

C6/2/65

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Developments in December, 1945.

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

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

Date Recd.	JAN 28 1946
File No.	
File No.	

Government of India:

Factories (Holidays) Central Rules.

The Government of India in the Department of Labour gazetted on 29-12-1945 the Factories (Holidays) Central Rules. The rules extend to all Chief Commissioners Provinces including British Baluchistan, and are to come into force on 1-1-1946. Reference was made to the draft of these rules at page 1 of the report of this Office for August 1945.

(The Gazette of India dated 29-12-1945, Part I, Section 1, pages 1829-1832).

Amendment to Mines Maternity Benefit Rules, 1943:
Extension to Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas.

The Government of India has gazetted on 15-12-1945 an amendment to the Mines Maternity Benefit Rules, 1943. The amendment extends the rules to the whole of British India including those excluded and partially excluded areas to which the Act has been or may hereafter be applied by notification by the Government of India. Reference was made to the draft of the amendment at page 2 of the report of this office for October 1945.

(The Gazette of India dated 15-12-1945, Part I, Section 1, page 1726).

Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1945: Rules
under Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, in AJMER-MERWARA,
BRITISH BALUCHISTAN AND DELHI.

The Chief Commissioners of Ajmer-Merwara, British Baluchistan and Delhi have gazetted rules framed under the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, for the collection of statistics relating to a number of industries mentioned in a schedule annexed to the Rules. The Rules are termed the "Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1945" and empower the Statistics Authority, before the end of December, each year (before the end of June in the case of the sugar industry), to serve a notice on the occupier of each factory engaged in any of the industries mentioned in the schedule attached to the Rules requiring him to furnish to the Statistics Authority, (a) a return in duplicate relating to the next following calendar year in the form appropriate to the industry in which the factory is engaged, and (b) if the factory is owned by a company incorporated in British India or elsewhere, also along with the return, two copies each of the annual balance sheet, profit and loss account, as well as of the directors' report, if any, for the period covered by the return if the company's accounting year coincides with this period; otherwise, for the last preceding year for which the accounts of the company were closed. Any occupier of a factory on whom such a notice

to furnish
 has been served is required to return in duplicate in the form received with the notice, so as to reach the Statistics Authority not later than two months after the expiry of the period for which the return is required to be made, and, if the factory is owned by a company incorporated in British India or elsewhere, along with the return to forward two copies each of the annual balance sheet and profit and loss account, as well as of the directors' report.

The forms in which the returns have to be submitted by the occupiers of factories have also been published. Part C of the forms prescribed for the various industries requires the factory submitting the return to give separately for the men, women, boys and girls employed by it directly and through contractors, the total number of man-hours worked during the year; the average number employed ~~per day~~ per day; the total salaries and wages paid in cash during the year less the fines and deductions for absence or damage or loss; and the total money value of any privilege or benefit or contribution not paid in cash which accrues to individual employees and not to a group of employees. Similar details have also to be furnished with regard to the persons other than workers employed by the factory during the year.

The following are the relevant gazette references.

Ajmer-Merwara: The Gazette of India dated 22-12-1945, Part II-A, pages 367-368 and Annexures giving the Forms.

British Baluchistan: Gazette of India dated 8-12-1945, Part II-A, pages 349-350.

Delhi: Gazette of India dated 22-12-1945, Part II-A, pages 369-370, and Annexure giving Forms.

Provinces:

The Factories (Holidays) Rules.

The Governments of Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Berar, Madras, Orissa, Sind and the United Provinces gazetted during the month the Factories (Holidays) Rules. Reference was made to the draft of these rules at page 2 of the report of this Office for August 1945 and page 4 of the report for October 1945.

The following are the appropriate gazette references.

Bengal: The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary, dated 28-12-1945, pages 610-614.

Bihar: The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary dated 24-12-1945, pages 1-3.

Central Provinces and Berar: The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette Extraordinary, dated 28-12-1945, pages 277-278.

Madras: The Fort St. George Gazette, dated 18-12-1945, Rules Supplement to Part I, pages 126-128.

Orissa: The Orissa Gazette dated 28-12-1945, Part III, pages 210-211.

Sind: The Sind Government Gazette, dated 27-12-1945, Part IV-A, pages 715-719.

United Provinces: Government Gazette of the United Provinces, dated 29-12-1945, Part I-A, pages 349-351.

Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1945: Forms of Returns to be submitted by Factories published.

In addition to the Provincial Governments referred to at pages 1-2 of the report of this Office for November 1945, the Governments of Assam, Bombay, Sind and the United Provinces have also gazetted rules termed Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1945, under the provisions of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942. These and most of the other provincial Governments which have already gazetted these rules, have published this month the forms in which the various factories coming under the scope of these rules should submit the prescribed returns. A section of the forms prescribed for the various industries requires each factory submitting the return to give separately the following details regarding the men, women, boys and girls employed by it directly and through contractors: the total number of man-hours worked during the year; the average number employed per day; the total salaries and wages paid in cash during the year less the fines and deductions for absence, damage or loss; and the total money value of any privilege or benefit or contribution not paid in cash which accrues to individual employees and not to a group of employees. Similar details have also to be furnished with regard to the persons other than workers employed by the factory during the year.

The following are the appropriate gazette references.

- Assam: The Assam Gazette, dated 26-12-1945, Part II, pages 1233-1578.
- Bengal: The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary, dated 15-12-1945, Part I, pages 289-598.
- Bihar: The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary, dated 3-12-1945, pages 1-347.
- Bombay: The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated 18-12-1945, Part IV-A, pages 225-784.
- Central Provinces and Berar: The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette Extraordinary, dated 28-12-1945, pages 191-276.
- Punjab: The Punjab Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 21-12-1945, pages 149-472.
- Sind: The Sind Government Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 23-11-1945, Part I, pages 1275/1 to 1275/4 and following.
- United Provinces: Government Gazette of the United Provinces, Extraordinary, dated 3-12-1945, pages 1 to 390.

Assam:

Assam Maternity Benefit Rules, 1945, to be extended to Excluded Areas in Assam: Minor Amendments to Rules gazetted.

A notification published in the Assam Gazette announces that the Government of Assam proposes to apply ~~the~~ to the Excluded Areas in Assam the Assam Maternity Benefit Rules, 1945 (vide page 1 of the report of this Office for ~~the~~ July 1945). Certain minor amendments to the Assam Maternity Benefit Rules, 1945, have been gazetted on 5-12-1945.

(The Assam Gazette dated 12-12-1945, Part II, page 1211; dated 5-12-1945, Part II, page 1138).

Bihar:

Amendments to the Bihar and Orissa Factories Rules, 1936.

The Government of Bihar has gazetted on 12-12-1945 the text of certain amendments it has made to the Bihar and Orissa Factories Rules, 1936. One of these adds to the Schedule to subrule (1) of Rule 112 certain specified kinds of work in (1) Vegetable oil and hydrogenation factories; (2) Chemical factories and chemical plants attached to other factories; (3) Lead smelting and refining factories; (4) Railway Locomotive Running repair factories. Another relates to adult male ~~male~~ workers employed in plywood factories on the preparation of glue, etc. Reference was made to the draft of these amendments at pages 1-2 of the report of this Office for July 1945.

(The Bihar Gazette, dated 12-12-1945, Part II, pages 778-779).

Bombay:

Bombay Factories Rules, 1935: Provision for Washing Facilities in Factories.

The Government of Bombay gazetted on 27-12-1945 the text of an amendment to the Bombay Factories Rules, 1935, prescribing the provision in factories of washing accommodation according to certain defined standards. Reference was made to the draft of the amendment at page 3 of the report of this Office for March 1945.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 27-12-1945, Part IV-A, pages 786-787).

Orissa:

Amendment to Orissa Factories Rules.

The Government of Orissa has gazetted on 7-12-1945 an amendment to the Rules it has made under the provisions of the Factories Act of 1934, providing that workers shall be allowed to take light refreshment once during any period of work which exceeds six hours. Reference was made to the draft of this amendment at page 5 of the report of this Office for July 1945.

(The Orissa Gazette, dated 7-12-1945, Part III, page 199). +

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SOCIAL POLICY.

Conference of Regional Labour Commissioners and Labour Officers, Bombay, 6 and 7-12-1945: Discussions to Improve Industrial Relations.

ing of the A Conference of Regional Labour Commissioners and Labour Officers, and representatives of employers and labour, was held at Bombay on 6 and 7-12-1945, to consider measures for the conciliation of labour disputes in the light of the experience gained during the last few months by the Central Government's industrial relations machinery (vide pages 6-7 of our report for July 1945). The Conference discussed, among other ^{matters} ~~matters~~, labour legislation and enforcement of labour laws, labour welfare and assistance in the formation and maintenance of a voluntary machinery in industrial establishments, prevention and settlement of labour disputes and collection of labour statistics.

Labour Member's Speech: Plea for Action by Provincial Governments.- Inaugurating the Conference, Dr. B. K. Ambedkar, Labour Member of the Government of India, outlined three possibilities of achieving industrial peace. The first of these three possibilities, he said, was to build industrial peace on the basis of law, the second was to build it on the basis of ~~maximal~~ power and the third on the basis of social justice. ~~Industrial peace on the basis of power, Dr. Ambedkar thought, was impos-~~sible. There was a time when nations were ruled by a small ruling class. It is this class which controlled national administration and also represented the nation in international conference. The nation as a collective whole was an anonymous rightless and powerless mass. It was possible in such a state of society for a ruling class to arrogate to itself the power to dictate peace and even to maintain it by force of arms. The administration was no longer in the hands of the members of this small class of people. The possibility of peace by power, therefore, no longer existed. It was possible to build industrial peace on the basis of law, he added. But the question of fulfilment of the obligation was not a legal question. It was a social question and involved other than legal consideration, and hence industrial peace based on law was possible but not certain. Industrial peace based on social justice was according to him, a hopeful proposition and involved a triangular approach. This approach must be started by recognition on the part of workers of the duty to work, on the part of the employers to pay a reasonable wage and to provide comfortable conditions of work, and on the part of the State and society to see that the maintenance of proper industrial relations is a public affair and not a mere matter of contract between the employer and the employee.

Dr. Ambedkar emphasised the necessity of the employers realising that, because a worker could be had for a price, he does not become a thing to be used by the employer as he likes. He cannot be treated as one treats an orange, suck the juice and throw the rind away. He is a human being and his rights as a human being must be respected.

The Central Government, the Labour Member pointed out, could under the present constitution, do very little beyond making laws. The executive authority in the matter of labour legislation vested in the provincial Governments. That being so, much of the labour legislation would have to be left to the provinces, which would have to decide how to deal with the problem. It was also necessary for the provinces to strengthen their labour inspectorate, to see that the laws were carried

out and also to act as the Government's "eyes and ears". Hitherto, the emphasis has been on the maintenance of law and order. The time had now come, said the Labour Member, to lay it on social welfare and the provincial Governments must show their readiness to spend money on recruiting labour inspectorate as they do on the maintenance of police. Dr. Ambedkar also stressed the need for instituting a tripartite labour conference in each province. Its value lay more in bringing together parties which probably never came together unless driven to it by adversity and in generating a spirit of give and take.

The Chief Labour Commissioner, Government of India, Mr. S.C. Joshi, in his speech pointed out that the industrial relations machinery was neither the advocate nor the opponent of any of the two parties of the industry, viz., the employer and the employee. Its role was that of an impartial adviser, offering assistance for the establishment of mutual goodwill between the two and for amicably settling their problems. The old notion of labour, he continued, had, long become obsolete. It was now universally recognised that labour was an effective partner in industry, and the State had taken active steps to safeguard and further the rights and interests of the human element in industry. The industrial relations machinery had been provided for maintaining peaceful and harmonious relations between employers and workers, for furthering and securing their welfare, for helping them to enjoy the benefits and privileges conferred on them by legislation or otherwise, and for avoiding, or at least minimising, conflicts between them.

Among those present were Sir H.P. Mody, on behalf of the Employers' Federation of India and Mr. N.M. Joshi and Miss Maniben Kara, on behalf of the A.I.T.U.C. and the Indian Federation of Labour, respectively.

(The Times of India, 7 and 8-12-1945).

Labour Department in Hyderabad State - Expansion Plans.

It is understood that the Nizam's ~~Labour~~ Government has decided to appoint a Labour Commissioner with a Labour Department under him in a view of the increasing importance labour matters are assuming in the Hyderabad State. The Labour Commissioner will be assisted by four Labour Welfare Inspectors in addition to a Welfare Inspector and one Inspe~~st~~ress already working. These inspectors, after necessary training, will be posted to places of industrial importance in the State for the enforcement of labour enactments and expeditious disposal of other matters p~~er~~taining to labour.

(The Hindu, 25-12-1945). †

7

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Hours of Work, Weekly Rest, etc.

48-Hour Week may reduce Cloth Production: Mr. Kasturbhai
Ialbhai's Views.

Mr. Kasturbhai Ialbhai, a prominent millowner of Ahmedabad, who attended the Seventh Labour Conference at New Delhi (vide pages 5-11 of the report of this Office for November 1945) as an employers' delegate, explained in an interview to the Associated Press of India the views of the employers on the proposal to introduce a 48-hour week for workers in India.

While the employers are, in general, in favour of the proposal put forward by Government, they do not accept the argument put forward by Government that the 48-hour week will not only absorb more workers but also increase the existing quantum of cloth production (vide pages 6-8 of the report of this Office for October 1945). The employers are definite that the proposal cannot and will not increase employment, nor will it increase the production.

Three Shifts not possible in Textile Factories.- Mr. Ialbhai thinks it is not possible to run three shifts in India, at present, as the machinery of various textile mills is so worn out that the working of a third shift can only be at the cost of a series of breakdowns. Moreover, there is an acute shortage of housing in various textile centres. He, therefore, maintains that the introduction of an eight-hour shift will reduce the existing production of cloth by at least 10 per cent and will mean that, instead of clothing more people, we shall be clothing fifty millions less. The 48-hour week and the 8 hour shift will, if they are brought in at the present juncture, worsen the shortage of cloth.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 7-12-1945). +

8

Wages.

Minimum Wage for Labour in Bihar Sugar Factories.

An Associated Press of India Report states that all the sugar factories in Bihar have been asked to adopt the minimum wage of 12 annas per day to unskilled labour engaged in such factories.

(The Leader, dated 10-12-1945).

Workers Right to a Share in Net Profits: Sir N. Gopaldaswami Iyengar's Award in Madras Labour Dispute.

