

C6/2/20

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for December, 1941.

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

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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 provision 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.) +

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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 stress and strife when there should be no time-limit or undue restriction on activities. The Hon'ble Dr. A.R. Menon, Minister, while appreciating

laudable aim of the mover, doubted whether it might not create confusion and economic disturbance. He suggested that the Bill might either lie over or only the holiday clause and the regulation of hours of work be made operative. He felt that the Bill might be passed if it was, but that it might be given effect to only when the time was ripe for the clauses to be enforced. ~~Mr. Secretary~~ stated that the Government did not recognise the necessity of giving immediate effect to the measure. The motion that the Bill as amended be read in Council was carried.

(The Hindu, 8-12-1941.)

State.-

Mysore Labour Bill adopted by Legislative Council.

Reference was made at page 2 of our October 1941 report to the consideration of the Mysore Labour Bill by the Mysore Representative Assembly. The Bill came before the Mysore Legislative Council on 2-12-1941 and was passed by the House on 24-12-1941. Several amendments were moved, but none of any importance was accepted by the House.

(The Hindu 26-12-1941.)

State.-

Rules under the Mysore Labour Act.

Reference was made at page 2 of our October 1941 report to the consideration of the Mysore Labour Bill, 1941, by the State Representative Assembly. The Mysore Government has published on 30-10-1941 Rules under the Act to carry out the ~~the~~ purposes of the Act.

Registration of Associations.- The Rules relating to the registration of associations make it possible for associations of employees in private industrial undertakings to have two honorary members who are not employed in the industrial undertaking, with a view to their appointment as conciliators. In associations of employees in Government concerns two Government Servants may similarly be taken as honorary members even though they are not employed in those concerns.

Statement re. Employment.- Every employer is required to forward to the Registrar a statement showing the number of employees employed in each occupation and in each establishment under him within 21 days of the commencement of the Rules.

Rules re. Conciliation and Arbitration.- The Rules in respect of conciliation lay down that if the endeavours of the Commissioners to bring about an agreement between the parties do not result in an agreement between the parties ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~, the dispute should be referred to the Registrar who is the Chief Conciliator. A special conciliator or Board of Conciliation may be appointed if the parties so wish, or if the Chief Conciliator deems this course desirable. A Board of Conciliation consists of three independent persons, that is, persons unconnected with any trade or industry directly affected by the dispute. The Rules in respect of arbitration lay down that a Court of Arbitration shall

ist of a Chairman and two independent persons and that the Chairman
l 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.) ✓+

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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, on 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

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 leave 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 overstays involve loss of pay and liability to loss of employment except absence or overstays 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 on 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 menial 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) ✓
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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 10,961,178 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 11,616 and 11,064 to 384,636 and 10,911 respectively. In Mysore spindles decreased from 163,312 to 162,028 while looms increased from 2,734 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 2,389 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 daily on day-shift work was in 1940-41 approximately 459,509 as against 3,165 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 daily during the year was 9,083,046 out of a total of 9,961,178 erected. In the previous year the ~~xxxxx~~ corresponding figures were 8,847,326 and 10,005,785. Of the 198,574 looms installed, an average of 184,258 were working daily during the year as against 200,076 and 178,842 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.

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 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 and jute 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 middle 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. The 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 and 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 for 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 76 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, and 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 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. 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 debt 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 1-1-1943. 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 full 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 and 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 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.)

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.

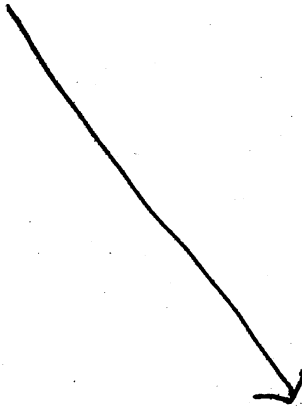
Wages.- It will be recalled that the wages of Indian unskilled labourers were 50 cents a day for men and 40 cents a day for women prior to May 1938 when the wages were reduced by 5 cents on account of a reduction in the rubber quota to 60 per cent. in the second quarter.

* 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 $28\frac{7}{8}$ 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 P.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 ~~£ 1.60~~ £ 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", stated 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

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"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.

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, 4,077 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. A noteworthy feature was 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 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.

and Village Reconstruction.-

Improvement of Agriculture - 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 ~~tin~~ 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.)

Workers' 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 short 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 to the different centres and villages, one week at a different place. Here they will give their performances for a 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.) ✓

29

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 will bring out these facts:

	<u>From Nov. 15 to April 15</u> i.e., <u>in winter months</u>		<u>From April 15 to Nov. 15</u> i.e., <u>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
Protein 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

proteins and fats of animal origin in diets, and the importance of milk in this connection, the Note supports the demand for prisoners for 8 oz. 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 daily, being an amount below that recommended as "optimum" by nutrition workers elsewhere. If available funds do not admit the provision 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 coordinate 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

Pressure on Normal Industrial Activity.- He stressed that, if India 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 effective counter-measures were taken. There were various ways of interacting inflation, but the primary necessity was to avoid steps which did merely unnecessarily penalize 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 ~~degree~~ ^{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 team 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 middle of 1942~~ 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 expected. 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 cotton and for wollen 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 static huts 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 motorised 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 latter 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 industrial interests that the growing demands on industry and commerce 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 technical labour connected with engineering, is easier 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. Even action possible to foresee difficulties, and, constantly 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.

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 life 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 taken, 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 constructive assistance which we can get from the commercial and the non-official 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 a 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

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 hands 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 do no advantage to them. With rupee expenditure on military and other supply activities standing as it now does, in the region of Rs. 200 million a month, with imports 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 State 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 it was 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 advise the framework of the future constitutional scheme. He regretted that the August offer had not secured a 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 in 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 in a 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 whole concept of discriminating protection required to be revised in the light of new conditions.

(The Statesman, 18-12-1941.)

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Workers' Organisations.

All-India Railway Employees' Conference, Lahore, 30-11-1941.

Agession 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 ~~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 ~~the~~ 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. B41UT110/1 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:

"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,
5-1-1942.)₄

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1941 Census Returns:
Marked Increase in Urban Population.

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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 Decrease per cent	Literate persons 1941
	Persons 1941	Persons 1931		
tes				
Cashmir State				
including				
tributories)	4,021	3,646	plus 10.3	264.2
Mysore State	7,329	6,557	plus 11.8	896.4
Mangalore	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 put an end to the beggar nuisance in the ~~the~~ 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 the 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.) ✓

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Report of Bengal Jail Industries Enquiry Committee.

The abolition of the system of 'ghanies and chakkis' (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 ~~is~~ 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.).

WagesWar 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. What 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 members 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

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 those 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.

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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

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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 ^{the} conditions ^{under} 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 51 to 55).

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 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,

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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 ~~xx~~ 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 ~~194~~ December 1941.

nal Labour Legislation.-

ylon Ordinance No. 27 of 1941. An Ordinance for the regulation of the wages and other emoluments of persons employed in trades, or the establishment and constitution of Wages Boards, and for other 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.