:
Bill Withdrawn. +

Reference was made at pages 1 to 2 of our April 1940 report to the introduction on 2-4-1940 of a non-official Bill in the Central Assembly to give relief to low-paid railway employees from certain district board and municipal taxes. Mr. Azhar Ali, the sponsor of the Bill, moved on 13-2-1941 consideration of his Bill.

Sir Andrew Clew, Communications Member, opposing the Bill pointed out that the Central Legislature had no power to exempt servants of the Central Government or any one from provincial taxation, and the provisions of the Bill would be held to be ultra vires. Nor was there any reason why railway servants should be placed in a privileged position in comparison with others getting the same salary.

In view of these and other objections to the Bill, Mr. Azhar Ali withdrew the Bill.

(The Statesman, 14-2-1941.)

Assam.-

Exemption of Certain allowances of Public Servants from
Attachment for Debt.

The Government of Assam has notified that the following allowances payable to Government, Municipal or Local Board employees are exempt from attachment by order of a Court: (1) travelling allowance, (2) conveyance allowance, (3) uniform and ration allowance, (4) cost of living allowance, and (5) house rent allowance.

(Notification No. 897-G.J. dated 11-2-1941:
The Assam Gazette, Part II, dated 19-2-1941,
pages 239).

Bengal.-

The Draft Bengal Shops and Establishments Rules, 1941.

The draft of the Rules which the Bengal Government proposes to adopt for the administration of the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act, 1940, are gazetted at pages 110 to 118 of Part I of the Calcutta Gazette, dated 9-1-1941. +

Bombay.-

Exemptions of Clerical Staff from Operations of Bombay Shops
and Establishments Act, 1940. +

The Bombay Government has ~~notified an exemption~~ ^{Gazetted} from the operation of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1940, clerks employed in certain kinds of work in mills in Ahmedabad, Bombay and Sholapur, which are members of the Ahmedabad and Bombay Millowners' Associations and the Silk and Art Silk Mills Association, Bombay.

(Notifications Nos. 143/34 dated 29-1-1941, 3-2-1941 and 11-2-1941: The Bombay Gazette, Pt. II-B, pages 133 to 135, 140 to 141 and 147 to 148.)

Bombay.-

Amendment re. Returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The Bombay Government has ~~notified~~ ^{Gazetted} the classes of employers who are to submit annual returns relating to Workmen's Compensation and the form in which the returns are to be submitted.

(Notification No.70/34 (a) & (b) dated 1-2-1941: The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 6-2-1941, pages 24 to 27.)

Bombay.-

Extension of Factories Act to "Jerda" Factories.

The Bombay Government has ~~notified~~ ^{Gazetted} the extension of certain Sections of the Factories Act (Sections relating to health and safety, restrictions on working hours of adults, and special provisions for adolescents and children) to ~~places wherein the process of making~~ ^{factories employing 20 or more persons and} "Jerda" from tobacco is carried on without the aid of power.

(Notification No.2579/34 dated 12-2-1941: The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 13-2-1941, page 31.)

British Baluchistan.-

The Chief Commissioner, British Baluchistan, has ~~notified~~ ^{Gazetted that} workers employed in railway workshops and running sheds ~~are~~ continuous process workers for the purposes of the Factories Act.

(Notification No.A/62 (29)-Tr-551-G dated 18-1-1941: The Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated 25-1-1941, page 25.) +

Madras.-

Employment of Women in Fish-curing Concerns. -

The Madras Government has issued a notification regarding the hours of work of women employed in fish-curing and fish-canning factories; women are not to be employed in such factories before 6 a.m. and after 7 p.m. for more than 3 days in any one week, and 50 in a year, and in no case after 11 p.m. Also, a period of at least 9 hours' rest should be given between the cessation of work on one day and beginning of work on the next day.

(Notification No.2. G.O. No.2542, P.W.
(Labour) dated 4-1-1941: Fort St. George
Gazette, Part I, dated 14-1-1941, page 70)

Punjab.-

The Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940: Date of Commencement
and Rules.

The Government of the Punjab has announced that the Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940 (which regulates conditions in shops, commercial establishments, etc.), will come into force on 1-3-1941. The Rules for the general administration of the Act are published at pages 69 to 73 of Part I of the Government Gazette, Punjab, dated 31-1-1941.

(Notifications Nos. 436-I. & L.-41/3860 and
3862 dated 22-1-1941: The Government Gazette,
Part I, dated 31-1-1941, pages 69 to 73.)

Sind.-

Extension of the Maternity Benefit Act to City of Hyderabad
(Sind) and other Places.

The Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, in its application to Sind, has, by a notification of the Sind Government, been extended in its operation to the city of Hyderabad (Sind) and to the village of Landhi, Karachi taluka, Karachi district.

(Notification No. P-37-M./40 (II) dated
22-1-1941: The Sind Government Gazette,
Part I, dated 30-1-1940, page 393.)

Cochin.-

Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1941 :
Bill referred to Select Committee.

Mr. Puthoor Atchutha Menon (non-official) introduced on 1-2-1941 the Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, a measure providing for the regulation of hours of work in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, eating houses, theatres and other establishments and for certain other purposes specified. The Bill, if passed, is

to come into force in the first instance in the Municipal Towns of Trichur, Mattancheri and Ernakulam, it being left to the discretion of the Government to apply any or all the provisions of the Act to any other area by notification in the Gazette. Mr. Menon observed that although industrial workers had had their hours and conditions of work regulated by legislation for some time past, shop assistants and commercial employees had not hitherto enjoyed the protection of such legislation. While most of the big commercial establishments observed reasonable hours of work and provided other amenities for their employees, the conditions of service of the employees in the smaller offices, shops, restaurants, etc., were far from satisfactory and there had been an insistent demand for their betterment, and hence the need for legislation.

The Bill fixes the closing hours for shops, prohibits hawking after 9 p.m., regulates monthly and daily hours of work in commercial establishments, and insists that every worker shall be given not less than four holidays in a month and 52 in a year.

The Bill was referred to a Select Committee the same day and its report is to be submitted within three months.

(The Hindu, 3-2-1941.)+

Burma .-

Burma Industrial Disputes Settlement Bill, 1941.

Reference was made at page 3 of our April 1939 report to the introduction on 3-4-1939 in the Burmese House of Representatives by Mr. Myo Nyunt of the Burma Trade Disputes Conciliation Bill, 1939, based on the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act, 1934. Since that Bill is considered no longer suitable for present conditions, on 19-2-1941 the same Member introduced the Burma Industrial Disputes Settlement Bill, 1941, modelled on the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III, dated 22-2-1941, pages 32 to 45.) ✓

Medical Facilities for Colliery Labour:
Enquiry into Present Conditions made by Indian Mining Association.

The Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee had recommended in its report that an effort should be made by collieries to pool together their resources spent on medical relief for deriving the fullest benefit from them, and that the medical facilities provided by the local bodies in the Jharia coalfields should be extended. With a view to obtaining up-to-date information regarding medical facilities in the Jharia coalfield, a circular had been issued by the Indian Mining Association asking members with collieries in Bihar to furnish full particulars of their hospital and medical facilities.

(Proceedings of a Meeting of the
Committee of the Indian Mining
Association held on 23-1-1941.)✓

6

Inspection.

Registration Fee for Bengal Factories:
Factory Inspection Department to be made self-supporting. ✓ +

The Government of Bengal, it is understood, proposes to impose a fee for the registration of factories in the province under the Factories Act of 1934, and the money thus available is to be utilised for making the Factories Inspection Department self-supporting as far as possible. The fees, which are proposed to be levied on the basis of the maximum number of persons employed on any one day in a year in a factory, will vary from Rs.15 to Rs.1,000, according to the number of operatives employed, both directly (by the factory owner) and indirectly (by contractors). The Factories Inspection Department at present is maintained by the general body of tax-payers, who pay the entire cost of factory administration for the welfare of commercial concerns, which, according ^{to} the Government, is "~~neither reasonable nor equitable~~". The Government is now in communication with the various industrial and commercial bodies with regard to this proposal.

(Industrial Bulletin issued by
the Employers' Federation of India,
No. 312 dated 10-2-1941.) ✓ +

Appointment of Chief Inspector of Shops and
Commercial Establishments, Punjab. ✓

The Punjab Government has notified the appointment of the Director of Industries, Punjab, as the Chief Inspector of Shops and Commercial Establishments, Punjab, under the Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940.

(Not. No. 1389-I. & L-41/10486
dated 26-2-1941: Government Gazette,
Punjab, Part I, dated 28-2-1941,
page 158.) ✓ +

Holidays with Pay

7

Holidays with Pay for Industrial Workers: Bihar Government contemplates Legislation. ✓

The Government of Bihar, in a communication to the Divisional Commissioners and the Chief Inspector of Factories of the Province, it is understood, has asked them to consult the principal employers' organisations in their respective jurisdictions and the chief factories in the province, on the desirability of adapting the scale of holidays with pay as recommended by the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee. The Government is also believed to have asked them to obtain full particulars of the extent to which employers at present grant holidays with pay to their workmen and to forward their views to the Government with due regard to the varying circumstances.

The Labour Enquiry Committee had recommended (vide page 24 of our August 1940 report) to the Government the introduction by legislation of holidays with pay on the scale of twenty-two days in a year for the engineering and metallurgical industries in view of their strenuous work and fifteen days for other perennial industries after the employee renders a minimum of 265 days' actual service in a period of 12 months. For miners and loaders the qualifying period is 230 days.

(The Hindu, 24-2-1941.) ✓

Wages.Salary Reduction Illegal under Payment of Wages Act:
Sind Chief Court's Decision.

An important judgment relating to the rights of railway employees under the Payment of Wages Act was delivered by the Sind Chief Court in an appeal preferred by an engine driver who was reduced one incremental step for three months from Rs. 68/- per mensem to Rs. 61/- per mensem for unsatisfactory work. The question was whether such a reduction amounted to a fine or to a deduction in wages under the Payment of Wages Act. The Court of First instance held that the reduction to a lower scale of pay for three months was not a deduction within the meaning of the Act, but Mr. Justice Weston, in allowing the appeal, held that such a cut in the pay was a deduction within the meaning of the Act. "If the argument is to be ~~mean~~ accepted that the wages of an employed person are whatever he happens to receive, then obviously there can never be any deduction, and the P.W. A. will have no practical application to any circumstances". The argument therefore that the appellant's revised wages were Rs. 61/- per month and that there was no deduction from this new rate was not accepted.

(The Railway Herald, Karachi, 17-2-1941).

Labour Conditions in Indian Mines:*
Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines, 1939.

Number of Persons Employed.- During the year 1939 the daily average number of persons working in and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 305,344, as compared with 306,260 in the previous year; the decrease was 916 persons or 0.30 per cent. Of these persons 146,827 worked underground, 76,659 in open workings and 81,858 on the surface. The number of men who worked underground, in open workings and on the surface and the women who worked in open workings and on the surface, were as follows:-

	<u>Men</u>		<u>Women</u>	
	1939.	1938.	1939	1938.
Underground	146,827	140,651	..	..
In open workings.	50,306	54,121	26,353	29,212
Surface	57,765	58,199	24,093	24,077

Distribution of Workers: Coal Mines.- The daily average number of persons employed in coal mines was 201,989 which is 896 more than the number employed in 1938. Of these persons 53,639 were males employed in cutting coal, 33,826 were males employed as loaders of coal, and 23,004 were women. The increase in the daily average number of persons employed in coal mines in 1939, as compared with 1938, is small, whereas the quantity of coal produced is lower. Annual returns received of the number of persons actually at work and also of persons who should ordinarily have been at work but were absent on a selected day in February show that on the day selected 24,383 persons were either at work or were prevented from attending work. This figure is 14,380 less than the average number of persons employed in coal mines during 1939.

Workers in Other Mines.- The number of persons employed in metaliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 103,355, which is 1,812 less than the number employed in 1938. 75,913 were men and 27,442 were women.

Average Output of Coal per person.- Figures of average output of coal per person in 1939 show that for British India as a whole it was 177 tons in underground and in open workings and 122 tons in above and below ground as against 185 tons and 128 tons respectively in 1937-38. There was a general decrease in the average output of coal per person employed except in Baluchistan, Orissa and the Punjab. 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. In 1938, the output of coal per person employed above and below ground in the United Kingdom was 287 tons. In the same year, i.e., 1938, comparative figures in certain other countries were Japan 207 tons; France 193 tons; Germany 383 tons; and the United States of America 761 tons.

* Indian Mines Act, 1923. Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1939. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.3 or 5s. pp. 221

Accidents.- During the year 1939, at mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, there were 266 fatal accidents which is 18 more than in 1938, and 56 more than the average number in the preceding five years. In addition to the fatal accidents there were 1,380 serious accidents, involving injuries to 1,410 persons, as compared with 1,165 serious accidents, involving injuries to 1,196 persons in the previous year. 286 persons were killed and 1,447 persons were seriously injured. The latter figure includes 37 persons injured in fatal accidents. The number of persons killed was 3 more than in 1938. 278 persons killed were men and 8 were women. In addition, it was reported that 10,584 persons received minor injuries which necessitated the enforced absence from work for a period ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ exceeding 48 hours.

Causes of Accidents.- There was a decrease in the death rate of men employed underground and on the surface and an increase in open workings. With respect to women there was an increase in the death rate in open workings and on the surface. The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows:-

	No. of fatal accidents.	Percentage of total number of accidents.
Misadventure	209	78.57
Fault of deceased	22	8.27
Fault of fellow workmen. .. .	6	2.26
Fault of subordinate officials	16	6.01
Fault of management.	10	3.76
Faulty material.	3.	1.13
Total	266	100.00

Inspections and Prosecutions.- During the year 1,210 mines were inspected, many of them being inspected several times. 2,947 separate inspections were made. 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 mine-owners, superintendents and managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. In the major coalfields a large portion of the time of the Inspectors was occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwellings 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 at mines were made by medical officers as Ex-officio Inspectors of Mines.

During the year 81 prosecutions were launched involving 149 persons; 108 of the persons prosecuted were convicted.

Incidence of Leprosy in Asansol.- 14 Leprosy clinics were maintained under the supervision of 5 Leprosy Officers assisted by 14 trained assistants, who carried out intensive survey, propaganda and home-visiting of lepers in their houses. A detailed survey revealed an infection rate of 1.5 per cent. in the general population. A special investigation among the 5,400 known lepers showed a definite history of contact with relations and neighbours in 2,582 cases - the infection being traceable to parents in 527 cases, to brothers and sisters in 391 cases, to other relatives in 592 cases, to conjugal infection in 94 cases and to association with neighbours in 1,008 cases. 2,895 cases were registered for treatment,

11

of whom 246 either became symptom-free or were discharged cured.

Anti-Malaria Measures in Asansol.- Anti-malaria measures were carried out in 10 malarious areas and included abolition and treatment of breeding places with larvicides along with field survey and laboratory investigation. Rural areas were encouraged to undertake suitable measures by rendering assistance and advice. A free distribution of quinine was also given during epidemic seasons.

Protective Equipment.- During the year several thousands of "safety hats" made of Bambo were worn by miners at a number of mines in the Jharia and Raniganj coalfields. In the Assam mines, owned by the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited, "safety helmets" made of compressed fibre material and imported from Great Britain were used. Over 200 of these helmets were worn by miners employed in "openings" or "chambers" where small pieces of roof or side coal may fall unexpectedly on the miners' heads. Bamboo hats were first introduced at Sendra colliery. The manager employed a contractor to make these hats and when large numbers were produced the cost worked out at only two annas each. In view of the benefits derived by using such protection the extended use of these hats or of any other type of hat which will protect the miner and reduce the number of accidents due to head injuries is strongly recommended. ✓ +

Conditions of Work in Khewra Salt Mines:
Government of India appoints Court of Enquiry. ✓ +

The miners of Khewra Salt Mines have from time to time put forward certain demands for improving the general conditions of their service, e.g., increased remuneration, grant of pension to old and infirm miners, miners' widows and children, grant of house-building advances without interest, and measures to relieve unemployment among the mining community at that station. The Government of India, having reviewed the matter, believes that it would be of assistance both to the Central Excises and Salt Department and to the miners to have an inquiry into the matter under the Trade Disputes Act. It has, therefore, decided to appoint a Court of Inquiry to enquire into and report on the following terms of reference:-

- (1) Are the present arrangements for the remuneration of the miners working in the Khewra mine satisfactory?
- (2) Are the rates of payment adequate?
- (3) To what extent is unemployment prevalent in the mining community?
- (4) What measures are practicable and desirable for relieving unemployment?
- (5) What measures are practicable and desirable for improving the conditions of service?
- (6) Are the present arrangements satisfactory for—
 - (a) ascertaining the amount of compensation payable to miners in cases of accident, and
 - (b) paying the amount when ascertained?
- (7) What steps, if any, can be taken to end the conflict between the rival labour groups with a view to creating a healthier atmosphere at Khewra?

Mr. S.R. Deshpande, Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Bombay, is to constitute the Court. The Court will start work in February, 1941, and report to the Labour Department, Government of India, at an early date.

(Resolution No. L-1714 dated 18-2-1941:
The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 18-2-1941, page 119 to 120.)

Labour Conditions in C.P. Coal-fields:
Inquiry instituted by C.P. Government.

The Government of the Central Provinces has decided to make an enquiry into the conditions of labour in the coalfields of the province. The services of Mr. A. Hughes, I.C.S., have been lent by the Government of Bengal for this duty, and with him will be associated Mr. G.L. Watson, I.C.S. The inquiring officers are expected to begin work at Nagpur on 17-2-1941; the inquiry is expected to take about two months.

(The Statesman, 16-2-1941.)

Judicial Officers to hear Appeals by Railway Workers:
Non-official Resolution defeated in Assembly. ✓

On 20-2-1941, in the absence of Dr. Habibul Rahman, Sir Zia-ud-Din Ahmed (non-official) moved in the Central Assembly a resolution recommending the appointment of officers of judicial mind to listen to appeals of railway employees and to scrutinise the present rule relating to those appeals. Sir Zia-ud-Din said that there was great deal of dissatisfaction with the manner and method of attending to these appeals, which were left to the discretion of one man who was often guided by the notes of his immediate subordinates.

Mr. N.M. Joshi, supporting the resolution, said it was his experience that often the ~~prestige~~ ^{desire for maintenance of} prestige of the officer concerned stood in the way of appellate authorities dealing with him impartially where his actions in respect of subordinates were in question; hence there was need of disinterested judicial men handling appeals. He asked that the Labour Commission's recommendations in this connexion should be given effect to. He also asked that, in hearing appeals, a representative of the Trade Union should be heard. Further, he urged that in addition to a judicial officer to be attached to General Managers, such an officer should also be attached to every divisional superintendent.

Sir Henry Gidney, Sir Yamin Khan, Mr. M.S. Aney and others supported the resolution.

Sir Andrew Clow, Communications Member, opposing the resolution said it was and should be the aim of every officer to have a judicial mind, using that word in the ordinary English meaning of it, namely, a mind able to form ~~sound~~ sound judgment. The Railway Board did their best to have such men, but a judicial officer in the technical sense was, in his view, really not qualified for the work which the resolution sought to give him. The objection was that the whole method of approach and the training of the judicial officer in that sense were such that he would deal with one incident in the life of the man before him, and come to a decision on evidence, whereas the officer who had to deal with subordinates every day came to form certain judgments about each which was based on experience, but for which there might not be any palpable evidence.

The resolution was rejected by 39 votes to 22.

(The Statesman, 21-2-1941.)+ ✓

Recommendations of Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee: Action taken by Bombay Government in Economic Sphere. ✓

The Government of Bombay has passed interim orders on the recommendations of the Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee published a few months back. Within the short period since the publication of the report, the Government has not been able to give detailed consideration to all the recommendations of the Committee (for a summary of the recommendations, vide pages 16-20 of this Office's September 1940 report), which cover a wide field, including such problems as transport facilities, health conditions and literacy. The action which the Government has been able to take in the economic sphere is briefly noticed below. (The information is taken from a press communiqué dated 20-2-1941 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay; the action taken with regard to the recommendations relating to education, cottage industries, etc., is noticed in the sections: Education and Co-operation of this report.)

Utilisation of Forest Products.- The Committee's proposal for the ~~utilisation of forest products~~ for the manufacture of various articles required for the textile industry has been accepted. The Department of Industries has already carried out experimental work in connection with the production of starch from jowari, bobbins and other articles; so also the proposals for research work on the industrial utilisation of waste products have been accepted. For example, the Government has given a concession for the use of bamboo resources in Kanara for the manufacture of pulp and paper, and the research laboratories of the Industries Department have successfully worked out a process for the manufacture of bichromates required for tanning industry, khaki cloth dyeing and the like.

State help for Machine Industry.- With regard to the Committee's recommendation that actual State help is necessary for the establishment of a machinery industry, the Government accepts the proposition in so far as it will consider giving help to any specific scheme put up for the establishment of a machinery industry, provided it is made clear that the industry has a reasonable prospect of economic success and no obvious prospect of loss to public revenue. Conditions in war time, however, make it very difficult for such schemes to be inaugurated.

Tanning, Dyeing and Canning.- The Government has accepted the recommendation regarding experiments in connection with tanning and dyeing substances. Work has been conducted by the Department of Industries in the matter of production of tanning ~~materials~~ ^{from} myrobalans. A scheme for the establishment of a factory has already been prepared and steps have been taken to interest some private parties willing, with suitable concessions from Government, to undertake the work of manufacture. As regards vegetable dyes, the Department of Industries is working in co-operation with the Department of Forests. The latter

Department has supplied certain forest flowers and experimental work is in progress. This work will be pushed on. The canning industry is not likely to be successful unless the possibility of fruit canning and fruit preservation on a scientific and ~~economical~~ basis is explored. Experimental research work to this end is already being carried on at the Poona Agricultural College Laboratory.

Deep-sea Fishing.- The question of deep sea fishing might possibly have been investigated in conjunction with a proposal to obtain the services of an expert from Japan. At present the political situation precludes this and from the information received from the High Commissioner for India it is very improbable that a suitable expert can be obtained from England or Canada. In any case under war conditions, it will be difficult to obtain the necessary launches and probably inadvisable to let them ply. Any scheme considered possible will have to wait till the end of the war.

Road-construction.- As regards the suggested programme of rapid road construction, the Government considers that so long as Section 93 of the Government of India Act is in force it does not feel justified in raising the large loans which would be necessary for rapid extension of roads with their corresponding burden, on the revenues of the Province and of local bodies, not only for interest and sinking fund charges on the loan, but for maintenance. So far as finances permit, ~~charges on the loan~~ however, the Government is pushing on with the construction of roads.

Industrial Survey.- The Government generally accepts the recommendation as regards collecting and compiling commercial and industrial information. The Government, however, owing to financial stringency, is unable to make a full provision for this new Section of the Department of Industries on the scale envisaged by the Committee. It is hoped, however, to make a modest beginning in connection with this work during the coming year by setting up a small special section of the Department of Industries for the collection and dissemination of commercial and industrial information. Further, the Government has under consideration a scheme for conducting a capacity survey of the industrial resources of the Province. Such a survey would probably take two years and the present time, when a good deal of the requisite information has been already collected both by this Government and the Government of India in connection with war supplies, should be a favourable opportunity.

(Summarised from communiqué dated 20-2-1941 issued by the Department of Information, Government of Bombay.) ✓

Industrial Research Utilisation Committee constituted by the Government of India: 1st Meeting held on 1-2-1941 at New Delhi. ✓

Reference was made at page 13 of our March 1940 report to the constitution and functions of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Department of Commerce, Government of India, in a notification dated 1-2-1941 points out that valuable results have already been achieved from the research schemes instituted at the instance of the Board or conducted at the Central Government's laboratories at Alipore, Calcutta, ~~xxxxxx~~ and that the possibility of their industrial utilisation has been proved to the satisfaction of the Board. The Government of India, therefore, considers that the time

has come to decide how best these results can be utilised in practice and has come to the conclusion that it should take the advice, in this connection, of a Committee of non-officials to be called the Industrial Research Utilisation Committee. The Committee will be presided over by the Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Member of the Executive Council in charge of the Departments of Commerce and Labour, and it will consist of 10 non-officials and 7 members of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Functions of the Committee.— The functions of the Committee will be to advise the Central Government on— (i) the selection of the particular industrial concern or concerns to which the results of research schemes should be made available for utilisation, (ii) the terms and conditions, including the question of payment for royalties, etc., on which this can be done, (iii) the question of the division of the royalties on patent rights, which will vest in the Central Government, as between the Central Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the Provincial Governments, institutions, and scientists responsible for the research, and as among the scientists themselves; and (iv) generally, the best methods whereby the industrial development of the research can be undertaken and an equitable arrangement made for securing that the services of the scientists concerned are adequately rewarded. The Central Government will be the final authority to decide how the results of research schemes placed before the Industrial Research Utilisation Committee will be utilised and by whom, and on all other matters on which the advice of the Committee is sought.

(Resolution No. 148-Ind (63)/40 dated 1-2-1941:
The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 1-2-1941,
pp. 160-161.) +

First Meeting of the Committee on 12-2-1941.— The first meeting of the Industrial Research Utilisation Committee was held at New Delhi on 12-2-1941; the following is a brief summary of the conclusions reached at the meeting:

(1) Conditions for Utilisation of Research Schemes by Industrial Concerns.— Research schemes which can be exploited without much capital investment or the erection of plant and machinery or as cottage industries and are of general public benefit, may be released to the public without any conditions regarding royalty being attached thereto. With reference to other research schemes, applications should be invited on the widest scale possible from those ^{interested} in the development of such research schemes. Where there is no question of patent rights with reference to a research scheme and only a secret process is involved in its utilisation, such secret process may under certain specified conditions be handed over to any industrial concern or concerns. Where a research scheme has been handed over to more than one concern and further research conducted at the instance of any of these concerns, the results of such further research should be given to all the concerns to whom the research scheme has been handed over for exploitation. The Department of Commerce, Government of India, in a notification dated 1-2-1941

The Government will have the advice of an ad hoc committee in the selection of the concerns or concerns which will utilise the research scheme.

2). Allocation of Royalties.- The question of allocation of any royalties as between the Central Government and any Provincial Government or institution may be left to be ~~is~~ decided by the Central Government in consultation with a Provincial Government or institution, if necessary on the merits of each case. The distribution of that portion of the royalty, which is allocated to the scientists responsible for the research will be on the basis of equality among the scientists associated with that research. The committee has recommended that royalty received by the Central Government may be constituted into a separate fund for the further development of industrial research.

3). Utilisation of Research Work re. Basic Trades.- As regards the results of research that appertain to some basic trade of general importance, the Government may undertake its utilisation either directly or through a new concern promoted in which the Government may be represented through directors or impose such control as ~~is~~ may be necessary on the concern for achieving the object in view, namely, the availability of the basic product to all industries requiring it at normal prices, etc.

4) Supply of Information.- The committee recommended that there should be an organisation which will be in charge of the results of the various researches and which would give all the necessary information to applicants who wish to utilise these researches. The Committee also approved a proposal to publish a journal entitled the Indian Industry under its own auspices containing information relating to industrial research and its utilisation. The lines on which the journal should be conducted, including the question of an editorial committee which ~~will be in charge of the journal~~, will be the subject of recommendations at the next meeting of the committee.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-2-1941.) ✓

Depressed Condition of Textile Industry in Bengal:
Millowners' Association's reply to inquiry by Chief Inspector of
Factories. ✓

The state of the piece-goods trade and the difficulties connected with the cotton mill industry in Bengal during the year 1940 were described in a letter addressed by the Bengal Millowners' Association to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, in reply to an inquiry received from him.

Fall in Purchasing Power of Masses.- The reply points out that, while, generally speaking, there was no change in the level of wages and working hours in the cotton mill industry during the year, the piece-goods market remained in a depressed state. Stocks with mills continue to accumulate and mill activity fell perceptibly. The slump in commodity prices and the consequent fall in the purchasing power of the masses was mainly responsible for the continued weakness of the cloth market.

Aggravating Factors.- The depressed state of the ~~is~~ textile industry, it is further pointed out, was considerably aggravated, apart from a phenomenal rise in the prices of essential raw materials, dyestuff, chemicals, mill stores, machinery and machine parts, required by the industry. Governmental measures like control of prices, excess profits tax, enhancement of freight rates and coal surcharges, various new

new taxation measures - both Central and Provincial - and the import trade control policy, among other factors, had highly unfavourable reactions on the cotton mill industry in Bengal; ~~during the year under report. - The financial weakness~~ of the province. It is also mentioned that the serious shrinkage in credit facilities due to the enforcement of the Bengal Moneylenders Act and the Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act, affected the industry very adversely during the year, 1940.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 16-2-1941.) ✓

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various
Centres in India during November 1940. ✓

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during November 1940 as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in November 1940 remained stationary at 113. The average for 1939 was 106 as compared with 105 for 1938.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during November 1940 rose by 2 points to 81. The average for 1939 was 73 as against 71 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during November 1940 rose by 2 points to 77. The average for 1939 was 74 as compared with 72 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in November 1940 fell by 2 points to 73. The average for 1939 was 63 as against 61 for 1938.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in November 1940 remained stationary at 72. The average for 1939 was 59 as against 57 for 1938.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during November 1940 rose by 1 point to 110. The average for 1939 was 100.

(Extracted from the Monthly Survey of
Business Conditions in India for November
1940.) ✓

The Railway Budget for 1941-42 was presented in the Central Assembly on 19-2-1941 by Sir Andrew Clow, Member for Communications, Government of India. The results of the financial working of railways for 1940-41 are indicated below:-

<u>Revised Estimates for 1940-41.</u>	<u>Rs. in millions</u>
Income	1092.5
Expenditure	<u>946.6</u>
Revised surplus	145.9
 <u>Budget Estimate for 1941-42.</u>	
Income	1090.3
Expenditure	<u>972.0</u>
Estimated Surplus	<u>118.3</u>

Sir A. Clow's Speech.- In his speech, introducing the Budget, Sir Andrew Clow announced no important changes in rates and fares, but a hint was given that revision of certain rates, such as the reduction of the surcharge on coal by 5 per cent. and the revision of the rebate allowed with a view to encourage the export of wheat, was engaging the attention of the Railway Board.

Repercussions of the War.- Reviewing the effects of the war on the working of the railways, he said:

On the railways, as on our big industries, the war has had far-reaching effects. These have been, on the financial side, mainly beneficial.

A certain number of officers and men have gone to join the fighting forces; a great many more are engaged in ancillary war work. Whole workshops have been turned over to military needs, and those we retain are producing, in increasing quantities, various war requirements. These range from a whole ambulance train to small parts of shells, and include articles used in clothing, feeding, arming, transporting and housing the fighting forces. We have also had to provide for war needs out of what we were using ourselves. The most important development here has been the dismantling of nine, out of eighteen, unremunerative railway lines for shipment overseas.

We have also had to defer hopes and in particular the hope of seeing the manufacture of broad-gauge locomotives undertaken as a large scale industry. The heavy demands for skilled labour, machine tools and materials resulting from the immense expansion in the production of munitions and other military requirements made it out of the question to embark at this stage on a new large-scale industry, and the workshops which we regarded as most

suitable for the purpose has been completely turned over to war work.

Conditions of Work and Dearness Allowance.- Dealing with the conditions of work and wages of the railway staff, he said that, in most cases, they have to work harder, to deal with many more passengers, to transport increased goods, and to meet urgent and important demands from the military authorities. The surplus in 1940-41 of Rs.149.5 millions was the highest surplus attained in any year since railway finances were separated. The working expenditure for 1941-42 would be Rs.686 millions, an increase of Rs.184.9 millions over the revised estimate of 1940-41, but the largest item in this increase, it was pointed out, represented a possible provision for war allowances. (For further information about dearness allowance see section: "Social Policy in War Time" of this report.)

(The Hindustan Times, 20-2-1941.)+ ✓

Budget of the Government of India for 1941-42 + ✓

The Budget of the Government of India for 1941-42, excluding the Railways, was presented in the Legislative Assembly on 28-2-1941 by Sir Jeremy Raisman, the Finance Member. Increases in the Excess Profits Tax rate, the duty on matches, ^{and} the import duty on artificial silk yarn and thread and ^{any} ~~the~~ excess duty on pneumatic tyres and tubes are the salient features of the Budget. A brief summary of the financial position, as disclosed in the Budget, is given below:

Actuals for 1939-40: The actual surplus for 1939-40 was Rs.77.7 millions against the revised estimate of Rs.9.1 millions.

Revised Estimates for 1940-41:

Revenue	...	Rs.968.5 millions
Expenditure	...	<u>Rs.1121.3 millions</u>
Deficit	...	Rs.152.8 millions
Deficit Less surplus of 1939-40 added to Revenue Reserve Fund.		<u>Rs. 68.6 millions</u>
Net Deficit		Rs. 84.2 millions

Estimates for 1941-42 on basis of Existing Taxes.

Revenue	...	Rs.1063.9 millions
Expenditure	...	<u>Rs.1268.5 millions</u>
Prospective deficit		<u>Rs. 204.6 millions</u>

New Taxes. - Increase in Excess Profits Tax rate from 50 per cent. to ~~65~~^{66 2/3} per cent. (yield Rs. 25 millions); increase in Central surcharge on incomes from 25 per cent to 33 1/3 per cent. (yield Rs. 19 millions; doubling excise duty on matches (yield Rs. 15 millions); increase in the import duty on artificial silk yarn and thread from 3 annas per lb. to 5 annas per lb. (yield Rs. 3.6 millions); and imposition of a new excise duty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on pneumatic tyres and tubes (yield ~~Rxx35~~ Rs. 3.5 millions). Total estimated yield of new taxation is Rs. 66.1 millions.

Budget estimates for 1941-42

Revenue	...	Rs. 1130 millions
Expenditure	...	Rs. 1268.5 millions
Deficit		Rs. 138.5 millions.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary
dated 28-2-1941, pages 125 to 139.) ✓

Indo-Burma Trade Negotiations: Indian and
Burmese Delegations meet at New Delhi on 4-2-1941. +

After the political separation in April 1937 of Burma from India, the trade relations between the two countries were governed by the Indo-Burma Trade Regulation Order, 1937, which provided that commercial relations would continue on a free trade basis as before. The Government of Burma had some time back, however, given an year's notice of its intention to terminate the Trade Regulation Order on 31-3-1941, mainly because it desired to impose import duties on Indian goods for revenue purposes. To conclude a new agreement, trade talks were initiated at New Delhi on 4-2-1941, between the Government of India delegation, headed by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, and the Government of Burma delegation, headed by the Hon'ble U. Saw, Premier of Burma.

Indian opinion favours the continuance of commercial relations on a free trade basis. The Hindustan Times, in an editorial on the subject in its issue of 11-2-1941, observes:-

"It is well known that the existing trade agreement between the two countries, governed by the Trade Regulation Order of 1937, has operated very largely to the advantage of Burma. The balance of trade has always in the past been to the advantage of Burma, for even in the current financial year the value of Burma's exports to India has been very nearly double that of India's imports into Burma. Still

if there is a desire in this country to maintain the status quo, it is largely because of the anxiety to maintain friendly relations between the two countries and promote trade to mutual advantage. Indian products, which are exported to Burma, as has often been pointed out, do not compete with any of Burma's indigenous industries. There is the imperative need also to remember that the question of ~~the~~ trade agreement between the two countries is intimately connected with the general question of the treatment of Indians in Burma".

(The Hindustan Times, 11-2-1941)

The negotiations have not yet been concluded. (The views of the Premier of Burma on the main problems connected with Indian immigration into Burma are summarised in the section: "Migration" of this report). +

Extension of Maternity Benefit Legislation to Women in
Coal-Mines: Views of Indian Mining Association. ✓

Reference was made at pages 4 to 7 of our January 1941 report to the consideration by the Second Labour Ministers' Conference of a proposal to extend maternity benefit legislation to women employed in coal mines. In ~~this~~ that connection the Government of Bengal had asked the Indian Mining Association for a report on the matter, and, in particular, on the following points:- (1) whether the employment of women workers in coal mines is continuous or not; (2) whether any maternity benefits are paid by the employers voluntarily and, if so, particulars thereof; (3) whether any medical or hospital facilities are provided by the employers; and (4) the average daily or weekly earnings of a woman worker.

Reply of Mining Association.- After consultations with the members, the Association sent the following replies to the above questions:-

1. Continuity of work of women.- Women are employed on the surface only and continuous work is available to them as shale-pickers, supplying coal to the boilers, carrying ashes from the boilers and loading railway wagons. Their attendance at work is, however, very irregular and they often absent themselves for long periods during the cultivating season and again at the time of harvesting. Women are also employed by masons and earth cutting contractors, but this labour cannot be considered continuous as they are employed only when required.

2. Present Position regarding Maternity Payments.- Payment of maternity benefits is not general throughout the coalfield, but payments are made by a large number of collieries; and where these payments are made they vary between the different collieries. The usual payment made at the time of confinement is Re.1/- and some collieries pay, in addition, an allowance of Re.1/- to Rs.2/- per week for periods ranging from 2 weeks to 4 months.

3. Medical Facilities Provided. At all collieries free medical attention is ~~given~~ given, whilst at some collieries hospital facilities are provided for the workers. The hospitals are, however, not made use of to any great extent by women, as at the time of their confinement they prefer to have the services of "dais" rather than place themselves under the care of the colliery doctor.

Maternity clinics are run by the Bay Health and Welfare Societies in the various centres of the Ranseengunge Coalfield and a trained midwife and "dais" are provided by the Mines Board of Health for each clinic under the supervision of a Lady Superintendent. These persons carry on ante-natal and post-natal examinations of the mothers free of charge.

4. Wages of Women Workers.- The daily earning of women workers varies between Re.0-3-6 to Re.0-5-0 according to the nature of the work.

(Extracted from printed Proceedings of a
Meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining
Association held on 23-1-1941.) ✓

244

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Working of the Bihar Employment Bureau in 1938-39.

The Employment Bureau, started by the Government of Bihar under the supervision of the Director of Industries, Bihar, in 1935 on an experimental basis, completed the fourth year of its working in 1938-39.

Below is given a brief account of the work done by the Bureau in 1938-39:-

Registration of names of unemployed.- The Bureau registered ~~under~~ during the year under report 976 candidates possessing different qualifications making a total of 2,624 candidates registered up to 31-3-1939.

Finding employment and keeping in touch with industrial concerns.- The Bureau addressed 1,200 industrial concerns situated in Bihar and outside but which have interest in the province in respect of different industries.

Publicity of vacancies.- The Bureau gave wide publicity to 625 vacancies occurring in the administration of the various railways ~~running through the province~~, as also vacancies advertised by the Federal Public Service Commission and by the various departments of Government.

Advice to students and their guardians.- Approximately 3,000 students and their guardians were advised not only regarding employment prospects in different industries and professions, but also regarding the kind of ~~qualificational~~ education to be imparted to young men.

Census of Unemployed.- All the educational institutions in Bihar were addressed to furnish a complete list of educated unemployed for the purpose of making a census of unemployed in the province.

Arrangement with different firms for taking Government apprentices
The Bureau, during the year under report, wrote to several firms situated in the province and outside from whom purchases of stores are made to accept apprentices nominated by the Department. The Bureau was ~~not~~ successful in fixing up 20 apprentices in the various electric supply companies. Some electric supply companies, though they are not bound by conditions in the licenses granted to them to accept apprentices, voluntarily agreed to take apprentices.

Requisitions for hands.- As a result of the efforts made by the Bureau, requisitions for 846 hands were received during the year under report making a total of 2,100 hands requisitioned up to the 31st March 1939.

Appointment and apprenticeships Secured.- 181 persons were secured appointments or apprenticeships, making a total of 525 persons appointed up to ~~the~~ 31-3-1939.

Apprentice scheme.- A scheme for launching an apprentice scheme for imparting both theoretical and practical training to young men of the province was formulated in accordance with the resolution passed by the Employment Board at its meeting held on 4-6-1938, and was submitted to the Government for approval.

(Extracted from Chapter X of the Annual Report of the Director of Industries Bihar, for the year 1938-39. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1940. Price As.12. pp. 89+4.) ✓

Revision of Madras Famine Code: Recommendations of Enquiry Committee and Government's Orders thereon. ✓

Below is given a summary of the report submitted by the Committee of Officials and non-Officials, with Mr. C.A. Henderson, I. C.S. as Chairman, appointed in May 1938 by the Government of Madras to suggest measures for the prevention and mitigation of famines and for the revision of the Madras Famine Code, with special reference to the principles of famine relief, the scale of wages and allowances to be allowed to workers and dependents and the nature of work to be undertaken for relief works; the orders issued by the Government of Madras on the more important recommendations of the Committee are also briefly noticed. The report submitted in November 1938, was recently published by the Government.

The report is in two sections; Section I contains the suggestions of the Committee for the economic uplift of the districts liable to famine; Section II contains its recommendations for the amendment of the existing provisions in the Famine Code.

Economic Uplift of Areas liable to Famine.- The Committee's recommendations for the economic uplift of the Ceded Districts and other areas liable to famine cover a wide field and deal with the possibilities of development of cottage industries, large scale industries, the execution of irrigation projects, and other matters affecting irrigation and the promotion of measures of agricultural improvement. The Committee also advocate the establishment of a Ceded Districts Economic Development Board. The Government observe that many of the measures recommended were already under their consideration, that various steps had already been taken in the directions advocated, and that, in any case, the suggestions mostly involve a continuous process of development and are consequently not susceptible of "final orders."

Thus, with reference to the Committee's recommendation for organisation of cottage industries to provide employment for unemployed members of families of agriculturists and for agriculturists

themselves at times when there is no work on the land, the Government points out that it has already made a survey of the cottage industries of all districts and have directed all Collectors to make detailed reports, in consultation with their periodical conference, on the manner in which the development of cottage industries can be furthered. Four such ~~industries~~ reports have been received. An officer was ~~deputed~~ sent to Japan to study methods there and his report is under consideration. The Government also contemplates amending the State Aid to Industries Act to expedite the grant of small loans to cottage and village industries.

Amendment of Famine Code: Widening of Scope of Relief and Increase of Wages and Allowances.— The Committee's proposals for the amendment of the Famine Code are the result of exhaustive enquiries, visits to famine camps and consultations with experts. They include recommendations for widening the scope of famine relief and for considerable increases in the wages and allowances paid to the distressed.

The Government agrees with the Committee that object of State intervention should be not merely to prevent loss of life, but should also extend to protection against physical deterioration and dispiritedness. It ~~also~~ generally accepts the Committee's suggestions for various improvements in the present system of preparing famine programmes.

Public Works and Test Works.— The Committee recommends the continuance of the present policy of expanding ordinary public works as the first measure for provision of employment in the event of a threatened famine. It also approves of the use of test works, with ~~conditions more stringent than on relief works~~, as a criterion of distress to test the need for relief works, and is opposed to any considerable relaxation of the conditions governing such works. It recommends, however, that test works may be dispensed with where expanded public works have attracted labour in sufficiently large numbers. The Government finds itself unable to accept the last proposal which is opposed to the views of the Famine Commission of 1901, as it considers that public works are not a sufficiently reliable criterion of distress, but agrees with the Committee that the maximum period of test works may be limited to one month.

The Committee has examined various suggestions for providing famine relief works by works which will be of more appreciable benefit to the community than stone-breaking which is the form that relief work commonly takes at present. It considers paddy-pounding generally unsuitable and spinning and hand weaving unsuitable for relief on a large scale. The Government agree with the Committee's view.

Improved Diet Scale for Workers.— The Committee has made suggestions, in consultation with dietetic experts, for the increase of the diet scale of workers and dependants so as to provide the best balanced and most nutritious diet possible. The ~~1~~ more important changes are an increase of the vegetable ingredient allowed, an addition to the grain allowance for adult workers, more fats for children and an increased diet for dependants generally. The Committee's proposals were put into effect during the latter part of 1939 in the famine camps in Coimbatore District and proved generally satisfactory.

Abolition of Grain Equivalent System.- The Committee recommends the abolition of the Grain Equivalent System, under which the items of the prescribed diet scale, other than grain, were represented for purposes of easy calculation in the form of the number of tolas of grain which would cost the same amount as the items of diet in question, and wages were calculated accordingly on the prices of grain. The Committee points out that the ratio between the prices of other articles and of grain has altered considerably since the grain equivalent was fixed, and recommends that wages and allowances should be calculated on the actual prices of each of the items of diet separately on each occasion of famine. The Committee's proposal was adopted during the Coimbatore Famine and found to be practicable, and it is accepted.

Increased Cost of Relief.- The Government observes that the financial effect of the increase in the diet scale and the abolition of the Grain Equivalent System in Coimbatore was to increase the average cost of relief per worker per day from 1 anna 4.260 pies on the old scale to 1 anna 5.004 pies on the new scale ~~fixing~~ or by 4.6 per cent. The average cost of relief per dependant per day rose however from 5.420 pies on the old scale to 8.165 pies on the new scale or by 51 per cent.

Recommendation for Enhanced Cash Payment not accepted.- The Committee recommends the grant of an extra pice to workers for butter-milk and firewood. The Government observes that if this proposal had been adopted in Coimbatore along with the other changes recommended, the average cost of relief per worker per day would have been 1 anna 8.004 pies, representing an increase of 23 per cent. over the cost according to the old scale. In Coimbatore, workers constituted 88.5 per cent. of the total number relieved, and the cost of their relief represented 92.98 per cent. of the total cost incurred on wages and allowances. The increase proposed would, therefore, be felt over almost the whole range of famine expenditure and would very seriously increase the already heavy cost of famine operations, and in view of the improvements already sanctioned and the cost which they will involve, the Government is unable to accept the proposal.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX Compensation for Accidents~~- The Committee recommends that when accidents occur on test or relief works involving loss of life or serious injury, compensations should be paid as if the workers were entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Government has examined their legal liability in this regard, and are advised that coolies who merely collect stones are not workmen within the meaning of the Act, but that those employed on the construction or repair of roads come under it. It considers that as famine operations are not undertaken in the interests of the employer and are already a serious expense on the public funds, it is unnecessary for them to shoulder any further legal liability, and proposes to continue the present practice, whereby cases which do not fall within the Act are considered on their merits and dealt with when suitable by ex gratia payments.

Dole after Closure of Relief Works not granted.- The Committee recommends that workers, like dependants, should be given a dole of a fortnight's wage on the closure of relief works. The Government is not convinced of the need for this dole, and observed that it may induce workers to remain on the works to obtain the dole, and would thereby complicate the question of closing down works and ~~they are~~ unable to accept it.

(The Hindu, 16-1-1941.) -

Government answers Press criticism.- The Government of Madras has issued a Press Note (Press Note No. 29 dated 20-2-1941) in answer to the criticisms made in the Madras press on the orders issued by the Government on the report. The principal criticism is that the Government had adopted a policy of laissez-faire on the recommendations; the Government refutes this allegation and points out that action has already been taken on several recommendations and that of the other recommendations several are not of a type on which final orders can be passed immediately.

Dealing with the criticism that the decision to continue to use test ~~markings~~ works as a criterion of distress is undesirable, the Government says:

"The Committee did not recommend the abolition of test works, but on the other hand agreed with their use as a criterion of distress. It only advocated ~~that wages on test works are lower than on relief~~ dispensing with them in special circumstances. The statement that wages on test works are lower than on relief works is not correct. As was observed in the order, the same wages are paid to workers on test works as on relief works, but no wages are paid to workers for rest days, and the daily task is greater and no allowances are granted to dependants of workers, though they are permitted in the case of the destitute other than dependants of workers. The amount of wages paid varies with the price of the commodities included in the diet scale. The wage earned by an individual worker on a Famine work is apt to give a misleading impression of the extent of the relief granted. Every member of the family of a worker on a relief work is entitled to a regular allowance every day that the famine lasts and families are frequently better off during this period than they are in non-famine times when employment is sometimes intermittent and only a few members of the family are earning anything." ✓

Legislation to ensure adequate Personnel in
Utility Services: Bengal Government's Move. ✓

According to an Associated Press message from Calcutta, the Minister for Finance and Labour, Government of Bengal, convened a meeting on 3-2-1941 of representatives of public utility concerns in Calcutta to discuss a Government proposal for the introduction of legislation in the near future to ensure an adequate supply of personnel essential for the maintenance of public utility concerns in the City.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 5-2-1941.) ✓

Problems of Indian Emigrants in Burma:
Burmese Premier outlines Remedial Measures. ✓

~~Mr.~~ U. Saw, Premier of Burma, who had come to India on official mission in connection with the Indo-Burma trade talks, in the course of an interview given to the Associated Press in the first week of February dealt with the problems of Indians in Burma and the measures taken by the Government of Burma to improve the conditions of life and work of emigrant Indian labour. The main points brought out in the interview are summarised below:-

Four main Problems.- The four main problems confronting Burma today, all of which, curiously enough, are connected with the presence of Indians in the country are: (1) The agrarian problem for the solution of which has been enacted the Burma Land Purchase Bill; (2) Inter-marriage between Burmese women and non-Burmans; (3) Industrial labour; and (4) Indian immigration into Burma.

The Burma Land Purchase Bill.- The object of the Burma Land Purchase Bill was for the State to purchase at a fair price land from absentee landlords in suitable areas, and to distribute it to landless cultivators without racial discrimination. ^{and to a great extent} The Bill made no distinction between Burmese landlords and Indian landlords, to a much greater number than Indian landlords. Burma has always been a predominantly agricultural country and until recently it was a country of peasant proprietors, the expressed policy of successive Governments for many decades past being to discourage large agricultural estates. In spite of this, the Shettis (a merchant community of South India) who, before the trade depression, had invested large sums in loans to agriculturists, now find themselves possessed of large areas of paddy lands in the principal rice growing districts of Lower Burma. In a predominantly agricultural country the possession of large areas of land by absentee landlords is attended by a grave risk to internal order, a risk which is enhanced where, as in the case of Burma, large areas of land are held by persons who are not only non-agriculturists but whose permanent residence is outside the country. The anti-Indian riots of 1931 and 1939 are in the final analysis attributable to this fundamental cause for economic dissatisfaction. The Indian landlords in Burma, as a class, are quite ready to co-operate, but there is considerable anxiety lest the machinery to be provided by the proposed legislation should be used in order to deprive land owners of a just price for their lands. The intention of the Bill is to give the owner of the land acquired for the purpose by Government the market value of the land in full at the time of the acquisition, and this value will be assessed by a specially appointed Land Commission. In response to Indian demand, it has been decided that appeals from the decisions of the Land Commissioner will be heard by a bench of the High Court consisting of ~~the~~ judges. The Bill has passed the House of Representatives, and is at present before the Senate.

Inter-marriage Problems.- In the past, the position was that where a Burmese Buddhist woman married a man belonging to another religion, the succession and inheritance law which applied to the parties to the marriage as well as to their offspring, was not the Burmese Buddhist Law but the law of the non-Burmese Buddhist party to the marriage. This position was at variance with the position in other countries. The position in Burma was intolerable to Burmese sentiment and the matter has been set at rest by the recent passage of the Buddhist Women's Marriage Act. The successful solution of this problem has destroyed another source of ill-feeling against Indians in Burma.

Emigrant Indian Labour.- Industrial labour conditions in Burma are now the subject of a detailed inquiry by two representative committees appointed by Government, one dealing with labour conditions in the oilfields and the other with industrial labour generally. (Vide page 53 of July 1939 report of this Office.) The Government of Burma is anxious to improve the conditions of Indian industrial labour in Burma, as ^{also} those of Burmese industrial labour, and they will deal expeditiously and carefully with the recommendations which are expected from the two committees and hope thereby to solve the third great problem before them.

Indian immigration into Burma.- The solution of the various problems connected with this subject was investigated by the Baxter Commission on Indian Immigration. The report of this Commission was recently received by the Government of Burma and the important recommendations made by the Commission will shortly be considered by the Government of Burma, in consultation with the Government of India. Any measures of control or regulation found necessary will be reached to the fullest extent possible by the method of agreement between India and Burma.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 4-2-1941.) ✓

Indian Immigration into Ceylon:
Enquiry into Problem by Colonial Office. ✓

References have ~~have~~ been made in the previous reports of this Office to the various problems relating to Indian emigration to Ceylon, culminating in the recent Indo-Ceylon exploratory talks and their failure (vide pages 29 to 29a of our December 1940 report). It is understood that the Colonial Office has asked Major Granville St. John Orde-Browne, Labour Adviser to the Colonial Office, to investigate the problem and that Major Browne is arriving in Ceylon shortly for a six weeks' stay.

(The Hindu, 24-2-1941.) ✓

Failure of Indo-Ceylon Negotiations:
Government of India's Communiqué re. November 1940 Exploratory Conference. +

On 11-2-1941, the Government of India issued a ~~XXXXXX~~ communiqué to the effect that fundamental differences on the question of the status of Indians resident in Ceylon ~~has~~ led to the failure of the Indo-Ceylon Exploratory Conference of November 1940 (vide pages 18-19 of November 1940 report); the report of the Ceylon delegation to the Conference and the verbatim report of the discussions at the Conference ~~has~~ also been published.

Government of India's Communiqué.- The Government of India's communiqué points out that at the Exploratory Conference, the Indian Delegation took the point of view that full citizenship rights ~~XXXX~~ covering the whole political and economic field, could legitimately be claimed by all Indians who could establish proof of a prescribed period of residence and of a permanent interest in that country, and suggested that (a) five year's residence and (b) a permanent interest in Ceylon, both tests to be satisfied by some set of easily ascertainable facts, should entitle Indian emigrants to Ceylonese citizenship. The Indian delegation recognised, however, that certain specific reservations might have to be made in the special circumstances of Ceylon and were prepared to consider provisions regarding the right to enter Government service and the right to acquire land already mapped out under the Crown Lands Development Ordinance.

The Ceylon delegation, however, found themselves unable to accept the principle underlying the proposals of the Indian delegation. From an early stage the discussions had revealed that ~~they~~, the Ceylon delegation, laid great emphasis upon the necessity, however unpleasant, of restricting the employment of Indians in all spheres, including estates.

The conversations were therefore discontinued, but the Communiqué points out that the desire of the Government of India that relations between the two countries should be placed on a firm basis of friendship and co-operation has in no way diminished and should a prospect of a resumption of negotiations with greater possibilities of success appear in the future they will be found ready to take advantage of it.

Ceylon Delegation's Report.- Explaining the Ceylonese point of view, the Ceylon Delegation's Report says: "Ceylon has already reached the point where she cannot support a reasonable standard of living for her people; her population is rapidly increasing with all the attendant economic problems and difficulties. Placed in these circumstances, Ceylon has no alternative but to restrict the number of non-Ceylonese to whom full rights of citizenship can be extended... The Indian proposals, not only widen the category of those who are entitled to full citizenship, but also grant the opportunity to acquire a domicile of choice to Indians now resident in Ceylon who have not completed five years' residence. In effect, therefore, Ceylon is to resign herself to the absorption of about a million Indians. With

their descendants, of course, that number will be greatly increased in the future."

(The Hindu, 12-2-1941).

Ceylon Governor's Intervention.-- On 11-2-1941, the Governor of Ceylon sent a message to the State Council, placing on record that, in view of certain undertakings which have been given by the Government of Great Britain and the Government of Ceylon to the Government of India, he (the Governor) was bound to withhold assent in respect of any measure to which the Government of India has not agreed and of which the effect would be to deprive Indians of the benefit of any of the undertakings. One of these undertakings is: "Indians in Ceylon have the same legal right as members of the local population and they can acquire and hold land." Another undertaking is that Ceylon has no intention of altering the law to the detriment of Indians.

Sir Baron Jayatilaka, Leader of the State Council, moved adjournment of the House till March 1941, stating that the message had created an intolerable position. He said that, despite the Governor's warning, by March 4 framing of the necessary legislation restricting immigration would have been completed.

(Times of India, 13-2-1941).

Anti-Indian Legislation framed.-- According to an Associated Press of India message dated 26-2-1941 from Colombo, two Bills one for regulating and controlling the entry of non-Ceylonese into Ceylon and the other for registration of persons in Ceylon who do not possess Ceylon domicile or origin have been approved by the Board of Ministers.

Press forecasts of the Bills, which are expected to be introduced in the State Council on March 4, show that the Immigration Bill requires immigrants to possess in addition to a passport one of the two kinds of permits issued by the Controller of Immigration. A-Class permit will entitle persons to enter Ceylon and reside in the country for an indefinite period while B-class permit will entitle the holder to reside for a definite period specified in the permit. Visitors to Ceylon and passengers passing through the ports will be allowed to enter on the usual passport. Every adult non-Ceylonese is to be registered under the second Bill.

The Times of Ceylon understands that the Government of India has sent a message to the Government of Ceylon, stating that ~~the~~ serious repercussions are likely to follow any unilateral action regarding the question of immigration, which, the Government of India contends, should form part of a general settlement of all Indo-Ceylon problems. The Board of Ministers, the paper adds, had this message while considering ~~and~~ the draft Bills, ~~which have now been approved.~~

(The Hindu, 27-2-1941.) +

34

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC
SERVANTS.

Government Servants and Indebtedness:
U.P. Government's Order. ✓

The Government of the United Provinces had made the following amendment to the rule regarding insolvency and habitual indebtedness in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules:

A Government servant shall avoid habitual indebtedness. If a Government servant is adjudged or declared insolvent, or if a moiety of his salary is frequently attached for debt, has been continuously so attached for a period exceeding two years, or is attached for a sum which, in ordinary circumstances, he could not repay within a period of two years, he may, unless he proves that the insolvency or indebtedness is the result of circumstances which, with the exercise of ordinary diligence, he could not have foreseen or over which he had no control, and has not proceeded from extravagant or dissipated habits, be presumed to have contravened this rule. A Government servant shall forthwith report his insolvency to the head of the office or department in which he is employed.

(The Leader, 6-2-1941.) ✓

Bribery and Corruption among Government servants:
Findings of Burma Government Committee. ✓

The findings of the Bribery and Corruption Enquiry Committee appointed in 1940 by the Burma Government are now published, with a record of allegations of bribery made to the Committee against several Departments of the Government; the Committee attributes bribery, in part, to low salaries.

Main Recommendations.— After recommending certain changes in salary scales in the light of its enquiry, the Committee suggests that scales of pay should also be based on differences in standard of living in different districts. Other recommendations of the Committee are that all officers should report their gambling, winning and losses above a certain figure and that the annual confidential report on each officer should give certain facts about his way of life. Government must impress on officers that it is their duty to neglect no opportunity of detecting and punishing the taking of bribes and no penalty short of dismissal will meet the case.

Holding that the greatest single cause of corruption is the almost complete impunity with which it can be practised, the Report recommends a suitable modification of the relevant Section of the Criminal Procedure Code which would give a measure of protection to a bribe-giver, who, in the Committee's opinion, is the less guilty party in the transaction. The Report points out: "We no doubt fear that prosecutions deter many bribe-givers who would otherwise come

forward with information against corrupt officers." The Committee observes: "Corruption is a deficiency disease due to want of public spirit among the public ~~and servants~~ and will fade off if Burma has a healthy and vigorous national life."

(The Hindu, 9-2-1941.). ✓

Development of Cottage Industries and Part-time Occupations:
Action taken by Bombay Government on Recommendations of Economic and
Industrial Survey Committee. ✓

The following information about the action taken by the Government of Bombay on the recommendations of the Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee is taken from a press communiqué dated 20-2-1941 issued by the Director of Information, Government of Bombay. (The action taken by the Government in the economic and educational spheres ~~are~~ reviewed in the Sections: Economic Conditions and Education of this report; the principal recommendations of the Committee are given at pages 16-20 of the report of this Office for September 1940.)

Spare-time Occupations.- Under the present financial condition, the Government considers that for the agriculturist the most important work must be improvement of agricultural methods. To introduce satisfactorily on a reasonably good scale, spare-time occupations amongst agriculturists, large sums of money must be expended, which during the prevailing financial stringency, cannot be done. It may, however, be added that the Government has been doing a certain amount of work in connection with the part-time occupations of agriculturists. It has given during 1940-41 to the All-India Spinners' Association a grant of Rs.10,000 for the improvement of hand-spinning appliances. It has also given a grant to the All-India Village Industries Association for ~~the~~ organising such part-time occupations as bee-keeping, rope-making, etc. The grant to this Association also covers certain whole-time occupations like paper-making, button-making, coir-work and the like. The total grant to this Association for the ~~xx~~ current year is Rs.25,000. The Government has also sanctioned during the current year the establishment of a Sericultural Farm through the agency of the Department of Industries. If the work of this Farm proves to be successful, a sericultural industry can be started amongst agriculturists. The Department of Industry also maintains a certain number of weaving schools for agriculturists.

Fostering Hereditary Artisanship.- The Government is, however, of the opinion that the limited amount of money which is available for cottage industries should be devoted very largely to improving the conditions of the skilled hereditary artisans whose cottage industries are an integral part of the Province's economy. These artisans at present suffer badly from competition, lack of working capital, want of improved implements of production and training in their use. The Department of Industries is trying to meet these difficulties by organising peripatetic schools in various cottage industries. The Government hopes to make available to the artisans trained in these schools, improved implements at concessional rates and also hopes to be able to give loans to artisans for their working capital, etc. Marketing facilities have been organised by the Department of Industries in connection with the handloom industry in several districts. In the City of Bombay a composite Sales Depot has been started for the sale ~~Depot has been started for the sale~~ of the products of all cottage

industries. It is hoped to organise further composite sales depots in some districts in the coming year.

Cottage Vs. Large-Scale Industries.- The recommendation which refers to competition between cottage industries and large-scale industries may be divided into (1) exploration by the Department of Industries for the establishment and expansion of those cottage industries which do not compete with large-scale industries, (2) combination of large-scale methods of manufacture with some cottage processes, and (3) where competition exists between cottage and large-scale industries, division of the market between the cottage and large-scale industries. As regards (1) and (2) above, the Department of Industries is doing all that is possible with its present resources. These resources will be added to whenever possible from time to time. As regards item (3), the Committee has rightly pointed out that the Bombay Government cannot take any unilateral action.

As regards competition between cottage industries and small-scale industries, the Committee has, in the opinion of the Government, rightly said that it is not in favour of any restrictions being placed on the activities of the small-scale industries as such. Both small-scale and cottage industries have their legitimate place in the provincial economy and nothing should be done by State action to prejudice the chances of the former. The Government accepts this view. The Committee has considered the question of the handloom industry as being quite different from the rest of the cottage industries.

Financing of Cottage Industries.- In connection with the recommendation for financing the cottage workers, it may be stated that the Government has already made a modest beginning in the matter of financing cottage workers. Improved appliances such as furnaces for glass bangle-makers, tools for wood-carvers, etc., have been given to artisans at concessional prices and on extended terms of payment. The Government hopes to extend this principle to a number of other cottage industries and also advance in suitable cases working capital to be returned in instalments spread over a number of years. These facilities will, in the first instance, be given to those artisans who pass out from the Department of Industries institutions for training in the use of improved appliances. The Committee has recommended that in the event of finance not being possible through the help of the Co-operative Banks, the Government should sponsor a special organisation or a bank and if its funds are to be obtained from the public, both capital and interest should be guaranteed by the State. In the alternative, the Committee has suggested that the Government should place Rs.2.5 million at the disposal of the Cottage Industries Section of the Department of Industries for financing cottage workers.

(Communiqué No. P - 80, dated 20-2-1941
issued by the Director of Information,
Bombay.) ✓+

PUBLIC HEALTH1st All-India Prevention of Food Adulteration Conference, Delhi, 21-2-41

The 1st All-India Conference for the Prevention of Adulteration of Foodstuffs was held at New Delhi on 21-2-1941, Mr. Shantidas Askuran, Member, Council of State, presiding.

Mr. Shantidas Askuran, in his presidential address, pointed out that the root-cause of adulteration of foodstuffs, principally of milk and milk products in India was shortage of foodstuffs. The action taken by the Governments and the municipalities had so far failed to check the evil, and in view of the fact that adulteration was spreading even in villages, some device was called for by which even a layman could detect adulteration, by difference in colour or smell. He suggested that local bodies should insist on a harmless colour being given to skimmed milk, and a heavy import duty should be levied on skimmed milk powder. Dealing with butter and ghee, he pointed out that, apart from fixing higher standards of tests, compulsory colourisation of vegetable products and other adulterants at the producing centres offered a practical and harmless solution.

Resolution.- The Conference passed a resolution inviting the attention of both the Central and the Provincial Governments and Indian States to the growing menace of adulterated milk and milk products and pleading for effective measures in the form of legislation to ensure supply of pure milk, butter and ghee to the public. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was asked to take note of the serious losses sustained by the cattle-keeping and breeding industry, resulting specially in a set-back to the efforts for the improvement of the dairy industry in the country. The Provincial Governments were urged to give effect to Food Adulteration Acts by making provision for opening of test houses and colouring of vegetable products on the lines of the Punjab legislation. The Conference called upon local bodies to enforce rigidly the existing law for the prevention of adulteration of foodstuffs.

The Conference appointed an All-India Committee to further the objects of the meeting, ~~Mr. Shantidas Askuran as its President,~~ and to organise provincial committees to conduct propaganda on its behalf.

(The Hindu, 22 and 23-2-1941.)

Recommendations re. Education of Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee: Action taken by Bombay Government. ✓

The following information about the action taken by the Government of Bombay on the recommendations relating to education of the Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee (for recommendations of the Committee see pages 16-20 of the September 1940 report of this Office) are taken from a press communiqué dated 20-2-1941 issued by the Department of Information, Government of Bombay.

Adult Education.- With regard to the proposals for the liquidation of adult illiteracy, a scheme of adult education was started by the Government of Bombay in 1937 with only 29 classes and, in order to spread the movement, the Government appointed a Special Committee to work out a detailed scheme. The Committee made certain recommendations and drew up an elaborate scheme involving expenditure running into ~~Rs. 100~~ millions. This report could not be accepted by the Government in view of the prohibitive cost. The Government, however, appointed a Board of Adult Education to submit for the approval to the Government a programme for the spread of adult education in the Province, to conduct propaganda for the removal of illiteracy and other forms of ignorance, and to encourage and supervise the publication of suitable literature for adult education. In consultation with the Adult Education Board, a scheme for the registration of workers and grants-in-aid to Literacy Classes was put into operation, and a sum of Rs.40,000 was placed at the disposal of the Divisional Inspectors at the rate of Rs.2,000 per district.

By the end of March, 1939, there were as many as 460 Adult Education Classes on the registered list with 13,800 adults under instruction and the total amount of grant paid was Rs.19,793. During 1939-40, the number of these classes rose to 2,300 and 13,200 adults were made literate. The total amount of grant paid to these classes was Rs.86,000, but roughly about Rs.27,000 was paid by way of an equipment grant. The average cost per literate amounted roughly to Rs.4-8-0. In view of the heavy cost the grant was reduced during the course of the year. This reduction caused a set-back and there was a fall in the number of classes. At the end of 1939-40, nearly 50 per cent. of the classes disappeared and only 25 per cent. of the adults attending the classes became literate.

The whole scheme is again under review with a view to seeing how the programme for the liquidation of adult ~~literacy~~ illiteracy in the Province can be carried out more vigorously.

Scheme of Basic Education.- The scheme of Basic Education, otherwise known as the Wardha Scheme, contemplates that the process of education should centre round some form of manual and productive work and that the training to be given should, as far as possible, be integrally related to the central handicraft chosen with due regard to the environment of the child. The craft is to be used as a medium to part instruction in different subjects which remain the same as of old. Instruction through craft provides a motive for learning. As the scheme would materially alter the existing educational system,

the Government is at present trying it as an experiment in a few selected schools in certain compact areas. The Government is also by the payment of grants at the usual rate aiding the Basic schools started by local authorities and other private bodies outside the compact areas. The number of these schools is about 26.

Spinning has been selected as the basic craft. When children reach Standard V some of them will have agriculture as the basic craft. Later on, as and when the educational possibilities of other crafts (such as wood-work, tanning, leather work, paper-making, etc.) are explored, these will also be considered for employment as basic crafts. The Government has appointed a Special Officer to organise work in connection with the development of the scheme of Basic Education. The Government has also appointed an Advisory Committee for Basic Education to advise it on all questions relating to the subject. The experiment is likely to continue for about five years during which period the working of the schools will be observed to ascertain what modifications in the syllabus may be necessary for introducing the scheme on a mass basis, provided it is found otherwise suitable. The financial implications will also be kept in view during this time. Further expansion of basic education will depend upon the demand for this type of education and the experience gathered with regard to its feasibility and suitability.

Technical Education.- The Government realises the need for an increase in the number of technical institutions in the Province and the more even distribution of them. But in present circumstances it cannot itself undertake the establishment of new technical schools. It will, however, do all it can to help the advance of technical education in the Province by the institution of additional scholarships, by extending grants-in-aid to a larger number of technical institutes on their satisfying the necessary conditions, and by the further extension of the Apprentice Scheme already instituted.

(The action taken by the Bombay Government on the Committee's recommendations relating to economic matters and cottage industries are reviewed in the sections: "Economic Conditions" and "Co-operation" of this report.) ✓+

Encouragement of Adult Education in Bombay: Recent Government Decisions. ✓+

The Government of Bombay has recently revised its policy regarding the organisation of adult education. In orders just issued, the Government states that adult education classes, as distinguished from home classes, should be the mainstay of the adult education movement and must be revived. Home classes are to continue, where circumstances are favourable, as it is understood that in a few areas, like Poona, some good has been done by them.

The Government has provided for a higher scale of grants-in-aid. It has, however, directed that the attendance limit of an adult education class for the purpose of a grant must be raised from 15 to 20 for men and from 10 to 15 for women. The result of these orders is that an adult education class fulfilling the required conditions will now receive an equipment grant not exceeding Rs.40 and a basic grant of not more than Rs.5 a month, plus a bonus of Rs.2 per illiterate adult student who satisfies the literacy test prescribed by the rules, or a maximum grant of Rs.4 per adult illiterate student who satisfies the literacy test in addition to the equipment grant.

The Government considers it very desirable to encourage local authorities and district associations to undertake the management of adult education classes. The services of primary school teachers should be availed of, where possible, for the teaching of such classes, and local authorities will be permitted to start classes, but care must be taken to see that the schools in rural areas get their fair share of the Government grant for such classes. As ~~regards~~ the grant available for adult education is limited, the Director of Public Instruction will regulate the opening of new classes so that the maximum value can be obtained from the funds available.

(Communiqué No. P-76 dated 17-2-1941
issued by the Director of Information,
Bombay.) ✓

Visual Education in Rural Areas:

C.P. to copy Bombay Scheme. ✓

Reference was made at page 40 of our January 1941 report to the visual education scheme for rural areas recently adopted by the Bombay Government. It is understood that the C.P. Government intends following Bombay's lead and an announcement to this effect was made by the Governor of the Province while addressing the annual general meeting of the C.P. branch of the Red Cross Society in the first week of February. Mr. C.M. Trivedi, Chief Secretary to the Government, and Mr. E. A. H. Churchill, Principal of the Agricultural College, Nagpur, will be visiting Bombay shortly to study the details of the Bombay scheme. The C.P. Government, it is understood, will endeavour to use films made in the Bombay province for health education by adapting them to suit the needs of the province.

(The Statesman, 2-2-41.) ✓

42

The Punjab Primary Education Act, 1940.

(Act XVIII of 1940.) +✓

The Punjab Primary Education Act, which was adopted by the local Legislature in 1940, received the assent of the Governor on 25-2-1941 and is published at pages 43 to 46 of the Government Gazette (Extraordinary), Punjab, dated 3-3-1941. The Act defines "School age", in the case of boys, as between 6 and 12 years, and in the case of girls as between 6 and ¹⁰~~12~~ years, and penalises anyone who continues to employ after due warning a compulsory scholar and prevents him from attending the school. +✓

Wages. ✓

Dearness Allowance for Railway Workers:
Court of Enquiry's Report under consideration by Government
of India.

The findings of the Court of Enquiry set up to investigate the question of dearness allowance for railway workers were summarised at pages 42-43 of the January 1941 report of this Office.

On 8-2-1941, the representatives of ^{the} All-India Railwaymen's Federation met Sir Andrew Clow, Communications Member, and Mr. L. Wilson, the Chief Commissioner for Railways, and discussed the report, but no conclusions were reached. It appears that the acceptance of the Court's recommendations for the grant of a dearness allowance of Rs.3 per month would, if applied to railway workers in all State Railways getting Rs.30 per month in urban areas and Rs.25 in rural areas, cost the Railway exchequer Rs 16 millions and would go up to Rs 20 millions in case of the Federation's demand for the extension of its benefits to all employees getting Rs 25 to Rs 100 per month being accepted.

(The Hindu, 10-2-1941.)

On 27-2-1941, Mr. Miller, a member of the ~~the~~ European group, initiated in the Central Assembly discussion of the Court of Inquiry's report by moving a cut motion on the Railway Budget. He criticised the Court's handling of the statistical evidence, particularly of the figures compiled by the Bombay Labour Office, and contended that the evidence in support of the Court's findings that a 11 per cent. increase in the cost of living had occurred was flimsy. He indicated the European's Group's opposition to any suggestion that allowances given should be included as an integral part of wages and stressed the advisability of maintaining a permanent or semi-permanent panel of persons with experience of labour conditions and in constant contact with them, who could act on courts of enquiry such as the one presided over by Sir B.N. Rau.

Mr. N.M. Joshi expressed the wish that the Court had not confined its enquiry or findings to those getting Rs.35 and below, but had taken into consideration the case of men getting Rs.50 also. He detected an undercurrent of opinion in the report in favour of extending the allowance to employees getting Rs.50. These allowances were not going to make the employees better off than before; they were intended only to prevent the standard of living going down. Many employers were making large profits out of the war and he deprecated the attitude of the European Group in opposing any compensation being made to men whose standard of living was going down. He urged the Government to come to a decision quickly as there were already evidences of unrest among the men.

Sir Andrew Clow, Communications Member, replying to the debate, expressed disagreement with the view that the Government, having appointed the Court, ~~and because that Court was composed of distinguished men~~ should accept its views. The Court had not taken into consideration certain factors which were reserved for the Government

44

to consider, such as the capacity to pay and the danger of certain sheltered trades building up wage standards out of consonance with conditions outside that shelter. He added that the plea of sacrosanctity for the findings of the Court was not convincing when those who advanced that plea themselves wanted the Government to go beyond the recommendations of the report and apply them to men drawing higher salaries.

(The Statesman, 28-2-1941).

No decision has been yet reached, but the Railway Board is in consultation and correspondence with the A.I.R.F. on the subject..

Dearness Allowance for Low-Paid Government Employees:
Bombay Government considering Grant.

The Government of Bombay is considering the payment of a dearness allowance to low-paid Government employees. The main details under consideration are understood to be what class of employees should benefit by the scheme, the rate of allowance and the date from which the payment of allowance should come into force.

The question of the payment of a ~~dear~~ dearness allowance has been before Government since the outbreak of war, and when it was first raised Government decided to open cost-price grain shops to give relief to employees from the rise in the prices of foodstuffs. With the publication recently of the report of the Railway Inquiry Court recommending the payment of a dearness allowance of Rs.3 per month to employees of the G.I.P. Railway whose incomes are below certain specified "subsistence levels", the subject again came to the forefront.

In this connection, it may be pointed out, that according to a recent announcement of the Government of ~~Bombay~~, about 66,000 of its employees drawing a monthly salary of Rs 30 or less are to be given a dearness allowance of one rupee per month from February 1941.

(The Times of India, 17-2-1941.)

Compensation for War Injuries.

Compensation for War Injuries of Indian Seamen:
Resolution for Payment from Central Revenues moved by Commerce
Member in Central Assembly.

On 25-2-1941, Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Government of India, moved the following resolution in the Indian Legislative Assembly:-

45

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council to take steps to establish schemes providing for the payment from Central revenues of compensation in respect of war injuries and war damage to effects sustained during the period of the present emergency by masters and seamen employed on seagoing ~~maritime~~ services on ships registered in British India under the Bombay Coasting Vessels Act, 1938, or under the Indian Registration of Ships Act, 1841."

In his speech introducing the resolution, the Commerce Member pointed out that rates of compensation had been provided by His Majesty's Government for seamen on British ships registered in the United Kingdom, and that these rates had been extended to Indian seamen on ships on the Indian register but coming under the British Merchant Shipping Act. These ships were big ones and the scheme of compensation did not apply to smaller vessels ranging from 3 tons to 200 tons and ~~number~~ numbering over 77,000 which plied in Indian coastal and inland waters. The possibility of war damage to these was still remote, but if danger should come nearer, a scheme for extending compensation to seamen on these craft analogous to the one applicable to the bigger vessels should be ready to be applied. The resolution sought the Assembly's sanction for the establishment of suitable schemes for this purpose.

Several members participated in the discussion that ensued.

Sir Yamin Khan, supporting the demand for an opportunity for the House to consider the detailed scheme, asked that if any ship on the Indian register was chartered by the British Government for its own purposes and if Indian seamen on it suffered damage, compensation should be paid by His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Baijnath Bajoria, while supporting the resolution, demanded that compensation in the case of British ships controlled and owned by Britons, and plying outside Indian territorial waters, for instance, between India and Rangoon should be borne by the British Exchequer. He also said that as regards Indian ships owned by Indian nationals, if these went out on international trade, damage to them should be compensated by the British Government.

Mr. N.M. Joshi wanted an assurance that the rates of compensation paid under the proposed scheme would not be less than those paid to European sailors under the British Act and not less than the rates paid under the legislation passed in Simla in 1939 (vide pages 1, September 1939 report of this Office). It was immaterial who paid the compensation so long as compensation was paid. He was not against the British Exchequer paying Indian seamen, but under present conditions it would be extremely difficult to recover compensation from the British Government.

Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, replying to the debate, pointed out that two kinds of compensation were proposed: one an immediate grant and the other a pension which would be a continuing liability, and that when the scheme was actually framed it would be put before the Standing Finance Committee for approval.

He also made it clear that for Indian seamen on British ships registered in the United Kingdom, His Majesty's Government paid all the compensation; and that for Indian seamen on ships on the Indian register the Government of India had to pay compensation. The proposed scheme now, however, related to all coastal vessels ranging from three to 200 tons. In the case of these as in that of the

46

bigger vessels, the owners would be relieved of the responsibility of paying compensation. In support of this position, he pointed out that war damage was not insurable risk and that therefore owners should not be saddled with it. Further, every belligerent country had felt it the duty of the Government to pay compensation, and the Government of India also was justified in taking up a similar position.

(The Statesman, 26-2-1941.) +

Price Control.

The Burma Control of Prices Order, 1941.

Under the Defence of Burma Rules, and in supersession of the Rules ^{under these} published in August 1940, the Burma Government has published the Control of Prices Order, 1941, to regulate prices of commodities and to safeguard the interests of consumers by providing penalties for shopkeepers who withhold commodities from sale.

(Notification No.29 of the Controller
of Supplies, dated 18-2-1941: The Burma
Gazette, Part I, dated 22-2-1941, page
179 to 181.) +

List of more important publications received in this Office during
February 1941.

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Report on the work of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, 1939-40. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price annas 8 or 9d.
- (2) Government of India, Department of Labour. Annual Report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on the North Western, East Indian, Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula, Bombay, Baroda and Central India, Madras and Southern Mahratta and Bengal and North-Western Railways, during the year 1939-40. By Mr. Abbas Khaleeli, I. C.S., Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of ~~the~~ Railway Labour. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price 7 annas or 8d.
- (3) Indian Mines Act, 1923. Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1939. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.3 or 5s.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board). Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1939-40. Vol. II - Statistics. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941.
- (2) Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce, United Provinces, for the year ending 31st March, 1940. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1941. Price 8 annas.
- (3) Central Board of Revenue. All-India Income-tax Report and Returns for the year 1938-39. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Rs.2-2-0 or 3s.6d.
- (4) Report on the working of the Department of Industries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March, 1940. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. Price Annas 8.
- (5) Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year 1939-40, by S.L. Mehta, Esq., I. C. S., Director of Industries, Assam. Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press. 1941. Price Re.1/- or 1s.6d.
- (6) Indian Central Cotton Committee. Stocks of Indian Raw Cotton held in India by the Mills and the Trade on 31-8-1941 (Statistical Leaflet No.2 - January 1941). Price 4 annas. Obtainable from the Secretary, Indian Central Cotton Committee, Post Box 1002, Bombay.
- (7) Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, Vol. XVII, Nos.5, 6 and 7. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941.

Social Insurance.-

Printed letter No.98-Com. dated Cuttack, the 8th January, 1941, from the Secretary to the Government of Orissa, Law, Commerce

Social Insurance.- (continued)

and Labour Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, on the subject of "Statistical returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1939" (Orissa).

Agriculture.-

- (1) Report of the Agricultural Department, Bihar, for the period from 1-4-1938 to 31-3-1939. Superintendent: Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941. Price 7 annas.

Co-operation.-

Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions for the twenty-fifth year 1347-1348 Fasli (7-7-1938 to 7-7-1939). Hyderabad-Deccan: Government Central Press. 1940.

Organisation, Congress, etc.-

- (1) Proceedings of the Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Employers Federation of India held at 3 p.m. on the 17th December 1940, in the rooms of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, 2, Clive Street, Calcutta.
- (2) Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India held in Calcutta on the 16th December, 1940. Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.
- (3) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the province of Bombay, 1939-40. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Annas 2 or 3d. 1941.

Social Conditions.-

Nineteenth Annual Report of the Welfare Committee, 1940. The Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras.

Education.-

- (1) General Education Tables, 1939-40. Ajmer-Merwara.
- (2) Report on Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency for the year 1939-40, Vol.I. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1941. Price 8 annas.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

C 6/2/11

Report for March, 1941.

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Pages</u>
<u>1. National Labour Legislation.-</u>	
<u>Government of India:</u>	
(a) The Madras Port Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1941: Provision for one Representative of Labour.	1
(b) The Berar Laws Act, 1941 (Act IV of 1941).	1
<u>Assam:</u>	
(a) The Assam Shops Assistants' Relief Bill, 1941.	1-2
(b) Select Committee Report on the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940.	2
<u>Bengal:</u>	
(a) The Bengal Shops and Establishments Act, 1940: Date of Commencement and Rules.	2
(b) The Draft Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1941.	2-3
<u>Bihar:</u>	
Extension of certain Labour Enactments to Santal Parganas.	3
<u>Bombay:</u>	
The Bombay Rent Restriction (Amendment) Act, 1941.	3
<u>Delhi:</u>	
Extension of Bombay Lifts Act, 1939, to Delhi.	3
<u>Madras:</u>	
Factories (Madras Amendment) Act, 1941.	3
<u>Punjab:</u>	
Draft Additions to Punjab Factories Rules.	4
<u>Sind:</u>	
(a) The Establishments Employees Contributory Provident Fund Bill, 1940: Bill Rejected.	4
(b) City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1941.	4
(c) The Sind Boiler Rules, 1941.	4
(d) The Draft Sind Shops and Establishments Rules, 1941.	5
<u>Burma:</u>	
(a) The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1941.	5
(b) The Burma Shops Bill, 1939: Report of Select Committee.	5-6
<u>Social Policy.-</u>	
(a) Labour Policy of Bengal Government: Cut Motion on Budget in Bengal Assembly.	7
(b) Labour Department to be set up in Bihar: Functions of the Department.	8
<u>Conditions of Work.-</u>	
<u>Hours of Work:</u>	
(a) Bombay Shops and Establishments Act: Indian Merchants' Chamber suggests Amendment.	9

Conditions of Work.-

Hours of Work: (continued)

- (b) Exemption of certain Categories of Clerical Staff of Mills from the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939. 9-10

Inspection:

- Cost of Administering Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940:
Estimated to be Rs. 40,000 yearly. 11

Holidays with Pay:

- Weekly Half-holiday and Provident Fund for Municipal Sweepers:
Action by Government of Gwalior State. 12

General:

- (a) Conditions of Work on Indian Railways, 1939-40. 13-16
(b) Tea Canteens in Mills: Increased Efficiency and Saving of Time. 17

Economic Conditions.-

- (a) Financial Position of Bombay Cotton Mill Industry, 1939. 18
(b) Industrial and Scientific Research Committee set up in Central Provinces: Functions of Committee. 18
(c) War Opportunities of Cotton Textile Industry: Review by Chairman, Millowners' Association, Bombay. 19-20
(d) Post-War Industrial Reconstruction: Resolutions adopted by Court of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. 20
(e) Government of India's Economic and Industrial Policy: Plan for Reversion to Peace Economy: Assembly Pronouncement by Commerce Member. 21-23
(f) State Ownership of Telephone System: Purchase of three Companies by Government of India. 23-24
(g) Bengal Economic Enquiry: Cottage Industries as Means of Occupation during Enforced Leisure. 24
(h) Indian Automobile Industry: Factory to be set up in Mysore State under State Guarantee. 25
(i) All-India Manufacturers' Conference, Bombay, 1 and 2-3-1941: Demand for Intensive Industrialisation Drive. 25-29

Social Insurance.-

- Compulsory Life Insurance for Government Servants: Progress of Bengal Scheme. 30

Migration.-

- Deadlock in Indo-Ceylon Negotiations: Ceylon Ministry presses on anti-Indian Legislation. 31

Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants.-

- (a) All-India Conference of Employees of Central and Provincial Governments and Local Bodies; New Delhi, 15-3-1941: Demand for Dearness Allowance. 32
(b) The Standard Provident Fund Rules for Teachers employed in Recognised Private Schools in Delhi. 33

Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-

- Land Colonisation on Co-operative Basis: Madras Government's Scheme. 34

Organisation Congresses, etc.-

Employers' Organisations:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (a) 14th Annual Meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Delhi, 22 and 23-3-1941. | 35-39 |
| (b) All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers: 8th Annual Meeting, Delhi, 1941. | 39-42 |
| (c) Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce: 12th Meeting, Delhi, 1941. | 43-45 |
| (d) Annual General Meeting of the Employers' Federation of Southern India, Madras, 21-3-1941. | 46-48 |

Workers' Organisations:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| (a) Plea for Recognition of Communal Unions: Rejected by Central Assembly. | 49-51 |
| (b) No Recognition of Communal Trade Unions: Policy of Government of India enunciated. | 51 |

2. Social Conditions.-

India's Population reaches 400 Million mark: Preliminary Report of 1941 Decennial Census.	52
---	----

1. Education.-

Industrial Training in Technical Schools: U.P. Textile and Technical Institutes Inquiry Committee's Report.	53-55
---	-------

2. Social Policy in War Time.-

Wages:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (a) Dearness Allowance for Railway Workers: Government's Decisions on Rau Committee's Recommendations. | 56-58 |
| (b) Demand of Textile Workers for Dearness Allowance: Proposal for All-India Textile Workers' Conference to discuss issue. | 58 |
| (c) Cost Price Grain Shops: Financial Losses lead to Temporary Suspension pending decision of Industrial Court | 58 |
| (d) Dearness Allowance for Low-paid Government Servants in Bombay. | 59 |
| (e) Dearness Allowance for Government Employees: Mr. Joshi's Cut Motion in Assembly. | 59-60. |

Employment:

Recruitment to Civil Employment after War: Percentage of Government Posts reserved for candidates with War Service.	60
---	----

Price Control:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (a) Price Control in Bihar: Review of Measures taken by Local Government. | 61-62 |
|---|-------|

Technical Education:

Technical Training to be accelerated: Scheme to be extended to Factories and Workshops.	62
---	----

Control Measures:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| (a) Aluminium Control Order, 1941. | 63 |
| (b) Control of Machine Tools. | 63 |

3. List of more important publications received in this Office during March, 1941.

■ 64-66

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

Government of India.-

The Madras Port Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1941: Provision for one Representative of Labour.

The Madras Port Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1941, designed to revise the constitution of the Board of Trustees of the port and enhance Indian representation on it, was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 28-2-1941. Provision is made in the Bill for nomination by the Central Government of one representative of labour on the Board, which consists of 15 members.

(The Gazette of India, dated 1-3-1941;
part V, pages 71-72.)

Government of India.-

The Berar Laws Act, 1941 (Act IV of 1941).

Reference was made at page 1 of our November 1941 report to the Berar Laws Bill designed to assimilate the position of Central Acts passed before 1-4-1934 (which did not automatically apply to Berar) to that of Acts passed after that date which apply automatically to Berar as well. The Bill has now been adopted and gazetted; among the measures regularised by the new Act are included several labour enactments.

(The Gazette of India, Part IV, dated
22-3-1941, pages 12 to 17.)

Assam.-

The Assam Shop Assistants' Relief Bill, 1941.

A non-official member (Mr. Badaruddin Ahmed) introduced in the Assam Legislative Assembly on 10-3-1941 a Bill to provide for the regulation of hours and conditions of work generally in shops. The Act provides for a weekly rest of 1½ days, an 8-hour working day and 44-hour working week; hours of work in shops are to be between 8 a.m. and 8-30 p.m. Other provisions are to the effect that an annual increment of not less than 6¼ per cent. of the salary should be granted to each employee, that payment of wages is to be regulated, and that an employee is to get one month's salary extra after completion of 11 months' service. Provident fund benefits, with contributions of 6¼ per cent. of the salary from the employee and an equal amount from the employer, are to be granted. Security of service is ensured, as also freedom of association. Employees are to get in the year 12 days' casual leave and 15 days' privilege leave; also sick leave on full pay for one month, half pay for the second and third months, and no pay for the fourth to six month but with lien on service. Eleven public holidays, with complete closure of shops, are to be observed, and other public holidays are to be half-holidays.

Compensation for accidents is also provided.

(The Assam Gazette, Part V, dated 19-3-1941, pages 59 to 61).

Assam.-

Select Committee Report on the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940.

The report of the Select Committee on the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940 (the Bill was referred to a Select Committee on 14-11-1940), together with the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, is published at pages 45-52 of Part V of the Assam Gazette dated 5-3-1941.

The more important changes recommended include (1) a small amendment to determine more precisely the person on whom the responsibility for making payment of maternity benefit and providing medical treatment and attendance lies; (2) an amendment defining plantation as any agricultural estate in which ten or more women have been employed at any time during the year preceding the date on which a claim arises under the Act, instead of as an agricultural estate in which twenty-five or more persons are employed, and (3) insistence that all benefits shall be in cash and elimination of substitutes for cash payments.

(The Assam Gazette, dated 5-3-1941; part V, pages 45-52.)

The Bill was passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly on 27-3-1941.

(The Statesman, 29-3-1941.)

Bengal.-

The Bengal Shops and Establishments Act, 1940: Date of Commencement and Rules.

According to Notification No. 850 Com. dated 20-3-1941, published at page 739 of Part I of the Calcutta Gazette dated 27-3-1941, the Government of Bengal has fixed 1st April, 1941, for the commencement of the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act, 1940.

The General Rules under the Act are published under Notification No. 911 Com. dated 24-3-1941, at pages 741 to 752 of Part I of the Calcutta Gazette dated 27-3-1941.

Bengal.-

^{draft} The Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1941.

Reference was made at page 25 of our January 1941 report to the decision of the Bengal Government to introduce legislation to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act so as to provide for the appointment of medical referees. The draft of the Bill, prepared for the purpose +

by the Government, is published at pages 1 to 3 of Part IV B of the Calcutta Gazette dated 6-3-1941; the Bill is to be introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council at an early date.

Bihar.-

Extension of certain Labour Enactments to Santal Parganas.

The Governor of Bihar has directed that the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Act, 1937, and the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1937, shall apply to the Santal Parganas District and to the Chota Nagpur Division, and that the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1938, the Employers' Liability Act, 1938, and the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1938, shall apply to the Chota Nagpur Division.

(Notifications Nos. 594, and 599-XL-11-Com.
dated 20-3-1941: The Bihar Gazette, Part I,
dated 26-3-1941, page 250.)

Bombay.-

The Bombay Rent Restriction (Amendment) Act, 1941.

The Bombay Rent Restriction Act, 1939, has been extended for a further period of one year.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV,
dated 27-3-1941, page 54.)

Delhi.-

Extension of Bombay Lifts Act, 1939, to Delhi.

In exercise of powers conferred by Section 7 of the Delhi Laws Act, 1922, the Central Government has extended to Delhi province the Bombay Lifts Act, 1939, subject to certain modifications to suit local conditions.

(Notification No. A-801, dated 19-3-1941:
The Gazette of India, Part I, dated
22-3-1941, page 434.)

Madras.-

Factories (Madras Amendment) Act, 1941.

Reference was made at page 2 of our October 1940 report to the decisions of the Government of Madras to adopt legislation to amend the Factories Act, in its application to Madras, with a view to restrict the medical examination of children and adolescents to those who have a prospect of immediate employment in a factory. Necessary legislation has now been adopted as the Factories (Madras Amendment) Act, 1941, the text of which is published at page 19 of Part IV-B of the Fort St. George Gazette dated 4-3-1941.

Punjab.-Draft Additions to Punjab Factories Rules.

The Punjab Government proposes making certain additions to the Punjab Factories Rules, 1936, ~~as~~ to implement the Factories (Punjab Amendment) Act, 1940 (vide page 6 of our April 1940 report). The draft is to be taken up for consideration by the end of June 1941.

(Notification No. 2210-I. & L-41/16088 dated 25-3-1941: The Government Gazette, Punjab, Part I, dated 28-3-1941, pages 269-272.)

Sind.-

The Establishments Employees Contributory Provident Fund Bill, 1940: Bill Rejected.

Reference was made at page 2 of our January 1941 report to the introduction of a non-official Bill in the Sind Legislative Assembly to make provision for the establishment and maintenance of contributory provident funds for employees in factories, shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, eating houses, and theatres. On 28-3-1941, the Sind Assembly rejected the Bill.

(The Hindu, 30-3-1941.)

Sind.-

City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

The Sind Government intends introducing a Bill to amend the City of Karachi Municipal Act, 1933, with a view, inter alia, to ~~the~~ increase the representation of labour in the Municipal Corporation. The Bill provides for two members to be elected by registered trade unions, each of whom should be a labourer.

(The Sind Government Gazette Extraordinary, Part IV, dated 24-3-1941, pages 153 to 155.)

Sind.-

The Sind Boiler Rules, 1941.

The Sind Government has published the General Rules which it proposes making under the Indian Boilers Act, 1923. The Rules consist of two parts: (1) Boiler Inspection Administrative Rules, and (2) Boiler Attendants' Rules.

(Notification No. 162-M/40 dated 11-3-1941: The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 27-3-1941, page 189 to 233.) +

Sind.-The Draft Sind Shops and Establishments Rules, 1941.

The Sind Government has gazetted the draft of the Shops and Establishment Rules, 1941, under the Sind Shops and Establishments Act, 1940. The Rules are to be taken into consideration by the 17th of April, 1941.

(Notification No. 617/7-M/41 dated 17-3-1941: The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 27-3-1941, pages 172 to 183.)

Burma.-The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

The Government of Burma proposes to introduce in the current session of the House of Representatives the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1941. The material amendment is the addition of a clause in sub-section 2 of section 7 of the Payment of Wages Act permitting "deductions made with the written authorisation of the employed person, in furtherance of any War Savings Scheme, approved by the Government, for the purchase of securities of the Government of Burma, or the Government of the United Kingdom or India".

The Statement of Objects and Reasons points out that applications were received from railway employees and employees of commercial firms in Burma requesting deductions from their wages for investment in furtherance of approved War Savings Schemes. This request could not be acceded to in view of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 7 ~~of~~ of the Payment of Wages Act in the case of employed persons whose wages are less than Rs. 200 per mensem. This Amendment Act is designed to do away with this restriction, and is intended to encourage thrift among that class of employee which ordinarily has no Provident Fund or pension to look forward to.

(The Burma Gazette, 1-3-1941, Part III, page 84.)

Burma.-The Burma Shops Bill, 1939 :Report of Select Committee.

The report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Burma Shops Bill, 1939, which was introduced in the House of Representatives on 15-2-1939, and the Bill as amended by the Select Committee are published at pages 84-90 of Part III of the Burma Gazette dated 1-3-1941.

The principal change effected by the Select Committee is that, with a view to gain experience, the Act is to be applied only to the City of Rangoon for the first two years. The duty of administering the Act

has been laid upon the Municipal Corporation of Rangoon and other local authorities, but subject to supervision by Government.

A Note of Dissent by three members maintains that the Act should be extended in the first instance to the towns of Mandalay, Bassein, Mawm, Moulmein, Prome, Toungoo, Pegu, Akyab, Chauk, Yenangyaung and Syriam; the Note differs from the major report on a number of other points also. ✓

SOCIAL POLICYLabour Policy of Bengal Government:Cut Motion on Budget in Bengal Assembly. ✓
+

In the course of the discussion of budget grants in the Bengal Legislative Assembly, the question of labour welfare and the trade union movement was raised ^{by a cut motion} in connexion with the demand under the head "Miscellaneous Departments" placed before the House by Hon. Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, ~~by a cut motion~~.

Mr. A.M.A. Zaman opposing the demand charged Government with having pursued a policy of introducing communal feeling among the labourers by setting up bogus unions under its patronage. Government spent the entire amount under this head in distributing patronage to people to set up unions to counter the genuine trade union movement. He also complained that the Factories Department always took belated action in regard to the breaches of the Factories Act. Mr. Zaman suggested that the activities of the Factories Department should be transferred to the Labour Commissioner.

Mr. I. G. Kennedy (European) said that the only criticism he had ~~to offer~~ was the inadequacy of funds for labour welfare work. He complimented Mr. Suhrawardy, Labour Minister, by saying that last year was singularly free from labour troubles, and appreciated the proposed appointment of two additional labour officers.

The Hon. Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, replying on behalf of the Government, refuted the charge that the Ministry was encouraging communalism in trade unions and denied the claim of the All-India Trade Union Congress to be representative of all the workers of India. He said that Government had examined the records of various trade unions affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress and had found that most of them were not worthy of the name of "trade unions" and that many unions which really were of representative character had severed their connection with it. Denying the charge that Government was spending public funds for setting up bogus unions, he said that Government's grants for labour welfare were mainly spent on the maintenance of libraries and night schools for workers.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-3-1941.) ✓
+

Labour Department to be set up in Bihar:
Functions of the Department. ✓

Reference was made at page 7 of our November 1940 report to the decision of the Government of Bihar to set up a Labour Department under the Labour Commissioner. It is now understood that a scheme has been drawn up in this connection by the Labour Commissioner, who was recently deputed by the Provincial Government to study the working of the Bombay Government's Labour Department. According to the scheme, the Labour Commissioner, as the head of the Department, will co-ordinate the three-sided activity of the department, namely, settlement of disputes between labour and capital (to be undertaken by the Commissioner himself); the day to day grievances of labourers (to be attended to by labour officers who would be posted in important industrial centres of the province); and the education and hygienic conditions of labourers (to be looked after by a Labour Welfare Department). A socio-economic survey of the coalfield area is also contemplated and the appointment of women investigators for ascertaining family standards of living is favoured. The scheme is understood to be under the consideration of the Government.

(The Industrial Bulletin No. 318
of the Employers' Federation of
India, Bombay, dated 24-3-1941.) ✓₊

Hours of Work.

Bombay Shops and Establishments Act:

Indian Merchants' Chamber suggests Amendment. ✓

The Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, after an enquiry among the different trades affected by the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939, communicated to the local Government on 20-2-1941 a few suggestions for amendment of the Act to overcome certain practical difficulties experienced in observing the provisions of the Act; the suggestions are:-

(1) While 208 hours per month might be allowed to remain as the normal hours of work in the case of commercial establishments, it should be permissible for increased hours of work being put in, on payment of extra salary to the employee concerned, up to a maximum of 39 hours per month.

(2) The facility given to commercial establishments of allowing extended spread-over for stock-taking, etc., should also be permitted in case of shops.

(3) Exemption allowed under Section 4 should be extended to bhayyas doing hundi work (staff doing bill-collecting work), munims of pedhis (clerks of shops keeping accounts in the Indian style) and managers of cinema houses.

(4) No objection should be taken under the Act if the employees remained in the office premises after office hours.

(March 1941 issue of the Journal of the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay.) ✓ +

Exemption of certain Categories of Clerical Staff of Mills from the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939. ✓

At page 2 of the report of this Office for February 1941 reference was made to the exemptions granted by the Government of Bombay to certain categories of clerical staff of textile mills from the operation of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939. The circumstances antecedent to the grant of the exemptions are dealt with in some detail in a Note on the subject published in the printed "Excerpts of the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during November 1940." The following are extracts from the Note:-

Categories of clerks affected: Bombay Chamber favours Exemption.-
During November 1940 certain members of the Chamber expressed their doubts as to whether or not it was the intention of Government that clerical staffs of mills and factories working at the mill or factory were to be included within the scope of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act. It was pointed out that mills and factories in the ordinary

course worked for 9 hours a day, whilst if the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act were to apply to clerical staffs, the individuals in question would be excluded from working for more than 8 hours, and that this would result in a considerable shrinkage in the daily output of the factories or mills concerned. The clerical departments of mills and factories usually included time-keeping staff, godown clerks, store-issue clerks, weighment clerks, production recording clerks, etc.

The Committee took the view that sections 4 (b) and (c) had been intentionally included in the Act in order to exclude the individual employees referred to above, who were all either engaged in complementary work, thus falling under section 4 (c), or in the case of time-keepers, (intermittent work) falling under section 4 (b).

In addressing the Government of Bombay on the matter, the Committee stated that they would be glad to receive the assurance of Government that their presumption ~~was~~ correct. In the event of their presumption proving incorrect, the Committee recommended that under section 4 (k) a notification should ~~have~~ be issued by Government exempting the clerical staffs not only of mills but also of factories from the ~~operation~~ operation of the Act.

Government's reply to Millowners' Association.- In replying to a representation made by the Bombay Millowners' Association on this question, the Government of Bombay stated that in their opinion the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939, applied specifically to a clerical department of a factory and that the difficulties pointed out now should have been put forward when the Bill was being considered by the Select Committee and in the legislature. Government stated that they were not prepared to grant total exemption from the operation of the Act in respect of the clerical staff of the Mills and observed that they would be willing to consider the case for exemption in respect of particular classes of clerical employees of the mills. They accordingly requested that Government might be furnished with a list of clearly defined classes of clerical employees in respect of whom exemption was considered essential. Government pointed out that any exemption now accepted by Government would be of a temporary nature until the mills had sufficient opportunity to study the implications of the Act and make the necessary adjustment. The difficulty regarding the grant of weekly holidays to clerks employed in the mills was appreciated by Government. This difficulty could be overcome by the provision of four holidays in a month as was originally contemplated, instead of one holiday every week. This point would be considered by Government when the Act was next being amended.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during the month of November 1940.) ✓ +

11

Inspection.

Cost of Administering Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940:

Estimated to be Rs. 40,000 yearly. ✓

The administration of the Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940, which has come into operation from 1-3-1941 and is applied in the first instance only to the municipal and cantonment limits of Lahore, Amritsar, Sialkot, Ferozepur, Rawalpindi and Multan and to the municipal limits of six other towns including Simla, is expected to cost nearly Rs. 40,000 per annum. The Director of Industries, Punjab, who will be responsible for its administration, will be assisted by one chief inspector and fifteen inspectors of shops and commercial establishments.

(The National Call, 7-3-1941.) ✓ +

Weekly Half-holiday and Provident Fund for Municipality Sweepers:
Action by Government of Gwalior State. ✓

Some time back the Government of Gwalior had appointed a commission to inquire into the conditions of harijans (the depressed classes who are mainly employed as sweepers by municipalities) in Gwalior State. Pending the report ~~on~~ of the inquiry, the Maharaja has announced the application of the provident fund by-laws to the permanent servants of all municipalities, including menial and sanitary staff. The grant of half-holidays to all 'mehtars' (sweepers) is also announced.

(The Times of India, 11-3-1941) ✓

Conditions of Work on Indian Railways, 1939-40. ✓

As in previous years, the Railway Board's annual report on Indian Railways for the year 1939-40 is published in two volumes. Volume I reviews the various aspects of railway working such as general administration, financial results, improvements in, and additions to, rolling stock, improved operating methods, recruiting, training and welfare of staff and facilities provided for the convenience of the travelling public. Volume II is a compilation of financial and statistical summaries and statements covering the main heads of the capital and revenue accounts and giving statistics connected with the various aspects of railway working. The following information about the conditions of work of employees is taken from Chapter VIII - Staff (Volume I) of the publication.

Number of Employees.- The total number of employees (permanent and temporary) 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 1939-40 was 708,541, as compared with 701,307 at the end of 1938-39. The total route mileage at the end of the year was 41,156. The following table shows the number of employees by communities on the 31st March 1939 and 1940.

	31st March 1939	31st March 1940
Europeans	2,508	2,326
Hindus other than depressed classes.	397,417	399,647
Depressed Classes.	104,211	106,490
Muslims.	155,389	157,500
Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans.	12,973	13,106
Sikhs	7,795	8,072
Indian Christians	17,771	18,041
Parsis	1,514	1,505
Other communities.	1,729	1,854
Total	701,307	708,541

Cost of Staff.- A comparison of the figures for 1939-40 with those for 1938-39 shows that the total number of staff employed on open line on 31st March 1940 increased by 6,889 as compared with that on 31st March 1939, the number of staff on loan from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service decreased by one only, while the number of construction staff rose by 1,298. The total cost of staff, including those on loan from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, during 1939-40 increased by Rs. 559,282 as compared with 1938-39.

Indianisation of Staff.- The Indian element in the superior services has risen from 29.41 per cent. on State-managed and 17.74 per cent. on Company-managed Railways in 1925 to 57.99 per cent. on State-managed and 50 per cent. on Company-managed Railways in 1940. In the subordinate services, the Indian element, which in 1925 constituted 65.27 per cent. of the staff in State-managed railways and 73.68 of the staff in Company-managed railways, had risen by 1940 to

14

87.65 per cent. and 88.65 per cent. respectively.

Improvements in Service Conditions:

(a) Provident Fund for Inferior Staff.- The question of extending provident fund concessions to inferior staff on railways was under the active consideration of the Government of India during the year under review. As a first step in this direction, Government provided a sum of Rs. 1.2 million for the purpose, in the budget for 1940-41 and asked the Railway Board to settle the best method of utilising this amount. The Railway Board, therefore, arranged for a special meeting with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in April 1940 to discuss this question and certain other important matters.

(b) Payment of Wages Act.- The correct observance of the Payment of Wages Act on Railways continued to engage the attention of the Railway Board during the year under review. References continued to be received from railway administrations bringing to notice difficulties experienced in complying with certain provisions of the Act, as for example the payment, within the time stipulated under the Act, of loading and unloading charges to railway employees employed at wayside stations. After an examination of the ~~pos~~ position, instructions were issued laying down a special procedure calculated to secure the expeditious payment of these charges. A further number of Co-operative Societies were approved, under the Act, by the Central Government, for purposes of deductions from wages on account of the Societies' dues. The question of the issue of an authorisation under the Act, for the same purpose, in respect of certain additional amenities supplied to employees by railway administrations such as stamps on service agreements, cost of watches and uniforms, etc., also received consideration. Railway administrations were asked to review the working of the Act and report to the Railway Board (i) whether the Act has resulted in any substantial benefit to the workers; (ii) whether there has been any compensating advantage to the Railway by way of improvement in the railway workers' lot; and (iii) the extent of increase in work and any difficulties in complying with the provisions of the Act. They were also asked to indicate broadly whether practical experience has shown the desirability of modifying the Act in any respect. By the end of the period under review these reports were still awaited from a few railway administrations.

Conduct Marks System.- Towards the close of the year, administrations were asked to make a careful review of their existing procedure in dealing with disciplinary cases involving fines or deductions in pay so as to ensure that such action did not tend to defeat the intentions underlying the Act. Further, railway administrations adopting "Conduct marks systems" were asked to take special steps to see that the operation of such systems did not lead to possible evasion of the Act. The reports which were asked for from railway administrations in this connection will be dealt with in the next year's report.

Welfare Activities:-

(a) Assistance for Children's Education.- The salient features of the rules issued provisionally in September 1930 for the grant of assistance from railway revenues to railway employees towards the education of their children were detailed in the report for 1930-31.

In last year's report, it was mentioned that the maximum limit of Rs.40 per mensem originally laid down in these rules for the assistance payable to any one employee has been raised to Rs.60 per ~~XXXXX~~ mensem as a measure of further relief. During the year under review no further amendments were made to the rules.

(b) Staff Benefit Funds.-- These have been constituted on a number of principal railways and are continuing to function. As in previous years, grants were made from these funds to provide amenities and relieve distress among non-gazetted railway employees and their families, the funds being distributed by committees of the workers themselves.

Meetings with A.-I.R.F.-- During the period under review, the Railway Board met deputations from the All-India Railwaymen's Federation on the following occasions:-

- (i) The seventeenth half-yearly meeting held on the 19th May, 1939.
- (ii) A special meeting ^{between} ~~between~~ Chief Commissioner and Financial Commissioner of Railways held on the 20th July 1939.
- (iii) The eighteenth half-yearly meeting on the 27th and 28th November 1939.
- (iv) A special meeting with the Financial Commissioner of Railways held on the 1st February 1940.
- (v) An informal meeting between the Railway Board and the President and General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation held on the 2nd February 1940.

The more important of the subjects discussed at the meetings were: Pass rules; Extension of provident fund membership to inferior staff; Accumulation of leave for inferior staff on State-managed Railways; Extension of the Hours of Employment Regulations; Joint Standing Machinery as recommended by the Whitley Commission; Scale of pay for journeymen on the North Western Railway; Application of the new scales of pay; and Re-employment of staff retrenched since 1931; Alleged infringement of the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936; Facilities to be granted to recognised Trade Unions; and Grievances of Accounts Staff; and Dearness allowance to meet the enhanced cost of living due to rise in prices.

Recognition of Unions.-- Early in the year under review, the conditions precedent to the ~~XXXXXX~~ recognition of a Union were issued to the Railways with instructions to the General Managers of State-managed Railways that these "Conditions" should be regarded generally, as supplementary to the Rules for the recognition of Associations of Industrial Employees (including Railway Employees) of the Government of India, and that so long as a Union of non-gazetted Railway servants had rules not repugnant to those embodied in these "Conditions", recognition should be accorded unless there were other valid reasons for declining to do so. General Managers of State-managed Railways were also instructed that if any Unions already recognised by them had rules repugnant to those contained in the "Conditions" the Unions should be given sufficient time, in which to make the necessary alterations in their rules. A copy of these instructions was sent to the Agents and General Managers of Company-managed Railways with the remark that the adoption of these "Conditions" in the case of Unions operating on their Railways might be considered.

Dearness Allowance.- During the first few months of the war, there was a tendency for retail prices to rise sharply and by December 1939 the cost of living indices for the 15 towns in the country which maintain such figures had advanced by an average of 10 per cent. in excess of the figures for the preceding August. This caused a demand for an increase in wages on various railways and in February 1940 the Board had an informal discussion with the President, All-India Railwaymen's Federation. Subsequently, it was decided to discuss this matter with a deputation from the Federation and this meeting took place just after the close of the year under review. In the meantime, however, the retail prices fell considerably and in March 1940 were on an average, according to the cost of living indices, not more than 5 per cent. above the figures for August 1939.

Railway Staff and the War.- On the outbreak of war a variety of problems presented themselves in connection with railway operation and the extent to which Indian Railways could assist in the general war effort. These, as far as the staff are concerned, may be summarised as follows:-

- (i) Release of individual officers for technical war work.- Individual officers began to be released for various war duties in the autumn of 1939. Some went to technical recruiting work, others to Ordnance Factories, while a number of Reservists returned to Military and Naval duties. All R.E. officers in railway employ below the rank of Lt.-Col. were also returned to military duty in the first few months of war.
- (ii) Release of non-gazetted staff.- Skilled labour and a certain amount of supervisory staff being required for munitions work, volunteers who, it was arranged would be temporarily transferred as required, were called for. Special terms were formulated for those of State-managed Railways which were also applied in the case of Company-managed Railway personnel. These terms include a lien on the worker's railway appointment with consideration for promotion under the "next below" rule. It also became evident that with the prospect of railway workshops being asked to undertake munitions work, plans would have to be formulated for a rapid expansion in skilled and supervisory personnel in the shops and this had been examined in some detail before the end of the year under review.

(Extracted from Chapter VIII - Staff-of Vol. I of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1939-40. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.6-8 or 10s. pp.138.)+

17

Tea Canteens in Mills:
Increased Efficiency and Saving of Time. ✓

The Indian Tea Market Expansion Board ^{have} ~~has~~ achieved conspicuous success in their efforts to introduce tea canteens in a number of mills in Bombay, Calcutta and the Coimbatore area of South India. In these three areas, up to date, the Board have established 35 canteens and handed them over as "going concerns" to the respective mill managements. Experimental operations in a further 26 mills are now being carried out by the Board's staff specially trained for this work. The only expense to the management is the provision of free premises for the tea canteen and the necessary equipment for the preparation and serving of liquid tea. The wages of the canteen staff and the cost of the tea and all ingredients are covered by the sale of the liquid tea, and even after meeting all these expenses, the canteen will invariably show a small profit, which can either be used for special welfare work amongst the employees, or retained by the management towards depreciation on the equipment which they have provided.

These canteens have for their object the provision of a cup of well made tea at the moderate price of one pice to workers at any time during working hours, without the necessity of their having to leave their work. The tea is brought to them and payment is generally received by means of coupons and the whole operation does not occupy more than a minute or so. The ~~managements~~ of those establishments where the tea canteen is now a permanent arrangement have admitted the beneficial effects of this beverage on the health and efficiency of their labour force.

(The Indian Textile Journal, March 1941.) ✓

Financial Position of Bombay Cotton Mill Industry, 1939. ✓

In accordance with the usual practice, a combined Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Bombay cotton mill industry for the year 1939 was drawn up by the Bombay Millowners' Association and audited by Messrs. A.F. Ferguson & Co. The statement which covered the returns from 68 mills discloses a total loss on the year's working of Rs. 2,894,658. This loss would have been increased to Rs. 4,847,123 if managing agents had not given up interest, commission and allowance to the extent of Rs. 1,952,465 due to them for the year. In the year 1938, the industry made a total profit of Rs. 2,146,000 (for 69 mills), exclusive of a sum of Rs. 1,443,757 voluntarily given up by managing agents from their claims for interest, commission and allowance.

(Extracted from "Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association" for January 1941.) ✓
+

Industrial and Scientific Research Committee set up in
Central Provinces: Functions of Committee. ✓

The Governor of C.P. and Berar has appointed with effect from 1-4-1941 for a period of 2 years in the first instance, an Industrial and Scientific Research Committee for the province, with the Adviser to the Governor in charge of Commerce and Industries Departments as the Chairman, and the Director of Industries, C.P. and Berar, as Secretary.

The functions of the Committee will be to advise Government in regard to (a) the co-ordination of industrial research work in the province, (b) new items of industrial research work, (c) the laboratories and agencies in the province to which such research work may be allotted, and (d) applications for research grants and financial assistance for the conduct of industrial research to be granted in such cases. The Committee will form liaison with the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and will bring to the notice of that Board problems of research that may arise or be proposed in the province with suggestions for investigation ~~at~~ in laboratories.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part I, dated 28-3-1941, page 241.) ✓

19

War Opportunities of Cotton Textile Industry:
Review by Chairman, Millowners' Association, Bombay. ✓

The results of the past year's working of the Indian cotton textile industry and the prospects for 1941 were reviewed at some length by Mr. V.N. Chandavarkar, Chairman, Millowners' Association, Bombay, at the annual general meeting of the Association held on 5-3-41. Points from his presidential address of economic and labour interest are briefly noticed below:-

War Opportunities:- Extended Overseas Markets.- The war has given special opportunities to the Indian cotton textile industry to play a great part in meeting the cloth needs of many Commonwealth and Allied countries, whose previous sources of supply of cotton piece-goods have been cut off. Provided that the necessary freight could be obtained, the industry would retain this trade during the war. But what was important was that Bombay mills should be able to retain it even after the termination of the war. Judged from past experience, a great deal of the new overseas trade would be lost unless Indian mills catered specially for export markets. The goods had to be beyond reproach as regards quality, pattern, design, finish and make-up, and mills had to be prepared to quote c.i.f. port of delivery instead of ex-mill.

Fair Prospects for 1941.- At the end of January 1941, unclaimed stocks with mills were comparatively low and the market reports indicate that stocks with merchants in the more important consuming centres are also not heavy. The prices of cloth and yarn have also risen to more reasonable levels, and if this state of affairs continues, the industry generally should make fair profits in 1941. After a period of almost unrelieved depression since 1933, during which the industry in Bombay has been fighting a battle for existence against foreign and domestic competition, nobody will grudge any little profit that may come to the industry, especially as almost the whole of it will have to be paid to Government by way of income-tax and excess profits tax. In the last seventeen years, great arrears of depreciation have accumulated, and mills have in addition very large capital and funded debts and other liabilities to discharge, and these ought to be considered as a first charge on future profits.

Conservation of Resources: No High Dividends and Increased Wages.- The cotton textile industry, paying the very high wages which it now does, and subject as it is to many other disabilities in the shape of heavy Provincial and municipal taxation compared to its competitors in other parts of India and overseas, can only survive by increasing its efficiency to the maximum and decreasing costs of production to a minimum, and for this purpose, the first essential today is new and up-to-date machinery in every branch of manufacture. The adventitious profits of the war years should not, in the future interests of the industry and those whom it employs, be frittered away either by way of increase in dividends to shareholders or in the form of wages to employees.

(The Times of India, 6-3-1941) +

Bombay Chronicle's Comments.- Commenting on Mr. Chandavarkar's plea against increased wages, the Bombay Chronicle of 7-3-1941, comments editorially:

"Millowners should realise that the human machinery also deserves due consideration as one of the first charges. Labour should not be balked of its claims when profits are earned. It is therefore amazing for Mr. Chandavarkar to say that profits should not be 'frittered away' 'in wages to employees'. Justly paid and contented labour is as essential for the efficiency of the mills as is good machinery..... With this clear understanding that the legitimate claim of the workers to share the profits of industry should not be ignored, we whole-heartedly endorse Mr. Chandavarkar's plea for not frittering away profits. Mr. Chandavarkar evidently has in mind the happenings of the boom period after the War of 1914-18. But then the profits were frittered away not because the wages were increased, but because excessively high dividends were paid to shareholders."

(The Bombay Chronicle, 7-3-1941.) ✓

Post-War Industrial Reconstruction:

Resolutions adopted by Court of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore ✓

The Court of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, at its meeting held on 15-3-1941, with Sir M. Visvesvaraya in the chair, adopted the two following resolutions:-

Research in Aeronautics, Metallurgical Sciences and Automobile Engineering.- That in view of the scientific and practical importance of advanced instruction and research in Aeronautical Engineering and metallurgical sciences and of research in automobile engineering, the Court recommends to the Council that the Government of India, the Provincial Governments, the Indian States and the industrialists be approached for funds which will enable the Institute to equip itself with facilities for such work.

Post-War Industrial Reconstruction.- That the Court recommends to the Council that the Indian Science Congress on behalf of science, the Federation of Industries, the Chambers of Commerce and other allied bodies on behalf of industries, be approached with a view to appointing a joint representative committee with the Director of this Institute as Secretary, to go into and prepare a report on problems of science and industry connected with post-war reconstruction.

Needs of Indian Industry.- Sir M. Visvesvaraya, pointed out that in the Indian Institute of Science and in other educational institutions in India, theoretical research was being given greater prominence than industrial or applied research. The results of theoretical research carried on in other parts of the world would be easily available, but it was usually difficult to get access to results of industrial research. According to him, three most urgent needs of industries were adequate tariff protection, banking facilities and maintenance of statistics, all of which were under the control of the Government of India.

(The Hindu, 17-3-1941.) ✓

Government of India's Economic and Industrial Policy:
Plan for Reversion to Peace Economy:
Assembly Pronouncement by Commerce Member. ✓

On 17-3-1941, in the course of the debate in the Central Assembly on the Budget of the Government of India for 1941-42, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Government of India, made an important speech outlining the economic and industrial policy of the Government and making a number of announcements about the steps Government intended to take for implementing its policy. Among these were a proposal to set up a central advisory committee on sugar; an inter-departmental committee to plan the readjustment of industries and industrial labour to meet conditions which must come with the restoration of peace; a small committee to survey the situation with regard to gaps in the industrial fabric and report to Government from month to month; machinery to examine during the period of protection whether the progress of the protected industry was in accordance with the Tariff Board's recommendations and whether any revision of the quantum of protection, either in the upward or in the downward direction, was necessary. The most important points of the speech are referred to below:-

Conflicting Claims of Industry and Agriculture: Dangers of National Self-Sufficiency Ideal.- The Commerce Member began by uttering a note of warning against slogans, such as "Industrialise or perish", which he said embodied an extremism of thought. He commended the wisdom of those who adopted the policy of discriminating protection for key industries; but he said protection and yet more protection was not the panacea for all the country's economic ills, nor was the slogan of economic national self-sufficiency to be blindly adopted. Further, industrial nations during the last ten years had suddenly found deficiencies in their agriculture and had started on a policy of agricultural development, while agricultural countries had started on the path of industrialisation. But at the end of the war there would be other forces at work. A balanced adjustment between agriculture and industry should be brought about. He was against the extreme nationalism that insisted that everything possible should be made in India and that trade should be carried on on a system of one-way traffic. If India's agricultural products should find a market outside India - as they must even after all the industrialisation possible - that market could not be found unless India was prepared to allow room for imported commodities.

Export of Surplus Raw Products: Central Advisory Sugar Committee to be formed.- Referring to the problem of export of surplus raw products, he said that with reference to several commodities the problem of disposal was not as serious as he had once thought. Thanks to the work of the Supply and the Defence Departments, more and more raw products were being consumed in the country. He referred in this connection particularly to wheat, cotton and rice.

Alluding to sugar, he said that practically all the Governments had now accepted the principle that a flat rate should be paid to cultivators during the whole season, and a bonus should be paid on

the basis of profits actually derived by the industrialist from the sale of sugar. All the replies from the interests concerned had not yet been received regarding the proposal to form a Central Advisory Sugar Committee, but he hoped that such a committee would be formed. The idea was to have a body predominantly consisting of representatives of provincial and states' governments with a small representation for sugar-cane producers and the mill industry.

Reversion to Peace Economy : Postponement of Public Works and Building Programmes .- The Commerce Department had been seriously thinking of the problem of the essential difference between production in peace time and production in war time and of the certainty that immediately peace came, all the industries attuned to war purposes must readjust themselves, and a large number of technical men in the industries would be thrown out of employment. Plans must be made now to meet that situation. In the Commerce Department, the Economic Adviser to the Government of India had been at work for some months on the possibilities of readjusting industries and industrial labour, and it was the Commerce Member's hope that examination on a wider scale than at present would shortly be taken in hand by means of an inter-departmental committee. He also hoped that the committee would get the benefit of the knowledge and advice of industrial magnates in connection with the preparation of the plan for the future.

It had been suggested that the Government's expenditure on Public Works might not be undertaken now when technical labour was abundantly employed otherwise, but that such expenditure ~~then~~ might assist in the solution of the problem of surplus technical personnel. It might also be that private individuals could help by postponing their building schemes till after the war, so that they could benefit by the availability of trained technical men.

Survey of Gaps in Industry .- He made it clear that whatever their plan now was it would require constant re-examination. There was nothing static about it. It was true that at present there were gaps in the industrial development. The instance had been mentioned of the absence of the production of eyelets and shoelaces to complete the boot-making industry. He had been considering whether the time had not come when a kind of survey might not be made to find out the gaps caused by the absence of small industries, as a result of which big industries got thrown out of gear. The Roger Commission had made a survey of the industrial position; and he was having the question examined whether it was necessary to have a small committee to survey the situation and report to the Government from month to month, instead of having an elaborate survey.

Tariff Reform .- Referring to the suggestion made for the setting up of machinery for bringing about tariff reform, which was more speedy in its work, than the Tariff Board, he said he would examine the question later. The suggestion had also been made that, while protection was granted by Government on the recommendation of a Tariff Board, there was no machinery to examine during the period of protection whether the industry concerned was carrying on according to the recommendations of the Board and whether any change in the quantum of protection was called for. He was prepared to have that question examined at the proper time. He went on to mention a number of small industries which had come into existence on

account of the war; such as drugs and chemicals (more than seventy per cent. of India's requirements in these spheres were being produced in the country), the manufacture of surgical instruments, boots and shoes, and canning.

Plea for Conservation of Reserves: Appeal to Industrialists.- Giving a word of caution to industrialists, he said that while industry had found opportunities of expansion which were not there before the war, there was a responsibility resting on industry and industrialists to look to the future. If they frittered away their resources now, they would find themselves in a difficult position after the war whatever the Government then in power.

After the war, the position would be such that the starving millions in Europe would find it necessary to get most of India's new raw products and the sufferings of the agriculturist now would to some extent be then compensated; but exactly the contrary would be the case with regard to manufactured goods. Released from the war effort, the industries would turn out cheap goods which would invade our markets. Our industrialists must therefore have something to fall back upon at that time, and all the resources they could accumulate now would be necessary for them. He appealed to industrial magnates to show their practical patriotism by contributing to the funds of the Board of Industrial and Scientific Research.

Development of Indian Industries by Foreign Capitalists.- Replying to the question what his attitude was to the development of industries in India by foreign capitalists, he explained that the development of industries was largely a question for provincial governments. Some of these governments might say that instead of allowing the resources of the country to lie barren in the hope that some industrialist like Tata might rise to develop them, it would be better to develop them even now and even with the capital attracted from abroad. Other governments might contend that there were enough industrialists in the country. If so, it was open to them to see to it that industries were developed with their help. He made it clear that by the word "foreign" he meant foreign to the British Commonwealth of Nations.

(The Statesman and the Hindu 18-3-1941). ✓ +

State Ownership of Telephone System:

Purchase of three Companies by Government of India. +

Arrangements have been completed for the purchase by the Government of India of the Bengal, Bombay and Madras Telephone Companies, and the formal offer of purchase at Rs 47.5 millions was made on 1-3-1941 by Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Director, -General, Posts and Telegraphs), Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Government Telephone Board Ltd., the new private Company floated by the Government for the purpose of this transaction.

As soon as the shareholders agree to the sale (51 per cent.

of the shares are held by the Oriental Telephone Company, London, and large blocks of shares are held by certain interests all of whom are expected to send in their consent expeditiously) ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ of the three Telephone Companies will be taken over by the Government Telephone Board Ltd., but while the control will change, there will be no change either in the staff of the companies or in their system of operation and charges. At the end of 1943, when the licences of the three companies expire, the Telephone Board will be liquidated, and the Posts and Telegraphs Department will take over the entire organisation.

The necessity for the acquisition of the three Telephone Companies by exercising the option of purchase in 1943 was felt because the Government plan of extending trunk facilities to semi-urban areas was not immediately remunerative and the compensating advantage which the telephone service in presidency towns offered was not available. Now the Postal authorities can work out plans on a national basis and be ready with their schemes for execution in 1943-44.

(The Times of India, 3-3-1941.) ✓

Bengal Economic Enquiry:

Cottage Industries as Means of Occupation during Enforced Leisure. ✓

The Board of Economic Inquiry constituted by the Government of Bengal is now engaged in investigating the economic condition and the paying capacity of the rural and urban population of the province.

The Board is also collecting data showing the period during which agriculturists and other classes in rural areas have no occupation to pursue. This inquiry, the Board hopes, will incidentally bring to light the extent of ~~xxxxxx~~ wastage of man-power and the possibilities of making scientific and economic use of this waste through expansion of cottage industries.

The Board has also undertaken a survey to ascertain the cost of cultivation ^{and} average yield of principal ~~xxx~~ crops in the province.

(The Statesman, 15-3-41.) ✓

Indian Automobile Industry:Factory to be set up in Mysore State under State Guarantee. ✓

The scheme for starting an automobile industry in India has made considerable headway. The proposed factory will be located in Mysore State, instead of in Bombay, as was originally contemplated. According to the present plan, the first Indian made car will be on the market before the end of 1941. The details of the scheme are given below:-

A joint stock company with a capital of Rs. 22,500,000, which was originally intended to be registered in Bombay will be floated in Mysore next month. Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Mr. Tulsidas Kilachand and Mr. Dharamsey M. Khatau will be the managing agents of the company. The shares will also be offered for to the public.

It is understood that the Mysore Government have offered valuable help to the promoters by agreeing to underwrite capital to the extent of Rs. 15,000,000 and by guaranteeing an annual interest on invested capital of three and a half per cent. for a decade. In addition, the promoters have been promised concessions in respect of land and other items.

The promoters have been pursuing this scheme for the past 30 months. After Mr. Walchand Hirachand's visit to the United States two years ago to study the possibilities of establishing the industry in India, an agreement was concluded in July 1940 between him and the Chrysler Corporation of America, for manufacturing motor cars in India. The promoters, however, could not proceed further with the scheme when the Government of Bombay informed them of their inability to guarantee a certain percentage of interest by way of return on the capital invested, owing to the war situation.

(The Times of India, dated 29-3-1941.) ✓

All-India Manufacturers' Conference, Bombay, 1 and 2-3-1941:Demand for Intensive Industrialisation Drive. ✓ +

The desirability of a 'planned' industrial programme for India and the insistent need for accentuating the pace of industrialisation were stressed at the All-India Industrial Manufacturers' Conference held at Bombay on 1 and 2-3-1941, under the auspices of the Association of Indian Industries, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, leading industrialist and ex-Dewan of Mysore, presiding. Delegates of eighteen important industrial and commercial organisations, including the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, New Delhi, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the U.P. Chamber of Commerce, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, the Andhra Chamber of Commerce and the Maharashtra

Chamber of Commerce, attended the Conference.

Reception Committee Chairman's Address.- Mr. Sankalchand G. Shah, Chairman, Reception Committee, in his welcome speech pointed out that, though it was almost a year and half since the war started, except in regard to the increased manufacture of munitions and other war materials under Government aegis and in regard to the spurt in production which some of our established industries had received, due to war orders, there has not been much industrial progress during the period. He conceded that some of the small industries had been able to market in larger quantities their products of daily necessities as the competition from the corresponding imported products had been made less unequal, due to the war factors, but stressed that this did not mean that the fundamental objective of making a rapid stride in the pace of Indian industrialisation is being attended to with that vigour, enthusiasm and persistence which the occasion demanded. In respect of such vital matters as development of key and defence industries and mechanical transport, he said, Government was very apathetic. Referring to the assurance given some time back by the Commerce Member, Government of India, that Indian industries stimulated during the period of the war would not be left uncared for after the emergency and even during periods of peace, he said that such a promise of assistance by itself was not sufficient and Government must come forward with an active programme of industrialisation, sponsor schemes, harness the resources available in the country, and promise certain guarantees in the matter of capital requirements. In conclusion, he expressed regret over the fact that the Government of Bombay, pleading war as an excuse, had adopted an attitude of passivity on the recommendations of the Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee (for summary of the Committee's recommendations see pages 16-20 of this Office's September 1940 report).

Presidential Address.- Sir M. Visvesvaraya, in his presidential address, stressed the point that the Government of India will not have discharged their duty to the people of this country by encouraging only war industries, but that an endeavour is expected in this emergency on their part to make the country self-contained in as many requirements, both for peace and war, as possible. The Roger Mission, he said, was still in India; it has had consultations with the Eastern Group Conference and was arranging to obtain all the supplies that could be had from this country for war purposes. This was all as it should be. But this did not absolve the Government from the obligation to foster industries. The country's economic weakness and poverty were mainly due to its neglect of industries and its excessive dependence on agriculture, neglect of mass education and absence of any specific plan or policy to increase the occupations, production and income of the people. Industries alone, he asserted, could reduce unemployment, improve working capacity, make living conditions secure and raise the standard of living for the bulk of the population. An intensive effort to promote industries was expected at a time of war, but there was no special agency in existence to assume responsibility or leadership.

Contrasting Indian economic and industrial conditions with those of leading industrial countries, he pointed out that the yearly per capita income of India was roughly taken at Rs.58 from agriculture and Rs. 12 from industries or a total of Rs.70, while the corresponding

figures for the United Kingdom were approximately Rs. 68 from agriculture and Rs. 463 from industries or a total of Rs. 531 from both, and those for the world's most prosperous country, namely the United States of America, was Rs. 219 from agriculture and Rs. 830 from industries or a total of Rs. 1,049 from both. Citing figures to show the even greater disparity in industrial advancement, he said that the capital invested in ~~organising industries~~ organised industrial concerns in the United States of America was about Rs. 1,800 per capita, and in the United Kingdom Rs. 1,600, while the corresponding figure for India was barely Rs. 25.

Analysing the reasons for India's backwardness, he stated that the public in India did not readily risk money and take to new industries because of lack of assurance from the Government that the ventures would be safe against foreign competition and because the tariff policies were not regulated in conformity with the wishes of the tax-payers. There were also wrong traditions and faults among the people, which were attributable to the absence of mass education. He referred to the unhelpful attitude of the Government in respect of the proposed automobile industry and urged a change in policy.

The war, according to him, furnished a rare opportunity for establishing in India heavy industries for manufacturing such requirements as ships, automobiles including army trucks, armoured cars and tanks. ~~The tendency of the Government appeared to be to start only these industries which could supply directly war requirements by the middle of 1942.~~ This might be right from a war point of view, but definitely wrong as a long range policy of a Government interested in the welfare of the people.

In conclusion, he recommended several specific measures calculated to remedy the low condition into which industries had fallen. Among these were compilation of statistics, revision of tariff policies, extension of banking facilities, manufacture of engines and high-grade machinery, starting of key industries, ~~and~~ establishment of a satisfactory number of medium and small scale industries and reform of university education so as to make the primary business of education to teaching people to become earning members of the community.

Resolutions Adopted.- The following are some of the more important resolutions adopted by the Conference:-

Financing of Small Industries.- This Conference draws the attention of the Government of India to the absence of adequate facilities for the financing of small and medium scale industries. The Scheduled Banks are also not anxious to provide long-term finance in view of the restricted scope of rediscounting facilities under the Reserve Bank of India Act. This Conference therefore urges that:

(a) Industrial Banks be established in important industrial centres throughout the country wherever possible. (b) Co-operative Credit Societies, Indigenous Bankers and other Agencies be enabled to provide finance for these industries on reasonable terms. (c) Sufficient funds be placed at the disposal of the Departments of Industries, to grant loans to these industries on liberal terms. (d) The Scheduled Banks be encouraged to grant loan-facilities for the financing of small and medium scale industries by permitting the Reserve Bank of

India to re-discount such loans on favourable terms.

Demand for Policy designed to protect Indian Industries.-- The Conference expressed the opinion that the present tariff policy of the Government of India has not proved to be sufficiently effective in fostering the development of medium and small scale industries in the country, and urged the adoption of a more vigorous policy designed to secure to Indian industries effective protection against foreign competition.

