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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
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Industrial and Labour Developments in September, 1944.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Bombay :

Draft Industrial Disputes Amendment Bill.

The draft of a Bill to amend the Bombay Industrial Disputes ~~Amendment Bill~~ ^{Act} has been gazetted. The statement of objects and reasons points out that there is no provision in the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, under which it would be possible for the Labour Officer to hold for any of the purposes of the Act meetings in the mill compounds if the mill owners object to permit the use of their premises for the meetings. It is proposed therefore to amend the Act to give powers to the Labour Officer to do so and to require the employer to post notices of such meetings at such places on the premises as he may order.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 25-9-1944, Part V, pages 19-20).

Cochin State :

The Cochin Employers' Liability Bill.

The Government of Cochin has gazetted on 19-9-1944, the Cochin Employers' Liability Bill, for general information. The Bill is on the lines of the Employers' Liability Act, 1938 (Act XXIV of 1938) of British India.

(Indian Labour Gazette, September, 1944).

Junawada State :

Factories Act adopted.

At the two-day session of the Praja Pratinidhi Sabha (the Legislative Assembly) of the Junawada State which began on 10-9-1944, a Factories Act was adopted. (Copies of the Act have been asked for, and when received will be sent to Montreal).

(The Times of India, 19-9-1944).

Travancore State :

The Travancore Trade Boards Bill.

The Government of Travancore has recently published the Travancore Trade Boards Bill which provides ~~the~~ for the establishment of trade boards in such trades or branches of ~~work in~~ trades as Government may from time to time direct. The boards will report on any matter referred to them by Government with reference to the industrial conditions of the trade or class of trades for which they are formed, as also ~~to~~ fix a minimum rate of wages.

The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that the Board constituted by Government ^{to} ~~to~~ enquire into and investigate the conditions of labour in the State with a view to settling disputes on a conciliation basis, in their report, have recommended to Government the desirability of fixing minimum wages with the assistance of a wage-fixing machinery constituted on a statutory basis and functioning on the lines of the British Trade Boards.

The Bill, though drawn largely on the lines of the British Trade Board Acts of 1909 and 1918, contains a few additional provisions. The main feature of the Bill is that it provides for the establishment and constitution of Trade Boards for those trades to which the Bill applies and the introduction of minimum rates of wages for workers engaged in such trades. The trade boards will be constituted by the Government and will consist of five members nominated by it, two members representing employers and two representing the workers in ~~that~~ trade. The Chairman of the board will be an officer of the Government. The board has power to fix minimum rates of wages for workers both on time-work basis and on piece-work basis. Different rates may be fixed for different trades and for different classes of workers. They have also power, on their own initiative or on ~~the~~ application made to them, to cancel or vary any minimum rate fixed by them. The rates fixed, varied or cancelled by the board will take effect only on confirmation by the Government. An employer who does not pay wages in accordance with the minimum rates shall be liable on conviction to a fine which may extend to Rs. 200. Agents of the employer or other persons are equally liable to be proceeded against for ~~the~~ offences for which an employer is liable.

(Indian Labour Gazette, September, 1944).

The Travancore Maternity Benefit Act,
1118 M.E. and Rules there under.

The Travancore Maternity Benefit Act, 1118 M.E. (Act XIX of 1118) was promulgated by the State Government on 8-6-1944 and published at pages 1 to 4 of the Supplement to the Travancore Government Gazette, dated 8-6-1944. The Rules under the Act was gazetted on 22-8-1944.

(Indian Labour Gazette, September, 1944).

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SOCIAL POLICY.

Further Items on Agenda of 6th Plenary
Labour Conference.

Reference was made at pages 2 to 5 of our August 1944 report to a few of the items on the agenda of the 6th Plenary Labour Conference (Third Tripartite Conference) on 27 and 28-10-1944 at New Delhi. It is now known that besides compulsory insurance of liability under Workmen's Compensation Act and minimum wages, the following subjects will also be discussed: (1) Organisation of Employment in the Transition from War to Peace; (2) Revision of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929; and (3) Participation of State in Sickness Insurance Scheme for Industrial Labour in India.

I. Organisation of Employment.- The Government of India desires the advice of the Conference on the recommendation of the I.L. Conference on the subject, in connection with the adoption of post-war policies and plans. Some preliminary examination of the recommendation has been made by the Government Secretariat and the following brief comments are made in regard to the general principles, to what is being done in regard to them, and to serve as a basis for discussion.

General Principle I: The action already taken by Government is:-

(i) An enquiry has been made by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department ~~asking for information~~ regarding variations in the numbers of workers likely to occur after the war. The response has not been very satisfactory.

(ii) The Technical Branch of the Labour Department has taken the following action in connection with the problem of resettlement of technical personnel:- (a) Chairmen of National Service Labour Tribunals have recently begun to obtain half-yearly returns of technical personnel employed and the probable increase or decrease in their number during the half-year following that to which the return relates. The industrial undertakings from which these returns are required are those which are likely to discharge large numbers of technical personnel at the end of war, viz., Ordnance and Munitions factories, Arsenal and Ordnance depots, shipyards and dock workshops, railway workshops and engineering works, while the Chairmen have been given discretion to include other undertakings. Figures will be furnished according to grades and provisional occupational classification prepared in the Department. From these returns it should be possible to know each half-year the increase or decrease under each category as compared with the preceding half-year, and also the estimated increase or decrease in the following half-year, and so gauge the trend of employment and the fluctuations in demand for technical personnel. The first returns are now coming in. (b) A questionnaire was issued in June 1944 to Provincial Governments, Indian States and the Departments of the Government of India, asking for particulars of important projects of post-war reconstruction, the approximate dates on which these projects were likely to be taken in hand, the probable duration of work, the types of technical personnel required for each project, the approximate numbers under each category in accordance with the provisional occupational classification—vide (a) above, and the extent to which technical personnel will have to be recruited from outside the Province. The information received in reply to this questionnaire should prove extremely valuable in gauging the requirements of technical personnel in the immediate post-war period. Replies to the questionnaire are due by October. (iii) General enquiries are being made regarding the possibilities of increased employment in public works.

General Principle II: A strong organization has been set up by the War Department to plan demobilisation of the Armed Forces. The action taken in regard to demobilisation is summarised below: (a) Regulations for the demobilisation of the Indian Army have been prepared. (b) The basis of the scheme is demobilisation by units but provision has also been made for release of individuals. (c) There is in preparation a card index for every person enrolled or enlisted into the Indian Army on which information required to enable him to obtain employment is being recorded. Steps have been taken to ensure the closest contact between the War Department organisation and the Employment Exchanges under Labour Department. Post-war re-employment of ex-service personnel generally depends on—(a) the willingness of Central and Provincial Governments to employ ex-service personnel, (b) a similar willingness on the part of civilian employers of labour, (c) on Provincial Reconstruction Planning, and (d) on Central Government Planning.

Reference (a)— Central and Provincial Governments have in almost all cases reserved a certain percentage of vacancies in all grades for ex-servicemen. The percentage varies from 25 per cent to 75 per cent. These vacancies are only being filled temporarily during the war. All Governments have undertaken to re-employ Government servants who have joined the Defence Services.

Reference (b)— Many civil firms have guaranteed re-employment to such of their employees who have joined the Defence Services. Recently appointed Services Resettlement Liaison Officers are contacting Employers throughout the country with a view to obtaining from them assurances that they will co-operate in offering postwar employment to ex-service personnel.

Reference (c) and (d)— Central and Provincial Planning for post-war development is proceeding on a considerable scale and in all this planning provision is being made for the employment of large numbers of ex-service personnel. Several special schemes are also being prepared by Governments, in consultation with the Defence Services. These schemes aim mainly—in some cases exclusively—at providing remunerative and suitable employment for ex-service personnel, and may be financed in part or in whole by a special services Postwar Reconstruction Fund.

Regulation of rate of Demobilisation.— The matter of regulating the rate of demobilisation to suit the capacity of Provinces/Districts to absorb men into employment is at present under consideration. The early release of key personnel for work in Central and Provincial Planning Departments is also under consideration.

General Principle III: ~~Further investigation~~ has already been made as to the future of Ordnance factories with a view to defining the potentialities of each factory both in terms of production of munitions and of alternative production related to industry. It will clearly not be desirable to close down the Ordnance factories with the cessation of hostilities. Government factories engaged on war production must be ready to adapt themselves to the process of "beating our swords into ploughshares". The existing Committees dealing with reconstruction are already large but Government will consider increasing to some extent the representation of labour on these Policy Committees dealing with various aspects of post-war reconstruction and development.

General Principle IV: See page 34 of our August 1944 report.

General Principle V: India's industrial development will depend on a supply of skilled personnel in all grades which it is altogether beyond the powers of the existing educational system to produce. An immediate and important contribution in this respect may be expected

from the skilled men now in the Defence Services or engaged on war production. Government are now considering plans for "reconditioning" these men, where necessary, for absorption in civil industry. Arrangements are being made for the provision of vocational training of all men —technicians and agriculturists who may require it before their return to civil life. Men whose apprenticeship or education has been interrupted by their war-service will be enabled to resume their pre-war courses. On the technical side it is probable that sufficient vocational training instructors will be available, while on the agricultural side a beginning has already been made in training the instructors who will be required. An Advisory Committee including Employers' and Workers' representatives has also been set up to advise Government how best the Technical Training Scheme of the Labour Department, which was started to meet the urgent needs of the Army, can now be adapted to meet the requirements of civil industry.

General Principles VI and VII: The Government ~~is~~ invites the Conference to make suggestions on these subjects.

General Principle VIII: The Government of India is already examining carefully the recommendations made in the scheme for post-war educational development in India (hereinafter referred to as the Scheme). The plan is a long-term development ~~plan~~ and there are naturally limits to the extent to which technical education and educational welfare work can be stepped up without reference to the other features of the plan, but the need for keeping education in step with the requirements of industry and labour in the post-war period will be kept in view.

Raising of School Leaving age.- The recommended age range for compulsory school attendance is from 6 to 14. The Scheme contemplates, however, that children should be encouraged to attend school at 5 or even earlier. If the recommendation in Principle XI is accepted, provision will no doubt be made for keeping children in school for longer periods, but it may not be practicable to grant maintenance allowances for parents of such ~~children~~ children.

Aid to young men continuing education after school leaving age.- The Scheme provides for free places and wherever necessary maintenance allowances or stipends ~~for~~ as well to those going in for higher education.

Vocational Guidance Services.- Employment Bureaux have been recommended in the scheme. These Bureaux, however, will cater for young men leaving schools and colleges. The needs of adult workers can only be met by Employment Exchanges.

Free pre-employment medical examination.- No scheme for the pre-employment medical examination of young persons has been worked out, but the Health Survey and Development Committee will be considering this aspect, among others, of the health of the community.

In-plant training.- Government's plans for technical training envisage provision of opportunity for increasing the workers' skill as craftsmen and for fitting themselves to occupy positions of greater responsibility. Provision must also be made for part-time technical instruction, the type and duration being determined in consultation with employers and according to the needs of the locality. It is reasonable to assume that as industrial development takes place, whether in the form of large scale or village industries, an increasing number of workers will continue their technical education on a part-time basis by attending classes either in the day or ⁱⁿ the evening, in the polytechnics or other technical institutions. (Arrangements have been made at the Delhi Polytechnic for imparting further specialised training to workers of certain firms and factories in Delhi during ~~the~~ working ~~hours~~ hours.)

General Principle IX: In India the war has not materially altered the problems relating to employment of women whether in factories or on construction works and the problems requiring settlement are (with one exception) the ordinary problems of the peace-time economy of the country. They are not so much problems of the transition from war to peace. At the same time the problems are real and must be faced—they may perhaps be summed up as covering the following:- (a) arrangement of the employment of women so that they may be employed in works most suited to their attainments and strength, (b) fixation of reasonable minimum wages for women, and (c) provision for suitable welfare arrangements.

The one peculiar war-time problem is the employment of women in mines. Government are pledged to the reimposition of the prohibition on employment of women underground as soon as the coal-production position makes this possible. It seems clear that whenever this becomes possible it is incumbent that something should be done for these women thereby thrown out of employment and plans to this end seem immediately necessary.

General Principle X : Limited facilities for giving badly disabled ex-army men vocational training are already available and it is planned to expand them shortly. Arrangements are also being made to train lightly disabled men along with able-bodied men in vocational training centres. Efforts are now being made to ensure that numbers of disabled ex-soldiers will be employed by Government and in privately owned factories.

General Principle XI : There are perhaps greater difficulties in giving effect to the principle in India than in many western countries.

(a) Acceptance of regularity of employment as a target implies not only an obligation on the employer to provide employment for his regular workers but on the worker himself to be ~~regular~~ regular in his attendance. In many cases however agriculture still remains a dominant ~~int~~ interest with the worker, and ~~the~~ he tends to absent himself more than is reasonable (if employment is to be regularised), both for reasons of agriculture and for marriages in his family and such like. Such absence may tend to necessitate connection with the industry of a larger labour force than can find regular employment in it.

(b) Decasualization is bound initially to cause some heart-burning. A register of regular employees has to be compiled and all wishing for entry in the register cannot find entry there.

The compilation of this register will present peculiar difficulties. In the United Kingdom in the port decasualisation schemes considerable assistance was received from Trade Unions, and members of Trade Unions were given preference in regard to entry in the Register. Membership of Trade Union is probably not sufficiently large to make this possible.

It will, therefore, be advisable to consider the manner in which effect can be given to this principle.

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II. Revision of Trade Disputes Act, 1929.- This subject has been discussed in the First and Second Conferences of Labour Ministers in 1940 and 1941 and the Government of India have consulted the Standing Advisory Committee of the Indian Legislature, the Provincial Governments and All-India bodies of Employers and Workers. A draft bill was circulated with a Government of India, letter No. L. 3005 of the 30th May, 1942, but the proposals in that bill may now have to be modified in the light of subsequent discussions.

The advice of the Conference is now required as to the manner in

which legislation should be framed so as to develop satisfactory post-war arrangements. Some suggestions as to points that need discussion are given below.

Advantages of conciliation machinery.- ~~It~~ Section 18A empowering the appointment of Conciliation Officers was added to the Indian Trade Disputes Act in 1938. Despite the abnormal circumstances of the war, experience since 1938 has shown very clearly the wisdom of the addition. Some Provinces have not appointed Conciliation Officers formally, nor prescribed the sphere of their activities, but have preferred, and successfully, to use the services of Labour Commissioners, Assistant Labour Commissioners and Labour Officers in this capacity.

Defence of India Rule 81A Procedure.- During the war, under Defence of India Rule 81A, power has been given to refer disputes to adjudication. This war-time procedure has been used with a reasonable measure of success, but it can only be a war-time procedure. Experience in administering Rule 81A procedure has disclosed some difficulties, particularly, in certain cases, delay in the appointment of adjudicators.

Defects of present position.- For the post-war period there are available the Central Government Trade Disputes Act, 1929, the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938 (and the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act, 1934, in certain parts of the Bombay Province) and some State enactments. There are defects both in this position and in the Acts themselves.

(a) There is lack of uniformity in treatment of disputes and clearly the development of an uniform procedure has advantages.

(b) This lack of uniformity exists even within the Province of Bombay where the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act 1938 has so far been applied only to the cotton textile industry in the Province, the silk textile industry in Bombay city and the woollen textile industry in the Bombay City and Thana.

(c) The present Central Act, although it makes provision for formal Courts of Enquiry, makes no provision for the appointment of arbitrators or the establishment of a permanent body, whether it be called a Court or Tribunal, to deal with those disputes which cannot be resolved by the parties themselves or through the medium of conciliation.

(d) The Central Act makes no mention of standing orders. These form an integral feature of the Bombay Act. The advisability of introducing standing orders was considered by the Fifth Plenary Labour Conference in September, 1943 and ~~was~~ received general support. When Government proposals to proceed under Defence of India Rule were circulated there was general agreement on the provision of standing orders but some opposition to proceeding under the Defence of India Rule, and it was suggested that provision for standing orders should form part of regular legislation. A letter advocating framing of standing orders has subsequently been issued to Employers' Associations.

Despite these defects, ~~of position~~ there is much in the present Trade Disputes Act that is good and needs retention. It is, therefore, suggested that though the whole Act should be redrafted, the present provisions of the Act should be retained except as may be found necessary to modify them in the light of subsequent discussions.

