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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for January 1942.

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sam. -

Assam Shop Assistants' Relief Bill, 1941: Bill withdrawn
on Government Assurance of Legislation. ✓

Reference was made at pages 1 to 2 of our March 1941 report to the introduction of a non-official Bill in the Assam Legislative Assembly on 10-3-1941 to provide for the regulation of hours and conditions of work generally in shops; the Bill was circulated on the same day. On 2-12-1941 Mr. Badaruddin Ahmed, the sponsor of the Bill, moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly that it be referred to a Select Committee. Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhuri, Labour Minister, opposing the measure pointed out that opinions on the Bill were sharply divided in the Province and further that the Bill not merely follows the Bengal enactment but goes further by providing for increment in salaries, provident fund, leave salary and compensation for accident; all the various benefits have been jumbled in one single Bill without paying any heed to the capacity of the employer to pay. The Government did not think that "some of the shop assistants in some places are hard-worked and they do need some measure of relief." He requested the sponsor of the Bill to withdraw his Bill, promising to introduce a Bill dealing with weekly holidays and to limit working hours of the shop assistants, in the next session if possible.

On this assurance, Mr. Ahmed withdrew his Bill.

(The Assam Gazette, Part VI-A, dated
7-1-1942, pages 1212 to 1218.) -

mbay. -

Bombay Workmen's Compensation (Unclaimed Deposits) Rules, 1941.

Reference was made at page 2 of our September 1941 report to the proposal of the Bombay Government to adopt Rules relating to the procedure for the disposal of unclaimed deposits under the Workmen's Compensation Act. These Rules have now been gazetted in their final form.

(Notification No. 4644/34 dated
13-1-1942: The Bombay Government
Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 15-1-1942,
pages 51 to 53.) +

mbay. -

Extension of Payment of Wages Act to certain classes of Mines.

The Government of Bombay has extended the operative sections of the Payment of Wages Act to mines in the Province which are declared by the Provincial Government to be factories under Section 5 of the Factories Act, and are not subject to the operation of the Indian Mines Act.

(Notification No. 3717/34-I dated 19-1-1942: The
Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated
22-1-1942, page 59.)

Delhi Lift Rules, 1942.

Reference was made at page 3 of our March 1941 report to the extension of the Bombay Lifts Act to Delhi Province. The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has now issued the necessary administrative rules under the Act.

(Notification No. F.10 (33)/42-L.S.G.(3)
dated 15-1-1942: The Gazette of India,
Part II-A, dated 24-1-1942, pages 26-35).

3rd Labour Ministers' Conference

The third annual session of the Labour Ministers' Conference (for an account of the Second Labour Ministers' Conference, vide pages 4 to 7 of the January 1941 Report of this Office and pages 64 to 65 of "I.L.R.", Vol. XLIV, No.1) was held at New Delhi on the 30th and 31st January 1942, with the Hon. Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Labour Member with the Government of India, in the chair.

Among those who attended the Conference were: the Members of the Government of India in charge of the Departments of Finance, Communications and Railways, Commerce, and Supply, and Officials of other Departments of the Government of India interested in one or other of the items on the agenda; representatives of the Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the United Provinces, the Punjab, Bihar, Assam, the Central Provinces and Berar, and Sind; and representatives of the Governments of the following Indian States: Indore, Mysore, Baroda, Gwalior, Hyderabad and Travancore.

Dr. P.P. Pillai, representative of the I.L.O., also attended the Conference as an Observer.

Opening the proceedings, the Chairman said that, in accordance with the practice already established, he had consultations with the representatives of employers and workers at Calcutta early in the month on the various items on the agenda, and a resumé of these discussions was before the Conference. These consultations with the employers and the workers were held separately and it was for consideration whether for the future it would not be healthier to adopt the practice of having joint meetings of employers, workmen and Government representatives. He felt there were many advantages in bringing all the interests concerned face to face in tripartite Conference as is the practice in Geneva. Collaboration of the tripartite character has been developing apace in several countries since the beginning of this war, and he proposed to take into consideration the question whether the next annual Conference should be a joint one of all the interests concerned.

He welcomed the increasing representation of the Governments of the Indian States at the Conference and said it was a good augury for the future solution of labour problems, for, the economic welfare of Indian States and British India were so closely intertwined that it was impossible to think of the two Indias acting separately or without each other's sincere co-operation.

Referring to the agenda, he said that, if war production must go forward unhampered, strikes and lock-outs must be avoided at all costs, and that all problems of labour and industrial development must be handled with sympathy and foresight. They could not postpone consideration of methods whereby they could ensure that labour stayed at work. Disputes had to be settled quickly and methods of doing that had to be considered. The extent to which wages need adjustment to meet rises in cost of living required urgent consideration, if undue hardship to the working classes was to be avoided. Sickness Insurance and holidays with pay, though not problems of an equally pressing nature, were still important and worthy of attention. Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Payment of Wages Act involved consideration of important questions of principles. Industrial fatigue resulting from extended hours of work had also been brought to the forefront by the need to produce war materials in as large

quantities and as quickly as possible.

Items on the Agenda.

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30th January, 1942: (1) Special Machinery for Expeditious Disposal of Labour Disputes in War Time.- (By Rule 81A added to the Defence of India Rules, 1939, on 21-1-1942 (vide page of the January report of this Office), the Central Government had taken the power by general or special order to prohibit strikes and lock-outs, to refer trade disputes for conciliation or adjudication as provided in the Order, and to require employers to observe such terms and conditions of employment as may be fixed in accordance with the Order to be, or to be not less favourable than, those existing in their undertakings within three months preceding the date of the Order. The consensus of opinion at the Conference was in favour of a General, and not a special, Order, so that details of the special steps to be taken may be considered in consultation with Provincial Governments. The scope of using other provisions of the Defence of India Rules for this purpose was also considered.)

(2) Adjustment of Wages to Changes in Cost of Living.- (The discussions showed that, while increases in wages to make good, wholly or in part, increases in cost of living were desirable, this should be considered apart from any increase in wages to give labour a share in the profits. As regards the latter, the general opinion was that, in order to prevent inflationary tendencies, steps to give labour a share in the profits should not take the form of an increase in wages, but should be in the nature of a bonus which should not be paid in cash, but should be part of a properly considered Savings programme.)

(3) Best Manner of Improving Cost of Living Indices.- (A Conference of experts and representatives of provinces was held at New Delhi on 28-1-1942 to consider the question of improving costs of living indices, and a summary of its conclusions was before the Labour Ministers' Conference. The conclusions arrived at are to be further examined, and a scheme evolved.) (A summary of the proceedings of the Conference of 28-1-1942 is given at pages ~~126~~ 126/13 of the January 1942 report of this office.)

(4) Sickness Insurance.- (As many Provincial Governments expressed themselves unable or unwilling to guarantee the insurance fund, and this guarantee was deemed essential at least during the earlier stages of any tentative sickness insurance scheme that may be set up, the proposal as regards ~~it~~ sickness insurance was not proceeded with further.)

(5) Holidays with Pay.- (The Conference was in favour of legislation on the subject, but there were some differences between the Provinces regarding the number of holidays and other details.)

(6) Night shift Work.- (It was the general opinion that, while three shifts of eight hours each might be an ideal solution, shortage of trained labour made this impracticable; the details regarding lighting, ventilation, etc., for night-shift work, were not considered as calling for ~~Central~~ legislation, since these could be regulated under the Factories Act.)

(7) Establishment of an All-India Industrial Council for the Textile Industry.- (Opinion was divided, but the majority were inclined to the view that it would be desirable to have an Industrial

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Council with Sectional Committees for important industries like textiles, engineering, coal, etc.)

(8) Industrial Fatigue resulting from Increased Hours of Work.- (The trend of opinion was that there was not sufficient material to indicate that increased working hours in India affected output other than favourably.)

(9) Provident Fund for Industrial Workers.- (Considering specially that no scheme for sickness insurance was taken up, the Conference agreed to legislation, with suitable safeguards, for provident fund for workers.)

31st January, 1942:

(10) Keeping Labour at work during Air-Raid Conditions.- (Keeping in mind the ~~Essential~~ Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941, and the views of the Government of India on the use of the Ordinance, and also the result of the discussions of the Government of India with the employers and workers at Calcutta on the 2nd and 3rd ~~February~~ January, 1942, the Conference considered methods of A.R.P. and propaganda therefor, and other suggestions to prevent panic and ensure workers remaining at their posts.)

(11) Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act.- (The necessity

(12) Amendment of the Payment of Wages Act.- () for various amendments to these Acts was considered and the Central Government is to prepare draft Bills to be circulated to the Provincial Governments incorporating the suggestions accepted at the Conference.)

~~Results of the Discussions~~ Results of the Discussions on the various items were not ~~summarized~~ at the Conference, nor were the decisions arrived at formulated. The information given within brackets against each item on the agenda is, therefore, only for the use of the I.L.O. and not for publication.

Labour Ministers' Meeting with Representatives of
Employers and Workers re. Items on Agenda of 3rd Labour
Ministers' Conference, Calcutta, 2 and 3-1-1942. ✓

As in 1941, preparatory to the holding of this year's Labour Ministers' Conference, the Hon. Sir Firoz Khan ~~Neenan~~ Noon, Labour Member, Government of India, met separately on 2 and 3-1-1942 respectively representatives of the Employers' Federation of India and the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers on the one hand and the All-India Trade Union Congress, Indian Federation of Labour and of the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association (represented by Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda) on the other, to discuss with them the items on the agenda of the 3rd Labour Ministers' Conference. A brief summary of the views expressed by employers and workers on some of the items is given below:

(1) Sickness Insurance: Views of Employers.- The Employers would be prepared to work an experimental scheme on cautious lines

but ~~insisted~~ insisted that both Government and all workers should contribute along with the employer. A suggestion was made by one employer that he personally would prefer to increase wages at the lower scales to enable workers to make some contribution rather than that they should not contribute. The employers insisted on the principle of contribution, as otherwise the burdens on employers were likely to be further increased as time went on. The employers considered that the tentative scheme should be framed on the lines of that proposed by the Bombay Textile Enquiry Committee, rather than on the lines of the tentative scheme in the Government Memorandum. They considered, however, that the medical and cash benefit side of the scheme should be entirely separate. They were opposed to varying contributions, and they considered that the obligation to pay benefit could not be thrown on the employer, irrespective of the sum that was in the fund, particularly in view of the risk of epidemics. One section of employers also raised the point that, in view of the probable difficulties after the war, further burdens should not now be imposed on industry.

Views of Workers. - Labour representatives agreed that a sickness insurance scheme should have both medical and cash benefits and that no contribution should be payable by the lower paid labour. The Federation put the limit at 50 rupees per month, but would be willing to have only a token payment even from such workmen. All were agreed that there should be a fund and benefits should not be payable by individual employers. The fund may, if necessary, be confined to large industry at the beginning. The proposed duration of benefits - two weeks - was considered very inadequate. The A.I.T.U.C. proposed a minimum of 4 weeks, with a provision for increased benefits proportionate to the period for which contributions were made. The Federation desired the period to be 6 months. Mr. Nanda stressed the fact that if the scheme is to be used to enable correct statistical material to be collected, no limitation of benefit period can be imposed. For this purpose also people going to the ~~mofussal~~ ~~area~~ mofussal will have to be covered by the scheme. Mr. Nanda also stressed that the benefits should not be on a lower scale for the non-contributory labour. He would rather lower, if necessary, the limit below which contributions will not be taken from labour.

The A.I.T.U.C. and Mr. Nanda pointed out that 6 months' qualification should refer to service in an industry as a whole and not ~~in~~ any individual undertaking. The A.I.T.U.C. desired the scheme to be applied to all factories, mines, railway employees not getting sick leave, organised plantations, municipal labour, dock labour and seamen. The control of the scheme should be either with Government or with a joint board of management. The Federation desired the scheme to be applied to the following industries:- (1) Jute and Cotton Textile Industries, (2) Railways, (3) Heavy Engineering (4) Government Ordnance and munition factories and public utility services of local bodies, and (5) Cigarette manufactures and tanneries.

All were agreed that Government should also contribute to the sickness insurance fund. They were opposed to medical certification by doctors appointed by employers. The Federation contested the argument that Provincial Governments were providing adequate medical benefit already.

(2) Night Shift Work: Views of Employers. - Employers would welcome all-India regulation within reasonable limits of such matters as ventilation, lighting, etc. They would be opposed to the other

recommendations of the Bombay Textile Labour Enquiry Committee.

Views of Workers.- Workers considered that regulation should be by Central legislation, that the night shift should be shorter than the day shift and that night shift work should be paid at a higher scale. The Federation considered that a minimum period for night shift was not necessary or desirable for all industries. The A.I.T.U.C. considered that 6 months' period should be imposed. Good lighting, ventilation and adequate dining accommodation and conveyance facilities were considered to be essential. The A.I.T.U.C. however desired that arrangement should be made for a periodical change-over with a maximum period of one month, that notice for closing down should be ~~retained~~ given at least two months prior to closing, and that workers should be retained in employment according to their length of service, those employed later being the first to be discharged. The A.I.T.U.C. considered that no night shift work between the hours of 12 mid-night and 7 a.m. should be allowed. Mr. Nanda thought the hours should be from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. to enable workpeople to be at their home by mid-night.

Mr. Nanda pointed out that as a result of longer shifts wages of night piece-workers and of day piece-workers had actually gone down possibly due to the fact that machinery under long shifts cannot be properly attended to. The Federation considered that three shifts were preferable to two as this necessarily means that a shift cannot exceed 8 hours.

(3) Work in Air-raid Conditions: Views of Employers.- The employers were ~~strongly opposed to legal compulsion to keep labour at work during air raid conditions~~, which would not only be difficult to enforce but would have also most undesirable results on the workers' morale. The proper methods to secure attendance of work-people were propaganda and the provision of efficient air-raid precautions. As regards the form of propaganda, some thought that propaganda by Government would be useful, others that it would have no value and that propaganda must be by employers. Propaganda by labour leaders was not mentioned. The intensity of air-raid precautionary blackouts was instanced by the coalfields and other up-country employers as tending to frighten labour and drive them away, particularly because it made difficulties in regard to bazar purchases and increased the fear of goondas (rowdies), but no effective answer was given to the Hon. the Labour Member's remark that it was necessary to get the workers accustomed to blackout conditions as otherwise they would all run away after an air-raid.