Giving his award in connection with a labour dispute between the Mettur Chemical Labour Union and the Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation Ltd., on 15-12-1945, Sir N. Gopaldaswami Iyengar, Chairman of the Corporation and former Dewan of ~~Karimnagar~~, to whom both the parties had submitted the dispute for arbitration, upheld the claim of labour to an equitable share in the net surplus profit of the business. Dealing with the claim of the Union to a bonus equivalent to three month's pay, he held that a dispute of this nature could not be satisfactorily settled unless the determination of the bonus was based upon well understood principles. Formulating ~~the~~ the principles on which the bonus should be based, Sir N. Gopaldaswami Iyengar ~~has~~ laid down that labour—and under labour in this connection he included not merely the operatives in the factory but the administrative and executive staff also employed therein—had by virtue of the contribution it made to production and, therefore, to the profits that accrued therefrom, the right to ~~the profits~~ ~~that~~ claim an equitable share in the net surplus profits of the business. In calculating this net profit, according to him, a reasonable dividend on share capital should be allowed for in the same way as interest on debentures and other loans and salaries and wages for labour have to be allowed for. "Net ~~laboratory~~ surplus profits" should accordingly be arrived at after deducting from the gross profits all the usual working charges, interest on loans, repairs, depreciation, duties and taxes not excluding income-tax and super-tax, other usual and necessary allowances including Managing Agents' remuneration (both office allowance and commission) and finally a minimum dividend on share capital and the annual contribution to reserves, if any. Of the net surplus profits thus calculated the Award provides for the grant of 33-1/3 per cent to labour, the remaining 66-2/3 per cent being available for distribution as additional dividend (in excess of 7 1/2 per cent) to ordinary and deferred shares.

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The Award also points out that the present practice for determining eligibility to bonus is defective and requires overhauling; also that the bonus for a particular year may well be paid in two instalments, namely, in October or April. The amount of bonus payable to each individual should have reference to the service rendered by him during the whole of the year, or half-year, for which bonus is given, and should be expressed at a uniform percentage of the total of the salary or wage (including dearness allowance) earned by him during such year or half year.

(The Hindu, 16-12-1945).

10

Forced Labour.

Forced Labour in Jhabua State.

The Hindustan Times, New Delhi, has published a message from its local correspondent that the Bhils (an aboriginal tribe) in Jhabua State are being forced to render 'begar', i.e., forced labour. The message alleges that the Bhils are being forced to clean State buildings and that during the cultivation season, they were forced to work for days on end. It further alleges that in spite of the announcement made in the State Gazette four months ago (vide page 5 of the report of this Office for September 1945) that when Bhils were asked to work they would be paid their wages in advance, such payments are being either refused or paid only in part; and Bhils are being beaten and prosecuted for refusal to do forced labour. Another grievance of the Bhils, according to the message, is that they are forced to pay a number of illegal and unbearable taxes.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-12-1945).

Welfare.

Meeting of Mines Welfare Advisory Committee: Decision to Continue and Extend Malaria Control Measures in Coalfields.

The Mines Welfare Advisory Committee met at Dhanbad on 18-12-1945 under the chairmanship of Mr. H.C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India. Schemes for malaria control, water supply, education and provisions of hospitals in the coal mining areas were among the items on the agenda.

Decision to continue and extend Anti-malaria Work:- The Committee decided to continue financing from the Coalmines Welfare Fund anti-malarial operations in all coalfields throughout India. Reviewing anti-malarial work in the Bengal, Bihar, Assam and U.P. coalfields, Maj-Gen. Covell, Director, Malaria Institute, stated that malaria control operations had protected a population of about 200,000 in the Jharia and Raniganj coalfields. Experiments were being made with DDT and great success had been achieved in the Margharita, Chanda, Pench Valley and Chirimiri fields. In Jharia, the malaria rate per thousand had come down to ~~19.84~~ 19.84 in October, 1945, as compared with 47.17 in the corresponding month of the previous year. In the Raniganj fields, ~~the respective figures were 70.01 and 95.30.~~

The Committee sanctioned expenditure from the fund for continuing this work during 1946-47 and for constructing buildings for the staff employed in anti-malaria work. It was further agreed that malaria control work should be extended to the Giridih, Bokaro and Karanpura coalfields at an estimated cost of Rs. 300,000.

Plans for Hospitals in Coalfields - Nurses to be trained in U.K.- The Committee also considered ~~plans~~ plans and estimates for constructing two central and four regional hospitals in the Jharia and Raniganj coalfields, maternity and child welfare centres and an infectious diseases hospital. It was felt that trained nurses would be useful for medical relief work in the coalfields and that their services would be valuable in the proposed central hospitals. The Committee accordingly decided that the Mines Welfare Fund should finance the ~~training~~ training of four nurses in the U.K. for a post-graduate course in industrial nursing.

Anti-Tuberculosis Scheme: Statistical Survey of Incidence Suggested.- The anti-tuberculosis scheme for the Bengal fields approved by the Committee at its last meeting in August (vide page 54 of the report of this Office for August 1945) was also discussed and it was agreed that the ultimate aim should be the establishment of tuberculosis clinics in each settlement. To set the stage for the working of the proposed clinics, the Committee recommended that a specialist be appointed and that a statistical survey be made to get some idea of the extent of tuberculosis in the area.

Scheme for Mobile Canteen.- A scheme for a mobile canteen involving an expenditure of Rs. 24,892 was also accepted by the Committee.

(The Statesman, 21-12-1945; and
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 22-12-1945). +

12

General.

Report on Working of Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act during 1943-1944.

According to the latest report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrants' Labour Act the total labour population in the Assam tea estates amounted to 1,150,869 of which 584,777 were adults and 566,092 children.

Recruitment.- Assisted emigrant labour to Assam tea plantations dropped in 1943-44 to 42,719 from 60,591 in the previous year. This setback in recruitment, the report observes, was due to the general rise in wages of unskilled labour in the provinces, higher agricultural prices and recruitment by other agencies. The bulk of the emigrant labour came from the provinces of Bihar, Orissa and C.P., and the rest from the other controlled emigration areas of Bengal, U.P., and Madras. The Tea District Labour Association had to offer a bonus of Rs. 5 to each emigrant and withdraw certain restrictions in order to stimulate recruitment. The cost of recruitment per adult increased from Rs. 59.14 in the previous year to Rs. 78.12. ~~Such~~ Information regarding conditions and wages were given to the assisted emigrants in their own languages. The Controller of Emigrant Labour visited the transit depots along the forwarding routes and found the arrangements for feeding, etc., generally satisfactory.

Earnings.- The average monthly cash earnings of men, women and children settled in the Assam Valley tea gardens were Rs. 9-10-3, Rs. 7-13-1 and Rs. 5-14-10 respectively as compared with Rs. 8-10-4, Rs. 6-15-4 and Rs. 5-4-2 in the previous year. The corresponding figures for the Surma Valley were Rs. 7-13-7, Rs. 5-10-6 and Rs. 3-12-10 as against Rs. 7-4-3, Rs. 5-7-2 and Rs. 3-8-6. Articles of food and clothing were supplied to the labourers at concessional rates. The total value of such concessions represented nearly 0.10.9 for every rupee of wages earned.

(The Vanguard, 15-12-1945).

Working of the Factories Act in Madras during 1944.

According to the annual report on the Working of the Factories Act in Madras during 1944, there were 2,889 factories on the register at the close of the year, as against 2,691 at the end of 1943. The average daily number of workers employed in all the factories was 265,602 as against 262,347 in the previous year. The following table gives the average daily number of workers employed in registered factories:-

	Men	Women	Adolescents	Children	Total
Non-Seasonal	1,78,947	44,149	10,362	8,953	237,411
Seasonal	12,900	15,144	79	68	28,191
Total	1,91,847	59,293	10,441	4,021	265,602
Total for 1943.	189,888	59,108	9,689	3,662	262,347

Hygienic Conditions in Factories.- Cleanliness of factory premises and their surroundings was maintained at a fairly good level, and the health of workers was generally good. With the installation of exhaust fans, cyclone dust separators, vacuum cleaners and provision of ample ~~sunlight~~ roof and window ventilation, dissemination of dust in factories has been controlled. The evil effects caused by dust in factories are largely mitigated by the wearing of respirators and face masks by the workers.

Living Conditions.- Arrangements for the supply of food-stuffs and other commodities at controlled and cheap rates continued. The housing of the factory operatives and the conditions under which they lived remained much the same as in the previous year.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents increased to 5,135 in 1944, from 4,763 in the previous year. Of the 5,135 accidents, 37 were fatal, 1,120 serious and 3,978 minor as against 38,1,094 and 3,531 respectively in the year 1943. The number of fatal accidents dropped by 1 but serious accidents increased by 26. On the whole there was a net increase of 7.8 per cent in the total number of accidents.

Prosecutions.- Prosecutions against 10 factories that were pending disposal at the end of 1943 were disposed of during the year and convictions obtained. The amount realized as fines was Rs. 765. 136 cases against 39 factories were instituted during the year. A sum of Rs. 2,860 was imposed in fines ranging from a minimum of Rs. 5 to a maximum of Rs. 200. Prosecutions against 12 factories were pending disposal and 12 were pending sanction at the end of the year.

("Indian Labour Gazette", November, 1945).r

14

V

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Enquiry into Problems of Coal Industry: Government of India sets up 'Indian Coal-Fields Committee'.

The Government of India has decided to appoint a committee, with Mr. K.C. Mahindra as Chairman, to report on various problems relating to the Indian coal industry.

Need for Investigation.- The resolution announcing this decision states that in the last 25 years, three committees were appointed by the Government of India (in 1920, 1926 and 1937 respectively) to inquire into and report on certain defined problems affecting the coal industry in the country. A number of recommendations made by these committees have been implemented by the Government, but others have not been acted upon, primarily because they were not considered, at the time, feasible or expedient. In recent times, however, a great deal of attention has been focussed on the coal industry all over the world. The experience of coal problems in India during the war, especially since the introduction of control over production and distribution, has emphasized the need for vigorous action in respect of both conservation and rationalization if the coal industry is to play its full part in the economic re-planning of the country. The Government of India considers that the time is now opportune for a comprehensive review of the recommendations made by previous inquiry committees which have not hitherto been implemented; in addition, investigation of certain fresh problems is also necessary. It has accordingly decided to set up a small committee to go into certain questions relating to the coal industry set forth in the terms of reference.

Committee's Terms of Reference.- The following are the Committee's terms of reference:- "(1) To review the recommendations made by the various committees dealing with the problems of the coal industry which were set up by the Government from time to time, and to consider (a) which of these recommendations have been adopted and with what measure of success; and (b) what further action needs to be taken by the Government in respect of the recommendations which have not been adopted or which have been adopted only in part. (2) To consider and to report what further economic and administrative measures are necessary to deal with the problems of the industry of a non-technical character and, in particular, to report on the conservation of high-grade metallurgical and steam coal, the problem of fragmentation of colliery holdings, the opening of new fields, the economics of the coal industry and the stabilisation of coal prices".

Composition of the Committee.- The committee will be constituted as follows: Mr. K.C. Mahindra, lately Head of the India Supply Mission, Washington, (Chairman); Mr. C.A. Innes, Partner, Messrs Andrew Yule and Company, Limited; Mr. K. C. Neegy, Mr. M. Ikramullah, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Supply Department (Secretary). The Committee will be assisted in technical matters by the following assessors: Mr. J.R. Harrison, Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production), Khan Bahadur G. Faruque, Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution), and Mr. W. Kirby, Chief Inspector of Mines in India.

The Committee is to be designated the Indian Coal-Fields Committee and is to have its headquarters at Calcutta. It will assemble early in January 1946, and will submit its report to the Government as soon as possible.
(No. Coal 119(1), The Gazette of India, dated 8-12-1945, Part I, Sec.1, pages 1691-1692).

15

Annual Meeting of Central Board of Irrigation: Plea for a
More Liberal Irrigation Policy and the Establishment of River
Commissions.

The annual meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation was held at New Delhi in the last week of November under the Chairmanship of Mr. F. H. Hutchinson, Chief Irrigation Engineer, U.P. His Excellency of the Viceroy inaugurated the proceedings.

Viceroy's Address.— The Viceroy pointed out that India's great achievements in irrigation had never been fully realized by the world. Today the irrigated area in India—70 million acres—is more than three times that of the United States, the next most irrigated country; and more than the whole combined total of the next 10 countries with most irrigation—the United States, Russia, Mexico, Japan, Egypt, Italy, Spain, France, Chile, and Java. With her rapidly increasing population India must irrigate to live, and the Viceroy felt that development should be on a regional basis, and not on a purely parochial or provincial plan. Also the nature of the new irrigation projects was changing; many of them were being developed on an extended and ambitious plan, to provide great storages of water, hydro-electric power, and flood control, as well as irrigation. The Viceroy recognised that in the future a bolder policy should be adopted in the matter of financing irrigation works than had been the case in the past. He suggested that the Board should include a malaria expert to see that all possible precautions against the spread of malaria were taken from the beginning.

Proceedings: River Commissions.— During the meeting information available from various Provinces and States regarding the existing and proposed irrigation projects was pooled. The meeting felt that the formation of River Commissions was the best way to ensure protection of the interests of all Provinces and States.

Committee to help in assessing Indirect Benefits of Irrigation.— By another resolution, the Government of India was asked to set up a Committee to advise on data to be collected for assessing indirect benefits from irrigation. Until such time as the monetary value of the indirect benefits can be assessed, the Board recommended that the criterion for judging whether an irrigation project is productive or not should be that the estimated net revenue shall not be less than the anticipated interest on the sum of at charge when the project is fully developed. Among other decisions were the establishment of close contact with the International Commission for high dams and the reorganisation and transfer from Simla to Delhi of the office of the Board.

(The Statesman, 27-11-1945;
'Dawn', dated 7-12-1945).

16

Mr. Casey outlines Bengal's Irrigation Plans.

The plans of the Government of Bengal to develop the very large water resources of the province by rationalisation and control of water supply and its distribution were outlined by Mr. R.G. Casey, the Governor of Bengal, in a speech broadcast by the All-India Radio on 8-12-1945. The Government proposes to construct several dams and barrages across the Teesta river in the north, the Ganges in the south and the Brahmaputra in the east so as to revive the whole river system throughout northern, southern and eastern Bengal. The Teesta Dam and barrage would pass water through many rivers of North Bengal into the Ganges. The Ganges barrage and canals would pass water into the rivers of South Bengal. As regards East Bengal, His Excellency said, several substitute plans, mainly those for utilizing the waters of the Karmafuli, were under examination. These projects involve besides flood control, the provision also of irrigation, navigation and hydro-electric power.

Damodar Valley Scheme.- In regard to West Bengal, the Damodar valley multipurpose development scheme provides for the construction of a series of dams with a reservoir capacity of more than four and a half million acre feet of water—on the upper Damodar and its tributaries in the province of Bihar. It is also expected to generate electrical power by water power at the various Damodar dam sites as well as by the construction of generating station, the combined output of which would be a peak load of nearly 300,000 K.Ws. which is about the same as the present full load capacity of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation. "The final aim," His Excellency, said, "is to link this electric system in a grid of great size with the Sone Valley system and other power plants in Western Bengal and Bihar". The Damodar irrigation works, His Excellency thought, would give steady employment to roughly 25,000 skilled and unskilled workmen for about three years.