Some points in regard to fresh legislation on which comments are invited are: (1) permanent conciliation staff appointed by Government for all industries; (2) adoption of standing orders; (3) How and when employers should furnish information regarding disputes; (4) arbitration machinery; (5) appointment of Labour Officers; (6) definition and prohibition of illegal strikes and lock-outs; (7) procedure

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regarding strikes and lock-outs where notice is received; (8) provision regarding prohibition of victimisation ~~in~~ in the case of legal strikes and lock-outs; (9) definition of workman.

The Government will draft final proposals based on the discussions and place them before the next meeting of the Standing Labour Committee with a view to the introduction of legislation.

* * *

III. State Contribution to Sickness Insurance Scheme. - The questions for consideration by the Conference are: (i) Should the State make contribution from the general revenues to a sickness insurance scheme when the benefits of such scheme are confined to industrial workers only?

(ii) If the reply to question No.1 is in the affirmative, should such participation by the Central and Provincial Governments be limited to a sum estimated as equivalent to the the savings ~~accruing~~ accruing to the general health service as a result of the sickness insurance scheme?

(Memoranda on Items on the Agenda
sent to this Office by the Labour
Department).

Bihar Government to adopt Maternity
Benefit Legislation.

It is reported that legislation for securing maternity benefits for women workers in factories in Bihar is under the contemplation of the Labour ~~off~~ Department of the Bihar Government. It is understood that the Government proposed to enact legislation for the purpose of compelling factories under its control to grant four weeks' leave before delivery and four weeks' leave after delivery to ~~women~~ women workers. It is understood that provision is being made for 8 weeks' leave, four weeks before and 4 weeks after confinement.

(The Vanguard, dated 1-9-1944).

Fifth Conference of Chief Inspectors of
Factories, New Delhi, 24 and 25-10-1944.

The Fifth Conference of the Chief Inspectors of Factories will be held at New Delhi on 24 and 25-10-1944. Questions relating to factory inspectorate machinery, war-time conditions of working in factories, improvement of labour statistics and adequacy of the present provisions of the Factories Act will be discussed at the Conference. It will consider the possibility of improving the factory inspectorate machinery with special reference to health, engineering, etc. In surveying the war-time conditions of working in factories, the conference will discuss subjects like hours worked, standards of welfare, ventilation, lighting, etc., in relation to minimum and optimum requirements. The desirability of amending the present Factories Act and the feasibility of a provision

Fifth Conference of Chief Inspectors of
Factories, New Delhi, 24 and 25-10-1944.

The Fifth Conference of the Provincial Chief Inspectors of Factories will be held at New Delhi on the 24th and 25th October 1944. The Indian States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, Boroda, Gwalior, and Indore, as well as the Chamber of Princes, have also been invited to send delegates to this Conference. The following subjects will constitute the agenda of the meeting.

(i) Factory Inspectorate Machinery: (a) possibility of improvements; specialisation in health, engineering, etc.; team work of the inspectorate; (b) comparison with ~~the~~ other countries.

(ii) Survey of wartime conditions of working in factories—hours worked—standards of welfare, ventilation, lighting etc., in relation to minimum statutory requirements and optimum requirements.

(iii) Improvement of labour statistics, with particular reference to the recommendations made by the Statistician, Department of Labour, in his Report.

(iv) Adequacy of the present Factories Act (and Rules): (a) Interpretations causing difficulty; (b) Desirability of amendment or extensions (c) Feasibility of a provision in the Factories Act requiring approval of plans for factory lay-out and buildings before erection.

(v) Definition of 'workman' in various labour laws and possibility of instituting uniformity.

(vi) Enforcement of the Employment of Children Act, 1938.

(Indian Labour Gazette, September,
1944).

General.

Welfare Measures in Coal Mines:
Mr. N.M. Joshi's Suggestions .

Reference was made at pages 9 to 11 of our report for August, 1944, to the conditions of workers in the Bihar and Bengal coal mines as reported by the Bihar Provincial Trade Union Congress and by Mr. Ranen Sen, Member of the Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. Mr. N.M. Joshi, General Secretary of the A.I.T.U.C., in a letter addressed to the Labour Department, Government of India, on 9-8-1944 suggests various measures for the welfare of the mine workers based on the findings contained in the above reports.

Taking a serious view of the situation, Mr. Joshi says that the most effective way to attract labour and increase coal out-put is to raise miners' wages sufficiently, to make underground work attractive. In fixing the wage-level of coal-miners, the Government of India should follow the level of miners' wage-scales in Great Britain, where the mining industry is one of the most highly paid in the country. In India the mining industry is one of the most low-paid ~~ones~~ ones. Open-air agricultural work in North Bihar fetches a wage of Rs. 17 to Rs. 18 per month, while the average miners' wages together with all the increments and war allowances are not much higher than this ~~miner's wages~~ amount. It would be necessary to raise the miner's wages also to the scale paid to employees on military construction works in the neighbourhood of the mines (which is not less than Rs. 35 a month), with an additional compensation for the risks of underground work. This should be paid to him under whatever system he works, whether it is contract system, or directly ~~under~~ under the mine-owner. Neither should he be put to a loss on account of sufficient work ~~is~~ not available; his wages, ~~therefore~~, should be guaranteed. The question of increased earnings should be taken up immediately, if the miner is to contribute fully in the proposed plan of increased production.

In addition, ~~the~~ mining labour should be brought ^{within} under the purview of the Payment of Wages Act. Contract system should be abolished as far as possible; and wherever it is retained, the mine-owner, and not the contractor, should be made responsible for the payment of wages.

As regards food supply, it is held that the existing system is too complicated and that the grains supplied are of poor quality; Government, may, therefore, bring the mines also under the general scheme of rationing, providing for the labourers extra rations as is being done for manual workers in Bombay and Calcutta.

Immediate steps should be taken to put into operation the welfare measures proposed ~~to be taken~~ under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, 1944. (Vide pages 44 to 45 of our report for January 1944). The cess of 2 as. per ton of coal may be increased further. Better representation should be given to labour on the Welfare Advisory Committee.

Other steps suggested are: (1) Introduction of production bonus for miners; (2) Better housing facilities; (3) Rationalisation of tubs, so that the available number of tubs may be more evenly distributed; (4) ~~Regarding~~ Re-imposition of the ban on the employment of women underground; and (5) Representation of labour on the Coal Central Board (vide pages 34-35 of our report for July, 1944).

(The Trade Union Record, August, 1944).

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Boiler Inspection in Bombay during
1943-1944.

The number of boilers registered in Bombay Province to the end of 1943-44 was 6,703, according to the Chief Inspector of Steam Boilers, in his report for that year. In addition, 243 boilers have been transferred to Bombay from other Provinces since the Indian Boiler Regulations came into force in 1924, and the number of transfers from Bombay is 1,215. Eliminating boilers which have not been inspected for 10 years, and deducting others which have been scrapped or transferred to other Provinces and States, the number of boilers on the register was 2,651. The number of certificates issued during the year was 2,072, against 2,048 in the previous year. Receipts from inspection fees totalled Rs. 145,187 against Rs. 143,735 in the previous year. The Proficiency and Competency Examinations for boiler inspection continue to attract men from all over India, especially from the Indian States.

There were 14 cases of accidents and 16 cases of irregularities. All the accidents were of a minor nature and no lives were lost and no injury caused. Two firms were tried and convicted for infringements of the Indian Boilers Act and the Bombay Boiler Rules, and in one case a heavy fine was imposed.

(The Bombay Information, dated
16-9-1944).

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Impact of Rising Prices on various Social Strata in the Punjab: Bulletin of Punjab Board of Economic Enquiry*.

The Board of Economic Enquiry, Punjab, has recently published the results of an enquiry, conducted by Dr. Paul Geren, on the impact of rising prices on various social strata in the Punjab around March 1943. Three classes of social groups have been chosen for the purposes of the enquiry, namely, fixed wage and salary receivers, soldiers and agriculturists. The main features of the enquiry are summaries below:

1. Changes in Income: Fixed Wage and Salary Receivers.- The following table gives the index numbers of money income, cost of living and real income of certain fixed income groups. All these indices have their base as August 1939 = 100.

Description of group	Income Range (Rupees per month)**	No of families in the Sample †	Index of money Income. March 1943. (1)	Index of cost of Living March, 1943. (2)	Index of real Income March, 1943. (1/2)
1. American missionaries.	225-800	12	118	204	58
2. Teaching staff of a Punjab College.	(a) 300-450 (b) 150-300 (c) 50-150	5 5 4	105 129 180	+ + 260	68
3. Clerical ^{staff} of a Punjab College.	(a) 50-150 (b) 25-50	8 6	124 120	266 272	47 44
4. Menials and servants of a Punjab college.	(a) 25-35 (b) 20-25 (c) 10-20	4 5 4	123 124 142	272 272 272	45 46 52
5. Domestic Servants.	§ 17-30	12	124	272	46

~~The main sources of increase in income were annual increments.~~

** The Income range refers to income received in the base month, August, 1939.

† "family", in this context ^{refers} ~~refers~~ to an income-receiving and disbursing unit. It may be an unmarried person, a married couple without children, or a married couple with children.

+ No cost of living index available for this group.

§ The sample includes cooks, washermen, sweepers.

* Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab. Publication No.82. (General Editor J.W.Thomas, B.Sc.,B.Com.): Impact of Rising Prices on Various Social Strata in the Punjab, by Paul Geren, M.A.,Ph.D., 1944: Price Eight Annas net. Pages 17.

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The main sources of increase in income were annual increments, dearness allowances and extra employment. The chief extra employment for the teaching staff in question was work related to the War Effort ~~with~~ which paid a standard rate per unit of time. Higher-paid staff members have ~~being able~~ ^{not} engaged in this extra work on the scale that lower-paid staff members have, being able by reason of their higher incomes to withstand rising prices more ably. If the lowest income groups have profited most from dearness allowances, the lower middle group have profited most from extra employment.

Soldiers.- "Soldiers", represent a ~~large~~ ^{considerable section and forms} a special case. Having joined the army, they are members of the more or less fixed-income group, with whatever modification is needed because of promotions, special allowances, and the fact that the money value of food, clothing and lodging provided in kind rises with rising prices. But the change of employment into the fixed-income group may itself represent a great increase in income. The sample of soldiers is composed of 35 officer-cadets in training in a city of the Punjab June, 1943. Taking their ~~August~~ August-1939 salaries as 100, the previously employed group enjoyed an income, including cash and food allowance, of 242 on an index-number basis June, 1943. The unemployed and the students were enjoying even a greater advantage over their position in the base ~~per~~ period, though it cannot be shown as a per cent of zero income, which they received in the base period. This increase in income from change of occupation is much greater than even the highest increase enjoyed among the fixed income groups referred to above.

Agriculturists.- The following table gives ~~the~~ ^{the} cash income, ~~existing~~ cash expenditure and debt position of 4 ~~in~~ agricultural families in Malanpur Village.

Description of holding	Cash Income from Sale of Crops.		Cash Expenditure for Purchased commodities.				Change in debt position affected since 1939.		
	1939-1940		1942-1943		1939-1940			1942-1943	
	Amt.	Index.	Amt.	Index.	Amt.	Index.		Amt.	Index.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
1.50 bighas own) 30 bighas batai)	700	100	1,200 1,200	171	400	100	700	175	Debt of Rs.200 cleared
2.80 bighas own) 50 bighas batai)	1000	100	1600	160	600	100	950	158	Debt reduced from Rs.350 to Rs.100.
3.50 bighas own	300	100	700	233	300	100	500	167	Debt of Rs.400 cleared.
4.40 bighas own) 10 bighas batai)	350	100	600	171	§	100	§	140	No debt, pre-war or present
Simple Arithmetic average.				184				160	

§ Had no records of expenditure, but was able to estimate percentage increase.

2. Changes in Cost of Living.- A comparison of the movement of prices by groups brought out the fact that the movement of prices of services had been very much lower and much more stable than the prices of commodities. House rent had gone to the greatest heights, medicine and dress came next, and food last.

The following table indicates per centage distribution of expenditure by various economic groups.

Description of group.	Range of Monthly Income.	Food.	Lodging.	Dress.	Conveyance.	Education.	Recreation, health.	Service.	Miscellaneous Savings, Insurance etc.
1. College servants	Rs. 10-35	76%	All others, 17% except Dress, 7%						
2. Lahore factory workers	41/5	71	13%	10%	2%	1%	3%	Not shown as a separate item	0%
3. Lahore printing Press workers	47/7	71	13	11	1		3		0
4. Lower clerical group	Upto 51	58	19	15	3	1	3		1
5. Upper clerical group.	51-150	53	14	15	3	4	6		5
6. American missionaries.	225-300	25	16*	10	8	2	4	15	26

* Houses are provided free for this group. The 10% shown here is the sum of 5% for furniture and furnishings, and 5% for fuel and light.

As for the cost of living of "soldiers", increases in the cost of food, lodging, and dress are automatically matched by an equal rise in the money value of items furnished for the soldier. The soldier who has these items furnished for him as his cash income available for service items, miscellaneous items and the acquisition of assets. Though no index is available to measure the position seems a favourable one in respect of cost of living as compared with the groups who must buy food, lodging and dress.

Any measurement of cost of living of agriculturalists is complicated by the familiar facts of use of barter and their considerable measure of self-sufficiency. The cost of living compiled from the record of a joint ~~joint~~ family in Rohtak District yielded the following results:

	Weight	Group Index
Food	41.3	134.4
Fuel and Lighting	6.6	206.0
Clothing	8.8	311.8
Miscellaneous	43.3	216.4

An analysis of the food item in the above is given below:

Items bought	Unit of quantity	Weights	Price 1939-40			Price 1942-43.			Price Relative 1942-43.
			Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	
Foods :									
Raw rice.	Seer	1.8	0	2	3	0	4	0	178
Crude Sugar	"	3.8	0	1	1	0	2	8	246
Fruits	Doz.	.4	0	3	0	0	4	6	150
Onions	Viss	.5	0	1	9	0	2	3	129
Vegetables	"	2.0	0	2	3	0	3	3	144
Salt	Seer	3.7	0	1	9	0	2	8	152
Chillies	"	1.7	0	10	0	16	0	0	160
Tamarind	Viss	.6	0	6	0	0	10	9	179
Suji	Seer	.3	0	5	0	0	6	0	120
Brown Sugar	"	3.5	0	2	0	0	3	9	188
White sugar	"	2.7	0	4	0	0	6	6	162
cattle food	"	79.0	0	1	10	0	2	3	123
Total		100.0	Weighted average, food 134.4						

This agriculturalist family, with a cost of living of 190 for the 1942-43 crop year, showed the lowest rise of cost of living of any group studied. Explaining the proportionate rise is less, it is suggested that it is due to the slower reaction time to economic change in the villages. The complex of goods which the agriculturalist purchases for cash are those which have experienced the lower price rises. The prices of assets most common among agriculturalists have shown much steeper rises. The following data gives the prices of certain producers' goods in Mulanpur village, Patiala State:

Item	Pre-war Price Rs.	July, 1943 Price Rs.	July, 1943 Price Relative (Pre-war= 100)
Plough	3	8	267
Yoke	3	6	200
Bullock Cart	150	400	267
Ordinary Ox	40	150	375
Superior Ox	180*	400*	222
Buffalo	10*	30*	300

* Per seer of milk produced daily.

This greater proportionate rise in price of assets than in items of daily consumption is explained on the ground that funds having risen for agriculturalists more than costs of living, are seeking investment in producers' goods with which to expand production, and by their bidding are driving the price of the available supply of producers' goods upwards.

To summarise the whole position, the cost of living of the fixed-income group has ~~experienced smaller percentage rise than~~ ~~has~~ risen the most, and among them, the higher-income recipients have experienced smaller percentage rise in the cost of living than the poorest because of the prominence of service and fixed items in the higher income budgets. "Soldiers" have the increase in cost of food, clothing and lodging largely taken care of in so far as these ~~items as the higher income group~~ things are provided as a part of their income. This leaves their cash income free for miscellaneous items and the purchase of assets. On the ~~tax~~ basis of an admittedly inadequate sample, agriculturalists have experienced the smallest rise

in cost of living, but the prices of durable producers' goods among them have greatly risen.