The resolution further recommended that "with the aid of a small Committee of Representative Industrialists Government may be pleased to investigate ~~into~~ the difficulties and hardships experienced particularly by medium and small scale industries on account of the present unsuitable tariff policies and to make necessary modifications in the shortest possible time.

The resolution also endorsed the suggestion recently made for the appointment of a permanent Tariff Commissioner charged with the duty of inquiring into and disposing of applications for protection from medium and small scale industries, dealing with complaints of tariff-inequalities and to supervise the working of protected industries.

Protest against Import Restrictions.-- The Conference drew the attention of the government to several hardships resulting from quota restrictions, import licenses, exchange control, etc., experienced by Indian industries in importing their essential industrial supplies from abroad and urged that every possible effort should be made to make the country self-sufficient in regard to availability of industrial raw and semi-raw materials and ancillary materials such as machine tools, chemicals, special steels, rayon, aluminium, ~~foils~~, etc.

Revision of Railway Tariffs.-- The resolution adopted on the subject was as follows:-- "This Conference is of the opinion that the existing system of railway tariff appears to have been so devised as to assist the distribution of foreign goods to the detriment of the indigenous manufactures. It therefore emphasises the urgent need of early revision and re-classification of the present unsatisfactory railway tariffs with the special object of lowering them in order to assist the free movement within the country of industrial materials and indigenous manufactures."

Inroad of Foreign Interests into Indian industrial sphere.-- The Conference viewed with grave concern the rapid and alarming inroads made by foreign interests into the sphere of the country's industrial life and called upon the Government to appoint a Committee to inquire into the effects of the influx of foreign capital, to check undesirable activities of existing foreign concerns and prevent the establishment of new ones, by introducing a system of registration and license, and to allow Provincial Governments and Local Bodies to discriminate in favour of indigenous Indian interests.

Improvement of Marketing Facilities.-- The Conference urged the Provincial Governments to give special attention to the development of marketing organisations and requested the Government of India to

substantially increase the appointments of Indian Trade Commissioners all over the world on the lines of Canada and other Dominions.

Need for Industrialisation Drive.- The Conference appealed to the Government as well as ~~the~~ to the major Industries in the country to lend their wholehearted co-operation in establishing new industries which would lead to the rapid industrialisation of the country. It appealed to the Government to encourage the growth of new industries by subsidies, subscription to share capital, guaranteeing interest on share capital for a certain period, and timely and adequate protection.

The resolution further recommended the early establishment of Central and Provincial Bureaux of Industrial Information with a view to maintaining valuable data of a technical, economic and statistical nature.

Free Movement of Goods.- The Conference requested the Government of India to initiate an exchange of views ~~up~~ between the Provincial Governments and Indian States and the Central Government with a view to harmonise their policies so as to facilitate free movement of goods between ~~British~~ Province and Province and provinces and Indian States. It was pointed out that the different policies as regards excise and customs duties followed by the Provincial Governments and the Indian States at present acted in a way detrimental to the growth of indigenous industries.

State Competition with Private Industry.- The Conference disapproved the growing tendency on the part of Government and semi-Government institutions to manufacture and market their produce in a manner, which directly or indirectly entered into uneconomic competition with private enterprise and thereby impeded their legitimate growth.

Need for Uniform Labour Policy: Amelioration of Labour Conditions.- Resolutions were also adopted expressing the need for correlating the efforts to ameliorate the conditions of industrial labour to the existing conditions of industry in the country, and urging that steps should be taken to enunciate a uniform Labour policy between the Provinces and the States.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 2 and 3-3-1941; The Statesman, 2-3-1941.) ✓ +

Compulsory Life Insurance for Government Servants:

Progress of Bengal Scheme. ✓

Reference was made at page 20 of our December 1940 report to the proposal of the Government of Bengal to ~~initia~~ institute a compulsory life insurance scheme for Government servants. It is understood that the scheme is almost mature and that the Finance Department of the Government of Bengal ~~which~~ is now collecting the necessary data under the following main heads: (1) Number of new recruits - permanent and temporary: Appointment each year during the last five years in gazetted, subordinate and inferior services, including menial staff; and (2) Age of each employee at the time of ~~his~~ entry into service.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-3-1941.) +

Deadlock in Indo-Ceylon Negotiations:
Ceylon Ministry presses on ^{anti} anti-Indian Legislation. ✓

Reference was made at page 33 of the report of this Office for February 1941 to the intention of the Ceylon Ministry to introduce, early in March 1941, despite the message sent to the State Council by the Governor of Ceylon against the step, two Bills one for regulating and controlling the entry of non-Ceylonese into Ceylon and the other for registration of persons in Ceylon who do not possess Ceylon domicile or origin. The two Bills were introduced in the State Council on 4-3-1941, and their first reading was passed the same day; the second reading of the Bill to regulate and control immigration of non-Ceylonese was passed ~~by~~ on 26-3-1941 by 21 votes to 12.

The difference of opinion between the Governor of Ceylon and the Ministry about these Bills (vide page 33 of our February 1941 report) still persists. The Governor in his official message had quoted from official records of two decades passages which were undertakings to India. These assured Indians in Ceylon of civic and legal rights; and promised Indian immigrants, other than recruited labourers, freedom from restrictions, legal or administrative. To Indian labourers they guaranteed free repatriation in sickness or unemployment. The Ministry's view, however, is that these "can by no stretch of imagination be interpreted as undertakings binding them for all time", as they were "mere information conveyed to the Government of India of the actual position existing at the time."

(The Statesman, 25-3-1941.)

Dealing with the Ministry's plea that the undertakings, if any, given by a former bureaucratic regime in Ceylon cannot be held as binding it, the Hindu of 13-3-1941 in an editorial says:-

"The Ceylonese leaders have sought to repudiate this on the ground that the undertaking was given by a bureaucratic government by which the people of Ceylon could not be held to be bound. This is hardly correct as we have already shown. Not only are they committed to reckoning Indians as a permanent element in the Island by their accepting the Donoughmore reforms, but the State Council, in which the Ceylonese have a majority, has year after year, made grants to the Immigration Fund based on "the undertakings" and passed resolutions entirely inconsistent with the attitude they have now taken up. The Ceylonese may now feel that their Island is becoming over-populated and needs to be protected against uncontrolled immigration. The proper way of achieving this end is not by doing injustice to those who have bona fide made the Island their home with the express and tacit consent of the people, as well as the Government of the Island."

On 27-3-1941, the Ceylon Indian Congress sent to the All-India Congress Committee a resolution registering protest against the two Bills. The suggestion has also been made in certain quarters that before the third reading is taken up, Ceylon's Home Minister, Sir Baron Jayatileka, should visit India in a final attempt to solve the Indo-Ceylon deadlock.

(The Times of India, 28-3-1941.) ✓

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

All-India Conference of Employees of Central and Provincial Governments and Local Bodies; New Delhi, 15-3-1941: Demand for Dearness Allowance ✓ +

A Conference of representatives of unions of employees working in the different departments of the Central and the provincial Governments and local bodies, convened by the All-India Government Employees' Federation, was held at New Delhi, on 15-3-1941, Mr. N.M. Joshi, M.L.A., presiding.

Resolutions Adopted.- The Conference adopted a number of resolutions requesting the immediate grant of adequate dearness allowance with retrospective effect; substitution of a provident fund for the existing pension system; removal of various disabilities peculiar to Government employees; and enforcement of compulsory retirement of all employees at the age of 55. It protested against the introduction of reduced scales of salary, surrender of part of the earnings of Government servants from extra work done by them, and the inadequacy of the new leave rules, and urged the introduction of two new features - half-yearly consultation by heads of departments with the service association concerned, and the compulsory insurance of Government employees at the expense of the Government.

Office-bearers for 1941.- The following office-bearers were elected for 1941:- President, Mr. N.M. Joshi; Vice-President, Mr. R.R. Bakhale; General Secretary, Mr. S.C. Joshi.

(The Statesman, 17-3-1941)

Bombay Conference of 11-3-1941.- Resolutions urging the grant of dearness allowance for all employees of the Provincial and Central Governments and Local Bodies getting a monthly pay of Rs.100 and under, protesting against "the initiation of such half-hearted measures as the opening of cheap grain shops which have utterly failed to achieve the desired effect", and urging the setting up of machinery to ensure a timely revision of the dearness allowance in proportion to any further increase in prices in future were adopted at a Conference of representatives of different Unions of employees of the Central and Provincial Governments and Local Bodies working in Bombay held at Bombay on 8-3-1941, Mr. S.C. Joshi presiding.

("Bombay Chronicle", 11-3-1941) ✓ +

The Standard Provident Fund Rules for Teachers employed
in Recognised Private Schools in Delhi. ✓

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has gazetted a set of standard Provident Fund Rules for teachers employed in recognised Indian schools under private management in Delhi Province. The Rules apply to all teachers holding non-pensionable permanent posts in such schools. Teachers' subscriptions to the fund are fixed at the rate of $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of their salary; an equal amount is to be paid by the School Committee. Advances from the Fund may be made for specified purposes.

(Notification No. F.12 (93)/41-L. S. G. dated
20-3-1941: The Gazette of India, Part II-A,
dated 29-3-1941, pages 112 to 116.) ✓

Land Colonisation on Co-operative Basis:
Madras Government's Scheme. ✓

The Government of Madras has made provision in the provincial budget for 1941-42 for a land colonisation scheme. A Government communiqué dated 20-3-1941 setting forth the objects of the scheme points out:

Prevention of Alienation.- Representations have been made to the Government from time to time that a good deal of the land which has in the past been assigned to the landless has soon found its way into the possession of rich and influential neighbours. The Government has decided that a special attempt should be made to ensure that land is assigned to the poor and is retained in their enjoyment. To this end assignment will be made not to individuals but to groups of colonists formed into co-operative societies. Assignments will be made in compact blocks of land, each block being assigned to one or more co-operative societies consisting of members of the landless poor specially organised for the purpose.

Objects.- The main objects of these societies will be: ~~to~~ to hold land from the Government, divide it according to a scheme of colonisation approved by the Government and distribute the holdings among the members; to arrange for the reclamation of lands, if necessary, and to ensure their cultivation; to purchase or own implements, machinery and cattle for hire to members; and to borrow funds from the central banks or others on the security of the land assigned to them, to be utilised for granting loans to members for agricultural expenses, including reclamation of lands.

Finances.- The Government will make a contribution to the society at the rate of Rs.10 for each colonist as a free gift so that he may use it to obtain shares in the society. On the basis of his membership, he will be able to borrow money from the society for the ~~re~~ reclamation, improvement and cultivation of his land. It is proposed, to start with, that the above scheme of colonisation should be tried in certain blocks of land available in the Tanjore and Kistna districts. A special Deputy Collector will be employed with necessary staff to establish colonies in these districts, and later to extend operation to suitable areas in other districts.

(The Hindu, 22-3-1941.) ✓+

Employers' Organisations.14th Annual Meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce And Industry, Delhi, 22 and 23-3-1941. ✓

The 14th session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at Delhi on 22 and 23-3-1941 under the presidency of Mr. Amrit Lal Ojha, the President of the Federation. The salient features of the presidential address are noted below:-

Effects of War on Indian Industries: Problem of Surplus Commodities. - The extension of the hostilities to the major part of Europe and stricter application of the methods of economic warfare during the year adversely affected India's position as a country largely interested in the exports of her raw materials to foreign countries. The exports of primary productions to continental markets suffered a heavy setback, resulting in unusual accumulations of raw commodities such as cotton, groundnuts, other oilseeds, wool, etc., in the country. The consequential result of such a situation was bound to be reflected in the downward trend of the prices for these commodities. There is every likelihood of the present position as regards prices still deteriorating in future with new crops coming into the markets.

Unhelpful Attitude of Government. - Apart from the closure of markets, the increase of shipping tonnage and the quota restrictions arising out of the methods of economic warfare, the attitude of the British Government has also not been very helpful in mitigating effects of these factors on the agricultural economy of India. The British Government has followed a policy, in case of India's raw produce, different from the one it has been following with regard to the primary produce of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and even of a non-Empire country like Egypt. The recent raw cotton agreement between Great Britain and Egypt is to the point. Similar agreements were entered into by the British Government with the Governments of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia in respect of the entire wool clips of these Dominions for the duration of the war and for one wool clip thereafter. The prices reported to have been offered, under these Agreements, are as high as 40 per cent. over the pre-war prices. Another important deal entered into by the British Government, in conjunction with the Governments of Canada and New Zealand, with some of the Dominions and Colonies, was with regard to the purchase of the entire exportable sugar crop of Australia, Union of South Africa, Mauritius, Fiji and the British West Indies. This Agreement involved a total quantity of about 10-15 lakhs of tons of sugar, and these sugar producing countries would be able to dispose of about 5-5 lakhs tons more than was the case under the International Sugar Agreement.

In contrast to this generous attitude of His Majesty's Government towards the Dominions and the Colonies, the attitude of the Government of India, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, has been far from satisfactory. India's agricultural economy, on which depends the

living of the millions of her primary producers, has not received due consideration at the hands of the British Government. On the other hand, the policy followed in India in respect of the purchase of raw materials required for the prosecution of the war has resulted in depressing the prices of these articles, as compared to the prices offered for similar goods by His Majesty's Government in other parts of the Empire. In spite of repeated submissions from the wool interests to the Government of India to prevail upon His Majesty's Government to enter into an agreement similar to the one with South Africa and Australia as regards purchase of the entire Indian wool clip, no action has been taken as yet, and the trade as also the primary producers have continued to suffer. Two other commodities seriously affected are ground-nuts and oil-seeds.

What Government should do.— With a view to consider and find out a solution of the problem arising out of the surplus of raw commodities, the Commerce Member accepted the suggestion made last year at the annual meeting for the establishment of an Export Advisory Council. Although it is not possible to secure immediate solution of the intricate question of utilising the surplus stocks of raw commodities in the country, in course of time the present unsatisfactory situation would be effectively remedied to the satisfaction of the primary producers in a manner which would give them some relief by way of greater return on their produce in the Indian market. It was suggested that the Government of India should first make up its mind as to the extent of the financial assistance to which it is prepared to go, before inviting the various interests concerned to offer suggestions with regard to either holding stocks of these commodities in reserve and releasing them in the market, as and when necessary, or with regard to the utilisation of these commodities in the manufacture of new industrial products. Another solution suggested in this connection is the introduction of alternate crops. Unless alternate crops which they are asked to grow, would bring them similar or better financial returns, agriculturists would not welcome any such suggestion. It is, besides, very difficult to shift from one crop to another, as climatic and soil conditions sometimes may not be suitable for the proper cultivation of a particular alternate crop. It would, therefore, be advisable for the Government of India to investigate and ascertain the deficiency in the country of those food commodities which are consumed in their daily life by the people. It is essential, therefore, that the question of crop planning should be actively pursued by Government before initiating any isolated action. Still another method of meeting the problem is to find alternate uses for the surplus raw materials for industrial purposes within the country. If proper efforts are made, both through governmental and private industrial enterprise, India would be in a position to manufacture the articles which used to be imported before the War from other countries and in the process of the manufacture of which these very raw materials were utilised abroad. For the purpose of investigating alternate uses for these raw materials and absorbing them within the country itself, the recent establishment of the Board of Industrial and Scientific Research by Government is a step in the right direction.

War Supplies.- It is true that orders from outside of the value of Rs. 850 millions have given a good fillip to some indigenous industries which were experiencing serious difficulties in the pre-war period; it does not compensate, as was contended by the Finance Member in presenting the Budget Proposals, the Indian primary producer for the loss of his old Continental and traditional markets. It must be remembered that industrial enterprise in India is responsible for the employment of scarcely 10 per cent. of the Indian population, while more than 65 per cent. is dependent, for its living, upon the disposal of primary produce. The placing of orders for the supply of raw materials has not materially improved the price level of the raw commodities and, consequently, the financial standing of the producer has practically remained at the level where it was in the pre-war period. Moreover, it cannot be said that the rise in exports, which mainly represents manufactured articles, would compensate the country for the loss which it has suffered by the closure of the Continental markets because, while the closure of these markets affected the price structure of the primary commodities, the depressing influence has not been counteracted by the increase of India's exports in manufactured articles.

Industrial Planning.- A small body composed of eminent Indian industrialists and Indian public men should be constituted into an Industrial Reconstruction Council to utilise all the materials and information so far collected by the Supply Department during the last 18 months of its existence, with a view to evolve an immediate plan for either suitably expanding the ~~present~~ ^{existing} enterprises or creating new ones. The situation which Indian industries will have to face after the termination of the present war would be serious enough to demand immediate consideration of this proposal in the interest, not only of Indian industries, but also of India's primary producers. If India is to equip herself to face the post-war situation, then the establishment of a Council, as suggested above, would be an essential measure. As new channels for trade and new markets would be developed during the war, it is necessary that careful consideration should be paid to these problems from now.

Eastern Group Conference.- The failure to associate actively Indian businessmen in the work of the Eastern Group Conference has had adverse effects on industrial production. There is a genuine feeling of apprehension, in the absence of any knowledge, regarding the conclusions reached at the Eastern Group Conference as regards the establishment and development of industries in India. The public is also in the dark as regards the functions and working of the newly established Eastern Group Council, and they would like to be enlightened whether the new Council is to direct the whole policy of the war purchases by His Majesty's Government in the Eastern part of the Empire, whether it would be competent to direct the placing of orders with a particular country so as to encourage the establishment of any Defence industries and whether it would be competent to advise the Governments of any of the Eastern Group countries to allow the use of foreign capital for the starting of such Defence industries. It is necessary, therefore, that the Government of India should remove all such apprehension from the public mind on these questions. It will be still further helpful in removing public misgivings if the Government would give an assurance that India's economic interests would not be

compromised or jeopardised by any of the decisions of the Eastern Group Council and India would not be precluded from establishing or developing any industries, particularly key and engineering industries in the country. The Government of India should not agree to the creation of new vested interests under the control of non-Indians which are sure to be prejudicial to India's economic interests. In ~~this~~ this connection, the industrial community should feel deep satisfaction at the support given by the Government to start an air-craft factory in Bangalore and a ship-building yard at Vizagapatam.

Protection for War Industries.— The Government of India has already announced its policy of encouraging the establishment of such industries in the country as are helpful in furthering their war efforts, and has stated that these industries would not be left high and dry after the termination of the war. This policy of protection and encouragement should be extended also to such other industries as have been established to meet the needs and requirements of the people of the country, particularly owing to the restricted imports from foreign countries, especially capital industries like those for manufacture of machinery and machine tools, heavy chemicals, etc.

Unemployment.— Dealing with middle-class unemployment, Mr. Ojha said that the proper remedy of the problem lies in pursuing a definite policy of industrialisation of the country which alone can absorb ~~these~~ thousands of qualified youngmen brought out by the Universities of the country. Some of the Universities have also ~~technological institutions~~ attached to them and the young men who receive this training would prove especially useful to the country in these ~~war~~ days. The necessity of having a well qualified trained technical personnel for the industries of the country is obvious, especially at the present time when we find some of the vital industries of the country so largely dependent on them.

Indians Overseas.— The position of Indians overseas in the Dominions and in the British Colonial Empire did not improve during the year under review; on the contrary, India's relations with Ceylon were far from being happy. The Report, submitted by the Government of India to the Central Legislature regarding the Exploratory Conference between it and the Ministers from Ceylon fully brings out the fundamental differences in the outlook of the two Governments towards this question. While the country fully supports the attitude adopted by the Government of India on such a vital question, it is deplorable that the Ceylonese Ministers could not agree to ~~a~~ very reasonable proposal put forward by the Government of India that full citizenship should be conferred on all Indians who could furnish proof (a) of five years' residence in Ceylon and (b) of a permanent interest in Ceylon. It is still more deplorable that the attitude of the Ministers towards Indians - who have been responsible for the economic prosperity of the Island - should be constitutionally untenable and should call for intervention by the Government of Ceylon.

Resolutions.— Among others, resolutions were adopted ^{at} the Session Meeting (1) urging the setting up and encouragement of defence industries like manufacturing of automobiles, air-crafts, ships, armaments, etc; (2) protesting against lack of adequate State support for the starting of a national shipping industry and urging strong support and help from Government for Indian shipping; (3) urging better representation of Indians in Port Trusts; (4) suggesting the sending of trade missions and setting up of an Export Organisation

to stimulate India's export trade; (5) deploring the present Indo-Ceylon relations over the migration of Indians to Ceylon, urging the appointment of Agents in Fiji and British Guiana and expressing the hope that in the Indo-Burmese Trade negotiations, the rights and status of Indians in Burma will be adequately safeguarded; and (6) urging strongly that Indian industries should be given adequate support under the decisions of the Eastern Group Conference.

Office-bearers for 1941-42.— The following were elected officer-bearers of the Federation for the year 1941-42: President, Mr. Chmnilal B. Mehta, Bombay; Vice-President, Mr. Gaganvihari L. Mehta, Calcutta; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. N.R. Sarkar, Calcutta; Members of the Committee, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Ahmedabad; Sir Shri Ram, New Delhi; Lala Padampat Singhania, Cawnpore; Mr. J.C. Setalvad, Bombay; Mr. N.L. Puri, Calcutta; Mr. A.L. Ojha, Calcutta; Mr. Debes Chandra Ghose, Jalpaiguri; ~~Mr. Gaganvihari L. Mehta, Calcutta~~; Mr. S.P. Jain, Dalmianagar; Mr. Devi Prasad Khaitan, Calcutta; Dewan Bahadur C.S. Ratnasabhapathi Mudaliar, Coimbatore; Sir Rahimtoola M. Chinoy, Bombay; Mr. Keshav Prasad Goenka, Calcutta; Sir Parshotamdas Thakurdas, Bombay; Lala Gurusharan Lal, Gaya; Kumararajah M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, Madras; Rao Rao Bahadur Shivan G. Mohatta, Karachi; Mr. Satya Paul Birmani, Amritsar; Rao Sahib C. Hayavadana Rao, Bangalore.

(Summarised from a copy of the Printed text of the Presidential Address and Resolutions forwarded to this Office by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.)

(A copy each of the Presidential Address and Resolutions was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's minute P.6/275/41 dated 16-4-1941.) ✓

★

All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers:
8th Annual Meeting, Delhi, 1941. ✓

The eighth annual meeting of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers was held at Delhi on 23-3-1941 under the presidentship of Sir Shri Ram; a brief summary of the presidential address is given below:—

War and Indian Industries: Problem of Surplus Commodities.— The emergence of industrial countries under a policy of national self-sufficiency as large-scale agricultural producers and the disappearance of these markets to countries producing primary commodities for export had already added to India's problems, and with the dislocation in the markets brought about by the war, she is faced with the prospect of surplus stocks unable to find their customary markets or any market; the result has been depressed prices. The export prosperity on which the agriculturist's credit was built up is fast disappearing, if it has not already done so. For the disposal of surplus raw materials, it is necessary that they should be converted into manufactured products at as low a cost as possible and marketed within the country. The home market must be cultivated to the fullest

extent and made more elastic. It is well-known that in proportion to her population India consumes less than any other civilised country, of every product, primary or manufactured. This under-consumption is in direct proportion to the low credit-worthiness of the rural population.

The agricultural community is not only the biggest producing class; it is also the largest consumer community. The Government of India and some of the Provincial Governments have no doubt taken steps to ensure a fair price for the grower of cane, jute, tea, coffee, rubber, etc. The producers of these commodities, however, form a very small proportion of the agricultural community so that for the majority of them the problem of disposal is still an unsolved one. A warning must be uttered against restriction schemes. They have been shown to be a remedy worse than the disease, the economic implications of which are sweeping and which complicate issues.

Need for Reduction in Manufacturing Costs.— The problem, in short, is the securing of satisfactory prices and disposal of agricultural produce so that the country's manufactures may be stimulated. There is no question now, and there will not be for a long time to come, of industrial production outrunning the country's capacity for consumption. It is merely one of reducing the prices of finished goods and narrowing the gulf between the prices of raw materials and manufactured products. The increased consumption stimulated by lower prices will of itself provide an incentive to larger production which will in turn render possible a reduction in costs. Further means of reducing the prices of manufactured products which circumstances render imperative are for the employer to forego a margin of his profit and for the worker to accept lower wages. The latter suggestion particularly will be distasteful as it involves some sacrifices which may be somewhat harsh for a time. But it is ultimately for the good of the industry itself and the country. The distinction between the cost of living and the standard of living is not always fully appreciated. The improvement in the standard of living of the people is as much the aim of employers as it is of the Government. A moderate potential wage, expended with thrift and prudence coupled with the amenities provided by the employer can contribute to a higher standard of living. Another justification for a reduction in wages is the disequilibrium between the prices of primary commodities and of finished goods.

While there has been a rather precipitate decline in the prices of agricultural commodities since the peak year 1928-29, there has not been anything like the same reduction in industrial prices to accommodate the large consumer community proportionately. The lag in the case of primary products has been more pronounced and to this can be ascribed some at least of the problems facing industry now. Theoretically, one can see no reason why there should be too wide a divergence between agricultural and industrial wages, and the closer the approximation between the two, the less would be the disturbance to our economic system. So far as the consumer is concerned there is no doubt that the price of manufactured goods must be brought down and it is obvious that the price of finished goods has not come down as much as it should. Industrial costs could also be reduced by a judicious combination among industrial units for the purpose of more rational distribution to bring about economies in transport charges. Such combines, however, should not try to

41

exploit the consumer as this would defeat the very end for which they are brought into existence.

Labour Legislation Policy of Government.- Referring to labour legislation as part of the wider problem of state policy towards industries, Sir Shri Ram remarked that the immediate legislative programme before the Government of India includes sickness insurance, holidays with pay, weekly holidays to persons employed in commercial houses and shops and the extension of maternity benefits to women employed in coal mines. He uttered a warning against Government too slavishly imitating the legislation in force in advanced industrial countries of the West. India's emergence in the large-scale industrial field is scarcely more than a generation old and legislation appropriate in countries whose industrial system and organisation dates to more than a century ago and whose economy is fundamentally different must be premature in India and would only retard the growth of industry whose early and orderly expansion the Government of India and employers have so much at heart. In labour legislation, India should compare conditions in this country with countries in Asia like China and, to a lesser extent, Japan than with conditions in America and the United Kingdom.

Need for Co-ordinated Labour Legislation.- The ~~difficult~~ differing regulations not only as between provinces in British India on the one hand but as between British India and Indian States on the other have had a great effect upon industry and the need for uniformity among them cannot be urged too often or too strongly. Measures for achieving co-ordination by persuasion so far as Indian States are concerned are bound to be ineffectual. "We strongly object to this partial and disharmonious application of labour legislation in British India alone; industry is not the only sufferer from the lack of such co-ordination; it is equally detrimental to the interests of Government and as such to the interests of British Indians as a whole. There is also no reason why Government or quasi-government industrial establishments should not have applied to them all welfare measures which industry in private management is subjected to. All that employers in British India seek to achieve is that competitive ability within India as a whole and among industries, government or private, should not be detrimentally affected in one part or in one agency by means of labour legislation. Industry and capital tend to move to areas where regulations are few or less and where enterprise is more remunerative, and recent years have witnessed a steady and unmistakeable emigration of British Indian industry to Indian States. More new ventures have also of late selected their venue there. Welfare legislation in British India defeats its own object if it is not universally applied throughout the whole country."

Excessive Taxation in British India as another Factor in Industrial Migration.- Another factor which has encouraged this emigration of British Indian industry to Indian States is the excessive taxation imposed on it in British India. Burdensome taxation in British India reduces the power of the industry there to compete even in its own markets with products manufactured in Indian States where taxation, even if it exists, is far less onerous. The effect of heavy industrial taxation upon the exchequer is no less serious than that on industry itself. The depression in industry to which Government itself contributes by the excessively burdensome taxation and the encouragement for industry to emigrate to less

burdensome areas result in yields from income-tax, super-tax and excises shrinking ~~appreciably~~ appreciably. The loss to revenue is then sought to be made good by placing greater burdens upon industry, which in turn reduce industry's competitive ability still further, thus aggravating the unfavourable prospects facing industry. Tax burdens on productive enterprise should not therefore be aggravated.

Effect of Restriction Schemes.- Restriction schemes do harm to industry by raising prices artificially. The example of the sugar industry may be quoted. As some of the inefficient units of industry require the maintenance of relatively higher prices, the competitive capacity of British Indian industry as a whole, vis-a-vis foreign imports is detrimentally affected. While a natural weeding out of these inefficient units is therefore very desirable, Government would be doing a disservice to the best interest of industry by introducing restriction schemes or price control just for the sake of keeping alive a few inefficient units on sentimental or other grounds.

Need for Planning.- To prevent the indiscriminate expansion of industry to the detriment of the economic system and to direct industrial development along right lines, some sort of government control is necessary. The harm which uncontrolled expansion in the sugar industry has done and the grave position confronting it now may well have been avoided with some sort of planning and regulation. Again, the misdirection of industrial effort in the past involved in the putting up of ginning factories, flour mills, rice mills, etc., ~~such in excess of normal requirements~~ has resulted in the locking up of capital in unremunerative enterprise and in national capital being dissipated. With some control such waste of effort and money could have been prevented and unexploited lines of industry profitably explored. Any government control should however be on an all-India basis and not on provincial lines; again, the example of the sugar industry provides a warning of the dangers arising from a lack of co-ordination among all provinces.

Protection to War Industries.- After the war and on the return of normal conditions, industries will be faced with new and complex problems ~~which~~ they should be enabled by Government to consolidate the ground they have covered during the present emergent circumstances. It is necessary therefore that an assurance should be given by Government in unmistakable terms that protection would be afforded not only to such industry as produce war supplies but ~~all~~ ^{also} industries started during the war, catering for Government and civilian needs.

(Summarised from the presidential address, copies of which were supplied to this Office by the Secretary, All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, New Delhi.)

(A copy of the presidential address was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's minute F.6/275/41, dated 16 -4-1941.) ✓

Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce:
12th Meeting, Delhi, 1941. ✓ +

The 12th annual meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce was held at Delhi on 23-3-1941 under the presidentship of Mr. Amrit Lal Ojha. The following are the salient features of the address:-

World Economic Conditions.- The world economic situation during the past year was primarily influenced by the exigencies of the European War. Throughout the year the normal course of economic developments was punctuated, almost every three or four months, by severe shocks to the confidence of the investing and commercial public, administered by the grim news coming from the Western front. In the United States of America, industrial production, which had reached a peak level towards the end of 1939, began to fall thereafter and the Federal Reserve Bank index number declined from 125 in December 1939 to 105 in March, 1940. These changes were also reflected on the Wall Street where the prices of leading industrial shares showed, on the whole, a downward tendency. But, as the growing American expenditure on rearmament got under way, it tended to check the decline in industrial activities and the usual indices of prices and production showed an upward trend towards the latter part of the year, the Federal Reserve index rising from 111 in April to 131 in July, 1940. In contrast to the relatively depressed state of business in the outside world, the United Kingdom authorities were faced with the task of adopting measures to avoid inflationary rise in the prices of commodities which was threatening to emerge from the rapidly rising civilian purchasing power on the one hand, and the dwindling supplies of goods for civilian consumption on the other.

Conditions in India.- In India, the economic conditions were, in the main, dominated by war developments in Europe. Despite the difficulties of freight, the export trade was, on the whole, on the up-grade. Thanks to the stimulus given by the war orders and the purchases of the Supply Department, the production in the principal industries was maintained at a relatively high level. But, the main index of the economic situation, viz., the level of commodity prices, showed a continuous downward trend throughout the year, due to the vast territorial changes in and the application of the British blockade to the major part of Europe. India suffered rather severely in respect of some commodities like groundnut, while the off-take and prices of other ~~commodities like groundnut, while the off-take and prices of other~~ ~~trade and commerce~~ staple commodities like cotton, hides and skins, raw jute, were also greatly affected. The economic conditions in India during the year under review, therefore, were gloomy.

The war has had certain important repercussions on Indian trade and commerce. For the duration of the war, most of the countries ^{in the} outside world, including India, are bound to be faced with the problem of the disposal of their exportable surpluses of agricultural products and raw materials on their hands. Government's efforts to meet the situation has not resulted in any appreciable success so far. One of the ~~main~~ main causes of the failure of these attempts to find alternate markets has been the fact that most of the other countries which are either neutral or accessible are more or less competitive agricultural economies which offer little help to the solution of the Indian

44

problem. Apart from this fundamental fact, it has been exceedingly difficult to secure adequate shipping freight to near or distant countries which still remain open to India, as a result of the complete mobilization of all available shipping for purposes of the war and the allocation of shipping space to non-war purposes strictly on a priority basis.

Need for Increased Exports.- It is by no means completely true that India can be regarded as exclusively a competitive economy vis-a-vis some of the other members of the British Empire which are within a short distance from India. It has been urged that there is a large scope for Indian manufactured commodities like cotton textiles, steel products, cement as well as coal in markets like such as East Africa, Strait Settlements, China and so on. Vigorous efforts, therefore, should be made to secure necessary shipping freight and to promote the exports of our manufactured goods to these countries, with a view to provide partial relief to the producers of raw materials like the cotton cultivators, by creating a market for their produce in India itself.

Restriction of Production.- As regards the desirability of adopting measures to restrict production in important staple crops like raw jute or groundnut, it would be inadvisable to embark on a costly experiment like restriction of output of any staple crop unless suitable alternate crops could be grown in the areas thus released from the restricted crops and unless it has been definitely established that the recession in demand for that particular commodity is of a permanent and not of a temporary character. With the exception of a truly commercial and monopoly crop like raw jute, it is irrational to suggest restriction of any important staple food-crop in a country which is proverbially known as the poorest in the world, with possibly the lowest possible per capita consumption of essential items of food. All things considered, it would be unrealistic to examine the immediate problem of surpluses created by the loss of the European markets, without taking into account the wider background of the changing trends in the world trade and world commercial policies which have been in evidence since the depression of 1929 and which, if anything, are likely to be strengthened as a result of the present war.

At the end of the present war, the older industrial countries are bound to be faced with the problems of growing competition from the manufacturers of new belligerent countries and of readjustment of their productive system to the changed nature of international trade as they did during the period following the last great war. With the drift towards economic self-sufficiency and the development of primary and secondary industries in the agricultural countries, the world, as a whole, would have to revise its conception and to settle down to a much reduced level of the value and volume of the total trade than what it is hitherto accustomed.

Effect of World Trends on India.- The implications of these tendencies are very serious from the viewpoint of India. Traditionally, the whole of the productive system in India has been adjusted to suit the needs of a flourishing and large export trade so that the prosperity and the purchasing power of the people have come to depend, in a vital sense, upon the prospects of the country's foreign trade. Things have already moved very quickly during the last ten years and the reduction in the value and volume of world trade has severely curtailed

45

the level of incomes and the welfare of the Indian masses. The loss of the European markets has pointedly brought to the forefront the question of the disposal of India's exportable agricultural surpluses and the desirability of the stabilisation of the incomes of our primary producer. In the post-war years, India in common with the outside world, may have to reconcile herself to a permanent reduction in the value and volume of our foreign trade. Against this general background, the problem of her present immediate surpluses assume an altogether new significance.

~~Efforts have been made to find a solution to the problem~~ The problem in its broad essentials is very simple. India has, as already observed, been accustomed to produce a large variety of agricultural raw materials for the external markets. Due to the change in the commercial policies of most of the nations, the capacity of these markets to absorb Indian goods has shrunk to a very large extent since the Depression of 1929. The progress of industrialisation of relatively backward areas in the world during the present war is likely to affect still more adversely the capacity of the world markets to absorb mutual products and thus it is likely to accentuate the difficulties of the disposal of exportable surpluses in the hands of the primary producing countries. It would be at once clear from the above analysis of this problem that India will have to evolve a long-term programme for bringing about appropriate readjustments in her productive capacity so as to suit the changing requirements of the world markets. But the supremely important and urgent task is to utilise the opportunities ~~during the present war to accelerate~~ the expansion of the existing industries and to promote the development of new primary and secondary manufactures within the country so as to absorb a large volume of the country's surplus raw materials by creating a market for them within our own country. Like the United States of America, this country is one of the largest internal markets whose potentialities remain to be fully developed. The most fruitful line on which a permanent solution of the immediate and long-term problem of exportable surpluses could be found would be intensive and rapid diversification and development of industries within the country, with a view to absorb raw materials at home and create an assured market for the primary producer.

~~Office bearers~~ bearers for 1941-42.- The following were elected as office-bearers and members of the Committee of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce, for the year 1941-42: President: Mr. Chunilal B. Mehta; Vice-President: Mr. Gaganvihari L. Mehta, Calcutta; members: Sir Rahimtoola M. Chinoy, Bombay; Sir Purshotandas Thakurdas, Bombay; Mr. B.M. Birla, Calcutta; Sir Shri Ram, New Delhi; Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Ahmedabad; Lala Padampat Singhania, Cawnpore; Mr. Amrit Lal Ojha, Calcutta; Rai Bahadur Lala Ramsaran Das, Lahore; Mr. A.D. Shroff, Bombay; Dewan Bahadur C.S. Ratnasabhupathi Mudaliar, Coimbatore; Mr. J. C. Setalvad, Bombay; Sardar P.S. Sodhbans, Lahore; and Mr. G.D. Birla.

(Summarised from the presidential address, copies of which were forwarded to this Office by the Secretary, Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce.)

(A copy of the presidential address was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's minute F.6/275/41 dated 16-4-1941.) ✓

46

Annual General Meeting of the Employers' Federation of
Southern India, Madras, 21-3-1941. ✓

The annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of Southern India was held at Madras on 21-3-1941, under the presidentship of Mr. H. S. Town. A summary of the presidential speech is given below:-

Dearness Allowance for Workers.- In the year 1939 the Federation realised that workers, particularly low-paid labourers, would suffer if the prices of essential commodities in their family budgets showed any considerable rise. There was at that time no request from labour for any allowance to be granted, because there was no rise in ~~xx~~ prices sufficiently large to warrant any allowance being given. Certain of the Federation members have for years studied the family budgets of their employees, and were in possession of much information all of which had been produced as a scientific study and not for the purpose of proving or disproving any view. The information was placed before the Federation and formed the basis on which a scheme was drawn up for consideration. The scheme adopted was an allowance based on the Government monthly cost-of-living index figure, rising and falling with that figure and being subject to reconsideration if the figure rose beyond a figure to be agreed between individual employers and their labour, and to be extinguished when the cost of living resumed approximately the pre-war level. In this connection, Mr. Town commented on the lack of scientific study of the standard of living in the various parts of the Presidency. Index figures for Madras City were available, but these were quite insufficient. Price movements in various parts of the Presidency vary. Had full information been available as to the cost of living and workers' family expenditure in all districts, employers and Government would have found it easier to consider the question of any allowance based on prices. As a result of representations made by the Federation, cost-of-living indices are now being maintained in certain areas. He suggested to Government that indices covering the whole Presidency should be maintained and remarked that though this will entail some expense, if it is sought to improve the standards of the masses, one must know what it costs them to live. Whatever the outcome of the present war, it is certain that when construction replaces destruction there will be a great readjustment of values throughout the world. These readjustments, if carried out by persons not seized of the full facts and not in possession of the necessary data on which to make a just proposal, may do great harm. India is a country just showing signs of rising to a higher standard of living and it is essential that in the readjustments which are coming employers and employed should be in possession of the cost and standard of living in all parts of India.

Labour Legislation Programme of Government:

(1) Industrial Disputes.- The First Conference of Labour Ministers was held in Delhi in January 1940. The holding of this Conference was an important and welcome step towards checking the danger of differing labour legislation as between Province and Province. As a result of the Conference Government intends drafting four bills, the most important of which is that ~~requiring~~ regarding the question of industrial disputes and their settlement. There are certain facts regarding industrial disputes which it is well to remember. Firstly, no proceedings under any Act should be possible until all the ordinary

methods of direct negotiation between employee and employer have been exhausted. Secondly, it should be a condition precedent to any negotiation that work continues under the existing conditions, and, thirdly, and possibly the most important of all, it should be made impossible for matters outside the dispute to be considered; and a careful safeguard must be provided against Courts of Enquiry expressing opinions on matters not referred to them. The enforcement of the findings of a Court of Enquiry is a matter of great difficulty. It is quite possible by various means to ensure that employers will abide by any finding, but it is quite impossible to force labour to accept an award which it considered unfavourable.

(2) Plea for Healthy Trade Unions. - It has been said that employers would welcome a strong well-organised and reasonably led trade union movement. Unfortunately, many of the executives of the labour unions of this Presidency seem to consider that their duty is to paint the employer as a taskmaster aiming ~~not~~ at shortening the lives of his workers by over-work, keeping them in a state of perpetual fear of unemployment, and so arranging their lives that every employee who retires must of necessity starve. This propaganda follows the well-known lines developed in Russia and disseminated throughout the world. There are strong grounds to believe that vigorous propaganda on these lines which has been going on has had outside financial assistance. In this connection, Mr. Town referred to the Bevin scheme under which Indian workers are being given opportunities to study British trade unionism and hoped that the experiment will bear fruit by helping Indian trade unionism to develop along more peaceful and constructive channels.

(3) Sickness Insurance. - One of the items dealt with at the Conference of Labour Ministers, was the subject of sickness insurance; and it was agreed that certain large industries should be taken up for actuarial examination, whilst certain other industries might be surveyed. If the abuses to which a sickness insurance scheme is open can be effectively overcome, members of the Federation would give a very sympathetic consideration to any proposals. Mr. Town referred to the ~~pass~~ passage in the memorandum on the subject submitted to the Ministers' Conference by Mr. Thomas, Superintendent of Insurance, in which it is pointed out that one has to bear in mind the psychological phenomena, proved by experience, that the sickness rates derived from the experience of a certain body of persons when there is no sickness benefit payable, undergo considerable and unfavourable changes when the same body of persons become eligible for benefit in some form or another. This is the experience, Mr. Town said, of all employers who have been lenient in the matter of sick leave. When the time comes for the introduction of any scheme for sickness insurance, the strictest safeguards must be inserted to see that any medical practitioner who is chiefly a purveyor of certificates of sickness is precluded from acting under the Act.

(4) Amendment of Factories Act. - In the course of the discussions at the Conference it was suggested on more than one subject that the proposed labour legislation might in the first case be applied to certain large industries or to well organised concerns. Generally, labour legislation excludes the operation of factories employing but a few persons from certain sections. Generally speaking, it can be said that labour employed in large factories or well organised concerns is better looked after, better paid and works under much more healthy conditions, than those employed in small factories. It was therefore a matter for pleasure that it was generally accepted at the Conference

that the Factories Act should be amended to empower Provincial Governments to notify as factories any establishments using power and employing 10 or more persons. This, Mr. Town said, did not go far enough, although it is welcome. It should be possible to amend the Factories Act so that there shall be no question as to whether or not a place is a factory. Provincial Governments should be compelled to accept that any establishment using power and employing 10 or more persons is a factory.

Labour Policy of Government.— At the risk of being charged with employing delaying tactics, he suggested extreme caution in the enactment of any labour legislation at present. The future of industry is obscure and one should not be deceived by the present activity into believing that industry is on the crest of a wave which will know no trough. Any burden laid on industry will be a continuing one, and the greatest care must be taken to ensure that burdens laid on industry can be carried at all times. Burdens should apply to all industries and not to just one or two, and it must not be forgotten that many a prosperous industry today is the result of many years of effort and has a prosperity which can be irretrievably damaged by legislation imposing demands beyond the capacity of the industry to pay. The prosperity of industry is of paramount importance to labour, and the over-burdening of industry must eventually be detrimental to the true interests of labour. ✓

(The Hindu, 23-3-1941.) +

Plea for Recognition of Communal Unions:

Rejected by Central Assembly. ✓

On 25-3-1941, Mr. H.M. Abdullah (Muslim League Party) moved a resolution in the Central Assembly to the effect "that the present discriminatory policy of the Government as regards the recognition of so-called common unions of Government employees and non-recognition of the so-called communal unions of Government employees should be abandoned forthwith, and unions of employees belonging to any one particular section of ^{the} community should be officially recognised."

Messrs. N.M. Joshi, P.J. Griffiths, Jammadas Mehta and several others spoke against the resolution; and Maulvi Abdul Ghani, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed and Sir Raza Ali spoke in favour; the Government's point of view was expressed by Sir Reginald Maxwell, the Home Member.

The resolution was rejected by 48 votes to 17. As the matter is one of great significance to the evolution of the Indian trade union movement, the speeches of the principal speakers for and against the resolution are summarised below:-

Mr. N.M. Joshi said that the majority community in the country ought to make sacrifices in order to secure the confidence of the minority communities, but he could not support the demand for communal unions because the trade union was an organisation of an economic class and was only concerned with the general economic interests of that class. There was no clash of interests, he declared, between employees of Government who were either Hindus or Moslems; rates of wages, leave rules, pension rules were the same for all. Assertions about the Moslem community being a separate nation were not relevant at all; if a Moslem booking clerk or a judge felt all the 24 hours of the day that he was a Moslem, then he was not fit to be a booking clerk or a judge.

Mr. Joshi denied that Moslems did not take part in the general trade union movement in the country, but said it was true that the number of Moslems who took part in public movements of any kind was smaller than that of Hindus. The remedy for that was the spread of education among Moslems.

Maulvi Abdul Ghani asserted that Moslems did not get sufficient opportunity in the so-called national trade unions to express their grievances; hence they should be given separate trade unions. He referred to the fact that representation was separately given to universities, landlords, labour, and so on, in legislatures. Were these not communal? The Moslems, he declared, were a nation and their demand for separate unions was a national demand.

Mr. P.J. Griffiths opposing the resolution declared that the extension of the principle of communalism to trade unionism was fraught with danger to organised labour in this country. Once the principle was accepted it must spread to the general industrial sphere. In

industrial and other spheres there were two criteria for considering the question of separate representation. Firstly, was there any conflict of interests between the ~~ma~~ minority and the majority communities with regard to any particular matters under discussion, and secondly, even if there was no conflict of interests, was it in fact the case that there was serious danger of discrimination in practice being made against the minority? Applying these two tests he found that there was no justification for the demand made in the resolution.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta characterised the resolution as contradictory; it talked of the "discriminatory policy of the Government" whereas in fact it was the Government who did not want to discriminate in the matter of membership of trade unions. He mentioned that on no less than 10, probably 15, occasions, delegates and advisers to the International Labour Conference had been Moslems. Even if Moslems claimed to be a separate nation, he reminded the House that members of different nations formed the world-wide federation of workers.

Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed said that it was not advisable to apply trade union principles of England to India, where there were employers who, he said, refused to employ people because they were Moslems. Every country had to pass through various stages of development in the matter of the trade union movement and communal unions represented one of the stages. He pointed out that the number of questions put in the House about representation of Moslems was an indication of the need for some machinery to consider the matter.

Sir Raza Ali explained that the main grievance of the Moslem employees of the Government was that the Home Department resolution dated July 6, 1934 (reserving one-third of the appointments for Moslems) was not being given effect to in letter and spirit in regard to appointments, promotions and dismissals. Most of the Moslem unions had been set up to concentrate themselves on such grievances. If the common unions were not prepared to help the Moslem members, then surely there was conflict of interests and therefore there was discrimination against the Moslems. That being so it was the duty of the Government to be just and act courageously by accepting the resolution under discussion.

Sir Reginald Maxwell, explaining the Government's point of view, said that, after giving due weight to the feelings of those in favour of the resolution, it (the Government of India) still was of opinion that it was ~~not~~ neither in the best interests of the employees themselves nor of the general public that communal unions should be given official recognition.

Explaining the circumstances in which the Government agreed in 1920 to give recognition to associations of Government servants, ~~the~~ he said it was agreed that these associations could only be for the purpose of making representations on matters of common interest to a whole class of Government employees. On other matters, Government employees were able to submit individual memorials. The principles of recognition then adopted were that the association should consist of a distinct class of Government employees and every Government employee of the same class must be eligible for membership of the association. These conditions had remained unchanged ever since 1920 and in 1932 these principles were reaffirmed. That situation in his view was sufficient to protect the interests of whole classes of Government servants.

Explaining how communal unions could be a source of weakness, the Home Member pointed out that it would be easy for the Government or for any other employer to play off one against another and exploit any differences in their demands. The only object of a communal association or union could be to make representations on either recruitment or promotion. As regards recruitment, the Government did not recognise the right of any section of their employees to be consulted as regards the principles to be followed in selecting persons for Government service. The question of promotion was essentially one affecting individuals, and no representation would be received unless it related to matters of common interest.

The present position was that unions could be formed by any sections of a service and be entitled to claim recognition under conditions already mentioned. The Government did not prohibit the formation of communal associations of its employees except in the services under the control of the Secretary of State. Discouragement of communal unions of other employees extended only to non-recognition; their joining a communal union was not a contravention of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. It might be asked what was the use of joining unions not recognised by the Government if they could not make representations on behalf of their members? He said such associations could perform certain legitimate functions such as helping members through difficulties, raise funds, give advice about application of rules and regulations, and help them to draft individual memorials.

He contested the view that Moslem servants of the Government could not accept representation by others, even when their interests were the same. The Home Member declared that such a principle was wholly out of place in Government service. He concluded by appealing to members of the House not to pursue communal subjects, but set an example to others of the principle that all citizens had equal rights.

The resolution when put to vote was rejected by 48 votes to 17.

(The Statesman, 26-3-1941.) ✓ +

No Recognition of Communal Trade Unions:

Policy of Government of India enunciated. ✓

Sir Andrew Clow, ~~Executive~~ Communications Member, Government of India, had, in reply to a question put in the Central Assembly on 5-3-1941, occasion to define the policy of the Government of India in respect of recognition of communal trade unions. He made it clear that the Government recognised unions which threw open their ranks to all communities and creeds. Representations from communal organisations regarding traffic and other conveniences might be considered by the Government, but questions relating to service conditions would not be referred to communal organisations.

(The Hindu, 6-3-1941.) ✓ +

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

India's Population reaches 400 Million mark:
Preliminary Report of 1941 Decennial Census. ✓

Rough preliminary reports of the 1941 decennial census (taken on 27 and 28-2-1941) received in the Office of the Census Commissioner for India, New Delhi, indicate that India's population has increased to 400 million, and that the percentage of increase is about 15 compared to 10 or 11 in the previous decades. According to the preliminary reports, larger increase has occurred in upper India than in the southern part of the country. This is because ^{expansive} areas in the Punjab, Bahawalpur, Sind, the U.P. and Eastern Bengal have been developed and large settlements on land have been brought about.

(The Times of India, 2-3-1941.) ✓+

Industrial Training in Technical Schools:
U.P. Textile and Technical Institutes Inquiry Committee's Report. ✓

The recently submitted report of the Textile and Technical Institutes Inquiry Committee appointed by the U.P. Government in July 1939 contains a number of recommendations suggesting the improvements to be effected in the training imparted in the technical schools of the Province. The dominant note of the recommendations is that theory should be subordinated to practice in technical training so that the finished products of the schools may easily secure jobs in industrial establishments. The more important of the conclusions relating to technical training are summarised below:-

General: Defects of Present System - Expensive Training; Undue attention to Theory.- The Committee holds that the present system, which entails an expenditure of Rs.1,500/- for the training of each pupil is wasteful. In its opinion, no amount of theory can be a substitute for practice and until this is realised, the technical schools will continue to produce men unacceptable to industry. Theoretical instruction should occupy not more than one third of the time devoted to practical work. The right conception of industrial training is that it is one which enables the student to practise the trade under competitive conditions on leaving the school. What should be aimed at is the transplantation of a part of the factory in the institutes. Practical training should therefore form the backbone of the instruction.

Staff: Master Tradesmen to replace Class-Room Lecturers.- The staff of technical institutions should be recruited from the ranks of those who have made good in the industry to the extent of getting a good living out of it. The training should be given by master tradesmen (and not by class-room lecturers) who should have theoretical qualifications followed by considerable 'works' experience. For technical subjects especially, craftsmen should be imported from commercial undertakings.

Teachers should be engaged on short-term contracts of not more than five years' duration which will not ordinarily be renewed unless the teacher can show that he has kept himself up-to-date in his subject. As regards the present staff, if some of them can be retired, it should be done and in other cases an efficiency bar should be introduced.

Courses: More Practice and Less Theory - Increase of Working Hours.- Working hours per day and working days in the year should be considerably more than what they are at present. The working hours per week should be 42 in the first year, 45 in the second and 48 in the third year. The number of working days in the year should be increased to 275 in all the years. Extra hours due to this increase should be devoted to practical work alone. Government should provide in the budget larger allotments for raw materials, waste, etc.

The Committee suggests radical changes in the system of training: (a) theoretical instruction shall be subordinated to practical; (b) time devoted to drawing shall be appreciably reduced without affecting the standard. About 50 hours of instruction in drawing during the whole course will be ample for the requirement of most pupils, except those qualifying for diploma in engineering. If this arrangement, however, is not found to work satisfactorily, the time for this subject may be increased. Instructions in all subjects should, as far as possible, be imparted in the vernacular.

The present artisan and non-artisan courses are needless duplication. This distinction should be abolished and a combined course be introduced for all pupils.

Wages to replace Stipends.- After an initial period of about six months when a student is learning the basic principles, the system of stipends should be abandoned and there should be substituted in its place a system of wages based on the quality and quantity of work judged by competitive standards which take account also of the time taken for the work. Rates of wages which will have to be paid will of necessity have to be higher than the market rate. It may be made clear that the amount to be allotted in the budget should not be less than the amount now provided for stipends.

Pupils should be put to the work done by the coolies and this item of expenditure should be considerably curtailed if not entirely eliminated from the budget provision.

Diplomas - No Degrees.- The Committee does not recommend any modification of the existing system of award of diplomas and is not in favour of altering the system of education to suit award of degrees in place of diplomas. It, however, suggests that suitable steps should be taken by the department for making known to prospective employers the nature of the training given at these institutions.

The grant of a diploma or certificate should be conditional entirely on the attainment of a prescribed standard of efficiency in quality and quantity of output performed under competitive and business conditions.

Employment of Students.- The heads of institutions should do everything possible to find employment for the students and should take all possible steps to bring them to the notice of the employers. For this purpose the heads of institutions should keep themselves in close touch with industry.

Co-ordination with Industry: Advisory Committees of Businessmen.- An expert panel of outside businessmen should be appointed whose function it should be to inspect the institutions periodically and submit comprehensive reports to the department. A fee should be paid for these inspections. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee should be adopted by Government without undue delay, except perhaps in very rare instances where a convincing and cogent case exists against their adoption. Members of the Committee, specially those drawn from the industry, should be requested to inspect the schools from time to time and to make suggestions. Their good offices should also be utilised for making arrangements for the practical training of students and for their securing employment.

Museums.- At Benares, Bareilly and Lucknow museums should be established with a view to demonstrate and popularise machinery used

in cottage industries in other countries. It should be the constant aim of these institutions to evolve new and simpler machines which prove economical and beneficial.

(The Leader, 14-3-1941.) ✓

WagesDearness Allowance for Railway Workers :
Government's Decisions on Rau Committee's Recommendations. ✓

It will be remembered that the Court of Enquiry appointed by the Government of India with Sir B.N. Rau as Chairman to enquire into the question of granting a dearness-allowance, owing to the war, to the workers on the G.I.P. Railway, recommended the grant of a monthly allowance of Rs. 3 per head, with effect from 1-10-1940, to employees whose earnings do not exceed the 'subsistence level' for their area (vide pages 42 to 43 of our January 1941 report for a summary of the Committee's report and recommendations). The Court had, for this purpose, defined three subsistence levels: the Bombay level of Rs. 35 per month for the Bombay-Kalyan section; the urban level of Rs. 30 per month for the Poona-Igatpuri section; and a rural or semi-rural level of Rs. 25 per month for other sections.

The Government of India has, in the light of the report, considered the question of dearness allowance for workers in State-managed railways and has found itself obliged to vary the conclusions reached for the following reasons:-

1. Capacity to pay of Railways.- In the first place, the Court felt precluded by the terms of reference from considering all the factors that must be taken into consideration in reaching a final decision in matters of this kind. The capacity of the employer to pay must in any industrial undertaking ~~xx~~ be a factor of fundamental importance in regulating wage levels; but in view of the terms of reference the Court held that the capacity of the Railway to pay was outside their purview.

2. Advantage of Negotiated Settlement.- Moreover, from the nature of this case, the Court was not in a position to consider whether further negotiations between the parties could secure a nearer approach to agreement; but in fixing wages results so achieved tend to give more satisfaction and to have more stability than results based on analytical methods.

3. Effect on other Railways.- Finally, the Government of India has to consider the question not merely as it affects the G.I.P. Railway with which alone the Court had to deal, but as it affects all State Railways.

4. Certain Arguments of the Court unacceptable.- In addition, the Government of India found itself unable to accept in ~~its~~ ^{its} entirety the arguments leading to the Court's conclusions. In particular, it could not concur in the view that the levels of wages selected by the Court constitute "an efficiency or subsistence level" representing

57

the minimum necessary to maintain health and working capacity, or in the corrections made by the Court in the Bombay cost-of-living index figure. On the other hand, there have been since the Court's report changes in the cost-of-living which have ~~had to be~~ taken into consideration.

Discussions with A.I.R.F.- In the light of these considerations, the Government of India felt that, instead of attempting to base war allowance solely on an economic analysis, it would be better to proceed by negotiations; and the Railway Board was authorized to conduct discussions with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. The Federation, while not concurring in the views held by the Government of India regarding the arguments in the report, felt that in the urban areas particularly the maximum pay for workers receiving an allowance should be fixed at higher levels than those selected by the Court.

Agreed Proposals re. Dearness Allowance.- Eventually it was agreed that an allowance might be given on the following scales:-

Bombay and Calcutta (including suburbs) - Rs. 3 to those on Rs. 60 and below.

Selected industrial areas, i.e., towns of over 100,000 inhabitants according to the 1931 census - Rs. 2-8-0 to those on Rs. 50 and below.

Other areas - Rs. 2 to those on Rs. 30 and below.

Capacity of Railways to Pay.- This scale does not correspond with that approved by the Government of India and Provincial Governments for application to Government servants generally. But the Government of India felt that, if the Railway's capacity to pay must be taken into account, the effect of this factor could not be one-sided. In the past, the financial situation of the Railways has necessitated reductions in pay and allowances, and at the present time it is reasonable that the Railways, like other large industrial organisations, should enable their employees to benefit from the prosperity they at present enjoy. It recognizes, moreover, that the present conditions involved increased work for many Railway employees, and is anxious as far as it reasonably can to endorse an arrangement reached by methods of amicable negotiations without any interruption of work.

Date of Commencement and Future Changes.- Following a recommendation made by the Court, payments will be made equivalent to those which would be due if the allowances had been in ~~force~~ force from October 1, 1940, i.e., if they had been applied to ~~at~~ the pay for September 1940 and subsequent months. As regards the future, the Government of India, acting on the Court's recommendations that it should consider the question of preparing and maintaining cost-of-living index figures for its own purposes, has decided to establish the necessary machinery, and the allowances now given, which must of course mainly depend on the Railways' capacity to defray them, will be subject to revision in the light of the results achieved by the investigating authority. (Resolution No. E.-40-PA-1116 dated 18-3-1941 of the Government of India in the Railway Department, published at pages 157-158 of the Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 18-3-1941.) ✓

Views of Labour Leaders on Government's Decisions.- Mr. S. Garuswami, General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, has issued the following statement on the Government of India's decisions, summarised above, regarding the grant of dearness allowance to State railway employees; "The agreement reached with the Federation does not mean any modification in the emphatic view held by the Railwaymen's Federation that relief is not adequately given and should be extended to the staff up to Rs. 100 a month, but is based on an understanding that, in view of the concessions secured, advocacy of direct action to secure full relief is inadvisable. The allowances now granted cover about 500,000 railwaymen throughout India with retrospective effect and are subject to review under contingencies contemplated in the Government's communiqué."

Mr. V.R. Kalappa, President, All-India Trade Union Congress, has expressed the following views: "The allowance of rupees two, instead of three, for employees drawing Rs. 30 and below in towns and centres where the population does not exceed 100,000 does not secure for the vast majority of workers the quantum of relief recommended by the Court of Enquiry. Low-paid employees, who constitute the bulk of railwaymen and who are scattered all over the country at wayside stations and engineering gangs are made to forego one-third of the relief in order to provide for those in large cities and towns. Furthermore, employees getting over Rs. 30 in small towns and wayside stations get no relief whatever. The discrimination is both unjust and inequitable and leaves the majority of railwaymen discontented."

(The Hindu, 22-3-1941.) ✓

Demand of Textile Workers for Dearness Allowance:
Proposal for All-India Textile Workers' Conference to
discuss issue. ✓

It is understood that an All-India textile workers' conference consisting of representatives of various textile unions in India is proposed to be held in the near future either in Bombay or Nagpur to consider the situation arising out of war profits made by cotton and textile industry, and the demands for dearness allowance made by the textile workers. The object of the conference is stated to be to present a united demand on behalf of all textile workers, both to the millowners and to Government. The proposal is sponsored by Mr. R. S. Ruikar, President of the Nagpur Textile Union.

§ (The Times of India, 24-3-1941.) ✓

Cost Price Grain Shops: Financial Losses lead to
Temporary Suspension pending decision of Industrial Court. ✓

The experiment of conducting cost price grain shops for textile operatives in Ahmedabad is not proving successful. The Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad, has incurred losses in running these shops and the question arose as to who should bear these losses. The issue was referred to the Industrial Court, which directed that the shops should be conducted more efficiently by the Millowners' Association in co-operation with the Labour Association and appointed a joint committee for the purpose. The committee has now recommended the closing of shops in view of the continued losses in running them, pending further instructions from the Industrial Court. (The Times of India 6-3-1941.) ✓

Dearness Allowance for Low-paid Government Servants in
Bombay. ✓

It was mentioned at page 44 of our February 1941 report that the Government of Bombay is contemplating the grant of a dearness allowance to low-paid Government employees. It is now understood that the Government has sanctioned from March 1941 an allowance of Rs. 2 per month to whole-time employees who get less than Rs. 40 per month in Bombay City or less than Rs. 30 per month in the mofussil. It will be paid in any particular month throughout the province if the Bombay City cost-of-living index averaged over the three preceding months is 117 or more. This figure represents an increase of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. over the pre-war average. The allowance will be continued even if, after introduction, the index figure falls below 117 in any particular month. It will be discontinued if the average for three consecutive months ~~falls~~ falls below 117, the discontinuance taking effect only from the fourth month, without retrospective effect. There are certain establishments under local authorities, on whose account the Government pays a grant-in-aid. If a local authority introduces a scheme of dearness allowance for its low-paid employees, the expenditure incurred on that account will be admitted for the usual Government grant.

(The Industrial Bulletin No. 318 of the
Employers' Federation of India, Bombay,
dated 24-3-1941.) ✓ +

Dearness Allowance for Government Employees:

Mr. Joshi's Cut Motion in Assembly. ✓ +

On 10-3-1941, Mr. N.M. Joshi, in the course of the debate on the Budget for 1941-42 of the Government of India moved a cut motion to direct attention to the demand of Government employees for grant of a dearness allowance. Mr. Joshi in his speech pointed out that some sections of industrial workers had got increases, but in the case of Government employees nothing had been done. It was reported that the Central Government proposed to give some grain compensation to their employees in provinces where provincial Government employees had been allowed such compensation. He asked the Government of India to follow one policy and stick to it.

Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, replying said that the Government of India's proposals to apply to Central Government employees in the provinces the dearness allowance granted by Provincial Governments to their employees had been placed before the Standing Finance Committee. Explaining why in this matter the initiative had to rest with the Provincial Governments, he said that whatever fluctuations had occurred in the last few years in the cost of living, the levels which existed when the present rates of pay were fixed had not certainly been violently exceeded. The position which prevailed over large areas of India, according to him, was that the cost of living had increased if at all only to the extent of barely 10 per cent., and he maintained that it was quite impossible to preserve any kind of wage structure if fluctuations of that kind were to be continuously adjusted. He took his main stand on the principle that the

cost of living in any locality was peculiarly a local matter regarding which the Provincial Government was obviously in the best position to form an opinion.

He also pointed out that the number of inferior servants employed by the provinces was far larger than those employed by the Central Government in those provinces, and that it would therefore be improper for the Central Government to take the lead and not only tell the Provincial Government what to do, but to proceed to apply to its own comparatively small minority of servants a scale of compensation regardless entirely of the ideas of the provincial Government. The better procedure was to await the Provincial Government's formulation of its own scheme and apply to the comparatively small number of Central Government servants scales which the Provincial Government applied to its own comparable grades.

The Cut Motion was rejected without a division.

(The Statesman, 11-3-1941.) ✓

Employment.

Recruitment to Civil Employment after War: Percentage of Government Posts reserved for candidates with War Service. ✓

The Government of India has decided to leave 50 per cent. of the annual vacancies occurring in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police unfilled with a view to them being made available after the war for suitable candidates with war service. The Government proposes to apply a similar scheme of reservation to the central services, with necessary modifications imposed by the peculiar requirements of particular services.

It is expected that provincial Governments will make their own pronouncements in respect of the services under their control.

The vacancies thus reserved will be filled immediately after the war from candidates who have rendered approved war service.

(The Leader, 8-3-1941). ✓

Price Control in Bihar:
Review of Measures taken by Local Government. ✓ +

The following information regarding the measures of price control taken by the Government of Bihar from September 1939 to December 1940 is taken from a press communiqué dated 19-3-1941 issued by the Controller of Prices, Bihar. (The measures may be taken as fairly typical of the price control measures taken by the other Indian Provinces.)

Control Machinery.- The office of the Controller of Prices was created in September 1939 to enable the Provincial Government to exercise the powers delegated to them by the Government of India under rule 81 (2) of the Defence of India Rules. The delegation empowered Provincial Governments to control the prices of foodstuffs, salt, kerosene oil, cotton cloth below 20's counts, and medical supplies, subject to certain specified conditions. A Central Advisory Committee on price control of twenty-seven non-official members was immediately formed. Local Advisory Committees were formed by every District Magistrate and Subdivisional Officer for their respective areas. For the fixation of prices of medicines a Special Advisory Committee on Medicines was formed and it included representatives of important druggists and chemists shops in the Province.

Checking of Prices and Stocks.- On 3-10-1940, the Provincial Government issued the Bihar Control of Prices (Incidental and Supplementary Provisions) Order, 1940, which makes it obligatory on every person carrying on a controlled undertaking or employed in connection with any controlled undertaking to furnish to the proper authority such statements, returns or other information relating to the undertaking as the proper authority may require. Under this order District Officers can secure the submission of returns of prices and stocks.

List of Controlled Articles.- In June 1940, the Central Government revised their basic list of articles selected for price control. The revised list is as follows:- Grains, pulses and flour; Gur; Milk and ghee; Vegetable oils; Chillies, tumeric and onions; Salt; Dhuties, lungis, saris and shirtings of Indian manufacture, woven from yarn of counts not exceeding 20's in the warp or the weft; Kerosene oil; Charcoal, steam coal and firewood; Matches; Medicines; Household soap; and Fodder, bran, pollard and oilcakes.

Control of "Margins".- The communiqué points out that the power of the Provincial Government to control prices is necessarily exercised within somewhat narrow limits. Even for the commodities over which the Central Government delegated powers under rule 81 (2) of the Defence of India Rules, the Provincial Government are not free to take unilateral action by fixing and maintaining prices at a particular level in a watertight provincial area. The action of the Government is mainly directed to the control of the "margins", that is to say, the margin between the wholesale price in the basic market and the retail price in retail markets of Bihar. This object is

achieved by the rapid collection and distribution among the districts and subdivisions of the latest statistics of wholesale prices ruling at the principal markets outside the Province, thereby enabling the local officers to adjust their prices. When the facts have justified such a course dealers have been prosecuted for charging prices in excess of the legal maxima. Every District Magistrate and Sub-divisional Officer submits to Government every week a list, showing the prices of the selected commodities which are current in their jurisdiction.

Dissemination of Information.- In conclusion, the communiqué points out that, in an inland Province like Bihar, prices are governed by the action of the Port Provinces and the major producing provinces, and that there speculative influences are often active. The Government of Bihar have concentrated on establishing an efficient market news service, and they are satisfied that this measure has served to steady price movements and to reassure the public in times of abrupt fluctuations in the primary and speculative markets outside the Province.

(The Bihar Gazette dated 19-3-1941, Part II, pages 225 to 227.) ✓ +

Technical Education.

Technical Training to be accelerated: Scheme to be extended to Factories and Workshops. ✓

At a recent meeting of Regional Inspectors of Technical Training held in New Delhi important decisions were taken with a view to speeding up the Technical Training Scheme (vide pages 50-51 of our August 1940 report). Arrangements are to be made for greater publicity to be given to the scheme and for further decentralisation of the work of selecting candidates. As the supply of instructors is limited, men are now to be drawn from industry through the National Service Labour Tribunals constituted in the different Provinces. Instructors are also being obtained from the United Kingdom, and they will be posted at many of the more important training centres.

The scheme is to be extended to as many factories and workshops as possible and, to enable factory-owners to consider to what extent they can help, full particulars have now been printed in the form of a pamphlet by the Department of Labour, Government of India. Tools and equipment have been standardised and a pooling depot for the supply of tools and equipment has been opened, which it is hoped will facilitate and expedite the supply of equipment to training centres.

(Communique No. F.150/3/41-Pub, dated 17-3-1941 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India). ✓ +

63

Control Measures.

Aluminium Control Order, 1941. ✓

The Government of India, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (2) of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, has on 10-3-1941 issued an Order for control of the manufacture of aluminium. Section 3 of the Order provides that after 31-3-1941 no person shall engage in undertakings which involve the use of unmanufactured aluminium or unmanufactured aluminium alloy for the purpose of any manufacturing process, without a Registration Certificate from the Commerce Department of the Government of India. The Certificate may specify the description of the aluminium products which may be manufactured and the place or places at which any premises of the person holding the registration certificate shall be located. The Order also stipulates that persons holding stocks of aluminium shall submit returns of such stocks to the proper authorities.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated
10-3-1941, pages 149-152.)✓

Control of Machine Tools. ✓

In order that machine tools now available in the country should be put to the best possible use, that more machine tools should be produced in the country, and that the machine tools imported into the country should be of the most useful types, the Government of India, in virtue of the powers conferred on it by the Defence of India Rules, has established a Machine Tool Control by an Order dated 15-2-1941 (The order came into force on 1-3-1941).

The main provisions of the Order are: The term "machine tools" is defined so as to include appliances for "treating" wood and metal (e.g., certain types of furnace) and certain machine tools are scheduled and described as "scheduled machine tools". A licence (to be obtained free of all fee from the Machine Tool Controller) is required for the import, production, keeping for sale and sale of scheduled machine tools. No licence is, however, required for the casual sale of a scheduled machine tool by a person not engaged in the import, production, keeping for sale or sale of machine tools provided that the purchaser has first obtained the prescribed authorisation. The Machine Tool Controller is empowered to fix prices for scheduled machine tools, to requisition machine tools, to inspect, or arrange for the inspection of any premises in which machine tools are produced, kept for sale, sold, or used and to call for certain information in respect of machine tools.

The machine Tool Controller is assisted and advised by an industrial panel consisting of two importers, one producer and one user of machine tools.

(The Gazette of India dated 15-2-1941, Part I,
pages 237-239; press communiqué dated
22-3-1941 issued by the Director of Information,
Bombay.)✓

64

List of more important publications received in this Office during
March 1941.

National Labour Legislation.-

The Travancore Payment of Wages Bill (1941): the B Draft Bill, and the Bill as revised by the Select Committee.

Conditions of Work.-

Government of India: Railway Department (Railway Board). Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1939-40. Vol. I. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.6-8-0 or 10s.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Proceedings of the Meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. 25th February, 1941. Vol. XVII, No.8. Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941.
- (2) Government of the Punjab: Budget for the year 1941-42, with Detailed Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, Lahore. 1941.
- (3) Annual Report of the Department of Industries and Labour, Baroda State, for the year ending 31st July, 1939. Baroda State Press. 1940. Price Re.0-8-0.
- (4) Annual Report of the Department of Commerce, Baroda State, for the year 1938-39, ending 31st July, 1939. Baroda State Press. 1940. Price Re.0-7-3.
- (5) Annual Report of the Department of Statistics, Baroda State, for the official year ending 31st July, 1939. Baroda State Press. 1940. Price Re.0-13-0.
- (6) Rail-Borne Trade Statistics of the Baroda State for the five years from 1933-34 to 1937-38. Department of Statistics, Baroda. Baroda State Press, 1940.
- (7) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Joint Stock Companies in British India and in the Indian States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Gwalior, Indore, Travancore and Cochin, 1936-37. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Rs.8-0-0 or 13s.
- (8) Civil Budget Estimates for the year 1941-42: Bombay; Printed at the Government Central Press. 1941. Price Rs.3-1-0 or 5s.6d.
- (9) Budget Memorandum for 1941-42: Bombay; Printed at the Government Central Press. 1941. Price Rs.1-13-0 or 3s.3d.
- (10) Report on the working of the Department of Industries, Punjab, for the year ending 31st March, 1940. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1941. Price Re.0-4-0.
- (11) Government of the United Provinces. Detailed Estimates and Grants for the year 1941-42. Final. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1941. Price Rs.3-8-0.
- (12) Government of the United Provinces. Memorandum on the Budget for the year 1941-42. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1941. Price Re.1/-.

Economic Conditions (continued).--

- (13) Government of Burma. Report of the Committee on Expenditure on the Public Services, 1939-40. Part II. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1941. Price Annas 12 or 1s.3d.

Agriculture.--

- (1) Annual Administration Report of the Department of Agriculture, H.E.H. the Nizam's Government, for the year 12 1348 Fasli (6th June 1938 to 5th June 1939) with Review of Government thereon. Hyderabad: ~~Deccan~~ Deccan - At the Government Central Press. 1940.
- (2) Report on the working of the Department of Agriculture in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March, 1940. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. Price Annas 12.
- (3) Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1938-39. Part I. Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar. 1941. Price Re.1-4-0 or £.0-2-0.

Co-operation and Cottage Industries.--

Annual Administration Report of the Rural Development Department in the Province of Bombay for the year 1939-40. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Annas 3 or 4d. 1941.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.--

- (1) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in N.-W.F.P. for 1938-39 and 1939-40 (type- and hand-written).
- (2) Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab, during the year 1939-40. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1941. Price Re.0-10-0.
- (3) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March, 1940. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. price Annas 4.
- (4) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the District of Ajmer-Merwara, for the years 1938-39 and 1939-40.
- (5) Speech of Mr. Amrit Lal Ojha, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, at the fourteenth Annual Meeting held on 22nd March, 1941, at Delhi. 1941.
- (6) All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers - Speech delivered by the President, Sir Shri Ram, at the Eighth Annual Meeting held at Delhi on 23rd March, 1941. 1941.
- (7) Speech of Mr. Amrit Lal Ojha, President, Indian National Committee, International Chamber of Commerce, at the Twelfth Annual Meeting held on 23rd March, 1941, at Delhi. 1941.
- (8) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the United Provinces for the year ending 31st March, 1939.

Education.--

- (1) Report on Public Instruction in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1939-40. Printed and published by the Manager,

Education.- (continued).

Government Stationery and Printing, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar.
1941. Price Rs.6-10-0 or £0-10-0.

- (2) Report on the Progress of Education in Orissa for the year
1938-39. Superintendent, Government Press, Orissa, Cuttack.
1940. Price Rs.2/-.

(3)

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

C 6/2/12

Report for April, 1941.

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. <u>National Labour Legislation.-</u>	
Government of India:	
Draft of Amendments to Indian Coal Mines Regulations: Managers to be appointed by and directly responsible to Owners.	1
Bengal:	
(a) The Employment of Bengalees Bill, 1941: Introduction on 4-4-1941.	1
(b) Bengal Landholders' Employees' Bill, 1941.	1
Orissa:	
Extension of Employment of Children Act to Partially Excluded Areas.	2
Sind:	
The City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1941 (Act II of 1941).	2
United Provinces:	
Draft of Amendment of Factories Rules: Provision of Improved "First Aid" appliances.	2
Travancore State:	
The Travancore Payment of Wages Bill, 1940.	2
Burma:	
(a) The Boilers (Amendment) Act, 1941.	3
(b) The Labour Provident and Gratuity Fund Bill, 1941.	3
(c) The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1941: Vagrants not to be Jailed.	3
2. <u>Conditions of Work.-</u>	
Hours of Work:	
Scope of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act: One-man shops excluded by Court Decision.	4
Industrial Disputes:	
Nagpur Textile Workers' Threat to Strike: Demand for Increased Wages.	5
Holidays with Pay:	
Holidays with Pay for Piece Workers in Government Press, Orissa.	6
General:	
(a) Factory Administration in India, 1939.	7-9
(b) Conditions of Work of Municipal Sweepers in C.P.: Action taken by Municipalities on Enquiry Committee Report.	9-11
3. <u>Economic Conditions.-</u>	
(a) Economic Conditions in India in 1940.	12-15
(b) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during January 1941.	15-16
(c) New Indo-Burma Trade Agreement.	16-18

	<u>Pages</u>
3. <u>Economic Conditions.-</u> (continued)	
(d) Control of Coal Industry: Indian Mining Federation suggests setting up of Ministry of Mining.	19
(e) Indian Automobile Industry: Mysore Postpones Venture.	19
(f) Development of Indian Industries: Pandit Kunzru's Resolution in Council of State on 2-4-1941.	20-21
(g) Aeroplane Factory to be set up in Bangalore: Government of India associated in New Enterprise.	22
(h) Clock and Watch Factory at Jamshedpur: New Industrial Venture.	22
(i) Industrial Research in Bihar: Provincial Board Formed.	23
(j) War and Difficulties of Small and Medium Industries: All India Organisation of Industrial Employers collecting information.	23
(k) India's Glass Industry: Impetus given by War.	23
4. <u>Migration.-</u>	
(a) Indian Emigration to Burma: Notice of Termination of Unrestricted Immigration given by Burma Government.	24
(b) Amendment of the Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Amendment Bill: Reserved areas to be released to Asiatics.	24
(c) Indians Overseas: Conference to be held in November 1941.	25
5. <u>Agriculture.-</u>	
The Bengal Rent Reduction Bill, 1941.	26
6. <u>Co-operation.-</u>	
New Marketing Department set up in Mysore.	27
7. <u>Living Conditions:-</u>	
<u>Housing:</u>	
(a) The Calcutta Tenancy Bill, 1941: Legislation to curb Rent Enhancements introduced.	28
(b) The Sylhet Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1941.	28
(c) Slum Clearance and Industrial Area Schemes for Delhi City: Improvement Trust's programme for 1941-42.	28-29
(d) Labour Housing in Ahmedabad: Enquiry conducted by Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad.	29
(e) Housing of Middle and Lower Classes in Bombay City: Corporation Proposals for Cheap Tenements.	29-30
(f) Labour Housing in Madras: Progress of Municipal Housing Scheme.	31
8. <u>Organisation, Congresses, etc.-</u>	
<u>Employers' Organisations:</u>	
Employers' Association of Northern India: Annual Report for 1940-41.	32
<u>Workers' Organisations:</u>	
(a) Progress of Trade Unionism in India, 1938-39.	33-34
(b) Progress of Trade Unionism in Bombay, 1939-40.	34-35

	<u>Pages</u>
9. <u>Education.</u> -	
Library Scheme for Bombay Province: Recommendations of Library Development Committee, Bombay.	36
10. <u>Social Policy in War Time.</u> -	
Wages:	
(a) Grant of Dearness Allowance and Minimum Wages by Madras Municipal Corporation: Government disapproves Schemes.	37
(b) Dearness Allowance for Bombay Port Trust Employees: Sanctioned as from 1-9-1940.	37
War Production:	
(a) Eastern Group Supply Council: Functions and Methods of Work.	38
(b) Textile Production for War Purposes: Conference of Manufacturers convened by Government of India.	39-40
War Supplies:	
Commandeering of Vessels: Indian Shipowners' Plea for Compensation.	40
Compensation for War Injuries:	
British Scheme of Compensation to members of Mercantile Marine injured in Action: Indian Seamen included.	41
11. <u>List of more important publications received in this Office during April 1941.</u>	42-43

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION ✓

Government of India.-

Draft of Amendments to Indian Coal Mines Regulations:

Managers to be appointed by and directly responsible to Owners. +

The Government of India intends amending the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, so as to give effect to the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1940, which lays down that the manager of a mine should be paid by the owner and should be directly answerable to him. The draft is to be taken into consideration by 1-8-1941.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 19-4-1941, page 592.) +

Bengal.-

The Employment of Bengalees Bill, 1941: ✓

Introduction on 4-4-1941.

On 4-4-1941, a non-official Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly to provide for the employment of Bengalees in larger numbers in the Province. The Bill stipulates that, in order to alleviate the growing unemployment in the province, a higher percentage of Bengalees should be employed in vacancies both in Government services and in industrial and other establishments; ~~the~~ Government service not less than 95 per cent. of officers and 90 per cent. of menials and in industrial establishments at least 80 per cent. of officers and 50 per cent. of the ~~menials~~ menials should be Bengalees.

A motion to circulate the Bill was adopted the same day by the Assembly.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 24-4-1941, pages 157 to 159.) +

Bengal.-

Bengal Landholders' Employees' Bill, 1941. ✓

A Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 4-4-1941 by a non-official member to regulate the conditions of work of the employees of landholders. According to the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill, the number of such employees in Bengal is over one million. The Bill provides for a weekly rest of 1½ days, a minimum ~~ma~~ monthly wage of Rs. 35 for clerks and Rs. 15 for those below the rank of clerk, provident fund facilities, privilege leave for one month and casual leave for 15 days in the year with full pay, a 7-hour day for clerks and those above that category and an 8-hour day for those below, over-time payment at 1½ times the normal wage rates, gratuity payments, security of service and payment of workmen's compensation. On the same day, the Assembly referred the Bill for circulation.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 24-4-1941, page 2 +

Orissa.-

Extension of Employment of Children Act to Partially Excluded Areas.

The Government of Orissa has announced that the Employment of Children Act, 1938, as amended in 1939, has been extended to all "partially excluded areas" in Orissa.

(Notification No. 1444-IIIC-14/41 Com.
dated 16-4-1941: The Orissa Gazette,
Part III, dated 25-4-1941, page 249.)

Sind.-

The City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1941 (Act II of 1941).

Reference was made to the City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1941, which sought, inter alia, to increase the representation of labour in the Municipal Corporation. The Bill has been adopted by the local Legislature and received the assent of the Governor; the text of the Act is published at pages 194 to 196 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette, dated 24-4-1941.

United Provinces.-

Draft of Amendment of Factories Rules: Provision of Improved "First Aid" appliances.

The U.P. Government intends amending the existing stipulations in the U.P. Factories Rules regarding the provision in factories of "first aid" appliances so as to make the appliances more useful and efficient.

(Notification No. 860/XVIII-873-36 dated
5-4-1941: The U.P. Gazette, Part I-A,
dated 12-4-1941, page 95.)

Travancore State.-

The Travancore Payment of Wages Bill, 1940.

A Bill was introduced some time back in the Travancore State Legislature to regulate payment of wages to certain classes of workers employed in industry in the State. It is pointed out in the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill that it follows closely the British Indian Payment of Wages Act, 1936. The Bill has already been reported on by a Select Committee and was taken up for consideration in the January 1941 session of the Travancore Legislative Assembly.

(A copy of the Bill, with the report of the Select Committee thereon, was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's minute A.8/215/41 dated 18-3-1941.)

*The Bill passed its third reading on 31-3-41
(Hindustan Times
B-4-41)*

Burma.-

The Boilers (Amendment) Act, 1941. ✓

An Act to amend the Boilers Act as regards steam pipes and feed pipes has recently been adopted by the Burma Legislature; the Act is gazetted at page 126 of Part III of the Burma Gazette dated 29-3-1941. The new measure empowers Inspectors of Boilers to inspect and pass orders on every class of steam pipe and feed pipe, including fittings used in boilers. +

Burma.-

The Labour Provident and Gratuity Fund Bill, 1941. ✓

Mr. Ba Thane (non-official) introduced in the Burma Senate on 2-4-1941 a Bill to make provision for old-age of workers in Burma. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that, though there are voluntary schemes of provident funds in existence in a limited number of industrial establishments, the majority of entrepreneurs in Burma have failed to make provision for their labourers in their old age. It is also pointed out that the existing schemes give the labourers the option to avail themselves of the benefits accruing therefrom, but that in view of the improvident tendency of the labourers and ~~the general state of their poverty~~ in their old age, the voluntary system has proved unsatisfactory and should give way to compulsion.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III, dated 5-4-1941, pages 129-131.) +

Burma.-

The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1941: ✓

Vagrants not to be Jailed.

Mr. Ba Hlaing (non-official) introduced in the Burma House of Representatives on 3-4-1941 a Bill to abolish the present powers of the police and the magistrates to take into custody unemployed persons who have no ostensible means of subsistence. The statement of objects and reasons points out that at the present time when large numbers have to remain unemployed against their will, it is not right that the State should adopt a policy of imprisoning ^{such} unemployed, without it (the State) doing anything to tackle the problem of involuntary unemployment.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III, dated 5-4-1941, page 136.) ✓ +

CONDITIONS OF WORK
Hours of Work.

Scope of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act:
One-man shops excluded by Court Decision.

A judgment delivered by the Presidency Magistrate, Bombay City, on 3-4-1941, may result in the complete exclusion of owner-managed one-man shops from the purview of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act.

Holding that nothing in the Act applied to Mohamed Kasam, a pan-shopkeeper, the magistrate acquitted him of three charges of contravention of the provisions of the Act: (1) by keeping open his shop after 9 p.m., (2) by failing to exhibit an extract of the Act and the relevant rules under it, and (3) by not maintaining a visit book.

The crucial point in the case was whether the word "employer" used in the relevant sections of the Act covered persons who owned and managed by themselves, without the assistance of others, shops or establishments. The magistrate refused to accept the contention of the prosecution inspector that "a person owning the business of a shop is an employer, whether he employs anybody or not".

The magistrate conceded that in a legislative enactment ~~and~~ the meaning of a word might be enlarged so as to include by analogy something which it ordinarily did not carry. But there should be a degree of comparison or resemblance between the assigned meaning and the original sense of the word. He held ~~a~~ that an "employer" meant "a person who employs", and that was the sense in which Government also appeared to have used the word in making the rules under the Act. The magistrate observed that the Act was in the nature of a protective legislation to control and regulate labour conditions. In the case of a one-man shop, managed by the owner himself, there were no such considerations.

(The Times of India, 7-4-1941.)

Nagpur Textile Workers' Threat to Strike:
Demand for Increased Wages. ✓

A decision to give notice to the owners both of the Empress and Model Mills of Nagpur that the workers of those mills, who number nearly 20,000, would declare a general stay-in strike on 1-5-1941 unless their demands are conceded was taken on 21-4-1941 at a meeting of the Council of Representatives of the Nagpur Textile Union, Mr. R.S. Ruikar presiding. The demands are for a reasonable increase in the wages of all workers, restoration of the wage cut effected in 1934, grant of a war profit bonus and deduction of one anna as provident fund deduction.

(The Statesman, 23-4-1941.) ✓₊

6

Holidays with Pay.

Holidays with Pay for Piece Workers in Government Press, Orissa. ✓

The Government of Orissa has amended the Orissa Service Code in order to provide for leave with pay for permanent piece-workers in superior service employed in the Orissa Government Press. Employees with less than 10 years' service will get 16 days in the year, those with 10 to 15 years' service 23 days in the year and those with above 15 years' service 31 days in the year. The leave is non-cumulative. Leave on medical certificate on half average pay may be granted up to three months after exhausting leave on average pay referred to above, with permission to extend leave by another three months on production of fresh certificate. Leave on medical certificate admissible to ~~piece~~ piece worker is up to 12 months during his service. Extraordinary leave also may be granted without pay. A piece worker, who is injured in circumstances giving rise to claim for workmen's compensation if he were a workman, is entitled to injury leave up to 2 years for any one disability or up to 5 years in the course of his service.

(Notification No. 1772-F dated 5-4-1941:
The Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated 11-4-1941
pages 221 to 222.) ✓+

Factory Administration in India, 1939.*

The statistics included in the note on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, for the year 1939 exclude Burma, as was the case last year. No amendment was made in the Act during the year.

Number of Factories.- The total number of registered factories was 11,630 as compared with 10,782 in 1938. The number of factories actually working, including 1,765 factories notified under Section 5 (1) of the Act, was 10,466 of which 6,943 were perennial and 3,523 seasonal. 89.9 per cent. registered factories worked during the year as against 90.4 per cent. in the preceding year. The increase in the number of factories actually working was 723 and was shared by all Provinces except Madras and Bengal where there were decreases and Bangalore and Coorg where the number remained stationary. The most marked increase was in Bombay (625). According to industries, appreciable improvements were recorded among cotton spinning and weaving mills, engineering workshops, tobacco factories and sugar mills. Increases were also registered in hosieries, saw mills, silk mills, oil mills, bricks and tiles establishments, foundries and tanneries. There were decreases in rice, dyeing and bleaching, and cotton ginning and baling concerns.

Statistics of Operatives.- The average number of operatives employed during the year increased from 1,737,755 in 1938 to 1,751,137 in 1939, the highest number recorded so far. The most marked increases were in Bengal (8,748), the Punjab (6,034), the United Provinces (4,653), Bihar (2,954), Madras (2,931), Central Provinces and Berar (2,520), Delhi (2,002) and Assam (1,326). In Bengal, the increase is attributed to the effect of the war in ordnance factories, jute mills, engineering works, ship-building works, and iron and steel smelting and tolling mills. There was a fall in the number of workers employed in Bombay (13,062) and Sind (4,880). The drop in Bombay was due to a fall in night shifts in cotton mills. Crop variations were responsible for less employment in Sind. The number of workers employed in the cotton textile industry decreased from 512,228 to 488,554. The loss was almost entirely that of Bombay but was partly made good by greater activity in other provinces, mainly in Madras. Jute Mills employed 298,967 in 1939, against 295,162 in 1938.

Employment of Women and Children.- The number of women employed in factories decreased from 240,932 in 1938 to 239,414 in 1939 and that of children from 10,427 to 9,403. The percentage of women to the total factory population was 13.7 as compared with 13.8 in 1938. The percentage of children to the total factory population also decreased from .62 to .54 per cent. The decline in the number of women workers is apparently due to the reluctance of employers to employ persons who are subjected to special provisions involving a certain amount of additional responsibilities in the shape of maternity benefit, compulsory

*Statistics of Factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934), for the year ending December 31st, 1939, together with a note on the working of the Factories Act during the year. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.1-14-0 or 2s.9d. pp.39.

crèches, etc. The decrease is also partly due to changes in technical employment.

Hours of Work.- Percentage of factories (for which particulars are available) in which the normal weekly hours are:-

			Not above <u>42</u>	Between 42 and 48 <u>and 48</u>	Above <u>48</u>
<u>Perennial</u>					
For men	...	...	5	22	73
For women	...	...	10	17	73
			Not above <u>48</u>	Between 48 and 54 <u>and 54</u>	Above <u>54</u>
<u>Seasonal</u>					
For men	...	...	26	11	63
For women	...	...	34	6	60

The majority of factories worked to the full limits permitted by the Act. Exemptions were granted in different provinces to a number of factories from sections 34, 35 and 36 of the Factories Act to meet conditions arising out of the war. In Bengal, with the exception of jute mills, ordnance factories and certain engineering concerns, no pronounced change occurred in the working hours of the majority of factories.

Wages.- There was no marked variation in the rates of wages of skilled and unskilled labour in the majority of the Provinces. In Bengal the level of wages in all industries was practically undisturbed till the outbreak of the hostilities, except in the jute mills were consequent on the reduction of working hours from 45 to 40 after the lapse of the Jute Ordinance, the workers suffered a pro rata reduction in wages. With the advent of war, when the working hours in jute mills were generally increased, the workers received proportionate increase in wages. In addition a 10 per cent. increase on the average earnings was generally allowed to all jute mill workers. In some other principal industries, dearness allowance due to increased cost of living was allowed to workers, ranging from $4\frac{1}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Safety.- The safeguarding of machinery and plant continued to receive close attention in all Provinces. In Bengal, in spite of the lack of fencing material, improvements in jute Mills in the direction of securing minimum standards in process machinery fencing were substantial. Special attention was paid to hazards connected with 'roll formers' or 'autocoils' fitted to carding machines, can tamping motions on drawing frames, the starting and stopping of calendering machines. The collapse of two jetties during the year, mainly as a result of unsuspected river erosion, also led to the introduction of routine safeguardingⁿ all riparian factories of which jute mills form the majority. Safeguarding of machinery in cotton and rice mills, tea, engineering, sugar and other small miscellaneous factories also received due attention. The Safety First Association continued its useful work and conducted several courses to train persons in Air Raid Precaution.

Prosecutions and Convictions.- The number of convictions obtained under the Act was 1,569 as against 1,270 in 1938. The chief increases were in the Punjab (272) and Madras (158).

Inspections.- The number of factories inspected during the year was 9,046 or 86.4 per cent. of working factories. The percentage of perennial and seasonal factories inspected to the total number of such factories was 90.1 and 79.2 respectively as against 91.6 and 85.5 in the preceding year. No factory remained uninspected in Ajmer-Merwara, Bangalore, Coorg, Delhi and the United Provinces. +

Conditions of work of Municipal Sweepers in C.P.
Action taken by Municipalities on Enquiry Committee Report. +

Reference was made at pages 12 to 13 of our June 1940 report to the action taken by the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar on the recommendations of the Sweepers Enquiry Committee. Briefly stated the action taken was— (1) to bring specifically to the notice of the local bodies those recommendations which fell entirely within their competence; (2) to consult local bodies on recommendations which indicated revision of rules or byelaws by Government; and (3) to undertake examination of those recommendations which suggested action on the part of the Provincial Government itself. The local Government published on 5-4-1941 a brief review, a summary of which is given below, of the results so far achieved in giving effect to the main recommendations.

Hours of Work.- The Committee recommended that actual hours of work put in by sweepers should not exceed 8 hours a day. 40 municipal and notified area committees out of the 43 from which replies have so far been received have declared themselves in favour of this recommendation. As the bulk of opinion desired the restriction of hours of work to eight, Government has revised the existing model byelaw which permitted 10 hours work. The revised model runs as follows:- "A sweeper shall be on duty every day either for five hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon, or six hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon, the actual hours of work being fixed by the municipal committee according to season or needs."

The Committee recommended that the scheduled work is carried out fairly strictly and that extra work, or work of absentees, should not be concentrated on a few sweepers. This suggestion has been generally accepted.

Reserve for Leave Vacancies.- The Committee recommended that in all municipalities, and particularly in the major municipalities, provision should be made for leave vacancies by the appointment of at least 5 per cent. of the staff as leave reserve. Nearly half the number of municipal committees which have so far replied have signified their acceptance of the principle underlying this recommendation; the others report that substitutes are readily available when sweepers go on leave and that consequently no leave reserve need be maintained.

Leave with Pay.- The Committee recommended that all Sunday, bazar day and festival day afternoons should be treated as holidays with pay. Most municipal committees have expressed their approval of this

recommendation and accordingly a provision to this effect has been made in the model byelaws as follows:- "(1) No sweeper shall be called on duty after 12 noon on either Sunday or the weekly local bazar day and any other holiday on which the municipal office is closed; provided that for necessary work a minimum number of sweepers required to do it may be called on duty by rotation. (2) A sweeper may be granted casual leave not exceeding seven days in a calendar year. (3) A sweeper may be granted leave on medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner for a period not exceeding one month in a calendar year. Such leave shall not accumulate. (4) The first fifteen days of leave on medical certificate may be on half-pay".

Maternity Leave.- The Committee also recommended that provision should be made for the grant of maternity leave to sweepers. This recommendation agrees with the provision in the model byelaws (~~reproduced above~~) which have been adopted by several municipal committees already.

Prevention of Besetting by Moneylenders.- The Committee recommended that the presence of moneylenders in the vicinity of municipal premises at the time of payment of wages should be prevented by the use of the Central Provinces Protection of Debtors Act, 1937. Examination of the recommendation reveals that it cannot be given effect to without an amendment of the Central Provinces Protection of Debtors Act, for which it is declared, a case does not really exist. Molestation is already an offence and those sweepers who are molested by moneylenders have only to lodge complaints with the police who will then investigate them as the offence of molestation is cognizable.

Service Conditions.- The Committee strongly recommended that the services of the sweepers should be made permanent after a probationary period not exceeding 3 years and that as regards leave with pay, gratuity and provident fund, the sweepers should be placed exactly on the same footing as the other permanent servants under municipal or notified area committees. The replies received from municipalities show that most committees are not in favour of the recommendation for financial reasons. Some municipal committees, notably the Jubbulpore municipal committee, have also decided to confirm sweepers after a probationary period and to allow them privileges of leave after confirmation. While Government has every sympathy with the recommendation, it considers it inadvisable to compel municipal and notified area committees to give effect to it in view of the reasons advanced by them but takes the opportunity to impress on them that they should take adequate steps to improve their finances so as to enable them to adopt this recommendation to the best of their ability. For the present, Government feels that it must rest content only with the tendering of this advice.

Housing of Sweepers.- The Committee has recommended provision of housing for municipal sweepers. It has also been suggested that where a Municipality undertakes a scheme of housing for sweepers, Government should help by giving free land and by grants-in-aid. Most municipal committees plead lack of funds for the inability to give effect to this recommendation. However deplorable the present housing ~~schemes~~ of sweepers may be, Government fears that substantial improvement must wait till municipal finances are in a better state. As far as Government is concerned it is willing to provide nazul land for sites for housing for the poorer classes. Certain municipal committees, such as Raipur, have schemes for gradual provision of quarters as funds permit.

Grade of Pay.- The Committee has recommended that sweepers should be granted graded increments according to a fixed time-scale. Thirty-

11

four out of the 43 municipal committees which have so far replied have agreed to this recommendation in principle and some such as Jubbulpore and Raipur have ~~in~~ even introduced a time-scale for sweepers.

Deductions from Wages.- The Committee recommended that fines and other deductions from wages of sweepers should be utilised for the welfare of the sweepers themselves on the analogy of the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act. All municipal committees from which replies have been received agree to this recommendation.

Indebtedness and Co-operative Societies.- The Committee dealt with the problem of indebtedness amongst sweepers and recommended that the local bodies themselves should start co-operative credit societies with the help of the Co-operative Department. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies who was consulted states that in September 1940 there were as many as 56 sweepers' co-operative societies against 13 societies which existed when the Sweepers Enquiry Committee wrote its report. All Co-operative Central Banks and Institutes in the province have been asked to try their best to organise co-operative societies specially in large towns possessing large sweeper population.

Provident Fund.- The Committee recommended that local bodies should maintain a provident fund for sweepers. The majority of local bodies are in favour of the recommendation. The existing model byelaws in connection with the establishment and maintenance of a provident fund are intended only for the permanent employees drawing not less than Rs. 15 per month. Further action on this recommendation is, therefore, bound up with the question of making sweepers permanent servants of the local bodies.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part III,
dated 11-4-1941.)

Economic Conditions in India in 1940.* ✓

Main Features.- The year opened quietly in India, despite the outbreak of war in Europe. The year began with the resumption of trade talks with Japan, while the Government of India were seriously perturbed over the question of price control. To resolve the political deadlock, the Viceroy made his offer to the Congress and the Muslim League. But all this was ineffective. In February was announced the 50 per cent. Excess Profits Tax which brought about a landslide in the Bombay Stock Exchange and India's first war budget was formally presented to the Indian Legislature. With the arrival of the hot weather began a series of Conferences, the principal ones being the Jute Conference held at Darjeeling and a Sugar Conference held at Simla.

The Government set up an Export Advisory Council as well as a Research Board for scientific and industrial research, and imposed restrictions on the imports of 70 specified articles. Panicky conditions in all markets prevailed throughout the month of June and the Calcutta Stock Exchange was closed down. In July came the announcement of the Meek-Gregory Mission to U.S. in the quest for new outlets for Indian exports and in August the Government announced their scheme for compulsory war-risk insurance on commodities on land. With autumn arrived members of the Roger Mission to ascertain the supply position and delegates to the Eastern Group Conference, met at Delhi for four weeks, and at the same time, Mahatma Gandhi launched his individual civil resistance campaign to proclaim to the world, without embarrassing Great Britain, India's disapproval of British domination.

Throughout the year, interminable trade talks went on not only with Japan, but also with India's immediate neighbours, Burma, Ceylon and Afghanistan, but they were mostly inconclusive. At the end of the year, the people of India were still awaiting the outcome of the Eastern Group Conference, the Meek-Gregory Mission and the Roger Mission, to say nothing of the various other Councils and Conferences.

Prices.- Immediately after the outbreak of war there was a steep rise in prices in India on the expectation of a high rate of consumption of raw materials and finished products for military purposes and of dislocation in the normal supply of imported articles. The All-India index number of wholesale prices (1873=100) rose by 46 points between August and December 1939 and the working class cost of living index for Bombay was up by 8 points. In a few weeks after the turn of the year, however, there was a sharp set-back and between December 1939 and February 1940 the All-India wholesale price index (1873=100) recorded a decline of 9 points. This downward turn continued upto September 1940, when the price index stood at 152 as against 181 in December 1939. Although the apparent cause of the collapse in the New Year was the imposition of an Excess war profits tax and the introduction of certain price control measures, the intrinsic reason was the failure of the war demand to materialize. Dislocation in the normal trade channels due to shipping difficulties and export restrictions resulted in the loss of important markets for India's primary products and although there was a considerable

increase (15.8 per cent.) in the country's export trade, in the absence of competition, the Indian farmer was unable to build up a sellers' market as he had succeeded in doing in the 1914-18 war,

Cost of Living.- Whereas prices were declining since the beginning of the year under review, the cost of living, except for a temporary setback in the first quarter of the year, was rising. The working class cost of living index for Bombay (July to June 1933-34 = 100) which stood at 105 in August 1939 touched 114 in January 1940, and after being 110 in March, progressively advanced to 115 in December. Similarly the cost of living indices for Ahmedabad, Madras and Jamshedpur increased by 8, 12 and 15 points respectively between August 1939 and November 1940. This divergent movement of wholesale prices and cost of living was, to a considerable extent, due to the low values of India's agricultural products which form an important part of the country's price structure, and to comparatively higher prices of imported and locally manufactured non-agricultural items which have to be accounted for in the cost of living. One important result of the divergence has been a reduction in the real income of the agriculturist, who represents over 70 per cent. of India's 400 million people.

Price Control.- In January 1940 the Government of India introduced certain measures for the control of prices. These are limited to ensuring that prices are not raised more than changes in costs of importation or production justify and aim at preventing speculation, hoarding and profiteering in certain specified goods. Unfortunately, however, these measures have not succeeded in preventing the rise in the cost of living. Another form of price control which is exercised in India appears to be more incidental than planned. As a consequence of the war and export restrictions, India has lost a number of overseas-markets for her produce and the resultant deficiency has been made good by increased purchases by the Central Government both for its own requirements and on behalf of the United Kingdom Government. This has made the Government of India the largest individual buyer of India's produce, and has enabled the authorities to control prices by adjusting their demand to the price level which they think proper. In the event of an undue rise, Government's ~~own~~ purchase orders are held back with the result that stocks accumulate, and ultimately bring down prices. On the other hand, a steep fall in prices is prevented by increasing the volume of governmental purchases. It is questionable, however, whether these price control measures are not impeding the economic progress of the country particularly since the ordinary system of providing an inducement to activity by a rise in prices has been removed and has not been replaced by a more direct organisation of production as in other parts of the Empire.

Trade.- Simultaneously with the increase in India's foreign trade due to war demand, there has been a directional change of equal importance. Whereas on the export side the largest increase has been in the case of the United Kingdom and the British Empire, the volume of imports from the Empire countries has not materially altered. In the case of Japan, exports have declined and imports have increased sharply, while the United States of America purchased more Indian goods and sold more to India, although the rise in imports from the U.S. was much greater than the increase in Indian exports to that country.

Increased Exports: No Proportionate Benefits to Agriculturists.-

Since the beginning of the war in September 1939, Indian exports had shown a marked tendency to increase and this movement was accelerated during 1940. The total value of India's exports in 1940 aggregated Rs 2,087.4 million as compared with Rs 1,893 million in 1939, showing an increase of Rs 194.4 million, whereas imports were almost static at Rs 1,629.5 million as against Rs 1,610.3 million in the previous year. The favourable merchandise balance of trade, in consequence, increased considerably from Rs 282.8 million last year to Rs 457.9 million in the current year.

Although India's export trade has increased in volume, the Indian cultivator, who forms the bulk of the population, has reaped little benefit out of this increase. The authorities in their anxiety, soon after the outbreak of war, to check speculative activity and control prices, have denied the Indian agriculturist the opportunity of reaping a just profit on his produce, especially if one is to consider the lean years through which he has passed during the last decade without receiving any relief at the hand of the Government. The general index number of wholesale prices in Bombay (average of 1939 = 100), which stood at 124 in December 1939 declined to as low as 104 in September 1940, but recovered slightly to 108 at the end of the year. The index number of wholesale food prices fell from 119 in December 1939 to 101 in June 1940, and after a partial recovery to 107 in November, declined again to 105 in December 1940. Taking the single item of raw cotton, the index number for this commodity declined by about 44 points from 140 in December 1939 to 96 in June 1940 and stood at 103 in December. On the other hand, the price index for cotton manufactures (average of 1939 = 100), which stood at 124 in December 1939, declined to 99 in September 1940, but advanced to 109 at the close of the year and the index number for other manufactured articles advanced from 104 in December 1939 to 110 in December 1940. It is evident from the above figures that whereas the Indian agriculturist had to suffer through a fall in prices of the commodities which he produced, he had to pay proportionately higher prices for manufactured and other articles which he consumed. This disparity between the prices of raw commodities and manufactured articles must tend to make the lot of the agriculturist difficult.

Industrial Progress: Stimulation of Internal Demand but no

Industrial Expansion.- The declaration of war in Europe had raised the hopes of increased industrial profits. The progress of Indian industries, however, was checked by the imposition of 50 per cent. Excess Profits Tax, which has since been raised to 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. In addition to this, a surcharge of 25 per cent. was imposed on all taxes on income, and from 1st April 1941 the surcharge will be increased to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

Owing to the imposition of restrictions on foreign trade and the difficulty of obtaining sufficient shipping space for imports, indigenous products met with good internal demand and Indian industry as a whole made some progress during the latter part of the year. Cotton textile, jute and cement industries not only benefited through lack of competition from abroad, but were also able to export to markets which were usually supplied by countries now engaged in war. The steel industry is essentially a war industry and the country's major works, viz., the Tata Iron and Steel Company and the Steel Corporation

of Bengal were almost fully booked with war orders. Unlike the last war, however, there has been very little industrial expansion. While there were 389 active cotton mills in the country in 1939, their number was reduced to 388 in 1940. Jute mills had to reduce their working hours from 60 to 45 per week, and in September the Jute Mills' Association decided to keep the mills closed for one week every month, in order to prevent over-stocking.

Industrial Conditions.- Owing to an increase in the cost of living, dearness allowances were claimed by working classes in all the important industries. Friction between capital and labour was on the increase and a general strike in March in the Bombay cotton textile industry resulted in the loss of 4,510,768 working days. In the meantime, commodity prices which had soared sky-high after the outbreak of war came down to the earth soon after the advent of the new year. Poor demand, increased expenditure and the growing burden of taxation - whether in the form of income-tax or excess profits tax - combined to damp the early optimism. Price control, restrictions on exchange, dislocation of shipping and the consequent loss of markets, difficulties in obtaining freight - all these factors further aggravated the situation. India's two major industries, cotton and ~~jute~~, were particularly hard hit as speculators, in anticipation of 1914-18 war boom, had artificially pushed up prices of industrial raw materials, and the finished articles could hardly keep pace with any advantage. The reaction when it did come was complete. With the exception of the enterprises engaged in the production of war materials - like iron and steel and chemicals - activity on the industrial front remained restricted in the extreme. ✓ +

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during January 1941. ✓ +

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during January 1941, as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in January 1941 advanced by 2 points to 117. The average for 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during January 1941, fell by 1 point to 78. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during January 1941 rose by 1 point to 77. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in January 1941 fell by 1 point to 71. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 73 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in January 1941 remained stationary at 69. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939. +

16

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during January 1940 fell by 2 points to 108. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

(Extracted from January 1941 issue of Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India.)

New Indo-Burma Trade Agreement. ,

A new Indo-Burma Trade Agreement, to replace the Agreement which expired on 31-3-1941, was concluded between the representatives of the two Governments in the third week of April, 1941. The principal terms of the new Agreement are given below:-

1. The Government of Burma undertakes to accord free entry to the following articles:- canned fish; fruit juices, fruits and vegetables (canned or bottled); lead pencils; paper, printing paper, writing paper; coir fibre; coir yarn and coir mats and matting; glass and glassware, glass globes and chimneys for lamps and lanterns, glass bangles, glass beads and glass pearls; certain electrical instruments; instruments, apparatus and appliances other than electrical.

2. Burma undertakes not to tax the following goods at rates in excess of 5 per cent.: - potatoes and onions; coconuts; certain chemicals, drugs and medicines; magnesium chloride; toilet requisites; paints; woollen yarn, blankets and rugs and woollen hosiery.

3. Burma undertakes not to tax the following goods at rates in excess of 10 per cent.: - coffee; certain spices; cigars; toilet soap; woollen carpets; boots and shoes.

4. The following goods, when imported into Burma, will be taxable at special rates not exceeding those shown against each:- betel nuts - 20 per cent.; ale and beer - rate of excise duty for the time being in force; drugs and medicines containing spirit - double the rate of excise duty for the time being in force; tobacco (unmanufactured - 1 anna per pound; cinematograph films (exposed) - 15 per cent. (with separate tariff value for Indian films); silk fabrics, artificial silk fabrics, mixture fabrics, cotton knitted fabrics - 15 per cent.; and electric lighting bulbs - 15 per cent.

As against these concessions, India agrees:

1. That the following goods of Burmese origin shall be accorded free entry:- dyeing and tanning substances; gums, resins and lac; gums, Arabic, Benjamin (ras and corie) and dammer and rosin; wood and timber; furniture and cabinetware; tea-chests and parts and fittings thereof; cotton, raw; lacquered-ware; iron and steel (old), iron or steel, enamelled ironware; copper (wrought) and manufactures of copper, copper (scrap); German silver including nickel ~~xxx~~ silver; Aluminium, unwrought ingots, blocks and bars of aluminium; Lead (wrought), lead sheet for tea chests; Zinc or spelter (wrought or manufactured);

Tin (block); Brass, bronze and similar alloys (wrought and manufactures thereof); and all sorts of metal other than iron and steel.

2. That the following goods shall be dutiable at special rates not exceeding those shown below: Potatoes and onions - 5 per cent.,; Coffee - 10 per cent.,; ~~Spice~~ Spice, viz. cardamoms, cassia, cinnamon, cloves, nutmegs and pepper - 10 per cent.,; Betelnuts - 20 per cent.,; Cutch and gambier, all sorts - 5 per cent.,; Cigars - 10 per cent.,; Tobacco (unmanufactured) - 1 anna per lb.

~~Rice Imports from Burma~~

Indian Piece-Goods and Sugar.- As regards Indian cotton piece-goods exported to Burma, whilst the agreement provides for a margin of preference of 7½ per cent. only against a margin of 10 per cent. over other similar goods entitled to preferential treatment, the Burma Government pledges itself not to fix the duty on such goods at more than 10 per cent. Furthermore, the position of Indian textiles in Burma is strengthened by the retention of the quota on Japanese goods at its present level.

As regards sugar, the Burma Government undertakes to accord special privileges to sugar imported from India in so far as the local capacity to meet demand leaves a margin to be filled by imports.

Rice Imports from Burma.- Rice and broken rice will be retained on the free list and no duty will be levied in India on these commodities coming from Burma so long as they are allowed to be imported free of duty from other countries. On broken rice, the Government of India has given an undertaking that, if a duty is reimposed, a preference not in excess of 10 per cent. or the amount of duty whichever is less will be granted to imports from Burma.

Agreement Denounceable at 6 months' Notice.- As regards exports from one country to the other which are liable to excise duty, it is provided in general that the rate of customs duty shall correspond to the level of the excise duty ruling in the country of import. The Agreement shall run for an indefinite period, subject to the right of either party to denounce it at 6 months' notice.

The following are extracts from editorial comments on the subject from the Hindu dated 5-4-1941:-

"The new agreement means the end of the free trade regime that existed before the separation and during the past three years, and is unobjectionable in principle... Of the Indian goods entering Burma, some are to be allowed duty free and the others will be subject to duties but will enjoy preference rates ranging from five to fifteen per cent. Preference is granted against British goods also, the margin varying from five to ten per cent. In the case of textiles, which form nearly a fourth of our exports to Burma, we are to enjoy a preference of 7½ per cent. against the United Kingdom and fifteen per cent. against others....

"In return for these preferences, India extends to Burma a similar system of preferences, besides agreeing to admit rice and timber free of duty. Kerosene remains on the preferential list. As rice, timber and kerosene together constitute nearly 90 per cent. of Burma's exports to this country, what the Agreement amounts to so far as Burma is concerned is that she is assured of the maintenance of the status quo.

regarding the bulk of her trade with India. In India's case, there is a complete end of the status quo. The major part of Indian exports will be subject to duties. We have to rely on the preferences given by Burma for maintaining our export position.

Commenting on the repercussions of the new agreement on the position of Indians in Burma, the paper says:

"There can be no doubt, however, that the future of Indo-Burma trade is bound up with these vital issues. Indian public opinion is not certainly satisfied with the policy the Burma Government have pursued towards Indians in their territory. Since the last riots the Indian community has been weighed down by fears that their interests are insecure in the country for whose development they have contributed so much in the past and are still doing to-day. The Land Purchase Act was not calculated to reassure them..... If the Trade Agreement now concluded paves the way for a just settlement of this and other outstanding questions it will mark the beginning of a new era in Indo-Burman relations."

(The Hindu, 4-5-1941.)✓₄

19

Control of Coal Industry:
Indian Mining Federation suggests setting up of Ministry of Mining.

A suggestion for the establishment of a Ministry of Mining under the Central Government, and for liberating the coal industry from the control now exercised by provincial legislatures and placing it under a unified policy and the guidance of the Central Government, was mooted by Mr. S.C. Ghosh, presiding over the annual general meeting of the Indian Mining Federation on 31-3-1941.

Enquiry suggested.- Mr. Ghosh detailed the various difficulties encountered by the coal-mining industry during the past year and emphasized the urgency of setting up a coal inquiry committee for investigating the problems of the industry in all its aspects. He said that although, owing to war demands, the raisings and despatches of coal had reached record figures in 1940, coal prices were not encouraging to colliery-owners. According to him, the chief reasons for the depressing condition of the trade were to be sought, among others, in over-production and in the absence of an effective marketing organisation. He pointed out the various anomalies that had crept into the administration of the coal-mining industry owing to the operation of provincial autonomy.

(The Statesman, 2-4-1941.)

Indian Automobile Industry:
Mysore Postpones Venture.

Reference was made at page 25 of our March 1941 report to the proposal for starting an automobile industry in Mysore under State guarantee. It is now understood that the Government of Mysore has decided not to proceed with the scheme for the present.

(The Statesman, 11-5-1941.) +

Development of Indian Industries:Pandit Kunzru's Resolution in Council of State on 2-4-1941.✓

On 2-4-1941, Pandit H. Kunzru (non-official) moved a resolution in the Council of State recommending a review of the industrial development of the country and formulation of a plan, taking into account post-war conditions as far as practicable, to fill up the lacunae in the ~~the~~ existing industrial system, and to bring about a comprehensive and co-ordinated industrial development of the country. A summary of the debate is given below:-

Pandit Kunzru, in his speech introducing the motion, pointed out that the industrial development of India had so far been lop-sided and the country still depended upon outside assistance for many of its essential needs. The last great war and the present one had amply demonstrated that the industrialisation of India was not only necessary for its self-sufficiency and higher standard of living, but also for its national security. India was producing what ~~was~~ ^{were} called 'consumers' goods' and was still deficient in what were called 'key industries'. Another serious deficiency was the lack of any census of production, which was so necessary for industrial development. Pandit Kunzru was sure that quite a good deal of such data had been collected by the Roger Mission and the Eastern Group Conference, but regretted that this data was not made available to the public.

Dealing with the activities of the Eastern Group Supply Council, he expressed the fear that the activities of the Council would provide a brake on the full industrialisation of India. Alluding to particular industries, he deplored the fact that, though ship-building had been undertaken on behalf of His Majesty's Government both in Australia and Canada, in India the Government had failed to recognise ship-building as a war industry. He also pointed out that with regard to the motor car industry also, Government was adopting an unhelpful policy.

Reviewing remedial measures, he stressed the need for a fresh investigation of the development of cheap power, which, he said, was essential for the development of industries. He emphasised that much more should be spent on research than at present. He also emphasised the need for simplification of the conditions laid down by the Fiscal Commission for the grant of protection.

Mr. J.H.S. Richardson, speaking for the European Group, said that India should concentrate on production of raw materials and depend on England for manufactured products. He also made the statement that consideration of the future should await the conclusion of peace.

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, reiterated his statement in the Assembly that Government were seriously considering the question of post-war adjustment and that an Inter-departmental Committee might shortly be constituted, which would from now on consider what plans could be evolved for readjustment of industries, which expanded owing to war requirements, and for the re-employment of technical labour now employed in these expanded and expanding industries. Problems relating to industrialisation and employment would, he thought, receive the serious attention of all Governments, and ~~while~~ ^{though} complaints ~~had~~ ^{are even} now

being made about the extent to which Government interfered with ordinary trade and commerce and about governmental control of industries, he believed that after the war was over, the need for some sort of governmental intervention would not necessarily cease.

Referring to the Supply Council, he said that there was no justification for the apprehension that the Council would not allow the start of industries in this country, ~~but~~ that it would allow other countries to steal a march over us. ^{supply a particular article in a small way, not} It was true, however, that if India were not in a position to wait till that supply was found in this country, but would get it from where it was available. He hoped that when the proposed enquiry into gaps in the industries in India was complete, it would be possible to give industrialists an idea of what new ventures to start. At the end of the war, he observed, conditions might be so chaotic that quick remedial measures might have to be resorted to and that was the time when one might consider the question of a permanent machinery both to watch dumping from outside and to watch the course of the protected industries themselves. Steps would be taken to have ready a plan for the constitution of such a body.

Mr. P.N. Saprú urged that there should be a Member of the Executive Council in charge of post-war problems, to be known as the Minister of Reconstruction, and that an Economic Advisory Council should be set up to advise him. Emphasising the need for planning ahead, he said that by planning he meant planning for an India which would have a balanced economy, and which would be able to utilise her raw materials and resources to ~~best~~ better economic advantage.

Sir Alan Lloyd, Commerce Secretary, said that the working of the resolution went much farther than the Government of India could commit itself. He reminded ~~that~~ the House that industries was a Provincial subject, but the working of the resolution would have the effect of the Government of India usurping the functions and powers of the Provincial Governments. He therefore suggested the following amended resolution:

"The Council recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council that he should review the industrial development of the country and taking into account the post-war conditions as far as possible, bear in mind the desirability of filling up the lacunae in the existing industrial system and of bringing about the co-ordinated industrial progress of the country."

The amendment was accepted by Pandit Kunzru and was adopted by the Council without a division.

(The Statesman and the Hindu, 3-4-1941.)

(For statement on the industrial policy of the Government, made in the Legislative Assembly on 17-3-1941 by the Commerce Member, vide pages 21 to 23 of our March 1941 report.)

Aeroplane Factory to be set up in Bangalore:Government of India associated in new Enterprise. ✓

According to the Bangalore Correspondent of the Hindu, Madras, the Government of India, it is understood, is actively associated with the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, a company registered in Mysore State, for the manufacture of aeroplanes and aircraft material, and have subscribed a large sum towards the issued capital.

The company has three partners, viz., the Mysore Government, Mr. Walchand Hirachand and others who are the Managing Agents, and the Government of India. The issued capital which was originally Rs. 4 million has now been raised to 7 million.

(The Hindu, 1-4-1941.) ✓₊

Clock and Watch Factory at Jamshedpur:New Industrial Venture. ✓

Taking advantage of the cessation, due to the war, of ^{Japan,} imports of watches and clocks, principally from Germany and ~~China,~~ into India, a new enterprise, viz., The Indian Clock Manufacturing Co., Ltd., with an authorised capital of Rs. 500,000 has ~~been~~ established a Workshop at Jamshedpur, equipped with the most up-to-date machinery and plant^h employing skilled technicians and workmen. The Company is making arrangements to set up air-conditioned rooms and other contrivances so that every part, starting from a pin up to the finished clock, may be manufactured in India.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 1-4-1941.) ✓₊

Industrial Research in Bihar:Provincial Board Formed. ✓

The constitution of a provincial Scientific and Industrial Research Committee of seven members with Sir Sultan Ahmed as Chairman and the Director of Industries as Secretary has been announced by the Government of Bihar. The function of the Committee will be to bring to the notice of the Central Board of Scientific and Industrial Research suitable subjects for industrial research and to chalk out the methods of laboratory investigation. It will also advise the Provincial Government on matters that arise out of the proceedings of the Central Board that are referred to it and make suggestions for further researches.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-4-1941.).
+

War and Difficulties of Small and Medium Industries:
All India Organisation of Industrial Employers collecting
Information. ✓

The All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers is, it is understood, collecting information regarding the difficulties that are being experienced by the small-scale and medium-sized industries in the country owing to the war. The information, when collected, is to be placed before the Government of India for necessary action.

(The Times of India, 28-4-1941.) ✓

India's Glass Industry:
Impetus given by War. ✓

a steadily increasing annual production,
 With ~~an annual production worth Rs 2,000,000,000~~ India's 101 glass factories are now able to meet national requirements to the extent of over 50 per cent. of the annual consumption. This figure may rise rapidly as further results of industrial research are made available to the industry. A new factory for glass manufacture is shortly expected to start production at Ghaziabad.

In the last war, the Indian Munitions Board secured a good deal of its requirements from the Indian factories. In this war also the Supply Department has placed substantial orders with Indian glass factories. Another result of the present war is a reduction of imports and increase in exports of all kinds of glassware. During the nine months, April 1 to December 31, 1940, imports dropped in value from Rs 7,500,000 in the corresponding period of 1939 to Rs 6,300,000. In the same period exports rose in value from a little over Rs. 96,000 to nearly Rs. 300,000.

(The Bombay Chronicle 27-4-1941) ✓
+

Indian Emigration to Burma:
Notice of Termination of Unrestricted Immigration given by
Burma Government. ✓

A communiqué issued by the Government of Burma announces that the Government has given on 1-4-1941 the requisite one year's notice for the termination of the Government of Burma Immigration Order, 1937, which thereby will cease to have effect from 31-3-1942. The communiqué explains that, under the terms of the Order, immigration into Burma from India cannot be subjected to any restrictions which were not in force at the time of the separation of Burma (At the time of the separation unrestricted immigration was allowed). The Order was operative for a minimum of three years from the date of separation and twelve months' notice on the part of the Government of Burma was required to terminate its operation. It may be recalled, in this connection, that the Commerce Minister, Burma, had recently informed the Burma House of Representatives that the question of ~~the~~ Indian immigration into Burma would be considered as soon as the trade talks in New Delhi were over and after examination of the recommendations of the Indian Immigration Commission reports. (This report is now in the Ministry's hands.)

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 16-4-1941.)

According to the New Delhi Special Correspondent of the Indian Express, Madras, it is likely that the Government of India will send in the ~~near future~~ near future a delegation to Burma to discuss questions relating to immigration and the status of Indian nationals.

(The Indian Express, 21-4-1941.) ✓

Amendment of the Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Amendment
Bill: Reserved areas to be released to Asiatics. ✓

On 9-4-1941, the Union Government brought forward a motion in the South African Assembly exempting "the Feetham areas" in the Transvaal from the restrictions imposed by the gold law on occupation by coloured persons. The motion also asked the House to approve the transfer to Asiatics of land situated in Johannesburg Malan location and the Nigol Asiatic bazaar. The Minister, after explaining that "the Feetham areas" were within the municipalities of Johannesburg, Krugersdorp and Roodepoort, said that Government were now giving practical effect to the new law incorporated in the Malan Act of 1932. "This Government and any other Government has very definite obligations to the Asiatic community", he said. It was felt that if the Asiatic community was given rights not only of occupation but also of ownership the authorities would be able to deal in a satisfactory way with the difficulty of illegal occupation.

Consequent upon the adoption of the above motion, the Government later introduced the Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Amendment Bill, which passed the Second Reading on 16-4-1941.

This move has been widely welcomed in India.

(The Times of India, 14 and 17-4-1941.) ✓
+

Indians Overseas:

Conference to be held in November 1941. ✓

285

It is understood that the second session of the Indian Colonial Conference and the Silver Jubilee of the Indian Colonial Society will be held in Delhi early in November 1941. A large number of delegates from the Colonies and other countries are expected to arrive in India to attend the Conference. These representatives will tour the country with a view to give the Indian public an adequate knowledge of the status and conditions of life and work of Indians abroad for developing a closer commercial and cultural contact with the mother-country. The Conference will discuss, among other matters, subjects relating to the reorganisation of Indian emigration, India's need for closer contact with her nationals abroad and the ethical aspects of Indian colonisation.

■ (The Hindustan Times, 26-4-1941.) ✓

The Bengal Rent Reduction Bill, 1941. ✓

A non-official Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 4-4-1941 to provide for the reduction of excessive rents prevailing in agricultural areas in permanently settled and revenue free estates in Bengal.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 24-4-1941, pages 164 to 166.) ✓
+

CO-OPERATION.New Marketing Department set up in Mysore. ✓

The Mysore Government has issued orders constituting a new Marketing Department for five years, to deal with problems of agricultural marketing, the opening of grading stations and regulated markets, the improvement of containers and methods of packing storage, etc., and the development of a market ~~xxx~~ news service.

The new department will deal with the general principles and practices of the marketing. It will administer the Agricultural Produce Markets Act and organise co-operative agricultural marketing societies. It will also work out the necessary measures for the organisation of the urban milk supply, a market news service, the introduction of standard containers and a reduction in railway freights.

(The Times of India, 28-4-1941.) ✓_T

The Calcutta Tenancy Bill, 1941:

Legislation to curb Rent Enhancements introduced. ✓

A non-official Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 4-4-1941 to regulate enhancements of rents of houses and premises in Calcutta and ejections of tenants from such premises. The Statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that arbitrary increases in rent and ejections of tenants refusing to pay increased rents are becoming too common in Calcutta, and that middle class business tenants, who have started some business and have established some good will there, are being put to heavy loss by the arbitrary action of the landlord.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV A, dated 24-4-1941, pages 171-to 172v) ✓

The Sylhet Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1941. ✓

In order to check the landlord's power (1) to eject non-agricultural tenants, which is exercised very frequently on the latter's refusal to pay increased rent, and (2) to raise rent indiscriminately, a Bill, the Sylhet Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1941, has been introduced in the Assam Legislature. The Bill confers occupancy rights on tenants of 10 years' standing; ejection of tenants is permitted only if rent is in default or the value of the holding is impaired through mis-use. The right of the landlord to enhance rent and the amount of enhancement have been made subject to control by the Court.

(The Assam Gazette, Part V, dated 2-4-1941, pages 65-69.) ✓

Slum Clearance and Industrial Area Schemes for
Delhi City: Improvement Trust's programme for 1941-44.

The second three-year programme of the Delhi Improvement Trust covering the period 1941-44 makes provision, among other schemes, for the removal of about 30 acres of slum areas, and redeveloping them at a cost of about Rs 4 million, and the developing of an industrial area for Delhi City.

Slum Clearance Scheme and Rehousing of Poor Dispossessed Families:
The scheme aims at acquiring and redeveloping all the "slum" areas comprising an area of 29.80 acres between Delhi City and New Delhi. When the scheme is finished, where filthy hovels once stood, and

~~Insanitary lanes~~, there will be a 30-foot wide inner service road, with gardens, trees and grass, abutting upon the boulevard. A frontage of 18 blocks of modern buildings, shops, flats, residential quarters has been designed. The last stage of the scheme makes provision for the construction of two blocks of buildings for sweepers' quarters. In addition, some 2,377 families numbering 21,962 persons living in slum conditions will be eligible for rehousing under the Trust State subsidised rehousing scheme. An area of 8,082 square yards has been reserved in this scheme ~~area~~ for buildings for some of these dispossessed families. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 4 million and is expected to be completed by 1945. The scheme has been approved by the Government of India, and is noteworthy, as this is the first ^{instance} ~~time~~ in India that the State has admitted ^{even} partial liability for the rehousing of poor people.

Industrial Area Scheme. - As a start, Government have sanctioned a scheme for the acquisition and partial development of 271.21 acres and acquisition proceedings have already been started. Of this area, 159.47 acres is to be available for factories, 8.75 acres for residential houses, and 2.96 acres for shops. It is proposed to sell the land for factories on a seven-year hire-purchase system, charging interest at 5 per cent. Sites for residential houses and shops will be sold on six-year lease purchase.

(The Statesman, 25-4-1941.) ✓ +

Labour Housing in Ahmedabad:

Enquiry conducted by Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad. ✓

An inquiry into the housing conditions in labour areas ^{in Ahmedabad} was conducted by the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association with a view to drawing the attention of the local Municipality to the problem of labour housing. The Association representatives inspected 237 chawls with 14,623 tenements most of which were found to have deficient sanitary arrangements. The Association has been drawing attention to the housing conditions in labour areas for years. The Municipality has built a number of model tenements for the poorer classes, but the condition of the existing chawls has not been improved and the Association has again taken up the question, now that its Secretary, Mr. G.L. Nanda, is the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Municipality. Mr. Nanda is trying to find out how far improvement can be effected by the stricter enforcement of the existing Municipal bye-laws.

(The Times of India, 16-4-1941.) ✓ +

Housing of Middle and Lower Class in Bombay City:

Corporation Proposals for Cheap Tenements. ✓ +

The newly constituted Improvements Committee of the Bombay Municipal Corporation has approved and adopted a report of its sub-committee regarding the provision of cheap housing accommodation for the middle class and the poor and working class people residing in the Bombay

city. The sub-committee generally agreed to the suggestions made by the Municipal Commissioner in his report.

Present Accommodation Insufficient.- In the course of his report, the Commissioner has stated that the total accommodation available to the poor and the working classes in the city is grossly inadequate and that the rents charged for such accommodation are out of proportion to the means of the families occupying them. In view of the appalling conditions in which large numbers of people, including the workers in the city, live, the Commissioner was of the opinion, the Sub-Committee report says, that the Municipality should take the initiative in improving the conditions of their housing.

Government Subsidy for Municipal Housing Scheme.- The Commissioner suggested, inter alia, that the Government may be requested to give the Municipality a subsidy equal to 20 per cent. of the total collections of the Urban Immovable Property Tax so that the Municipality might utilize a major portion of it for constructing one-room tenements and the balance for giving subsidies and loans to co-operative building societies, landlords, etc., who would construct cheap tenements according to the standard fixed by the Municipality.

Lease of Land on Concessionary Rents to Building Societies.- The Commissioner further suggested that the Municipality also might assist public utility societies and private landlords to carry out housing schemes for the poor, middle and working classes by providing Municipal land on 99 years' lease at concessionary rent and by giving them subsidies and loans at low rate of interest and also assist ~~in~~ private landlords who are willing to build houses for the poor, middle and working classes by making a capital grant of 1/4th the cost towards the cost of building.

He further suggests that a capital grant to the extent of 25 per cent. of the cost of repairs might be made to private landlords for improving the condition of their insanitary tenements occupied by the poor class.

Transport Facilities for Workers.- Existing ~~Transport Companies~~, it is suggested by the Commissioner, may be subsidised or the Municipality may organise their own transport so as to facilitate and cheapen travel from the north to the different and distant working centres.

Big Employers to Provide Housing.- The Commissioner has also pointed out in the report that it is desirable that Government, the Port Trust, the Railways and large industrial concerns should also provide cheap and decent housing accommodation for their low paid employees as far as possible.

(The Bombay Chronicle 11-4-1941.) ✓ +

31

Labour Housing in Madras:
Progress of Municipal Housing Scheme. ✓

Reviewing the efforts made by the Madras Corporation to improve housing conditions in Madras City, Mr. Pulla Reddi, Commissioner, Madras Corporation, in a speech delivered on the occasion of the opening of new workers' tenements at Egmore, Madras, said on 7-4-1941 that the problem of overcrowding in the city, particularly so far as the poorer working classes were concerned, was examined by the Housing Committee of the City Corporation in 1933, and it was estimated that the total number of over-crowded houses in the City was about 22,500, approximately 40 per cent. of the total number of smaller houses in the City. The Committee was of opinion that a minimum increase of 40 per cent. in the number of smaller houses was required to relieve over-crowding and recommended the building of 10,000 houses at a cost of Rs. 2,000 each and at a total cost of Rs 22.7 million. The Corporation had since 1908 spent Rs 1.36 million for the construction of tenements and improvement of slums. Owing to the influx of new workers into the city year after year, it was not possible, he said, to get funds to provide tenements in all slums. So in some cases the Corporation was now trying to provide all the necessary civic amenities and allow the people to build or rebuild their houses in a way suitable to their needs and mode of living.

The Corporation, however, was hoping to work out a bigger housing scheme near about Pallavaram where nice, airy and cheap tenements could be built. They were also investigating whether they could not induce large employers of labour to build tenements for the working classes by offering them some inducements such as exemption from property tax. He also hoped that when the proposal for a City Improvement Trust for Madras materialised, the Trust would relieve the Corporation of its obligations in this sphere.

Sir G.T. Boag, Adviser to the Governor, said that Government would handle the question of providing improved housing for workers sympathetically.

(The Hindu, 8-4-1941.) ✓

Employers' Organisations.

Employers' Association of Northern India;
Annual Report for 1940-41.*

Membership and Labour Force.- The membership of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, during 1940-41 (1-2-1940 to 31-1-1941) consisted of 36 concerns (13 cotton mills, 1 woollen mill, 2 leather works, 1 sugar works, 2 jute mills, 2 hosiery factories, 2 ice factories and 11 other factories). The total labour force employed by member concerns in Cawnpore was approximately 56,829, as against 47,402 last year, and an estimated total of labour employed by the Mills and Factories of Cawnpore of 68,000. The labour force employed by member concerns outside Cawnpore was 7,117 as against 5,069 for last year.