Mor Scheme.- The next project of considerable size is the Mor Scheme and it is the nearest to taking final shape. The scheme involves the construction of a barrage and a dam across the river Mor and is designed to irrigate an area of about 600,000 acres. The scheme is estimated to cost about Rs. 75 million, but the yearly value of new and better crops is expected to be about Rs. 45 million. His Excellency believed that the scheme which would give employment to about 15,000 skilled and unskilled workmen for about three years could be put into operation in 1946.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 10-12-1945).

Bombay to levy Sales Tax to finance Post-War Reconstruction.

The Bombay Government has decided to levy a tax on the sale of goods, or, more accurately, on the turnover of such sale, with effect from April 1, 1946, or as soon as practicable thereafter. The immediate occasion for the tax is the need to augment Provincial revenue in order to meet the expenditure, recurring and non-recurring, on post-war reconstruction.

Under the Bombay Sales Tax Bill, which was gazetted on 6-12-1945, the tax will be levied on the sales of goods to actual consumers and will be collected from dealers whose turnover exceeds Rs. 10,000 a year. All dealers whose turnover exceeds Rs. 10,000 a year will be registered. A dealer's certificate of registration will specify the goods which he sells. Such goods may be sold to him free of tax for purposes of

resale. Sales by registered dealers to the general public, or to un-registered dealers, or to other registered dealers where the goods sold are not covered by the certificates of registration of such other dealers will be liable to tax. The tax is proposed to be levied at half an anna in the rupee. It is at the same time intended to exempt from this levy certain essential articles, such as food grains and cheap cloth, as also articles which are already subject to separate Central or Provincial tax, such as matches, sugar, liquor, opium and electricity. It is also proposed that sales of goods to addresses living outside the Province should be excluded from the operation of the tax.

The Bill is to be taken into consideration on or after 7-1-1946.

(The Bombay Government Gazette (Extraordinary issue) dated 6-12-1945, Part V, pages 63-79; and Press Note issued by the Director of Information, Bombay).

Development of Industries on Regional Basis: Proposals of All-India Manufacturers' Organisation.

Proposals for developing 24 heavy industries on a regional basis within the country have been submitted by the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation to the Government of India. These involve a capital outlay of about Rs. 100 million of which a little over half is expected to be spent on buying machinery abroad. Among the industries covered by the scheme are shipping and shipbuilding, steel, coal, automobile, aeroplane, internal combustion engines, machinery manufacture in general and manufacture of mill and electrical machinery in particular, aluminium and rayon.

Industrialists in Bombay Province are particularly interested in the rayon industry, textile machinery, automobile, shipbuilding, aluminium from bauxite, and electrical machinery. Bengal and Bihar are eager to develop industries covering locomotive and power machinery, heavy chemicals and fertilisers, dyestuffs and petroleum from coal. Madras looks forward to the development of magnesite, magnesium and paper industries. Assam considers itself suitable for the petroleum industry. Orissa claims special advantages for starting non-ferrous metals industry.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya, President of the Organisation, is understood to have informed the Viceroy and the Planning Department that his organisation has completed the spade work involved in connection with the development of the various industries. There is a widespread desire among prominent citizens and businessmen to undertake the work of starting these industries; but uncertainty regarding the Government's policy towards foreign competition, controls and priority for importation of machinery has been holding them back. In a note prepared on the subject, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, pleads for the establishment immediately of two new heavy industries in each Province, the setting up of an Institute of Technology on the model of the Massachusetts Institute and of organisations of consulting engineers, an assurance of protection from Government in suitable cases before an undertaking is started and steps to conserve the limited supplies of high grade coal available in India.

(The Times of India, 1-12-1945).

18

Fertiliser and Rayon Factories to be set up in Travancore.

Travancore State is soon to have two large industrial enterprises which will have a great bearing on the future development of Travancore and the neighbouring areas — a fertiliser plant at Alwaye and the Travancore Rayon factory under State-ownership. The latter concern is being started with an authorised capital of Rs. 20,000,000. The factory at present contemplates a daily output of five tons of yarn as compared with imports of an average of 75 tons a day just previous to the war. This output will be doubled later. The plant will be suitable for the production of yarn for the handloom industry and weaving factories in India. In addition to rayon manufacture, the machinery includes a plant for the manufacture of one and a quarter tons of transparent paper a day, for which article there is considerable demand throughout the country.

(The Times of India, 4-12-1945).

Hyderabad State to send Trade Mission to U.K. and U.S.A.

The Hyderabad State has decided to send an Industrial Delegation to the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. to establish contacts with industrialists and business men in those countries and make arrangements for the purchase of plant and machinery, as a first step towards the industrial development of the State in the immediate future. Disclosing this decision, Nawab Moin Nawaz Jung, Political and Publicity Secretary to the Hyderabad Government, explained that the State Government had decided to launch big industrial projects in the Godavery area, where there were possibilities of generating hydro-electric power on an extensive scale, and where coal, iron, ore and limestone were available in abundance. It was estimated that the various schemes for the industrial development of the State would cost something like Rs. 2,500 million in the first ten years of their operation.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-12-1945).

Sir Miles Thomas on Birla-Nuffield Plans for Manufacture of Motor Cars in India.

£ 3 Million Company: Two Factories to be set up.— Sir Miles Thomas, Managing Director of the Nuffield Organisation, who is now in India in connexion with arrangements for starting the Hindustan Motor Works which will assemble Morris cars in India, explained in a press interview that in conjunction with Birla Brothers, they had floated a company with a capital of £ 3,000,000 for the production of Indian cars made by Indians for India. He indicated that two factories would be established, one at Fort Okha and the other, probably, at Calcutta. He estimated that the first batch of cars would be in the neighbourhood of 2,500 and that figure would be increased during the second half of the next year.

New Technique - British Technicians to train Indian Labour.— Dealing with the principles underlying the combine, Sir Miles said that as the largest industrial engineers in Britain they wanted to embark on a

new kind of technique in relationship with importing countries. A great nation like India which wanted to build her own secondary engineering industries deserved to have much labour contact of her own in the goods she produced and if British industrialists wanted to ~~manufacture~~ cooperate with India to their mutual advantage they should, with their experts, technical knowledge and brains, instruct Indians how to reach quickly the state of technical efficiency when they could fabricate goods that would sell in India at competitive rates with current products of any land. His organisation believed that if Indians were willing to finance an enterprise of this kind then obviously the control remained in ~~the~~ their hands. He emphasized that engineering industries in India must be developed swiftly to a high pitch of technical efficiency. To this end, the Ruffield Industries would be sending teams of British technicians to India to instruct Indian labour in the intricacies of automobile manufacture.

(The Statesman, 17-12-1945).

Working Class Cost of Living Index for Various Centres in India during June, 1945.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following ~~are~~ changes during June, 1945, as compared with May, 1945.

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>May 1945</u>	<u>June 1945</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	230	235
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	191	192
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	196	198
Nagpur	August 1939	282	257
Indhiana	1931-35	370	367
Cawnpore	August 1939	294	302
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914	326	312
Jamshedpur	Ditto	315	325
Jharia	Ditto	371	371
Madras	Year ending June 1936	222	222
Madura	Ditto	223	229
Coimbatore	Ditto	223	228

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for June, 1945).

Working Class Cost of Living Index for Various Centres in India during July and August, 1945.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during July and August, 1945, as compared with June, 1945.

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>June 45.</u>	<u>Jul.45</u>	<u>Aug.45</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	235	240	243
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	192	195	201
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	198	201	209
Nagpur	August 1939	257	262	263
Ludhiana	1931-35	367	369	374
Cawnpore	August 1939	302	307	315
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914	312	317	327
Jamshedpur	Ditto	325	348	344
Jharia	Ditto	371	396	421
Madras	Year ending June 1936	222	222	224
Madura	Ditto	229	229	228
Coimbatore	Ditto	228	230	234

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for July-August, 1945).

Working Class Cost of Living Index for Various Centres in India during September, 1945 .

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during September, 1945, as compared with August, 1945.

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>August 1945</u>	<u>September 1945</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	243	240
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	201	205
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	209	207
Nagpur	August 1939	263	272
Ludhiana	1931-35	374	--
Cawnpore	August 1939	315	320
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914	327	314
Jamshedpur	Ditto	344	344
Jharia	Ditto	421	402
Madras	Year ending June 1936	224	226
Madura	Ditto	228	227
Coimbatore	Ditto	234	240

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for September, 1945).

Dyestuffs Industry to be set up in India: Joint Venture
by Tatas and I.C.I.

It is learnt that Messrs Tatas and Imperial Chemical Industries are going ahead with a joint scheme agreed upon some time ago, but held in abeyance owing to the war, for the establishment in India of an industry for the manufacture of the whole range of dyestuffs and the rapid development of the industry to the fullest extent possible.

Tatas I.C.I. Agreement.- For this purpose a public company is to be formed in which both the capital and directorate will be predominantly Indian. As a first step, the Tatas and the I.C.I. will jointly form a development company under a chairman appointed by the Tatas to undertake the necessary preliminary work and, in due course, to promote and manage the public manufacturing company. The scheme provides for the complete disclosure by the I.C.I. of all technical information and knowledge at their disposal during the currency of the agreement, which will be for a term of 20 years, thus making readily available to India technical data and secret processes acquired and developed over a long period of years.

Under the agreement, the importation of dyestuffs into India by the I.C.I. will be progressively reduced in proportion to the development of manufacture in the country. The agreement further provides that until such time as manufacture in India is capable of meeting the full demand of the country, dyestuffs made in India and those imported by the I.C.I. will be sold jointly, so as to make available to the consumer a full range of products at all times.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-12-1945).

National Standards Organisation to be set up in India;
Government of India's scheme.

It is understood that a scheme for the establishment of a national standards organisation in the country has been prepared by the Government of India. The provincial Governments and commercial bodies, among whom the scheme has been circulated, have been asked to give their opinions.

Indian Standards Institution - Its Objects.- The proposed organisation will be called the "Indian Standards Institution" and will have its headquarters in New Delhi. The affairs of the Institution will be managed by a general council, which will be presided over by the Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council in charge of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies. The Council will direct and manage the business of the Institution. The General Council may from time to time appoint committees for the purpose of considering and reporting on any of the affairs of the Institution or carrying on or promoting any of the objects of the Institution.

The main work of the Institute will be (a) to prepare and promote the general adoption of standards on international and national basis relating to structures, commodities, materials, practices, operations,

matters and things and from time to time to revise, alter and amend the same; (b) to consider and to recommend to Government, national standards for the measurement of length, weight, volume and energy; (c) to promote standardization, quality control and simplification in industry and commerce; (d) to co-ordinate the efforts of producers and users for the improvement of materials, products, appliances, processes and methods; (e) to provide for the registration of standardization marks applicable to the products, commodities, etc., for which it issues standards to be branded on or applied to these products which conform to Standards set; and (f) to arrange facilities for the examination and testing of commodities, processes and practices and for any investigation or research that may be necessary.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-12-1945).

Draft Rules under Industrial Statistics Act: Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, Against furnishing Detailed Information.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, in a communication dated 13-11-1945, addressed to the Government of India, in connection with the proposed draft rules ~~made~~ under the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, has stated that the main purpose underlying the Industrial Statistics Act would be served by Government collecting information of a general character covering production, cost of materials, cost of labour etc., and that there was no justification for requiring industrial undertakings to furnish information in a more detailed form which would include information which might be deemed as secrets of manufacturing processes. The Committee has stressed that the eliciting by Government of the ~~above~~ latter ~~information~~ would prove hardship to the industrial ~~concerns~~ concerns by being compelled to give detailed information regarding their secret formulae. It has been suggested that the ~~information~~ industries concerned should be consulted with regard to the particular forms they should be required to fill in for the purposes of the Act, and that the rules and forms should, in their main features, be uniform for the whole of India. It has also been suggested that where an undertaking had several factories in more than one province, the returns might be filed only with the provincial authorities of the province in which the ~~registered~~ registered office of the company was situated.

(~~The~~ Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, December, 1945).+

Textile Industry.Manufacture of Textile Machinery in India: Sir A. Dalal's
Discussions with Bombay Mill-Owners.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Planning Member, Government of India, discussed with representatives of textile mills in Bombay on 17-12-1945 the problems connected with the manufacture of textile machinery in India on economical lines, and the nature of orders for such plants to be placed in the United Kingdom.

Decision to set up Committee.- It is understood that the meeting, agreed to the appointment of a committee to examine the constitution of the organisation and put forward before Government their views about State encouragement. That might even include Government's share in the capital in partnership with the individual mills. After the Committee's report is received, the Planning Department may convene another conference to discuss further details of the scheme.

(The Statesman, 18-12-1945;
The Times of India, 19-12-1945).+

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bihar
during 1944.

According to the annual report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Bihar, during the year 1944, 212 persons lost their lives as a result of accidents, 249 were permanently disabled and 4,093 suffered from temporary disablement, as against 198, 200, and 4,523, respectively, during 1943. The total sums paid for these three classes of accidents were Rs. 145,428, Rs. 78,233 and Rs. 71,068 during the year under report as against Rs. 143,021, Rs. 62,509 and Rs. 68,317, respectively, during 1943. The average amount paid as compensation for fatal accidents was Rs. 686, and for permanent disablement Rs. 314 as compared with Rs. 722 and Rs. 313 in the previous year. In the case of fatal accidents which came before the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation about 68.5 per cent of the workers concerned were receiving wages not exceeding Rs. 21 a month.

There were 42 pending cases of award of compensation under Section 10; 120 new applications were filed; of these 108 cases were disposed of, 39 remained pending at conclusion and 15 were transferred to other Commissioners for disposal. There was only one case of commutation under Section 7 which was disposed of. Of the 293 cases of deposits under Section 8, (in addition to which 21 were received for disposal from other Commissioners), amounts of compensation were disbursed to dependents or workmen in 225 cases and refunded to employers in 5 cases. 78 cases were pending at the end of the year.

Of the 538 applications for registration of agreements (including 42 pending at commencement), 359 were registered as filed, 2 were registered after modification, and registration was refused in 124 cases for inadequacy or other causes. 53 applications remained pending.

The report states that the provisions of the Act are now widely known amongst workmen in the larger industrial areas, and that they take advantage of these provisions whenever occasion arises.

("Indian Labour Gazette", November,
1945). +

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Government of India sets up All-India Council for Technical Education.