Views of Workers.- Workers' representatives agreed that legal compulsion would not be effective and what was necessary was propaganda and the provision of air-raid precautions. One A.I.T.U.C. delegate stated that workers should be encouraged to send away their families and facilities may be afforded for this purpose as the worker at work worries about the safety of his family at home. The Federation complained that workers' organisations were not encouraged, and in some cases were not even permitted, to co-operate, in Air Raid Precautions activities.

(4) Industrial Fatigue: Views of Employers.- In the jute industry some figures had been collected which (if other factors were not taken into account) would show that there was a greater drop in efficiency when hours were increased from 48 to 54 than when they were increased from 54 to 60; but that industry allowed a longer rest interval during the day which probably checked the fall in

production resulting from longer hours. The experience of the engineering industry appears to be that there is a fall in production when longer hours were worked over a long period. All Employers seemed to be agreed that they would prefer double or multiple shifts to longer hours in each shift, provided there was sufficient work for the extra shifts. But the representative of Engineering trades pointed out that the training of extra skilled men for such additional shifts would be likely to cause them considerable labour difficulties after the war. The question of training unskilled labour did not seem to present any difficulties in any industry.

Views of Workers.- The A.I.T.U.C. considered that under Indian conditions the optimum limit of working hours would be even less than 55 or 56 hours week, which is the optimum in Great Britain. It considered unusual the experience referred to in Ordnance factories and desired that it should be further verified. The A.I.T.U.C. stated that lack of statistics made it difficult to describe the position exactly as to whether there are grounds to think that the war-time exemptions from the Factories Act have not achieved the results aimed at - increased production - or whether they have had any deleterious effect on the health of labour. It considered that there is no real lack of skilled labour in India, but desired that more training facilities should be provided, It also desired that arrangements for adequate maintenance of reliable statistics regarding industrial fatigue should be kept. The Federation was in favour of more frequent but smaller intervals of rest, but the A.I.T.U.C. and Mr. Nanda were opposed to this suggestion.

Views were also expressed by both sides on the several points raised in connection with the proposed amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Payment of Wages Act.

(From papers supplied to this Office by the Labour Department, Government of India, in connection with the 3rd Labour Ministers' Conference.) ✓

Action taken on the Recommendations of the First and Second Labour Ministers' Conference.

The following note summarises the action taken on the recommendations made by the First and Second Sessions of the Labour Ministers' Conference:

First Conference, 1940

- (1) Industrial Housing.- No specific all-India action was required on the part of the Government of India.
- (2) Delegation of powers to Provincial Governments regarding trade unions whose objects are not confined to one Province.- With the consent of the Provincial Governments, the functions in question were entrusted to them with effect from the 1st April, 1941.
- (3) Collection of Statistics concerning Labour and Industry.- The necessary legislation is under consideration in the Commerce Department.
- (4) Night Shift Work.- Some general discussion on this subject took place at the Conference on the basis of a memorandum

prepared by the Government of Bombay and the subject was left over for future consideration. Having regard to the recommendations on the subject contained in the Bombay Textile Labour Enquiry Committee's Report since published, it has been decided to bring the subject before the Third Conference of Labour Ministers for opinion mainly on the question of the necessity for Central Legislation, and if so, on the further questions regarding its scope and certain important details.

- (5) Amendment of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.- After consulting Provincial Governments as desired, a more comprehensive Memorandum has been prepared for discussion at the Third Conference of Labour Ministers.

First and Second Conference, 1940 and 1941.

- (6) Amendment of Section 5 of the Factories Act.- An Act on the subject has been passed by the Central Legislature.
- (7) Holidays with Pay.- In view of the importance of the subject, the Government of India considered that it would be useful to survey the existing practice of granting holidays with pay in factories and to collect full information, before proceeding with legislation. For this purpose they requested Provincial Governments to obtain statistical information with regard to holidays with pay actually granted in factories. The information received had been subjected to statistical scrutiny and it is proposed to place the matter again before the third Conference for opinion on both the questions in the light of the information obtained from Provinces and also on certain points of detail connected therewith.
- (8) Extension of legislation to labour employed in commercial establishments and shops.- A Bill on the subject was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 27th October 1941. Further stages of the Bill are proposed to be taken up in the Budget Session of the Indian Legislature.
- (9) Sickness Insurance.- While the statistical enquiry suggested by the Second Conference will take a long time, a tentative scheme has been drawn up in the memorandum for the Third Conference as a basis for discussion at the Conference.
- (10) Amendment of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929.- The necessary legislation is under consideration.
- (11) Recognition of Trade Unions.- The necessary legislation is under consideration.
- (12) Extension of Maternity Benefits to women employed in coal mines.- An Act, which is applicable to women employed in all mines, has been passed by the Central Legislature. Rules to be prescribed under the Act are under preparation.

(From papers sent to this Office by the Labour Department, Government of India, in connection with the 3rd Labour Ministers' Conference.) ✓

Legislation to regulate Child Labour in Inland Waterways and Technical Schools: Government of India considers Ratification of I.L. Convention re. Minimum Age (Industry).

The question of the ratification of the draft convention, fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment, adopted in 1937, specially in the matter of employment of children in inland waterways in the country, is reported to be engaging the attention of the Central Government. Legislation in connection with the employment of children in technical schools is also under consideration.

Employment in Inland Waterways.- When in April 1938 the Draft Convention re. Minimum Age (Industry) (Revised) was placed before the Central Legislature (vide pages 1 to 2 of our April 1938 report), it was stated that the possibility of ratifying the convention was under examination and that it was decided to ratify it, the necessary legislative proposals would be made in the Central Legislature. Since then the Employment of Children Act, 1938, and the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1940, which have a bearing on the provisions of the draft convention have been passed.

The Employment of Children Act, 1938, gives partial effect to Article 7 (3) of the Convention, as sec. 3 (2) of the Act requires that no child who has not completed his 15th year, shall be employed or permitted to work in any occupation involving the handling of goods within the limits of any port to which for the time being any of the provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1908, are applicable. As the draft convention is applicable also to the inland waterways which do not come within the scope of Section 3 (2) of the Employment of Children Act, 1938, the Government of India is now considering the necessary legislation for the purpose.

The Central Government has, it is understood, invited the views of the Provincial Governments as to the desirability of undertaking legislation to satisfy the requirements of the Convention as far as it is applicable to inland waterways in India.

Work in Technical Schools.- In order to bring the position in India in conformity with the requirements of Article 3 of the Convention, the Government of India has inquired of Provincial Governments whether the work done by children in technical schools is approved and supervised by public authority or not, and if not, whether the Provincial Governments have any objection to take necessary steps in this connexion to enable the ratification of the draft convention by India.

Ratification of the Convention.- The Central Government proposes to ratify the draft convention if the Provincial Governments already satisfy, or if they have no objection to take necessary action to satisfy the abovementioned provisions of the Convention.

(November 1941 issue of Labour Gazette,
Bombay.) ✓

Hours of Work and Weekly Rest.

Application of Punjab Trade Employees' Act to Delhi Province:
Delhi Municipality supports Proposal. ✓

Reference was made at page 4 of our July 1941 report to the proposal of the Delhi Provincial Administration to extend to the Province the Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940, or a similar statute from another Province. On 14-1-1942, the Delhi Municipal Committee resolved to ask the local Government to enforce the Punjab Trade Employees Act in Delhi with the amendments that (1) the age-limit of an employee should be 12 years, instead of 14 years, (2) 'closure' would mean the closing of premises for business transactions and 15 minutes would be allowed to serve a customer who was already in the shop at ~~the~~ closing time; and (3) medical leave on half pay would be granted up to one month.

(The Statesman, 15-1-1942). ✓

Improving Cost of Living Indices:
Conference convened by Government of India, New Delhi, 28-1-1942. ✓

A Conference of representatives of Provincial Governments (except those of the North-West Frontier Province and Orissa) and of economic and statistical experts was held under the auspices of the Labour Department of the Government of India at New Delhi on 28-1-1942, Mr. H.C. Prior, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour) presiding, to consider the methods of improving cost of living indices in the country. A brief summary of the proceedings is given below:

Discussions on Need for Uniform Indices.- Representatives of provinces other than Bombay, Bengal and Madras agreed to the preparation of indices on an uniform basis, and further that, if in consequence it became necessary to alter or discontinue the existing indices maintained at some places, the provincial Governments would be prepared to do so in the interests of having indices worked on a uniform basis. The representatives of Bombay and Madras stated that their existing indices being based on detailed family budget enquiries were reliable and were considered to be so by the interests concerned. Various wage agreements had already been based on these indices and any lack of continuity in those figures would be embarrassing; as also would be the publication of two different series of indices for the same place. The representative for Bengal stated that their present enquiries were more comprehensive and accurate than those contemplated in the tentative scheme and than those used in the Bombay and Madras schemes. Bengal would like to adhere to their own enquiries but would make available all the material which a central scheme would envisage.

Conclusions.- After considerable discussion, the Conference reached the following conclusions:-

(1) It is advisable to ensure uniformity of technique in the compilation of cost of living index numbers in the various Provinces.

(2) The proposal to prepare index figures on a uniform basis throughout India should therefore be proceeded with; but it was agreed that the new indices for Bombay and Madras would not be published or used in any way until the Governments of those Provinces agreed to their use.

(3) In the family budget enquiries that may be undertaken and in the collection of price data, the Central Government should, where the Provinces so desire, rely on Provincial staff but should maintain a co-ordinating and directing machinery.

(4) The details of the manner in which the index figures should be compiled would be decided by a Committee of Experts consisting of representatives of all Provinces who wished to be represented and such other experts as might be selected by the Government of India.

Note.- In the afternoon a preliminary meeting of experts was held to discuss methods of preparing indices).

(5) As regards expenses, the Government of India would contribute what had been promised in its circular letter on the need for improving cost of living indices to the Provinces (No. L1805 dated the 25th of October 1941), and Bombay and Madras representatives agreed to meet 50% of the provincial cost of preparing the new indices.

(6) As the preparation of uniform cost of living indices is likely to take some time, the question of compiling co-ordinated regional index numbers of retail prices of selected articles should be taken up with the Provinces as early as possible, as this might be of some value in wage disputes.

(From papers sent to this Office by the Labour Department, Government of India, in connection with the 3rd Labour Ministers' Conference.) ✓

Bonus for Berhampore Municipal Employees.

The Calcutta Gazette (Part I dated 15-1-1942, page 95) publishes the draft of certain rules proposed by the Berhampore Municipality (Murshidabad District) to grant a bonus to the menials employed in its water works. The rules empower the Municipal Commissioners to grant at their discretion at the close of every financial year to the menials, on approved service extending for not less than two years, bonus at the rate of one anna per rupee of salary drawn by each of such menials during such financial year, provided that no such menials shall be entitled to any bonus for any particular year unless they are actually in service in the waterworks at the close of such year.

"Menials" include drivers, assistant drivers, special oilers, oilers, khalasis, valvemmen, mistries, mechanics, fitters, turners, filter-attendants, chlorine-operators, black-smiths, hammermen and others employed in the municipal waterworks who do not contribute to the Municipal Provident Fund. ✓

Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers in certain Areas of Travancore state: Terms of Collective Agreement. ✓

Consequent on a labour dispute between agricultural workers in the low-lying paddy cultivation areas of Travancore State and agricultural employers on the question of wages, the following agreement was reached in the last week of January 1942 through Government mediation:

Adult male workers are to be paid 9 chakrams per day (about 5 annas: 1 anna = 1/4 chakrams (Travancore coin)); adult female workers 7 chakrams per day (about 4 annas); and adolescent workers 5 chakrams (about 3 annas). The hours of work were also fixed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an interval of one hour.

(The Hindu, 31-1-1942.) ✓

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Industrial Disputes

Industrial Disputes in British India during the quarter
ending 31-3-1941 ✓

According to a Press Note on industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 31-3-1941, recently issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of strikes during the period was 71 involving 25,945 workers and entailing a loss of 185,506 working days, as against 62 disputes involving 27,967 workers and entailing a loss of 243,508 working days in the last quarter of 1940.

Provincial Distribution.- During the period under review, there were 25 disputes in Bombay involving 14,096 workers and entailing a loss of 53,881 working days. Next come Bengal with 14 disputes involving 3,724 workers and entailing a loss of 17,052 working days; Madras with 11 disputes involving 2,467 workers and entailing a loss of 27,871 working days; the Punjab with 10 disputes involving 791 workers and entailing a loss of 4,779 working days; the United Provinces with 10 disputes involving 1,645 workers and entailing a loss of 4,327 working days; Bihar with 3 disputes involving 3,074 workers and entailing a loss of 75,306 working days and the Central Provinces and Berar, and Sind with 1 dispute each involving 60 and 88 workers and entailing losses of 1,674 and 616 working days respectively.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 50 disputes in cotton, woollen and silk mills involving 401 working workers and entailing a loss of 37,362 working days; 6 engineering workshops involving 3,548 workers and entailing a loss of 71,370 working days; and 1 each in jute mills and mines involving 1,018 workers and entailing losses of 112 and 7,890 working days respectively. In all other industries together, there were 33 disputes involving 25,945 workers and entailing a loss of 68,772 working days; there were no disputes in the railways, including railway workshops.