Complaints.- During the year, the Association received and dealt with 415 complaints from workers; of these, 141 were made by the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha, 155 from unions other than the Mazdoor Sabha, and 119 direct from workers. 40 cases went up before the Government Labour Commissioner (as against 111 in 1939-40) of which 29 were decided in favour of the Association, 7 were decided against it, and 4 were neutral decisions. The report points out that the drop in the number of cases heard by the Labour Commissioner is due to the withdrawal of the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha from conciliation proceedings.

Labour Bureau.- The Labour Bureau of the Association registered 14,772 applications from unemployed workers, and was able to secure employment for 7,803 (the corresponding figures for 1939-40 were 12,227 and 4,708). The report points out that there has been a considerable increase in demand for labour both in the leather industry and the woollen industry due to war-time conditions. Of the 14,772 unemployed workers registered as unemployed only 25.56 were literate, as against 32.79 in 1939-40, and the report points out that this shows that the drive for literacy which the Government and other bodies have undertaken and advertised has not yet made much headway amongst industrial workers in Cawnpore.

Labour Situation.- There was no major labour trouble ^{during} the year in Cawnpore, strikes being limited to departments and of short duration, none being successful. The number of working days lost due to strikes dropped from 422,174 in 1939-40 to 6,074 in 1940-41, with a corresponding drop in lost wages from Rs.432,583 to Rs.6,671. It is pointed out that improvement is to a great extent due to improved employment conditions which have resulted in an increase in earnings, and fewer unemployed for the communists and other labour agitators to exploit. In member concerns outside Cawnpore the figures show an improvement in the working days lost from 77,108 in 1939-40 to 56,638 in the year under review. These figures represent three major strikes, one of which was of a short duration. r

Fourth Annual Report of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, for the year 1939-40, presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 21st April, 1941. The Star Press, Cawnpore, 1941. pp.14.

Progress of Trade Unionism in India, 1938-39*.

Registered and Unregistered Trade Unions.- As in previous years, the statistics given below relate only to trade unions which (a) are registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and (b) have submitted returns. Registration under this Act, with the consequent submission of returns, is not compulsory. According to the Bombay Labour Gazette for February 1940, there were in Bombay on the 1st December 1939, 176 unions with a membership of 181,597 of which 76 with 151,790 members were registered.

Statistics of Unions and Membership.- The total number of registered trade unions increased from 420 in 1937-38 to 555 in 1938-39. Of the 555 unions 394 submitted annual returns. In 1938-39, the number of registered trade unions increased in all Provinces except Ajmer-Merwara where there was a decrease. As in previous years, the group containing the largest number of unions was that of unions with a membership between 100 to 299.

The membership of unions which submitted returns increased from 390,112 to 399,159, the highest yet recorded. This represents an average membership of 1,013 per union during 1938-39, as against 1,137 during the previous year. There were increases in membership in Bihar, C.P. and Berar, Delhi, Madras, N.-W.F.P. and Sind, while decreases were noted in other provinces.

Organisation of women workers.- The number of women who were members of registered trade unions in 1938-39 decreased from 14,703 to 10,945. The figures for 1938-39 show a decrease of 3,758 over the previous year's figure; 2.7 per cent. of the members of all trade unions submitting returns were women as compared with 3.8 per cent. in the previous year.

General and Political Funds.- The total income rose from Rs. 693,444 to Rs. 889,822 and the balance at the end of the year from Rs. 506,970 to Rs. 611,464. The average income for 1938-39 was Rs. 2,258.4 per union and Rs. 2-3-8 per member, as compared with Rs. 2,022 and Rs. 1-12-5 respectively in 1937-38.

The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, maintained a political fund and had a balance of Rs. 16,044 though there was no income during the year.

Withdrawals and Cancellations.- 41 unions ceased to exist or had their certificates of registration cancelled during the year (1 in Ajmer-Merwara, 25 in Bengal, 3 in Bombay, 1 in the Central Provinces and Berar, 7 in Madras, 3 in the Punjab, and 1 in the United Provinces). The certificates of registration of 2 Federations were cancelled during the year (one in Bengal and the other in Delhi).

General.- The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, remained unchanged during the year. The Bengal Electoral Rules have been amended to enable the Registrar of Trade Unions to raise objections to the grant of certificates of recognition, under paragraph 18 (2) of Part IV of the Government of India Provincial Legislative Assemblies Order, to unions

* Note on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for the year 1938-39, together with Statistics for that year. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Annas 12 or 1s. pp. 9

which do not comply with the provisions of the Act relating to the annual audit of accounts and inspection of books and registers. This will encourage the unions to appreciate the importance of maintaining genuine records and of keeping them up to date. In Madras, the suit in the District Court, Trichinopoly, against the order of the Registrar of the Trade Unions cancelling the registration of the South Indian Railway Workers' Union during 1936-37, has not yet been decided.

78 unions in all (Bengal 27, Bihar 5, Bombay 9, C.P. and Berar 7, Madras 17, Punjab 5, Sind 3 and U.P. 5) have been recognised for the purposes of elections to the labour seats in the Provincial Legislative Assemblies. +

Progress of Trade Unionism in Bombay, 1939-40.*

Number of Registered Unions and Membership.- There were 53 unions, including one Federation, on the register on 31-3-1939. Thirty-two unions were registered during the year under report. Of these 85 unions, however, the registrations of 12 unions were cancelled during the year. The number of unions on the register on 1-4-1940 was thus 73. Full information was available regarding the membership, income and expenditure and opening and closing balances in respect of 57 unions which submitted returns.

The total membership of the reporting unions at the end of the year was 105,799, or more than double the total membership of 50,997 on 31-3-1939 reported by the 41 unions whose annual returns were incorporated in the last year's report. All the groups except "Railways (including Railway Workshops)" and "Transport other than 'Tramways' and 'Employers' Associations" contributed to this rise, the more important among them being "Miscellaneous" - 73.78 per cent., "Municipal" - 61.50 per cent., "Docks and Port Trusts" - 43.35 per cent., and "Textiles" - 41.70 per cent.

The female membership showed an increase of over 5,200 over the figures for the previous year. In 1938-39 there were only 12 unions having 1,502 female members; during the year under report, however, the figure rose to 21 and 6,713 respectively, the highest ever reported. Although the new registrations of the Throstle Workers' Union and the Winders' Union at Ahmedabad and Dhulia Girni Kamgar Union, Dhulia, were mainly responsible for the rise, substantial increases were also contributed by the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union (Red Flag) and the Bombay Municipal Kamgar Sangh.

Finances of Unions.- The principal liability of the majority of the unions was the general fund. It formed the only liability of 20 unions, while two 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. 187,866-14-2 and other liabilities amounted to Rs. 50,284-4-0, as against total assets amounting to Rs. 238,151-2-2.

*Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Province of Bombay, 1939-40. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Annas 2 or 3d. 1941. pp.25.

The figure for total assets includes an amount of Rs. 78,151-0-2 for unapid subscriptions due, the real value of which is doubtful. The amount of cash assets was the largest in the case of the "Textiles" and the "Miscellaneous" groups, amounting to Rs. 20,509-13-9 and Rs. 14,908-13-8 respectively. Securities valued at Rs. 58,862-13-11 were held by seven unions of which the Bombay Postmen Union held securities worth nearly Rs. 39,800.

Number and Membership of Unregistered Unions.- According to the quarterly reviews published in the Labour Gazette, at the beginning of the year the number of the trade unions registered and unregistered in the Province of Bombay was 162 with a membership of 145,003. Sixty-three of the unions were registered under the Act. Of the remaining unions, 30 were associations of employees of the Postal and Telegraph Department consisting mainly of clerical employees.

(A copy of the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act for the Province of Bombay, 1939-40, was sent to the Montreal Office with our minute D.1/213/41 dated 18-3-1941.)₄

Library Scheme for Bombay Province:
Recommendations of Library Development Committee, Bombay.

The formation of a network of libraries spread over the whole of Bombay Province, with regional libraries at Poona, Ahmedabad and Dharwar and a central library in Bombay city, constitutes the principal recommendation of the Library Development Committee, appointed by the Government of Bombay some time back to explore the possibilities of promoting the library movement. Mr. A.A.A. Fyze was the chairman of the Committee. The more important recommendations are briefly set forth below:-

Central, Regional and District Libraries.- The scheme proposed by the Committee is divided into six stages. The first is the formation and strengthening of a central library and three regional libraries, for which a total annual expenditure of Rs. 60,000 would be required. In the second stage every district would be provided with a library at the district headquarters. There are in the Province 20 districts, out of which Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District are almost treated as one - Greater Bombay. Bombay cannot be included in any of the ~~linguistic regions proposed~~ and the Committee suggests that the Bombay Municipality should be persuaded to establish a network of libraries for its citizens; in the meantime, some facilities would be available to the public at the central library. The total cost at the second stage is estimated at Rs. 135,000.

Taluka and Village Libraries.- The third stage provides for a library in every taluka or peta and the cost would be Rs. 321,000. In the fourth stage all villages with a population of between 2,000 and 5,000 would be provided with libraries. The cost would then rise to Rs. 481,500, such library being given Rs. 100 a year. In the fifth stage, 2696 villages having a population of 1,000 to 2,000 would also have libraries. Each such library would be given a grant of Rs. 50 a year, the total cost thus rising to Rs. 689,000. In the sixth and last stage, the remaining 177,743 villages, having a population of less than 1,000 each, would also be given the benefit of the library system. Each such small library would receive Rs. 25 a year, bringing the total cost of the scheme to Rs. 1,300,000.

Building Fund and Library Personnel.- The Committee recommends that the Government should set aside Rs. 50,000 a year at least and allow it to accumulate as a Buildings Fund. For the training of library personnel, the Committee recommends a training scheme estimated to cost a maximum of Rs. 10,000 a year. The Committee advocates also the formation of library associations ^{that} for the advance of the library movement, as in England and elsewhere, and for purposes of supervision a Central Advisory Board should be set up.

(Summarised from communiqué ~~by the~~
dated 12-4-1941 issued by the Director
of Information, Bombay.)+

WagesGrant of Dearness Allowance and Minimum Wages by Madras Municipal Corporation: Government disapproves Schemes.

The Madras Municipal Corporation had in September 1940 resolved to grant from the first of that month a minimum wage of Rs. 15 to all adult male workers and Rs. 10 to all adult women workers and a dearness allowance of Rs. 2 a month to all the labourers and inferior servants drawing wages between Rs. 15 and Rs. 25 a month, subject to certain conditions. These proposals render the Corporation liable to a recurring additional annual expenditure of about Rs. 180,000 for payment of dearness allowance alone and of about Rs. 45,000 in respect of wage concessions.

Dearness Allowance opposed. - The Government of Madras, in a communication on the subject, has informed the Corporation that, apart from the question of the financial effect of the proposals, the grant of the allowance is unjustifiable as the existing living conditions do not warrant the grant of such a liberal grant. The Government states that it has decided to grant an allowance at a flat rate of Re.1 to each of its (Government's) employees drawing emoluments not exceeding Rs.40 a month in the City in the event of the monthly cost of living index standing at an average of 112 for a period of three consecutive months. So far, it is pointed out, the cost of living index has not risen up to 112 even once during the last six months.

Opposition to Minimum Wages. - Referring to the minimum wage concessions, the Government states that the new rates fixed by the Corporation would actually exceed the old rates by more than 100 per cent. in some cases. It is also pointed out that the proposals are also not justifiable from the financial point of view.

(The Hindu, 10-4-1941.) +

Dearness Allowance for Bombay Port Trust Employees:
Sanctioned as from 1-9-1940.

The Bombay Port Trust has decided to adopt the Government of India's scheme for their railway employees in Bombay (vide pages 44-45 of January 1941 report of this Office) for the purpose of granting dearness allowance to its employees. In accordance with this scheme, an allowance of Rs. 3 per month is payable to employees whose pay is Rs. 60 per month or less, commencing from the pay for September, 1940.

The total number of Port Trust employees who will benefit by the scheme is about 6,650 and the annual extra cost to the Trust is estimated at Rs. 240,000. The payment of the allowance will be subject, as in the case of railwaymen, to the continued capacity of the Bombay Port Trust to defray it and to such revision as the Trustees might find necessary from time to time.

(Industrial Bulletin No. 322 dated
21-4-1941 of the Employers' Federation
of India.) +

Eastern Group Supply Council:
Functions and Methods of Work. +

The following information about the Eastern Group Supply Council is taken from Indian Information (a fortnightly issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India) dated 1-5-1941 (For previous references to the Council see page 47 of January 1941 report of this Office.)

The Council, the outcome of the Eastern Group Conference (held at New Delhi from 25-10-1940 to 25-11-1940, vide pages 31-32 of November 1940 report of this Office) is an organisation welding the industrial capacity of the sixteen countries which comprised the Conference. These countries are: Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Southern Rhodesia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Zanzibar, Burma, Ceylon, Hong Kong, Malaya and Palestine.

Objects.- It is a body in constant session, and through it the governments join hands to improve the organisation of war supplies to the Middle East, Far East and any place in which the Empire troops are stationed. The basic principle actuating the Group is that, for the purpose of supplying the troops in the whole of the Eastern Group area, it should as far as possible draw its war supplies from its own industrial capacity; and the Council has been formed to facilitate the practical carrying out of that policy so that the task of supplying the troops in the Eastern Group area (~~what~~ whether in the field or in their own countries, under training or for local defence) may proceed as smoothly and with as small a drain upon shipping as possible. It links up the Governments concerned so that they can conveniently operate through the medium of a body in constant session.

Working of the Council. Briefly, the Council will work in the following manner:

The Military Member of the Council, who is the representative of the Army Council and the Imperial General Staff, officially designated Controller-General, Army Provision (E.G.), will present the needs of the forces in the Eastern Group which cannot be met locally (this will be done through the machinery of the Central Provision Office which is being set up under the control of the Military Member); that is to say that the requirements of the troops in India will only be transmitted to be handled by the Eastern Group Supply Council if the Government of India cannot supply from within India. Taking the example of the forces fighting in the Middle East, there will be transmitted to the Council the demands for the supplies which they cannot obtain locally, i.e., in Egypt and the surrounding countries.

In the light of the information derived from countries in the Eastern Group and of the strategical situation, the Council will make up its mind from what country or countries ~~it~~ it will be best to obtain supplies and will ask the Governments of those countries to place the necessary contracts. The Council will not place orders direct with manufacturers.

Development of Fresh Industries.- The Council will naturally be deeply concerned in the development of fresh industries and of fresh capacity where necessary to meet the war requirements of the troops in the Eastern Group. It will not itself undertake the task of planning the actual methods by which such expansion will be achieved; that will rest with the Supply organisations of the countries concerned, but it will be vitally concerned in what they are doing, ~~perhaps sometimes in encouraging them to do it.~~

Central Provision Office.- The demands from all military authorities within the 'Eastern Group Area' for stores for the Forces for which they are responsible which they cannot obtain locally, but which can be provided from other countries of the Eastern Group will be co-ordinated and submitted to the Eastern Group Supply Council by the Central Provision Office.

This Central Provision Office is a military organisation and is being set up in India in close touch with the Eastern Group Supply Council. It will be staffed by personnel consisting of about 40 to 50 officers drawn from the forces of Great Britain, India and the Dominions concerned and will deal with 40,000 to 50,000 items of supply.

The requirements to be sent ~~in~~ to the Central Provision Office (C.P.O.) will be in the form of (a) firm demands to meet the actual needs during the ensuing months and (b) long range forecasts to enable future supply to be planned. The organisation or part of the Army ~~staff within each military command~~ which is concerned with this work is usually called the "Local" or "Internal" Provision Office. It is with these local organisations that the Central Provision Office will mainly deal.

An important function of the Central Provision Office will be priority of allocation of the available supplies to the military commands, should a shortage arise in any particular store or commodity. In this, the Controller-General, Army Provision (E.G.) will be guided by the policy of the General Staff in London.

(Indian Information;

Members of the Council.- The members of the Council are: Sir Archibald Carter, United Kingdom Representative and chairman; Mr. M.S.A. Hydari, I.C.S., Representative of India; Sir Bertram Stevens, Representative of Australia; Major-General Hoare, Representative of South Africa; Mr. Frank R. Picot, Representative of New Zealand; and Major-General W.C. Holden, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Military Member of the Council and Controller General, Army Provision (Eastern Group).

(Indian Information, 1-5-1941.) 1

Textile Production for War Purposes: Conference of Manufacturers convened by Government of India.

The Government of India has convened in Bombay on 9-5-1941 a conference of cotton textile manufacturers with a view to discussing the programme and policy in regard to the war supply orders for various cotton textiles. Representatives from various textile centres will attend it. Officers of the Department of Supply, headed by the Director-General of Supply, will participate in the conference, which, it is hoped, will

bring understanding between the manufacturers and Government in regard to the basis of the price paid for those orders.

Of late there have been complaints that certain mills which have been devoting themselves exclusively to the execution of war orders are not able to earn even that margin of profit which is secured by others catering to the needs of the civil population. They are also experiencing difficulty in regard to the procedure adopted by the Department of Supply.

(The Times of India, 23-4-1941.) +

War Supplies.

Commandeering of Vessels: Indian Shipowners' Plea for Compensation.

A strong plea for taking immediate steps to settle the terms of compensation to be paid for the ships requisitioned by Government in a manner which will "fully safeguard the present and future position of national shipping in India's maritime trades" was made by six Indian shipping companies in Bombay in a joint representation to the Commerce Member, Government of India, in the second week of April, 1941.

The signatories to the representation are the Scindia, the ~~Bombay Steam~~, the Ratnagar Steam, the Merchant Steam, the Eastern Steam, and the Indian Co-operative Navigation Companies. They have jointly pointed out that 18 months have elapsed since their ships were requisitioned by the Government of India and over four months are over since the issue connected with the question of compensation was discussed with the Secretary of the Commerce Department. The signatories further point out that the cost of building ships has gone up by nearly 100 per cent. since the outbreak of the war and is still increasing. The problem of replacement of ships lost during the war has been a matter of grave concern and shipping interests, therefore, feel that the Government of India should pay them, by way of compensation, such an amount as will enable them to get a similar ship for their trade.

The British Ministry of Shipping has assured the shipping industry in the United Kingdom to maintain it "in adequate strength and in a position of full competitive efficiency" after the war is over. The demand of Indian shipping interests is practically the same as that of the British shipowners in this respect. After recalling the views of the various spokesmen of British shipping, the Indian shipowners, in their ~~xxx~~ representation, appeal to Government to do their utmost to grant them "their just demand instead of compelling them to mortgage away their future fortunes. They regret that shipping companies have no voice in the determination of this question affecting their present and future financial structure and do not agree in advance to an arrangement, the nature and terms of which they do not know."

They point out that under the Government of India Act, it is obligatory on Government either to lay down in the law the amount of compensation to be paid for the commandeered ships or to specify the principles on which such compensation should be paid. The shipping companies have, therefore, requested the Government to lay down such a policy which will ensure that the interests of national shipping alone will be the first concern of Government. (Times of India, 14-4-41.) +

41

Compensation for War Injuries.

British Scheme of Compensation to members of Mercantile Marine
injured in Action: Indian Seamen included.

Sir Walter Womersley, Minister of Pensions, Great Britain, in a speech at Grimsby, announced a generous scheme for compensation to members of the mercantile marine injured by enemy action and for pensions to the widows and dependants of those who have lost their lives. Allowances may also be paid to the family of a captured seaman or fisherman while he is detained by the enemy.

The Ministry of Pensions states that this new compensation and pensions scheme applies to Indian seamen. The amounts payable depend on their rates of pay. About sixty pensions or compensation grants have already been granted to Indians.

("Indian Information" dated
1-5-1941.) +

List of more important publications received in this Office during
April 1941.

Conditions of Work.-

Report of the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee, Volume II, Parts A and B (Report on the basis of the Family Budget Enquiry and the memoranda submitted by the Investigators). Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941. Price Rs.9-2-0.

Economic Conditions.-

- 1) "Modern Economic Problems" (prepared under the Direction of the Research Committee presided over by Principal Kalka Prasad Bhatnagar). Edited by Prof. Baljit Singh. March 1941. Economics Club, D.A.V. College, Cawnpore.
- 2) Industrial Development of Mysore by R. Balakrishna, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Mysore. 1940. Bangalore City. Printed at the Bangalore Press, Mysore Road. 1940.
- 3) Annual Market Review, 1940. Premchand Roychand & Sons, Ltd., Bombay.
- 4) Report of the Madras Famine Code Revision Committee, 1938: Volume I - Report. Price Re.0-8-0. Volume II - Appendices. Price Rs.2-8-0. Madras, Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1940.
- 5) Government of Madras, Revenue Department. G.O. No. 2939, 27th November, 1940. Famine Code Revision Committee - Recommendations - Orders passed.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- 1) B.N.Railway Indian Labour Union - Report for 1939-40 and 1940-41; Workshops Branch, Kharagpur. Printed at Sri Vijaya Lakshmi Press, Kharagpur. 1941.
- 2) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry:-
 - (a) Resolutions adopted at the Fourteenth Annual session of the Federation held in Delhi on 22nd and 23rd March, 1941. 1941.
 - (b) Report of the Proceedings of the Executive Committee for the year 1940-41. Volume I. 1941.
 - (c) Correspondence and relevant documents relating to important questions dealt with by the Federation during the year 1940-41. Volume II. 1941.
 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
- 3) All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers: Report of the proceedings of the Committee for the year 1940-41. 1941. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
- 4) International Chamber of Commerce - Indian National Committee. Report of the Proceedings of the Committee for the year 1940-41. 1941. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
- 5) Administration Report (Sind) on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (No. XVI of 1926) for the year 1938-39. Price As.3 or 4d. Karachi: Printed at the Government Press, 1940.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.- (continued).

- 6) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (XVI) 1926 in Bengal for the years 1932-33, 1934-35, 1936-37 and 1938-39. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal, Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1940. Price Annas 6,8,8 and 12 respectively.
- 7) Report on the working of the Trade Unions Act in Burma during the year ending the 31st March, 1940 (cyclostyled).
- 8) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in U.P. for the year 1939-40. Allahabad: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1941. Price 5 annas.
- 9) Fourth Annual Report of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, for the year 1940-41, presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 21-4-1941. The Star Press, Cawnpore. 1941.
- 10) Indian Mining Association - Proceedings of the Forty-ninth annual general meeting of the Members held at the Royal Exchange, Calcutta, on Friday, 21st March, 1941. Calcutta 1941.
- 11) Note on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for the year 1938-39, together with Statistics for the year. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941.
- 12) ~~The Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore. Proceedings and Speeches. Fourth Annual General Meeting, Monday, 21st April, 1941. The Star Press, Cawnpore.~~

Education.-

The Bombay Presidency Adult Education Association. Sixth Annual Report, 1940. K.R. Cama Oriental Institute Building, 134-6 Apollo Street, Fort, Museum East, Bombay.

Miscellaneous.-

- 1) Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner of the City of Bombay for the year 1939-40. Bombay: Municipal Printing Press. 1940.
- 2) Madras in 1940 (Outline of the Administration). Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1941. Price 8 annas.
- 3) Madras Administration Report, 1939-40. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1941. Price Rs.3/= ✓ +

C 6/2/13

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for May, 1941.

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. <u>National Labour Legislation.-</u>	
<u>Bengal:</u>	
(a) The Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief (Amendment) Act, 1941.	1
(b) Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1941.	1
(c) Exemption of certain classes of Shops from the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act.	1
<u>Bombay:</u>	
(a) Amendment of Factories Rules: Testing of Hoist Ropes and Chains.	2 - ✓
(b) Exemption of Undertakers from operation of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act.	2
(c) Bombay Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1941: Provision for Compulsory Arbitration in Disputes.	2-3-
<u>Delhi:</u>	
Draft Amendment to Factories Rules.	3 *
<u>Madras:</u>	
(a) Hazardous Occupations (Graphite) Rules, 1941.	3 - !
(b) Draft Amendment to Factories Rules.	4
<u>Orissa:</u>	
Proposed Orissa Trade Unions Regulations.	4
<u>Punjab:</u>	
Returns under the Punjab Trade Employees Act.	4
<u>Sind:</u>	
Exemption of certain Allowances of Public Servants from Attachment for Debt.	5
<u>Travancore State:-</u>	
The Travancore Payment of Wages Act promulgated.	5
<u>Burma:</u>	
Leave Rules of Government Press Employees.	5
2. <u>Conditions of Work.-</u>	
<u>Hours of Work:</u>	
Hours of Work Provision under Bengal Shops and Establishments Act: Clarification by Government.	6
<u>Industrial Health and Safety:</u>	
Measures for the Prevention and Control of Cholera in Mines in Central Provinces.	7 -
<u>Inspection:</u>	
Registration Fee for Factories: Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce on Government Proposal.	8

2. Conditions of Work.- (continued)

Wages:

Prohibition of Attachment of Salary below Rs.100 per month:
Patna High Court decides Employees of Private Firms also
covered by Prohibition.

9

Industrial Disputes:

- (a) Industrial Disputes in British India during the quarter
ending 30-9-1940.
- (b) Nagpur Labour Dispute re. Dearness allowance.
- (c) Indore Mills Strike: State Government appoints Enquiry Committee on Workers' Grievances.

10.

10-11

11

Holidays with Pay:

- (a) Obligation of Shop-keeper to maintain Registers etc., even if
Workers are daily employed: Decision under Bombay Shops and
Establishments Act.
- (b) "Casual Leave" and "Sick Leave" under Bengal Shops and
Establishments Act: Clarification by Government.

12

12-Ex 13

General:

- (a) Recommendations of Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee re. Recruitment of Labour: Views of Indian Mining Association.
- (b) Welfare Work in Industrial Establishments: Information collected by Employers' Federation of India.
- (c) Mill-Managed Tea Canteens: Suggestions re. Disposal of Profits by Millowners' Association, Bombay.
- (d) Labour Conditions in Baroda, 1938-39.
- (e) Factory Administration in Madras, 1939.
- (f) Dispute between Madras Bus Owners and Employees: Details of Arbitrator's Award: Wages, Hours and Holidays Defined.
- (g) Recommendations of the Bombay Textile Labour Enquiry Committee.

14-15

15

15-16

16-17

18-19

19-21

21-24

3. Economic Conditions.-

- (a) Plea for Committee of Enquiry into Coal Industry: Indian Mining Association supports Mining Federation.
- (b) Industrial Standardisation Possibilities: Government of India consults Trade Interests.
- (c) Tests and Certification of Quality of Local Products: Bombay Government makes Arrangements.
- (d) Economic Survey of Travancore State: Statistics of Representative Areas.
- (e) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during February 1941.
- (f) New Industries for India: Recommendations of Board of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- (g) Jute Restriction Scheme: Agreement between Bengal and Assam Governments.
- (h) Shipping Scarcity: Decisions of Export Advisory Council.
- (i) War Stimulates Indian Industries: Some Illustrative Cases.

25

25-26

26

27

27

28-29

29

29-30

30-31

4. Social Insurance.-

Working of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act in 1939.

32

5. <u>Employment, Unemployment and Vocational Training.-</u>	
(a) Vocational Education in Bombay Province: More High Schools converted to Technical High Schools.	33-34
(b) Loans to Artisans to Start Business: Bombay Government's Scheme.	34
6. <u>Migration.-</u>	
(a) Indian Emigration to Burma: Baxter Report being considered by Governments of India and Burma.	35
(b) Strike of Indian Workers in Selangor Rubber Estates: Demand for Increased Wages.	35
7. <u>Agriculture.-</u>	
Sind Debt Conciliation Act, 1941.	36
8. <u>Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants.-</u>	
(a) Punjab Commercial Employees demand regulation of Hours of Work.	37
(b) Working Hours in Offices: Bengal Committee to investigate Problem.	37-38
9. <u>Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-</u>	
The Bengal Co-operative Societies Act, 1940.	39
10. <u>Living Conditions.-</u>	
<u>Nutrition:</u>	
(a) Need for Nutrition Propaganda: Memorandum to Government by Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.	40
(b) Nutrition and Diet: Discussion by Conference of Christian Medical Association of India, Burma and Ceylon.	40
(c) State and Nutrition: Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association's Work.	41
<u>Housing:</u>	
The Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, 1941.	42
11. <u>Organisation, Congresses, etc.-</u>	
<u>Employers' organisations:</u>	
Employers' Association of Northern India: 4th Annual Meeting, Cawnpore, 21-4-1941.	43
<u>Workers' organisations:</u>	
(a) Inter-Provincial Trade Unions in Bombay: Appointment of Registrar in Bombay.	44
(b) Progress of Trade Unionism in Bengal, 1939-40.	44-45
(c) Progress of Trade Unionism in the Punjab, 1939-40.	45-46
(d) Progress of Trade Unionism in Orissa, 1939-40.	46
(e) 1st Tamil Nad Agricultural Workers' Conference, Mayanoor, 26-5-1941.	46-47
12. <u>Social Conditions.-</u>	
(a) Free Legal Assistance to Aboriginal or Hill Tribes in Bombay: Bombay Government's Rules.	48
(b) Prohibition of Begging in Madras City: Madras City Police (Amendment) Act, 1941.	48

	<u>Pages</u>
13. <u>Education.-</u>	
(a) Adult Education Drive in Bombay Province: Government gives further Impetus.	49
(b) Adult Literacy Campaign in the Punjab: Work during 1939 and 1940.	49
14. <u>Social Policy in War Time.-</u>	
<u>Wages:</u>	
(a) Grant of Dearness Allowance for S.I. Railway Employees.	50
(b) Mill Grain Shops in Bombay: Millowners' Association on Future Policy.	50
(c) <u>Compensation to War Victims:</u> Gratuity to Dependents of dead Soldiers.	50-51
<u>Industrial Health and Safety:</u>	
Reducing Damage from Air Attacks: Safety Features in new Factory Buildings.	51 x
<u>War Risks Insurance:</u>	
Advisory Committee appointed by Government of India.	51
<u>War Production:</u>	
Supply of Cotton Textiles: Conference between Department of Supply officials and Millowners.	52
<u>Control Measures:</u>	
(a) Control of certain Chemicals.	53
(b) Control of Newsprint.	53
15. <u>List of more important publications received in this Office during May 1941.</u>	54-55

Bengal.-

✓ The Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief (Amendment) Act, 1941. +

The Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief (Amendment) Act, 1941, recently passed by the local Legislature, is published at page 64 of Part III of the Calcutta Gazette dated 15-5-1941. The Act removes certain verbal defects in the original Act of 1939.

Bengal.-

✓ Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1941.

The Government of Bengal intends introducing shortly a Bill in the local legislature to prevent the theft of unidentifiable articles from industrial areas. Thefts of articles from railway workshops and stores and from mill and industrial areas are of frequent occurrence and it is always difficult to bring the offenders to book owing to the difficulty of satisfactory identification of the articles as required by law. The question of dealing with the criminals has been examined by the Railway Administrations as also by the Blandy-Gordon Committee and by Government and the view has been held that the problem can be effectively met only by special legislation on the lines of sections 32 and 54A of the Calcutta Police Act, 1866, which, while applying to the whole of Bengal should, at the outset, be extended to such individual areas as Government may, from time to time, notify to that effect. For the present, it is proposed to make the Bill applicable to the railway workshops at Kharagpur, Kanchanapara and Chittagong. Sections 32 and 54A of the Calcutta Police Act which ~~have been applied~~ refer to apprehension and punishment of armed persons, reputed thieves, etc., and to possession or dealing with articles stolen or fraudulently obtained.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV, dated 15-5-1941, pages 184 to 185.)

Bengal.-

Exemption of certain classes of Shops from the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act.

The Bengal Government has exempted shops dealing mainly with vegetables, meat, fish, eggs, fruits, dairy produce, bread and other bakery products, flowers, and raw leather from the operation of the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act. Seasonal commercial establishments engaged in the purchase of raw jute or cotton. Or in cotton ginning or cotton or jute pressing are also exempted.

(Notifications Nos. 1602 and 1603 Com. dated 14-5-1941: The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 22-5-1941, page 1253.)

Bombay.-

Amendment of Factories Rules:

Testing of Hoist Ropes and Chains. +

The Government of Bombay has amended the Bombay Factories Rules so as to ensure better safety of hoists. The amended rules require that new wire, rope or chain shall be used in hoists only after obtaining a certificate of its safe working load; that the maximum working load of every hoist shall be prominently marked on the hoist; and that all hoist ropes and chains shall be periodically examined.

(Notification No. 9073 dated 23-5-1941: The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 29-5-1941, page 107.)

Bombay.-

Exemption of Undertakers from operation of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act.

The Bombay Government has exempted, among other classes of establishments, specified shops of undertakers from the operation of the Shops Act.

(Notification No. 143/34, dated 6-5-1941: The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-B, dated 8-5-1941, pages 308 to 309.)

Bombay.-

✓ Bombay Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1941:

Provision for Compulsory Arbitration in Disputes. +

The Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, provides for the settlement of industrial disputes by conciliation and through arbitration where a registered union enters into an agreement with an employer for the reference of any present or future dispute to the arbitration of the Industrial Court or any person. In many cases the parties to a dispute are unable to settle their differences through conciliation. An employer may then enforce his will by carrying out the intended change and the workers, not being able to secure an acceptance of their demand, may go on strike. The arbitration provided for in the Act is purely voluntary and, moreover, it presupposes the existence of a registered union. There are no registered unions in the industries to which the Act has been applied in the Province of Bombay, except in Ahmedabad and in Amalner. Thus there is a likelihood, in cases where either or both the parties do not or cannot agree to refer a dispute to arbitration, of serious dislocation of industry and possible disorder which may result in hardship both to labour and to a large section of the general community.

The Bombay Government has, therefore, amended its Industrial Disputes Act, 1938. The Government can, under the Act, refer disputes which have not been settled by conciliation proceedings, to the arbitration of the Industrial Court at any stage - whether before or after conciliation - if it is satisfied that a serious outbreak of disorder or a breach to the public peace is likely to occur, or serious or prolonged hardship of a large section of the community is likely to be caused by reason of the continuance of an industrial dispute, or the industry concerned is likely to be seriously affected and the prospects and scope of employment curtailed as a result of the continuance of an industrial dispute. The Act further provides that in any case in which the Provincial Government makes use of this power and refers a dispute to arbitration, it will be illegal for a strike or a lock-out to be commenced or continued.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 29-5-1941, pages 175 to 176, and "Bombay Information" dated 7-6-1941.)

Delhi.-

Draft Amendment to Factories Rules.

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, proposes to amend the Delhi Factories Rules so far as it relates, inter alia, to (1) the enumeration of the classes of persons holding positions of supervision or management, or engaged in confidential capacity, (2) urgent repairs and (3) intermittent work. The Draft is to be taken up for consideration by 20-8-1941.

(Notification No. F.10 (58)/41-L.S.G. dated 14-5-1941: The Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated 17-5-1941, pages 219 to 221.)

Madras.-

Hazardous Occupations (Graphite) Rules, 1941.

The Government of Madras has adopted rules to regulate employment in graphite works. The grinding and sieving of graphite and the processes incidental thereto are to be declared hazardous; the employment of women, children and adolescents in these processes are to be prohibited; persons employed in graphite factories are to have medical certificates of fitness and they are to be medically examined once at least in every six months; and certain measures to ensure cleanliness and healthy working conditions are to be adopted.

(Notification No. 94: G.O. No.1090; P.W. (Labour) dated 3-5-1941: The Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated 27-5-1941, page 6607. +

Madras.-

Draft Amendment to Factories Rules.

Reference was made at page 3 of our March 1941 report to the Factories (Madras Amendment) Act, 1941, which seeks to restrict the medical examination of children and adolescents to those who have a prospect of immediate employment in a factory. The Madras Government propose~~d~~ amending the Madras Factories Rules to give effect to this Act. The draft is to be taken up for consideration by 27-8-1941

(Notification No. 98: G.O. No. 1076,
P.W. (Labour) dated 1-5-1941: The
Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated
27-5-1941, page 661.)

Orissa.-

Proposed Orissa Trade Unions Regulations.

The Orissa Government proposes to make, in supersession of the Bihar and Orissa Trade Union Regulations, 1928, the Madras Trade Union Regulations, 1927, and the Central Provinces Trade Union Regulations, 1927, in their application to the Province of Orissa, the Orissa Trade Union Regulation, 1941, the draft of which is published at pages 275 to 288 of Part III of the Orissa Gazette dated 23-5-1941. The draft is to be taken into consideration by 25.8.1941.

Punjab.-

Returns under the Punjab Trade Employees Act.

The Punjab Government has prescribed the form in which statistical returns under the Punjab Trade Employees Act have to be submitted, as also that in which registers are to be maintained.

(Notification No. 3424. I. & L. 41/27281
dated 12-5-1941: Government Gazette, Punjab,
Part I, dated 16-5-1941, pages 454 to 455.)

+

Sind.-

Exemption of certain Allowances of Public Servants from
Attachment for Debt.

The Government of Sind has notified that the following allowances payable to Government servants are exempt from attachment by order of a Court: (1) travelling allowance, (2) conveyance allowance, (3) uniform, tentage and rations allowance, (4) cost of living allowance, and (5) house rent allowance.

(Notification No. 1327-H/39 dated 3-5-1941:
The Sind Government Gazette, Part I, dated
8-5-1941, page 1166.)

Travancore State.-

Reference was made at page 2 of our April, 1941, report to the adoption ~~by the~~ of the Travancore Payment of Wages Bill by the State Legislature. The Bill, as adopted, received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja on 7-5-1941 and has been promulgated as Act XX of 1116 M.E. (1941-42). (A copy of the Act was forwarded to Montreal along with our Minute A.8/478/41, dated 30-6-41).

Burma.-

Leave Rules of Government Press Employees.

The Government of Burma has notified rules to regulate the grant of leave to piece-workers employed in the Government Press, Rangoon. For pensionable and non-pensionable piece-workers leave on full pay will be granted according to the length of service ~~as~~ (Superior service: 16 days in a calendar year for those with less than 10 years' service; 23 days for those with 10 to 15 years' service; and 31 days for those with 15 years' service. Inferior service: 8 days, 11 days and 15 days respectively for employees with the above service-lengths). This leave is non-cumulative. Leave on medical certificate on half pay may be granted up to three months in the first instance and up to another three months on production of fresh medical certificate (six weeks in the first instance and another six weeks, in the case of inferior staff). Total medical leave available to a piece-worker during his service is 12 months (six months in the case of inferior staff). Injury leave at half pay rates may be granted to a piece-worker injured in circumstances entitling him to claim compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, to the extent of two years (one year in the case of inferior staff) for any one disability, with a limit of five years during a piece-worker's total service (~~21~~ 2½ years in the case of inferior staff).

(Notification No. 55 of the Finance
Department, dated 20-5-1941: The Burma
Gazette, Part I, dated 24-5-1941.)

Conditions of Work

Hours of Work.

6

Hours of Work Provision under Bengal Shops and Establishments Act: Clarification by Government. ✓

As the provisions in the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act relating to hours of work and intervals for rest of persons employed in shops are not sufficiently clear to the public, the Bengal Government has recently clarified the position as follows in a Government communiqué:-

Definition of 'Day'.- Under the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act 'day' means a period of 24 hours beginning at midnight. The Act does not prescribe any opening hour for the shops but it prescribes the closing hour, which is 8 p.m. (standard time). An additional half an hour is allowed for service of customers who are waiting in the shops to be served at 8 p.m. Thus a shop may open at any time in the day but it must close at 8 p.m. if there are no customers to be served at that hour and at 8-30 p.m. (standard time) if there are customers. Subject to this closing hour, a person employed in a shop may be required to work from any time in the day provided his hours of work do not exceed 10 hours in any one day or 56 hours in any one week. He should also be allowed an interval for rest of at least one hour during the day after 7 hours' work or an interval for rest of at least half an hour during the day after 5 hours' work.

Over-time Work.- Over-time work is permissible under the Act but only during certain prescribed periods such as holidays or other occasions when shops are required to keep open for the convenience of the public or when there is a business operation to do such as stock-taking, making of accounts, etc. Extra wages are payable for over-time work. The total number of hours of overtime work should not exceed 120 hours in one year.

Periods of Work and Rest Intervals.- The periods of work and intervals for rest of each person employed, including overtime work, if any, should not extend over more than 12 hours in any one day. If, however, a shop is entirely closed for a continuous period of not less than three hours on any day before the prescribed closing hour, i.e. 8 p.m., then the periods of work and intervals for rest, including overtime work, if any, may altogether extend over not more than 14 hours in that day.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 22-5-1941.) ✓

7

Industrial Health and Safety.

Measures for the Prevention and Control of Cholera in
Mines in Central Provinces. ✓

As the Government of the Central Provinces apprehends an outbreak of cholera in Hoshangabad District, it has adopted special measures for its check and control; as regards the mines in the district, the Government has laid down that labourers should be inoculated and has made arrangements for provision of drinking water and preparation of food for labourers under careful medical supervision. Labourers are also prohibited from entering any affected household in the mine colony.

(Notification No.3743-1050-XV: dated 21-5-1941.
The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part I, dated
23-5-1941, pages 368 to 371.) J

8

Inspection

Registration Fee for Factories:

Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce on Government Proposal. ✓

Reference was made at page 6 of our February 1941 report to the proposal of the Government of Bengal to impose a fee for the registration of factories in the province under the Factories Act with a view to strengthen the factories inspectorate. The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has expressed strong opposition to the proposal partly on grounds of its doubtful legality, partly because of the undesirable control which the right to grant or refuse a registration certificate would place in the hands of the Government over the industrial development of the province; but mainly on grounds of opposition to the principle involved, namely the imposition on one section of the community of a financial burden in respect of administrative costs which are incurred for the benefit of the community in general. In this connection, the Committee has contested the view of Government that the Factory Inspection Department is maintained "for the welfare of commercial concerns" and that it is therefore inequitable to ask the general body of taxpayers to meet the cost. The Committee contends that (1) the development of the factory system on sound lines is of major importance to the community at large and to the State; (2) labour legislation has already imposed heavy financial burden on industry; and (3) employers do not derive any direct benefit from the maintenance of the inspectorate, all such benefit going to the workers and the community generally.

(Abstract of proceedings of the Bengal
Chamber of Commerce, January, February
and March 1941.) ✓ +

Prohibition of Attachment of Salary below Rs. 100 per month:
Patna High Court decides Employees of Private Firms also
covered by Prohibition. ✓

That the salary below Rs. 100 per month of an employee, whether working under Government or under a private concern, could not be attached by civil court and any order for the attachment of the whole or a part thereof would be illegal was the decision given by the Patna High Court on 6-5-1941 on an appeal from the decision of the District Judge. ✓

It was argued before the District Judge by the Plaintiff that Section 60 of the Civil Procedure Code, as modified in 1937, which lays down that salaries below Rs. 100 per month are exempt from attachment for civil debts, covered only Government servants and not employees of private firms and that, therefore, the defendant, who was an employee in a private firm could not invoke exemption from attachment under that Section.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 9-5-1941.) ✓
+

Industrial Disputes

10

Industrial Disputes in British India during the quarter ending 30-9-1940. ✓

According to a press note on industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 30-9-1940, recently issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of strikes during the period was 49 involving 70,976 workers and entailing a loss of 856,494 working days as against 101 disputes involving 268,580 workers and entailing a loss of 2,474,263 working days in the second quarter of 1940.

Provincial Distribution.- During the period under review, there were 19 disputes in Bengal involving 32,012 workers and entailing a loss of 369,728 working days. Next comes Bombay with 4 disputes involving 2,771 workers and entailing a loss of 10,315 working days; the United Provinces with 6 disputes involving 6,322 workers and entailing a loss of 27,467 working days; Bihar with 3 disputes involving 7,100 workers and entailing a loss of 83,062 working days; and Assam, C.P., Madras, Orissa and the Punjab with 2 disputes each involving 2,468; 17,221; 1,500; 728 and 854 workers and entailing losses of 15,884; 307,492; 32,950; 7,368 and 2,208 working days respectively.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 17 disputes in the cotton and wollen mills involving 20,915 workers and entailing a loss of 320,512 working days; 5 in jute mills involving 15,939 workers and entailing a loss of 198,288 working days; 2 in mines involving 2,228 workers and entailing a loss of 65,368 working days and 1 in engineering workshops involving 176 workers and entailing a loss of 884 working days. In all other industries together, there were 24 disputes involving 31,718 workers and entailing a loss of 271,442 working days.

Causes and Results of Strikes.- Of the 49 strikes, 32 were due to questions of wages, 9 to those of personnel, 2 to leave and hours and 6 to other causes. In 41 disputes the workers were fully successful; in 12 partially successful and in 24 unsuccessful; 2 disputes were in progress on 30-9-1940. ✓

Nagpur Labour Dispute re. Dearness Allowance. ✓

On 1-5-1941, the workers of the Empress and Model Mills, Nagpur, numbering 20,000, struck work after due notice. The main demands of the workers, as stated in the notice, included 25 per cent. increase in wages, restoration of the remaining wage-cut effected some years ago, provision of one-anna provident fund and 50 per cent. war profit bonus. (The Statesman, 2-5-1941). The local Government's advice to postpone the strike pending its efforts to bring about a settlement was disregarded on the plea that the Government have had plenty of time to study the demands and bring about a settlement. The mills were closed on 3-5-1941. The strike continued throughout the month.

11

Towards the end of May, the delegates of textile workers in the province adopted a resolution envisaging a general strike of textile workers throughout the Province. ✓

Indore Mills Strike:

State Government appoints Enquiry Committee on Workers' Grievances. ✓

The textile workers of Indore were on strike from 17-4-1941, their main demands being grant of 40 per cent. increase in wages to cover rise in cost of living due to war and fixation of a 9-hour day. On 27-4-1941, police had to open fire on the strikers.

Appointment of Enquiry Committee.- On 1-5-1941, the Indore Government appointed a Committee with Mr. Justice Mege as Chairman with the following terms of reference: (1) to decide the basis according to which an allowance on account of the rise in the cost of living of the operatives after April 1, 1941, may be fixed and granted during the period of War; (2) to reconsider, if desired by either party, the terms of settlement effected through the Conciliation Officer, and (3) to consider such other grievances connected with the question of wages as the representatives of labour may like to place before it. The Committee is to start work immediately after the resumption of work by the strikers and submit its report to the Government within two months. (The Statesman, 4-5-1941.)

Settlement of Dispute.- The strike was settled on 15-5-1941 through the intervention of the Prime Minister, Indore State. The following terms were offered by the Prime Minister and accepted by the workers: (1) From April 1, 1941, a dearness allowance of 12½ per cent. would be given to all workers, irrespective of pay. This would continue during the period of the war. Immediately after the conclusion of the war, a committee would be appointed to go into the question of the dearness allowance that would be due to the workers under the living costs prevailing at that time. Workers would also receive the dearness allowance for the past nine months (July 1, 1940, to March 31, 1941), as settled by the Conciliation Officer and amended by the Prime Minister, that is, Rs. 2 per month for workers getting Rs. 25 and below; Rs. 1-8 per month for workers getting between Rs. 25 and Rs. 45 per month; and Rs. 1-8 per month for all weavers, irrespective of their wages. The Enquiry Committee appointed by Government would also consider other matters referred to it by Government.

(The Times of India, 17-5-1941.) ✓

Obligation of Shop-keeper to maintain Registers etc., even if
Workers are daily employed: Decision under Bombay Shops and
Establishments Act. ✓

Hasan Ali Gulamali, Proprietor, Coronation Durbar Hotel, Bombay, was prosecuted before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, for not displaying a notice of holidays and not maintaining a register of employees from day to day. The defence plea was that the employees being daily wage earners, the case did not come within the ambit of the Shops and Establishments Act; a further contention was that the contract of employment in respect of these employees being of one day only, the employer was not bound to maintain registers, etc., as this class of employees was not covered by the Act.

The Magistrate disagreed with the contentions of the defence and, after referring to the preamble of the Act, Sections Nos. 2 (13) (iv) and 17 and the Rules framed under the Act, came to the conclusion that it is immaterial whether the payment to the employees is made on daily, weekly or monthly basis. The Act, according to the Magistrate, regulated hours of work; the manner of payment was immaterial. He, therefore, found the accused guilty and fined *him* Rs. 10 on each count.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 22-4-1941.) ✓

"Casual Leave" and "Sick Leave" under Bengal Shops and
Establishments Act: Clarification by Government. ✓

"Casual leave" is not defined in the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act, 1940. Doubt having arisen whether bank holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, festival days or leave allowed on account of sickness to employees may all be set off against casual leave to which the employees are entitled under Section 12 of the Act, the Bengal Government has now explained that ~~the~~ "casual leave" though not defined in the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act, should be interpreted in the literal sense, that is, ^{that} it should be taken to mean leave which the employee might find himself obliged to ask for on account of any passing sickness or unforeseen private business which prevents him from joining his work. The Government ~~is~~ maintains that the difference between casual leave to which an employee is entitled under the Act and holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act and festivals which by custom he is

allowed to enjoy, is that, in the one case he asks for leave when he requires it, and in the other he is merely permitted to avail himself of the holidays because there is no need for his attendance. Such holidays, therefore, cannot be substituted for casual leave. Business offices and other concerns, which require a nucleus of staff to attend during holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act and festival days and allow the rest of the staff to be absent, should continue the practice. Cases, however, may arise when an employee called upon to attend office during such holidays owing to the exigencies of duty, absents himself from duty. If the absence is wilful, it may form the subject matter of disciplinary action against the employee - otherwise, his failure to be present may be condoned and the employee granted casual leave for the day. But, so as to minimise the chances of wilful disregard of calls to duty during holidays, Government thinks that employers should endeavour, as far as possible, to allow holidays to Hindus on Hindu festival days and to Muslims on Muslim festival days.

The Government expects that the spirit of the law will be observed and that the present practice of either closing the concern entirely or working it with a skeleton staff, permitting the majority of the employees to absent themselves, will be continued and that this should not encroach upon the privilege of casual leave extended to the employees under the Act.

Sick Leave. - The question of sick leave, the Government points out, is somewhat different. Ordinarily, sick leave may be substituted for casual leave, as casual leave is really meant to permit the employee to take leave if he felt suddenly sick or there was pressing necessity, but the question will need to be carefully considered in each case whether the conditions of sick leave allowed are more favourable than casual leave under the Act. Instancing * an example, the Government points out that a business concern at present allows seven days' sick leave on full pay if an employee is actually sick and found to be so by one of their doctors. The employee may prefer ten days' casual leave on half pay under the Act or may find the condition regarding examination by one of their employers' doctors irksome. It is pointed out that before it can give its decision in the case, the Government would like to be informed of the view generally held by the employees, that is, which leave is regarded by them as more favourable.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 1-5-1942.) 4

Recommendations of Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee re. Recruitment of Labour: Views of Indian Mining Association. ✓

The Government of Bihar recently invited the views of employers' organisations on the recommendations of the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee in regard to recruitment of labour; the views expressed by the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, on the subject are briefly summarised below:-

Preference in employment.- The Enquiry Committee expressed the desire that all establishments should adopt the practice of giving preference in employment to their former employees who have given good service but who have been ~~xxx~~ retrenched for want of work. They also endorsed the practice of giving preference in employment to relations of employees, but suggested that preference should be confined only to near relations of employees who have put in not less than five years' service. The Association has accepted the recommendations, but points out that the practice of giving preference in employment to near relations of employees may lead to lowering of standards of efficiency.

Employment of Peoples of the Province.- With a view to encourage the employment of Biharis in larger numbers, the Enquiry Committee suggested that Government should require all employers in the province to submit an annual statement showing the number ~~of~~ and proportion of employees by provinces and nationalities in different classes of work. Although the Association has no objection to the submission of an annual statement on the lines suggested, it is pointed out that it will add considerably to the work of colliery managers.

Rules of Recruitment.- The Association does not accept the contention of the Enquiry Committee that there has been discrimination against Biharis and it believes that the reason ~~for~~ the paucity of Biharis in senior posts is due to the scarcity of suitably trained and qualified men in the province. The Association is in agreement with the recommendation that mistries should not be allowed to employ labour and that employment should be in the hands of the management.

Recruitment by Contractors.- As regards recruitment by contractors, the Association still adheres to the view already expressed to the Enquiry Committee that since Provincial Governments were also large employers of contractors for their departmental works, they see no reason why the employment of contractors by coal mines should be interfered with; the abolition of the contractor system in Bihar would merely result in contractors taking their labour to the neighbouring province where they would be readily absorbed to the detriment of output in Bihar.

Protection of imported labour.- The Association supports the recommendation that where workers have been imported by an employer

15

(or his agent) and he is unable to find employment for the imported workers on adequate wages for more than a month, Government should assume power to compel the employer to repatriate them at the cost of the employer when requested to do so.

Employment Exchanges.- The Association does not favour labour exchanges as, owing to conservative habits, colliery workers could not be adapted without great difficulty to this method of regulation of employment. Certain types of labour will work in local conditions in which others will not accept employment. Moreover, the necessity for Labour Exchanges is not apparent having regard to the fact that competition for all mining labour in the Jharia field is invariably keen and with few exceptions the men in search of work can generally obtain employment. Labour Exchanges cannot prevent the regular periodical exodus of miners, particularly in July and November for agricultural purposes, and the continuity of employment which these Exchanges envisage cannot be maintained. For these reasons, the Committee is still of opinion that a case has not been made for the ~~est~~ establishment of an Employment Exchange under State control in the Jharia coalfield. ✓

(Extracted from Printed Proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 22-5-1941.) +

Welfare Work in Industrial Establishments:
Information collected by Employers' Federation of India. ✓

It is understood that the Employers Federation of India has, through its member-bodies, approached industrial establishments to furnish particulars of the welfare work undertaken by them, together with a statement of the approximate annual cost thereof. The Federation is planning to collect as complete information as possible regarding the type and extent of welfare work voluntarily undertaken by employers for the benefit of their work people.

(Proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 22-5-1941.) ✓ +

Mill-Managed Tea Canteens:
Suggestions re. Disposal of Profits by Millowners' Association,
Bombay. ✓ +

Reference was made at page 17 of our March 1941 report to the running of tea canteens in mills in Bombay and other places. The experience of working these canteens in several mills showed that small surpluses were being made and, in cases where mill managements did not charge rents or interest on loans, the surpluses were sometimes substantial. The question of utilising canteen surpluses was recently considered by the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, and the following principles for the guidance of mills in running the canteens were laid down:- (a) that mills should not be called upon to incur losses on any loans made towards the establishment or equipment of mill canteens; (b) that reasonable rents should be paid; and (c) that

16

the net surpluses should be devoted to welfare work, the nature of which should be left to mill managements.

The Committee agreed that 10 per cent. interest was a reasonable charge for canteens to bear, and that where gross profits permitted, that charge should be levied, and that, in addition, rent not exceeding Rs. 100/- in the case of single shift working and Rs. 150/- in the case of double or treble shift working should be charged for canteen premises. This rent, interest and depreciation would be a first charge on gross profits. Any remaining profits after deducting all other out of pocket expenses should be utilised for general welfare work at the discretion of mill managements.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for March 1941.) ✓

Labour Conditions in Baroda, 1938-39.* ✓

Number of Factories.- The total number of factories on the registers in the Baroda State on 31-7-1939 was 149 as against 148 in the previous year. The number of factories in actual operation ~~under the Factories Act~~ was 130 as against 137 in the previous year owing to shortage of cotton. Out of these, 31 were perennial and 99 seasonal as compared with 31 perennial and 106 seasonal in the previous year. Out of 31 perennial working factories, 17 worked on night shift either for part or whole of the year as against 18 factories in the previous year. 14 factories worked on night shift almost throughout the year as against 12 factories in the previous year. Several of the seasonal factories also worked on night shift during some part of the season.

Number of Workers.- Although the number of factories which were working during the year decreased, there was a slight increase in the number of operatives employed in factories. The total number of operatives employed in all factories during the year was 34,315 as against 34,208 in the previous year. Of the 34,315 workers, 28,763 were men, 5,390 women and 162 children (the respective figures for the previous year were 28,677, 5,311 and 220).

Inspection.- With the exception of a few, all the perennial factories were inspected. Out of the seasonal factories 66 were inspected once and in some cases more than once. 33 surprise visits by day and 21 by night were made.

Prosecutions.- No prosecutions were instituted but three warnings were given.

General Remarks.- A number of anonymous complaints, chiefly relating to work in excess of prescribed hours, were received by the inspectorate and, wherever possible, enquiries were instituted, which generally resulted in the causes of the complaints being removed. "There is no doubt, however", the report states, "that some of the seasonal factories take advantage of the Inspector's absence from the locality and work during prohibited hours as well as

*Annual Report of the Department of Industries and Labour, Baroda State, for the year ending 31st July 1939. Baroda State Press. 1940. Price Re.0-8-0. pp.65.

17

on weekly holidays. As constant supervision and check is impossible, the enforcement of the Factory Act in these respects depends on the existence of conscious public opinion and regard for law.†

Survey of Economic Conditions.- During the year under report, Mr. Desai, Assistant Director of Labour, submitted a detailed report on the economic and labour conditions in the textile mills at Kalol and Baroda. Useful information on the financial condition, hours of work, housing conditions, efficiency system of recruitment, welfare activities, etc., regarding these mills was collected and compiled by him.

Children Pledging Act.- In connection with the advisability of applying the British Indian Children Pledging of Labour Act, Mr. Desai during his visits at various industrial centres in the State ~~has~~ made inquiries and found that the practice of pledging child labour was not in vogue in the Baroda State territory. Government orders were accordingly obtained to drop the question.

Other Labour Acts.- There is a proposal to apply the Payment of Wages Act in British India, with necessary modifications to the State. The Trade Unions regulations and the Trade Disputes Rules were applied to the State during the year with necessary modifications.

Apprentice Scheme for Textile Mills.- With a view to provide the textile mills in the State with an intelligent and skilled labour force and in order to tackle, at the same time, the problem of unemployment among educated persons belonging to the backward communities, the Industries and Labour Department had submitted a scheme for training candidates in the textile mills in spinning, weaving and dyeing. These apprentices are ~~to~~ be given a monthly stipend of Rs. 10 each for the first six months of their training under the proposed scheme after which they would be given suitable wages by the mills depending on the skill and work done by them. Ten out of sixteen mills expressed their willingness to take the students on the above basis. Originally it was proposed to select 50 apprentices for each six-monthly period, and Rs. 6,000 were sanctioned for giving stipends. But as they were not coming forward in sufficient numbers to receive training, the number of apprentices has been reduced to 25 for each half-year.

Workmen's Compensation.- 21 applications for workmen's compensation were received during the year of which 19 were disposed of. During the year, compensation amounting to Rs. 6,073 was paid to workers in cases of accidents which occurred in industrial concerns, as against Rs. 7,410 in the previous year. The administration of the act continued to be in the hands of the Subas of the districts who ~~are~~ ex-officio Commissioners under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Maternity Benefits.- Total amount of Maternity benefits paid to female factory operatives during the year under report was Rs. 1,778-1-9 as against Rs. 863-8-0 paid in the previous year. The number of women who claimed benefits was 141. ✓

Number of Factories.- There were 1,900 factories on the registers at the beginning of the year as against 1,876 on the 1st January, 1938. During the year 110 factories were registered and 94 were removed. The number of factories on the registers at the end of the year was 1,916, of which 1,811 (519 seasonal and 1,292 non-seasonal) were in commission. Though there was an increase of sixteen factories on the registers, the number of factories in commission showed a decrease of seven. The total number of factories notified under section 5 of the Act was 99 at the end of the year as against 131 in 1938. No fresh notification was issued during the year as the staff was inadequate to cope with the work on hand.

Number of Workers.- The average number of workers employed daily in the 1,740 factories which submitted annual returns in time for the report was 197,266 as against 194,335 in the previous year; 5,498 of them were employed in Government and Local Fund factories. The increase of 2,931 workers is due to the starting of four cotton mills. Of the 197,266 workers, 29,650 were in seasonal factories and 167,616 in non-seasonal factories.

Of the 197,266 workers, 133,843 were adult males, 50,936 adult females, 8,541 adolescents (6,518 males, 2,023 females) and 3,946 children (2,433 males and 1,513 females).

Inspections.- Of the 1,811 factories in commission, 441 were inspected once, 724 twice, 472 thrice and 120 more than three times. The total number of inspections made was 3,884 as against 3,656 in 1938. 2,701 inspections were made by the full-time Factory Inspectors and 1,183 by the Additional Inspectors. 54 factories were not inspected by the full-time Inspectors. The total number of visits and inspections made by the full-time Inspectors was 3,388 as against 3,451 in 1938. The decrease in the total number of inspections and visits by the full-time Inspectors is due to time spent otherwise in settling labour disputes.

Hours of Work.- The daily rest interval as required by section 37 of the Act was observed in all factories except in the case of 154 factories exempted from this provision. Even the exempted factories gave sufficient time for meals, though not a fixed period. Sundays or substituted holidays were observed in all cases except 165 factories exempted from the provisions of section 35. A holiday at least once in fourteen days was, however, given as required by the condition attached to the exemption.

The number of non-seasonal factories in which the ~~normal~~ normal weekly hours were not above 42 was 60 for men and 127 for women; above 42 and not above 48 was 176 for men and 52 for women; and above 48 was 993 for men and 731 for women. 175 factories were employing children. The weekly hours for them do not exceed 30. 38 factories were exempted from the weekly limit of 54 hours, and 44 factories from the daily limit of 10 hours. The number of seasonal factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above

*Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Province of Madras for the year 1939. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1940. pp. 48.

48 was 21 for men and 43 for women; above 48 and not above 54 was 104 for men and 77 for women; and above 54 was 367 for men and 373 for women. No seasonal factory was exempted from the provisions of weekly and daily limits.

Prosecutions. - ~~Occupiers~~ Occupiers and managers of 126 factories involving 169 persons were prosecuted during the year. Convictions were obtained on 542 counts against 112 factories involving 151 persons. A sum of Rs. 7,613 was imposed as fines ranging from Re.1 to Rs.100 giving an average of Rs. 14-0-9 per count. In one case the same accused was prosecuted for the same offence twice and he was fined Rs. 100 in the second instance. The accused persons in two cases were acquitted. The amount of fine imposed in a few cases was not deterrent and commensurate with the gravity of the offence committed.

Holidays. - The grant of holidays with pay has been one of the points at issue in many of the recent industrial disputes in the Province. In the settlements arrived at, the managements have agreed to grant the concession. The cotton textile industry which employs about 35 per cent. of the workers engaged in the organised industries of the Province coming within the purview of the Factories Act allows six days casual or privilege leave and up to seven days sick leave to workers with a continuous service of one year. Both the jute mills and the match factory allow ten days leave with pay per annum. About 27,969 workers employed in registered factories other than cotton mills are allowed the privilege of holidays with pay. About 96,500 industrial workers out of about 197,300 workers employed in registered factories are now entitled to holidays with pay. This represents about 57.5 per cent. of those working in non-seasonal factories or about 50 per cent. of those employed in all registered factories including the seasonal factories.

Sickness Statistics. - 711,553 man-days were lost due to sickness. The attention of the managers of factories which did not maintain the record was drawn to rule 138-A of the Madras Factories Rules and necessary instructions were given in the matter. ✓

Dispute between Madras Bus Owners and Employees:

Details of Arbitrator's Award: Wages, Hours and Holidays-

Defined. ✓ +

The Government of Madras had some time back appointed Mr. V. Ramakrishna, I.C.S., Commissioner of Labour, Madras, as arbitrator in a dispute between the Madras bus owners on the one hand and drivers and conductors on the other, on the conditions of service of the latter. Mr. Ramakrishna has now brought about a settlement of the dispute; a brief summary of the conditions of settlement is given below:

Wages, Hours and Holidays of Drivers and Conductors. - The Madras City and Suburban Bus Companies' Association agreed to give a minimum pay of Rs. 36 per mensem to motor drivers who have put in two years' or more continuous service on 1-5-1941 and Rs. 35 to other drivers. As and when a motor driver who has put in less than

two years' ~~xx~~ continuous service, completes two years' continuous service, he will be promoted to the grade of Rs. 36 per mensem. Interruption of service consequent on the owners' failure to provide continuous employment and authorised leave of absence will not constitute a break in service. Periods of suspension will be excluded in computing service. Drivers have to work for a maximum period of 54 hours a week. No driver shall be allowed to work consecutively for more than 13 days without a holiday for a whole day. If a driver does not work for 54 hours a week or the hours fixed by the employer due to his own default, a proportionate deduction will be made in his pay. As regards the pay of conductors, the Madras City and Suburban Bus Companies' Association agreed to pay a minimum monthly salary calculated at Rs. 0-12-0 per duty of not more than 9 hours. In the case of conductors now in receipt of pay at the daily rate of Re. 0-10-0, they will be paid at the rate of Re. 0-11-0 per day ~~x~~ on and from 1-2-1942 (payable in March 1942) and at the rate of Re. 0-12-0 per day six months thereafter provided they have put in continuous satisfactory service. In the case of the conductors now in receipt of the pay at the daily rate of Rs. 0-11-0, they will be paid at the rate of Rs. 0-12-0 a day on and from 1-5-1942 (payable in June 1942) provided they have put in continuous satisfactory service. All the conductors who are in receipt of a daily pay of Rs. 0-12-0 and less will be granted an additional pay of Re. 1 per mensem. If a conductor does not ~~work~~ the duties allotted to him due to his own default a proportionate deduction will be made from his salary for the period of his default.

~~The Association~~ agreed to pay to drivers employed on buses run by means of producer gas an allowance of two annas per duty, ~~provided~~ *but* any driver who does not obtain a certificate of competency from an authority approved by the Commissioner of Labour on or before 7-5-1941, will not be entitled to the additional allowance thereafter until he obtains a certificate of competency and drives the bus satisfactorily. The drivers employed on ~~xxx~~ buses run by means of producer gas which are not properly insulated, will be paid an allowance of four annas per duty until these buses are insulated to the satisfaction of the Personal Assistant to the Chief Inspector of Factories.

In the event of any dispute arising as to the satisfactory nature of the service, the decision of the Personal Assistant to the Chief Inspector of Factories will be final.

Security of Tenure.- The Association agreed to confirm the drivers and conductors in the order of seniority having regard to the number of buses required for running to schedule. The surplus staff, if any, shall be arranged in the order of seniority and confirmed in the order of seniority as and when vacancies arise.

Supply of Uniforms.- The Madras Motor Drivers' Association did not press the claim for the supply of uniforms in this settlement. The Bus Companies' Association agreed to give a washing allowance of four annas per mensem to each driver and conductor.

Bonus or Provident Fund.- ~~B~~ The Drivers' Association did not press its claims in the settlement.

Casual and Sick Leave.- The Bus Companies' Association agreed to grant six days' leave (casual or sick) with pay for each year of continuous service subject to the exigencies of service. In case any employer is unable to grant the leave to any employee, he is to pay to him the salary for the holidays with pay, not granted.

Operation of Settlement.- So far as the points covered by the settlement are concerned, the parties agreed not to reopen any of the issues for a period of two years from 27-4-1941, provided that it should be open to the Commissioner of Labour to reopen any issue if he considered it necessary after the end of one year from that date. The Commissioner of Labour is to be the sole judge in regard to the interpretation of the terms of the settlement.

(The Indian Express, 14-5-1941.) ✓

Recommendations of the Bombay Textile Labour Enquiry Committee. ✓

Reference was made at pages 30-34 of our October 1937 report to the appointment of the ~~1~~ Textile Labour Enquiry Committee by the Congress Government of Bombay on 13-10-1937. The Committee submitted an Interim Report on 11th February, 1938 (vide pages 11 to 14 of our February 1938 report for a summary of the report) and recommended an increase in wages. This recommendation was accepted by Government and carried out by millowners. The Committee submitted its unanimous (final) Report containing 500 pages to the Government on 27-7-1940, though Government released it for publication only on 5-6-1941 (A requisition has been made for two copies of the report, and, when received, a copy ^{of the report} will be sent to Montreal). The following is a brief ~~xxxxxLivingWagexStandardxxx~~ summary of the main conclusions and recommendations of the Committee:-

Living Wage Standard.- "For a typical family of a husband, wife, and two children the range of total expenditure for maintaining a living wage standard we calculate at between Rs. 50 and Rs. 55 for Bombay and at Rs. 45 and Rs. 50 for Ahmedabad. For Sholapur the range would be about Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 less than for Ahmedabad, and the range for the other centres could be approximately determined by making similar appropriate allowances. Barring the higher grades of occupation such as those of sizers and warpers, and a section of the best-paid weavers in the bigger centres of the industry, earnings in all other occupations fail to come up to the living wage standard. For the large bulk of the workers, indeed, earnings fall far short of the standard."

Minimum Wage.- The Committee is unable to lay down, in any well-defined terms, a basis for the fixation of a minimum wage, the standard of living and the condition of the industry remaining the principal guiding considerations. In this connection, the establishment of a Trade Board, on the lines of such Boards in the United Kingdom, for the whole Province and more especially for the Cotton Textile Industry, is recommended. These Boards are to be composed of an equal number of representatives of employers and workers and are also to contain some independent persons. The main duty of the Trade Board is to fix minimum time and/or piece rates for as large a body of workers included in the industry as possible.

Standardisation of Wages.- A scheme of standardisation of wages for mills in Bombay is given in extenso at the end of Chapter V of the Report. The lowest wage proposed is Rs. 20 per month for women sweepers. A Standardisation Committee is to be set up for the purpose of attending to the working out of details of the scheme, watching its operation and making suitable adjustments in it.

Automatic Adjustment of Wages.- The Committee states that it is not necessary to recommend the adoption of a sliding scale based on any cost-of-living index number in the ~~Cotton Textile Industry~~; the Committee is also not in favour of any profit-sharing scheme nor any sort of automatic adjustment of wages.

Working of Shifts.- Night shift working is not generally favoured by the Committee. An alternative suggested is in the form of a two-shift system, commencing from 7 a.m. on the basis of $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours each, exclusive of ~~of~~ half an hour's interval for rest during each shift. Only in very special cases, 3-shifts working is to be permitted by the authorities. This recommendation, it is pointed out, will not only adequately meet the objection to night shift without involving its entire abolition, but will also secure to the employers all the advantages of two-shift work. The Committee also recommends that whenever night-shift in a factory is stopped, workers should be retained in employment according to the length of their service. This safeguard will meet the main objection of the workers to a change-over.

Rationalisation.- The Committee has recommended the setting up of a Rationalisation Committee ~~to be appointed~~ by Government, ~~and~~ consisting of three representatives of employers and three representatives of workers, with two expert assessor members, presided over by an independent chairman not connected with the textile industry. The function of the Committee is to examine schemes of rationalisation submitted to it by employers and also to hear complaints and disputes arising out of such schemes already introduced. The Committee should enquire whether working conditions of the nature the Enquiry Committee has set forth have been established satisfactorily. The essence of the success of any efficiency scheme, it is pointed out, is that "it should be launched with the co-operation of those who have to work it". It is recommended that the workers to be retrenched should be those with the shortest length of service and that an employer dismissing workers on account of the introduction of efficiency measures should pay out-of-work gratuity to retrenched workers with service of one year or more at the rate of one week's pay for every six months' service exceeding a period of one year, subject to a maximum of six weeks' pay. Workers with twelve months' service should receive two weeks' pay.

Financial and Industrial Reorganisation.- The Committee considers that the formation of pools for certain specified purposes represents a modest method of reorganisation which will yield satisfactory results. The following main lines have been indicated:- organisation of a mutual fire insurance company; joint purchase of stores and of imported cotton; establishment of a warehousing corporation; a joint organisation for the development of export trade; allocation of production of specialised sorts to specific units or centres; encouragement of subsidiary industries; and technical research and its utilisation. It is recommended that an All-India Industrial Council should be established in the immediate future to deal with the problems relating to the cotton textile industry in the various Provinces and Indian States.

While the Committee does not favour the imposition of any restriction on the payment of dividends, it recommends that, when questions of the capacity of the industry to pay are under examination, a standard should be kept in view for a fair return to the shareholder and that this return ~~to the shareholder and that this return~~ should not be placed at a figure which is much in excess of the average return on long-term gilt-edged securities in the period under examination. The proposed All-India Industrial Council, it is recommended, should also ~~be~~ put forward proposals for securing facilities for credit and reduction in freight charges for the export trade in textile manufactures. It is further urged that some uniformity of policy in the matter of octroi duties, terminal taxes, water rates, etc., should be suggested by Government for adoption by the local bodies concerned.

Welfare Work and Social Legislation.- The more important recommendations under this head are: establishment of an Institute of Industrial Hygiene, Psychology and Welfare; formulation of a well-planned housing programme so as to provide cheap and decent accommodation for workers; liquidation of illiteracy amongst the working classes; provision for rendering more effective medical aid; measures to check the growth of indebtedness; promotion of consumers' co-operative societies; group insurance in the absence of other forms of social insurance; maintenance of adequate air conditioning plants in certain departments, and of plants for the removal of dust in carding rooms, and provision of nasal respirators for workers in mixing rooms. Payment of retirement gratuities after a period of approved service is ~~a~~ recommended, while establishments which are financially sound are asked to adopt provident fund schemes. Schemes of sickness insurance and unemployment insurance on a compulsory and contributory basis are advocated for Bombay and Ahmedabad in the first instance. The administration of these is to be under the control of a Central Board of Management. In the opinion of the Committee, schemes of sickness insurance, unemployment insurance and old-age pensions should have priority over the adoption of holidays with pay.

Labour Management and Organisation.- 'Badli' (substitute) control system ~~introduced in Bombay~~; duties and responsibilities of labour officers in industrial establishments; recruitment, dismissal and promotion of workers; eradication of bribery and corruption; organisation by Government of employment exchanges in large industrial centres; preparatory technical training for workers as in Japan; constitution of Labour Courts on the lines of those in other countries; rest pauses at regular intervals to eliminate loitering during working time; reduction of labour turnover and absenteeism; abolition of the contract system of engaging labour; efficacy of collective agreements between workers and employers; and organisation of trade unions on proper lines - ~~xxx~~ these are some of the subjects on which recommendations have been made by the Committee. These, in the opinion of the Committee will contribute to make the labour force more stable and more efficient than it is at present.

(The Indian Textile Journal, June 1941 issue,
and the Industrial Bulletin issued by the
Employers' Federation of India, dated 16-6-1941.)

Bombay Government's Views on the Report.- The Bombay Government has made the following observations on the report:-

"The Committee's findings and recommendations cover a wide field of subjects and they fall into various groups classified according to whether action is to be taken by the Central or the Provincial Government, by the employers alone, or by labour, or by a close co-operation between the two. Certain of the Committee's findings, such as those on the living wage standard and unemployment insurance, must, under the present economic conditions in the country, be considered as of purely theoretical value and academic interest. Some of the Committee's recommendations, e.g., those on sickness insurance, holidays with pay, etc., are of an all-India rather than of a provincial character and relate, moreover, to subjects which have already been discussed at the two conferences of Labour Ministers convened by the Government of India at Delhi in 1940 and 1941. The recommendations relating to such subjects as the establishment of Committees for rationalisation and standardisation of wages, the formation of trade boards and labour courts and the establishments of employment exchanges will have to be subjected to close and careful consideration before any action can be taken on them. Some of the Committee's recommendations are not of great importance at the moment although they may become so at the conclusion of the war. As a whole the proposals aim at providing standards for workers at a considerable cost both to the Government and to the textile industry. Before they can be adopted in whole or in part, it is necessary to achieve some agreement with other industrial Provinces and States, since the adoption of ~~an~~ higher standards in one Province only is likely to be a handicap to industry and employment in that Province. Bombay is already ahead of other Provinces in its labour legislation and welfare work and the time has come to urge the advance of other parts of India, pari passu, with Bombay, if the industry in the Province is not to suffer from the imposition of burdens from which industries elsewhere are free.

"As regards the Committee's proposal for the appointment of an all-India Council to co-ordinate work on industrial problems, a first step in this direction has already been taken by the Government of India in the calling of the Conference of Labour Ministers which was held at Delhi in 1940 and again this year, and in the Commerce, Industries and Labour Member of the Government of India inviting representatives of capital and labour to meet him ~~at~~ at Calcutta early in January this year."

(Press communiqué No. 307 dated 4-6-1941
issued by the Director of Information,
Bombay.) ✓ +

Plea for Committee of Enquiry into Coal Industry:Indian Mining Association supports Mining Federation. ✓+

The Indian Mining Federation had recently invited the attention of the Government of India to the gradual deterioration in conditions in the coal industry and suggested the appointment by Government of a Committee of Enquiry to devise ways and means by which the industry might be assisted in solving its various problems. The Federation had suggested that the terms of reference should include amongst others, the following subjects: (a) Planned regulation of output of coal; (b) Conservation of coal, specially of the metallurgical variety; (c) Marketing organisation; (d) State ownership and standardisation of royalties; (e) Unification of cess, taxes and other charges on coal and coke; (f) Planned distribution of coal to the different industries on the basis of quality; (g) Effects of Provincial Autonomy on the coal industry; (h) Railway-owned collieries vis-a-vis public-owned collieries; (i) Problems of wagon ~~and~~ supply; (j) Fuel research and utilisation of the inferior grades of coal; (k) Railway coal freight policy; and (l) Fixation of a minimum price for coal.

The proposal, which was referred to the Indian Mining Association by the Federation, has been endorsed by the Association.

(Proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 22-5-1941.) ✓+

Industrial Standardisation Possibilities:Government of India consults Trade Interests. ✓+

The Government of India has in the second week of May 1941 addressed a communication to all recognised chambers of commerce and trade associations in India on the subject of industrial standardisation. The communication draws the attention of the organisations to ~~the~~ the decision of the Industries' Conference held at Lucknow last December. (vide page 10 of the report of this Office for December 1940), which expressed the opinion that the examination of the question of standardisation was most desirable and that it could only be done in the closest consultation with the industries concerned.

Inviting suggestions and observations on the question of standardisation of products, the Government of India trusts that the industries concerned will try to see whether they can organise themselves so that they may be able to speak as one unit. It may be recalled that the last Industries Conference held the view that standardisation should be effected in close consultation with the Export Advisory Council which might be able to give valuable help in respect of export markets, etc. The Conference also discussed the question of standardisation with respect to the engineering, chemical, building and textile industries and pointed out that this was particularly necessary in connexion with the manufacture of war supplies.

(The Statesman, 16-5-1941.) ✓+

Tests and Certification of Quality of Local Products:

Bombay Government makes Arrangements. ✓+

The Government of Bombay has accepted the recommendation of the Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee (vide pages 16-20 of the September 1940 report of this Office) that provision should be made for testing the products of local industries for quality and that certificates should be issued by the Department of Industries. As an experimental measure, the Department of Industries has been entrusted with the duty of testing and issuing certificates for soaps, inks, tooth paste, tooth powder, hair oils, sealing wax, gum, crayons and office paste. Appropriate scales of fees to be charged for certificates will be fixed later.

(Communiqué No. 298 issued on 31-5-1941
by the Director of Information, Bombay.) ✓+

Economic Survey of Travancore State:
Statistics of Representative Areas. ✓

The Government of Travancore has in the second week of May 1941 started an economic survey of selected areas in the State. The investigation is confined to families living in certain typical and representative areas chosen from the different parts of the State. The State is divided into three zones - the lowland, the midland and the highland. Besides these three broad groups, the municipal towns, marketing centres and industrial areas have also been kept in view in the choice of representative units for investigation. A set of 70 questions has been incorporated in a key schedule under the heads of size of family, wealth and income, expenditure, fragmentation of holdings, crops and indebtedness, etc.

(The Hindu, 18-5-1941.) ✓+

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various
Centres in India during February 1941. +

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during February 1941, as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in February 1941 advanced by 2 points to 119. The average for 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during February 1941 remained unchanged at 79. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during February 1941 remained stationary at 77. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in February 1941, fell by 1 point to 70. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 63 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in January 1941 declined by 1 point to 68. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during February 1941 remained unchanged at 108. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

(Extracted from February 1941 issue of Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India.) ✓

New Industries for India;

Recommendations of Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. ✓

The Board of Industrial and Scientific Research set up by the Government of India in April 1940 (vide page 13 of the report of this Office for March 1940) has recently recommended, as the result of research conducted under its auspices, six new industries for commercial exploitation by Indian industrialists. These are: laminated paper fibre board; dry cell manufacture which is at present manufactured at the Benares Hindu University out of Indian materials; resin impregnation of wood; manufacture of glass substitutes which possess fire-resisting capacity and is of great advantage in war zones where aerial bombings cause damage from flying pieces of ordinary glass panes; bhilwan nuts from which oil is extracted in the C.P. and South India for use in paints and enamelling; and manufacture of luminous pigments and paints. The commercial possibilities of these industries are indicated below:-

Laminated Fibre Boards.- Fibre board has found many uses. Electric insulation, brake lining, packing cartons, suitcases, trays and carriers for yarn in jute and cotton mills, etc., are just a few of the instances of their multifarious uses. The raw materials are easily available in India and the approximate cost of the production of one square foot of the finished board of ~~the~~ thickness of 0.05 inches is about Re.0-5-6, roughly Re.1/- per lb. The selling price of a well-known fibre board which is equivalent to this product is Re.1-12-0 per lb.

Dry Cell Manufacture.- Dry cells are being imported into India for a number of years. Only within the last few years some are being manufactured in India. Most of the manufacturing firms in India have been importing almost all the raw materials for the manufacture of cells. Research work has shown that untreated Indian ores from half a dozen different mining centres can be used for dry cell manufacture. The cost of production is estimated at Rs.10/- per gross cells as against the price of quality cells varying between Rs.12/- and Rs.15/- per gross ex-factory. Taking Rs.12/- as the selling price per gross to dealers, the profit per year comes to about Rs. 33,000 on an investment of Rs. 100,000 which means 33 per cent. profit on capital investment. The import figures for this commodity vary between Rs. 2.2 to 2.5 million per year.

Resin Impregnation of Wood.- This treatment gives a good polished surface and improves surface hardness, beam strength and toughness. The swelling and shrinking properties produced by humidity changes and acid resisting property, are also improved by this treatment. The raw materials required are easily available and the cost of production of 1 gallon of treating solution, which is sufficient for about 2½ cubic feet of wood is not expected to be more than Re.1/-.

Glass Substitutes. Glass substitutes have one very great advantage over ordinary glass and that is their reduced liability to damage in transit. These may be cut to sizes very ~~at~~ easily by shears. Substitute glass is a very convenient material for rapid construction of barracks and similar buildings. The cost of the

finished product for a square yard, including a profit of 4 annas is estimated to be Rs.2-10-0 as against Rs.2-13-0, which is the price of the imported article.

Bhilawan Stoving Enamel.- The cost of the finished enamel works out ~~at~~ Rs.1-6-0 per gallon excluding overhead charges, as against Rs.9-0-0 being the price of black stoving enamel per gallon. Even if the price of bhilawan goes up from Rs.2-8-0 to Rs.6-0-0 a maund (80 lbs.) the cost of production would not be more than Rs.1-14-0 per gallon. The capital outlay for a concern capable of producing about 200 gallons of bhilawan stoving enamel per day is not likely to exceed Rs. 50,000.

Luminous Paints.- Luminous paints have sufficiently justified their use. The cost of production of pigment, excluding labour charges, will be less than Rs.2/- per lb., whereas the usual price of good luminous pigments just at the outbreak of the war (1939) was above Rs.10/- per lb.

(A.B. Patrika, 11-5-1941.) ✓ +

Jute Restriction Scheme:

Agreement between Bengal and Assam Governments.

At the Jute Restriction Conference between the representatives of ~~the~~ the Governments of Bengal and Assam on 20 and 21-5-1941, the fundamental basis of an agreed settlement on the restriction scheme between the two provinces ~~has been~~ ^{was} reached. The object of the agreement is to restrict jute cultivation in the two provinces, with a view to keep up declining prices.

(The Statesman, 22-5-1941). ✓ +

Shipping Scarcity:

Decisions of Export Advisory Council. ✓ +

At the meeting of the Export Advisory Council (vide pages 14-15 of the report of this Office for May 1940) held at Simla on 14-5-1941, with Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member with the Government of India, in the chair, among other matters, the shipping difficulties experienced by Indian trading and commercial interests came up for prominent discussion.

Exports to United Kingdom.- It was pointed out that under the existing arrangements, shipping space for the United Kingdom was allotted to each shipper in proportion to his shipments in the pre-war years to the U.K. by each line. This system was satisfactory so far as the established shippers to the U.K. were concerned, but it entirely shut out from the export trade all those who had

made shipments to the U.K. by lines other than those now operating and also those whose trade in the pre-war years was with countries other than the U.K.

The Council considered ~~it~~ that it would be desirable to adopt a more general policy which would give some relief to those shippers, who were now precluded from getting any shipping space. The Chairman suggested that the members should get into touch with their respective associations and put forward proposals calculated to achieve at least a limited solution of the problem.

Export to America.- With regard to shipments to America, it was stated that the American liners' conference which had been hitherto allocating shipping space to established shippers at Calcutta had changed the procedure and were effecting the distribution of space among importers in America. The revised procedure, it was alleged, affected harshly the established shippers in Calcutta, and the Government of India were requested to take appropriate action in the matter.

It was recognised that little could be done in cases where the Government of the importing country had introduced a system of import control and shipping space had to be allotted on the basis of import licences granted by such Government.

Remission of Demurrage.- It was stated that certain Port Trusts were already giving some remission of demurrage charges in respect of cargo which had to be detained at ports owing to sudden requisitioning of the vessels by Government, and it was urged that Government should arrange to secure similar concessions at other ports as well.

(The ~~Ex~~ Statesman, 13-5-1941;
The Bombay Chronicle, 23-5-1941) ✓

+

War Stimulates Indian Industries:

Some Illustrative Cases. ✓

The war, with the reduction in substantial measure of imports that it has occasioned, has led to the starting of several new industries and the further stimulation of established industries in this country. Some cases in point are briefly noticed below:

Production of Natural Dyes.- Rapid strides are being made by scientific and industrial research to make India produce vegetable dyes particularly useful at this time. New natural dyestuffs have been produced from the barks of a number of common Indian trees at the Government Silk Institute, Nathnagar. These dyestuffs are also obtained in powder and paste form. By using different fixing agents with the same powder different shades have been obtained. The Indian Jute Mills' Association is investigating the possibilities of special dyeing methods and intend to produce sack marking ink. The University of Mysore is trying to use myrobalans for manufacturing dyes. Experiments have been successfully made at the Government Textile Institute, Madras, with several natural dye-yielding products of indigenous growth, the use of which was in vogue prior to the advent of synthetic dyes. With a view to reviving the industries on vegetable dyes, the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research

has set up an exploratory committee on vegetable dyes, as a result of whose labours, it is expected that more vegetable dyes would be in use.

(The Times of India, 3-5-1941.)

Cod Liver Oil.- Indian imports of cod liver oil have been either stopped or considerably reduced by the war. The Industries Department of the Government of Bombay has discovered a simple method, after a series of experiments, of extracting oil from the liver of shark, which is amply available on the Konkan Coast. The shark ~~river~~ liver is said to contain vitamins "A" and "D" in a great measure. Some experts are of opinion that shark liver oil is quantitatively twice as good as cod liver oil. The Industries Department, Government of Bombay, has deputed a special officer to train fishermen to extract oil from shark liver.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 9-5-1941.)

Manufacture of Hurricane Lanterns.- The great scope for the lantern manufacturing industry in this country was emphasised by Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar on the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone of a lantern factory in Delhi. He said that two factories in Bombay and Calcutta were in a position to meet only one tenth of Indian requirements. Dr. Bhatnagar said that approximately four million hurricane lanterns were imported into India every year.

(The Statesman, 25-5-1941.)

SOCIAL INSURANCEWorking of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act in 1939.* ✓

The provisions of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act are applicable only to women employed in the non-seasonal factories. The total number of non-seasonal factories on the register at the end of the year was 1,339 as against 1,332 in 1938; but only 1,292 were in commission during the year as against 1,290 in the previous year. Of the 1,292 factories that were in commission during the year only 933 factories employed women workers as against 922 in 1938. Returns were not received from 42 factories. The average daily number of women employed in factories in commission was 39,776, as against 38,070 in 1938. During the year 1901 claims were made as against 1,715 in 1938. Of the 1901 claims 1,408 were fully paid to the women concerned and in eight cases to the nominee of the women. The total amount of benefits paid during the year was Rs. 34,262-3-0 as against Rs. 27,807 in 1938. The increase in the number of claims is due to the change made in the qualifying period, by the amendment of section 5 (1) during 1939. ✓ +

*Report on the working of the Factories Act in the province of Madras for the year 1939. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1940. pp. 48. ✓

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Vocational Education in Bombay Province:

More High Schools converted to Technical High Schools. ✓

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned the conversion of some of its high schools into agricultural, technical or commercial high schools with a view to providing alternative vocational education for boys who have no aptitude for higher literary studies, but have a bent for vocational education, and are not able to proceed to the University after passing the matriculation examination.

Six high schools have already been converted into vocational high schools ~~xxxx~~ in the Presidency, and the Government has recently announced that the Elphinstone High School, Bombay City, one of the biggest schools in the Presidency, will be converted into a technical high school from June 1941.

The vocational schools are not expected to be entirely different from the present common schools. Out of the seven standards in the technical school, the courses of the first three standards will remain more or less as they are at present, with such alterations as may be necessary to give the instruction in these standards a bias towards the vocation pursued in the upper classes. Even in the four higher standards the course of studies will include the Regional Language, English, Elementary Mathematics, Science and Geography, vocational instruction taking the place of Additional Language and History. The proposed schools are thus midway between purely literary and technical schools. They may be appropriately called Vocational Bias Schools. They will have the benefits, though necessarily restricted, of technical as well as literary education. As their success will depend largely on the status assigned to them by employing agencies and higher educational bodies, the Government has decided to institute a School Leaving Certificate Examination for those who have gone through the vocational course. Government have also declared that the holders of these certificates will be eligible for entrance into the Government service in the same manner as the holders of Matriculation Certificates, and will be given preference for appointments for which knowledge of and skill in the particular vocation is considered desirable. Finally, Government propose to make efforts to get these certificates recognised by the University as equivalent to the Matriculation Certificates in appropriate groups to subjects and to facilitate the admission of the certificate holders to colleges and other higher institutions, like the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute and the Engineering College (Diploma Course), which teach higher vocational courses.

Commenting on the experiment, the Bombay Chronicle in its issue dated 10-3-1941 observes:

"If the technical schools enable students to start small industries of their own, they will doubtless be a blessing. But if they fit the students only for jobs in industrial or commercial concerns without enabling them to develop the concerns, there is no real relief of unemployment. That relief will be possible only if there are more concerns to engage more men, in other words, if there is industrial development. But industrial development depends at least as much upon Government as on business men and educationists."

(The Bombay Chronicle 8. and 10-5-1941.) ✓

Loans to Artisans to Start Business:

Bombay Government's Scheme.

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned a scheme for grant of subsidies and loans to artisans for purchase of appliances and tools and for provision of working capital. The scheme provides for the grant of 50 per cent. of the cost of equipment as subsidy and the remaining 50 per cent. as a loan, free of interest. In addition, a separate loan, also free of interest, will be made, if necessary, to serve as working capital. Repayment of the loan will be spread over five years in equal monthly instalments.

The Director of Industries will normally grant assistance to the extent of Rs. 500 for appliances and equipment and Rs.250 for working capital in each individual case, but applications for higher sums will be dealt with by the Government. The recoveries of loan instalments are to be effected as arrears of land revenue.

(The "Bombay Information", dated 24-5-1941.)

+

35

MIGRATION

Indian Emigration to Burma:

Baxter Report being considered by Governments of India and Burma.

The Baxter Report dealing exhaustively with the questions of Indian immigration into Burma has been submitted to the Government of Burma, but has not yet been released to the public; the report is now being studied by the Governments of India and Burma. (The Indian Express, 12-5-1941.)

The Standing Committee on Emigration of the Indian Central Legislature which met at Simla in the middle of May considered at length the position resulting from the notice given by the Government of Burma of termination on 31-3-1941 of the Government of Burma Order 1937, which permitted unrestricted immigration into Burma (vide page 24 of our April 1941 report); the Government of India also consulted the Committee regarding the Burma Government's invitation for an Indian Delegation to Rangoon to consider the immigration question. It is learnt that the Government of Burma will shortly constitute a Board consisting of one European, one Burman and one Indian to recommend rules for immigration and passports for Indian entrants into Burma. This Board will be set up to work out a plan on the basis of the Baxter Report. (The Hindu, 17-5-1941.)

Strike of Indian Workers in Selangor

Rubber Estates: Demand for Increased Wages.

A strike of Indian workers in the rubber plantations of Selangor State occurred in the first half of May.

In answer to interpellations in the House of Commons, on behalf of Lord Moxley Moyné, Colonial Secretary, Mr. Hall said the strike involved some 7000 workers and that between 10 and 15-5-1941 five deaths occurred as the result of strike disturbances. Mr. Hall further said that there was no justification for the strike since the wages of Indian estate workers in the rubber industry were higher than ever before and included a cost of living allowance. (The Hindu 30-5-1941).

The Hindu, Madras, dated 30-5-1941 in a leading article repudiates the assertions made by Mr. Hall. It points out that the present rate of wages - 60 cents for males and 50 cents for females - is very low and makes no allowance for the increased cost of living due to the war, that the purchasing power of the Straits dollar is equal to only annas eight, that the spending capacity of a labourer in Malaya getting 50 cents could be only on a par with that of a labourer in India getting annas four, that the Indian workers net wages ~~including indirect taxation~~ in Malaya is even less owing to indirect taxation, and that the employer very often evades the obligation imposed by the Labour Code to provide 24 days work in the month, and that in this way also wages are reduced. The paper concludes; "To attribute the strikes to subversive propaganda and the work of political agitators is wilfully to ignore the plain writing on the wall."

AGRICULTURESind Debt Conciliation Act, 1941.✓

The Sind Government has recently adopted legislation to relieve agricultural indebtedness by amicable settlement through debt conciliation boards. No creditor is to be allowed in settlement of principal and interest an amount greater than twice the principal. No interest more than 9 per cent. is to be allowed.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV,
dated 5-6-1941, pages 280 to 298.) ✓+

Punjab Commercial Employees demand regulation of Hours of Work. ✓ +

"Thirty-three hours a week for brain workers" was the demand made by a deputation of the Commercial Employees Welfare Association, Lahore, which recently waited on the Chief Inspector of Shops and Establishments, Punjab.

Mr. B.L. Rallia Ram, as the spokesman of the deputation, enumerated the grievances of this particular class of commercial employees for whom, it was explained, the recent Trade Employees Act had made no provision. This Act had fixed 54 hours of work a week and this limit, the deputationists pointed out, was being applied by employers even to brain workers. They urged that the definition of 'employee' under the Act be changed and a distinction drawn between employees who have to do brain work and those who carry on the business of sale, purchase, etc. It was also requested that the rules governing similar class of employees in Government service be made applicable to brain workers in commercial firms, especially as regards hours of work, leave, holidays and general provident fund.

The Chief Inspector promised to forward these demands to the Government for consideration.

(The Statesman, 31-5-1941.) ✓ +

Working Hours in Offices:

Bengal Committee to Investigate Problem. ✓ +

In order to investigate the suitability or otherwise of the time of work followed at present at various private and Government offices, a sub-committee has been formed by the Bengal Provincial Sanitary Board with Lt.-Col. A.C. Chatterji, Director of Public Health, as Chairman. The sub-committee has circularised a questionnaire among various private and public institutions with a view to eliciting their opinion on the matter, ~~and to enable to understand the difficulties and problems involved in it.~~ The matters dealt with in the questionnaire include the present working hours, the extent of output of work and the scope and facilities for social activities and social relationships afforded by the present system and suggestions for better alternative arrangements.

Lt.-Col. Chatterji's Views: Morning Hours better.- In a note on "Time of Work" circulated along with the questionnaire, Lt.-Col. Chatterji points out that the present system of working hours, which is between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. is not conducive to the output of maximum amount of work, which ~~of course~~ means economic loss, because of high temperature and humidity obtaining during this period. So, he emphasises that routine work should be carried out from early morning to the middle of the day and only such urgent work that cannot wait till the next morning may be carried out in the afternoon again. But there should be cessation of all work between 12 noon and 3 p.m. Lt.-Col. Chatterji

~~Chatterji~~ suggests that the period of working ~~hours~~ may be from 7 a.m. to 12 noon during winter and 6-30 to 11-30 a.m. during summer. Adjustments may have to be made in respect of the working hours of factories, shops, mills and workshops. More number of shifts of workers may have to be employed. In any case, this question of ~~time~~ ^{time line} of work, most suitable to this country, he affirms, requires very careful and serious consideration of all concerned.

(The Hindu, 19-5-1941.) ✓+

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

The Bengal Co-operative Societies Act, 1940. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 13 to 62 of Part III of the Calcutta Gazette dated 1-5-1941, where is published the Bengal Co-operative Societies Act, 1940. ✓

40

LIVING CONDITIONS

Nutrition

Need for Nutrition Propaganda:

Memorandum to Government by Indian Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta. ✓

The Committee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, has addressed a detailed communication to the Government of Bengal regarding the necessity for the dissemination of knowledge in the province among the people about nutrition value of foods and preservation of health on an organised basis. The Committee suggests that for this purpose a sum of at least Rs. 100,000 a year should be placed at the disposal of the department of Public Health in order to enable it to carry on propaganda in the matter.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 1-5-1941.) ✓

Nutrition and Diet:

Discussion by Conference of Christian Medical Association of
India, Burma and Ceylon. ✓

A Medical Conference under the auspices of the Christian Medical Association of India, Burma and Ceylon, Madras area, ^{was} held on the 26th and 27th May, 1941, in Kodaikanal with Dr. C.C. Cutting of the London Missionary Society, Chickballapur, as Chairman; the main theme was: "The Relation of Nutrition to Medicine".

The importance of a well-balanced diet and the problems of nutrition with special emphasis on vitamins, were dealt with in the addresses and papers before the Conference. Dr. T. Howard Somervell of Neyyoor referred to the results of his investigations based on surveys of school children in Travancore in this matter, in his address on 'Vitamin in gastric condition'. A paper by Dr. Murray H. Webb-Peploe, Tinnevely, which examined in detail the condition of vitamins in South Indian children and offered suggestions for improving vitamin deficiency, was also read out by Dr. Somervell. Another paper was contributed by Dr. E. Little of Dharapuram on 'Hospital Diet', which advocated co-operation between hospitals and educational institutions in the matter of educating the public, and supported a properly balanced, inexpensive and readily available diet for hospitals. Dr. S. Gurubotham spoke on 'Vitamin A in Health and Disease' and initiated a discussion on practical dietetics. He referred to Mahatma Gandhi's efforts to solve the problem of a ~~the~~ proper and well-balanced diet for the Indian people as part of the national question and urged that a reformation of the present diet, which would lead to the fullest utilisation of vitamins in natural food, was absolutely essential to-day.

(The Hindu, 30-5-1941.) ✓

41

State and Nutrition:

Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association's Work. ✓

At the annual meeting of the Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association, held in the last week of April 1941, in Bombay, the Secretary gave a brief account of the nutrition research work of the Association.

Research into cheap balanced diets was carried out by the Association during the last five years. Foods like skimmed milk powder, groundnut-cake, rice bran, soyabean, etc., were given an extensive trial. They ~~a~~ improve the poor man's diet to a certain extent, but it was found that they cannot entirely replace fresh whole milk, a small quantity of which is necessary. At least half a pound of milk and half a pound of vegetables per person per day were found to be essential in both vegetarian diet and non-vegetarian diet to ensure normal growth ~~of~~ ^{and} good health. The cost of all the foodstuffs in such a diet came to about Rs. 5-8-0 a month per person at contract rates in Bombay during the pre-war days. Of this amount as much as Rs. 2-12-0 was required for milk and vegetables alone. A cup of milk a day does not go far but investigation of the diets of the working class families in Bombay showed that each person is taking hardly two ounces of milk and four ounces of vegetables a day; and much of this milk is for children alone. They ~~could not afford to take more because of the cost.~~ The Secretary stressed the need for a strong co-ordinating Committee with a broad nutrition policy. Such a Committee has been appointed by the Government of Bengal and it has already begun ~~spade~~ work. The Government of Bombay also should appoint a Nutrition Committee and secure on it representatives of larger Municipalities, Railways, Steamships, companies and the existing producing and marketing interests.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 1-5-1941.) ✓

Housing

42

The Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, 1941. ✓

At pages 75 to 78 of the Government Gazette (Extraordinary),
^{*dated 23-5-1941*} Punjab, is published the text of the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction
Act, 1941, adopted by the local legislature to restrict the increase
of rents of premises situated within the limits of urban areas in the
province. ✓

Employers' Organisations.

Employers' Association of Northern India:
4th Annual Meeting, Cawnpore, 21-4-1941.

The 4th annual meeting of the Employers' Association of Northern India was held at Cawnpore on 21-4-1941, Mr. H.A. Wilkinson, Chairman of the Association, presiding.

Presidential Address: Industrial relations.- Mr. Wilkinson, reviewing the working of the Association in 1940-41, referred to the welcome absence of any serious labour troubles either in Cawnpore or in outstations. Employers therefore have been able to devote all their energies to give Government the maximum assistance in the supply of materials required for the prosecution of war and the defence of India. There has been a large expansion in production all round which, while affording improved employment conditions, has resulted in an increase in earnings and the absorption of what was previously surplus and unemployed labour. Assessing the contributions made by various factors to the improved industrial relations of the year, he said that Government action in curbing the subversive activities of the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha had tended greatly to ensure industrial peace. The vast majority of workers, even if they could not understand the realities of the war situation, appreciated the benefits to labour attributable to the war.

Increase of Population and Housing Problems.- The provisional result of the All-India Census recently taken shows that Cawnpore has a population of 437,286 - an increase of 79.3 per cent. since the census of 1931. Mr. Wilkinson drew the attention of the Municipality, the City Improvement Trust and the Government to the implications of this increase in population, especially the housing problem. Recently Government put certain proposals before the Association as regards the provision of workers' houses at a reasonable rent, but these seemed to be of an experimental nature and only touched the fringe of the problem. The Association has urged the Government to seek the services of a town-planning expert and under his guidance work out a long-range scheme after having made a detailed survey of the problem in all its aspects.

Labour Legislation.- The President next referred to the Labour Ministers' Conference and its outcome.

(Summarised from a copy of the proceedings of the 4th Annual Meeting supplied to this Office by the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore.) ✓

48

Workers' Organisations.

Inter-Provincial Trade Unions in Bombay:
Appointment of Registrars in Bombay. ✓+

Reference was made at page 36 of our January 1941 report to the delegation of powers by the Government of India to Provincial Governments in respect of trade unions whose objects are not confined to one province; the province in which the head office of such a union is situated is to assume control over the union. In pursuance of this delegation of powers, provincial Governments are appointing Registrars for the control of such unions. Bombay, for example, has appointed its Registrar of Trade Unions as Registrar also of inter-provincial unions with headquarters in Bombay.

(Notification No. 2841/34 dated 19-5-1941:
The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 22-5-1941, page 101.) ✓+

Progress of Trade Unionism in Bengal, 1939-40.* ✓+

Number of Unions.- 53 unions were registered during the year. Of the 193 unions in the register at the end of the previous year, 51 had their certificates cancelled, 1 was dissolved and the control of 4 was transferred to the Registrar of Central Trade Unions, New Delhi, during the year. The number of unions in the register at the end of the year was, therefore, 190, as against 193 at the end of the previous year. The prescribed annual statement was received from 160 unions. 28 unions did not submit any return and the certificates of registration of two unions were cancelled soon after the close of the year. Of the returns received, 11 were received very late and 13 others were unacceptable. The report is, accordingly, based on 136 returns.

Membership.- The total membership of the 134 unions (excluding the 2 federations) was 122,368. Out of this figure, 368 represents the membership of employers' and businessmen's organisations. Of the 122,000 members of employees' organisations, 1,518 were females. As against these, there were 95,938 members including 781 members of employers and businessmen's organisations, and a total female membership of 1,148 at the end of 1938-39. Only 1 (Indian Seamen's Union) of the unions whose returns have been included in the report, had a membership of above 20,000, another (All-Bengal Rickshaw Union) had a membership of more than 10,000 and two other unions had more than 7,000 members each at the end of the year. The number of unions with membership between 1,000 and 5,000 was 23, as against 20 in the previous year. The average membership for workers' organisations alone

*Government of Bengal, Department of Commerce and Labour. Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (XVI), 1926, in Bengal for the year ending the 31st March, 1940. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal, 1941. price annas 14 or ls.6d. pp.31.

45

increased from 781 in the previous year to 968 in the year under report.

Finances of the Unions.- Taking workers' organisations alone, the seamen group, with a total income of Rs. 62,521-11, had the highest income as in the previous year, while the engineering group, with an income of Rs. 2,411-11-9, had the lowest income. The average income per union and per member increased from Rs. 726-2-1 and As. 14-9 in the previous year to Rs. 1,078-13-11 and Re. 1-1-10, respectively in the year under review. The total expenditure of the 126 workers' organisations was Rs. 118,702-14-8. As in past years, a large part of this income was spent on "salaries, allowances and expenses of officers". Rs. 448-14-3 was spent under the head "Compensation paid to members for loss arising out of trade disputes" and Rs. 6,675-8-3, in providing benefits to members.

General.- The Registrar of Trade Unions explains that as in the past, the delay made by unions in the submission of returns and in removing defects found in them, accounts for the delay in the submission of the report. Despite reminders and warnings, only 75 of the 188 returns due were received by the prescribed date. Some improvement is, however, likely when it becomes possible to make full use of the powers derived from certain recent amendments made in the Bengal Trade Union Regulations.

Formation of unions amongst hitherto unorganised classes of workers continued to be a feature of the trade union movement during the year. Of the unions registered during the year, there were two of leather workers, 2 of nurses, 1 of boatmen and 1 of aluminium workers. The Textile group is still the largest single group, having as many as 41 unions on the register at the end of the year, including 16 registered during the year. ✓

Progress of Trade Unionism in the Punjab, 1939-40.* ✓

Number of Unions.- The number of trade unions, including 4 federations, at the end of the previous year as 61. Of these, 10 unions and 1 federation were removed from the register of trade unions due to cancellation of certificates of registration; 26 unions and 1 federation were registered during the year under report and the number of registered trade unions including 4 federations at the end of the year, therefore, was 77. Of the 77 registered trade unions, 6 relate to railway workers, 6 to textile workers, 5 to electrical, mining and mechanical workers, 3 to printing press workers, 21 to workers employed on transport, 4 to hosiery workers, 6 to municipal employees and 26 to persons engaged in other industrial callings of miscellaneous nature. Out of 77 unions, returns were received from only 27 in the year under report.

Membership.- The total and average number of members of the unions from which returns have been received decreased from 44,833 and 1,868 to 11,051 and 410, respectively, the reason for this appreciable decrease being the transfer to the Central Registrar of the control
*Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab during the year 1939-40. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1941. Price Re.0-10-0. pp.12

of the North-Western Railway Union, Lahore, and the All-India Railway Mechanical Workers Federal Union, Lahore, which had a membership of 19,423 and 16,780, respectively.

Finances of the Unions.- The finances of the unions showed a downward tendency; the total income of the unions which have submitted their returns decreased from Rs. 23,077 to Rs. 20,466 and the average income per union decreased from Rs. 961 to Rs. 758. The average expenditure per union also decreased from Rs. 983 to Rs. 680. The closing balance of all unions combined showed a decline from Rs. 5,719 to Rs. 5,517.

Welfare Activities.- As hereto the unions undertook no scheme for perceptible assistance to the workers, except continuing to further the interests of their individual members vis-a-vis the employers.

General.- The Registrar states that the labour movement is still in its infancy in the province and that no appreciable progress has been made during the year under report. But with the hand-to-mouth existence which the unions generally lead, great progress cannot be recorded in the movement. ✓

Progress of Trade Unionism in Orissa, 1939-40.* ✓

There were two unions in the province with a membership of 374 at the end of the year under review, the increase during the year being 15. The total income of the two unions was Rs. 336-6-0 and the expenditure Rs. 245. The closing balance was Rs. 91-6-0. ✓

1st Tamil Nad Agricultural Workers' Conference, Mayanoor,
26-5-1941. ✓

The first Tamil Nad (Madras) Agricultural Workers' Conference which was organised by the Labour Union of Krishnarayapuram and representatives of agricultural workers' unions of Musiri, Kulitalai, Namakal and Karur Taluks, was held on 26-5-1941 at Mayanoor, under the presidentship of Mr. R. Mandeswara Sarma, President of the Andhra Provincial Zamin Ryots' Association. Mr. T.T. Krishnamachari, M.L.A. of Madras, opened the Conference. An Agricultural Workers' Union for Tamil Nad was formed at the conference.

Needs of Agricultural Workers.- Declaring the Conference open, Mr. T.T. Krishnamachari said that the system of land ownership and occupation as it at present existed boded no good for the future welfare of this country. Apart from the question of property rights in land for the workers, affording them security of tenure and the elimination

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926), in the Province of Orissa for the year ending the 31st March, 1940. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. Price Annas 2. pp.2.

of absentee landlordism, the most important problem was to make agriculture pay without which any change in ownership could hardly set the industry on its feet. Proper prices and provision by the State of marketing facilities, cheap credit, seeds and fertilisers, besides technical advice were the needs of agriculture. State interference in agriculture, as in more advanced countries, was necessary. This could not be accomplished without a popular Government both in the provinces and the Centre armed with full powers to interfere with property rights for the benefit of the country as a whole. Though it might be said that the Congress Government in Madras Provinces was very conservative in this matter, it might reasonably be expected that any future Legislature would consist of a large body of men in sympathy with such reform. ~~THESE ARE THE EARLY ATTEMPTS OF SWAMIJI AND MR. KRISHNAMACHARI~~ Welcoming the formation of agricultural workers' union, Mr. Krishnamachari said that such unions should include not merely those who worked for wages but also those who were peasant proprietors and lessees of land from the big landowners. It should also be recognised that agricultural workers' unions had no future unless they allied themselves with the forces that stood for progress, and exercised their franchise accordingly.

Presidential Speech: Minimum Wage Advocated.- In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Mandeswara Sarma said that it was to the interest of landlords to have legislation fixing a fair rent. Provision should be made for easy purchase of lands by cultivators with the aid of State funds. For financing cultivators, there should be a single agency and at every market centre a co-operative organisation, all under State control, which could market the produce and provide for subsidiary industries. Regarding the right of alienation of lands, the President said that it should not be given to anyone except for legitimate purposes and if the purpose was for raising credit, the alienation could only be to the State-controlled agency. Any fixation of rent should provide, Mr. Sarma added, a minimum wage to the worker which would ensure to him the necessaries of life and enable him to support also a non-working dependent out of it. Mr. Sarma then dealt with Tenancy legislation introduced in other provinces and concluded by saying that if real national economic welfare was to be secured under modern conditions it must be by a co-operative system of cultivation backed by State credit.

Committee to study Agricultural Workers' Problems.- The Conference appointed a Committee for carrying out study and research in agricultural problems and framing suitable legislation with Mr. K.G. Sivaswami (Member, Servants of India Society) as General Secretary. Another committee was formed for attending to the other activities of the newly formed Union of Agricultural Workers.

(The Hindu, 29-5-1941.) ✓

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Free Legal Assistance to Aboriginal or Hill Tribes in Bombay:
Bombay Government's Rules. ✓

The Special Enquiry Officer appointed by the Bombay Government in 1937, to report on measures for improvement of the conditions of the Bhils and other aboriginal and hill tribes in Partially Excluded Areas recommended that a member of such tribes "should be able to obtain free advice and representation from the Government Pleader or other pleader when he considers ~~xx~~ that he himself has been defrauded" and that "the cost of such consultations and representations should be borne by the State". A scheme has now been worked out for granting legal assistance to such persons and it has been decided to introduce it experimentally during this year in two districts, West Khandesh in the Central Division and Broach and Panch Mahals in the Northern Division. Rules regulating the grant of such legal advice have been published at pages 1871 to 1872, Part I, Bombay Government Gazette dated 29-5-1941. ✓ +

Prohibition of Begging in Madras City: Madras
City Police (Amendment) Act, 1941. ✓ +

The Government of Madras has amended the Madras City Police Act of 1888 with ~~the~~ a view to tackle the beggar problem in the city. The Act prescribes penalties for begging in public places and provides for workhouses for the able-bodied and special homes for the infirm.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part IV-B, dated 13-5-1941, pages 31 to 37.) / +

Adult Education Drive in Bombay Province:
Government gives further Impetus. ✓

The Government of Bombay proposes to encourage intensive adult education work in villages with a population of 1,000 and over and has, therefore, directed that new adult education classes should preferably be opened in such villages in future. At the same time, the Government has made it clear that the new classes should not necessarily be restricted to such villages and that, if in any of the smaller villages good workers or good supervisors or committees are available, every encouragement should be given to the opening of new adult education classes in those villages. The Government has also directed that the existing classes, which are working satisfactorily, should not be closed as a result of the opening of new classes.

Rates of Grant to Adult Education Classes.- The rates of grants payable to the classes will be according to the higher scale sanctioned in 1938 — (i) equipment grant not exceeding Rs. 40 and (ii) a basic grant of not more than Rs. 5 a month when the average daily attendance of the classes is not less than 20 in the case of classes for men and 15 in the case of those for women, to be paid in advance every quarter, provided the progress in the previous quarter is satisfactory, plus a grant at the rate of Rs. 2 per illiterate adult student who, after being educated in an adult education class, satisfies the prescribed literacy test, or a maximum grant of Rs. 4 per illiterate adult student who, after being educated in such classes, satisfies the prescribed literacy fee.

(Communiqué No. 272 issued on 22-5-1941 by the
Director of Information, Bombay.) ✓

Adult Literacy Campaign in the Punjab:
Work during 1939 and 1940. ✓

According to a Punjab Government communiqué reviewing work in connection with adult literacy in the province during 1939 and 1940, appreciable results have been obtained as the result of a special drive initiated in 1939.

The support of the religious heads and leaders of the various communities - Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, etc., were enlisted in the cause and considerable impetus was thus imparted to the movement. In 1940, a somewhat novel procedure was adopted. It was laid down that in future the award of all stipends, fee concessions or any other kind of financial assistance would be contingent on each student of the VII class upward. ~~The campaign was also extended to women.~~ During 1939-40, 106,473 adults were enrolled for instruction, of whom 50,779 succeeded in attaining a literacy standard. Of the total jail population of 17,119, 7,195 have been made literate in one year.

(The Times of India, 7-5-1941.) ✓

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME

50

Wages

Grant of Dearness Allowance for S.I. Railway Employees. ✓

Orders have been passed by the South Indian Railway administration granting a dearness allowance to the employees of the railway with effect from September 1940. According to the orders, an allowance of Rs. 2 will be paid to employees drawing monthly salary of Rs. 34 and below; Rs. 2-8 for those getting between Rs. 35 and Rs. 50; and Re-1-8 for those getting a salary of Rs. 51 and Rs. 52.

(The Statesman, 11-5-1941.) ✓

Mill Grain Shops in Bombay:

Millowners' Association on Future Policy. ✓

In pursuance of a recommendation of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, in December 1939, nearly all member mills in Bombay opened grain shops which were run on prewar price basis until after the publication of a recent Report of the Board of Conciliation. The Board of Conciliation in its report recommended the opening of cost price grain shops in the mills as they were convinced that the running of such shops would check increase in bazaar prices and thus protect the workers from profiteering by local grocers. Subsequent to the general strike in March and April 1940, most mills which had established pre-war price grain shops, re-opened them and ran them on a cost price basis as recommended by the Board of Conciliation. Though workers were in the beginning slow to take advantage of the facilities offered by the grain shops, it was found that they had come to realise the benefits to be derived and that the sales of mill grain shops had been increasing rapidly since November 1940. The present position was considered by the Committee of the Millowners' Association at its meeting held on 31-3-1941. It was felt that, in view of the fact, that the prices of food grains had been rising rapidly during the last two months and that the working class cost of living index number was going up, all mills who had no grain shops should open such shops. A recommendation was accordingly sent to the mills concerned.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during April 1941.) ✓

(The above Note is not for publication.)

Compensation to War Victims.

Gratuity to Dependents of dead Soldiers. ✓

It is announced that in addition to family pension, death gratuities are now to be paid to heirs of Indian other ranks, enrolled non-combatants and servants killed in action. The object is to help heirs to tide over any immediate expenses which may arise before

pension begins to come in. The rates of gratuity are Rs. 100 for non-commissioned officers and men and Rs. 75 for non-combatants and servants. The money will be paid directly the news of casualty is announced, without waiting for other formalities.

(The Times of India, 15-5-1941.) ✓

Industrial Health and Safety.

Reducing Damage from Air Attacks:

Safety Features in new Factory Buildings. ✓

The Government of India has recently empowered Provincial Governments to require that all factories which may be constructed in future should contain such structural features as will reduce to the minimum the damage that can be done to them by attack from the air. An Associated Press message from Simla dated 3-5-1941 points out that it is intended that wide use should be made of these powers in respect of new constructions; ~~on the contrary~~, their use will be confined to new factories of real importance to the war effort or to the economy of the country.

(The Times of India, 6-5-1941.) ✓

War Risks Insurance.

Advisory Committee appointed by Government of India. ✓

With a view to ensure the smooth working of the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance, 1940 (vide page 23 of the report of this Office for September 1940), the Government of India has decided to appoint an advisory committee representative of insurance associations in India, which may be consulted from time to time with regard to:

(1) The most suitable manner of giving effect to the provisions of the War Risks (goods) Insurance Ordinance and the rules made thereunder; (2) Proposals for amendments of the Ordinance; (3) Amendment, if any, required to the rules and forms or schedules prescribed under the rules, and also notifications, and (4) Any other matter connected with the Ordinance which may be referred to the committee by the Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce, or an officer deputed by him will attend the meetings of the committee if that is considered necessary by the Government of India. The Commerce Secretary will preside over the meetings.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-5-1941.) ✓

Supply of Cotton Textiles:Conference between Department of Supply Officials and Millowners. ✓

A Conference between representatives of the Department of Supply, Government of India, headed by Brigadier F. Wood, Director-General of Supply, and over 60 representatives of textile mills from all over India was held at Bombay on 9-5-1941.

The Conference was the result of representations made to the Government that the mills were experiencing difficulty in meeting Government orders as the purchasing programme of the Department of Supply was not revealed sufficiently in advance to enable the mills to adjust production. It had also been urged that the mills producing for the local markets were able to get better prices.

The representatives of the Supply Department made it clear that up to the present the Government had been able to secure their war requirements of cotton textiles without difficulty, the requirements having been not more than 10 per cent. of the total production. It was expected that in future the demands were likely to be more than doubled. Government also wanted to see that the burden of the war supply effort was spread over more evenly among the various mills than was the case at present. On the one hand, there was a complaint that war orders were given, as a matter of favour, to certain mills; on the other hand, there was a feeling that mills being asked to produce war requirements were being penalised, because of the smaller margin of profit available to them. Again while some mills were devoting themselves entirely to meet Government requirements, there were others who produced solely for the civil market at greater profit. All those anomalies had to be put right.

panel of Millowners Appointed. - The Conference accepted the Government's proposal that there should be constituted a panel of prominent cotton textile industrialists representative of the Indian trade as a whole to which the Supply Department would make known its demands, and that it would be the work of this panel to secure for the Supply Department the widest and largest number of offers possible; and a panel of eleven members was appointed.

The reception accorded to other proposals of Government by the representatives of the various millowners' associations was generally favourable, but no final decisions were reached as the representatives had to report back to their respective associations.

(The Times of India, 12-5-1941.),

53

Control Measures

Control of certain Chemicals. ✓

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule 2 of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, the Central Government has directed that all holders of stocks of sodium bichromate, potassium bichromate, chrome alum, or any proprietary compound of similar chemical composition, shall not sell, exchange, move or otherwise dispose of the aforesaid chemical substances in their possession or keeping; holders of stocks may, however, use them for the execution of current Government war contracts. Holders of stocks have also to submit by 10-6-1941 to the Director of Chemicals, Department of Supply, Government of India, a statement of all stocks held, in course of delivery, or on order.

(Department of Supply Notification No. CDN/32
(12) D dated 26-5-1941, Gazette of India
Extraordinary dated 26-5-1941.)

By Political Department Notification No. 29 W dated 31-5-1941, the above notification has been extended to Indian States also.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary
dated 31-5-1941.) ✓

Control of Newsprint

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (2) of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, the Central Government has on 31-5-1941 issued the ~~Newsprint~~ Newsprint Control Order, 1941. The Order stipulates that after 15-6-1941 (a) no person shall sell newsprint otherwise than to a newspaper press, and (b) no proprietor of a newspaper press shall use newsprint for any purpose other than the printing of newspapers (including supplements and annuals thereof), except on special permit from the Government of India. The Order also requires newspaper proprietors and persons carrying on the sale of newsprint, monthly returns of stocks of newsprint held and sales effected.

(Notification No. 104 Ind (4)/41 dated
31-5-1941 of the Department of Commerce,
Government of India. The Gazette of
India Extraordinary dated 31-5-1941.) ✓

54

List of more important publications received in this office
during May 1941.

National Labour Legislation.-

The Travancore Payment of Wages Act, 1116 (Act XX of 1116).

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Statistics of Factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934) for the year ending December 31, 1939, together with a Note on the working of the Factories Act during the year. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Re.1-14-0 or 2s.9d.
- (2) Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Province of Madras for the year 1939. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1940. Price 10 annas. pp.49.
- (3) Report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act in the Province of Madras for the calendar year 1939. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1940. pp.13.
- (4) Administration Report of the Labour Department (Madras) for the year ending the 31st March, 1940.
- (5) Government of Madras: Development Department. G.O. No. 1071, 9th May 1940. Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, during 1939.
- (6) The Employers' Association of Northern India. Digest of Rulings in Conciliation Proceedings by the Labour Commissioner, United Provinces (from 4th July, 1938 to 15th January, 1941). Compiled by: S.S. Saraf, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Cawnpore. Vol. I. The Star Press, Cawnpore.
- (7) Annual Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1939. Price Annas 3 or 4d. Karachi: Printed at the Government Press, 1941.

Economic Conditions.-

The Working of the Protective Tariff in India - Sir Kikabhai Premchand Readership Lecture, 1938-39, by L.C. Jain, M. A., D.Sc., Ph.D., LL.B., University of Delhi, Delhi. 1941.

Co-operation.-

Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1939-40. Printed and published by the Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar. 1941. Re.1-8-0 or £.0-2-3.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) Government of Bengal - Commerce Department. Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (XVI), 1926 in Bengal for the year ending the 31st March, 1936. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1936. Price As.8 or 10d.
- (2) Government of Madras - Public Works Department (Labour). G.O. No. 169, 21st January 1941. Report for 1939-40, on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

55

Organisation, Congresses, etc. (continued)

- (3) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, (XVI of 1926), in the Province of Orissa, for the year ending the 31st March, 1940. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. Price Annas 2.

Education.-

- (1) Supplement to the Report on Public Instruction in the Baroda State for the year 1937-38. Baroda State Press. 1940. Price ~~Rs.12-0~~ Re.0-12-0.
- (2) Report on Public Instruction in Baroda State for the year 1938-39. Baroda State Press. 1940. Price Re.~~12~~ 1-2-0.
- (3) Government of the Central Provinces and Berar. Report on the State and Progress of Education in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1939-40. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. Price Re.1-8-0.

Miscellaneous.-

Administration Report of the North-West Frontier Province, 1938-39. Printed and published by the Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar. 1941. Price Rs.3-3-0 or £0-4-9.

C 6/2/14

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for June 1941. r

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. <u>National Labour Legislation.-</u>	
<u>Government of India:</u>	
<u>Draft Amendment to Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926.</u>	1
<u>Bengal:</u>	
(a) <u>Draft Amendment to Bengal Shops and Establishments Rules, 1940.</u>	1
(b) <u>The Bengal Maternity Benefits (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941.</u>	1-2
<u>Bombay:</u>	
<u>Date of Commencement and Industries covered by Compulsory Arbitration Provisions.</u>	2
<u>Central Provinces and Berar:</u>	
<u>The Berar Laws (Provincial) Act, 1941.</u>	2-3
<u>U.P.</u>	
<u>The U.P. Civil Service (Extraordinary Pension) Rules, 1941.</u>	3
<u>Mysore State:</u>	
<u>Proposed amendment of the Mysore Factories Act.</u>	3-4
2. <u>Conditions of Work.- Hours of Work:</u>	
(a) <u>Maharatta Chamber, Poona, urges Amendment of Shops Act: Demand for increasing over-time.</u>	5
(b) <u>Working Hours in Bengal Jute Mills: 45-Hour Week for July 1941.</u>	5
(c) <u>Exemption of Clerical Staff from Operation of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act: Millowners' Association's Plea for Continuance.</u>	5-6
<u>Women's Work:</u>	
<u>Appointment of Educated Women Supervisors in Mills: Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay.</u>	7
<u>Wages:</u>	
(a) <u>Working of Payment of Wages Act in the Indian Railways: Report of the Supervisor of Railway Labour.</u>	8-9
(b) <u>Wages of U.P. Government Press Employees: Minimum Wage of Re. 11 per month granted.</u>	9
<u>Industrial Disputes:</u>	
(a) <u>Mysore Government appoints Committee to report on Trade Disputes Legislation.</u>	10
(b) <u>Nagpur Labour Dispute: Strike called off on Government's promise of Enquiry Committee.</u>	10

	<u>Pages</u>
3. Economic Conditions.-	
(a) Development of Ceramic Industry of Bombay.	11
(b) India's Per Capita Income - Rs.45 per year: Statement by Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla.	11-12
(c) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during March 1941.	12-13
(d) War-Time Difficulties of Small Industries: Questionnaire issued by the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers.	13
4. Social Insurance.-	
Administration of Workmen's Compensation Act in British India in 1939.	14-15
5. Migration.-	
a) Indians in Burma in 1940: Report of Agent of Government of India.	16-18
(b) Indians Abroad: Resolution adopted by Council of National Liberal Federation of India.	19
(c) Immigration of Indians into Ceylon: Ceylon European Association condemns Policy of Ceylon Government.	19-20
(d) Indian Immigration into Burma: Indo-Burma Conference held at Rangoon: Bajpai Delegation negotiates Draft Pact.	20
6. Navigation.-	
Conditions of Work of Indian Seamen: Mr. Ernest Bevin promises help for improvement.	21
7. Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants.-	
Conditions of Work of Bengal Ministerial Employees: Government of Bengal orders Enquiry.	22
8. Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-	
(a) Co-operation in Hyderabad, 1939-40.	23
(b) Encouragement of Cottage Industries in Bombay: Appointment of District Industrial Officers.	24
9. Living Conditions.-	
<u>Nutrition:</u>	
(a) Milk Production and Consumption in India and Burma: Report of Agricultural Marketing Adviser.	25-27
(b) Nutritive Value of "Mira": Research by All-India Village Industries Association.	27
10. Organisation, Congresses, etc.-	
<u>Workers' Organisations:</u>	
(a) Assam Shop Employees' Meeting: Support for Assam Shops Bill.	28
(b) Arrest of Labour Leaders in Bombay.	28-29
(c) Bombay Domestic Servants' Meeting: Demand for better Wages.	29
11. Social Conditions.-	
(a) Census of Burma, 1941: Provisional Figures of Population reveal 14.7 per cent. Increase.	30
(b) Uplift of Aboriginal Tribes in C.P.: Preliminary Report of Mr. Grigson.	30

	<u>Pages</u>
12. <u>Education.-</u>	
(a) Adult Education in Bombay: Millowners' Association's Encouragement of Mill Schools.	31
(b) Compulsory Primary Education: Indore Scheme.	31
(c) Reorganisation of Education in Mysore: Government to appoint Committee.	31
13. <u>Social Policy in War Time.-</u>	
Wages:	
(a) Payment of Grain Compensation Allowance to Low-paid Central Government Employees in centrally administered areas.	32
(b) Dearness Allowance for Jute Mill Workers.	33
* * *	
Employment:	
Expansion of Technical Training Scheme.	33-34
Post-War Reconstruction:-	
Government of India sets up Reconstruction Committee: Proceedings of 1st Meeting, Simla, 23-6-1941.	35-37
Compensation for War Injuries:	
The Burma War Injuries Rules, 1941.	38
14. <u>GENERAL.-</u>	
Expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council: Five new Indian Members appointed: Sir Piroj Shah Noon becomes Labour Member: Setting up of Indian Defence Council.	39-40
15. <u>List of more important publications received in this Office during June 1941.</u>	41-42

Government of India.-

Draft Amendment to Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926.

The Government of India proposes to amend the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, so as to provide that, if work in the extraction or reduction of pillars in mines within 50 yards of any railway is to be undertaken, at least 60 days' notice should be given to the Chief Inspector of Mines and to the Railway administration concerned; the draft is to be taken into account by 15.9-1941.

(Notification No. M.76 dated 12-6-1941:
The Gazette of India, Part I, dated
14-6-1941, page 865.)

Bengal.-

Draft Amendment to Bengal Shops and Establishments
Rules, 1940.

The Bengal Government proposes amendment⁴⁵ to the Bengal Shops and Establishments Rules, 1940, so as to ~~not~~ permit during certain specified holidays and occasions over-time work for employees in shops and in establishments for public entertainment or amusement. The Draft amendments are to be taken into consideration by 19-7-1941.

(Notification No. 1968 Com. dated 11-6-1941:
The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated
19-6-1941 page 1483.)

Bengal.-

The Bengal Maternity Benefits (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941.

The Government of Bengal intends introducing shortly a Bengal Maternity Benefits (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941, in the local Legislative Council with a view to regulate maternity benefits for women in tea factories and plantations. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that the Whitley Commission recommendations in regard to maternity benefits have been implemented, as far as perennial factories are concerned, by the Bengal Maternity Benefit Act, 1939. The object of the present Bill is to implement the Commission's recommendations regarding plantations. On enquiry it transpired that the system of paying maternity benefits in some form or other was in vogue in the majority of the plantations, but it is considered that some sort of legislative compulsion is necessary to regularise the system and to extend it to those plantations where it does not exist at present. The Bill is designed to secure this object. The matter was discussed in a Conference with the representatives of the majority of the tea plantations and the provisions contained in the Bill are based mainly on the conclusions reached at that Conference.

The main features of the Bill are: (1) prohibition of employment of women for four weeks immediately following confinement; (2) payment

of maternity benefits of Rs. 12, either fully in cash or partly in cash, and the balance in kind, in respect of a period of 8 weeks, 4 before and 4 after child-birth; (3) qualifying period to be 150 days worked under the employer in the twelve-month period immediately preceding the day of delivery; (4) benefits to be conditional on the applicant attending, during the 4 weeks before confinement, ante-natal clinic or other medical institutions prescribed by the Inspector of Factories (the provision of medical facilities is an obligation of the employer); (5) light work in factory or plantation during the 4 weeks of pre-natal period is permissible, if medically declared fit, and the work is to be paid for at the prevailing rate for such work; the wages for the work are in addition to the maternity benefits; (6) the woman's death during confinement or after does not put an end to the payment of benefits; the entire benefit due should be paid to the guardian of the new born child or if the child also dies, to the woman's nominee or legal representative; if death occurs before confinement only half the benefit need be paid to her nominee; (7) no notice of dismissal within 6 months of delivery except for sufficient cause ~~and~~ during maternity leave is valid.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-B, dated 26-6-1941, pages 46 to 51.),

Bombay.-

Date of Commencement and Industries covered by Compulsory Arbitration Provisions.

Reference was made at pages 2 to 3 of our May 1941 report to the amendment of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, so as to provide for compulsory arbitration of disputes which could not be conciliated. The Bombay Government has now notified that the amending Act has come into force on 14-6-1941 and that the new section 49A extends to the whole of the province. This section is to apply to cotton, silk and woollen goods manufacturing concerns using power and employing 20 or more workers.

(Notification No. 4599/34 dated 14-6-1941: The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, Part IV-B, dated 14-6-1941, pages ~~544~~ 544 to 545.)

Central Provinces and Berar.-

The Berar Laws (Provincial) Act, 1941.

Reference was made at page 1 of our March 1941 report to the adoption of the Berar Laws Act, 1941, by the Central Government with a view to assimilate the position of Central Acts passed before 1-4-1937 (which did not automatically apply to Berar) to that of Acts passed after that date which apply automatically to Berar as well. The result has, however, been only achieved in part by that Act because now the legislative competence of the Central Legislature is confined to matters enumerated in List I and List III of the seventh Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935. So far as the Central Legislature is incompetent to achieve the result completely because the subject-matter of the Act to be extended is

included in List II, it is proposed to supplement the Central Act by an Act now adopted by the Government of Central Provinces and Berar. The intention is to bring the Central Act and the C.P. Act into force simultaneously, the two Acts together completing what each Act by itself could not complete. This Act also provides for the proprio vigore extension of all the Provincial Acts which were applied or deemed to be applied to Berar under the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902.) Among the provincial Acts now extended to Berar are the C.P. Maternity Benefit Act, the C.P. Adjustment and Liquidation of Industrial Workers' Debt Act and the C.P. Unregulated Factories Act, 1937.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part III, dated 20-6-1941, pages 887 to 896.)

U.P.-

The U.P. Civil Service (Extraordinary Pension) Rules, 1941.

The U.P. Government has on 23-6-1941 adopted the Civil Service (Extraordinary Pension) Rules, 1941, which apply to certain Government employees in the Province. Government employees who are under the rule-making control of the Governor, serving in a civil capacity, whether their appointment is permanent or temporary, on time-scale of pay or fixed pay or piece-work rates, come under the Rules.

The Rules provide for the grant of gratuity or pension to the victims of an injury or disease met with or contracted in the course of his duties according to the nature of the injury. Injuries are graded as: (1) equal to loss of limb, (2) very severe, (3) severe and likely to be permanent. In case the victim dies of an injury or disease, his widow and children are granted a gratuity or pension as the case may be; in assessing the amount of compensation, contributory negligence of the victim will be taken into account. The benefits under these Rules will not affect any other pension or gratuity to which the victim or his widow and children are otherwise entitled. For the purpose of the Rules "disease" means (i) venereal disease or septicaemia contracted by a medical officer as a result of attendance in the course of his official duty on an infected patient or of conducting a postmortem examination in the course of that duty, or (ii) disease solely and directly attributable to an accident.

(Notification No. M-1157/X-406-1937 dated 23-6-1941: The U.P. Gazette, ~~Part~~ Part I-A, dated 28-6-1941, pages 198 to 202.)