An All-India Council for Technical Education has been constituted by the Government of India to study the needs of the country for higher technical education. (Reference was made to the proposal to set up such a council at pages 58-59 of the report of this Office for May 1945). This step has been taken by the Government of India in pursuance of the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Education that technical education at the higher (above High School) stages under modern conditions be effectively organized on a provincial basis. It is also expected that this will help other branches of post-war reconstruction which will demand a larger increase in the available supply of Indian technologists and technicians. The decision to set up this Council is, however, without prejudice or commitment, to the full implementation, at a later date, of the proposals approved in this behalf by the Central Advisory Board.

Tasks of Council.- The immediate task of the Council will be: (a) to survey the whole field of technical education in consultation with the provincial Governments and such Indian States as may be willing to co-operate with it; (b) to advise in what areas technical institutions should be established, in what respective branches of ~~such~~ technology they should provide and up to what standards they should co-operate; (c) to consider such projects as are already under consideration by various Departments of the Government of India, e.g., the provision of senior all-India polytechnics on the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of ~~Technology~~ Technology or the establishment of a Technical College for Electrical (Power) Engineering, and to assign their functions in an all-India scheme; and (d) to conduct preliminary investigations with a view to ascertaining the conditions on which the authorities in control of the existing technical institutes would be prepared to co-operate. The functions of the Council are to be, in the first instance, merely advisory.

Constitution of Council.- The Council will be composed of (a) a Chairman, (b) the Educational Adviser to the Government of India, (c) representatives of the Departments of the Government of India, (d) one member of the Council of State elected by it, (e) two members of the Legislative Assembly elected by it, (f) one representative of each provincial Government, (g) five representatives of Indian States, to be nominated by the Governor-General in consultation with the Crown Representative, (h) fourteen representatives of industry, commerce and labour, to be nominated by the Associated Chambers of Commerce, the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Delhi), the Employers' Federation of India, the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Indian Federation of Labour and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, (i) two members of the Central Advisory Board of Education, (j) two members of the Inter-University Board, to be nominated by the Board, (k) two representatives of the Association of Principals of Technical Institutions in India, (l) one representative of the Institution of Engineers, and (m) two nominees of the Government of India, to represent any other interest which they may consider desirable. The names of members will be announced ~~later~~ after the representatives of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly have been elected in the next session of the Central Legislature. Mr. N. R. Sarker has been

appointed Chairman of the Council. The tenure of office of the non-official members including the Chairman will be three years. The Council will be attached to the Department of Education, Government of India.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-12-1945).
(The Gazette of India dated 8-12-1945,
Part I, Section 1, pages 1679-1680).

MIGRATION.

Relief Measures for Indians in Malaya: Government of India to send deputation to advise Government Representative.

A press communiqué issued on 13-12-1945 ~~explained~~ explains the steps the Government of India has decided to take for the relief of the Indian community in Malaya. These decisions have been taken on the ~~report~~ report submitted by Mr. S.K. Chettur, the Government of India's representative and liaison officer in Malaya (reference to his appointment was made at page 18 of the report of this office for September 1945) after a fifteen-day tour of Malaya.

Medical Relief.- Mr. Chettur studied carefully the condition of the Indian population, particularly of the large number of Indian labourers who are now in distress. The British Military Administration and local charitable organisations have already set up relief centres for these people. Funds have been placed at Mr. Chettur's disposal and he has already taken effective action for the improvement of the diet of those who are suffering from malnutrition and for the supply of clothing. ~~Arrangements for medical relief have also been made and the Government of India is shortly sending out four medical parties with a large store of medical supplies.~~

Welfare officer for Women and Children on Estates.- A Women Welfare officer has been appointed to pay special attention to the needs of women and children on the estates.

Employment for Able-bodied Labourers.- The ~~strict~~ British Military authorities have ~~made~~ arrangements for the employment of able-bodied labourers on rubber estates. Reasonable wages are being paid up to the men and women employed on this labour.

Facilities for Return to India.- As regards Indians anxious to return to India for rest and recuperation, the communiqué points out, immediate return of very large numbers will not be feasible owing to the shortage of shipping, but the British Military Administration have agreed to take action to facilitate their early return; and non-official committees are being set up at Singapore and Kuala Lumpur to advise regarding suitable priorities for their return.

Deputation to Malaya to assist Government of India's Representative.- The ~~Government of India has~~ further decided to send to Malaya the Hon'ble Pandit Hriday Nath Banzru, Member of the Council of State and of the Standing Committee of the Department of Commonwealth Relations, and Mr. P. Kedanda Rao, member of the Servants of India Society, to advise the Government of India's Representative and Liaison Officer, and the Indian community as regards relief measures.

The Government of India has also decided to provide legal assistance to Indians in Malaya who are at present under detention, particularly for those who are unable to arrange for their own defence. For this purpose, the Government of India proposes to send out to Malaya as soon as possible with the consent of the South-East Asia Command, a suitable panel of competent lawyers from India.

(The Statesman, 14-12-1945).

Rehabilitation Measures in Burma: Military Administration opens 228 Relief Depots.

An Associated Press of India report outlines the measures adopted by the British Military Administration in Burma to deal with the large number of displaced people without shelter and requiring feeding, and to rehabilitate the country's economy. Housing accommodation in most of the large towns was almost non-existent, and only a minimum of supplies could be brought over the tenuous line of communication from India and then in competition with military operational stores.

228 Relief Depots opened - Civil Labour Control Team.- The Relief and Labour Department of the Military Administration tackled these problems. 228 relief supply distribution points were opened in all liberated districts. Between February and October 1945, 10,000 tons of supplies were distributed either free or at controlled rates and homeless were housed in camps. Labourers at an average of 100,000 monthly were collected and handed over to the civil labour control team.

Help to Charitable Bodies - Schools in Refugee Camps.- Charitable institutions have been given financial and material aid, and a number of people urgently in need of medical attention beyond facilities available in Burma have been sent to India. Schools have been established in various ~~Burmes~~ refugee camps, the biggest being in Maymyo, the ~~summer seat of the government~~, where nearly 500 children are accommodated.

Problems of Burma Government - Measures to provide Labour Supply in Industrial Areas.- The problem now facing the Government of Burma is to carry on these activities and to find accommodation for all those in camps and resettling displaced persons. Another essential part of rehabilitation is the opening of labour exchanges in all industrial areas. For this the Government ~~has~~ set up a special department of social services to make plans and estimates dealing with the whole problem. These plans are nearing completion, and it is hoped that they will enable the civil Government to take over all welfare and rehabilitation work from the military administration at the end of the year.

(The Statesman, 7-12-1945).

Common Services of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika: White Paper suggests East African High Commission, Central Legislative Assembly and an Executive Organisation.

A White Paper issued by the Government of the United Kingdom in the latter half of December, outlines proposals for dealing with the common services of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. The proposals, it is emphasised, have been published for discussion, and suggest: (1) the formation of an East African High Commission, consisting of the three Governors; (2) a Central Legislative Assembly; and (3) an executive organisation, supported in appropriate cases by advisory boards.

The High Commission, would exercise the usual powers of a colonial government in respect of the common services entrusted to it. The Governor of Kenya would be the standing Chairman of the Commission. The common services departments would be grouped under principal executive officers, five in number—a Chief Secretary, Financial Secretary, Director of Transport, Postmaster-General, and Commissioner of Customs, with a Secretariat including a Commerce and Economics branch.

The Central Legislative Assembly would have 36 members, of whom 12 will be official. The unofficial members would be six elected Europeans, six elected Indians, six nominees of the High Commission as trustees ~~representatives~~ for African interests—they would as far as possible be Africans—two nominated representatives of Arabs and four members, race not specified, to be nominated by the High Commission. Unofficial members would have no power to initiate legislation, but they could introduce motions on any subject under the usual rule. The European and Indian unofficial members will be elected by the territorial legislatures.

"Leader's" Comment.- Commenting on the proposals in the White Paper, The Leader, Allahabad, in its issue dated 31-12-1945, holds that, "the proposed union will injure the interests of Indians and Africans. At present Uganda and Tanganyika are not tainted with racialism to the same extent as Kenya. The interests of Indians and Africans are totally neglected by the Kenya Government which is concerned mainly with the promotion of European interests. The policy of the other two territories ~~has been more favourable than the policy of the Kenya Government to the development of Indian and African interests.~~ The result of a closer union will be that racialism which is rampant in Kenya will pervade all the three territories".

(The Hindustan Times, 27-12-1945; and The Leader, dated 31-12-1945).

Natal Housing Ordinance Promulgated: General Smuts Explains Provisions to Safeguard Indian Interests.

Reference was made at pages 35-36 of the report of this Office for October 1945 to the Natal Housing Ordinance awaiting the assent of the Governor-General-in-Council, Union of South Africa. The Natal Indian Congress opposed the Ordinance on the ground that the Natal Housing Board proposed to be set up by the Ordinance, could be used for purposes of racial discrimination against the Indian community. A statement issued from Preterita on 6-12-1945, by General Smuts, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, announces the decision of the South African Government to assent to the Ordinance. The officer, administering the Government in Council, has accordingly assented to the Natal Housing Ordinance of 1945, passed by the Provincial Council and enabling the establishment of a Natal Housing Board.

Safeguards against Discrimination.- Referring to the objections of the Natal Indian Congress, General Smuts explains, that the Natal Housing Board cannot exercise the power to appropriate land and power to prescribe, in selling or letting land, conditions restricting ownership or occupation of land to persons of designated class and prohibiting ownership or occupation of land by persons of any other class,

without the prior consent of the Minister of Welfare and Demobilisation (whose functions ~~of the Board~~ have now been transferred to the Minister of Health), and that by the Regulation promulgated under the Housing (Emergency Powers) Act of 1945, provision has now been made precluding the Board from prescribing any condition referred to above without the approval of the Minister of Health. These safeguards of ministerial consent and approval, General Smuts assures, will be used to ensure that the powers in question are exercised in a reasonable, equitable and impartial manner with due regard to the relative needs of different sections of people and in accordance with the general principle that housing schemes for any section of people should, ^{as far as practicable,} disturbance of the occupation of any other group ~~of~~ of any other individual members thereof, link up with areas already occupied and inhabited by that section. It will be the aim of the Government, in applying these safeguards, to protect every section of the community against any ~~an~~ ulterior or covert design of uprooting or excluding them from any ~~an~~ land already occupied and inhabited by them.

Indian Reaction.- Indian opinion, however, still continues to be apprehensive of the provisions of the Ordinance. Commenting on General Smut's statement, the Hindustan Times, New Delhi, in its issue dated 12-12-1945 says "It is no satisfaction to the Indian community to be told that these expropriatory and discriminating powers provided in the ordinance cannot be exercised under its terms without the previous approval of the Minister, ~~for there is little evidence in the recent policies of the State Government to show that they are prepared to respect Indian rights and protect them against narrow racial prejudice. Had the Indian community full citizenship rights, they would be in a position to safeguard their rights, but at present they are politically helpless and cannot, with any confidence, look to individual Ministers to protect their rights. It would be suicidal for the Indian community to accept any such position. Without sacrificing their self-respect and seriously jeopardizing their future they cannot submit to any law or regulation based on racial discrimination in any form."~~

The Natal Indian Congress also, in a statement on the ordinance issued in reply to that of General Smuts, points out that the assurance by the Prime Minister has no legal force. It is simply a question of administration while the present Government remains in power. There is no safeguard that the same liberal principles will motivate any succeeding Government in its administration of the Ordinance. The statement reiterates that the only safeguard against unjust and racial discrimination is franchise and presses for the extension of the Provincial and Municipal vote to Indians to ensure just and equal treatment by provincial and local authorities; the presence of Indian voters in any ward is the only guarantee that Indian interests and views will be ~~fairly~~ fairly considered.

(The Hindu 7, 8 and 16-12-1945;
The Hindustan Times, 12-12-1945).+

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AGRICULTURE.

6th Meeting of Crops and Soils Wing of the Board of
Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, New Delhi, 17 to
20-12-1945: Sir Jogendra Singh reviews Agricultural
Department's Work.

Referring to the activities of the Department of Agriculture of the Government of India, in the course of his address inaugurating the sixth meeting of the Crops and Soils Wing of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, at New Delhi, on 17-12-1945, Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Agriculture, said that his Department had appointed a panel of special officers as advisers for agricultural production, fertilisers, seeds, vegetables, minor works, fruit, livestock, dairying, fish, plant protection, forestry and irrigation, and that the appointment of an adviser for soil conservation was under consideration. The Department had converted town refuse into compost in 312 towns to the extent of 270,000 tons, and he was having a programme worked out for 5,000 centres to take up all towns with a population of 5,000 and over, and when the plans were completed they should give two million tons of manure a year. The Department was also trying to get all the oil seeds crushed in the country itself, which would give oil cake to feed the cattle and soil. A programme was being framed for the utilization of all available organic material for composting. It had been shown that water hyacinth, a troublesome weed which had choked the rice fields and rivers of Bengal, could easily be composted. He was hoping to start experiments to determine the cost of composting and determining its manurial value. If, in addition, all resources, in bones, factory and slaughter house refuse, were husbanded, India could have enough manure for irrigated areas and its application should increase yields at least by 50 per cent. A Bill to constitute an Oil Seeds Committee was before the Legislature.

Sir Jogendra further said that financial sanction in principle for the new research institutes and for the expansion of the existing ones had been obtained, and added, that it was proposed to establish an Agricultural College and an Animal Husbandry College to meet the needs of smaller provinces and States and to provide for post-graduate education. In the meanwhile the number of post-graduate students admitted to the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute was being increased from 15 to 50 per year and it would be raised to 100 in due course. Admission to the Veterinary Institute had been doubled and admission to the Forest Rangers' College had been increased fourfold. The Institutes, which the Department was setting up would carry out high grade research and afford facilities for training in special subjects and may in due time supplement this by research work of an applied nature in other suitable areas and carry out pilot schemes of co-operative farming, joint management and test the use and extension of mechanized farming.

Recommendations of the Meeting - Spray Irrigation and Land Reclamation. - The meeting recommended to provinces and States spray irrigation on an experimental basis, and the sale of water by volume on a contractual basis to make the best possible use of the available water supply. To prevent water-logging and accumulation of harmful salts in irrigated soils, the meeting resolved that steps be taken to stabilize the watertable where it is rising. The methods to be adopted are drainage, pumping sub-soil water, lining canals and decrease in irrigation. Tubewell pumping was also recommended where it was found to be more economical. Each province and State has further been asked to set up an organisation.

for land reclamation. The meeting emphasized that, where soil conditions permitted, the most effective treatment for salt land was to wash the salts below the evaporation zone and reduce the alkalinity by suitable methods. Just below the surface of the earth water exists in a vaporized condition and the salt deposited has to be removed for the better growth of food grain crops.