Causes and Results of Strikes.- Of the 71 strikes, 44 were due to questions of wages, 12 to those of personnel, 2 to disputes about leave and hours and 13 to other causes. In 13 disputes the workers were fully successful; in 23 partially successful and in 35 unsuccessful. 3 disputes were in progress on 31-3-1941. ✓

Curb on Strikes and Lock-outs:
Action under Defence of India Rules. ✓

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Defence of India Act, 1939, the Government of India has on 21-1-1942 gazetted an amendment to the Defence of India Rules so as to add a provision to curb industrial strikes and lockouts. The new section (81-A) is as follows:

"81A. Avoidance of strikes and lock-outs.-(1) If in the opinion of the Central Government it is necessary or expedient so to do for the purpose of ensuring the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of war, or for the purpose of maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community, the Central Government may, by general or special order, applying

generally or to any specific area, and to any undertaking or class of undertakings, make provision for all or any of the following matters, namely:-

- (a) prohibiting, subject to the provisions of the order, a strike or lock-out in connection with any trade dispute;
- (b) referring or authorizing the Provincial Government to refer, any trade dispute for conciliation or adjudication in the manner provided in the order;
- (c) requiring employers to observe such terms and conditions of employment as may be determined in accordance with the order to be, or to be not less favourable than, those existing in their respective undertakings at any time within three months preceding the date of the order;

any such order may contain such incidental and supplementary provisions as appear to the Central Government to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the order.

(2) Unless any such order makes express provision to the contrary, nothing therein shall affect the power to refer any trade dispute or matters connected therewith for report or settlement under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 (VII of 1929).

(3) Nothing in the Arbitration Act, 1940 (X of 1940), shall apply to any proceedings under any such order.

(4) If any person contravenes any of the provisions of this rule, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

(5) In this rule, the expression "undertaking" means any undertaking by way of trade or business, and the expression "employer", "lock-out", "strike", and "trade dispute" have the meaning respectively assigned to them in Section 2 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 (VII of 1929)."

(Notification No. 1204-SM/42 dated 21-1-1942: The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 21-1-1941, page 143.) ✓

In a Press Note issued by the Government of India on the addition of Section 81-A to the Defence of India Rules, it is explained that this step has been considered necessary as the number of disputes during the last two years in industry was affecting a large number of workers, involving unnecessary loss to them and reduction in essential war production. In many cases strikes were soon terminated after the conciliation machinery had been put in motion, and it is felt that if sufficient time is allowed for such machinery to function, strikes can be avoided with consequent benefit to industry, the workers employed therein and the country in general. The new rule gives authority to the Central Government to make general or special orders and these can be made to suit local requirements and this would enable the Government to issue orders providing, for instance, that no strike or lock-out shall be

egal unless reasonable notice has been given, during the period of conciliation or adjudication and also during some period following adjudication. Under the existing Trade Disputes Act, fourteen days' notice is already required in the case of public utility services and orders can also be passed requiring employers not to worsen the terms and conditions of employment. The existing machinery under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, is left unaffected by the amendment. + ✓

Industrial Disputes in British India during the
Quarter ending 30-6-1941. + ✓

According to a Press Note on industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 30-6-1941, recently issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of disputes during the period was 121 involving 64,475 workers and entailing a loss of 1,225,240 working days, as against 71 disputes involving 25,945 workers and entailing a loss of 185,506 working days in the first quarter of 1941.

Provincial Distribution.- During the period under review, there were 52 disputes in Bombay involving 21,451 workers and entailing a loss of 224,653 working days. Next come the Punjab with 28 disputes involving 4,055 workers and entailing a loss of 64,718 working days; Bengal with 18 disputes involving 12,808 workers and entailing a loss of 102,101 working days; the Central Provinces and Berar with 6 disputes involving 21,183 workers and entailing a loss of 808,313 working days; the United Provinces with 5 disputes involving 685 workers and entailing a loss of 2,314 working days; Assam with 4 disputes involving 1,679 workers and entailing a loss of 3,973 working days; Madras and Sind with 3 disputes each involving 589 and 312 workers and entailing losses of 13,148 and 2,698 working days respectively; and Bihar with 2 disputes involving 1,713 workers and entailing a loss of 3,322 working days.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 52 disputes in cotton, woollen and silk mills involving 57,871 workers and entailing a loss of 955,971 working days; 8 in engineering workshops involving 1,138 workers and entailing a loss of 12,520 working days; 3 in jute mills involving 9,429 workers and entailing a loss of 87,929 working days; and 1 each in railways (including railway workshops) and mines involving 400 and 213 workers and entailing losses of 1,600 and 322 working days respectively. In all other industries together, there were 56 disputes involving 15,424 workers and entailing a loss of 166,898 working days.

Causes and Results of Strikes.- Of the 121 strikes, 67 were due to questions of wages, 15 to those of personnel, 7 to disputes about leave and hours, and 32 to other causes. In 27 disputes the workers were fully successful; in 35 partially successful and in 59 unsuccessful. 8 disputes were in progress on 30-6-1941. + ✓

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Appointment of Labour Commissioner
in C.P. ✓

Accepting the recommendation of the Textile Labour Inquiry Committee which was presided over by Mr. Jayaratnam, I.C.S., the C.P. Government has appointed Mr. D.V. Rege, I.C.S., Registrar of Co-operative Societies, as Labour Commissioner for the province, in addition to his own duties. Mr. Rege will be assisted by Mr. R.D. Gour, who has been appointed Labour Officer. The question of strengthening the Labour Office on the technical and statistical side is still under consideration.

(The Statesman, 20-1-1942.) + ✓

Nagpur Textile Disputes. + ✓

Reference was made at pages 6 to 7 of our December 1941 report to the decisions of the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar and the recommendations of the C.P. and Berar Textile Labour Enquiry Committee and to the acceptance by most of the millowners of the decisions. The workers began to complain very soon that effect was not being given to these decisions by the employers and gave notice of a general strike to be started on 26-1-1942. A warning that Government does not intend to tolerate any hampering of production of textiles was issued on 17-1-1942 by the C.P. Government in a Press Note; it was also pointed out that "Government proposes to use its powers under the Defence of India Act and Rules to prevent avoidable stoppage of work in the textile industry in the province. Complaints or claims by any interest or party must first be laid before responsible officers of Government appointed for the purpose and they must have the required time to ensure a fair and peaceful settlement of the dispute before any party can be allowed to resort to action which may have the effect of stoppage of work."

On 25-1-1942 the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Central Provinces and the newly appointed Labour Commissioner of the province, Mr. Rege, met Mr. R.S. Ruikar, President, Textile Workers' Union and also of the Council of Action set up by the workers to conduct the strike. As a result of the meeting, Mr. Ruikar agreed to postpone the strike by a fortnight to give time to the Provincial Government to settle the grievances of the workers.

The Council of Action has protested against the Government's Press note threatening the use of the Defence of India Act in purely industrial disputes, as constituting a grave attack on the civil liberties of the workers and as tantamount to the adoption of fascist methods for suppression of workers' strikes.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18, 19 and
27-1-1942 and Hindustan Times, 18-1-1942.) + ✓

Rules regarding Leave, etc. for Municipal Employees in C.P. ✓

The Municipalities in the C.P. and Berar are beginning to adopt bye-laws relating to the leave facilities granted to their employees. The bye-laws recently adopted by the Notified Area Committee, Ballarpur, for example, make the following provisions:

Privilege Leave.- The amount of privilege leave earned by a notified area servant is one-eleventh part of the time during which he has been on duty without interruption, provided that no privilege leave can be earned by a person by duty performed while three months' such leave is due to him and that, whenever duty is interrupted, all claim to privilege leave earned theretofore is forfeited. The amount of privilege leave admissible at one time is limited to three months. Privilege leave is granted on full salary, except in the case of employees serving ~~in~~ in vacation departments.

Maternity Leave.- The president or vice-president of the notified area committee may grant maternity leave on fully pay for two weeks before the expected date of confinement and four weeks thereafter to any female sweeper holding a substantive appointment. The leave granted to a female sweeper who has not put in continuous active service for a period of six months prior to the date of her proceeding on leave shall be without pay.

Leave on Medical Certificate.- Leave on medical certificate may be granted for two and half years in all, but not more than one and half years at a time.

Casual Leave.- The notified area committee may grant casual leave of absence on account of sickness or urgent private affairs to any employee at any time for such period as it thinks fit, but not exceeding ten days in one calendar year. In exceptional circumstances, this period may be extended to fifteen days at the discretion of the president.

Extraordinary Leave.- Extraordinary leave may be granted to any servant in special circumstances - (a) when no other leave is by rule admissible, or (b) when other leave is admissible, but the notified area servant concerned applies in writing for the grant of extraordinary leave. Except in the case of an officer in permanent employ, the duration of extraordinary leave shall not exceed three months on any one occasion.

Conditions of Service.- All first appointments to service (other than menial service) under the notified area committee shall be on probation, and no person shall be confirmed in his first appointment until he has satisfied the president by probationary service for such period, not being less than six months, that he is fully qualified to hold such appointment.

Suspension, Dismissal, etc.- Any servant of the notified area committee, other than those whose appointment has been sanctioned by the Provincial Government may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, be fined, suspended, reduced, discharged, removed or dismissed provided that - (1) no fine shall be imposed upon any servant other than a menial servant and in no case shall a fine exceed one week's salary; (2) no notified area servant shall be removed or dismissed otherwise than on proof of dishonesty, repeated neglect or disobedience of orders,

continued inefficiency or any of any other circumstances by reasons of which the notified area committee is of opinion that his retention in service would be detrimental to the efficient administration of the notified area committee. No order of dismissal or removal or reduction shall be passed (other than an order based on facts which have led to his conviction in a criminal court) unless he has been informed in writing of the grounds on which it is proposed to take the above action and has been afforded an adequate opportunity of defending himself.

Age of Retirement.- No servant of the notified area committee may be retained in service after he attains the age of 55 years.

(Notification No. 311-93-M-XIII: dated 13-1-1942. The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part III, dated 16-1-1942, pages 105 to 106.)

Other Municipalities and Local Boards in the Central Provinces and Berar are adopting identical Rules to regulate conditions of work of their respective employees. ✓

Holidays with Pay for Jute Mill Workers:
6 days in the year from 1-1-1942. ✓

The Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, has recommended to its members that, with effect from 1-1-1942, holidays with pay for 6 days be given in a year for the labour force in the jute mills in Bengal. The holiday payment will be made in respect of certain important festivals named by the Association. All manual workers, whether employed on a daily or monthly rate of pay or working on piece rates, will be eligible for the benefit. The payment will be made to all those workers, permanent or budlis (substitutes), irrespective of the length of service, who were working in the mill on the working day previous to the holiday in respect of which payment is to be made. With regard to permanent workers who might be absent on that day, no payment will be made except to those who, with the consent of the management, were off work for reasons of sickness. In the case of fixed daily or monthly rates of pay, calculations of the benefit will present no difficulty. In regard to piece workers, the average daily rate of the week's earnings previous to that in which the holiday occurs will be taken to determine the rate of benefit. The amount will be added to the usual wages of the worker and paid at the usual time of payment.

It is understood that the Local Government has been approached with a view to obtain permission, under the Payment of Wages Act, to treat the holiday payment concession as an amenity and not as "wages".

(The Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 19-1-1942.) ✓

Control of Soap Factories in Municipal Areas in C.P. ✓

The municipalities in the Central Provinces are taking action to license and control soap-houses and factories in the various municipal areas in order to ensure public health.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part III, pages 114 to 115.) ✓

Control of Bidi Factories in Nagpur Municipal Area ✓

The Government of C.P. and Berar has gazetted draft bye-laws to license and control bidi factories within the municipal limits of Nagpur. Conditions of license include stipulations regarding sanitary arrangements, condition of flooring, walls, etc., of the factories, cleanliness of workers, etc.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part III, dated 16-1-1942, pages 110 to 111).

(In this connection attention may be drawn to the Bidi Industry Committee's Report and Recommendations issued recently; a summary of these was given at pages 20 to 23 of our November 1941 report.) ✓

Curtailement of Welfare Activities in Asansol. ✓

It is understood that the Asansol Mines Board of Health has under consideration a proposal to abolish by way of retrenchment many labour welfare activities which they have been maintaining for the last several years. A proposal is on foot to do away with the departments which dealt with the prevention and treatment of diseases like cholera, malaria, leprosy, etc., among the labourers in the coal-mines area. The public is understood to have protested against the curtailment of such activities.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 19-1-1942.) ✓

International Sugar Agreement:
Central Sugar Advisory Board against Renewal by India. ✓

At the first meeting of the Central Sugar Advisory Board held in New Delhi on 29-1-1942, with Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Minister, Government of India, in the chair, it is understood that the question of extension of the International Sugar Agreement expiring in August 1942 was considered and ^{that} the general view was against the continuance of such agreements.

It was felt that conditions were so fluid and uncertain during the period of the war that no such commitments should be entered into, and that, after the war, the Government of India would be in a better position to take all circumstances into consideration and enter into such agreements either with reference to sugar or any other commodity or manufactured article.

Licensing of New Factories. - With reference to the licensing of new factories, it was made clear that the system of licensing by Provincial and State Governments did not in itself involve any restriction of the growth of new factories, but a rationalisation by the units concerned of the location of the industry. The preliminary views of the members of the Board were ascertained, and the subject was left over for further consideration at the next meeting.

The meeting was attended by representatives of ^{the} Madras, Orissa, Bengal, Bihar, United Provinces and ~~the~~ Punjab Governments and representatives of Mysore, Bhopal, Rampur, Kapurthala, Hyderabad and Phaltna States.

(The Hindu, 30-1-1942.)

Indian public opinion has expressed itself strongly against the International Sugar Agreement. The following are extracts from an editorial article published in the Hindu dated 8-1-1942:

The Agreement under which India has undertaken not to export any sugar by sea to other countries, has acted like a millstone round the neck of the Indian sugar producer. Its adverse effects on the indigenous industry, especially after the outbreak of war, have been explorable. Not only those who invested money in the sugar factories, but also the sugarcane-growers, have been hit hard by the toppling down of the sugar prices as a result of foreign competition in the external markets and the absence of external markets..... The usefulness of that Agreement to India is at best doubtful, while the handicap it imposes is real. The freedom to expand is essential not only to secure immediate relief, but also to consolidate the industry. ✓

5th Session of Indian Statistical
Conference, Baroda, January 1942. ✓

The 5th session of the Indian Statistical Conference was held at Baroda in the first week of January 1942, under the presidentship of

Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya.