Mysore State.-

Proposed amendment of the Mysore Factories Act.

There are at present in Mysore State a number of power factories, employing ten or more persons, which are working under unsatisfactory conditions. Child labour is being employed in most of these factories without restriction on working hours. Under the Factories Act now in force in Mysore no action has been possible in the case of such factories as they do not come within the definition of a 'factory'

laid down in Section 2 (j) of the Mysore Factories Act. (The existing Act is applicable to factories employing 20 or more workers.) According to the Correspondent of the Hindu, the Government proposed to introduce in the June 1941 session of the Representative Assembly, a bill designed to prevent the exposure of adolescent and adult workers and children to the risk of exploitation and employment in unhealthy and dangerous conditions, in power factories not subject at present to the Factories Act.

(The Hindu, 4-6-1941.)

The Bill does not, however, seem to have been introduced, probably due to want of time. ✓

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Hours of Work.

Maharatta Chamber, Poona, urges Amendment of Shops Act:

Demand for increasing Over-time. ✓

A representation suggesting amendment to the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act has been made to the Government of Bombay by the Maharatta Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Poona. The Chamber suggests that departmental heads should ~~also~~ be exempted from the provisions of the Act. It also suggests that it should be permissible for increased hours of work being put in on payment of extra salary to the employees.

(The Times of India, 12-6-1941.)

Working Hours in Bengal Jute Mills:

45-Hour Week for July 1941.

As "complete uncertainties" in the shipping position render it impossible for a definite statement of the mills' intention about working hours for any length of time ahead, the committee of the Indian Jute Mills' Association at its special meeting held on 8-6-1941 agreed that ~~working hours~~ for July 1941 there should be no "closed week" and that the hours of work should continue at 45 per week.

(The Hindu, 7-6-1941.)

Exemption of Clerical Staff from Operation of

Bombay Shops and Establishments Act: Millowners' Association's Plea for Continuance.

Reference was made at pages 9-10 of our March 1941 report to the exemption of certain classes of clerical staff working in cotton and woollen mills from the provisions of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939. The exemptions which were originally granted by Government for a period of six months were due to expire at the end of June 1941, and at a meeting of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, held on 28-5-1941, it was decided that Government should be requested to sanction the exemption permanently. In the opinion of the Committee, the case for a continuance of the exemption rested mainly on the following grounds:-

- (a) that the existing arrangements whereby mills were required to comply with the provisions of the Factories Act as regards hours of work, holidays, maintenance of registers, etc., in respect of the exempted classes of employees had worked satisfactorily during the period;
- (b) that the conditions, hours of work and privileges enjoyed by departmental clerks in factories appeared favourable with those of shop assistants and workers whose conditions of work were regulated in accordance with the Factories Act; and
- (c) that a continuance of the exemption was also desirable in view of the fact that central legislation on the subject was imminent and the enactment contemplated by the Government of India would exclude clerks working in factories from its scope.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for May 1941.) ✓ +

7

Women's Work.

Appointment of Educated Women Supervisors in Mills:
Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay. ✓

Early in May 1941, the attention of the Committee of the Mill-owners' Association, Bombay, was drawn by the Government of Bombay to a resolutions passed at the third conference of the Thana Jilla Mahila Parishad and the annual conference of the Bombay Presidency Women's Council respectively, suggesting the desirability of the appointment of educated women supervisors of departments in cotton mills which employed large numbers of women workers. The matter was considered by the Committee to whom it appeared from the resolutions that the two bodies were under a misapprehension as to the duties devolving on supervisors in cotton textile mills. The tendency in mills was to replace women by men as supervisors in the reeling and winding departments for a number of reasons. Mere academic educational qualifications were not the criteria most essential for this type of posts. Other qualities and experience were necessary, and these should, it was thought, continue to be the principal guide to mill managements when supervisors were appointed. In these circumstances, the Committee was unable to support the resolutions forwarded to the Association and to recommend member mills to give effect to them; the Committee informed Government accordingly.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of
the Committee of the Millowners'
Association, Bombay, for May 1941.) ✓+

Working of Payment of Wages Act in the Indian Railways:
Report of the Supervisor of Railway Labour. ✓

According to the first annual report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act in Indian Railways issued by the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour, the "Act has proved of benefit to railway labour proper and as regards contract labour it would be no exaggeration to say that the Act is the charter of their rights."

Number of Persons affected and Inspection.- (The total number of persons affected by the Payment of Wages Act in so far as railways are concerned is 809,888, including some 70,000 employed by contractors or sub-contractors fulfilling contracts with Railway Administrations). In carrying out the task of inspection with a view to safeguarding the interests of the whole of this staff, the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour was assisted by 17 Inspectors of Railway Labour who spent on an average 15 days in a month away from their headquarters in inspecting stations and other railway establishments and in inquiring into workers' complaints, besides devoting a week each month to a scrutiny of the wage records maintained by Railway Administrations. In all, about 5,826 offices and establishments on railway were inspected during the year.

Delay in Payment of Wages.- The Act lays down that wages of persons drawing less than Rs.200/= per mensem on Railways employing 1,000 persons or over are to be disbursed within ten days after the last day of the wage-period in respect of which the wages are earned. The report points out that, on the whole, the Railway Administrations can be said to have acted up to the requirements of the law satisfactorily. About 2,000 cases of delayed payments were detected during the entire year and most of these cases related to the payment of overtime allowance, officiating allowance, leave salary, increments, etc. During the year under report about 500 cases were reported in which payments to employees whose services were terminated by Railway Administrations had not been made in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Deductions.- The deductions permitted by the Act, include deductions for fines, damage to or loss of goods or for breach of contract. The deductions made under these heads on all railways during the year amounted to approximately Rs.13,000, Rs. 209,000 and Rs. 10 respectively. The sum recovered as fines plus contributions from Railway revenues and from other sources, amounting in all to about Rs. 721,000, were expended on purposes beneficial to the workers.

General Effect on Railway Workers.- "As regards railway labour proper", ~~say~~ the report says, "there can be no doubt that the Act has proved of benefit to it. Not only have railway employees benefited from the accelerated payment of wages, including such miscellaneous emoluments as overtime, mileage allowances, etc., and of increments and leave salaries, but also in the accelerated payment of settlement dues to railway servants leaving service whether for good or only as a temporary measure. The restrictions on fining have also benefited the workers. It has, however, been contended that this restriction has resulted in the infliction of other punishments of greater severity, an accusation which is as difficult to prove as to disprove. Whatever

be the truth or otherwise of the complaint, steps have been taken to check any tendency in this direction. The worker has further benefited from what may be called the codification of permissible deductions from his wages, a process which is still in progress in so far as traffic debits are concerned. Though it has not been found possible to do away with them altogether, it has been found necessary to examine the nature of these debits as also the justification for their recovery from the staff.

Effect on Contract Labour.- In spite of the absence of any systematic check of the establishments of Railway labour contractors, the occasional visits of the inspectors to these contractors have, it is reported, resulted in real benefit to the workers. At their appearance, wages which had been denied, or had remained unpaid for long months, have been disbursed and assurances given for better conduct in the future. The report points out that as time goes on and inspections are systematised and the workers get accustomed to their rights, the Act will prove of even greater benefit.

(Unofficial Note issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India). ✓+

Wages of U.P. Government Press Employees:

Minimum Wage of Rs.11 per month granted.

The Government of the United Provinces has recently decided to revise the pay of the 1,500 employees of the Government Press, Allahabad; the increase will entail an additional annual recurring expenditure of from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000. At present some of the employees receive a wage as low as seven rupees per month. The proposal for the increase in wages for low-paid employees is to ensure a minimum wage of Rs.11 per month. The Government is desirous of acting as a model employer, and thus strengthen its hand in pressing private employers to follow suit. Whether the increase in the wages of the Press employees should take place with retrospective effect from 1-4-1941 is still under consideration; a decision on this point is to be taken shortly.

(The Statesman, 21-6-1941.) ✓

Mysore Government appoints Committee to report on
Trade Disputes Legislation. ✓

The Government of Mysore has decided to examine the question of legislation in the State for the settlement of industrial disputes through conciliation and arbitration. Increasing frequency in strikes by industrial employees during the past year has impressed on the Government the necessity for expediting action in the matter. The need for legislation for an effective organisation of the Labour Department and promotion of good relations between workmen and employees was stressed by Mr. A.V. Ramanathan in his report on the enquiry into the circumstances of the recent strike in the Bangalore Woollen and Cotton Silk Mills. Dewan Bahadur K. Nathan, in his report on the conditions of labour in the Kelar Gold Fields, has also expressed a similar view. The Government has now constituted a committee with Mr. A.V. Ramanathan, Minister for Law, as Chairman, to submit a report before the end of July 1941 on the subject. Besides four officials (including the Chairman), the Committee includes three members each representing employers' and workers' interests. The Assistant Secretary to the Development Department is Secretary to the Committee.

(The Hindu, 15-6-1941.) ✓

Nagpur Labour Dispute:
Strike called off on Government's Promise of Enquiry Committee. ✓

Reference was made at pages 10 to 11 of our May 1941 report to the Nagpur textile strike regarding the demand for higher wage rates, abolition of cut in salary, and war bonus. The C.P. and Berar Provincial Textile Representatives' Conference was held at Akola on 3 and 4-6-1941, Mr. K.M. Pandse presiding. The Conference decided to declare a provincial general ~~textile~~ textile strike from June 26, demanding abolition of wage-cut, stability of service, wage increase and other concessions. The Conference also decided to intensify the struggle by calling other wage-earners to strike in the Province. (The Bombay Chronicle, 7-6-1941.) On 10-6-1941 Mr. R.S. Ruikar addressed a letter to the Commerce Secretary suggesting the appointment of a Conciliation Board for settling the dispute. He has urged that Government should invite the mill-owners and workmen to serve on the Board and, in case either party does not agree to give effect to the Board's recommendations, the Government should amend the Trade Disputes Act as has been done in Bombay. (The ~~Bombay Chronicle~~ Hindu dated 11-6-1941). On 16-6-1941, the workers decided to call off the strike on the decision of the Government of C.P. and Berar to appoint an Enquiry Committee with the following terms of reference: (1) Fresh survey to ascertain the condition of the textile industry in the past three years, (2) improvement in the wages of the labourers either by restoration of cuts or otherwise and (3) grant of dearness allowance to the cotton operatives outside Nagpur.

(The Times of India, 18-6-1941.) ✓

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Development of Ceramic Industry of Bombay.

The possibilities of the manufacture of glazed and unglazed ware from clay available in the Bombay Province is the subject of an interesting report published by the Bombay Industries Department. The report discusses also the development of the pottery industry, both on a cottage basis and on a commercial scale. Pottery manufacture already forms one of the important rural industries of the Province and is said to occupy over 58,000 persons. The village potter, however, carries on his craft in a primitive manner and his manufacture is limited principally to unglazed utility articles, such as containers for food grains and liquids and kitchenware.

The Province annually imports clay articles to the value of Rs. 2.15 million while local production is not worth more than Rs. 60,000. The scope for development is thus obvious. Excepting fine quality china clay, white burning plastic clay, fire clay, quartz and felspar are found in abundance in the Province. From the investigations made by the Pottery Expert, it appears that small industrial units, on a cottage industry basis, can be established in several places.

(Press Note issued on 24-6-1941 by
the Director of Information, Bombay.)

India's Per Capita Income - Rs.45 per Year:

Statement by Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla.

The following information about economic conditions in India, particularly in respect of the per capita income, is taken from a press statement issued in the second week of June 1941 by Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla, prominent Bombay businessman and ex-President of the Central Legislative Assembly, refuting the assertion made by Mr. L.S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, that India is prosperous:

General Poverty.- It is axiomatic that the prosperity of a country depends upon its savings. It is therefore necessary to examine what the conditions are in this respect, whether India is able to save something worth while or whether there is going on a steady deterioration in the economic condition of this country. The all-India Income Tax report published by the Central Board of Revenue (Government of India) throws light on the economic condition of India. Income-tax is levied on all incomes of Rs.2,000 per annum and more. According to this official report there are in this country only 285,940 assesseees with an income of Rs.2,000 or £.150 per annum and over. On the basis of a population of 300,000,000 in British India this figure works out at one-tenth of one per cent. of the population. It is true that agricultural incomes are not subject to this tax. So far as the actual cultivators are concerned no one will be presumptuous enough to claim that any one of them could possibly have an income of Rs.2,000 per annum and over. The only class that remains to be taken into consideration is the agricultural landlords. It is difficult to find any official data to show the

exact number under this category but it cannot be very numerous, thanks to the land revenue policy pursued by the Government.

Per Capita Income Rs.45/- per Annum:- Sir James Grigg, the former Finance Member of the Government of India, in his budget speech in April 1938 on the eve of his retirement from India, is reported to have said that the national income of India is Rs.16,000 million per annum. If this official figure is divided by 300,000,000, the population in British India, it works out at Rs.53-5-4 per unit of population. If a rough figure of Rs.8-5-4 is deducted for Imperial, Provincial and local taxation, the balance works out at Rs. 45 per unit per annum, or less than Rs. 4 per month.

Super-Tax.- According to the latest report of the Central Board of Revenues, the total number of rich assesseees paying super-tax in the whole of British India is 4,210. When this figure is analysed, it shows that amongst these 4,210 assesseees there are 2,864 individual assesseees, the other being associations of individuals, companies, unregistered firms and undivided families. Amongst the 2,864 individual assesseees there must be a fair number of European and other foreign assesseees, which must reduce the number of Indian assesseees with an income of Rs.25,000 and over. The relative poverty of India is thrown into bold relief by a comparison with Great Britain in this respect. According to recent press reports, during the year 1938-39 there were in Britain, with a population of 45 millions, 539 individual assesseees with an income of £.40,000 and more per annum. In British India with a population of 300,000,000 the number of individual assesseees with an income of Rs.500,000 and more is just nine.

(The Statesman, 18-6-1941.) +

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during March 1941. +

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during March 1941, as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in March 1941 remained unchanged at 119. The average for 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: Year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during March 1941 remained unchanged at 79. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during March 1941 rose by 2 points to 79. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in March 1941, fell by 1 point to 69. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 63 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in March 1941 rose by 2 points to 70. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939.

Madras. - The index number (base: year ending June ~~1935~~ 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during March 1941 remained unchanged at 108. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

(Extracted from the Monthly Survey of
Business Conditions in India for March 1941.)

War Time Difficulties of Small Industries:
Questionnaire issued by the All-India Organisation
of Industrial Employers.

Reference was made at page 23 of the report of this Office for April 1941 to the effort made by the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers regarding the difficulties experienced by minor industries during the war period. The questionnaire issued by the Organisation in connection with this enquiry deals with the difficulties met with in marketing products and in securing raw materials prior to the war or during the war, to improvements in the demand for products due to the war, to the requirement of war supply products by Government and to the value of orders which factories have received from the Supply Department. The industries concerned have been further asked to state if they want Government to come to their help. The information thus gathered would be utilised for ascertaining the position of particular industries and in preparing a case for submission to Government.

(The Statesman, 1-6-1941.)

Administration of Workmen's Compensation Act in British India
in 1939.* ✓

Number of Cases and Amount of Compensation.- The total number of workmen's compensation cases in British India increased from 35,065 in 1938 to 38,681 in 1939 (Death - 832, Permanent Disablement - 1,929, and Temporary Disablement - 35,920), and the amount of compensation paid rose from Rs. 1,432,723 to Rs. 1,509,327. (Death - Rs. 581,080, Permanent Disablement - Rs. 516,444, and Temporary Disablement - Rs. 411,803).

Provincial Conditions.- Increases both in the number of cases reported and the amount of compensation paid were registered in Bihar, Bombay, Madras, North-West Frontier Province, Orissa, and the United Provinces. There was a fall in the number of cases reported in the Andamans and the Punjab, but the amount of compensation paid increased. In the Central Provinces and Berar, more cases were reported but the amount of compensation paid was less. There was a fall both in the number of cases reported and the amount of compensation paid in Ajmer-Merwar, Assam, Baluchistan, Bengal and Delhi. The compensation paid for accidents on Railways fell from Rs. 390,013 in 1938 to Rs. 362,216 in 1939. The average sum paid during the year per case was Rs. 39 as against Rs. 40.9 during 1938.

Activities of Trade Unions.- As in previous years only a few trade unions were reported to have assisted their members to obtain compensation. In Bengal, the Press Employees' Association, a small but active union, continued to take interest in the working of the Act. In Bombay, no trade union except the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, did any appreciable work in the settlement of claims on behalf of the workers. The Association helped not only their members but also non-members who approach them for advice. The number of cases handled by the Association during the year was 149 of which 122 were disposed of. The total compensation secured during the year was Rs. 18,932. The Insurance Companies who handled more than 50 per cent. of the cases in Bombay, and the Calcutta Claims Bureau which represents most of the leading concerns in Bengal, particularly in jute and coal industries which were covered by insurance, rendered valuable co-operation in the settlement of claims on behalf of their insured.

The Bengal report refers to the growing tendency on the part of the employers in some of the smaller concerns to contest every claim for compensation for accidental injuries or death and to prolong the proceedings as far as possible by impleading men of straw as contractors with the ostensible object of obtaining an indemnity from them under section 12 of the Act; the real object, however, being to complicate issues and prolong proceedings and thereby induce the applicants to compromise the claims for smaller amounts than the Act provided. The Commissioner had to accord sanction to such compromises in some cases mainly because it was considered better to do so in the interest of the claimants.

Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1939 together with a note on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Annas 6 or 7d. pp.6.

Proceedings before Commissioner.- There was an increase in the number of proceedings before the Commissioner, the total number of cases (including those pending from the previous year) being 3,135 as against 2,730 in 1938. The number of fresh applications under section 10 of the Act was 1,060 as compared with 929 in 1938. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of by the Commissioners was 57.7 as compared with 61 in the previous year. 2,049 agreements were presented during the year while 192 applications were pending from 1938. 1,874 agreements were registered without modification and 39 after modifications; 76 were not registered on account of inadequacy of or for other reasons and 252 were pending at the close of the year.

Accidents to Miners.- During the year under report, there was one case of death (compensation - Rs. 500), 2 of Permanent Disablement (Compensation - Rs. 95) and 23 of Temporary Disablement (Compensation - Rs. 81) involving miners.

Lead Poisoning.- There ~~was~~ were 5 cases of compensation for lead poisoning in Bihar. Compensation amounting to Rs. 17,794 was paid. In Bengal, besides two cases of alleged lead poisoning pending from 1938, 3 cases were instituted during the year. Of these 5 cases, 3 were disposed of (one was decreed and 2 were dismissed) and 2 remained pending.

Amendment to Act.- During the year two amendments were made in the Workmen's Compensation Act, one in section 5 and the other in section 15. The first amendment makes it clear that the expression "monthly wages" in section 5 means the amount of wages deemed to be payable for a month's service irrespective of whether the wages are payable by the month or by whatever other period or at piece rates. Section 15 has been amended taking away from seamen any right to claim compensation under the Act in cases where they are entitled to claim compensation under the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provision) Act, 1939. Provision has also been made saving limitations under the 1923 Act in cases where a bona fide claim under the 1939 Act is made and rejected. ✓+

Indians in Burma in 1940:
Report of Agent of Government of India. ✓

Relations between Indians and Burmans, legislation affecting Indians and the trend of immigration in 1940 are dealt with by the Agent of the Government of India in Burma in his Annual Report, published by the Education, Health and Lands Department of the Government of India. The volume of sea passenger traffic from India to Burma exhibited no remarkable features. The seasonal trends were normal, but the maxima of incoming and outgoing flows were, on the whole, lower than the average of the past three years.

Immigration Problems.- The Baxter Commission on Immigration completed its work during the year, but its Report was not made public. It devoted considerable attention to a factual examination of the recruitment and conditions of industrial labour, especially in the city of Rangoon. In addition to this, two Committees appointed by Government have been exploring in greater detail the same field. Neither Committee had submitted its report by the close of the year. An interim report submitted by the Committee enquiring into conditions in Rangoon was, however, published, dealing with the limited field of dock labour in Rangoon only. The Report put forward proposals for a system of registration, designed to encourage decasualisation.

Legislative Measures affecting Indians: (1) Tenancy Act.- The most important legislative measures affecting Indians were the Tenancy Act, ~~the Land Purchase Bill, the Land Alienation Act, and the City of Rangoon Municipal (Amendment) Bill.~~ The Land Alienation Act occasioned no complaints. The administration of the Tenancy Act, which aimed at giving improved security of tenure to tenants, while adjusting rents to an equitable figure, was a feature of the period. Though intended by the original framers to be applied experimentally to limited areas where there was reason to think that rack-renting existed, the Act was introduced in such large areas, and at such a time of year, that it was impossible for the officers of the Government to comply with the law in making the enquiries prescribed before fixing fair rents, and at the same time to pass the requisite number of orders before the harvest season. As a result, methods were adopted which had the effect of a wholesale reduction of rents, in some cases to the level of the land revenue demand, and the further effect of depressing the value of agricultural land. The landlords, both Burman and Indian, were greatly perturbed, and endeavoured to get the executive instructions, which had been issued to Rent Settlement Officers, reconsidered in the interests both of equity, as well as of compliance with the mandatory provisions of the Act. Failing in this, they applied to the Rangoon High Court for writs of certiorari. A full Bench decision of the Burma High Court severely criticised the Government measure. ~~Subsequently, as the result of a short notice resolution in the House of Representatives, a Committee was appointed consisting of members of both Houses of Legislature, and of experienced Settlement and Revenue Officers, to enquire into the working of the Act. This Committee recommended the setting aside of the orders of Rent Settlement Officers, and the passing of an Ordinance to achieve this purpose and to embody other provisions calculated to render possible the commencement~~
Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Burma for the year ending 31st December 1940. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Annas 7 or 8d. pp.11.

of the peaceful cultivation of the next rice crop. Their recommendations were accepted by the Government of Burma, and an Ordinance was promulgated on April 9, which set aside all the orders hitherto passed under the Act. The immediate difficulties of the situation having been resolved, the Special Committee proceeded to go into the whole matter and revise the legislation, and a Bill based on their report was before a Select Committee of the House of Representatives at the close of the year.

In order to deal with outstanding rent settlement cases, or fresh cases arising in the intervening period, the Governor promulgated a second Ordinance in terms of which fair rents were to be settled on the basis of arbitrarily fixed percentages of the normal gross outturn.

(2) Land Purchase Bill.- On the subject of the Land Purchase Bill, the Government of India took full advantage of the opportunity given them by the Government of Burma to comment on its provisions and the Government of India's views were considered by the Select Committee which had been appointed to deal with the Bill. The Select Committee incorporated amendments to the Bill in their Report, which went some way to meet the views expressed by the Government of India, and their Report came up for consideration during the Budget Session. In the autumn session, the Bill was passed by the Lower House. A great deal of what had been suggested by Indian critics had been incorporated. There were still points, however, on which Indian opinion remained unsatisfied.

In the first place, there was no provision for additional compensation in respect of the compulsory nature of the acquisition, and the Government of Burma had shown itself unwilling to provide any such compensation. Secondly, there was no guarantee that the tenants in occupation of the land at the time when the land was purchased would receive preferential consideration, or indeed, any consideration at all, when the time came to distribute the land to small cultivating owners. The Government of Burma, in their tenancy legislation, laid great stress on the necessity for enhancing the security of tenure of the tenant. The Land Purchase Bill, if passed, would render a tenant liable to have his land purchased over his head any moment.

Indians were apprehensive, because they felt that the tendency would be to purchase land owned and cultivated by Indians so as to redistribute it to Burmans, and because they felt that, in the co-operative societies proposed, Indians might not be welcome, and mixed societies of Indians and Burmans might not prove successful. This, among other matters in connection with the Bill, formed the subject of correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of Burma. At the close of the year, the Bill was before a Select Committee of the Senate.

(3) City of Rangoon Municipal (Amendment) Bill.- The City of Rangoon Municipal (Amendment) Bill, which is designed to secure that at least half the members of the Rangoon Corporation shall be elected Burmans, was passed by the Lower House in spite of Indian and European opposition, and was also under consideration by a Select Committee of the Senate at the close of the year. This Bill, too, was the subject of representations by the Government of India.

(4) Registration of Foreigners' Act, 1940.- In January, 1940, an Ordinance was made by the Governor of Burma called the Registration of Foreigners Ordinance, 1940. In this the definition of "foreigner" in the Foreigners Act was adopted, and the status of British Indian

subjects was satisfactorily secured. This Ordinance was in due course replaced by the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1940, which came into force at the end of March. No complaints have been received by the Agent regarding either the working of the Ordinance or of the Act.

Trade between Burma and India.- Except for difficulties owing to temporary curtailments in the volume of shipping available, trade was on the whole remarkably well-maintained. The price of rice remained at a high level. A feature of the rice market was the purchase of considerable quantities by Japan, which offset the loss of the normal Central European markets. The closing week of the year saw an announcement by the Government of Burma of their intention to impose a duty on rice exports to India with effect from the new year. On 1-4-1940, the Government of Burma gave notice to the Government of India under Clause VII of the India-Burma Trade Regulation Order, 1937, of their intention to terminate the operation of the Order. Proposals for a new agreement were under consideration at the end of the year. (A Trade Agreement has since been signed.)

Hindu-Moslem Affrays.- Two periods of ill-feeling between the Hindu and Moslem communities in Rangoon city, accompanied by sporadic affrays and a regrettable loss of life, occurred during the earlier part of the year, the first at the end of January, and the second at the end of April. The methods adopted by the rioters were such as to render peculiarly difficult the task of protecting life and property, and of bringing the real offenders to justice. The strain on the ~~Rangoon City Police~~ was severe and prolonged, but the Commissioner and all ranks stuck to their task with admirable patience. It is hoped that the strong measures which were adopted by the Government of Burma, and loyally accepted by Indians in Burma, will be found to have provided an opportunity for a genuine movement towards a permanent improvement in the relations between the two chief Indian communities.

Indo-Burmese Relations.- Attempts to embroil Burmans with Indians in connection with the communal riots proved uniformly unsuccessful. An improvement in the tone of the Press is recorded, and overt acts against Indians progressively decreased. Although there was at one time some apprehension of trouble arising between landlords, and tenants, in connection with the working of the Tenancy Act, nothing serious occurred. ✓+

Indians Abroad;Resolution adopted by Council of National Liberal Federation of India.

The Council of the National Liberal Federation of India which met at Poona on 29-6-1941 under the presidentship of Sir V.N. Chandavarkar, adopted, inter alia, a number of resolutions on Indians abroad; a brief summary of the more important of them is given below:

Indians in South Africa.- The Council noted with appreciation the fact that the Feetham resolutions have been passed by the South African Parliament, thereby giving Indians in Transvaal the right, for the first time, of owning land in the gold areas; that an undertaking has been given that, whatever be the findings of the Broom Commission on Indian penetration into predominantly European areas in Natal, no legislation would be undertaken during the currency of the war to force segregation on Indians; and that the Smuts Government had displayed a more liberal attitude towards Indians passing through South Africa. At the same time, the Council considered that the areas thrown open to Indian ownership in the Transvaal under the Feetham resolution were very inadequate and spelt segregation and that the danger of segregation in general of Indians in South Africa has not been dissipated. It trusted that the participation of South African Indians and of India in the present war against racialism and in defence of democracy and human rights will persuade the Government of South Africa to rise above racialism and promote genuine democracy in that country. The Council was also of the opinion that, unless and until racial equality is secured in South Africa, it will be prejudicial to Indians to countenance the proposal of Field Marshal Smuts for a Pan-African Union and that therefore it must be strenuously opposed.

Indians in Ceylon.- The resolution on Ceylon deplored the anti-Indian attitude of the Ceylonese Ministry which compelled the Government of India to prohibit the emigration of Indian labour, much to the detriment of Ceylon and necessitated the intervention of the Governor to protect the legitimate rights of Indians settled in Ceylon, but still hoped that the Ceylon, ~~but still hoped that the Ceylon~~ Ministers would take a more helpful and equitable attitude towards the Indian problem in Ceylon.

(The Hindu, 30-6-1941.) +

Immigration of Indians into Ceylon:Ceylon European Association condemns policy of Ceylon Government.

Strong opposition to the Immigration Control Bill is expressed by the European Association of Ceylon in a memorandum it has recently submitted on the subject to the Standing Committee of the Ceylon State Council. The Association is strongly opposed to the Bill in toto, but, as it has been intimated by the Standing Committee that no representations may be made against the principle, the Association has refrained from doing so. The memorandum stresses that British subjects domiciled in the United Kingdom are persons who have not created and do not create the problem which the Bill seeks to solve and ~~therefore~~ that they should therefore be placed among the excepted persons.

Rights of non-Ceylonese.- On this subject, the memorandum says: "Non-Ceylonese already admitted to Ceylon have the right to secure

property, employment and a variety of other interests in Ceylon, and it is politically unjust to deny to such non-Ceylonese free entry into Ceylon ~~and the possibility of being present at will~~ (or the possibility of being present at will). It is accordingly submitted that persons resident in Ceylon on an appointed date (chosen after due deliberation) or who have been resident in Ceylon for a specified period before that date should be excepted from the operation of the Bill.

Assisted Indian Immigrant Labour.- The assisted Indian immigrant labour at present in Ceylon, and those who are prevented from proceeding to Ceylon by reason of the Indian ban on emigration are essential to the agricultural industries of Ceylon, and should not be discouraged in any way from rendering service to such industries. Adequate provision to enable persons in control of private enterprise to exercise unrestricted freedom of choice in the selection of employees is urged in the memorandum on the ground that absence of such provision will jeopardise the welfare of many existing enterprises. The memorandum states in conclusion that the definition of "non-Ceylonese" should be based on residence, and not domicile.

(The Statesman, 7-6-1941.) ✓ +

Indian Immigration into Burma:
Indo-Burma Conference held at Rangoon: Bajpai
Delegation negotiates Draft Pact. +

References have been made in the earlier reports of this Office to the growing opposition to unrestricted immigration of Indians into Burma and to the notice given by the Government of Burma of termination on 31-3-1942 of the Government of Burma Order, 1937, which permitted such unrestricted immigration. A communiqué was issued by the Government of India on 10-6-1941 in which it was pointed out that the two Governments were anxious to reach an agreed solution of the various problems relating to Indian immigration into Burma and that the Government of India had accepted the invitation of the Government of Burma to send an official delegation to Burma to discuss the problems. Accordingly, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Member in Charge of Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, with two advisers and a Secretary (officials) were deputed to negotiate with the Government of Burma. The Indo-Burma Conference opened in Rangoon on 18-6-1941. On 28-6-1941, the draft of an Indo-Burmese Pact was signed by Sir G.S. Bajpai, on behalf of the Government of India, and U Saw, Premier of Burma. (The Hindustan Times, 30-6-1941.) The terms of the pact have not been disclosed so far. ✓ +

Conditions of Work of Indian Seamen:Mr. Ernest Bevin promises help for Improvement. ✓

In the course of his reply to a letter from Mr. Aftab Ali, M.L.A., urging better treatment of Indian seamen, Mr. Ernest Bevin, British Minister of Labour, expressed his anxiety to promote wholehearted co-operation between Indian workers and the workers in England. He said that he was doing all he can for the Indian seamen, and that he wanted to see their welfare arrangements put on a sound and proper footing. He would also like to see conditions so improved that Indian seamen's earnings were free from deduction, their standards raised, and the conviction fostered that there were absolutely equal terms for all. Referring to the grievances of seamen in Calcutta, Mr. Bevin said: "I know about the bribes in Calcutta; I discussed this at length at Geneva, and as soon as opportunity presents itself, I should like to study the matter closely with a view to developing an organised basis that would ensure this being wiped out entirely."

(The Hindustan Times, 24-6-1941.) ✓
+

aa

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC
SERVANTS.

Conditions of Work of Bengal Ministerial Employees.
Government of Bengal orders Enquiry. ✓

The Government of Bengal is now holding an enquiry into the condition^s of employment of the Government ministerial servants as regards their pay and prospects. Mr. A.D. Khan, I.C.S., who is in charge of the enquiry, will make a detailed study of the question and submit a comprehensive report.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-6-1941.)
✓₊

Co-operation in Hyderabad, 1939-40. ✓ +

Number and Membership.- With the registration of 336 new societies in 1549 Fasil (1939-40) and the cancellation of 15 old ones, the number of co-operative societies in the Hyderabad State stood at 3,958 as against 3,638 in the previous year, while their membership rose correspondingly from 137,948 to 154,412. Similarly the working capital of the movement increased from 27,473,311 to Rs.27,756,935. The paid-up share capital and the various reserves were larger than those in the previous year and stood at Rs.6,345,273 and Rs.5,742,408 respectively, their proportion to working capital being 48 per cent. as compared with 46 per cent. of the previous year.

Village Thrift and Credit Societies.- The village thrift and credit societies increased in number from 2,909 to 3,188 and their membership rose from 63,359 to 70,514. Their working capital including that of rural banks stood at Rs.8,555,550, while their owned capital was Rs.4,163,651. The proportion of the owned to the working capital was 48.5 per cent. Loans advanced to members amounted to Rs.754,853, while recoveries made from them aggregated Rs.861,392 principal and Rs.499,694 interest. The number of grain banks increased from 75 to 90 which shows that they are becoming popular in villages.

Non-Agricultural Societies.- The non-agricultural societies ~~are making rapid progress.~~ Their number and membership rose from 650 and 52,629 to 701 and 64,285 respectively, while their working capital increased from Rs.5,393,594 to Rs.5,676,715. The proportion of the owned ~~and~~ the working capital improved from 67.5 to 68.9 per cent. The number of salary earners' societies increased from 280 to 293 and their membership rose from 19,054 to 20,013 while working capital increased from Rs.3,442,214 to Rs.3,539,012. The owned capital also increased from Rs.2,678,350 to Rs.2,793,363.

Sale Societies.- The number of sale societies increased from 8 to 9 and the membership rose from 1,256 to 1,627. The working capital rose from 46,618 to Rs.64,534 and the owned capital increased from Rs.30,193 to Rs.35,517. The number of cotton sale societies remained at 10. Their membership improved from 791 to 845. Their working capital was Rs.50,381 and the owned capital Rs.26,464.

Co-operative Insurance.- The Co-operative Insurance Society made ~~encouraging progress.~~ Its membership increased from 1,000 to 2,488 and the sum assured was Rs.1,577,983. The total income of the society was Rs.147,535 as against Rs.78,856 in the previous year. The society earned a net profit of Rs.10,395 as against Rs.2,838 in the previous year.

Central Co-operative Union.- The Central Co-operative Union carried on, as usual, its educative and propaganda work through an Education officer and ten propagandists.

(Communique issued by the Information Bureau, Hyderabad State, Deccan.)

24

Encouragement of Cottage Industries in Bombay:

Appointment of District Industrial Officers. ✓

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned the creation of three posts of District Industrial Officers - one each at Surat, Ahmednagar and Belgaum. The main function of these officers will be supervision of new and existing cottage industries and the District Sales Depots and to provide the cottage workers with small working capital and implements on suitable terms. They will also help the organisation of small industrial establishments for the ~~purchase~~ purchase of raw materials and sale of finished products and inspect establishments in receipt of loans from the Government to ensure that the money is spent on the objects for which the loans has been granted.

(Press Note dated 24-6-1941 issued
by the Director of Information,
Government of Bombay.) ✓ +

LIVING CONDITIONS

Nutrition

Milk Production and Consumption in India and Burma:

Report of Agricultural Marketing Adviser. ✓

Average Daily Consumption.- The average daily consumption of milk in India, per head of population, is 6.6 ounces per day, including milk products, according to a Report on the Marketing of Milk in India and Burma recently issued by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser. In other countries, the average daily consumption is more than five times the average figure for India, where the poorer people do not get even six ounces a day; in fact, many of them have to go completely without milk or its products. The average daily consumption in India varies from tract to tract, according to the production of milk and the density of population. Sind comes first with 22 ounces per head per day, followed by the Punjab with 19.7 ounces. Assam shows the lowest average with 1.2 ounces a day.

Consumption in Urban Areas.- Due to the better earning power and purchasing capacity of the city-dwellers, the daily per capita consumption in cities and towns is 12.6 ounces, which is almost double the average for the whole of India. At present the consumption of milk in urban areas is almost double that of the villages. If prices were reduced, urban consumption could improve further. To achieve this, cheaper milk from the interior should be brought to the cities. Transport agencies can do a lot in this connection by providing special facilities and lowering freight charges.

Low Consumption of Workers.- In general, the labouring classes consume very little milk or milk products, and in this respect there is a marked contrast with workers abroad.

Quality of Indian Milk.- The milk produced by Indian cows and buffaloes is richer in fat content than the milk from cows in other countries. Adjusted to the fat contents of milk produced in Western countries, the figure for the consumption of milk in India increases to 10.4 ounces per head per day. But even this is only about a quarter of the average consumption in 16 other countries from which figures are available.

Milk Products.- On an average, over 27 per cent. of the milk produced in India is consumed in fluid form, generally after boiling; 58 per cent. is made into ghee (clarified butter); and 5 per cent. each into khoa (desiccated milk) and curd. Butter and cream account for only 1.9 per cent. and other ~~paneer~~ products such as rabri and malai for 2.8 per cent. At present only one-half per cent. is used in the making of ice-cream, but the consumption of this is rapidly increasing. Cow milk is preferred for drinking and buffalo milk for the manufacture of products.

Decreasing Consumption.- There are no data to show the trend of Indian consumption. In other countries consumption has considerably improved through State aid and better planning of the dairy industry during the last 25 years. In India, the rate of increase in the number of cattle has not kept pace with that of human population and consequently consumption may be said to be on the decrease.

Methods of Increasing Production.- Matters could be improved without much difficulty, says the Agricultural Marketing Adviser. Production could be increased by about 50 per cent. by proper feeding

and management of existing cattle. The problem should be tackled from both ends, production as well as consumption, and in order to stimulate consumption, "Drink More Milk" campaigns should be organised on a national basis. For a vegetarian nation, whose diet is admittedly deficient in first-class proteins, the value of a sufficient quantity of milk can hardly be over-emphasised. Consumers should be assured of a regular and reasonably priced supply of wholesome and genuine milk.

Unprofitable production in India.- The average consumer in India, with an income much lower than, for instance, that of the consumer in England, pays practically the same price as the latter for his milk. The share of the Indian producer in the price paid by the consumer, on the other hand, is greater than that of the English farmer. Yet milk production is not a profitable business and, in some cases, Indian producers may be selling milk even below cost price. The question of milk prices, therefore, needs closer examination. At present 58 per cent. of the milk produced in India is marketed in the form of ghee. The demand for, and the price of ghee, therefore, have an important bearing on the gross returns of milk producers. The adulteration of ghee and the sale of substitutes such as vanaspathi (vegetable oil) should be adequately controlled and checked.

Marketing of Milk.- Re-organisation of milk marketing and the creation of a "monopoly" marketing organisation, to be responsible for the purchase of milk from rural areas, its transport, processing and distribution, and the control of quality from the stage of production to that of actual sales, is the most important recommendation of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India. "The deplorable state of affairs existing in the milk trade of the country", he says, "has been realised by many in the past, and comparison has often been rightly made with the progress achieved elsewhere in the world. Due to various circumstances peculiar to India - economic, social and religious - it may not be possible to achieve here all that has been achieved in other countries within the same space of time, but matters could certainly be considerably improved if the problem were tackled on the right lines."

Urging the need for complete control over the distribution of milk in an urban area, and thereby on the production of milk in the rural area concerned, the Report says, "special legislation, of a provincial nature, will be necessary as, although there is an element of compulsion in the suggested monopolising of the milk business, this appears to be the only way in which both producers and consumers can be protected."

Control over Quality.- The Report also urges the necessity for the revision of standards of purity and for more vigilant control of the quality of milk. "Most milk", it states, "is distributed under filthy conditions - enough to create a dislike for milk in the minds of many consumers." The abolition of "mixed" milk standards, which allow scope for adulteration; the raising of the standards for "cow" and "buffalo" milk to correspond with the natural composition of Indian milk; the recognition of toned "Standard" milk and the re-drafting of bye-laws relating to the production and sale of milk and dairy products, so that they can be properly enforced, are recommended.

Organisation of Collectors.- The Report recommends that efforts should be made to organise the collectors of village milk who handle large quantities. "To improve the fluid-milk trade," it is urged, "the small and inefficient processor and distributor must be gradually

eliminated. Processing and distribution in cities and towns must be entrusted to large, well-managed organisations, which can make use of every aid that science can offer and can improve the technical efficiency of their business and put on the market a high quality product." The cost of handling 1,000 maunds of milk a day under the proposed scheme of reorganisation would necessitate the investment of approximately Rs. 450,000. As the scheme is a self-supporting one, the sum can be recovered in less than ten years.

(Indian Information, July 1941 issue) ✓

Nutritive Value of "Nira":

Research by All-India Village Industries Association. ✓

Experiments carried out on the nutritive value of "nira" (toddy) by the All-India Village Industries Association have yielded satisfactory results, according to a note issued by the Research Centre of the Association at Bordi. The note says that 19 persons, of whom 13 were adults, were given "nira" from 10 to 99 days, and they put up weight ranging from half to ten pounds. A rickety cow that was given "nira" showed marked improvement in the quality and quantity of milk yield.

The note adds that "nira" contains many valuable food properties such as glucose, fat, protein, nitrogen, calcium oxide, magnesia, soda, phosphoric acid, chlorine, etc., in varying percentage. It was found to be a non-habit-forming beverage. Exclusive of Governmental tax and license fees, the cost of "nira" worked out at Re.1 per 103 lbs. Under a well organised scheme of "nira" sales, the note says, it is just possible to absorb almost all the erstwhile toddy-tappers who will be deprived of their occupation under prohibition, and they can easily be made to earn a standard wage of Rs.15 per month.

(The Hindu, 5-6-1941.) ✓

Assam Shop Employees' Meeting:
support for Assam Shops Bill. ✓

A meeting of shop employees in Shillong, Assam, was held on 6-6-1941 under the presidentship of Maulvi Mohammed Maqbul Hossain Choudhury, M.L.A., to discuss the Assam Shop Assistants' Relief Bill, 1941, introduced by Maulvi Badaruddin Ahmed B.L., M.L.A., which has been circulated for eliciting public opinion by 30th June, 1941. The President, Mr. Maqbul Hossain Choudhury, discussed the Bill and, in supporting the same, he emphasised the fact that protection by law does not give all facilities against all probable subterfuges unless relations between employers and employees were good. Resolutions were passed supporting the Bill.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 12-6-1941) ✓

Arrest of Labour Leaders in Bombay. ✓

Fifteen men and women labour leaders, including Mr. R.S. Nimbkar (Indian Workers' Delegate to the 25th I.L. Conference) and Miss Godavari Gokhale (a former member of the Women's Section, Servants of India Society) suspected to be associated with extremist labour activities in Bombay and to have communistic leanings were arrested by the Special Branch of the Bombay C.I.D. on 13-6-1941. The arrests were made under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, which empowers Government to detain persons with a view to "preventing them from acting in any manner prejudicial to public order".

^{N.M.}
Mr. Joshi, in a statement issued on these arrests made the following comments: "Among these arrested there are some communists, some ordinary trade unionists, some having great leftish tendencies, one Royist (M.N. Roy's party) and one Congressman. These people are not in my judgment arrested for their anti-war speeches or activities, as they have not recently engaged themselves in them. I think these arrests are due firstly to Government ignorance of recent tendencies or dependence on wrong information regarding them. Secondly, it may be due to unjustifiable panic created by the employers for their selfish interest. Thirdly, there have been lately some strikes in Bombay, but these strikes are purely economic pretexts. They have no political bearing at all. In these times when the cost of living is growing steadily and sometimes by sudden leaps in prices of certain essential articles, unrest among workers is natural. The arrest of these leaders is not a remedy for this unrest. If these strikes are to be prevented, Government must take the responsibility upon themselves and take the initiative in securing rise in wages

commensurate with the rise in the cost of living as well as with the prosperity of the industry. Government have failed in discharging their responsibility in this matter. If in the name of war, strikes have to be put down by methods of repression without taking the responsibility of protecting the interests of workers, Government is not only not impartial, but is taking sides with the employers against the workers."

(The Bombay Chronicle, 16-6-1941.) ✓

Bombay Domestic Servants' Meeting:

Demand for better Wages. ✓

A meeting of the Bombay Samaj Santa Sangh (Domestic Servants' Association), composed mainly of domestic servants in European households, was held on 1-6-1941 under the presidency of Mr. Chiranjii Pagare to consider the disabilities and grievances of domestic servants in European households. The Sangh has undertaken an enquiry into the grievances with a view to devising ways of ameliorating them. The Sangh also felt the necessity of starting a Union of such domestic servants so that they may put forth united and organised effort to ameliorate their conditions. An increase in the pay to compensate the rising cost of living was put forward by Sabha as an urgent demand.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 4-6-41.) ✓

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

30

Census of Burma, 1941:

Provisional Figures of Population reveal 14.7 per cent Increase

The ~~1941~~ Census of Burma was taken on the night of the 5th March 1941. The total population of Burma as thus ascertained is 16,823,798 which is an increase of 2,156,652 or an increase of 14.70% over the last Census. These figures are provisional, but are sufficiently accurate for practical purposes and may be adopted for administrative purposes and for calculation of proportions and percentage based on population. One of the reasons for a higher proportionate increase at this Census is the extension of the operation to areas omitted in the previous Censuses. The provisional number of houses in 1941 was 3,543,610 as against 3,140,423 in 1931 or an increase of 12.83 per cent. in 1941 over the 1931 figures.

(Resolution of the Judicial Department,
Government of Burma dated 17-6-1941:
Supplement to the Burma Gazetteer
21-6-1941, pages 667 to 669.) ✓

Uplift of Aboriginal Tribes in C.P.:

Preliminary Report of Mr. Grigson. ✓

The various aspects of the aboriginal problem in C.P. and Berar have been under investigation in the C.E. Government, and Mr. W.V. Grigson, the Aboriginal Tribes Enquiry Officer, has recently submitted his preliminary report on the local aspects of the problem in the district of Balaghat. The report, though based on conditions in one district, contains much of general application throughout the province. The following are the more important recommendations made by Mr. Grigson: (1) More forest schools should be opened; (2) ~~lower~~ cultivation should continue in the areas where it is now permitted; (3) the appointment of aboriginal patels (village headmen) is commended; (4) public health should be regarded as the chief part of the Civil Surgeon's duties in the district; (5) temperance propaganda should be actively encouraged and tribal social reform movements should be encouraged; (6) cottage industries should be fostered and greater co-operation between the various nation-building departments is essential; (7) dancing, folk-songs and local games should be included in the curriculum; and (8) District Development Committees for backward areas should be set up.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-6-1941.) ✓

Adult Education in Bombay:

Millowners' Association's Encouragement of Mill Schools. ✓

Reference was made at pages 48 to 49 of our September 1940 report to the Bombay Government's scheme for the promotion of adult education and to the views of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, on the furtherance of the scheme in the mills and factories in Bombay. It was indicated that the Committee of the Association had agreed to assist the Government in its literacy campaign as far as mill workers were concerned and to give facilities to the Adult Education Committee to enable representatives of that Committee to establish contacts with mill managements. During the last twelve or fifteen months, the Special Literacy Officer appointed by the Government of Bombay under the scheme approached a number of member mills with a ~~xxxxxxx~~ view to find out whether the managements would be prepared to start literacy classes in their mills. The results of the classes conducted in a member mill were reviewed in May 1941, and it would appear that at a small cost of about Rs.50, 53 workers had achieved literacy within a period of four months. In view of the success achieved by the scheme, it was recommended that individual mills should give every facility to the Special Literacy Officer.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for May 1941.) ✓ +

Compulsory Primary Education:

Indore Scheme. ✓

Measures have been taken under the command of the Maharaja of Indore to raise the condition of the people in the Nemawar district, which is one of the most backward in the State. A compulsory education scheme involving a recurring expenditure of about Rs.50,000 will be enforced in the district on 1-7-1941, when 55 new schools for boys will be opened in different centres. The centres have been selected in such a manner that every village will have a school within a radius of two miles. Eight schools will be in forest villages. To obviate the usual experience of stagnation in primary schools, accompanied in many cases by a lapse of illiteracy, it is proposed to have all the new and existing schools up to the upper primary standard and to have trained teachers, as largely as possible, recruited from the district itself. A scheme for the introduction of compulsory primary education among girls in the district will be introduced in the near future.

(The Times of India, 30-6-1941.) ✓ +

Reorganisation of Education in Mysore: Government to appoint Committee. ✓

In his concluding remarks at the end of the last session of the Mysore Representative Assembly, the Dewan announced the decision of the Government to appoint a committee to examine the curricula of studies in primary and middle schools and the various schemes of education in operation in India and elsewhere with the object of introducing such improvements in the scheme of studies as may be beneficial and feasible in Mysore.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-6-1941.) +

WagesPayment of Grain Compensation Allowance to Low-paid Central GovernmentEmployees in centrally administered areas.

The Government of India has had under consideration the question of affording relief to low paid Government servants in the event of a substantial rise in the cost of living in the circumstances created by the war, and has decided, in supersession of all previous orders on the subject, to grant to Central Government servants employed in the Provinces of Delhi, Baluchistan and Ajmer-Merwara, and Andamans and Nicobar Islands (except Railway employees, whose case will be governed by separate orders) a grain compensation allowance on the scale indicated below when the average price of food grain of the Provinces over one month becomes dearer than a specified rate for each of the provinces.

To take Delhi Province as an illustrative case, for persons getting below Rs.16 per month, the compensation admissible, if the average price of the principal food grain, in the province, is 9 seers (18 lbs.) per rupee or dearer, but not dearer than 7 seers, is Re.1 per month; if it becomes dearer than 7 seers, the compensation to be paid is Rs.2 per month. For those getting between Rs.16 and Rs.30 per month, the amounts are Rs.2 and Rs.3 respectively. The rate of compensation in the other provinces is the same, though the price level of food grain which regulates the compensation allowance varies in each case. A Government servant on emoluments exceeding Rs.30 per mensem will be eligible under this scheme for such allowance as is sufficient to ensure that the total of his emoluments and allowance shall equal but not exceed the total of these amounts admissible to a Government servant drawing Rs.30 per mensem. The term "emoluments" used in the preceding paragraphs includes the amount drawn monthly by a Government servant as pay, special pay, personal pay, overtime allowances, fees and pension. House rent or other compensatory allowance shall not be taken into account for the purpose of calculating emoluments.

In the case of a Government servant whose remuneration is calculated at daily rates but is disbursed at the end of the month or at definite periodical intervals (e.g., work-charged establishments) the allowance will bear the same proportion to that given for Government servants on monthly rates of pay as the number of days for which the Government servant was employed during the month bears to the number of working days in the month, the allowance being rounded to the next high anna. Piece-workers will, however, be eligible for the full allowance for the month.

In the case of Coorg, the allowance is Re.1 per month for those getting Rs.30 or less per month as salary as long as the average price of rice stands at 7 seers or dearer.

(Notifications Nos. F.44(4)-R.II-W/40 dated 26-6-1941: The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 28-6-1941: pages 908 to 911.) +

33

Dearness Allowance for Jute Mill Workers. ✓

A flat-rate allowance of one-rupee per month to all workers in their employ irrespective of wages earned has been recommended by the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association to all the member mills. The recommendation will take effect from the month of June 1941 and will be in force until further notice. The allowance is not to be linked to the normal wages, but is to be regarded as a distinct and separate payment. It will be recalled that in November 1939, jute mill labour received a ten per cent. increase in wages.

(Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 23-6-1941.) ✓ +

Employment.

Expansion of Technical Training Scheme. ✓ +

Expansion of Scheme.— The Technical Training Scheme owes its origin to the Technical Training Enquiry Committee which submitted its report to the Department of Labour at the end of July, 1940 (vide page 47 of our July 1940 report). The report recommended the utilisation of 16 technical institutions and the intensive training of some 3,000 semi-skilled tradesmen and was accepted by the Government of India early in August, 1940. Owing to the increasing needs of the technical branches of the Defence Services and Ordnance and Munitions factories, the scheme has since been expanded to provide for the training of 15,000 men by the end of March 1942. Of the 15,000 men required, 7,000 are general engineering fitters, 2,500 turners (metal), 1,500 machinists (metal), 1,250 electricians, 550 blacksmiths, 450 tin and ~~smith~~ copper smiths, 500 welders (electric and oxy-acetylene), 300 draughtsmen, 200 moulders and 200 carpenters. Nearly 6,000 men are already under training at 87 centres, and 104 more centres are ready to receive over 6,000 trainees. Thirty-two trainees have already passed out from the classes.

Appointment of Instructors.— The Government of India has arranged with the British Government for the services of 100 technical training instructors from the United Kingdom to be placed at the disposal of the Department of Labour for work in connection with the Technical Training Scheme. The object is to introduce a leaven of experienced instructors from English training centres among instructors in India and so bring training here more closely into line with up-to-date practice in the United Kingdom. The instructors will come in batches, the first of which is due to arrive shortly.

Selection of Candidates and Conditions of Apprenticeship.— Candidates for training are ordinarily selected by the National Service Labour Tribunals if constituted for each Province. If, however, the supply from this source is inadequate, local arrangements may be made for the selection of candidates. No guarantee is given or implied that the trainee will be provided with employment on the

completion of their training. But trainees should give an undertaking to accept such employment as may be offered them, or to refund the stipends drawn by them. Travelling expense of the trainee to join the Centre is paid by the Government. Trainees are medically examined under arrangements made by the National Service Labour Tribunals. They are allowed free medical treatment at the cost of the Central Government up to a maximum of Rs.10 at any one time. Expenditure in excess of this amount may be incurred when necessary. Trainees receive stipends from the Central Government at the rate of Rs.25 per month if they are matriculates, or Rs.20 per month if they are not, and are expected to pay for their board and lodging out of these amounts. In the matter of fines and deductions, they are treated as employees under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and, thus, both their interests and those of the training authorities are, therefore, fully protected in the event of accidents arising out of training.

The maximum duration of the courses is one year but a large number of semi-skilled men will, it is expected, be turned out in a considerably shorter period. Owing to the urgent need for trained men, it may be necessary to reduce the maximum duration of the courses to nine months. Trainees are passed out as soon as they have passed the standard trade tests.

Cost of Training.- As a general rule, the Central Government pays Rs.7 per head per month for training, in those cases in which the Government provides or pays the cost of any additional equipment or instructors required. Where additional instructors or equipment are ~~not provided or paid for by the Central Government~~, a higher rate is paid. Syllabuses of training, intended for use only as a guide, and standard trade tests have been ~~pre~~ prepared in pamphlet form by the Department of Labour.

Appointment of Regional Inspectors.- There are nine Regional Inspectors of Technical Training at present and two more are to be appointed shortly. It is the duty of these inspectors to visit all training centres periodically and to ensure that the training given is efficient and intensive. The inspectors may be freely consulted on all matters affecting training and are giving heads of training centres every assistance in working the scheme. In addition to the Regional Inspectors, Technical Recruiting Officers and representatives of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps and Ordnance Factories have been appointed to visit training centres. An important function of the Regional Inspectors is to test the skill of the trainees periodically and supervise the trade tests to which they are submitted before being passed as fit for employment. All trainees who pass the standard trade tests are supplied with a certificate to that effect.

Training of Instructors.- Owing to the growing need for instructors in the engineering trades, arrangements have been made by the Labour Department for the opening of classes for the training of 450 fitter, turner and machinist instructors (who have workshop experience) at selected training centres. They will be paid stipends of Rs.50 per month in the case of supervisors and Rs.35 per month in the case of mistries. Classes have already been arranged at three centres and the first batch of 64 instructors will be placed under training early in July 1941.

(Press Note issued by the Labour Department,
Government of India, on 25-6-1941.) ✓

Government of India sets up Reconstruction Committee:
Proceedings of 1st Meeting, Simla, 23-6-1941.

The Government of India appointed in the first week of June, 1941, a Reconstruction Committee to be presided over by the Hon. the Commerce Member, the other members of which will be the Economic Adviser to the Government of India and representatives of the Finance Department, the Commerce Department, the Defence Department, the Department of Education, Health and Lands, the Labour Department, the Department of Supply and the Railway Board.

A Press Note issued by the Government on 6-6-1941, explaining the objects and scope of work of the Committee, says: "Following upon the great and steadily increasing dislocation of economic and particularly industrial conditions caused by the war, an equally great, but more abrupt, dislocation of those conditions is to be expected on the return of a state of peace. Industries that are now being developed as rapidly and extensively as possible will no longer be actively engaged upon urgent war contracts; labour that has been employed in these industries will become redundant; and stocks of materials and ~~finished articles prepared for war use~~ will become surplus and their disposal will have to be arranged. It is therefore not too soon to begin to survey them while there is yet time to do this, without incurring the perils which attend hasty improvisation, so that they may be ~~now~~ prepared with their plans when the anticipated emergency comes." The main purpose and necessity of such a committee was fully explained by the Commerce Member in the Legislative Assembly in March 1941 in Delhi. (vide pages 21-23 of the report of this Office for April 1941.)

The Committee, the Communiqué points out, will arrange for the bulk of its detailed work to be done by Sub-Committees appointed to deal with various problems, and its main functions will therefore be to direct and co-ordinate the work of the Sub-Committees. It is further intended that persons with special knowledge, whether official or non-official, shall be added to the various Sub-Committees. In due course, arrangements will be made to bring the main Committee and the Sub-Committees into touch with Provincial and State Governments and to enable them to obtain the advice of industrialists and other businessmen, who will be in a position to give valuable assistance on the diverse problems which will arise from time to time. The Government considers that the most effective way of bringing expert opinion to bear is, by way of inviting its collaboration with reference to specific problems and not by enlarging the main Committee, especially as experience shows that an unduly large committee cannot function efficiently.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-6-1941, and
Public Information, 1-7-1941.)

36

First Meeting of Reconstruction Committee,
Simla, 23-6-1941.

The first meeting of the Reconstruction Committee was held on 23-6-1941 at Simla, with Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, in the chair. Four Sub-Committees were set up at the meeting. They are: the first on labour and demobilisation with the Defence Secretary as chairman, the second on disposals and contracts with the Secretary, Supply Department, as chairman, the third on public works and Government purchases with the Labour Secretary as chairman, and the fourth on trade, international trade policy and agricultural developments with the Commerce Secretary as chairman.

Composition and Work of Sub-Committees and Steering Committee.- These committees will consist of representatives of departments of the Central Government, representatives of provincial and State Governments, non-official commercial and industrial representatives and representatives of labour according to the nature of the work involved in each committee. The Reconstruction Committee (co-ordination) which is the steering committee, will receive the reports of the other committees and will be responsible for giving guidance, where necessary, to the work of the other committees. The recommendations of the committees will be considered by the Governor-General-in-Council and such action as may be considered necessary taken thereon. The essential features of the reconstruction programme will be the re-distribution of labour now engaged on war production, the employment in other occupations of men now with the fighting forces, the tapering off of war ~~time~~ production as commercial war acceleration of public works and labour creating schemes by public and private enterprise, and the formulation of long-term trade and industrial policies. The special aspects of the work of the four sub-committees are briefly noticed below:-

Labour and Demobilisation Sub-Committee.- The main work of this Committee will be:-

(a) to inaugurate at once a proper statistical service relating to the increasing volume of employment in the industries primarily affected by war demands, e.g., ordnance and clothing factories, engineering, textiles, etc.,

(b) to consider how far labour at present employed in a given direction can be re-employed in other directions without retraining; what, if any, arrangements for retraining can be instituted and what the direction of retraining should be; finally, whether any arrangements for relief work, etc., will be necessary and, if so, where and under what conditions of pay, terms of employment, etc.,

(c) to keep in close touch with the Army authorities, so that their plans of demobilisation should not accentuate the problem of employment on the cessation of hostilities. It would appear desirable, therefore, that the Army should keep a record of the former occupations of recruits.

(d) to consider carefully how far existing facilities by means of which those in search of employment are put in touch with available jobs are adequate in the light of an employment crisis such as may confront the country at the end of the war or thereafter.

Committee on War Contracts.- It will be the duty of this Committee to ~~make~~ arrangements so as to prevent the whole economic

structure from being demoralised by a sudden cessation of war production. The aim should be to taper off war production as commercial demand expands. Arrangements will also have to be made for the orderly disposal of stocks already on hand or accruing under war contracts, so as not to break prices and check demand for new production manifesting itself.

Committee on Public Works and Government Purchases.- It is pointed out that it is not necessary to labour the point that acceleration, or, contrariwise, the decline of public works expenditure, and/or expenditure by Government departments generally, can powerfully influence the labour market and the economic situation generally. It is therefore a matter of great importance to arrive at an agreed public works policy, the object of which would be to accelerate public works as the various demands for war purposes taper off. Different types of public works will give very different degrees of employment, direct and indirect, according to the types of labour, materials, etc., involved, and investigations of these aspects of the matter will be required before an adequate policy can be evolved. It will also be necessary to take into account the possible acceleration, for example, of housing projects and of considering ways and means of stimulating private capital construction as fully as possible.

Committee on Trade and Agricultural Problems.- The Government recognises that the formulation of long-term trade and industrial policies is properly a matter for the Government as a whole. But it is clear that practically every country in the world will be faced with an identical problem at the end of the war and the practicability of the emergency measures adopted by each of them will in part depend upon the general attitude assumed towards international trade. The importance of watching the development of thought and action in this field is particularly great for countries such as India, whose national income is liable to sharp fluctuations through changes in the level of international prices.

One special problem arising immediately out of the war situation is also to be considered. It has been pointed out that the gradual improvement in the shipping situation which is to be expected at the end of the war will tend to increase the volume of imports. This will affect the position of industries which have expanded as a consequence of the present quasi-monopoly held by them and will raise the question of redundant plant, or, alternatively, the question of what tariff measures will be necessary or desirable, to safeguard the position of such industries consistently with due appreciation of the position of the consumer under the then existing circumstances.

It is explained that changes in international trade policies and in the tariff policies of different countries will greatly affect the position of the growers of particular crops, e.g., cotton, wheat, oilseeds. It will, therefore, be necessary to consider not only the direct impact effects, but also the possibilities of diverting agricultural production along new lines, if international developments should appear to be, on the whole, unfavourable to the maintenance of the present scale of production of agricultural products.

(The Statesman, 25-6-1941.) +

Compensation for War Injuries.

38

The Burma War Injuries Rules, 1941. ✓

The Government of Burma has promulgated the Burma War Injuries Rules, 1941, which came into force on 1-4-1941, according to which during the period of voyage from the United Kingdom to Burma on first appointment, the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme made by His Majesty's Minister of Pensions under the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1939, shall apply to all persons recruited in the United Kingdom for appointment to the Civil Services and posts under the rule-making control of the Governor.

(Notification No. 68 dated 5-6-1941;
The Burma Gazette, Part I, dated
14-6-1941, pages 769 to 770.) ✓

Expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council:Five new Indian Members appointed:Sir Firoz Khan Noon becomes Labour Member:Setting up of Indian Defence Council.

The last few weeks have witnessed a number of changes in the Viceroy's Executive Council. Apart from the appointment of two Indian members in place of two retiring Indian Members, the Council itself has been expanded to include five additional Indian members. Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, Member in Charge of Law and Supply Departments, has been appointed a Judge of the Federal Court, and he is to vacate his membership of the Viceroy's Council shortly; Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Member in Charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, has been appointed Agent-General for India in the United States, and he is also expected to vacate membership shortly.

On 21-7-1941, the Government of India issued a communiqué to the effect that as a result of the increased pressure of work, in connexion with the war, it has been decided to enlarge the Executive Council of the Governor General of India in order to permit the separation of the portfolios of Law and Supply and Commerce and Labour; ~~the division of the present portfolio of Education, Health and Lands~~ into separate portfolios of Education, Health and Lands and Indians Overseas; and the creation of portfolios of Information and of Civil Defence. Accordingly, the following have been appointed to the Executive Council: Member for Supply - Sir Hormusji P. Mody, K.B.E., M.L.A. (Central); Member for Information - The Rt. Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, P.C.; Member for Civil Defence - Mr. E. Raghavendra Rao; Member for Labour - Malik Sir Firoz Khan Noon, K.C.I.E.; Member for Indians Overseas - Mr. M.S. Aney, M.L.A. (Central); Member for Law - Sir Sultan Ahmed; (to take office when Sir Mohammad Zafarullah Khan vacates the post); and Member for Education, Health and Lands - Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar (to take office when Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai vacates the post).

(The Statesman, 22-7-1941.).

Establishment of Indian Defence Council.

The constitution of a National Defence Council for India ~~has~~ is also announced on 21-7-1941. The Council, which has been set up with a view to associate Indian non-official opinion as fully as possible with the prosecution of the war, is to consist of 30 members, including representatives of Indian States as well as of provinces and of other elements in the national life of British India in its relation to the war effort. The names of 24 ^{members} ~~persons~~ from British India have been announced.

The personnel of the Defence Council is selected in such a way as to give representation not only to territorial areas but to different interests, functions and communities. Moslem representation, for instance, is secured by no fewer than four Prime Ministers, in addition to the only woman representative, Begum Shah Nawaz. From the point of view of representation of functions, commerce is

represented by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava, Sir Muthia Chettiar, Mr. Morton and Mr. Mukerjee; while labour is represented by Mr. Jammadas Mehta and Dr. Ambedkar; military interests by Sir Sikander Hayat Khan; minority interests other than Moslem by Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Parsis), Mr. Rajah (scheduled castes), Sir Henry Gidney (Anglo-Indians) and Prof. Ahmad Shah (Indian Christian).

It is proposed that the Council should meet about once every two months under the chairmanship of the Viceroy himself. The proceedings will be in camera and special arrangements will be made to ensure secrecy. Only members of the Council will ordinarily be present, but the Governor-General will have discretion to invite members of the Executive Council or any other officer to be present when necessary. At each meeting, apart from other business, the Council will receive a full and confidential statement of the war position and of the position in regard to supply. The Council is intended to act as a liaison between provincial war effort and war effort of the centre.

(The Statesman, 22-7-1941.) +

41

List of more important publications received in this Office
during June 1941. ✓ +

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Report of the Textile Labour Inquiry Committee, Vol. II - Final Report. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Re.1-5-0 or 2s.3d. 1940.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1939. Volume II. Abstract and detailed tables of the trade and shipping with each country and at each port, and table relating to the trade of the French Possessions in India. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.18-10 or 29s.
- (2) Annual Report of the Indian Central Cotton Committee for the year ending 31st August 1940. Price Rs.2/-.
- (3) Summary Proceedings of the Forty-third meeting of the Indian Central Cotton Committee held on the 17th and 18th January, 1941.

Migration.-

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, for the year 1940. Bangalore: Printed at the Mysore Residency Press and published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price 7 annas or 3d.

Agriculture.-

- (1) Annual Report on the Department of Agriculture of the North-West Frontier Province for the year ending 30th June, 1940. Part I; Printed and published by the Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.W.F.P., Peshawar. 1941. Price Rs.0-7-0 or £.0-0-9.

Co-operation.-

- (1) Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the United Provinces for the year 1939-40. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, United Provinces. 1941. Price 6 annas.
- (2) Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Burma for the year ended the 30th June, 1940. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1941. Price Re.1-8 or 2s.3d.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.

- (1) Government of Bengal, Department of Commerce and Labour. Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (XVI), 1926, in Bengal, for the year ending the 31st March, 1940. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1941. Price Annas 14 or 1s.6d.
- (2) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual Meeting held at Delhi on 22nd and 23rd March, 1941. Vol.III. 1941. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.

Public Health.-

Annual returns of the Hospitals and Dispensaries in Orissa for the year 1939. By Lt.-Col. G. Verghese, I.M.S., Director of Health and Inspector-General of Prisons, Orissa. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. Price Rs.3-1-0.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) Report on the Administration of Municipalities in the Province of Bombay for the year 1939-40. (including Statistical Statement for the City of Bombay). Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Annas 12 or 1s.3d. 1941.
- (2) Catalogue of publications, Part I. June 1941. Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. +

C 6/2/75

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for July 1941.

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

Contents

Pages

National Labour Legislation.-

Bengal:

- (a) Introduction of Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1941. 1
- (b) Introduction of Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1941. 1
- (c) Introduction of the Bengal Maternity Benefits (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941. 1
- (d) The Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief Rules, 1941. 1

Bihar:

Rules re. Persons exempted from Restrictive Provisions of the Factories Act. 2

Bombay:

Exemption of Clerical Staff from Operation of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939. 2

Burma:

The Draft Burma Canal Amendment) Bill, 1941. 2-3

Conditions of Work.-

Hours of Work:

- (a) Applicability of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act to Owner-managed Shops: Government prefers Appeal to High Court. 4
- (b) Proposal to extend Punjab Trade Employees Act to Delhi Province. 4

Inspection:

Special Rules for the Madras Factories Service (Women's Branch). 5

Wages:

Family Budgets Enquiry in Indore. 6

Industrial Disputes:

- (a) Cawnpore Labour Strike. 7
- (b) Madras Bus Drivers' Strike. 7-8
- (c) Bombay Legislation re. Compulsory Arbitration: Protest by Millowners' Association, Bombay. 8-9

Holiday:

Closed Holidays for Industrial Workers: Indian Jute Mills Association's Proposal: Scheme postponed in view of contemplated Central Legislation. 10

Economic Conditions.-

- (a) Economic and Financial Conditions in India - 1940-41: Review by Reserve Bank of India. 11-13
- (b) Indian Purchase Mission to U.S.A.: Sir S. Chetty explains work of Mission. 14
- (c) India's Industrial Expansion: 400 New Articles Manufactured. 14-15
- (d) Scheme for Developing Groundnut Market: Government of India to convene Conference in August 1941. 15-16

3. <u>Economic Conditions.-</u> (continued)	
(a) Abandonment of Motor Car Industry Scheme by Mysore State: Law Minister's Statement in Mysore Legislative Council.	16-17
(b) Mr. Walchand Hirachand's Criticism of Government of India.	
(c) New Industries in Indore: Economic Development Board set up to examine possibilities.	18
(d) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during April 1941.	18
4. <u>Social Insurance.-</u>	
Principal's Liability under Workmen's Compensation Act: Bombay High Court Judgment.	19
5. <u>Migration.-</u>	
(a) Working of the Indian Emigration Act during 1940.	20-21
(b) Indian Immigration into Burma: Baxter Commission's Recommendations.	21-22
(c) Provisions of Indo-Burma Migration Agreement.	22-26
(d) Ban on Emigration of Unskilled Labour from India from 21-7-1941.	26
(e) Colonial Office Enquiry into Labour Conditions in Colonies: Major Orde Browne in Malaya.	27
(f) Settlement of Indo-Ceylon Problems: Ceylon invites Government of India Delegation.	27
6. <u>Professional Workers, salaried Employees and Public Servants.-</u>	
Grievances of Subordinate Telegraph Service-Men: Demand for Enquiry.	28
7. <u>Organisation, Congresses, etc.-</u>	
Workers' Organisations:	
Rift in Indian Trade Union ranks over issue of Participation in War: Move for forming Anti-Fascist All-India Trade Union Council.	29-31
8. <u>Public Health.-</u>	
Incidence of Malaria in India: Dr. Paul Russell's Survey	32-34
9. <u>Education.-</u>	
Agricultural Education in Bengal: Enquiry Committee appointed by Bengal Government.	35.
10. <u>Social Policy in War Time:-</u>	
<u>Wages:</u>	
(a) Dearness Allowance to Coimbatore Textile Labour Employees.	36
(b) Dearness Allowance for Punjab Industrial Workers: Punjab Industrialists to confer on 9-8-1941.	36
(c) Dearness Allowance for Low-Paid Government Servants in Assam.	36-37
<u>Employment:</u>	
Technical Training: The Delhi Polytechnic Institute.	37
<u>War Supplies:</u>	
Central Provision Office starts Work: Organisation for co-ordinating and supplying requirements of armies of Eastern Group.	37-38
<u>War Purchases:</u>	
War Purchases in India in 1940-41: Total over Rs.760 millions.	38-39
<u>War Risk Insurance:</u>	
State Insurance of Private Chattels and Property: Scheme under consideration of Government.	39
<u>Control Measures:</u>	
(a) Control of Iron and Steel.	39-40
(b) Food Rationing in Kashmir State: Ration Ticket System for Rice.	40
Compensation for War Injuries: The War Injuries Ordinance, 1941.	40-41.
11. <u>List of more important publications received during July 1941.</u>	42-43

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION ✓

Bengal.-

Introduction of Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas)
Amendment Bill, 1941. †

Reference was made at page 1 of our May 1941 report to the intention of the Bengal Government to introduce the Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1941. The Bill was introduced in the local Legislative Council on 28-7-1941 by the Hon. Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, Home Minister, Bengal.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-7-1941.)

Bengal.-

Introduction of Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment)
Bill, 1941.

At pages 2 to 3 of our March, 1941 report were given the salient features of the draft Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1941; the Bill was introduced in the local Legislative Council on 28-7-1941 by the Hon. Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, Labour Minister, Bengal.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-7-1941.)

Bengal.-

Introduction of ^{the} Bengal Maternity Benefits (Tea Estates)
Bill, 1941.

The draft Bengal Maternity Benefits (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941, to which reference was made at pages 1 to 2 of our June 1941 report was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council by the Honourable Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, Labour Minister, Bengal.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-7-1941.)

Bengal.-

The Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief Rules, 1941.

The Government of Bengal has gazetted the general rules of administration of the Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief Act, 1939.

(The Calcutta Gazette,
Part I, dated 17-7-1941,
pages 1779-1780.),

Bihar.-Rules re. Persons exempted from Restrictive Provisions of the Factories Act. +

The Bihar Government has gazetted the Rules under the Factories Act defining the classes of persons deemed to hold positions of super-~~visor~~ vision or management and persons working in confidential capacity who are exempted from the restrictive provisions of the Factories Act.

(The Bihar Gazette, Part II, dated 2-7-1941, pages 480 to 481.)

Bombay.-Exemption of Clerical Staff from Operation of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939.

Reference was made at page 2 of our February, 1941, report to the notification of the Government of Bombay of the exemption for six months of clerical staff employed in certain kinds of mills in Ahmedabad, Bombay and Sholapur from the operation of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939. The Government of Bombay has now extended the exemption for the duration of ~~the~~ the war.

(Notification Nos. 143 (a) and (b) dated 17-7-1941: The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-B, dated 24-7-1941, pages 625 to 626.)

Burma.-The Draft Burma Canal (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

The Burma Government intends introducing in the forthcoming session of the Legislature a Bill to amend the Burma Canal Act, 1905, so as to repeal Section 70 and amend Section 71 of the Act which deal with forms of forced labour. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that the labour exacted under sections 70 and 71 of the Burma Canal Act, 1905, is held to be excluded from the exceptions given in Article 2 of the Draft Convention and Recommendations concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour adopted by the International Labour Conference. Section 70 is not being used in recent years as no notification has been issued under it declaring that the provisions of sections 66, 67 and 68 and 69 of the Act shall apply to any district or part of a district for purposes of constructing water-courses under the provisions of section 14. It is, therefore, proposed to repeal this section. As regards section 71 it has been considered whether, in the event of that section being repealed, it would be possible to employ the provisions of section 67 in cases where contractors employed for unsilting of canals are unable to obtain labour in sufficient numbers to complete the work before the break of the rains. If the canals are not unsilted in time, the supply of water is liable to be cut off from large areas and the result is likely to be "serious damage" which may entail "extensive public injury" within the meaning of section 67. In such

cases however section 67 cannot properly be used, as the damage done would not be "sudden". To enable such cases to be dealt with it is proposed to retain section 71 amended as indicated in the draft Bill. The section as so amended would appear to fall within the provisions of clause (d) of Article 2 of the draft Convention.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III, dated 19-7-1941, pages 163 to 164.) +

4

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Hours of Work

Applicability of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act to Owner-Managed Shops: Government prefers Appeal to High Court. ✓

In view of the fact that different Presidency Magistrates have put different interpretations on the various provisions of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act and the rules framed thereunder in deciding cases under the Act, Government have filed an appeal against the decision given by the Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, acquitting Mahomed Kassam Panwalla, who was charged with keeping open his shop after 9 p.m. on February 15 last, with failure to maintain a visit book for the Inspector appointed under the Act to record his remarks in, and with failure to exhibit in his shop a notice containing extracts of the Act. (Vide page 4 of our April 1941 report.)

The Government submitted that the Magistrate erred in his decision that one-man owner-managed shops were not subject to the regulations regarding closing hours under the Act; that he erred in holding that the owner of such a concern was not an employer ~~as defined~~ as defined under the Act; and that he put a wrong interpretation on the word "employer" and failed to follow the meaning allotted to it by the definition.

The appeal has been admitted by the High Court.

(The Times of India, 2-7-1941.) ✓

Proposal to extend Punjab Trade Employees Act to Delhi Province. ✓

It is understood that the Delhi Provincial Administration has under consideration the question of the extension to Delhi of the Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940, or a similar statute from another province. The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, is reported to be in consultation on the subject with municipalities and trade interests in the Province.

(The National Call, 9-7-1941.) ✓

Special Rules for the Madras Factories Service (Women's Branch),

The Government of Madras has published the special rules governing the Women's Branch of the Madras Factories Service. The service is to consist of one Assistant Inspectress of Factories. Appointment to the service is to be by direct recruitment, provided that, for special reasons, appointment to the service may be made by transfer. The Service is restricted to women, and no woman above 30 years of age is eligible for appointment. A candidate for service should possess a medical degree or the B.A. or B.Sc. Degree (with training in maternity and child welfare, or in public health or social service); preference will be given to candidates having experience of social work among women and children. During period of probation, which is the same as in the General Rules, the probationers should pass colloquial tests in Tamil and Malayalam (the local languages) and the accounts test for executive officers. The salary scale is Rs. 190-20/2-250-25/2-350 per mensem.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part I,
dated 15-7-1941, page 841.)+

Family Budgets Enquiry in Indore. ✓

The Labour Officer, Indore State, is now engaged in conducting an inquiry into the family budgets of working classes in the local textile mills as a first step in the preparation of a working class cost of living index, which would form the basis for future wage adjustments. The enquiry is expected to be completed within six months.

(The Hindustan Times, 2-7-1941.) ✓

Industrial Disputes

Cawnpore Labour Strike. ✓

Towards the beginning of July 1941, the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha gave notice of a general strike of mill workers if their demands were not met; these demands included, besides a 40 per cent. wage increase, better housing, provision of increased medical facilities, improved leave rules, more holidays, establishment of a Government labour exchange, etc. The strike began on 14-7-1941 with 5,000 workers, but soon the number increased to 40,000.

On 17-7-1941, the U.P. Government issued a press communiqué in which it declared that no Government can tolerate interference in the supply of essential articles to troops in the field in time of war and that it intended to use its powers under the Defence of India Rules to the full to restore normal working in Cawnpore. Government also instructed the Labour Commissioner, as soon as the men returned to work, to enquire into the important points in dispute between the employers and the men, other than those which have for some time been under consideration of Government, and to make recommendations. No such inquiry, it was pointed out, could take place on them until full working was restored and, in this connection, it was observed that the present strike was instigated by the Mazdoor Sabha and no proper steps were taken to open negotiations for resolving the points in dispute. Government declared that it could not continue to recognise that body, and that any representation made by it to the Labour Commissioner will be ignored. The Labour Commissioner would, however, deal with representations submitted by Mill Committees or other associations of workers.

(The Hindustan Times 18-7-1941).

The strike began to fizzle out towards the end of July and by the beginning of August 1941 normal working conditions were restored.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-7-1941.)

2

Madras Bus Drivers' Strike.

Reference was made at pages 19 to 21 of our June 1941 report to the settlement of dispute between Madras bus-owners and their employees through the arbitration of Mr. V. Ramakrishna, I.C.S., Commissioner of Labour, Madras. On complaints received from the Madras Motor Drivers' Association that the terms of the award were not being properly implemented, a series of meetings were held by the Labour Commissioner with representatives of both sides. On 4-7-1941, the drivers and conductors declared a lightning strike, and some of them were found guilty of minor acts of sabotage, such as stealing ignition keys and cutting tyres. There was also unlawful picketing as a result of which several drivers were arrested and sentenced. A press communiqué issued by the Government of Madras on 19-7-1941, pointed out that a report received by it from the Commissioner of Labour went to prove the failure of the transport companies to properly implement the terms of the award of 28-4-1941, and subsequent agreements. Also, on a careful consideration of the various representations made by it, the Government came to the conclusion that both parties were at fault - the workers by embarking on a lightning strike without notice and

and

by resorting to unlawful acts, (the employers by their failure to implement the terms of the award and the subsequent agreement. The Government, in its desire to end the strike, advised the workers to resume work unconditionally and the employers to reinstate all those workers who have not been convicted for acts of violence, to implement the terms of the award and the agreement, and to compensate those workers who have been affected by the failure of the employers to give effect to the terms of the award. (Madras Government Press Communiqué dated 19-7-1941.)

The workers decided soon after to accept the Government's advice and end the strike, but bus-owners are showing hesitation to accept the advice. On 30-7-1941, Mr. T.G. Rutherford, Adviser to the Government of Madras, discussed the situation with representatives of the bus owners, but the dispute is continuing.

(The Hindu, 6-8-1941.) ✓x

Bombay Legislation re. Compulsory Arbitration:
Protest by Millowners' Association, Bombay. ✓

Reference was made at pages 2 to 3 of our May 1941 report to the amendment of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, so as to introduce the principle of compulsory arbitration of trade disputes. The following is a summary of the views expressed by the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, in the course of a protest submitted on 18-6-1941 to the Government of Bombay:

Parties not Consulted. - The Committee recalled the debate on the parent Bill in the Legislature and pointed out that at no stage during the debate on the Bill was it suggested, either by the representatives of employers or the representatives of labour that the scope of the measure should be extended to include the principle of compulsory arbitration. In the circumstances, it was submitted that Government might well have consulted the parties mainly concerned before legislation incorporating this principle was framed.

Principle of Compulsory Arbitration Opposed. - As far as the Committee was aware, except as an emergency measure during a time of war, "the principle of compulsory arbitration had never been applied even in a country as industrially advanced as the United Kingdom, for the reason that it was strongly opposed by employers' and employees' organisations alike." The main objections of the Committee to the introduction of the principle of compulsory arbitration in the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act were:-

- (a) Compulsory arbitration was a reversal of the policy of settlement by agreement.
- (b) No judicial or quasi-judicial system could work with general assent unless it administered a set of known and established rules based upon generally accepted principles. No such principles could be defined in respect of trade disputes.
- (c) It would be impossible in practice to enforce an unacceptable award upon labour.
- (d) Compulsory arbitration might tend to lessen the desire of the parties to come to a settlement by agreement; the knowledge

that if a dispute went on long enough it would be referred to a Court with compulsory powers, would almost certainly tend to make a recalcitrant party put forward extreme claims, and avoid a friendly settlement in the hope of getting larger concessions from an arbitrator. In general, the use of compulsory arbitration would weaken the sense of responsibility of employers and employees, thus retarding the practice of settlement of discussion and agreement.

- (e) The penalties which might be imposed for participating in or instigating illegal strikes were not of such a character as to prevent their occurrence after arbitration had taken place, whereas the penalties laid down in the case of illegal lock-outs were deterrent. In any case, such penalties would be practically inoperative so far as labour was concerned.

Action on all-India Basis Preferred.- Appreciating the anxiety of the Bombay Government to remove the possibility of dislocation of the war effort of Indian industries owing to cessation of work during the period of the war, and the desirability of taking effective steps to achieve this end, the Committee had brought the question of preventing of trade disputes to the notice of the Director General of Supply, and had suggested that if action was taken, it should be taken under the Defence of India Act; that it should be of an All-India character; that the special measure might include some speedy and effective procedure for adjudicating finally on matters in dispute; that special protection ~~against cessation of work~~ should be limited to factories actively engaged in the production of war supplies; that the right to strike and lockout should only be taken away for the period of the war; and that after the war, the pre-war legislative position should be reestablished. The attention of the Government was also drawn to the fact that the Central Government had under contemplation an amendment of the Trade Disputes Act, 1926, and that, at the special conference which the Member for Labour with the Government of India had with representatives of employers' organisations in Calcutta in January 1941 (vide pages 3 to 5 of our December 1940 Report), the Member had indicated that it was the intention of the Central Government to lay down a "norm" or model in respect of various measures of labour legislation and that the Provinces might be expected to follow this "norm" as far as possible. The Labour Member had further indicated that in those Provinces where Section 93 of the Government of India Act was in force, it would be possible for the Central Government to ask them not to go further than the "norm" laid down by the proposed Central Act.

Assurance Sought.- In conclusion, the Committee pressed for an assurance that the Amending Act would be withdrawn if it failed to prevent dislocation of production owing to wanton and unnecessary strikes at a time when all endeavours should be devoted to the development of nation-wide war effort.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during June, 1941.)✓+

10 7

Holidays.

Closed Holidays for Industrial Workers:

Indian Jute Mills Association's Proposal:

Scheme postponed in view of contemplated Central Legislation. ✓

In 1940 a proposal was made by the Indian Jute Mills Association that employing interests in Bengal, particularly those operating in the same districts, should come to some agreement with regard to the individual holidays to be observed in their establishments, and proposed to fix six days in the year - spread over the more important of the festivals observed by the workers - during which all mills in the Calcutta industrial area would grant holidays to their workers, with liberty to grant, in addition, such other holidays as local circumstances and custom dictated.

The principle involved has been favourably received by most industrial interests, though the question of applying it must depend on the circumstances of the individual industry concerned, for instance on the migratory nature of the workers and the seasonal character of the employment in certain industries. Those whose special requirements do not permit of actual holidays being given have been asked to consider the grant of pay in lieu of holidays. The intention had been to make this proposal effective from 1-1-1941, but in view of the possibility of early introduction of Central Legislation on holidays with pay (the subject was considered at the First and Second Labour Ministers' Conference), the introduction of the scheme has now been postponed.

(Report of the Committee of the Bengal
Chamber of Commerce for 1940, Vol.I.) ✓

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Economic and Financial Conditions in India - 1940-41:

Review by Reserve Bank of India.*

International Economic Situation.- World Economy during the year under review continued to be overshadowed by war and with the extension of the zone of hostilities the various economic controls in the sphere of production, consumption, prices, foreign trade, exchange, etc., instituted after the outbreak of war in the belligerent, as well as in certain neutral, countries were further intensified. In the main the essential problem of war economy continued to be the same as in the war of 1914-18, namely, the necessity for the mobilisation of all economic resources for the prosecution of war at a time when the real output of goods and services was reduced by the diversion of men to the forces. Though the introduction of the various control measures immediately after the outbreak of the war facilitated the economic mobilisation, the increased cost of waging war on a highly mechanised scale created financial problems of unprecedented magnitude which were reflected in the enormous increases in Government expenditure during the year.

Conditions in U.S.A. and Great Britain.- In the United States the recession in economic activity, which was noticed after the passing of the initial boom immediately after the outbreak of the war, was arrested in May, 1940, when industrial production began to assume an upward trend due principally to the increased volume of war orders received from the British Empire and the vast increase in domestic defence expenditure and reached a new record in March, 1941. The outstanding event was the passing of the 'Lend Lease Act' on the 11th March, 1941, empowering the President to transfer at his discretion defence articles to the Government of any country whose defence he deemed vital to the defence of the United States. In Great Britain, the dominant feature of the economic situation was the intensification of the economic and financial effort necessitated by the war, with a view to mobilising, to the fullest extent, all the available resources in materials and labour. Some idea of the magnitude of the financial effort of the war may be obtained from the fact that the daily expenditure on war rose from ~~£4.7~~ £4.7 millions in the first month of the war to about £14 millions in March 1941. In the financial markets the prominent features were the continued maintenance of cheap money conditions and the steadiness of gilt-edged securities. An important development in the exchange market was the recovery of the quotation for free sterling in New York market, as a result mainly of the payment agreements entered into by the Bank of England with the principal banks in the United States and other countries in the course of the year.

Situation in India: Commodity Prices Raised: Production Stimulated.- In India the setback to business conditions caused by the fall of France in June, 1940, continued to exercise a depressing influence over the markets generally during the earlier part of the

* Reserve Bank of India: Report of the Central Board of Directors for the year ended the 30th June 1941, to be presented to the Shareholders at the Seventh Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday, the 11th August, 1941, at Delhi. 1941. pp.31

year under review; from September, however, signs of a more hopeful outlook were in evidence owing mainly to the improvement in the war situation and the receipt of large Government orders for the supply of raw materials in connection with the war. Commodity prices recovered rapidly, the Calcutta index number of wholesale prices (1914=100) rising from 114 in June, 1940, to 138 in June, 1941, as compared with the peak of 137 in December, 1939, reached in the first upswing after the commencement of the war. The developments in the field of supply not only acted as a great stimulus to existing Indian industries generally but also led to the establishment of new industries. Available figures show that production in the cotton, iron and steel, paper and certain chemical industries was maintained at a higher level than during the corresponding period of the preceding year, though certain important industries such as jute and sugar remained depressed. Although owing to the loss of important European export markets as a result of war developments, ~~xxx~~ war-time controls of exports and imports and the scarcity of freight, India's foreign trade position as revealed by the published figures showed deterioration, this was offset by increased purchases by His Majesty's Government in India which are paid for in sterling and which are not therefore included in these figures. The financial and the currency system of the country as a whole continued to stand well the strain of war conditions, and signs were visible occasionally of an optimism which cannot be regarded as justified in view of the essentially artificial nature of any war prosperity.

Money Market: Easy Conditions.- Owing mainly to the loss of important European markets for India's staple export commodities, referred to above, trade demand for funds was generally slack and monetary conditions remained easy throughout the year. The Reserve Bank of India rate continued to be maintained at 3 per cent. during the period.

Securities Market.- The gilt-edged market in India during the year continued to reflect the developments in the war situation and the trend of prices in London. After the heavy decline in prices towards the end of June, 1940, following the collapse of France, the market steadied in the first half of July and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. rupee paper advanced gradually from Rs.85-14-0 at the close of June to Rs.96-4-0 on the 11th February, the highest since the outbreak of war.

Commodity Prices.- The trend of commodity prices during the year under review reflected the repercussions of the war on Indian economy. Owing to the closure of important European markets, the prices of raw materials and foodstuffs which constituted the greater part of Indian exports prior to the outbreak of war remained at a comparatively low level. On the other hand, the prices of manufactured articles showed an upward trend owing to the fall in imports. The Calcutta index number for wholesale prices (July ~~1941~~ 1914=100) rose from 114 in June, 1940, to 122 in November, and after moving between 119 and 121 during the succeeding three months, again assumed an upward trend and reached 138 in June 1941.

Balance of Trade.- The total value of merchandise exported from India and Burma on private account during the eleven months ended May, 1941, amounted to Rs. 1794.8 millions as compared with Rs. 2163.6 millions during the corresponding period ended May, 1940. On a similar comparison, the total value of merchandise similarly imported ~~amounted to~~ Rs. 1321.3 millions against 1362.1 millions. The fall in exports was due mainly to the loss of important European markets as a result of

war developments, while that in imports is to be attributed principally to the scarcity of freight. The balance of trade in merchandise on private account in favour of India and Burma thus declined from Rs. 801.5 millions to Rs. 473.5 millions. These figures, however, do not correctly indicate the balance of payments since they do not take into account the large and increasing purchases by His Majesty's Government which are paid for in sterling.

Exchange: Control Measures.- The rupee-sterling exchange was steady throughout the year. The sellers' quotation for ready telegraphic transfers remained at lsh. 5-31/32d. till the 29th March, 1941, when it fell to lsh. 5-15/16 d. on a sudden enquiry for remittance. The principal control measures are briefly noticed below:-

The system of exchange control instituted by the Reserve Bank at the outbreak of the war continued during the year under review, and various modifications were made from time to time as necessity arose with a view to tightening up the regulations. ~~In the last report a reference was made to the extension of~~ Under the export control scheme in June, 1940, exports to hard currency countries were only permitted provided a certificate had been furnished by an authorised dealer in foreign exchange that the proceeds of the goods would be disposed of in a manner approved by the Reserve Bank of India. This reduced the volume of sterling that was passing to the free sterling market in New York. With a view to limiting this market still further, the Bank of England entered into various payment agreements during the year with the chief countries with which the Empire traded, whereby all sterling payments between the Empire and these countries passed through the official sterling accounts in London at fixed rates of exchange and no sterling payments were effected through the free market.

With the occupation of a large part of Europe by Germany, it became necessary to prohibit the import into India of Bank of England notes in order to prevent the enemy disposing of their large holdings of notes captured in the occupied countries. The Government of India therefore issued a notification on the 22nd August, 1940, prohibiting the import into India, except from Burma, of Bank of England notes.

On the 2nd November, 1940, the Government of India added a new rule, 90 (B), to the Defence of India Rules forbidding the taking out of British India, except to Burma, of any money except with the approval of the Reserve Bank of India or under the authority of an authorized dealer in foreign exchange.

In terms of the Defence of India Rules 92 and 94, the Government of India took over, in December 1940, the U.S. dollar holdings of all residents in British India and the rupee equivalent of their dollar holdings was paid out by the Reserve Bank at the rate of Rs. 330 per \$100 which was approximately the Exchange Banks' buying rate for T.Ts. on New York. Similarly on the 10th March, 1941, Government took over the holdings of residents in India of certain U.S. dollar securities at the market prices ruling in New York on the previous business day combined with the rupee-dollar rate of Rs. 330 per \$100.

14

Indian Purchase Mission to U.S.A.:
Sir S. Chetty explains work of Mission. ✓

Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, Chairman of the Indian Purchasing Mission to the U.S.A., in the course of a speech made to the South Indian Chamber of Commerce at Madras on 15-7-1941, explained the work of the Mission. The main points of the speech are noticed below:-

The Government of India had been feeling the necessity for making purchases of war materials on a large scale from the U.S.A. So far this purchase had been effected through the British Mission. The Government of India felt that the time had now come when they should have an independent organisation of their own to deal with the American Government and American manufacturers. He would be concerned in purchasing for the Government of India all their requirements for war purposes. But it did not necessarily mean that the purchases should be confined to ammunitions only.

To say that India must take advantage of the war situation and go on industrialising the country was a fallacy; it was equally a fallacy to say that during the war no new industries should be started. The test to be applied was whether the importation of machinery and equipment would in any way divert the legitimate war requirements of the Government. If it did not divert the war requirements of the Government of India, then every encouragement should be given to expand the industries. He was sure that this was the view of the Government of India also.

Certain restrictions must necessarily operate in the work of the Mission. If, for instance, industrialists in India wanted machinery from America, they must first obtain import licence and dollar exchange from the Government of India and then ^{and} they should make their own arrangements with their agents in America for the purchase and supply of the machinery. Corresponding to the import restrictions here, there would be export restrictions in U.S.A., since the Government of the U.S.A. were actively engaged in the production of war materials and anxious, therefore, that their resources should not be diverted for other purposes. If the particular machinery that was required happened to be in the American export restriction scheme, then it would be necessary for him to intervene with the American authorities and make out a case for a licence under the export scheme.

It would be the duty of the Purchase Mission to improve the export trade of this country with America. The United States of America were not going to allow the use of 'Lend and Lease Act' unless they were satisfied that India had no dollar resources. It should be India's endeavour to keep up her exports so as to secure sufficient currency in U.S.A. for India's purchases. There need be no apprehension that there would be any overdoing of credit purchases so as to hamper India's exports.

(The Hindu, 17-7-1941.) ✕

India's Industrial Expansion:
400 New Articles Manufactured. ✓

Reviewing industrial progress in India since the war because of the stimulus of war requirements, a note in the Times of India dated

31-7-1941, points out:-

India is now manufacturing nearly 400 new articles, while the range and output of many of her existing industries have considerably expanded.

The circumstances which have led to this development are mainly twofold: firstly, the rapid intensification of India's own defence preparations, and secondly, the role she has been called upon to play as the "arsenal" of Empire countries east of Suez in terms of her undertaking at the Eastern Group Conference. In fact, every effort is being made to replace imports, wherever possible, by indigenous production, in order to attain the largest measure of self-sufficiency in the matter of defence and civilian requirements. There are many industries the creation or expansion of which are under negotiation or contemplation at the present moment.

Some idea of the nature and extent of the present industrial expansion may be had from the fact that India today is manufacturing a very large proportion of the defence requirements - ranging from shirts to ships, from buttons to bridges, from goggles to guns - not only of her own but of all the other countries of the Eastern Group. The largest expansion has taken place in the textile industry. The entire production of the woollen textile industry has been taken over by Government and the output of all descriptions of woollen goods expanded beyond all peace-time record.

Practically all the engineering works and factories are devoting the major part of their productive capacity to defence requirements, and many of the factories have been especially expanded for the purpose. Over 280 new items of engineering stores are being manufactured, ranging from small tools and machine parts to sea-going vessels and heavy-calibre guns.

Many essential chemicals, the lack of which had hitherto been one of the main handicaps to India's industrial expansion, are now being produced. Other industries which have greatly expanded include drugs and medical stores, foodstuffs, leather manufactures, timber, and a host of smaller industries, such as hardware, glassware, cutlery, haberdashery, brushware, optical goods, etc. Important medical and surgical stores, formerly imported, are now being manufactured in the country. In foodstuffs, the manufacture of cigarettes and biscuits has considerably increased, while at least one new item, viz., dried potatoes, has been successfully introduced.

(The Times of India, 31-7-1941.)

Scheme for Developing Groundnut Market:
Government of India to convene Conference in August, 1941.

To decide upon ways of affording relief to groundnut cultivators in India and consider schemes of stimulating consumption of groundnuts and its products in the country, a conference is being convened in Simla or Delhi in August 1941. Representatives of the Governments of India, Bombay, Madras, and Hyderabad will participate, besides other Provinces who may be invited to join.

Since the war broke out, it is stated, the foreign market for India's groundnut has been dwindling, with the exception of Great Britain, which has purchased large amounts of these nuts. Early this year, the Government of India opened a fund to afford relief to cultivators of groundnuts out of rebate received from shipping companies and it is now

proposed to make allotments out of this amount to the various provinces, to subsidise schemes of improving groundnut cultivation and consumption, on condition that the Provincial Governments concerned agree to contribute an equal share from their coffers.

(The Indian Express, 7-7-1941.) ✓

Abandonment of Motor Car Industry Scheme by Mysore State:

Law Minister's Statement in Mysore Legislative Council. ✓

References were made in previous reports to the scheme for the establishments of an automobile factory in Mysore State, and the abandonment of the scheme by the Mysore Government (vide page 19 of our April 1941 report). The following is a summary of the statements made by Mr. A.V. Ramnathan, Law Minister, on 3-7-1941 in answer to questions in the Mysore Legislative Council as to why the scheme was dropped:

Certain proposals were placed before the Mysore Government first in October, 1940, and later in March 1941 regarding the participation in, and concessions to be made to, the company to be formed in association with the American Motor Corporation. The proposed company was to advertise and sell and service the vehicles of the type made by the said Corporation in India, Burma and Ceylon.

The contract bound the proposed company to sell a minimum monthly quota of vehicles and provide for the manufacture of certain automobile parts subject to certain conditions. It was hoped that the imported parts of the vehicles would, in the course of a few years, be replaced by parts made in India. The proposed capital was Rs. 22.5 million. The original proposal was that the Mysore Government should underwrite Rs. 15 million and guarantee interest at three and a half per cent. for ten years.

From April 1941 proposals were under consideration that the Mysore Government should grant to the company ~~free~~ ^{near} ~~lands~~ ^{land} near Bangalore, and acquire at company's cost such private lands as required by the company to the total extent of thousand acres; that the Government should provide facilities for water-supply and electric power and guarantee three and a half per cent. on the paid-up capital, that the Government should contribute Rs. 4 million towards the capital, that the Government should endeavour to provide bonding arrangements at Bangalore for the imported parts of the materials required for the company; that they should buy and endeavour to persuade the Mysore local bodies to buy their automobile requirements from the company; that the imports of the company's materials be exempted from the customs; and that the Government should endeavour to obtain cheapest rail freight for the company on Mysore Railways.

Certain aspects of the scheme involved ^{the} Government of India's assistance. The Government of India were definite that the establishment of the proposed factory would provide no contribution to the war effort. On the other hand, the factory would divert skilled personnel and machine tools away from the war effort and it was doubtful whether the plant erection during war time would be practicable owing to the Government control in India and the U.S.A. of steel and machine tools. The Government of India could not give any assurance of the availability of dollar exchange necessary to cover the imported components from the

17

U.S.A. The Government of India added they had not scrutinised the long-term aspect of the project but all that was necessary now was that the plan should be considered against the immediate war background. In the light of this authoritative statement and the present international situation, it became obvious that the prospect was not in sight either for the manufacturing of motor vehicles in Mysore or fulfilling the terms of the proposed contract with the American Corporation.

The Government are fully conscious that great advantages would accrue from the successful establishment of a large and prosperous motor industry, but the circumstances mentioned made quite impracticable for the present the establishment of the industry in the manner in which the conditions were proposed, for starting such an industry. The negotiations were, therefore, broken off.

(The Hindu, 4-7-1941.) ✓

Mr. Walchand Hirachand's Criticism of Government of India.

Mr. Walchand Hirachand, promoter of the proposed automobile factory, in a statement to the Press on 12-7-1941 says that the promoters' agreement with the American Corporation was very advantageous to India. In his opinion, the agreement had secured for India reasonable terms from a foreign manufacturer to enable India to build up a motor industry in this country. For one thing definite, there would not be any kind of non-Indian financial interest in the concern, or participation in the management. Under the terms, advice, co-operation, inspection, technical knowledge, results of researches and inventions on which American concerns spent annually millions of dollars, and the needed technical foreign personnel, would all be available to the industry at every stage to enable it progressively to manufacture Indian-made cars as early as possible.

In the first place, help had been assured in the manufacture of parts and components in such a manner that imports would progressively be eliminated and replaced by Indian made parts. Secondly, the requisite machinery to manufacture the component parts would be made available to India under the agreement. He visualized that, with the co-operation of the American company, under the terms of the agreement, India would be in a position to stand on her own legs in a period of three to five years in the production of motor cars.

Referring to the Government of India's contention that the proposed factory would divert skilled personnel and machine tools away from the war effort and also their inability to spare the dollars exchange, Mr. Walchand Hirachand stated that all he wanted was only three to four million dollars and a dozen skilled American engineers. The Imperial Government had been spending nearly sixty million dollars a day and what he required was a very small amount when compared to this. Furthermore, the dollars spent upon the Indian motor factory would enable the Government of India to save a good many dollars in the immediate future when India began to manufacture her own cars. An Indian automobile factory was the surest method of saving a good amount of dollars now spent upon American-made cars and trucks. It was the surest method of securing adequate supplies for the defence of India in these days of American restriction of production of automobile products. Mr. Walchand hoped that Government of India would now revise their view and treat this as a ~~war~~ war industry.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-7-1941.)

18

New Industries in Indore:
Economic Development Board set up to examine Possibilities. ✓

The Government of Indore State has recently sanctioned the formation of an Economic Development Board. According to a Government order issued on 12-7-1941, the duties of the Board are: (1) To examine the possibilities of large and small-scale industries, including cottage industries in the State; (2) To advise the Government as to the measures which are necessary to promote the economic and industrial development of the State; (3) To advise the Government as to the best means of attracting capital for the said development; and (4) To do all other things that it may consider necessary in connection with the above.

The Minister in charge of Commerce and Industries is the Chairman, and the Assistant Home Secretary in charge of Commerce and Industry Department, ~~will be~~ the secretary of the Board.

(Communiqué dated 12-7-1941 issued by the
Publicity Officer, Holkar State.) +

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for
Various Centres in India during April 1941. ✓

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during April 1941, as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in April 1941 rose by 2 points to 121. The average for 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during April 1941 advanced by 2 points to 81. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during April 1941 fell by 1 point to 78. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in April 1941, rose by 3 points to 72. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 63 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in April 1941 rose by 2 points to 72. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during April 1941 rose by 1 point to 109. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

(Extracted from the Monthly Survey of Business
Conditions in India for April 1941.) ✓

Principal's Liability under Workmen's Compensation Act:
Bombay High Court Judgment

In Kokilabhai v. Messrs. Keshavlal Mangaldas and Co., a Full Bench of the High Court of Bombay gave an important decision under Sec. 12 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. Section 12 provides for compensation to a workman by the principal, who, in the course of or for the purposes of his trade or business contracts with any other person that the latter should execute for him the whole or any part of the trade or business of the principal.

The respondents, Messrs. Keshavlal Mangaldas and Co., were the selling agents of the Sassoon Spg., and Wvg., Co., Ltd., and as such salesmen had agreed to take delivery of the goods of the company from the company's godowns at their expense. The respondents, in their turn, employed a firm of carriers and contractors to bring the goods from the company's godowns to the respondents' shop in lorries. In the course of the transport operations, the cleaner of a lorry employed by the carriers of goods, was killed by a bale of cloth falling upon him. The appellant, who was the mother of the cleaner, claimed compensation from the respondents as principals.

It was held by the Full Bench that the removing of the goods from the mill godowns to the selling agents' shop was ordinarily part of the trade or business of the selling agents and was an essential part of ~~the trade or business~~ thereof. Although the selling agents were not the immediate employers of the deceased workman, the workman was employed in the execution of the work which was ordinarily part of the trade or business of the selling agents. The selling agents were, therefore, liable, as principals, to pay compensation to the mother of the deceased workman.

(The Times of India, 23-7-1941.)

MIGRATION

20

Working of the Indian Emigration Act during 1940.*

Emigration to Malaya.- There was no assisted emigration of unskilled workers to Malaya during the year, as the notification of the Government of India under section 13 of the Indian Emigration Act prohibiting such assisted emigration continued to be in force. 73 non-working dependants of emigrants in Malaya who did not come under the ban and 47 skilled workers who came to India on leave and their ten dependants were assisted to proceed to Malaya ~~from India and~~ 184 non-working dependants and 176 skilled workers through Negapatam.

Wages in Malaya.- The wages offered during the year in Malaya were 50 and 40 Straits cents (approximately 12½ annas and 10 annas respectively) per diem for able-bodied adult male and female labourers respectively, being slightly higher than the standard rates fixed by law in 1930.

Emigration to Ceylon.- The ~~ban~~ on the emigration of unskilled workers to ~~Burma, Ceylon, India, and the Straits Settlements~~ Ceylon continued to be in force. During the year under report, ~~there were 22,558~~ 58,001 passengers who went to Ceylon and 86,646 returned from Ceylon.

Wages in Ceylon.- The wages in force on the estates during the year were as follows:-

	<u>Minimum Cash Wages</u>		
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Low-country estates	45 cents	36 cents	27 cents
Mid-country estates	47 "	37 "	28 "
Up-country estates	49 "	39 "	29 "

From 1-2-1941 the wages have been slightly increased as shown below:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Low-country estates	50 cents	40 cents	30 cents
Mid-country estates	52 "	41 "	31 "
Up-country estates	54 "	43 "	32 "

Repatriation.- 24,495 persons returned from Malaya paying their own passages. Of these, it was estimated that 8,947 persons (6,792 men, 1,088 women and 1,067 children) belonged to the labouring classes. 6,025 emigrants from Malaya as against 11,169 in 1939 were repatriated or assisted to return to India. Repatriation during the year from Malaya, thus, showed a further marked decrease. This is probably a result of the ban and may indicate that labourers who would otherwise be repatriated were being retained as there is no supply of labour from India.

During the year, 75,751 persons returned from Ceylon as ordinary passengers. Of these 12,578 persons are estimated to be labourers who returned from estates at their own cost. The total number of persons

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, for the year 1940. Bangalore: Printed at the Mysore Residency Press, and published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price 7 annas or 3d. pp.16.

who were assisted to return was 3,528, as against 2,976 in 1939. ✓

Indian Immigration into Burma:
Baxter Commission Recommendations.

Reference was made at page 46 of our June 1939 report to the appointment by the Government of Burma of the Baxter Commission to go into the problem of Indian immigration into Burma. The main recommendations of the Commission, whose report, though submitted in 1940, was published *only* on 21-7-1941 along with the text of the Indo-Burma Emigration Agreement, are summarised below:-

Registration of Indian Nationals entering Burma after agreed date.- That from a date to be agreed upon after negotiation with the Government of India, Indian nationals entering Burma whether for purposes of travel, residence or employment, should be provided with a duly registered Indian passport containing the usual particulars sufficient to establish the identity of the individual. That Indian nationals entering Burma for the purpose of residence and employment should be required to obtain a visa in the form of a work or employment permit valid for three years issued by competent authority under the Government of Burma, on condition that the holders of the permits undertake to leave Burma on their expiration.

Registration of Indians already in Burma when system of registration is introduced.- (a) That recognition of the fact that Indians who are born and bred in Burma, have made Burma their permanent home and regard their future and the future of their families as bound up with its interests are entitled to be regarded as having established a claim, if they wish to make it, to a Burma domicile and therefore to the benefit of section 144 of the Government of Burma Act, 1935. (b) The recognition of the fact that Indians who have worked in Burma for at least five years immediately before (date to be specified) with the clear intention of continuing to work and reside in the country, are entitled to be regarded as having established a claim to the position of privileged immigrants with a recognised status and with a right to further residence and to continuation of their employments subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed from time to time. (c) The granting of work permits valid for three years to other Indian workers already in Burma, such permits to have preference for renewal over permits granted to new Indian immigrants.

Conclusion of an Immigrant Agreement.- That at an early date negotiations should be initiated with the Government of India for the conclusion of an Immigration Agreement which should deal inter alia with the following specific subjects:- (a) The definition of the several classes of Indian ~~immigrants~~ immigrants into Burma; (b) regulations for the issue of passports and permits for residence and employment or for residence only; (c) the definition of the prohibited classes of immigrants; (d) provision for the medical examination of immigrants; (e) conditions of repatriation of Indians; (f) the question of according a specially favourable position for the purposes of immigration to certain classes of Indians who are already closely connected with Burma; (g) civil and constitutional rights of Indian workers other than those domiciled in Burma; (h) provision for consultation in the event of the Governor of Burma having decided that the restriction of certain classes of immigrants had become necessary; and (i) co-operation to deal with ~~land~~ ~~frontier~~ migration.

Immigration Board.- The institution of an Immigration Board which should examine the relevant data and tender its advice to the appropriate Department of Government. The Board should be of mixed racial composition, Burman, Indian and European.

Compulsory Registration of Unskilled Labour in the Port of Rangoon.- The introduction of Compulsory Registration for all unskilled labour in the Port of Rangoon. Registration should be effected by means of the issue by Government of employment permits in the form of Personal Identity Cards, the number of such permits to be determined after consultation with the employers of labour concerned so as to ensure that due account is taken of the need for a reasonable margin of labour to meet variations in the demand for labour due to the intermittent character of port traffic. ✓

Provisions of Indo-Burma Migration Agreement.+ ✓

Reference was made at page 20 of our June 1941 report to the Bajpai Delegation sent out to Burma by the Government of India, which negotiated an agreement with the Government of Burma on the question of Indian emigration to Burma. The standing Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature which met at Simla on 14 and 15-7-1941 is reported to have approved the Indo-Burma pact. (The Hindustan Times, 16-7-1941.) The text of the agreement, as also a joint statement by the Governments explaining the main provisions of the agreement^{was} released to the press on 22-7-1941. The following is the text of the joint statement:-

Joint Statement.- In two Reports issued at the end of 1938 and early in 1939, the Riot Inquiry Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Braund, drew particular attention to the existence of a serious apprehension in the minds of many Burmans that Indian immigration was largely responsible for unemployment or under-employment among the indigenous population of Burma. The Committee recommended that, in the interests of both countries, some public examination of the grounds for the existing apprehension in Burman minds should be undertaken urgently. Accordingly, the Government of Burma in a Resolution, dated the 15th July, 1939, after consultation with the Government of India, appointed the Hon'ble Mr. James Baxter to examine the question of Indian immigration into Burma, with the assistance of two Assessors, U Tin Tut, I.C.S., and Mr. Ratilal Desai, M.A. Mr. Baxter presented his Report to the Government of Burma in October 1940. His recommendations were carefully examined by both Governments and it was agreed without commitment on either side that these recommendations formed a suitable basis for negotiation. The Government of Burma, therefore, invited the Government of India to send a delegation to Burma and the invitation was accepted.

As a result of the conversations, the two Governments have agreed upon certain measures which in their view are calculated both to remove from Burman minds any reasonable apprehension that Burma may be subjected to undue economic competition by reason of Indian immigration and at the

2

same time to secure for the Indian community settled and resident in Burma recognition of their legitimate rights. The text of the agreement is attached to this statement. The agreement is based upon two main principles, ~~firstly~~ first, that Burma has, subject to the provisions of the Government of Burma Act, 1935, the right to determine the composition of her own population, and secondly, that Indians who have wholly identified themselves with the interests of Burma should enjoy the same rights as members of the permanent population. It is obvious that in the peculiar circumstances of the two countries, their geographical proximity, their cultural and economic ties and their long political association, the problems arising from regulation of immigration are of special complexity and delicacy. Both Governments have approached these problems in a spirit of cordiality and mutual understanding and are agreed that in giving administrative effect to the measures now proposed the closest co-operation will be required in the same spirit of mutual adjustment and identity of purpose which characterised the negotiations. It is their earnest desire that the agreement now achieved will serve to remove any causes for misapprehension which may have arisen either between the two countries or between the two communities in Burma and may furnish a lasting foundation for the development in the future of the firmest ties of friendship and goodwill.

Terms of the Agreement.- The principal provisions of the Agreement are summarised below:-

Definitions: In the agreement, "dependent" is defined as a person who is wholly or directly dependent for maintenance and support on a person who holds or is about to be granted a permit under the provisions of the Agreement and is related to such person as being (i) his wife, or (ii) his or his wife's parent, or (iii) his or his wife's daughter, or grand-daughter who is either unmarried or a widow or is divorced, or (iv) his or his wife's son or grandson who is under the age of 18 years or, being over that age, is permanently disabled and incapable of supporting himself. The word "work" and "skilled work" have the meanings assigned to them in section 2 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922.

Date of operation of Agreement.- The agreement stipulates that the notice of the termination of the operation of the Government of Burma (Immigration) Order, 1937, with effect from the 1st April, 1942, will be treated as withdrawn, and that notice to terminate the same will not be given before the 1st October, 1945. Indian immigration into Burma will, with effect from 1-10-1941, be subject to regulations and restrictions.

Restrictions on Immigration into Burma.- No Indian may enter Burma without a valid Indian passport, together with visa or immigration permit issued by the Burma Government. The Government of India may issue visas on passports of Indians desiring to enter Burma as visitors or as students; such visas are valid for three months, but may be extended to 12 months, and in the case of students to 5 years.

Immigration permits are of two kinds; "A" permits will entitle the holder to remain in Burma for an indefinite period and to accept employment therein. No bar will be placed on the acquisition of a Burma domicile by holders of "A" permits; "B" permits will entitle the holder to reside in Burma for a specified period and to accept

employment therein. "B" permits being for limited periods, will not allow the holders to acquire a Burma domicile. They will be issued for a maximum period of three years and may be extended at the discretion of the Government of Burma for further periods which, with the original period, may not exceed a total of nine years. The holder of a "B" permit may apply for an "A" permit on the same terms as an original applicant for an "A" permit.

Restriction on Number of Permits and Visas.- The number of "A" permits to be issued will be at the discretion of the Government of Burma and they will be issued only to persons whom the Government of Burma consider to be of sufficient financial standing or possessed of an assured income in Burma of sufficient amount and to be persons who are likely to be suitable for permanent residence in Burma. The number of "B" permits will depend on the decision of an Immigration Board appointed under the agreement. The Government of Burma can limit the number of visitors' and students' visas. Dependants of permit holders, accompanying the latter are accorded the same class of permits and under same conditions.

Immigration Board.- The Government of Burma will institute at an early date an Immigration Board to examine the relevant data and to tender advice to the Government of Burma generally on matters of policy relating to Indian immigration into Burma and in particular on the fixing of quotas for the grant of permits. The Board will be of mixed racial composition and Burmans, Indians and Europeans will be represented on it.

Conditions for Grant of Permit and Visas.- There is to be a literacy test for applicants of "A" permits in languages other than Burmese or indigenous to Burma. Marriage or cohabitation with a woman belonging to the indigenous races of Burma may be made a condition for the cancellation of a permit or visa granted to a male Indian immigrant, provided that exceptions will be made of marriages entered into with the sanction of the Government of Burma and that such sanction will be given if the immigrant makes, before the proposed marriage, provision which is sufficient in the opinion of the Government of Burma for the permanent maintenance of the woman he desires to marry. The fees for "A" permits are Rs.500. For "B" permits for unskilled labourers the fees are Rs.12 plus a residential fee of Rs.5 for every year the permit is valid; and for "B" permits for others, an entrance fee of Rs.30 plus a residential fee of Rs.20 for every year the permit is valid. Each dependant has to pay half the fee of the immigrant. Fees on "B" permits should be paid by the employers if issued at their instance.

Repatriation.- Before entry into Burma a deposit of Rs.20 will be made to the Government of Burma by persons who are granted "B" permits and by their dependants to cover the cost of repatriating them. Repatriation will be, at the choice of the repatriated Indian, to the ports of (a) Calcutta, (b) Chittagong, (c) Madras, and (d) Vizagapatam.

Provisions re. Indians already in Burma.- The Government of Burma recognise that Indians who are born and bred in Burma, have made Burma their permanent home and regard their future and the future of their families as bound up with its interests are entitled to be regarded as having established a claim if they wish to make it, to a Burma domicile and therefore to the benefit of section 144 of the Government of Burma Act, 1935. No restriction will be placed on the acquisition of a Burma domicile under due process of law by Indians lawfully residing in Burma excepting those who by the terms and conditions of a permit which entitles them to reside in Burma are not

given the right of residence beyond a specified period. Indians who prove a total residence in Burma of seven calendar years between the 15th July 1932 and the 15th July 1941 will be termed "privileged immigrants". Such privileged immigrants shall have the right to further residence and to the acceptance of further employment in Burma without limit of time, but they will lose their status as privileged immigrants should they be absent from Burma for a continuous period exceeding one year after the 15th July 1941. A privileged immigrant, so long as he retains his status, will be given the right of free re-entry into Burma on his return after an absence of less than twelve months. One wife (if no other is residing with him in Burma), sons below 18 and unmarried daughters of privileged immigrants are granted "A" permits free of charge.

Other Indians who are in Burma on the 15th July 1941 will be entitled to remain in Burma indefinitely and to accept work for an indefinite period and will retain their privileges under section 44 of the Government of Burma Act, 1935. Should an Indian of this class leave Burma for any period, his claim to re-entry will be dealt with in the same manner as an application for entry by a new Indian immigrant and if re-admitted into Burma, such person will be treated as new Indian immigrant with the exception that he will have a preferential claim to a "B" permit over new Indian immigrants.

Transitory Provisions. - During the transition period pending the constitution of an Immigration Board and the consideration by the Government of Burma of proposals to be made by the Board for the quotas for permits to be issued to Indian immigrants, the Government of India will prohibit the emigration to Burma of Indians for the purpose of unskilled work from the 15th July 1941 with the exception of seasonal labourers who may, at the instance of the Government of Burma, be granted passports up to numbers agreed upon between the two Governments.

Registration of Indians in Burma. - The Government of Burma will institute at an early date a system of registering Indians in Burma.

(The Statesman, 22-7-1941.)

Indian Criticism. - The agreement has been bitterly attacked by the Indian Press and the sections of the population interested in Indo-Burma migration. The main points of the Indian criticisms are embodied in the following resolution adopted by the All Parties Meeting held on 28-7-1941 at Madras, Sir Mahomed Usman, ex-Governor of Madras, presiding. (Madras is the province most affected by the Indo-Burma agreement.)

"This meeting of the people of Madras condemns the recent Indo-Burma Immigration Agreement in as much as, among other things, (1) the Government of India did not publish until the Agreement itself was published, the Baxter Commission Report which has been in the hands of the Government of India since October 1940; (2) the negotiations in regard to immigration were separated from those relating to trade - a procedure prejudicial to Indians; (3) non-officials were not included in the Government of India Delegation to Burma, as was done in the case of trade negotiations with Burma; (4) the Delegation of the Hon. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, which was meant to conduct only exploratory talks, concluded straightaway an agreement and presented the country with a fait accompli; (5) an unduly long period has been prescribed for a person to acquire the status of a 'privileged immigrant' which status he will lose if he should be absent from Burma for a period of 12 months; (6) a fee of Rs. 500 for 'A' class Permits is prohibitive and this and other conditions for the grant of 'A' Permits are harsh and calculated

to keep out a large number; (7) provisions in respect of 'B' Permits are unduly drastic and will cast an unbearable burden on numerous persons proceeding to Burma, especially on labourers who are required to lay out over Rs.60 for entrance, repatriation and residence fees and railway fare and passage money; (8) wide powers are given to limit the number of persons of all classes entering Burma and this is indefensible in view of the fact that many have to go to Burma for work in established businesses and in connection with lands and properties with employment assured beforehand; (9) penalising of marriage is unjust and unfair and discriminatory; (10) provisions in regard to cohabitation are unusual and drastic and may lend themselves to grave abuse; (11) the provision for a literacy test is vague and unsatisfactory; (12) the Agreement does not take into account the assurances given before separation in regard to the way in which Indian immigration would be restricted; and (13) the action of the Government in suddenly preventing without notice, the embarkation of Indians on and from July 21, 1941, while yet no machinery has been set up here and in Burma for the purpose of regulating immigration, has caused hardship to hundreds of labourers who were turned back; and therefore this meeting is strongly of opinion that the operation of the Agreement should be stayed until it is suitably modified in the light of public opinion and that no Order-in-Council should be passed giving effect to the Agreement."

Committee for Representation to Government of India. - The meeting appointed a Committee for the purpose of making representations to the Viceroy, the Governor of Madras, and the Secretary of State, in regard to the Agreement and to take such other steps as might be necessary to further the objects of the meeting.

(The Hindu, 29-7-1941.)

Ban on Emigration of Unskilled Labour from India from 21-7-1941.

By Notification No. F.144-1/38-O.S.(c) dated 21-7-1941, the Government of India has prohibited, under sub-section (1) section 30-A of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, with effect from 21-7-1941, all persons from departing by sea out of British India to Burma for the purpose of unskilled work unless exempted by special order of the Central Government.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 21-7-1941, page 421.) ✓

Colonial Office Enquiry into Labour Conditions
in Colonies: Major Orde Browne in Malaya. ✓

As a result of the representations made by the Government of India and the appeals made in Parliament, the Colonial Office had deputed its labour adviser, Major Orde Browne, to proceed to Malaya and make a thorough inquiry into the labour problem in view of the recent labour unrest in the colony. On his arrival in Singapore on 8-7-1941, Major Browne declared in a press interview that the Colonial Office would very much like to see a lifting of the ban on emigration of Indian labour to Malaya, and that the ban had really undesirable political aspects. "The ban concerns Malaya and Ceylon, but it is really a major political issue," he said. The ban in Ceylon was getting much more into the political aspect of things and as far as Malaya was concerned, it was inflicting great hardship, chiefly on the labourers. "I regret the existence of the ban and would certainly like to see an improvement on it", he added. Major Browne will investigate the living conditions of labour, the question of nutrition, and economies. As regards unionism, Major Browne expressed the opinion that it was better to form representative organisations for separate industries in Malaya, for their interests were not necessarily identical, and also that it was also not desirable for the unions to become the tools of outsiders who do not have the interest and welfare of the workers at heart.

The views of Major Browne have evoked strong criticism in India, and the press has been urging the Government of India not to lift the ban.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-7-1941,
 The Hindu, 16-7-1941.) ✓

Settlement of Indo-Ceylon Problems:
Ceylon invites Government of India Delegation. ✓

It is understood that the Ceylon Government have invited a Delegation from the Government of India to visit the Island and discuss outstanding ~~press~~ problems as was recently done in the case of Burma. The Government of India's delegation is expected to be led by Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai and the negotiations are to start early in September 1941.

There is considerable opposition in India to the sending out of an Indian delegation to Ceylon at present. At the All Parties Meeting held at Madras on 28-7-1941, the following resolution was passed on the subject:

"This meeting is of opinion that in the atmosphere of distrust and doubt which has been created in consequence of the sad experience of the Indo-Burma Immigration Agreement, the sending of a delegation to Ceylon for the purpose of concluding an agreement should be postponed to a more favourable opportunity when a Delegation composed of the Hon. the Commerce Member and the Hon. Member designate for Indians overseas and a few non-officials may be sent to negotiate a settlement on the subjects of immigration and trade together at the same time."

(The Hindu, 29-7-1941.) ✓

Grievances of Subordinate Telegraph Service-Men:
Demand for Enquiry.

At a general meeting of the All India Telegraph Union, held on 25-7-1941 at Calcutta, Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose presiding, to ventilate the grievances of the subordinate telegraph employees, the following resolution was passed:

Having failed to secure redress through representations of a large number of grievances of the subordinate employees of the Telegraph Service on various subjects, some of which are stated below, the general meeting of members of the All-India Telegraph Union considers that a state of dispute clearly exists between the subordinate employees and the head of the Department, i.e., the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, and therefore requests His Excellency the Viceroy to appoint an Enquiry Committee consisting of officials, non-officials and representatives of the recognised Service Unions to investigate and report to His Excellency for necessary action on: (1) equal pay for equal work carrying the same responsibility; (2) flouting Government orders in working certain schemes and employing supervisor Telegraphists; (3) imposition of new conditions of service on men already in service; (4) defective system of computation and hardship of officials due to inadequacy of staff; (5) refusal to supply traffic figures and other documents touching the interest of the members of the Service; (6) stagnation of lower division clerks at Rs.100 and hardship of demoted clerks; (7) longer hours of night work for Telephone Operators and Mistries; (8) Non-grant of leave on average pay to inferior servants appointed before 1933; (9) inadequate leave reserve staff; (10) non-grant of pensionable status to the remaining non-pensionable staff; (11) stricter appeal rules and withholding of individual petitions and appeals; and (12) restrictions on Service Unions to represent individual cases and other acute grievances. etc.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-7-1941.)

29

ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Workers' Organisations.

Rift in Indian Trade Union ranks over issue of Participation in War:
Move for forming Anti-Fascist All-India Trade Union Council. ✓

The entry of Soviet Russia into the war has created a rift in Indian trade union ranks, mainly on the issue whether, now that with the entry of Russia the war has resolved itself into a fight on a world-wide scale between Nazism and the workers' cause as championed by Soviet Russia, Indian workers ^{should or} should not whole-heartedly further war efforts, leaving out of consideration for the moment India's political grievances against Great Britain.

(At the 1940 meeting of the All-India Trade Union Congress held at Bombay on 28 and 29-9-1940, the following resolution was adopted on the war issue:

"As the present war between Great Britain on the one side and the Fascist Powers on the other is claimed by Britain to be waged for the vindication of the principles of freedom and democracy and not for any imperialist purposes, India without having any sympathy for either Imperialism or Fascism, naturally claims for herself freedom and democratic government before she can be expected to take part in the war. Participation in a war which will not result in the establishment of freedom and of democracy in India, will not benefit India, much less will it benefit the working classes in India."

Even at the 1940 session, a section of the A.-I.T.U.C. was in favour of participation in the war effort, but a resolution urging that differing groups within the A.I.T.U.C. should be allowed freedom of action on the issue, though moved, was later withdrawn (vide pages 44-45 of our September 1940 report.)).

The entry of Soviet Russia into the war strengthened to a certain extent the party in favour of participation in war effort, and the issue ~~fix~~ again came up for discussion at the meeting of the General Council of the A.-I.T.U.C. held at Nagpur in the first week of July 1941.

Mr. M.N. Roy's Resolution in favour of Participation.- Mr. M.N. Roy had tabled a resolution for the meeting urging active participation in the war in support of Russia. In the course of a press statement issued on 4-7-1941 in support of the resolution, Mr. Roy pointed out that the grave danger to the Soviet Union to-day cannot be a matter of indifference to Indian nationalists. He referred to the recent declaration of Mr. Churchill assuring all help to the Soviet Union and asked: "Cannot Congress leaders and Indian nationalists declare even today, without making any compromise with or concessions to imperialism, that they are ready to support the British Government in the fight against Fascism?" He also emphasised that but for the help of the Soviet Government, Chinese freedom would have been extinguished long ago. (The Statesman, 6-7-1941.)

A.-I.T.U.C. President's Reply.- Mr. V.R. Kalappa, President, A.-I.T.U.C. issued on 4-7-1941 the following press statement against Mr. Roy's resolution:-

"The sudden aggression of Germany against Russia, which is the most momentous of all the developments of the present war, proves beyond doubt that all pacts and treaties signed by European Powers are mere scraps of paper. Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany became strange bed fellows in order to annihilate Poland and divide the spoils between them. Erstwhile allies and accomplices have suddenly become enemies. Is it due to an ideological difference that has sprung up overnight? At any rate, Russia is not engaged in a war in order to liberate India or its toiling masses from thralldom. Russia is fighting for her own existence, if not for the retention of her newly acquired territory. The resolution adopted by the general body of the A.-I.T.U.C. last year leaves no doubt as to the attitude of India and its working classes to the war. This central organisation is neither tied to the apron strings of the Indian National Congress nor dominated by Congressmen. There are in the central labour organisation very strong and powerful political groups which do not see eye to eye with the National Congress. The resolution on war was a compromise between the group that wanted effective resistance to the war effort of British Imperialism and the group that would go to the length of rendering unstinted support to the Government. Not only individuals but also labour organisations are at liberty not to follow the resolution if they have any conscientious objection. There can, therefore, be no justification whatever to break away from the central organisation and still less to contemplate setting up a rival organisation which is the bane of our body politic."

(The Hindu, 5-7-1941.)

Statement issued by A.-I.T.U.C. General Council on 6-7-1941:
Participation not favoured. - The General Council of the A.-I.T.U.C. met at Nagpur on 6-7-1941, Mr. Kalappa presiding, but as only 13 members were present and the ~~uniqueness~~ quorum required was 21, the meeting was an informal one. The following statement was issued after the meeting:-

"The general view was that although the sympathies of the Indian Trade Union movement are with the Soviet in its defence against Nazi Germany, in the present state of subjection of India, the Indian Trade Union Movement is not in a position to render any effective assistance to the U.S.S.R. and that the resolution passed by the A.-I.T.U.C. session, last year in Bombay, affirming that participation in a war which will not result in the establishment of freedom and democracy in India will not benefit India, does not need any alteration."

(The Hindu, 7-7-1941.)

Mr. N.M. Joshi attended the meeting.

Move for Anti-Fascist All-India Trade Union Council.

Several labour groups, however, remained dissatisfied with the anti-war attitude of the A.I.T.U.C., particularly in Bombay and Bengal. In pursuance of an appeal issued by the Radical Democratic Party, which favours participation in the war, representatives of over thirty trade unions held at a meeting at Bombay on 13-7-1941 and adopted a resolution, constituting itself "into a Provincial Committee for bringing into existence an anti-Fascist All-India Trade Union Council with the object of assisting the world democratic alliance in the destruction of Fascism and for the effective and conscious participation by the workers in the war efforts in the country." The meeting also resolved to call an Anti-Fascist Labour Conference in Bombay at an early date. A Committee to implement the resolution was appointed. (The Bombay Chronicle, 15-7-1941)

The first meeting of the Committee ~~was~~ held, with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta in the chair, on 25-7-1941, ~~and~~ issued a statement explaining the attitude of the All-India Trade Union Congress in the light of the latest international developments and the need for another organisation to further the interests of workers in this country. Making an appeal to the workers "to contribute their quota to the heroic efforts of international labour for freeing the world from the menace of Fascism," the statement says, "With its present policy, the A.-I.T.U.C. cannot be expected to serve the purpose. Therefore, it has become necessary to establish an all-India anti-Fascist trade unions council and for this purpose we think it necessary to hold an all-India labour conference."

(The Times of India, dated 28-7-1941.) ✓

Incidence of Malaria in India:
Dr. Paul Russell's Survey. ✓

Addressing the Nilgiris Rotary Club on 5-7-1941, Dr. Paul Russell of the Rockefeller Foundation, Director of Malaria Investigations at the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, gave a comprehensive survey of the malaria problem in India; a brief summary of the more important points brought out in the speech is given below:-

Incidence of Malaria and its Consequences.- Malaria Microbes are responsible for the death of at least two persons in India every minute of the day and night, year after year; 2,880 victims per day! Malaria kills only about one in every 100 or 200 victims, but it is essentially a debilitating disease which weakens bodies and minds, and produces anaemia of muscle and brain. A man with chronic malaria is only half alive. He cannot do a proper day's work, he is incapable of thinking logically, he is easily dispirited, and quickly discouraged. He accepts his unhappy lot as Kismet or Karma. When a third of the population of a country is attacked by malaria each year, as in India, it is utterly inconceivable that this country can be progressive or prosperous. Malaria in India is primarily a rural disease and, since agriculture is by far the chief and greatest field of industry, the losses caused by malaria are almost beyond calculation, undoubtedly amounting to millions of pounds sterling each year.

Economic Loss due to Malaria.- Recently a careful survey was made in a typical malarial village in Pattukkottai Taluk, Tanjore District. The actual cost to this village, in money or kind paid to priests, temples, quacks, or physicians for treatment of malarial fevers amounted to Rs.2-8-0 per capita per year, and wages lost amounted to ~~Rxx~~ an additional Re.1-6-0 per capita. Here was an actual loss to these people of Rs.3-14-0 per capita per year, in a village where the average per capita income was Rs. 35-3-0. Yet malaria in this village could be controlled for Rs.4 per capita per year. This village is typical of at least 150,000 others in India. If, as seems possible, at least 125 million persons live in rural malarious villages, and if the figures are typical, as also seems probable, here is a direct annual loss to India of over 450 million rupees. That is to say, malaria costs the ryots of India each year directly more than 33½ million pounds sterling, in villages where the disease could be controlled by investing two and one-third million pounds. The losses named are in addition to the much greater indirect losses due to the relative inefficiency of labourers and farmers chronically anaemic because of malaria.

Nature of Control Measures.- Dr. Russell then dealt with the need for studying the habits of the mosquitoes in each area to exercise effective control. He stated that malaria could not be checked by better food or housing. It is true that malaria sometimes maintains its greatest prevalence in areas of lowest economic status. This may be due, for example, to poor drainage of cheaper lands. The evidence all goes to prove, not that poverty is responsible for malaria, but that malaria frequently maintains poverty. It is a very difficult task to raise ~~anaemic~~ anaemic, malaria-beaten individuals to a plane of greater agricultural or industrial activity by any amount of political afflatus or social service. But it is surprisingly easy to stimulate a community which has been lifted up from the sloughs of chronic malaria by anti-mosquito measures.