3. Changes in Standard of Living Asset-Liability Position.- Of the three ~~and~~ groups, the fixed income category has experienced costs of living which have risen more than income; the agriculturalists have enjoyed incomes which have risen at least as much as their costs, and from the little evidence presented here, have even gained something in this respect; and soldiers have, by their change of occupation, increased their incomes more than their costs. These changes must have enforced change in standards of living and/or asset-liability position. In the fixed-income-group information is available on four strata: American missionaries, members of a Punjab College teaching staff, clerical staff and servant staff. The percentage distribution of income of American missionaries among the several categories of expenditure, pre-war and March 1943, is given below.

Item of Expenditure.	August, 1939	March, 1943.
Food	25	37
Service	15	18
Clothing	10	6
Fuel and Light	5	6
Furniture and Furnishing	5	3
Benevolence	10	7
Miscellaneous	30	23

This group has, thus met the excess of rise in cost of living over rise in money income by a moderate decline in standard of living, chiefly in durable consumers' goods and imported foods, and by a failure to make savings as large as formerly.

Of the college teaching group, out of 13 from whom information was available, two reported no deterioration in diet, three felt that there was deterioration in quality but could not ~~estimate it as a figure~~ ^{ascertain its extent}, and the remaining eight gave estimates which average 34% deterioration in quality of food consumed. The items most frequently reported as restricted or eliminated were fruit, eggs, and ~~milk~~ milk. cereals were reported as being larger, meat and butter smaller. Nine of the thirteen ventured estimates of the percentage increase in expenditure on food necessary to maintain even this deteriorated diet. The median and the mode of these estimates coincided at 100 per cent i.e. a ~~sub~~ doubling of expenditure on food has been necessary. The most carefully kept set of accounts among the group revealed a 65 per cent increase in food expenditure. Eleven of the thirteen were able to estimate percentage of normal clothing replacements being made. The mode and the median of these estimates was 17 per cent. Winter clothing was being replaced less than summer, adults' less than children's, men's less than women's. The miscellaneous category of expenditure was represented as restricted or even eliminated, the ~~items most frequently~~ ^{items most frequently} vacations, entertainment of guests, cinemas, and books. The following table shows the distribution of the twelve who reported with respect to their asset-liability position, the deterioration of position increasing as one descends through the table:

	Number of persons.
No change in asset position or savings habits.	3
Forced to continue saving because of indebtedness	1

Number of persons.

No change in asset position or savings habits	3
Forced to continue saving because of indebtedness	1
Formerly saved but have not ceased to save	2
Formerly saved, but now consuming savings	3 (Two gave figures of Rs.500 each as amount consumed).
Have consumed entire past savings ..	2
Have incurred indebtedness ..	1 (Amount, Rs.100).

(These statements refer to savings exclusive of automatic savings made through a provident fund operated by the institution in question).

This group has met the excess of rising cost of living over rising money income by a considerable decline in standard of living, most marked in clothing and miscellaneous items, but appreciable in food as well, and by sacrifice of savings.

The position of the college clerical staff group followed the same pattern as the teaching ~~category~~ but revealing more intense difficulty. Average ~~standard of living~~ deterioration in diet was estimated at 30 per cent; four of the six who gave figures were making no clothing replacements; three who were accustomed to hill vacations had eliminated them; three had never had any savings either to add to, preserve or consume; one had consumed his savings; another had realized and spent money from the sale of an asset; and one had taken a loan.

Of the twenty menials and servants of a Punjab college, five reported that they had as much food to consume in March, 1943, as in pre-war ^{category}, the other fifteen reported less. Seven made up the deficiency, ~~nine, six, five, four, three, two, one~~ by means of borrowing, two by borrowing combined with consumption of past savings. Twelve of the twenty reported themselves as in debt. Of these, one did not know how much his indebtedness was, while the other eleven reported amounts whose arithmetic average was Rs. 96. Of the twelve debtors, four gave the procurement of food as the sole reason for the loan they had taken, and two others gave this as a partial cause. Social functions were given as the other chief cause of debt. The table below shows a distribution of the loans outstanding according to the year in which they were made:

Year in which Loan was taken.	Number of loans.
1938	1
1941	1
1942	7
1943 (Jan-June)	5
Total	14*

* The fact that there are more loans outstanding than debtors is explained by the fact that some debtors owed more than one debt.

While it is to be expected that there should be more new debts than old, if the process of creating new debts and repaying old ones proceeds, the heavy concentration in 1942 and 1943 suggests the growing pressure of rising prices on incomes which rise more slowly.

In short, as one goes from the higher to the lower incomes among the fixed-income group, he finds the suggestion of increasing

curtailment of the standard of living, and more conclusively, increasing deterioration of the asset-liabilities position in the form of consumed savings and new indebtedness.

Officers-in-training present a strikingly opposite case. Of the thirty-five interviewed, 23 reported that they were making savings from their new and higher incomes, the median and modal amount coinciding at Rs. 50 per month, which is only a little less than one-third of their money incomes in the month of the survey, June, 1943. While thus improving their asset position, many soldiers were enjoying higher standards of living in respect of food and clothing than they did as civilians.

With respect to change in asset-liability position, agriculturalists occupy a position between the fixed-income groups and the soldiers. Of the four agriculturists investigated, one had cleared a debt of Rs. 400, one a debt of Rs. 200, and a third had reduced his indebtedness from Rs. 350 to 100 since the beginning of the war. Reports of large money hoards, considerable debt retirement, and the rising prices of durable producers' goods confirm the judgment that this sample, though small, is not untypical of what is happening in the agricultural Punjab. As for the standard of living of agriculturalists, it seemed that what curtailment there has been resulted from unavailability of kerosene, sugar and other commodities in certain village areas rather than from inability to pay high prices.

The general conclusion is that the impact of rising prices on various social strata in the Punjab has been to transfer wealth from the fixed-income groups to soldiers, and agriculturalists.

Generalisation. - The closing paragraphs treat the question, how far may these results be generalized to the population of the Punjab beyond the groups actually studied? The fixed income groups studied were representative of school teachers, hospital employees, charitable institution employees, government employees, business-firm employees, domestic servants and labourers, but they become less representative of any of these groups as they come closer to the war effort. For example, a nurse, taking up war work, will receive a considerable increase in income from plying the same occupation at a closer distance to the war effort. A worker in a war plant is likely to enjoy the same good fortune. For the military, the tendencies shown for a group of officer-cadets studied represent the tendencies, though not the amounts, for all military personnel. When one considers how large a proportion of India's armed forces are recruited from the Punjab, it is seen that this means not only a transfer of wealth from fixed-income groups to military groups, but a transfer of wealth from the rest of India to the Punjab. Business entrepreneurs have probably enjoyed the good fortune of farmers, and the closer they are to military contracts, the greater is the measure in which income increases have outrun cost increases. A study of the income of business entrepreneurs could not be made due to the unwillingness of this class to disclose information.

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Trade and Industrial Conditions in India
in 1943 *

The following analysis of the food situation, trade, currency, cost of living and industrial conditions in India in 1943 is taken from the "Annual Market Review—1943" (Pages 82) published by Messrs. Premchand Roychand & Sons, Limited, Bombay, a leading firm of stock brokers in Western India.

Famine Conditions.— While the political issue in India remained yet unsolved and military preparations for the Burma campaign went ahead, it was the economic front which presented the most formidable obstacle throughout the year under review. The spectres of famine and inflation haunted the country and ~~it was~~ these menaces more than anything else ~~which~~ had to be faced by the people and fought by the Government. There was a severe shortage of agricultural products in several areas. With the increased strain on transport services owing to requirements of the war, considerable hardship was experienced by the distributive agencies. This and the high level of prices prevalent both in case of raw materials as well as manufactured goods had extremely tragic repercussions so far as the civilian population was concerned.

Cost of Living and Prices.— Towards the end of 1942, the general price level in India had begun to show signs of rapid growth and by the end of the first quarter of 1943, it showed a dangerous ~~ly~~ upward curve and presented truly alarming prospects. Thus, whereas the average cost of living index for Bombay for 1942 was 157, for January 1943 it was 203. The corresponding figures for Jamshedpur were 191 and 248. Similarly, the wholesale price index which was 219 for Bombay in 1942 rose up to 255 in January 1943, the corresponding figures for Calcutta being 185 and 250. All these figures went on soaring steadily till the last few months of the year when a gradual decline was recorded. The highest index of cost of living recorded in Bombay during the ~~year~~ year was 248 (October and November) and in Jamshedpur 496 (August). The wholesale price index rose to its highest in Bombay in June (267) and in Calcutta in September (349).

Currency Issues and Control Measures.— On the one hand, Government were liberal with the note issue (total note issue on 1-1-1943 ~~was~~: ~~million~~ Rs. 5,917.7 million and on 1-1-1944: Rs. 8,504.0 million). Government loans—which formed the main plank of borrowing—did not absorb this excess issue, although two new rupee loans were issued in the middle of the year, the intention being to facilitate government finances by means of borrowing instead of resorting to currency expansion. On the other hand, supplies were taken up for defence purposes as demand was anticipated. There was practically no commodity surplus and stocks were low. Consumers' goods which were scarce already, went underground in the hands of hoarders or profiteers. Prices kept on soaring. The situation appeared to be grave and getting desperate. Government at last ~~with~~ came out with their anti-inflation drive. To mop up surplus funds two measures were announced by

* Annual Market Review, 1943. Premchand Roychand & Sons, Limited, Bombay. Pages 82.

the Finance Member on 18-5-1943: (1) An Ordinance raising the Excess Profits Tax limit so as to leave only 6-2/3 per cent in the hands of the ~~industry~~ industry; and (2) A fresh Defence of India Rule designed to prevent the flotation of unsound companies and to control the flow of capital.

Having checked the outflow of funds in respect of joint stock companies the Government turned their attention to the cotton, bullion and seeds markets where high price levels had been ~~recorded~~ recorded. Forward trading in all these commodities was prohibited and prices were fixed in the case of a number of articles of every-day use. To gauge the success of these measures is a matter of time, as the full effect cannot be seen in the immediate perspective. Prices showed a slight decline at the end of the year, but whether the trend would be maintained and whether the controls would be effectively administered will be apparent in the year that follows. It may be suggested, however, that there is an urgent need for greatly increased attention being paid to civilian requirements. It is said that in England, to keep a soldier fighting, 20 civilians are needed. In India more civilians will be needed for every military man because of the backward character of her organisation. Civilian needs therefore should not be ignored even from the point of view of the war effort. If this broad view is taken there would be little cause for anxiety in the months to come and the general feeling of insecurity that prevails will be largely abated.

Trade: 1.- Exports.— Indian trade figures revealed little change, either in composition or direction, as compared to the previous war years. Total exports, including re-exports, on private account were valued at Rs. 1,857.2 million as against Rs. 2,144.2 million in 1942 and Rs. 2,356.7 million in 1941. Various restrictions on exports in the form of licences and quotas as also shipping difficulties were mainly responsible for the decline. Jute and cotton manufactures, once again, formed the bulk of exports, being 22.61 and 21.70 per cent respectively of the total. Tea ranked third with 16.98 per cent. According to countries, the United Kingdom and British Empire countries absorbed more than half of the exports. Exports to United States of America were maintained around the previous year's level. No figures for exports on Government account are available but considering the vast accumulation of sterling by the Reserve Bank, it may be presumed that these were on a considerable scale.

ii.- Imports.— While there is no information available regarding imports on Government account, those on private account were valued at Rs. 1,105.0 million as against Rs. 1,127.7 million in 1942 and Rs. 1,830.3 million in 1941. Restrictions in the form of licences and quotas together with shipping difficulties were primarily responsible for keeping down imports also, although there was a big demand for consumers' goods as well as for capital goods. Oils—vegetable, mineral and animal—formed 28.76 per cent of the total, cotton—raw and waste—took up 18.04 per cent and dyes and colours 6.60 per cent. Once again, the United Kingdom and Empire countries were the chief sources of supply, having furnished 47 per cent of the total. Supplies from other countries—chiefly the Middle East—amounted to 36.74 per cent, while United States of America accounted for 15.86 per cent.

India, at the close of the year, had a favourable balance of trade amounting to Rs. 861.3 million.

Industrial Conditions.— Industrial production during the year under review was well maintained although there were temporary setbacks on account of, among other reasons, the acute shortage of coal. Apart from this there were few disturbances owing either to external or internal factors as in the previous year. Japanese air raids, which took place intermittently, did not cause any large-scale migrations

of labour or civilian population. Neither were there reports of any major industrial strife. Since flotations of new companies required government sanction after 17-5-1943, under the Control of Capital Issues Order, registration of joint stock companies should have tended to decline, but no statistics are available after 1941.

Post-War Reconstruction Plans.- Of great importance to the country, however, were the formulations of various plans for the economic development, both industrial and agricultural, after the war. What is known as the Bombay Plan attracted particular attention not only in India, but also in interested overseas countries. Government departments also were reported to be busy with alternate post-war plans.

Working Class Cost of Living Index
for various Centres in India during
January and February, 1944.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during January and February, 1944, as compared with December, 1943.

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base=100</u>	<u>December 43.</u>	<u>Jan.44.</u>	<u>Feb.44.</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	247	238	230
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	232	214	210
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	207	199	200
Nagpur	August 1939	284	287	289
Ludhiana	1931-35	382	370	357
Cawnpore	August 1939	314	304	298
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914.	337	343	349
Jamshedpur	Ditto	331	339	320
Jharia	Ditto	366	362	378
Madras	Year ending June 1936	189	193	199
Madura	Ditto	210	198	198
Coimbatore	Ditto	213	213	217

(Monthly Survey of Business
Conditions in India for January
and February, 1944).

Indian Central Tobacco Committee
to be set up.

A comprehensive scheme involving about Rs. 1.6 million for the improvement and development of tobacco in India has been sanctioned by the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research recently. The direction of this work will be taken over by a Central Tobacco Committee which is likely to be set up soon. The Committee will be responsible for research, development and marketing of all kinds of tobacco grown in India. Government will be making an annual grant of Rs. 1 million towards the expenses of the Committee.

Another scheme sanctioned by the Governing Body is the village rehabilitation scheme referred to at page 18 of our report for March, 1944.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 8 and 14-9-1944)..

Bihar Economic Board Constituted.

The Bihar Government has constituted an Economic Advisory Board, with the Governor as the Chairman. The functions of the Board will be to advise Government on the working of the various war-time controls and to act as a link in economic matters between the Government and the general public, including industrial and commercial interests. The Board will replace the existing Price Control Advisory Committee, the Cloth Committee and the Supply Committee. The inaugural meeting of the Board was fixed for 15-9-1944.

(The Times of India, 16-9-1944).

SOCIAL INSURANCE.Workmen's Compensation in Madras during
1943.

According to the annual report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in the Province of Madras during 1943, there were 3,406 cases of injuries reported under the Act, out of which in 3,360 cases compensation amounting to Rs. 95,974 was paid. Of the 3,406 injuries, 60 resulted in death, 120 in permanent disablement and 3,226 in temporary disablement. These figures show an increase in the number of injuries in comparison with corresponding figures for the year 1942, which were 49,97 and 2,537 respectively. The total amount of compensation paid during the ~~year~~ year under report consequently showed an increase of Rs. 24,708 over the figure for the previous year.

Returns under section 16 of the Act were received from 2,977 of the 3,109 establishments and accidents were reported in 351 of these returns. Permission ~~was~~ was given to the Calcutta Claims Bureau to submit returns on behalf of employers who had insured their liability under the Act. The total number of employers on behalf of whom insurance companies submitted returns through the Bureau was 154.

At the commencement of the year there were 17 pending cases to which 32 were added in the course of the year. Only 37 cases were disposed of, 24 being dismissed and compensation awarded in the remaining 13. Most of the work connected with ~~with~~ the prosecution of claims preferred by illiterate dependents of deceased workmen had to be done by the Commissioner on their behalf.

(The Indian Labour Gazette, September 1944).

Workmen's Compensation in Bihar during
1943.

According to the statistical returns for Bihar under the Workmen's Compensation Act for the year 1943, the daily average attendance of persons employed in factories in the province was 198,320 adults and 877 minors, as compared with 201,783 adults and 966 minors in 1942. During the year there was no case of permanent disablement through occupational disease. 198 persons lost their lives as the result of accidents 200 persons were permanently disabled and 4,523 suffered from temporary disablement.