In his speech inaugurating the Conference, the Maharaja of Baroda said that in modern times statistics had come more to the front owing to the enlargement of the functions of the Government. Dealing with conditions in India, he said: "We require more accurate and fuller information regarding production by industry, internal and external trade and the yield and movement of capital with a view to planning out a policy of industrialisation. To re-plan agriculture, we should have more complete statistics of crops and subsidiary industries. The post-war reconstruction of our economic life will require the collection of data of varied types, and in that task the services of a body like yours will be of great help."

Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya, in his presidential address, pointed out that there was nothing mysterious or technical in this matter of the application of statistical principles to economic inquiries, and cited the example of the Ajmer-Merwara survey of some 706 inhabited villages by the new method. He also discussed at some length the great role played by statistics in the drawing up of crop forecasts and the annual valuation of crops. He regretted the lack of qualified staff primarily concerned with the collection of village statistics and the difficulties encountered in bringing about improvements in the machinery detailed for the purpose.

Work of Indian Statistical Institute.- Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, General Secretary of the Indian Statistical Institute, gave his annual review of the work of the Institute. The following are the main points brought out:-

The Statistical Laboratory acts as an all-India clearing house for statistical enquiries of all kinds which involve a great deal of laborious and prosaic, but useful, work in connection with agricultural field experiments, medical and public health studies, labour enquiries and various economic questions. The great advantages of sample surveys (the Institute has been taking special interest in developing the theory and technique of such surveys) have been pointed out in previous reviews. ~~The~~ A brief account of two or three of the more important lines of enquiry may be of general interest. The sample census of Jute in Bengal (undertaken by the Institute) conclusively establishes the possibility of using the sample survey on a large scale and at an expenditure commensurate with the utility of the results. Besides the ~~good-progress~~ Jute Census Scheme, the Institute has also made good progress with projects for improving the estimate of yield per acre of jute and paddy in Bengal, and wheat and sugarcane in the United Provinces. Work has been proceeding smoothly on the comprehensive enquiry relating to family budgets and other labour questions of Bengal which was started in 1940. A special effort is being made in this connection to standardise price quotations, so as to enable valid comparisons being made between the levels of living in different places at the same time, or at the same place at different periods of time. It is admittedly a difficult task, but considerable progress has been made.

The correct assessment of public opinion and public preference is a question of the greatest importance for the future of human civilisation. It is out of the question to try to ascertain the opinion of every single individual, and a sample survey offers the only possible line of advance. The Institute carried out several sample surveys among middle class Indian

families living in Calcutta. It has worked with a large variety of questions - political, social, religious and cultural - such as cinema versus radio, preferences in music, interests in astrology and palmistry and social questions. Education definitely fosters more liberal views and the proportion prepared to support unorthodox practices rises steadily from among non-matrices to undergraduates and graduates.

(The Times of India, 5-1-1942 and the Hindu 5-1-1942.)

Joint Session of Indian Economic and Indian Political
Science Conference, Bombay, 31-12-1941 to
3-1-1942.

The joint session of the Indian Economic Conference (Silver Jubilee session) and the Indian Political Conference (4th annual session) was held at Bombay from 31-12-1941 to 3-1-1942. Dr. J.P. Mody, University Professor of Economics, Calcutta, and Dr. V.S. Ram, Professor of Political Science, Lucknow University, presided over the two Conferences.

Sir P. Thakurdas's Inaugural Address. - In his address inaugurating the joint session, Sir P. Thakurdas, leading Indian businessman and economist, pointed out that but for the heroic resistance put up by Great Britain and the U.S.S.R., with material help from the U.S.A., the end of democracy and of all those ways of life which constitute civilisation would have been seen. There were many, he said, who were thinking of post-war conditions and how the world can settle down after the war, without the grave shocks which characterised the period after 1918. It was recognised that India could not reconcile herself after the war to the subordinate status of a mere dependency in the British Empire. Until, therefore, this one question was definitely settled, the work of economic regeneration in India could not be envisaged with anything approaching either clarity of thought or finality of results. Sir Purushotamdas criticised the industrial policy of Government and remarked that the pace of industrial production in India since the war broke out should be regarded more as a matter for admiration than for criticism, and if the productive

capacity of India did not come up to what her natural resources warranted, the blame must be sought in other quarters than in India; in any case not in the capacity and talent of the Indian, either the industrialist or the workman, to produce more. The result had not been by any means satisfactory in spite of the experience of the last war. It would not be satisfactory until India was allowed to manage her own affairs and Indian Ministers responsible to the Legislature were in charge of Commerce, Communications (including railways), and Finance Departments, at present cannot but be accepted without dissent.

Dr. J.P. Niyogi's Presidential Address.- In his presidential ~~speech~~ ^{address}, Dr. Niyogi stressed the need for an intensive study of analytical economics at the post-graduate stage in Indian Universities. Emphasising the value of co-operation between academic economics and industrialists and financiers, he suggested the establishment of provincial institutes of economic research. While emphasising the importance of analytical and qualitative thinking as an aid to practical policy, he ~~also~~ pointed out that there was a good deal of force in the contention "that there is a great paucity of statistical material in India, and that economists, politicians and administrators are often handicapped in their work due to such paucity". He said: "We have as yet no definite information as to the income of the ryot, his family budget and cost of living, survey of cottage industries or medium-size industries for the country as a whole, a census of production, the index of cost of living for areas other than urban, and the burden of taxation on different income groups. Quantitative analysis in these various fields must necessarily wait upon the gathering of relevant data." Analytical and statistical studies, the speaker said, could only yield ~~maximum~~ results, if contact was established between academic economists and industrialists, bankers and financiers, having knowledge of practical affairs. Too often these two classes of workers move in different worlds, there is an absence of that co-operation, discussion and friendly contact which is essential in the larger interest of the community as a whole. The establishment of the School of Business Administration as a part of the London School of Economics by ~~the~~ businessmen who provided the necessary financial support, and of the Oxford School of Business Research by Lord Nuffield were striking instances of the realisation of the idea of such co-operation between business and academic ~~economics~~ Economics. He suggested that each of the major provinces in British India should take upon itself the task of establishing a Provincial Institute of Economic Research.

Dr. V.S. Ram's Presidential Address.- The main theme of Dr. Ram's presidential address was that only by the establishment of an efficient organisation capable of upholding the law of nations can civilisation stand up against the ever advancing machinery of modern scientific warfare. The alternatives are world empire achieved by conquest, or some form of association, such as world federation, achieved by consent. All the lessons of human experience, especially of the League of Nations, point towards the necessity of an international organisation, which would reserve to itself the monopoly of the use of force and forbid any nation the right to use force for its own purposes. There is no alternative to the federation of all nations except endless war. No substitute for the Federation of the World can organise the international community on the basis of freedom and permanent peace. No nation should be

cluded from membership of the Federation of the World, that is willing to suppress its military, naval and air forces, retaining only constabulary sufficient to police its territory and to maintain order within its jurisdiction, provided that the eligible voters of that nation are permitted the free expression of their opinions at the polls.

(The Times of India and the Hindu, 1-1-1942.) ✓

Plea for Industrialisation of India:
Sir M. Visvesvaraya's 5-year plan costing Rs.10,000 millions. ✓

A strong plea that a programme of industrial development involving an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 millions or more in the next five years should be organised in this country was made by Sir M. Visvesvaraya, addressing a meeting of the Central Committee of the All-India Manufacturers Organisation at Bombay on 11-1-1942. He said: 'Nations are prosperous or the reverse according to the degree of attention they give to occupations connected with industries and commerce. In India, however, wherever attention is drawn to production, prominence is given to the products of agriculture, and industries are relegated to the background. This is opposed to the policies and practice pursued in western countries and in Japan, and is the chief cause of our low productive power and poverty of India'. Sir M. Visvesvaraya recalled how Australia and Canada had expanded their industries and built up a sturdy economic life in this war, and examined the schemes of the Government of India. He discussed the work of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Research Utilisation Committee and said: 'The public welcome research, but without any active policy of industrial development associated with it, more research looks like diagnosing the disease, without any intention of applying a remedy to the ~~patient~~ patient.' He pointed out that India is backward industrially on account of the practice of Government making purchases of machinery and plant from abroad and thereby depriving the business communities of this country of their rightful opportunities of gaining profit and practice in the manufacture of heavy capital goods, and also the labour population of acquiring skill and securing profitable employment. Concluding, he maintained that the least burdensome course to promote industrial life speedily was to ask each provincial Government to take up one or two heavy industries best suited to local conditions and hold that Government responsible for starting work on them within about 18 months' time.

(The Times of India, 13-1-1942.) ✓

Utilisation of Idle Money for Long-term Industrial undertakings: Plea by retiring President of Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay. ✓

Mr. M.C. Ghia, retiring President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, in the course of his speech at the annual general meeting of the Chamber held on 29-1-1942, put forward the suggestion that the Government should take a direct hand in initiating the

employment of moneys "going to cold storage" in long term industrial undertakings. He pointed out that deposits made by the public with scheduled banks had increased by over Rs. 950 millions since the beginning of the war and that thus there was a plethora of funds awaiting remunerative investment. He advocated a planned programme to utilise all this idle money.

(The Hindu, 30-1-1942.) ✓

Indian Workers in Ceylon:
Wage Increase and War Bonus under consideration. ✓

According to the Special New Delhi Correspondent of the Statesman, it is understood that the Ceylon Government will shortly revise the minimum wage paid to Indian labourers in that colony and that, in addition to an increase in the basic wage, there will also be granted war bonus linked with the price index. The scheme will benefit 79,000 labourers on the tea and rubber estates.

New Family Budget Enquiry Instituted.- The existing basis of wages as fixed on the calculations made in 1926 by Mr. Ranganathan regarding the family budget of Indian labourers. The Government of India have been asking for a revision of the budget on the grounds that there has been a change in price levels and also in the mode of living of labourers, and that wages should be fixed according to modern ideas of the standard of living. As a result of this representation, it has been decided by the Ceylon Government to make a fresh inquiry into the question of the family budget and to entrust the inquiry to an officer of the Government, Mr. Rajnayagam, Deputy Controller of Labour.

The total number of Indian workers on tea and rubber estates in Ceylon in 1939 was 205,134 men, 191,651 women and 62,744 children. This population was distributed as follows: 377,000 on up-country estates, 173,000 on mid-country, and 129,000 on low-country estates. Mr. Rajnayagam worked on the sampling method and took into account family budgets of 516 representing 0.3 per cent. of the total number of families. The families selected were 227 from up-country, 169 mid-country and 120 from low-country. The 516 families consisted of 1,464 persons of whom 1,511 were earners and the rest non-earning dependents.

Results of the Inquiry.- The inquiry revealed that the average number of working days per month was 24 for a male worker, 20 for a female and 22 for a child worker. A vast majority of families were found to contain two or three earning members per family. The total income per equivalent male is Rs. 12.43 per month in up-country, Rs. 11.87 in mid-country and Rs. 10.47 in low-country, giving an average for the whole area of Rs. 11.90. The average income of a family from wages and subsidiary sources is worked out at Rs. 36.30. The total expenditure worked out by Mr. Rajnayagam per equivalent male is Rs. 10.56 in up-country, Rs. 10.19 in mid-country, and Rs. 8.94 in low-country. He is satisfied that from the point of view of nutrition the Indian labourer's food is satisfactory. The result of Mr. Rajnayagam's inquiry has been subjected to a critical analysis by representatives of Indian labour in Ceylon and by the Government of India, and it is understood that a case for over five per cent. increase in the basic wage has been established. The present minimum wage of 54 cents per adult may thus be increased to 57 or 58 cents and, besides, the war bonus which has been in operation since March 1940 may be increased and linked to the price index..

(The Statesman, 28-1-1942.) ✓

Rural Development Problems in Bombay:
Governor's Speech Inaugurating the Meeting of the Provincial
Rural Development Board.

The Governor of Bombay, in inaugurating the meeting of the Provincial Rural Development Board, held at Bombay on 6-1-1942, referred to the more important of the rural problems of the province; a brief summary of the main points made out by the Governor is given below:-

Importance of Rural Development.- Almost nine-tenths of the population of Bombay Province is rural. The Indian village has withstood many shocks over the past five thousand years, and is perhaps better prepared for times of stress than similar units in more highly organised countries. But it is imperative that what can be done should be done, so as to give the villager the knowledge and the means to resist in the most effective manner whatever misfortunes time may bring. There has been no lack of enquiry into rural problems during the last half century by agencies of all description, official and non-official, amateur and professional. It is the view of the Government that all who have the welfare of the countryside at heart have useful and important roles to play, and that the maximum effort can be achieved by the organised co-operation of all agencies. This need for co-operation is the reason and the justification for a Provincial Rural Development Board.

The Board includes the heads of departments concerned with the improvement of village conditions, representatives of co-operative organisations and district rural development boards, and a number of non-official gentlemen who have already done much work for the benefit of the villager.

Transport Problems.- The problems which face the farmer are at all times difficult, but they are greater than ever to-day, and may well grow worse. Unprecedented transport difficulties exist at the present time. Defence and Supply requirements must get priority on the railways, so that there is an extreme shortage of wagons for moving agricultural produce. This position cannot be greatly remedied by road transport, as the war situation has made it necessary to ration petrol severely. Already difficulty is experienced in bringing gur and cotton to Bombay, and similar difficulties must be anticipated in the case of other commodities. The problem of transport is not wholly within the control of the Provincial Government. It would be foolish not to recognise that graver difficulties for the rural producer lie ahead. India has got to be prepared for a long war, and the long term view may point to the need for far-reaching adjustments in agricultural and village economy.

Post-War Problems.- Nor must one expect a return to normal life after the war. Many of the changes which the war will bring about may become permanent. In any event, trade and traffic dislocation will persist for a long time, and the need will arise for a co-ordinated plan of reconstruction. It is not too soon to begin, at once, a study of post-war problems. One has only to consider the problems which must result from the demobilization of the Army, and the sudden cessation of war industries, to get an idea of their extent and complexity.