Control Measures.- There are available numerous malaria control measures, such as screening, using bed-nets, oiling, spreading Paris

green, draining and filling, using certain fishes, spray-killing adult mosquitoes with pyrethrum extracts, using intermittent irrigation, etc. "Spray-killing" consists in attacking adult anopheline mosquitoes in their daytime resting places with a spray made from pyrethrum extract. Very small droplets of pyrethrum extracts are fatal to adult mosquitoes on contact, and, when these insects rest quietly on the inside walls of houses and cowsheds during daytime, it is possible to kill them by spraying with the pyrethrum extract. Many malaria-carrying mosquitoes, including the two species in South India, are easily attacked in this way by spray killing. It is not necessary or indeed usually possible to close doors or windows. The new methods are mentioned because the total cost in rural South India has been only about 4 annas per capita per year, when one uses ~~one's~~ own extract of pyrethrum grown in the Nilgris. Spray-killing has been successfully and cheaply used also in North India and in South Africa. But each malaria control project must be studied separately. Some 1.7 million of rupees have recently been spent to control malaria in New Delhi. Such a sum seems large until one realises that it is less than two per cent. of the cost of building this modern city, which is located in what is potentially a very malarious area, subject to severe epidemics.

Where irrigation is a source of malaria, another new and cheap method of control is intermittent irrigation. Water is periodically kept out of rice fields and field channels for two days or longer, to dry them so that all mosquito larvæ are killed. The dry period will depend on the nature of the soil and climate. Two days in seven are found sufficient. Longer drying will be required in other areas. This method promises to be useful and it does not harm the rice.

Obstacles to Control.- Dr. Russell enumerated certain social obstacles to malaria control as: (1) absence of enlightened public opinion regarding (a) economic and public health importance of malaria, and (b) available practical measures for its control; (2) absence of official recognition of what malaria costs a community, how malaria prophylaxis would benefit the people, and what constitutes a proper budget item for malaria control; (3) absence of sound administrative principles (a) for applying practically and continuously, malaria control measures, and (b) for obtaining effective co-operation between such government departments as those of public health, public works and agriculture; (4) lack of adequate training of health officers in malaria control, and lack of sufficient numbers of such specialist personnel as malariologists, malaria entomologists, engineers and agronomists. Such social obstacles as have been named are the ultimate stumbling blocks in the way of malaria control to-day. "The lack of that mainspring called public opinion is especially important. Schools teaching history, but no hygiene, colleges too busy with pedagogy to consider public health are the rule rather than the exception. Yet an educated community opinion about public health is essential to the eradication of such a public disease as malaria. The average individual has not the slightest conception of how malaria has retarded and is retarding India's progress and prosperity. Nor has he the remotest feeling of social responsibility for the control of malaria. There is little urge to contribute either money or labour or even co-operation, or to stimulate governmental action in this regard."

Need for Co-ordination of Departmental Effort.- There has been a notorious lack of co-operation between departments of public health and

public works as regards malaria. Malaria springs from irrigation systems, from ~~barrowpits~~, faulty culverts, improper siting and housing of labourers, and countless other sources. Probably 50 per cent. of all the malaria in India is man-made, in the sense that it is propagated by anophelines bred in collections of water for which some act of man himself is responsible. Sometimes it is the ignorant ryot who creates such breeding places, but all too often it is a highly trained and paid officer of a public works department of government or district board. Intelligent co-operation between various government departments and the health administrations would avoid much entirely preventible misery.

Need for Trained Personnel.- But the public health department cannot control malaria with amateur and inefficient personnel. One reason why there are 100 million cases of malaria per year in India is the fact that the numbers of health staff specially trained for malaria control are so few. Modern malaria control on a practical basis requires more than general health officer training. It requires specialists.

In conclusion, Dr. Russell remarked: "Malaria probably constitutes the greatest burden India has to carry to-day. The very complexity of the country itself makes the control of such a wide-spread disease a problem of serious dimensions. In fact, if one tries to envisage the whole canvas it is a most discouraging experience. But the outlook is far from hopeless. It used to be said that there was not money enough with the Government to control malaria, and when such control cost Rs.5 to Rs.15 per capita per year, the statement was sometimes true enough. But now there are available practical methods not only within the means of Governments but actually a source of profit to them, in that these measures would cost far less than the disease malaria costs the people. So that, in addition to the humanitarian urge, one may enlist the profit-making motive, which seems so potent a factor with so many officials, lay and public. In the last analysis, what the late Sir Ronald Ross once said is now of even more significance than ever. He said, 'Malaria prophylaxis depends not so much on profuse expenditure as on the intelligence, enthusiasm, and energy of these who are responsible for sanitary affairs.'"

(The Hindu, 8-7-1941.) +

Agricultural Education in Bengal:
Enquiry Committee appointed by Bengal Government. ✓

In order to make a survey of the existing facilities for agricultural education and research in Bengal and to examine the scope and adequacy of agricultural education imparted in high and middle English schools, an "ad hoc" committee has been appointed by the Government of Bengal. Mr. Fazlur Rahman, M.L.A. is the Chairman, and the Principal, Agricultural Institute, Dacca, the Secretary of the Committee.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 21-7-1941.) ✓
+

Wages

Dearness Allowance to Coimbatore Textile Labour Employees. +

Recently certain negotiations were being conducted between the textile workers of Coimbatore and the local mills, through the Labour Commissioner, Madras, regarding a dearness allowance for workers. The workers had demanded a 30 per cent. increase in wages with effect from 1-7-1941 or a 25 per cent. increase from 1-4-1941, or a 20 per cent. increase from 1-1-1941. It was pointed out in justification of this demand that the mill-stores selling at pre-war prices of food-stuffs were failures. It was alleged that the foodstuffs supplied were inferior in quality, that the rates approved by the millowners' association were not followed in some cases, that some articles were under-measured, and that there was difficulty in getting provisions, that they were not in a position to get other requirements besides foodstuffs, such as books, slates, etc., for their children attending schools, that workers coming from villages experienced great difficulty in carrying the provisions to their homes, and that in some cases concessions had been granted only to those persons who had joined co-operative stores as members but not to other workers.

It is understood that the millowners have agreed to grant a dearness allowance of 10 per cent. of the wages subject to a minimum of one rupee per mensem per worker with effect from 1-7-1941, and that this will be continued so long as the need exists of the mills can afford the expenditure. A prosperity bonus for this year only of a month's wages or $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of the total wages drawn during the year will also be given, and such mills as have not given effect to the recommendations regarding 13 days' sick and casual leave with pay are to do so with effect from 1-7-1941.

All Coimbatore Mills are reported to have agreed to the above decisions. The workers, however, have rejected the millowners' offer and are planning a general strike.

(The Hindu, 19, 21, 29 and 30-7-1941) +

Dearness Allowance for Punjab Industrial Workers:
Punjab Industrialists to confer on 9-8-1941.

Sir Manoharlal, Finance Minister, Punjab Government, is expected to preside over a conference of Punjab industrialists to be held at Lahore on 9-8-1941. The Conference, inter alia, will consider the question of dearness allowance for industrial workers.

(The Hindu, 26-7-1941.) +

Dearness Allowance for Low-paid Government
Servants in Assam.

In supersession of the orders passed in October 1940 (vide page 39 of our October 1940 report), the Government of Assam has now decided to institute a dearness allowance based on the rise in price of common rice payable to all Government servants under the rule-making control of that Government and drawing pay up to and including Rs.30 per mensem. The allowance will be at the rate of one anna in the

rupee of their pay, for any month when the average price of rice for the province (excluding Manipur) rises from the pre-war average of 11 seers (1 seer = 2 lbs.) to 8 seers to the rupee, and a second anna when it goes to 6 seers.

(The Assam Gazette, Part II, dated 16-7-1941, page 930.) *

Employment.

Technical Training: The Delhi Polytechnic Institute. *

The sudden demand of war on industry revealed a great dearth of technicians. Existing training facilities were surveyed and schemes prepared to make up the laeway. All this preliminary work took up a definite shape in the form of the Sargent Committee scheme (vide pages 50-51 of August 1940 report of this Office), now in operation to train workers. To further these attempts, the Government is converting some of their high schools, formerly used for general education into technical institutions. One such school is the Delhi Polytechnic, formerly known as the Government High School.

The Delhi Polytechnic is an All-India Institute. The former high school ~~will~~ pupils of the School are given opportunity to continue in the Polytechnic and most of them have stayed on. For the new session, there were 192 vacancies which have been filled by competitive examination 731 candidates presenting for it. Under the principalship of Mr. W.W. Wood, the Polytechnic, with 360 pupils, a new staff and workshops, opened on 15-7-1941. Preliminary courses in commercial, engineering, building and textile subjects lead to diploma standard. The commercial, engineering and building departments will also hold evening classes. Classes in commercial subjects begin immediately and those in engineering and building will begin as soon as workshops are ready. These courses will cover theoretical, laboratory and workshop training. The textile department, when fully equipped, will be a miniature mill. There are 12 other workshops in courses of construction for which machinery equipment and tools are being received. By the end of August 1941 these workshops will be training an additional 344 technicians.

At first there will be two shifts of machinists and turners and later two shifts in all trades embracing 1000 youths. Courses will last about a year. There will be a Director of Physical Training and free medical attention. On completion of course, students will be competent craftsmen.

(The Times of India, 4-7-1941.)

War Supplies

Central Provision Office starts Work: organisation for co-ordinating and supplying requirements of armies of Eastern Group.

The Central Provision Office, the ~~military~~ organisation recommended to be formed in India by the Eastern Group Conference held in Delhi last cold weather, to co-ordinate and submit to the Eastern Group Supply Council all requirements of the armies in the Eastern

Group which could not be obtained locally but which could be secured from the countries within the Eastern Group.

~~The office~~ has begun to assume its duties, although its staff, which is to be drawn from the armed forces of Great Britain, India and the Dominions in the Eastern Group, is not yet complete. Up to now, the provision duties in respect of many stores ~~fixing~~ for the armies in the Middle and Far East have been carried out by the Indian Military authorities upon whose demand the Eastern Group Council have acted; but these duties will now be taken over by the Central Provision Office.

The Central Provision Office is a body performing military ~~supply~~ functions. The organisation or the part of the Army Staff within each military command which is concerned with the work of supplies is usually called the local or internal provision office. It is with these local organisations that the Central Provision Office will mainly deal. The requirements sent in to the Central Provision Office ~~will mainly be~~ by these local organisations will be in the form of (a) firm demands to meet the actual needs during the ensuing months and (b) long range forecasts to enable future supply to be planned. An important function of the Central Provision Office will be ~~the~~ priority of allocation of the available supplies to the military commands, should a shortage arise in any particular store or commodity. ~~It will thus be seen that~~ The Controller-General of Central Provision Office is virtually the agent of the various Commanders-in-Chief, to obtain the military stores required by them from the Eastern Group countries for the maintenance of their forces. He is also the Military Member of the Eastern Group Supply Council.

(The Hindu, 27-7-1941.) +

War Purchases

War Purchases in India in 1940-41:

Total over Rs. 760 millions. +

Over Rs. 760 million worth of articles were purchased in India through two purchasing agencies alone of the Supply Department - the Indian Stores Department and the Contracts Directorate - during the financial year 1940-41. Of these, the Indian Stores Department was responsible for purchases worth Rs. 552.2 millions, while the Contracts Directorate bought goods totalling Rs. 207.8 millions.

War purchases made by the Indian Stores Department aggregated Rs. 419.6 millions, while purchases made by it for other purposes totalled Rs. 132.6 millions. The former comprised the following main items:- Textiles - 151; Tentage - 70.8; Jute articles - 35.4; Steel sections, plates, etc. - 30.6; Ferrous metals - 28.1; Hardware and other stores - 25.9; Motor vehicles and spares - 19.5; Blankets - 16.2; Shipbuilding materials and vessels - 10.7; Engineering plant and machinery - 9.7; Electric stores - 8.7; Permanent way material and wagons - 6.9; Hutting and open shedding - 3.7; Camouflage nets - 2.1; Trench shelters - 3 million rupees.

Of the total purchases (peace and war) made by the Contracts Directorate, Rs. 163.3 million worth of goods were bought by Headquarters Office and the Bombay and Cawnpore Branches of the Directorate, while goods of the value of Rs. 44.5 millions were purchased by its Calcutta Office. The purchases made by the former three offices include: Foodstuffs - 54.5; Petrol, oil, lubricants and fuel -

27; Hides, tanning materials, footwear and leather products - 24.4; Timber, bamboos, and products thereof - 16.2; Hardware - 12.6; Scientific, haberdashery and miscellaneous stores - 11.8; Soaps and chemicals - 6.5; Ferrous and non-ferrous metals - 5.6; and Tools and components - 4.7 million rupees.

Besides the two purchasing organisations mentioned above, there are other agencies operating on behalf of the Defence Services whose purchases also run to huge totals.

(Bulletin No. 337 dated 4-8-1941
of the Employers' Federation of India,
Bombay.)

War Risk Insurance.

State Insurance of Private Chattels and Property: Scheme under consideration of Government.

The Government of India is understood to be considering the question of introducing war risk insurance schemes to cover compensation to owners for loss of and damage to immovable property and private chattels. The suitability of such schemes for India was discussed at the first meeting of the War Risk Insurance Advisory Committee convened in Bombay by the Government of India on 24-7-1941. The Committee arrived at no decision, and the matter has been left over for the present pending further consideration by the Government.

(The Times of India, 17-7-1941 and
the Hindu, 25.7.1941.)

Control Measures.

Control of Iron and Steel.

To ensure that the iron and steel produced in India is only used for defence and war supply purposes and to meet really essential civil needs the Government of India has, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (2) of Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, by the Iron and Steel (Control of Distribution) Order, 1941, directed that no person shall acquire or dispose of without a licence any iron or steel, and that persons acquiring iron or steel, after taking the necessary licence, should not use the iron or steel otherwise than in accordance with the conditions imposed by the licence.

Mr. J.C. Mahindra, Sales Manager of Messrs. Tata Iron and Steel Company and at present adviser on steel supplies, has been appointed Iron and Steel Controller under the Order. He will be assisted in performing his day-to-day duties by representatives of the main steel fabricators and stock-holders and of shipbuilders.

An Iron and Steel Control Board will be constituted, with the Iron and Steel Controller as chairman, to advise on questions of iron and steel control policy and to keep the working of the iron and steel control scheme under regular review. The Board will meet at least once a month and will have as members a representative of each of the main steel producing firms of rerollers, of steel fabricators and of other users of steel, and a Government servant appointed by the Central Government, who will also act as Secretary to the Board and who will assist the Controller in running the Iron and Steel Control Office.

The order applies to the main types of iron and steel produced in India, including pig iron, ingots and billets, tinbar and tinplate, structural, rails, black bars, bolts, nuts and screws and wire and wire nails.

The general effect of the order is to prevent the acquisition or disposal of iron or steel by anybody except under the authority of a licence issued by a department of the Central Government to which a steel quota has been allotted, or of a written order of the Iron and Steel Controller. The Central Government in the Commerce Department will, however, permit certain items to be acquired and disposed of in small quantities not exceeding limits which they will notify. The order also gives the Iron and Steel Controller power to require producers and stockists of iron or steel to keep accounts and records relating to their business and to call for such returns and estimates as he may require from them and to have their premises inspected.

(Department of Supply Notification No. 315 dated 26-7-1941; The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 26-7-1941, pages 1072 to 1074; and the Statesman, 27-7-1941.) +

Food Rationing in Kashmir State: Ration Ticket System for Rice.

To ensure the supply of rice, the staple food of the people of Kashmir, the Government have sanctioned the purchase of 1,068,800 maunds (1 maund = 82 lbs.) of shali (a variety of rice) by the Food Control Department. Shali will be stored by the Food Control Department and supply will be regulated by the ration-tickets. ~~as at present.~~

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 14-7-1941.) +

Compensation for War Injuries.

The War Injuries Ordinance, 1941. +

The Governor General promulgated on 25-7-1941 the War Injuries Ordinance, 1941, to make provision for the grant of relief in respect of certain personal injuries sustained during the continuance of the present hostilities. "War injury" is defined as a physical injury (a) caused by (i) the discharge of any missile (including liquids and gas), or (ii) the use of any weapon, explosive or other noxious thing, or (iii) the doing of any other injurious act, either by the enemy or in combating the enemy or in repelling an imagined attack by the enemy; or (b) caused by the impact on any person or property of any enemy aircraft, or any aircraft belonging to or held by any person on behalf of or for the benefit of His Majesty or any allied power, or any part of, or anything dropped from, any such aircraft. "War service injury", in relation to a civil defence volunteer, means any physical injury arising out of work under civil defence organisation and not arising out of and in the course of his employment in any other capacity.

Schemes of Relief. - The Ordinance empowers the Central Government

to make schemes providing for the grant of relief in respect of the following injuries sustained during the continuance of the present hostilities, namely:- (a) war injuries sustained by gainfully occupied persons (with such exceptions, if any, as may be specified in the scheme) and by persons such other classes as may be so specified; and (b) war service injuries sustained by civil defence volunteers. Payment under the scheme may be by way of temporary allowance, of allowance in cases of prolonged disablement or death, or of cost of artificial limbs or surgical or other appliances.

Relief from Liability to pay Compensation.- In respect of a war injury sustained during the continuance of the present hostilities by any person, and in respect of a war service injury sustained during that period by a civil defence volunteer, no such compensation or damages shall be payable, whether to the person injured or to any other person, as apart from the provisions of this Ordinance (a) would be payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; or (b) would, whether by virtue of any enactment or by virtue of any contract or at common law, be payable (i) in the case of a war injury, by any person, or (ii) in the case of a war service injury sustained by a civil defence volunteer, by the employer of the volunteer, or by any person who has responsibility in connection with the volunteer's duties ~~as~~ as such of any other civil defence volunteer, on the ground that the injury in question was attributable to some negligence, nuisance or breach of duty for which the person by whom the compensation or damage would be payable is responsible.

The time lost in an unsuccessful claim under the war injuries scheme is not to be a bar to proceedings for claims under other existing laws.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 25-7-1941, pages 427 to 431.) +

42

List of more important publications received in this Office during
July, 1941.

Conditions of Work.-

Annual Report on the working of the Boilers Act in Burma for the year 1940. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1941. Price Annas 12 or ~~15~~ 1s.1d.

Social Policy.-

Bulletin of Indian Industries and Labour - No. 72. Proceedings of the Second Conference of Labour Ministers (held at New Delhi on the 27th and 28th January, 1941). Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Re.1 or 1s.6d.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Government of Burma: Report of the Committee on Expenditure on the Public Services, 1939-40. Part I. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1940. Price Annas 14 or 1s.4d.
- (2) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India, 1938. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.4-14 or 7s.9d.
- (3) Census of Travancore, 1941. Economic Survey. Key Schedule and Instructions.
- (4) ~~Bulletin of Indian Industries and Labour - No.71.~~ Proceedings of the Twelfth Industries Conference (held at Lucknow on the 16th and 17th December, 1940). March, 1941. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Rs.1-4-0 or 2s.
- (5) ~~Bulletin No.1 - Thirty-sixth issue.~~ Department of Statistics. Statistical Abstract of the Baroda State ~~for~~ from 1929-30 to 1938-39. Baroda: Printed at the ~~Bar~~ Baroda State Press, 1941. Price Re.1-9-0. *Bulletin No.1 - Thirty-sixth issue.*

Social Insurance.-

- (1) Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1939, together with a note on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (Government of India). Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Annas 6 or 7d.
- (2) Government of Madras - Public Works Department (Labour). ~~Ex~~ G.O. No. 1178, 13th May, 1941. Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 - Working-1940 ~~Report~~.
- (3) Letter No. G./1386-3684 G.J. dated 15-7-1941 from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, embodying the report on the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Assam, for the year ending the 31st December, 1940.

Migration.-

Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Burma for the year ending 31st December 1940. Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price 7 annas or 8d.

Agriculture.-

Agriculture.-

Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Madras Presidency for the year 1939-40. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1941. Price 8 annas.

Co-operation.-

- (1) Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions for the twenty-sixth year ~~1339~~ 1348-1349 F. (1939-40). Hyderabad-Deccan. Government Central Press. 1941.
- (2) Report on the Co-operative Societies in Orissa for the year 1939-40. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. Price Rs.2-14-0.

Living Conditions.-

Agricultural Marketing in India. Report on the Marketing of Milk in India and Burma. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Re.1-4-0 or 2s.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the year 1940. Vol. I. Calcutta: Printed at the Criterion Printing Works, 8, Jackson Lane, Calcutta. 1941.
- (2) Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1940, presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 5-3-1941. Bombay: Printed by G. Claridge & Co. 1941.

Public Health.-

- (1) Government of Bengal - Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the Bengal ~~Smoke Nuisances Commission~~ for the year 1939. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal, Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1940. Price Anna 1 or 2d.
- (2) Annual Public Health Report of the Province of Orissa for the year 1939 and the Annual Vaccination Report for the year 1939-40 by Lt.-Colonel G. Verghese, I.M.S., Director of Health and Inspector-General of Prisons, Orissa. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. ~~Price Rs.10-11-0.~~
- (3) The Administration Report of the Medical and Public Health Department of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government for the year 1348 Fasli (6-10-1938 to 6-10-1939). Hyderabad-Deccan: Government Central Press. 1940.

Miscellaneous.-

Report of the Village Administration Committee, 1941. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1941. Price Annas 4 = 5d.

C 6/2/16

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for August 1941.

N-B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

Contents

Pages

National Labour Legislation.-

Government of India;

- (a) Draft Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1941. 1
- (b) Amendment to Tea Districts Emigration Labour Rules, 1933. 1

Bihar:

- Draft Amendment to Payment of Wages Rules, 1937. 2

Bengal:

- (a) Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1941: Bill passed by Legislative Council. 2
- (b) The Bengal Bus Drivers and Conductors' Bill, 1940: Motion for Select Committee Disallowed. 2
- (c) The Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1941: Better Control of Seamen's Lodging Houses in Calcutta. 2-3

Mysore State:

- Mysore State Labour Emergency Act, 1941. 3-4

Burma:

- The Burma Extraordinary Pension Rules, 1940. 5

Social Policy.-

- Labour Legislation: Punjab Government discusses Problems with Employers. 6

Conditions of Work.-

Hours of Work:

- (a) Bengal Shops and Establishments Act and Rules: Bengal Chamber of Commerce seeks Elucidation on Certain Points. 7
- (b) Applicability of Bombay Shops Act to Daily Wage-earners: Appeal before Bombay High Court. 7-8
- (c) Proposed Shops Bill in Mysore: Views of Piecegoods Merchants' Association, Bangalore. 8
- (d) Bombay Shops Act applies to Owner-Managed Concerns: High Court Judgment. 8-9
- (e) Hours of Work in Jute Mills: Working Week increased from 45 to 50 Hours. 9

Wages:

- Committee to enquire into Standardisation of Wages in the Bombay Textile Industry: Bombay Government's Proposal. 10

Industrial Disputes:

- Proposal to amend Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938: Tripartite Conference held in Bombay. 11

General:

- Factory Administration in Bihar, 1940. 12-13
- (b) Factory Administration in Bombay, 1940. 13-14

	<u>Pages</u>
<u>Economic Conditions.-</u>	
(a) 13th Industries Conference: Provisional Agenda.	15
(b) Industrial Research in Hyderabad: Committee to be set up in the State.	15
(c) Charcoal to replace Petrol: Madras Government's Scheme.	15-16
(d) Improvement in Indian Banking Conditions: Over 1000 Banks with Total Deposits of Rs. 2875 millions in 1940.	16
(e) Government of India takes over the Assam Bengal Railway from 1-1-1942: Decrease in working expenses anticipated	16
(f) Striking increase in India's Exports: Rs. 476 millions in 1938-39 and Rs. 812 millions in 1940-41.	17
(g) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during May 1941.	18
<u>Social Insurance.-</u>	
Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act during 1940.	19
<u>Agriculture.-</u>	
(a) Staff for Rural Reconstruction: Bengal Government's Scheme for training 6000 official and 50,000 non-official workers.	20
(b) The Bengal Agricultural Income-Tax Bill, 1941.	20
(c) Methods of Increasing Rice Production in India: Question considered by Governing Body of I.C.A.R.	21
<u>Navigation.-</u>	
Home for Indian Seamen in Calcutta.	22
<u>Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants.-</u>	
Subordinate Government Employees in Bombay Demand Dearness Allowance.	23
<u>Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-</u>	
Yarn Shortage for Handloom Weavers in U.P.: Government plan for Conference to consider Problem.	24
<u>Living Conditions.-</u>	
<u>Nutrition:</u>	
(a) Balanced Diet for School boys: Dr. Mhaskar's Estimate.	25
(b) Supply of Cheap Milk to Working Classes in Bombay: Details of Proposed Scheme.	25-26
<u>Organisation, Congresses, etc.-</u>	
<u>Workers' Organisations:</u>	
(a) 20th Half-Yearly Meeting between A.I.R.F. and Railway Board, Bombay, 4-8-1941.	27-28
(b) Postal Employees Demand Dearness Allowance: Bombay Conference.	28
<u>Social Conditions.-</u>	
Mill-hands in Cawnpore and Drink Habit: Government move to reduce Incidence.	29
<u>Public Health:-</u>	
Appointment of District Health Officers: Bombay Government adopts Scheme.	30

4. Education.-

Educational Reorganisation in Hyderabad State: New Scheme providing improved facilities for Vocational Education Approved. 31.

5. Social Policy in War Time.-

Wages:

(a) Dearness Allowance for Madras Government Servants.	32
(b) Dearness Allowance to Papanasam Mill Workers.	32
(c) Increased Dearness Allowance to Ahmedabad Textile Workers.	33
(d) Grain Allowance for Low-Paid Government Employees in Orissa.	33
(e) Dearness Allowance for Cotton Textile Workers in Bengal.	33
(f) Dearness Allowance for Cawnpore Municipal Employees.	33
(g) Higher Dearness Grant for Mill Workers in Bombay.	34-35
(h) War Dearness Food Allowance to Cawnpore Textile Workers.	35-36

Safety of Workers:

Safety of Workers during Air-raids: Government of Bengal discusses Problem with Business Interests.	36-37
---	-------

Social Insurance:

The C.P. and Berar Provident Fund (Temporary Relaxation) Rules.	37
---	----

Price Control:

Price Control in India: Conference under Government auspices to be held shortly.	37
--	----

War Production:

(a) Supply Member's review of India's War Production.	38-42
(b) Industrial Advisory Committee, Bombay Circle, set up by Government of India.	42

Demobilisation and Employment:

War Service Men and Government Employment: Concessions announced by Government of Bengal.	43
---	----

Control Measures:

Extension (a) Extension of Import Control: Industrial Requirements Covered.	44
(b) Complete Control of Machine Tools.	45
(c) Import of machinery from the United Kingdom into India: Permission of Government of India needed.	45
(d) Iron and steel (Control of Distribution) Order, 1941: Grievances of Iron and Hardware Merchants.	45-46
(e) The Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941: Control of Petrol Consumption.	46-47

Rent Control:

Amendment to New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939.	48
--	----

6. List of more important publications received in this Office during August, 1941.

49

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION ✓

Government of India.-

Draft Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

The Government of India intends introducing in the forthcoming session of the Central Legislature a Bill to amend the Factories Act for the following objects and reasons: Section 5 of the Factories Act, 1934, has been found defective in two respects. In the first place, a notification under sub-section (1) can apply only to such factories as were in existence on the date of the notification and not to factories similar in all respects which may be established subsequently (though of course such later established factories could be notified separately). Secondly, factories once brought under the scope of the Act by virtue of a notification under sub-section (1) may subsequently cease to be under it by the operation of the provisions in sub-section (3), if they employ less than 10 workers continuously for 12 months, and if a factory goes out of the ambit of the Act in this manner, a fresh notification will be necessary to bring it back within the Act when it again employs more than 10 persons. The Bill which is intended to remedy these defects, seeks to give power to Provincial Governments to enable them to notify once for all the application of the provisions of the Act to any specified classes of establishments employing 10 or more persons.

(The Gazette of India, Part V,
dated 9-8-1941, pages 133 to 134).

Government of India.-

Amendment to Tea Districts Emigration Labour Rules, 1933.

The Government of India has gazetted certain amendments to the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Rules, 1933, mostly as regards the form of registers and returns prescribed under the Rules.

(Notifications Nos. L.3030 (1) to (6) dated
23-8-1941: The Gazette of India, Part I,
dated 30-8-1941, pages 1234 to 1239.)

Bihar.-

Draft Amendment to Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.

The Bihar Government proposes amending the local Payment of Wages Rules, 1937, to provide that in every factory notice specifying prevailing rates of wages should be displayed.

(Bihar Gazette, Part II, dated
27-8-1941, pages 647 to 648.)

Bengal.-

Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1941:
Bill passed by Legislative Council.

Reference was made at page 1 of our July 1941 report to the introduction of the Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1941, in the local Legislative Council. The Bill was passed by the Council on 28-8-1941.

(The Statesman, 29-8-1941.)

Bengal.-

The Bengal Bus Drivers and Conductors' Bill, 1940:
Motion for Select Committee Disallowed.

Reference was made at page 2 of our August 1940 report to the introduction in the Bengal Legislative Council by Mr. Humayun Kabir of the Bengal Bus Drivers and Conductors' Bill, 1940. Mr. Kabir sought on 28-8-1941 to move the Bill to a Select Committee.

Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, Minister, opposing the bill said that the measure was not a simple one as Mr. Kabir wanted the House to believe. If it was accepted it would injure trade. Bus services had to compete with other transport services, namely, railways and tramways. If wages and hours of work were fixed, as suggested in Mr. Kabir's bill, then higher wages had to be paid to the employees and their number had to be increased. This would seriously prejudice trade which was now passing through a serious crisis.

Mr. Kabir replied that it appeared from the speech of Sir Bijoy that Government not only intended to oppose the measure but also wanted to kill it. The danger to trade of which Sir Bijoy spoke could well be averted by bringing within the scope of the bill other transport services.

The motion was defeated.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 24-8-1941)

Bengal.-

The Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1941:
Better control of seamen's Lodging Houses in Calcutta.

The Bengal Government recently introduced in the local Legislative Council the Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1941 (the text of the Bill is published at pages 88 to 89 of Part IV B of the Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary dated 7-8-1941) with the object of improving the conditions obtaining in seamen's lodging houses in Calcutta. The statement of objects and reasons says: A special enquiry by the Deputy Commissioner, Port Police, revealed that the conditions existing

in seamen's lodging houses (known as "lathi houses") in Calcutta are exceedingly bad. Not only are these houses insanitary and overcrowded, but the proprietors take every advantage of the sailors who stay there. With a view to control these houses, and in pursuance of Government's policy of improving conditions for Indian seamen, the proprietors were required to take out licences under section 39 of the Calcutta Police Act, 1866, and under section 22 of the Calcutta Suburban Police Act, 1886. Recently, however, a man who was prosecuted for running a lathi house without a licence was acquitted on the ground that as no food was supplied, the sections of the Acts mentioned above did not apply. Government is advised that in the absence of a clear definition of "lodging house" in the Acts referred to, the acquittal was not improper and considers that the Acts should be amended so as to include these houses within their scope. The present Bill is an attempt to ensure proper control of these houses, and thereby, to protect the seamen who take shelter therein.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-9-1941.)₊

Mysore State

Mysore Labour Emergency Act, 1941.

The Mysore Government has issued on 26-8-1941 an Emergency Ordinance called the Mysore Labour (Emergency) Act, 1941. The Act comes into force immediately and applies to all industrial concerns, Government or private in the whole State. The salient features of the Act are briefly noticed below:

Fostering of Unions of Workers.- Under the proposed Bill, the Government will appoint a Commissioner of Labour, whose jurisdiction will extend throughout the State. The Commissioner will help in organising associations of employees in each industrial undertaking employing not less than 100 workmen, and assist and guide the officers of such associations in the discharge of their duties. The Government may also appoint for any local area or otherwise one or more Assistant Commissioners of Labour to exercise similar function under the guidance of the Labour Commissioner. No employer shall dismiss or reduce any employee or punish him in any other manner by reason of the circumstances that the employee is an officer or member of a registered trade association. Where the offence is one of wrongful dismissal, the Court shall direct that the employer shall pay the dismissed employee wages for the period he is kept out of employment, based on his average wages for the twelve months preceding the date of dismissal. Where the offence is one of wrongful reduction or other punishment, the Court trying any offence under this section may direct that out of the fine recovered (which may amount to Rs.1,000) such amount as it deems fit shall be paid to the employee concerned as compensation.

Conciliation.- There will be a Registrar of Associations who will be ex-officio Chief Conciliator of the State. The Government may appoint a special Conciliator in respect of any dispute. During the pendency of any proceedings before the Conciliator under the foregoing provisions, the Government may, and if both the parties agree, either prior to the commencement of such proceedings or after the failure of the Conciliator to bring about a settlement, refer the dispute to a Board of Conciliation,

consisting of three independent persons.

Arbitration.- Where the parties are not able to reach ~~for~~ a settlement through conciliation, the Conciliation Board shall report to the Government which will then refer the dispute to a Court of Arbitration constituted for determining industrial disputes. The award of the Court shall be binding on the parties to the disputes and on their successors and assignees and shall not be called in question in any Civil or Criminal Court or other judicial proceedings.

Changes in Conditions of Work.- No employer shall make any change in contravention of the terms of a registered agreement, settlement or award of the conciliation board, sole arbitrator or court of arbitration. The penalty for making such illegal changes may be a fine extending to Rs. 5,000 and for continuation of the offence, a further fine of Rs. 200 per day during which the offence continues.

Illegal Strikes and Lockouts.- A strike or a lock-out shall be illegal which has any object other than or in addition to the furtherance of an industrial dispute within the industrial undertaking in which the strikers or employer locking-out are engaged. A strike shall be illegal if it is commenced or continued without giving the necessary notice and before the initiation of conciliation proceedings where an agreement is not arrived at only for the reason that the employer has not carried out the provisions of any standing order or has made an illegal change; in cases where conciliation proceedings in regard to the industrial dispute to which the strike relates have commenced, before the expiry of 14 days after the publication of the Report; in case where the dispute has been referred to arbitration before an award has been given; in contravention of the terms of a registered agreement, settlement or award. In cases where conciliation proceedings in regard to any industrial dispute have been completed, a strike relating to such dispute shall be illegal if it is commenced at any time after the expiry of two months after the publication of the Report.

A lock-out shall be illegal if it is declared, commenced or continued without giving necessary notice and before the initiation of conciliation proceedings, where an agreement is not arrived at; in cases where conciliation proceedings in regard to the industrial dispute to which the lock-out relates have commenced before the expiry of 14 days after publication of the Report; in cases where the dispute has been referred to arbitration, before an award has been given; in contravention of the terms of a registered agreement, settlement or award. In cases where conciliation proceedings in regard to any industrial dispute have been completed, a lock-out relating to such dispute shall be illegal if it is commenced at any time after the expiry of two months after the publication of the Report. Any employer who has declared a lock-out and continues it after it has been declared by the Registrar to be illegal shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs. 2,500 and shall, in addition, be directed by the Court to pay the employees kept out of employment by such lock-out, wages for the period they are so kept out based on the average earned by each employee during the twelve months preceding the commencement of the lock-out.

(The Hindu, 3-8-1941, and the Times of India, 28-8-1941.)

(Requisition has been made to the Government of Mysore for two copies of the Act; when received, one copy will be forwarded to Montreal.)⁺

Burma. -

The Burma Extraordinary Pension Rules, 1940. *

The Burma Government has on 25-7-1941 adopted the Burma Extraordinary Pension Rules, 1941, which applies to all persons paid from civil estimates, other than those to whom the Workman's Compensation Act applies, whether their appointment is permanent or temporary, on time-scale of pay or fixed pay or piece-work rates who are under the rule making control of the Governor.

The Rules provide for the grant of gratuity or pension to the victim of an injury or disease met with or contracted in the course of his duties according to the nature of the injury. Injuries are graded as: (1) equal to loss of limb, (2) very severe, (3) severe and likely to be permanent. In case the victim dies of an injury or disease, his widow and children are granted a gratuity or pension as the case may be; in assessing the amount of compensation, contributory negligence of the victim will be taken into account. The benefits under these Rules will not affect any other pension or gratuity to which the victim or his widow and children are otherwise entitled. For the purpose of the Rules "disease" means (i) venereal disease or septicaemia contracted by a medical officer as a result of attendance in the course of his official duty on an infected patient or of conducting a postmortem examination in the course of that duty, or (ii) disease solely and directly attributable to an accident.

(The Burma Gazette, Part I, dated 2-8-1941, pages 993 to 998.) *

SOCIAL POLICY

6

Labour Legislation:

Punjab Government discusses Problems with Employers. ✓

The Punjab Government is understood to be contemplating the enactment of legislation for the welfare of labourers. This question, and the need for increasing wages in view of the rise in prices, were discussed at an informal conference of the industrialists of the Punjab which was held at Lahore on 9-8-1941, under the presidency of Sir Manohar Lal, Finance Minister.

The proceedings of conference were not open to the public, but it is understood that the conference discussed the general industrial situation in the province in all its aspects, and also dealt with the question of a dearness allowance to industrial workers. It was pointed out that at a time when industrialists are earning profits as the result of war conditions, the wages of labourers, who have been hard hit on account of the rise in prices of the necessities of life, ought to be increased.

Other matters which came up before the Conference included certain labour measures now under consideration of the Government of India and various profit-sharing and provident fund schemes already in force in several big Indian commercial concerns.

(The Statesman, 10 and 11-8-1941.) ✓

7

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Hours of Work

Bengal Shops and Establishments Act and Rules:

Bengal Chamber of Commerce seeks Elucidation on Certain
Points. ✓

The Bengal Chamber has recently taken up with the Government of Bengal certain difficulties in regard to the interpretation of the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act and Rules; these are:

(a) whether it would be proper to regard leave granted to employees during the first year of operation of the Act as privilege leave given in anticipation of its being earned; so that in terms of section 12(a) of the Act, the grant of further leave under the Act would not arise until the lapse of twelve months' continuous employment from the date of the termination of the leave taken during the first year; (b) whether the phrase "a person wholly or principally employed in connection with the business of a commercial establishment" includes such persons as sweepers, farashes, duffries (peons), dhobies (washermen), drivers, and cooks ~~and khansamas~~ who are employed by commercial establishments in a capacity incidental to the business of the establishment; and (c) whether in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Act, the exclusion of "any industry, business or undertaking which supplies power, light or water to the public....." covers the employees of a Managing Agency House engaged on the work of a company which supplies light or power or water to the public and whose business is managed and controlled by the Managing Agency House.

The reply of the Bengal Government is pending.

(Abstract of Proceedings for April, May
and June 1941 of the Bengal Chamber
of Commerce.) ✓

Applicability of Bombay Shops Act to Daily Wage-
earners: Appeal before Bombay High Court. ✓

Does the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act apply to daily wage earners? An application in remission, based on this legal issue, has been admitted by the Bombay High Court in the third week of August 1941. The matter was treated in the lower Court as a test case.

The applicant is Mr. Hasanalli Gulamali Patanwalla, the proprietor of a hotel, who was convicted in May last by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, under the Act and fined Rs. 20. The Inspector of Shops and Establishments, Bombay Municipality, visited the applicant's hotel on January 16 and 17. It was alleged that ~~altogether~~ although he had kept a register of employment, it was not written up. On January 20, a notice was sent to the applicant. On February 9, the Inspector again visited the hotel and found the register still blank. Moreover, the extract of the Act was purchased but it was not displayed. It was further alleged that the weekly holiday was not granted in the hotel and the weekly holiday notice

8

was not exhibited. In the lower Court, the Inspector, according to the applicant, admitted that the latter had told him that the servants in his shop were employed as daily wage earners. The Magistrate who originally decided the case was satisfied that there was nothing in the Act or the Rules framed thereunder to exclude the daily wage earners from the ambit of the Act.

Their Lordships issued a rule.

(The Times of India, 21-8-1941.) ✓

Proposed Shops Bill in Mysore:

Views of Piecegoods Merchants' Association, Bangalore. ✓

It is understood that there is a proposal to adopt a Shops Act in Mysore State and that the Labour Commissioner in Mysore has been inviting the views on the subject of the various interests concerned. The question was considered by the Bangalore City Piecegoods Merchants' Association recently. The discussions in the committee of the Association revealed that opinion among members on the question was sharply divided. Some members felt that conditions in Mysore State and even in its most important commercial towns, unlike Bombay and Calcutta, were not such as to warrant the passing of any such legislation. They expressed the view that the Government might await the experience of those British Indian Provinces, which have passed Shop Acts. Reference was also made to the fact that the neighbouring province of Madras had not passed such an Act. The other section of the Association which favoured the passing of a Shop Assistants' Act, felt that the time was ripe for the enactment of such legislation in Mysore. The shop-keepers themselves, no less than their servants, felt the need for periodical holidays from their routine business and also a reduction of their daily hours of work to a reasonable limit. This section also suggested that the Government might frame a Bill on the lines of those passed in British Indian provinces, with suitable modifications for local conditions, and that the same might be circulated for public opinion.

(The Indian Express, 20-8-1941.) ✓

Bombay Shops Act applies to Owner-Managed Concerns:

High Court Judgment. ✓

Reference was made at page 4 of our July 1941 report to the appeal preferred by the Bombay Government to the local High Court about the applicability of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act to owner-managed one-man shops. On 28-8-1941, the Chief Justice, Sir John Beaumont, and Justice Sen delivered judgment to the effect that the Act covers such concerns. Their Lordships observed that there was nothing to suggest that the Act did not apply to the one-man-shop; the prohibition referred to as to the closure of the shop at 9 p.m. applied to any shop. It seemed to the Court that there was no justification for restricting the meaning of the relevant section, under which the accused was charged, which the Legislature had seen

9

had seen fit to lay down. Their Lordships, therefore, convicted the accused for keeping his shop open after 9 p.m. and fined him Rs. 4-15-0.

As regards the second charge of not displaying an extract of the Act, Their Lordships observed that, as there were no persons employed, it was not necessary to exhibit the extract in the shop. But they convicted the accused for not keeping the visit-book for the Inspector and fined him one anna.

(The Times of India, 30-8-1941.) ✓ +

Hours of Work in Jute Mills:
Working Week increased from 45 to 50 Hours. ✓ +

On the recommendation of its Committee, the Indian Jute Mills Association, at a special meeting on 28-8-1941 adopted a resolution deciding to increase the working hours of the member mills from 45 to 50 hours a week; this increase in working hours would obtain from 1-9-1941 to the end of this year.

Reviewing the recent policy of the Committee regarding working hours, the chairman said that it had been suggested in certain quarters that the Committee of the Association should have by now recommended ~~an immediate increase in working hours~~. He assured the Association that the Committee had viewed with great concern the present high prices ruling in Hessian, but they were not satisfied that an adjustment of working hours would guarantee that these prices would eventually fall to a reasonable level. He said that in coming to a decision regarding changes in working hours, they had to consider many factors, not the least of which was labour, and he could not be a party to a policy, which advocated the chopping and changing of working hours in order to adjust prices and which would undoubtedly lead to labour troubles.

(The Hindu, 30-8-1941.) ✓ +

10

Wages

Committee to enquire into Standardisation of Wages in the Bombay Textile Industry: Bombay Government's Proposal. ✓+

The Bombay Textile Labour Inquiry Committee in its report, published recently, has examined in Chapter V the question of standardisation of wages in the Bombay textile industry and made a few recommendations on the subject. (Vide pages 21 to 24 of our May 1941 report for a brief summary of the Committee's main recommendations; a copy of the Committee's Report was sent to Montreal with our Minute D.1/499/⁴¹ dated 30-6-1941.) It is now understood that the Bombay Government will shortly appoint a Committee to go in greater detail into the problem of standardisation of wages with a view to give effect to the Inquiry Committee's recommendations. ✓+

Industrial Disputes

Proposals to Amend Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938: Tripartite Conference held in Bombay. ✓

The Government of Bombay has recently proposed to amend the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, and for this purpose held a Conference of representatives of trade, commerce and industry and of labour. Mr. C.H. Bristow, Advisor to the Governor of Bombay, presided.

In the original Act, it was stated, there was no provision for the settlement of disputes between employees and employees, though the words "between employees and employees" have been inserted in the Act under the section relating to settlement of disputes. Government proposed the deletion of the words "between employees and employees" and the substitution of the words "connected with any industrial matter" to be inserted at the proper place. Representatives of millowners objected to the change, while those of workers' unions, on behalf of labour, agreed. Another amendment proposed related to the definition of a member of a registered union. The amendment suggested that a member should have paid his subscription consecutively for six months and that he should not be in arrears for a period not exceeding three months. Representatives of workers expressed opposition to this suggestion and referred to the difficulties of the members of the Seamen's Union, whose subscriptions were paid yearly.

Mr. Bristow observed that the provision might not apply to the Seamen's Union.

(The Times of India, 29-8-1941.) ✓

Factory Administration in Bihar, 1940.*

Number of Factories.- The number of factories on the register at the commencement of the year under report was 386. 18 factories were added to the register during the year under report. In the new registrations, rice mills form the majority. 15 factories were removed from the register. The total number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 389. Of the 389 factories on the register 339 worked during the year. Of the 339 factories that worked during the year 269 were perennial and 70 seasonal. The average number of days worked during the year by perennial and seasonal factories respectively were: Perennial - 253 days, and Seasonal - 186 days.

Number of Workers.- The average daily number of workers in factories was 104,599 as against 95,988 in 328 working factories in the previous year (which is an increase of nearly 9 per cent. over the previous year). The increase was due to increased employment in certain industries, mainly in the iron and steel and sugar industries and to new registrations; there was however a decrease in employment in engineering and tobacco industries.

Employment of Women and Children.- The average daily number of women workers in factories during the year under report was 7,609 as against 6,758 in the previous year, which is an increase of 12.5 per cent. over the previous year. The average daily number of adolescent workers in factories during the year under report was 620 as against 321 in the previous year which is an increase of nearly 94 per cent. over the previous year. The average daily number of child workers in factories during the year under report was 328 as against 117 in the previous year which is an increase of 180 per cent. over the previous year. The number of women workers in factories has steadily increased during the last three years. There was very considerable increase in the employment of adolescent and child workers employed in factories during the year under report; it is not at present ~~not~~ possible to judge whether the increase is only temporary due to special circumstances or whether it will be maintained.

Inspections.- Of the 339 factories which worked during the year 315 factories were inspected as against 289 in the previous year. The number of factories uninspected was 24 as against 39 in the previous year. The total number of inspections of all classes during the year including visits to unregistered factories was 544 as against 526 in the previous year. 211 factories were visited once, 74 twice, 23 thrice and 7 more than three times.

Prosecutions.- During the year under report prosecutions were instituted against the occupier or the manager of seven factories as against nine factories in the previous year. There were 23 charges in all against ^{14 persons and corporations were obtained against} all the persons in all charges ~~against~~ except one. The total amount of fine imposed was Rs. 555 as against Rs. 435 in the previous year.

* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the Province of Bihar for the year 1940 by Mr. H.M. Rai, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941. Price As.8. pp.34.

Working of Employment of Children Act.- The Employment of Children Act, 1938, as amended by the Employment of Children (Amendment) Act, 1939, was extended to the Chota Nagpur Division and the district of Santal parganas by Government notification. The inspectors of factories are inspectors for the purposes of the Act. The number of workshops registered under the Act up to the end of the year under report was 110. ✓

Factory Administration in Bombay, 1940.* ✓

Number of Factories.- The number of factories subject to the control of the Factories Act increased from 3,460 to 3,640 (including 1,385 concerns to which the Act has been extended by Notification under Section 5. These concerns are referred to as "N" concerns in the report). 512 (220 + 292 "N") factories were added to the register and 332 (88 + 244 "N") were removed. The net increase was thus 180 (132+48 "N"). The number of factories that actually worked during the year was 1,966 + 1,352 "N" compared with 1,821 + 1,299 "N" in the preceding year. 1,245 + 1,226 "N" of the factories were perennial concerns and 721 + 126 "N" seasonal. 251 + 438 "N" of the perennial and 561 + 78 "N" of the seasonal factories were connected with the cotton industry.

Number of Workers.- The number of operatives employed in all industries based on the annual returns received and including the weighted night shift average in the cotton textile mills was 455,512 + 25,092 "N" compared with 443,713 + 22,327 "N" in the previous year. The number of adult shifts worked in the cotton textile industry excluding the "N" concerns was 86,544,129 as against 89,393,809 in the previous year; the decrease was due to a general strike in Bombay of about 6 weeks duration. There were fairly wide fluctuations in night shifts; a large increase in the early months was not sustained although the closing months witnessed a further spurt. Of the total number of workers, 70,898 were women and 770 children as against 70,597 and 920 respectively in 1939.

Inspections.- 1,058 factories were inspected once, 1,272 twice, 325 thrice and 496 more than thrice while 167 were not inspected. The total number of inspections made by whole-time and ex-officio inspectors was 3,318.

Accidents.- 11,993 persons were involved in accidents of whom 38 died, 2,407 were severely injured and 9,548 sustained minor injuries. The total number of persons injured in 1939 was 10,086. The incidence of accidents on the average was 2.49 per 100 operatives employed daily against the 1939 average of 2.16.

Prosecutions.- 401 cases were instituted against 94 factories by the full-time inspectors. Convictions were secured in 311 cases against 77 factories whilst fines of Rs. 10,164 were imposed. The accused were acquitted in three cases. 71 cases against 14 factories are pending.

Working of the Employment of Children Act.- This Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 12 years in ten classes of workshops. The Inspectors of Factories have been made responsible for its administration in the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad and Poona. Annual Factory Report, Bombay Province, 1940 (including Notes on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act and the Payment of Wages Act). Government Central Press, Bombay. Annas 4 or 5d. 1941.pp.66

Comprehensive surveys have been made in the cities indicated. Most of the concerns have submitted the notice of occupation whilst instructions have been given regarding the employment of child labour and the responsibility of occupiers. Not a single notice was sent in before the Inspectors visited.

The situation in the cities was as follows:-

Locality	Nature of Industry	No. of Workshops	No. of work- ing child- ren below the age of 12	Remarks.
Bombay	Bidi Making	1,715	352	
	Dyeing and printing.	89	1	
	Soap making	9	...	
	Wool cleaning	16	12	
Ahmedabad	Bidi factories	311	...	The industries do not employ children below 12 years or age. 423 out of the 454 were visited.
	Cloth Printing	129	...	
	Matchmaking			
	Matches and fire- works.	1	...	
	Soap making	11	...	
	Tanning	2	...	

Ninety concerns were found in Poona of which 67 are hand-loom factories and 13 are engaged in the manufacture of bidis. A few children were employed and these have been certified for age.

Young children were also found in the large bidi factories in Nasik, Sholapur and the Southern Maratha areas and the provisions of the Act have been applied. ✓ +

13th Industries Conference:
Provisional Agenda. ✓

The Government of India proposes to convene the 13th Industries Conference during the coming cold weather. While the questions regarding the date and venue of the conference are still awaiting decision of the Government, it has prepared a provisional agenda. The Central Government will be prepared, so far as time permits, to place before the conference such other matters of importance as various Chambers of Commerce and trade organisations may suggest. The provisional agenda of the conference, as drawn up by the Central Government includes: consideration of the schemes for stimulation of handloom industry in various provinces and the allotment of grants-in-aid for 1942-43, if it is decided to extend the same; the report of the fact-finding committee on hand-loom industry, if ready; matters arising out of the proceedings of the meetings of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research; and establishment of a permanent industrial museum at the Imperial capital.

(The Statesman, 29-8-1941.) ✓

Industrial Research in Hyderabad:
Committee to be set up in the state. ✓

In view of the importance of industrial research to national effort stimulated by the war, the Nizam's Government is considering a proposal to set up in Hyderabad State an industrial research committee which will be entrusted with the task of collecting information relating to the industrial potentialities of the State. The committee, which will work in close co-operation with the Board of ~~Scintific~~ Scientific and Industrial Research, consists of scientists, engineers and industrialists.

The Committee will apportion research schemes to suitable laboratories and workshops in the State, and, it is understood the the Government, in the initial stage, proposes to allot Rs. 25,000 for such special research work.

(The Times of India, 31-8-1941.) ✓

Charcoal to replace Petrol:
Madras Government's Scheme.

With a view to encouraging the use of cheap producer gas in place of petrol for motor vehicles, the Government of Madras have examined measures for stimulating the supply of charcoal necessary for producer-gas vehicles. It is estimated that for 2,000 such vehicles about 30,000 tons of charcoal would be required in a year.

On this basis, it is learnt, arrangements are being made for the sale of coupes in the poorer classes of reserve forests to contractors producing charcoal. In view of the growing demand, it is expected that private enterprise would develop casuarina plantations and other sources for the production of ~~high~~ high grade charcoal to supplement the

17

Striking Increase in India's Exports:
Rs. 476 millions in 1938-39 and Rs. 812
millions in 1940-41. ✓

One way to judge India's industrial expansion since the outbreak of the war is by discovering the type of articles, wholly or mainly manufactured, which have been exported in larger quantities from India during the year ended March, 1941, as compared with the corresponding pre-war period of 1938-39. The total value of exports of articles wholly or mainly manufactured increased by Rs. 336,300,000 from Rs. 476,100,000 in 1938-39 to Rs. 812,400,000 in 1940-41.

Cotton.- Exports of cotton yarn and manufactures were nearly double the figures for the corresponding period in 1938-39, the increase being over Rs. 93,700,000. As for jute manufactures, exports registered an increase of Rs. ~~191~~ 191,500,000.

Pig Iron.- There was greater demand for Indian pig-iron. Iron manufactures like angles, bolts and rods, bars and channels and iron or steel manufactures like cast pipes and fittings, sheets and plates, tubes, pipes and fittings, wrought, and other manufactures of iron or steel all recorded increases of value. Thus, exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof recorded a jump of over Rs. 20,000,000.

Machinery and Building Materials.- Other articles which were much in demand abroad were machinery of all kinds (including belting for machinery) the exports of which showed an increase of Rs. 175,000 and metals other than iron and steel and manufactures thereof, the export of which rose from ~~Rs. 2,175,000~~ Rs. 2,175,000 to Rs. 2,498,000. Building and engineering material like bricks and lime and magnesite is also finding a larger market abroad. A large export trade in boots and shoes has been built up. Exports of hides and skins, tanned or dressed, and leather and leather manufactures have increased by Rs. 7,096,000. Among tanning materials, myrobalan extracts have shown an increase, while dyes and colours rose in value by Rs. 345,000.

Paper and Stationery.- Another industry to which prosperity has been brought by the war is paper and stationery. Exports of paper, paste-board and stationery increased by Rs. 2,867,000 from Rs. 1,275,000 to Rs. 4,142,000. Exports of rubber manufactures increased eleven times.

Oil.- The total exports of oil increased by over Rs. 13,700,000. The essential oil industry is being developed, and exports of lemon grass oil have shown an improvement.

Miscellaneous Goods.- Increases in quantities and values have also been recorded by paints and painter's materials, provisions and oilman's stores, manufactured tobacco, umbrellas, waxes of all kinds, candles, casein, coke, coir matting, cordage and rope of vegetable fibre, wheat flour, liquors, musical and other instruments, apparatuses, appliances and parts thereof, anchors and cables, hoops and strips.

(The Times of India, 12-8-1941.)

18

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for
Various Centres in India during May 1941. ✓

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during May 1941, as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: Year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay for May 1941 rose by 1 point to 122. The average for the calendar year 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during May 1941 advanced by 1 point to 82. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during May 1941 remained stationary at 78 as compared with the preceding month. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in May 1941 remained stationary at 72 as compared with the preceding month. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 63 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore during May 1941 fell by 1 point to 71. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during May 1941 fell by 1 point to 108. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

Cawnpore.- The index number (base: August 1939) of the cost of living in Cawnpore during May 1941 rose by 1 point to 108. The average for 1940 was 111.

(Extracted from Monthly Survey of Business
Conditions in India for May 1941.) ✓

Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act during 1940.* ✓

Returns were received from 568 of the 573 factories amenable to the Act. The average number of women employed daily was 44,731. The number of women who claimed maternity benefits was 4,218, of whom 3,907 were paid benefits for actual births. The total amount of benefit paid during the year was Rs. 98,811-4-11. The number of claims paid in 1940 per 100 women employed was 8.84 as against 9.24 in 1939. The number of cases in which pre-maternity benefits were paid was 2,291. ✓

* Annual Factory Report, Bombay Province, 1940 (including Notes on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act and the Payment of Wages Act). Printed at the Government Central Press, Bombay. Price Annas 4 or 5d. 1941. pp.66.

AGRICULTURE

20

Staff for Rural Reconstruction:
Bengal Government's Scheme for training 6000 official and 50,000
non-official workers. ✓

A comprehensive scheme of training of the entire staff of ^{the} Jute Regulation Department, who would henceforth be required to do rural reconstruction work in addition to their duties relating to jute, has been inaugurated by the Department of Rural Reconstruction and Jute Regulation, Bengal. In accordance with this scheme a training camp was started at Dinajpur for a period of three weeks commencing from 21-7-1941 to give practical training in survey and settlement and in rural reconstruction to the Chief Inspectors and selected inspectors, numbering 60. The second part of the scheme is about to start. The Chief Inspectors have been instructed to start training camps in 36 charges covering the whole province and work there according to the plan and programme drawn up by the Director of Rural Reconstruction to train the rest of the staff of each charge in three batches - each batch consisting of about 50 men. The training of each batch will last for about two weeks, and will include practical work in rural reconstruction in all the villages of one selected Union.

The scheme will yield about 6000 men fully equipped with training in rural reconstruction before the end of September 1941. In addition, arrangements are being made for training non-official workers, and it is hoped that about 50,000 of them shall be trained during the coming cold weather.

(Press Note dated 20-8-1941 issued
by the Director of Public Information,
Bengal.) ✓

The Bengal Agricultural Income-Tax Bill, 1941.

The Bengal Government proposes introducing in the local Legislature an Agricultural Income-tax Bill shortly, "both because additional revenue is urgently needed to meet the expanding needs of the Province, and because they consider that it is equitable to impose such a tax." The purpose of the Bill is to levy a tax on agricultural income arising from lands situated in Bengal. The rates are slightly less steeply graded than those existing under the Indian Income-Tax Act, 1922, but the exemption limit is the same as under that Act, and there is no super-tax.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary,
Part IV-A, dated 2-9-1941, pages
112 to 138.) ✓+

Methods of Increasing Rice Production in India:
Question considered by Governing Body of I.C.A.R. ✓

The increase of rice production in India and large-scale introduction among cultivators of the great number of new varieties evolved by 10 years of research were among subjects discussed at recent meetings of the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

Details of New Scheme.- It is explained that new and improved varieties of rice suited to different tracts, including some which will grow on dry land, are ready for distribution. To popularise these varieties in the rice growing provinces, the Governing Body sanctioned Rs. 110,000 for a two-year scheme. While within a few years of the introduction of new sugarcane varieties, some 75 per cent. of the area under the crop was sown with the new varieties, in the case of rice the percentage of the area covered by new varieties, so far, is only six.

Governing Body's Recommendations.- Among the Governing Body's recommendations for increasing rice production are: distribution to cultivators of manures, especially of cake, at cheap rates on a large scale, the price being recovered after the harvest; distribution of pure and improved seed on a large scale; encouragement of growing, subsequent to paddy, of suitable rabi crops like gram and other pulses in paddy lands, and inducement to cultivators to utilise for rice cultivation as far as possible areas released from other crops. The meeting emphasized the necessity for adequate irrigation of paddy lands and invited the particular attention of the provinces and States concerned to this problem. It is emphasized that room exists for increasing production to meet the acute shortage of rice.

(The Statesman, 1-8-1941.) ✓

Home for Indian Seamen in Calcutta. ✓

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Government of India, met at Calcutta in the first week of August 1941 the members of a committee which recently reported on the construction of an Indian seamen's Home in Calcutta. The Finance Minister to the Government of Bengal, Mr. Aftab Ali, M.L.A., and representatives of labour and shipping interests were also present. After full discussion, certain tentative conclusions were reached regarding the construction, maintenance and management of the Seamen's Home. Sir Ramaswami will now report to the Government of India on the proposal and will hold further communication with shipping companies and the Government of Bengal regarding the details of the scheme.

(The Hindu, 11-8-1941.) ✓.

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS**Subordinate Government Employees in Bombay Demand
Dearness Allowance.** ✓

Representatives of Service Associations of Subordinate and Inferior Government employees in Bombay which have not yet formed an association met together in a formal meeting under the auspices of the All-India Government Employees' Federation, on 10-8-1941, Mr. S.C. Joshi presiding, and passed unanimously a resolution inviting immediate attention of the Government to the abnormal rise in prices and to the need of granting immediately an adequate dearness allowance to all subordinate and inferior employees of the Government.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 13-8-1941)✓

Yarn Shortage for Handloom Weavers in U. P. :
Government plan for Conference to consider Problem. ✓

The U.P. Government has decided shortly to call a conference of mill interests and handloom workers to decide how best to avert the crisis which is threatening 700,000 workers employed on handlooms and are using mill-spun yarn or art silk yarn imported from Japan. It appears that mills are indifferent suppliers of yarn for handloom and that the price of such yarn has gone up. The present supply of handspun yarn is being augmented through the co-operation of the All-India Spinners' Association, but ~~handspun~~ handspun yarn is not able to meet the needs of handlooms.

The Director of Industries has been asked to collect data on the subject to help the proposed conference to decide how to relieve the threatened distress. The Government of India's intervention might become necessary to secure the import of art silk from China and America and to secure regular supply of mill yarn at reasonable prices. But before the Central Government are approached the provincial Government will determine the extent of relief needed and how far provincial action could meet the situation.

(The Statesman, 24-8-1941.)

Similar difficulties are experienced in other parts of India as well. A

~~(The Statesman, 24-8-1941.)~~

LIVING CONDITIONS

28

Natikan

Balanced Diet for School boys:

Dr. Khaskar's Estimate. ✓

In his lecture on "Cheap Balanced Diet" delivered at the Princess Mary Gymkhana, on 15-8-1941 before the members of the Bombay Women's Work Guild, Dr. K.S. Khaskar, Joint Honorary Secretary of the Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association and Honorary Adviser to the Bombay Mofussil Maternity Child Welfare and Health Council gave the following particulars of "balanced diets" suitable to India, both non-vegetarian and vegetarian, which, in his opinion, would be found to yield good results.

<u>Articles</u>	<u>Non-Vegetarian Balanced Diet</u>	<u>Vegetarian Balanced Diet</u>
	Ozs.	Ozs.
Fresh whole milk	9.00	6.00
Meat	3.00	....
Rice	5.00	5.75
Rice bran	0.50	....
Wheat	6.00	6.75
Bajri (Pennisetum typhoidem)	3.00	5.14
Groundnut cake	0.50	0.30
Far Dal (Gajanus indicus) and other pulses, Whole Horse Gram	3.50	\$ 4.25
Vegetable oils	1.60	0.50
Jaggery	2.00	2.00
Fruit and Root Vegetables	5.00	10.57
Leafy Vegetables	3.00	
Animal Proteins per centage.	28.21	8.73
Animal Fats per centage.	30.49	25.88
Total Proteins (Gms)	106.57	92.83
Total Fats (Gms.)	84.08	39.41
Total Carbohydrates (Gms.)	468.74	564.89
Calories	3141	3063
Cost per month per boy	Rs.6-6-0	Rs.4-10-0

(The Bombay Chronicle, 14-8-41) ✓

Supply of Cheap Milk to Working Classes in Bombay:

Details of Proposed Scheme. ✓

A move has recently been initiated to supply fresh milk at the cheapest possible rate to the citizens of Bombay, particularly to the labouring classes, the vast majority of whom are ~~partially~~ practically deprived of this healthy diet owing to increased price. It is proposed to import milk from Anand, about 266 miles from Bombay, under scientific supervision in sufficiently large quantity so as to meet the daily requirements of the city. The whole project is being carefully examined by business men and technicians and it will take some time before it is actually put into operation.

The question of keeping milk in absolutely fresh condition during the transportation over long distances is also being considered. I'

26

felt by some experts that the solution lies in the specialised application of refrigeration known as "quick chilling". As an experimental measure, consignments of milk have been arriving in Bombay from ~~Anand~~ Anand since March 1941 and it is being supplied to the municipal hospitals after careful analysis by the Health Department. The quantities of milk so far transported to Bombay have been about 30 maunds per day, and in view of the success obtained, ~~plans~~ plans are well advanced for increasing this supply in the near future. A well insulated railway van fitted with a refrigeration plant is being used for transporting milk.

"Quick chilling" means the extremely rapid extraction of heat which reduces the temperature of milk nearly to the freezing point within a few minutes. The technique is very different from the ordinary freezing or cold storage treatment, and success lies in the rapidity of cooling combined with precise control of temperature. It is pointed out that milk treated in this manner and stored at a properly controlled temperature will remain in a fresh condition for many days or even weeks, as shown by the tests made by the Health Department as well as by the Haffkine Institute. Dry ice is the most convenient medium for maintenance of the proper conditions during transport.

The successful scientific achievement referred to is the result of the use of a process which, it is claimed, is widely used in Great Britain, America, Japan and other countries, for the treatment of foodstuffs, and there is, it is felt, a very wide scope for its use in India where large surplus supplies of milk, cream, fruit, fish and meat are to be found in some parts of the country, while in others they are almost unobtainable.

(The Times of India, 8-8-1941.).

20th Half-Yearly Meeting between A.I.R.F. and Railway Board, Bombay, 4-8-1941. ✓.

The extension of Provident Fund benefits; the working of the present dearness allowance rules; blocks in the promotion of low paid staff; principles to be adopted in regard to staff on the transfer of railways from company to State management, and the grievances of certain accounts staff were the subjects discussed at the 20th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation held in Bombay on 6-8-1941. The deputation from the Federation included, besides Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the President, ^{and} Mr. S. Guruswami, General Secretary, and some fourteen other delegates from various unions affiliated to the Federation. A press communiqué was issued by the Railway Board with the concurrence of the Federation regarding the discussions at the meeting; ~~the~~ summary of the discussions as given out in the communiqué is given below:

Provident Fund.- In regard to the extension of Provident Fund benefits, the Federation submitted that the original provision of Rs. 1.2 million made by the Railway Board for this purpose had been reduced to Rs. 750,000, as perhaps the Board felt that there would not be many volunteers for admission to the Fund.

The Chief Commissioner, Sir Leonard Wilson, explained that the provision of Rs. 750,000 represented the amount provided in 1941-42 over and above that allowed for in the previous year. The provision of Rs. 1 million or 1.2 million represented a necessarily rough estimate as the option need not be exercised at once but at any subsequent time during the employee's service. If, however, the cost turned out to be, say, Rs. 1.3 million there was no intention of going back on what the Board had undertaken to do in the matter. To other arguments, the Chief Commissioner pointed out that the Railway Board could not take a short view of this matter and that the present high earnings might last only for the duration of the war, while the Provident Fund benefits were a permanent liability. He also referred to the debts owed by the Railways to the Depreciation Fund and the ~~the~~ contributions to be made to the general finances of the country and concluded that, as the present scheme had only been introduced about eight months ago, it would not be reasonable to expect a further advance in so short a time.

Dearness Allowance Rules.- In regard to the working of the present dearness allowance rules, the Chief Commissioner referred to the submission made by the Federation that those who were still eligible for and were drawing grain compensation allowance should not be deprived of the dearness allowance and said that he was prepared to consider this matter.

Promotions.- The question of blocks in promotion in the grades of low-paid staff was then discussed. The Federation showed to the Chief Commissioner a list giving details of certain staff who had been blocked on Rs. 60 for many years especially in the Divisional Offices on the N.W. Railway.

The Chief Commissioner remarked that, after all, work must have some relation to the pay drawn and that so long as an employee held a particular post which was considered to be worth Rs. 60 - he could not be paid more than Rs. 60, simply because he had been in the post for some time. The Chief Commissioner said that the Railway Board were constantly examining the classification of the grades in relation to the nature of the work performed.

staff of Company-managed Railways transferred to State-management.- In regard to the principles to be adopted regarding staff, on the transfer of a company-managed railway to State management, the Chief Commissioner explained that the object of the Government was to take over and keep the staff on the same conditions generally as were applicable to them at the time of transfer in all major matters such as pay, provident fund benefits, etc., although in some minor matters, they might be brought under State rules in order to provide ~~unfix~~ uniform conditions.

Machinery to settle Disputes between A.I.R.F. and Railway Board.- ~~The Federation stated that there were cases in which deadlock was reached in discussion with the Board, and it was desirable in such a contingency that machinery should be provided to assess and decide on the relative claims of the two parties. With this end in view, it was submitted that, in the absence of the standing machinery recommended by the Whitley Commission, the Railway Board should agree in such cases to join with the Federation in applying to the Government for action under the Trade Disputes Act.~~

The Chief Commissioner asked if it was really necessary in every case that one side should get its views accepted when, as was inevitable, the views of both sides sometimes differed. He added that the Board would only be inclined to agree to a procedure suggested by the Federation where they were in doubt regarding any matter.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 11-8-1941.)-

Postal Employees Demand Dearness Allowance:
Bombay Conference.

At the Bombay Presidency Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Conference held at Bombay on 2 and 3-8-1941, Mr. N.M. Joshi presiding, resolutions were adopted, among others, (1) requesting postal authorities that a war allowance at the rate of 40 per cent. of the wages should be given to the inferior staff, as the cost of living had soared up due to the war, (2) urging an increase in house rent allowance in Bombay City from Rs. 6-8 to Rs. 10, and proportionate increase in the mofussil, and (3) demanding that the same conditions should apply to the superior and inferior staffs, as regards leave, pension and the maintenance of reserve staff.

(The Bombay Chronicle,
4 and 5-8-1941.)✓

Mill-hands in Cawnpore and Drink Habit:
Government move to reduce Incidence. ✓

With a view to discourage, and, if possible, to prevent the drink habit among industrial workers in Cawnpore, it is understood that the Government of the United Provinces has approached mill managements to fix Wednesdays and Saturdays for disbursement of wages in their factories, so that the Government can close all liquor shops in the mill area on these days. It is learnt that 29 out of 80 factories in Cawnpore employing workers numbering 16,000 have agreed to carry out the suggestion of the Government. It is hoped that the other mills will also follow suit.

(The Leader, 22-8-1941.) ✓+

Appointment of District Health Officers:
Bombay Government adopts Scheme. ✓

The Government of Bombay has decided, as an experimental measure, to appoint three whole-time district health officers in selected districts and to appoint the civil surgeons of three other districts ~~xx~~ as district health officers in addition to their own duties, as representations had been made to Government that the health staff appointed by local boards to look after public health and sanitation in rural areas was inadequate. The three districts selected for the appointment of whole-time health officers ~~xx~~ are Surat, Sholapur and Belgaum, while the Civil Surgeons of Kaira, Ahmednagar and Kanara have been directed to work also as health officers.

(The Times of India, dated 12-8-1941) ✓

Educational Reorganisation in Hyderabad State:
New Scheme providing improved facilities for Vocational Education Approved. ✓

In 1935, the Government of H.E.H. the Nizam appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of the late Dr. A.H. Mackenzie, the then Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Osmania University, to go into the question of educational reorganisation in the State. The recommendations of the Committee were approved by Government with slight modifications. A year later the Board of Secondary Education was constituted and a separate Department of Technical and Vocational Education was created. Government also requisitioned the services of Mr. Abbott, Ex-Chief Inspector of Government Technical Schools in England, to advise them on the question of the reorganisation of vocational education in the State. The Mackenzie Committee had recommended that vocational courses should be set up in the existing schools of general education, but Mr. Abbott favoured the idea of imparting vocational education in separate institutions. The Government accepted Mr. Abbott's recommendation.

Main features of Re-organisation Scheme:- Establishment of more Technical Schools.- The essence of the reorganisation scheme is bifurcation, that is, the diversion of students having an aptitude for higher academic education to institutions where they may receive a type of training likely to be beneficial to them in practical life. With a view to meet this demand and also with the object of checking the growth of unemployment in the State, resulting from a purely liberal type of education, it has also been decided to open vocational, industrial, agricultural, etc., schools in as large numbers as possible, in accordance with the programme chalked out by Mr. Abbott, to coincide with the end of the Primary, the Lower Secondary and the High School stages, respectively. The Department of Technical and Vocational Education has been constantly engaged during the last three years in increasing the facilities for such education on the lines recommended by Mr. Abbott. The Technical College has been reorganised and provision has been made in this Institution for imparting commercial in addition to instruction in mechanical and electrical engineering. The industrial schools at Aurangabad and Nizamabad have also been reorganised, while five new industrial schools, two at Hyderabad, one for boys and one for girls, and one each at Gulbarga, Warangal and Nanded have been opened. There are, in addition, six aided industrial schools. A Central School of Art and Crafts has also been recently opened at Hyderabad. The question of establishing six vocational high schools and two agricultural schools is now under consideration.

Planned Industrial Development.- Realising that the problem of unemployment among the educated classes cannot be solved merely by multiplying facilities for technical and vocational education, the State Government is also planning the economic and industrial development of the State with a view to widening the field of employment.

("Hyderabad Information", August 1941 issue.) ✓

Wages

Dearness Allowance for Madras
Government servants.

The Government of Madras has recently passed orders regarding the grant of dearness allowance to their employees with effect from 1-8-1941. In November 1940, it was announced that a special compensatory cost of living allowance would be granted at a flat rate of Re. 1 per mensem to Government servants in receipt of emoluments not exceeding Rs. 40 per mensem, if employed in Madras City, and Rs. 30 per mensem if employed in Mofussil, when the Madras City monthly cost of living index stood at an average of 112 over a period of three consecutive months. In view of the sudden rise in the index figure for July 1941 to 113 as compared with 109 for June, 1941, the Governor has decided that the allowance should be granted when the Madras City monthly cost of living index stands at an average of 110 over a period of three consecutive months. The allowance will be granted only when the Madras City monthly cost of living index stands at an average of 110 over a period of three consecutive months, and will ~~accrue~~ accrue for the first time as from the 1st of the fourth month and will be drawn with the pay for that month in the following month, without retrospective effect. The allowance will be continued even if after introduction, the index figure falls below 110 in a particular month, but will be discontinued if the average of the monthly index figure for three consecutive months falls below 110, the discontinuance taking effect as from the 1st of the fourth month, that is, from the pay bill for that month, without retrospective effect. The allowance will ordinarily be granted only to whole-time Government servants borne on the regular establishment. Whole-time Government servants paid at piecework rates, menials paid from contingencies, labourers in Government workshops, the labour force employed in the Government cinchona plantations, etc., other than casual employees, will also be eligible for the allowance.

(The Hindu, 21-8-1941.)

Dearness Allowance to Papanasam Mill Workers.

It is reported that, in view of the dearness of foodstuffs and other articles, the management of the Madura Mills Co., Ltd., Papanasam, South India, recently declared an increment of Re.1 in the monthly pay of all the labourers who are getting a monthly wage of Rs. 50 and below. The increment has been given effect to from the July 1941 payment itself. It was also decided in the interest of the labourers that all commodities purchased from "the Harvey Mills Employees' Co-operative Stores", would be sold only at the pre-war prices, and the loss sustained therefrom, would be made up from the monthly gratis amount of Rs. 3,000 agreed to be paid by the Mill management to the stores.

(Industrial Bulletin dated 1-9-1941
of the Employers' Federation of
India, Bombay.)

Increased Dearness Allowance to Ahmedabad Textile Workers. ✓

In compliance with the demand of the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, the local Millowners' Association decided on 11-8-1941 to give an increase of 45 per cent. in the dearness allowance awarded to the workers in the member mills by the Industrial Court on 26-4-1940. The increased allowance will be given with effect from July, 1941, in view of the improved conditions of the industry, and is liable to revision. An agreement signed by both the Millowners' Association and the Textile Labour Association will be submitted to the ~~Indian~~ Industrial Court. Over 100,000 operatives will get the increased dearness allowance granted by the Millowners' Association.

(The Bombay Chronicle 13-8-1941) ✓

Grain Allowance for Low-Paid Government Employees in Orissa. ✓

In a resolution dated 21-11-1940, of the Government of Orissa, it was announced that grain compensation allowance at Re.1 per month would be payable to Government servants in receipt of emolument of Rs. 30 or less a month when the average retail price of rice in the Province for all headquarters and sub-divisional stations, taken over the three preceding calendar ~~year~~ months became dearer than 9 standard seers (1 seer = 2 lbs.) to the rupee. As the average price of rice during the three months of May, June and July 1941 had become dearer than 9 seers to a rupee, the Government has sanctioned the payment of grain compensation allowance to such Government servants with effect from 1-8-1941 until further orders.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika 22-8-1941.) ✓

Dearness Allowance for Cotton Textile workers in Bengal. ✓

Approximately 20,000 workers of all the Indian-owned cotton mills in Bengal stand to benefit by the decision of the Committee of the Bengal Millowners' Association, recommending all mills in its membership to grant a dearness allowance to their workers, at the following rates with retrospective or immediate effect, or with effect from as early date as convenient: (1) Those earning up to Rs. 20 per month, on a full month's working basis - two annas per rupee; (2) those earning above Rs. 20, but not over Rs. 50 per month - one anna and six pies per rupee; and (3) those earning above Rs. 50, but not over Rs. 100 - one anna per rupee.

(The Statesman, 24-8-1941.) ✓

Dearness Allowance for Cawnpore Municipal Employees.

The finance committee of the Cawnpore Municipal Board has recommended the grant of dearness allowance to municipal employees, according to the following scale: Employees getting below Rs. 30 per month - 2 annas per rupee; from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 per month 1½ annas per rupee; over Rs. 50 and up to Rs. 80 per month - one anna per rupee.

(The Statesman, 3-8-1941.) ✓

Higher Dearness Grant for Mill workers in Bombay. ✓

In order to meet the rise in the cost of living due to the war, workers in the cotton textile industry in Bombay have since December 1, 1939, been paid a dearness allowance in accordance with the recommendations of the majority of the Board of Conciliation which submitted its report in February 1940. This recommendation was to the effect that a dearness allowance at a flat rate of two annas per day be given during the war as an addition to the wages of the cotton textile mill workers to cover variations in the official cost of living index number between 105 and 123 and that, in the event of the index number falling outside the limits of 105 and 123 for any period of three consecutive months, an adjustment of the proposed dearness allowance would be necessary.

New Scales.- In view, however, of the hardship that is likely to be caused to workers owing to the recent upward tendency of the Bombay working class cost of living index number, the Government of Bombay took up the matter with the Millowners' Association, Bombay, with a view to securing a revision of the dearness allowance as soon as the upper limit for its revision set by the Board of Conciliation was reached, without waiting for a period of three months. As a result of these discussions Government have been able to persuade the Association to waive its right of insistence that three months should pass after the cost of living index has exceeded the figure of 123 before giving any increase in the dearness allowance, and to adopt a sliding scale of dearness allowance in conformity with the movement of the cost of living index number between 124 and 143.

The sliding scale of dearness allowance per 26 working days in a month against the official working class cost of living index number will be as follows:-

Official Working-class Cost of Living Index Number	Dearness Allowance per 26 working days Rs x
124	Rs.4 8 0
125	Rs.4 12 0
126	Rs.5 0 0
127	Rs.5 3 0
128	Rs.5 7 0
129	Rs.5 11 0
130	Rs.5 15 0
131	Rs.6 3 0
132	Rs.6 6 0
133	Rs.6 10 0
134	Rs.6 14 0
135	Rs.7 2 0
136	Rs.7 6 0
137	Rs.7 9 0
138	Rs.7 13 0
139	Rs.8 1 0
140	Rs.8 5 0
141	Rs.8 9 0
142	Rs.8 12 0
143	Rs.9 0 0

On the basis of 27 working days, the above sliding scale will secure dearness allowance of Rs. 5-3-0 for the month of July, 1941, as compared with Rs. 3-4-0 which was paid for the month of June 1941. If the index number goes down to 123, dearness allowance will be paid in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Conciliation, that is, at the rate of two annas per working day.

Nearly 200,000 workers will be affected by the above revision.

(Times of India, 11-8-1941, and the Bombay Chronicle, 10-8-1941.)

During August there was a further increase of 5 points in the cost of living index over the July 1941 figure of 126.

(The Times of India 26-8-1941.)

Labour Reaction to Increased Scale.- Commenting on the increases agreed to, Mr. N.M. Joshi has expressed the view that the scale of the increased allowance was very inadequate compared to the increase in the cost of living and compared to what was justifiably expected by the Bombay textile workers from the report of the Board of Conciliation.

"I am also disappointed", he added, "that the Government did not take into consideration, on this occasion, the present prosperity of the industry and give the workers a fair share of the profits of that industry. It is equally disappointing that they have not made any proposals to give effect to the recommendations of the report of the Textile Inquiry Committee". Explaining how the scale of the ~~increased allowance was inadequate~~, Mr. Joshi said that the Report of the Board of Conciliation itself had fallen short of the expectations of the textile workers of Bombay. The workers had reconciled themselves to it on account of their helplessness brought about by the sudden arrest of many of the labour leaders. When the cost of living index reached 122, it showed a tendency to rise very fast. It actually reached 126 for July 1941. The Government had now intervened and proposed a sliding scale based on the principle of partially meeting the increased cost of living. What the workers expected to get according to the scale proposed by the Rangnekar report had been denied.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 14-8-1941.)

War Dearness Food Allowance to Cawnpore Textile Workers.

By reasons mainly of reckless speculation in the grain and cloth markets there has, since the end of June 1941, been an unusually sudden rise in the cost of certain household necessities causing particular hardship to mill workers in the lower grades. As a result of negotiations with the Labour Commissioner, U.P., the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, has now agreed to grant a further War Dear Food Allowance on the following scale:-

(1) Cotton, Woollen and Leather Concerns.

<u>Categories.</u>	<u>As.</u>	<u>Ps.</u>	
A. Under Rs.19	2	0	in the rupee
B. Rs. 19 and under Rs.25	1	6	in the rupee
C. Rs. 25 and under Rs.32-8	1	6	in the rupee

<u>Categories</u>	<u>As.</u>	<u>Ps.</u>	
D. Rs. 32-8 and under Rs. 40	1	6	in the rupee
E. Rs. 40 and under Rs. 59	1	6	in the rupee
F. Rs. 59 and under Rs. 75	1	6	in the rupee
G. Rs. 75 and up to Rs. 150	1	6	in the rupee

(11) Jute Concerns.-

<u>Categories.</u>	<u>As.</u>	<u>Ps.</u>	
A. Under Rs. 14	2	0	in the rupee
B. Rs. 14 and under Rs. 18	1	6	in the rupee
C. Rs. 18 and under Rs. 24	1	6	in the rupee
D. Rs. 24 and under Rs. 30	1	6	in the rupee
E. Rs. 30 and under Rs. 75.	1	6	in the rupee
F. Rs. 75 and upto Rs. 150	1	6	in the rupee

This additional increase is granted to cover a cost of living index figure up to 140 points. If it exceeds 140, the Association has promised to grant a fresh increase. The new scale is to be revised also if the index falls below 121. The allowance now announced will be paid on the basic wages under conditions similar to those governing the increases granted in 1938 and 1940 and will be effective from the second wage period of July 1941.

Profit-sharing system Rejected.- The Employers' Association of Northern India also considered an alternative suggestion that some system of profit sharing might be introduced, but it is the feeling of the Managing Committee that any such system is open to serious objection, particularly because it would operate unfairly in the various industries represented by the Association, not only on the employees in different mills but even on employees in different grades in the same mill.

(Circular No. G.M.O.129 dated 12-8-1941 of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Campore.)

Above 70,000 workers are expected to benefit under the above schemes. ✓

Safety of Workers.

Safety of workers during Air-raids;
Government of Bengal discusses Problem with Business
Interests. ✓

The effect of hostile attack on the labour population in Calcutta and the neighbouring industrial area and the additional steps to be taken to ensure that such labour remained at their posts, were considered at a conference held recently at Calcutta between representatives of the Government of Bengal, the Industrial Sub-Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Director-General of Munitions Production, and the Bengal Public Relations Committee.

In forwarding copies of the proceedings of the conference to various business interests and industrial organisations, the Government of Bengal states that it has carefully considered the whole question of propaganda in relation to labour, while it realises that a

considerable amount of indirect propaganda has been done by certain firms to educate labour in the arrangements that have to be made in the event of hostile attack, it is of the opinion that the time has come for far more direct and intensive propaganda than has as yet been undertaken. The Government feels that staff must now be made to realise that during an air raid or in anticipation of an air attack they should not leave their places of employment and seek shelter in their native districts, but should remain at their posts. The Government regards the problem of ensuring that labour does not leave its work as one of paramount importance and considers that intensive propaganda must be undertaken now if labour is fully to appreciate its position and is not to be influenced by the behaviour of less disciplined persons.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-8-1941.) ✓

Social Insurance

The C.P. and Berar Provident Fund (Temporary Tax Relaxation) Rules. ✓

The C.P. Government has, as a war measure, issued Rules relaxing the provisions of the Government Provident Fund rules, in so far as they apply to all civilian personnel under the rule-making control of the Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, who at any time after the 2nd September 1939, have been, or may hereafter be, transferred temporarily to naval, military or air force employ. If any person to whom these rules apply is a subscriber to a Government Provident Fund, the contributions of the subscriber and the Government are, for the period of his employment in the naval, military or air forces to be calculated on the basis of the total emoluments which he would have drawn had he continued to be in civil employ, and his subscription to the Fund is for the period, if any, of his employment outside India in such forces to be optional, provided that if he exercises the option not to subscribe for any such period, the Government contribution, if any, to his account in the Fund shall cease for that period.

(C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part I, dated 22-8-1941, pages 659 to 660.) ✓

Price Control.

Price Control in India: Conference under Government auspices to be held shortly. ✓

There has recently been visible a tendency for the prices of various commodities, including textiles, to rise sharply, partly due to speculative influence and partly to more substantial reasons. The Government of India is giving the closest attention to this subject and proposes to convene ~~xxx~~ another Price Control Conference as early as possible. Meantime, the Government has advised the public to refrain from making purchases in excess of their normal requirements, as such purchases only serve to encourage those speculative influences which contribute to a rise in prices.

(The Times of India, 18-8-1941.) ✓

Supply Member's review of India's War Production.

Indian Ordnance Factories are being assisted by 250 "trade" workshops and 23 railway workshops, and these auxiliary establishments have undertaken the production of 700 different items of munitions supply involving the production of 20,000,000 individual articles. Fifty-four firms in India are now licensed to manufacture machine tools; the output of filled shells is already 24 times the pre-war output and is expected to rise in two stages to 96 times. These are some of the details of India's war supply effort given by Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, Supply Member, in a broadcast entitled "India's War Production" from All India Radio, Delhi Station, on July 16. The main points of the broadcast are noticed below:-

What War Production means. - Describing the meaning and scope of Indian efforts in the sphere of war production, he said: It implies a fixed determination on the part of Government, the public and industry, not indeed to make everything that is or may be needed for purposes of defence - for that may well be impossible - but to make everything that can be made within a time appropriate to the nature and course of the war; it implies the strengthening and reinforcing of the specialised industries engaged upon the production of munitions, the use of other industries for unfamiliar work, and a vast increase in ordinary production; it implies long hours of work and a willingness on the part of all concerned to subordinate profit, comfort and even what would in peace-time be regarded as the economic interests of the nation to the main object in view - the winning of the war.

Production before the War:

The Credit Side. - In August 1939, India possessed a flourishing steel industry built up over many years by Indian capital, Indian labour and Indian enterprise. For munitions she had her Ordnance Factories - Government concerns admittedly designed to meet only some of the needs of the Army of India, but about to be expanded and modernised. Her general Engineering Industry had developed enormously since the last war, and was far more competent than in 1914-1918 to shoulder a heavy load. The task of clothing vast armies could safely be entrusted to her Cotton Textile Mills; and for jute goods she was the world's supplier. Throughout the length and breadth of the land there were small factories and workshops which could be used for the manufacture of innumerable components and miscellaneous articles required for defence purposes. And behind this capacity for solid work stood India's natural resources of timber and agricultural and mineral wealth.

The Debit Side. - The Ordnance Factories, which together constitute the specialised munitions industry of India, were never intended to produce everything that a modern Army needs. They were producing a good many things essential to all armies and could clearly increase the volume of their production. But changes in the character of their production were likely to prove difficult. Again, the engineering industry was organised very largely to serve other industries - the

mines, the mills, the transportation services and so on; India made no internal combustion engines, no motor vehicles, no aircraft. While the capacity of her cotton mills seemed almost unlimited, the woollen industry was on a much more modest scale, and for certain common articles - such as Army boots - there were likely to be difficulties in securing very large quantities up to the prescribed specification.

Reasons for Unpreparedness. - That is a picture - in very broad outlines - of where India stood in August 1939. She had certain great advantages; on the other hand her specialised munitions industry was under-developed, and there were very serious gaps in her engineering industry. "Why did not India in peace-time equip herself industrially for War?" The answer is, so far as the Ordnance Factories are concerned, "because the tax-payer would not have stood for it," and so far as the productive sections of the engineering industry are concerned, "because Indian enterprise did not think it worth-while." The manufacture of internal combustion engines, motor vehicles and aircraft - and for that matter of wireless equipment and the more elaborate scientific instruments - is a highly specialised and competitive business. The countries which lead in these matters have reached their present position not by weeks and months, but by years, of trial and error. Secondly, there is a general feeling - mainly outside industry itself - that even if India in certain respects had a bad start it was easy enough for her to catch up. This feeling disregards the existence of certain powerful factors some of which are present in peace-time and all of which are present in war. In the most favourable conditions it is no easy matter to establish a new industry demanding elaborate buildings, machinery and plant of high quality, technical experience and workers trained to operate high precision machine tools, and to produce results of the very finest accuracy.

Production after Outbreak of War:

Munitions. - To make munitions the specialised industries must be backed by a strong and enterprising steel industry, and here India has been fortunate. Her steel industry has been all out from the first, and if all goes well will increase its total output by 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. very shortly. To the steel industry India is indebted for a supply of armour plate which will progressively keep pace with the demand of the armoured fighting vehicles programme. Next in importance to the steel industry in the munitions chain are the Ordnance Factories. Here the task has been to take up the slack between peace and war production, to expand war production on the old lines, and to get into production with new items. India is now making about five times as many guns a year as were made in peace-time; and India intends to multiply its present production figure by nearly eight. Ordnance equipments - that is, guns and carriages - have in the main to be manufactured in specialised establishments, but a good many components can be, and have been, ~~from~~ farmed out to Railway Workshops and to the Engineering Industry.

Output of Shells. - Our output of filled shells - that is, the complete shells with fuze - is twenty-four times the pre-war output, and will rise in two stages to about four times what it is now. It is here that India receives the greatest help in respect of munitions proper from the Railway Workshops and the Engineering Industry. Shell bodies and fuzes are being made all over the country. Indian workers have had to learn - and learn quickly - to adjust themselves to

munitions work, and supervisory staffs have had to play their part in designing layouts and providing gauges, tools, jigs, etc.

Gauges, Tools, Rifles, etc.- Before the war, gauges were required mainly by the Ordnance Factories, and almost all machine tools were imported. Now, the Railway Toolrooms alone are producing 1,000 gauges weekly; and even with this production the supply is inadequate. In the manufacture of machine tools India lacks both equipment and skilled personnel; none the less a start has been made and fifty-four firms are now licensed to manufacture machine tools under the Machine Tool Control. Lathes (including small capstans), drilling, shaping, planing, slotting and back sawing machines, furnaces, power blowers, and sand blasting plant are among the machine tools, plant and equipment now being made in India for the first time, and the output is estimated at about four hundred units per month. India's machine tool industry is, however, still in its infancy and is confined as yet to the simplest general purpose machine tools. But a start has been made and gratifying progress has been achieved. The output of automatic weapons and rifles is many times as great as the pace output, and will be very substantially increased. There is little here that non-specialised industry can do to help, for rifles and automatic weapons of all kinds are among the more difficult items of munitions production.

"Trade" Workshops.- The Ordnance Factories are now being assisted by 250 "trade" workshops and 23 Railway workshops, and these auxiliary establishments have undertaken the production of 700 different items of munitions supply involving the production of over twenty million individual articles. India has so far been able, in addition to meeting her own needs, to send overseas something like six hundred thousand filled shells, and a hundred and fifty million rounds of Small Arms Munitions.

Armoured Vehicles and Aircraft.- India has undertaken a programme of armoured fighting vehicles which is well up to the probable supply of ~~anti~~ suitable chassis from abroad and to her capacity for the production of armour plate. An aircraft factory has been established, and if all goes well this will grow into an Indian aircraft industry.

Ships.- Indian ship-yards are building large numbers of small craft - from mine-sweepers to life-boats - and all available capacity for the larger of these craft is occupied, with orders waiting as slips fall empty. India has hitherto not made marine boilers and propelling machinery. She is now about to begin her first attempt to make propelling machinery, and there is no reason why she should not succeed. We have heard a good deal lately about the possibility of building large merchant ~~anti~~ vessels in India; there is no reason why a project of that kind should not materialise in war conditions, provided that the first ships can be completed within a reasonable time.

Engineering Industries.- Midway between the munitions producers and the producers of other items of supply stands the general engineering industry. Its work is so diverse that it would not be easy for me ~~this evening~~ to review the whole of it. India has fabricated and used for war purposes very large quantities of structural steel including orders executed and in hand we are very near the two hundred thousand ton mark - and the structural section of the Industry has done sterling work. Cables are an important item, and the

41

output of India's one Cable Company represents 34,400 miles of tinned copper wire in conductor, in addition to 16,000 miles of telephone wire. Railway track and rolling stock have been turned out in considerable quantities, and there has been a very useful miscellaneous output of general engineering stores.

Clothing: Textile Industry.- The calls upon the textile industry from the Defence Services do not absorb more than a part of its total capacity, but they do take up the whole of its capacity for certain fabrics. In woollens, India is not nearly so strong, and her entire capacity for making woollen cloth, and a very large part of her hosiery capacity have been taken up. The Army has a preference for khaki and especially khaki drill. It lives very largely in tents, and frequently uses mosquito nets. Like other people the soldier needs blankets. The cotton and woollen textile industries are producing this year something like 324,000,000 yards of cloth for garments. This year alone the bill for tents is going to be 65 millions of rupees and the bill for blankets ~~xxx~~ 15 millions of rupees. The cost of the textile purchases in 1941-42 will be very nearly equal to the total of the pre-war Defence Budget.

30,000 Tailors.- Before the war the Army was clothed by the output of one factory employing less than 800 men. There are now nine factories, with which are linked a large number of tailoring centres. Thirty thousand tailors are employed, and the output of garments is of the order of five million a month.

Harness and Saddlery.- In this mechanical war harness and saddlery are less demanded than in the past, but India has had to supply surprising quantities of leather goods, and her capacity, - over three million pairs a year - for army boots is fully occupied. Web-equipment has been a big difficulty, but with the co-operation of the Jute Industry it has been possible to produce a really satisfactory webbing, and Indian produced equipment will shortly be as good as that obtainable anywhere. The number of employees in the Government Harness and Saddlery Factory has risen from 2,000 to 12,000, and there are some 200 outside firms assisting.

Timber.- Another key supply is timber which is used for a hundred different purposes - packing cases, ammunition boxes, jetty piles, telegraph poles, railway sleepers, hutting, and so on. From the Indian forests there has poured a constant supply - carried by hand, drawn by elephants, slid down rope-ways, and floated down-rivers - on its way to the ports to be used overseas. With the aid of the Provincial Forest Departments and their ~~xxx~~ timber contractors the flow of timber has gradually increased and should this year touch the peak of 500,000 tons.

Other Manufactures.- To complete the picture of India's war production I ought really to take you to the mines, and show you the coal, manganese, and mica now going abroad. I ought to tell you of Indian pig-iron which is playing a useful part in Empire production, and of the very considerable expansion in a number of industries, such as the chemical industry. India will soon, if all goes well, be self-supporting in high explosives, aero-lubricating oil and sulphur. She has increased appreciably her output of drugs and chemical stores of all kinds, and has multiplied twenty-fold her production of the minor miscellaneous articles which the Defence Forces need. She is also developing rapidly her capacity for preserved food-stuffs of various kinds.

India's war effort has never been confined to the needs of troops on Indian soil, and ~~that~~ the products of Indian industry have for many months gone in an increasing stream to serve the overseas forces of the Empire. India will do more ~~on one condition~~ since it is realised that the object in view is not immediate economic benefit or post-war industrialisation but national survival. To that object profit, comfort, health and leisure, and much else that ~~India~~ ^{we value} in peace-time, must be subordinated until the war is over.

(Indian Information dated 15-8-1941.) +

Industrial Advisory Committee, Bombay Circle, set up by
Government of India.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Supply Mission in India, the Government of India have decided to set up a committee, to be called the Industrial Advisory Committee, Bombay circle, to advise the Controller of Supplies on problems connected with the production of munitions and engineering stores ~~within the circle.~~ The committee will consist of the Controller of Supplies as chairman, with five representatives of engineering firms in Bombay as members. The Industrial Planning Officer, Bombay, will act as the Secretary of the Committee.

(The Statesman, 21-8-1941.) +

War Service Men and Government Employment: Concessions
announced by Government of Bengal. +

The Government of India and several provincial Governments have already announced the adoption by them of a policy of according preferential treatment in the matter of employment to men who have rendered war service. The following information about the policy in this matter of the Government of Bengal may be taken as typical of Government policy generally in this respect.

The Government of Bengal consider that persons who render war service should not be at a disadvantage in the matter of obtaining civil employment under Government after the war as compared with those who have not rendered such service. Government have therefore decided that the following concessions will be given to candidates who have rendered war service:-

(a) Reservation of vacancies.-

Twenty per cent of the vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment after 1st September 1941 will be left unfilled in order that these vacancies may be filled after the war by candidates who have rendered war service.

(b) Waiving of age limits.-

For the purpose of rules laying down age limits for entrance to Government service, a candidate who has rendered war service will be permitted to deduct the period of his war service from his age.

(c) Waiving of other qualifications.-

Candidates who have rendered war service will be exempt from the possession of the minimum educational qualifications prescribed in the recruitment rules.

(d) Competitive examinations.

In the case of services and posts recruitment to which is made on the basis of a competitive examination comprising a written test and an oral test in the shape of an interview conducted by the Bengal Public Service Commission a candidate who has rendered war service will be exempt from the written test.

Definition of "War Service":- For the purposes of these concessions the following kinds of service will be deemed to be 'war service':-

(a) service of any kind abroad with a mobilized unit. (b) Service in India under military, munitions or stores authorities and service in a factory notified under section 4(1) of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance II of 1940, with liability in all cases to serve abroad when required. (c) A period of training with military units with liability to serve abroad when required. Preference will be given in the order indicated.

The concessions announced will be subject to the general reservations that they (1) are consistent with the public interest, (2) do not involve the appointment of any one to a post the duties of which he is not competent to perform. The above concessions will apply to all services and posts under the rule making control of the Government of Bengal except services or posts for which the possession of technical qualifications is a sine qua non. (Bengal Press Communiqué dated 9-8-1941.)

Control Measures.

Extension of Import Control: Industrial Requirements Covered. +

Import control over a large number of goods has been announced in a notification in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 23-8-1941. The controlled goods are classified into Parts A and B of the schedule to the notification. In Part A are included almost all the goods that are under control already; Part B contains a very large number of fresh items. Excepting for a few articles such as dyes, newsprint and aluminium, import control has hitherto been confined to goods the imports of which could be curtailed without damage to any essential Indian interests. It is not necessary or practicable in the case of such goods to look beyond the importers; and it has been sufficient to allot quotas to them on the basis of their past imports. This principle will be maintained in respect of goods in Part A of the schedule.

It has now become necessary to extend control to imports of machinery and other industrial requirements mentioned in Part B of the schedule. This necessity has arisen not only because of the growing need for the conservation of exchange with difficult currencies, but also because supplies, especially from U.S.A., of many of the goods concerned are becoming increasingly restricted, with the result that, before allowing export, the U.S.A. Government requires certificates to be furnished from the Indian Government that the goods represent essential requirements. Further, by the passing of the Lease and Lend legislation in the U.S.A., it has become necessary to base the Indian purchases, both Government and private, of certain American goods which are essential requirements of India to the maximum extent possible on the Lease-Lend arrangement; this involves inter-governmental dealing; and in the case of such goods, it will be necessary before issuing a licence for importation in the ordinary way to consider whether the transaction should not be converted into an inter-governmental one.

The problem has, therefore, become not only one of controlling the flow of imports in order to employ India's resources by way of foreign exchange in the most useful way, but also of securing essential supplies from the only source open to India. In order to secure such supplies the criterion of essentiality in war-time conditions must be satisfied; it follows that imports must be regulated with regard to the needs of industries in India rather than to the interests of established importers. In order that it may be operated with justice to conflicting claims, as supplies are not likely to be unlimited, it has been found necessary to centralise the work of granting import licences in regard to such goods (Part B of the schedule) in the hands of a single authority. The Central Government has accordingly created for the purpose the post of the Chief Controller of Imports under the Commerce Department.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 23.8.'41 pages 517 to 534 and the Industrial Bulletin of dated 1-9-1941 of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay). +

Complete Control of Machine Tools.

All machine tools, irrespective of their age, now come under the machine tool control and have to be licensed. A notification to this effect was issued recently by the Supply Department as an amendment to the Machine Tool Control Order of February 1941. The Order, as it originally stood, provided for licensing and control of new or reconditioned machine tools of various categories below certain specified ages. This age limitation is now abolished and the scope of control is extended to all such machine tools irrespective of their age. According to the Order, the term "machine tools" is defined so as to include appliances for "treating" wood and metal, and certain machine tools are scheduled and described as "scheduled machine tools". A licence which may be obtained free of all fee from the Machine Tool Controller, is required for the import, production, keeping for sale and sale of scheduled machine tools.

(Industrial Bulletin, dated 1-9-1941 of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay). +

Import of machinery from the United Kingdom into India:

Permission of Government of India needed.

According to a Press Note issued by the Government of India, information has been received from the United Kingdom that orders for manufacturing plant and machinery will not be accepted by manufacturers in the United Kingdom unless they are supported by the Government of India.

Firms, agencies and other importers who desire to make enquiries or place orders in the United Kingdom for machinery and plant must apply for the necessary recommendation to the Government of India. Applications should be made to the Director-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta, who for the present will deal not only with cases of plant and machinery required for industries engaged wholly in the production of goods required for defence of war supply purposes, but also with cases of plant and machinery required for other industries.

(The Times of India, 26-8-1941) +

Iron and Steel (Control of Distribution) Order, 1941:

Grievances of Iron and Hardware Merchants. +

Reference was made at pages 39-40 of the report of this Office for July 1941 to the Iron and Steel (Control of Distribution) Order issued by the Government of India on 28-7-1941. At the All India Iron and Hardware Merchants' Conference held at Bombay on 24-8-1941, Mr. Mamm Manu Subedar presiding, the following resolution was passed protesting against some of the provisions of the Order:-

"This Conference protests against the various orders recently passed for the compulsory acquisition of certain stocks and for the stoppage of all dealings, except under very strict and complicated conditions of licence, without previous consultation with the trade and without giving time for representations and explanations, and is of

opinion that the present orders are vague, abrupt and harsh, and, in their present form, will impede the smooth working of the trade, and causing dislocation and defeating the very object which the Government have in view. It also is apprehensive about the safety of the capital engaged in the trade, the organisation and staff, and the labour and urges on the Government that, before any further rules, enactments or orders are issued, opportunity should be given to the trade to make representations and to explain the difficulties of every section and every locality concerned. On issues of policy, this Conference urges the Government to set up local advisory bodies everywhere".

(The Hindu, 24-8-1941)+

The Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941:

Control of Petrol Consumption. +

In exercise of the power conferred by Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, 1939, the Government of India has issued on 1-8-1941, the Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941.

A Press Note issued by the Government on the Order points out that for some time past the position regarding the availability of sufficient tanker tonnage to bring to India from Burma and other countries her full requirements of petrol and other oil products has been a cause of anxiety, and that although it has hitherto been possible, by careful planning on the part of the shipping authorities and the oil companies, to maintain stocks of petrol at a level adequate to meet requirements, the Government of India feels that it is necessary to envisage a possible deterioration of the tanker position. For this reason, as well as to meet the possibility of a greater military demand, it has decided to take steps designed to build up stocks to a still higher level and as supplies cannot be increased, this can only be effected by a reduction of consumption.

In issuing the Order, the Government of India, it is pointed out, has paid special attention to the objectives of ensuring the maintenance of essential services and of a fair distribution to private consumers.

Main Provisions of the Order.— Under the Order, after 15-8-1941 no person can acquire motor spirit from a dealer or other supplier except on surrender of a special or ordinary receipt, or special, ordinary or supplementary coupon issued to him by the rationing authority. Special receipts will be issued to certain civil and military departments and special coupons to municipalities and other local bodies and persons operating ambulances, travelling dispensaries or school buses. Ordinary coupons will be issued to all members of the public who require motor spirit for use in motor vehicles (other than those mentioned above) or in motor boats.

Applications for special or ordinary coupons as well as for additional supplies of motor spirit will have to be submitted on the appropriate form to the area rationing authorities appointed by the provincial Governments and Chief-Commissioners. Those who require motor spirit for agricultural purposes or for use in industrial undertakings will have to apply to the provincial rationing authority for a

licence. Those who require motor spirit for civil aviation will have to make similar application to the Director of Civil Aviation.

Gas Coupons and receipts may be used anywhere in British India and in any Indian State with which a reciprocal agreement has been reached and notified by the Central Government.

Transport Services. The second schedule to the order indicates that where transport vehicle services are essential (in the absence of any other form of adequate transport) those services must be maintained as far as possible.

Private Owners. ~~An~~ owner is entitled in the first instance to apply for a "Basic Ration" of motor spirit for his vehicle, for which coupons of a kind known as ordinary coupons will be issued. Coupons for basic rations will be granted in accordance with the horse power of the vehicle. The basic rations range from 2 units (1 unit = 1 gallon) per month for vehicles not exceeding 3 H.P. to 12 gallons ^{units} for vehicles not exceeding 19 H.P.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 1-8-1941, pages 439 to 462, and the Statesman, 1 and 6-8-1941). +

Amendment to New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939.

The Department of Labour, Government of India, adopted on 28-9-1939 the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, for the purpose of checking the tendency for rise in house rents which set in immediately after the war was declared. A Controller was appointed by the Government whose function it was to receive and decide complaints regarding excessive house rent demands and decide what the fair rent should be. Increase in rent was permitted only in case, where some addition, improvement or alternation in the house is made, the maximum of such increase being restricted to 7½ per cent. interest per annum on the cost of such additions, alterations and improvements. The Order has now been amended to provide that if a tenant in possession wishes to extend the period of tenancy by not less than six, and not more than twelve, months, he may give the landlord, not less than one month before the expiry of the tenancy a written notice of his intention; and that upon the delivery of such notice, the tenancy shall be deemed to have been extended for the period specified in the notice. The landlord, however, can terminate the tenancy for certain stipulated reasons - the house being required for his personal use, tenant not fulfilling conditions of tenancy, etc.

(Notification No. B 52 dated 4-8-1941:
The Gazette of India Extraordinary
dated 4-8-1941.) +

49

List of more important publications received in this office during
August, 1941. ✓

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act in the Province of Madras for the calendar year 1940. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1941. Price 2 annas.
- (2) Annual Factory Report, Bombay Province, 1940 (including Notes on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act and the Payment of Wages Act). Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Annas 4 or 5d. 1941.
- (3) Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province of Bihar for the year 1940, by Mr. H.M. Rai, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941. Price Annas 8.
- (4) Annual Report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in the Province of Bihar for the year 1940, by Mr. H.M. Rai, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941. Price Annas 7.

Agriculture.-

Annual Administration Report of the Department of Agriculture, U.P. for the year ending 30-6-1940. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1941. Price 9 annas.

Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-

- (1) Report of the Superintendent of Cottage Industries, Burma, for the year ending 30th June, 1940. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1941. Price As.8 or 9d.
- (2) Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Madras Province for the co-operative year ended 30th June, 1940. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, 1940. Price Re.1/-.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

Indian Jute Mills Association. Report of the Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1940. Calcutta: Printed at the Star Printing Works, 30, Shibnarain Das Lane, 1941.

Public Health.-

Annual Report on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1940. Printed and published by the Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar. 1941. Price Rs.5-7-0 or £.0-8-3.

Education.-

Annual Report on the Progress of Education in the Delhi Province for the year 1939-40. Printed by the Manager, Government of India, Press, Calcutta 1941.

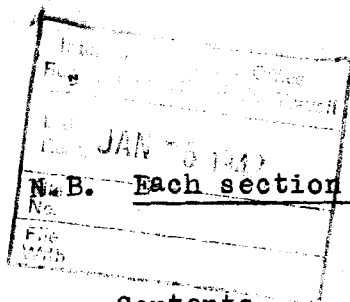
Miscellaneous.-

- (1) Administration Report of the Madras Port Trust for 1940-41.
- (2) The Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta. Administration Report and Annual Accounts for the year 1940-41. The City Press, 9, Strand Road, Calcutta.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

C 6/2/17

Report for September 1941



Contents

Pages

National Labour Legislation.-

Government of India:

(a) Mines Maternity Benefit Bill, 1941.

1

(b) Weekly Holidays Bill, 1941.

1

Bengal:

The Bengal Maternity Benefit (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941: Passed by Bengal Council on 8-9-1941.

2

Bombay:

(a) Draft Amendment of Factories Rules under Section 43 of the Act.

2

(b) Draft Bombay Workmen's Compensation (Unclaimed Deposits) Rules, 1941.

2

(c) Extension of Factories Act to certain classes of Tailoring Establishments.

2-3

British Baluchistan:

Delegation of Powers to administer ~~Central~~ Central Acts.

3

Madras:

Amendment to Madras Factories Rules.

3

Mysore State:

(a) Mysore Factories Act Amendment Bill, 1941: To come up before October 1941 session of Mysore Assembly.

3-4

(b) The Mysore Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment Bill, 1941.

4

Burma:

Amendment of Section 60 of the Code of Civil Procedure (re. Attachment of Salary for Debt).

4-5

Social Policy.-

Labour Legislation in Hyderabad State: Special Co-ordination Body to be set up.

6

Conditions of Work.-

Industrial Health and Safety:

Progress of Safety First Movement: Report for 1940 of Safety First Association of India.

7-8

Industrial Disputes:

Madras Government contemplating Introduction of Compulsory Arbitration.

9

General:

(a) Labour Conditions of Factory Operatives in Baroda in 1939-40.

10-11

(b) Factory Administration in Burma in 1940.

11-12

(c) Factory Administration in Madras, 1940.

13-14

(d) Conditions of Work in U.P. Government Presses: Government Order on Rudra Committee's Recommendations.

15

(e) Conditions of Work in Khewra Salt Mines: Findings of Deshpande Report.

15-18

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.-

(a) Testing House for Bombay Cotton Mills: Government of India recognises Technological Laboratory, Bombay.	19
(b) Industrial Research Committee set up in U.P.	19
(c) Groundnut Industry of India: Government of India creates Fund for Relief.	20
(d) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during June 1941.	20-21
(e) Burma Government to control Rice Export: Indian Trading Interests Endangered.	21-22
(f) New Company to develop Hyderabad Industries.	22
(g) Industrial Research Committee for Hyderabad State: "Pilot" Plants to be installed.	22
(h) Stimulating Indian Export Trade: Indian Central Cotton Committee's Scheme for setting up Export Organisation.	23
(i) Automobile Industry for India: Demand for considering it as a War Industry.	23-24
(j) Tax on Agricultural Income: The Bengal Agricultural Income-Tax Bill, 1941.	

Social Insurance.-

(a) Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in U.P. during 1940.	25
(b) Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bihar during 1940.	25-26
(c) Madras Retiring and Invalid Gratuities (Non-Pensionable Establishment) Rules, 1941.	26-27
(d) Madras Compassionate Gratuities (Non-Pensionable Establishment) Rules, 1941.	27-28

Migration.-

(a) Indian Lessees in Fiji: Working of Native Land Trust Ordinance, 1940.	29-
(b) Indians in Natal: Annual Report of Protector of Immigrants, 1940.	30
(c) Indians in South Africa: Agent General's Report for 1940.	30-33
(d) Post-War Migration Policy: Greater Facilities for Indian Emigration.	34
(e) Settlement of Indo-Ceylon Problems: Conference held in Colombo.	35

Navigation.-

(a) The Draft Unberthed Passenger Ships Rules, 1941.	36
(b) Draft Indian Merchant Shipping (Additional Life-Saving Appliances) (No. 2) Rules, 1941.	36

Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants.-

(a) Conditions of Service in Two Railways to be taken over by Government: Notice of Resolution in Assembly for Appointment of Committee.	37
(b) Railway Services Medical Attendance Rules, 1941.	37
(c) Revision of Salary Scales of Low-paid State Servants in Bhopal State.	37.
(d) Bombay Government Employees' Demand for Dearness Allowance.	38.

Living Conditions:

Housing:

The Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1941.	39.
---	-----

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

Workers' Organisations:

(a) "Recognition" of S.I. Railway Employees' Association, Trichinopoly.	40
(b) "Recognition" of All-India Telegraph Workmen's Union, Lahore.	40
(c) Progress of All-India Anti-Fascist Trades Union Council Movement.	40-41

Social Conditions.-

- (a) Resident Women Uplift Workers in Villages: Scheme prepared by Special Committee of the All-India Women's Conference. 42
(b) Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in Bombay, 1940-41 42.

Public Health.-

- Health of School Children: Inquiry Committee appointed by Government of India. 43

Social Policy in War Time.-

Wages:

- (a) Dearness Allowance to Low-paid Government Servants in U.P. 44
(b) Dearness Allowance to Low-paid Government servants in Sind. 44
(c) Grant of Dearness Allowance in Silk and Art Silk Mills, Bombay. 44-45
(d) Sholapur Textile Mill ~~Wark~~ Workers: Further rise in Dearness Allowance. 45
(e) Demand for Increased Dearness Allowance by A.-I.R.F. 45-46

Technical Education:

- (a) Bevin Training Scheme: More Liberal Terms. 46
(b) Skilled Labour for Eastern Group Projects: 6,000 workers in India to be trained by September 1942. 46-47.

Employment:

- (a) Reservation of Posts in Central Government Services to Emergency Commissioned Ranks in Indian States Forces. 47

Recruitment:

- Decentralised Recruitment to I.M.S.: Provincial Recruitment Committees with non-official Members. 47-48

War Supply and Production:

- (a) India's Increasing Contribution to War Production: 12,000 Technicians and 400 Items of War Requirements: Mr. Hydari's Statement. 48
(b) Four Advisers to Eastern Group Council Chairman appointed: Council Secretariat Arrangements. 49
(c) Textile Supplies for War: Conference held in Bombay. 49-50.

Post-War Economic Reconstruction:

- Government of India appoints Consultative Committee. 50

Social Insurance:

- The Sind Government Provident Funds (Temporary Relaxation) Rules, 1941. 50-51

War Risks Insurance:

- War Risks Goods Insurance: Premium Rate fixed by Government of India. 52 51

Industrial Health and Safety:

- (a) Smoke Nuisance Bye-Laws: No Exemption for War Factories in Cawnpore. 51
(b) Protection of Factories in War-Time: Order issued by Government of Madras. 51-52

Control Measures:

- (a) Amendment to Iron and Steel (Control of Distribution) Order, 1941. 52
(b) Control of Rents Charged by Hotels and Lodging Houses in Nainital: Orders of U.P. Government. 52
(c) Amendment to Simla House Rent Control Order, 1941. 53

- List of more ~~an~~ important publications received in this Office during September, 1941. 54

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

Government of India.-

Mines Maternity Benefit Bill, 1941. +

The Government of India intends introducing in the Central Legislature at the forthcoming October-November 1941 session of the Central Legislature a Bill to regulate the employment of women in mines for a certain period before and after childbirth and to provide for payment of maternity benefit to them. This Bill provides, on the lines of the existing Provincial legislation covering factories, for prohibition from employment in mines of a woman worker during the four weeks following the day on which she is delivered of a child, and for the payment to her of maternity benefit at annas 8 per day for a period up to four weeks of absence before delivery and for four weeks after delivery.

(The Gazette of India, Part V,
dated 11-10-1941, pages 135 to 139.) +

Government of India.-

Weekly Holidays Bill, 1941. +

The Government of India intends introducing in the forthcoming ~~October-November 1941~~ session of the Central Legislature a Bill to provide for the grant of weekly holidays to persons employed in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants and theatres. It was suggested at the first Conference of Labour Ministers held in January, 1940 that the Central Government should consider the question of passing an enabling measure giving Provincial Governments power by notification to provide for the compulsory closing of shops and commercial establishments for a minimum period of one day in the week, leaving it to the Provincial Governments to provide an extra-half-holiday, if they considered it necessary. The present Bill has been drafted after consultation with Provincial Governments and further discussion at the second Conference of Labour Ministers held in January, 1941. The Bill will not come into effect in any Province until the Government of that Province directs its application by notification, either to the whole Province or any specified area within it. A further notification of the Provincial Government will be necessary to bring into application the provisions about an extra half-holiday. It is considered desirable that Provincial Governments should have power to introduce by notification certain minimum provisions on uniform lines as embodied in the Bill. The Bill provides for payment of wages for holidays declared under it. Certain classes of persons and establishments are excluded from its purview. It proposes to leave power with the Central Government in respect of establishments under its control and with Provincial Governments in respect of all other establishments within the Province, to make exceptions from or temporary suspension of the provisions of the proposed Act. The text of the Bill is published at pages 140 to 143 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 11-10-1941. +

Bengal.-The Bengal Maternity Benefit (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941:
Passed by Bengal Council on 8-9-1941.

The Bengal Maternity Benefit (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941, recently introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council by the Labour Minister, Bengal (vide pages 1, July 1941, and pages 1 and 2, June 1941, reports of this Office) was passed by the Bengal Legislative Council on 8-9-1941.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 10-9-1941).

Bombay.-Draft Amendment of Factories Rules under Section 43 of the Act.

The Bombay Government proposes to amend the local Factories Rules relating to exemptions provided for in Section 43 of the Act; these exemptions relate to (1) persons holding position of supervision or management, or holding confidential positions; (2) adult workers engaged in urgent repairs; (3) intermittent workers; (4) workers in continuous process works.

(Notification No. 352/34 dated 28-8-1941:
The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 4-9-1941; pages 171 to 185.) +

Bombay.-Draft Bombay Workmen's Compensation (Unclaimed Deposits) Rules, 1941.

The Bombay Government proposes to adopt Rules relating to the procedure for the disposal of unclaimed deposits under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Rules provide that sums unclaimed within three years are to be credited to the Provincial Government for the eventual benefit of any person who may establish his claim thereto, that a list of sums unclaimed is to be posted in the Office of the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner every year, and that payments are to be made after satisfactory evidence of title to the deposit.

(Notification No. 4644/34 dated 30-8-1941;
The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 4-9-1941, pages 186 to 188). +

Bombay.-Extension of Factories Act to certain classes of Tailoring
Establishments.

The Bombay Government has extended certain provisions relating to health and safety and the chapter relating to special provisions for adolescents and children in the Factories Act to places in

which the process of tailoring for clothing required for the army is carried on, where-in on any one day of the twelve months preceding 20 or more workers were employed.

(Notification No. 1822/34-I dated 1-9-1941:
The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 4-9-1941, pages 208 to 209.) +

British Baluchistan.-

Delegation of Powers to administer Central Acts

According to a Notification (No. 141-F dated 9-9-1941), the Governor-General has directed the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan, subject to the control of the Governor-General, to exercise the powers and discharge the functions of (1) a "Provincial Government" under the provisions of laws as for the time being in force in British Baluchistan excepting the provisions specified in Schedule I annexed, and (2) the "Central Government" under the provisions of laws as for the time being in force in British Baluchistan, specified in Schedule II annexed. In the schedule under the first class is included, barring certain sections, (a) The Indian Mines Act, 1923, (b) The Indian Boilers Act, 1923, (c) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, (d) The Factories Act, 1934 and (e) the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. In the schedule under the second class is included Section 24 of the Payment of Wages Act.

(The Gazette of India, Part I,
dated 13-9-1941, pages 1291 to 1293.) +

Madras.-

Amendment to Madras Factories Rules.

Reference was made at page 3 of our ~~Madras~~ March 1941 report to the Factories (Madras Amendment) Act, 1941, which seeks to restrict the medical examination of children and adolescents to those who have a prospect of immediate employment in a factory. The Madras Government has now published Rules amending the Madras Factories Rules to give effect to this Act.

(Notification No. 176: G.O. No.2139, P.W.
(Labour) dated 3-9-1941: Fort St. George
Gazette, Part I, dated 9-9-1941, page 1059.) +

Mysore State

Mysore Factories Act Amendment Bill, 1941: To come up before October 1941 session of Mysore Assembly.

A Bill to amend the Mysore Factories Act will come up for consideration at the session of the Mysore Representative Assembly

commencing on 1-10-1941. At present the provisions of the Mysore Factory Act and the rules thereunder are made applicable only to factories employing 20 or more workers and using power. There are a number of power factories employing ten or more workers which are working under ~~the~~ unsatisfactory conditions. The Bill to amend the Mysore Factories Act is designed to prevent the exposure of adolescent and adult workers and children to the risk of exploitation and employment in unhealthy and dangerous conditions, in power factories not subject at present to the Factories Act, by bringing all such factories within the scope of the Act.

The Mysore Labour Bill (This has been passed as an emergency legislation - vide pages 3-4 of the report of this Office for August 1941) will also come up for discussion at the session.

(The Hindu, 23-9-1941.) +

Mysore State.-

The Mysore Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment Bill, 1941.

A Bill further to amend the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Act, seeking to make certain amendments intended to deal with a number of ~~ambiguities and minor defects~~ which have come to light in recent years in the course of the administration of the Act will come up for consideration at the session of the Mysore Representative Assembly commencing on 1-10-1941.

(The Hindu, 23-9-1941.) +

Burma.-

Amendment of Section 60 of the Code of Civil Procedure (re. Attachment of Salary for Debt). +

The Burma Government proposes to introduce in the local Legislature a Bill to amend sub-section (1) of section 60 of the Code of Civil Procedure. It is pointed out that under this Section as amended by Act IX of 1937, the salary of a public officer is exempted from attachment to the extent of the first hundred rupees and one half of the remainder. Although the amendment was intended to afford relief to a needy class of people one of the results of the amendment is that members of co-operative societies who are drawing salaries of less than Rs. 100 per mensem are denied loans by their societies on the ground that recovery in the event of default is likely to be difficult. From statistics recorded by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Burma, it has been revealed that salary-earners drawing less than Rs. 100 per mensem constitute at least 75 per cent. of the total membership of urban and salary-earners' co-operative societies in Burma. The extent of hardship suffered by members of co-operative societies as a result of the Amendment of the Code by Act IX of 1937 is therefore great. Amelioration of this condition is desirable, but co-operative societies cannot be expected to grant loans to their members unless there is a reasonable prospect

of recovery. ~~In order to achieve the desired result and at the same time to safeguard co-operative societies, it cannot be expected to grant loans to their members unless there is a reasonable prospect of recovery.~~ In order to achieve the desired result and at the same time to safeguard co-operative societies, it is proposed to amend section 60 of the Code of Civil Procedure so as to enable co-operative societies to attach the salaries of their members subject to certain exemptions; such exemptions extend to (a) the whole of the salary, where the salary does not exceed Rs. 20; (b) Rs. 20 monthly, where the salary exceeds Rs. 20 and does not exceed Rs. 40 monthly; and (c) one moiety of the salary in any other case.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III, dated
6-9-1941, pages 181 to 182.)

SOCIAL POLICY

6

Labour Legislation in Hyderabad State:
Special Co-ordination Body to be set up. ✓

It is understood that H.E.H. the Nizam's Government proposes to set up a special organisation to co-ordinate and enforce all legislation pertaining to labour in the State. With the growing volume of labour legislation, the need for creating a special machinery to work it on desired lines has been increasingly felt.

(The Hindu, 6-9-1941.) ✓

Conditions of work

Industrial Health and Safety

Progress of Safety First Movement: Report for 1940 of Safety First Association of India.* ✓ +

Civil Defence.- In co-operation with the A.R.P. Section, Home Department, Government of India, the A.R.P. Officer to the Government of Bombay, the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay Presidency, and the Bombay Electric Supply & Tramways Co., Ltd., the Association continued to devote whole-hearted attention to the vital problem of civil defence. Four intensive courses were held and 263 lectures were sponsored. These were attended by over 8,000 persons, representing education, scouting, and girl guides, police, industry, local bodies and the railways, and hailing from several parts of India. Since 1939 when the Association took up the work of civil defence up till the end of the year, 438 lectures attended by 13,180 persons had been held. The Association extends a helping hand to every employer, every individual and every organisation interested in civil defence. When the present crisis ends, there will remain always the need for an organisation to meet other crises that may arise from flood, earthquake, fire, famine, etc. An organised body who have given thought to the problems that will arise under such emergencies will be of the greatest value to the country.

Safety Education in Schools.- The lecture service continued and, with a view to providing trained personnel for the imparting of Safety instruction to school children, two Safety Instructors' Courses were held. The first course held in Bombay was attended by 66 representatives from various Provinces and Indian States. The second one, held under the auspices of the Training Institute for Physical Education, Kandivili, was attended by about 240 teachers, of whom 40 were ladies and 100 University Graduates. The Bombay Municipal Schools Committee adopted safety teaching in the schools under their control and the Association's primer Stop-Look-Listen was accepted as the text-book.

Training in Citizenship.- The Safety Squad Association registered a distinct measure of success. Through its activities Road Patrols, School Patrols, Bus Patrols, Cycle Patrols and Health Patrols were organised in many progressive schools. A scheme of training in citizenship was also formulated during the year; the scheme, as provisionally arranged, consists of a series of 24 lessons on subjects of vital importance in everyday life which will be issued from time to time to teachers.

Industrial Efficiency Service.- From November 1935 to December 1940 some 60 communiques, ~~dealing with~~ have been issued. The Association issues every month a communiqué dealing with some phase of industrial efficiency.

Factory Committees.- The establishment of these Committees made no further progress during the year under report, although their desirability had been brought to the notice of all and particularly the larger industrial concerns by the Association as well as the Factory Inspectorate of Provinces. The Committees established in previous years did good work.

* The Safety First Association of India. Report of the Council, Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31-12-40. The Times of India Press, Bombay. pp. 14.

Resuscitation Classes.- The Resuscitation Classes started in July 1938 for the purpose of training persons in administering artificial respiration by the Prone and Sylvester methods proved popular with industry. Over 300 persons representing railways, mills, local bodies, public utilities and factories took advantage of the training. Further, an Emergency Training Course was held.

Training of Young Industrial Workers.- Reviewing the problem generally, the report points out that there was a distinct advance in the Association's efforts to promote industrial efficiency. However, Statistics of Factories for the year ending 31st December 1939 published by order of the Government of India tells a depressing tale. The number of recorded accidents in factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934, increased from 33,494 in 1938 to 36,006 in 1939. Fatal and minor accidents rose from 210 and 27,220 to 221 and 29,948 respectively, but serious accidents fell from 6,064 to 5,837. The incidence of all accidents per 100,000 operatives rose from 1,927 to 2,056, and there is every reason to believe that these figures must have risen higher in 1940 due to further industrial expansion and wartime production. The causes of this increase are attributed to increase in the number of persons employed, carelessness of the workers, better reporting, influx of untrained men, deterioration in general supervision and speeding up of work. Investigation during recent years has shown that in proportion to the numbers employed, accidents amongst young workers had been more numerous. The chief cause of this is due to lack of special attention to the training and supervision of the young worker. The report stresses that there are four definite steps in the instruction process which must always be taken by the supervisor, foreman or departmental head when a new man is engaged or a man is transferred on to another job. They are: Tell him how; Show him how; Test him; Check him and ~~supervise~~ supervise.

Publications.- The principal periodical publications of the Association are "Safety News" and "Radiant Youth".

Branches.- The Association has now six Branches in all, viz., Bombay, Bengal, Bihar, Ahmedabad, Surat and Madras. +

9

Industrial Disputes

Madras Government contemplating Introduction of
Compulsory Arbitration. ✓

It is understood that the Government of Madras has under consideration legislation to provide for compulsory arbitration in industrial disputes, to set up courts of arbitration, and make provision for enforcement of awards by the arbitration courts, and to penalise illegal strikes and lockouts.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 7-9-1941.)
+

Labour Conditions of Factory Operatives in Baroda in 1939-40.* ✓

Number of Factories.- The total number of factories on the register in the Baroda State on 31-7-1940 was 162 as against 149 in the previous year. All the 13 new factories came under the ~~Factories~~ Act as the result of the amendment which was made in the ~~Factories~~ Act, by which factories employing 20 or more operatives were declared as factories instead of 30 or more operatives. The number of factories in actual operation was 140 as against 130 in the previous year. Out of these, 38 were perennial and 102 seasonal, as compared with 31 perennial and 99 seasonal in the previous year. Out of 38 perennial working factories 13 worked on night shift almost throughout the year as against 14 factories during the last year. Some of the seasonal factories also worked on night shift during some part of the season.

Number of Workers.- The number of operatives employed in all industries during the year was 37,143 as against 34,315 in the previous year. Of the 37,143 workers, 31,039 or 83.7 per cent. were men, 5,789 or 15.5 per cent. women and 315 or 0.8 per cent. adolescents. The respective numbers for the previous year were 28,763; 5,390 and 162.

Inspection.- Out of 38 perennial working factories 21 were inspected twice or more, while 12 were inspected once only. Out of 102 seasonal factories, 89 were inspected during the year. Five perennial and 13 seasonal factories were not inspected as some of them came under the Act towards the end of the year and as some seasonal factories ceased working earlier owing to bad season.

Prosecution.- No prosecutions were launched for offences under the ~~Factories~~ Act during the year, though surprise visits led to the detection of offences in cases of six seasonal factories. The factory managers were strictly warned not to make any such breaches of the Act in future.

Revision of Factories Act.- The Factories Act (No. XXI of 1930) was revised and brought in line with the Indian Factories Act of 1934. The revised Act came into force from 11th April, 1940.

The Payment of Wages Act.- The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, has been applied to the Baroda State from 11th April 1940 with necessary modifications.

Working of the Trade Unions Act.- 4 trade unions were registered during the year under the Trade Unions Act, 1938, with a total membership of 5,447.

Co-operative Housing for Labour.- A co-operative housing society was started at Kalol by the efforts of Mr. B.S. Desai, Assistant Director of Labour, Baroda, with 13 members. Each member has to pay a certain advance towards the cost of the house and the remaining amount is to be lent by Government at 4 per cent. interest. The

*Annual Report of the Department of Industries and Labour, Baroda State, for the year 1939-40, ending 31st July 1940. Baroda State Press. 1941. Price Re.0-9-0. pp. 63

amount is to be repaid in 10 years by means of equal annual payments which cover interest on the loan and repayment of a portion of the loan. Government have also sanctioned certain other necessary facilities for the society.

Apprentice Scheme.- The State Department of Industries and Labour had prepared a scheme for training of educated backward class persons in the different branches of textile mills of the State. The apprentices receive a stipend of Rs. 10 per month, for a period of six months, after which the mills have agreed to engage them on regular wages. During the year, 49 students were selected for training. Many of them, however, either did not join at all or left soon after joining. Only 18 students received full training.

Survey of Economic Conditions.- A detailed economic study of the textile mills in Baroda and Kalol was carried out in the previous year by the Labour Officer Mr. B.S. Desai. During the year under report data regarding all the remaining mills were collected by him and the report is being prepared.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents was 249, out of which 202 were minor, 45 serious and 2 fatal, as against 192 during the last year out of which 168 were minor, 22 serious and 2 fatal. The increase in the number of accidents is mainly due to better reporting.

Workmen's Compensation.- 6 applications for Workmen's Compensation were received during the year and all of them were ~~disposed~~ disposed of. During the year compensation amounting to Rs. 6,403-11-6 was paid to workers, as against Rs. 6,073-0-0 paid in the previous year. The administration of the Act continued to be in the hands of the Subas of the districts who are ex-officio commissioners under the Act.

Maternity Benefits.- Total amount of maternity benefit paid to female factory operatives during the year under report was Rs. 2,567-10-0 as against Rs. 1,778-1-9 paid in the previous year. The number of women who claimed benefits was 175. ✓

Factory Administration in Burma in 1940* ✓

According to the Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act in Burma during 1940, the scope of the Act remained the same during the year under report and so far section 5 has not been invoked. The report relates therefore to premises in which power is used in aid of a manufacturing process and in which twenty or more workers are employed.

Number of Factories.- At the close of the year 1,088 (1086)** factory establishments were recorded as being within the scope of the Act. A number of these were closed throughout the year however and

* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act (XXV of 1934) in Burma for the year 1940. Rangoon: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1941. Price Rs.1-8-0 = 2s.3d. pp. 30.

** The figures within brackets refer to those for the previous year.

1,027 (1,031) worked during some part of all of the year. Of the factories which worked 966 (974) were classed as perennial and 61 (57) as seasonal for the purposes of the Act. Seasonal factories comprise chiefly cotton-ginning mills, sugar factories and rubber plantation factories. Rice-milling, although subject to seasonal variations in some of the smaller mills, is not a truly seasonal industry and is not so classed for the purposes of the Act. New factories coming under the Act numbered 40 and 38 ceased to operate as such.

Number of Workers.- The total number of workers employed in factories, expressed as a daily average obtained from returns submitted by factory occupiers, was 89,383 (87,946). Perennial factories employed 84,184 (83,040) workers and seasonal factories 5,199 (4,906). The increase in the number of workers ~~and seasonal factories~~ employed over the previous year appears to have been spread fairly evenly over the main industries, except that rice-milling showed a decrease of some 800 workers.

The number of women employed in factories, expressed as a daily average, was 11,770 (11,709). The employment of young persons and children in factories is not extensive and is confined mostly to light saw-dust removing in saw-mills or kappas sorting in cotton ginneries. Such children as are so employed are usually brought by their parents or other relatives who work in the same mill. Returns show a total of 937 (1,038) adolescents and 120 (94) children as having been employed.