The total sums paid for these classes of accidents were Rs. 143,020-13-8, Rs. 62,509-7-6 and Rs. 68,317-7-6 respectively against Rs. 96,811-5-6, Rs. 85,579-11-0 and Rs. 30,995-4-9 respectively in the previous year. Of these amounts of compensation for 1943, Rs. 137,197, ~~and~~ Rs. 59,975 and Rs. 63,859 were paid through the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation for fatal accidents, permanent disablement and temporary disablement respectively. The average amount paid as compensation for fatal accidents was Rs. 722, and for permanent disablement Rs. 313, as compared with Rs. 541 and Rs. 363 respectively, paid in 1942.

About 81 per cent of the victims of fatal accidents were workmen

receiving wages not ~~exceeding~~ exceeding Rs. 21 a month. Some cases of compensation for permanent disablement were settled out of court. 172 agreements were filed in regard to payment of compensation for permanent disablements.

It is stated that the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act are now widely known amongst the workmen in the larger industrial areas like Dhanbad and Dhalbhum (Jamshedpur) and they take full advantage of them whenever occasion arises. The majority of the colliery owners now readily admit claims which fall prima facie under the Act and do not take advantage of the poverty or the ignorance of the workmen.

(From Statistical Returns received in this Office from the Government of Bihar).

Workmen's Compensation in the North-West Frontier Province during 1943.

According to the statistical returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act for the North West Frontier Province for 1943, the number of accidents involving workmen in the province during the period was five, four of them fatal and one resulting in permanent disablement. The amounts paid as compensation were Rs. 2,890 and Rs. 1,508 respectively. Two cases of agreements on payment of compensation were pending registration by the Commissioner at the beginning of the year; one of these was disposed of and the other was kept pending. Of the women permanently disabled, one was in the Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ wage-group and the other in the Rs. 27 to Rs. 30 wage-group.

(From Statistical Returns received in this Office from the Government of the N.W.F.P.).

MIGRATION.

Indo-Burma Relations: Standing Emigration
Committee submits Recommendations. +

It is understood that at the meeting of the Standing Emigration Committee which concluded ^{at New Delhi} at New Delhi on 6-9-1944, the Committee made their final recommendations to the Commonwealth Relations Department regarding a fresh agreement to be entered into between the Governments of India and Burma. The Standing Emigration Committee, a General Committee and a sub-committee appointed by the latter have been busy during the past four months framing recommendations to the Government of India. It is believed that these recommendations aim at safeguarding the true interests of the Indian community in Burma. It is considered likely that the Governor of Burma and his Advisers will shortly visit England for conferences with the Secretary of State for Burma, in connection with the reconstruction work to be started as soon as Burma is reconquered. It is suggested that Indo-Burma relations can safely be assumed to come up for discussion at that time. It is felt that India's case should not go by default, and that one or two representatives who are well-informed on Indo-Burma questions should place the Indian point of view before the Secretary of State for India who is also the Secretary of State for Burma.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-9-1944).

Functions under Emigration Act to be
resumed by Centre from 1-10-1944.

With effect from 1-10-1944 the Central Government will ^{resume} ~~assume~~ the functions assigned to them under the Indian Emigration Act which have hitherto been performed by the Provincial Governments of Madras, ~~Bombay~~ Bombay, Bengal, and United Provinces, Bihar, Orissa and Sind by virtue of entrustment from time to time, by the Central Government under Section (1) of Section 124 of the Government of India Act, 1935. These functions will, after resumption, be performed by the Central Government through the Controller-General of Emigration in the Department of Commonwealth Relations, New Delhi.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
17-9-1944).

AGRICULTURE.

Tractors to be imported for Development
of New Agricultural Areas in 1945-1946.

India's demands for imported agricultural machinery in 1945-46 were discussed at a recent conference attended by representatives of the Central Government, Provincial and State Governments and trade interests. After full discussion, the Provincial and State representatives were asked to re-examine their demands for tractors and various types of agricultural and dairy machinery and to submit an estimate of their indents before 6-9-1944.

The Education, Health and Lands Department of the Government of India intends to pool the requirements for the country as a whole. According to an estimate, at least 500 tractors would be required during 1945 for the development of new areas. It is estimated that there are large areas measuring several thousands of acres in the United Provinces, Bombay and Bihar which are infested with deep rooted grasses, the reclamation of which could only be accomplished by means of tractors and tractor-drawn implements. For other agricultural machinery like ball-bearings for motor wheels, hay presses, pipes, belting, etc., and irrigation appliances, the conference recommended that efforts should be made to obtain them in India and only the import of such items as can not be manufactured in the country should be planned.

(The Hindu, dated 27-8-1944).

Two more Irrigation Barrages for Sind:
Construction Plans Ready.

It is learnt that the Sind Government's plans to build two more barrages, one in Lower Sind and the other in Upper Sind are now complete, and that first excavation work in this connection is expected to be taken in hand in November, 1944. The two barrages are estimated to cost Rs. 160 million according to pre-war estimates, and, when completed, will bring under cultivation 4.9 million acres of additional newly irrigated ~~area~~ ~~land~~ land. This is expected to make the province one of the chief rice-producing areas in India. It may be remembered that the first barrage in the province was built at Sukkur at a cost of about Rs. 240 million. This amount was realised in less than 10 years.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
13-9-1944).

New Land Utilisation Department to be
Set up by U.P. Government.

The U.P. Government has, it is learned, decided to open a new department of land utilisation to deal with problems of afforestation, grazing and erosion. The department will also deal with fodder and fuel scarcity problems and will endeavour to put all waste lands to some use.

(The Times of India, 8-9-1944).

The Bengal Alienation of Agricultural
Land (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance,
1944. (Ordinance No.1 of 1944).

Reference was made at page 21 of our report for December 1943 to the Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 1943, promulgated by the Provincial Government for the getting the restoration under certain conditions to raiyat and under-raiyats of agricultural lands alienated by them during 1943 as a result of economic distress. Since this Ordinance has ceased to operate it has been re-issued with minor modifications as Ordinance No. 1 of 1944 on 2-9-1944.

(The Calcutta Gazette, dated
7-9-1944, Part I, pages 1106-1109).

Madras Government's Scheme for Training
Officers for Rural Welfare.

The Government of Madras has sanctioned a scheme for training village officers in the Province in measures of village welfare and improvement. It is considered by the Government that the average villager looks for guidance mostly to the village headman who should be the leader of public opinion in the village and should be able to initiate and organise all measures essential for village uplift. His knowledge and outlook on life should, therefore, be enlarged and modernised if he is to play an adequate part in this important task.

All approved village headmen other than those whose jurisdiction is confined to municipal areas will be deputed for this training. In the place of disapproved headmen, their sons, or heirs ~~whom~~ who would normally succeed them and who are qualified will be deputed for the training. Presidents of Panchayat Boards for which no executive officers have been appointed will also be trained, if they are willing to undergo training.

The School for the training, says a communique ^{on the subject,} will be held at the headquarters, wherever possible, of each district. The training will be for one month. The object of the training is primarily to bring home to

the village headmen and presidents of panchayat boards the importance of formulating and organising measures for keeping the village sanitary and healthy and to effect improvements in matters relating to water-supply, drainage, irrigation and means of communication in the villages. They will also be taught what preventive measures they should take on the outbreak of contagious and other diseases, how to prevent pollution of water-supply and provide clean drinking water to the villages. Instructions will also be given as regards the construction of culverts and formation of roads, repairs of small bridges, sinking of wells and ordinary ~~repair~~ repairs to channels, embankments and tanks. In addition to these subjects, they will be given general lessons regarding the desirability and importance of planting trees on the sides of canals and roads and of forming parks and topes. The instructions will throughout be practical and the students will be taken as far as possible to model ~~xx~~ villages, Government farms, industrial schools and other institutions of importance.

(The Hindu, dated 24-9-1944).

10-year Plan to develop Coconut Production:
Recommendations of the Central Agricultural
Marketing Department. +

A 10-year plan to increase coconut production (and thus stimulate the production of copra and coconut oil), by better treatment and manuring of plantations, is suggested in a report on the Marketing of Coconuts and Coconut products by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department, Government of India. The administration of the plan, it is recommended, should be entrusted to an all-India Central Coconut Committee which may give loans at cheap rates for manures, provide facilities for inter-cultivation and encourage underplanting or removal of trees where necessary.

The area under coconuts in India is about 1.5 million acres, producing annually about 3,000 million nuts. This, according to the Report, can be increased by inter-cultivation and manuring on a wide scale. Before the war of 1914-18, India was a net exporter of both copra and coconut oil. Since then, exports have almost ceased while imports have steadily increased. During the present War, imports registered a further increase and amounted to an average of about 100,000 tons of copra and 54,000 tons of coconut oil during the two years, 1940-41 and 1941-42.

Coconut husks are retted in India by indigenous methods. The Report suggests that the possibilities of chemical and mechanical methods to obtain higher yield, greater uniformity in the quality of products and larger quantities of husks for the coir industry, should be examined.

The marketing of coconuts on a co-operative ~~basis~~ basis, especially in areas where nuts are stored for long periods, is recommended. The Report further suggests elimination of wasteful handling and transport, fixation of market charges and standardisation of weights and counts to secure a better share for the producer in the prices paid by consumers.

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Other recommendations include the grading of copra, coconut oil and coir yarn and technological research on coconut products.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 30-9-1944).

Government of India Sets up Committee to
Increase production of Fish.

The Government of India has constituted a committee with Mr. Fazul Ibrahim Rahimtoola as Chairman to examine the question of Indian fisheries with a view to increasing production of ~~the~~ fish in India.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-9-1944).

Progress of Central Government's Manure
Production Scheme.

The All-India scheme started by the Government of India in August 1943 for converting town refuse into manure has already yielded substantial results, according to the Annual Report on the ^{work done} scheme for the first year ending 31-7-1944. The scheme originally intended to cover in the first year the training of biochemists deputed by 15 different Provinces and States in India and of 40 assistant biochemists, appointed under the scheme, in the improved process of composting town wastes developed at Bangalore; and to take up in the second year the training of Sanitary Inspectors followed by mass-scale manure production at Municipal centres. But, as a result of certain changes introduced in the programme by the Chief Biochemist, intended to speed up the work, the training of ~~xx~~ over 160 Sanitary Inspectors and other officers deputed by Municipalities was completed in the first year itself and compost production has already been organised at over 100 Municipal centres, spread throughout India. As against an estimated production of 650,000 cubic feet of compost (about 13,000 tons) in the first year, over 2.5 million cubic feet of compost (about 50,000 tons) have been already prepared. Steps have been taken to dispose of the above stock of manure by sale to agriculturists to meet the demand arising during the present Rabi season; and in areas where the cultivators are not accustomed to the use of the manure, Government has ~~be~~ come forward to subsidise the distribution of the manure to cultivators at cheap rates or even free of cost, if necessary, in the first year. It is expected that over 100,000 tons of manure would be ready for distribution during the Kharif ~~season~~ season of 1945.

(The Hindu, dated 9-9-1944).

Conservation of Live-Stock in India:
Government of India's Circular to
Provinces.

"In view of the enhancement of prices prevailing today and in the face of his own pressing need for work-bullocks, the cultivator is probably more willing to receive advice and more ready to act upon it than he has ever been in the past", says a circular issued by the Government of India to all provincial Governments and local administrations.

The circular contains suggestions made by the Animal Husbandry Commissioner on steps necessary to conserve livestock and to increase the ~~prama~~ production of good breeding stock. The custom of slaughtering cattle while in poor condition is wasteful; provided the animals are healthy, even old cattle can be brought up to slaughter condition within the course of some three months if they are stall-fed. The purchase and fattening for slaughter of what are recognized to be otherwise useless cattle should be organized wherever circumstances permit. The use of dry cows for draught work should be encouraged. To cope with contagious diseases among work animals, more stockmen should be trained to supplement the present shortage of veterinary surgeons. Many cultivators, other than regular breeders, are again turning their attention to the rearing of their own bullocks. In place of whole milk (which is in short supply) for calves, skimmed milk and other milk derivatives and calf meals are ~~suggest~~ suggested. The importance of feeding roughage and silage of good quality to young stock should be made more widely known. Demonstrations of silage making and feeding should be arranged.

Schemes should be promoted, such as one under consideration by the Madras Government in which it is proposed that male stock below one year old should be bought by the Government and reared in forest tracts, which are inaccessible to other cattle and where grazing is plentiful, until they are fit for work. The Government of India have asked for a report, by December 31, 1944, on action taken by the livestock departments in the provinces, on each of these recommendations.

(The Statesman, dated 11-9-1944).

Land Development Scheme in Bombay:
Rs. 7 Million Scheme Sanctioned .

A land development and improvement scheme extending over an area of 500,000 acres, estimated ~~at~~ Rs. 7 million for the year 1940-45 has been sanctioned by the Bombay Government. Of these 500,000 acres, 200,000 are in Bijapur district, and 100,000 in Sholapur district, 100,000 Dharwar and Belgaum districts, and the rest in Satara, Poona and Ahmednagar. Two separate land development circles—north and south under the immediate supervision of land development officers—have been created to carry out this large programme efficiently and expeditiously. Improvement work is at present concentrated in Sholapur, Poona, Satara and ~~Ahmed~~ Ahmednagar districts.

A supplementary scheme costing Rs. 30,000 covers experimental land development work on a smaller scale in the heavy rainfall area of Ratnagiri district, where rice crops will be ~~grown~~ grown over large areas in replacement of inferior millets.

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Six months' practical training courses, to provide staff for the scheme has been started in Bijapur, One-hundred students in batches of 50 will be trained every year.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-9-1944).

Development of Live-Stock in Mysore:
Plans Submitted.+

Plans for improving livestock in Mysore State, both milch and draft cattle, are being examined with a view to their adoption by the Government of Mysore. The Board of Agriculture, a limb of the Economic Conference, (an official institution with a few experienced non-officials on it, and under the direct control of the Commissioner for Planning and development) has formulated through its livestock sub-committee the necessary plans. For developing and improving draft cattle it is proposed ~~to establish~~ to establish two more cattle breeding stations, in addition to the existing one at Ajjampur. Each of these stations is estimated to cost about Rs. 100,000. For developing high milk-yielders it is proposed to establish three central dairy farms at Bangalore, Shimoga, and Chickmagalur at a total cost of Rs. 600,000. The plan is to purchase 100 good Sindhi cows and 100 Murrah buffaloes every year during the five-year plan and to introduce them into Mysore villages, particularly those selected for the intensive rural reconstruction drive. These central dairy farms will serve the purpose of rearing pedigree stock of high milk-yielders and also supply milk to the big cities where they are located. For the distribution of milk from these dairy farms it is proposed to establish milk co-operative societies on the lines of the Madras milk unions. Members of such societies will include small private dairies and private owners of cattle, to whom facilities for the supply of fodder, grazing grounds and concentrated foods at a reasonable price, if not at the cost price are proposed to be given.

(The Times of India, 21-9-1944).

Development of Agriculture: Schemes
Sanctioned by I.C.A.R.+

The Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, which met in New Delhi on 4 and 5-9-1944, Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, presiding, sanctioned the research and development programme for 1945-46 presented by its advisory board.

Many new research and development schemes, both for agriculture and animal husbandry, have been sanctioned for next year. The total grants amount to Rs. 800,000 while extensions of existing schemes will cost over Rs. 300,000. Another Rs. 300,000 has been kept in reserve for extension of other schemes which may expire before March, 1946.

The Governing Body accepted the offer made by the Punjab Government to place its laboratories and equipment for fruit and vegetable preservation at the disposal of the I.C.A.R. in order to set up a central fruit and vegetable technological institute at ~~vegetable~~ Lyallpur. The annual expenditure on the institute will be about Rs. 60,000.

Another scheme sanctioned is connected with village rehabilitation in Baroda State. (Vide page 18 of our March, 1944 report).

An investigation into the possibilities of vernalization of rice in India is to be taken up by ^{the} Calcutta university.

The Governing Body has also sanctioned Rs. 45,000 for the establishment of schools of research in mycology. The aim is to co-ordinate the research activities in this science all over India, to eliminate duplication and to make the maximum use of all available facilities. It is intended to establish schools later in other agricultural sciences so that individuals and institutions possessing special qualifications and facilities for special aspects of research may specialize in those lines.