(Press communiqué No. 15, dated 6-1-1942 of the Director of Information, Bombay.) ✓

Cotton Fund Ordinance, 1942:

Creation of Fund to help Cotton Grower. ✓

On 29-1-1942, the Governor-General promulgated an Ordinance to enable a fund to be established for financing measures for the benefit of the growers of cotton; it is pointed out that help has to be given to the growers of certain types of cotton which were exported in large quantities to the Far East before the outbreak of the present war with Japan. The Ordinance provides for the levy, in addition to "any duty of customs imposed by or under any enactment for the time being in force, an additional duty of customs on raw cotton imported into any port in British India at the rate of one anna per pound." The proceeds of the additional import duty imposed on raw cotton by this Ordinance is to be credited to a separate fund to be established by the Central Government, and the fund is to be utilised by the Central Government to finance such measures for the benefit of the growers of cotton in India as the Central Government thinks advisable.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated ~~28th~~ 29-1-1942, page 166.) ✓

Conditions of Indian Seamen in British Merchant Navy:
Sir Firozkhan Noon's Speech. ✓

Sir Firozkhan Noon, Labour Member of the Government of India, addressed a meeting of the Indian Seamen's Union at its headquarters at Calcutta on 3-1-1942. Mr. A.R. Siddiqi, President of the Moslem Chamber of Commerce, presided. The speakers included Mr. Aftab Ali, President of the Indian Seamen's Union, Mr. N.M. Joshi, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Mr. M.A. Khan of Lahore and Mr. Tajuddin of the Dockers' Union, Calcutta. The main points brought out in Sir Firozkhan Noon's speech, in the course of which he referred to the conditions of Indian seamen in the British merchant navy, are noticed below:-

Soon after the war started, the need for organising a Comforts Fund for Indian seamen in the British merchant navy was felt. Of the 150,000 seamen in the British merchant navy, nearly 40,000 are Indians, and ~~that~~ this showed how much Indian seamen have been contributing to British mercantile prosperity in ordinary times and how much they were contributing towards keeping open the sea lanes and feeding channels of England. By the end of 1941, nearly 96,000 knitted garments had been distributed free to shipwrecked Indian sailors when they arrived in England and they were received at the ports by representatives of the Fund and provided with clothes, comforts, and cigarettes, and taken to rest homes till their new ships were ready. Four lascar welfare officers have been appointed and these officers' duty is to listen to complaints of seamen and try and help them to get over their difficulties. He thanked the British shipping companies for their co-operation in this direction.

Dealing with the Indian political situation and Hindu-Muslim differences, he said that if ever there was peace among the two great peoples of this country, the Hindus and the Muslims, it will be through their working classes. He said that the great need of Indian labour was leaders who would give them the right guidance, and appealed for united, unstinted, war effort.

(The Statesman, 5-1-1942.) ✓

Indian Seamen's Home in Calcutta:
Viceroy lays Foundation Stone. *

On 3-1-1942 the Viceroy laid the foundation stone of the Indian Seamen's Home to be built at Calcutta. The Home, which will be the first of ~~xx~~ its kind in Calcutta, will have accommodation for 3,000 men in six houses, each accommodating 500. The buildings are estimated to cost at least Rs. 2.2 millions. The Government of India, the Government of Bengal and the Seamen's Welfare Association were contributing to the cost and the shipping companies were not only giving capital sums but had intimated that they were willing to be specially taxed if necessary for the provision and upkeep of the Home.

In a speech before laying the foundation stone, the Viceroy paid a tribute to Indian seamen and their work. He announced a grant of Rs. 300,000 from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund towards the provision of amenities in the Home.

(The Statesman, 4-1-1942.) ✓

War Pensions and Detention Allowances (Indian Seamen, etc.)
Scheme, 1941. ✓

The Minister of Pensions, Great Britain, made on 14-10-1941 the War Pensions and Detention Allowances (Indian Seamen, etc.) Scheme; a brief summary of the scheme is given below:-

Persons to whom the Scheme applies.-(1)The scheme applies to -

- (a) any person (not being a member of His Majesty's naval forces) who is employed or engaged in seagoing service as the master or a member of the crew of a British ship on terms and conditions which are customary, or are similar to those customary, in the case of an Indian recruited in India for seagoing service as the master or a member of the crew of such a ship; and
- (b) any person who is subject to the Naval Discipline Act by virtue of section 90 of that Act and is employed or engaged in seagoing service in a ship forming part of His Majesty's Navy in pursuance of such an engagement as is mentioned in the said section, being an engagement the terms and conditions of which are customary, or are similar to those customary, in the case of ~~an~~ an Indian recruited in India for seagoing service in such a ship in pursuance of such an engagement.

(2) This Scheme does not apply to any person who is employed or engaged as a member of the crew of a British ship (otherwise than as a wireless operator, apprentice or cadet) for no remuneration or nominal remuneration only.

Seamen coming under the scheme are divided into four classes. Class I consisting of those whose pre-war rate of pay was Rs. 60 or more per month; Class II, those whose rate of pay was from Rs. 40 to Rs. 59; Class III, those whose rate of pay was from Rs. 30 to Rs. 39; and Class IV, those whose rate of pay was less than Rs. 30.

Ascertainment of Degree of Disablement and Payment of Compensation.- The scheme provides for the ascertainment of the degree of disablement by medical officers. Where a seaman suffers disablement which is directly attributable to a war injury or to detention, there may be awarded to him in respect of that disablement a gratuity of an amount depending (1) upon the class to which he belongs, and (2) the degree of ~~disablement~~ disablement; the full amounts of compensation are: Rs. 5000 for Classes I and II, Rs. 4,000 for Class III and Rs. 3,000 for Class IV.

Awards of Special Allowance.- Where a seaman suffers disablement which is directly attributable to a war injury or to detention and it has not been determined whether an award in respect of that disablement is to be made under the above Scheme or what ^{the} amount of that award should be, there may be awarded to him in respect of that disablement a special allowance.

A special allowance may only be awarded if the seaman - (a) is unable by reason of the disablement to provide by his earnings for his own support and that of his family; and (b) is in need of treatment for the disablement. A special allowance shall be at the weekly rate of three shillings if the seaman is in the United Kingdom and two rupees in any other case. A special allowance shall not normally be paid after the expiration of the period of twelve months from the date of the war injury or of the end of the detention to which the disablement of the seaman is directly attributable.

Awards of Wives' and other Allowances.- In cases where conditions for the award of a special allowance exist in the case of a seaman who has a wife, there may be awarded in respect of the disablement of the seaman a wife's allowance not exceeding Rs. 3 to 6, the actual amount depending on the class to which the seaman belongs. Awards are also made to other dependants of seamen.

Other Awards.- The scheme also contains special provision for awards in respect of death ^{and} awards of detention allowances.

(Notification No. 275-M.II (21)/39-
War (1) dated 31-1-1942: The Gazette
of India, Part I, dated 31-1-1942, pages
215 to 221.) ✓ +

Compensation to Seamen (War Damage to Effects) Scheme, 1939. ✓

The Schemes made by the Board of Trade and the Minister of Shipping (now Minister of War Transport), respectively, regarding the payment of compensation to seamen for war damage to effects, have been extended to cover Indian seamen; the schemes thus extended are the Compensation to Seamen (War Damage to Effects) Scheme, 1939, dated September 5, 1939, made by the Board of Trade pursuant to Sections 6 and 7 of the Pensions (Navy, Army, Air Force and Mercantile Marine) Act, 1939 (2 & 3 Geo. 6.c.83), and the Compensation to Seamen (War Damage to Effects) Amendment Scheme, 1940, dated February 27, 1940, made by the Minister of Shipping pursuant to Sections 6 and 7 of the Pensions (Navy, Army, Air Force and Mercantile Marine) Act, 1939 (2 & 3 Geo. 6C.83).

(Notification No. 275-MII (21)/39-
War (ii) dated 31-1-1942: The Gazette
of India, Part I, dated 31-1-1942,
pages 221 to 223.) ✓ +

Control of Corruption and Bribery among Public Servants in Burma:
The Code of Criminal Procedure (First Amendment) Act, 1942. ✓

With a view to check corruption and bribery among public servants in Burma, the Code of Criminal Procedure Act has been amended. There is no section of the Penal Code which imposes a penalty for the payment of a bribe to a public servant, but the person who does so is guilty of abetment of the offence of receiving a bribe, and punishable in the same way as the receiver; and this holds good even though it may not have been actually accepted. As fear of prosecution deters many bribe-givers who would otherwise come forward with information against corrupt officers, the Bribery and Corruption Enquiry Committee suggested in paragraph 125 of its report that some measure of protection should be given to the bribe-giver who is the less guilty party to the transaction. The proposed legislation is intended to encourage the victims of corrupt officers to come forward and give evidence against them without fear of criminal liability.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III,
dated 17-1-1942, page 2.) ✓

Plight of Handloom Weavers due to Yarn Shortage:
Remedial Measures taken by Government of India. ✓

The question of ensuring a satisfactory supply of yarn to handloom weavers in India at reasonable prices ~~has~~ has been engaging the attention of the Government of India (It is estimated that India produces roughly 1,500 million pounds of yarn, of which 1,100 to 1,200 million is absorbed by the mill industry. The Government estimate the handloom industry's requirements at 350 million pounds, while non-officials estimate it at 250 millions. Other requirements, particularly for the Government and the Empire countries for export, etc., amount to over 150 million pounds. The Government thus estimate the yarn deficit at 170 to 200 million pounds).

Government's Letter to Millowners' Associations. - Prices of yarn in India, states a communication addressed recently by the Government to the various Millowners' Associations, ~~on the matter,~~ have registered a sharp advance in recent months. The extent of the rise as compared with the level of prices prevailing in the middle of August, 1939, has varied from 110 per cent. for certain countries to 250 per cent. for certain others. Evidence is accumulating to show that this sharp rise in prices is causing considerable distress to handloom weavers. The position has been rendered more acute by the fact that the advance in yarn prices has been accompanied by a serious shortage of mill yarn in certain weaving centres. Several handloom factories, it is alleged, have been forced to close down or to restrict their production as a result of these developments, thereby rendering a large number of weavers unemployed.

The Government regard the situation with considerable concern. With a view to encouraging production, they have already suggested to the Provincial Governments to exempt all cotton spinning and weaving mills from the provisions of Section 34 of the Factories Act so as to enable them to work 60 hours a week. They hope that the mills will take advantage of this measure by putting forth their maximum effort to expand the output of cotton yarn. As a further measure to increase the supply of yarn in the domestic market, the Government have decided to restrict forthwith exports of yarn to their pre-war normal. It is expected that this will have the effect of increasing the supply of yarn for home consumption by about 50 million lbs. The Government are also considering the suggestion of instituting an all-India control over the distribution of yarn for a satisfactory solution of the problem of yarn supply to handloom weavers and, for meeting war requirements, have invited the opinion of millowners' associations on the matter.

Decisions of Yarn Sub-Committee of Textile Panel. - The Yarn Sub-Committee of the Textile Panel met on 22-1-1942 with Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Government of India, in the chair. The meeting recommended that, in the first instance, a proper distribution of yarn to the various areas was necessary to any control scheme. It was recommended that a Yarn Commissioner be appointed at the centre, with whom should be associated an Advisory Board which would be the Yarn Sub-Committee of the Textile Panel. Provincial Governments would be recommended to license wholesale dealers in yarn. The meeting also discussed the basis of prices for yarn required for war purposes and arrived at an agreement under which the basic prices are to be revised every quarter in the light of fluctuations in certain costs.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-1-1942, and the Hindu, 24-1-1942.) ✓

LIVING CONDITIONS.

Housing

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Housing Conditions of Industrial Workers in Cawnpore:
Results of Enquiry. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 650 to 663 of the December 1941 issue of "Labour Bulletin" (Monthly publication of the Labour Department, U.P.) where is published an informative article summarising the findings of an enquiry conducted in 1938-39 into housing conditions of millworkers in Cawnpore City. ✓

Workers' Organisations.

Demands of Workers during War Time:
Resolution at Calcutta meeting attended by over 40,000. ✓

At a meeting attended by over 40,000 workers held at Calcutta on 1-1-1942, with Mr. V.R. Kalappa, President, A.I.T.U.C., in the chair, the following resolution regarding the concessions to be given to workers to counter-act the ~~adverse~~ adverse conditions brought about by the war was adopted:

This meeting urges employers and Government to concede the following urgent demands, in order both to afford facilities for work and provide economic relief, so as to counteract the adverse conditions brought about by war:

(1) 25 per cent. dearness allowance and effective price control; (2) adequate air raid protection for workers in factories; (3) two months' pay as advance and 15 days' leave with pay to remove the families of workers to safer places; (4) three months' pay, in the event of any employer closing down his factory, and fixing of the date of reopening; (5) allowance for unemployment and sickness and pension for old age; (6) free quarters, education and treatment for workers and their dependents; (7) Field service regulation for those whose services are declared essential; (8) withdrawal of restriction on all ~~meetings~~; (9) ~~release of detainees~~, including those in prison in connection with the Trade Union and Kisan Movement.

(The Trade Union Record, January 1942
issue.) ✓

All-Travancore Labour and Trade Union Organisation:

Travancore Government restrains activities. ✓

The Government of the Travancore State has in the last week of January 1942 issued a Press Communiqué defining its attitude to the formation of the ~~All-Travancore Labour and Trade Union Organisation~~ All-Travancore Labour and Trade Union Organisation and its activities; relevant extracts from the communiqué are reproduced below:

"Notwithstanding the specific warnings of Government as to the danger of mixing up political issues with problems arising out of the relations between capital and labour, persons connected with various labour unions in the State have been endeavouring to convert them into political bodies with political programmes. The Government also made it clear some months ago that it would be difficult for employers of labour to negotiate with Unions not exclusively concerned with the trades in which such employers are interested. The Government, therefore, deprecated the formation of an All-Travancore Labour Union Organisation and foresaw the difficulty that might arise if, at this juncture, the difficulties or grievances connected with one branch of industry were sought to be remedied by strikes or other demonstrations in a totally unconnected industry.