Hours of Work.- The working hours in rice and saw mills, which together comprise nearly 80 per cent of the premises under the Act, remain generally at the maximum allowed, namely, 54 hours weekly. Rice mills usually work continuously throughout a 12-hour milling period; or if a night shift is employed the machinery may be worked continuously over several days. Continuous process factories work on a three 8-hour shift basis and this results in a 48-hour week for many workers. Engineering works vary between a 44 and a 54-hour week. Cotton-ginneries continue to work the full 60-hour week allowed for seasonal factories.

Prosecutions.- A still further increase is to ~~be~~ be noted in the number of prosecutions instituted. Convictions were obtained in respect of 108 (82) charges involving 75 (67) persons. Fines totalled Rs. 3,996. The highest fine in respect of any one person was Rs. 150 and the lowest Rs. 5. The average fine per charge was Rs. 37. The report states that although in some cases the fines appear to have been more adequate than in the past, there are still a number of instances in which the Courts appear to take too lenient a view.

Inspection.- Out of 1,008 premises under the Act 757 (918) were inspected during the year. Some of these were visited more than once and a total of 816 visits included 785 made by ~~the~~ departmental Inspectors and 31 by District Magistrates or Public Health Officers in their capacity as ex-officio or Additional Inspectors. 704 factories were inspected once, 47 twice and 6 thrice while 270 remained uninspected. Attendances at Court in prosecution cases and work arising out of the Payment of Wages Act take up a considerable proportion of Inspectors' time and their functions tend to widen year by year. The Chief Inspector hopes that the appointment of a further Inspector, proposals for which still remain under consideration by Government, will not be much longer delayed. +

Number of Factories.- There were 1,916 factories on the registers at the beginning of the year as against 1,900 in 1939. During the year 136 factories were placed on the registers and 74 were removed. The number of factories at the end of the year was 1,978 of which 1,891 (528 seasonal and 1,363 non-seasonal) were in commission. The total number of factories notified under section 5 of the Act at the end of the year was 108 of which 105 were in commission. In addition to these, two other factories were registered during the year under section 59-A of the Act.

Number of Workers.- The average number of workers employed daily in the 1,818 factories which submitted the annual returns in time for the year was 211,194 as against 197,266 in the previous year; 7,314 of them were employed in Government and Local Fund factories. The increase of 13,928 workers is due largely to the increase in the number of factories during the year, and to the restarting of a jute mill in Ellore, and the employment of a greater number of workers in the Cordite factory at Aruvankadu and in the spinning and weaving section of the Coimbatore Central Jail. Of the 211,194 workers, 30,659 were in seasonal factories and 180,535 in perennial factories.

Of the 211,194 workers, 141,555 were adult males, 56,266 adult females, 9,536 adolescents (7,307 males, 2,229 females) and 3,837 children (2,220 males, 1,617 females).

Inspection.- Of the 1,891 factories in commission, 495 were inspected once, 748 twice, 494 thrice and 105 more than three times. The total number of inspections made was 3,909 as against 3,884 in 1939. 2,721 inspections were made by the full-time Factory Inspectors and 1,188 by the Additional Inspectors. In addition to the 2,721 inspections by the full-time Inspectors, 835 visits were also made by them. The total number of visits and inspections made by the full time Inspectors was 3,556 as against 3,388 in 1939. 54 factories remained uninspected during the year.

Hours of Work.- The rest interval as required by section 37 of the Act was observed in all factories except in the case of 132 factories exempted from this provision. Even the exempted factories give sufficient time for meals, though not a fixed period. Sundays or substituted holidays were observed in all cases except in 131 factories exempted from the provisions of section 35. A holiday, at least, once in 14 days was given as required by the condition attached to the exemption.

The number of non-seasonal factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above 42 was 86 for men and 150 for women; above 42 and not above 48 was 210 for men and 55 for women; and above 48 was 1,010 for men and 777 for women. 247 factories employed children as against 175 in 1939. This increase is due to

* Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Province of Madras for the year 1940. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1941. Price Annas 12. pp.52.

the large number of match factories notified under section 5 of the Act during the year. The weekly hours for children do not exceed 30. 19 factories were exempted from the weekly limit of 54 hours, and 23 factories from the daily limit of 10 hours. The number of seasonal factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above 48 was 33 for men and 54 for women; above 48 and not above 54 was 83 for men and 80 for women; and above 54 was 388 for men and 345 for women. 5 factories employed children. Their weekly hours for them do not exceed 30. No seasonal factory was exempted from the provisions of weekly and daily limits.

Shifts.- In 314 factories, chiefly in the textile and rice milling industries, work is carried on by a system of multiple and overlapping shifts.

Prosecutions.- Occupiers and managers of 128 factories involving 152 persons were prosecuted during the year. Convictions were obtained on 476 counts against 114 factories involving 135 persons. A sum of Rs. 3,707 was imposed as fine ranging from Re. 1 to Rs. 120 and giving an average of Rs. 7-12-4 per count. In one case the accused was found not guilty. Prosecutions against 5 factories were dropped for various reasons. Prosecutions against 8 factories were pending disposal at the close of the year. The cases that were pending at the end of the previous year were disposed of and convictions obtained in all of them.

Sickness Statistics.- 689,663 man-days were lost due to sickness as against 711,565 man-days in 1939.

Working of Employment of Children Act.- Inspections under this Act were not made during the year for want of adequate staff. It was suggested to Government that the administration of this Act might be entrusted to the Municipal Health Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars, as there were over 2,000 establishments which would come under the purview of this Act in Municipal Areas alone.

The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1940.- An Act to regulate the employment of children in small factories employing 10 or more but less than 20 workers came into force during the year. There are a large number of small factories which may be registered under this Act but due to inadequate staff and want of time, many of the factories were not inspected. The Government have since sanctioned the appointment of two more Assistant Inspectors and it is expected that at least some of the establishments coming under this Act will be subjected to proper control. ✓ +

Conditions of Work in U.P. Government Presses:
Government Order on Rudra Committee's Recommendations. ✓ +

At pages 18 to 21 of our Report for August 1940 were summarised the main recommendations of the Rudra Committee in regard to the conditions of work of employees in the Government Presses in the United Provinces. The local Government has passed orders on some of the recommendations.

Permanent Cadre Increased.- The Government Press has been in existence for over 60 years and work has greatly increased. The majority of the staff are employed on a temporary basis, but these men in reality are in permanent Government employ. The whole question was gone into by the Committee whose recommendations have been thoroughly examined. The permanent staff and cadre have been now fixed more in accordance with the real requirements of the Government Press. This means that a large number of employees who were hitherto temporary will become permanent Government servants entitled to all rights belonging to Government servants.

Scales of Pay Improved.- Scales of pay have also been revised and it is gathered that, whereas the Inquiry Committee's proposals were sketchy, the U.P. Government has worked out the details on a generous basis involving extra commitment to the Government of about Rs. 36,000 to Rs. 40,000 per annum. The proposals are likely to be put into effect from October, 1941, giving the majority of the 1,200 employees of the Government Press substantial benefit.

(The Statesman, 1-9-1941.) ✓

Conditions of Work in Khewra Salt Mines:
Findings of Deshpande Report.* ✓ +

Reference was made at pages 11 to 12 of our February 1941 report to the appointment of a Court of Enquiry under Mr. S.R. Deshpande to go into the trade dispute between the Central Excises and Salt Department, North Western India, and the miners working in the salt mines at Khewra regarding improvement in the general conditions of service of miners and grant of certain concessions to them. The following is a summary of the main findings of the Court, which have been published.

Wages of Miners.- As regards the present rates of wages and the arrangements for payment, the Court states that "so far as the wage rate is concerned, the Khewra miner is probably the best paid in the

* Report of the Court of Inquiry constituted under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, to investigate certain grievances of the salt miners at Khewra. 1941. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price Rs.2-2 or 3s.6d. pp. 68.

country, although it is to be remembered that he can work for only 15 days in the month and for ten months in the year.... Having regard to the miner's family expenditure, his conditions of work and the wage rates prevailing in Khewra and its neighbourhood and in other mines in India, it would appear that the wage rate paid to the Khewra miners is not inadequate.... While the average monthly income of a miner's family is Rs. 30-8-0, the average expenditure comes to Rs. 32. But the estimate of the income of the miner's family does not take into account certain other sources of income such as employment in the workshop and running of shops. If these resources of income were taken into consideration it is probable that the income and the expenditure would just balance. "It would, therefore, be fair to conclude that while the income of the miner's family is just sufficient for its maintenance, it leaves no margin for meeting unexpected calls on the miner's purse or for any savings."

The Court has made a few recommendations in regard to the payment aspect of the excavation of marl and its measurement, and of salt loaded in ~~the~~ tubs and its measurement.

Unemployment.- As regards the complaint of wide-spread unemployment and under-employment in Khewra salt mine, the report points out that the Department has stated in its memorandum that "There appears to be a fair amount of unemployment of under-employment prevalent in the mining community at Khewra," and without taking an actual census of the unemployed in the mining community it is difficult to ascertain the extent of unemployment. According to the estimate given by the Union in its memorandum, about 1000 able-bodied persons are without employment. The Court has suggested certain palliatives for providing work for the unemployed members of the mining community, like finding employment for them in industries in and around Khewra, ~~to take more miners,~~ etc.

Conditions of Service.- The miners of the Khewra Salt Mines had put forward certain demands for improving the general conditions of their service, e.g., their remuneration, grant of pension to old and infirm miners, miners' widows and children, grant of house-building advances without interest, measures to relieve unemployment among the mining community at that station, medical relief, education, roads, water supply, supply of electric light, provision of conveyance to the miners to take them to their place of work, etc. The report states that so far as industrial labour in India is concerned, the institution of such schemes is the exception rather than the rule. "That does not, however, mean that such schemes are not desirable. In fact, they are needed much more for the poorer sections of the community who have little margin for saving and are thus left destitute during old age and infirmity. These schemes, however, cost money and can only be financed out of the surplus profits of a concern. It is understood that the Department's policy is not to make a profit from the working of the mines. It seems to me, however, that if by slightly raising the price of salt, amenities like provident fund can be provided for the miners; the possibility of doing so should be investigated."

(1) Pensions.- The question of pensions has been exhaustively dealt with by the Court of Inquiry. There is a voluntary fund called the Fine and Pensions Fund, expenditure from which is authorised by the General Manager, Khewra, and the system followed is to grant a pension only when an individual applies for it, having regard to the balance at the credit of the fund. The Court points out that the amount of pension in some cases is entirely inadequate, and in the

17

award of pensions, the sole discretion should not be with only one individual but that there should be a proper advisory committee to assist him in this matter. The Court has recommended that the question of reconstitution of the existing pension fund or the establishment of a new social fund should be taken up with the Superintendent of Insurance, Government of India, and a detailed scheme worked out.

(ii) Medical and other Amenities.- Supply of electric light to the miners for a nominal charge, conveyance facilities, improvement in the present condition of the roads, better medical facilities and protected water supply and the establishment of a High school in Khewra are some of the other subjects on which detailed recommendations have been made by the Court.

(iii) Housing.- As regards the housing problem, instead of giving recoverable and non-recoverable advances to the miners for building houses as is being done at present, the Court suggests that Government should build suitable quarters for the miners and rent them for a nominal amount to cover maintenance and repairs. This, it is pointed out, would be cheaper in the long run.

~~xxx~~ Workmen's Compensation.- The main grievances of the miners in regard to workmen's compensation were stated to be (1) non-payment of compensation even when due; (2) under-payment of compensation; (3) delay in the payment of compensation; (4) failure to pay compensation to miners' assistants and the recovery of compensation in such cases from the miners; etc., and the Court, after examining witnesses, has recommended that whenever an accident falling under the Workmen's Compensation Act occurs, a gazetted officer of the Department should be detailed to take charge of the case and if the injured workman wishes to contest the claim before the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, he should be assisted. Regarding delays, if half-monthly payments, as provided for in the Act, are made to injured workmen pending the final settlement of their claims, this grievance may be removed to a considerable extent. The position as regards miners' assistants is by no means free from doubt and it is suggested that expert legal advice should be sought on (a) whether the miners' assistants are workmen within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and (b) if they are, who is liable to pay compensation -- the Department or the miners? Whatever the legal position, the Court is of the opinion that the miner should not be burdened with this responsibility and that an early opportunity should be taken by the Department to employ, if necessary, the miners' assistants direct and also paying them direct.

Unionism among Khewra Miners.- The type of trade unionism existing in Khewra is a type met with in many other parts of the country. It is doubtful whether the Khewra miners have yet attained a stage of development where they could appreciate the true value of trade unionism. However, if a trade union in Khewra is to be recognised, care would have to be exercised to see to it that it is functioning properly. This, the Department have the power to do under the rules of recognition of trade unions of industrial employees of Government.

Appointment of Labour Officer.- Lastly, states the report, the appointment of a Labour Officer in Khewra will go a long way in improving the relations between the mining community and the Department. It should be noted that, so far as industrial labour is concerned, it

18
is the minor grievances which, when allowed to accumulate without ventilation and redress, spoil relations between the employer and the employed rather than big issues such as wages.

(A copy of the Report of the Court of Inquiry was sent to Montreal with our minute L.1/964/41 dated 9-10-1941.) ✓

Testing House for Bombay Cotton Mills: Government of India recognises Technological Laboratory, Bombay. ✓

According to the Report of the Director, Technological Laboratory, Bombay, for the year ending May 31, 1941, just published, a feature of the year was the arrangement entered into between the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Supply Department of the Government of India, whereby the Laboratory has been recognised as the official testing house for cotton mills in the Bombay Province.

In 1939-40 the total number of samples tested at the Laboratory was 768, as compared to 1,800, during the year under review. A new section has been added to the Laboratory for the study of the ginning problems of Indian cotton and the machines required for the purpose have been installed. Some preliminary ginning tests with different speeds and settings on several varieties of Indian kapas have also been carried out. The samples tested at the Laboratory are dealt with in spinning test, fibre test, yarn test and cloth test reports, which are issued on these samples. In 1939-40, the number of these reports stood at 261, as against 1,046 during the year under review.

Tests were carried out on samples received from cotton mills and firms, including fabrics of all kinds, single and ply yarns, sewing thread, parachute cloth, airmen's webbing, service dressings and absorbent cotton. The laboratory investigated the causes of difficulties referred by various mills, such as tendering of cloth, appearance of stains and the presence of holes in the cloth and the reports issued to the mills contained suggestions for preventing such defects. The technological investigations under progress included the pre-cleaning and ginning of Indian seed cotton on different machines and with different settings and speeds, the effect of different treatments in the blow-room, effect of storage under Bombay conditions on the quality of Indian cottons, the influence of swollen hair diameter on the spinning quality of cottons, fibre properties in relation to seed characters, efficiency of kier boil and bleach treatments. Wp

(Unofficial Note issued by the
Principal Information Officer,
Government of India.)

Note: Unofficial notes are not communiques and are issued only on the understanding that they will not be referred to in any way in what is published. ✓

Industrial Research Committee set up in U.P.

The Government of the United Provinces has set up an ~~India~~ Industrial Research Committee of 11 members with the Adviser to Governor (Development) as Chairman and the Deputy Director of Industries, U.P., as Secretary. The Committee will form a liaison with the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Government of India and bring to the notice of the Board problems of industrial research that may arise in the United Provinces or be proposed for investigation at laboratories. Industrialists may send schemes for consideration to the Secretary, Industrial Research Committee.

(Notification No. 3472/XVIII-550 (L) dated 9-9-1941:
U.P. Gazette, Part I, dated 13-9-1941, page 421.) ✓

20

Groundnut Industry of India;
Government of India creates Fund for Relief. ✓

With a view to devise adequate measures of relief for the groundnut cultivators in India, who have been hit by the closure of the important European markets on account of the war, and for whom the United Kingdom is the only market left to which any considerable exports of groundnuts could be made, a conference was held on February 20, 1941, between the representatives of the Government of India and those of the Governments of Madras, Bombay and Hyderabad. On the basis of the conclusions reached at this conference, which have been generally accepted by the Governments concerned, the Government of India has decided to create a Fund which will be named "Fund for the relief of Groundnut Cultivators."

Disbursements from the Fund will be authorised by the Central Government for expenditure on approved schemes which will directly or indirectly benefit the groundnut cultivator. For this purpose propaganda for restriction of the area under cultivation will be regarded as an approved object of expenditure from the Fund, but it will be open to provincial and State Governments to propose other schemes including (i) schemes for the stimulation of consumption of groundnuts and groundnut products and (ii) research schemes connected with the utilisation of groundnuts and groundnut products. Half-yearly reports will be furnished to the Government of India by provincial Governments and Indian States who receive allotments from the Fund, giving a detailed account of the manner in which the money allotted from the Fund, together with the contributions from their own revenues, have been utilised.

(Notification No. 86 C.2 (3) 41
dated 6-9-1941: The Gazette of India,
Part I, dated 6-9-1941). ✓+

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for
Various Centres in India during June 1941. +

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during June 1941 as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay for June 1941 remained unchanged at 122 as compared with the previous month. The average for the Calendar year 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during June 1941 advanced by 1 point to 83. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during June 1941 rose by 3 points to 81 as compared with the preceding month. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in June 1941 rose by 2 points to 74 as compared with

the preceding month. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 63 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore during June 1941 rose by 2 points to 73. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during June 1941 rose by 1 point to 109. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

Cawnpore.- The index number (base: August 1939) of the cost of living in Cawnpore during June 1941 advanced by 6 points to 114. The average for 1940 was 111.

(Extracted from the Monthly Survey of
Business Conditions in India for June 1941)

Burma Government to Control Rice Export:
Indian Trading Interests Endangered.✓

It is learned that the Burma Government will, from January 1, 1942, allow no paddy for export by rice brokers except by or under the authority of the Controller of Exports. In the consuming markets where the Government is the sole importer like Malaya, all transactions will be made between the Rangoon Controller and the Government concerned. ~~Proposed sales to India will be made by the Controller to importers in India on C.I.F. basis. The basis for proposed sales to Ceylon has not yet been settled. Sales in London will be made to a committee of London merchants. Sales to minor markets will be through the Controller's agents there or through exporters in Burma.~~ (The Hindu, 28-9-1941).

The Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has addressed a telegram to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Department of Education, Health and Lands in this connection, pointing out that the decision if taken by the Burma Government would seriously disturb normal exporting interests of Indians in Burma. In view of the enormous extent of India's stake in rice producing and exporting interests, the Committee urged the Government of India to represent strongly to the Burma Government the need for clarification of the proposed control and to request them to defer taking precipitous action till Indian commercial interests have had full opportunity to examine and express their opinion on the export control. (The Hindu, 27-9-1941).

The Hindu, Madras, in the course of an editorial article comments thus on the reported decision:

As a very large number of Indians is engaged in Burma rice trade on both sides of the Bay, it is natural there should be anxiety lest the control should operate to their detriment. Such apprehensions cannot be dismissed as fantastic in view of the experience of Indian merchants abroad and in the light of ordinances like the Zanzibar Cloves Ordinance. The scheme, however, is not to the interest of Burma. The total rice production of Burma is only a seventh of India's total and India's reserve potentialities are at least as

great as that necessary to supply the deficit for which India now relies on Burma. Our requirements are roughly under 29 million tons; we produce over 27 million tons and rely on Burma for just a million and a half tons. If the worst comes to the worst, we may without serious difficulty increase internal production so as to get rid of dependence of foreign markets.

(The Hindu, 18-9-1941.) ✓

New Company to develop Hyderabad Industries. ✓

It is understood that with a view to developing various industries in the Nizam's Dominions, a big concern is to be floated with an authorised capital of over Rs. 10,000,000.

The concern proposes to start a number of new industries, including a glassware factory and a chemical laboratory, to manufacture sulphuric acid, chlorine and ~~others~~ for which the war conditions offer a splendid opportunity. The scheme took shape when Colonel Slaughter, General Manager of the Nizam's ~~State~~ State Railway, at a meeting of the Eastern Group Council in Delhi last winter dwelt at length on the potentialities of industrial development in the Nizam's Dominions and the vast resources which for want of necessary attention remain unexploited.

It is also reported that a senior officer of the Nizam's Government will be deputed in connection with the scheme, and will be posted in the United States to facilitate the purchase of necessary machinery.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 14-9-1941.) ✓

Industrial Research Committee for Hyderabad State:
"Pilot" Plants to be installed. ✓

The Nizam's Government are considering a scheme for setting up a body to co-ordinate industrial research in Hyderabad State. Some work in this field has already been done and is still being done by the Government Industrial Research Laboratory, but it is felt that the stage has now been reached when, in view of the growing importance of industrial research to the national effort, under the stimulus of the war, well-planned co-ordination in this sphere has become of the first importance. The Committee is expected to work in close co-operation with the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Government of India.

Among other activities of the new Committee will be the apportioning of research schemes among suitable laboratories and workshops in the State, and after detailed laboratory investigations have been completed, the installation of 'pilot' plants for testing them from the point of view of exploiting the results on a commercial basis.

(The Indian Express, 27-9-1941.) ✓

Stimulating Indian Export Trade;
Indian ~~Exit~~ Central Cotton Committee's Scheme for setting up Export
Organisation. ✓ +

In order to explore the possibility of developing India's export trade in manufactured articles with neighbouring foreign countries and to study the conditions prevailing at present in those countries, a draft scheme for the constitution of an export organisation has been circulated by the Indian Central Cotton Committee to the various millowners' associations for eliciting their opinion.

The manufactured articles, the possibility for the development of the export trade of which is sought to be explored, include textiles, sugar, cement, iron and steel, paper, chemicals, drugs and pharmaceutical preparations. Another object for which the export organisation is proposed to be set up is to organise, depute and finance, on behalf of the organisation, trade missions to investigate conditions on the spot in the various countries to achieve the purpose of such an organisation. Such trade missions will consist mainly of influential Indian non-officials, accompanied by a technical staff. Such an export organisation will seek to establish, control and maintain commercial museums at chief centres of trade, and in the offices of the Indian trade commissioners situated in foreign countries in the neighbourhood of India, such as Afghanistan, Iran, Red Sea ports, Arabia, Palestine, ~~Egypt, Abyssinia, Tanganyika, East and South Africa, Ceylon, East Indies, Australia, New Zealand and Indo-China.~~

As the immediate work of the export organisation is likely to be more fruitful in the direction of the development of export trade in Indian cotton textiles, the board of the organisation, according to the scheme, should mainly consist of representatives of Indian cotton textile interests in different provinces with a non-official chairman and four members nominated by Government. The office of the organisation will be in Bombay with its representatives at the major ports of India.

(The Times of India. 17-9-1941.) ✓

Automobile Industry for India:
Demand for considering it as a War Industry. +

Reference was made at pages 16-17 of report of this Office for July 1941 to the scheme for setting up an automobile industry sponsored by Mr. Walchand Hirachand, the Bombay Industrialist. Commenting on the refusal of the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India to approve the plan, Mr. Walchand Hirachand in a press statement issued on 13-9-1941 points out:

The automobile scheme has actively been before the Government of India for the last five years. Since the outbreak of the war, the promoters have modified their demands, ~~necessitated by war conditions~~, and they have been urging upon the Government of India to treat the scheme as war effort because of the great part the programme of mechanisation of the army has been playing. After the war broke out a big war order to the extent of 60,000 vehicles worth about Rs. 240

millions has been passed on to foreign manufacturers. The Indian tax-payer pays this amount, but India has been denied the opportunity to start her own automobile industry and meet at least some percentage of war needs. It takes only about seven months in the normal course to erect an automobile factory with high priorities. If the Government of India had adopted a more reasonable and friendly attitude the position would entirely be different today.

Referring to the stimulation of the automobile industry in Canada and Australia, the statement says: The Canadian and Australian Governments have, under definite arrangements with Great Britain, fostered the establishment of engineering factories for the manufacture of automobiles and automobile parts, including complicated machinery, such as engines for aeroplanes. In the latter country, which is not so well placed as India, aeroplanes are being manufactured, while in the case of the Bangalore factory we are only able to assemble ^{parts} after so many months of negotiation with the Government of India. The Australian Government expended £1½ millions in bounties and in giving facilities to stimulate the production of automobiles in that country. In the light of the action taken by these countries, the Government of India has no justification for refusing to treat the proposed Indian automobile venture as a war industry, particularly when managing personnel, finance, labour and raw materials are available in plenty in this country.

(The Hindu, 14-9-1941.) ✓

Tax on Agricultural Income:

The Bengal Agricultural Income-Tax Bill, 1941. +

The Government of Bengal has decided to impose a tax on agricultural income, both because additional revenue is urgently needed to meet the expanding needs of the Province, and because they consider that it is equitable to impose such a tax, and a bill to this purpose - the Bengal Agricultural Income-Tax Bill, 1941 - has been published (Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary dated 2-9-1941). The rates are slightly less steeply graded than those existing under the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, but the exemption limit is the same as under that Act and there is no super-tax. The rates are:

On the first Rs.1,500/- of the total agricultural income - Nil; on the next Rs. 3,500 - Re.0-0-9 in the rupee; on the next Rs.5,000 - Re. 0-1-0 in the rupee; on the next Rs. 5,000 - Re.0-1-6 in the rupee; on the next Rs. 5,000 - Re. 0-2-0 in the rupee; on the balance of the total agricultural income - Re. 0-2-6 in the rupee. In the case of every company, firm or other association of individuals, agricultural income-tax is to be charged at the maximum rate of Re. 0-2-6 in the rupee.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary dated 2-9-1941.) ✓ +

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in U.P. during 1940.* ✓

Statistics of Workers and Accidents during 1940.- During the year under report the number of factories increased from 626 to 654, and the average daily number of workers employed showed a corresponding increase from 159,738 in 1939 to 179,735 in the year under report; about 96.5 per cent. of this force was adult male. With the increase in the number of factories and of the number of workers employed therein, the number of accidents also increased from 2,632 in 1939 to 3,348 during the year under report. Of these accidents 41 were fatal, 536 serious, and 2,771 minor. Of the 536 serious accidents all except 15 were recorded as such due to the injured persons being off duty for 21 days or more. The incidence of accidents per 100 workers during the last three years viz., 1938, 1939 and 1940 shows a constant increase. In 1938, the incidence was 1.53; in 1939, 1.65; and in 1940, the year under report, 1.86. The increase in the number of recorded accidents is partly attributable to better reporting on the part of the mill authorities as a result of the vigilance and care exercised by the supervisory staff.

Compensation Statistics.- During 1940, Rs. 57,352 was awarded as compensation in respect of 85 fatal cases, Rs. 30,638 in respect of 108 cases of permanent disablement and Rs. 13,178 in respect of 1,357 cases of temporary disablement.

General.- The year opened with a pending list of 58 cases. 131 cases were instituted during the year as against 127 in the previous year. 42 cases were received for disposal from other Commissioners and eleven were transferred. There were thus 220 cases for disposal out of which 150 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 70.

The majority of those who were awarded compensation drew a monthly salary not exceeding Rs. 18. Thus 59 out of 85 victims of fatal accidents, and 34 out of 50 persons permanently disabled belonged to this wage class. This fact shows that the low-paid and unskilled workers suffer most from accidents due to their carelessness and to their lack of training in the skilful handling of machines. It is suggested that a great drive is needed to persuade the employers to set up safety-first committees in their mills and to provide their workmen with adequate training in the use of safety first devices.✓

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bihar during 1940.**

The daily average attendance in 1940 of persons employed in the province is reported to have been 208,249 adults and 1,319 minors as compared with 202,714 adults and 875 minors in the year 1939. During the year there was only one case of permanent disablement through occupational disease (lead poisoning) and this was reported from the

* 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 1940. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P., India. 1941. Price Re.0-2-6. pp.9.

** Printed letter No.795/XI-62 COM.R. dated 28-8-1941 from the Secretary to the Government of Bihar to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour on the Statistical returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1940. pp.4.

establishment of Government Printing at Gulzarbagh. The amount of compensation paid in this case was Rs. 840. 189 persons lost their lives as the result of accidents, 214 persons were permanently disabled and 4,108 suffered from temporary disablement. The total sums paid for these classes of accidents were Rs. 112,321-14-6, Rs. 69,127-10-3 and Rs. 57,019-15-9 against Rs. 88,886-12-9, Rs. 52,626-3-6 and Rs. 59,857-0-3 respectively, in the previous year. Of these amounts of compensation, Rs. 69,561, Rs. 15,068 and Rs. 1,677 were paid through the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, respectively for fatal accidents, permanent disablement and temporary disablement. The average amount paid as compensation for fatal accidents was Rs. 594 and for permanent disablement Rs. 323, as compared with Rs. 596 and Rs. 256 respectively, paid in 1939. In cases of fatal accidents which came before the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, about 77 per cent. of the workmen concerned were receiving wages not exceeding Rs. 21 a month. In many cases compensation for permanent disablement was settled out of court. There were 214 cases of permanent disablement and 189 agreements were filed.

The Provincial Government is considering improved methods of ensuring wider publicity for the provisions of the Act among workmen, both literate and illiterate. It is reported that in the larger industrial areas like Dhanbad and Dhalbhum, the provisions of the Act are now widely known amongst the workmen and that they take full advantage of them whenever occasion arises. The majority of the colliery owners now readily admit claims which fall prima facie under the Act and do not take advantage of the poverty or the ignorance of the workmen. The Provincial Government has accepted the recommendation of the ~~late~~ Rajendra Prasad Committee for the establishment of a Labour Department in charge of a Commissioner of Labour. When the Labour Department is established on a permanent basis, the question of placing the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act under the new Department will be examined. ✓

Madras Retiring and Invalid Gratuities (Non-Pensionable Establishment) Rules, 1941. ✓

Classes of Workers Affected.— The Government of Madras has gazetted certain Rules relating to the grant of retiring and invalid gratuities in respect of non-pensionable service. These rules apply to persons in non-pensionable service, including those paid from contingencies and members of the work-charged establishments. They do not apply to persons who are subject to a Contributory Provident Fund or are governed by any special system of gratuities (e.g., men employed in Public Works ~~Depart~~ Workshops).

Amount of Gratuity.— The amount of gratuity to be paid under these rules is regulated as follows:—

<u>Length of non-qualifying or non-pensionable service.</u>	<u>Retiring gratuity</u>	<u>Invalid gratuity</u>
After a service of less than 10 years.	Nil	Nil
After a service of not less than 10 years but less than 15 years.	Nil	Four months' pay.
After a service of not less than 15 years but less than 20 years.	Four months' pay	Five months' pay.

After a service of not less than
 20 years but less than 25 years Five months' pay Six months' pay
 Twenty-five years and above Six months' pay Six months' pay

NOTE.- (1) A retiring gratuity will be sanctioned only when a person to whom these rules apply is compulsorily retired, say, on attaining the age of superannuation, or on termination of his appointment due to retrenchment, lapse of sanction or reorganisation of establishments, or on his retiring voluntarily after he completes a service of 30 years. The rules regarding medical certificates in the Civil Service Regulations ~~will~~ be followed generally in regard to the invalidation of persons for the purpose of an "invalid gratuity" under these rules.

(2) The provisions in the Civil Service Regulation for reckoning service for pension and re-employment of pensioners ~~and~~ be followed, in so far as they are applicable, in determining service qualifying for gratuity under these rules and for the re-employment of gratuitants.

For the purposes of these rules "month's pay" means (a) in the case of a whole-time Government servant employed on piece-work wages, the average monthly remuneration drawn during a period of one year immediately before retirement; (b) in the case of a Government servant employed on daily wages, such wages drawn immediately before retirement multiplied by 30; and (c) in the case of other Government servants to whom these rules apply their monthly non-substantive pay drawn immediately before retirement.

Service Rolls to be maintained.- Service rolls are to be maintained for temporary and non-pensionable employees, members of the work-charged establishment and menials paid from contingencies.

(Notification No. 80: G.O. No.498, Finance
 (Pension) dated 22-8-1941: Fort St. George
 Gazette, Part I, dated 23-9-1941, page 1119).

Madras Compassionate Gratuities (Non-Pensionable Establishment)
 Rules, 1941. ✓

The Government of Madras has gazetted Rules relating to the grant of compassionate gratuities to the families of deceased Government servants who were in non-pensionable service; the salient features of the Rules are given below:-

Applicability of the Rules.- These rules apply to the families of deceased Government servants who (i) were in non-pensionable service, or (ii) held merely probationary, officiating or temporary appointments in departments other than the Survey and Settlement departments or held such appointments in the Survey and Settlement Departments for less than twenty years, (iii) were menials paid from contingencies, or (iv) were borne on the work-charged establishment. They do not apply to the family of a person who was subject to a Contributory Provident Fund.

For the purposes of these rules, 'Family' includes the Government servant's wife, his legitimate children, step-children, parents, sisters and minor brothers, who had been wholly dependent on him.

Amount of Gratuity.- The amount of gratuity to be paid under these rules ~~rules~~ is regulated as follows:-

<u>Length of service</u>	<u>Maximum amount of gratuity</u>
Service of less than 10 years.	Nil
Service of not less than 10 years but less than 15 years	Four months' pay
Service of not less than 15 years but less than 20 years	Five months' pay
Service of not less than 20 years	Six months' pay

'Monthly pay' or 'month's pay' means - (a) in the case of a whole-time Government servant employed on piece-work wages, the average monthly remuneration drawn during a period of one year immediately before retirement or death; (b) in the case of a Government servant employed on daily wages, such wages drawn immediately before retirement or death multiplied by 30; and (c) in the case of other Government servants their monthly non-substantive pay drawn immediately before retirement or death.

Limitations to grant of Gratuity.- The Government may, subject to the provisions of these rules, grant a compassionate gratuity to the family of a Government servant, who dies while in actual service or before drawing a retiring gratuity. (The family of a person who has received a retiring or invalid gratuity shall not be eligible for any compassionate gratuity.) Compassionate gratuity is to be granted only when the deceased Government servant had rendered ~~merit~~ meritorious service or when his death was due to special devotion to duty. All the same, the Government may grant a compassionate gratuity to the family of a deceased Government servant whose circumstances (e.g., rate of monthly pay) were, in their opinion, such that he could not have made any adequate provision for his family.

A gratuity under these rules will not ordinarily be granted (i) where a deceased Government servant (a) was in receipt of monthly pay exceeding one hundred rupees, or (b) had left net assets of value exceeding twenty-four months' pay; or (ii) where the application for the grant is submitted more than one year after the death of the Government servant, unless there are special reasons for condoning the delay.

(Notification No. 81; G.O. No. 498, Finance (Pension), dated 22-8-1941: Fort St. George Gazette, part I, dated 23-9-1941, page 1120). ✓

Indian Lessees in Fiji:
Working of Native Land Trust Ordinance, 1940. ✓

"The most important matter affecting the administration of native land was the enactment on February 22, 1940, of the Native Land Trust Ordinance No. 12 of 1940", says the report of the Director of Lands, Mines and Surveys, Fiji, on the working of the Ordinance.

Drawbacks of the Old System.- The importance of this measure to Indians in Fiji has to be appreciated with reference to the system of land tenure in the Colony. The bulk of the land in Fiji belongs to the natives, the permanent alienation of which to non-natives has been prohibited since 1909. The Indian agricultural population hold a large portion of native land on leases tenable for 21 years, but before renewal of a lease could be agreed to by the Colonial Government, the lessee had to obtain the concurrence of the native owners to the renewal and arrive at an agreement regarding the terms and conditions thereof. Thus the system of dual control of land by Government and native owners was defective in that difficulties might arise in securing renewals of leases.

Provisions of the Ordinance.- Under the provisions of this Ordinance, the control of all native land is vested in a Board of Trustees, who are to set aside sufficient land for the exclusive use of Fijians and are authorised to lease out the remaining land to Non-Fijians. Regulations have been framed by the Governor in Council, one of which inter alia deals with the terms and conditions of leases to non-Fijians and empowers the Board to grant leases up to a term of 99 years. Under another Regulation a Commissioner has been appointed to investigate the particulars of land to be proclaimed as Native Reserves. Local Committees, consisting of the District Commissioner as Chairman and representative members of the European, Indian and Fijian communities, were appointed by the Governor during the year, in each district, under the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Ordinance for the purpose of advising the Board on matters affecting native land.

Reservation of Land for Natives.- The Report refers to the determining and proclaiming as Native Reserves of the portions of land for the use, maintenance or support of each native proprietary unit as the most pressing administrative problem arising out of the enactment of the new Ordinance, and points out that until this is done, the Board will not be able to prepare comprehensive schemes for the opening up of land for settlement or give lessees the benefit of the maximum terms of leases prescribed by the regulations. Some progress has been reported in the enquiries of the Commissioner in certain closely settled sugar producing areas.

Reservation for Public Purposes.- In the tikina of Lambasa it was found possible, after consulting the native owners as to their requirements, to prepare a design for the subdivision of 2,441 acres of Crown and native land into suitable areas for leasing. In this design, provision was made for roads, 110 agricultural leases, 12 business sites, and for reservations for such ~~public~~ public purposes as schools and cemeteries. Lots were freely taken up by Indian applicants and the scheme provides a model for the future development of other large vacant areas.

(Unofficial Note dated 2-10-1941 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Note: Unofficial notes are not communications and are issued only on the understanding that they will not be referred to in any way in what is published.)

Annual Report of Protector of Immigrants, 1940.

Number of Indians in Employment.- According to the Annual Report for 1940 of the Protector of Indian Immigrants, Natal, there are approximately 34,000 Indians (men) employed in the province out of a total population of 40,151 (men) Indian Immigrants. In addition to these many are farming on their own account and carrying on other trades. A number of Indians are employed in the boot and shoe industry and as shop assistants and receive wages in accordance with Industrial Council agreements. The number of Indians employed and residing on the coal mines and allied industries is 1,922. This figure includes 363 women and 980 children.

Wages.- The average wages paid to Indian labourers on the estates was the same as in 1939, between 45s. to 60s. per month, including food, accommodation, medical attention and medicines free of charge. The wages paid to Indians employed on the mines remain about the same, 1/6d. to 2/6d. per shift. They also get food, quarters, medical assistance and medicines free of charge. A few Indians holding important positions received salaries ranging between £8 and £25 per month.

Education of Indian Children.- The number of Indian children attending Government and Government-aided Indian schools for the year under review was 26,694 as compared to 24,809 in the previous year. The schools provided for the education of Indian children were still far below the number required.

Relief Funds.- On 31-12-1940, 2,780 Indians were receiving grants of 10s per month out of Relief Funds for the indigent, aged and blind.

(Unofficial Note issued by the
Principal Information Officer,
Government of India). ✓

Indians in South Africa:
Agent General's Report for 1940.* ✓

Change in Status of Agent General.- The report points out that as from 1st January, 1941, the status of the Agent-General would be raised to that of High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa. Some apprehension was expressed in the Indian Press lest the change in status would weaken the High Commissioner's position as champion of the interests of the Indian community in that country, but the Indian community as a whole welcomed the change. It is pointed out that the new position would not preclude the Agent General from making representations on behalf of the Indian community

* Annual Report of the Agent-General for India in the Union of South Africa for the year ending 31st December, 1940. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Re.1 or 1s.6d.

in the Union ~~making representations on behalf of the Indian community in the Union~~ on matters covered by the Cape Town Agreement to the appropriate authorities, though he would express the views of the Government of India only.

General.- When compared with 1938 and 1939, the year under report has been comparatively uneventful. The most liberal elements in the country are also those most anxious for South Africa to take a prominent part in the defeat of Hitlerism. The brilliant achievements therefore of Indian troops in the Western desert and East Africa and the response which Indians in Natal have made to the call for recruits have to some extent strengthened the hands of all those who advocate the cause of Indians in the Union. There has been, however, little practical recognition in South Africa of the great part being played by India in the common cause. Among the definite setbacks deserving mention is the failure of the Natal Provincial Administration adequately to respond to the appeal of the Agent-General to make a substantial provision for the development of Indian education and for the free education of girls. One out of every two Indian children in Natal never go to school and of those who do, very few reach a secondary school. The only substantial advance during the year has been the introduction of a minimum wage for unskilled labourers in Durban and for employees in certain trades. The determination of the Wage Board, together with the implementing of the findings of a Committee on the wages of the railway staff, will undoubtedly result in a substantial rise in the standard of living of a large section of the poorest classes in the Indian community. There was also during the year a partial reversal of the White Labour Policy as applied to the railways, and for the first time for many years there has been an appreciable increase in the number of Indians employed by the Railway Administration.

Legislation:- (a) **Union Parliament.-** During the year a new party, the Reunited Party, was formed by General Hertzog and Dr. Malan, who led the Opposition in the S.A. Parliament. This party, with its strong pro-German tendencies, adopted a narrow racial policy and in January 1940 Dr. Malan moved a resolution for the segregation of non-Europeans and for the prevention of mixed marriages. In regard to the segregation legislation the Government decided ~~xxx~~ to appoint a Commissionⁿ to investigate the question of penetration of European areas by Asiatics in Natal and the Transvaal. Government also stated that it did not propose to introduce during the War any legislation to deal with the problem of mixed marriages.

The Sea Fisheries Act.- The maritime Provinces of the Cape and Natal had agreed some years ago to surrender their control over sea fisheries to the Union Government subject to certain conditions. Natal, which depends for its tourist traffic to some extent on the attractions which the Province can offer to anglers, had insisted on maintaining control on fishing in harbours, bays and from the foreshore. The only commercial fishing on the Natal coast is carried out by Indian fishermen. The Provincial Government has never displayed any interest in them, nor has it attempted to develop the industry. Their interests were always made subservient to those of anglers. The Indian fishermen therefore desired to be brought under the Union Government control, and sent a deputation to the Minister for Commerce and Industries. The Bill, however, as finally passed by the Union Legislature ~~extended~~ excluded Natal from the scope of the Bill. A resolution was passed by both Houses of Parliament approving regulations issued by the Governor-General under the Seashore Act

of 1935, providing for the setting aside of certain portions of beaches in the Cape Peninsula for the use of Europeans and non-Europeans separately. This led to protest on the ground that Government itself was introducing segregation. The Agent-General made representations to the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior, but it was not found possible to withdraw the regulations, especially as some of the Coloured leaders had agreed to them. The legality of these regulations has been subsequently challenged, but no ruling has yet been given by the Courts.

The Industrial Development Act.- This Act provides for the constitution of a Corporation to assist in the development of industrial concerns in the Union. At the Committee stage two amendments were moved by the opposition to the effect that all applications dealt with by the Corporation should be subject to the condition that strict segregation of European and Coloured workers shall be ~~ensured~~ and that due regard be had to the extent to which it is proposed to employ European labour, skilled and unskilled. The amendments were negatived.

Apprenticeship Act.- This contained nothing of a racial nature, but during the second reading, Dr. Malan moved an amendment to the effect that Government should appoint a Commission to enquire into and report upon the necessary measures, inter alia, for removing the undesirable relationships existing and increasing between the European and non-European races in the sphere of industrial labour and labour organisation. This amendment was subsequently dropped.

(b) Provincial Councils.

(1) The Transvaal.- In the Transvaal Provincial Council a motion was introduced that the Union Government be requested to fix quotas for Indian licences. The motion was, however, defeated. (2) Cape.- In July the Cape Provincial Council rejected a private member's motion to introduce an ordinance empowering local authorities to establish separate residential areas for Europeans and non-Europeans. An ordinance empowering a local authority to set aside separate camping grounds for European and non-Europeans was passed by the Cape Provincial Council. (3) Natal.- In the Natal Provincial Council, a "Town Boards, Health Committees and Malaria Committees Ordinance" was passed. One of the clauses provided for separate tea-rooms for the various races. The Ordinance was passed with the provision for separate tea and eating rooms.

Indian Political Organisations.- In November, 1939, the Natal Indian Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association amalgamated to form the Natal Indian Association. Shortly afterwards, however, differences arose, and ~~there~~ two parties were formed. Apart from personal rivalries, the main difference between the two sections is in their attitude to the Lawrence Committee; partly as a result of the impasse, the South African Indian Congress has practically ceased to function. The Congress has not met since February, 1935, and there has not been a meeting of even the Executive Committee since May 1939.

Broome Commission.- On 23-5-1940, the Union Government appointed a Commission, with Justice F.N. Broome as Chairman, "to enquire into and report whether, and if so, to what extent, Indians have since the 1st January, 1927, commenced occupation of or acquired sites for trading or for residential purposes in predominantly European areas in the Provinces of Natal and the Transvaal (excluding land proclaimed under the Precious and Base Metals Act, 1908, as amended, of the Transvaal), and the reasons for such occupation or acquisition."

So far as the Transvaal is concerned, the cases of penetration falling within the terms of ~~the~~ reference do not appear to be numerous and there was not much sign of intense anti-Indian feeling.

Indians in Industry: Improvement of Wages and Better Amenities.

Unskilled Labour in Durban.- Early in 1940 the Wage Board recommendations in connection with unskilled labour in ~~the~~ Durban and district were discussed with the Secretary for Labour. At one time it was feared that the Durban City Council would oppose the recommendations as it was estimated that they would result in increased cost to the Municipality of some £.80,000. In September 1940 the Union Government notified the findings of the Wage Board for unskilled labour in Durban. The minimum wage of daily labourers was fixed at 4/- per day and that of employees other than daily labourers at £1 per week after a year's employment. As the pay of many Indian labourers employed by the Municipality varied from £2 to £3-10-0 per month with rations which are valued at 10/- a month, it is clear that a great improvement has been effected.

Railway Labour.- During February 1940 the Minister of Railways and Harbours appointed a Departmental Committee to investigate and report on the ~~Indian~~ wages and service conditions of the non-European staff. Some 400 Indians are employed in the Railway Administration in Natal. The Railways and Harbours Indian Employees' Union supported by the Natal Indian Association made representations to the Committee in Durban. They recommended considerable increases in the present rates of pay; the grant of annual leave and sick leave; the payment of wages to those injured on duty during the days they are in hospital; the issue of privilege tickets in respect of employees' children for travelling on the railways; the provision of good housing; an improved system of gratuity or alternatively a pension scheme, and some minor improvements as regards rations. It was recommended that the minimum wage for Indian labourers should not in any case be lower than that fixed for other non-Europeans performing similar duties nor should the minimum be lower than that suggested by the Wage Board for unskilled labour in Durban. Later in the year, the Minister of Railways and Harbours announced very considerable increases in the monthly rates of wages of Indian railway employees as a result of the recommendations of the Committee. Various minor improvements, including an improved ration scale, also have been introduced. The decision to afford greater scope for the employment of Indians in the Railways and Harbours is already producing results. In 1920 there were 2,844 Indians employed. As a result of the White Labour Policy, the number fell to 478 in January 1939. It was 481 in January, 1940, and had risen to 533 by October, 1940.

General.- The more important other matters noticed in the report are: education, housing conditions, and medical relief and treatment of blind persons. ✓1

34

Post-War Migration Policy:
Greater Facilities for Indian Emigration. ✓

Speaking on "The Problem of Asiatic Lebensraum" at the inaugural meeting of the Economics Club at Cawnpore on 13-9-1941, Professor Radha Kamal Mukerjee of Lucknow University stressed that the Atlantic Charter should be supplemented by a Pacific Charter for guaranteeing the economic security and standard of living of the Asiatic peoples.

Claims of India.- Emphasising the claims of India, he pointed out that regional collaboration during the war has brought India within the ambit of the southern federation as the eastern arsenal of the democracies, producing manufactures from the raw materials of the Pacific Colonies and Dominions on one side and the African territories on the other. Such regional collaboration is utterly inconsistent with the continuation of the policy of Indian exclusion followed in these parts of the Empire. Post war economic reconstruction will demand that at least within the British Empire the barred door must be thrown open by a new ~~Charter~~ ^{for} Emigrants which will direct planned agricultural settlement of Indian farmers and colonists in Australia, Canada, South and East Africa, and the West Indies.

Need for Freer Immigration.- Instead of such enlightened policies in keeping with the spirit of the times animating the immigration policy, he pointed out that certain opposite tendencies were at work. In the south and east of Asia is to-day confined more than half of the human race to an area which represents only 14 per cent. of the globe surface. On the opposite ~~xxx~~ shores of the Pacific ocean in the United States, Canada, South America and in Australia there are vast manless spaces to which the flowing myriads from China, Japan and India are denied admission. Within the Asiatic continent Indo-China, Mongolia, Netherlands East Indies, Malaya and recently Burma, under European control, have passed stringent regulations to restrict the immigration of orientals.

Economically, though not geographically and politically, Burma was part of India. There is a vast amount of Indian capital which has been invested in the land, in trade and in industry in Burma while the contribution of Indian workers towards the reclamation of the jungle and marsh cannot be easily brushed aside. The entry fee imposed in the recent agreement for the grant of permits to labourers and artisans is prohibitive, while ~~xxx~~ the period of 7 years prescribed for a person to obtain the status of a privileged immigrant is unduly long. Further, the Burma Government have reserved wide powers to limit the number of immigrants of all classes which is inconsistent with amicable trade and economic relations with India.

Post-War International Plan for Migration.- Since world peace is indivisible, the new economic order cannot be introduced in the West without some European nations sacrificing some of their independent rights in the interest of a co-operative international plan in the Pacific for giving facilities for migration and colonisation to the crowded and impoverished peoples of India, China and Japan.

Higher Wage Standards and Population Restriction in Oriental Countries.- On the other hand, the ~~States~~ ^{States} should accept the obligation of maintaining internationally agreed minimum living and wage standards, if need be by population restriction. Mere political adjustment without ~~an~~ elimination of the basic demogenic causes of war cannot bring about enduring peace in the world. (The Guardian, 2-10-1941)

Radha. ✓

Settlement of Indo-Ceylon Problems:
Conference held in Colombo. ✓

Reference was made at page 27 of our July 1941 report to the invitation extended by the Ceylon Government to the Government of India to send representatives to Ceylon to discuss outstanding problems between the two countries. The Government of India accepted the invitation and sent in September 1941 a delegation headed by Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Member of the Government of India in Charge of Education, Health and Lands. The Indian delegation consisted, besides Sir Girja Shankar, of Sir Mirza Ismail (former Dewan of Mysore State), Mr. T.R. Venkatarama Sastri and Mr. T.G. Rutherford, with Mr. G.S. Bozman and Mr. Vithal Pai as Advisers.

The Ceylon representatives were Mr. Senanayake (Leader of the Delegation), Mr. G.C.S. Corea (both Ministers of the Ceylon Government), Mr. H.J. Huxam (Financial Secretary) and Mr. R.H. Deayton (Legal Secretary).

The exploratory Conference commenced its sitting on 5-9-1941 and lasted for about two weeks. The tentative conclusions arrived at are to be placed before the Government of India and the Standing Committee for Emigration before being made public. ✓

The Draft Unberthed Passenger Ships Rules, 1941. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 1338 to 1355 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 20-9-1941 where is published the text of the Unberthed Passenger Ships Rules, 1941, which the Government of India proposes to promulgate. The Rules relate to (1) the supply of food, fuel and water, (2) hospital arrangements, (3) latrines, (4) washing places, (5) cooking-ranges, (6) Licensing and appointment of medical officers and their functions, (7) instruments for purposes of navigation, etc. The Rules and criticisms thereon from those interested are to be taken into consideration by 20-12-1941. ✓

Draft Indian Merchant Shipping (Additional Life-Saving Appliances)
(No. 2) Rules, 1941. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 1336 to 1337 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 20-9-1941 where are published the Indian Merchant Shipping (Additional Life-Saving Appliances) (No.2) Rules, 1941, which the Government of India proposes promulgating. These Rules are supplementary to the Indian Merchant Shipping (Life-saving Appliances) Rules, 1934, and to the Indian Merchant Shipping (Additional Life-Saving Appliances) Rules, 1941. The Rules and the criticisms thereon by those interested are to be taken into consideration by 1-11-1941. ✓

Conditions of Service in Two Railways to be taken over by Government: Notice of Resolution in Assembly for Appointment of Committees. ✓

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmed has given notice of a resolution which he intends moving in the forthcoming October-November 1941 session of the Central Assembly; the resolution recommends to the Governor-General in Council to appoint two committees to which non-officials may also be attached to examine and recommend the conditions of service and the manner of absorption of the staff of the Bombay, Baroda & Central India and the Assam Bengal Railways in general cadre of Railway Services with further instruction that the Committees should not recognise special promotions, changes in conditions of service and new recruitments, in contravention of the resolution of the Home Department of 1934, made after the notice of the termination of the contract of these two Companies.

(Legislative Assembly Papers dated 16-9-1941.) ✓

Railway Services Medical Attendance Rules, 1941

The Secretary of State for India has drawn up two sets of Rules relating to medical attendance of Indian Railway servants. The first applies to Railway services, Class I, and the other to officers other than those who are members of Railway Service, Class I, and are appointed in the Indian Railways by the Secretary of State in Council.

(Notification No. E-39-M.E-1/2-I and II dated 12-9-1941: The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 20-9-1941, Pages 1379 to 1381.) ✓

Revision of Salary Scales of Low-paid State Servants in Bhopal State ✓

His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal has ordered the State Finance Department to carry out an immediate investigation of salaries of all low paid state servants with a view to revising the scales of pay where necessary so as to enable State servants to maintain themselves adequately under present conditions. This information was supplied to the Bhopal Legislative Council on 14-9-1941 by the Finance Member of the State, in a debate on a non-official resolution recommending the grant of a specified dearness allowance to all State employees earning less than Rs.100 monthly "in view of the rise in the cost of living". The Finance Member added that the State Government had been investigating the salaries of all its low paid employees and suitable action would be taken in the matter as soon as the requisite data was available.

(The Statesman, 15-9-1941.) ✓

38

Bombay Government Employees' Demand for
Dearness Allowance. +

A meeting of the representatives of various Government Employees' Unions in Bombay was held under the auspices of the All-India Government Employees' Federation at Bombay on 13-9-1941. Mr. S.C. Joshi, Secretary of the Federation, speaking at the meeting, referred to the present cost of living and said that the prices of articles constituting the necessities of life have increased very much. The efforts of the Government to meet the situation by controlling the prices have failed and the rise in prices soon became so abnormal that Government was compelled to sanction some sort of allowance to enable its lowest paid employees to meet the situation. Mr. Joshi said that the rise in prices continued its forward march and he estimated it at about 50 per cent. over the level in 1934. The allowances sanctioned when the rise was about 12 per cent. have thus become extensively inadequate. There is immediate need for sanction of *fresh* allowance to every member of the low paid subordinate and inferior services in the country.

The Federation has decided to start a vigorous propaganda for adequate dearness allowance and to arrange meetings to voice the demands of salaried employees. It was announced that a conference of ~~the~~ Government Employees will be held in Bombay very soon. Among those who attended the meeting was Mr. N.M. Joshi.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 15-9-1941.) ✓ +

39

LIVING CONDITIONS

Housing

The Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1941. ✓

The Bengal Government intends introducing a Bill shortly to make better provision relating to the law of landlord and tenant in respect of certain non-agricultural ~~tenants~~ tenancies in Bengal; ~~and~~ the Government has considered the Report of the Non-Agricultural Land Enquiry Committee and is of the opinion that notwithstanding the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the non-agricultural tenants who hold lands under a lease for residential, business, manufacturing or other purposes are in need of better security. The Bill has been drafted to provide for certain protective rights (right of renewal of lease on fair terms, right of transfer on payment of a landlord's transfer fee, right to payment of compensation under certain circumstances in cases of eviction, etc.), and also to confer other incidental, but necessary, rights on the non-agricultural tenants.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary,
Part IV-A dated 5-9-1941, pages
142 to 156.) ✓ +

Workers' Organisations +

"Recognition" of S.I. Railway Employees' Association, Trichinopoly, ✓

The Agent and General Manager of the South Indian Railway met the office-bearers of the ~~S.I.~~ S.I. Railway Employees' Association at Trichinopoly on 23-8-1941 and informed them that he was granting recognition to the Association subject to the approval of the Home Board. The Agent desired that the Association should definitely understand that the Administration was not opposed to trade unionism. The policy of the Administration in regard to staff discipline, he said, had been clearly enunciated. No employee was liable to be discharged or dismissed from the Company's service except as a result of flagrant disregard of the rules, or disobedience of the orders of ~~the~~ constituted authority. Every employee had the right of appeal to the Agent and General Manager who, as far as possible, personally dealt with each appeal independently without being influenced by departmental recommendations or decisions.

(The Hindu, 1-9-1941.) ✓+

"Recognition" of All-India Telegraph Workmen's Union, Lahore. ✓

Under orders of the Government of India, the Posts and Telegraphs Department has accorded its recognition to the All-India Telegraph Workmen's Union with its affiliated branches throughout India. The Union's head office is in Lahore. Diwan Chamanlal, M.L.A. (Punjab), is its President while Rana Jang Bahadur Singh, Assistant Editor of the Tribune, and Mr. Gian Chand Khanna are General Secretary and Secretary respectively.

(The Statesman, 7-9-1941.) ✓+

Progress of All-India Anti-Fascist Trades Union Council Movement. ✓+

Reference was made at pages 29-31 of the report of this office for July, 1941, to a rift in Indian trade union ranks over the issue of participation in war activities and the formation of an anti-Fascist All-India Trades Union Council pledged to active support of war efforts. The Committee of the Anti-Fascist Trades Union Council at a meeting held ^{at Bombay} on 15-9-1941, adopted the following resolution welcoming the proposal to set up a joint Anglo-Soviet Trades Union Council:

"The All-India Anti-Fascist Trades Union Council, representing over 150,000 workers and 70 unions from all parts of India, welcomes the move of the British T.U.C. to set up a joint Anglo-Soviet Trades Union Council to intensify the anti-Fascist struggle and to safeguard

the interests of the workers in the course of that struggle. The Council regards this move as an essential part of the international anti-Fascist peoples' front that is developing in the world. The Council assures the British T.U.C. and the Russian Trades Union Centre of the wholehearted support of the Indian workers to this front, and condemns the attempt of the so-called All-India Trade Union Congress to wean away the Indian workers from that front, and dissociates itself in the name of Indian workers from the Trade Union Congress' attitude towards the anti-Fascist war. This Council further pledges its support to all war efforts for the destruction of Fascism."

(The Bombay Chronicle, 17-9-41.)

Stressing the need for a central organisation which will co-ordinate the struggle of the workers for their economic and political rights under the conditions of war, Mr. G.L. Kandalkar, an ex-President of the A.-I.T.U.C. and a supporter of the anti-Fascist front, points out in a press statement issued on 25-9-1941:-

"The development of Indian resources has been a very vital factor in this war and will contribute largely to the defeat of Hitler and destruction of Fascism. The consequent spurt of industrialisation in the country is making Indian labour an increasingly important factor and yet it is not adequately compensated for its vital contribution. The lack of organisation has allowed the benefit of increased production and profits to go entirely to the owners, while the rise in prices during the last two years of war has steadily deteriorated the conditions of work and the standard of living of the workers. Any concession to workers could be realised only on the basis of co-operation in the war effort. The sanctions required therefore to extract these concessions have to be forged through mass organisation of workers and their simultaneous participation in the anti-Fascist peoples' movement."

(The Hindustan Times, 27-9-1941)

Resident Women Uplift Workers in Villages:
scheme prepared by Special Committee of the All-India Women's
Conference. ✓+

The Special Committee appointed by the All-India Women's Conference for the investigation of a project for village reconstruction held a session at the Lady Irwin College for Home Science, New Delhi, from 8 to 11-9-1941. The plan for work and report drawn up at this meeting after reviewing the 40 answers to their questionnaire and considering the possibilities of resident workers for villages, will be placed before the annual conference of the All-India Women's Conference to be held at Rajamundry in December 1941.

Lady Rama Rau is the Chairwoman of the Committee, and Mrs. Margaret Cousins the Convener.

(The Statesman, 12-9-1941.) ✓

Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in Bombay, 1940-41.* ✓

Employment Situation.- The Backward Class Officer, in his report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act in Bombay Province for the year ended 31-3-1941, says that there was a slight improvement in the employment situation regarding skilled labour from settlements and free colonies in textile mills and factories - mainly due to the starting of night shifts in the textile mills at Ahmedabad and Hubli. Work was provided for more persons in stone quarries and tank construction.

Population Statistics.- The settled population of the Criminal Tribes Settlements on 31-3-1941 was 5,820, against 6,315 in the preceding year. The number of registered persons under the Act was 1,902. The population of the free colonies was 8,819, including 946 registered persons, against 8,394 in the previous year. During the year 116 persons were newly entered in settlements. The number released on probation was 1,041.

Housing.- The policy of constructing decent huts for the settlers and probations is progressing. Loans for building the huts are advanced by Settlement Credit Societies and recovered in small settlements. When the loan is repaid in full, the house becomes the property of the occupant.

Education.- Education in settlements is compulsory. Of the total population of 5,820 in settlement proper, 1,169 children attended the day schools and 218 attended the night schools, the figures for free colonies being 1,469 and 224 respectively. Vocational training was continued and 121 students - mostly boys - were apprenticed to various trades, such as carpentry, weaving and agriculture. There were in addition 282 boys and girls in the settlement manual training classes. Efforts to promote literacy among the adults were continued and in some settlements the classes for adults were ~~separate~~ combined with the night classes for adolescents.

* Annual Administration Report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Province of Bombay for the year ending 31-3-1941. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. 1941. Price ~~Rux~~ Re.0-2-0 or 3d. pp. 31. ✓

Health of School Children:
Inquiry Committee appointed by Government of India. ✓

Acting on the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Health and the Central Advisory Board of Education, that practical steps could be taken by the educational authorities in co-operation with health authorities to improve the physical condition of school children, the Government of India has appointed a committee consisting of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India and five other members to report on the dual question of the teaching of hygiene in schools and of the medical inspection of school children. The committee will meet at New Delhi in the first week of November, 1941.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-9-1941.) ✓

Wages

Dearness Allowance to Low-paid Government Servants in U.P. *

The Government of the United Provinces has sanctioned the following scheme of dearness allowance:

A dearness allowance of one anna per rupee of the monthly pay will be granted to whole-time Government servants drawing a pay of Rs. 30 per mensem or less when the prices as indicated by certain price indices which the Government has been collecting, show a rise of ~~25~~ 25 per cent. or more over the pre-war (i.e., ~~1939~~ August-September 1939) level for two consecutive calendar months. It will accrue for the first time on the expiry of these two months, i.e., from the first day of the third month. The allowance will be continued until the prices fall below the 25 per cent. level mentioned above for two consecutive calendar months, the discontinuance taking effect from the first day of the third month.

All whole-time Government servants drawing a pay of Rs. 30 per mensem or less, excepting patwaris, village chowkidars and part-time servants, but including piece-workers, inferior servants, and members of the work-charged establishments, are eligible for the allowance, irrespective of whether they are permanent or temporary and whether their pay is met from the establishment section of the budget or from contingencies ~~or~~ or 'work'.

The scheme comes into effect from 1-9-1941, in the whole of the United Provinces except the Gorakhpur and Benares divisions; the prices in these excepted divisions have not yet risen to the level indicated above.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-9-1941.)

Dearness Allowance to Low-paid Government servants
in Sind.

An assurance that the Sind Government would sanction dearness allowance for low-paid staff as soon as they found that the prices of staple food-stuffs had risen by 50 per cent. as compared to the pre-war level was given by the Premier of Sind, Khan Bahadur Allah Baksh, to a Congress deputation, which waited upon him on 8-9-1941. The Premier added that the rate of dearness allowance would be rupee one per month for employees drawing less than Rs.16, rupees two for those drawing Rs.16 and up to Rs.30.

(The Hindu, 10-9-1941.) +

Grant of Dearness Allowance in Silk and Art Silk Mills,
Bombay.

The silk and art silk mills in Bombay, associated with the Silk and Art Silk Mills' Association, have decided to grant dearness allowance to their workers on the basis of a sliding scale linked with the movement of the official cost of living index number for the city of Bombay. The allowance will be at the rate of As. 2-9 per day when the

index number moves between 129 and 133 and will be raised by a quarter of an anna for the rise in the index number by every two points. The decision about the revised scale of allowance will come into force with effect from August 1941.

(The Times of India, 20-9-1941.) +

Sholapur Textile Mill Workers:
Further rise in Dearness Allowance. +

The management of the five ^{hospitals} mills at Sholapur, announced that an increase in the existing rate of the dearness allowance will be granted to all the workers of the mills with effect from August 1941.

According to the terms of the settlement arrived at between the workers and the managements of the Sholapur Mills in April, 1940, dearness allowance at a flat rate of one anna per worker per day of attendance is being paid to all operatives of the Sholapur Mills to cover variations in the Sholapur cost of living index number between 74 and 85. ~~for any period of three consecutive months, adjustments of the agreed dearness allowance might be made.~~

The official index number has, for the first time, exceeded the upward limit specified in the terms of the settlement and it touched 86 for the month of August 1941. The management have decided that one anna per worker per working day be granted in addition to the present dear food allowance of one anna as long as the Sholapur working class cost of living index number is within the limits of 86 to 92 (both inclusive), and that 1-3/4 annas, in addition to the present dear food allowance of one anna, per worker per working day should be granted when the index number exceeds 92 and is 100 and below.

(The Times of India, 30-9-1941.) +

Demand for Increased Dearness Allowance by A.-I.R.F.

At a special meeting of the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation held at Madras on 5-9-1941, resolutions were passed urging the grant of increased dearness allowance to railway workers. The resolutions (1) invited the attention of the Railway Board to the further substantial rise in the cost of living since the grant of dearness allowance to railwaymen as a result of the Rau Court Recommendations; expressed the view that the increase is on the whole not less than ten points over the base on which the initial scale of allowance was recommended by the Rau Court of Inquiry; urged further relief of not less than rupees 3/- per mensem per head for all classes of employees in consonance with the scale recommended by the Rau Court of Inquiry; and (4) recommended that as the existing dearness allowance grant is confined to those on a bare subsistence level, the rise in the cost of living subsequent to the Rau Report must bring within the relief employees earning Rs. 100/- or less per month.

The relief claimed by the Council is supported by the fact that substantial increases in dearness allowance have been already

46

sanctioned by employers in big industrial centres like Bombay, Ahmedabad, Cawnpore and other places. The Council has urged the Railway Board to fix an early date for a meeting with the Federation to discuss the question, and has suggested 22-9-1941 for the purpose.

(The Railwaymen's Herald, Bombay, 15-9-1941.

Technical Education.

Bevin Training Scheme : More Liberal Terms.

The terms on which 'Bevin boys' (vide pages 30-31 of the report of this Office for November 1940) are recruited from India for industrial training for war production in England have now been revised, the allowances, etc., being slightly increased.

The scheme is confined to young workmen (but not below the age of 18) of the engineering trades, who have worked in factories. Instead of receiving pocket money at the rate of Rs. 18 to Rs. 24 per month during the whole period of training, trainees will now receive wages at 59s. a week, on the completion of their preliminary training out of which they will pay for their board and lodging; a complete outfit of clothing suitable for wear in England; the usual subsistence allowance of Rs. 20 per month during the period of the voyage, and a special allowance of Re. 1 per day during stays in ports. A separation allowance of Rs. 35 per month ~~are~~ paid to the wives of married men during their absence from India. The Government of India, in the event of a trainee's death or disablement as a result of enemy action, will pay compensation in accordance with the principles of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The first batch of Bevin Boys who will shortly complete training in England will return to India before the end of January 1942 and will be employed for specially skilled work in selected munition factories. The third batch which has now been fully recruited will sail for England shortly. Recruitment has begun for fourth batch.

(The Times of India 5-9-1941 and the
Bombay Chronicle, 25-9-1941.)

Skilled Labour for Eastern Group Projects: 6,000 workers in India to be trained by September 1942.

The Indian workman in military and civil workshops, although being asked to work to limits far finer than those to which he had been trained, is reported to have responded quickly to new requirements. Special attention has been given to the problem of training the large numbers of junior technical supervisory staff and skilled and semi-skilled artisans required for the expansion of the Ordnance Factories. Most of the requirements in these categories are for workers in mechanical engineering trades. The manufacture of guns, machine guns, rifles and ammunition for which they are needed demands a high standard of skill. The attainment of adequate results in the time available is therefore possibly only by careful selection and supervision of trainees. At the outbreak of the war there were 88

apprentices and 300 boy artisans under training in these factories. By 1-4-1941, there were 132 apprentices and 892 boy artisans and every factory was doing as much as possible with the staff and equipment available to train the men required for its own expansion. These efforts have produced excellent results, but to meet the unprecedented demand for junior supervisory staff and artisans required for Eastern Group projects a comprehensive scheme ~~for~~ of training has been introduced. This scheme provides for training by 1-9-1942 ten Assistant Works Managers, 1300 Supervisors and 6,000 skilled and semi-skilled artisans. The cost of the Scheme of nearly Rs. 2,500,000 is being borne by His Majesty's Government. Six Assistant Works Managers under training and 2,750 men of other grades are receiving systematic instruction in the Ordnance Factories. These numbers do not include unskilled men under training to semi-skilled grade II standard. The large numbers of such men required for repetition work are trained, as the necessity arises, on the work they are required to perform, this period of instruction being normally from two to six weeks. In many cases specially selected staffs from Indian Ordnance Factories have been sent on deputation to the United Kingdom to study the latest production methods.

(Unofficial Note dated 22-9-1941
issued by the Principal Information
Officer, Government of India.)

(N.B. Unofficial Notes issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, are not communiques and are issued only on the understanding that they will not be referred to in any way in what is published.) +

Employment

Reservation of Posts in Central Government Services to Emergency Commissioned Ranks in Indian States Forces.

On 8-3-1941, the Government of India had announced that fifty per cent. of vacancies in the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Police and the other Central Services will be kept unfilled with a view to their being made available after the war to be filled by suitable candidates with war service who joined the emergency commissioned ranks of the Indian Army. It is now announced for general information that service in the emergency commissioned ranks in the Indian States Forces will also be deemed to be war service for the purpose of the concessions mentioned above.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-9-1941.) +

Recruitment

Decentralised Recruitment to I.M.S.: Provincial Recruitment Committees with non-official Members.

One of the decisions reached at the informal conference on recruitment to the Indian Medical Service held at Simla in July 1941 was that

the procedure for recruitment should be decentralised and adequate machinery for the purpose should be set up in the provinces. It was recommended that in the major provinces the selection board should consist of five members, two of whom would be non-officials, while in the minor provinces the board should consist of three members one of whom would be a non-official. This recommendation has been accepted by the Government of India.

The recommendation made by the same conference that a central advisory body should be set up which would review the progress of the arrangements then proposed for improving recruitment has also been accepted by the Central Government. This Committee of five members, includes two Indian non-official members of the medical profession.

(The A.B. Patrika, 29-9-1941.) +

War Supply and Production

India's Increasing Contribution to War Production: 12,000 Technicians and 400 Items of War Requirements: Mr. Hydari's Statement.

The increased contribution made by India in the second year of the war was recently reviewed by Mr. M.S.A. Hydari, Indian Member, Eastern Group Supply Council, in a statement. The following is a summary of the statement.

Since the setting up in February 1941 of a central co-ordinating body in the shape of the Eastern Group Supply Council to ensure that supplies to the forces operating in the Eastern Group area should be speedy and efficient, notable improvements have been registered in war production. In this body India occupies a notable place, partly because of her central geographical position, and partly also because of her achievements in the realm of supply. Between the outbreak of war and the establishment of the Council it was India on which fell a large part of the responsibility for the maintenance of the forces in Egypt and east of Suez. India now supplies about 75 per cent of the many thousands of articles grouped under the term "war equipments"; and they are of great variety - textiles, leather goods, engineering stores, armaments of various sorts, chemicals, drugs, to mention only a few main heads. India's production of steel, which is the basis of so many articles of war supply, is as much as that of any country in the Eastern Group and bigger than that of most; and it is increasing. She has in operation a great scheme of technical training designed to produce 15,000 technicians for ~~the~~ her war industries in 12 months. Some of these men are already trickling into the workshops and there is constant search for new capacity. During the last seven months of the Council's existence capacity has been found in India for something like 400 items of war supplies for which it had been stated previously that India had no capacity.

(The Statesman, 4-9-1941.) +

Four Advisers to Eastern Group Council Chairman appointed:
Council Secretariat Arrangements. .

Four advisers have been appointed to the Chairman of the Eastern Group Supply Council in his capacity as a representative of the United Kingdom on the Council. Consequently, salaries of these advisers will be paid not by the Council but by the United Kingdom.

These appointments do not imply any departure from the established policy of the Council, for each delegation is assisted by advisers chosen from among its own nationals and paid by its own Government, except the Indian delegation which is advised by the departments of the Government of India. Each member of the Council has his own personal secretariat, financed by his Government. In addition, there is the Council Secretariat, which is under the chairman, the cost of which is shared equally between the United Kingdom on the one hand, the Group countries on the other. Since the Council happens to be located in India the Council Secretariat consists mostly of Indian nationals.

(The Statesman, 14-9-1941.) +

Textile Supplies for War:
Conference held in Bombay.

Questions affecting supplies of cotton textiles to meet the requirements of India and the Eastern Group countries during the war were discussed at a conference of the representatives of cotton textile interests from various parts of the country with the Commerce and Supply Members of the Government of India, held in Bombay on 8 and 9-9-1941.

The Supply Member's Speech.- Opening the Conference, the Supply Member, the Hon'ble Sir H.P. Mody, said that India occupied today a predominant position as a source of supply of cotton textiles to the Eastern Group countries both for civil and military requirements. The needs of those countries and India had grown rapidly during the past 12 months and the supply position had recently become somewhat acute. He had no doubt that India could and would rise to the occasion and find means by voluntary effort to solve the problem. Many millowners, said Sir Homi Mody, had given tangible proof of their anxiety not to exploit the situation, but to meet it in a spirit of fairness, both to Government and to themselves. There was a section, however, which had either held aloof altogether from the war effort or had shown a manifest desire to take the fullest possible advantage of the needs of the hour. He hoped the latter class will soon fall in line with the others and thus prevent the present situation from developing in a manner prejudicial to the common interest.

Decisions of the Conference: (1) Transfer of Textile Section of Supply Department to Bombay.- A general agreement to ensure adequate supplies of cotton textiles to meet the defence requirements of Government was concluded at the Conference. The scheme agreed to by the Supply and Commerce Members, on the one hand, and the spokesmen of the millowners on the other, envisages the transfer of the textiles

section of the Department of Supply from Delhi to Bombay, the appointment of an Advisory Committee representing the millowners to advise Government on problems relating to textile supplies, the distribution of war orders for textiles on a wider basis, and negotiations for fixing prices of war orders. It is understood that the Planning Directorate of Textiles will be transferred to Bombay in October 1941.

(ii) Advisory Committee of Millowners to be set up.- An Advisory Committee is to be formed consisting of eleven representatives of the Millowners' Association from Bombay, Ahmedabad, Cawnpore, Coimbatore, Baroda and Calcutta. This panel will advise the Department on the question of distribution of war orders, which will be spread among all mills, so that a smooth supply of textiles could be ensured by Government.

(iii) Price Regulation for War Supplies.- On the question of prices to be paid for war supplies, it was suggested that the rates paid by Government during May, June and July 1941 should be the basis of future contract rates, which should be adjusted in accordance with the increased cost of manufacture since that period.

(iv) Hand-loom Industry.- It is understood that the handloom weaving industry will also be fully utilized by Government for executing war orders for textiles, especially bandage cloth. The Conference, therefore, discussed the question of securing adequate supplies of cotton yarn for the handloom industry.

(v) Civilian Supplies.- The Conference devoted considerable time to the question of supplies and prices of cotton textiles, including yarn, to the civil market. It came to the conclusion that an increase in production of cloth and yarn was the only effective solution to the problem. The leaders of the delegations from various Millowners' Associations then stated their general attitude to the problems at issue.

(The September 1941 issue of the
Indian Textile Journal, Bombay.)

Post-War Economic Reconstruction:
Government of India appoints Consultative Committee.

The Government of India has appointed a Consultative Committee of economists in connection with the task of exploring post-war difficulties. The first meeting of the Committee will be held at New Delhi on 23-10-1941 presided ~~over~~ by the Hon. Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member. The personnel consists mostly of Professors of Economics of the more important Indian Universities.

(The Bombay Chronicle 5-9-1941.)

Social Insurance.

The Sind Government Provident Funds (Temporary Relaxation)
Rules, 1941.

The Sind Government has, as a war measure, issued Rules relaxing the provisions of the Government Provident Fund Rules in so far as

they apply to all civilian personnel under the rule-making control of the Governor of Sind, who at any time after the 2nd September 1939, have been, or may hereafter be, transferred temporarily to naval, military or air force employ. If any person to whom these rules apply is a subscriber to a Government Provident Fund, the contributions of the subscriber ~~taxes~~ and the Government are, for the period of his employment in the naval, military or air force to be calculated on the basis of the total emoluments which he would have drawn had he continued to be in civil employ, and his subscription to the Fund is for the period, if any, of his employment outside India in such forces to be optional, provided that if he exercises the option not to subscribe for any such period, the Government contribution, if any, to his account in the Fund shall cease for that period.

(Notification No. 874-B dated 1-9-1941:
The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 11-9-1941, pages 781 to 782.).

War Risks Insurance:

War Risks Goods Insurance: Premium Rate fixed by Government of India.

The Government of India has fixed the rate of premium payable under any policy of insurance issued under the War Risks Goods Insurance Rules during the quarter ending December 1941 at one anna for each complete sum of Rs. 100 or any part thereof per month.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 20-9-41).

Industrial Health and Safety

Smoke-Nuisance Bye-Laws: No Exemption for War Factories in Cawnpore.

At a meeting of the Cawnpore Municipal Board held on 5-9-1941, it was resolved unanimously that no exemption should be granted to factories engaged in the production of war goods from the operation of the smoke nuisance bye-laws.

The Controller of Supplies, U.P., had recommended that exemption might be granted to factories which were engaged in the production of war materials and which had extended their plant and ordered suitable boilers and coal, etc. The Factories Inspector, however, was of the opinion that the factories which had applied for exemption appeared to be chronic offenders.

(The Statesman, 8-9-1941.) +

Protection of Factories in War-time: Order issued by Government of Madras.

Reference was made at page 51 of our May 1941 report to the steps taken by the Government of India to empower Provincial Governments

to adopt certain safety measures in regard to factory buildings in order to reduce damage from air attacks. In pursuance of these steps the Government of Madras has imposed certain requirements as to layout, materials and construction in the case of factory buildings which may hereafter be erected, extended or structurally altered, for the purpose of rendering them less vulnerable to air raids and affording better protection to persons using or resorting to them. In certain specified areas, all such buildings which are of real importance to the war effort or to the economy of the country should comply with the requirements as to layout, materials and construction specified by the Government. Every person intending to erect, extend, or structurally alter any building in which any manufacturing process is, or is proposed to be carried on should, before beginning such erection, extension or structural alteration apply to the Provincial Government or to the Chief Inspector of Factories for information as to whether the provisions contained in this order will apply to the building.

(Order No. 172 dated 5-9-1941: Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated 9-9-1941, page 1058.)

Control Measures.

Amendment to Iron and Steel (Control of Distribution) Order, 1941.

Reference was made at page 39-40 of our July 1941 report to the Iron and Steel (Control of Distribution) Order, 1941, issued by the Government of India on 26-7-1941 and at pages 45 to 46 of our August 1941 report to the grievances of iron and hardware merchants. The Government of India has now amended clause 7 which relates to certain exceptions to the Order.

(Notification No. 530 dated 16-9-1941: The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 20-9-1941 page 1373.)

Control of Rents Charged by Hotels and Lodging Houses in Naini Tal: Orders of U.P. Government.

Two orders - the Naini Tal Hotels and Lodging Houses Control Order and the Naini Tal House Rent Control Order - have been issued by the Government of the United Provinces under the Defence of India Rules. The Orders extend to the municipal and cantonment areas of Naini Tal and provide that if on a written complaint or otherwise the Controller has reason to believe that the charges made are excessive, he shall hold a summary inquiry and determine a fair rate to be charged, having full regard to the prevailing rates. An appeal to the Deputy Commissioner of Kumaon Division has been allowed against the order of the Controller.

(The Statesman, 19-9-1941.)

Amendment to Simla House Rent Control Order, 1941. .

The Department of Labour, Government of India, had, among its various rent control measures, adopted one for Simla. It is now sought to amend the Control measure so as to provide that if a tenant in possession wishes to extend the period of tenancy by not less than six, and not more than twelve, months, he may give the landlord, not less than one month before the expiry of the tenancy a written notice of his intention; and that upon the delivery of such notice, the tenancy shall be deemed to have been extended for the period specified in the notice. The landlord, however, can terminate the tenancy for certain stipulated reasons - the house being required for his personal use, tenant not fulfilling conditions of tenancy, ~~etc.~~

(Notification No. B52 dated 3-10-1941,
pages 641 to 642.).

54

List of more important publications received in this Office during
September, 1941. ✓

Conditions of Work.-

- 1) The Safety First Association of India. Report of the Council, Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 1940. The Times of India Press, Bombay. 1941.
- 2) Report on the working of the Factories Act in the province of Madras for the year 1940. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1941. Price As. 12.
- 3) Annual Report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in the Province of Orissa, for the year 1940. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. Price Annas 3-3.
- 4) Letter No. 795 Com. R. dated 28-8-1941 from the Secretary to the
XL-52
Government of Bihar, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, on the subject: Statistical returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1940. (Printed).

Economic Conditions.-

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, 4th and 5th July, 1941, Vol. XVIII, No.1. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price As. 9 or 10d.

Migration.-

Annual Report of the Agent General for India in the Union of South Africa for the year ending 31st December, 1940. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Re.1 or 1s.6d.

Co-operation.-

Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Ajmer-Merwara for the year ending 30th June, 1940. New Delhi: Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press. 1941.

Public Health.-

Government of Bengal. Seventy-eighth Annual Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory in Bengal for the year 1939-40. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1941. Price As.5/-, or 7d.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) Administration Report of the Karachi Port Trust for 1940-41. The "Sind Observer" and Mercantile Steam Press Ltd., Karachi.
- (2) Bombay - 1939-40. A Review of the Administration of the Province. 1941. Printed at the Government Central Press, Bombay.
- (3) Catalogue of publications published by the Government of India, compiled and corrected up to 31-12-1940. Government of India, Central Publications Branch, Civil Lines, Delhi.
- (4) Report on the Administration of Assam for the year 1939-40. Shillong: Printed at the Government Press. 1941. Price Rs.2-14-0 or 4s. 4d. ✓

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

C 6/2/18

Report for October 1941.

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

Contents

Pages

1. National Labour Legislation.--

Government of India:

- (a) Amendment of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926. 1
- (b) Amendment of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926. 1
- (c) Adoption of the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1941, by the Central Assembly. 1

Bombay:

- Exemption from Rest Interval of Continuous Process Workers in Dextrine Manufacture. 1

Kashmir State:

- Kashmir Factories Bill, 1941. 2

Mysore State:

- (a) Mysore Labour Bill, 1941, adopted by Representative Assembly. 2
- (b) Mysore Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1941. 2
- (c) Mysore Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1941. 3
- (d) Mysore Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 1941. 3

Ceylon:

- Ceylon Wages Ordinance, 1941. 3-4

2. Social Policy.--

- India and the Draft Convention and Recommendations concerning Safety in the Building Industry. 5

3. Conditions of Work.--

Hours of Work and Weekly Rest:

- (a) Hours of Work in Mysore Mines: Demand for amendment of Mysore Mines Act. 6
- (b) Shop Act for Madras: Government declares against Legislation. 6
- (c) Applicability of Bombay Shops Act to Daily Wage-earners: High Court's Decision in the Affirmative. 6-7
- (d) Working Hours in Bengal Jute Mills raised from 50 to 54 from October 1941. 7

Industrial Health and Safety:

- Effect of Prohibition on Mill Labour: Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay. 8

Wages:

- (a) Cost of Living Index Collection in U.P.: New System to be Introduced. 9
- (b) Collection of Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers: Committee appointed in Mysore State. 9

Industrial Disputes:

- (a) Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938: Government's Labour Officer suggests Changes. 10-11
- (b) Nagpur Labour Dispute: Recommendations of C.P. and Rerar Textile Labour Inquiry Committee. 11-12

	<u>Pages</u>
(c) Demand for Increased Wages in Ahmedabad: Conciliation Efforts Fail.	12-13
<u>General:</u>	
(a) Factory Administration in N.-W.F.P. in 1940.	14
(b) Factory Administration in Ajmer-Merwara in 1940.	15
(c) Working of the Indian Mines Act in C.P. in 1940.	16-17
 4. <u>Economic Conditions.-</u>	
(a) Meeting of Consultative Committee of Economists on Post-War Reconstruction, New Delhi, 24 and 25-10-1941.	18-19
(b) Industrial Development of Central Indian States: Scheme for Joint Action Drawn up.	19-20
(c) Scope for Development of New Industries: Mysore Government's Circular letter to Provinces.	20
(d) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during July 1941.	20-21
 5. <u>Social Insurance.-</u>	
(a) Working of Bengal Maternity Benefit Act in 1940.	22
(b) Pensions and Gratuities for Municipal Employees in C.P.	23
 6. <u>Migration.-</u>	
(a) Department of Indians Overseas: New Portfolio created by Government of India.	24
(b) Future of Indians in Ceylon: Terms of Indo-Ceylon Draft Agreement.	24-29
(c) Zanzibar Government's Scheme to grant Copra monopoly to Clove Growers' Association: Opposition of Indian Interests.	29-30
(d) No Undue Indian Penetration in South Africa: Broome Commission's Report.	30-31
(e) Indians in Malaya: Growing concern in India about Malayan Government's Policy.	31-32
 7. <u>Agriculture.-</u>	
(a) Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1939-40.	33-34
(b) Future of Indian Sugar Industry: Demand for Central Sugar Committee.	34-35
 8. <u>Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants.-</u>	
Conditions of Work of Clerical Staff in Bombay textile mills: Bombay Textile Clerks' Union conducts Enquiry.	36
 9. <u>Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-</u>	
(a) Promotion of Co-operative Movement in Travancore State: Advisory Committee set up.	37
(b) Encouragement of Cottage Industries in Mysore: 3-Year Scheme to cost Rs. 300,000.	37
(c) Handloom Weaving in Bengal and Sind: Government encourage Employment of Women in Industry.	37-38
 10. <u>Living Conditions.-</u>	
<u>Spare Time:</u>	
Extension of Labour Recreation Facilities in Bombay.	39
<u>Nutrition:</u>	
Food Adulteration in India: Enquiry ordered by Central Advisory Board of Public Health.	40

	<u>Pages</u>
11. <u>Social Conditions.-</u>	
1941 Census Figures: Population of India (excluding Burma) increases to 389 millions.	41
12. <u>Social Policy in War Time.-</u>	
Wages:	
(a) Dearness Allowance to Low-paid Government servants in Mysore State.	42
(b) Payment of Dearness Allowance for Low-paid Government Employees: Sanctioned by Sind Government.	42
(c) Conditional grant of Dearness Allowance for Low-paid Employees of Local Boards in Madras: Government's Instructions.	42
(d) War Supply and Production:	
(a) Timber for War Purposes: Bombay Conference.	42-43
(b) Cotton Textiles for War Needs: Bombay Conference.	43
Industrial Health and Safety:	
Protection of Factories in War Time: Order issued by Government of Bombay.	44
Control Measures:	
(a) Burma Cotton Control Ordinance, 1941.	44
(b) Chroma Compounds Control Order, 1941.	44
Price Control:	
3rd Price Control Conference, New Delhi, 16 and 17-10-1941.	45-47
13. <u>List of more important publications received in this Office during October, 1941.</u>	48-49

Government of India.-

Amendment of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926.

The Government of India has amended the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, so as to provide that "if in any mine it is intended to conduct or extend the extraction or reduction of pillars at or to any point within fifty yards of any railway subject to the provisions of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, the owner, agent or manager of the mine shall, not less than sixty days before commencing such operations, give notice of such intention to the Chief Inspector and also to the Railway Administration concerned."

(Notification No. M-76, dated 3-10-1941:
The Gazette of India, Part I, dated
11-10-1941, page 1506.)+

Government of India.-

Amendment of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926.

The Government of India has amended the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, so as to give effect to the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1940, which lays down that the manager of a mine should be paid by the owner and should be directly answerable to him.

(Notification No. M-1055 dated 7-10-41:
The Gazette of India, part I, dated
11-10-1941, page 1506.) +

Government of India.-

Adoption of the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1941 by the
Central Assembly.

Reference was made at page 1 of our August 1941 report to the decision of the Government of India to introduce a Bill in the Central Legislature to amend the Factories Act so as to give power to Provincial Governments to enable them to ratify once for all the application of the Act to any specified classes of establishments employing ~~the~~ ten or more persons. The Bill was introduced in the current session of the Central Assembly and was passed on 30-10-1941.

(The Statesman, 31-10-1941^{1/2})

Bombay.-

Exemption from Rest Interval of Continuous Process Workers
in Dextrine Manufacture.

The Bombay Government has exempted from the provision regarding rest interval of continuous process workers in dextrine manufacturing factories.

(Notification No. S. 129 dated 15-10-1941:
The Bombay Government Gazette, part IV-A,
dated 23-10-1941, page 251.)+

Kashmir State.-

Kashmir Factories Bill, 1941.

The Development Minister, Kashmir Government, introduced in the Kashmir Praja Sabha (State Legislature) on 15-10-1941 a Bill to regulate conditions in factories. At present there is no law in force in the State to regulate working hours in factories, nor does any provision exist to afford medical and other facilities to labour. The Bill, which proposes to make the necessary provisions on these subjects, was referred to a Select Committee the same day.

(The Statesman, 16-10-1941.) +

Mysore State.-

Mysore Labour Bill, 1941, adopted by Representative Assembly.

Reference was made at pages 3 to 4 of our August 1941 report to the promulgation by the Mysore Government of the Mysore Labour (Emergency) Act, 1941. The Act was brought before the Mysore Representative Assembly for consideration on 1-10-1941, and was passed with two amendments, one for the constitution of an Industrial Court with powers to decide appeals from the decisions of the Labour Commissioner and the other urging recognition of the right of employees to federate their various associations and to provide for an All-Mysore Confederation of Associations and Federations. It was also suggested by pro-labour representatives that the enactment should provide for compulsory arbitration, but on the Government spokesman pointing out that the Government had "ample powers under the Defence of India Act" to meet situations calling for compulsory arbitration to prevent strikes and lock-outs, the suggestion was dropped. The Bill was adopted on 3-10-1941.

(The Hindu, 4 and 5-10-1941.) +

Mysore State

Mysore Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

Reference was made at pages 3 to 4 of our September 1941 report to the proposed Mysore Factories (Amendment) Bill which the State Government intended introducing in the Legislature. The Bill was introduced in the Mysore Representative Assembly on 4-10-1941 and was adopted the same day. It brings power factories employing 10 or more persons, if any one of them is an adolescent or child, under the Factories Act.

(The Hindu, 7-10-1941.) +

Mysore State.-

Mysore Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill,
1941. +

Section 60 of the Mysore Code of Civil Procedure, 1911, was amended by Act XIII of 1938, under which salaries up to and inclusive of Rs. 50 and one half of the remainder were declared exempt from attachment and sale in the execution of decrees; the amending Act also provided that the amendments should have effect only in respect of proceedings arising out of suits instituted after 1st July, 1939. The Mysore High Court had observed on a revision petition that until the restriction imposed in 1938 was removed by legislation, courts would have to permit attachment of salaries even when they did not exceed Rs. 50, so long as the suit was prior to July, 1938. The omission of Section 3 of the Act XIII of 1938 had, therefore, become necessary, if relief was to be given according to the undoubted and expressed intentions of the Government and of the Legislature. As the matter was urgent an Emergency Act was passed in August 1941 and the present bill was intended to make this amendment permanent.

The Bill was adopted.

(The Hindu, 7-10-1941.) +

Mysore State.-

Mysore Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

Reference was made at page 4 of our September 1941 report to the decision of the Mysore Government to introduce an amendment Bill to the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Act so as to deal with a number of minor defects and ambiguities. The Bill was introduced in and passed by the Mysore Representative Assembly on 6-10-1941.

(The Hindu, 9-10-1941.) +

Ceylon.-

Ceylon Wages Ordinance, 1941. +

The Ceylon Wages Ordinance is a measure embodying some of the provisions on the lines of the Indian Factories Act, 1934, and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, and has been promulgated to regulate the payment of wages, hours of work, holidays and other conditions of work through Wages Boards and District Wage Committees established under the Ordinance. Any person not complying with the provisions of this Ordinance is liable to penalties - imprisonment extending over a period of six months or fine ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 500 or both. Some important features of the Ordinance are ~~summarised~~ summarised below:

Payment of Wages.- Every employer must pay all the wages due to a worker in legal tender without making any deduction excepting those authorised under the Ordinance. The period of payment has been

fixed from three days after the expiry of the contract where the worker is employed for a period not exceeding a week to 10 days when the period of such contract exceeds one month. Every employer in every prescribed trade is to keep records in writing to show all wages paid by him, and the dates on which such wages are paid.

Wages Board.- The Minister of Labour may establish a Wages Board for any trade, the powers, duties and functions of which may apply to any other trade which in the opinion of the Minister is of the same nature. The Wages Board shall consist of the Controller of Labour (as Chairman) and an equal number of employers and workers representing the particular trade for which the Board is appointed. Members may also be nominated by the Minister of Labour. A Wages Board established for any trade shall consider and furnish a report on any matter regarding the conditions in that trade which may be referred to it by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce. A Wages Board for any trade may also constitute a District Wages Committee for that trade in any area or district in Ceylon with similar constitution, powers and functions.

Wage Determination.- A Wages Board may determine "a general minimum rate", "a general minimum price rate", "a guaranteed time rate", and "overtime rate". When a Wages Board has been established for any trade, every worker employed in that trade - (a) whose wages are payable at a daily rate, and (b) who on any day on which he is so employed works for a period less than the requisite number of hours to constitute a ~~normal working day~~ shall be entitled to receive wages for the whole day, except when the worker does not work voluntarily.

Hours of Work.- The Wages Board shall fix the normal number of hours of daily work not exceeding nine in any case inclusive of an interval of not less than one hour for meals, but exclusive of overtime; declare a weekly paid holiday and the conditions subject to which workers may be employed on such holiday (viz., payment at the overtime rate or at 1³/₄ of the minimum rate where no overtime rate has been determined) and permit annual holidays not exceeding 21, exclusive of the weekly holidays.

Registers.- Employers should maintain registers regarding particulars of workers and work, wages, hours of work, overtime work, wage payment dates, holidays and other particulars prescribed by the Board.

(October 1941 issue of "Labour Bulletin" published by the Labour Department, U.P.) ✓

India and the Draft Convention and Recommendations concerning Safety
in the Building Industry. +✓

On 30-10-1941, Mr. H.C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, laid on the table of the Central Assembly the following statement indicating the action taken, and the decision reached, by the Government of India in pursuance of the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 25th March, 1938, regarding the Draft Convention and Recommendations of the International Labour Conference concerning safety in the building industry:

"In pursuance of the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 25th March 1938, concerning the Draft Convention and Recommendations of the International Labour Conference regarding safety in the building industry, the Government of India asked the Provincial Governments to consider the desirability of legislation in the light of the extent and character of the hazards involved, the possibilities of eliminating or reducing risk in construction in the manner proposed and the expense of the inspection that would be necessary for enforcement. In particular their attention was drawn to the possibility of action within municipal areas, as suggested by the Honourable Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar in the course of the debate on the Resolution. All the Provincial Governments and Administrations except two are unanimously of opinion that the Draft Convention and Recommendations, the implementing of which requires legislative action, are unsuited to conditions in India. Even the two Governments mentioned above, while they see no objection in principle to legislation, are not in favour of any particular action within their respective jurisdiction. The main reasons put forward by Provincial Governments against legislative action are:-

- (1) that the building industry is unorganised;
- (2) it will be difficult to enforce the legislation without ~~any~~ an unduly large and expensive staff which will not be justified in view of the comparatively small risk to be countered;
- (3) accidents in the building industry are comparatively rare and, in most cases where they occur, they are of a nature which cannot be minimised by legislation.

"As regards the two Recommendations concerning co-operation in accident prevention and vocational education, regarding which the Provincial Governments were asked to consider the desirability of taking executive action, the majority of the Provincial Governments have offered no observations. Those who have, do not consider any action to be possible or necessary.

"In the circumstances the Governor General in Council has decided to take no further action in the matter." +✓

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Hours of Work and Weekly Rest

Hours of Work in Mysore Mines: Demand for amendment of Mysore Mines Act. +

On 13-10-1941, Mr. K. Subbiah Setty, Member, Mysore Representative Assembly, made a representation in the Assembly that the Mysore Mines Act should be amended as early as possible with a view to regulate hours of work, both above ground and underground, provide for overtime wages, grant weekly rest-periods, prohibit children underground and control their employment on surface.

Mr. K. Chengalraya Reddy (Congress Party) supporting the representation asked for the deletion of section 17 of the Act whereby the Superintendent of Police of the Kolar Gold Fields might, by order in writing, direct any person, whose residence within such areas was considered undesirable, to quit the place within twenty-four hours and not to re-enter the area without the permission of the Superintendent of Police. It was pointed out that this provision was introduced at the time when the Mines Act was passed, obviously with a view to protect the property and materials of the Companies, but that now the section was being used to prohibit the entry of congressmen desirous of organising the workers of the goldfields.

Mr. A.V. Ramanathan, Law Minister, said in reply that the ~~the~~ Government was considering the question of relief to be given to women workers and a maternity welfare centre would be started early and declared that ~~the~~ International Labour Convention had made recommendations in the matter of maternity benefits. Draft rules along those lines were being prepared. The Minister assured that all the suggestions made in the matter of protection of the interests of workers would be considered by the Government.

(The Indian Express, 16-10-1941),

Shop Act for Madras: Government declares against Legislation. +

The Government of Madras (Public Works Department) in a communication dated October 6, 1941, addressed to the Secretary of the Chirala Shop Employees Union, have replied that they do not propose to take any action on the suggestion of the Association that a Shops and Establishments Act should be adopted for the Madras Province.

(The Hindu, 15-10-1941) +

Applicability of Bombay Shops Act to Daily Wage-earners: High Court's Decision in the Affirmative.

Reference was made at pages 7 to 8 of our August 1941 report to an appeal filed in the Bombay High Court under the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, raising the issue whether the Act applies to daily wage-earners.

7

The appellant in the case was Hassanali Gulamali Patanwala, proprietor of the Coronation Durbar Hotel, who was charged before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, with not exhibiting in his restaurant a notice in the prescribed form specifying the day or days of the week on which persons employed by him would be given holidays as required by Rule 12 (4) of the Shops Act, and also with not making the required entries in the records necessary under the rules. He was found guilty and fined by the Magistrate. He challenged his conviction before the High Court. It was admitted that Hassanali was bound to make entries in the registers and that he did not make them. The only point urged before the High Court was that the conviction could not be sustained owing to the fact that Hassanali employed persons in his restaurant only from day to day and not by the week or month and he was not bound to post the notice mentioned in the sub-rule. It was contended that the sub-rule did not apply at all to establishments which employed persons only from day to day and not on weekly or monthly terms.

The High Court upheld the conviction and the sentence passed on Hassanali Gulamali Patanwala on the ground that the definition of "employer" in the Act made no exception in favour of persons employing labourers on daily terms only, and that there was therefore no reason why the mere fact that the applicant employed people on only daily terms should exempt him from complying with the requirements of the sub-rule.

(The Times of India, 9-10-1941.) +

Working Hours in Bengal Jute Mills raised from 50
to 54 from October 1941. +

In the light of the stock position and the better shipping prospects, the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association at a special meeting held on 6-10-1941 decided to enhance the working hours of its member mills from fifty to fifty-four per week with effect from 13-10-1941.

(The Hindu, 7-10-1941.) +

8

Industrial Health and Safety

Effect of Prohibition on Mill Labour:
Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay. +

Towards the middle of September, 1941, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Prohibition, Bombay, requested the Millowners' Association, Bombay, to be furnished with information on the following three points in order that the question of the effect of prohibition on labour might be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of the Prohibition Research Advisory Board:

(a) Percentage of mill absentees prior to prohibition and after the introduction of prohibition. (b) Whether prohibition has in any way contributed or added to the efficiency of the workers or improved the standard of their work in the mills. (c) Effect of prohibition on the general condition of health of the operatives.

Association's Views: Influence of Prohibition not very perceptible:-

Absenteeism.- In supplying the figures of average percentage of absenteeism for the period asked for, the Committee observed that the introduction of prohibition had not in any way affected the absenteeism statistics. It was pointed out that for various reasons it would be difficult to draw any specific conclusions regarding the effect of prohibition on absenteeism on the basis of the statistics compiled by the Government Labour Office. For instance, during the past two years, a period which coincided with the post-prohibition period, there had been a rapid increase in the number of persons employed in Bombay mills resulting in a shortage of labour. Moreover, any generalisation on the statistics available would, in the opinion of the Committee, be unsafe, as there were far too many cross currents in the labour world which would make deductions unsafe and misleading.

Efficiency.- Regarding the effect of prohibition on the efficiency of workers or on the standard of their work, it was stated that beyond opinions of departmental heads and managers of mills, there was no other information to say that there had been any perceptible improvement in efficiency.

General Health Conditions.- As regards the third point, it was indicated that, in the absence of a detailed and thorough enquiry conducted by medical officers over a fairly long period of years, it would be very difficult to ascertain the effects of prohibition on the general condition of health of mill operatives.

(Summarised from the printed Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for September, 1941.)+

Cost-of-Living Index Collection in U.P.:
New System to be Introduced.

The U.P. Government, it is understood, have decided to prepare new cost of living indices based on data collected at different centres in the province.

It was only last month that the Government announced the grant of dearness allowance to low-paid Government employees; the scheme of dearness allowance was based on cost of living and price indices collected at Gorakhpur, Meerut, Lucknow and Cawnpore. For the purpose of administering the allowance, the province was divided into three zones: west, east and central. It is stated that rice is more or less the staple food in the eastern zone, wheat in the west of the province and wheat and rice in the central region. The situation has again been reviewed and it is stated that the principle governing the grant of allowance should be made more scientific and adequate so that Government employees deserving relief might get it in adequate measure.

The new scheme divides the province into a series of homogeneous units, grouping together districts having similar economic conditions, price tendencies, etc. Each of these units will have a separate index. Another principle tentatively decided upon is that, while preparing the indices, the cost of living and price level at cities alone will be considered. It is stated that the level in all the rural areas will definitely be lower than the urban level, and that hence indices based on rural figures will not afford sufficient relief to employees working in urban areas.

(The Statesman, 5-10-1941) +

Collection of Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers:
Committee appointed in Mysore State. + ✓

The question of the regular maintenance and publication of the working class cost of living index figures for the Mysore State as in certain other parts of India has been under the consideration of the Mysore Government for some time. With this object in view, an officer of the Department of Industries and Commerce was deputed to Bombay in June, 1940, to study the method adopted there and work out the index. On his return, a preliminary enquiry was conducted into the budget of about 100 families belonging to the working classes. On the basis of the data collected, the working class cost of living index for Bangalore City is being computed from July 1940. Suggestions have been made that steps should be taken to publish the figures for Bangalore and other districts in the State. In view of the importance of the question, the Government has directed that the whole question of the collection, compilation and publication of index figures and other allied matters should be considered by a committee, ~~consisting of~~ the Director of Industries and Commerce as Chairman and the Assistant Director of Rural Industries as Secretary.

(The Hindu, 18-10-1941.) +

Industrial Disputes

10

Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938:

Government's Labour Officer suggests Changes. +

Mr. M.P. La Bouchardiere, Labour Officer, Government of Bombay, has contributed an article in a recent issue of the Indian Journal of Social Work, Bombay, in the course of which he suggests the need, in the light of the working of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, for a number of changes in the Act. The more important suggestions put forward are summarised below:

Individual Cases before Industrial Court.- At present any individual may approach the Industrial Court direct for redress in a case of breach of a standing order or an illegal change. The maximum penalty for breach of a standing order is Rs. 100, with a maximum penalty of Rs. 25 per day for a continuing offence after a conviction. Many of the cases of this nature which have already been taken to the Industrial Court have been dismissed. In any case it appears wasteful of the time of an Industrial Court, which has a High Court Judge as President, to try such cases in the initial stage. Perhaps a suitable solution would be to transfer all such cases to Conciliators and to give them power to decide such cases and enforce the penalty. Another reason, which may be urged for the grant of such powers to Conciliators, is that the Industrial Court is only able to sit at much less frequent intervals than the Conciliators, often over six weeks elapsing between sittings of the Industrial Court. Thus an individual seeking redress for wrongful dismissal involving a breach of standing orders, has often to wait a long time before his case comes up for hearing. By the time his case has received a decision in the Industrial Court he may be out of work for 3 or 4 months or more. Even the Industrial Court cannot give him financial redress. For this he has to go further still to 1st Class Magistrate, armed with the Industrial Court's decision that he has been illegally dismissed. After all this his financial redress is only 13 days' wages, which may amount to under Rs. 10 in the case of a woman. At the most the Court may be urged to give him a portion of the fine (maximum fine, Rs. 100) inflicted on the management. A further argument against the case of an individual worker going to the Industrial Court in any initial stage is that the worker is at a great disadvantage when ~~he~~ he approaches the Industrial Court directly, as the mill is usually represented in this court by legal experts whose services are beyond the financial capacity of a worker. Furthermore, in the case of illegal changes, which are merely breaches of standing orders, and not of a more serious nature, the discussions would frequently be on technical and not legal issues, or at the most on simple legal issues, which would be well within the competence of conciliators. So from all points of view it appears desirable to ~~entirely~~ transfer such cases to Conciliators, and leave it to them to transfer the cases further to the Industrial Court only if difficult legal issues arise. The fact that there is no legal authority to administer the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act other than the Industrial Court appears to be a shortcoming of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act. Similarly decisions on technical matters should be left to Conciliators, the Court being asked to confine itself mainly to legal questions.

Contract Labour.- It appears to have been the intention of the framers of the Act that labour employed by contractors, and not directly paid by a mill management, should benefit by the provisions of the Act in common with labour paid directly by the mills; the definition of "employer" under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act suggests this conclusion. However, when the case of the payment of a dearness of living allowance to workers in Ahmedabad arose, the case of persons employed by contractors was considered. The Industrial Court dealt with the question finally, and gave a full bench ruling. This ruling is interesting and runs as follows: "In our opinion there is a good deal to be said for excluding such persons from the benefit of the award. In the first instance, these persons are employed not by the mills themselves, but by the contractors to whom a contract is given for doing particular work. After the contract is given, it is no concern of the mills as to how many people are employed and how much is paid to them by the contractors." Against this full bench ruling there is no appeal, as under section 60 of the Act: "No order passed by the Industrial Court shall be called in question in any civil or criminal court." Accordingly all persons employed in the textile industry in Ahmedabad, and not paid directly by a mill management, have been excluded from the benefits of a wage increase, which was probably all the more necessary in their case, and which was paid to all other classes of labour in the textile industry in Ahmedabad. It is true that the Bombay mills took a more liberal view, and freely conceded the grant of the allowance to all their employees, including those indirectly employed through contractors. It would appear desirable to make the matter entirely free from doubt by amending the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act so that it may not be necessary to go to the Industrial Court hereafter for a ruling which has proved so adverse to labour. It might reasonably be argued that if it was necessary to give an allowance on account of the dearness of living to workers directly employed by a mill, it was still more necessary to give the allowance to workers less well paid, and whose tenure of employment depended on the whim of a contractor.

(The Indian Textile Journal Bombay,
October 1941.)

Nagpur Labour Dispute:
Recommendations of C.P. and Berar Textile Labour Inquiry
Committee..

Reference was made at page 10 of our June 1941 report to the appointment by the C.P. Government of an Enquiry Committee (1) to ascertain the condition of the textile industry in the Central Provinces during the last three years, (2) to determine the case for improvement in the wages of textile workers, and (3) to make recommendations regarding dearness allowance. The Committee's report, published towards the middle of October 1941, recommends that there is full justification for restoring the 1931-32 wage level, and that the restoration should apply to every worker. In the case of mills which do not possess accurate and reliable data of wage levels in any occupation or ~~which~~ imposed cuts prior to December 1932, the wage rate of the corresponding occupations in the Empress Mills in ~~1932-33~~ 1931-32 should be taken as the standard. The

Committee expresses the opinion that there is no justification, at present, for further improvement in the wage level to a pitch above that of 1931-32. The Committee advises all mills to institute provident fund schemes for their operatives. In order to control absenteeism, the mills are advised to introduce schemes of regularity bonus for regular attendance throughout the year, the bonus being Rs. 18 a year. The Committee also is of opinion that the grant of a dearness allowance to workers of every mill in the province is fully justified and should be paid with effect from 1st June 1941.

C.P. Textile Labour Council criticises Recommendations as Inadequate. - The C.P. Textile Labour Council of Action passed a resolution holding that the C.P. Textile Labour Enquiry Committee's recommendations, though a distinct advance on the present conditions of labour, were still unsatisfactory, as they did not fully meet the workers' legitimate demands. The Council also passed a resolution urging the Government to announce their opinion on the recommendations before November 15, and warning the millowners that if the recommendations were not given effect to before November 15, the Council would be forced to recommend a general strike.

(The Hindu, 25 and 28-10-1941.) +

Demand for Increased Wages in Ahmedabad:

Conciliation Efforts Fail. +

On 19-8-1941, the Textile Labour Association, ^{Ahmedabad,} as a representative union gave notice to the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association asking for an increase of 25 per cent. in the present wages of a flat rate of Rs. 8-12-0 per month, which works out approximately at 25 per cent. of the wages on an average, with retrospective effect from the 1st of January 1941 on the ground that a substantial improvement in the condition of the textile industry was known to have occurred since the beginning of the year. A similar notice was sent on the 20th of August 1941 to all textile mills and factories in Ahmedabad. As no agreement was reached between the parties, the question came up before the Chief Conciliator, Bombay, for settlement. The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, contended that with the improved condition of the textile industry since the beginning of this year the industry could easily afford to grant the same, and that the present level of wages of the textile workers in Ahmedabad was inadequate to enable them to maintain a suitable standard of living. It was further stated that the recent dearness allowance granted to the workers had merely partially neutralised the rise in cost of living, which was badly needed. The demand being firmly rejected by the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, the conciliation efforts failed.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part I, dated 30-10-1941, pages 3855 to 3856.) +

Following the failure of the conciliation proceedings, the Textile Labour Association has launched a vigorous campaign for a general strike if all possible peaceful avenues for an amicable settlement fails. On 20-10-1941, Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Secretary of the Textile Labour Association, invited the Millowners' Association to submit the dispute for arbitration. The Millowners are reported to be unwilling to accept arbitration. ↓

Factory Administration in N.-W.F.P. in 1940.* †

Statistics of Factories and Operatives.- During the year under report, the total number of factories subject to the control of the Factories Act remained the same as during the previous year, namely, 37. ~~1940~~ Of these, 18 were Government and Local Fund factories and 19 were private factories. 34 factories worked during the year and 3 remained closed.

The total number of operatives employed in factories during the year declined by 73 from the figures recorded for the previous year making 1,195 employed in all. This decrease is largely due to the closing of 3 factories during the year but some reduction resulted in the recorded figures from the failure of 3 factories to submit annual returns showing the number of workers employed. Of the total workers employed in factories, 1,191 were males and 4 females, as compared with 1,196 and 72 respectively during the previous year. Seven children were employed in factories during the year under report as compared with six during the previous year.

Inspection.- Of the 34 factories which worked during the year, 10 were inspected and 18 could not be visited owing to an exceptional pressure of work resulting from the war.

Wages.- The wages of skilled labour showed a slight increase over the previous year, while there was no change in the wages of unskilled labour. Towards the close of the year under report there were signs of a further increase in wages of skilled workers due partly to the demands of the Defence Service and partly to factories being employed on the production of war material.

Hours of Employment.- During the year all factories worked well within the maximum hours permitted by the Factories Act. A number of military workshops were granted exemptions from the hours of work clauses of the Act and at various times worked more than the maximum hours ordinarily permitted by the factory regulations.

Exemptions.- The Government Printing Press, Peshawar, was granted exemption on three different occasions during the year in order to deal with an exceptional rush of work; the exemptions related to hours of work and the weekly rest day. The military grass farms situated at various stations in the North-West Frontier Province and the Grain Crushing Depot, Peshawar, continued to avail of the exemption granted to them during 1939 for the period of the war from the application of Sections 34, 35 and 36 of the Act. †

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1940. Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.-W. F.P., Peshawar. 1941. Price Re.0-11-0 or £.0-1-0. pp. 6 + viii.

Factory Administration in Ajmer-Merwara in 1940.*

Number of Factories and Workers.- During 1940 the total number of factories subject to the control of the Factories Act remained at 50 - this being the same number as were on the factory register during the previous year. Five factories were added to and five were removed from the register of Factories. Of the total of 50 registered factories, 40 actually worked during the year, as compared with 36 in the previous year. Of the 40 registered factories which actually worked during the year, 17 were perennial and 23 were seasonal.

The total number of operatives employed in all the factories during the year was 13,753 as compared with 13,330 in the previous year. The increase of 423 operatives was due to the employment of more operatives in Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Workshops at Ajmer and to the registration of 5 new factories. 1,105 workers were employed in factories during the year, as compared with 999 in the previous year. The number of adolescents employed in factories was 5 in 1940 as compared with 7 in 1939. There was an increase in the number of juvenile operatives working in factories during the year. 88 boys and 22 girls were employed as compared with 8 boys and 5 girls in 1939. This increase was due to the inclusion of contract labour in the returns submitted by some of the cotton ginning and wool pressing seasonal factories.

Inspection.- Of the 40 factories in operation during the year, 10 were inspected once, 18 twice and 12 three times. The total number of inspections which were invariably made by surprise, was, therefore, 82 as compared with 80, during the previous year.

Prosecutions.- There was no prosecution instituted during the year under review.

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Ajmer-Merwara for the year 1940. New Delhi: Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press: 1941.

Supply of Labour.- During 1940 the intake of the chief markets for second grade manganese ore, viz., Japan and Europe, was greatly reduced owing to war conditions. The prices of this quality of ore therefore sank to a low level. There was however a great demand from the United States of America for ore of the first grade for the manufacture of ferro-manganese and its price consequently ran high. No new coal mines were opened, but four mines in the Chhindwara district were closed. The output of limestone in the Jubbulpore district declined principally because of competition from new quarries opened in the adjoining States of Maihar and Rewa. Labour was mostly recruited locally, and the supply was generally adequate. In the Bhandara and Balaghat districts more than 60 per cent. of the labour employed by the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company was drawn from the neighbouring districts. The total number of mines of all kinds working during the year was 133 as against 140 in 1939.

Wages.- There was no appreciable change in the rates of wages of labour. In coal mines, the daily average wage for skilled males varied from Re. 0-5-0 to Rs. 1-5-3, and for unskilled from Re. 0-3-0 to Re. 0-8-0. Women earned on an average from Re. 0-3-0 to Re. 0-5-0. For underground work the wages varied from Re. 0-3-6 to Re. 0-15-9. Male labourers employed in manganese mines earned from Re. 0-6-0 to ~~Rs. 1-4-0 per day for skilled work~~ and from Re. 0-2-0 to Re. 0-6-0 for unskilled. Unskilled women labourers got on an average Re. 0-2-0 to Re. 0-5-0 per day.

Industrial Relations.- On the whole the relations between the labourers and the employers continued to be cordial.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents was 408 as against 130 in 1939, the very considerable increase being contributed mainly by the Yeotmal and Chanda districts, where the numbers were 60 and 198 as against 1 and 16, respectively, in 1939. The marked increase in these two districts seems to be due to inclusion of minor accidents in the report this year. However the number of fatal accidents once again increased to 30 as against 25 in 1939 and the Government records that the impression cannot be avoided that the responsibility for ensuring the safety of the workers is still not fully realized and discharged. A particularly bad accident occurred in a quarry in the Jubbulpore district where as many as 4 persons were killed owing to the fall of an under-cut side. The owner could not be prosecuted but Government has decided that he should be given no further mineral concessions in the province, and proposes to take similar drastic action in similar cases of negligence in future. Government is also considering whether the existing procedure which has been followed before prosecution of persons responsible for accidents can be launched should be revised so as to ensure that excessive delay does not result either in the prosecution becoming time-barred or in the disappearance of important evidence.

The compensation paid for fatal accidents in the Chanda district amounted to Rs. 1,650 and for others Rs. 786-5-3. In the Chhindwara district 55 cases were instituted under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The total amount of compensation paid to victims of accidents amounted to Rs. 10,970-1-6. In the Bhandara district in all Rs. 752-6-0 were paid as compensation.

Prosecution, - 10 cases against 15 persons were instituted for breaches of byelaws and regulations under the Mines Act in the Chhindwara district. No prosecutions are reported in other districts.

Hours of Work. - The hours of employment for surface and underground workings varied from 7 to 9 per day. In the Balaghat district 48 hours per week is the maximum period of work. No woman was employed underground and no case of employment of children under 15 years has been reported.

(Resolution No. 2916-1253-XII-7 dated 22-9-1941
The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part I, dated
26-9-1941, pages 819 to 822.)

Meeting of Consultative Committee of Economists on Post-War Reconstruction, New Delhi 24, and 25-10-1941.

The Consultative Committee of Economists on post-war reconstruction convened by the Government of India was held at New Delhi on 24 and 25-10-1941, with Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, in the chair. The main purpose of the Committee is to advise the Government on the best methods by which, after the war, trade, manufacture and industries could be promoted and a better living standard for the people of the country could be attained.

Chairman's Opening Address.- In his opening address, Sir Ramaswami dealt with the problems, present-day as well as post-war, which the meeting would have to tackle, including export and import control, the bearing of population growth on the country's economic structure and the readjustment of wartime industries to peace-time production. Though consultation with professors and research scholars engaged in scientific and economic problems in universities was a feature of administration in other countries, it was the first time that the Government of India considered it advisable to have the opinion of a group of economists. With the best will in the world and in spite of their trained minds and knowledge, economists were often not able to make that contribution which Government would value, because they had not at their disposal the material and the data available to the administrator. Before this Consultative Committee, however, it was the intention to place freely and fully, but in confidence, such data as the Economic Adviser and his Department and various other Departments of the Government of India had prepared.

There was a great deal of talk about certain policies, such as self-sufficiency or industrialisation, being a panacea for all the economic ills of the country. What the country was up against, however, was not general idea or catchwords, but actual formulation of how far the present circumstances or in the immediate future these policies could be translated into action, how far industrialisation, or self-sufficiency was possible at the present time or in the immediate future, and what practical steps must be taken to give effect to these ideas. There were also what might be called long-term factors which should not be lost sight of, and he hoped that the committee would draw Government's attention to them, such as the size of the population in this country and its bearing on the economic structure. Though the Committee had been called to discuss post-war problems, present-day problems which presented themselves were not beyond its scope. Among such problems was export and import control and various other controls which had been imposed, sometimes to check the course of trade and sometimes to regulate it, sometimes in the interest of the consumers, growers, producers or manufacturers. The period of control would not exhaust itself the moment an armistice was declared or peace was signed. It would continue for some years after peace was signed. Government might then have to turn to regulation and purposive direction of trade, commerce and industrial development. The committee would have to consider that aspect of the matter too.

He also explained the scheme the Government had in view for this purpose, and described the composition and functions of five different committees, apart from the Consultative Committee of Economists, which would come into existence by the end of November 1941.

Nature of Work of the Five Committees. - The five Committees are: (1) The Committee on Labour and Demobilisation, (2) The Committee on Disposals and Contracts, (3) The Committee on Public Works and Government Purchases, (4) The Committee on Internal and International Trade and Agricultural Problems, and (5) a Co-ordinating Committee consisting of Secretaries of all the Government Departments. The nature of the work of these Committees is briefly indicated below.

(1) The Committee on Labour and Demobilisation concerns itself with the problems of how, without a sudden disbandment of the large mass of technical and other personnel now engaged in war production and without the risk of grave unemployment, labour could be delinked from one industry and ~~link~~ linked to another.

(2) The Committee on Disposals and Contracts deals with the gradual readjustment of industries to peace production and disposal of stocks which for some time even after peace is restored, Government must continue to buy from wartime industries in order to give those industries time for adjustment.

(3) The Committee on Public Works and Government Purchases deals with the expansion of Government public works programmes in order to absorb labour thrown out of war industries.

(4) The Committee on Internal and International Trade and Agricultural Development deals with the trend and development of international trade policies almost from week to week even during the war and considers how far India is necessarily linked up in these policies and how far a policy of isolationism is either justified or desirable. All these four committees consist of officials and non-officials, and representatives of trade, industry and labour.

(5) A Co-ordination Committee consisting of Secretaries of all the Government Departments intended to co-ordinate the activities of the four other committees. Among other matters, this Committee should secure material readily from the different Departments of Government which, in the absence of an authoritative body representing those Departments, might, in these days of wartime over-work, be delayed or refused.

(The Statesman, 25-10-1941)

(For fuller information about these Committees, see also pages 35-37 of the report of this Office for June 1941.)~

Industrial Development of Central Indian States: Scheme for Joint Action Drawn up.

Industrial development in a number of Indian States is hampered by the limited financial resources of the States, and several States, smaller ones, especially, are unable to develop their industrial possibilities. In order to overcome this difficulty, a scheme has recently been drawn up by Mr. V.D. Deshpande, Finance Minister, Dewas State (Junior Branch), Central India, which envisages the possibility of group action in the industrial sphere by the Central

Indian States through an organisation set up by the group, which will supervise and control ventures and ensure and, if necessary, guarantee on behalf of the group of States proper returns for the exploitation of the resources in the area of the group.

The directions in which the Organisation, representative of the members of the group, will function are: (1) survey for exploitation of natural resources, (2) improvement of agriculture, (3) organisation of export and import markets, (4) regulation of tariffs between members of the group of States, (5) consideration of the question of protection for the products of the group of States and (6) finding funds for such industrial development.

A bank with an authorised capital of Rs. 20 millions will, it is stated, be shortly be floated with the object of financing the economic and industrial development of Indian States (particularly small ones). The promoters of the Bank have secured the co-operation of several Indian Rulers.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 16-10-1941.) +

Scope for Development of New Industries:
Mysore Government's Circular letter to
Provinces. +

The possibility of starting industries for the manufacture of nails, steel wood-screws, ladies' hair pins, pencils (lead and colour), cardboard boxes and tins for packing manufactured articles, buttons of horn, bone, mother of pearl and other materials, is being explored by the Government of Mysore, and in this connection, the Government of Mysore has addressed the Directors of Industries in the British Indian Provinces soliciting information regarding the possibility of getting the necessary machinery and the approximate cost and whether factories for producing the proposed articles exist already in their provinces.

(The Times of India, 3-10-1941.).

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various
Centres in India during July 1941.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during July 1941 as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay for July 1941 rose to 126 as compared with 122 in the previous month. The average for the calendar year 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during July 1941 advanced by 5 points to 88. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during July 1941 rose by 3 points to 84 as compared with the preceding month. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in July 1941 rose by 3 points to 77 as compared with the preceding month. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 63 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore during July 1941 rose by 5 points to 78. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during July 1941 rose by 4 points to 113. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

Vizagapatam.* The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in July rose to 116.4 as compared with 114.0 in the previous month.

Ellore.* The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living rose to 118.8 in July from 112.3 in June.

Bellary.* The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living rose to ~~111.7~~ 111.7 in July as compared with 111.0 in the previous month.

Cuddalore.* The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living rose by nearly 5 points to 108.6 in July from 103.8 in the previous month.

Coimbatore.* The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living rose by 2 points to 107.0 in July as compared with the previous month.

Madura.* - The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living rose to 108.6 in July from 107.2 in the previous month.

Trichinopoly.* The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living rose to 111.1 in July 1941 from 107.7 in the previous month.

~~Calicut~~ Calicut.* The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living rose to 122.3 in July 1941 from 116.9 in the previous month.

Cawnpore.- The index number (base: August 1939) of the cost of living in Cawnpore during July 1941 advanced by 12 points to 126. The average for 1940 was 111.

(Extracted from Monthly Survey of
Business Conditions in India for July
1941.) *

*Cost of living indices for these centres have now become available for the first time.

Working of Bengal Maternity Benefit Act in 1940 +

Statistics of Women Workers and Claims.- The Report on the Administration of the Bengal Maternity Benefit Act for the year 1940 states that the number of factories which by virtue of female employment were amenable to the Act was 686, and the daily average number of women workers employed in these factories totalled approximately 51,300. The total number of accepted claims was 3,716 and the total amount of benefit paid was Rs. 113,906-3-9.

Irregularities.- The report continues that in the larger types of factories such as jute mills, cotton mills and the like the prohibitory provisions of the act regarding employment during prescribed ante and post natal periods have been strictly adhered to. No complaints on this score were received, neither did inspectors discover anything untoward during the course of their inspections and enquiries. As regards the smaller concerns, particularly those situated in mofussil areas, mainly rice mills, little information has so far been forthcoming.

In so far as jute mills and the larger factories employing female labour are concerned, benefit at the prescribed rates has been ~~system~~ systematically paid and generally, the manner in which claims and payments have been dealt with is evidence of complete sympathy with the object of the Act. The jute mills have been particularly sympathetic, ~~giving payment in many cases where the requisite period of employment~~ on the part of the woman has been open to doubt and where, for other reasons, claims could not be legally sustained.

Welfare Work.- With the advent of the Act, labour bureaux, creches and clinics have assumed greater importance and it is noted that there are now 37 jute mills with labour bureaux in operation or under establishment the work of which includes the clerical and record work associated with the Act. Twenty-six mills have creches in operation or under establishment by which the care of the child, initially established by maternity benefit payments and compulsory rest, is continued. Twenty mills have now maternity clinics in operation or under establishment. These are concerned with ante-natal and post-natal treatment for the preservation of adult female and infant life.

Prosecutions.- No prosecution was considered necessary. In the course of administration certain minor defects in the provisions of the Act have been observed which will be rectified in due course.

(Press Note dated 31-10-1941 issued by the
Director of Public Information Bengal.) +

Pensions and Gratuities for Municipal Employees
in C.P. +

Recently several municipalities in the C.P. and Berar have adopted bye-laws for the grant of gratuities to their inferior municipal employees. The salient features of the bye-laws of Chanda, one of the ^{se}municipalities, are given below:

Definition of "Inferior Service".- For the purposes of these byelaws "inferior service" means any kind of service which may be specially classed as such by order of the Municipal committee and any other kind of service on pay not exceeding Rs. 10 per mensem.

Classes of Pensions and Gratuities.- Pensions and gratuities are of the following classes, namely:-

(i) Compensation pension and compensation gratuity, granted on discharge from committee's service on account of reduction of establishment; (ii) invalid pension and invalid gratuity, granted on retirement from committee's service on account of permanent incapacity resulting from bodily or mental infirmity; (iii) superannuation pension and superannuation gratuity, granted on attaining the age prescribed in bye-law 7; and (iv) retiring pension, granted on retirement from committee's service after a qualifying service of 40 years.

Grant of gratuity.- Compensation gratuity, invalid gratuity or superannuation gratuity, of an amount not exceeding one-half month's pay for every completed year of qualifying service, may be granted if the qualifying service on discharge or retirement is less than 25 years.

Grant of pension.- (a) Compensation pension, invalid pension or superannuation pension, of the amount set out in the schedule appended to the byelaws, may be granted if the qualifying service on discharge or retirement is not less than 25 years.

(b) Retiring pension, of the amount set out in a schedule annexed, may be granted if the qualifying service on retirement is not less than 40 years.

Qualifying service and Age of Retirement.- For the purposes of these byelaws, qualifying service shall not begin until the inferior servant concerned has attained the age of 16 years. An inferior servant shall retire when he has attained the age of 60 years.

(Notification No. 7849-4280-M-XIII dated 13-10-1941: The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part III, dated 17-10-1941, pages 1482 to 1483.) +

MIGRATION

Department of Indians Overseas: New Portfolio created by Government of India.

The creation from 14-10-1941 of a Department of Indians Overseas is announced. The department will deal with the following heads of business: (1) Regulation of emigration from India to other parts of the British Commonwealth (including questions relating to the rights and status of such emigrants) and of the entry into India of immigrants from such other parts, (2) Pilgrimage to Hedjaz, other than pilgrimage to Hádjaz via Iraq, and (3) Repatriation of Indians from other parts of the British Commonwealth and of Indian pilgrims stranded at Jedda. The Hon'ble Mr. M.S. Aney is the Member in charge of the Department and Mr. G.S. Bozman, I.C.S. the Secretary.

(The Statesman, 19-10-1941.)

Future of Indians in Ceylon: Terms of Indo-Ceylon Draft Agreement.

Reference was made at page 35 of our September 1941 report to the negotiations between representatives of the Governments of India and Ceylon held at Colombo during September 1941, and the conclusion of a draft Agreement. The negotiations were directed towards particular subjects upon which disagreement had arisen between the two countries. It was clearly understood that concurrence of views expressed during the conversations upon individual points should not be construed as effective agreement unless agreement ~~was~~ reached over the whole field of discussion. Exhaustive consideration of the following subjects - 1. Immigration and re-entry, 2. Quotas, 3. Franchise, 4. Registration, 5. Status, and 6. General provisions - resulted in an agreement, the more important provisions of which are summarised below:

Immigration of Indians into Ceylon.- The discussion proceeded mainly on the basis of the draft Immigration Ordinance published in Ceylon on February 26, 1941. The Indian delegation put forward the following proposals:- (1) That permits should take the form of an endorsement on a passport; (2) That the Minister should be advised by an Immigration Board, on which Indians should be represented; (3) Any proposals for the imposition of quotas (whether in the form of labour schedules or internal quotas) together with the advice of the Immigration Board, should be referred to the Government of India for comment; (4) That there should be no discretion regarding the entry of wives and minor children of persons to whom entry may in future be permitted; (5) That discretion to refuse entry should be limited in the case of persons to be employed in positions of confidence or for specialised work; (6) That fees chargeable for endorsements should be as low as possible regard being

had to the cost of administration.

Re-Entry of Indians into Ceylon.— The terms of the agreement on this subject are: (1) Undesirables, destitutes and persons prohibited by existing law from entering Ceylon or liable to deportation thereunder to have no right of re-entry; (2) Persons repatriated to India in accordance with existing law or existing administrative arrangements to be subject to the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance; (3) In the event of the Ceylon Government undertaking to provide at their own expense facilities for repatriation to India, persons so repatriated to have no right to re-enter Ceylon save in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance provided that repatriation (a) is voluntary, (b) involves monetary compensation in excess of a passage to India, (c) is accepted by the repatriate on the explicit understanding that he will be subject to the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance; (4) Persons possessing a domicile of origin or a domicile of choice or a certificate of permanent settlement shall have the right to re-enter Ceylon, provided however that the holder of a certificate of permanent settlement shall not be granted a return endorsement valid for a period exceeding 12 months; (5) Assisted unskilled labourers with less than five years residence in Ceylon on the date of the agreement to be subject to the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance; (6) Unassisted skilled labourers with less than five years residence in Ceylon on the date of agreement to have the right to re-enter Ceylon only if returning to employment under the same employer or to guaranteed employment of the same class; (7) Persons not included in (4), (5) or (6) above with three years residence or more in Ceylon on the date of the agreement shall have the right to re-enter Ceylon and to seek employment; (8) Persons not included in (5) or (6) above with less than three years residence in Ceylon on the date of the agreement shall have the right to re-enter Ceylon only if returning to the same means of livelihood or, if employed, to any employment under the same employer; (9) Wives and minor children may not be refused permission to enter or re-enter Ceylon for the purpose of ~~joining~~ joining the husband or father as the case may be; (10) Persons seeking to re-enter Ceylon other than in virtue of the preceding paragraphs to be subject to the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance; (11) A right of re-entry in virtue of any of the preceding paragraphs, except in respect of persons possessing a domicile of origin or a domicile of choice, will be lost after a continuous absence from Ceylon of more than 12 months.

Quotas.— (1) Indians possessing a domicile of origin or a domicile of choice or a certificate of permanent settlement or having been resident in Ceylon for seven years or more on the date of agreement to be exempt from the operation of any quota legislation. (2) Any Indian resident in Ceylon for three years or more but less than seven years on the date of the agreement to be exempt from the operation of so much of any quota legislation as applies to the same class of employment as that in which he is employed at the time the legislation comes into force. If such person completes seven years residence in Ceylon, he shall thereafter be exempt from the operation of any quota legislation; (3) Any Indian resident in Ceylon on the date of the agreement to be exempt from the operation of so much of any quota legislation as applies to any employment

in the service of the person who is his employer when the legislation comes into force; (4) Indians resident in Ceylon for less than three years on the date of the agreement shall qualify only for the exemption conferred in paragraph (3), provided that any such Indian who may, consistently with the terms of this agreement, subsequently qualify under paragraph (1), shall be entitled to the exemption conferred by that paragraph.

Franchise: (i) Position of Indians entering after Adoption of Immigration Ordinance.- (1) A class entrants to be entitled to be registered on satisfying the literacy and property qualifications and, after five years residence, on establishing a domicile of choice to the satisfaction of a Court; (2) B class entrants to be entitled to be registered only on satisfying the literacy and property qualification.

(ii) Position of Indians entering before Adoption of Immigration Ordinance.- (1) Birth in Ceylon of parents either or both of whom were born in Ceylon to be sufficient proof for registration as possessing a domicile or origin; birth outside Ceylon during the temporary absence of the mother to be deemed birth in Ceylon; (2) Registration as possessing a domicile of choice to be made only on production to the Registering Officer of proof that the person to be registered has satisfied a Court that, after having had five years residence in Ceylon, he has acquired a domicile of choice in Ceylon according to the rules of English Law regarding the acquisition of a domicile of choice. (Administrative arrangements to be made to facilitate the establishment of such domicile as cheaply and readily as possible).

Qualification for obtaining Certificate of Permanent Settlement.- (a) a declaration that the applicant has an intention to remain in Ceylon indefinitely; (b) proof of means of livelihood; (c) if married, proof that his wife and minor unmarried children, if any, ordinarily reside with him, provided that no Indian who at the date of the agreement is registered as a voter, but whose wife by any personal law or custom is either precluded from joining or justified in refusing to join her husband in Ceylon, shall be treated as disqualified for the franchise by reason only of the fact that he is married and his wife does not ordinarily reside with him; (d) the prescribed period of residence prior to application to be seven years for persons who are married at the date of the application and 10 years for other persons, provided that such period of residence shall have been completed within four years from the date of the agreement; (e) continuous absence of more than one year prior to application to constitute a break in any qualifying period of residence and after registration as a voter, to involve removal from the register.