Measures to increase Production of Fruit and Vegetables.- The meeting, further recommended that steps should be taken to increase the area under fruit and vegetables separately by 50 per cent within the next five years. Provinces and States were asked to give high priority to fruit and vegetable research and development in their post-war reconstruction schemes. This, it was suggested, should be done on a commercial basis with a view to developing an export trade in those fruits and fruit products in which India excels. They were also advised to arrange to send every year to the U.S.A. experienced officers for advanced training in horticulture and to introduce a course in fruit preservation in girls' schools and colleges, as the Government of India propose to do in Delhi. Other steps to be taken in this direction are establishment of nurseries, supply of vegetable ~~xxxxxx~~ seeds to cultivators at concession rates and provision of adequate irrigation facilities.

Bureau of Plant Introduction and Exploration.- The meeting also considered the recent advances in the technique ~~of~~ of plant breeding and seed multiplication and the scope for their economic utilization; and recommended that the Government of India should immediately set up a Bureau of Plant Introduction and Exploration. The Bureau will collect various species of plants by organising expeditions to selected areas both within and outside India and by correspondence and exchange with other countries.

(The Statesman, 18 and 23-12-1945).

Introduction of Tractor Farming in India: Suggestion of
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

According to a press note, the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has suggested the introduction of power farming, the economics of tractor cultivation and the relative merits of various implements on different soils and in different climatic conditions as particularly suitable for formulating schemes to be carried out with the financial assistance of the Council. It is further suggested that the provincial Governments should own tractors which might be leased to cultivators and farmers as and when required, and that investigations be carried out by engineers to devise agricultural implements appropriate to different soil types in each area, bearing in mind available bullock power. Experimental work in co-operative farming, joint management, consolidated farming, and consolidated holdings with a view to finding out the most appropriate type of farming for a particular locality, was another suggestion made by the governing Body.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
27-12-1945).

Sixth ^{Conference} Session of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Benares, 26, 27 and 28-12-1945: Sir Manilal Nanavati's Presidential Address.

The Sixth ^{Conference} session of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, was held at Benares on 26, 27 and 28-12-1945, Sir Manilal B. Nanavati presiding. The following are the salient features of the presidential address.

Deterioration in the Condition of Masses.- Reviewing the continuous deterioration in the condition of the masses during the last 75 years, Sir Manilal said that in 1880 India had a surplus of foodstuffs to the extent of 5 million tons and now it had a deficit of 10 million tons. The consumption of food was then estimated at 1-1/2 lb. per individual and now it is 1 lb. The man-land ratio was steadily rising. In spite of the development of modern industries, de-industrialization was still continuing. In 1880, industries absorbed 12.3 per cent of the population and now the figure was 9 per cent. In 1872, 56 per cent of the population was supported by agriculture; this proportion had now increased to 72 per cent. In spite of the Government measures to improve yields and qualities of crops, actually the yields were going down while the land systems and land tenures were getting more and more complicated. In other respects also the Indian economy had been overstrained. In spite of men and materials being available in plenty, organisation for production and distribution remained inefficient.

Food Policy.- Referring to the Bengal Famine, the report of the Indian Famine Commission and the objective of food for all, Sir Manilal emphasised that the machinery that had been developed during the war at the Centre and in the provinces for stimulating food production, for procurement, for rationalisation of transport, for control of prices and for efficient and equitable distribution, should be used not only to provide famine relief, but to see that every man, woman and child is able to get sufficient nutrition in the interest of health, efficiency and a good life. He urged that the immediate policy must be to stimulate the production of food-grains by assuring reasonable prices and by giving technical as well as financial aid to the cultivator to rationalise distribution and to inculcate the habits of healthy consumption among the people. Dilating further on the point, he thought that a policy of self-sufficiency in regard to the supply of food was highly desirable for the country. In order to attain this, it would be necessary to bring about an increase in the area under cultivation by bringing new lands under the plough and the expansion of irrigation and, if necessary, even by diverting land from non-food crops to food crops. In the main, however India must increase the yield per acre by improving the efficiency of the land, of cattle, of implements and above all, of the human factor which works these all. A proper food policy for India involved the adoption of deliberate planning in respect of the production and distribution of essential items of food, so as make them available to every individual. This was a far-reaching change and involved a radical change in the outlook and method of work on the part of various Governments in the country and a much closer cooperation between the Government and the people.

Land Reform.- After referring to the urgent need for remedying the defects of the land system, Sir Manilal said that in order to solve the problem of India's poverty it was necessary that (a) further subdivision and fragmentation of holdings should be stopped, (b) that

holdings should be reconstituted into an economic size with due regard to the needs of each locality, (c) that the passing of land to absentee landlords should be stopped and lands that had already so passed should be restored to those cultivators who could put the lands to the best use, and (d) the intermediary interests between the cultivator and the Government should be eliminated. He cited in this connection, the Baroda State's experiments in reconstituting holdings in 4 villages in the Tilak Wada, Peta Mahal of the Baroda district in accordance with a scheme approved by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. It was a Bhil area with a very backward population where lands have mostly passed into the hands of money-lenders. The State has now decided to re-acquire all these lands and rearrange them into separate peasant holdings, into co-operative farms and into collective farms. The object is to test the efficacy of these different methods of farm management and organisation.

Research Work.- Considering the complicated nature of ^{the} problems, Sir Manilal emphasised the need for research work and welcomed the opening of a new Division of Rural Economics by the Reserve Bank of India, to conduct research in problems of agricultural economics and finance, co-operation and agricultural marketing, and a new staff has been recruited ~~for this purpose~~ purpose in addition to the Agricultural Credit Department already working; and the establishment of a new section of Agricultural Economics at the School of Economics of the Bombay University.

The Conference discussed, the following among other subjects: (1) The T.V.A. approach and its possibilities in Indian agriculture; (2) social reform in rural economy; and (3) the Indian food policy. On the last item, the delegates held the view that the production of food-stuffs in India was inadequate taking into consideration the actual population of the country. It was emphasised that the attention of the Government of India be drawn to this fact and the necessity of taking immediate steps to increase the rate of production of foodstuffs be impressed on ~~it~~. That the rate of increase of production should keep pace with the rate of the increase of the population in the country was the unanimous opinion of the delegates.

The conference decided to publish a journal of the Society; the first issue being scheduled to appear in February, 1946.

The following office-bearers were elected for 1946: President- Sir Manilal B. Nanavati; Vice-Presidents- Professor D.R. Gadgil and Dr. Gyan Chand; Secretary and Treasurer- Prof. J.J. Anjaria.

(The Hindustan Times, dated, 27 and 31-12-1945; and Leader, dated 31-12-1945). +

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PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Punjab Government to revise Scales of Pay: Subordinate Services demand 100 per cent increase in pay.

Provincial Services.- The Punjab Government has decided to revise the scales of pay of the provincial services with effect from November 1, 1945, in pursuance of the recommendations of a special committee, consisting of Sir James Penny, Mr. H.D. Bhanot and Mr. C.N. Chandra.

Subordinate Services - Demand for 100 % increase in pay.- So far as the subordinate services are concerned a special officer was appointed to examine the question of revising their scales of pay. His report is under consideration and Government orders on the subject are to be announced in the near future and will have effect from 1-11-1945, as in the case of the provincial services.

Meanwhile, the staff of the subordinate services of the Punjab Civil Secretariat at a meeting held on 21-12-1945 adopted a resolution demanding a 100 per cent increase in their salaries. The resolution added that the minimum should be Rs. 120 for clerical and technical staff and Rs. 45 for inferior staff. A memorial ~~submitted~~ sent on their behalf to the Governor, the Chief Secretary and the Premier argues that the government has already accepted the need for increase by giving premiums of 150 to 300 per cent to contractors for Government work. The subordinate staff, the memorial urges, are also working on a contract with the Government. Other arguments advanced in the memorial are the higher salaries paid by the Government of India to its clerks and the very high cost of living in Lahore.

(The Statesman, 21 and 24-12-1945;
The Hindustan Times, 25-12-1945).

Conditions of Service of College Teaching Staff:
Inter-University Board's Recommendations.

The Inter-University Board, at its meeting held at Colombo on 22-12-1945, urged the establishment of University Grants Committees for the distribution of funds from public revenues and suggested that the members of the Committees should be men of academic eminence and have experience of university education. As regards training, recruitment and conditions of service of teachers in universities and other comparable institutions, the Board resolved that the maximum hours of work of teachers should be fixed, that all teachers should be appointed on the recommendation of suitably constituted committees of selection and that in order to attract the right type of teachers, the scale of pay should be Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,250 per mensem for Professors, Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 for Readers and Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 for Lecturers. The Board suggested that the Governments concerned should make substantial grants to ensure provision for these scales.

(The Hindu, 24-12-1945).

20th Session of All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference,
Mymensingh, 25 and 26-12-1945.

The 20th session of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference was held at Mymensingh, Bengal, on 25 and 26-12-1945, with Mr. D.K. Lahiri Chaudhury, M.L.A. (Central), presiding. A resolution adopted by the Conference states that unless the Government revise the scales of pay as demanded at last year's Conference at Bombay (vide page 34 of the report of this office for December 1944), by 15-2-1946, the employees will decide if a strike is to be launched. Meanwhile the Conference appointed a Council of Action with the view to pooling all resources.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-12-1945).

Bihar Legislation Empowering Provincial Government to fix
Scales, Grades of Pay, etc., of Employees of Local Bodies.

Reference was made at page 41 of the report of this Office for June 1945 to two Bihar Bills giving the Provincial Government power to fix or alter the number, designations, grades, scales of pay and fees and allowances payable to the officers and servants of Municipalities and Districts Boards. These Bills received the assent of the Governor of Bihar on 22-12-1945, and are now published as the Bihar Municipal (Second) Amendment Act, 1945 (1st Bihar Act VIII of 1945) and the Bihar Local Self-Government (Second Amendment) Act, 1945 (Bihar Act IX of 1945).

(The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary, dated
28-12-1945, pages 1-4). +

NATIVE AND COLONIAL LABOUR.

Bombay Government appoints Aborigines Welfare Officer.

A Press note issued by the Director of Information, Bombay, explains the special measures taken by the Government of Bombay to improve the lot of the aboriginal classes in the Dahamu and Umbergaon talukas and Mekhada mahal of the Thana District. These measures are being taken following recent agrarian troubles in Dahamu and Umbergaon talukas. The Government has decided that, besides improving the arrangements for the preservation of law and order, it is essential to adopt further specific measures for the amelioration of the economic conditions of the aboriginal classes.

The three areas mentioned above are being formed into a separate revenue sub-division and the Officer-in-charge will also be designated Aborigines Welfare Officer and charged with special responsibility for these people. He will deal with the aborigines' tenancy problems under the Tenancy Act and will grant free legal assistance to them in criminal and other cases.

The aborigines in these areas are generally agricultural tenants and labourers and are dependent for current credit on their landlords. In order to improve their economic condition, it is considered necessary to make them independent of their landlords. This object is to be promoted by opening more grain depots. There are already 27 grain depots in Dahamu taluka and 10 in Umbergaon and the Government has now directed the establishment of 13 more in Dahamu taluka and 15 more in Umbergaon and has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1,500 for each depot. In due course it is hoped that to convert these grain depots, into multi-purpose depots to supply the needs of the aborigines in chillies, onions, clothing, utensils and other daily requirements.

(Press Note dated 18-12-1945 issued by the
Director of Information, Bombay).+.

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CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Handloom Industry in Madras: Government's Five-Year Plan
of Development.

A five-year plan for the Madras handloom industry has been drawn up by the Co-operative Department. According to this scheme, the number of co-operative societies will be increased by 500, adding 50,000 more looms. Another 20 dye factories will be established along with 20 more weaving centres. Four screen printing machines will also be installed. The societies attached to the co-operative unions will get an assured supply of yarn directly from the mills for distribution to the individual weavers.

(The Times of India, 21-12-1945).+

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(The Times of India, 21-12-1945). †

Nutrition.Industrial Canteens in Bombay.

The growth of industrial canteens in Bombay is reviewed in an article on "Industrial Canteens in Bombay" appearing in the December 1945 issue of the journal "Feeding the Worker - Canteens in Industry" issued by the ~~Min~~ Department of Food, Government of India. The following is a brief summary of the article.

The Beginning.- In May, 1939, the Millowners' Association of Bombay ~~made a recommendation~~ to its members that they should set up canteens inside their factories for the benefit of their workers with the help of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board. The policy adopted by the Board was to organise the canteen, select the local staff and after training the staff and making the canteen self-sufficient, to hand it over to the management concerned. Periodical inspections were made thereafter to see that the canteen was running on correct lines and to tender ~~any~~ advice to the management in the proper working of the canteen. In 1939 very few mills responded to the recommendation of the Millowners' Association and by March, 1940, only 14 canteens were established. These canteens, which were organised by the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board, served tea, and snacks at much cheaper prices than those charged by contractors who used to run tea shops before these ~~canteens came into existence.~~

Present Position - Relative Unpopularity of Cooked Meals Canteens.- ~~But as employers and government began to take greater interest in the~~ establishment of industrial canteens, their number in the Province increased considerably, and today, canteens run by the management on a non-profit basis in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Baroda, Navsari, Kolhapur, Poona, Ellichpur, Jalgaon and Parsi, amount to 150. Out of these, 17 canteens serve cooked meals besides tea, coffee and cold drinks, and 114 only snacks, besides tea, coffee and cold drinks. In preparing the snacks, the utmost importance is attached to the nutritive value of the ingredients so that the worker can have a nutritious meal at a cheap price. It has been found that factory ~~and~~ workers in Bombay patronise a tea-and-snacks canteen much more readily than only a cooked meals canteen. In the 17 factories where cooked meals are served, hardly 5 per cent of the ~~workers~~ take advantage of it even though half the cost is paid by the management and a full meal which consists of rice, chapati, dhal, vegetables and pickles, is priced at -/3/- only. This is probably explained by the workers' preference for the meal that is prepared at home however deficient in nutrition it might be, and his natural desire to eat it with the family.

Average Cost of Refreshments.- Due to the special kind of service which these canteens offer, the average daily cost of refreshments per worker does not exceed one anna. But whether the worker can be induced to consume more food at the canteen remains to be seen. Tea continues to be the most popular refreshment in the canteens serving either snacks or full meals. Also as the canteens are run on the basis of self-sufficiency and not profit, the ~~considerable~~ margin of saving yielded by selling liquid tea at 1/2 anna per cup goes a considerable way towards reducing the price of other foodstuffs sold at the canteen.

Coupon System.- As in other industrial centres where the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board has assisted in the establishment of canteens,

the coupon system of sales is in force in the Bombay canteens. By this method the managements sell the coupons to the workers and recover the cost from their wages at the end of the month. Before the introduction of this scheme, the workers were heavily indebted to outside shopkeepers who sold inferior quality foodstuffs prepared under unhealthy and insanitary conditions on credit, from which exaction, they have now been to some extent freed.