On the animal husbandry side new schemes to be undertaken include investigation into the incidence of bovine tuberculosis, poultry diseases and diseases of sheep and goats.

(The Statesman, 7-9-1944).

Prevention of Soil Erosion in Bengal:
Board Set up.*

Steps necessary for preventing soil erosion in Bengal were discussed at a conference of experts of the departments of Irrigation, Forests and Agriculture, held at Calcutta on 10-9-1944 under the presidentship of Mr. B.P. Pain, Minister for Communication and Works. A number of useful suggestions were made and a Board was formed to deal with the problem.

(The Vanguard, dated 10-9-1944).

NAVIGATION.Amenities for Indian Seamen: Government
of India's Immediate Plans.

According to a report of the New Delhi Correspondent of the Bombay Chronicle, the Government of India ~~is~~ ~~has~~ under consideration certain far-reaching plans for improving the conditions of service and living of Indian seamen. The plans include the constitution of a Tripartite Seamen's Labour Conference, limitation of hours of work, sickness insurance and the setting up of a national maritime board to carry out the plan. Government is also reported to be examining the position of India in regard to I.L. Conventions regarding seamen. A new Seamen's Amenities Officer has already been appointed.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 13-9-1944).

Higher Pay for Indian Seamen: Negotiations
in London.

From a cabled message dated 31-8-1944 from London, of the United Press of America, it is learnt that negotiations are going on in London between ship-owners and the Indian Seamen regarding grant of increased pay for the latter. The ship-owners consider that the seamen are demanding a 400 per cent increase. The pre-war wage of an Indian seaman was Rs. 23 and a coalman's Rs. 18. Now they are receiving thrice their pre-war wages. Master Ayub Ali, spokesman of the seamen is stated to have pointed out that the seamen's demand of Rs. 200 per month was much less than the wages received by those who had signed the 'English Articles', namely Rs. 350 a month.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
1-9-1944).

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

The U.P. Hand-Printers and Hand-Dyers Licensing
Order, 1944.*

The United Provinces Government issued on 14-9-1944 the U.P. Hand-printers and Hand-Dyers Licensing Order, 1944, under which manual printing and dying of cloth may be carried on only under Government licence.

(Notification No.F-1041/C.S.(B)-55-1944 dated 14-9-1944, the U.P. Gazette Extraordinary, dated 14-9-1944). ✓

Cooperative Societies to replace Private
Dealers as Custodians of Government
Godowns in Hyderabad State: Recommendation
of State Central Food Advisory Council.*

The Hyderabad Central Food Advisory Council at a meeting held under the presidentship of the Nawab of Chhatari, President of the Nizam's Executive Council, recommended to the Government that co-operative societies should as far as possible replace private merchants as custodians of Government godowns and that these societies should have a majority of members representing agricultural and consumers' interests. The Council welcomed Government's proposal to have more godowns and grain shops in rural areas. The Council decided that a committee of non-official members should tour districts and report on corruption, if any, in the food administration. Stricter vigilance by military patrols to prevent smuggling of foodgrains to British India was also suggested.

(The Hindustan Times, 25-9-1944).

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LIVING CONDITIONS.

Housing.

Housing Plan for Hyderabad (Deccan)
City. †

The outline of a plan for building ~~suitable~~ suburbs for Hyderabad (Deccan) City has been submitted to the Government of Hyderabad State by Mr. M. Fayazuddin, Town Planning Officer. Among the suggestions made in the plan are the shifting of factories outside the city, the concentration of ~~at~~ military areas in definite zones, the provision of recreation grounds scattered over residential areas, the construction of inner and outer circular roads and railroads circumscribing the city and suburbs, the creation of satellite towns to relieve the pressure on the congested parts of the city, the replanning of the traffic lay-out and the rehousing of the poor and factory labourers. The Town Planning Officer also recommends research in housing, transportation, social and health conditions, industries and building material. To carry out the plan, Mr. Fayazuddin suggests the creation of a Regional Planning Board, ~~un-~~~~regis~~ restricted by existing administrative boundaries.

(The Hindu, dated 5-9-1944).

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ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

7th ~~XX~~ Annual General Meeting of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, 24-8-1944. +

The economic, industrial and labour conditions in Northern India during 1943-44 were reviewed by Mr. J. Tinker, Chairman, the Employers' Association of Northern India, in his presidential address at the seventh annual general meeting of the Association held at Cawnpore on 24-8-1944.

Labour Situation.- Mr. Tinker said that labour situation in the year under review, satisfactory, there having been no major strikes. This was the result of the facilities for arbitration and conciliation provided under the Defence of India Rules. He criticised the fast pace at which labour legislation measures were being proceeded with by the Government of India and said that some of the questionnaires issued by committees which had recently been formed, were beyond the average, short-staffed, employer to reply easily. He urged the setting up of a central department to co-ordinate and balance the various measures suggested so as to avoid the confusion which might otherwise result.

Trade Unions.- He stated that there was yet no really representative ~~textile~~ trade union in Cawnpore, that is a union run by people who had worked in mills and who know the conditions of work. The present day trade union leaders were not technically or practically endowed with the necessary knowledge of the subject to be discussed when differences of opinion occurred. Usually, when disputes arose, too much stress was laid on "demands", many of which were put forward in order to make an imposing list and bore little relation to the actual cause of the dispute.

Housing.- The question of providing housing for workers in Cawnpore was still under the ~~xx~~ active consideration of the Association. But no real progress could be achieved until the necessary labour and materials were available. And in drawing up the final scheme, it is pointed out that due consideration should be paid to any future development or improvement plans for the city.

Coal Problem.- The coal situation during the year had been far from satisfactory. Member concerns had so far been able to run their mills and factories with comparatively little loss of time, but the position had deteriorated and unless something could be done to improve deliveries to mills, they would have to introduce short-term working very soon.

Control Measures.- During the year Control Orders had been issued covering cotton, leather, wool and practically all commodities handled by the member concerns. Referring to these, he said that the trading community and the public in general ~~was~~ had to realise that the object of these control measures was to benefit the community as a whole, and that they were not intended to restrict trading but to ensure even distribution of commodities. Black markets could be prevented only if consumers co-operated with the authorities.

Food Purchase.- During the year under review the Association continued with its food purchasing scheme. Purchases on behalf of members amounted to Rs. 10.2 million. There had been close co-operation and agreement between the Association and the Government on all measures adopted by the latter in regard to food grains,

although the Association felt that the present rationing scheme imposed rather heavy responsibilities on employers' grain shops. The food-grains storage arrangements too were not satisfactory. It had been found that large cities like Cawnpore had to have facilities for storing at least one year's grain in reserve. Wastage, due to faulty storage, had been as high as 15 per cent and deterioration, due to the same cause, had brought forth many complaints regarding quality. He thought that it would be better if the existing restrictions on food grain purchase could be relaxed so that member concerns could be met by grain from the villages at controlled rates, making arrangements at the same time for the supply to the villagers of articles like cloth, yarn, iron, steel, etc.

Welfare of Agriculturists.- He said that in the various post-war social security schemes contemplated by the Government due importance had not been placed on the welfare of agriculturists who formed the back-bone of industrial progress. Much more had to be done to promote education, scientific farming methods, better living conditions, etc. to improve their lot. Frequently low prices were the reward for their labour because there was too little balancing between years of bumper and poor crops. Co-operative societies and efficient bulk storage systems would help considerably.

(Summarised from a copy of the speech received in this office from the Association).

Annual Report of the Employers' Association of Northern India for 1943-1944 .+

The seventh annual report of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, for the year ending 31-1-1944, was presented to the annual general meeting of the Association held at Cawnpore on 24-8-1944. The report contains a survey of labour conditions in Cawnpore; the salient features of the report are given below:

Number of Workers.- The number of workers employed in member concerns of the Association during the year rose from 66,674 to 86,454 in Cawnpore and from 11,779 to 18,066 in other areas, the total thus increasing from 78,453 to 104,520.

Complaints.- The total number of cases of labour complaints received was 868 as against 456 during the previous year. Of these 734 were received through the Government Labour Office and 134 by the Association direct. The report points out that the increase in the number of complaints was not due to labour unrest, most of them relating only to routine matters; and that it only indicated that individual labourers were taking greater advantage of the conciliation machinery.

The total number of cases heard by the Labour Commissioner was 351 as against 186 in the previous year. Decisions in the case of 80.9 per cent of these were in favour of the Association, 14.3 per cent were against and 4.8 per cent neutral.

Labour Bureau.- The number of men registered in the Association's Labour Bureau was 14,130 as against 22,125 in the previous year and the ~~fig~~ number of men for whom employment was found was ~~22~~ 9,161 as against 19,034 during the previous year, the relative percentages

being 64.76 and ~~86.49~~ 86.49. The biggest fall has been in the leather industry but all industries show a decrease in their demands. The report regrets that all members of the Association were not recruiting through the Association's Labour Bureau. It is pointed out that if all would do so then a closer check could be kept on the migration of Labour from one mill to another and also the figures would be available as to the labour available for employment.

99.14 per cent of the workers registered were from the United Provinces as against 99.09 per cent in the previous year.

Literacy among the workers registered showed an increase, the percentage of literates having gone up by 5.06 per cent in comparison with the figures for previous year. This increase is ~~attributed~~ attributed to the falling off of the demand for unskilled workers in the leather industry which usually engages mostly illiterate workers.

Strikes.- The number of workers ~~was~~ involved in strikes ~~was~~ in member concerns rose from 18,790 to 20,072 (4,385 in Cawnpore and 15,683 in out-stations). The number of working days lost was 106,791 (24,254 in Cawnpore and 82,537 in outstations); and the wages lost were Rs. 46,157 (Rs. 3,948 in Cawnpore and Rs. 42,209 in outstations). The Cawnpore figures, the report states, show a big drop and are the second lowest on record. Most of the strikes were in smaller member concerns and were generally in connection with war dear food allowance and bonus questions. In each case the men returned to work unconditionally. The position in regard to payments of bonus and war dear food allowance amongst the smaller member concerns was examined by the Labour Commissioner, and steps were taken to standardise the war allowance rates. As regards outstation members, the figures concerning them are the highest on record. Most of the strikes occurred in the new concerns. A number of them arose from political causes.

War Dear Food Allowance and Bonus and Food Supply.- The cost of living index figure for Cawnpore went on steadily rising till September 1943, when it began gradually to decline. The general and subsidiary figures were 335.8 and 308 respectively in June, 1943 (base August 1939=100), 353.3 and 316.3 in September 1943, and 304.3 and 277.1 in January 1944. The allowances paid to ~~the~~ compensate for the rise varied from time to time. The pay level up to which allowances were paid was Rs. 150 a month in the cotton, woollen and leather industries and the jute industry. In the former the scale of allowance corresponding to a cost of living index above 200 was a minimum of 6½ annas a day plus 1.4 ~~rs~~ pies per day per point of increase above 200. In the jute industry the minimum payable was 5 annas ~~and~~ a day and 1 ~~rs~~ pie per point of increase above 200.

As in the previous year, members of the Association declared a bonus which was, in the case of the cotton, woollen and leather industries, Annas 4 in the rupee on basic wages. The majority of the remaining members, both in Cawnpore and outstations, paid bonus varying from As. 2 to As. 4 in the rupee, on basic wages. In most cases, these rates were fixed by the Labour Commissioner in the course of adjudication or conciliation proceedings.

The sale of food grains at concessional rates continued throughout the year. The total amount invested amounted to Rs. 10,200,000. From July 1943, the United Provinces Government introduced a rationing scheme, applicable to industrial labour and to the poorer classes in the city, after which issues were made by members of the Association in accordance ~~with~~ with the limits laid down by the Government. The Association continued its own scheme for the sale at concessional rates, of sugar, salt and pulses. At the commencement of the year, ~~the~~

the Association was purchasing all supplies direct from the market, but in September 1943, under Government orders, supplies of those items coming under the Government Rationing Scheme have been purchased from Government depots.

General Situation.- On the whole, labour remained steadily at work during the period. The report attributes this to the continued increase in employment and earnings, the payment of war dear food allowance adjusted to the cost of living index and the satisfactory functioning of grain shops. Another factor, as in the previous year, was the enforcement by the Government of adjudication proceedings under the Defence of India Rules when it appeared there was a likelihood of a strike. The general policy of labour unions had been to discourage strikes and encourage the putting forward of grievances in a constitutional manner. This also had a considerable effect in lowering the number of strikes. It is, however, pointed out that the provision for punishing workers taking part in illegal strikes was not generally enforced by Government.

(Summarised from ~~is~~ a copy of the report sent by the Employers' Association of Northern Indian to this Office).

400

Workers' Organisations.

Merger of Railwaymen's Unions in India: Decision
of A.I.R.F. +

~~At~~

At a meeting of the Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation held in Delhi on 19-9-1944 under the presidentship of Mr. Jammadas Mehta, it was decided to form a union of all railwaymen in India. A sub-committee consisting of Messrs Jammadas Mehta, A.M. Williams, S. Guruswamy, M.A. Khan, Humayun Kabir, S.C. Joshi and B.K. Mookerjee was formed to draft a constitution for the union.

(The Statesman, 20-9-1944).

All India Railway Employees' Conference,
Lahore, 16-9-1944. +

Mr. Jammadas Mehta, M.L.A. (Central) and member of the National Defence Council, presiding over the All-India Railway Employees' Conference, ^{held at Lahore, 16-9-1944} declared that it was high time that the Railway Board recognised the work of the railway workers in the successful prosecution of the war and redressed their grievances by raising their wages 100 per cent ~~and~~ by granting them a monthly dearness allowance of not less than Rs. 45.

The main resolution adopted at the conference incorporated the chief demands of railwaymen as outlined in the president's speech and catalogued ~~in~~ the grievances against the railway administration.

Another resolution dealt with the protection of railwaymen's interests after the termination of the war and asked them to resist all possible attempts of the Railway Board to retrench them or reduce their salaries. The Conference requested the Railwaymen's Federation to bring pressure on the Railway Board so that "it may not contemplate any such retrenchment or cut in salaries".

A reduction in the number of working hours was urged through another resolution. The conference also demanded an increase in travelling and other allowances because of the rise in prices.

(The Times of India, 19-9-1944).

Mr. N.M. Joshi's Advice to Bengal Provincial
T.U.C. to organise Industrial Unions. +

During ~~the~~ his recent tour in Bengal, Mr. N.M. Joshi, General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, met members of the General Council of the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress and stressed the urgency of further strengthening their Provincial and ^{workers} all-India organisation and not to start any Union on factory basis but to start at least on a regional basis with the view to have a centralised industrial union by federating all Unions in one industry.

On the issue of dearness allowance and basic wage increase which are agitating workers all over India, Mr. Joshi advised the B.P.T.U.C. to take a lead in calling an All-India Dearness Allowance and Basic Wage Conference to draw the attention of the Government and the employers to these all-important immediate demands. (The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 20-9-44).

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Rs. 1 Million Scheme of Work Houses and Beggar Homes in Madras.

Mr. J.P.L. Shenoy, Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, proposes shortly to address rich and generous-minded citizens of Madras to contribute liberally for a fund of Rs. ~~20 lakhs~~ to be started by him for putting into effect schemes for the benefit of the poor, the helpless and the sick. The schemes he has in view are: The construction of Work House for able-bodied beggars, the starting of a Home for beggars suffering from infectious and contagious diseases, (the existing Home having no accommodation for fresh cases); the starting of a Home for leprous beggars; the starting of a Home for infirm beggars not suffering from any dangerous or loathsome diseases; the starting of a Home for ~~the~~ helpless children, where straying children will be looked after and educated; opening of small choultries in various parts of the City where poor emigrant labourers in search of work will be housed and, if possible, fed until they got permanently absorbed in the City; and the improvement of slums and cheries.

(The Hindu, dated 28-9-1944).

EDUCATION.

Committee to examine Introduction in Delhi immediately of Plan of Central Advisory Board of Education.

A Committee of experts ~~is~~ engaged in considering if the post-war plan of the Central Advisory Board of Education (vide pages 32-34 of our January, 1944 report) could be introduced in Delhi immediately.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-9-1944).