Provision is to be made for the grant of a certificate of permanent settlement to the child of a holder of a certificate of permanent settlement and for his registration as a voter by virtue of such certificate, subject to the following conditions:- (a) he shall have been born and bred in Ceylon or, if born outside Ceylon, shall have accompanied his father to Ceylon or joined his father in Ceylon before attaining the age of 14 and shall, during minority or the period of minority since his first entry into Ceylon, have been resident in Ceylon, provided that temporary absence due to the causes mentioned in Part VI, paragraph (4) shall not constitute a break in residence; (b) he shall be resident in Ceylon on the date of his application ~~of~~ for the certificate; (c) such application shall be made within three years after attaining majority; (d) he shall declare his intention

to remain in Ceylon indefinitely; (6) he shall, on making the application, prove that he has a means of livelihood in Ceylon and if married, has his wife and minor children, if any, ordinarily resident with him.

Registration.-- It is agreed that to give effect to the provisions of the agreement in regard to the right to enter and re-enter and liability to immunity from the operation of internal quota legislation, as also to maintain accurate records of immigrants and to compile labour schedules, registration is necessary. It should be either voluntary or, if compulsory, applicable to all residents in Ceylon.

Status.-- (1) It is agreed that, as regards future legislation other than the legislation necessary to give effect to the agreement, there shall be no differentiation in treatment between Indians who possess a Ceylon domicile of origin or choice or a certificate of permanent settlement and other members of the permanent population. (2) It is agreed that, as regards a future legislation other than legislation necessary to give effect to the agreement, there shall be no differentiation of treatment between other members of the permanent population and any Indian who is the child of a holder of a certificate of permanent settlement (a) ~~was~~ during minority or (b) after attaining majority, if he is ordinarily resident in Ceylon and has identified himself with the permanent population of Ceylon. (3) It is agreed that, as regards existing legislation, no amendment need be undertaken to modify any provisions which, in terms or in operation, are discriminatory. (4) It is agreed that Indians, other than those possessing a domicile of origin, (a) should not claim the right to appointment to Ceylon Government service or under Quasi-Government bodies, provided, however, that Indians already serving under Government and quasi-Government bodies will be entitled to continue in such service without discrimination, and (b) should not participate in the benefits of the Land Development Ordinance.

General Provisions.-- Wherever a period of residence is prescribed herein, the period shall be computed in accordance with the following provisions:- (a) as regards a period of residence prior to the date of the agreement, the prescribed period shall be exclusive of an ~~aggregate~~ aggregate allowance for temporary absence at the rate of five months for every year of the period prescribed; (b) as regards a period of residence after the date of the agreement, the prescribed period shall be inclusive of an aggregate allowance for temporary absence at the rate of one and a half months for every year prescribed; (c) any continuous period of temporary absence shall not exceed one year; (d) any continuous period of absence, exceeding one year shall constitute a break in the period of residence in Ceylon; (e) any period of absence shall not be deemed to be exceeded if return to Ceylon is prevented by illness, accident, emergency or other similar cause.

Any person not entitled to a return endorsement valid for a period exceeding one year who desires to leave Ceylon for purposes of education or health for a period exceeding one year shall on establishing to the satisfaction of the prescribed authority the purpose of his absence, be entitled to a return endorsement for the requisite period, and continuous absence for more than one year in conformity with such purpose shall not be deemed to be a continuous period of absence for more than one year. It is agreed that any unforeseen case or any case of hardship which may be revealed in the operation of the agreement will be made the subject of consultation between the two Governments and will be decided in accordance with the spirit and intention of this agreement.

(The Statesman, 16-10-1941.)

Public Reaction to Agreement.- The Agreement has been sharply criticised by Indians both here and in Ceylon. The following extracts from a statement by the Ceylon Indian Congress on the Agreement embody the more important of these criticisms:

General.- The conclusions embodied in the report are haphazard and based on no principles. A statesman-like agreement would take account of a future unification between the countries and would not proceed on the basis of a permanent separation. While Ceylon is doubtless entitled to determine the composition of her population for the future, it is no less clear that undertakings given of fair and equal treatment to Indians on the basis of which they immigrated have to be honoured and that Indians already in Ceylon cannot in anyway be discriminated against. The part of the Indian population permanently settled in the island should have easy facilities to establish full citizenship rights. Terms to be offered to immigrant workers should be in consonance with civilised standards of international conventions on the subject. Judged by these principles, the agreed conclusions of the Delegations do grave injustice to the claims of resident Indians. The terms held out to future immigrants are gravely prejudicial to their interests and derogatory to the honour of India.

Status of Resident Indians.- Far from doing away with the vague and illusory theories of domicile of origin and domicile of choice, the report seeks to perpetuate them. The major part of the Indian population who have a permanent interest in the island are illiterate estate workers and to ask that they should go and establish in a Court according to the standards of English law that they possess domicile of choice, is little short of mockery.

One would expect that domicile of choice established elaborately would bring with it perfect equality with the permanent population. There would still be disabilities in matters of service under government, colonisation of land and ~~fixing~~ fishing rights. Even if the whole of 700,000 Indian estate population were to establish their domicile of choice, they would still be homeless and villageless when the estate Superintendents turn them out of the lines.

Certificate of Permanent Settlement.- The acquiring of certificates of permanent settlement is to be made many times more difficult than what it is at present, with the period of residence extended from five to seven years. Elaborate proof has to be produced by an Indian that he is living with his family in Ceylon, has a means of livelihood in Ceylon and has to renounce claims to special rights if any - all to enable him to acquire a vote exercised ordinarily once in 5 years and that in a land where adult franchise prevails and every person walking the streets has a vote. The difficult procedure attached to proving domicile of choice and the utter inability of the workers to adapt themselves to it will have the inevitable effect of making them seek certificates of permanent settlement. By implication, they would be branded for ever as citizens of an inferior order. The status of even their children would be no better and they will have to take certificates of permanent settlement again with all its limitations.

Persons who do not have a residence in Ceylon of over three years on the date of the agreement can never acquire even the right of ~~as~~ vote unless they can establish literacy and property qualification or establish that they come under the category of A class/entrants under

the new Immigration Ordinance and have acquired domicile of choice. Their very rights of re-entry into Ceylon is abolished in most cases and very severely restricted in others tying them down to employment under one master. It would be difficult to find justification for the treatment meted out to this class of people.

Quotas.- In regard to future immigrant workers, they would come under quotas and subject to the Immigration Ordinance and there appears to be no question of their acquiring any rights in the Island whatever the length of their stay. It is not clear from the report whether India has or has not reserved her rights not to allow emigration under these terms. Emigration under these terms would reduce workers to obnoxious indenture conditions of which India has had experience in the Colonies.

The agreed conclusions give the Government of Ceylon complete powers to control future immigration and to impose quotas in regard thereto. Under the circumstances, it is difficult to understand the object of imposition of internal quotas. Internal quotas and classification of resident Indians into numerous classes subject to varying degrees of disabilities under such quotas will in administrative practice prove to be a source of severe harassment for which there is absolutely no justification.

Discriminatory Legislation.- While all along it was denied that there was any legislation discriminating against Indians, the report admits discrimination and proposes to perpetuate ~~indefinite~~ discrimination instead of removing it.

Effect of Agreement.- The agreed conclusions if given effect to would create in Ceylon a helot class of Indians as bondsmen under the same master or in same employment, divide the Indian population into numerous categories with varying degrees of disabilities imposed on them, convert a large class of persons really possessing domicile of choice and even their descendants into an inferior class of permanent settlers and impose unjustifiable restrictions on employment and re-entry, ignoring altogether definite undertakings extended in the past and rendering their position much worse than what it is at present. +

Zanzibar Government's Scheme to grant Copra monopoly to Clove Growers' Association: Opposition of Indian Interests. +

Information has been received in India that the Zanzibar Government is considering a proposal to develop the coconut oil industry on a large-scale basis ~~in~~ in order to push up the already depressed prices of copra. The proposal involves the vesting of the monopoly of the copra industry in the Clove Growers' Association. ~~It is felt that the scheme offers good prospects, since~~ The production of copra in Zanzibar for export purposes is about 12,000 tons a year.

The Zanzibar Government's move has been opposed by the Indian business community, since the scheme will result in the elimination of Indian interests ~~in~~ in the coconut industry of Zanzibar. Indians

residing in Zanzibar own about eight factories for producing coconut oil, while a fairly large volume of the export trade in copra is handled by them. Representations have been made to the Government of India to seek their intervention to protect Indian interests in Zanzibar. It is pointed out that the oil producing industry in Kenya and Tanganyika is in private hands, that large Indian syndicates have been conducting it efficiently and that their co-operation has been of great use in the war campaign in East Africa.

(The Times of India, 10-10-1941).

No Undue Indian Penetration in South Africa:
Broome Commission's Report.

The report of the Broome Indian Penetration Commission, which was released on 12-10-1941 says that the extent of the ^{Indian} penetration in the Transvaal since 1927 was "not alarming or even surprising" and in Natal "the position does not appear to be serious", if the total number of cases is considered in relation to the Indian population.

Position in Transvaal.- "We have estimated the present Indian population in the Transvaal as 28,200, of which possibly one-half or less reside on proclaimed land", says the report. "They are a ~~class almost entirely dependent on trade for livelihood.~~ A trading class cannot subsist by trading only with its members. In these circumstances, the occupation of 246 trading sites and 93 residential sites in the predominantly European portions of the Transvaal since January 1, 1927, does not disclose a situation which can by any stretch of imagination be described as critical." ~~xxxxxxxallegation~~ Recalling that the Murray Commission found no increase in the years 1932-39 in the number of Asiatic trading licences disproportionate to the total growth of population, the report says that, if the comparison were to be extended to cover the years 1927-40, the present commissioners' conclusion on the evidence would be the same. As to the allegation that the reason for the penetration was the Government's failure to enforce past and existing statutory restrictions against Asiatics, the report says that the truth is that occupation of trading and residential sites on unproclaimed land has taken place without any breach of the law and so could not have been prevented by the enforcement of any statutory restrictions. "We unhesitatingly reject the view that there is among the Transvaal Indians any general desire to live among Europeans", says the report. "Where they have done so, the inducement has been the existence in European areas of either better trading opportunities or better living conditions."

European Exodus.- Acquitting Indians of the charge that their entry has caused a European exodus, the report says that the European exodus preceded and so obviously was not caused by Indian entry. Centralisation of trade in larger centres as the result of improved means of communication reduced the opportunities of the local trader, and what ceased to be attractive to the European trader remained attractive to the Indian, with his fewer material needs and greater concentration on business.

Causes of Penetration.- The Cape Town agreement of 1927 contributed towards penetration in the Transvaal by encouraging Indians.

to accept the western way of life, leading to the break up of the Indian family system and sons leaving home to set up for themselves. "The main reason for the penetration is nothing more than a normal desire among Indians to acquire wealth," continues the report. "All people, irrespective of race or colour desire to improve their material position. Realisation of this fact will not cause the problem of Indian penetration to disappear, but it may, by dispelling some of its present sinister atmosphere, contribute towards its solution."

Position in Natal.- Dealing with Natal, where statutory restrictions on acquisition of land by Indians exist only in the northern districts, the report says: "If the Indian advance into European areas before January 1927 is described as a flood, the subsequent advance is little more than a trickle - 23 cases a year, or, if agricultural land is added, 29. In Durban, the sites acquired and occupied totalled 150 and the sites acquired but not occupied 362. The number of trading sites occupied by Indians is negligible. Giving reasons for the Indian penetration into Natal, the report says: "The absence of other directions for investment has led the Indians to invest their money in immovable property."

Indians in Malaya:
Growing concern in India about Malayan Government's Policy.

During the last few months, the position of Indians in Malaya has been deteriorating. In the Malayan rubber plantations, Indian labour struck work on the ground of low wages and argued that Chinese labour in the plantations was getting double the wages paid to Indians. The Malayan authorities were of the opinion that the strike had been engineered by leaders for political ends and obtained the help of Indian troops stationed in Malaya to quell the "riot". Subsequently, a few leaders of the Indian workers were deported and several imprisoned. The view of the Government of India presumably is that the strikers had a legitimate grievance, and that in any case a judicial inquiry should be held to bring out the facts impartially. That such an incident should have taken place at a time when India is doing her best to man the defences of her eastern frontiers is considered all the more unfortunate.

Recently, the Malayan Government approached the Government of India to lift the ban now existing in regard to migration of Indian labourers to Malaya and to permit the entry of 500 Indian labourers into Malaya. The Government of India is understood to have refused the request, in view of the failure of the Malayan Government to give satisfactory explanation about the riot in which Indian labourers were fired upon. The Government of India, it is stated, wanted a judicial inquiry into the matter, but the Malayan authorities have not accepted the suggestion so far.

(The Statesman, 20-4-1941.)

Another recent development which is causing concern about the future of Indians in Malaya is that the Government of Malaya has brought in a bill to make an important change in the provisions concerning the purposes for which moneys in the Indian Immigration Fund established under the Labour Code of the country could be utilised. The bill lays down that the money in the Fund could be utilised to

finance the recruitment and transport of Javanese for employment in the plantations of Malaya. The following comments of the Hindu, Madras, brings out the implications of the measure and the Indian attitude to it:

"The moneys in the Fund are held in trust for the Indian workers and their families to be applied in particular ways and their diversion to other purposes will constitute a breach of trust.... The application of the Fund to finance Japanese immigrants is a gross betrayal of the interests of the poor Indian worker... There is another aspect to this question. Why is it that the Government propose to import Java labour now? It cannot be because it is cheaper. What, again, are the conditions under which it is to be imported?... The Dutch Government in the past have refused to send labour outside except on the basis of settlement. If immigration is to be on the basis of settlement and land is to be granted to the Javanese, is it fair that these new entrants should be favoured to the detriment and exclusion of the Indian labourer who built up the prosperity of the colony?"

(The Hindu, 15-10-1941.) +

Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1939-40.*

The report: "Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India in 1939-40" deals, among other crops, in India with rice, wheat, sugarcane, tea, cotton, jute, linseed, rape and mustard, sesamum, castor seed, groundnut, coffee and rubber. Below is given a brief review of the area and yield of these crops:

Rice.- The total area under rice in 1939-40 was reported as 73,199,000 acres, as compared with 73,398,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good on the whole. The total yield was estimated at 25,364,000 tons, as against 23,969,000 tons in 1938-39. To this figure should be added about 1,015,000 tons in respect of other tracts (having an area of about 2,930,000 acres), for which no forecasts are made.

Wheat.- The total area under wheat in 1939-40 was reported to be 34,014,000 acres, which was less than the area of the preceding year by 4 per cent. The condition of the crop was reported to be good on the whole. The total estimated ~~total~~ yield was 10,752,000 tons, which was 8 per cent. greater than the yield of 1938-39. An addition of some 229,000 tons should be made to this estimated yield in respect of some other tracts (having an area of about 723,000 acres), for which no reports are made.

Sugar-cane.- The total area reported under sugarcane in 1939-40 was 3,623,000 acres, as compared with 3,130,000 acres in the preceding year. The estimated yield amounted to 4,590,000 tons of raw sugar (gur), which was greater than that of the preceding year by 36 per cent. To this figure should be added approximately 188,000 tons in respect of other tracts (having an area of 148,000 acres), for which no separate estimates are made. The condition of the crop was reported to be good, on the whole.

Tea.- According to information available, the total area under tea in 1939 was 833,200 acres, as compared with ~~833~~ 833,800 acres in the preceding year. The total production of manufactured tea (black and green) was 452,596,300 lbs, as against 451,860,800 lbs in the preceding year.

Cotton.- The total reported area under cotton was 21,351,000 acres in 1939-40 as against 23,490,000 acres in 1938-39. The condition of the crop, on the whole, was reported to be fairly good. The total estimated outturn was 4,909,000 bales of 400 lbs each, as compared with 5,051,000 bales in 1938-39, or a decrease of 3 per cent.

Jute.- The total area and yield of jute in 1939 were 3,161,000 acres, and 9,738,000 bales (of 400 lbs each), as compared with 3,165,000 acres and 6,819,000 bales in the preceding year. The area and yield of jute in 1940 were estimated at 4,344,000 acres and 12,547,000 bales.

* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1939-40. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.1-10 or 2s.6d. pp.57.

Linseed.- The total area under linseed in all the reporting tracts in 1939-40 was 3,713,000 acres, as against 3,869,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be good, on the whole. The total estimated yield was 466,000 tons, as against 442,000 tons last year. To this figure should be added some 28,000 tons for other tracts (having an area of 224,000 acres), for which no reports are made.

Rape and Mustard.- The total area under rape and mustard in all the reporting tracts in 1939-40 was 6,113,000 acres, as against 5,535,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crops was reported to be good, on the whole. The total estimated yield was 1,120,000 tons, as against 923,000 tons in the preceding year. To this figure should be added some 47,000 tons in respect of other tracts (having an area of 258,000 acres), for which no reports are made.

Sesamum.- The total area under sesamum reported in 1939-40 was 4,050,000 acres, as against 4,331,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good, on the whole. The total estimated yield was 416,000 tons, as against 396,000 tons in 1938-39. An addition of approximately 70,000 tons should be made to this figure in respect of other tracts (containing an area of about 682,000 acres under sesamum), for which no reports are made.

Castor Seed.- ~~Castorseed-is-sown-from-M~~ The total area under Castorseed in 1939-40 was estimated at 1,004,000 acres and the yield at 97,000 tons, as against 1,198,000 acres with an estimated yield of 111,000 tons in the preceding year.

Groundnut.- The total area under groundnut in 1939-40 was reported to be 8,198,000 acres, which was less than that of the preceding year by 4 per cent. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good, on the whole. The total estimated yield was 3,148,000 tons of nuts in shell, as against 3,219,000 tons in the preceding year.

Coffee.- The total reported area under coffee in 1938-39 was 181,200 acres, the yield of cured coffee therefrom being estimated at 40,110,600 lbs.

Rubber.- The total area under rubber in 1939 was 134,000 acres, as against 130,100 acres in the preceding year. The total yield of dry rubber was 31,390,700 lbs, as against 31,065,800 lbs. in 1938.

Future of Indian Sugar Industry: Demand for Central Sugar Committee. +

At the end of the stipulated period of protection for the Indian sugar industry is approaching, sugar interests in the country are becoming concerned about the future of this important industry. Their view was expressed by Sir Sri Ram at a meeting of the Sugar Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, which concluded its two days session on 14-10-1941. It was stated at the meeting that neither the sugar Committee of the Council, as constituted at present, nor the advisory committee on sugar set up by the Commerce Department, are able to watch and assist the industry from the stage of cultivation to the stage of disposal of produce and that there is need for the establishment of a sugar committee to perform functions similar to those discharged by the Indian Central Cotton Committee.

A proposal to establish an Indian Central Sugar Committee as envisaged by the Commerce Member in a speech in the Central Assembly during its last budget session, was considered and adopted. The committee is to function on the same lines as the Indian Central Cotton Committee and will have separate funds of its own to carry out its objects, including research. The Committee will have a majority of non-officials as its members and will be representative of all sugar interests, including manufacturers, growers and merchants.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-10-1941.) +

36

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC
SERVANTS

Conditions of Work of Clerical Staff in Bombay textile mills:
Bombay Textile Clerks' Union conducts Enquiry.

The Bombay Textile Clerks' Union recently decided to conduct an enquiry into the conditions of work of the clerical staff employed in the textile mills in Bombay, and for the purpose has issued a questionnaire, covering the more important service conditions, - strength of staff, salary (starting, grade, dearness allowance, etc.), leave, hours of work (daily, weekly and over-time), discharge and resignation, medical aid, provident fund, gratuity, and co-operation. The replies to the questionnaire are directed to be sent to the Union before 31-9-1941.

(Summarised from copy of the Questionnaire forwarded to this Office by the Secretary, the Bombay Textile Clerks' Union).r

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Promotion of Co-operative Movement in Travancore State: Advisory Committee set up. +

The Government of Travancore State, in a press communiqué, states that the co-operative movement in the State has been on the decline for some time past and that unless prompt and effective measures are taken by Government it will still further deteriorate. Though the movement has been in existence for more than 25 years it has not developed on right lines. The Government has, however, great faith in the potentialities of the co-operative movement, as an efficient factor in promoting economic life in various spheres such as agriculture and in the development of cottage industries. The movement may well be utilised in organising the marketing of agricultural and industrial products. Government has, under the circumstances, decided to appoint an Advisory Committee composed of leading non-official co-operators, with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies as its Chairman and Convenor, drawing up a scheme for the reconstruction of the financing banks and the restoration and development of non-credit activities. The scheme is to be submitted to Government within three months. +

(The Hindu, 4-10-1941.)

Encouragement of Cottage Industries in Mysore: 3-Year Scheme to cost Rs. 300,000.

A sum of Rs. 300,000 has been set apart by the Government of Mysore to be at the disposal of the Cottage Industries Committee in Mysore for the development of cottage industries, according to a three-years' plan drawn up by the Industries Department. For the current year, a sum of Rs. 132,000 has been allotted. The Cottage Industries Committee has resolved to start immediately six centres for button-making, out of which two would be reserved for women. These centres might be multiplied after a period of six months. Paper-making as a cottage industry is ^{also} sought to be encouraged.

(The Hindu, 24-10-1941.) +

Handloom Weaving in Bengal and Sind: Government encourage Employment of Women in Industry. +

With the help of the Central Government grants, attempts are being made in at least two provinces (Bengal and Sind) to revive the handloom cottage industry, among women.

The Women's Co-operative Industrial Home in Bengal has been working since 1938 with a capital grant of Rs. 6,850 and donations amounting to Rs. 2,044. Government has given further grants of Rs. 2,370 and Rs. 2,700 in the two succeeding years. At present 12 looms provide work for 18 members throughout the year at an average rate of wages of Rs. 15-8-0 per head per month. The maximum monthly wages earned by an individual member have been Rs. 22. The Home works on a factory system under the supervision of a weaving and dyeing expert. Furnishing

materials of all kinds, woollen shawls, scarves and waterproof lining cloths have been produced. The Home specialises in manufacturing furnishing materials and has been successful in securing regular orders from important hotels, clubs and some of the big consumers in Calcutta.

A scheme for organising demonstration parties for training of women members of weavers' families in preliminary processes under the guidance of a female demonstrator has been put into operation in Sind.

("Indian Information" dated
15-10-1941.)

Extension of Labour Recreation Facilities in Bombay

Labour recreation centres are an integral feature of the Labour Welfare Department brought into being by the late Congress Government of Bombay and the extension of their activities from funds available from the Special Development Fund and other ~~source~~ ^{sources} has been receiving the attention of the present Government. In this connection, works recently approved and expected to be carried out in the near future are an additional storey to each of the gymnasium buildings at the three recreation centres at DeLisle Road, Worli and Naigaum in Bombay City at a cost of Rs. 28,000, the construction of a gymnasium at the Ahmedabad recreation pavilion at a cost of Rs. 10,000, and the provision of bathing facilities at each of them at a total cost of Rs. 16,000. Another scheme recently approved at a cost of Rs. 15,000 is that of circulating libraries. These libraries will be supplied to the different industrial centres and the books will be circulated in such a way that they will reach all mohollas (streets) consisting of ten or more chawls. For each moholla a committee of five or six members will be appointed, and the anti-drink Inspector, where one exists, will act as the secretary of the committee. Social welfare institutions and well-organised labour unions will also be used as agencies for circulating books.

(Communiqué dated 11-10-1941 issued by
the Director of Information, Bombay.)+

Nutrition

Food Adulteration in India:
Enquiry ordered by Central Advisory Board of Public Health. +

The Central Advisory Board of Public Health has decided to set up an 'ad hoc' committee to investigate and report on the legislative and administrative aspects of food adulteration in India. The committee will be representative of the commercial and other interests concerned, and is expected to meet this cold weather in Delhi.

(The Times of India, 9-10-1941.) +

SOCIAL CONDITIONS1941 Census Figures:

Population of India (excluding Burma) increases to 389 millions. +

An increase, in a decade, of almost exactly 50 millions in India's population is the final computation made by the Census Commissioner of India from enumeration made during the 1941 census operations. Now that the census figure for Bengal has been published, it is gathered that the total population of India is placed at 388.8 millions, of which British India's share is 296 millions and that of the Indian States 93 millions. The previous proportion of three to one between the population of British India and of Indian States is maintained. The 1931 census recorded an increase in population of about $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while the 1941 census shows an increase of 15 per cent. Ten years ago India's population of 352 millions included 14 millions of Burma's inhabitants and if Burma had again been included in India's total the population of the country would have exceeded 400 millions. It is expected that by the end of 1941 all tables will be ready for publication, but these will give ^{only} ordinary details of population in terms of towns, districts, tahsils and villages and communitywise distribution of the Indian people. The present census operations have, owing to the war, been curtailed to a great extent, and hence several heads of information included in previous census reports will not be available this time. The usefulness of the present report for social planning is thereby impaired to a great extent.

(The Statesman, 14-10-1941.)+

WagesDearness Allowance to Low-paid Government servants in Mysore State. +

In view of the increase in the prices of foodstuffs due to war, the Government of Mysore has sanctioned, with effect from 1-9-1941 to end of December 1941 in the first instance, a dearness allowance of rupee one per mensem to all whole-time employees of the Government, drawing a salary of Rs. 25 and less per month, including those in commercial departments such as railways, electrical and commercial concerns worked by the Government. Local bodies in the State have been authorised to sanction similar allowances to their employees.

(The Hindu, 31-10-1941.).

Payment of Dearness Allowance for Low-paid Government Employees: Sanctioned by Sind Government.

The Sind Government has sanctioned dearness allowance for all wholetime Government servants drawing up to Rs. 30 per month, the rate of allowance being Re.1 per month for those drawing up to Rs.15 and Re. 2 for those drawing above Rs. 15 and up to Rs. 30 per month. It is estimated that the scheme will cost the Sind Government Rs.600,000 annually.

(The Hindustan Times 16-10-1941).

Conditional grant of Dearness Allowance for Low-paid Government Employees of Local Boards in Madras: Government's Instructions.

The Government of Madras has informed the Presidents of local boards and executive authorities of municipal councils that the scheme of compensatory cost of living allowance sanctioned for Government employees at a flat rate of Rupee one per mensem may be brought into force as from 1-8-1941, in respect of employees of local boards and municipal councils, who are in receipt of emoluments not exceeding Rs. 30 per mensem, subject to the condition that the local body concerned is willing to sanction the allowance and that its finances can afford to meet the extra cost involved.

(The Hindu, 18-10-1941.).

War Supply and Production.Timber for War Purposes: Bombay Conference.

Questions affecting the timber requirements of the Southern Command, India, were discussed at a conference held in Bombay on 17-10-1941. The meeting was attended by Brigadier Wood, Director-General of Supply, Director of Timber, Supply Department, the Chief Conservator of Forests of Bombay, Madras and the Central Provinces, and the Chief Engineer of the Southern Command.

The conference considered the recent increase in the prices of timber in South India and as the result of the army contractors making their purchases in the open market, the increased ~~of~~ cost of buildings required for the Southern Command and the problem of procuring the very substantial quantities of timber required by the military authorities in the near future. It was thought that reserves of sawed timber totalling about 30,000 to 40,000 tons, besides logs, should be built up in the next few months. After reviewing the position, the conference agreed to the discontinuance of purchases by army contractors from timber merchants and to arrange with the Department of Supply for future supplies extending over the next 12 months. These supplies should be made available to the contractors, who should be asked to quote ex-timber rates for the contracts, so that the cost of buildings for the army could be reduced substantially.

As the result of the decision, while a substantial portion of the requirements will represent Indian timber, an appreciable part of the supplies will be imported from Burma. The arrangement envisages the extension of the system of collaboration regarding supplies between the Government of India and the provincial governments. The decision will also free a considerably large quantity of timber for the civil markets where the prices will decline.

(The Times of India, 20-10-1941.)+

Cotton Textiles for War Needs:
Bombay Conference. +

Questions affecting supplies of cotton textiles to meet the war requirements of the Government of India were discussed at the first meeting of the Advisory Panel representing the millowners' associations in the country, attached to the Cotton Textile Directorate of the Department of Supply, held in Bombay on 13-10-1941. It is understood that the Member for Supplies, Sir H.P. Mody, explained to the Panel the difficulties experienced by Government in obtaining a steady flow of supplies and sought the views of the members on the best means of solving the difficulties.

After discussions lasting three days between the Advisory ~~Panel~~ Panel and the representatives of the Department of Supply, a satisfactory decision concerning the immediate requirements of the Government of India in regard to cotton textiles for war was arrived at. The arrangement involves the co-operation of all the mills in the country, thereby ensuring a wider distribution of war orders. On the question of long-term policy and the requirements of the Government of India during 1942, which are estimated to exceed 500,000,000 yards, the members of the Advisory ~~Panel~~ Panel undertook to assist Government in procuring supplies up to the limit of the manufacturing capacity of each textile centre.

It is understood that the heads of the Cotton Textile Directorate will shortly visit the various textile centres, including Ahmedabad, Delhi, Cawnpore, Calcutta, Indore and Coimbatore to complete detailed negotiations.

(The Times of India, 15 and 16-10-41. +

Industrial Health and Safety.

Protection of Factories in War Time:
Order issued by Government of Bombay.

The Government of Bombay has ordered that, in certain specified areas, no factory providing for the employment of 200 or more workers shall be erected or extended for the purpose of carrying on any manufacturing process, or working any vital plant, except with the permission of the Government, and in accordance with such requirements as to layout, materials and construction as the Government may impose for the purpose of rendering the factory less vulnerable to air raids, or for the purpose of affording better protection to persons using or resorting to it.

(Press Note No. 712 issued on
31-10-1941 by the Director
of Information, Bombay.)+

Control Measures.

Burma Cotton Control Ordinance,
1941.

The Governor of Burma has promulgated an ordinance to provide against a collapse in the price of cotton owing to conditions arising out of the war. The Ordinance empowers the Governor to constitute a Board called the Cotton Control Board. The Board shall have power to acquire, buy, sell, export, store or otherwise deal with cotton ginned in British Burma and to take such other steps as may be necessary in connection with the trade therein. A Controller appointed by the Governor will, subject to the control of the Board, discharge the functions of the Board. No person shall dispose of any cotton ginned in British Burma whether by way of sale or otherwise except to the Controller. The profits, if any, made by the Board in exercise of its functions under this Ordinance shall, on the dissolution of the Board, be utilised in works connected with the welfare and convenience of the inhabitants in the cotton producing districts.

(The Burma Gazette, Part I, dated
11-10-1941, pages 1279 to 1281.)+

Chrome Compounds Control Order, 1941.

The Government of India has promulgated an Order to control Chrome compounds, according to which (1) no chrome compounds shall be used in any textile industry except for the manufacture of goods ordered by the Central Government and to the extent required by the specifications prescribed for such goods; (2) Chrome compounds are not to be sold to anyone not having a licence to purchase issued by the Supply Department; (3) all manufacturers, stockholders and consumers of, and all dealers in, Chrome compounds are required to maintain accurate accounts of stocks.

(Notification No. 590 of the Supply
Department, dated 9-10-1941: The Gazette
of India, Extraordinary, dated 9-10-1941,
pages ~~652~~ 655 to 657.)+

Price Control

3rd Price Control Conference, New Delhi, 16 and 17-10-1941.

The 3rd Price Control Conference under the auspices of the Government of India was held at New Delhi on 16 and 17-10-1941, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Government of India, presiding (for a review of the 2nd Price Control Conference, vide pages 52-53 of January 1940 report of this Office). A brief summary of the proceedings of the Conference is given below:

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar's Address: Review of Work done.- The Commerce Member first recalled that the last two conferences had unanimously held the view that agricultural prices before the war had been low and it was only fair that the agriculturists should get some benefit from the improvement in the price position and sell his commodities on a more normal basis and that as far as possible the interests of the agriculturists should be taken into consideration when any question of price control was discussed. The conference had also agreed that where prices advanced so steeply as to be unfair to the consumer, both Central and provincial Governments were justified and compelled to use what powers they had in order to see that the consumer was not exploited. It was also decided that the prices of wholesale markets might be fixed and regulated by the Central Government, if necessary, and that provincial and State Governments should follow the prices in the retail markets and check any undue profiteering.

Present Conditions.- Since then, in June, July and the following months of 1941 there had been a tendency for prices to advance and it seemed that a stage might be reached when it would constitute an unjustifiable increase causing undue hardship to the consumers. Touching on the reasons for the increase, Sir Ramaswami pointed out that the expanding export markets open to this country, particularly after the freezing order with reference to Japan, had certainly been a factor. In the case of manufactured articles, prices had advanced because exports had to be made to countries in the Middle East. The Government of India had received various representations from provincial Governments pointing out that the course of prices was causing them anxiety and that the time had come to consider the question of control.

Motives of Government in Suggesting Control.- The Commerce Member strongly refuted two suggestions made against the Government of India. Firstly, it had been said that the main anxiety of the Central and provincial Governments was to see that a dearness allowance was not given to their employees and these Governments were, therefore, trying to stop the very legitimate rise in prices of agricultural commodities. He emphatically denied this suggestion. The second suggestion was that attempts were being made by the Central Government to keep down prices because they wanted to export cheaply to Dominions and Middle East markets. It was perfectly true, he said, that with reference to certain inter-Government transactions there was a duty cast on the Government of India, as on other Governments, to supply each other commodities or manufactured articles at reasonable prices, but apart from that there was no truth in the suggestion that for normal export to civilians abroad, this Government was interested in levelling down prices of commodities in this country. There could,

further, be no question of levelling down prices in the case of certain commodities such as rice or wheat. Out of 10 million tons of wheat produced in India only a small quantity, about one lakh, was exported, and to suggest that in the interest of this small quantity the Government wanted to keep down the price of 9,900,000 tons was unreasonable.

Rise in Textile Prices.— As regards the rise in the price of textiles, Sir Ramaswami explained that prices in June and July 1941 and since the freezing order with reference to Japan was issued, had gone up considerably. An explanation was that imports from Japan were virtually ceasing, that India had to become self-dependent, and that the demands of the armies in the Middle East and the position of India as a country with a monopoly in these supplies to the Dominions and the Middle East forces were creating a position in which supplies were not keeping pace with the demand. Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Palestine and the African countries on the one side and Singapore, Malaya and New Zealand on the other had to depend more and more on Indian supplies of textiles to meet their civilian as well as military requirements. But the problem of control or regulation of manufactured goods like textiles was very different from the problem in relation to primary products. To attempt to regulate the price of even one of the 500 varieties of cloth produced in India by various mills was a task which was beyond the realm of possibility. One remedy considered during the last war was the production of a "standard cloth" made out of yarn below 20's and to be sold at a fixed price. The suggestion had been made now also that standard cloth or a few varieties of standard cloth ~~xxxx~~ might be put on the market. If the suggestion was approved by the conference, questions such as provincial and State governments buying the cloth at fixed prices and disposing of them to the poorer classes would have to be considered at the conference.

The Conference sat for two days, but reports of the detailed proceedings were not made available to the public. The work of the Conference, however, was reviewed by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar in his concluding address, a summary of which is given below:

No abnormal rise in prices of primary products: Wheat, Rice, Coal.— Reviewing the two days' discussions, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Chairman, in his concluding remarks made it clear that there was no serious problem of a rise in the prices of most raw products. The problem presented by the increase in the price of wheat had been referred to and the Government of India had promised to consider the matter. So far as rice was concerned, it was clear that the problem was a localised one largely depending for solution on measures which local authorities could adopt. There was undoubtedly help which the Government of India could give and were prepared to give by regulating supplies of imported rice. The problem of coal, said the Chairman, was causing concern in certain localities, and he assured the conference that the Railway Board ~~and~~ had this under serious consideration and hoped to find a satisfactory solution. Beyond these, he said, the discussion had not disclosed any serious problem relating to primary commodities.

Textiles and Yarn.— The second day of the Conference, the Chairman pointed out, was mainly devoted to questions of adequacy of supplies of cloth for the civil population and of yarn for handloom weavers and also of the price at which these supplies could be had. The scheme for producing certain types of "standard cloth" like dhotis, saris

and long cloth was now engaging the Central Government's attention and it was hoped that, with the help and co-operation of the textile industry's representatives, this scheme could be put into operation if necessary. So far as yarn was concerned, the problem was one really of keeping the handloom weaver in employment by ensuring for him adequate supplies of yarn at reasonable prices, and the Government of India was fully aware of the seriousness of the problem. The question both of adequate production of yarn for the handloom weaver and of prices of various kinds of yarn was engaging Government's attention.

(The Statesman, 18-10-1941.)+

List of ^{the} more important publications received in this Office
during October, 1941.

National Labour Legislation.-

Act No. XX of 1941. The Mysore Labour (Emergency) Act, 1941.
price Re. 0-1-6.

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Report of the Court of Inquiry constituted under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, to investigate certain grievances of the Salt miners at Khewra, 1940. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs. 2-2-0 or 3s. 6d.
- (2) Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act (XXV of 1934) in Burma for the year 1940. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1941. Price Re. 1-8-0 or 2s. 3d.
- (3) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Statistical Abstract for British India with Statistics, where available, relating to certain Indian States from 1929-30 to 1938-39. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs. 6-12-0.
- (4) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Ajmer-Merwara for the year 1940. New Delhi: Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press. 1941.
- (5) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the N.-W.F.P. for the year 1940. Published by the Manager, Government Printing and Stationery, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar. 1941. Re. 0-11-0 or £. 1-1-0.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Annual Report of the Director, Technological Laboratory, for the year ending 31st May, 1941. Price six annas. The Secretary, Indian Central Cotton Committee, Post Box 1002, Bombay.
- (2) Annual Report of the Department of Industries and Labour, Baroda State, for the year 1939-40 (year ending 31-7-1940). Baroda State Press. 1941. Price Re. 0-9-0.
- (3) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Joint Stock Companies in British India and in the Indian States of Hyderabad ~~State~~, Mysore, ~~Bar~~ Baroda, Gwalior, Indore, Travancore and Cochin. 1937-38. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs. 9-6-0 or 15s.
- (4) Spinning and Weaving Supplement to the Annual Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1940.
- (5) Budget Note for the year 1351 Fasli (6th October 1941 to 5th October 1942 A.D.) Prepared for H.E.H. the Nizam's Government by Mahdi Yar Jung, Ag. Finance Member, Hyderabad-Deccan: At the Government Central Press. 1941.

Social Insurance.-

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 1940. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1941. Price Re. 0-2-6.

Agriculture.-

- (1) Government of the Central Provinces and Berar. Report on the working of the Department of Agriculture in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March, 1941. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. Price Annas 12.
- (2) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1939-40. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Re. 1-10-0 or 2s.6d.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta. Annual Report of the Committee for the year 1940. Published by the Secretary, Indian Chamber of Commerce, 102-A, Clive Street, Calcutta. 1941.

Social Conditions.-

- (1) Annual Administration Report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Province of Bombay for the year ending 31st March, 1941. Part I. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Annas 2 or 3d. 1941.
- (2) Harijan Sevak Sangh: Report for the years from 1st October 1937 to 30th September 1940. Kingsway, Delhi. May 1941.
- (3) Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. R.R. Kale Memorial Lecture 1941. The Problem of Aborigines in India by A.V. Thakkar, L.C.E. Price Re.1/-.. 1941.

Public Health.-

Annual Public Health Report of the Province of Bihar for the year 1939 and the Annual Vaccination Report for the year 1939-40 by Lt. Col. S.L. Mitra, D.P.H., I.M. S., Director of Public Health, Bihar. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941. Price Rs. 2-7-0.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) The National Council of Women in India. 7th Biennial Report, 1938-1940.
- (2)

c6/2/19

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for November, 1941.

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Pages</u>
<u>1. National Labour Legislation.-</u>	
<u>Government of India:</u>	
(a) Amendment of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926.	1
(b) The Factories Amendment Act, 1941.	1
(c) Madras Port Trust (Amendment) Act, 1941.	1
(d) The Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941.	1-2
<u>Bombay:</u>	
(a) Bombay Industrial Disputes (Second Amendment) Act, 1941.	2
(b) Extension of Bombay Industrial Disputes (Second Amendment) Act to Partially Excluded Areas in Bombay.	2
<u>C.P. and Berar:</u>	
Model Bye-laws to Control and Regulate Bidi Industry.	2-3
<u>Sind:</u>	
Sind Shops and Establishment Rules, 1941.	3
<u>Hyderabad-State.-</u>	
Hyderabad Bhagela Agreements Bill, 1941.	3
<u>2. Social Policy.-</u>	
(a) Government of India to confer with Employers and Workers on 2 and 3-1-1942: Subjects for Discussion.	4
(b) 3rd Labour Ministers' Conference, New Delhi, 30 and 31-1-1942.	4
<u>3. Conditions of Work.-</u>	
<u>Women's Work:-</u>	
(a) Payment of Maternity Benefits in Punjab: Legislation under consideration of Government.	5
(b) Application of Bengal Maternity Benefit (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941, to other Estates than Tea Plantations: Suggestion of European Group in Bengal Legislature.	5
<u>Forced Labour:-</u>	
Working of Hyderabad Bhagela Agreements Regulation, 1936: New Bill introduced to stiffen Regulations.	6-7
<u>Industrial Disputes:</u>	
(a) Industrial Disputes in British India during the quarter ending 31-12-1940.	8
(b) Madras Bus Drivers' Dispute: Arbitrator Appointed.	8
(c) Industrial Disputes in British India during 1940.	9-10
(d) Ahmedabad Labour Dispute Settled.	10.
<u>Holidays with Pay:</u>	
(a) Weekly Holidays Bill, 1941: Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay.	11-12

	<u>pages</u>
3. <u>Conditions of Work.-</u> (continued)	
<u>General:</u>	
(a) Factory Administration in U.P. in 1940.	13-14
(b) Factory Administration in Orissa in 1940.	15
(c) Factory Administration in C.P. and Berar in 1940.	15-17
(d) Factory Administration in Assam in 1940.	17-18
(e) Labour Conditions in Assam Tea Gardens, 1939-40: Report of Controller of Emigrant Labour, Assam.	18-20
(f) Conditions of Work in the Bidi Industry in C.P. and Berar: Report of Bidi Industry Committee.	20-23
(g) Service Conditions in Government Industrial Concerns in Mysore: Uniform Rules Introduced.	23
(h) Conditions of Work in Jute Presses in Bengal: Government orders Enquiry.	24
4. <u>Economic Conditions.-</u>	
(a) Proposed Establishment of Export Organisation: Bombay Millowners' Association urges Postponement of Scheme: Question engaging attention of Government of India.	25
(b) Industrial Research Fund to be Created: Government Resolution in Central Assembly.	25-26
(c) Development of Large and Small-scale Industries in Hyderabad State: Review of administration of Industrial Trust Fund.	26-27
5. <u>Social Insurance.-</u>	
(a) Working of the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act during 1940.	28
(b) Working of the C.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1940.	28
(c) Hyderabad Family Pension Fund: State Life Insurance Fund thrown open to Public.	29
6. <u>Employment, Unemployment and Vocational Training.</u>	
Labour Exchange set up by Sind Government.	30
7. <u>Migration.-</u>	
(a) Indian Emigrants Abroad: Review of Developments during 1940-41.	31-33
(b) Working Conditions in Ceylon: Report of the Controller of Labour, 1940.	34-37
(c) Draft Indo-Ceylon Emigration Agreement: Possibilities of change envisaged.	37-39
(d) The Reciprocity Bill, 1941.	39
(e) Indians in Malaya: Pandit Kunzru's Resolution in the Council of State.	40-41
(f) Indo-Burma Agreement: Resolution in Central Assembly demanding Modifications Adopted.	41
8. <u>Agriculture.-</u>	
(a) Rice Production in India: Report of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser.	42-45
(b) India's Rice Production: 3-Year Plan to increase Production.	45-46

9. Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-

- (a) Co-operative Marketing Scheme under consideration of Bombay Government. 47-48
- (b) Economic Survey of Selected Rural Areas in Mysore State. 48
- (c) Handloom Industry in Sind: Government plans for Development.

10. Living Conditions.-

Nutrition:

- (a) Trends of Dietary Habits and Analysis of Food Budgets in Working Class Families of Bihar. 49
- (b) Prevention of Slaughter of Milch Cattle in Urban Areas: I.C.A.R. appoints committee to suggest preventive Measures. 49
- (c) Nutrition Museum for Calcutta: Calcutta Corporation Proposal. 50

11. Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

Workers' Organisations:

- All-India Anti-Fascist Trade Union Conference - Lahore, 30-11-1941: Indian Labour Federation set up. 51-53

12. Social Conditions.-

- Opium Consumption in Assam: Government Decision to restrict Sale. 54

13. Social Policy in War Time.-

Hours of Work:

- Hours of Work in Textile Mills in India increased from 54 to 60 to increase Production. 55

Wages:

- (a) Is Dear Food Allowance "Wage" or "Amenity"? 56
- (b) Workers' Wages for time lost during A.R.P. Suspension. 56-57
- (c) Government grants increased Rates of Dearness Allowance from 1-11-1941 for Railway Workers. 57

Employment:

- (a) Joint Conference of Chairmen of National Service Labour Tribunals and Regional Inspectors of Technical Training. 58

War Supply and Production:

- (a) Jail Industries and War Effort in Hyderabad State. 58
- (b) Increasing Textile Production: Concessions to Mills. 59
- (c) Statistical Data re. Textiles: Government demand Information. 59
- (d) Meeting War Demand for Textiles: Advisory Panel of Textile Manufacturers formed. 59

Social Insurance:

- The Bombay Government Provident Funds (Temporary Relaxation) Rules. 60

Price Control:

- Inflation of Wheat Prices in India: Likelihood of Control by Government of India. 60

Pages

Price Control

Inflation of ~~Wheat~~ Wheat Prices in India: Likelihood of Control by Government of India.

60

14. List of the more important publications received in this Office during November, 1941.

61-62

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

Government of India.-

Amendment of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926.

The Government of India has gazetted several amendments to the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, with a view to ensure better safety in mines.

(Notification No. M.955 dated 6-11-1941:
The Gazette of India, Part I, dated
8-11-1941, pages 1650 to 1652.)

Government of India.

The Factories Amendment Act, 1941.

Reference was made at page 1 of our October 1941 report to the adoption by the Central Assembly on 30-10-1941 of the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1941, which seeks to give power to Provincial Governments to enable them to notify once for all the application of the Factories Act to any specified classes of establishments employing ten or more persons. The Bill was passed by the Council of State on 13-11-1941 and received the assent of the Governor General on 20-11-1941. The Act is published at page 68 of Part IV of the Gazette of India, dated 29-11-1941.

Government of India.-

Madras Port Trust (Amendment) Act, 1941.

Reference was made at page 1 of our March 1941 report to the introduction in the Central Assembly on 28-2-1941 of the Madras Port Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1941, which revises the Constitution of the Board of Trustees of the Port and, while increasing Indian representation on it, provides for the nomination by the Central Government of one representative of labour on the Board. The Bill was passed by the Central Assembly and the Council of State in November 1941 and received the assent of the Governor General on 26th November, 1941. The text of the Act is published at pages 70 to 71 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 29-11-1941.

Government of India.-

The Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941.

The Mines Maternity Benefit Bill, 1941, to which reference was made at page 1 of our September 1941 report was introduced in the Central Assembly on 27-10-1941 and passed by it on 5-11-1941. The Council of State passed the Bill on 13-11-1941 and it received the assent of the Governor-General on 26-11-1941. The text of the Act is published at pages 72 to 75 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 29-11-1941.

Mr. Joshi in the Assembly and Mr. P.N. Saprú in the Council of State moved amendments for extension of the period of benefits

from 8 weeks to 12 weeks, pointing out that the International Labour Convention on Childbirth prescribes this period. Sir Firoz Khan Noon, in the Council of State, while sympathizing with Mr. Sapru's suggestion, pointed out that the number of child-bearing women employed in mines was very small and considering the competition and cheapness of labour in India, if the period of maternity was extended as suggested, mine-owners might altogether stop employing child-bearing women. He said that in the matter of such legislation it was desirable to proceed by small degrees.

(The Statesman, 6-11-1941 and the Hindustan Times, 14-11-1941.) +

Bombay.-

Bombay Industrial Disputes (Second Amendment) Act, 1941.

In view of the urgent necessity to stimulate production of textile goods in India both to ease the general price situation and to ensure adequate ~~war~~ war supplies, Government has issued a notification under section 8 of the Factories Act, 1934, exempting spinning and weaving mills from operation of section 34 of that Act. Before, ~~however, spinning and weaving mills can take advantage of this exemption~~ it would be obligatory on them under section 28 (1) of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, read with item 9 of Schedule II to the Act, to give a notice of ~~change intimating~~ their intention to make a change in the total weekly hours of work; and, if there is no agreement with the representatives of employees, to take the dispute ~~into~~ conciliation. To avoid the delay involved in this procedure, which might adversely affect production, it has been decided to make it ~~an~~ unnecessary on the part of employers to give notice of such change. The present Act seeks to achieve this object.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 4-11-1941, pages 212-213.)

Bombay.-

Extension of Bombay Industrial Disputes (Second Amendment) Act to Partially Excluded Areas in Bombay.

The Bombay Government has gazetted a notification extending the Bombay Industrial Disputes (Second Amendment) Act, 1941, to the Partially Excluded Areas in Bombay Province.

(Notification No. 3843/34 dated 4-11-1941: The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, Part I V-A, dated 4-11-1941, page 258.) +

C.P. and Berar.-

Model Bye-laws to Control and Regulate Bidi Industry.

The Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has published

model bye-laws under section 180 and sub-section (5) of section 178 of the Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act (II of 1922), to control and regulate the manufacture or preparation of bidis (country cigarettes) for being adopted by municipal and notified area committees. The bye-laws stipulate that no person shall run a bidi factory without having a valid licence. Among the conditions for the grant of licence are certain minimum specifications as to area of and material used for bidi factories and sanitary fittings.

(Notification No. 8239-386-M-XIII of 1940 dated 28-10-1941: The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part III, dated 7-11-1941, pages 1651 to 1652.)-

Sind.-

Sind Shops and Establishment Rules, 1941.

The Government of Sind has gazetted the general Rules for the administration of the Sind Shops and Establishments Act, 1940.

(Notification No. 617/7-M/41 dated 16-11-1941: The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 20-11-1941, pages 942 to 952.) +

Hyderabad-State.-

Hyderabad Bhagela Agreements Bill, 1941. +

The Hyderabad Government has introduced in the State Legislature the Hyderabad Bhagela Agreements Bill, for effectively ending the system of forced labour which is prevalent mostly in the Telingana districts of the State. The bill, which is now in the select committee stage, is based on the experience gained during the past five years in the working of the Bhagela Regulation, the promulgated in 1936, and is expected to become law in the near future. In order to make the law really useful to the bhagelas, the jurisdiction of civil courts has been specifically excluded from matters coming under the Bill on the analogy of a similar provision in the State Debt Conciliation Act; and the Tahsildar (Revenue official of a sub-district) has been authorised to decide all cases arising under the Bhagela Act so that immediate relief may be available to the bhagelas. The Bill also provides for a single appeal to the Second Talukadar (District Revenue official) from the decision of the Tahsildar. Another section provides for a penalty not exceeding Rs. 25 if any employer extracts labour from a bhagela in respect of a discharged or void agreement or if he makes an oral agreement with the bhagela. The clause in the Bhagela Agreements Regulation of 1936 (vide pages 21-22 of our January 1936 report) regarding the fixation of the rate of remuneration and hours of work has however been excluded from the Bill in the interest of the employer. (For fuller details vide item on the same subject in Section: Conditions of Work of this report). (The Nov. 1941 issue of Hyderabad Information.)

Government of India to confer with Employers and
Workers on 2 and 3-1-1942: Subjects for Discussion.

A conference of the representatives of Indian employers with the representatives of the Government of India will be held at Calcutta on the 5th January, 1942.

A similar Conference between the representatives of Indian labour and the representatives of the Government of India will be held at Calcutta, the next day, 6th January, 1942.

Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Labour Member, Government of India, will preside over both Conferences. The subjects for discussion are:

(i) night shift work; (ii) the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act; (iii) the amendment of the Payment of Wages Act; (iv) sickness insurance; (v) industrial fatigue resulting from exemptions from the hours of work sections of the Factories Act.

It will be remembered that similar Conferences were held last year also. (Vide pages 3-5 of December 1940 report of this Office.)

has been later (The Statesman, 21-12-1941.)
It is ~~now~~ ^{has been} ~~learned~~ ^{later} that the above dates have been changed to 2 and 3-1-1942.

3rd Labour Ministers' Conference, New Delhi,
30, 31-1-1942.

It is learned that the Third Labour Conference of Ministers and representatives of provincial Governments with representatives of the Labour Department, Central Government, has been called to meet in New Delhi, on January 30 and 31, 1942. Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Labour Member, will preside. Among other matters, the Conference will discuss some of the subjects previously discussed by the Government with representatives of employers and workers at Calcutta on 2 and 3-1-1942.

(The Statesman, 26-12-1941.)

Conditions of work

Women's Work

5

Payment of Maternity Benefits in Punjab: Legislation under consideration of Government. ✓

In pursuance of a non-official resolution passed by the Punjab Assembly in its last session, the Punjab Government has decided to introduce a Bill on the lines of the Bengal legislation to provide maternity benefits to female workers in factories. The legislation, it is understood, is being drafted at present.

(The Statesman, 23-11-1941.) ✓

Application of Bengal Maternity Benefit (~~For~~ Tea Estates) Bill, 1941, to other Estates than Tea Plantations: Suggestion of European Group in Bengal Legislature. ✓

References were made at pages 1 to 2 of the June 1941 and page 2 of the September 1941 reports of this Office to the Bengal Maternity Benefit (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941, now before the provincial Legislature. The European Group in the Bengal Legislature suggested to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce that members interested in plantations in Bengal other than tea might be consulted, with a view to ascertaining whether they would be in favour of the Group's suggestion that the Bill might be extended to all plantation labour in the Province. The Chamber accordingly sought the opinion of members interested in sugar, rubber, timber and other plantations. It was found that the majority were in favour of extending the legislation, but as the expression of opinion came too late to put forward the proposal in connection with the Maternity Benefit (Tea Estates) Bill, it was placed before the European Group for future reference.

(Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for July, August and September, 1941). ✓

Forced Labour.

Working of Hyderabad Bhagela Agreement Regulation, 1936 : New Bill introduced to stiffen Regulations. ✓ +

Reference was made at pages 21 to 22 of our January 1936 report to the promulgation of the Hyderabad Bhagela Agreements Regulation to abolish forced labour in the State. This Regulation provided, in respect of agreements entered into prior to its promulgation, that they shall be deemed to have been discharged after the Regulation had been in force for twelve months. In the matter of future agricultural labour agreements, it stipulated that these would be wholly void if (a) the period during which labour was contracted exceeded one year, (b) the full terms of the agreement between the parties were not set down in writing and duly stamped under the law and a copy of the agreement given to the labourer at the time of its execution, (c) the stipulation was not included that on the expiry of the period during which the labour was to be performed, all liability shall be extinguished in respect of any advance, debt or interest forming part consideration, and (d) a fair and equitable rate of remuneration for labour and reasonable hours of work were not provided for. At the same time it laid down that the rate of interest recoverable under a Bhagela agreement shall not exceed 6 per cent. per annum. Another section laid down that no liability to perform labour could survive against the estate or against any heir of a deceased labourer.

Working of Regulation.— The Regulation has now been in operation for five years. Its enforcement during the first four years showed that on the whole the reaction to it had been satisfactory. This was testified to both by officials and non-officials. In some ~~part~~ parts wages had to some extent increased; in others, the bhagelas and their masters came to satisfactory oral agreements. Nevertheless, practical experience of the working of the Regulation in other parts showed several gaps and drawbacks which made it more or less difficult to give the bhagela the full measure of relief contemplated under the Regulation. In these areas the provisions were found to be too weak to afford the intended relief to the bhagela and many instances came to the notice of the authorities of employers successfully circumventing them. For instance, it was noticed that some employers filed suits against their bhagelas on agreements which were generally worded as if they were only bonds for debts incurred, obtained money decrees against them and even got them arrested in course of execution. The poverty and ignorance of the bhagela is proverbial and evidently he has no hope at present of succeeding against his powerful master in a civil court. The employers have thus been defeating the intentions of the Regulation by making the bhagelas pay double, first by forcing them to work in lieu of the advance ~~the~~ taken by them, and secondly, by making them repay the advance as a debt through a civil court decree. Another great weakness of the Regulation has been the absence of sanction behind it. Although the Regulation had laid down that a Bhagela agreement shall be in writing and that an advance made to a bhagela shall be deemed to have been discharged on the expiry of one year from the commencement of the Regulation, these provisions have been honoured more in the breach than in the observance for want of a deterrent penalty.

7
Problem of the Honest Bhagela.- There have also been instances where simple, honest bhagelas have declined to leave their masters' service as long as the old debts remain unpaid, although they have been told that they are free. Cases have also come to notice where the bhagela, while making a new agreement, has insisted on the old debt being mentioned therein, considering it both dishonest and ill-omened to deprive his old master of his dues in this manner.

Employers' Complaint.- There is also the complaint of employers in regard to the Section of the Regulation which lays down that a bhagela agreement shall be void unless it provides for a fair and equitable rate of remuneration for the labourer and reasonable hours of work. This provision has been criticised as prejudicially affecting employers, firstly, because, as the agreement is to be only for 12 months and the bhagela takes an advance at the time of entering into the agreement, it would be unfair to expect an employer to give a fair and equitable amount of remuneration in addition to the advance, and, secondly, because the nature of bhagela work is such that it is impossible to fix reasonable hours of service as, during the cultivation season, the bhagela has to work more or less like a member of the employer's family, attending to irrigation from canals, drawing water or grazing and watching cattle at certain hours, day and night. After harvesting is over, he is almost as idle as his employer.

Question of Control Re-examined.- In the light of the above drawbacks of the Regulation of 1936, the whole question was re-examined by ~~the~~ an ad hoc Committee consisting of four members, one of them a missionary interested in the welfare of the bhagelas and the others, enlightened zamindars. As a result of these deliberations a Hyderabad Bhagela Agreements Bill has been recently introduced in the State legislature and it is now in the Select Committee stage.

Provisions of the new Bill.- In order to make the law really useful to the bhagelas, the jurisdiction of civil courts has been specifically excluded from matters coming under the Bill on the analogy of a similar provision in the State Debt Conciliation Act; and the Tahsildar (Revenue Official of a sub-district) has been authorised to decide all cases arising under the Bhagela Act so that immediate relief may be available to the bhagelas. The Bill also provides for a single appeal to the Second Talukadar (District Revenue official) from the decision of the Tahsildar. Another section provides for a penalty not exceeding Rs. 25 if any employer extracts labour from a bhagela in respect of a discharged or void agreement or if he makes an oral agreement with the bhagela. The clause in the Bhagela Agreements Regulation of 1936 ~~fixing the rate of remuneration and hours of work~~ regarding the fixation of the rate of remuneration and hours of work has however been excluded from the Bill in the interest of the employers.

(The November 1941 issue of the
Hyderabad Information, Hyderabad). ✓

8

Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Disputes in British India during the quarter ending
31-12-1940. ✓

According to a Press Note on Industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 31-12-1940, recently issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of strikes during the period was 62 involving 27,967 workers and entailing a loss of 243,508 working days, as against 49 disputes involving 70,976 workers and entailing a loss of 886,494 working days in the third quarter of 1940.

Provincial Distribution.- During the period under review, there were 20 disputes in Bengal involving 6,315 workers and entailing a loss of 54,915 working days. Next come Bombay with 13 disputes involving 1,743 workers and entailing a loss of 6,213 working days; C.P. and Berar with 10 disputes involving 4,340 workers and entailing a loss of 22,431 working days; the Punjab with 6 disputes involving 5,376 workers and entailing a loss of 40,170 working days; Madras with 5 disputes involving 1,656 workers and entailing a loss of 12,452 working days; the United Provinces with 4 disputes involving 719 workers and entailing a loss of 2,519 working days; Bihar with 2 disputes involving 2,418 workers and entailing a loss of 89,408 working days; and Delhi and Sind with one dispute each involving 5,000 and 400 workers and entailing losses of 15,000 and 400 working days respectively.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 10 disputes in cotton, silk and woollen mills involving 9,259 workers and involving a loss of 52,613 working days; 7 in mines involving 3,543 workers and entailing a loss of 53,894 working days; 6 in engineering workshops involving 3,463 workers and entailing a loss of 61,466 working days; and 2 in jute mills involving 458 workers and entailing a loss of 1,260 working days. In all other industries together, there were 28 disputes involving 11,264 workers and entailing a loss of 74,275 working days.

Causes and Results of Strikes.- Of the 62 strikes, 33 were due to questions of wages, 11 to those of personnel, 6 to disputes about leave and hours and 12 to other causes. In 21 disputes the workers were fully successful; in 11 partially successful and in 24 unsuccessful; 6 disputes were in progress on 31-12-1940. ✓₄

Madras Bus Drivers' Dispute:
Arbitrator Appointed. ✓

Reference was made at pages 7 to 8 of our July 1941 report to the Madras bus drivers' dispute with bus owners over conditions of work. It is now understood that Sir Sidney Burn, Judge of the Madras High Court, will arbitrate in the dispute, both the parties having agreed to abide by the decision of the arbitrator.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-11-1941.) ✓₄

9

Industrial Disputes in British India during 1940. ✓

According to a communiqué dated 4-12-1941 on industrial disputes in British India during 1940, issued by the Department of Labour of the Government of India, the total number of disputes during the year declined from 406 in 1939 to 322, which included 6 strikes in progress at the close of the year. The total number of workers involved in these strikes, however, was 453,000 as against 409,000 in 1939 and the total number of working days lost was 7,577,000 as compared with 4,993,000 in the previous year. Cotton and Jute mills accounted for 42.2 per cent. of the strikes, 73.2 per cent. of the workers involved and 79.8 per cent. of the loss of working days. In 211 disputes, or 65.5 per cent., the chief demand related to wages or bonuses. The number of strikes in which the workmen were successful in gaining any concessions was 166 or approximately 52.5 per cent. of the total number of strikes, which ended during the year.

Provincial Distribution.- During the year under review, there were 112 disputes in Bengal involving 126,980 workers and entailing a loss of 1,055,464 working days. Next comes Bombay with 88 disputes involving 211,543 workers and entailing a loss of 4,693,273 working days; C.P. and Madras with 25 disputes each involving 41,802 and 15,416 workers and entailing losses of 661,822 and 219,678 working days respectively; the Punjab with 22 disputes involving 6,575 workers and entailing a loss of 47,094 working days; the United Provinces with 16 disputes involving 11,109 workers and entailing a loss of 171,414 working days; Bihar with 14 disputes involving 27,357 workers and entailing a loss of 726,872 working days; Sind with 11 disputes involving 1,369 workers and entailing a loss of 6,200 working days; Assam with 4 disputes involving 4,099 workers and entailing a loss of 26,746 working days; Orissa with 3 disputes involving 766 workers and entailing a loss of 7,938 working days; and Delhi with 2 disputes involving 5,503 workers and entailing a loss of 20,780 working days.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 117 disputes in cotton, silk and woollen mills involving 267,173 workers and entailing a loss of 5,574,147 working days; 19 each in jute mills and engineering workshops involving 64,270 and 7,638 workers and entailing losses of 475,372 and 110,968 working days respectively; 15 in mines involving 18,107 workers and entailing a loss of 430,577 working days; and 3 in railways including railway workshops involving 5,550 workers and entailing a loss of 17,700 working days. In all other industries together there were 149 disputes involving 89,801 workers and entailing a loss of 988,517 working days.

Causes and Results of Strikes.- Of the 322 disputes during the year, 202 were due to questions of wages, 54 to those of personnel

10 to those of leave and hours of work, 9 to those of bonus and 47 to ~~these~~ other causes. In 86 cases the workers were fully successful, in 80 partially successful and in 150 unsuccessful; 6 disputes were in progress at the close of the year.†

Ahmedabad Labour Dispute Settled. †

Reference was made at pages 12 to 13 of our October 1941 report to the labour dispute in Ahmedabad between the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, and the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association over the demand of the former for an increase of 25 per cent. in the present wages, and to the failure of conciliation efforts to settle the dispute. It was also mentioned there that the Millowners' Association rejected the Labour Association's invitation to refer the dispute for arbitration. During November, 1941, the Millowners' Association appointed Seth Chimanlal Parikh, an ex-President of the Association, to negotiate with the Labour Association for a settlement. The negotiations were carried on during the month as a result of which a settlement was reached on 2-12-1941. Though the terms of the settlement are not yet published, it is understood that they stipulate that regular workers during the year are to receive approximately one and a half month's wages as bonus.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 4-12-1941.)†

Holidays with Pay

Weekly Holidays Bill, 1941: Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay. ✓.

Reference was made at page 1 of our September 1941 report to the Weekly Holidays Bill introduced in the Central Assembly by the Government of India. The following is a brief summary of the criticisms of the Bill expressed by the Millowners' Association, Bombay.

Exclusion of Clerical Staff in Factories urged.- While the Association had no objection to the principle of a weekly holiday for clerical employees, its main objection related to the inclusion in the Bill of clerical staffs employed in factories. The clerical department of a mill usually included the time-keeping staff, the godown and stores clerks, coal and cotton weightment clerks, production recording clerks, bundling and baling clerks, etc., whose presence in the mill is absolutely essential to ensure the smooth working of the various process departments. These employees had all along been enjoying the benefits of the Indian Factories Act in the matter of daily and weekly hours of work, rest intervals, weekly holidays, etc. Although the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939, sought to regulate the hours of work, rest intervals, weekly holidays, etc., of these employees independently of the Indian Factories Act, the Government of Bombay, had, on representations made by the Association and realising the difficulties which would arise if that Act was made applicable to the clerical staff of the factories, issued orders exempting them from the provisions of the Act for the duration of the war, on the understanding that such clerical staff in mills would at least have the benefit of the Indian Factories Act.

So far as the factory clerical staff was concerned, it was found that the Bill under consideration went even further than the Bombay Act. The Bombay Act sought to reduce the number of hours worked per day from 9 to 8, whereas the present Bill sought to grant an additional half holiday in addition to a full holiday on Sunday. If the departmental clerks concerned were granted an additional half holiday in the week, the hours in factories also would have to be reduced from 54 to about 50 per week.

Conclusions reached at Government-employers Meeting Recalled.- In this connection, the Association drew the attention of the Government to the discussions which took place at the Conference which the employers of the country had with Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar at Calcutta on 6-1-1941 when the Bill was discussed, at which the following conclusions were reached:- (a) Central legislation relating to the grant of weekly holidays to persons employed in commercial establishments and shops was favoured; (b) The grant of discretionary power to Provincial Governments to provide for the grant of an extra half-holiday was not favoured; (c) Provision for the prompt payment of wages should be made in the Act; (d) Definition of the term "commercial establishment" should be re-examined with a view to exclude clerical staff engaged in factories. The Association emphasised that the Conference was unanimously of the opinion that the proposal for the half holiday in a week should be dropped and that even the Member for Labour indicated that it was not the intention of Government to bring the clerks working in factories within the scope of the Central Act. In conclusion, the Association pointed out that the present was not the time when war efforts of industries in the country should be crippled by social legislation of this character,

but that, if Government desired to pursue the matter, the clerical staff of factories should be exempted from the provisions of the Act.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association Bombay, for October 1941.) ✓

Factory Administration in U.P. in 1940.* ✓

Number of Factories.- During 1940 the total number of factories subject to the control of the Factories Act was 654 against 626 in the previous year; 58 factories were added to the register and 29 were removed and one was transferred from 2(j) register of Factories to 'N' Factories (factories notified under section 5 of the Act). Of the 654 factories, 464 were perennial and 190 seasonal, of which 434 perennial and 144 seasonal factories were in commission during the year. Of the 578 factories that were in commission, annual returns were not received from 12 factories.

There were, in addition to the above factories, 76 factories notified under section 5 of the Act.

Number of Workers.- The average daily number of workers employed in the registered factories was 179,735 against 159,738 in the previous year. Nearly 96.5 per cent. of this is adult male labour. Nearly 71.9 per cent. of the total number of workers were employed in non-seasonal factories and 28.1 per cent. in the seasonal concerns. The increase of 12.5 per cent. in the number of workers is mainly due to the registrations of new factories and some of the existing Cotton Mills, Woollen Mills, Leather Shoes Factories and Ordnance and Army Clothing Factories ~~employing a greater number of workers~~, particularly owing to present emergency conditions.

The average daily number of adolescents employed in factories was 1,170; 1,142 of these worked in non-seasonal and 28 in seasonal concerns. 1,167 of these were male adolescents and 3 female adolescents. The number of women and children employed were 4,276 and 886 as against 4,803 and 586 in 1939. The decline in the number of women workers during the year under report continued and was principally due to the introduction of the Maternity Benefit Act; ~~when~~ employers preferred dispensing with the services of women workers and employing men or boys instead.

In addition to the workers in the registered factories, 899 workers were employed in 'notified' factories, of whom 862 were adults (39 females), 4 adolescents and 33 children.

Inspection.- The number of inspections and visits made during the year was 1,676 against 1,602 in 1939. Out of the working factories 214 factories were inspected once, 177 twice, 102 thrice, 42 four times, 19 five times, 13 six times, 6 seven times and 5 more than seven times. No factory remained uninspected, for the second year in succession.

Number of inspections and visits made during the year to 'notified' factories was 497. 48 factories were inspected once, 22 twice and 5 thrice and one factory remained uninspected.

Prosecutions and Convictions.- Out of the 24 prosecutions shown as pending in the report for 1939, convictions were obtained in 17

* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1940. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P., India, 1941. Price 12 annas. pp. 72

cases, while in 4 cases they were acquitted. In one case shown as pending in 1939 an appeal was preferred by the Factory Owners and the amount of fine was reduced to half; an application for revision was again filed in the Honourable High Court but it was rejected. In three cases the judgments are still awaited. 34 prosecutions were instituted against 24 factories in the year under report. Convictions were obtained in 17 cases and in 2 cases the accuseds were acquitted and the rest are pending in the Courts. The fines ranged from Rs. 15 to Rs. 200 and amounted to a total of Rs. 979. In one case the fine was Rs. 200 and in 2 cases Rs. 100, in three cases Rs. 50 and in the remaining 11 cases under Rs. 50. In some cases the amount of fine imposed was very small. With a maximum penalty of Rs. 500 prescribed by the Act, the imposition of a fine of less than ten per cent. ^{it is pointed out} is not calculated to induce offenders to mend their ways.

Taking protection under section 71 appears to have become "fashionable" and there is no doubt that this section in many cases enables a guilty party to escape. Amendment of this section, the report states, is clearly indicated so as to give definite directions as to procedure in the Courts.

Hours of Work.- In the non-seasonal category the weekly hours of only 7 factories were not more than 42 and in 58 factories they were above 42 but not more than 48 hours. The weekly hours of 358 factories were above 48 hours. The general increase over last year is due to War conditions, factories having been granted exemptions, both temporary and for the duration of war. In the seasonal side, the weekly hours of 9 factories were not more than 48, and in 16 factories they were above 48 but not more than 54 hours. The weekly hours of 117 factories were above 54. Majority of the factories worked to the full limit prescribed by the Act.

The employment of workers in over-lapping shifts, particularly in the textile factories continued to increase with the result that the detection of the irregularities for periods of employment was practically impossible.

Temporary exemptions under section 44(2) of the Act from the provisions of sections 34, 35 and 36 were given to a number of factories for their adult workers to deal with ~~an~~ ^{an} exceptional pressure of work on account of the War. General exemption for "the duration" under section 8 from the provisions of Sections 34, 35 and 36 of the Act were given by Government to a few Government factories as well as to some of the private concerns employed solely on war work. As regards grant of exemptions, the Chief Inspector makes the following remarks: "Many requests for exemptions from the provisions restricting hours of employment ~~is~~ are being received, mainly on the plea of being employed on war work.... Few (if any) of the factories who make such requests appear to have looked at the problem from a scientific angle, and do not appear to have realised that the effect of continued hours of work beyond the optimum is to slow down production, due to the "human factor" in such calculations."

15

Factory Administration in Orissa in 1940.* ✓

Number of Factories.- The number of factories that came under the operation of the Act at the beginning of 1940 was 92. During the year 8 concerns were brought on to the register and 2 printing presses, which do not make use of power in the manufacturing process, were declared as factories under section 5(1). One factory was removed from the register. There were at the end of the year 101 factories of which 5 remained closed during the year. Of the 96 working factories, 93 were perennial and 3 seasonal.

Number of Workers.- The average daily number of workers employed in factories during the year increased by 766 to a total of 6,137. Of these, 4,518 were adult males, 1,438 adult females, 119 adolescents and 12 children.

Inspection.- 89 perennial factories and 2 seasonal factories were inspected under the Act. Of the five factories which remained uninspected, ~~an~~ four were brought on to the Register during the year and were each visited by the Inspector of Factories, Orissa, before their registration. The remaining one was a seasonal factory. 59 factories were inspected once, 23 twice, 6 three times and 3 more than three times.

Prosecutions.- Prosecutions were instituted against the ~~occupiers or the managers of 10 factories~~ during the year as against 12 factories in the previous year. 17 charges were framed against 12 persons and 16 of these in which 11 persons were involved ended in convictions. One charge against the manager of a factory was dropped owing to his dismissal from service and the unavailability of his subsequent address. Fines imposed as the result of convictions totalled Rs. 280. Many more prosecutions could have been launched had it not been for the policy of resorting to prosecutions only in cases where warning, ~~had proved a failure~~, which had its educative value upon the indifferent managements, *had failed.* ✓

Factory Administration in C.P. and Berar in 1940.* ✓

Statistics of Factories.- The number of factories borne on the register under the Factories Act increased from 1,119 to 1,150 of which 391 (367) were classed as non-seasonal and 759 (752) as seasonal. 47 factories were newly registered and 16 struck off the register having either been dismantled or curtailed employment to below 10 persons. The net increase thus stood at 31 at the close of the year. The number of factories actually at work was 696 (740) out of which 305 (337) were non-seasonal and 391 (403) were seasonal.

* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province of Orissa for the year 1940. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. Price Re. 0-15-6. pp. 29.

** Annual Report on the administration of the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December, 1940. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. Price annas twelve. pp. 26.

*** The figures in brackets refer to corresponding statistics for 1939.

Statistics of Workers.- The average number of workers employed increased from 64,494 in 1939 to 68,255 of whom 48,219 (44,414) were men, 19,171 (19,372) women and 865 (708) adolescents. The increase in factories and workers are ascribed directly or indirectly to war activity.

Inspections.- The number of factories inspected was 681 (689), of which 301 (326) were non-seasonal and 380 (369) seasonal. Of these, 222 (175) were inspected once, 200 (250) twice, 130 (146) thrice and 129 (118) more than three times. The total number of inspections was 1,612 (1662). 15 (51) factories remained uninspected, out of which 11 factories were seasonal.

Prosecutions.- 107 (120) cases were instituted against the occupiers and the managers of 39 (51) factories. Of these, 68 (52) resulted in conviction with fines ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 100. In 16 (13) cases the accused were acquitted. In two cases the complaints were withdrawn and 21 (35) cases remained pending disposal.

Due to cheaper legal assistance being available everywhere, the tendency of late has been for an increasing number of cases to be contested. The feature of these contests has been for the defence to strike at some technical defect and endeavour to carry the case on a plane which has no reference to the facts observed. The report states that efficient administration of the Act requires that these ~~methods of attack - which may not unfairly be termed "legal quibbling"~~ - should be discouraged and that Magistrates should extend all the help they can give to Inspectors in their difficult task.

Hours of Work and Holidays.- Closer control was exercised during the year over the working hours and holidays of employees especially in the seasonal factories where there has always been a great tendency to exploit labour and to evade the restrictions laid down in the Act. In perennial factories, in 22 factories the hours were not above 42, in 39, between 42 and 48, and in 244, above 48 as regards male employees. For women, the hours were not above 42 in 24 factories, between 42 and 48 in 21 factories and above 48 in 154. In seasonal factories, for men, the hours were not above 48 in 45 factories, between 48 and 54 in 23, and above 54 in 323. For women the hours were not above 48 in 47 factories, between 48 and 54 in 26 factories and above 54 in 294 factories.

Working of C.P. Unregulated Factories Act.- The total number of factories subject to the provisions of the Act was 130 (123) in which the average daily number of workers employed was 7045 (6,846) made up of 4,261 (3,979) men, 2,495 (2,485) women and 289 (382) children. The Act continued to be in force in the districts of Nagpur, Jabulpore, Bilaspur, Bhandara, Nimar and Akola. The tendency on the part of Bidi factory owners to evade registration under the Act by splitting up establishments still continues. It may not be possible to stop this tendency. No special equipment is required for running a Bidi factory and the splitting up process will continue even if establishments employing more than 25 workers are brought under the Act by notification. The Payment of Wages Act applies to these factories also and unauthorised deductions such as Dharmadaga, etc., have been totally stopped, while the practice of rejection of defective bidis without any payment for them has been greatly checked. A policy of gradualness has been adopted in the matter of administration of these Acts and no

17

prosecutions were instituted thereunder during the year under report. Some obvious difficulties in the strict enforcement of the provisions have already been brought to notice and have been enquired into by the Bidi Industry Committee appointed by Government.

Employment of Children Act.— Although this Act came into force on 1-10-1939, no notices of occupation were received from owners of establishments coming under the purview of this Act. Efforts have since been made to search out such establishments and get the notices of occupation signed by the occupiers. It is hoped that with the help of the revenue officers in the district a substantial number of them will be brought on the register before the close of the year. The provisions of the Act are explained to the occupiers before obtaining the notices of occupation. Departmental supervision over these premises, it is remarked, will have to be confined to surprise inspection of a few premises selected at random. ✓+

Factory Administration in Assam in 1940.* ✓+

Number of Factories.— The number of factories under the operation of the Act at the end of 1940 was 801, an increase of 13 over the figure for 1939. During the year under review 16 factories were brought on the Register and 3 factories were removed therefrom. Of the 801 factories, 124 were perennial and 677 seasonal. Of the 801 factories, 8 remained closed during the year.

Number of Workers.— The average daily number of workers employed in factories increased by 233 to a total of 52,236. Of this 38,513 were adult males against 37,414 for 1939, an increase of 1,099. The adult females increased by 32 to a total of 11,041, whilst the adolescents decreased by 749 to a total of 1,901 and the children decreased by 149 to a total of 881.

Inspection.— There were 624 inspections during the year as against 479 in 1939. 435 factories were inspected once, 147 twice, 35 thrice and 7 over three times. 169 factories remained un-inspected.

Prosecutions.— The previous policy was followed: only to prosecute where it was considered essential to do so. The cases taken were nearly double those taken in the previous year and some others were not heard in Court before the close of the year. 11 cases were taken under the Factories Act and two under the Payment of Wages Act. The maximum fine under either of the Acts was Rupees Fifty only. The report remarks that there is obviously room for far higher penalties. In some cases it pays to evade requirements and submit to the fine. Owing to the methods followed by some Magistrates, Governments have issued two circular letters since the close of the year under review, directing, among other things, that industrial cases should only be taken by experienced Magistrates and, as far as possible, be kept for the file of the

* Report on the working of the Factories Act in Assam for the year 1940. Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press. 1941. Price Re.1-5 or 2s. pp.22 37

District Magistrate or the Subdivisional Officer concerned. The quoting of the judgment of the High Court of Bengal in the Annual Report for Bengal for 1939 has been of value as it clearly states that the Factories Act itself lays down the requirements upon the employer, the breaches and the (maximum) penalties for neglect or breach and that the Act must be followed and factory cases not conducted on the lines of ordinary cases.

Employment of Children Act.— Following the new Act's introduction and later amendment, no "Notices of Occupation" of "Workshops" were received by the Inspectorate under Section 3 B of the Act. It is pointed out that with only one full-time Inspector it is obviously impossible to make a house to house search through bazaars. Municipal authorities could give great help and the matter is reported as being pursued. ✓

Labour Conditions in Assam Tea Gardens,
1939-40: Report of Controller of Emigrant Labour, Assam.* ✓

Labour Population on Tea Estates.— 605,555 adults, both working and non-working, and 571,950 children, i.e., 1,177,505 souls in all as against 1,170,606 consisting of 606,459 adults and 564,147 children in the previous year, formed the total population of the Tea garden labourers in Assam during the year 1939-40. The total number of new emigrants arriving in Assam during the year was 24,777, as against 30,262 in 1938-39.

Recruitment.— Bombay Presidency continued to be an uncontrolled emigration area. 659 souls, however, were recruited from the Presidency by the Tea Districts Labour Association through their depot at Igatpuri as against 539 souls during the previous year. As in other years recruiting was carried on in the provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, the Central Provinces, Madras, and the United Provinces, which have been declared controlled emigration areas. Through their depots in these provinces the Tea Districts Labour Association recruited 21,731 souls and the other three Local Forwarding Agencies at Ranchi recruited 1,368 souls during the year under report. During the year 36 Local Forwarding Agents' Licences were granted for recruitment of labourers in the controlled emigration areas. Others were renewed locally by the District Magistrates concerned. No licence was reported to have been cancelled and no application for a licence was refused during the year.

23,758 souls were recruited for Assam as assisted emigrants and members of their families during the year as against 28,871 during the previous year. The bulk were 18,740 recruited from the provinces of Bihar and Orissa. 4,318 non-assisted emigrants (i.e., ex-garden labourers returning to Assam within 2 years) and members of their families were forwarded to Assam during the year as against 4,985 in the previous year.

* Annual Report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act (XXII of 1932) for the year ending the 30th September 1940. Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press. 1941. Price Annas 10 or 1ld. pp. 43.

Cost of Recruitment.- The average cost of recruitment of emigrants through the Tea Districts Labour Association was Rs. 58-9-7 per soul and Rs. 72-1-5 per adult. The average costs include the cost of repatriation, which varies with the number repatriated. After deducting the cost of repatriation the cost of recruiting one adult during the year under report comes to Rs. 57-1-1 as against Rs. 58-0-0 last year. This difference of about Re. 1 is attributed to the greater efficiency of the Sirdars who recruited an average of 6.9 adults each as against 6.7 adults in the previous season.

Wages.- In the Assam Valley, the average monthly cash earnings of men, women and children settled on the gardens were Rs. 7-14-1, Rs. 6-3-8 and Rs. 4-7-9 respectively as against Rs. 7-15-3, Rs. 6-7-5 and Rs. 4-9-2 in the preceding year. In the Surma Valley, the average monthly cash earnings of men, women and children, settled on the gardens were Rs. 6-4-7, Rs. 4-7-3 and Rs. 3-1-8 respectively as against Rs. 6-5-6, Rs. 4-5-6 and Rs. 3-2-2 in the previous year. The average monthly wages of settled labourers in the Assam Valley gardens were Rs. 9-8-7, Rs. 8-8-4 and Rs. 5-14-6 for men, women and children respectively. In the Surma Valley the corresponding figures were Rs. 8, Rs. 6-4-11 and Rs. 4-6-4.

The average monthly cash earnings of Faltu or Basti labourers on tea gardens of Assam Valley districts were Rs. 4-15-1, Rs. 5-1-9 and Rs. 3-5-7 as against Rs. 5-2-1, Rs. 5-1-10 and Rs. 3-5-1 for men, women and children respectively, for the previous year. In the Surma Valley the average monthly cash earnings of Faltu or Basti labourers on tea gardens for men, women and children were Rs. 4-2-8, Rs. 3-7-3 and Rs. 2-6-5 as against Rs. 4-7-5, Rs. 3-7-3 and Rs. 2-5-3 respectively, in the previous year. The average monthly wages of such labourers in the Assam Valley gardens were Rs. 8-4-9, Rs. 8-12-2 and Rs. 5-9-5 respectively, and that of each man, woman and child in the Surma Valley gardens were Rs. 7-5-9, Rs. 5-8-3 and Rs. 4-6-0 respectively.

Housing and Welfare Work.- Houses are usually constructed by the garden for labourers and no rent is charged. They are generally made up of thatch or corrugated sheets. The condition of these houses is generally fair but there are a few gardens in which houses constructed for the labourers are not in keeping with modern conditions. They are being gradually replaced. In the majority of the gardens, the water supply is either from pucca or tube wells. Most gardens have their own visiting medical officers and garden doctors and nearly all have hospitals, but some garden hospitals still require improvement. The sanitary condition of the gardens is gradually improving. Free medical treatment is given in most of the gardens. Maternity leave with allowances is also granted by nearly all the gardens, for a reasonable period, on the advice of the medical officers. In all the gardens free grazing of cattle is also allowed. Firewood is also supplied from the garden jungles in most of the gardens, free of cost.

Education of Children.- The total number of children living on tea estates of Assam during the year was 571,950 against 564,147 in the previous year. The number of schools in the Assam gardens rose to 505 against 491 in 1938-39. The total enrolment also increased from

20,858 to 25,000.

Land-holding.- 103,093 acres of garden land in the Assam Valley districts, and 57,640 acres in the Surma Valley districts were held by the labourers during the year under report. 15,847 acres of Government land were held by tea garden labourers in Assam during the year.

Industrial Relations.- The year is reported to have been a period in which strikes were few. In the Surma Valley, there were symptoms of unrest in South Sylhet during April and May 1940, but these were due to extraneous reasons and had nothing to do with the conditions in the tea gardens.

Inspection.- Out of a total number of 771 ~~establ~~ estates employing 50 or more labourers each, only 370 estates were inspected during the year by the various inspecting authorities. The estates employing less than 50 labourers are not inspected by Magistrates or by the Controller unless there is reason to suppose that they employ emigrant labourers.

Repatriation.- 18,979 emigrant labourers including members of their families were repatriated during the year; of these 11,472 were emigrants and 7,507 members of their families. 7,058 assisted emigrants together with 5,240 members of their families were reported to have executed agreements extending their terms, as they wished to stay and work in the gardens for further periods, after the expiry of their original terms of 3 years. ✓

Conditions of Work in the Bidi Industry in C.P. and Berar:

Report of Bidi Industry Committee.* ✓

Appointment of Committee.- The application of the U.P. Unregulated Factories Act, 1937, to bidi (country cigarette) manufacturing concerns, was objected to by the owners. The objections gradually gathered strength resulting in the big factory owners mobilising their resources with a view to frustrating the objects of the law. Though the administration of the Act was deliberately made lenient at the beginning, it was found that the employers of bidi factories, instead of trying to adapt themselves to changed conditions warranted by law, were acting counter to its purpose in a concerted manner. Efforts at the stricter administration of the law were retaliated by resorting to wage-cuts and other ~~ingenious~~ deductions from the wages earned by the workers. These led to strikes in some bidi factories and it was therefore found necessary in December 1938 to apply the Payment of Wages Act also to such factories. The reaction of some of the factory owners to this notification found expression in retrenchment, closing down of factories in urban areas, harsh treatment and other harassment of workers so as to make them prefer the existing arrangements and protest against the newly applied legislation with a view to obtaining the repeal of these Acts. Due to complaints about working

Report of the Bidi Industry Committee appointed to examine the conditions of work in the Bidi Industry and investigate complaints in regard to the application of the Unregulated Factories Act and Payment of Wages Act to Bidi and Lac Factories in the Central Provinces and Berar. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. pp. 112

conditions in the industry by the workers, the Provincial Government appointed ~~myself~~ in September 1939 a Committee with the Director of Industries as Chairman,

- a) To examine the grievances of workers in the bidi factories, with special reference to wages, deductions of various kinds and security of service, and to suggest remedial measures;
- b) to investigate complaints in regard to the application of the Unregulated Factories Act and the Payment of Wages Act to the bidi and lac factories and to suggest modifications to suit local conditions and special requirements of the industry; and
- c) to study the position of the industry vis-à-vis the all-India bidi industry and to suggest measures designed to enable the Provincial Government to maintain the integrity of the local industry, notwithstanding external competition.

The Committee's report has now been published; a summary of the salient features of the report is given below:-

Position of Industry.- The industry is well established in the province and does not require from the Government any protection as a cottage industry. From insignificant beginnings, the industry so developed in the province within ten years that the Central Provinces became the leading province for bidi manufacture in the whole of India, with Bombay and Madras as second best. It has maintained that position for the last 15 years and there is no indication that it is going to lose its pride of place to any other province or State in the near future. Wage rates, ~~scale of taxation and controlling legislation are higher and stricter~~ both in Bombay and Madras which come second to this province in their output. Replies received from different provinces and State authorities indicate the absence of any special facilities to this industry in their respective jurisdiction. The competition from other provinces is therefore of limited character and there appears to be no immediate danger to the industry being ousted from its secure position. Wage rates are practically the lowest in the whole of India, while the cost of wrapper leaves is the cheapest. Even the cost of tobacco which is to be imported from a long distance is not very much greater than that obtaining in other provinces. The margin, both of the manufacturer and the retailer, is quite satisfactory. With efficient management, the industry can pay very good profits even under the existing conditions in this province, and there appears to be sufficient scope for improvement of the wage position in the industry. The contention of the bidi manufacturers that bidi-making is a cottage industry in the accepted sense of the term is on the other hand not borne out by facts. Neither can it be accepted that their contract of employment with the workers stipulate a wage payment only for good bidis acceptable to the employers.

Statistics of Factories and Workers.- Practically all tobacco used for bidi making is imported. There are about 895 bidi making shops in the Central Provinces and Berar located in 347 villages and towns. Of these 185 are bigger shops employing, on an average, more than 50 workers per day, while the remaining 710 are smaller concerns, which employ less than 50 workers per day. About three-fifths of the total manufacture of bidis in the province are controlled ~~for~~ by four leading bidi making firms from Jubbulpore, Gondia, Nagpur and Kamptee. The average daily output of bidis in the province is estimated at about 50 millions. The number of persons engaged in bidi making is a little over 42,000, of which 31,000 persons work in the Bhandara district alone.

(Report on the Marketing of Tobacco in India and Burma, 1939.) According to another estimate, workers employed at present in bidi-making, are about 70,000 to 80,000, and the average daily output of bidis is estimated at 57.5 millions. Even on a conservative estimate, according to the report, workers employed at present in bidi making will well exceed 50,000 persons, while the daily output of bidis would amount to nearly 5.25 millions. The bidi making establishments by this time must have passed the thousand mark.

Conditions of Work.- As regards the grievances of the workers, there appears to be sufficient justification for their demands for stabilisation of wages and legal control of deductions carried out by the employers or their agents at their sweet will. The working conditions are none too satisfactory in several places and the harassment of workers by petty supervisors appointed by the employers is sometimes unbearable. The protection of the Unregulated Factories must therefore be available to the workers in order to improve their working conditions. Their grievances regarding security of service, health and education, as well as pension and provident fund, are no doubt legitimate, but these are not yet available even in the most developed industries in India. While the Committee is aware of the casual nature of employment in bidi-making, and the fact that the aforesaid privileges could be expected to be introduced only after the highly organised industries have adopted them, it considers that the security of service should be guaranteed to the bidi workers so far as it is commensurate with the fortunes of the industry. As far as possible there should be no scope for arbitrary discharges, dismissals, and victimisation. Whenever any retrenchment is necessitated by the exigencies of the trade, due notice should be given to the workers concerned and Government, so that complaints and disputes alleging victimisation may be avoided.

Application of Labour Laws to the Industry.- As regards the application of the Unregulated Factories Act and the Payment of Wages Act to the bidi and lac factories, the Committee is of opinion that having taken a desirable progressive step in social legislation, there is no necessity to retrace that step. Suitable modifications to the legislation have been suggested. Attempts on the part of the employers to evade these Acts have been proved and the Committee came to the conclusion that the limit of persons employed in bidi factories to bring it within the purview of the legislation should be appreciably lowered so as to cover the bulk of the existing bidi establishments, ~~most of which are outside the place of legislation.~~ For the same purpose, the practice of working by contract system and breaking up of establishments into small groups under petty contractors who have no authority on the labour or over the manufacturers but simply are convenient tools of the manufacturers to carry on the supervision under commission basis, must be stopped by legislation. This can be done if all the establishments of an employer working in a particular locality under different contractors is made to constitute one factory. The contention of the bidi manufacturers that the above-mentioned legislation hampers their business or has worked to the detriment of the trade has not been proved. Their evidence has only stressed that the requirements under the law entails more clerical work and the restrictions imposed are irksome to them. Their main objection apparently is again official interference on behalf of the workers, whom they are habituated to treat as they like.

Recommendations.- The more important recommendations of the Committee are:

1) Minimum Rates of Wages.- The minimum rates of wages for bidi workers should be prescribed as follows:- village factories (small) - Re.0-3-6 per thousand; village stock factories - Re.0-4-0 per thousand; factories in small towns (including stock factories) - Re.0-5-0 per thousand; and factories in bigger towns (including stock factories) - Re.0-6-0 per thousand. A margin to cover rejection of bidis should be provided so that the above rates applicable per thousand would in actual practice refer to 1,025 bidis.

2) Amendment of Labour Acts.- A modified form of the Unregulated Factories Act consolidating the essential requirements under the Payment of Wages Act as appended to the report should be applied to bidi and lac factories. The proposed Unregulated Factories Act should be applicable to all bidi factories employing 20 persons or more. The Provincial Government by a notification in the local Gazette may apply the Act to any bidi factory or factories in a particular area wherein ten or more persons are simultaneously employed. All bidi-making establishments in a particular area as notified by the authority administering the Act and controlled by the factory owners through his contractors would constitute one factory belonging to the said factory owner.

(A copy of the Report was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's minute D.1/1150/41 dated 5-12-1941.) ✓ +

Service Conditions in Government Industrial Concerns in Mysore:
Uniform Rules Introduced. ✓ +

The several industrial establishments owned by the Mysore Government in the State had till now their own separate sets of rules regulating grant of leave to employees and other conditions of work. The rules in force in the several concerns were divergent and the desirability of introducing a uniform set of rules applicable to all Government industrial establishments has been under the consideration of the Government for some time past. It is now announced that, in consultation with the various Development Departments in the State, and the Board of Industrial Planning and ~~Survey~~ Co-ordination, the Government has issued a uniform set of Rules to regulate conditions in State industrial concerns.

The rules apply not only to the monthly rated employees, but also to the daily rated staff, but do not apply to covenanted employees and to officers lent by other Departments of Government who are governed by provisions of the Mysore Service Regulations.

The rules provide for privilege leave of two weeks for every completed year of service, to employees on daily wages. This leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of six weeks. The grant of leave is subject to the usual conditions of exigencies of work and of good conduct and regular attendance on the part of the employee. If an employee rejects the leave offered by the management, he will forfeit the leave offered. Religious holidays, with full wages, will be given for two days in every calendar year.

(Federal India and Indian States, Bangalore,
12-11-1941.) ✓ +

Presses
Conditions of Work in Jute Presses in Bengal:
Government orders Enquiry. ✓

Labour conditions in jute presses in Bengal are to be investigated by a special officer appointed by the Government of Bengal. As the result of the negotiations that have taken place between the employers and the Government, it has been agreed that the enquiry will be undertaken by an ad hoc Committee consisting of one official with judicial experience. The enquiry will include within its scope working conditions in press houses situated in Calcutta and Howrah and in upcountry districts. Mr. A.D. Khan, I.C.S., has been appointed to constitute the ad hoc Committee of Enquiry with terms of reference as follows:-

(a) that the Committee enquire into the working conditions in jute presses and make recommendations to Government as to the lines on which improvements can be effected;

(b) that the report submitted by the Committee will first be circulated by Government confidentially to the employers' interests for consideration and will form the subject of discussion with them before Government consider what action, if any, they should take thereon; and

(c) that the enquiry will be extended to presshouses in the Howrah District and upcountry as well to those in Cossipore.

(Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for July, August and September, 1941.) ✓

Proposed Establishment of Export Organisation:
Bombay Millowners' Association urges Postponement of Scheme:
Question engaging attention of Government of India. ✓

Reference was made at page 23 of our September 1941 report to the scheme to set up an Export Organisation, proposed by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, to stimulate Indian export trade during the war period. The question of the development of export markets for the Indian cotton mill industry is being examined by the Government of India and a memorandum on the subject is to be shortly issued for the consideration of industrial and commercial organisations throughout the country. The Millowners' Association, Bombay, after considering the ~~the~~ scheme, has suggested to the Indian Central Cotton Committee that consideration of the scheme framed by that Committee might be postponed pending receipt of Government's memorandum.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of
the Committee of the Millowners'
Association, Bombay, for October, 1941.) ✓

Industrial Research Fund to be Created:
Government Resolution in Central Assembly. ✓ +

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Government of India, moved in the Central Assembly on 14-11-1941 a resolution to create a fund called the Industrial Research Fund for the purpose of fostering industrial development in this country and to make provision in the Budget for an annual grant of rupees one million to the Fund for a period of five years.

Position of Research in India. - In moving the resolution, the Commerce Member explained in detail the valuable work done by the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research during the last 18 months and said that the Government considered that it was time that a separate fund was constituted for scientific and industrial research to place it on an independent and permanent footing. Referring to the work of the Board, he said that the results of some researches were being utilised in war production and were also made available to private industrialists who had not been slow to take advantage of them. The Government had already received royalties to the extent of over Rs. 100,000, and ~~more~~ ^{further} recurring sums would be coming to the Government as production began. He said that a third of the amount so accruing from royalties would be paid as honorarium to the scientists engaged in research.

The proposed fund, he said, should be a separate fund to be administered by a board of trustees, consisting of some officials and prominent scientists and industrialists. Pointing out ~~the~~ wide scope of the research work, he said that recently a sub-committee of the Board had helped to solve the problem of absorbing in the country itself the 600,000 or 700,000 tons of groundnut which could ~~not~~ not be exported.

Amendments to the Resolution. - Two amendments to the resolution were moved. Mr. Jammadas Mehta wanted to add the words "with special

reference to the establishment of heavy industries" and Dr. Bannerji asked for an increase of the Government's contribution to Rs. 2.5 millions. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, while ~~he~~ welcoming the efforts made by the Commerce Member for the industrial progress of the country, declared that all industries, big or small, really depended on machinery which at present was being imported from foreign countries. Dr. Bannerji asserted that the sum of Rs. 1 million which was provided for in the resolution was far too inadequate for purposes of all-round research. The amendments were later withdrawn and the resolution passed.

(The Statesman, 15-11-1941.) ✓

Development of Large and Small-scale Industries in
Hyderabad State: Review of administration of Industrial Trust Fund. ✓

In 1930 the Hyderabad State Government created an Industrial Trust Fund with a corpus of Rs. 10 millions for the development of cottage as well as large-scale industries in the State. A Board of Trustees of three members of the Executive Council was simultaneously constituted to administer the Fund. At a later stage Government loaned a further Rs. 6.4 millions to the Fund to enable it to meet the growing demand for assistance. As against this outlay, the total of the investments made from the Fund stood at approximately Rs. 22 millions by September, 1941.

Application of the Fund.- The corpus of the Fund has been invested in the form of debentures and shares as State aid to large industries within the State and, after these requirements have been fully satisfied, as State aid to such industries outside the State as are calculated to bring to it any benefit, direct, indirect, immediate or potential. Investments are also made in gilt-edged Securities. The income derived from these investments, in the form of dividend or interest, is being utilised to carry out a five-fold programme of work, namely, the improvement and development of small as well as cottage industries; industrial experiments and the demonstration of industrial and mechanical plants and processes; economic and industrial enquiries within the State; grants to assist industrial and technical research, and the grant of assistance to young men to enable them to obtain training in industrial processes either within or outside the State.

Results of working of Fund.- The results achieved in the past eleven years have been most encouraging in that while the Fund has been able to earn approximately Rs. 5.6 millions by way of dividend and interest on investments made from it, the foundations have been firmly laid of a number of major industries in the State, notably those for the manufacture of sugar, paper, power alcohol, iron and steel, textiles, cement and coal.

Development of Small-scale Industries.- Even greater benefits have accrued to small-scale industries through the creation of the Fund. This will be seen from the fact that altogether approximately 1 million rupees have been advanced from time to time, from the inception of the Fund till the end of September 1941 as loans to such undertakings. This amount comprised 84 loans to 75 different parties. The industries whose growth and development have thus been assisted include those engaged

in the manufacture of buttons, biscuits, flour, dairy products, oil, electro-plating machinery, distilling machinery, boot polish, bangles, leather, glue, furniture, hosiery, hem-stitching machinery, sugar candy, glass cutting, bidri ware, silver and gold thread, desi paper, bookbinding, agricultural machinery, paints and varnishes, spray painting work, printing presses, handloom and power loom weaving factories, ginning factories and marble mining. This list is not exhaustive but serves to illustrate the wide range of undertakings which have been brought into being or developed through the existence of the Industrial Trust Fund.

Technical Training.- In the matter of assisting young men of the State to obtain training in industrial processes, either within or outside the State, the Industrial Trust Fund has hitherto spent Rs. 73,000 in scholarships to thirty-five students of whom thirty have completed their training.

(November 1941 issue of the Hyderabad
Information, Hyderabad.) ✓

Working of the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act during 1940* ✓

The U.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1938, came into force on 1-9-1939.

121 concerns employing 2,304 women workers were subject to the Act. The number of women workers who claimed maternity benefits was 158 of whom 140 were paid benefits for actual birth; 3 were paid benefits for miscarriage under the Act and 31, bonus under Sec. 5 (3) of the Act. The total amount of benefits paid during the year was Rs. 3,925-6-9.

The report points out that a ^{number} lot of wrong interpretations were received from most of the employers. They thought that since they employed widows and women of advanced age the provisions of the Act would not apply to them. During the course of inspections it was found that this Act has not been properly understood by most of the employers as well as women workers. Every opportunity was taken to explain the main provisions of the Act to the employers as well as to women workers. Inspections under this Act were made along with the inspections under the Factories Act. 119 inspections were made under the Act.

The Act may be said to have proved a "two-edged weapon" for the women workers, as, though in cases of factories ~~where~~ where women labour was unavoidable, it has done good, the general tendency appears to be to dispense with women workers wherever possible. The result is that the ~~number of women workers have further decreased~~ from 5,119 in 1938 to 4,803 in 1939, and to 4,276 in the year under report.

The number of concerns maintaining crèches were 12. Most of the crèches are maintained at a reasonably good standard and free milk and clothing is also provided. A new ~~circle~~ ^{circle} built by the Juggilal Kamlapat Jute Mills deserves particular mention, but full use is not being made of the facilities provided. ✓

Working of the C.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1940.** ✓

The statistics regarding payment of maternity benefits in C.P. and Berar show that the number of women who claimed benefit under the Act was 793 (822), of whom 766 (793) were found to be entitled to it. The employers paid Rs. 12,024 as benefit during the year. ✓

* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1940. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P., India. 1941. Price 12 annas. pp. 72.

** Annual Report on the administration of the Factories Act, 1934 in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1940. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar, 1941. Price Annas twelve. pp. 26.

1. The figures in brackets refer to corresponding statistics for 1939.

29

Hyderabad Family Pension Fund:

State Life Insurance Fund thrown open to Public. ✓

H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad has sanctioned proposals for the creation of a Family Pension Fund for the benefit of the dependents of all employees of Government and for the extension of the benefits of the State Life Insurance Fund to the members of the general public. The former proposal, which is expected to cost Government approximately Rs. 1.1 million a year in contributions, will take effect immediately, while the public insurance scheme will come into force next year.

Family Pension Fund.- The Family Pension Fund is being instituted to replace the present system of compassionate pensions and, in its individual application, will take the form of a whole life policy with premiums payable until the insured has attained the age of 55. Contributions to the Fund will be obligatory on all Government employees who are in the superior services and whose age does not exceed 45 years. In addition to the 2 per cent. which they ~~are~~ already have to pay to the State Life Insurance Fund, they will now have to contribute a further 6 per cent. of their salary to the Family Pension Fund and Government will add to it another 2 per cent., thus making ~~the total contribution 10 per cent.~~ of the salary of each employee.

This part of the scheme, it is estimated, will cost Government Rs. 487,632 in so far as employees in the superior services are concerned. In the case of Government employees in the inferior ~~xxxx~~ services, who are not at present compelled to contribute to the State Life Insurance Fund, Government will contribute for a life policy at the rate of Re. 1 per head per month. This free gift will cost Government an additional ^{Rs.} 622,224 per annum. Thus the total cost of the scheme to Government will be Rs. 1,109,856 per annum. Holders of voluntary policies under the State Life Insurance Fund will be allowed to convert their policies to the Family Pension Fund Scheme to make up the total of 6 per cent. It may be pointed out here that Government is paying at present nearly Rs. 800,000 per annum in compassionate pensions. Under the proposed scheme, the charge on Government in respect of such pensions is expected to be wiped off in the course of a generation.

State Life Insurance Fund.- Side by side with this step in the interest of the dependents of its employees, the Hyderabad Government has decided to throw open the State Life Insurance Fund to the general public. This will serve a two-fold purpose, namely, of checking the permanent drain resulting from insurance being effected with foreign concerns and also of ensuring against the possible insecurity of investments in outside insurance concerns by diverting them to the State Life Insurance Fund. At present provision exists for only one type of policy, i.e., an endowment policy, maturing at the age of 55, but under the new scheme four different types of insurance will be permissible, namely, (1) whole life, (2) whole life with limited payments, (3) endowment policies, and (4) children's endowment policies. This expansion in the scope of the State Life Insurance Fund is expected to stimulate investment of public money locally, and also to encourage the development of local enterprise. (November 1941 issue of the Hyderabad Information) ✓

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAININGLabour Exchange set up by Sind Government. ✓

The Commissioner of Labour, Sind, has been appointed as Labour Exchange Officer, Sind, to register unemployed labourers and place them in employment. To effect placements as quickly as possible, the Government has issued instructions to all Departments which normally employ labour, to engage all labour through the Exchange Officer. All trade unions are also directed to furnish the Labour Exchange Officer with necessary information about the types of labour which they may be able to supply & so that satisfactory results may be achieved in solving the unemployment problem. ✓

(The National Call, 22-11-1941.).

Indian Emigrants Abroad:
Review of Developments during 1940-41.* ✓

Change in the status of the Agent General for India to that of High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa, appointment of the Broome Commission to ascertain the extent of Asiatic penetration in Natal and the Transvaal, extension of the provisions of the Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act, 1939, for two more years; failure of the Indo-Ceylon negotiations and proposals for the restriction of Indian immigration into Ceylon; increased wage rates in Malaya; proposals for the strengthening of civil police in the Districts of Burma, appointment of the Baxter Commission on Indian Immigration into Burma; passage of the Land Tenure Bill in Fiji; and constitutional changes in Trinidad and Jamaica are some of the outstanding events mentioned in the annual review of important events affecting Indians in Empire countries during 1940-41 *published by the Government of India.*

A. South Africa.- (1) High High Commissioner for South Africa.- The Government of India decided, with the consent and approval of the Union Government, to designate their representative in the Union as High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa.

(2) Asiatic Penetration: Broome Commission.- On 23-5-1940, the Union Government appointed a judicial commission under the chairmanship of the Honourable Justice F.N. Broome, to enquire into and report whether, and if so to what extent, Indians had since 1-1-1927, commenced occupation of, or acquired sites for, trading or for residential purposes in predominantly European areas in the Provinces of Natal and the Transvaal (excluding land proclaimed under the Precious and Base Metals Act, 1908, as amended, for the Transvaal) and the reasons for such occupation or acquisition. An attempt made by the Indian community to get the Commission discharged on account of the critical war situation proved futile and the Commission concluded the recording of evidence in the Transvaal in November. (The Commission has since reported: vide pages 30-31 of our October 1941 report.)

(3) Housing of Indians in Natal.- One of the objects of the Joint Committee of the Natal Indian Association and the Durban City Council, appointed towards the end of 1939, was to draw the attention of the City Council to the housing needs of the Indian community and the necessity for providing proper municipal amenities. The Indian members of the Committee represented that in almost every case of purchase of property investigated by them the motive was purely a desire to live in a decent locality where civil amenities were available and that nothing had been done by the Durban City Council to provide good residential sites for Indians. The City Council is considering the matter and it is expected that areas suitable for Indian occupation and housing schemes will be provided.

(4) Feetham Commission.- The importance of implementing the recommendations of the Feetham Commission regarding areas in Johannesburg and its surroundings, to be set aside for the use and occupation of Asiatics, was brought to the notice of the Union Government. As the

Broome Commission had not yet completed its labours, the Union Government were also contemplating the extension of the provisions of the Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act, 1939, for two more years. (The Feetham Resolution has since been passed by the Union Parliament and the Interim Act has also been extended by two years.)

(5) Education of Indian Children.- In April, 1940, the Agent General made representations to the Natal Provincial Executive Committee and suggested a number of proposals for the provision of educational facilities for Indian children in Natal. The proposals were discussed in detail by the Provincial Administrator and the Executive Committee. Provision for a net additional expenditure of £5,300 was made in the Natal Provincial Budget for 1940-41. In the Transvaal, with regard to the question of compulsory education, the Administrator said that the chief difficulty was the lack of suitable sites for schools. Both the Cape Town and Witwatersrand Universities have reached the welcome decision to admit Indians as internal students.

(6) Wages and Employment of Indians.- As a result of the representations made by the Indian Community and the Agent General's Secretary, the monthly rates of wages of Indian railway employees were considerably increased. The Minister of Railways also decided to give greater scope for the employment of Indians in the Railways and Harbours. By October, 1940, the number of Indian employees, which had fallen from 2,844 in 1920 to 478 in 1939, rose to 538.

B. Ceylon. (1) Wages of Indian Workers.- A ten per cent. increase in the wage rates over the previous rates was enforced in Ceylon from 1-2-1941. Since the outbreak of the war, a period of rising cost of living synchronised with a period of unrest among labourers and to meet the labourers' demand, the planters decided to give a war bonus. As the payment of the bonus was entirely at the discretion of the Superintendents without any statutory obligation, the increase in wages was adopted on the recommendation of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour in place of the war bonus.

(2) Franchise.- Tightening-up of the procedure for the registration of voters was resolved on by the Ceylon State Council in respect of all new voters for the State Council elections. The number of Indian voters for 1940 showed a marked decrease as compared with 1939. One reason for this was the movement of labourers to new estates and electoral constituencies where they were treated as new applicants for registration. The new procedure led to considerable apprehension in the minds of the Indians in Ceylon. The Government of India have taken the matter up with the Secretary of State for India.

(3) Emigration Problems.- In accordance with the promise to the Government of India by the Ceylon Government that any definite proposal for restriction of immigration into Ceylon would be referred to them, the Ceylon Government forwarded in August, 1940, a memorandum containing a summary of the proposals made by the Board of Ministers for the restriction of Indian immigration. The proposals were on the agenda of the Exploratory Conference of representatives of the two Governments held in New Delhi in November, 1940. As no agreement could be reached on the main question of the status of Indians resident in Ceylon, the proposals for the ~~restriction~~ restriction of Indian immigration were not discussed. When the Conference broke down, the Ceylon Ministers prepared Bills for the ~~restriction~~ restriction of Indian immigration and the restriction of non-Ceylonese, ~~containing~~ containing the main features of their August Memorandum. The Government of India, who were pressed for their comments, objected to the first Bill on grounds of principle, viz., that this would interfere

with the freedom of movement of Indians between India and Ceylon, in contravention of the previous understanding between the two Governments and the restrictions were unjustified by statistics of travel. (The talks were resumed in September, 1941, and a tentative agreement reached. A joint report (published on October 16) has been submitted by the delegations to their respective Governments.)

C. Malaya: (1) Labour Legislation.-- The Trade Unions and the Industrial Courts Enactments became law in Malaya during the period under review. Some of the major changes, like the right of appeal to a Court of law against the decisions of the Registrar, suggested by the Government of India, were not accepted. The Malayan Government have informed the Government of India that when experience has been gained of the administration of the above legislation any amendments based on the results of the experience of the Indian Trade Union legislation would be fully considered.

(2) Emigration Problem.-- The whole question of emigration to Malaya, the form it should take in future, and the control to be exercised in India and in Malaya was under correspondence between the two Governments. As a result of the reduction of ~~the~~ wages, a ban on assisted emigration to that country was placed in June, 1939. Through the unassisted stream, however, labour sufficient for the needs of Malaya emigrated. It was felt that the war would lead to a large demand for rubber and that labour would share in the prosperity of the industry. This would attract a large number of labourers to Malaya and the additional and surplus labour would not only depress the wages, but also unsettle the conditions of the existing labour force, particularly after the war. The Government of India, in consultation with their Agent in Malaya and the Malayan Governments, considered whether a change should not be made in the system of emigration to Malaya. The Governments of Malaya appreciated the view of the Government of India that the standard of living of workers in Malaya should be preserved and that they should continue to share in the prosperity of the rubber industry. They have agreed to some form of control of emigration to achieve the above objects.

D. Burma: (1) Baxter Commission.-- The Baxter Commission on Indian Immigration into Burma concluded its work and the report was published on 22-7-1941. (An Indo-Burma Immigration Agreement was signed at Rangoon on 28-6-1941.)

(2) Legisla Legislation affecting Indians.-- The Land Purchase Bill, which provides for state acquisition of agricultural land by purchase from non-agricultural landlords, became law during the year. The Tenancy Bill and the City of Rangoon Municipal (Amendment) Bill were two other measures passed in Burma during the year.

E. Fiji.-- In February, 1940, the Native Land Trust Ordinance was passed in Fiji, to secure to them power to administer all native land in the Colony on trust, through the agency of a Board, and to place the system of leasing of native land to non-Fijians on a reasonable and stable basis. In May, 1940, certain regulations were promulgated by the Government under the Ordinance.

(Review of important events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during the year 1940-41; pp. 21.)✓

34

Working Conditions in Ceylon:
Report of the Controller of Labour, 1940.*

The Administration Report of the Controller of Labour, Ceylon, for 1940, is as usual, divided into two parts: the first contains a general review of working conditions in Ceylon and the second deals with conditions of life and work of Indian immigrant labour. The salient features of the report are briefly noticed below:

Labour Legislation in Ceylon:-

(1) The Maternity Benefits Ordinance.- This Ordinance will be brought into operation as soon as the alternative benefits to be prescribed under section 5 are approved.

(2) The Industrial Disputes (Conciliation) Ordinance.- The draft of the Ordinance is still under consideration.

(3) Wages Boards Bill.- This bill passed its first and second readings in the State Council and has been referred to Standing Committee B.

(4) Separation of Families on Estates: Married Persons living on Estate Lines.- A bill for the non-separation of families and for providing separate accommodation for married couples on estates is before the Executive Committee.

(5) Factories Bill.- A draft bill making provision for the safety and welfare of workers in factories is being considered by the Executive Committee.

In addition to the above, the following Ordinances affecting the Department were passed during the year: (1) Ordinance No. 18 of 1940 to amend the Shops Ordinance (No. 66 of 1938); and (2) Ordinance No. 16 of 1940 giving effect to certain provisions of the International Labour Convention relating to the employment of women during the night.

Labour Legislation Proposals.- Proposals to introduce legislation in regard to the following matters are under discussion: (1) Amendment of the Minimum Wage (Indian Labour) Ordinance, Chapter 114, making provision for free issue of one-eighth bushel of rice to each child under the age of 12 years or alternatively for their free feeding, and free articles of special diet for children under 1 year. (2) Simplification of ejection by civil process of estate labourers who refuse to leave the estate on the termination of their contract of service. (3) Old Age Pensions and Health Insurance. (4) The raising of the age limit of children to be employed from 10 years to 12 years in conformity with the provisions of Ordinance No. 48 of 1939 relating to the employment of children and young persons.

Ceylon and I.L. Conventions.- An annual report is furnished to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the application in ~~this~~ *Ceylon* country of the International Labour Conventions ratified by Great

Administration Report of the Controller of Labour for 1940. November, 1941. Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo. 1941. pp.33

Britain. The Convention concerning the employment of women during the night was applied in Ceylon by Ordinance No. 16 of 1940. The question of the application of the Convention concerning the regulation of certain special systems for recruiting workers is still under consideration.

Workmen's Compensation Statistics.- 7,683 accidents were reported during the year as against 6,158 in 1939. Of these 118 were fatal accidents as against 93 in 1939. According to the returns furnished by employers the amount of the claims paid during the year was Rs. 220,444.87 in respect of 6,355 cases. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were Rs. 172,178.34 for 5,279 cases. The report remarks that labour is becoming keenly alive to its rights under the Ordinance. There was one case of lead poisoning of a workman in a newspaper office, in respect of which Rs. 2,800 was paid by the employer.

59 licences to undertake insurance against liability to workmen which may be incurred by employers under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance were current during the year. There was one licence issued during the year.

Trade Unions.- During 1940, 49 unions applied for registration and 25 were registered. Most of the applications received were from unions formed by employees of some of the leading industrial establishments in Colombo. The total number of active trade unions in Ceylon which were registered was 58.

Safety in Mines and Factories.- According to the reports received for the year 1940, ~~there~~ were at the beginning of the year 1,589 factories in the Island. During the year 34 factories were registered and 60 were closed down, leaving at the end of the year 1,563 factories as duly licensed. Four factories inspected during the year were reported unsafe. 19 accidents were reported in factories during 1940, as against 16 in 1939.

Unemployment. At the beginning of 1940 there were 642 registered mines. 1,317 new mines were registered during the year and 762 mines were closed down. The total number of mines at the end of the year was 1,197. 328 mines were inspected and all were found to be safe. Ten serious accidents were reported in which 2 persons were killed and 8 injured. In the previous year 5 persons were reported as killed and 6 injured as a result of accidents in mines. 199 persons were prosecuted during the year for various offences under the Ordinance and 172 were convicted. A comprehensive Factories Bill modelled on the English Act making provision for the safety and welfare of workers in all types of factories is under consideration and is likely to be introduced in the State Council shortly.

Unemployment.- The number of men engaged on the various relief schemes in Colombo at the end of 1940, was 1,225 and all these were registered in 1931. The provision made in 1939-40 Estimates for the relief of unemployment was Rs. 275,000, but this amount was found inadequate and a supplementary estimate for Rs. 300,000 was obtained in April, 1940. The actual expenditure incurred was Rs. 421,181.03.

Certain business undertakings in Colombo ~~discontinued~~^{charged} some of their employees as a measure of economy on account of the war and according to information collected by the Director of Commerce and Industries from 88 establishments, 28,508 persons were in employment on September 1, 1939, and 27,438 on July 1, 1940. This shows a decrease of 1,070 or 3.75 per cent. During this period the number of persons thrown out of employment as a result of the war was 2,074 and 7.18 per cent. and the increase due to the same reason was 335 554 which gives a nett

decrease of 1,493 or 5.24 per cent.

Recruitment of Indigenous Workers.-- Reference was made in the last Administration Report to a scheme for training indigenous labour in estate work at a Government-leased estate with a view to encouraging large numbers being employed on tea estates (vide pages 20-21 of our October 1940 report). It was neither possible nor expedient to make headway with this scheme as the state of unrest and the conditions on estates showed no immediate demand for labour, whether Indian or indigenous. On the contrary, owing to the lack of fluidity of the labour market in consequence of the ban on emigration, superintendents were for a considerable time faced with a surplus of labour which they were forced to maintain on estates owing to their reluctance to leave the estate. The scheme is being kept in view and will be adopted when the change in the present conditions renders it expedient.

Employment Exchange.-- The total of unemployed registered during the year was 6,047 comprising 72 professional and technical men, 1,221 clerical workers, 2,215 skilled workers, 798 semi-skilled workers and 1,741 unskilled workers. The total number of persons who have registered at the Exchange, since its inception in 1938, is 37,306. The number of persons placed in employment during the year was 5,936.

Administration of Shops Ordinance.-- The Shops Ordinance came into operation on 1-8-1939, and the Regulations framed thereunder on 1-10-1939. No attempt to enforce the Ordinance, which is presently confined to the three Municipal towns of Colombo, Kandy and Galle, was made until 1-3-1940, when the first Labour Inspector (for Shops) was appointed. This officer first had to educate shop keepers and the public generally to make them familiar with the provisions of the Ordinance. A closing order was brought into force on 5-7-1940. All the provisions of the law except the health provisions ~~which~~ are now being enforced. Certain amendments were found necessary and they were given effect to by the enactment of the Amending Ordinance No. 18 of 1940 and of the Regulations which came into operation on August 8, 1940, and July 5, 1940, respectively. It cannot be said that the majority of the occupiers of even the public at large have taken kindly to the closing order and various representations are reported to have been received from time to time for its relaxation.

Indian Immigrant Labour

Migration Statistics.-- Throughout the year 1940 the ban on emigration from India to Ceylon continued, the stringency in its application varying from time to time. The number of Indians who arrived in Ceylon in 1940 ~~was~~ was 56,363, (53,045 unassisted immigrants and 3,318 assisted estate labourers) as compared with 112,599 (83,340 unassisted immigrants and 29,259 assisted immigrants) in 1939. 86,624 Indians (12,578 estate labourers) left Ceylon for India.

The mean Indian labour population on estates was 683,000 in 1940, as against 679,000 in the previous year. The population at the beginning of 1940 was 678,611 (comprising 209,604 men, 202,755 women, and 266,252 children). It rose, by the middle of the year, to 683,388 (210,473 men, 203,931 women, and 268,984 children), and, by the end of the year, to 687,901 (211,149 men, 203,958 women, and

37

272,794 children). The increase during the year 1940 was therefore 9,290.

Wages.- The following minimum rates which came into force in June, 1939, were in operation during the year 1940.

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
Up-country	7 10	6 3	4 8
Mid-country	7 6	5 11	4 6
Low-country	7 2	5 9	4 4

Only the minimum wages are prescribed by law and cases of industrious and willing workers are known who have earned wages higher than the minimum by even 80 per cent. Labourers have also opportunities to supplement their monthly wages by cattle breeding, poultry farming, vegetable gardening and even by paddy cultivation. ✓

Draft Indo-Ceylon Emigration Agreement:
Possibilities of changes envisaged.

Reference was made at pages 24 to 29 of our October 1941 report to the terms of the draft Indo-Ceylon Emigration Agreement and public reaction in India to the draft. In November 1941, the draft was discussed by the Central Legislature and was also commented on by Mahatma Gandhi. A brief summary of Mahatma Gandhi's statement and the criticisms in the Legislature is given below:

Mahatma Gandhi's Statement.- In his statement issued on 11-11-1941, Mahatma Gandhi, while admitting that the proposed Indo-Ceylonese Pact is not open to the fatal objections that have been universally raised against the Indo-Burman thing, which was sprung upon an unsuspecting public as an almost settled fact, states that on merits the Indo-Ceylon proposal is open to objection in the same manner as the Indo-Burman. He suggests to the Ceylon Government that there is no reason whatsoever for hurry. "Adjustment can easily be made about the supply of labour, but wholesale legislation may be left over till after the war. The war is a terrible tragedy, the like of which is unknown to history. But the tragedy will be deeper still if at the end we find ourselves living the old way without radical changes in every walk of life." If postponement of the question is not possible, he suggests alternatively: "I suggest much the same thing I have suggested for Burma. I should have no difficulty in persuading experienced legislators that in legislation affecting men in the street and addressed to the masses the simplest and shortest method is best. I, therefore, suggest that the whole of the Indian population found in Ceylon on a given date (kept secret) should be registered and clothed with full rights of citizenship. Those who may be outside Ceylon but who can unquestionably be proved to be bona fide residents of Ceylon should also be registered on application. This procedure obviates the

intricacies which permeate the proposal under examination. The term domicile should find no place in such legislation. The English law of domicile is the worst possible. Judges have been known to have been confused over the interpretation of the term. Human liberty is a precious thing which must not be trifled with by legal subtleties and interminable wranglings in courts of law. So far as labour is concerned, I have no doubt that Ceylon should have the sole right to import as much as it likes under contracts easy to be understood and mutually agreed to between the two Governments. The suggested quota system should have no place in an honourable understanding."

(The Hindustan Times, 12-11-1941.)

Debate in Central Assembly.- The joint report^{of} the delegations from India and Ceylon was discussed in the Central Assembly on 17-11-1941. Mr. M.S. Aney, Overseas Member, moving consideration of the report briefly traced the circumstances in which the negotiations which had broken down in Delhi in February, 1940, were resumed in Ceylon in June, 1941. While inviting the views of the House on the Agreement, Mr. Aney stressed the need for compromise on both sides and for amicable relations between India and Ceylon. During the debate, members dealt with the several aspects in respect of which the Agreement, in their opinion, had to be modified. Mr. Aney, replying to the debate, ~~summarised some of the points in the report to which objection had been voiced~~, and said these included the clause relating to discriminatory legislation. The provision under which a permanent certificate-holder would lose his rights by 12 months' absence was also objected to. The clause on registration, to which also exception had been taken, was, he said, optional in nature.

To the Government motion; "that the Joint Report by the Delegations from India and Ceylon be taken into consideration", three amendments were moved. One moved by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta (Congress Nationalist) declared that the joint report was a violation of the undertakings and promises assuring to Indians full rights of citizenship and urged the Governor-General-in-Council not to implement the proposals, but to carry on, if necessary, ~~from~~ further negotiations in order to remove the discriminatory features in consultation with the interests concerned and to the satisfaction of the Assembly. Dr. P.N. Bannerjee's (Congress Nationalist) amendment expressed the opinion that the report was unsatisfactory in many respects and recommended that the ~~pro~~ proposals should not be given effect to and that further negotiations be conducted in order to arrive at a satisfactory settlement and that the results of these negotiations be placed before the Assembly. The amendment moved by Mr. Hussainbhai Lalji (Independent) stated that Indians in Ceylon on the prescribed date of agreement and those who had been residents in Ceylon within a specified period before the date of the agreement should have freedom of entry into Ceylon and no regional and occupational restrictions should be imposed upon them and that they should be entitled to full rights of citizenship on completion of the prescribed period; that, for the future, provision be made for entry and occupations so that the trade interests of Indians were safeguarded and that unskilled labourers ~~be~~ permitted to emigrate were assured of freedom of movement, choice of employment and opportunity to acquire full citizenship rights.

The first two amendments were rejected by the House, and Mr. Laljee's amendment was adopted without a division.

(The Statesman, 18-11-1941.)

In the debate on the report in the Council of State on 22-11-1941, Mr. Aney declared that the Government would take care to see that in the discussions and negotiations with the Government of Ceylon, the Government of India would make an attempt to stand steadfastly by the essential principles, namely, that the interests of Indians should be duly safeguarded and that the honour of India should not be impaired by anything done in Ceylon.

(The Statesman, 23-11-1941.)

It is understood that the Government of India will shortly be sending new proposals to Ceylon incorporating modifications suggested in the Central Legislature. ✓

The Reciprocity Bill, 1941. ✓

Mr. G.V. Deshmukh (non-official) introduced in the Central Assembly on 28-10-1941 a Bill to make provisions in regard to entry, residence, the acquisition, holding or disposal of property, franchise, the holding of public office, or the carrying on of any occupation, trade, business or profession in British India by persons domiciled in the British Possessions on a basis of reciprocity. The Statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that the treatment meted out to Indians overseas and their disabilities have been matters of deep and ever-growing concern to the Indians since a very long time. The latest instance is the Asiatic (Transvaal) Land and Trading Act of 1939 passed by the Union Government of South Africa imposing restrictions which are unbearable and strangle trade and other legitimate activities of Indians. The actions of the Ministers of the Government of Ceylon as well as Burma prejudicial to the interests of Indians are too fresh to need any comment. They are following the examples of South Africa and Kenya who feel encouraged because His Majesty's Government ~~there~~ does not interfere in spite of strong protests from Indians against discriminating legislation. As negotiations have frequently failed to achieve any satisfactory settlement with some of the recalcitrant British Possessions, nothing remains but to put into effect the principles of reciprocity which is the object of this Bill. The Bill, if passed into law, will provide a sanction - though not as effective as the economic - to the Government of India whenever negotiations with an offending country in the British Empire fail.

(The Gazette of India, Part V,
dated 1-11-1941, pages 162 to 163.) ✓

Indians in Malaya:
Pandit Kunzru's Resolution in the Council of State. ✓

On 20-11-1941, Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru moved a resolution in the Council of State recommending that adequate steps should be taken to protect the legitimate rights of Indian nationals in Malaya and full support should be given, in particular, to the efforts of the Indian workers on the rubber plantations in Malaya to improve their living conditions and to secure higher wages. Pandit Kunzru dwelt on the difference between the wages earned by Chinese and those earned by Indian workers on plantations, and said that after the Controller of Labour and the Under-Secretary to the Government to whom they applied had signified their inability to interfere, the Indian workers took the last step of declaring a strike. When the strike was going on a battalion of Indian soldiers with an armoured car unit was brought into the district on the ground that it was necessary to use force to prevent violence being done by Indian workers. The strikers were fired on by the soldiers. After the "riot", between 200 and 300 Indians were taken into custody and he wanted to know whether they were tried in a court of law and what happened to them. He also wanted to know definitely whether the Government of India had protested against the manner in which the Malayan Government had acted, and also whether they had asked for a judicial inquiry into the circumstances connected with the firing and the causes of the strike. Objection was also raised against the diversion of the Indian Immigration Fund by the Malayan Government.

Mr. G.S. Bozman, Secretary, Department for Indians Overseas, giving a detailed reply, described the circumstances and events connected with the strike and said that five men had been killed and approximately 60 received more or less severe injuries. Explaining the action taken by the Government of India in this connection, Mr. Bozman said that on receipt of reports from the Indian Agent in Malaya, the Government made representations to the Colonial authorities and told them that any action taken by them to deport Indian labourers in large numbers would require a good deal of justification. They had also made requests to the Colonial authorities for holding a judicial inquiry into the circumstances and causes of the strike. He regretted to say that the Colonial authorities had not yet seen their way to accept their suggestion. In their correspondence, the Government had stressed the need for the appointment of such an inquiry urgently so that sufficient evidence might be available. They had also drawn the attention of the Colonial authorities to the extreme resentment felt both in India and Malaya at the use of Indian troops to crush the strike of Indian labourers. Mr. Bozman assured the members that the Government of India had not in any way abandoned the stand they had taken up at the time of the visit of the Malayan Delegation to India in 1938-39, and as soon as circumstances permitted, they would make every endeavour to fix a standard wage and improve the conditions of work. In the meantime, they were not satisfied with the cost of living allowance paid to Indian workers and it was a point to which they had drawn the attention of the Malayan Government.

The Resolution was withdrawn in view of the satisfactory nature of the Government's reply.

(The Statesman, 21-11-1941.) ✓

41

Colonial Office Rejects Judicial Enquiry.- According to the Special Correspondent of the Statesman, the Government of India's proposal for a judicial inquiry into the firing on Indian labourers in Malaya has not been accepted and that, instead, the Colonial authorities are suggesting a general inquiry by a commission into the conditions of Indians in that country. It is feared that the counter-proposal not only ~~side-tracks~~ side-tracks the main issue which Delhi has raised regarding firing on Indian strikers, but may involve Indians in Malaya in greater difficulties through suggestions for the restrictions of certain rights now enjoyed by them. The Government of India have already refused to permit labourers from India to proceed to Malaya and the India Office is being asked to take a firm stand in the matter of its negotiations with the Colonial Office.

(The Statesman, 10-11-1941.) ✓₊

Indo-Burma Agreement: Resolution in Central
Assembly demanding Modifications Adopted. ✓₊

On 4-11-1941, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi moved a resolution in the Central Assembly that the Assembly "being of the opinion that the Indo-Burma Immigration Agreement should not have been concluded without consulting the Legislature and public opinion in India and being further of the opinion that the said agreement ignores the fundamental rights of Indians settled in or having connexions with Burma, violates the assurances and pledges given at the time of the passage of the Government of Burma Act in regard to the right of free entry of Indians into Burma and is discriminatory and humiliating in its provisions and detrimental to the interests of India, - recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council not to implement the agreement as it stands, and to revise it satisfactorily in consultation with the interests concerned."

Amendments.- Two amendments were moved, one by Mr. Akhil Chandra Dutta, and the other by Sir Henry Gidney. Mr. Dutta's amendment recommended that in the event of the Government of Burma not agreeing to a revision of the Indo-Burma Immigration Agreement, the Government of India should give immediate notice of termination of the ~~trade~~ agreement concluded last February with Burma. Sir Henry Gidney's amendment recommended to the Governor-General to request the Secretary of State not to implement the agreement by an Order-in-Council unless and until satisfactory modifications were secured which would carry out to the full the Parliamentary Assurances given with regard to the status of Indians in Burma after separation from India and remove such provisions as are discriminatory and humiliating to the people of India.

Debate.- During the debate, the objectionable clauses of the Agreement were pointed out by several Members. Mr. M.S. Aney, Overseas Member, Government of India, replied on behalf of India. Sir Henry Gidney's amendment to the motion was adopted by the House as the substantive resolution.

(The Statesman, 5-11-1941.) ✓₊

Rice Production in India:
Report of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser. ✓

A survey of the rice crop, which in point of acreage as well as total value of production ranks foremost in Indian agriculture, made by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, has been published. The report reveals that under the present system of marketing of rice the producer gets a poor return, amounting, on an average, only to eight and a quarter annas of the rupee paid by the consumer in India in respect of the major part of the marketable surplus. Since about two-fifths of the total crop is put on the market, its importance as a cash crop is obvious. The main object of the survey is to show how the growers' returns can be enhanced. It is stated that while the report has indicated the scope that exists for improving marketing of rice, the objective cannot be achieved without co-ordination of efforts between the agriculture and co-operative departments, the marketing staff, the Government and the municipal organisations in provinces and States, and above all between the trade and the producers. It is claimed that the Central marketing staff have already covered a good deal of ground especially in regard to standardisation of qualities, and the results achieved so far have been encouraging. A brief summary of the main findings is given below:-

Causes of Growers' Low Return.- The chief factors responsible for the growers' low returns are the use of seed having an admixture of inferior types, inefficient handling at the harvesting stage, wastage in hulling, disproportionate margins earned by intermediaries in the process of assembling and distribution, malpractices and excessive deductions in the markets, non-existence of recognised standards of quality, lack of uniformity in weights and measures and exorbitant interest charges paid on loans incurred for seed and financing the cultivation of the crop and imposition of municipal taxes, such as octroi.

Rice Exporting and Importing Countries.- The chief importers of rice are the densely populated Asiatic countries which grow insufficient quantities of this food-grain. For instance, although India and China account for practically two-thirds of the entire world production of rice, both import on a large scale to supplement their domestic supply. During the last 10 years India has imported from 1,500,000 to over 2,500,000 tons of rice every year. The three principal exporters of rice are Burma, Siam and Indo-China. Of these, Burma comes first with an average annual export amounting to some 3,000,000 tons, equivalent to about 30 per cent. of the total world trade. About two-thirds of Burma's production of rice is shipped abroad and roughly half normally is received in India. The importance of rice trade in the economic life of Burma may be gauged from the fact that the value of Burma's rice exports constitutes some 20 per cent. of the total value of her exports, and the greater part of the population is directly concerned in the cultivation, transport and milling of the cereal.