"In spite of the difficulties so pointed out, steps have been taken to form an All-Travancore Labour and Trade Union Organisation. The Government are satisfied that the large proportion of the labouring population is not in sympathy with such a departure. The Government have noted with concern that resolutions have been passed at the annual conference of the Travancore Coir Factories' Union affirming solidarity with the practically defunct Travancore State Congress and approving of the Red Flag and of the slogan 'Inquilab Zindabad' (i.e., 'long live Revolution'). They take strong exception to these resolutions.

"The Government have been very anxious that the relations between capital and labour at this period should be harmonious and friendly, especially as it is essential to stimulate war industries and augment production in war time. Although the Government would prefer that the employers and the employees should come together and settle their differences by mutual agreement, yet they have always been ready to mediate between them so as to arrange for higher wages and better living conditions for labour. But they cannot remain passive when such movements as those already indicated are taking place. ~~and, -reluctant as they are to take any action that might appear to involve a curtailment of labour's legitimate rights to voice their grievances and their proper demands; -in they propose~~

The Government of Travancore has taken action under the Defence of Travancore Act and prohibited certain left-wing labour leaders from participating in public meetings.

(The Hindu, 30-1-1942.) ✓

Delhi Shop Assistants' Conference, Delhi, 2-1-1942. *

The demands of the shop assistants of Delhi whose number is estimated at 50,000 were put forward at a well-attended conference held on 2-1-1942 at Delhi under the presidentship of Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A. (Punjab), President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee.

Several resolutions were passed at the Conference; the more important of them are briefly noticed below:

1. Representation in Delhi Municipal Committee.- The Conference urged upon the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, to consider immediately the desirability of giving the Shop Assistants' Federation, Delhi, which represented about 46,000 employees, two seats in the Delhi Municipal Committee so that their interests might be adequately safeguarded.

2. Shop Legislation.- The Conference viewed with regret the attitude of the local Government and the Municipal Committee in not enforcing in Delhi Province any Shop Assistants' Act.

3. Demands of Shop Assistants.- The following are the demands which the conference urged upon the shop keepers and Kothiwalas (Agents): (1) The Shop Assistants' Federation, Delhi, should be recognised as the representative organisation of the shop assistants of Delhi. (2) Fifty per cent. dearness allowance should be granted immediately because prices of ~~the~~ commodities have gone high due to the war. (3) Working

hours should be fixed at ~~a period of~~ nine hours per day during which at least one hour recess should be allowed. (4) Shops should remain closed for at least one day in a week, on which day employees should not directly or indirectly be required to attend ~~to~~ their duties. 5) Salary, pay or wages, etc., should be distributed in a lump sum on or before the day following the date of the expiry of each month. 6) One month's salary should be admissible after a year's service by way of bonus. (7) 15 days' privilege leave should be granted over and above the usual casual leave in a year. (8) One month's notice should be given by the employers in the event of termination of services of any employee, or salary for an equivalent period should be paid in lieu of notice. (9) There must be an explicit understanding that the workers may leave the shops at 8 p.m. under all circumstances. (10) Boys of less than 12 years of age should not be employed in any case. 11) Employees engaged for work in shops, etc., should not ~~be~~ be asked to perform any household work of the shop-keepers. (12) All gazetted holidays should be observed as complete holidays. (13) Due compensation must be granted to a worker in accordance with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, if he receives any serious injury while in service. He should in no case be deprived of the salary for the period he is unable to work in consequence of such injury. Medical treatment should be arranged by the employer at his own cost during the period.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-and the National
Call 4-1-1942.) ✓

Beggar Problem in Calcutta:
Measures to remove "Menace" Proposed. ✓

That the 5000 to 6000 beggars of Calcutta should temporarily be segregated in the city and later kept in a colony outside the city was the view expressed at a Conference of representatives of the Government of Bengal, the Calcutta Corporation and the more important public charitable institutions of the City held on 9-1-1942, with the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu, Minister for Health and Local Self-Government, Bengal, in the chair.

Following a general discussion on the matter, the Conference adopted a resolution demanding that a scheme on the lines of the Draft Vagrancy Bill, prepared by the Rotary Club, Calcutta, be put into effect at once with such modifications as might be found necessary to adapt it to the emergency war conditions. A Working Committee with the Hon'ble Mr. Basu and the Secretary to Government of Bengal dealing with A.R.P. matters as ex-officio Chairman and Secretary, respectively, was also appointed to formulate a definite scheme of relief.

(The Amrta Bazar Patrika, 11-1-1942.) ✓

4th Annual Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Health, Calcutta, 26 to 28-1-1942. ✓.

The Central Advisory Board of Health held its 4th Annual meeting at Calcutta from 26 to 28-1-1942 under the presidentship of Mr. N.R. Barker, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India. The Board considered several questions of importance; a brief summary of its decisions is given below:-

Leprosy Control in India.- The Board considered a report on "Leprosy and its control in India", submitted by the Committee appointed by it at its last meeting. While expressing its warm appreciation of the labours of voluntary institutions, particularly, Christian Missions, the Board supported the view originally expressed by the International Conference on Leprosy, Cairo, 1938, and reaffirmed by the Committee in their report that "voluntary organisations have in the past, and can in the future, aid greatly in anti-leprosy work. It should be emphasised, however, that the control of leprosy is the inescapable responsibility of the Government concerned." The Board emphasised the paramount importance of the prevention of infection of leprosy among children and considered that, in anti-leprosy propaganda, more use should be made of schools and of teachers' training institutions. The establishment of a Leprosy Institute of India by the Central Government was recommended by the Board. It maintained that there was great need for well-qualified medical men to work as provincial leprosy officers in the provinces in which the disease was common. An anti-leprosy ~~officers-in-the-provinces-in-which-the-disease-was-common~~ policy should be laid down, with reasonable financial provision. In particular, the policy should include the establishment of provincial sanatoria to act as the hub of anti-leprosy work in the province. The Board urged, supporting the view of the Committee, that the existing legislation for the control of leprosy in India had not been of much practical value and recommended that in any projected legislation certain principles, as defined in the Report should be followed.

Health of School Children.- The importance of all children attending school being given a mid-day meal, whether it was brought from their homes or provided at the school, was emphasised by the Board. The Board discussed the report of the Joint Committee appointed by it and the Central Advisory Board of Education on "the medical inspection of school children and the teaching of hygiene in schools". It endorsed the opinion of the Committee that satisfactory arrangements for medical inspection and treatment of students in schools formed an essential part of an efficient system of education and, as such, steps should be taken to ensure that children, both boys and girls, attending school were healthy and kept healthy. The Board agreed that any scheme for medical inspection without provision for treatment was of little or no use, while, in addition, any scheme of treatment should include the provision of supplementary nourishment for under-nourished children. The importance of hygienic school buildings and of a high standard of personal cleanliness on the part of teachers in promoting healthy habits among the children was emphasised. Commending the report of the Joint Committee for the consideration of Provincial Governments,

the Board stated that although there were difficulties in the way of giving effect at once to all the recommendations of the Committee, its view was that the problems could not be deferred indefinitely and that a beginning ought to be made now for its solution.

(The Hindu, 27 and 29-1-1942.) ✓

Revival of Literacy Campaign in Sind. ✓

The Government of Sind in its Resolution dated 26-5-1941 had appointed a Committee with a view to suggesting ways and means for the revival of Literacy Campaign aiming at adult education in Sind. Government, having considered the unanimous report submitted to it by the Committee, has passed certain orders on the subject, the salient features of which are summarised below:-

Selection of Area and Schools.- The areas selected for the revival of the literacy campaign should be rural and one taluka (sub-division) in each district should be taken as a unit for this purpose. In each taluka a maximum number of 40 adult centres should be opened in suitable villages including those already brought under the scheme of intensive rural reconstruction work. Such centres should have permanent night schools. The attendance at these schools should be subject to the conditions that - (1) learners of the age of 12 to 45 years only should be admitted to adult centres except at places where there are no other educational facilities; (2) no adult school should be opened unless the teacher can persuade at least 15 adults to attend the school regularly; and (3) no age-limit should be fixed in the case of women.

Appointment of Advisory Committees.- The entire control of the Campaign should rest with the Education Department, but with a view to co-ordinating the efforts of all the nation-building Departments and securing co-operation of the public, District Advisory Committees should be formed in each district. The functions of the Committee will be - (i) to stimulate general interest in the education of adults; (ii) to bring together and co-ordinate the efforts of all the existing organisations engaged in promotion of rural uplift; (iii) to collect and spend funds if necessary for publicity and propaganda purposes; and (iv) to undertake all such activities as may seem desirable for the furtherance of the cause of the campaign. The District Advisory Committees have the power to form Taluka Committees and sub-committees for the following purposes: (1) Propaganda Committee for propaganda and publicity; (2) Health Committee for teaching elementary rules of personal health and hygiene and village sanitation; (3) Supervision Committee for supervising the day to day work and maintaining the standard of efficiency.

Training of Staff.- The technique of teaching adults being different from that for ~~teaching~~ teaching children, Training Committees should be appointed to train the teaching staff recruited for this purpose.

Popularising Adult Education.- The following steps should be taken to popularise and enhance attendance at the adult centres:- (1) the heads of all Departments should be requested to ask their inferior staff who are illiterate to attend these centres; (2) the heads of the various nation-building departments should be requested to help and co-operate with the Education Department in the propaganda, planning, organisation and supervision work; and (3) the Assistant Commissioner, Rural Reconstruction Department, should be requested to concentrate his efforts, so far as his own Department is concerned, on the areas selected for the campaign.

Remuneration of Teachers.- The teachers will be paid a monthly allowance up to Rs. 10, provided the average daily attendance in their

schools is above 25. If the average daily strength in their schools falls below 25 in any particular month, the teachers' allowance will be reduced to Rs. 7-8-0 only per month. The Education Department is to hold periodical literacy tests and for those who were illiterate before and subsequently became literate, a bonus of Rs. 2 is to be paid to the teachers concerned.

(Press Note No. 383 dated 16-12-1941 issued by the Director of Information, Sind: The Sind Government Gazette, Part I, dated 1-1-1942, pages 11 to 13.) ✓

Annual Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education, Hyderabad, 13 to 15-1-1942. ✓

The annual meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education was held in Hyderabad (Deccan) from January 13 to 15, 1942, under the presidentship of Sir Maurice Gwyer, Chief Justice of India, in the absence of the chairman of the Board, Mr. N.R. Sarker, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. In addition to members nominated by the Government of India, representatives of the Council of State, the Central Legislative Assembly and the Inter-University Board were present.

One of the subjects considered by the Board was conditions of service of teachers and their training. The committee felt that as educational progress in all its stages depended on the efficiency of teachers, the question of the recruitment, training and conditions of service of teachers was one which required urgently to be explored. It accordingly set up a committee to consider the subject so far as it affected teachers in primary middle and high schools, with directions to report at the next meeting. The Board decided to accede to the request from the Government of Bombay to appoint a small committee to advise them with regard to the progress of the experiment in basic education in the Bombay Presidency. The committee considered a memorandum on the recruitment of educational officers and appointed a committee to report on the issues raised in the memorandum.

(The Statesman, 20-1-1942.) ✓

Wages

Increased War Dear Food Allowance in Cawnpore. ✓

In accordance with the undertaking given in the Notice dated 7th August, 1941 (vide pages 35 to 36 of our August 1941 Report), the Employers' Association of Northern India has now agreed to grant an extra dear food allowance ^{of one anna in 44 paise} in all categories and in industries included in the grant of August 1941. This additional increase is granted to cover a cost of living index figure up to and including 160 points on the following conditions: (a) that the average cost of living index figure for the preceding consecutive three months has exceeded 141 points; (b) that should the cost of living index figure fall below ~~12~~ 141 points for three consecutive months, this additional allowance will be automatically withdrawn; (c) that the allowance now announced will be paid on basic wages under conditions similar to those governing the War Dear Food Allowances granted in 1940 and previously in 1941; and (d) that this additional increase will be effective as from the 1st January, 1942.

(Circular No. 277 dated 2-1-1942 of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore). ✓ +

Dearness Allowance for Sugar Mill Workers in Gorakhpur:
Decision of Sugar Mills Association. ✓

The question of dearness allowance was considered at a meeting of the Indian Sugar Mills Association held on 4-1-1942, at Gorakhpur, and it was ^{decided} to pay dearness allowance at the rates given below:

(A) For salaries up to Rs. 12	3 annas per rupee
(B) For salaries from Rs. 13 to Rs.20	2 annas 6 pies per rupee
(C) For salaries from Rs. 21 to Rs.50	1 annas 6 pies per rupee
(D) For salaries from Rs. 51 to Rs. 100	1 anna per rupee
(E) For salaries from Rs. 101 to Rs. 150	9 pies per rupee

The meeting recommended that all the factories in the Gorakhpur Group should adopt this scale and start paying it not later than 1-1-1942.

(Labour Bulletin, Cawnpore, for January 1942, page 20.) ✓ +

Dearness Allowance to Workers in Jharia Coalfields.

The Committee of the Indian Mining Association has recommended that an additional allowance on the following scale should be paid to all employees with effect from the 1st January 1942: On earnings up to Rs. 24 per month - 12½ per cent; and on earnings in excess of Rs. 24 per month - Rs. 3 per month. It is recommended that these

allowances should be calculated on the basic pay prevailing on the 31st December 1939, on which pay the previous increments were recommended.

(Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, dated 26-1-1942.) ✓

Additional Dear Food Allowance to Textile Workers in Sholapur. ✓

It will be recalled that, following the award given by the Conciliator early in 1940, the textile workers in Sholapur were granted dear food allowance of one anna per head per day (See page 38 of our April 1940 report). This award was intended to cover variations between 74 and 85 in the cost-of-living index figure in Sholapur. As the index figure for the month of August, 1941, had risen above 85, the allowance was increased as follows with a view to provide for variations between 86 and 100 in the cost-of-living index number:-

- (a) from 86 to 92 - an additional anna - making in all 2 annas.
- (b) from 93 to 100 - an additional 3/4 anna - making in all 2 3/4 annas.