The article concludes that the experience gained in the running of industrial canteens in Bombay, reveals that the canteen habit is growing steadily among industrial labour and is exercising a definitely wholesome influence on the health and efficiency of the ~~work~~ workers concerned.

(Feeding the Worker - Canteens in Industry, December, 1945). +

Housing.

Houses for State Railways Employees: Railway Board sets up Committee.

It is understood that the Railway Board is examining the question of providing houses for all employees of State Railways and has appointed a Housing Committee to study the problem in all its aspects and make recommendations. Mr. N.K. Mitra is Chairman of the Committee, and Dr. H. Ahmed, Medical Officer of the Railway Department, Government of India, and Mr. Srikantayya the other members. The members of the Committee have already finished their enquiries in respect of ^{N.}G.I.P., B.B. & C.I. and E.I. Railways, and in the first week of December held discussion with the officials of the S.I. and M. and S.M. Railways.

(The Hindu, 3 and 6-12-1945).

Bengal Slum Improvement Act, 1945.

The Bengal Slum Improvement Bill, 1945, to which reference was ~~was~~ made at pages 29-30 of the report of this Office for September 1945, has received the assent of the Governor-General and is now published as the Bengal Slum Improvement Act, 1945 (Bengal Act XVI of 1945). This Act, the statement appended to it emphasises, is only an interim measure ~~is~~ introduced to prevent deterioration in the health of slum-dwellers and to check the spread of disease. It falls short of the ultimate ideal of total slum clearance; but the Provincial Government considers that some immediate relief must be afforded to the slum dwellers, while longer term plans are in preparation.

The Basic Principle.- The Act is based on the principle that those who ~~derive profit from any~~ undertaking involving their fellow beings should conduct that undertaking in a manner not injurious to health. It proposes that persons who derive rents from the land and from the buildings on the land notified as a slum area shall be held financially responsible for providing on their property those minimum facilities and conveniences of sanitation which the public health demands. At the same time, it is recognised that the neglect and indifference of owners for generations may have rendered slum areas so devoid of facilities that the present owners, no matter how willing, could not afford to complete even the minimum improvements contemplated under the Act. Provision has accordingly been made in the Act for financial assistance by the Provincial Government and by the Local Authority in cases in which the owners' resources are inadequate to effect the desired improvement.

The Machinery for Slum Clearance.- After the Act comes into force, it is designed to operate as follows:-

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Either on its own motion, or on consideration of the recommendations of a Local Authority, the Provincial Government may declare an area to be a "Slum Area", and authorise the local Authority to prepare a scheme and estimate. The scheme and estimate so prepared will then be published in the Calcutta Gazette and at the office of the Local Authority, and persons interested will be invited to express opinions. After consideration of the opinions the Local Authority may modify the Scheme if it thinks fit. The costs of the Scheme will then be ~~apportioned~~ apportioned as between the interests affected, the apportionment statement will be published in the Calcutta Gazette and dues shall be payable within two months. If they are not so paid, they will be recovered by processes of law. The Local Authority will carry out the work.

(The Calcutta Gazette, dated 6-12-1945,
Part III, pages, 57-64).

The United Provinces Roadside Land Control
Act, 1945.

The United Provinces Roadside Land Control Bill, to which reference was made at page 30 of the report of this Office for September 1945, received the assent of the Governor of the United Provinces on 13-12-1945 and is now gazetted as the United Provinces Roadside Land Control Act, 1945 (U.P. Act No. X of 1945).

(The Government Gazette of the United
Provinces, dated 22-12-1945, Part VII-A,
pages 29-32).+

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ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

Annual Meeting of Associated Chambers of Commerce,
Calcutta, 10-12-1945.

The Annual General Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India was held at Calcutta on 10-12-1945, Sir Renwick Paddow presiding. The proceedings were formally opened by His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Wavell.

Presidential Address.- Addressing the meeting, Sir Renwick characterised the resolution of the National Planning Committee on foreign capital as "a deliberate policy of discrimination against British trade and enterprise". The resolution made it quite clear that the Congress Planning Committee wished to exclude all foreign capital from India, except in the form of loans or credits raised by or through the State. To be consistent, the Committee, Sir Renwick said, should equally be in favour of the withdrawal of all Indian capital at present invested in other parts of the Empire, particularly in East and South Africa, Ceylon and Burma. This might avoid the necessity of borrowing foreign capital. But such a policy would be disastrous to India. Referring to the clauses relating to commercial safeguards in the Government of India Act, Sir Renwick said that he differed from the planning and Development Council member's recent statement at the meeting of the Policy Committee on Industries that it was not possible for the industrial development of India to proceed unhindered so long as these constitutional provisions remained on the statute book. India's industrialization and development must proceed apace, irrespective of these safeguards. Sir Renwick wished to impress on all concerned that there must be give and take and that it was for the ultimate good of the country to encourage the setting up of new industries, even if the capital and management were imported from outside.

Viceroy's Address.- The Viceroy in his opening address referred to the problems relating to the transition from war to peace in India, the future of controls, long-term planning for the development of India's agriculture and industry, and the political situation. The main points in his address are summarised below.

India has without doubt emerged from the war with increased financial and industrial strength. Preparations to meet the outbreak of peace had been going on for more than a year, but like ~~most~~ almost everyone else all over the world the Government of India had expected at least another six months of war.

Future of Control Measures.- Turning to the various wartime controls, the Viceroy emphasized that they will have to be relaxed gradually and in ~~an~~ an orderly way. This will be done as soon as it becomes possible. Wartime controls, such as the rationing of food grains and cloth, or the restriction of movement, arise from causes which continue to operate long after the fighting ends, such as, the diversion of industry to wartime purposes and the dislocation of all means of transportation by sea, land and air. For some time to come India will continue to have a shortage of supply and difficulties of movement, and controls must remain, to ensure that the limited supplies available are distributed as fairly and equally as possible. On the

whole, the Viceroy felt, Government can claim a great measure of success for its control of some of the main items of supply—food, coal, cloth and drugs.

Food situation; Need to step up Food Production.— The general food situation of India continues to demand vigilance on the part of Government and co-operation and restraint on the part of the public. World shortages of production and the number of urgent demands on shipping make it still necessary for world surpluses of cereals to be allocated by the Combined Food Boards in Washington and for world shipping to be carefully planned. The Government of India, with the support of the Secretary of State for India and the London Food Council, the Viceroy assured, would continue to press for India's due share of world surpluses. In these circumstances, not only must India do her best to increase internal production but should take steps to procure as much as possible of the internal production and distribute it on the basis of essential needs to deficit areas. The Government has every hope of keeping the food situation stable during the forthcoming winter and spring.

Textiles and Drugs.— The coal situation which has been almost as great an anxiety as food for some years, is now much improved though strict control is still necessary. As regards cloth, thanks to the measures of control taken over production and distribution, the strain on the consumer has been progressively lightened. In this respect, the Viceroy pointed out, India is on the whole better off than many countries, including the United Kingdom. There is still a shortage of a few specialized drugs, but these will soon be available in sufficient quantities.

Planning for Peace: Reconversion Measures.— Turning to the Government's plans for the future, the Viceroy stated that this has been on two lines; short term planning for the transition period from war to peace; and long term planning for the general development of India. The former includes the training of service men and women for civil life; the establishment of Employment Bureaux all over the country; the resettlement of soldiers; and the preparation in all provinces of works projects on which unskilled labour can be absorbed. The next one or two years are bound to be difficult as it is not possible to pass from a period of very full Government employment, during which factories are working multiple shifts to feed the insatiable war machine, large numbers of young men are enlisted into the armed forces and large clerical establishments are assembled, to a period of renewed private enterprise, without dislocation and ~~difficultly~~ difficulty. But the Central Government will make the landing to the ~~ground~~ groundlevel of peace as shockless as it can, and the provincial Governments will do the same. The Finance Department, the Viceroy assured is helping in every possible way, and is prepared to find the money for all reasonable and fruitful enterprises which will absorb labour.

Long-Term Planning for Economic Development.— The long-term planning of the Government of India is based on the parallel development of agriculture and industry.

For industrial development India has available abundant raw material, labour and enterprise. Her chief need is power of two kinds—hydro-electric power to run the machinery and skilled manpower to direct it. A number of important hydro-electric schemes have been planned and will soon be taken in hand. Many of them present complex problems of administration, since they concern more than one province or State.

India's other great need is more trained technicians of every kind. The Government is doing all it can to provide such training, and the Viceroy hoped that a proper proportion of the youth of the country would study the practical rather than the theoretical branches of learning.

Commercial Safeguards.- On the question of commercial safeguards, the Viceroy felt that there is not any likelihood of the complete removal of the safeguarding clauses of the Act until there is a general revision of the Constitution Act and a commercial treaty between Great Britain and India; but the Government of India is aware of the natural desire of Indians to develop and control the basic industries with their own capital and management as far as possible, and will not disregard it. The Viceroy firmly believed that co-operation between British and Indian enterprise in an atmosphere of goodwill provided the best means for the industrial development of India in the quickest and most fruitful manner.

Political Situation.- Commenting on the political situation, the Viceroy gave the assurance that the British Government and the British people honestly and sincerely wished the Indian people to have their political freedom and a Government, or Governments of their own choice. His Majesty's Government and, the Viceroy as their agent, would do their best to secure agreement, to help India to form a constitution, and to secure the support of the principal parties in the Central Government so as to enable them to bear a full share of responsibility for administering the country during the interval before the change of constitution can be made. In achieving this objective violence and strife have to be avoided at all costs and the Viceroy therefore appealed for goodwill and moderation on the part of all leaders.

Resolutions.- The meeting then adopted a number of resolutions.

War-time Controls.- The resolution relating to this subject while generally supporting and recognizing the wartime need for the various measures introduced by Government to control such items as imports and exports, prices and stocks of produce and the distribution of consumer goods, urges that steps be taken to abolish such controls as have a war-time justification only and to relax such others as it may be necessary to retain in amended form to ensure an orderly transition from a war to peace economy and/or to give effect to specific plans of development.

Enquiry into tax System.- The resolution dealing with taxation and expenditure in India urges the setting up, immediately, of a comprehensive inquiry into the system and structure of taxation in the country in all its aspects and more specially with reference to the Central Government, with a view to the adoption, at an early date, of such measures of taxation as would effectively stimulate the rapid development of the country's agriculture and industry. Pending this inquiry, the resolution urges Government to take early and active steps so to reduce expenditure that the excess profits tax and income-tax surcharge rates may be lowered from the next financial year.

Indian Coal-fields Committee.- By another resolution, the Association welcomed the action of the Government of India in setting up the Indian Coalfields Committee (vide page of this report) and felt sure that the Committee would receive the fullest support and co-operation in carrying out an inquiry which, in the opinion of the Association, was most timely. The Association took the opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Government of India and the Indian Coalfields Committee the continuing need of civil industry in the matter of improved supplies of coal.

The other resolutions related to income tax depreciation allowances, the practice and procedure of the Incometax Appellate Tribunal, air mails, coordination of the excise policy of provincial and State Governments and the speeding up of the Government of India's plan for the improvement of the country's telecommunications system.

(The Statesman, 11 and 12-12-1945; and The Hindu, dated 12-12-1945).

Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, 17-12-1945: Sir Homi Mody's Presidential Address.

The thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at Bombay on 17-12-1945. Sir Homi Mody, President of the Federation, presided. Among the problems upon which Sir Homi dwelt in his presidential address were unemployment during the transition from war to peace, post-war planning and industrial legislation.

Unemployment: plea for Quick Action. Referring to the steps which the Government of India was taking to tackle the great problem of unemployment facing the country, Sir Homi thought that, though they might not be adequate to meet the needs of the situation, they were, on the whole, in the right direction. He felt, however, that there ~~are~~ were far too many Committees and conferences about. Under the present scheme of administration, there were several departments dealing with the same problem which had to be consulted, and which had it in their power to delay and impede decision. He felt that it was time more active and practical steps were taken to achieve that development of agriculture and industry which was the common objective of all. In this connection he urged that the age-old machinery of Government needed a thorough overhauling.

Factors inhibiting rapid Economic Development. Dealing with the widespread belief that, with a vigorous national policy, it was possible to transform Indian agriculture and industry so radically within a few years that the national income could be doubled, Sir Homi referred to what he termed 'some of the hard facts of the situation'. The first and foremost was the inadvisability of purchasing capital equipment at the present inflated costs. Another factor was the inability of India to buy equipment on any large scale from the United States and other countries with hard currencies. He referred to the settlement ~~recently~~ recently reached between the U.K. and U.S.A. wherein there was a provision for an early unfreezing of a portion of India's sterling balances and their convertibility into other currencies. The time and the manner of their liquidation, he said, must profoundly affect the pace at which the wellbeing of the people of this country can be promoted. Sir Homi supported the suggestion made by the Indian Industrial Delegation to set up some organization which would locate and report on the equipment available in the U.S.A., and to facilitate the procurement of suitable types of machines from the various Surplus Disposal Boards.

Plea for Revision of Government's Taxation Policy and Establishment of Board of Experts.- Surveying the prospects of the next few years, Sir Homi said that whatever the size of the home market and the protection that might be given to industry, the latest and most modern technique in production was a 'sine qua non' of progress, for which some price would have to be paid. After pointing out the extremely favourable long-term prospects of a notable development of India's agriculture and industry, Sir Homi added that the taxation policy of Government would have to be immediately revised ~~as~~ in order to induce the drive needed for any appreciable advance on the prewar standard of living. He also reiterated the plea he made last year for the establishment of a permanent board of experts to deal not only with the question of protection but also with the equally important questions of location of industry, licensing of factories and the like.

Warning against Elimination of Private Enterprise.- Turning to planning, Sir Homi, while admitting that a planned economy must be accepted as a first condition of success in any attack on the deplorable conditions ~~in~~ in which the larger part of humanity lives, warned against acceptance of the belief that planning must mean the elimination of free enterprise. If State control over industry were so devised as to smother the freedom or enterprise of the individual, the seeds would have been sown not only of economic servitude but also of political bondage.

Industrial Legislation - Complaint regarding Tripartite Labour Conference.- As regards industrial legislation, Sir Homi said that employers had long since reconciled themselves to the prospect of the resulting increase in the cost of production, recognising that there must be a progressive improvement in the conditions of the working classes. All that they had urged was that the pace must not be set too fast for the best of them. Sir Homi referred to the Tripartite Labour Conference held recently and the Government's proposal to reduce working hours from 54 to 48 per week (vide pages 5-11 of the report of this Office for November 1945). The question required careful consideration and Sir Homi felt sorry to find that before the Tripartite Labour Conference had an opportunity of deliberating on it, the Government's proposals ~~had~~ had become public in such a manner that it was widely ~~as~~ assumed that the change had been decided upon. If such a thing were to happen again, employers would have seriously to consider whether it served any useful purpose for them to participate in the deliberations of the Conference. In this connection, Sir Homi welcomed the statement recently made by the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes that Indian States did not intend to adopt unfair labour conditions in their territories (vide page 3 of the report of this Office for September 1945). In his opinion, this assurance, if properly implemented, might go far to remove one of the objections of employers to the pace which had been set in British India.