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

Compensation for Involuntary short-term
Unemployment in Industries: Madras
Government's ~~Notice~~ Decision +

The Government of Madras had instructed all local bodies and heads of departments on the matter of payment of compensation to labour for involuntary short-term unemployment during the war due to shortage of coal or raw materials or changes in lines of production of which adequate notice could not be given. This subject, it will be remembered, figured as an item on the agenda of the Tripartite Labour Conference held in ~~September~~ September, 1943 (vide pages 4 to 10 of our report for August, 1943). The benefit to be given to labour is fixed at 75 per cent of the ordinary rate of pay for the first fortnight of unemployment and 50 per cent for the second fortnight, with possibly a flat rate of benefit for persons drawing a lower level of income. The flat rate should be 75 per cent of the average of a lower range of wage rates in the undertaking. The duration of the benefit is one month.

The benefit, it is stated, would not cover closure of factories or of departments due to special government orders or closure of which adequate notice was given. Certain conditions for the grant of this benefit have been set out. It is pointed out that a worker should not be eligible for benefit if he unreasonably refused work of a sort different from that in which he is usually employed, or in another department of the same factory. At the same time an employer would not be entitled to discharge during the benefit period any worker who had been in continuous employment with in his factory or in the same industry in that locality for a period of not less than three months.

The liability to pay the benefit would be on the employer and all industries would be covered by this scheme whether engaged in war industries or not. The view of the Government of India is that the whole cost of the temporary benefits should fall on the employer who could recoup it by an addition to the cost. The Government of Madras has accepted the principle enunciated by the Government of India and has directed heads of departments who have industrial establishments under their control to allow these benefits. The heads of Departments are also requested to submit proposals to the Government upon the passing of the extra cost to consumers, wherever possible, as soon as it was anticipated that there would be a temporary closure of some sections of an industrial establishment under their control.

(The Hindu, dated 9-9-1944).

44

Two and a Half Months' Profit-Sharing
Bonus for 1943-44 for Tata Iron and
Steel Company Employees..+

The Tata Iron and Steel Company has sanctioned the payment of two and a half months' pay as profit sharing bonus for its employees for the year 1943-44. The decision was announced by Mr. J.J. Ghandy, Agent of the Company.

(The Tisco Review, September,
1944).

War Allowance for Government Officers..+

gazetted and non-gazetted officers of the Central Government are to receive a war allowance with effect from 1-7-1944. The allowance is to be paid to the Central services as well as to the officers under the Secretary of State. It is understood that among gazetted officers, those who are married and draw up to Rs. 1,000 will receive a war ~~allowance~~ allowance equal to 10 per cent of their pay, subject to a minimum of Rs. 50. Single officers drawing up to Rs. 750 will receive an allowance equal to 5 per cent of their pay, subject to a minimum of Rs. 30. These will apply to Central services and to services under the Secretary of State for India.

Non-gazetted officers of the Central services will receive a dearness allowance at existing rates, or a war allowance of 10 per cent of pay, whichever is greater.

All these allowances are intended to last until the end of the war.

It is learned that Provincial Governments have under examination a similar scheme of allowances for their employees.

(The Hindu, dated 30-9-1944).

Annual Bonus for Workers: Decision of
South Indian Millowners..+

At a meeting of the Southern India Millowners' Association held at Coimbatore on 20-9-1944, it was resolved to recommend to member mills that an annual prosperity bonus be paid, equivalent to 3 months' basic wages actually earned, calculated as $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total earned wages during the previous 12 months ending 31-8-1944. The bonus paid for the previous year was 2 months' wages. It is recommended that the additional one month's wages be saved for the workers in the form of either War Savings Certificates or as share capital in co-operative and any other

registered credit society attached to the mill and that each mill should pay in cash two months' wages only.

(The Hindu, dated 24-9-1944).

A.I.R.F's demand for 100 per cent increase in Railwaymen's wages. +

The general Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met at New Delhi on 19-9-1944 under the chairmanship of Mr. Jammadas Mehta; it reviewed the discussions the Federation had that day with the Railway Board on the grievances of railway workers and adopted a resolution demanding that the basic scales of pay of all railwaymen in subordinate and lower paid services be enhanced cent per cent with such dearness allowance as may be necessary or, in the alternative, a flat dearness allowance of Rs. 45 per month per head be sanctioned. The Council called on the affiliated unions to mobilize fullest support for the above demand by observing 2-10-1944 as an All-India Day by holding meetings by railwaymen throughout India. In the event of failure to get a satisfactory reply from the Railway Board by October 20, a special meeting of the convention of the Federation is to be held at ~~Mughalsarai~~ not later than 20-11-1944, to consider appropriate action to secure satisfaction of the above demand of the Federation.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-9-1944).

Welfare.

Working of Grain Shops opened by Indian
Railways. *

The Indian railways distribute food through 625 grain shops to 828,000 ration card-holders and their families. The price charged are those which prevailed in August, 1942, a period in which the inflationary spiral had not assumed dangerous proportions. The shops deal in 20 principal commodities; some of these, such as dals, spices and cooking oils, consist of several varieties. Last year, 10,255,413 maunds (1 maund=82 lbs.) of weighed goods were sold; this year the figure has reached 1,247,000 maunds per month. This includes 1,200 maunds of milk and 4,000 maunds of vegetables, which items have been recently included in the supply scheme. In addition, 16,000 gallons of kerosene, 492,000 cases of soap, 1,704,000 boxes of matches and 795,000 yards of cloth are issued every month. The cost of distribution, including freight at public rates and other overhead charges, is Re. 1-2-0 per head or 7.6 per cent of the turnover. Railways are spending Rs. 15,000,000 a month in securing the necessary supplies. This scheme gives an employee monetary relief to the extent of Rs. 8-13-0 per month on purchases for his essential needs. In August, 1943, this figure rose ~~to~~ to Rs. 14-1-0 per employee. The total cost of this vast organization to the railway department was approximately Rs. 100 million in 1943-44; this sum included the loss incurred on the concessional rates. In the current year, in spite of expanded activities, the total cost is not expected to exceed Rs. 75 million; this is because, as a result of measures adopted by Government, civil supplies have increased and prices have declined.

The Railway Board have sanctioned, subject to certain conditions, a bonus to all temporary employees who are discharged after the war. The rate of the bonus is one day's pay for each completed month of service.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-9-1944).

New Advisory Committee for Welfare
Plans in Coal Mines. *

As provided in the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, promulgated in January, 1944 (vide pages 44-45 of our January 1944 report), to constitute a fund to finance welfare schemes for labour in coal mines, the Central Government has framed rules for the composition of the advisory committee, the collection of excise duty levied under the Ordinance and the administration of the ordinance.

The rules, provide that the ~~advisory~~ advisory committee will consist of the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Labour as chairman and 21 other members, of whom six will be representatives of employers and six of workers. Its headquarters will be in Bengal and Bihar ~~mining~~ coalfields. It will elect a number of sub-committees to deal with finance, works and coal-fields. The rules provide that all members of the ~~finance~~ coal-fields sub-committees except those of members of the finance and works sub-committees, shall be non-official. In constituting the sub-committees equal representation will be given to colliery owners and workmen employed in the coal mining industry.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec. 1,
dated 23-9-1944, pages 1253 to 1256)

Factory Canteens: Government of India
Suggests Further Development.

The Government of India ~~is~~^{is} understood to have addressed provincial administrations urging them to encourage industrialists to inaugurate factory canteens for serving meals and light refreshments to their employees. The Government, ~~on~~^{on} its side, is prepared to allow additional quantities of rationed food to be served as cooked meals, even in areas where an extra supplementary ration has already been allowed to heavy manual workers. In the event of the provinces requiring increased quantities to meet the demands of industrial canteens, the Food Department is prepared to increase grain allotments to the extent of the additional "off-takes".

(The Hindustan Times, 27-9-1944).

Control Measures.

U.K.C.C. to continue after War: Meeting between
Indian Business men and Officials of Government
of India.

¹⁵⁻⁹⁻¹⁹⁴⁴
The Conference of Indian business men and five members of the Central ~~Legislative~~ Legislature on the activities of the U.K.C.C. in India to address which the Commerce ^{Member} and Mr. N.R. Pillai, ^{his} Secretary, ~~was held on 15-9-1944~~ ended in the Government deciding not to consider the formation of an Indian Commercial Corporation ~~as a~~ parallel to the U.K.C.C. in the immediate future.

With regard to Indian commercial communities' demand that the U.K.C.C. should, now that the European war is about to ^{come to} close, cease to operate in India and in the Middle East countries, the Government was not prepared to give any assurance, even though it was explained in detail what great a harm was being done to India's export trade with the neighbouring countries by the operations of the U.K.C.C.

When the U.K.C.C. began work in India complaints of the Indian commercial community grew more strident. The Government of India expressed its helplessness in the matter. Last year a suggestion was made from a certain quarter that an Indian Commercial Corporation on the model of the U.K.C.C. could be formed for the performance of all the functions of the U.K.C.C. within India. The Government promptly accepted this suggestion. But the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, ~~on~~^{on} considering this proposal, came to the conclusion that ~~it~~ it would ~~do~~ do more harm than good. A body acting as the agents of the U.K.C.C. would not make India's export trade with the Middle East countries easier. Moreover the selection of the personnel of the Indian Commercial Corporation would provide many problems. For these reasons the Federation pressed the Government to drop the I.C.C. idea and pleaded ~~for the Indian zone~~ ~~and permit~~ for the withdrawal of the U.K.C.C. from the Indian zone and permit normal import-export transactions to begin functioning. While accepting the suggestion regarding the I.C.C. the Government have expressed their inability to do anything in connection with the U.K.C.C.

(The Hindustan Times, 16-9-1944).

The Chrome Compounds Control Order,
1944.*

The Government of India on 23-8-1944 issued the Chrome Compounds Control Order, 1944, under which Chrome compounds may be sold only to persons licensed by the Director of Chemicals. The compounds included are potassium bichromate, potassium chromate, sodium bichromate, sodium chromate and chrome alum.

(Notification No. SS/45 dated 23-8-1944,
The Gazette of India, dated 26-8-1944,
part I, Section 1, Pages 1129-1130).

Price Control.

Economic Advisory Board Set up in Bihar.*

Reference was made at page 55 of our report for December, 1943, to the announcement made by the Governor of Bihar of ~~his~~ Government's intention to set up an Economic Advisory Board for the Province. The board which has been recently constituted under the Chairmanship of the Governor, consists of 24 members, many of whom are non-officials, including representatives of employers and workers. The Secretary to the Supply and Price Control Department, will be the Secretary to the Board.

The functions of this Board will be to advise Government on the working of the various war time controls, and to act as a link in economic matters between Government and the general public, including industrial and commercial interests. It will replace the existing Price Control Advisory Committee, the Cloth Committee and the Supply Committee. The work of the Board will be largely done through various sub-committees consisting of its members with the co-optation of such officials as may be considered necessary.

The inaugural meeting of the Board was scheduled to take place on 15-9-1944.

(The Bihar Gazette (Extraordinary),
dated 14-9-1944).

Employment.

Central Directorate of Unskilled Labour
Supply set up.

According to a press note dated 6-9-1944 issued by the Government of India, a Directorate of Unskilled Labour Supply has been set up under the Labour Department of the Government, consisting of a director and a number of deputy directors. The Directorate will keep in touch with all provincial and district or regional supply committees set up under the Central Government's scheme for co-ordinating the use of unskilled labour throughout India. It will co-ordinate the activities of these committees, supervise existing labour supply depots and establish new ones. While, generally speaking, the Directorate will assist in the more effective mobilisation of available unskilled labour supply, it will also take steps to see that manpower economy measures are vigorously pressed.

One deputy director has been specially entrusted with the work of labour supply in colliery areas, for the time being. He will deal with questions relating to recruitment of labour for collieries, supervision and control of imported labour camps and working of the controlled area scheme, which is operating in the coalfields, so as to get back to the collieries coal mining labour employed in other works.

(The Vanguard, dated 8-9-1944).

Control of Recruitment and Employment of
Labour : Mr. N.M. Joshi's Protest against
Central Government's Assumption of Powers.

Reference was made at page 27 of our report for June, 1944, to the amendment made in the Defence of India Rules under which powers were assumed by the Central ~~Government~~ Government for controlling the recruitment and employment of labour in certain specified areas. In a letter addressed to the Government of India recently, Mr. N.M. Joshi, General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, protests against this and points out that it is wrong for Government to deprive workers of an opportunity to get wages in the open market by compelling them to do work for essential services by using powers under this order. If workers are to be recruited and compelled to work by the exercise of ~~these~~ these powers, he says, such workers should be given adequate ~~compensation~~ compensation.

(The Trade Union Record, August, 1944).

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Indore Scheme to train Women for
Government Service.+

The Maharaja of Indore recently inaugurated the Indore Women's Service. The object of the scheme is to educate girls of Indore State and to give them training for Government jobs, such as stenographers, typists and nurses. Planned on a bold and liberal scale, the scheme provides for adequate pay from the time of a girl's registration with the Service. To start with, the training is limited to 50. The basic pay is to be Rs. 55 per month. There are promotions to service ranks, and efficiency increments to all members.

(The Statesman, 27-9-1944).

Production.

Working of Multiple Shifts in Factories
in India.

Madras.- Reference was made at page 35 of our report for July, 1944 to the working of multiple shifts of factories in Madras during April, 1944. In May and June the number of factories working multiple shifts in the Province was 209 and 239 respectively, employing 30,653 and 31,769 workers respectively. During June 1944, in the rice and ~~tax~~ textile mills, there was a rise of 62 and 9 respectively in the number of factories and of 3,322 and 2,620 respectively in the number of workers. The factories working multiple shifts during June 1944 were distributed over a fewer number of industries than in the previous month. The number of workers employed in multiple shifts was maximum in the textile industry, being 17,448. Rice mills occupied the second place with 6,487, and engineering came third with 1,993.

Only one of the 7 factories in the engineering group provided welfare amenities, viz. tea canteen, tiffin shed, rest houses and dispensary. The one factory in the chemicals and dyes group working night shift supplied 2 cups of tea free to the night shift workers. In the textile industry 11 mills supplied tea, one mill, meals and three mills, meals and tea. Tea, tiffin shed and rest houses have been provided for in two mills. One mill in this group gave tea free of cost to the night shift workers. Provision for meals and rest houses at cheap rates was made in one mill, while rest halls were provided by another.

North-West Frontier Province.- In the ~~North~~ ^{West} North Frontier Province, 1 factory employing 365 workers and 13 factories employing 1,638 workers were working double and multiple shifts respectively during May 1944. The corresponding figures for June 1944 were 2 factories employing 430 workers and 12 factories employing 1,545 workers. These factories were spread over the same groups of industries during the two months under review.

One public electric supply company provided a common room with arrangements for indoor games free for its power house staff, and the sugar factory working on multiple shifts system provided rent free quarters, electricity and oil, or in the alternative, house rent, to enable the non-local labour to reside near the factory.

Bombay.- In Bombay 65 mills with 83,799 workers were working night shift in the first week of July 1944. In Ahmedabad 66 mills with 48,932 workers were working night shift in the third week of July 1944.

(Indian Labour Gazette, September, 1944).

Cess Levied on Coal and Coke under
Coal Production Fund Ordinance.

A notification was gazetted by the Government of India on 22-9-1944 levying under the Coal Production Fund Ordinance (vide page 39 of our report for August, 1944), on all coal and coke despatched by rail from collieries in British India a cess at the rate of Rs. 1-4-0 per ton.

(The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, dated 22-9-1944, page 1413).

Steps to Stimulate Coal Production:
Special Depreciation Granted .

The grant of a special depreciation allowance at the rate of 50 per cent per annum on the written down value of coal-mining machinery and the concession of a production bonus, liable to income-tax but free of excess profits tax, are among the relief measures which Government has decided to give to collieries to encourage production of coal. The depreciation allowance is admissible on all items of machinery necessary to maintain production of coal, but is not applicable to items of stores required for replacement.

The bonus will be paid from the Coal Production Fund, constituted under an Ordinance promulgated on August 26, 1944 (vide page 39 of our August, 1944, report). It will be calculated on a sliding scale according to which the rate of bonus will increase with excess over the targets fixed for the colliery undertaking.

(The Times of India, 18-9-1944).