The grain allowance, based on the operative's attendance, is permanent feature in Sholapur.

(Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, dated 26-1-1942.) ✓

Employment

Motor Vehicles (Drivers) Ordinance, 1942. ✓

The Government of India has promulgated an Ordinance to provide for the requisitioning on behalf of Government of the services of persons capable of driving motor vehicles. The Ordinance directs Provincial Governments to prepare and maintain a register of motor drivers, with details of qualifications of the drivers. Provincial Governments are empowered to requisition the services of such drivers.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 27-1-1942.) ✓

National Service (Technical Personnel) Amendment Ordinance, 1942. ✓

On 29-1-1942, the Governor General promulgated an Ordinance to amend the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940.

Scope: Extension with regard to persons and factories.- The amending Ordinance extends the definition of "technical personnel" to cover such classes of apprentices and such Asiatic immigrants in British India from Asiatic territories as may be notified in the Official Gazette. The Ordinance also extends the definition of "industrial undertakings" so as to cover training establishments and industrial concerns engaged on designing, testing and installing. Aircraft undertakings have also been brought within the scope of the Ordinance. Formerly factories engaged on work of national importance were notified in the official Gazette. This is no longer possible and

ories may now be notified by order in writing.

Technical Inspectors.- Under the new Ordinance a quorum may be held at meetings of Tribunals without the presence of the chairman, a Tribunal may delegate to the chairman such of its powers as may be provided by the Central Government. Technical Inspectors are being appointed to work for the Tribunals, and Section 6 of the Ordinance has been amended so as to empower these Inspectors to enter factory premises and call for information. This power was formerly exercised only by members of Tribunals.

Extension of Training Facilities.- The new Ordinance gives Tribunals power to direct technical personnel to undertake employment in the National Service not only in notified factories but also in training establishments within their jurisdiction or in factories or technical posts under the Crown in any part of British India. It also gives Tribunals power to direct industrial undertakings to train men for employment in industry.

Other Changes: Extended Schedule of Occupations.- The Central Government have been empowered under the new Ordinance to require industrial undertakings to release technical personnel who wish to undertake employment in His Majesty's forces or in civilian posts outside India and to give such volunteers the right to reinstatement in their old jobs after the war. Under the original Ordinance, Tribunals had power to refuse permission to technical personnel to leave their employment. Tribunals are now empowered to lay down the terms of service under which persons, who have been refused permission to leave their employment, shall continue in their employment. Finally, a revised schedule containing 124 trades and occupations has been substituted for the old schedule containing 100 grades and occupations.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 29-1-1942, pages 157 to 164.) ✓

Industrial Disputes.

Curb on Strikes and Lock-outs:
Action under Defence of India Rules. ✓

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 2 of the Defence of India Act, 1939, the Government of India has, on 21-1-1942, gazetted an amendment to the Defence of India Rules so as to add a provision to curb industrial strikes and lock-outs. The contents of the new Section 2-A and its implications are given at pages 14-16 of this Report under the heading: "Industrial Disputes."

Price Control

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Control of Price of Foodstuffs:
Delhi and U. P. Measures. ✓

~~xxx~~ The District Magistrate, Delhi, has fixed the wholesale and retail prices of foodstuffs such as wheat, gram, barley, etc., charcoal, firewood and match boxes containing fifty and forty sticks. Prices of gram, bajra, barley, etc., will be fixed daily and those of meat, charcoal, firewood and match boxes will operate until modified later.

Wheat Control in U.P.- A Gazette Extraordinary issued on 8-1-1942 by the U.P. Government demands of persons holding more than two standard maunds (1 maund = 82 lbs.) of wheat flour to submit to the Wheat Commissioner for India, New Delhi, before January 31, 1942, a return stating: (1) The place or places where his stock of wheat or wheat flour is stored; (2) the quantity in a standard maund of wheat and wheat flour stored at each of these places; (3) the railway station nearest to each of these places; and (4) where any such stock is held on behalf of any purchaser residing outside the U.P. the name of such purchaser with allied particulars. Persons contravening these orders ~~shall~~ ^{will} be punishable under the Defence of India Rules with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with fine or both.

(The Times of India, 9-1-1942.) ✓

Control Measures.

Rice Rationing Scheme for Ceylon. ✓

The Ceylon Government is planning to introduce a scheme for rationing rice. A press communiqué on the subject issued by the Food Controller, Ceylon, in the third week of January suggests that as rationed rice is to be issued twice weekly, the Government and other employers of labour should adopt the system of weekly payment of wages. Other points made by the Food Controller were: No rice will be issued for domestic pets. Every child over three years of age will be entitled to the full ration. So far as Colombo is concerned no consumer will have to go more than half a mile to obtain his rice as the distributor assigned for supplying him has been selected on this basis. Coupons for rice rationing have already been distributed in Colombo as a preliminary to the introduction of rationing if that becomes necessary.

(The Statesman, 20-1-1942.) ✓

Standard Cloth for the poor:
Cotton Textile Panel's Decisions. ✓

The Cotton Textile Advisory Panel which met at New Delhi on 20-1-1942 under the chairmanship of the Commerce Member, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, came to agreed conclusions on questions relating to the production, distribution and sale of a standard type of cloth for the poorer classes.

In his opening speech, the Commerce Member pointed out that the scheme for standard cloth should be evolved and arrangements

in connexion therewith should be completed before a state of acute shortage of cloth arose, but that the actual time when the scheme should be put into operation would be decided in the light of circumstances then existing and after giving an opportunity to members of the panel to express their opinion on the subject.

The meeting appointed a sub-committee of the panel, with the addition of a number of technical advisers of the Commerce and Supply Departments, to study the types of standard cloth, namely, dhoties, saris and shirtings, which will be produced. A large proportion of this cloth will be of coarser counts and a very small percentage may be of higher counts, but the price will be the same for either category of cloth. Another sub-committee was formed consisting of some representatives of industry and representatives of the Commerce, Supply and Finance Departments to decide on the price of various types of standard cloth. The sub-committees are expected to meet shortly in Bombay.

The Advisory Panel was generally not in favour of the original proposal that millowners should themselves open retail shops for standard cloth in localities approved by the Central Government. What is understood to have found favour with the panel was the modified proposal that provincial Governments may license certain shops which will deal in standard cloth and, where possible, provincial Governments themselves may handle the sale of cloth direct to poorer sections of the community. It is understood that the question of the method of distribution of standard cloth will be finally decided by the Central Government after consulting representatives of provincial Governments when they attend the Price Control Conference early in February 1942.

(The Statesman, 21-1-1942.) ✓

Cotton Card Clothing and all Card Clothing Sundries Control Order, 1942. ✓

The Government of India has promulgated the Cotton Card Clothing and all Card Clothing Sundries Control Order, 1942, which prohibits the sale or other disposal of, purchase or other acquisition of, certain specified ~~xxx~~ articles connected with cotton ~~and~~ card clothing and Sundries.

(Notification No. 9 dated 7-1-1942: The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 7-1-1942, pages 73 to 74.) ✓

Further Restrictions on Unlicensed Sale of Iron and Steel. ✓

According to a Press Note issued by the Government of India, owing to tightness in the supply of iron and steel in India, the Government has reduced the quantities of the iron and steel items for free unlicensed sale. In future ~~xxx~~ unlicensed sale may be made only by stockholders, not by producers. The concession is intended only for private consumers, and Government Departments and Railways cannot acquire iron or steel under this notification; the intention is that the concession should be utilized for petty purchases for domestic use only.

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Government Departments and Railways and other public bodies will, therefore, have to obtain supplies in the normal way by application for licences to the appropriate authorities.

(The Statesman, 15-1-1942.) ✓

The Tar and Bitumen Control Order, 1942.

The Government of India has issued the Tar and Bitumen Control Order, 1942, on 31-1-1942, which requires the registration of producers and dealers in tar and bitumen, prohibits the disposal of stocks of these commodities without a proper licence for the purpose, and requires producers and dealers to submit fortnightly returns of stocks, shipments and estimated production.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 31-1-1942, pages 174 to 178.) ✓

The Newspaper Control Order, 1942. ✓

In view of the growing scarcity of newspapers, the Government of India has promulgated the Newspaper Control Order, 1942, whereby the price and size of newspapers have been fixed.

The order divides newspapers into three classes: Class A: page area ~~not less than 336 square inches~~; Class B: page area less than 336 square inches, but not less than 200 square inches; and Class C: page area less than 200 square inches. The prices fixed are: less than half anna for two pages of Class A, two pages of Class B and four pages of Class C; less than three quarters of an anna, but not less than half an anna for four, six and eight pages; less than one anna, but not less than three-quarters of an anna for six, eight and 12 pages; ~~less than one and a half anna~~, but not less than ~~one~~ ^{one and a half anna} for 12, 18 and 24 pages.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 29-1-1942, pages 154 to 156.) ✓

Amendment to Hotels and Lodging Houses Control Order, 1939.

The Government of India has on 15-1-1942 amended the Hotels and Lodging Houses Control Order, 1939, permitting the Controller to allow certain ~~para~~ percentage rise in the "fair rate of charges" for board and service to cover any general rise in the cost of living. The Amendment also provides that the charges for accommodation, board, servants' quarters, garage or any other service provided in an hotel or lodging house, shall not exceed the prevailing rates of charges for the same or similar facilities during the 12 months prior to the 1st September 1939, unless permission has been obtained from the Controller.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 17-1-1942, pages 169 to 170.) ✓

A.R.P. Measures in Cotton Mills:
Central Government's Directions. ✓

The following information about A.R.P. measures in cotton mills is taken from a note on the subject published in the printed Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during December 1941:

The question of adopting suitable A.R.P. measures in cotton mills has for some time past been engaging the attention of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay. A special sub-Committee was appointed for this purpose. This sub-Committee had before them Government's Blue Book entitled "A.R.P. in Factories" and the orders which appeared to have been served on certain mills by the Central and Provincial Governments regarding structural precautions, etc., but they found it difficult to ascertain the precise standard of protective measures which Government apparently considered should be maintained in various types of factories. In these circumstances, a representation was submitted to the Government of India, Department of Labour, early in December 1941 requesting a lead from Government on the following points:- "I. Whether trenches are to be provided; (b) If (a) is in the affirmative, what types of trenches would be approved by Government; (c) What provision factories which had no compound should make for the evacuation of their workmen. II. (a) Whether trailer pumps are to be an essential part of the fire-fighting service of these factories, and whether water tanks should be constructed as an independent source of supply of water; (b) Whether these trailer pumps would be made available, and when they would be made available. III. Whether all glazing in factories are to be protected by 1/2 inch mesh wire, or bearing in mind the fact that adequate supplies of 1/2 inch mesh wire are not available, only vital plant requires protection against flying glass. ~~III. Whether all glazing in factories are to be protected by 1/2 inch mesh wire, or bearing in mind the fact that adequate supplies~~ IV. Whether the vital parts of machinery should be protected against splinters by brickwork. V. Whether Government desire all North Light roofs to be rendered non-inflammable."

Need for adequate Protection of certain Population.- In this connection, the sub-Committee pointed out that compliance with requisition No. V would mean reconstruction of the entire roof. This proposition did not appear, in their opinion, to be very feasible. In the circumstances, they thought that the existing fire fighting equipment, including sprinklers and hydrants, coupled with the stirrup pumps and trailer pumps to be ordered out by the mills, would be sufficient to prevent a major conflagration. In this connection, Government were requested to give an indication as to whether, and if so, how cotton mills in England with North Light roofs tackled this problem. Government's attention was also drawn to the fact that however efficient and satisfactory A.R.P. measures in factories might be, they might fail to achieve the object in view, if the local authorities, e.g., the Government of Bombay and the Municipality in the case of Bombay City, failed to undertake measures to protect the civilian population. The worker's thoughts in an emergency were with his family, and if he was not assured that adequate measures existed for the protection of his wife and children in their homes,

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then, whatever measures might be taken by the mills to prevent a stampede and to ensure continuance of work might be of no avail because the worker would naturally try to leave the City for his up-country village.

Income-Tax Remission on A.R.P. Expenditure.- At the same time, on the suggestion of the sub-Committee, a circular was sent to all members of the Association recommending that, in view of the latest developments in the war situation, precautionary measures should be taken by mills on whom orders had already been served by the A.R.P. authorities or the Government of India, to protect their vital plants. It was suggested that after the work had been completed, a statement of the cost actually incurred by them should be submitted to the authority ordering the execution of the measures. On receipt of this statement, the authority ordering the measures would, it was pointed out, on being satisfied of the correctness of the statement certify the amount which should be treated as allowable revenue expenditure and the amount to be treated as capital expenditure, and the Income-tax Officers would treat such certificates as final for purposes of assessment. The amount certified by the A.R.P. authorities as allowable as revenue expenditure would then be an admissible deduction under Section 10 of the Indian Income-tax Act when computing the assessable profits or gains of the mill company concerned.

Government Directions re. A.R.P. Measures.- In reply to the specific points on which the Committee wanted a lead, the Government of India indicated that :-

I. (a) Trenches to be provided.

(b) One or other of the types laid down in Chapter II of "A Summary of air-raid Precautions Applied to Factories" copies of which have been supplied to the Association.

(c) Factories which have no compound and in the vicinity of which no land is available for the construction of trenches should endeavour as far as possible to provide protection for their employees on the ground floor of the factory by erecting shelters of type 'D' shown in "A Summary of air-raid Precautions Applied to Factories" and by erecting low walls about 4'-6" high constructed of 13/2 brick in cement masonry wherever it is possible to do so. (In the case of the walls, labour should be taught to sit behind them.) When all measures of this nature have been exhausted the balance of the labour should be taught to vacate the factory and take shelter in the houses nearest to the mill. The local Governments should also be approached with the request that they will requisition all available space, including roads not necessary for the movement of traffic, on which shelters can be erected or trenches dug.