(Summarised from a copy of the Presidential Address forwarded to this Office and the Bombay Chronicle, dated 19-12-1945). +

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6th Annual Session of All-India Manufacturers' Organisation
Conference, Madras, 28 and 29-12-1945.

The sixth annual session of the All-India Manufacturer's Organisation Conference was held at Madras on 28 and 29-12-1945. Sir M. Viswesvaraya presided. More than 150 delegates from the different provinces attended the session.

Presidential Address.- In the course of his presidential address, Sir M. Visvesvaraya referred to the rapid increase in India's population and to the extremely low average value of the ~~work~~ work done per head of population in India. It was less than one-tenth of what one ~~found~~ found among some of the more advanced populations of the West and in the Dominions of the British Commonwealth. To raise the income of the people industries were of supreme importance and the proper course in India for the next ten years would be to concentrate attention on industries and manufactures and their other subsidiary activities. In the present impoverished condition of India, there was no remedy but through industries.

In this connection, Sir M. Visvesvaraya suggested that the responsible committee or agency in each regional unit area should provide for the following objectives: (a) Maintenance in the possession of private house-owners within the regional area of a two years' supply of food ~~products for the entire population of the area~~; (b) speeding up the work of the people in production and other gainful activities in the area so that their aggregate value may be doubled in five to seven years' time; and (c) the preparation annually of an estimate of the value of commodities produced and services rendered in the unit area and maintenance of a record of per capita income.

Industries and other economic activities of a constructive character would naturally require more and more craftsmen and Sir M. Visvesvaraya suggested that the number of technical and business schools all over India would have to be increased to about 5,000 to provide the country with an adequate number of leaders in business and crafts, equipped with skill and practical ability to look after local interests, and as far as ~~possible~~ possible also that of the country as a whole. Concluding, Sir M. Visvesvaraya ~~sugg~~ stated that nation-building activities had to be accepted in future as the every-day duty of the State administration and of the individual citizen in this country. What were needed were a realistic plan, a suitable organisation and wise leadership.

Resolutions.- The Conference adopted a number of resolutions relating to India's present-day economic problems the more important of which are noticed below.

Relaxation of Control Measures.- The resolution on control measures stated that with the cessation of hostilities, a revision of some and the complete and immediate withdrawal of other control measures had become essential. Price control in some form might be retained over foodstuffs and textiles, but it was necessary that all control measures over the production and distribution of machine tools in the country and over the importation and acquisition of all kinds of industrial raw materials, including metals in all forms and engineering stores, should be removed ~~forthwith~~ forthwith as the indigenous production of a large variety of consumer goods in the country was being seriously hampered by the retention of these particular controls.

Conditions of Work-Measures to mobilise India's Man-power^{for} Industry.-

By another resolution the Conference recommended the early adoption of the following measures by all concerned in the mobilisation of India's man power for industrialisation: (a) progressively liberal wage standards; (b) introduction of a working week of 48 hours; (c) more efficient methods of work; (d) granting of leave on full pay for at least two weeks in a year; (e) provision of free and adequate medical service; (f) introduction of cost-price food canteens for providing nutritive food during working hours; (g) formation of workers' co-operative societies; (h) introduction of provident fund and insurance schemes for the entire factory personnel with equal contribution from industries and the State; (i) introduction of apprentice courses for the training of technical personnel; and (j) training in citizenship through literary classes, reading rooms, physical training and visual education.

Measures for Protection of their Interests suggested to Indian Industrialists.-

Another resolution adopted by the Conference appealed to Indian industrialists to take suitable measures for the protection and promotion of their interests. The resolution urged them (a) to place at a very early date their claim for protection before the Tariff Board which had been recently set up; (b) to register with the Chief Controller of Imports ~~and exports~~ (capital goods) their requirements of capital goods to be imported from abroad; (c) to apply to Government for priority assistance for the training of their technical personnel in foreign educational and industrial establishments; (d) to send immediately their representatives to U.K. and U.S.A. to secure through their Purchase Missions surplus and new machinery, plants and machine tools in these countries; (e) to bring, through the special machinery provided by the organisation, to the notice of the Industrial Panels of the Government of India all difficulties hampering the expansion of their industries; (f) to compile, on up-to-date lines, statistics of production, sales and markets and to furnish fullest information thereon to the Government as might be required under the provisions of Industrial Statistics Act of 1942; (g) to bring to the notice of the Working Committee of A.I.M.O. all instances of denial of facilities by the Government for the rapid and full expansion of their particular industries; and (h) to provide for adequate co-ordination between ~~inter~~ entrepreneurs and technical personnel on a mutually beneficial basis which would enable them to contribute jointly their full and willing share towards the building up of a sound industrial structure in the country.

Need to develop Cottage and Small-Scale Industries.- Stressing the ~~need for the development~~ in India of cottage and small-scale industries, another resolution adopted by the Conference urged that industrialisation in India should definitely include the organisation and development of subsidiary occupations for agriculturists and of cottage and small-scale industries on modern and efficient lines promoted, assisted, supported and protected by the State.

The other resolutions adopted by the Conference related to the measures by which government could stimulate private initiative and enterprise, India's claim for reparations, the utilisation of India's sterling balances and the need for abrogating the provisions relating to commercial safeguards in the Government of India Act, 1935.

Miscellaneous.

18th Session of All-India Women's Conference, Hyderabad(Sind),
28-12-1945 to 1-1-1946: Resolutions regarding Town Planning,
Health Insurance and Plantation Women Labour.

The eighteenth session of the All-India Women's Conference was held in Hyderabad (Sind) from 28-12-1945 to 1-1-1946, under the presidentship of Mrs. Hansa Mehta.

In ~~her~~ her presidential address, Mrs. Mehta made a strong plea for equality of opportunity for women, adult suffrage and the greater association of women in the country's administration. Recommending the formulating of a women's charter of rights, she emphasised the right of every woman to be educated and demanded the removal of such obstacles as child marriage, child labour and purdah which come in the way of education; pleaded against the employment of women, especially pregnant women, in heavy industries or in underground work in mines, and for their right to work under proper conditions, i.e., in relation to the place of work, hours of work, wages, holidays with pay, sickness allowance, maternity benefits, etc.; complained against the unsatisfactory conditions of work and advocated insurance against sickness and asked for maternity benefits; and deplored the dearth of nurses in the country.

The following are some of the more important resolutions adopted by the Conference:

Town Planning.- While appreciating the beginnings made by some provincial Governments and municipalities in ~~town~~ town planning, the Conference urged upon all provincial Governments to initiate legislation making it obligatory on municipalities and employers to construct houses for labourers and the middle classes. The Conference called on district ~~boards~~ boards to plan and carry out reconstruction of village houses.

Health Insurance.- The Conference agreed with the principle of the ~~proposed Government~~ proposed Government scheme of the social insurance, but demanded that the following provisions be included in the proposals: first, full pay with three months' maternity leave; secondly, extension of the scheme to workers of seasonal factories; thirdly, provision of creches and hospitals attached to mills; and fourthly, extension of the scheme to cover worker's families.

Investigation Committee to Visit Plantations.- By another resolution, ~~moved from the chair~~ moved from the chair, the Conference appointed a small investigation Committee to visit plantation areas and to submit a report to the Standing Committee of the Conference at the next half-yearly meeting on the alleged maltreatment accorded to the plantation labour, amongst whom women are employed in large numbers.

Demand for Dissolution of W.A.C.(I).- The Conference expressed grave concern about the status and conditions of Indian, including Anglo-Indian, women in the Women's Auxiliary Corps of India and demanded a personnel ~~committee~~ commanding public confidence to investigate and report on the policy, functions, living and service conditions and the future of the organisation with particular reference to the permanent basis. In the event of non-acceptance of this demand for such an enquiry the Conference urged the immediate dissolution of the W.A.C.(I) in view of

the widespread discontent caused by the almost complete absence of Indians in high ranks and the treatment accorded to the Indian rank and ~~file~~ file involving in many instances loss of personal and national self-respect.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 27 and 31-12-1945; and The Statesman, 1 and 3-1-1946).†

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Slave Traffic in Children in Burma.

According to an "A.P.A." message slave traffic in children, mostly girls sold as servants, is flourishing in Burma as a result of widespread poverty and distress among the peasant community. Needy parents in small upcountry villages, where the war's devastation left many without any source of income, are bringing their children to the larger towns, particularly to Rangoon, for sale to wealthy families. Girls for household duties are in the greatest demand, because of the servant shortage, and fetch the highest prices. For a strong, good-looking girl between 13 and 15 years of age as much as Rs. 350 is asked—and paid. Once the deal is made the parents relinquish all rights to the child, and it is up to the buyers to do as they please with their new "property".

(The Times of India, 21-12-1945). †

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PUBLIC HEALTH.

Rs. 10,000 Million 10-Year ^{Health} Plan for India: Recommendations of Health Survey and Development Committee.

The All-India Health Survey and Development Committee appointed by the Government of India in August 1943 under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhore (vide pages 29-30 of the report of this Office for August 1943) has recommended in its report a comprehensive 10-year plan for health, costing approximately Rs. 10,000,000,000 by way of capital and recurring expenditure.

Annual per capita Expenditure on Health Services to be raised from Rs. 0-3-0 to Rs. 2-5-5:- Personal health services, including the directional organizations associated with the Ministries of Public Health, professional education, and expenditure on other items, it is estimated, will require Rs. 1,630,000,000 in the first five years in British India; and the next five years will require Rs. 2,000,000,000. The recurring annual expenditure will be ~~Rs. 400,000,000~~ Rs. 400,000,000 during the first five years and Rs. 820,000,000 in the next five years. The annual per capita expenditure will be Rs. 1-3-11 during the first five years, and Rs. 2-6-6 during the next five years. The present per capita expenditure is three annas. The committee, aims at a target of one doctor for every 2,000 citizens. This target is to be reached by 1971. The committee takes the village as the nucleus for health organization, and suggests building upwards. When the scheme is brought into full operation by 1971, India will have 185,000 doctors as against 47,500 she has at present. Today there is one doctor for every 6,800 people in India as against one doctor for every 1,000 persons in England.

Organisation of Health Services: Primary, Secondary and District Centres to be set up.- A group of villages with a population of 20,000 is to be in charge of a trained doctor. A woman doctor will also work in this group of villages when sufficient women are trained as doctors. A staff of 34 persons will work under the doctor. A dispensary containing five emergency beds, will be provided for each small village centre. For a group of three primary centres, a 30-bed hospital is to be provided. In addition there will be two doctors, two public health nurses, four midwives and four trained "dais" for health service at the homes of the villagers.

Above the primary centre, there will be a secondary centre to provide for a population of about 600,000, which, besides supervising the work of the primary centres, will have specialist staff and hospital and laboratory facilities of a higher type of health service than is given through the primary centre. Above the secondary centre is to be the district centre. The district hospital will have 200 beds.

Local Health Committees.- Each primary unit, the report recommends, should have a health committee consisting of enthusiastic village ~~workers~~ workers who will participate in local health measures. Without this goodwill, the Health Committee are of opinion, these schemes will not succeed. The Provincial Health Department, which supervises the health services of the province, is advised by the Health Survey and Development Committee to interfere as little as possible with the primary and secondary organisations, and to encourage them to act independently and display initiative in tackling their problems. For instance, says the report, a

village can be made sanitary by the co-operative labour of all the inhabitants, who can thus prevent malaria and epidemics breaking out, ensure a purer water-supply to their village, and fill in the ditches, and keep it clean inside and outside by their own labour. It is for this purpose that there should be health committees in every village. The committees can also act as advisory boards to the local medical staff.

(The Statesman, 28-12-1945).

Medical and Health Plans for India: Presidential Address
at 22nd All-India Medical Conference, Amritsar.

In his presidential address at the 22nd session of the All-India Medical Conference which opened at Amritsar on 22-12-1945, Dr. R. Amesur urged the elimination of the Indian Medical Service, ~~with~~ its ~~prop~~ monopolistic privileges, from the civil and administrative departments of the country. He made a strong plea to the Central and Provincial Governments to implement the Bhoré Committee's recommendations for improving health of the people and reducing mortality. Referring to India's medical and health plans, he said that the aim should be one doctor for 2,000 people or 185,000 doctors; one nurse for 5,000 people or 74,000 nurses and an equal number of health visitors; one midwife for 4,000 people, and one qualified dentist for 4,000 people or 92,000 dentists, and that at least Rs. 3/4 should be spent on medical relief and public health per head of the population of British India, instead of the miserable two to five annas at present spent in the different provinces. Visualising the future of happy India, he called upon the members of the medical profession to assist in its building in co-operation with the people and the national governments. In the India of the future, he said, health and physical education would make the people robust and sanitary minded; drainage and water supply of the ~~700,000~~ 700,000 villages would be a matter of national importance; a balanced diet would be provided to the people by the inclusion of the necessary vitamins in their food supply; modern schemes of rural and urban housing would form part and parcel of national existence; food would be stored and distributed on up-to-date sanitary lines and every citizen would become a missionary of good health, hygiene and good living.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-12-1945).

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EDUCATION.

Government Scholarships for Studies in Foreign Countries during 1946-1947.

According to a press note issued by the Government of India, 600 foreign scholarships will be granted by the Central and provincial Governments to Indian students for studies abroad during 1946-47. Of these, 253 will be Central Government scholarships and 347 will be awarded by provincial ~~Government~~ Governments. Applications are shortly to be invited through advertisements in newspapers and a brochure giving all the necessary information in regard to the Central scholarships is to be issued by the Government of India. The selection for the next year will not be confined to technical subjects only, but will also include other important subjects, such as education, connected with post-war development.

(The Statesman, 15-12-1945).

Education of Demobilised Servicemen: Government of India appoints Adviser.

A new post of Deputy Educational Adviser to the Government of India has been created for the further ~~educational~~ education of personnel demobilised from war service and for post-war educational development outlined in the "Sargent" scheme. Lt.-Col. B.K. Byram Talookdar, Assistant Adjutant-General in the Directorate of Army Education, G.H.Q., New Delhi, has been appointed to the post.

(The Statesman, 25-12-1945).

Twenty-first Session of All-India Educational Conference, Madras.

The twenty-first session of the All-India Educational Conference was held at Madras in the last week of December 1945. Educationists from all over India, as also a large number of delegates from educational institutions attended the General Session and sectional Conferences. Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dewan of Travancore, presided.