Textile Industry.

Over 25 per cent Woollen Production to
be released for Civilians. +

According to a report published in the Times of ~~Indian~~ India dated 5-9-1944, over 25 per cent of India's woollen production may be released for civilian consumption during the current year. This has been made possible by the fact that India's 15 woollen mills are now producing nearly 4 3/4 times more goods since the war. Up to the present the entire production of the mills has been devoted to the needs of the defence forces. Greatly increased production in the mills has been made possible because of greater standardisation in the manufacture of goods for the services. The mills have so far been precluded by agreement from catering for civilian demand. The decision to release 25 per cent of the production was taken because of the scarcity and the high price of woollen cloth in the civilian market. The cloth will be distributed under the supervision of the Government. This can be taken as the first step in the readjustment of the industry to normal conditions.

(The Times of India, 5-9-1944).

Cotton Cloth and Yarn Prices
reduced. +

The ^{Industry} Committee of the Textile Control Board, Government of India, at its meeting held at Bombay on 30-8-1944, decided to lower the maximum selling prices of cotton cloth, packed and delivered by mills on or after 1-9-1944, by 6 1/4 per cent. It also decided to enforce a reduction of as. 3 per rupee in the price of yarn below 14 counts and of an anna in the rupee of yarn between 16 and 24 counts. It was agreed that the ceiling prices for yarn between 26s. and 40s. should be continued for the next quarter. Ceiling prices of yarns between 60s. and 80s. will be increased slightly while yarn above 80s. will be an anna in the rupee higher.

In view of the shortage of finer mill cloth the Committee, it is learnt, decided to direct the cotton mills in the country not to sell yarn above 80s for civil consumption. In view of this decision, the power looms and handlooms industry ~~may~~ spread all over the country will have to depend on existing supplies of finer yarns in the market and would not be able to produce hereafter finer cloth for civilian consumption. On the other hand, since it would be obligatory on the mills to weave all the finer yarns produced by them, the output of mill ~~made~~ cloth of superior quality is expected to show a big increase after December, 1944.

(The Times of India, 1-9-1944).

War Transport.

Modifications in Country Craft Traffic Scheme.

Reference was made at page 37 of our report for May, 1944, to the working of the Country Craft organisation in the 1943 season. According to a press-note of the Government of India dated 15-8-1944 certain modifications in the original scheme have been evolved by the Government of India in consultation with provincial Governments concerned, and will be put into effect during the ~~original scheme~~ 1944 season.

The essentials of the ^{modified} scheme, which is known as the "route scheme" are the selection of definite routes on the coast, the appointment of an agent for each route or combination of routes, and the control of freight rates. Freight rates will be fixed by the Controller of Indian Shipping on the advice of freight advisory committees and in consultation with Government and military authorities. Agents will be selected by the Controller of Indian Shipping for chartering the boats and running them at the rates fixed, for seeing that these are maintained and handled ~~or~~ properly, for providing storage accommodation and for making arrangements for the handling of cargo. To ensure that the best and most economical use is made of all country craft available, steps will be taken to prevent any craft from sailing except in accordance with the instructions of the agents.

Another press-note dated 2-9-1944 says ~~that~~ that the first schedule of freight rates under the new scheme has been already drawn up, showing the net freight, the brokerage and the agents' commission for all commodities likely to be carried over the different routes. Further, for the three routes which originate from Karachi, a syndicate of three agents has been formed by mutual consent and this syndicate, the Indian Countrycraft Shipping Syndicate, will jointly be responsible for working the scheme on these routes. The remaining routes covering the ports between Cutch and Tuticorin, for which no syndicate could be arranged, have been divided among three agents.

Certain categories of country-craft will be excluded from the ~~applicable~~ application of the scheme. They are: lighters ordinarily used in harbours and roadsteads for the shipment and landing of goods from steamers, etc., craft used entirely for fishing, craft used for the transport of sand in the Bombay harbour area, craft engaged in the transport of cargo to Africa or the Persian Gulf and craft used by owners for the transport of their own cargo.

With regard to the representations from various interests concerned to the effect that the "route" scheme will restrict the right of Indian nationals to ply their craft wherever they like and that this restriction is in marked contrast to the freedom enjoyed by outsiders as regards plying in Indian waters, Government points out that there is no substance in such complaints and that the sole aim of the control is to ensure that country-craft will be more fully and efficiently employed than before.

(The Statesman 16-8-1944, and the Hindustan Times, 4-9-1944).

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Food.

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Food Situation in India: Sir J.P. Srivastava's
Review.
New Policy Committee Set up.

The prevailing food situation in India was briefly reviewed by Sir J.P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, in the course of a discussion with the Committee of the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay, at Bombay on 5-9-1944.

Better Crops.- The Food Member said that since September, 1943, the food position in the country has undergone a substantial change for the better. There has been one of the biggest rice crops of the last few years. The wheat crop has not been equally good but Government has been able to maintain statutory price control for all important food grains, excepting rice about which it has not been possible to have an all-India statutory maxima. The basic plan operating during the current year relates to the period November, 1943, to October, 1944, ~~taxation~~ as regards kharif, and May, 1944, to April, 1945, as regards rabi. The total movement target ~~and~~ under these plans is 2,600,000 tons grain, of which 1,300,000 tons has already been despatched up to 15-8-1944. On the basis of the present ~~work~~ estimates, it is hoped that the wheat, gram, barley and maize quotas as well as the bulk of rice quotas will be fulfilled within the respective periods. The only difficulty is regarding millets, where the supply position has become difficult and it may not be possible to fulfil the entire quota.

Supply Position.- As regards supplies, conditions in some regions have been more acute than in others. Reports have been received of shortages in some local areas in Orissa and the south-west coast of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar. The Food Department has under consideration measures for assisting the Provincial Government in meeting these local shortages. As far as Bengal is concerned, the position has shown considerable improvement within July and August, 1944.

The rice quotas allotted to Travancore and Cochin have been substantially increased, compared to 1943, and special quotas, approximating roughly to 40,000 tons of wheat and wheat flour have been made to the U.P. during the current year, in view of the shortage of the wheat crop in that province. Extra allotments have also been made from imports to C.P. and recently a substantial allotment of 80,000 tons, which practically meets the entire demand of the Bombay Government, has been made to Bombay.

Imports.- The crux of the problem lies in the availability of imports. The Government of India has been pressing hard on the British Government the imperative necessity of implementing the Gregory Committee's recommendations and letting it have 1,000,000 tons of imported grains with an extra 500,000 tons as reserve. The Government has been able to secure a promise of 800,000 tons of grain within the 12 months ending September, 1944. This is not considered sufficient and it is hoped that the prospects of an early end of the war in Europe should enable His Majesty's Government to release more shipping and provide India with the full quantum of 1,500,000 tons for the next complete year.

Co-ordination of Procurement Machinery.- ^{The Food Member} He said that it was considered necessary to undertake a thorough examination of the position in different provinces and to formulate, if necessary, a central policy regarding procurement which will be applicable throughout the

whole of India. The Food Department, therefore, ^{had} placed one of its senior officers on special duty to collect data from the provinces, compare the various types of procurement machinery in operation and put forward definite proposals for a central policy of procurement. The Food Member, was of opinion that throughout the present emergency India should be treated as a single economic ~~unit~~ in matters of food distribution.

New Policy Committee Set up.- Sir J.P. Srivastava announced that a special Committee of the Governor-General's Executive Council had been set up with the Viceroy as Chairman and the Food Member, as Deputy Chairman, to secure the necessary measures for a successful policy of procuring and distributing food in India. Included in this Committee are the Commander-in-Chief and the Members for Commerce, War Transport and Education, Health and Lands. It is hoped that, as a result of this, a much more effective co-ordination would be obtained between the departments concerned, and that matters like "grow more food", supply of consumers' goods, movement of foodgrains and distribution of foodgrains would be more effectively handled than perhaps they had hitherto been.

(The Times of India and the Hindustan Times, dated 7-9-1944).

Uniform Rationing Throughout India:
Suggestion of Government of India
to Provinces..

An important communication, it is learned, has been addressed by the Central Food Department to all provincial administrations on the question of implementing the resolution passed by the Central Food Advisory Council recommending that full rationing should be introduced in every province, and that there should be a uniform scale of ration throughout the country. It is pointed out that in the initial stages of rationing the Central Government had allowed provinces considerable latitude in the organisation and working of the rationing schemes, but the present situation with regard to the country's overall supplies and India's relations with Britain in the matter of import, demand the adoption of a stricter and more uniform policy. While the Central Government prefers a basic ration of one pound per adult per day, with a supplementary ration for the heavy manual worker, ~~they are~~ prepared to allow a basic ration of eight pounds per adult per week, with no supplementary ration, except in the form of cooked food ~~through~~ through industrial canteens. But this eight pounds ration will apply only in those areas where the principal food-grains normally in use in the area are rationed. Where one or more of the principal food-grains in common use is not included in the ration, the Government of India has made it clear that the basic ration should in no case exceed one pound per adult per day, since those who desire more can supplement their ration with other food-grains.

(The Times of India, 25-9-1944).

Proposal to Ration Milk in India.

Some form of milk rationing will be introduced in Delhi and other large Indian cities in the near future. In pre-war years in India, the weekly per capita consumption of milk varied considerably in different cities, from 2½ ozs. in Cuttack to 59 ozs. in Shikarpur (Sind). Under war conditions, the consumption of milk in Indian cities has fallen considerably and the problem of supplying milk to priority consumers by introducing some form of rationing is engaging the attention of the Government of India.

(The Times of India, 25-9-1944).

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Progress of Development Plans in Hyderabad State.

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Some features of the post-war development plans that were being planned by the Government of Hyderabad State, and the progress attained in certain directions were dealt with at pages 66 to 67 of our report for December 1943. The following outline of the further progress made both in planning and execution of post-war schemes is based on a note published in the Hyderabad Information, September, 1944.

General Aims of the Plans.- The objective aimed at in the present planning ~~is~~ ~~covering~~ an all-round agricultural and industrial development, expansion of educational and medical facilities, etc. The planning is intended to cover every important branch of ~~the~~ governmental and non-official activity with a view to improve the general standard of living of the people.

Problems to be tackled.- Agriculture is the mainstay of the people of the State and big irrigation schemes have to be planned and executed, and improved methods of agriculture, marketing and collective and co-operative farming have to be introduced for its development. Hydro-electric schemes are to be initiated to provide cheap power in abundance for the expansion and growth of existing and future industries and for the supply of cheap power to rural industries. There is sufficient scope for the development of the textile, oil and ceramic industries, at least to the extent of self-sufficiency. With the electrification of villages it will be possible to ~~improve~~ improve greatly the small-scale and cottage industries which will increase the income of the villager. It is also necessary to develop fertilizer industry with a ~~new~~ view to increase the yield from land, and for making machine-tools to meet industrial and agricultural requirements. Scientific research, concentrated on the raw materials found in the State, has to be given additional facilities. A general stock-taking of the minerals found in the State is also necessary. What is further required ~~is~~ is the extension and expansion of communications for the transport of raw materials and finished products. Personnel for agricultural and industrial development has to be trained. Arrangements have to be made for the settlement of demobilized personnel in industries and agriculture after the necessary training. There are also the problems of illiteracy and illhealth. People must be educated and made physically fit. ~~for~~ Lastly, there is the all-important problem of raising funds for implementing the various post-war development schemes.

Special Committees' Work.- The planning and investigation work is now being carried on by a Planning Board, a separate secretariat and 13 special committees (vide pages 33 to 34 of our report for June, 1943 and pages 66 to 67 of our report for December 1943). Some of the special committees have already covered a good deal of ground and have submitted their recommendations. Some of the recommendations made are final and some provisional, while others represent only a preliminary reaction to the problems which are being further explored.

Training of Skilled Personnel.- For the training of skilled personnel for the various jobs in the development schemes, Government realises that it would be necessary to establish training colleges, to increase the output of the engineering and medical colleges and to establish training centres for nurses and health visitors. Further, Government will avail itself of facilities existing in India or abroad for the

professional training of suitable young men. Steps will be taken, as soon as circumstances permit, to send suitable and qualified young men for training outside. Equally great is the need for training technical staff for the Agriculture and Veterinary Departments, for which purpose a college of agronomy may be established providing facilities for training in the various branches of agriculture, including animal husbandry. Scholarships and stipends, to be granted to students receiving professional training in foreign countries, are estimated to cost Government Rs. 500,000 per annum.

Agricultural Development.- Seven different sub-committees have been appointed to investigate possibilities of all-round agricultural development. The various aspects that are being tackled are the improvement of agricultural propaganda, methods of improving live-stock, collective farming, better farming through use of improved implements and seeds, improved irrigational facilities, co-operative marketing, agricultural insurance, agricultural finance and the improvement of living conditions in villages—sanitation, housing and water-supply.

Industrial Development.- In view of the vast scope for the development of various small-scale and cottage industries in the State and the important part that such development is destined to play in ordering the economic life of the people, it has been suggested that an economic survey of the State be undertaken for collecting statistics in respect of small-scale and cottage industries. An Economic Adviser has been attached to the Post-War Planning Department to suggest ways and means for giving effect to this proposal. The Government is very keen on establishing new and developing and strengthening existing large-scale industries, so that the raw materials available in the State and the mineral and other resources may fully be utilized. Plans in regard to the establishment of new cotton textile mills, including a spinning mill and a cement factory, have reached an advanced stage. So also have plans for the manufacture of ceramics, vegetable oils, rayon, electrical goods, plastics, agricultural implements and chemical fertilizers.

Two definite steps forward taken in this connection are the establishment of a Central Laboratory for Industrial and Scientific Research and the acquisition by Government of the assets of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company which held the bulk of shares of the Singareni Collieries. The Company's output will assure an adequate coal supply which is so vital to the successful execution of any scheme of industrial development. The work in the laboratory will cover industrial and some aspects of agricultural research as also research based on raw materials found in the State.

A memorandum on the industrial and agricultural development of the Godavari valley, which is considered particularly suited for being the home of future industrial development of Hyderabad, has been prepared and is under the consideration of Government. While general agreement has been reached on the outline of the proposals embodied in the memorandum, it is realised that it is not necessary that the location of all new industries should be confined to this region alone. Their location would depend very largely on the availability of cheap power, raw materials, labour, water, communication and transport facilities.

Investigations are being carried on into the possibilities of organising agricultural banks, commercial banks, industrial banks, savings banks, etc. Expansion of insurance activities is also under consideration.

Hydro-electric Schemes.- Hydro-electric schemes are receiving the active attention of Government. An agreement has been reached already between the Governments of Madras and Hyderabad on the partial

apportionment of the waters of the Tungabhadra. The civil works of the Nizamsagar Hydro-Electric Scheme have already been started and are expected to be completed in about a year's time. Steps are likely to be taken in the near future to start negotiations with the Madras Government for the distribution of the waters of the Godavari.

Medical Facilities.- A 15-year scheme for the expansion of medical facilities, divided into three successive periods of five years, has been drawn up. The present budget of the Medical and Public Health Department amounts to Rs. 5 million annually, or 5 annas per head of the population. It is proposed to raise it to Rs. 19.24 million per annum in the first period, to Rs. 30.20 million per annum in the second period and to Rs. 35.91 million per annum in the third period. This would mean an average expenditure, per head of population, of Rs. 1-4-0 in the first, Rs. 2 in the second and Rs. 2-9-0 in the third period. Scientific and systematic training will be given to practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine.

Education.- With the ultimate idea of bringing education in the State up to the standards laid down in the Sargent Scheme (vide pages 36-37 of our report for October 1943), a 14-year programme has been prepared. It aims at bringing under instruction 33 per cent of boys and girls of school-going age. What is intended is the progressive provision of primary education till it is made compulsory for every citizen of the State. In addition to this, it is proposed to provide better and higher types of university education, technical education and education making people fit for agricultural and industrial pursuits on scientific lines. The estimated cost of implementing these plans is, in addition to the present expenditure on education, Rs. 17.96 million recurring, at the end of the first seven years, and Rs. 47.36 million, at the end of the fourteenth year. Of Rs. 17.96 million mentioned above, Rs. 15.38 million is for general and Rs. 2.58 million for technical education. Similarly, of Rs. 47.36 million, Rs. 42.53 million is for general and Rs. 4.83 million for technical education. The non-recurring expenditure during the entire period is estimated at Rs. 120 million (Rs. 100 million for general and Rs. 20 million for technical education).