II. (a) Trailer pumps are an essential part of the fire fighting service and water tanks must be constructed, as independent sources of supply of water.

(b) Government are arranging for the supply of these pumps. It is however not possible under present conditions to say when they are likely to be available.

III. All glazing in rooms containing vital machinery should be removed and the apertures bricked or boarded up until supplies of glass substitute are available. Wherever daylight is essential the glass should be replaced by fabric substitutes which can be obtained from the Indian Glass substitute Company, P.O. Baksar, District Meerut. Treated fabric glass substitutes have only a limited life, but they should last at least 3 months, probably longer, and thus fill the gap between the present emergency and the arrival of more permanent substitutes from abroad. All other glass should be removed wherever possible. Where it cannot be removed it should be protected by 1/2 inch wire mesh.

IV. All vital machinery should be protected by blast and splinter proof walls.

Note:- Vital machinery is plant which if damaged or destroyed is likely to hold up production for more than one month.

V. The method of dealing with this problem is still under consideration. No information is available as to how this problem was tackled in England, but it is doubtful whether there are roofs of this type in England." ✓

A.R.P. Organisation in Cotton Mills:
Scheme framed by Millowners' Association, Bombay. ✓

The question of A.R.P. measures in cotton mills was, in December 1941, discussed by a special sub-Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, with the A.R.P. authorities, and a scheme for A.R.P., particularly in connection with the organisation and equipment of A.R.P. personnel in cotton mills, was framed. The main features of the scheme are given below:-

A.R.P. Organisation.- Briefly stated, the scheme proposed that the entire A.R.P. organisation of a mill should be under the control of the "Company A.R.P. Officer." A Company A.R.P. Officer was necessary only in the case of a company owning two or more mills and was to be done away with where only one mill was concerned. The Officer next to him was to be the "Chief Mill A.R.P. Officer", who might be either the Mill Manager or the Mill Engineer. The Chief Mill A.R.P. Officer was to be assisted by an "Assistant Chief Mill A.R.P. Officer" who might be the Assistant Mill Manager or the Assistant Mill Engineer. The sub-Committee considered it necessary to provide an Assistant to the Chief Mill A.R.P. Officer, for the reason that that would ensure the presence of either the Chief Mill A.R.P. Officer or the Assistant Chief Mill A.R.P. Officer in the mill in an emergency.

Main A.R.P. Activities.- The principal A.R.P. activities of a mill were divided into four broad heads, viz., (a) First Aid, (b) Fire Fighting, (c) Rescue and (d) Evacuation. The Mill First Aid Officer and the Assistant First Aid Officer should be assisted by first aid parties consisting of trained persons. Similarly the fire fighting, rescue and evacuation services should be directly controlled by the respective officers and each branch should have its own trained

ersonnel to do the various duties allocated to them. As regards the composition of each branch of A.R.P. workers, these numbers would depend upon the size of the mill, but the following basis was suggested as a rough guide:-

First Aid.- Each First Aid Party should consist of 4 men, one of whom should be a leader, one an assistant, and both should be trained in first aid; and the remaining 2 should be stretcher bearers. There should be one such party for every 250 workers both day and night.

Fire Fighting: (a) Hydrants.- There should be 24 men with one leader. At least three men should be provided for every Hydrant that could be worked simultaneously.

(b) Stirrup Pumps and Fire Watchers.- There should be one leader for every 21 men, that is to say one leader for 7 Stirrup Pumps, each stirrup Pump requiring three people to handle it. The Stirrup Pump personnel should be so spread out as to ensure the allocation of one leader for each main department.

Payment to staff engaged on special A.R.P. Work.- To create interest in the work and to procure the right type of men, the sub-committee suggested that the leaders and men recruited for each branch of service should be remunerated at the rate of annas 12 per parade in the case of skilled men and annas 4 per parade in the case of unskilled operatives, the remuneration being payable only if the candidates attended the training and parade, and passed the test.

The suggestions made by the sub-Committee were approved by the General Committee, and all members mills were recommended that, in view of the developments in the war situation, action on the lines indicated by the sub-Committee should be taken without delay.

(Extracted from Excerpts of the Proceedings of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during December, 1941.)✓

Indian Merchant Shipping (Fire Appliances) Rules, 1942.✓

Owing to the increased danger to ships plying in Indian waters, the Government of India consider it necessary that ships should be equipped with additional fire-fighting appliances so as to be able to cope with any outbreak of fire which may be caused by enemy action, or otherwise, says a Press Note. They have, accordingly, issued a set of rules called the Indian Merchant Shipping (Fire Appliances) Rules, 1942, on the subject. These rules are supplemental to the Indian Merchant Shipping (Fire Appliances) Rules, 1934, and will be in force for the duration of the war and for six months thereafter.

(The Statesman, 6-1-1942.)✓

Insurance

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Insurance in War Time: Meeting of Federation of Insurance Companies, New Delhi, 17-1-1942. ✓

At the session of the Federation of Indian Insurance Companies held on 17-1-1942 at New Delhi, Mr. M.N. Seth presiding, resolutions were adopted suggesting to insurance companies in India ~~to be of service to~~ ^{the continuation of the vital} their policy-holders, especially during war time.

The Federation reiterated its view that the provisions of Section 7 of the Insurance Act were being misinterpreted by the authorities, and appealed to the Government to revise their policy of forcing Indian Insurance Companies to invest large amounts in Government Securities. The Federation resolved that it was necessary to conserve the resources of industrial and commercial concerns during the present period, and recommended suitable emergency legislation in the matter of suspension of payment of bonus to policy-holders during war. Other resolutions related to the provisions and administration of the Insurance Act of 1938. The Federation also appealed to the Government of India, in view of the present situation, to devise a scheme in consultation and co-operation with Indian insurance interests to render assistance to victims of air raids, etc.

(The Hindu, 30-1-1942.) ✓

War Risk Insurance

War Risks (Goods) Insurance Rules, 1942. ✓

Reference was made at page 34 of our August 1940 report to the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance and the Rules made under it. On supersession of the previous Rules published on 14-9-1940 (vide pages 1316 to 1322 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 4-9-1940), the Government of India has published new Rules at pages 207 to 214 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 31-1-1942.

War Risks. - For the purposes of the Ordinance and the Rules, the following are to be war risks, namely, the risks of (a) damage occurring (whether accidentally or not) as the direct result of action taken by the enemy, or action taken in combating the enemy or in repelling an imagined attack by the enemy; (b) damage occurring (whether accidentally or not) as the direct result of measures taken under proper authority to avoid the spreading of, or otherwise to mitigate, the consequences of such damage as aforesaid; (c) accidental damage occurring as the direct result (i) of any precautionary or preparatory measures taken under proper authority with a view to preventing or hindering the carrying out of any attack by the enemy; or (ii) of precautionary or preparatory measures involving the doing of work on land and taken under proper authority in any way in anticipation of enemy action, being in either case, measures involving a substantial degree of risk to property. ✓

Assistance to Mills on War Work:
Demands of Cotton Textile Mills. ✓

At the all-India Conference of textile interests, convened by the Department of Supply, Government of India in September (vide pages 9-50 of September 1941 report of this Office), the representatives of the mill industry as a whole put forward the following, among other, suggestions for giving some assistance to cotton mills which were engaged on war work:-

(a) that out of the proceeds of the Excess Profits Tax realised by Government some relief might be given to the cotton mills either in the form of a rebate to mills executing Government orders or in the form of contributions towards purchase of machinery required by mills or ~~replacing~~ replacement of ~~that worn out~~ worn out on account of working extra shifts or hours; (b) that the rate of depreciation to be allowed in the case of mills working more than one shift should be proportionately higher; and (c) that expenditure incurred by mills engaged on Government work on alterations to plant, etc., with a view to execute Government orders should be allowed for ~~purpose of~~ income-tax and excess profits tax.

Government of India's Reply.- In a reply received towards the end of November, 1941, ~~from~~ the Government of India (Department of Supply), indicated that they were unable to accept the first suggestion. ~~s regards the second point, they were prepared to consider the question of fixing rates of depreciation corresponding to the life of the assets on particular conditions and circumstances in which they were used, provided that such claims were supported by reliable evidence as to the life of the assets. Regarding the third point, Government accepted the suggestion, and the following press note was subsequently issued by them:~~ "The Central Board of Revenue have issued instructions that in the case of textile mills, the cost of alterations to plant or machinery - required with a view to fulfilling orders placed by the Supply Department - will be allowed as a deduction for the purpose of income-tax and excess profits tax in the year in which it is incurred. The cost of realteration of plant or machinery to its original form, when these mills have ceased to ~~x~~ fulfill Supply Department orders, will also be allowed as a revenue expense. Mills which have already altered their plant or machinery will also be eligible for the concession."

The Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, had taken up the question of the cost of alterations made to their plant by textile mills in order to fulfil Supply Department orders being allowed as a revenue expense for the purpose of income-tax, super-tax and excess profits tax, and extra depreciation for abnormal user with the Central Board of Revenue, Government of India. What the Committee had urged in this representation was that the concession granted by Government in regard to expenditure incurred by mills engaged on war works on alterations to plant, etc., did not go far enough and that sufficient safeguards should be provided to ensure that the cost of reconversion was allowed in the last chargeable accounting period, if, incurred, say, within 12 months thereafter. Suggestions were also made for the grant of extra depreciation allowance for abnormal user occasioned by (a) running of machinery at abnormal speeds, (b) working double shifts of ten hours each instead of nine hours and treble shifts, and (c) working on heavier sorts for which the plant was not originally designed.

While the reply from the Department of Supply partly answered some of the points raised in the representation, the Committee felt that it did not by itself constitute an answer to the representation. In these circumstances, they preferred to wait for an official reply before taking up the matter further with Government. In the meantime, however, a copy of the representation to the Central Board of Revenue was forwarded to the Department of Supply drawing their special attention to the points made by the Association in these matters.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during December, 1941.) ✓

War Savings

All-India National Savings Conference, New Delhi, 17-1-1942. ✓

An All-India Conference on national savings was held at New Delhi on 17-1-1942. The Conference was attended by representatives of the provinces, the Provincial Defence Loans Committees and the States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda and Jaipur, as well as by the heads of the Government of India Departments concerned.

The necessity of national savings to combat inflationary tendencies and to safeguard the economic stability of the country was emphasized by Sir Jeremy Raisman, in his opening address. The Conference discussed measures for furthering the savings movement, which is already in existence in the provinces and States. In particular, it considered whether any improvements were called for in the existing facilities for investment or in the methods of advertising these. It was generally agreed that it was only by personal approach and sustained personal encouragement that any marked increase in the volume of small savings could be hoped for. It was, therefore, recognised that the activities of local committees should be developed in this direction.

(The Statesman, 20-1-1942.) ✓

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Air Raid Relief

Temporary Relief Measures in Madras for Air-raid Victims. ✓

A scheme has been drawn up by the Government of Madras to give temporary relief to persons who may be rendered homeless by enemy attacks on Madras City. Twenty-five Rest Centres have been selected for this purpose, spread over the whole of Madras City; the location of one or more additional centres just outside Madras City is under consideration. These centres are located in Government, Corporation or private school buildings and public or private institutions or buildings and in choultries (rest houses). In these Centres, relief will be given to persons rendered homeless for a period not exceeding 7 days, by the end of which time they should be in a position to arrange for their ~~temporary~~ permanent shelter, or to repair their damaged residences for rehabilitation. Admission to the Rest Centres will be by means of tickets which will be distributed to deserving cases by A.R.P. wardens.

The Government will meet all expenditure connected with the Rest Centres and they have made arrangements, with the co-operation of various organisations, for the provision of food. In some cases private organisations have undertaken feeding arrangements, while in other cases foodstuffs, etc., will be supplied by Government through retail depots established in the City. The work in each Rest Centre will be managed by Supervisor assisted by Assistant Supervisors. These officers will always be present in the Centres. Their duty, in addition to the management of the Centres, will be to see to the needs of the refugees. Provision has also been made for the supply of milk to children, and clothing will be supplied to those who are in need of it.

In most of the Rest Centres, Salvage Depots will be opened for the storage of salvaged property and arrangements have been made for the proper supervision of these Depots.

(Press Note dated 15-1-1942 issued by
the Government of Madras.) ✓

List of the more important publications received in this office during
January 1942. ✓

Conditions of Work.-

- 1) Report of the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee, Vol. IV; ~~Rax~~
part A (Oral Evidence by the Officials);
part B (Oral Evidence by the Employers and their Associations); and
Part C (Oral Evidence tendered before the Committee by Employees
and their organisations).
Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941.
- 2) Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Punjab
for the year 1940. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government
Printing, Punjab, Lahore. 1941. Price Re. 0-6-0.

Economic Conditions.-

Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India.
Annual Statement of the Sea-Borne Trade of British India with
the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the fiscal year
ending 31st March, 1940. Vol. I. Imports, Exports and Re-exports
of private merchandise and Government Stores and Imports and
Exports of Treasure. Published by the Manager of Publications,
Delhi. 1941. Price Rs. 20-14-0, or 32s.

Culture.-

~~Agricultural Statistics of India, 1937-38. Vol. II. Area,
Classification of Area, Area under Irrigation, Area under Crops,
Live-stock, and Land Revenue Assessment in certain Indian States.
Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941.
Price Rs. 4-14-0 or 7s.9d.~~

Organisation, Congresses, etc.

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926,
in the District of Ajmer-Merwara for the year 1940-41.

Labour Policy in War Time.-

~~Government of India. Court of Enquiry Constituted under the
Trade Disputes Act, 1929, to investigate the question of Dearness
allowance for railway employees. Vol. I - Report published by
the Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1941. Price 12 annas or 1s.~~

Miscellaneous.-

- 1) Neo-Guildism for India by K.J. Jacob, M.A., M.Litt., Research
Fellow, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Madras
University, Madras. (Pamphlet).
- 2) Rights of the workers, by K.J. Jacob, M.A., M.Litt., Research
Fellow, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Madras
University, Madras. (Pamphlet). ✓