Indian Rice Production.- In point of area under rice, India holds top position among the chief rice producing countries of the world, but in point of production, China takes the first place, representing 34 per cent. of the world output compared to India's share of 31 per cent. The average total production of rice is placed at 29 million tons annually representing a value of Rs. 2,760 millions. The crop is grown mostly

in Bengal, Madras, Bihar, Orissa, the Central Provinces and Assam. Of the 76,260,000 acres under rice, Bengal has over 21 million acres ranking first among the provinces. Of the total production 88 per cent. is produced in British India and 12 per cent. in Indian States. The yield per acre in India does not compare unfavourably with those of certain other countries in South-east Asia, but falls far short of the yield in the Mediterranean countries, the U.S.A. and Japan. The result is that India, in spite of being the second largest rice producing country in the world, is not self-sufficient in this commodity and has to import annually ~~ix~~ rice valued at about Rs. 140 millions, the corresponding value of exports being only about 27.5 millions.

About 27,250,000 tons of rice is consumed in various cooked preparations in India, the great bulk being in the form of plain boiled rice. The per capita consumption of rice for the whole of India is about 181 lbs. per annum, the highest rate being in Bengal with a per capita consumption of 344 lbs. In Burma the per capita consumption is 231 lbs.

Increasing India's Yield.- The report points out that in order to attain self-sufficiency the average acreage of yield per acre or both will have to be increased and that the ~~yield~~ can be increased greatly by transplanting instead of broadcasting the seed. Agricultural departments are urged to bring about an increase in supplies through increased yield by means of better cultural practices and improved seed. It is estimated that only about six per cent. of the total acreage under rice in India is under improved varieties. Efforts are necessary to ensure that larger quantities of improved seed are made readily available and that the multiplication of such seed is properly organised. Agricultural departments are also asked to see to the control and maintenance of purity of the improved strains. From the marketing point of view it is considered desirable that there should be a reduction rather than an increase in the number of varieties and greater uniformity in the type of rice in each tract. It is also necessary to maintain in each tract the commercial characteristics for which the tract is noted. India, it is pointed out, has something to learn from Burma in connexion with the breeding of new varieties and distribution of seed.

Inaccurate Statistics.- Several recommendations are made for the improvement of marketing. It is pointed out that the rice forecasts omit over 6½ million acres actually seeded with rice and that statistics of area and production are seriously affected by local inaccuracies, and it is suggested that the practice observed in the matter of jute acreage statistics should be followed for rice. The conventional ratio for converting paddy figures into terms of rice results in an under-estimate of about 10 per cent. annually. The supplies of paddy and rice put on the market show a considerable fluctuation in the course of the season, the arrivals of paddy being much heavier than those of rice soon after the harvest. This results in a particularly marked depression in paddy prices at the harvest time. The chief conclusion arrived at from a comparison between the seasonal low prices and high prices ~~ix~~ in different areas and the calculated costs of storage over the respective periods is that there is room for growers to co-operate for storing paddy with a view to bringing about a more even flow of supplies to the markets and minimising harvest depression. There is also scope for earning

44

extra profit by storing fine rice for maturity. This is a matter requiring the attention of provincial and State co-operative departments and of banks.

Financing Rice Production.- The report points out that under the present conditions when the distribution of rice is mainly financed by wholesale merchants or commission agents, the Indian rice grower is a loser to the extent of Rs. 200 millions annually at a conservative estimate. Much of this vast sum could be returned to him by a proper system of financing and by a more direct participation in the marketing process by the grower himself. It is stated that the grower, besides having to pay an excessively high rate of interest, has to part with a considerable proportion of his produce soon after the harvest at very low values and that there is favourable scope for co-operative endeavour in this direction. Banks might well consider the provision of more extensive facilities for making advances on the crop at harvest time.

Standardisation of Varieties Needed.- Rice varieties and trade descriptions in India are almost innumerable. No standard scale of allowances or deductions for the various impurities or defects in paddy or rice are recognised in any part of India. Grading by millers and merchants - almost wholly in respect of the more expensive rice - has been done on individualistic lines and there are no fixed standards of quality. Adulteration with inferior types or broken grains and the sale of one type under the name of another similar but more expensive rice is not uncommon. Admixture with inferior types may frequently occur in the field itself. In short the position in regard to quality in the rice trade is chaotic. Standardised classification and grading of rice will not only facilitate dissemination of market information and assist the machinery of distribution at all stages but should also eventually lead to greater uniformity of production types and reduction of the heterogeneous number of varieties and trade descriptions. Grading of rice under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marketing) Act, 1937, has definitely proved its usefulness to the producer, the trade and the consumer. Efforts should be made by all interests concerned to promote the expansion of this work.

Information Service.- Speedy ~~dissemination~~ dissemination of reliable market news in an intelligible form is a fundamental necessity and local administrations are urged to take early action in the matter of regulating markets for paddy and rice. It is suggested that an expert committee should examine the reduction or abolition of municipal tolls on agriculturists.

Storing Paddy.- There are different methods of storing paddy and rice in India and a little over one per cent. of the average produce of India's rice crop valued at over Rs. 30 millions is wasted every year through weevil infestation, dampness and vermin attack. The report points out probably the best type of storage for bulk storage of paddy is the ferro-concrete underground bin. Silos of timber on the Kashmir model are also recommended in suitable areas.

Standard Measures.- The adoption of some suitable standard measures, at least in the wholesale rice and paddy trade to begin with, is recommended by the report. In this connexion, it is suggested that the imperial gallon should be made the basis and use of the ordinary kerosene oil tin of four imperial gallons capacity is worth consideration as a standard measure. In Burma the rice

45

milling industry has been able to achieve some degree of standardisation of general commercial types of rice. The extension of co-operative marketing on the lines of the Sittang Colonies and Banking Union is recommended, and it is also suggested that action might be taken to extend the use of the standard measuring basket in villages.

Freight Rates.- It is suggested that the local marketing staff, in consultation with local railway authorities, should get railway freight rates readjusted. At present the traffic receives the benefit of the telescopic scale of rates only on the local distance of each railway and not on the total distance. It is stated that over and above the normal expenses at the railhead, customary payments to the railway staff on account of paddy and rice amount to no less than Rs. 10 lakhs annually. The acceptance of such payments is entirely unauthorized.

Other Recommendations.- Recommendations are made for research on harvesting technique, for the improvement of parboiling, the introduction of the self-contained type of milling plant, the development of rice by-products, investigation of the optimum period of storage of paddy compatible with good milling results, and development of cheap mechanical rotary threshers of the type used in Japan. Finally, it is recommended that the Rangoon rice "futures" market should be organised on proper lines, failing which it would be desirable to abolish it as its operations at present instead of being a stabilising factor only tend to accentuate the harvest time depression in prices.

(The Statesman, 9-10-1941). ✓

India's Rice Production:
3-Year Plan to increase Production. ✓

A 10 per cent. increase in India's total rice production is expected in the next three years, as a result of the efforts made by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to increase the acreage under improved varieties. The plan is to bring in the course of the 3-year period a million acres under these improved varieties, each suited to a particular tract. An important effect may be to reduce by one-third the present imports of about 1.5 millions of tons of foreign rice. Increased production in order not only to reduce imports but to improve the export trade is under consideration. A number of methods for this purpose were discussed at the meetings, which concluded in the third week of October 1941, of the relevant Committee of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council.

Economics of Manure.- For instance, a scheme was approved for extension of research work in order first to find out the economics of manuring and cultural practices, and second, on the basis of the results to prepare a ~~basic~~ schedule showing which manure to apply to which type of land and what will be the cost, and so on. In other words, detailed instructions are to be given to the cultivator on what exactly he is to do in order to get a higher return.

Proposed Questionnaire.- The Rice Committee also decided that a questionnaire should be drawn up regarding the points on which further information is needed in order to enable steps to be taken to increase production. Two schemes for development work put up by the United Provinces and Orissa for the production of improved seeds were approved by the Board on the understanding that at the end of two years each of the provinces should have between 200,000 and 300,000 acres under improved seed.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-10-1941.) ✓+

Co-operative Marketing Scheme under consideration of Bombay Government. ✓

The importance of enabling the producer to take a greater share of the price which the consumer pays for his goods has been exercising the minds of those in authority for some time. In recent years the Government of India appointed marketing officers, secured detailed marketing surveys of a large number of agricultural products all over India, and set up the Agmark system of grading. It was hoped that grading would enable the primary producers to get better prices. This has not proved to be the case, for the reason that, whether his goods are graded or not, he still has to deal with a middleman, and the latter insists on taking as high a profit as possible.

Sales Societies.— The Government of Bombay has now taken steps to secure a better return to the farmer by marketing his products under an efficient system. The plan covers the development of co-operative sale societies, the establishment of regulated markets under the Agricultural Produce (grading and marketing) Act, standardisation of products under the Agmark scheme for ensuring quality supply, and the setting up of a price intelligence service. The ten Marketing Inspectors in the Province who are working in the various districts have been instructed to start at least one society in each district in the province before the end of the year. These societies will be in touch with Bombay, which is the terminal market for all commodities, in regard to the movement of prices, stocks and other trade information.

With a ^{view} ~~view~~ to achieving this objective, Government has accepted the proposal for organising a Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society and has agreed to give financial help for a period of two years. The society will soon be registered in Bombay with a capital of Rs. 100,000 and will start working before the end of December 1941. This will be the first model society for the country and will attract business from other provinces as well.

Regulated Markets.— Proposals for establishing 40 regulated markets under the Act in various districts are now being considered by the authorities. These markets will provide the nucleus for disseminating trade information received from Bombay, so that this important information, including the price movement in the terminal markets, will help the growers in the rural areas to secure a fair return for their produce and reduce the profit of middle men. It is also intended to apprise the traders in taluka towns about the daily prices in Bombay through the mamlatdars.

Export of Primary Products and War.— It is understood that the Marketing Officers' Conference held recently in Delhi considered the changes brought about by the war in regard to the export markets for Indian produce. It was suggested during discussion by the Chief Marketing Officer, Bombay, that the Government of India might set up a special organisation, as an experimental measure, to study the possibilities of adjusting India's export trade in primary produce to the war conditions. The conference approved of the proposal and it is considered likely that the Central Government may accept it. In that case, Bombay and Bengal will have these organisations to examine steps for building up export trade in standard quality agricultural goods.

Grade Specifications. - It is proposed to re-examine the grade specifications laid down under the Agmark scheme in order to ascertain how far they conform to the demand ~~of~~ the consumers. Arrangements have been made to ensure frequent inspection of the authorised packing stations in order to ensure that the goods supplied under Agmark label are in accordance with the specifications. The authorities in Bombay have been vigilant about the quality of goods supplied by authorised packers and a number of lapses on the part of the packers have already resulted in the cancellation of the permits of several of them. The decline in the number of packets of ghee in the province under the Agmark scheme is entirely attributed to the strict supervision. Another improvement in this direction is the policy of the authorities to issue permits under the scheme to co-operative societies in preference to industry so that the chances of circumventing the Agricultural Produce (grading and marking) Act are minimised.

(The Times of India, 22-11-1941) ✓+

Economic Survey of Selected Rural Areas in Mysore State. ✓+

On the recommendation of the Census Superintendent in Mysore, the Government of Mysore has sanctioned proposals for conducting an economic survey of a few villages on a regional and sampling basis, as such an enquiry may throw useful light on the present economic condition in rural areas, and furnish authoritative data for proceeding with any scheme of rural reconstruction. Under the scheme of economic ~~of~~ survey, it is proposed to select about 300 villages at the rate of 30 per district on the basis of their situation, size, proximity to industrial and commercial centres or other urban areas, accessibility by road or rail, nature of crops grown, preponderance of any particular main community in them, existence of educational and medical facilities ~~in them~~ and any other special features in them like the existence of sericulture or hand-spinning. The selection will be confined to places where competent men, who are educated, intelligent and enthusiastic and who wield sufficient influence in the village and command the confidence of the people, are available for conducting the enquiry. Information will be gathered in respect of a village as a unit instead of individual families.

(The Hindu, 27-11-1941.) ✓+

Handloom Industry in Sind:
Government plans for Development. ✓+

A fillip to handloom industry in Sind is to be given by the local Government which proposes to implement the recommendations of ^{the} Industrial Research Board on the subject. The proposals include establishment of 10 weaving centres, ~~distributed all over Sind~~, appointment of weaving instructors and subsidising the industry out of the funds received from Central Government in this connection. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 80,000 a year.

(The Indian Express, 29-11-1941.) ✓

Nutrition

Trends of Dietary Habits and Analysis of Food Budgets in Working Class Families of Bihar. ✓+

Attention is directed to a paper read at the 28th session of the Indian Science Congress (January 1941) by Dr. K. Mitra on "Trend of Dietary Habits and Analysis of Food Budget in Working Class Families of Bihar". The paper is reproduced at pages 144 to 163 of the October 1941 issue of the Indian Journal of Economics, Allahabad. ✓+

Prevention of Slaughter of Milch Cattle in Urban Areas:
I.C.A.R. appoints committee to suggest preventive
Measures. ✓+

It is found that large number of cows and buffaloes are annually brought ~~in~~ into Indian cities from breeding areas in the villages for purposes of urban milk supply, that many of them are sold to butchers when they go dry and that they are kept in such conditions or subjected to such mal-practices as render them sterile or otherwise unfit for further breeding purposes. As generally only the very best are brought into the city, this continuous process of premature slaughter and destruction of breeding value constitutes a steady depletion of the actual and ~~and~~ potential cattle wealth of India. The subject was discussed by the Council of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research at several of its meetings, and a committee was appointed to investigate the matter on the spot in the cities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, where the problem is most acute.

Terms of Reference.— The terms of reference to the Committee are: (i) Is it advisable and feasible, in view of local conditions, to make arrangements for moving gowalas (cowherds) and their cattle outside city limits? (ii) If so, what is the best way of giving effect to this recommendation in each of the three cities and what steps should be taken to make milk of good quality available in cities? (iii) If moving gowalas out of the cities is not feasible, what other action is recommended? (iv) To what extent will ~~be~~ the interest of the cattle-breeders in the breeding tracts be affected by reducing the trade in milch cattle to large cities?

The replies to the questionnaire on the subject framed by the Council are to reach the Secretary, Salvage of City Milch Cattle Committee, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, by 30 December 1941.

(Press Note dated 19-11-1941, issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.) ✓+

Nutrition Museum for Calcutta:
Calcutta Corporation Proposal. ✓

It is understood that a Nutrition Museum will shortly be opened in Calcutta which will be attached to the Health Museum of the Calcutta Corporation. The idea behind this is to disseminate essential knowledge about food and nutrition to the people through ~~a miniature show~~ of charts and exhibits of the various aspects of nutrition. Mr. Niyogi, Publicity Officer, Corporation of Calcutta, has requested the Director of ~~Health~~ Nutrition Research Institute, Coonoor, and Prof. A.G. Van Veen of the Medical Laboratory, Batavia, and the Hawaii Territorial Medical Association, Honolulu, to collect posters, literature, charts and exhibits in those countries for the proposed Museum.

(Indian Express, 19-11-1941.) ✓

Workers' Organisations.All-India Anti-Fascist Trade Union Conference - Lahore 30-11-1941:
Indian Labour Federation set up. +

Reference was made at pages 29 to 31 of the report of this Office for July 1941 to the rift in the Indian trade union movement over the issue of war efforts and the move for forming an Anti-Fascist Council. An All-India Anti-Fascist Trade Union Conference was held at Lahore on 30-11-1941, Mr. M.N. Roy presiding (As at first arranged, the Conference was to be held at Bombay - vide page 30, July 1941 report). A brief summary of the proceedings of the Conference as reported in the Statesman (apart from this we have no information, as other papers have not given much publicity to the Conference) is given below:

The Conference was attended by about 100 delegates - 25 from the Punjab, 3 from Baluchistan and the remainder from the other provinces. Messages for the success of the conference were received, among others, from Mr. M.S. Aney, Overseas Member, Government of India, Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Labour Member, Government of India.

Mr. M.N. Roy's Presidential Address.- Mr. Roy referred to the economic doctrines of Fascism and its attitude towards labour in order to show why the working class, irrespective of nationality, must be anti-Fascist. In India, however, matters are not generally seen in their proper perspective; actual relations are clouded by emotional obsessions; historical significance of international events is not correctly appreciated. Consequently, Fascism, instead of being regarded as a danger, commands a widespread sympathy in this country. These sentiments may be natural for the nationalist movement. But anti-Imperialism ceases to be revolutionary when it becomes blind to the danger of Fascism. On the other hand, to co-operate in the struggle against the common enemy of human freedom does not necessarily mean helping Imperialism.

A.I.T.U.C.'s Wrong Lead.- In a subject country, it is natural for the workers to be anti-Imperialist. But primarily, they should be conscious of the interests of their class, which will not be necessarily protected, much less promoted, upon the disappearance of Imperialism, particularly if that happens in consequence of Fascist invasion. Moreover, there is no reason for the workers to prefer exploitation by native capitalism. The freedom from such exploitation is not the national freedom which the workers want and should fight for. The A.I.T.U.C. has completely failed to appreciate the great possibilities of the situation. Whatever may be the attitude of the nationalists in the labour movement, those who call themselves Socialists and Communists are expected to have a sense of international solidarity, and uncompromising concern for working class interest. Nevertheless, they also are supporting a policy which amounted to a betrayal of the fundamental principle of the labour movement.

They would organise active resistance to India's participation in the war, so that British Imperialism might be defeated, even if that would mean victory of Fascism. That was not simply stupidity, it was a criminal folly.

Need for New Labour Organisation.- Apart from the consideration of larger issues, their immediate interest should persuade Indian workers to disown the policy of the A.I.T.U.C. For their sheer physical existence, the workers must remain employed, and by doing so, under the given situation, will be necessarily co-operating with the war efforts of the Government. Therefore, the practical and sensible policy for their organisation is to see that their interests are protected and promoted as far as possible under the given circumstances. It has become necessary to set up a new central organisation of Indian labour to give it the correct lead in these fateful days. Even today, Indian workers are helping the prosecution of the war. But generally, they are not fully compensated for the valuable services rendered. They labour under all sorts of handicaps and are subjected to innumerable harassments and unrestricted exploitation, on the pretext of war emergency. There is no organisation in this country to protect their interest and press for the redress of their grievances effectively. Given its policy, the ~~Trade~~ Trade Union Congress cannot do that. The essence of trade-unionism is collective bargaining, which is incompatible with non-co-operation.

Minimum Demands.- He then enumerated the following minimum demands:-

Stabilisation of wages, which is to be supplemented automatically with a sliding scale of dearness allowance.

Creation of representative machinery in each district for supervising the employment of labour and giving protection to the latter against harassment and exploitation on the pretext of war conditions.

Establishment of councils composed of elected delegates from the trade unions to assist and advise provincial labour commissioners, who should be directed to dispense with the present slow bureaucratic method of settling industrial disputes.

Formation of workers' councils in mills, factories, workshops, etc, for co-operating with the management as regards the necessity for increased production, particularly in the war industries, provided that the necessary protection and adequate payment are guaranteed to labour.

Rapid development of modern large-scale industries with State aid for accelerating the process of general militarisation and for creating new employments for labour.

Representation of labour on the Central as well as the provincial Governments, which should be democratised with the co-operation of those who have all along advocated India's voluntary and unconditional participation in the war against Fascism.

Organisation of workers' volunteer defence corps on the model of the English Home Guards.

Resolutions Adopted:-

Indian Labour Federation to be set up.- The Conference resolved to disown the policy of the Trade Union Congress and set up a new central organisation of labour called the Indian Labour Federation. It also resolved to render practical help to the Soviet Union through

through voluntary and purposeful co-operation with the war effort of the British Government.

Labour's Minimum Demands.- By another resolution the Conference, while demonstrating international solidarity by declaring the will to fight Fascism in every possible manner, demanded for Indian labour such facilities as would enable it to discharge their voluntary undertaken responsibility effectively. It formulated five minimum demands of labour on the lines of those contained in Mr. Roy's presidential address. Of the seven suggested by Mr. Roy, two concerning establishment of trade union councils to assist provincial labour commissioners and formation of workers councils in mills and factories were left out.

Creation of an Indo-British Labour Front: Message to British Working Class.- The Conference resolved to send a message to the British working class urging the creation of an Indo-British labour front as an integral part of the international anti-Fascist peoples' front, which will work for the freedom of both the countries and guarantee their future relation on the basis of equality and mutual co-operation.

Recognition from Government of India.- It is understood that the Conference has received an invitation from the Government of India to send six representatives of their organisation to meet the Labour Member in Calcutta in the first week of January to discuss certain legislation regarding labour which is under ~~consideration~~ contemplation.

(The Statesman, 1-12-1941.)+

54

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Opium Consumption in Assam:
Government Decision to restrict Sale.

The Assam Ministry has decided to stop the sale of opium in the Partially Excluded Areas of Mikir and Khasi Jaintia hills from 1-12-1941 and 1-3-1942, respectively. All opium passes, except a few granted as special cases on medical grounds, will be cancelled, and opium shops closed simultaneously with the coming into operation of the prohibition orders.

(The Statesman, 30-11-1941.) +

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME

Hours of Work

Hours of Work in Textile Mills in India increased from 54 to 60 to increase Production. +

Largely as a result of the stoppage of import of cotton textiles from Japan and of the reduced import of cotton textiles from England, there has been a large increase in the demand for the output of cotton textiles from Indian mills. There has consequently been a rapid increase in the prices of cloth owing to the disturbance of the balance between the supply of and the demand for cloth. The present production of Indian mills is not sufficient to cope with the increased demand, and there is a serious risk that unless production is increased, the poorer classes in India may find it difficult to obtain their necessary supplies of cloth at reasonable prices. In these conditions, it was the general opinion of those attending the last price conference at Delhi that an increase in production was urgently called for.

The Government of India, after careful consideration of the subject, has come to the conclusion that cloth prices can be kept at reasonable levels only by permitting an increase in the weekly hours of work from 54 to 60 in all cotton spinning and weaving mills throughout India, overtime pay being given for the additional six hours in accordance with the Factories Act. Provincial Governments, consulted on this suggestion, agreed with the views of the Government of India. The Government of India has, therefore, suggested to the Provincial Governments that they should issue notifications under the Indian Factories Act exempting all cotton, spinning and weaving mills in the province from the provisions of Section 34 of the Factories Act which will enable labour in factories and mills to work at a sixty-hour week.

In pursuance of the above direction, several provincial Governments have gazetted on 4-11-1941 a notification exempting textile mills from Section 34 of the Factories Act for a period of 6 months (vide: The Bombay Government Gazette, Extraordinary, Part IV-A, dated 4-11-1941, page 257; The Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary, Part I, dated 4-11-1941, page 165; the C.P. and Berar Gazette Extraordinary, dated 4-11-1941; the Government Gazette of the U.P., Extraordinary, dated 4-11-1941; the Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated 4-11-1941, page 1296; the Sind Government Gazette Extraordinary, Part I, dated 4-11-1941.).

Several Mills in Bombay revert to 9-hour Shift. - All the 20 cotton mills in Bombay, which had started work on the basis of 10-hours-a-shift, following the notification of the Government of Bombay exempting textile mills in the province from the provisions of the Factories Act, soon reverted to the nine-hour-shift system. The changing over to the old system was necessitated by the disinclination of workers to work for longer hours in spite of the fact that they were to be paid overtime for the extra six hours at one and a quarter times the ordinary rates of pay. Several other mills, which had introduced longer hours of work with the consent of the workers prior to the notification of Government have not, however, reverted to the nine-hour-shift.

(The Times of India, 25-11-1941.) +

Is Dear Food Allowance "Wage" or "Amenity"?

The question whether the dear food allowance comes under the definition of "wages" or is to be regarded as an "amenity" is now engaging the attention of the Employers' Association of Northern India. The question has arisen as to whether the allowance is to be considered as forming part of wages, as defined in the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, or to be considered as "other amenity" under Section 2-6A of the Act. The Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers of the United Provinces, the Association adds, has verbally stated that he is of opinion that, once a dear food allowance is announced, it becomes part of wages, and failure to pay it on any occasion would amount to an illegal reduction.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-11-1941.)

Workers' Wages for time lost during A.R.P. Suspension.

The Government of India has laid down ^{entire} ~~provisions to be made~~ for the payment of wages to workmen in those factories and undertakings which are required by them in furtherance of the war effort to continue production under air raid conditions, in the event of suspension of work owing to air raid precautions. In a communication addressed to various commercial and industrial organisations in the country in this connection, the Government of India points out that there should be an inducement to the workers to carry on work and return to work promptly on easing of the air raid alarm, so as to maintain production at a maximum level. According to the provisions prescribed by the Government which should apply in the case of air raid interruptions under an approved Air Raid Precautions scheme, both actual and experimental, and both by day and by night, the concessions will be on the following lines:

- 1) The workers affected will be treated as on duty.
- 2) Payments will be restricted to workers who have actually recorded their attendance for duty at the usual time, or if owing to air raid conditions attendance cannot be recorded at the usual time, then as early afterwards as possible.
- 3) Payments will be restricted to that portion of the time spent in an air raid shelter or enforced inactivity, which falls entirely within actual working hours for the man affected, provided that no payment shall be made for any period after an air raid is over and the man will not be paid for the normal rest period, but "idle time" enforced by air raid warning before and after will be paid for.
- 4) Payment will be on the general basis of full time for interruptions not exceeding eight hours in any week, and of half time for interruptions beyond this?
- 5) Workers may be required to make up in the same week or in the following week time lost up to a period not exceeding two hours before or after the ordinary shift not exceeding the hours which but for the interruptions would have been worked by the worker in the week, and payment for time so made, up will be on the basis of full time; it would be at ordinary or overtime rates as may be relevant in individual cases.
- 6) If a worker declines without good reason to make up the time lost when required, no compensatory payments will be payable for time lost which is not made up.

- 57
- 7) Payments to piece workers will be made at the ordinary time rates without any piecework profits; and
 - 8) The payment will be booked as "idle time".

Employers' Liability. - It has also been prescribed by the Government that the liability to pay for lost time will be on the employer. These provisions will cover not merely workers in factories and undertakings in the ordinary sense, but also such workmen, as, for instance, locomotive drivers who are required, under an approved Air Raid Precautions scheme, to carry on work during the air raid conditions.

(The Statesman, 10-11-1941 and the
Bombay Chronicle, 11-11-1941). +

Government grants increased Rates of Dearness Allowance
from 1-11-1941 for Railway Workers.

On 1 and 4-11-1941, the Railway Board met a delegation from the All-India Railwaymen's Federation led by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to discuss, in view of the continued rise in the cost of living, the question of enhancing the present dearness allowance which was granted to railway servants of the State-managed railways in March, 1941, with retrospective effect from September, 1940. (Vide pages 56 to 58 of our March 1941 report).

At both these meetings the submissions of organised labour were very fully discussed. The Railway Board was unable to accept in their entirety the contentions put forward by the Federation, but as a result of detailed discussion, agreement was reached by both parties as to the extent of the modifications which should be made in the present rules with effect from 1-11-1941. These modifications have since received the sanction of the Government and are as follows:-

Whereas those employees at present working in Bombay and Calcutta, including suburbs, receive Rs. 3 a month, if their pay is Rs. 60, or below, they are ~~now to~~ receive Rs. 4-8 per month, if their pay is Rs. 70 or below. Those in towns of 100,000 inhabitants who at present receive Rs. 2-8 a month if their pay is Rs. 50 or below are now to receive Rs. 3-12-0 if their pay is Rs. 60 or below, and the revised allowance will apply to such towns appearing in the 1941 census. In other areas, those who at present receive Rs. 2 if their pay is Rs. 30 or below will now receive Rs. 3 if their pay is Rs. 35 or below. In addition, the large railway workshops at Kanchrapara, Jamalpur and Kharagpur will be given the same rates as apply for towns with 100,000 inhabitants; and these will also apply to certain areas in the environs of Calcutta and Bombay contiguous to those where the highest rate of allowance applies.

As in the case of the original scale of allowances, the present scale will remain dependent on the railways' financial position and will be subject to revision in the light of any data which may become available from the investigation now being undertaken by the Government with a view to the compilation of more reliable cost of living index figures.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-11-1941). +

Joint Conference of Chairmen of National Service Labour
Tribunals and Regional Inspectors of Technical Training.

On 24-11-1941, Sir Firoz Khan, Labour Member, Government of India, opened at New Delhi a joint conference of Chairmen of National Service Labour Tribunals and Regional Inspectors of Technical Training which has met to review the progress of technical training in the country and devise ways and means to accelerate the training scheme.

Sir Firoz Khan Noon's Address:-

Number of Trainees.- In addressing the Conference, Sir Firoz Khan recalled that the technical training scheme initiated owing to war-needs was started in June 1940 with the aim at that time to run 16 centres and train about 3,000 men; today there were 287 centres and about 18,200 seats ready for trainees. The aim is to train about 48,000 men by the end of March 1943, and for this purpose it is estimated that there should be at least 25,000 seats for trainees at different centres. There are already under training about 12,000 men.

Demand for Instructors.- The total demand for instructors is 1,650 and another 50 more is required at once. Of the hundred instructors which we recruited from England, 61 have already arrived and the rest of them ought to be here in about six weeks' time. These instructors will not be doing actual teaching work. They will be supervisor-instructors but they are going to be a very valuable addition to the teaching staff. Sir Firoz Khan also referred to the Bevin scheme of training selected Indian personnel in Britain and that this scheme will be of great benefit to India.

Future Tasks.- As regards present requirements and future plans, the Labour Member pointed out that there are now 12 regional inspectors, but that more are needed. The system of recruitment needs simplification so as to enable larger number of trainees to join it, and to keep a steady flow of candidates; at present candidates are not coming forward in such large numbers as required.

The business proceedings of the Conference were not open to the press.

(The Statesman, 25-11-1941.).

War Supply and Production

Jail
~~State~~ Industries and War Effort in Hyderabad State.

Hyderabad jails have joined in the general war effort of the State, their special contribution being the tailoring of uniforms for the Indian Army. Altogether 456 convicts are engaged in this work and till 11-10-1941 they had tailored 221,296 garments. 100 power machines have been installed, as also a button-holing machine. As there were very few of the convicts trained in tailoring, tailoring classes were started in the jails. There are two shifts and work goes on night and day.

(November 1941 issue of the Hyderabad Information,
Hyderabad).+

59

Increasing Textile Production; Concessions to Mills.

The Central Board of Revenue, Government of India, has issued instructions that, in the case of textile mills, the cost of alterations to plant or machinery - required with a view to fulfilling orders placed by the Supply Department - will be allowed as a deduction for the purposes of income-tax and excess profits tax in the years in which it is incurred. The cost of re-alteration of plant or machinery to its original form, when these mills have ceased to fulfil supply orders, will also be allowed as a revenue expense. Mills which have already altered their plant or machinery will also be eligible for the concession.

(The Times of India, 17-11-1941.).

Statistical Data re. Textiles:
Government demand Information.

A "demand for information" order under the Defence of India Rules has, it is learnt, been served by the Government of India and the Governments of several Indian States on all important cotton textile mills in India. The mills, according to the order, will have to furnish promptly and accurately all the information about the productive capacity of each of them to the Government of India who are now engaged in the undertaking of a statistical survey of the cotton textile industry in the country with a view to eliciting data about the actual and potential productive capacity of ~~every~~ ^{each} individual mill. The information will have to be incorporated in a prescribed form, circulated to the mills along with the order.

(The Times of India, 26-11-1941.).

Meeting War Demand for Textiles:
Advisory Panel of Textile Manufacturers formed.

An Advisory panel of the cotton textile industry has been formed and is to be associated with the Cotton Textiles Directorate, Bombay. The constitution of the panel is as follows: two representatives from each of the Millowners' Associations of Bombay, Ahmedabad and South India, and two representatives from the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, Cawnpore; one representative from each of the Millowners' Associations of Bengal, Baroda and Indore. The membership of the panel is thus 11. The functions of the panel are to advise the Director-General of Supply on matters concerning the cotton textiles industry, with special reference to the demands placed upon the industry in wartime. The panel will be called upon to advise specifically upon the best methods of stimulating production, the allocation of war supply orders to the various units of the industry, and the principles on which prices should be fixed. The panel will be summoned from time to time by the Director-General of Supply.

(The Statesman, 26-11-1941.).

The Bombay Government Provident Funds (Temporary Relaxation) Rules. +

The Bombay Government has gazetted a notification (Notification No. 1575/34 dated 11-11-1941: The Bombay Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 20-11-1941, pages 267 to 268) relaxing, as a war measure, the provisions of the Government Provident Fund Rules on the same lines as the Sind Government's notification summarised at page 50 to 51 of our September 1941 report. +

Price Control.

Inflation of Wheat Prices in India:
Likehood of Control by Government of India. +

The Government of India recently made an announcement of the ~~minimum~~ level of wheat prices which it would regard as ~~tolerable~~ tolerable, but quotations in the markets of northern India in November 1941 have gone well above this level. According to a press note issued by the Government of India in this connection, it is becoming increasingly clear that the bullish tendency in these markets is largely due to exaggerated ideas as to the extent to which export of wheat for countries in the Middle East will be required.

The note points out that the British Government agreed to conduct its buying operations in India in consultation with the Government of India and has authorised two important announcements. The first is that it proposes to restrict purchases to immediate requirements and not to include provision for the replenishment of reserve stocks in the countries of destination and the second that India is not the only source of supply that is being tapped.

Should Indian wheat prices continue to go up, the note says that the Government of India may appoint a Wheat Commission to arrange for the acquisition of wheat with a view to supplying at reasonable prices such amounts as can be spared for export and, if necessary, of the amounts required by the internal market. If these steps have to be taken and if compulsory measures become necessary, stockholders who have bought wheat subsequent to the recent announcement of the acceptable maximum price level at higher prices will not be entitled to expect the inclusion of this difference in the amount payable to them.

(Times of India, 22-11-1941.) +

List of the more important publications received in this Office
during November, 1941.

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province of Orissa for the year 1940. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. Price Re.0-15-6.
- (2) "Recommendations on Labour Matters". Millowners' Association, Bombay, July 1941.
- (3) Annual Report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act in the United Provinces for the year 1940. Allahabad: Supdt., Government Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1941. Price Re. 0-6-0.
- (4) Report of the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee. Vol. III:
Part A - Replies to the questionnaire by the officials.
Part B - Replies to the Questionnaire issued by the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee by Employers and their Associations:-

Book 1 - Metallurgical.

Book 2 - Engineering.

Book 3 - Mines and quarries, (a) Coal; (b) Ores and Quarries and Mica.

Book 4 - Sugar, Cement, Textile, Shellac and Miscellaneous.

Part C - Replies to the Questionnaire issued by the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee by Employees and their organisations.

Superintendent, Govt. Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941. Price Rs.4-3-0.

- (5) Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1941. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P., 1941.
- (6) Report of the Bidi Industry Committee appointed to examine the conditions of work in the Bidi Industry and Investigate complaints in regard to the application of the Unregulated Factories Act and Payment of Wages Act to Bidi and Lac Factories in the Central Provinces and Berar. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941.
- (7) Report on the working of the Factories Act in Assam for the year 1940. Shillong: Printed at Assam Government Press. 1941. Price Re.1-5-0 or 2s.
- (8) Administration Report of the Controller of Labour for 1940. (F. C. Gimson, Esq., C.C.S.) November 1941. Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo. price 50 cents. 1941.
- (9) Annual Report on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December, 1940. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. Price Annas 2.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Report on the Maritime Trade of Orissa for the year 1940-41. Superintendent, Government Press, ~~Tux~~ Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. Price ~~Rs.1~~ Rs.1/12/-.

- (2) Department of Development (Industries) Orissa. Annual Report for the year 1939-40. Superintendent, Government Press, Orissa, Cuttack. 1941. Price Annas 11/6.
- (3) Bulletin No. 1 - Thirty-seventh issue. Department of Statistics. Statistical Abstract of the Baroda State from 1930-31 to 1939-40. Baroda: Printed at the Baroda State Press. 1941. Price Re.1-13-0.
- (4) Recent Developments in Monetary Theory and Practice. Sir Kikabhai Premchand Readership Lectures, 1940-41, by P.C. Basu, M.A., Ph.D., LL.D., University of Delhi, Delhi. 1941.

Social Insurance.-

Printed letter No. 3570-Com. dated 22-9-1941 from the Secretary to the Government of Orissa, Law, Commerce and Labour Department, Cuttack, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, embodying Statistical Returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1940.

Migration.-

- (1) Annual Report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act (XXII of 1932) for the year ending the 30th September, 1940. Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press. 1941. Price Annas 10 or 11d.
- (2) Memorandum of the Ceylon Indian Congress on the Joint Report of the Delegations from India and Ceylon. October 25th, 1941. (roneoed).
- (3) Review of important events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during the year 1940-41. *Department of Indian Affairs, Government of India.*

Co-operation.-

Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Baroda State for the year 1939-40. Baroda State Press, 1941. Price Re.1-4-0.

Organisation, Congress, etc.

Proceedings of the Madras Chamber of Commerce. January-December, 1940. Printed at the Diocesan Press, 1941.

Social Conditions.-

Census of India, 1941. Vol. XVII, Baroda - Some Results of the Census of 1941 with Tables and Subsidiary Tables by Satya Vrata Mukerjee. Baroda State Press. 1941. Price Rs.6/-.

Public Health.-

Public Health and Vaccination Reports of the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1940. Printed and published by the Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.W.F.P., Peshawar. 1941. Price Rs. 4-11-0 or £.0-7-0.

Miscellaneous.-

Catalogue of Books and Publications of the Assam Government Book Depot, corrected up to 30th June, 1941. II. Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press. 1941.

C6/2/20

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for December, 1941.

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

Contents

Pages

1. National Labour Legislation.-

Bengal:

Select Committee's Report on the Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1941. 1

Bombay:

Rules re. Persons exempted from Restrictive Provisions of the Factories Act. 1

Madras:

The Madras City Police and Towns Nuisances (Amendment) Act, 1941. 1-2

Orissa:

Draft Orissa Hazardous Occupations (Glass) Rules, 1941. 2

United Provinces:

Amendment of U.P. Factories Rules: Provision of "First Aid"
Boxes. 2

Cochin State:

Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1941: Discussions in State Legislative Council. 2-3

Mysore State:

(1) Mysore Labour Bill adopted by Legislative Council. 3
(2) Rules under the Mysore Labour Act. 3-4

2. Conditions of Work.-

Hours of Work:

Indore Shops and Establishments Bill: State Legislative Council rejects Measure. 5

Industrial Disputes:

(a) Ahmedabad Textile Labour Dispute: Terms of Settlement. 6
(b) Recommendations of C.P. & Berar Textile Labour Enquiry Committee: Textile Mills Accept Government Decisions. 6-7
(c) Reducing Labour Disputes in the Punjab: Chief Inspector's Scheme for Employment Cards. 7
(d) Conciliation Boards set up in Gwalior to tackle Industrial Disputes. 7

General:

Service Conditions in Government Industrial Concerns in Mysore: Bonus on Retirement granted. 8

3. Economic Conditions.-

(a) Cotton Textile Mills Industry in India during 1940-41. 9-10
(b) Industrial Expansion of India since the War: Statement in Central Assembly. 10
(c) Report of Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal, for 1939-41. 10-12
(d) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during August and September 1941. 12-14

3. <u>Economic Conditions (continued)</u>	
(e) Repatriation of India's Sterling Debt: £158 million Transaction.	14-15
4. <u>Migration.-</u>	
(a) Indians in Malaya, 1940: Report of the Agent of the Government of India.	16-19
(b) Indians in Ceylon, 1940: Report of the Agent of the Government of India.	19-23
5. <u>Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-</u>	
(a) Review of the Co-operative Movement in India - 1939-40.	24-26
(b) Relief to Handloom Weavers in Bombay: Government announces Measures.	26-27
6. <u>Living Conditions.-</u>	
<u>Spare Time:</u>	
Workers' Theatre Movement: Plays for the Proletariat.	28
<u>Nutrition:</u>	
(a) Diet of Unprivileged Prisoners in Nagpur Jail: Report of Medical Men.	29-30
7. <u>Organisation, Congresses, etc.-</u>	
<u>Employers' Organisations:</u>	
(a) Annual General Meeting of Associated Chambers of Commerce, Calcutta, 15 and 16-12-1941: Viceroy's Address.	31-35
(b) 9th Annual General Meeting of Employers' Federation of India, Calcutta, 16-12-1941.	36
<u>Workers' Organisations:</u>	
(a) All-India Railway Employees' Conference, Lahore, 30-11-1941.	37
(b) Travel Passes for Office Bearers of Recognised Railway Trade Unions.	37-38
8. <u>Social Conditions.-</u>	
(a) 1941 Census Returns: Marked Increase in Urban Population.	39-40
(b) Beggar Nuisance in Mysore Cities: Government contemplating Legislation.	40
(c) Report of Bengal Jail Industries Enquiry Committee.	41
9. <u>Social Policy in War Time.-</u>	
<u>Wages:</u>	
(a) War Bonus for Bombay Cotton Textile Workers.	42-43
(b) Rise in Cost of Living: Adjournment Motion in Sind.	43
(c) Increased Grain Compensation Allowance to Low-Paid Government Servants in the Punjab.	44
(d) Demand of Postal and Telegraph Employees for Board of Conciliation to Report on Dearness Allowance Issue.	44
(e) Special War Bonus to Indore Textile Workers.	44
<u>Industrial Disputes:</u>	
Advocacy of Strike not an offence under Defence of India Act.	45

Social Policy in War Time.-

Employment:

- (a) The Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941. 45
- (b) Fresh Categories of Technicians brought under National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940. 45-46

Compensation for War Injuries:

War Injuries Scheme, 1942. 46

War Risk Insurance:

- (a) The War Risks (Goods) Insurance (Amendment) Ordinance, 1941. 46
- (b) Scheme for Compulsory Insurance of Factories being considered. 46-47

Control Measures:

- (a) The Administered Areas Aluminium Control Order, 1941. 47
- (b) Control of Wheat Prices: Rs. 4-6-0 for 82 lbs. fixed. 47
- (c) Standard Cloth for the Poor: Scheme formulated by Panel of Textile Industry. 47-48
- (d) Power to Requisition Premises, Lands, etc. for War Purposes: Amendment of Defence of India Rules notified. 48

0. List of ^{the} more important publications received in this Office during December 1941. 49

Bengal

Select Committee's Report on the Bengal Criminal Law
(Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1941.

Reference was made at page 1 of our July 1941 report to the introduction in the Bengal Legislature of the Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1941, with a view to prevent thefts of unidentifiable articles in industrial areas. The report of the Select Committee on the Bill is published at pages 96 to 98 of Part IV B of the Calcutta Gazette dated 25-12-1941..

Bombay.-

Rules re. Persons exempted from Restrictive Provisions
of the Factories Act.

The Bombay Government has gazetted ~~the~~ Rules under the Factories Act defining the classes of persons deemed to hold positions of supervision or management and persons working in confidential capacity who are exempted from the restrictive provisions of the Factories Act.

(Notification No. 352/34 dated 9-12-1941:
The Bombay Government Gazette, Part
IV-A, dated 18-12-1941, pages 290 to 303)..

Madras.-

The Madras City Police and Towns Nuisances (Amendment)
Act, 1941.

The Governor of Madras has promulgated the Madras City Police and Towns Nuisances (Amendment) Act, 1941, the main object of which is to deal with the menace of pathan money-lenders in the City of Madras. Numerous complaints have been received by the Government that these money-lenders ill-treat their debtors. It is reported that they freely resort to intimidation and threats of personal violence and that at times even criminal force is used by them for the recovery of their dues. There have been cases where, in the absence of the debtors, the members of their families have been intimidated and assaulted. Section 27 of the City of Bombay Police Act (Bombay Act IV of 1902) gives power to the Police effectively to deal with cases of this kind. It is considered that a provision similar to that found in the Bombay Act but narrower in scope should be inserted in the Madras City Police Act, 1888 (Madras Act III of 1888). Under section 51-A now inserted, action can be taken only if the Commissioner of Police is satisfied not only that alarm, danger or harm to person or property or the commission of any offence involving violence will result from the movements or acts of a person, but also that witnesses are not willing to come forward to give evidence by reason of apprehensions to their personal safety. Action under the section is confined to persons who have not been born in the City of Madras or in the neighbouring districts. Before an order is passed against any person, he will be duly informed of the material allegations against him and

en a reasonable opportunity of defending himself. There is also vision for an appeal to the Government against any order passed by Commissioner of Police.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part IV-B, dated 16-12-1941, pages 83 to 90.) +

:-

Draft Orissa Hazardous Occupations (Glass) Rules, 1941.

The Government of Orissa has gazetted the Orissa Hazardous Occupations (Glass) Rules, 1941, which it intends promulgating. The Rules declare the operations of melting and blowing glass and mixing, grinding and sieving glass-making materials, hazardous occupations; They make it obligatory on the occupiers to provide protective footwear and enjoin all workers to wear the protective footwear. The Rules are to be taken into consideration by 1-4-1942.

(Notification No. 4228 Com. dated 10-12-1941: The Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated 19-12-1941, page 584.) +

Provinces.-

Amendment of U.P. Factories Rules: Provision of "First Aid" Boxes.

The U.P. Government has gazetted amendments to the U.P. Factories Rules in regard to the provision of "First Aid" boxes in factories with a view to improve "first aid" service in factories.

(Notification No. 4034/XVIII-273-L dated 13-12-1941: The Government Gazette of the U.P., Part I-A, dated 20-12-1941, pages 395-396). +

State.-

Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1941: Discussions in State Legislative Council. +

Reference was made at pages 3-4 of our February 1941 report to the reference to a Select Committee of the Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1941. On 4-12-1941, Mr. P. Atchutha Menon, the sponsor of the Bill, presented the Select Committee report on the Bill in the State Legislative Council, and moved that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

K. Atchutha Menon, Secretary to Government, observed that while they were in sympathy with the objects of the measure, they were constrained to oppose it, this being the most inopportune moment for the introduction of such a measure. They were working now in a time of acute distress and strife when there should be no time-limit or undue restriction on activities. The Hon'ble Dr. A.R. Menon, Minister, while appreciating

1st of a Chairman and two independent persons and that the Chairman
1 be one who is a Judge of the High Court of Mysore or has occupied
office.

Draft Rules for Labour Associations are appended to the Rules.

(The November 1941 issue of the
Mysore Information Bulletin.) /

5

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Hours of Work

Indore Shops and Establishments Bill:
State Legislative Council rejects Measure. ✓

It is understood that the Indore State Legislative Council, at its
er session held in November 1941, rejected the Indore Shops and
blishments Bill, designed to regulate hours in shops and commercial
blishments.

(The Statesman, 4-12-1941.) ✓

Ahmedabad Textile Labour Dispute:

~~Summary Reference~~

Terms of Settlement. ✓

Reference was made at page 10 of our November 1941 report to the agreement reached by the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, in the dispute regarding the Labour Association's demand for a 25 per cent. increase in wages of cotton mill operatives in Ahmedabad. The terms of the settlement as filed before the Industrial Court are Briefly as follow:

Employees employed in member mills, whether at present in employment or not, shall, subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions, ~~and the provisions~~ be paid a bonus in cash by monthly instalments for a period of twelve months from January to December 1941, on a scale varying with the category of the worker; the monthly instalment of the bonus ranges from Rs. 2-4-0 to Rs. 10-8-0 per month. The actual amount of the bonus depends on the number of actual days worked in each calendar month of the year 1941, workers with 18 or more days' work in April, May and June or 22 or more days' work in the other months qualifying themselves for the full bonus. The absence of the women employees due to maternity is not to be counted as absence but is to be treated as presence. Employees who have worked in any one particular member mill for less than three months during the period from 1st January 1941 to 30th September 1941 are to be paid at the rate of 50 per cent. of the amount specified in the schedule. In the case of contract labour the payment of bonus is to be made directly by the mills to the persons actually employed during the period.

It is agreed that the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, will not make any further demand for bonus or a general increase in wages before 31st August 1942.

(The Bombay Government Gazette,
Part I, dated 11-12-1941, pages
4377 to 4380.) ✓ +

Recommendations of C.P. & Berar Textile Labour Enquiry
Committee: Textile Mills Accept Government
Decisions. ✓

Reference was made at pages 11 to 12 of our October 1941 report to the recommendations of the C.P. and Berar Textile Labour Enquiry Committee. The C.P. Government's decision on the report, briefly, is that the Committee's recommendations in regard to the restoration of the wage-cut and reversion of the wage level to that prevailing in 1931-32, and the grant of a dearness allowance at the rate recommended by the Mahalanobis Committee are such as can and should be given effect to by all the mills in the province; effect should be given to these recommendations from 1-6-1941. The Government has also endorsed the suggestion that the mills should give a regularity bonus of Rs. 18 a year (if absence does not exceed 12 days) in order to control

7

absenteeism.

By 22-12-1941 the C.P. Government had received information that all textile mills, except one mill at Badnera, had accepted the recommendations of the C.P. Textile Inquiry Committee which were accepted by Government.

(Times of India, 4 and 24-12-1941.) ✓

Reducing Labour Disputes in the Punjab:
Chief Inspector's Scheme for Employment Cards. ✓

The Chief Inspector of Factories, Punjab, has devised a new scheme which aims at reducing the number of disputes between labour and capital on questions relating to payment of wages. An investigation showed that most of these disputes arose because the worker, who is invariably an illiterate person, had relied on the verbal promises of his employer. It was noted that some employers did not fulfil their promises when the time for payment came. When the new scheme comes into force every employer will be required to issue employment cards to his workers. This card will state the class of work in which the employee is engaged, the number of hours he is expected to work and the wages to be paid to him.

(The National Call, 19-12-1941.) ✓

Conciliation Boards set up in Gwalior to
tackle Industrial Disputes.

Pending the passing of the Gwalior State Industrial Disputes Act, the Maharaja Scindia has ordered the establishment of two Conciliation Boards, one at Ujjain and the other at Lashkar, and a Court of Industrial Disputes for the settlement of industrial disputes. The decisions of these bodies would be final and anybody resorting to or instigating a strike in defiance of these decisions is liable to six months' imprisonment or a fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000 or both.

(The Times of India, 23-12-1941.) ✓

Service Conditions in Government Industrial Concerns
in Mysore: Bonus on Retirement granted. ✓

Reference was made at page 23 of our November 1941 report to the uniform rules introduced by the Government of Mysore regarding service conditions in Government industrial concerns in the State. The following elementary information about the uniform rules re. service conditions in Government concerns is now available.

Leave Rules of Daily-rate Employees.- In special circumstances ~~without~~ pay may be allowed when no other leave is admissible.

Leave Rules of Monthly Rated Employees.- The rules governing the grant of leave to monthly rated employees provide for the grant of annual leave of 7 days in a calendar year, and privilege leave of one day for every continuous year of service. Privilege leave can be accumulated up to a maximum of 3 months. The grant of leave is subject to the usual conditions of exigencies of work and good conduct and regular attendance on the part of employees. Monthly rated employees earning Rs. 30 or more per month who have served continuously for seven years will be allowed six months' furlough leave on half pay or three months' leave on full pay, for every period of seven years' continuous service. ~~The rules lay down that absence without leave and overstayed leave involve loss of pay and liability to loss of employment except where absence or overstayed is due to circumstances beyond the employee's control, in which case ordinarily only loss of allowance is involved.~~

Notice for Termination of Service.- In the event of the termination of the services of an employee, the rules provide for 15 days' notice, pay for the period, being given to him. Similarly an employee who wishes to resign must give the management the same notice.

Contribution to Provident Fund.- An important feature of the Rules is the provision for compulsory contribution to the Provident Fund in the case of all monthly rated employees and of daily rated employees whose wages are twelve annas or more and who have put in approved service of less than 3 years. Contribution to the Provident Fund is optional in the case of daily rated employees who get less than twelve annas a month.

The contribution payable by the employees is one anna in the rupee of their pay or wages and the establishments make an equal contribution.

Retirement Bonus.- On retirement, employees who are on consolidated monthly wages or on daily wages or in the managerial establishment, and who are not entitled to the benefits of the Provident Fund may be given a bonus according to the prescribed scale.

(November 1941 issue of the Mysore
Information Bulletin) ✓
+

Cotton Textile Mills Industry in India
during 1940-41. ✓

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has recently issued its annual statement regarding the progress of the Indian Textile industry during the year ended 31-8-1941. The salient features of the statement are summarised below:

Number of Mills.- The total number of equipped mills in India (excluding Burma) on 31-8-1941 was 390 (excluding 31 mills in course of erection or recently registered) as against 388 on 31-8-1940. The number of mills in Bombay City and Island decreased from 65 in the previous year to 64 during the year under review. The number of mills in Ahmedabad decreased by one to 75, in the Punjab by one to 7 and in the United Provinces by one to 26. There was no change in the number of mills in the Bombay Province exclusive of Ahmedabad and Bombay City and Island, Berar, C.P., Bihar and Orissa, Hyderabad (Deccan), Central India, Delhi, Travancore, Mysore and Pondicherry. The number of mills in Rajputana increased by one to 7, in Bengal by 1 to 38 and in Madras by 3 to 63. Of the 390 mills in the country, 10 were partially or completely idle; of these 10 mills, 2 were in Bombay Province, 2 in Bengal, 1 in U.P., and 5 in Madras.

Number of Spindles and Looms.- The total number of spindles in the equipped mills of the country stood in the year ended 31-8-1941 at 1,981,178 as against 10,005,785 in the previous year. The total number of looms was 198,574 as against 200,076. In Bombay City and Island, the numbers of spindles and looms increased from 2,748,644 and 65,177 in 1939-40 to 2,789,080 and 65,292 respectively during the year under report. In Ahmedabad the numbers of spindles and looms decreased from 1,898,530 and 46,278 to 1,782,968 and 43,513 respectively. In the Bombay Province exclusive of Bombay City and Island and Ahmedabad the numbers decreased from 1,274,115 and 26,646 to 1,248,888 and 25,094 respectively. In Madras the numbers increased from 1,406,812 and 6,703 to 1,451,684 and 6,892 respectively. In Bengal the numbers increased from 452,672 and 10,259 to 458,816 and 10,615 respectively. In U.P. the numbers increased from 743,702 and 11,730 to 749,570 and 12,273 respectively. In Central India, the numbers decreased from 21,616 and 11,064 to 384,636 and 10,911 respectively. In Mysore spindles decreased from 163,312 to 162,028 while looms increased from 1,734 to 2,762. In Rajputana, the numbers of spindles and looms were 98,446 and 2,301 in the year ended 31-8-1941 as against 88,524 and 2,136 respectively in the previous year; in C.P. 302,846 spindles and 5,300 looms as against ~~300,270~~ 300,270 and 5,294 respectively; in the Punjab, 105,208 spindles and 2,598 looms as against 111,980 and 2,581 respectively; in Hyderabad State, 120,460 spindles and 3,389 looms as against 120,460 and 2,219 respectively; in Delhi, 13,032 spindles and 3,149 looms, as against 109,556 and 2,878 respectively; in Berar 69,048 spindles and 1,454 looms as against 69,048 and 1,443 respectively; in Pondicherry 87,748 spindles and 2,057 looms as against 87,824 and 1,946 respectively; in Bihar and Orissa 5,040 spindles and 674 looms as against 27,040 and 679 respectively; and in Travancore 11,680 spindles and 300 looms as in the previous year.

Number of Operatives.- The average number of operatives employed fully on day-shift work was in 1940-41 approximately 459,509 as against 391,665 in 1939-40. Particulars of the numbers employed on night-shift work are not available.

Capital Invested.- The total paid-up capital of the industry on 8-1941 amounted to Rs. 447,796,708 as against Rs. 436,222,157 on 8-1940.

Activity of Mills.- During the year under review the industry consumed 2,125,511 candies (of 784 lbs.) of cotton against 1,839,937 candies in the previous year. The average number of spindles working fully during the year was 9,083,046 out of a total of 9,961,178 erected. In the previous year the corresponding figures were 8,847,326 and 9,005,785. Of the 198,574 looms installed, an average of 184,258 were working daily during the year as against 200,076 and 179,842 respectively in 1939-40. The above quoted figures of spindles and loom activity do not include night-shift working. The figure of cotton consumed, however, includes night and day consumption.

(Summarised from Statement relating to the progress of cotton textile mill industry in India for 1940-41 forwarded to this Office by the Millowners' Association, Bombay.) ✓

Industrial Expansion of India since the War: Statement in Central Assembly. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 947 to 1010 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of 18-11-1941 (Vol. IV of 1941, No. 14) where is published a statement showing the number and situation of new industries and workshops created in India after the war, either by Government or private concerns, otherwise than for war purposes. ✓

Report of Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal, for 1939-41.

Activities of the Board, 1934-38.- The Report of the Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal, for the period 1939-41, states that the Board was first constituted with 21 members including the Chairman. The first meeting of the Board was held early in 1934. During the terms 1934-36 and 1936-38, the Board undertook a number of enquiries of which the following are the most important: An enquiry into the nature and extent of indebtedness of the raiyat class of agriculturists of Bengal; an enquiry into the economic condition of weavers and handloom weaving industry in Bengal; an enquiry into the possibilities of increasing production of bamboo for use in the paper-pulp industry and an enquiry into the possibilities of making economic use of kash and kush grass. The Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act is based on the recommendations which were made by the Board on the results of their enquiry. Besides, the Board advised Government on the subject of constitution of the Indian Central Jute Committee, improvement of fisheries in Bengal and the possibilities of the consolidation of small agricultural holdings of Bengal.

11

Reconstitution of the Board.- In 1939, the Board was reconstituted with 22 members. The increase in number of members was due to the inclusion in the Board of the Labour Commissioner of Bengal as an ex-officio member and this number was increased to 23 by the addition of a Senior Marketing Officer, Bengal, as an ex-officio member. The functions of the Board are: To conduct enquiries into such economic matters as may be referred to it by the Provincial Government and to initiate and conduct, subject to the sanction of Government, enquiries into economic matters other than those referred to it by Government.

Recent Enquiries, 1939-41.- During the year 1938-39, when the question of reconstitution of the Board was under consideration, the Government of Bengal set up special committees to deal with the paddy shortage problems. An industrial survey committee was also set up about this time. As certain subjects, then under consideration of the Board, were included in the scope of enquiry of the survey committee or the other special committees, the Board decided to drop those subjects from their own programme, and took up the following problems for investigation:- (1) An enquiry into the family budgets of industrial labourers with a view to construct the cost of living index numbers for such labourers in respect of the more important industrial zones; (2) An enquiry into the feasibility of establishing warehouses for agricultural produce in Bengal; (3) An enquiry into the problem of idle class unemployment in Bengal; (4) An enquiry into the economic condition and paying capacity of the agriculturists, agricultural labourers and other classes of population, both rural and urban, and into the nature and extent of unemployment amongst the population under survey; and (5) An enquiry to ascertain the average yield and cost of cultivation of principal crops in Bengal.

Considerable progress has been made in respect of these enquiries and the draft report of the warehouse enquiry is nearly completed. The following is a short description of the scope and objects of these enquiries:-

(a) Family Budgets of Industrial Labourers.- The enquiry on industrial labourers' family budgets was referred to the Board by Government in 1938 and a small committee was set up to conduct a test survey and draw up a detailed scheme and estimate for the enquiry. A test survey was conducted from September 1940 to January 1941 and a detailed scheme was drawn up which contemplated the collection of the family budgets of at least 2 per cent. of the industrial labourers (subject to a minimum of thousand) from each of 5 selected zones in the province and the simultaneous collection of price statistics and on the basis of the data so collected, to construct the cost of living index for each such zone. The enquiry was subsequently entrusted to the Indian Statistical Institute for field work and statistical work as agent of the committee.

(b) Warehouses for Agricultural Produce.- In connection with the enquiry into the feasibility of establishing warehouses for agricultural produce in Bengal, the report states that in many advanced countries of the world, ware-houses are being increasingly used as a medium for enabling banks to finance the marketing of agricultural and other produce. Owing to want of warehousing facilities such advantage has not been taken by banks so far to any appreciable extent in Bengal or in any other part of India. The trade in agricultural produce has also been handicapped because of this. The object of this enquiry is, therefore, to ascertain whether the establishment of ware-houses would be beneficial to the province and, if so, what would be the best plan of establishing and working

ch ware-houses.

(c) Middle-class Unemployment.- The enquiry into the problem of middle class unemployment in Bengal is intended to ascertain the nature and extent of unemployment amongst the middle class families of Bengal and suggest suitable actions for dealing with the problem. The committee has devised a tentative scheme for the collection of reliable statistics on middle class unemployment. To this end they have tried, as a test measure, the possibility of using honorary student volunteers for collection of statistics in different areas. The test has proved fairly successful and the committee is now proceeding to use the system for collecting statistics for all the municipal areas of Bengal, excluding Calcutta and Howrah which will need special treatment. As regards the rural areas, the committee has decided to seek the assistance of district board authorities for supplying necessary statistics for the respective unions. The committee has also collected reports about unemployment enquiries held before in Bengal, Bombay and the Punjab and these reports are being examined.

(d) Economic Conditions of rural and urban population.- The object of the enquiry into the economic condition of rural and urban population is to ascertain the economic condition and the paying capacity of the rural and urban population with special reference to agriculturists and agricultural labourers. The scope of the enquiry includes a study of the nature and extent of unemployment amongst the population under survey. Work which is now in progress is exploratory in character.

(e) Yield and Cost of Cultivation of Crops in Bengal.- In connection with the enquiry into the question of average yield and cost of cultivation of principal crops in Bengal, the Board has decided to carry out in the first instance an exploratory survey to devise a suitable technique and procedure for collecting reliable data on these points at a reasonable cost.

Subjects for future enquiry.- In addition to the subjects mentioned above, the following are under examination of the Subject Committee of the Board with a view to enquiries being eventually initiated in respect of such of them as would appear to have scope for economic investigation:- (1) The possibilities of growing crops or additional crops in small blocks of uncropped or single-cropped areas by providing irrigation and drainage facilities; (2) The possibilities of making economic use of large tracts of waste, barren and marshy lands of the province; (3) The possibilities of development of the horticultural wealth of the province; and (4) The possibilities of improving the cattle wealth of the province.

(Press Note dated 9-12-1941 issued by the Director of Public Information, Bengal.) ✓

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during August and September 1941. ✓

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during August and September 1941 as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay for August 1941 rose by 2 points to 131 as compared with the previous month; in September it fell to 129. The average for the calendar year 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during August 1941 advanced by 4 points to 92 and remained stationary at 92 during September 1941. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during August 1941 rose by 2 points to 87 as compared with the preceding month; in September it rose by one point to 87. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in August 1941 rose by 3 points to 80 as compared with the preceding month; it remained stationary at 80 during September 1941. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 63 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore during August 1941 fell by 2 points to 76 and in September 1941 rose by 4 points to 80. The average for 1940 was 59 as against 59 for 1939.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during August 1941 rose by 2 points to 115, in September 1941 remained stationary at 115. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

Vizagapatam.- (base: year ending June 1936): The cost of living index number for low-paid employees rose in August 1941 by 1 point to 120 as compared with July 1941, and in September 1941 to 120.

Ellore.- (base: year ending June 1936): The cost of living index number for low-paid employees rose in August 1941 by 6 points to 125 as compared with July 1941; in September 1941 it remained stationary at 125.

Bellary.- (base: year ending June 1936): The cost of living index number for low-paid employees rose in August 1941 by 7 points to 119 as compared with July 1941; in September 1941 it fell to 118.

Cuddalore.- (base: year ending July 1936): The cost of living index number for low-paid employees rose in ~~Aug~~ August 1941 by 6 points to 115 as compared with July 1941; in September 1941 it remained stationary at 115.

Trichinopoly.- (base: year ending June 1936): The cost of living index number for low-paid employees rose in August 1941 by 2 points to 113 as compared with July 1941; in September 1941 it rose to 114.

Coimbatore.- (base: year ending June 1936): The cost of living index number for low-paid employees rose in August 1941 by 2 points to 116 as compared with July 1941; in September 1941 it remained stationary at 116.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during September 1941 remained stationary at 115. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

Madura.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost living in September was not available.

Calicut.- (base: year ending June 1936): The cost of living index number for low-paid employees fell in August 1941 by 2 points to 118 as compared with July 1941; in September 1941 it remained stationary at 120.

Cawnpore.- The index number (base: August 1939) of the cost of living in Cawnpore during August 1941 advanced by 4 points to 130. The average for 1940 was 111; in September 1941 it rose again by 3 points to 133.

(Extracted from the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India, August and September 1941 issues.)

Repatriation of India's Sterling Debt:
£158 million Transaction. +

The Government of India, according to a press communiqué issued on 24-12-1941, have taken action to repatriate as far as possible the whole of their remaining sterling debt (other than Railway venture stock and annuities), which amounts to about £158 millions. Most from the beginning of the actual administration by Britain in India, the latter has been a debtor country so far as foreign indebtedness is concerned. The removal, now promised, of the thralldom of sterling is thus a most notable landmark in India's finances under British rule. The present decision refers to what are usually called non-terminable loans. They are terminable, however, by the Government of India giving notice of a year. These loans have been of three types, 2 per cent., 3 per cent., and 3½ per cent. The present proposal is to pay off immediately the 2½ per cent. and 3 per cent. loans and give one year's notice for the repayment of the 3½ per cent. loan by 1-5-1943. Including earlier repatriation of sterling debts, since the war began India has paid or will be paying off sterling loans over £50 millions.

(The Hindu, 25-12-1941).

("Indian Finance", 27-12-1941).

Commenting on the transaction, Indian Finance in its issue dated 12-12-1941 says:

"We congratulate the Finance Member on the unique record which he will enjoy in India's financial history as having once and for all ended the thralldom of foreign debt. We must also thank him for the skillful use which he has made of the opportunity - we appreciate his action all the more because a similar opportunity in the last war was wantonly neglected. We are, however, at a loss to understand why the plan of giving one year's notice to 3½ per cent. loan has been adopted. The Indian Government have already built up such strong sterling resources that they are adding to them at such fast pace that it should not be difficult to repay all these loans by March 1942."

The political repercussion of this deal is of vital importance in that it means that safeguards for bond holders will not figure so much in political discussions hereafter and that the influence of the

ity of London is reduced. It also removes the ugly shadow of the possibility of repudiation of debt which has sometimes figured in the programme of extremist politicians in India.

(The Times of India, 27-12-1941.)

MIGRATION

16

Indians in Malaya, 1940: 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 1940, the estimated Indian population on 31-12-1940 was 748,829, being 13.6 per cent. of the population of Malaya.

Immigration.- The ban imposed by the Government of India in 1938 on the emigration of unskilled labour from India into Malaya remained in force throughout the year. Migration statistics divide the Indian immigrants into two broad classes, labour and the rest, the latter being designated as "traders and others". The non-labour immigrants include persons in trade and business, shop assistants, clerical workers and a large number engaged in miscellaneous petty occupations. The total number of arrivals in Malaya during the year was 15,320 of whom only 1,314 were labourers. Of the latter again 481 were wives and children who were assisted to come to Malaya to join persons who had already emigrated to Malaya. Of the 23,869 persons including 1,030 minors and 1,043 infants who returned to India as deck passengers, 9,816 including 485 minors and 564 infants, i.e., 37 per cent. were presumed to be labourers. 5,872 labourers including 1,226 minors and 525 infants were repatriated from Malaya.

Strength and Distribution of Indian Labour.- While exact information about the total unskilled Indian labour population is not available, it appears that 287,340 workers with 140,523 dependants were employed on estates, mines and factories and in government and public departments at the end of 1940. Of the total of 351,631 estate workers of all races in 1940, Indians numbering 218,453 constituted 62 per cent.

Sex Ratio.- The sex ratio for the Indian population as a whole in the F.M.S. is low compared to the immigrant Chinese and the indigenous Malaya; the ratio comes to 191 males per 100 females. The gross ratio amongst the Indian labour population on estates throughout Malaya was 674 females per 1,000 males, and among adults alone 567 females per 1,000 males, while the gross ratio amongst Indian labour employed outside estates, i.e., on mines, factories and in Government and public departments was 200 females per 1,000 males.

Economic Conditions.- Rubber and Tin, the two main industries of Malaya, reached very high levels of prosperity during the year. Exportable allowances were the highest since the beginning of the international regulation schemes and prices also remained high throughout the year.

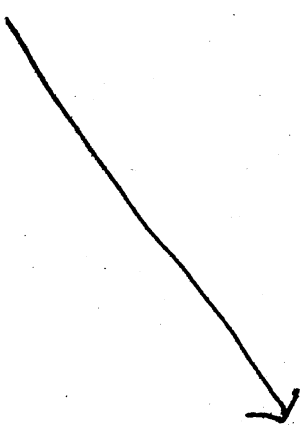
Wages.- It will be recalled that the wages of Indian unskilled labourers were 50 cents a day for men and 40 cents a day for women prior to May 1938 when the wages were reduced by 5 cents on account of a reduction in the rubber quota to 60 per cent. in the second quarter

* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya for the year 1940. Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Re.1-4 or 2 s. pp.34.

quarter and 45 per cent. in the third quarter of the year. With the outbreak of the war not only was the quota ~~xxx~~ release raised to 75 per cent. in the fourth quarter of 1939, but the price of rubber also rose from 28³/₈ cents in the third quarter of the year to 34 cents in the fourth quarter, while on the other hand cost of living suddenly increased. The wages of Indian labourers were restored to 50 and 40 cents in October 1939 and remained at the same ~~xxxx~~ level throughout 1940, except on a few estates where a further increase of 5 cents was granted. The statutory rates of wages in certain "Key" areas which were reduced with the onset of the slump in the industry in 1930 to 40 and 32 cents in easily accessible and fairly healthy areas and to 47 and 37 cents in remote and less healthy or developed areas remained unchanged. Negotiations were still in progress between the Government of India and the Malayan Governments regarding the revision of the 1938 standard budget and other outstanding matters concerning the welfare of Indian labourers and other classes of Indians resident in Malaya.

War and Cost of Living.- Though the food control measures introduced immediately after the outbreak of war effectively checked profiteering, the prices of foodstuffs and other necessities of life went up gradually. Among special items, the passage rates to India were increased by 25 per cent. To meet the increased cost of living the S.S. and F.M.S. Governments sanctioned with effect from 1st November 1939 a cost of living allowance to their employees. This varied from month to month though it was not clear on what basis the allowance was calculated.

As stated, however, in the last year's report, with every ascertained variation in the cost of living budget of 10 cents, certain graduated increases or decreases were ordered. During the first quarter of 1940 ~~xx~~ the rates of the cost of living allowance for government employees were ~~£ 1 x 2x4x £ 2x4x~~ £ 1.60 per mensem for those in receipt of not more than £1 a day, £2.40 per mensem for those earning above £1 and not more than £2 a day and £3.20 per mensem for those earning above £2 a day. For April 1940 these rates were reduced by 10, 15 and 20 cents respectively. From May 1940 onwards there was a change in the classification and increased allowances were gazetted, and corresponding increases were made in the cost of living allowance for Government employees.



Daily rates are not notified for the Straits Settlements and it is understood that in the colony so long as a labourer's name is on the check roll he gets the full month's allowance irrespective of the number of days of work.

No separate cost of living allowances were paid to estate workers during the year 1940. An exact estimate of the increase in the cost of living since the outbreak of the war is not known, but it is worth noting that the price of Burma rice which is usually consumed by Indian labourers rose from 29 cents a gantang (1 gallon) at the beginning of September 1939 to 33 cents in January 1940, 36, 37½ and 41 cents in September and remained at 40½ cents during December 1940. The United Planting Association of Malaya recommended to its constituent associations the grant to each estate labourer of a war of victualling allowance of 5 cents a day with effect from 1st January 1941. This recommendation has generally been acted on. After further labour troubles in March 1941 on estates in the Klang district, the allowance was increased to 10 cents in that district with effect from April 1 and later the same rate of increase came generally into force on other estates also in the F.M.S. and S.S.

Holidays with Pay.- It was stated in the 1939 report that the F.M.S. Government had sanctioned the grant of nine days' leave with pay in a calendar year to their daily paid employees and that the grant of a similar concession in the Colony was under the consideration of the S.S. Government. No final decision has yet been reached by the Government of the Colony.

Medical Relief.- In last year's report comment was made on the decrease in the number of hospitals and resident medical practitioners. Figures of 1940 are not available, and it is not therefore possible to say whether during the year any improvement was recorded.

Nutritional Survey.- "Part of the energy which the planters of Malaya have long directed towards the eradication of Malaria is now being turned to the equally important problems of malnutrition", sated the Governor of the Colony in the course of his review during the budget session of the Colony's legislature and the Federal Council in October and November 1940 respectively. Reports of nutritional surveys published earlier during the year state: "The plantation Tamils' dietary is lacking in vitamin A and its precursor carotene: it is also deficient in protine..... the average physical condition is not good and the incidence of Bitots spots, angular stomatitis, rickets etc. was indicative of a general dietetic shortage of vitamin A or its precursor and other food essentials..... the tables given present a picture of widespread sub-nutrition among Tamil children but among Malay children so far examined the state of nutrition appears in general to be fair.....sometimes too when earning power is low or an undue proportion of wages is expended on toddy the calorific value of the food intake of the children may be inadequate....." (Annual Report of the Institute for Medical Research, 1939.)

"The data that are accumulating from the present nutritional survey are abundantly confirming the forecast that serious degrees of sub-nutrition would be found among the young Tamils of estate populations....." (Bulletin No. 2 of 1940 of the Institute of Medical Research, F.M.S.)

The following observations are quoted from an article entitled

18

"A short investigation of infantile mortality and child welfare on estates in Kedah" by Dr. Bruce Cross, Medical Officer, Bedon Medical Association. (Planter, September 1940):

"It has long been recognised that the general state of nutrition among estate Indians is far from satisfactory. The vast majority of estate Indians live on a diet composed of rice with perhaps a little pulse and occasionally very small quantities of vegetables but with practically no milk, eggs, meat, fish or green vegetables. Such a diet is thoroughly deficient qualitatively. A natural deduction from this fact and the foregoing statistics is that diet is by far the most, or one of the most, important factors in the high infantile mortality rate among estate Indians."

The question arises in this connection whether the malnutrition is due to the general poverty of the Indian labourer or might be capable of remedy by readjustment of the budget within the wages earned by the Indian labourer.

Labour Legislation.— The Trade Unions and Industrial Courts Bills were passed into law in the Straits Settlements Legislative Council in February 1940 and in the Federal Council six months later. Suitable representations were made on certain provisions of the bills which affected the rights of Indian labour in Malaya. The enactments had not been brought into force when the year closed, mainly, it is stated owing to the time taken to make the rules. (They have since been brought into force from June 10, 1941, in the F.M.S. and from July 1, 1941, in Straits Settlements with simultaneous publication of the rules.)

The High Commissioner's address to the Federal Council in November 1940 foreshadowed legislation to regulate the conditions of work in shops. He observed:— "The results of the investigation into hours and conditions of employment in shops have been collected, and a bill will soon be drafted which it is hoped will be thoughtfully scrutinised by all sections of the public. Legislation of this nature affecting not only employers and employed but also customers of every grade or society may easily prove unworkable unless the public officers who are drafting it receive constructive criticism from all quarters." No bill has yet been published. ✓

Indians in Ceylon, 1940:
Report of the Agent of the Government of India.* ✓

The Annual Report for 1940 of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon points out that the total area of Ceylon is 16,212,400 acres of which 560,000 acres are under tea, 606,000 under rubber, 1,100,000 under coconut, and 1,272,000 under other products. The total cultivated area is 3,538,000 acres. The estimated total population of Ceylon at the end of 1940 was 5,981,000. Of these about 800,000 were Indians.

* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1940. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs. 2 or 3s. pp.56.

20 ~~19~~

Indian Estate Population.- The number of Indian labourers and their dependants on estates on 31-12-1940 was 688,179 as against 678,908 at the end of 1939 and 682,570 at the end of 1938. Of the 688,179 persons, 211,250 were men, 204,021 women and 272,908 children. The total number of estates employing 5 or more Indian labourers and paying acreage fees to the Indian Immigration Fund on 31-12-1940 was 1,341 as against 1,322 in 1939 and 1,325 in 1938.

Migration Statistics.- "Recruitment" from India has been in abeyance since September 1935, and the flow of labour to Ceylon estates was confined to the "non-recruited" class ~~to~~ till 1-8-1939, when by notifications issued under the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, the Government of India prohibited the emigration of all unskilled labour to Ceylon unless specially exempted in each case by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras. The number of Indian estate labourers who came to Ceylon from India during the year 1940 was 3,318 as against 29,259 in 1939 and 47,210 in 1938. The small number permitted to immigrate in 1940 represents cases of hardship, such as separation of families as a result of the ban, in which exemptions were granted by the Commissioner of Labour. During the year under review 12,578 estate labourers (excluding repatriates) returned from Ceylon to India against 31,714 in 1939 and 43,803 in 1938. There were 9,260 emigrants from Ceylon in excess of immigrants from India. There were 33,194 more departures to than arrivals from India in the unassisted class during the year as against 44,134 in 1939 and 45,923 in 1938.

Labour position in Estates.- 1940 was a very prosperous year for both Tea and Rubber industries, in which the vast majority of Indian labourers in Ceylon are employed. The prices received by these products were the highest since 1930 in the case of tea and since 1928 in the case of rubber. Of the total export trade of Ceylon produce in 1940 amounting to Rs. 359 millions, tea accounted for 58 per cent. or Rs. 208 millions, which is the highest figure of money yields since 1927. The total quantity of tea exported from Ceylon during 1940 was just under 247 million pounds, which figure has only been exceeded three times in the past. The value of the rubber exported from Ceylon in 1940 represented 32 per cent. of the total export trade or Rs. 113 millions, which also was the highest figure of money yield since 1927. The quantity of rubber exported during 1940 (about 89,000 tons according to Customs returns) was an all-time record for Ceylon.

No shortage of labour was experienced by the estates. Early in the year some Superintendents informed the Controller of Labour that their labour force was in excess of requirements and statistics collected by the Planters' Association revealed that in May the surplus was negligible, amounting only to 2,233 labourers. There is a tendency to attribute such surplus as exists to the ban on emigration imposed by the Government of India, as some labourers who would normally go on visits to India are now reluctant to do so for the reason that once they go it would be impossible for them to return to Ceylon when they wish to.

Labour Unrest.- Mention was made in the last annual report (vide page 26 of our December 1940 report) of the unrest among Indian estate labourers caused by the anti-Indian agitation in Colombo and by the Ceylon Government scheme for the discontinuance of the Indian daily paid staff in Government Departments, and the start of the organisational movement among the labourers following the visit of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the formation of the Ceylon Indian Congress. The desire on

the part of the labourers on estates to form themselves into associations continued to be in evidence in the early part of the year. Employers as a whole were willing to admit the right of labourers to combine for their benefit, but there were many who were inclined to regard the movement as due solely to the activities of 'agitators' who were "stirring up unrest" on estates. Fundamentally, the unrest was due to the labourers' consciousness of their rights and a genuine desire on their part to secure better conditions of employment. More than the old-world outlook of some employers the opposition of the subordinate supervising staff to organisational activities was a reason for the unrest showing no sign of abatement till about the end of May 1940.

The unrest manifested itself in a number of strikes, particularly in the Dimbula and Badulla Districts, in two or three of which strikers resorted to violence. In certain other cases of strikes a demand was made by or on behalf of labourers for the appointment of conciliation boards under Ordinance No. 3 of 1931. For the first time three conciliation boards were appointed in respect of labour disputes on three different estates during the early part of the year but no real conciliation could be effected for lack of statutory provision to enforce the awards. A good deal of heart-burning was caused during the earlier part of the year by the prosecution for criminal trespass launched by Superintendents in Magistrates' Courts against discharged labourers who could not find employment elsewhere and therefore continued to remain in their old line rooms. In many of these cases the position had already been embittered by a feeling that notices of discharge had been given to the labourers merely because they were considered to be 'leaders' in associational activities, and to the labourers, prosecution in such circumstances savoured of vindictiveness.

The widespread prevalence of unrest on estates during the first half of the year attracted the attention of the authorities in Ceylon. The Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce held a series of conferences with representatives of employers and labour associations, and largely as a result of his efforts, a gentleman's agreement known as the "Seven Point Agreement" was reached in July 1940 between the representatives of the planting industries and of labour unions. The agreement is intended to provide a machinery to settle by negotiation disputes between labourers and employers and to prevent lightning strikes. It is gratifying to note that the representatives of the planting industries have formally recognised "the right of workers to combine by the formation of unions."

Minimum Wages. - The following rates of wages continued to be in force during the year:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.
Up-country	49	39	29) With issue price of
Mid-country	47	37	28) rice not exceeding
Low-country	45	36	27) Rs. 4/80 per bushel.

With the general rise in commodity prices following the outbreak of the war there was a corresponding increase in the cost of living of the labourers; and a demand naturally grew for an adjustment of the legal minimum rates of wages to meet the increased cost of living. Towards the end of March 1940 the Planters' Association announced that they had voluntarily decided to pay a war bonus to their labourers at

the following rates with effect from the 1st March 1940: Men - Rs. 1/00 per mensem, Women - Re. 0/75 per mensem, and Children - Re. 0/50 per mensem. The system of payment of a war ~~bonus~~ bonus came in for some criticism on the ground that the payment was not legally enforceable and was entirely at the discretion of the Superintendent.

The position was reviewed by the Wages Boards and it was finally decided on the recommendation of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour that the following uniform rates of wages should be adopted:-

		<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
		Cts.	Cts.	Cts.
Up-country	...	54	43	32) With issue price of
Mid-country	...	52	41	31) rice not exceeding
Low-country	...	50	40	30) Rs. 4/80 per bushel.

The new rates came into effect from 1-2-1941. The payment of the voluntary war bonus ceased from the same date.

Labourers' Family Budgets.- Another question connected with the wages of Indian estate labourers that arose during the period under review was the necessity for the compilation of a more comprehensive family budget than the Ranganathan budget of 1925-1926 on which the original minimum rates were based. It was agreed on all hands that the standard of living of Indian estate labourers had risen considerably since 1926 and that the skeleton family budget framed 14 years ago was out in keeping with the present day requirements of labourers and should be revised. The Labour Department was engaged during the year in collecting statistics regarding the actual income and expenditure of a few families of labourers on selected estates in various districts. Local enquiries had been completed and the work of tabulation taken in hand at the close of the year.

Housing of Labourers.- Of the 781 estates inspected during the year, overcrowding was noticed on 74 estates, and 71 of these were slightly overcrowded. Of the 113,251 rooms inspected during the year, 1,077 were found not up to Government requirements and 89,174 were up to requirements. The Director of Medical and Sanitary Services reports:- "Such improvement is not shown in line accommodation. Owing to war conditions many estates have had to delay or postpone line construction programme."

Maternity Benefits.- The Maternity Benefits Ordinance (No. 32 of 1939) which had passed its Third Reading in the State Council in July 1939 had not been brought into force at the end of 1940. As stated in the last year's report a proviso was added to Section 5 of the Ordinance by which the Controller of Labour could grant exemptions from liability to pay maternity benefits at the cash rate of 50 cents a day for 2 weeks before and for 4 weeks after confinement as laid down in the Ordinance, if he was satisfied that an employer had provided such alternative benefits for female labourers resident on estates as could be prescribed. It is reported that statutory regulations prescribing the alternative maternity benefits under this proviso have been prepared by the Legal Draftsman and are under the consideration of the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce.

Resumé of Events:(1) Indo-Ceylon Exploratory Talks.- The outstanding event of the year was the breakdown of the Indo-Ceylon

exploratory talks, which took place at Delhi early in November. The cordial relations that had subsisted for decades between the resident Indian community and the remaining population of Ceylon had been jeopardised by a series of anti-Indian measures culminating in the discontinuance of the Indian daily paid staff in Government Departments, and the position, unsatisfactory as it was, may be said to have further deteriorated as a result of the failure to reach an agreement, during the talks, on the question of the status of Indians resident in Ceylon. Unfortunately, the public utterances of certain responsible persons soon after the return of the Ceylon Delegation from Delhi did nothing to ease the situation, but rather foreshadowed an intensification of the anti-Indian drive in the country. There was a good deal of controversy over the method adopted for the registration of Indian voters on the State Council electoral rolls, and though with the extension of the life of the present State Council and the consequent postponement of the elections the controversy died down, there was a feeling of apprehension among the Indian community that difficulties might be placed in the way of their deriving the full advantage of even the restricted franchise that had been granted to them.

(2) Labour Movement. - The Government of India ban on the emigration of unskilled labourers from India was in force throughout the year and there was a large surplus of departures to India over the arrivals into Ceylon. Notwithstanding the ban the labour force on tea and rubber estates was, if anything, more than adequate for the requirements of the industries, and this factor was not without its repercussions till about the middle of the year. Amongst the features were the registration of six new trade unions, some of them with ramifications throughout the planting districts. The year is also memorable for the "Seven Point Agreement" between the representatives of the planting industries and of trade unions which was reached on 29-7-1940. This was intended to provide a simple and speedy machinery for the settlement by negotiation of labour disputes on estates and was to some extent instrumental in bringing about an appreciable reduction in the number of strikes towards the end of the year. ✓

Review of the Co-operative Movement in India - 1939-40.* ✓

The Statutory Report of the Reserve Bank of India issued in 1937 under Section 55 (I) of the Reserve Bank of India Act surveyed the whole field of agricultural finance and briefly indicated the lines on which the several credit agencies could be improved and co-ordinated. In the discharge of its functions under Section 54 of the Act the Agricultural Credit Department of the Bank has continued the study of the multifarious problems of rural credit and has been in constant touch with the various aspects of rural economics, one of the most important of which is co-operation. Since the need has been felt of a more detailed and comprehensive survey of this movement than was possible when the report was published, as a background to the advice which the Agricultural Credit Department is called upon to tender, the present review was prepared, firstly, to supplement the Statutory Report in so far as it related to the co-operative movement; secondly, to furnish succinctly the essential facts and figures relating to co-operative finance so as to give a bird's-eye view of the movement for the whole of India, and, lastly, to review the progress achieved so far, to analyse the present trends and to indicate possible improvements. The review traces briefly the development in India of the co-operative movement up to June 1940 under the following heads: The present position of the co-operative movement: Agricultural credit societies; Rehabilitation and reorganisation; Long term credit and land mortgage banks; Agricultural non-credit co-operation; Urban Co-operative movement; Education and training, Supervision, Inspection and Audit, Legislation and Administration. The following are the main conclusions reached:

Development, Decline and Reconstruction.- The co-operative movement in India has passed through three main stages in the course of its development - a period of quick preliminary growth and setting of the general lines of its framework up to the time of the comprehensive review of the progress of the movement by the MacLagan Committee in 1915; a phase of rapid expansion during the post-war decade up to 1929 during which the weaknesses in the structure noticed by the MacLagan Committee were accentuated; and the period of depression which put the movement to its test and saw its partial collapse in large parts of the country. While this was largely the direct result of external forces, it also furnished evidence of the failure of the co-operative spirit to strike root in the earlier years. From this period of trial the movement is now emerging into a new stage of reconstruction and re-organisation.

State Initiative.- The movement in this country owes its origin to the initiative of the State. It has also been developed hitherto under the general supervision, guidance and direction of the Government, and the Provincial Governments incur a considerable amount of expenditure in respect of the staff on their Co-operative Departments. But the Government in general bears no direct financial responsibility for it,

* Review of the Co-operative Movement in India, 1939-40. Published by the Reserve Bank of India. (Obtainable from the Officer-in-Charge, Agricultural Credit Department, Reserve Bank of India, Bombay. pp. 92

and the working capital is not derived from State funds.

Urban and Rural Societies: Former more stable and efficient.- Of the two main aspects of the movement, agricultural (rural) and non-agricultural (urban), the latter has a much more satisfactory record alike in respect of the magnitude of its operations absolutely as well as relatively to population, the efficiency of its management and the quality of the service rendered to its constituents. The advantages of regular employment and steady income of the members of urban societies account largely for their consistent progress. While the fall in agricultural prices reduced the purchasing power and paying capacity of the rural population, it lowered the cost of living and was a source of direct gain to people in urban areas with income fixed largely in terms of money. The more efficient and business-like management of the ~~the~~ urban societies has also been ~~a~~ a factor in their greater success. The review points out that, though the urban side of co-operation has made fair progress in respect of salaried employees of large offices in the bigger cities, there remains considerable scope for its further expansion among various classes of the urban population, the workers employed in large scale industry, the small merchants and traders, the small craftsmen and the lower ranks of clerical employees. The non-credit aspects of the work, such as the organisation of the supply of domestic requisites, the sale of output of small industries and the extension of housing facilities also require more particular attention.

Shortcomings of Indian movement: Over-emphasis ^{of} Credit side.- Analysing the defects of the co-operative movement in India, the review points out that it has contented itself on the whole with the supply of credit, which was an obvious and urgent necessity, but has not looked much beyond this short-term and immediate objective. It has failed to foster the true co-operative spirit of self-help and mutual help, the success of which in one sphere should lead to fruitful co-operation in other spheres. Dealing with the objection raised in this context by many co-operators that the ideal of co-operation here presented is too high and beyond the capacity of the ordinary worker and the average member of the Co-operative staff, the review points out that as a ~~re-orientation of the general policy of the Government, the role of the ordinary Government servant and the outlook of the general public in the direction of an intensive drive to solve the rural problem~~ no single agency is alone capable of producing a measure of effort adequate to the dimensions of the problem, what is needed is a re-orientation of the general policy of the Government, the role of the ordinary Government servant and the outlook of the general public in the direction of an intensive drive to solve the rural problem. The policy of wholesale organisation of new societies with little preparation and less supervision followed in the years before the depression sowed the seed of subsequent large-scale liquidation and compulsory cancellation of societies.

A Co-operative Research Bureau.- The review recommends the establishment of a bureau of co-operative research consisting of a few outstanding officials working directly under the guidance of the Registrar, to make periodical surveys in each province of the extent and character of progress made by the co-operative movement in respect of each ~~and~~ separate type of activity, credit and non-credit, agricultural and non-agricultural, and to make a thorough study of the broad economic and social conditions of different regions and the factors that affect the cultivators!

well-being as well as determine the system of agricultural finance and the development of co-operation.

Cheap Credit - No Panacea; Agriculture must be made to pay.-
The supply of cheap credit affords no panacea for the economic ills of the agriculturists: the economic problem is complex and requires a many-sided treatment. The co-operative credit movement can flourish only if agriculture prospers; its solvency is founded on the solvency of agriculture and its success bound up with the prudence, providence and productivity of labour of the agriculturist. Co-operative credit may itself contribute to this productivity, but it must be assisted in the task by the simultaneous effort of several other agencies to the same end.

Improvement of Agriculture and Village Reconstruction.-
The improvement of agriculture comprehends a variety of ends - consolidating the holdings and checks to further fragmentation, better seed, improved methods of cultivation, more fertilisers, better rotation of crops, more irrigational facilities and more intensive cultivation on the whole. A better organisation of agriculture, including improvement in marketing, development of a scientific animal husbandry and of ancillary or subsidiary occupations, is also necessary. The needs of the village include, besides, improved communications, better houses, better water-supply and sanitation and more public health activities; more medical aid, child welfare and maternity care, and above all, education suited to the environments and needs of cultivators. This formidable task of rural uplift or reconstruction requires the fullest mobilisation of official and non-official efforts and resources for its solution.

Improvement of Agriculture -

(Requisition has been made for a second copy of the review; when received, this will be forwarded to the Montreal Office.) ✓

Relief to Handloom Weavers in Bombay: Government announces Measures. +

As a measure of relief to the handloom weavers in the Province, the Bombay Government has directed that its Industries Department should assist the subsidised District Industrial Co-operative Associations in securing orders for textiles from the Supply Department of the Government of India. To enable these Associations to undertake such large-scale production of cloth, the Government has placed at the disposal of the Director of Industries a sum of Rs. 378,000 for loans to the Associations and Rs. 400,000 for the purchase of yarn required by the Associations for executing the Supply Department work.

Capacity of Handloom Production.- Details furnished by the Associations show that they can put 8,400 handlooms exclusively on the work of the Supply Department. Taking the value of cloth produced by one loom at Rs. 75 a month, the Associations can supply cloth of the total value of over Rs. 7.5 millions in a year. The Associations have no capital of their own to undertake such large-scale production of cloth; and it is estimated that it will take about three ~~xxx~~ months between putting the work in hand and getting remittance from the Supply Department for the goods supplied. On this basis, it is estimated that the Associations will need a working capital of Rs. 1,890,000. They propose to raise four-fifths of this amount from the Co-operative Banks and asked that the remaining one-fifth be made available by the

Government as a loan, repayable after the Supply Department's work is completed and payment for it is received. The Association also requested assistance from the Government in purchasing yarn for the manufacture of cloth, supervising the production of cloth, getting it finished at mills in Bombay and in making arrangements for its supply to the Supply Department.

Terms of Government Loan.- The loans to the Associations will be at the rate of Rs. 2,225 for each unit of 50 looms put on the work of the Supply Department. The Textile Expert and Designer of the Industries Department will be placed in charge of the entire work of production of cloth to meet the Supply Department's orders and each of the Associations engaged in producing cloth for the Supply Department will be given the services of a Production Manager and Production Supervisors for each unit of 50 looms.

(Press Communiqué issued on
5-12-1941 by the Director of
Information, Bombay.).

Spare TimeWorkers' Theatre Movement:
Plays for the Proletariat. ✓

A scheme has recently been launched by the Workers' Theatre Committee, Bangalore, to start "Peoples Dramatic Societies" and to educate the working classes in the elements of citizenship through the medium of the drama. The information given below about the movement is taken from a letter addressed recently by Miss Anil de Silva, Secretary, Workers' Theatre Committee (15, Park Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore), to Indian authors and play-wrights for supply of suitable plays, sketches and songs.

The movement is for the present concentrated in Bangalore, but it is planned to divide Mysore State into districts, in each of which a Workers' Theatre Committee on the Bangalore model will be set up. In each district a group of young workers will be trained in singing, folk dancing and a number of dramas. When the groups have finished their training and are able to give performances of several plays, songs and dances, they will be sent out ~~in~~ to the different centres and villages, ~~a~~ week at a different place. Here they will give their performances and charge a nominal rate of one anna or less. The themes of the dramas, etc., will be such as to educate workers in the rudiments of citizenship. It is pointed out that such movements have been extremely popular in several provinces in China and have proved an effective method of educating the workers and peasants and keeping them in touch with the world.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 16-11-1941.) ✓

Nutrition

Diet of Unprivileged Prisoners in Nagpur Jail: Report of Medical Men. ✓

The following facts relating to the diet of "C" class (unprivileged) prisoners in Nagpur jail, are taken from a note on the subject prepared jointly by a number of leading Indian doctors, among whom are included the Presidents of the Medical Council of India, of the Indian Medical Association, and of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Bombay.

Protein Content of Prisoners' Diet.- On comparing the diet of 'C' class prisoners in Nagpur jail with that of the poorer class of Indians, it is found that although its total proteins are just sufficient to meet the body needs, protein of animal origin is absent altogether from it. As regards fat, not only the total fat content of the diet is much below the minimum requirements but there is also entire absence of fat of animal origin. The carbohydrate contents of this diet are, on the other hand, relatively in excess. The following table prepared from the diet prescribed for 'C' class prisoners in the C.P. Jail Manual brings out these facts:

	<u>From Nov. 15 to April 15</u> <u>i.e., in winter months</u>		<u>From April 15 to Nov. 15</u> <u>i.e., in summer months</u>	
	<u>For labouring convicts</u>	<u>For non-labouring convicts and female prisoners.</u>	<u>For labouring convicts.</u>	<u>For non-labouring convicts and females.</u>
Total protein grammes.	81-119	61-106	68-106	54-101
Protein of animal origin, such as milk and milk products. grammes.	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total fats. grammes	23-45	20-39	21-43	19-38
Fat of animal origin, such as from milk and milk products, etc., grammes.	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carbo-hydrates grammes.	529-697	445-560	497-664	438-543
Calories.	2886-3332	2464-2686	2686-3132	2364-2586

Need for Inclusion of Milk.- After emphasising the essential need

30

proteins and fats of animal origin in diets, and the importance of milk in this connection, the Note supports the demand ~~for~~ prisoners for 12. of milk per day.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-11-1941.) ✓

Popularisation of Manufactured Vitamins:

Dr. Aykroyd's Suggestion. ✓

In the 3rd edition, recently brought out, of his publication: "The Nutritive Value of Indian Foods and the Planning of Satisfactory Diets" (Health Bulletin No. 23), Dr. W.R. Aykroyd, Director of the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor, emphasises that in India it is not only the poor, whose choice in the matter of food is extremely limited, who are ignorant and prejudiced about diet and suffer in health because of it, but many of the richer people also who could afford to consume an excellent diet and feed their children on an excellent diet, and that, in consequence, there are among children of the more prosperous classes cases of serious malnutrition and food deficiency disease. It is stressed that Indian children should consume ~~at least~~ 8 ozs of milk ~~say 8~~ ozs, being an amount below that recommended as "optimum" by nutrition workers elsewhere. If available funds do not admit the production of this quantity of whole milk, butter-milk, or skimmed milk constituted from skimmed milk powder, may be supplied.

Advocating the idea of giving malnourished children a daily capsule containing their requirements of the various essential vitamins in concentrated form, the Bulletin points out that in England pure vitamin made in a factory, is being added to bread from refined wheat flour to bring its nutritive value nearer to that of wholemeal bread. In America also, great interest is being taken in the possibility of "fortifying" foods and diets by means of cheap manufactured vitamin preparations.

(The Statesman, 23-12-1941.) ✓

Annual General Meeting of Associated Chambers of Commerce,
Calcutta, 15 and 16-12-1941: Viceroy's Address.

The 23rd Annual General meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce India was held at Calcutta on 15 and 16-12-1941, Mr. G.B. Morton presiding. The meeting was formally opened by the Viceroy.

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address, Mr. Morton, referring to the entry of Japan into the war and the resultant awakening of war-consciousness in India, dealt with the war production efforts of the country, and pointed out that as the war production programme dominated industry and commerce increasingly as time went on there increasingly arose the need to curb harmful tendencies and subordinate efforts. For two years India had been expanding its production of armament and war supplies and making preparations for further major increases. A shortage of skilled labour was making itself distinctly felt.

Pressure on Normal Industrial Activity.- He stressed that, if India was to make maximum war effort, it was clear that the increasing demands for war stores and armaments will have to be met more and more at the expense of normal industrial operations. This is already being felt through the operations of priorities and the tightening of control over essential war commodities, such as steel, and it seemed likely that controls have to be still further extended and the number of priorities increased. Short supply of trained personnel, however, is likely to be the most important factor influencing the diversion of production from normal industrial operations into war productions.

Control of Prices: Need for Prevention of Inflation.- Referring to the recent acceleration of price advances, he said that if money was more ample supply than goods, there must be price increases unless active counter-measures were taken. There were various ways of counteracting inflation, but the primary necessity was to avoid steps which might merely unnecessarily penalise the whole economy without achieving any benefit. As to price fixation, he observed that the lesson of the war, and all other experiences was that price fixation was not likely to be effective for long unless other steps, including possibly some form of rationing, were also taken. It was probable that no one means was effective and that a combination of all means offered the only possible chance of success over any extended period of time.

The New Order: Combating Unemployment.- Dealing with India's place in the new world order, he said that India had won the right to an assured place amongst the world's industrial countries, but India must stand for the maintenance of the position not upon her rights, but upon her capacity and her efficiency. The breeding ground of totalitarianism and other vicious systems lies in poverty, unemployment, indiscriminate industrialisation, uneconomic nationalism and land-hunger and these must be grappled with in a better understanding and with a greater determination if the peace is to be successful.

Viceroy's Address.- In his address, the Viceroy made an appeal to the people of India to forget their domestic differences and work together for the common object "at a crucial moment in the history of the kind" and reviewed at some length India's contributions towards the war efforts, and the country's economic and political problems.

Eastern Group Supply Council.- He said that India's contribution to the war and to its successful outcome was great indeed even a year ago. In 1941 its growth has been immense. The number of Indian soldiers are defending India overseas is three times what it was a year ago, 10 times what it was two years ago. The organisation of the supply system has been brought to a pitch of performance striking in the highest degree. Much of the credit for this goes to the Supply Department of Government of India, but the two great factors which have made such progress possible are the establishment of the forward programme and the operation of the Eastern Group Supply Council. The forward programme has made it possible to enter into contracts for six months at a time, and to get industry into continuous production. The Eastern Group Supply Council has most markedly stimulated the war effort on the supply side in India, and in the Dominions and other countries represented in the Eastern Group. The Eastern Group Conference gave the representatives of various Governments concerned a clear idea of the industrial potential of their neighbours; and India has had a very full share of the orders that have so far been placed through the Council.

Steel and Shipping.- Dealing in some detail with the more important aspects of supply, he said that the production of steel is being rapidly stepped up. ~~by the efforts of the Tata Iron and Steel Company~~ Before the middle of 1942 production should touch at a rate of 1.25 million tons per annum; and that is not a final figure, for a substantial increase upon it may be looked up for. Thanks mainly to the efforts of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, all the Ministry of Supply Mission projects approved by His Majesty's Government are now well launched and work upon them is proceeding fast as possible. Civil armaments production, which encountered special difficulties of some substance, is now shaping well, and the production of empty shells is satisfactory. There are difficulties still to be overcome in the production of certain munitions components. India's shipyards are employed to capacity in the construction of mine-sweeping trawlers and other small naval craft, as well as in repairs to ships of the line and merchant vessels.

Machine-Tools, Textiles, Timber, etc.- Progress has been made in stimulating and developing the Indian machine-tool industry, and simple machine-tools are now being manufactured in India in fairly large quantities. Engineering stores are being manufactured in very large quantities and though there are still hold-ups owing to the uneven flow of material, the fabricating workshops are fully occupied. The demand for woollen textiles still absorbs India's capacity to the full. Cotton textile demands are increasing very rapidly, and the great cotton textile industry is now beginning to feel the strain of the demands placed upon it both for direct war purposes and for various purposes arising out of war conditions. The Indian silk industry will shortly assist in the effort by providing the material required for the extensive manufacture of man-carrying statichutes in India. Demands for timber have risen to an unprecedented level. The Government clothing factories are now turning out over eight million garments a month. Leather manufactures are being organised on the same lines as clothing, and the value of the monthly output already exceeds Rs. 12.5 millions. The output of motor vehicles assembled in India has been much increased, and so far as powered vehicles are concerned, India will be able to produce all the armour plate required for a considerable programme. India will shortly be producing her own refined sugar, and valuable progress has been made in the production of vital chemicals, such as bichromates, and of medical stores, including both drugs and equipment.

The year 1941 saw something like a fourfold increase over the earlier part of the supply field and the demands of 1942 may be literally gigantic. The main consideration at present is that India should prepare herself for the immense burden likely to fall upon her in 1942 and subsequent years. These results have been achieved mainly because of the willing co-operation of industry.

Industrial Co-operation.- Dealing with the note of warning sounded by industrial interests that the growing demands on industry and commerce on account of the war production programme was leading to a shortage of skilled labour, and to their demand, first, that production not required for the direct prosecution of the war should not be closed down, and secondly, that while the paramount need for commerce and industry is to equip and maintain the most effective possible fighting force, the Government must not be entirely unmindful of the preservation of ordinary industries, he assured that it was no part of the Government's policy to close down industrial production merely because it was not required for the direct prosecution of the war; but, inevitably, war work will to an increasing degree cause demands on material and labour at the expense of the normal operations of certain industries.

Labour Position.- Reviewing the labour position, he said the Government of India will continue to do its utmost to train skilled labour in increasing numbers, to give special facilities to such training, and to ensure that the available skilled labour is used to the best advantage. The labour position, save in regard to certain specially skilled labour connected with engineering, is better in certain regards in India than in other countries. Though there has developed a shortage of highly skilled and skilled labour, it is doubtful whether there is yet a shortage of semi-skilled, and there is no lack of unskilled labour. There is, however, an acute shortage of supervisory and administrative staff. This is true in particular of European managerial and supervisory staff owing to the scheme of compulsory military service which has been introduced, and to the eager response that there has been to the call for men. Every action possible to foresee difficulties, and, consistently with the winning of the war, to provide for them, and to watch the preservation of industry and commerce must be taken. The National Service Tribunals, with their large majority of non-official business men, will be concerned to bear in mind the legitimate claims of industry and commerce, and to see that the depletion of this staff is not carried too far.

Stabilising War Industries.- Replying to the demand for special help for certain industries to survive economically in post-war conditions, he said that this important question was engaging attention, and that in the budget session of 1940 the Government of India had formally stated that they were prepared, in the case of specific industries started in war conditions, to give assurance that such industries, after peace was restored would be given some form of protection against competition from abroad. That assurance was inevitably confined to specific industries, since in each case the scope of the industry, its needs, and the part that it will play in the general economy of the country, have to be considered. There are cases where an industry does not satisfy the conditions referred to as regards its position in peace conditions, and where its establishment is essential for war purposes. In those cases the Department of Supply makes the practice of encouraging production by a variety of ad hoc methods, certain of which will protect the industrialist from loss. In some cases the State has itself found the necessary capital under appropriate conditions.

354

Post-War Reconstruction.- Apart from this, the question of post-war economy, with special reference to industrial development, is engaging a close and constant attention of the Government. Some time back it was announced that post-war reconstruction committees would be constituted to examine various aspects of post-war economy, and to deal with problems likely to arise in post-war conditions. These reconstruction committees are in the course of being constituted, and they will include a strong non-official element. One of them, the consultative committee of economists, has already started work.

Transport Problems.- Transport plays an important part in modern warfare and in the whole economic life. In India, however, transport facilities have never been fully adequate for the needs of the country, and the war is bound to involve an increasing strain on them. The Government of India has been encouraging the establishment of boards in the leading cities to co-ordinate transport over large areas, and as the war goes on, it may be necessary to impose further control than is operative at present. But compulsion always involves a certain sacrifice of elasticity and the Government is anxious to leave as much liberty to private enterprise as is compatible with the fullest war effort.

Prevention of Inflation.- With regard to inflation, he said that there is as yet no undue cause for alarm, and that the situation has so far proved reasonably amenable to control. But the bitter experience of so many countries of post-war Europe shows the havoc, the distress, the social injustice which uncontrolled inflation is capable of causing; and all who have at heart the interests of India and its people must do their utmost to prevent undue inflation. The Government of India has been, and are, giving the matter their constant and most anxious consideration. But the ramifications of the problem are complex, and possible counter-measures are beset with administrative difficulties, and in our efforts to deal with it we need all the advice and all the co-operative assistance which we can get from the commercial and the non-commercial world.

Control of Prices.- As regards control of prices, he said that the encouragement and stimulus of increased production where feasible is the most obvious, the most effective and the most generally acceptable course of action. But unfortunately its scope is in present circumstances strictly limited, and other and more drastic action may often become necessary. Mere price fixing by itself can seldom provide a complete cure, while any attempt to check the rise of prices whether of primary products or of manufactured articles not infrequently arouses hostility and opposition on the part of the interests immediately affected. And rationing of articles of common consumption, which is the almost inevitable corollary to control of prices, presents in a vast country like India greater practical difficulties than in countries smaller and more highly organised. The Government of India, however, is prepared to resort to methods of direct price control where it is satisfied that such action can with advantage be taken and it will not hesitate, where needed, to follow up this preliminary measure with such control over supply as may prove to be necessary and practicable.

Wage Increases and Inflation.- Dealing with the danger of inflation which may result from rising wages, and the increased purchasing power thereby created in the hands of a vast number of employees, he said that it is generally recognised that a higher standard of living, based upon war-boom, has inherent elements of instability, and that there is a limit to the extent to which rising wages and earnings result in a real improvement, owing to the development of shortages in the supply of

33

consumable goods. This applies not only to luxuries, but also to certain necessities, such for example as textiles. But it is possible to exaggerate the direct influence on the situation of the masses of labour, and it is important to realize that there are other, and perhaps more fundamental, factors at work as well. Wartime ration undoubtedly contributes to the avoidance of the dangers of profit-inflation, but this remedy can at best be only partial. It needs to be supplemented by the avenues for saving and investment provided by the Government of India's defence loans.

Encouragement of Saving by Workers.- If workers are to obtain the full benefit of their higher money wage they should save as much as possible; and by doing so at once safeguard their own future position and help to prevent rises in the prices of consumers' goods which can be of no advantage to them. With rupee expenditure on military and war supply activities standing as it now does, in the region of Rs. 200 million a month, with imports both from belligerents and from neutral countries subject to severe restrictions, there is a clear and imperative need for withdrawing as far as possible the surplus purchasing capacity so as to prevent the inflationary rise in prices. It is here that the Government relies on the utmost assistance and co-operation from the non-official world. In all provincial defence committees there is a large non-official element while those in Bengal, Bombay and Madras are entirely non-official. Of the Rs. 200 million a month, a substantial portion must pass directly into the hands of the urban industrial workers, and through them to a vast number of other humble folk who live entirely outside the realm of income-tax, excess profits tax and defence bonds. All possible encouragement and assistance must be given to the workers to conserve their savings by investment in defence savings certificates, the post office defence savings bank or the savings stamp and savings bond.

Political situation.- In the concluding portion of his speech, the Viceroy reviewed at some length the political situation. He referred to the offer he had made on 8 August 1940, affirming that as the attainment by India of free and equal partnership in the British Commonwealth as the accepted goal for India of the British Parliament, and the readiness of Parliament to set up, after the conclusion of the war, with the least possible delay, a body representative of the principal elements in India's national life, to revise the framework of the future constitutional scheme. He regretted that the August offer had not secured satisfactory response, but repeated it. He then referred to the expansion of his Executive Council and the establishment of the National Defence Council in July 1941, and said that notwithstanding these advances the main problems of India remained unsolved. Though in five provinces the constitution was functioning normally with the assistance of the Legislature, in six others its normal operation remains suspended; there also remained unbridged the gulf between the parties as regards the future Government of India. He concluded with an appeal for greater unity between the various Indian communities and faith in Britain's goodwill towards India.

(The Statesman, 16-12-1941),

A summary of the resolutions adopted at the meeting will be given in our next month's report.

9th Annual General Meeting of Employers' Federation
of India, Calcutta, 16-12-1941.

The 9th annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at Calcutta on 16-12-1941 with Sir Ardeshir Dalal in the chair. After referring to the war situation, Sir Ardeshir referred to the great impetus that had been given by war supplies to indigenous industries in India and said that during the first two years of the war, orders for supplies to the value of over Rs. 1640 millions had been placed with India which could not but have stimulated Indian industries.

In this connection, he pointed out the difficulty of securing in the country machinery, machine tools and many of the raw materials necessary for manufacture, which had placed a severe handicap on the expansion of Indian industries, and emphasised the vital importance, both in peace and war, of the full development within the country itself of the necessary basic industries of engineering, machine tools, power and transport. He also urged that a well thought out long range plan of industrial development of the country must be taken in hand so that

future emergency might find them unprepared. Sir Ardeshir welcomed the appointment by the Central Government of the Post-war Reconstruction Committees to deal with the problems of post-war reconstruction, but their composition, he remarked, appeared to him to be officialised. With regard to the question of continuance of Government protection to industries, he suggested that what was required was a wider measure of assurance of protection not only to industries developed to meet war requirements but to all deserving industries, and said that the old concept of discriminating protection required to be revised in the light of new conditions.

(The Statesman, 18-12-1941.)

All-India Railway Employees' Conference, Lahore, 30-11-1941.

Assession of the All-India Railway Employees' Conference was held at Lahore on 30-11-1941 under the presidentship of Mr. Jammadas Mehta, M.L.A. (Central). In his presidential address, Mr. Mehta, pointed out that the Indian Railways had earned more than Rs. 200 millions profit over their normal annual profits due to war conditions; the usual annual profit earned by the railways is Rs. 300 millions. In spite of this prosperity, the Railways, Mr. Mehta complained, give dearness allowance to their employees to the extent of Rs. 12 millions ^{only} which was most inadequate. He, however, advised the workers to accept the concessions already secured and promised to take up with the Railway Board the question of increased dearness allowance.

Resolutions.- Resolutions were adopted (1) protesting against the attitude of N.W. Railway administration in continuing to deny recognition to trade unions constituted according to the model rules framed by the Railway Board; (2) criticising the attitude of Railway Administrations in not consulting recognised railway unions before altering working conditions, in refusing to discuss reasons for punishment of employees with the unions concerned, in encouraging Staff Committees which act with all the benefits of official facilities, as rivals to trade unions and in not associating union representatives in all enquiries relating to the staff; (3) demanding the extension of provident fund to all the lower paid employees without exception; (4) urging the immediate necessity of appointing a joint industrial tribunal as contemplated by the Whitley Commission for the settlement of Trade Disputes, considering that several important matters concerning the staff have reached a deadlock with the Railway Board; (5) viewing with concern the growing rise in the cost of living which reduces the standard of living of railwaymen to levels below ~~what~~ what existed in the retrenchment period and urging that all staff drawing Rs. 100 or less should be granted dearness allowance.

("Railway Herald", Karachi,
8-12-1941.)

Travel Passes for Office Bearers of Recognised Railway Trade Unions.

One of the demands of the railway employees urged by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in the half-yearly meetings of its representatives with the Railway Board is the grant of leave and travel facilities to officials of railway unions to attend union meetings. The Railway Board in its Circular letter No. E41UT110/1 dated 15-12-1941 has now issued instructions to State-managed Railway Administrations on the subject, sanctioning the demand. The letter points out that at the meeting between the Railway Board and the General Manager of the Class I Railways held at Delhi on 14-11-1941, the question of the grant of passes to office bearers of recognised unions was discussed, and that the following addition will be made to the Establishment Code:

38

"Special passes to Union officials (whether outsiders or railway employees) available over the Home line only may also be allowed to enable them to attend Union meetings subject to a maximum of 4 passes per annum for a certain number of the officials of each Union, such number being fixed by the Railway Administration. Railway employees when granted these special passes as Union officials will be allowed special ~~xxxx~~ casual leave also."

In another letter No. E41UT110 of 15-12-1941, the Railway Board points out that it approves, as an experimental measure, of the issue of a limited number of cheque passes to the working President or the working Secretary of Union, recognised by the respective Administration, for the purpose of visiting Branch Secretaries, Divisional District Headquarters, etc. A report is to be made to the Railway Board after a year as to how many passes have been issued with the views of the Administration as to the continuance of this concession in its present or a modified form.

("Railway Herald", Karachi,
8-1-1942.)

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1941 Census Returns: Marked Increase in Urban Population.

A brief reference was made at page 41 of the report of this Office for October 1941 to the 1941 census figures. The full census reports have not yet been published, but the following information is taken from a press communiqué dated 19-11-1941 issued by the Government of India:

15 per cent. Increase.- The All-India population discovered at the 1941 Census was 388.8 millions as on 1st March, 1941. (The 1931 figure for the corresponding year was 338.1 millions), representing an increase of 15 per cent. The level of increase in British India is 15.2 per cent. and in the States and Agencies 14.3 per cent. The picture is one of general increase, rather higher in British India than in the States and only in part of Baluchistan and a few minor States is a decrease recorded.

Marked Increase in Urban Population.- The rate of increase is particularly marked in cities, i.e., towns with not less than 100,000 inhabitants. The number of such towns has appreciably increased from 1931, while the individual increase rates vary from just below 11 per cent. to almost a 100 in the case of Cawnpore, which has nearly doubled itself in the decade.

Bengal leads in Literacy.- The North-West Frontier Province among the major provinces records the largest increase of population, namely, 25 per cent., while Bengal which has the next largest increase, namely, 20 per cent. also has the largest number of literates, namely, 9,720,000. Madras has the next largest number of literates, namely, 6,420,000.

Figures for Provinces and more important States

(All figures are in thousands)

	Persons 1941	Population Persons 1931	Increase or Decrease per cent	Literate persons 1941
India	388,800	338,119	plus 15.0	47,322.7
Provinces	295,827	256,755	plus 15.2	37,016.8
1. Madras	49,342	44,205	plus 11.6	6,420.9
2. Bombay	20,858	17,992	plus 15.9	4,067.8
3. Bengal	60,314	50,116	plus 20.3	9,720.4
4. United P) Provinces)	55,021	48,409	plus 13.6	4,653.3
5. Punjab	28,419	23,581	plus 20.4	3,665.7
6. Bihar	36,340	32,371	plus 12.3	3,339.7
7. C.P. & Berar	16,882	15,323	plus 9.8	1,909.7
8. Assam	10,205	8,623	plus 18.2	1,174.3
9. N.-W.F.P.	3,038	2,425	plus 25.2	233.9
10. Orissa	8,729	8,026	plus 8.2	948.2
11. Sind	4,537	3,887	plus 16.7	473.8
12. Delhi	917	636	plus 44.1	235.7
States				
1. Gwalior State	3,992	3,523	plus 13.3	296.8
2. Hyderabad	16,184	14,436	plus 12.1	1,111.2

	Population		Increase of	Literate
	Persons	Persons	Decrease	persons
	1941	1931	per cent	1941
tes				
ashmir State				
including				
endatories)	4,021	3,646	plus 10.3	264.2
ysore State	7,329	6,557	plus 11.8	896.4
avancore	6,070	5,096	plus 19.1	2,894.4

(The Hindu, 20-11-1941.) ✓

Beggar Nuisance in Mysore Cities:
Government contemplating Legislation. ✓

Mr. A.V. Ramanathan, Minister for Law, Mysore State, announced recently that the Mysore Government is planning to take measures to combat the beggar nuisance in the ~~sub~~ urban areas in Mysore. It is proposed to prohibit religious mendicancy, but only professional begging.

The Mysore Juveniles Act (14 of 1939), Section 48, punishes any person who for his own profit causes, or, being the parent or ~~guardian~~ guardian, allows any child or any person, to beg in any public place; this Act has not yet been applied to any area. The Mysore Police Act also has provision for punishing begging under such circumstances. The Mysore Municipal Act lays on municipal councils certain duties in respect of destitute and infirm. But the problem of able-bodied beggars has not been tackled in a thorough-going manner. It is realised that the solution of that problem involves the provision of workhouses for able-bodied beggars and an organisation which would befriend them and help them back to normal economic life.

In order to enquire into these problems, devise practical steps and suggest necessary legislation, a Committee is shortly to be appointed by the State Government. It is also pointed out that the Mysore Juveniles Act is soon to be superseded by a Children's Act on the lines recommended by Mr. Chandrasekhara Aiyar's Committee on Prison Reforms in Mysore.

(The November 1941 issue of the
Mysore Information Bulletin.) ✓

41

Report of Bengal Jail Industries Enquiry Committee.

The abolition of the system of 'ghanies and chakks' (hand turned mills for oil and flour) is recommended in the report of the Bengal Jail Industries Enquiry Committee which has recently been completed. The recommendation is based on the view that the convict should be trained in a way which will give him a chance to become a useful member of the society after his release. It contains a special chapter on the development of Borstal institutions for the reclamation of juvenile ~~at~~ delinquents. The question of production and the establishment of an organisation for putting the produce manufactured in jails on the market has also been discussed in detail in the report. The report is unanimous. Mr. A.R. Siddiqui was the Chairman of the Committee.

(The Hindu, 26-12-1941.).

PagesWar Bonus for Bombay Cotton Textile Workers.

Reference was made at pages 41 to 42 of our March 1940 report to an enquiry made by the Government of Bombay, during the strike in March-April 1940, as to whether the Millowners' Association, Bombay, would be prepared to give an undertaking that the millowners would be prepared to give a war bonus to their workers if increased profits were made by the industry as a result of war conditions as soon as these profits had been determined. That Government apparently wanted was an undertaking from the Association that the concerns would be prepared to give a war bonus to their workers if increased profits were made as a result of war conditions, but in leading up to this request, Government also referred to the wide principle of profit sharing. The Committee then felt that it could not be Government's intention to raise this larger issue, since it would not be fair to raise such an issue with reference to a particular industry located in a particular centre especially when that industry was passing through a critical time. If such a principle was at all to be considered, it should, in the opinion of the Committee, be considered not only in relation to the mill industry in Bombay but also in other centres as also with reference to all other industries in the country. The question of a war bonus raised by Government was, in the opinion of the Committee, more or less of an academic character, which could be dealt with satisfactorily as and when increased profits due to war conditions had been made. Discussion of such a question and the giving of an undertaking as desired by Government in regard to the distribution of profits which had yet to accrue at some future day and which might not accrue at all, would, it was felt, create false hopes in the minds of the workers, and thus instead of leading to the restoration of peaceful conditions in the industry would undoubtedly lead to a state of continued unsettled conditions. The Committee, however, indicated that the Association, consistent with its desire to give a square deal to labour, would be prepared to give an assurance to Government that the cotton mill industry in Bombay would consider sympathetically any reasonable proposal for the grant of a war bonus or allowance, if the industry were to make profits on the same scales as those made in the years 1918 to 1921 inclusive, provided similar assurances were obtained from all other large-scale industries ~~xxxx~~ throughout the country.

Bonus of 2 annas in the Rupee recommended.- Early in November 1941, the attention of the Committee was drawn to notices which had been served on about ten member mills by their operatives asking for (a) bonus, (b) an increase in dearness allowance, and (c) an increase in basic wages. The matter was examined by the Committee, who decided to make the following recommendations to the General Body of Members:- (a) that a war bonus equivalent to two annas in the Rupee on their total earnings in the period 1st January 1941 to 31st December 1941 inclusive, be granted to all cotton mill workers who are on the musters of permanent and badli workers in member mills in Bombay City and Island on 31-12-1941, and who continue to be on such musters till the date of payment (21-2-1942) with the exception of those badlis who have worked for less than an aggregate period of 75 days in

43

the said period; (b) that bonus be calculated on earnings exclusive of dearness allowance; (c) that, in the case of women who have been on maternity leave in the period referred to, the actual maternity allowance drawn by them be included in their wage for the purpose of calculating the bonus payable.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the
Committee of the Millowners' Association,
Bombay, for November 1941.)

It is estimated that in pursuance of this decision, about Rs. 10,000,000 will be paid to about 200,000 textile workers on 21-2-1942. +

Rise in Cost of Living: Adjournment Motion in Sind.

The Sind Government's proposals to relieve the situation created by the rise in prices of articles were outlined by the Premier, Khan Bahadur Allah Bakhsh, in the course of his reply to the debate on an adjournment motion of Mr. N.A. Bechar which was talked out in the Sind Legislative Assembly, on 17-12-1941.

The Premier said that his Government had a Bill under consideration to compel merchants and trades engaging domestic labour to give compensatory allowance to their employees. He added that he would prefer to appeal to employers for compensation allowance, but if the appeal fell on deaf ears, then he would have to introduce the Bill. He further said that the Government was considering a scheme which would be ready soon to meet the shortage of vegetables in the city. According to the scheme about 5,000 acres would be brought under vegetable cultivation solely for military use, thus releasing the present supply for civil consumption.

Referring to the control of price of wheat, the Premier said that as recommended by the advisory committee the wheat price found its level and it was now available at Rs. 5-5 and Rs. 5-8 per maund in the wholesale and retail markets, respectively. Explaining the rise in the price of charcoal, he said that prices generally went up in winter. Whatever difficulty had arisen, it was due to shortage of wagons and he was going to take up the matter with railway authorities. He assured the House that even if no wagons were available he had a scheme under preparation to bring coal from the mofussil to the city. The Premier added that any time it was found that the present stock of food articles was not sufficient for consumption by the civil population, he would request the Central Government not to make further purchases from Sind and also to control the export.

Mr. N.A. Bechar, moving the motion, held that the cost of living had increased by 65 per cent. due to rise in the price of articles of daily use. He said that the responsibility of relieving the situation lay upon the Government.

(The Statesman, 19-12-1941.) +

Increase Grain Compensation Allowance to Low-Paid Government Servants in the Punjab.

14

Increased Grain Compensation Allowance to Low-Paid Government
Servants in the Punjab.

The Punjab Government has decided to liberalize the rules governing the payment of grain compensation allowance to low-paid Government servants. A communiqué explaining the change in the rules says: In view of the general rise in prices the Punjab Government has had under consideration its scheme of grain compensation allowance to low-paid Government servants. At present the allowance is worked out on the basis of the average price of three specified obligatory grains, and two out of three or four specified optional grains. The Government has decided to liberalize the rules by omitting altogether the optional grains. The obligatory grains will be wheat and maize during the months of November to February, both inclusive, and wheat and ~~grain-during-the-months-grame~~ gram during the rest of the year. Grain compensation allowance for December will be calculated on the retail market rates of the new obligatory grains as they were on December 1. For the future, the existing rule of taking the monthly average will remain in force.

(The Statesman, 8-12-1941.)

Demand of Postal and Telegraph Employees for Board
of Conciliation to Report on Dearness Allowance
Issue.

A conference of Telegraph and Postal employees, presided over by Diwan Chaman Lal, was held at Lahore early in December 1941, when a demand for the constitution of a Board of Conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act was made. The demand is in regard to the issue of the dearness allowance for Posts and Telegraph employees and it was pointed out that the demand for the setting up of a Board of Conciliation to go into the issue is on the same lines as the recent demand of railwaymen which was granted. The Conference demanded payment of dearness allowance to employees getting up to Rs. 250 per month.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-12-1941.)

Special War Bonus to Indore Textile Workers.

The textile mills of Indore have agreed to pay 10 per cent. of the current year's annual wages as war bonus to their operatives. This will be in addition to the dearness allowance of 12½ per cent. declared in May 1941 and will cost the millowners about Rs. 625,000. The bonus will be calculated on the total wages earned by the workers including the dearness allowance, and will be paid before 21-2-1942 to all permanent and badli (substitute) workers on the rolls on 31-12-1941.

(The Statesman, 22-12-1941.)

Industrial Disputes.

Advocacy of Strike not an offence under Defence of India Act.-

One Mr. Khanolkar was convicted by a Cawnpore Magistrate under the Defence of India Rules for advocating a strike in a Cawnpore mill. In allowing an appeal, the District and Session Judge, Cawnpore, observed that he did not say that the advocacy of a strike could never be an offence under the Defence of India Rules, but he thought that before it could be held to be so, it is necessary for the prosecution to prove that the person advocating the strike did not do so from the usual motive of bringing pressure on the employers of labour, but did it with ~~the~~ express motive of injuring war production.

(The National Call, 27-11-1941.) +

Employment

The Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941. +

The Governor General promulgated on 20-12-1941 the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941. to make provision for the maintenance of certain essential services. The Ordinance applies to all employment under the Crown and to any employment or class of employment which the Central Government or a Provincial Government, being of opinion that such employment or class of employment is essential for securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of war, or for maintaining supplies or services necessary to the life of the community, may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare to be an employment or class of employment to which this Ordinance applies. The Ordinance empowers Government to order persons engaged in such employments to remain in specified areas, and prescribes penalties for disobedience of such orders - abandonment of such employment or absence without permission from the area prescribed.

The Central Government or, with the previous sanction of the Central Government, a Provincial Government may make rules regulating or empowering a specified authority to regulate the wages and other conditions of service of persons or of any class of persons engaged in any employment or class of employment declared under the Ordinance to be an employment or class of employment to which the Ordinance applies.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary
dated 20-12-1941.) +

Fresh Categories of Technicians brought under National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940.

Reference was made at pages 33 to 34 of our June 1940 report to the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940. The

42

Government of India has now gazetted fresh classes of technical personnel who are to be covered by the Ordinance. The new classes include; among managerial staff, chemists and electrical engineers; among supervisory staff, tailors, and among skilled and semi-skilled class, chemical assistants, engine drivers, motor mechanics, wood machinists, etc.

(Notification No. T.R. (C)-1 dated 9-12-1941:
The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 13-12-1941,
pages 1809 to 1810).

Compensation for War Injuries.

War Injuries Scheme, 1942.

Reference was made at pages 40 to 41 of our July 1941 report to the promulgation of the War Injuries Ordinance, 1941. The Government of India has now gazetted the War Injuries Scheme under the ordinance. The scheme deals with ^{under} conditions which temporary allowances, disability pensions, family pensions and children's allowances are granted to persons covered by the War Injuries Ordinance.

(Notification No. L 1882 dated 1-1-1941:
The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 1-1-1941, pages 34 to 35).

War Risk Insurance.

The War Risks (Goods) Insurance (Amendment) Ordinance, 1941.

The War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance was promulgated by the Governor General on 26-8-1940 (vide pages 519 to 527 of the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 26-8-1940). The Government of India has now amended the Ordinance, important changes made being in the definition of "war risks", the section dealing with ownership of goods and the scope of the war risks insurance scheme.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary
dated 20-12-1941: pages 735 to 738) +

Scheme for Compulsory Insurance of Factories being considered.

The Government of India has been considering for some time past schemes for compulsory insurance of certain type of immovable property, and an early decision is expected.

It is learned that compulsory insurance will, in the first instance, be restricted to factory buildings, fixed plant and machinery and will not embrace residential and other property. There are no fewer than 12,919 factories in India which come within the definition of the Factories Act. There is already a Factory Inspectorate functioning in all provinces, so that administratively, too, it will

will be convenient to limit the scheme of compulsory insurance to factories only. The entire question needs detailed consideration as conditions in India differ materially from those in the United Kingdom. The financial, legal and constitutional aspects of the ~~the~~ scheme are now being examined as a preliminary to the enactment of an Ordinance.

(The Statesman, 18-12-1941.)

Control Measures.

The Administered Areas Aluminium Control Order, 1941.

The Government of India has promulgated on 4-12-1941 the Administered Areas Aluminium Control Order, 1941, with a view to control the commodity in "Administered" Areas; for other areas, the Aluminium Control Order, 1941 was issued on 10-3-1941 (vide page 63 of our March 1941 report).

(Notification No. 68-W dated 4-12-1941:
The Gazette of India Extraordinary
dated 4-12-1941, pages 707 to 711.)

Control of Wheat Prices: Rs. 4-6-0 for 82 lbs. Fixed.

In view of the rapid increase in wheat prices, the Government of India has issued on 5-12-1941 orders fixing the maximum wholesale price of wheat at Rs. 4-6-0 per maund (82 lbs.). The communiqué issued by the Government in this connection says:

Despite the Government's success in securing the discontinuance of purchases for export on account of His Majesty's Government and the provision of ships to bring imports from Australia, the market price continues to rise. The Government of India have, therefore, decided to issue a definite order prohibiting wholesale transactions at rates above those which they have already announced as representing the highest level which they are prepared to recognize as not being excessive, namely, Rs. 4-6-0 per maund (spot delivery) at Lyallpur and Hapur, and elsewhere prices fixed by normal adaptation.

The provincial Governments have been requested to take measures to enforce this prohibition, pending the appointment of a Wheat Commissioner which will be made very shortly. The Government of India are also issuing a notification removing the import duty on wheat altogether.

(The Statesman, 6-12-1941.)

Standard Cloth for the Poor: Scheme formulated by Panel of Textile Industry.

The enlarged Panel of the Textile Industry met on 6-12-1941 to discuss proposals regarding production of standard cloth and yarn,

at New Delhi; several officers of the Supply Department, Government of India, were also present. The Committee of the Panel presented the following scheme:

Standard cloth should be produced by every mill up to a percentage prescribed by the Government; the sale of these types of standard cloth should be through shops managed and run by the mills themselves. Each mill would be required to open a certain number of shops, the number being calculated on the basis of one shop for 400 looms of the mill or part thereof; the mills should be located both in British India and in the Indian states and the place of location of the shops will be decided by Government in consultation with the Textile Panel; Government would take powers through appropriate legislation to make it compulsory for each mill to produce the requisite percentage of standard cloth, to open the number of shops prescribed on the basis of the loomage and to sell the standard cloth at prescribed prices. The prices of each type of standard cloth will be calculated by the Panel and the technical advisers of the Government ~~th~~ and the price fixed by the Government thereafter; the shops will be opened in centres containing a minimum of population prescribed by Government but will cater for the poor in a zone round about the place chosen.

As the scheme had not been considered by the members of the various associations represented by the Panel, it was resolved to circulate it to all members to obtain their reactions. The members of the Panel undertook to do this and to meet Government representatives with further detailed proposals about the middle of January, 1942.

(The Statesman, 7-12-1941.) *

Power to Requisition Premises, Lands, etc. for
War Purposes: Amendment of Defence of India Rules
notified.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Defence of India Act, 1939 (XXXV of 1939), the Government of India have made certain amendments to the Defence of India Rules on 26-11-1941. The amendments enable the Central and Provincial Governments to requisition premises, things and lands from private owners for war purposes and lays down that premises, things and lands thus requisitioned shall be free from all encumbrances till the end of the requisition period.

(Notification No. 1128-OR/41 dated
26-11-1941 of the Defence Co-ordination
Department, Government of India;
The Gazette of India, Extraordinary,
26-11-1941.) *

List of the more important publications received in this office during 1941 December 1941.

nal Labour Legislation.-

ylon Ordinance No. 27 of 1941. An Ordinance for the regulation of f the wages and other emoluments of persons employed in trades, or the establishment and constitution of Wages Boards, and for ther purposes connected with or incidental to the matters aforesaid.

tions of Work.-

- 1) Government of the Central Provinces and Berar. Report of the Central Provinces and Berar Textile Labour Enquiry Committee, 1941. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. Price Re.1-0-0.
- 2) Annual Report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in the Punjab, for the year 1939. Lahore: Printed by the Supdt., Government Printing, Punjab. 1941. Price Re. 0-8-0.

ation.-

- 1) Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1940. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs. 2 or 3s.
- 2) Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya for the year 1940. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Re. 1-4-0 or 2s.

peration.-

- 1) Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar for the year 1940. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941. Price Rs. 1-15-0.
- 2) Review of the Co-operative Movement in India, 1939-40. Bombay, 1941. (Reserve Bank of India, Agricultural Credit Department, Bombay.)

al Conditions.-

"These Ten Years - A Short Account of the 1941 Census Operations in Rajputana and Ajmer-Merwara" by A.W.T. Webb. (Rajputana Census Vol. XXIV, Part I.)

ic Health.-

Annual Public Health Report on Delhi Province for the year 1940: Compiled by Lt. Col. W.H. Crighton, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.,C.I.E.,I.M.S., Chief Health Officer, Delhi Province. New Delhi: Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press. 1941.

ation.-

General Education Tables (Ajmer-Merwara), 1940-41.

cellaneous.-

The Indian Political Science Association: Fourth session, Bombay: 31st December, 1941. Presidential Address - "The New World Order" by V. Shiva Ram, Professor of Political Science, Lucknow University.