Finance.- These various development schemes together are estimated to cost Rs. 2,320 million during the first ten years. Schemes estimated to cost Rs. 950 million have already been prepared while others are well under way.

(Hyderabad Information, September, 1944).

Training of Agricultural Workers:
Central Government's Scheme.

It is understood that about 25,000 hands including experts will be required to put into operation the agricultural improvement scheme prepared by ~~Sir~~ Sir P.M. Kharegat, Additional Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands, Government of India (vide pages 39 to 40 of our report for June 1944). The present strength of the Central and Provincial agricultural establishment is about 4,000. To meet the deficit it is understood that the Centre has written to the provinces to arrange for training of extra non-graduate and graduate ~~staff~~ staff.

It is learnt that Government will select 10 to 25 candidates a year for sending them abroad. They will be sent either to ~~Engin~~ England, America or Russia according to circumstances.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated
30-8-1944).

^{in India}
Development of Agriculture: Five
Special Committees to be
Appointed.

It is understood that, on the recommendations of the Policy Committee, the Government of India has decided to appoint five Committees. They are: An Indebtedness Committee with Prof. Gadgil as Chairman; A Land Utilisation Committee with Sir N. Gopaldaswami Iyengar as Chairman; A Fisheries Committee with Mr. Nazal Rahimtoola as Chairman; A Milk Committee with Sir Datar Singh as Chairman; and a Price Committee. It is further understood that the Committees will consist of 7 to 12 members. The personnel of the Committees, will be preponderantly non-official, except of the Land Utilisation Committee.

The Land Utilisation Committee will, among other things, make recommendations for the functioning of a Land Utilisation Board, the establishment of which is under the consideration of the Government of India. The Indebtedness Committee will recommend ways and means for the removal of indebtedness and for preventing it, after making a survey of indebtedness in the country. The Price Committee will suggest how a secure and steady price level can be obtained for the agricultural produce because the Government believes that if a steady price level can be maintained, it will serve as an impetus for bringing more waste lands under cultivation. The Milk and Fisheries Committees will recommend schemes for increasing the supply of milk and fish.

(The Hindu, 31-8-1944).

Post-War Protection to Indian Starch Industry:
Government of India's Assurance.

The Government of India on 26-8-1944 adopted a Resolution assuring its protection to the starch industry in India against unfair post-war competition from abroad. The reason for this assurance, as stated in the Resolution itself, is that the industry, which has been developed under the stress of war conditions, is now supplying from indigenous resources one of the vital needs of the cotton textile industry. It has thus enabled a greater volume of shipping to be utilised for the import of essential goods than would otherwise have been possible.

(Resolution No. 261-T(2)/42, dated
26-8-1944, the Gazette of India, dated
26-8-1944, Part I, Sec.1, page 1126).

Post-War Development Plan for
Mysore State.

draft

Reference was made at pages 36 to 37 of our report for June, 1944, to the announcement made by the Government of Mysore in the State legislature on 10-6-1944 to the effect that a plan modelled on the Bombay plan was being drawn up for the post-war economic development of the State. It is now understood that the final draft of the ~~the~~ plan has been submitted by the Development Commissioner to the Government for its consideration and that a special committee, with Diwan Bahadur K.R. Sreenivasa Iyengar as chairman, has been constituted by the Government to examine it in detail.

A comprehensive plan involving about Rs. 2,000 million in 15 years, it contemplates an all-round progress of the State under the heads: Agriculture, including forestry, fisheries and sericulture; trade, commerce and industry; public works and communications; electric power and social services, including education, medical relief and public health, housing and social security. Under each section the conditions in Mysore are considered against the background of Indian conditions. It aims to cater for two-thirds of the entire population of the State living in 3,700 villages each with a population of over 500.

Agriculture.- Under agriculture the plan proposes to increase food production to make Mysore self-sufficient as well as to grow cash-crops for export. Agriculture is to be transformed into an industry to be run on business lines as a joint-stock enterprise with a share for every agriculturist in the company, or on co-operative lines. The most pressing problem in Mysore today is the relief of agricultural indebtedness, though the recent rise in prices on agricultural produce has enabled a few cultivators to liquidate their debts. The plan provides that the debts may be scaled down by the Debt Conciliation Boards and paid immediately by the issue of self-liquidating bonds carrying interest of not more than 3 per cent. As for the question of increasing the area under cultivation, it is suggested that the old system of making the village community responsible to get every cultivable acre of village land cultivated should be reverted to. In the plan, a sum of Rs. 1 million has been provided for the purchase of tractors in the first five-year period, at the rate of one tractor per taluk to begin with and at an average price of Rs. 10,000 per tractor with all accessories.

The plan also includes schemes for increased manure production through the manufacture of compost and the planting of 40,000 acres of fuel trees (to release farmyard refuse for manurial purposes) at a cost of Rs. 2 million, and the establishment of 1,000 model agricultural farms to popularise modern methods of agriculture at a cost of Rs. 80 million spread over 25 years. Due emphasis has been placed on cattle breeding and fisheries development.

Trade and Industry.- The present trade position is unfavourable to the State, the annual adverse balance being Rs. 7.9 million. The plan, therefore, stresses the importance of increasing the production of oilseeds, pulses, brassware, boot and leather goods and textiles for export. The industries, which are mostly localised, should be spread out and cottage industries established and expanded with the increasing use of power. Subsidiary occupations should be provided for the ryots. ~~planned.~~ The war has expanded Mysore industries a great deal. But a change-over of those industries to peace-time demands without the dislocation and loss of skilled personnel has to be planned carefully. An aircraft factory is considered to be a great asset to Mysore and the plan suggests that the possibility of an automobile industry should be kept

in view. Some means should be found to form an industrial development fund to help industries and to mobilise banks and private bankers to finance industrial schemes. Above all, it is essential to raise the general level of integrity and efficiency of the workers.

Transport of Communications.- The plan envisages increasing the ~~xx~~ road mileage by 6,000 miles over the existing 4,372 miles, so that all important villages are connected to high roads and no village with a population of over 1,000 is more than one mile from a public road.

Social Services.- With reference to social services, the plan suggests increasing the annual provision for primary education to Rs. 6 million, the addition of 11,000 teachers and an expenditure of Rs. 10 million on adult education at Rs. 1 million per year. It also suggests the starting of three occupational institutes and one industrial school for every taluka.

For medical relief it recommends the starting of 3,900 dispensaries at Rs. 16.6 million for buildings and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 11.4 million a year. The plan for medical relief and public health contemplates an expenditure of Rs. 50 million non-recurring and Rs. 30 million recurring every year.

(The Times of India, 8-9-1944 and the Hindu, dated 12-9-1944).

Technical Power Board to be Set up by Central Government.

It is understood that Mr. H.M. Matthews, Electrical Engineer to the Government of India, is likely to be appointed Chairman of the Technical Power Board which is being constituted to advise the Government of India on the expansion of production of hydro-electric energy in India. There will be two members on the board, one of them an Indian and the other an American, Mr. Voordin, of the Tennessee Valley Authority whose appointment was announced shortly.

(The National Call, 17-9-1944).

U.P. Ten-Year Plan.

The Industries Department of the Government of the United Provinces has prepared a ten-year post-war development plan for the industrial development ~~plan~~ of the province. The plan aims at establishing a technological university, several technical colleges, technical high schools, polytechnics and the introduction of a few basic industries and cottage industries. The total cost is estimated over Rs. 75 million.

(The Times of India, 25-9-1944).

Progress of Planning Post-war
Reconstruction in India: Sir
Ardeshir Dalal's Review.

At a press Conference held at New Delhi on 14-9-1944, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member in Charge of Post-war Reconstruction, Viceroy's Executive Council, while expressing his view that planning must be done by a National Government, declared that certain developments may be planned by others in the absence of a National Government. For example, no plan was required to say that a fertiliser industry was necessary. The Government ~~is~~ was taking prompt measures in such matters. He also said: "It is certainly good to control capitalism and see that it is so managed that it will do good. We do not propose to make any fundamental change in the economic system of the country. There is no doubt that the existing order should be modified in a more socialistic way. When we bring out our booklet you will see that it tends more and more towards socialism. I do not think however, that many people will question the fact that industry is much better managed in private hands".

Sir Ardeshir explained that Government had a social security plan under contemplation. He also gave an outline of his work of reconstruction, and stressed the necessity for regionalisation and dispersal of industries in the future. He said the training of personnel was an essential preliminary to planning. In addition to the various measures already taken, the Government intended to form a Central Irrigation Board to deal with such questions as river training, hydro-electric schemes and gravity irrigation. The question of taking effective anti-erosion measures was of the greatest importance for the future well-being of India, and was engaging the serious attention of the Government. A few very highly qualified foreign experts might have to be recruited to deal with some of these important problems. Most of the subjects to be dealt with by his department were the responsibility of the provinces. While the Central ^{Government} would plan for the development of the country as a whole, it would necessarily proceed on the basis of the existing constitution. But whatever shape the future constitution might take and whatever political affinities the future provinces or states of India might have, all would profit by the measures of development now being contemplated. The Government is keen on regionalisation and the dispersal of industries as widely as possible, subject, of course, to the availability of natural resources, such as fuel, power, water, as well as markets. The provinces have been requested to form development committees and officers of their own, and most of them had already done so.

Industrial Development.- Regarding industries, Sir Ardeshir explained that it was proposed to form a separate committee for industries, as distinct from the present Policy Committee on commerce and industry, consisting of a number of prominent industrialists and representatives of the provinces and States. While questions of policy would be discussed with this committee, the planning of different industries would be carried out by a number of panels for different industries, or groups of industries. Each of these panels would consist of two or three industrialists concerned with those industries, together with one or two representatives of provinces. To them would be attached one or more experts, as required and an officer of the industrial branch of the Planning Department. The provinces had also been requested to form industries committees of their own, so that their own special needs should not be lost sight of. The reports of the panels, together with those of the provincial committees, would then be co-ordinated for

the purpose of general planning. This would not prevent the provinces from proceeding immediately with such industrial schemes as they might have ready. The Government of India would examine such schemes from the point of view of ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{necessary} controls and any assistance that might be required.

Importance of Personnel.- "To my mind," Sir Ardeshir said, "the question of personnel is probably the most serious of the difficulties in the way of planning, and is likely to impose well-defined limits to the pace of development". The most essential preliminary step, therefore, was the training of future scientists, engineers, geologists, doctors, agriculturists, educationists, administrators, etc., in the innumerable different jobs for which they would be required. Educational institutions would have to be expanded and multiplied, and a generous system of scholarships and research studentships would have to be devised for the training of men, both in India and abroad. It was intended to send a large number of such men for training in the near future to Britain and the United States. Mr. Sargent, Educational Adviser to Government, had been making investigations in both those countries for that purpose, and a detailed scheme would be worked out after his return. One of the most urgent needs of the country was the training of geologists and an increase in the existing personnel of the Geological Department. The ~~establishment~~ establishment of a very high grade technological institute on the lines of the M.I.T. in America, as well as of an all-India medical centre, were under consideration.

(The Times of India, 16-9-1944).

Resettlement Plans for Ex-Servicemen
in Bombay.+

Measures contemplated by the Government of Bombay to facilitate the resettlement of returned soldiers in Bombay Province were announced by Sir Charles Bristow, Adviser to the Governor of Bombay, addressing a press conference ~~at~~ at Bombay, on 28-9-1944. The plan covers, among other things, the establishment of Rural Development Centres, reservation of half the appointments in Government departments, and facilities for purchase of lands for the soldiers with a view to finding suitable employment for them and also provision for educational facilities for their children. The keynote of the post-war plan for returned soldiers, stated Sir Charles, was to give them opportunities to settle down to normal life so that the right person could be put in charge of the right job, thereby raising the standard of life of the returned soldier and his family. The Rural Development Headquarters, which would be established in certain districts of the province, would form nuclei for spreading all aspects of rural development, including training of the soldier and his family in agriculture and allied industries. The returned soldiers, after their training at the headquarters could be utilised as rural reconstruction agents in their respective villages.

On the question of providing employment for returned soldiers, 50 per cent of the appointments in most of the Government departments would be reserved for returned soldiers having the requisite qualifications. A number of soldiers could be provided in the transport system of the province, while several others ~~would~~ would be given technical

training in order to qualify them for specialised vocations. He hoped that the technical labour exchanges that were proposed to be set up in the cities would facilitate the employment of soldiers in ~~xxxxx~~ several undertakings. For that purpose, the Government of India would appoint liaison officers and the employers would be approached to co-operate with Government. As for the disabled soldiers, ~~th~~ he thought that jobs of the type of door-keepers could be found for them.

(The Times of India, 30-9-1944).

Plans for Post-war Reconstruction in
Indore State.+

In Indore State a Post-War Reconstruction Committee with various sub-committees has been set up. Development of communications and education is to receive special attention. An allotment of Rs. 1 million has already been made for building a first-class modern hospital after the war, and it is hoped this may enable the early conversion of the local medical school into a full-fledged medical college. An underground drainage scheme for Indore has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 6 million. A sum of Rs. 5 million has been already earmarked in the coming year's budget for nation-building and development ~~in~~ activities. A provision of about Rs. 3.5 million has been made by the millowners of the State for building houses for industrial workers after the war. The Maharaja has created an Irrigation Department under the direction of an experienced retired Irrigation Officer from the Deccan. The Department of Agriculture has been strengthened by an increase ~~in~~ recurring expenditure of about Rs. 65,000, including an expenditure of Rs. 18,000 on veterinary services. The local Institute of Plant Industry, financed partly by the Central India States and the ~~xxxxx~~ Indian Central Cotton Committee, is likely to develop into an agricultural college.

In the industrial sphere two plans involving a capital outlay of about Rs. 1.5 million have already reached an advanced stage.

(The Statesman, 21-9-1944).

Baroda's 5-Year Post-war Plan.

Recently a new Minister has been included in the Baroda Executive Council to plan the State post-war reconstruction. Work is to be directed to plan development of industries. A five-year plan for the development of the State in every possible way is to be drawn ~~in~~ up. It is also pointed out that no scheme of development will make any substantial progress unless it takes into account the development of the rural areas.

(The Times of India, 21-9-1944).

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List of the more important publications received in this
Office during September, 1944.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Annual Market Review, 1943 (Premchand Roychand & Sons, Ltd., Bombay).
- (2) Prosperity Through Industry- Move Towards Rapid Industrialization (by Sir M. Visvesvaraya, K.C.I.E., LL.D.,) 1942.
- (3) The Iron and Steel Industry in India (Monograph No.2), 1943.
- (4) Industries in Bombay City (Monograph No. 3).
- (5) The Rayon Industry (Monograph No.4).
- (6) Heavy Industries in British India (Monograph No.5).
(Items 2 to 6 published by the All India Manufacturers' Organisation, Churchgate Reclamation, Bombay).

Social Insurance.-

- (1) Statistical returns relating to Bihar under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1943.
- (2) Report and Statistical returns relating to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in North West Frontier Province for 1943.

Organisation, Congresses, Etc.-

- (1) Report of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for the year 1943 (Printed by G. Claridge & Co. Ltd., Bombay, 1944).
- (2) Speech of Mr. J. Tinker, Chairman, The Employers' Association of North India, at the Annual General Meeting held on 24-8-1944.
- (3) Seventh Annual Report of the Employers' Association of North India, Cawnpore, for the year 1943-44. (Presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 24th August, 1944).
- (4) Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1943. (Presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 11-4-1944: Printed by G. Claridge & Co., Ltd., 12 Bombay, 1944).

Social Conditions.-

Administration Report of the Labour Department, Madras, on the Working done for the Amelioration of the Eligible Communities for the year ending 31-3-1944.

Education.-

- (1) The Quinquennial Report on the Progress of Education in Orissa for the period 1937-1942. Vol.II - Statistical Tables and Appendices (Superintendent, Orissa Government Press, Cuttack) 1944.
- (2) Government of India: Department of Industries and Civil Supplies: Scientific Education and Research in Relation to National Welfare (Published by the Manager of Publications, D.I. Delhi, 1944).

Social Policy in War Time.-

"Grow More Food". (Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras) 1944.