Sir A. Lakshmanaswami's ~~speech~~ speech.- In the course of his address welcoming the visitors and delegates to the Conference, Dr. Sir ~~Lakshman~~ A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, and chairman of the Reception Committee, expressed the hope

that in any scheme of post-war education the State would make available special facilities for those who had been hitherto neglected, both in the sphere of compulsory education and higher education. He laid stress on the responsibility of the State in the matter of education and said that State control was needed to ensure compliance with minimum requirements regarding school buildings, care of children, qualification of teachers, adequate scales of pay, and the general, the efficient running of educational institutions. He maintained, however, that while the times and general principles on which education should be based for this proper training of citizenship and to meet the needs of the State should be laid down in close cooperation with the State, experiments in education should be left to trained educationists to plan and inaugurate in conformity with sound educational ideals.

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer emphasised at the outset the need for physical education. He deplored the deterioration in the physical standards and stamina of students and made a plea for special classes for physically defective pupils with provision for proper feeding and clothing, where needed. He said that it was "criminal folly" on the part of any government or administration to delimit its responsibility in the matter of education, and maintained that the state was responsible for primary education because it affected the largest number; it was responsible for choosing the men to undergo secondary education, it was responsible at the end of the secondary stage to choose, select and discriminate so that the tremendous crowding into universities was dealt with and corrected. Every State should be able to do the best it can for every child, boy and adolescent and give him the fullest chance for self-expression by providing him academic or vocational education according to his aptitude.

Resolutions.- One of the important resolutions passed by the Conference was that any scheme of post-war educational reconstruction would be incomplete without adequate arrangements being made for training in ideals of democracy and internationalism with a view to make another world war impossible. A number of delegates took part in the discussion. Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer speaking on the resolution said that there was a move in Japan and Germany to rewrite the text books so that the ideals which prevailed till now might be made to suffer extinction. It seemed to him that each separate entity that had the ordering of education in its hands should set its house in order so that young boys and girls might grow up in an atmosphere of democracy and internationalism.

The Sectional Conference on Secondary Education adopted a resolution, requesting the Central, the Provincial and the States Governments to take immediate steps to detect the physically handicapped and the mentally retarded children of primary schools by provision of expert medical examination and the application of up-to-date standardised psychological tests. By another resolution the Conference criticised the highly deplorable conditions of service and low salaries of teachers working in primary schools and urged that immediate steps be taken to improve the same.

Free and Compulsory Education up to 14: Teachers' Salaries.- It was also resolved that primary and compulsory education must be the responsibility of the State and the Conference urged the various States and Provinces to take on hand immediate introduction of free and compulsory education upto the age of 14. The Conference also held that with a view to securing a large number of teachers required for implementing any scheme of compulsory education, the Provinces and States should, with immediate effect, raise the pay of all teachers to a minimum of Rs. 50 per month, rising to a maximum of at least Rs. 100 by suitable annual

increments and that pupil teachers under training should be offered not less than Rs. 30 a month, as stipend.

The Sectional Conference on University Education, adopted resolutions urging the Universities (1) to take active steps for the promotion of social and cultural life amongst their students and to provide special student club rooms, and (2) to follow the lead of the Benares Hindu University in adopting the major provincial languages as the medium of instruction.

Post-War Technical Training.- Resolutions were also adopted urging that the various technical training centres created and established in this country during war-time should be retained and linked up with the existing schools and colleges as a part of the post-war programme, and that in any system of post-war educational reconstruction, it was necessary for the purpose of attracting able pupils to technical education, to make it equal in status to academic education, and that the different stages in technical and vocational education should be made to fit in with the various High School and the University courses including Polytechnics, and that corresponding to each group of the optional technical subjects in the High School, there should be a higher course to which these that complete the optional technical course could be straightaway admitted.

Indian Child Education Council.- During the session, an Indian Child Education Council was also inaugurated; the objects of the Council are mainly to undertake and help others to undertake, a scientific study of all problems relating to the education of children and to present the results of these studies to all those who were interested in this subject. Mrs. Saralaben Sarabai (Ahmedabad) was elected President and Dr. V.N. Sharma was elected General Secretary of the Council; Prof. A.N. Basu was elected Chairman of the Working Committee.

(The Hindu, 29, 30 and 31-12-1945).+

Control Measures.

Relaxation of Controls: Restrictions on Sale of certain Electrical Materials Withdrawn.

The Government of India ~~impose~~ has withdrawn the restrictions imposed on the electricity supply undertakings on the disposal of certain electrical materials, such as generators, ~~boilers~~ boilers, transformers, etc., as the supply position has improved considerably. The disposal of such materials by the electricity supply undertakings was ~~still~~ till now prohibited under the Defence of India Rules, except where permitted by the Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-12-1945).

Relaxation of Controls over Paper, Rubber and Capital Issues.

During ~~the~~ December 1945, a number of controls have been relaxed while ~~all restrictions on the sale and acquisition of machine tools~~ under the Machine Tool Control Order, 1941, have been withdrawn.

Rubber Control Relaxed.- According to ~~another~~ press note issued by the Government of India in the last week of December 1945 with the cessation of hostilities, it has now become possible to allot more rubber to manufactures to meet the requirements of the general public. ~~with~~ Therefore, it is now proposed to withdraw the Rubber Manufacturers Control Order 1945, which imposed certain restrictions on manufacturers regarding items to be manufactured by them, with effect from 1-1-1946.

Paper Control Provision Relaxed.- A press note issued by the Government of India in the 3rd week of December explains the provisions of the revised 'Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1945' which is to come into force on 1-1-1946. The new Order controls the consumption of paper by publishers of newspapers and periodicals, printing presses, publishers of books and manufacturers of exercise-books, account books, articles of stationery and other articles made from paper. The percentage of permissible consumption by different types of consumers has, however, been increased from 80 per cent of the consumption in the year 1943 in the old order, to 100 per cent in the new order for consumers other than the publishers of text books; and from 100 per cent to 120 per cent of the consumption in the year 1939 in the case of the publishers of text books. A number of other concessions also have been granted under the new order.

Relaxation in Control of Capital ~~Issues~~ Issues.- The Government's control over capital issues also has been to some extent relaxed. Announcing this a Press Note states that the Government of India has decided to increase from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 500,000 the figure up to which issues of capital in any period of 12 months may be made without its consent or recognition. This applies to all companies, except banking and insurance companies.

(The Hindustan Times, 8, 24 and 29-12-1945; The Hindu, dated 20-12-1945).+

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Industrial Disputes.

Fresh Order under D.I.R. 81-A prohibiting Strikes and
Lockouts without 14 days Previous Notice.

In exercise of the powers conferred by rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules, and in supersession of the order of the Government of India in the Department of Labour, dated the 21st August 1942 (vide page 29 of the report of this Office for August 1942), the Central Government has made the following order, as in its opinion such an order is necessary for securing the maintenance of public order and for maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community.

"(i) No person employed in any undertaking shall go on strike in connection with any trade dispute without having given to his employer, within one month before striking not less than 14 days' previous notice in writing of his intention so to do.

(ii) No employer of any undertaking shall lock-out his employees in connection with any trade dispute without having given to his employees within one month before locking out not less than 14 days' previous notice exhibited prominently in his undertaking, of his intention so to do, ~~provided that no such notice shall be necessary where a strike exists in the undertaking but a notice of the lock-out shall be sent on the day on which the lock-out is declared to such authority as may be specified by the Provincial Government either generally or for particular areas or particular classes of undertakings.~~

(iii) When any or all of the matters of a trade dispute have been referred to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 (VII of 1929), or for conciliation or adjudication under an order made under rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, no person employed in any undertaking concerned in the dispute shall go or remain on strike and no employer in any undertaking concerned in the dispute shall lock-out or continue to lock-out his employees, during the period from the making of the reference until the expiry of two months after the conclusion of the proceedings upon such reference.

(iv) No person shall instigate or incite others to take part in, or otherwise act in furtherance of any strike or lock-out which is, or when commenced will be, ~~a~~ contravention of the provisions of this order."

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated
19-12-1945, pages 1101-1102) * +

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Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Government of India Scheme for Rehabilitation of Disabled
Soldiers: Further Details.

Further details regarding the Government of India's scheme for the rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled Indian servicemen (vide pages 57-58 of our Report for November 1945) are now available.

Under the scheme any Indian serviceman, who is substantially handicapped in obtaining work on account of an injury, disease or deformity resulting from service since September, 1939, will be entitled to various forms of treatment and training before final discharge from the Services. Servicemen already discharged as disabled will also be given every encouragement to avail themselves of medical treatment, post-hospital rehabilitation or ordinary vocational training.

Seven Post-Hospital Rehabilitation Centres to be set up upgrade training. Those who are now in military hospitals and who would previously have been discharged from the Services will, instead, on completion of their hospital treatment be given the same facilities for vocational training as any other ex-serviceman. For this purpose seven post-hospital rehabilitation centres are being set up. They will cater at any one time, for 5,600 disabled ex-servicemen. The first ~~centres~~ three centres are opening shortly at Bangalore, Moradabad and Bareilly.

The rehabilitation centres aim at putting the disabled on equal terms with able-bodied ex-servicemen. Medical advice will be continued and civilian trade instructors will carry out elementary instruction in trades which will enable the men to earn their living ~~for~~ after discharge. Among the trades taught are carpentry, tinsmith and metal work, leather-work, tailoring, cane and basket-weaving, cloth-weaving. All men will be interviewed by Labour Department Advice Service Officers who will judge their abilities and make recommendations regarding future training and employment.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-12-1945).

Over Rs. 90 Million in Post-War Services Reconstruction Fund:
to be utilised for Benefit of Indian Servicemen.

An official statement of the General Headquarters, India, says that ~~there~~ more than Rs. 90 million has accumulated in the Post-war Services Reconstruction Fund, to be used for the benefit of Indian servicemen. The fund has been built up by servicemen themselves, contributing at the monthly rate of Rs. 2 for combatants and Re 1 for non-combatants.

Eight per cent of the total amount is to be distributed to the provinces and States and 20 per cent retained in the central fund. The ~~provision~~ allotment to provinces will be administered by a committee with the Governor, in his personal capacity, as chairman and four members of whom one will be nominated by the Commander-in-Chief in India.

Certain broad directions have been given regarding the manner in which the money may be spent. In general it is to be employed for the collective benefit of servicemen, although it may in certain circumstances be used for benefits to individual servicemen. The central fund will be devoted to items not covered by the provinces. The Commander-in-Chief will be the chairman of a committee which will administer this fund.

(The Statesman, 16-12-1945).

Vocational Training for Demobilised Servicemen: 70,000 to be trained in Agriculture and other occupations.

Nawab M.A. Gurmani, Director-General Resettlement, revealed in the course of an address to a batch of trainees at the Managerial Staff Training Centre that a comprehensive scheme for vocational training was being prepared and provision was being made for the training of 20,000 persons in agricultural and allied occupations and 50,000 persons in other occupations. He added that it was proposed to expand the scope of the training, so as to include the training of 240 Resettlement Advice officers and Rehabilitation Officers under the schemes for Resettlement Advice Service and the rehabilitation and resettlement of Disabled Services Personnel. Two ~~more~~ officers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service have been appointed as Deputy Directors of training and inspection and are expected shortly from England. A Deputy Chief Rehabilitation Officer ~~starts~~ from U.K. will shortly undertake the training of rehabilitation officers in the technique of advising disabled services personnel at the post-hospital rehabilitation centres. Thirty thousand seats have been provided for the training of ex-servicemen in a wide range of engineering and building trades. This training, would take full account of the fact that if there was a gap between the setting up of new factories and the arrival of machinery the trained men would be able to start work on their own small scale or cottage industries.

("vanguard", 13-12-1945).

Rural Reconstruction Courses for Indian Army Officers:
Six Courses in different Provinces.

The Indian Army has started courses in rural reconstruction, each of about six weeks' duration, for officers in the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

About six courses will be run at different centres in different provinces and will be open to those domiciled in that province. The subjects are farming, gardening, horticulture, botany, agriculture, engineering, pathology, entomology, chemistry, dairyfarming, poultry, mechanical cultivation, canal agricultural research and ~~various~~ ~~and~~ ~~six~~ veterinary work.

(The Times of India, 13-12-1945).

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Bihar Government's Plans for Resettlement of
Ex-Servicemen.

Vacancies in Government Service.- The plans of the Government of Bihar for resettling demobilised personnel in the province are outlined in a press note issued by the Bihar Government. According to the Note, for those seeking employment and occupations other than agriculture, there will be about 6,000 Government reserved posts of which 5,000 are in the Police Force, which is likely to be most popular with ex-servicemen.

About 40 per cent of the servicemen, however, who are expected to be released in Bihar, are likely to return to villages for agricultural pursuits, most of them being cultivators in normal times.

Land Settlement.- But ~~there~~ there would still remain many who do not own sufficient capital to earn a reasonable living and the Government is making every attempt to obtain land for such persons. The problem is complicated by the fact that, on the one hand, there are a few large blocks of land in Bihar ready to be brought under cultivation, while, on the other hand, the returning ex-servicemen will be widely ~~dispersed~~ dispersed over the province. Land settlement will, therefore, have to be effected mainly on the basis of individual requirements. Some land has already been reserved for settlement with demobilised soldiers and a Committee has been set up in each district to find out the total area available for this purpose.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 5-12-1945).

Mysore State - Steps for 'placing' Demobilised Personnel.

The Government of Mysore has expanded the employment exchange attached to the offices of the Commissioner of Labour, Mysore, into a regional employment exchange, which will endeavour to place the demobilised army personnel belonging to Mysore in suitable occupations.

A Committee of officers under the chairmanship of the Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning which discussed the question of resettlement of demobilised personnel has recommended that such of those demobilised men, as are eligible for employment in the Government service, may be absorbed in several Government departments, utilising the large number of vacancies existing or which have been temporarily filled in. The technical personnel ~~may~~ may be absorbed in the State-owned or State-aided industrial concerns now in operation or to be shortly started, while un-skilled men may be assigned to districts from which they come and employed by Executive Engineers on road, tank and other public works in progress.

(The Times of India, 4 and 14-12-1945).

Retrenchment of Wartime Railway Workers : Meeting between
A.I.R.F. and Railway Board: Statements by Railway Board
and Mr. Giri.

References have been made in our previous reports to the question of the retrenchment of wartime railway workers. In this connection, the Railway Board met a small body of representatives of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, headed by the Federation's president, Mr. V.V. Giri, on 5-12-1945. A press communiqué issued by the Railway Board on the meeting stated that the Federation could not accept that it was necessary to remove from service any employee if the means which it had suggested to the Railway Board of organising alternative employment were fully exploited. These various methods, such as the development of rehabilitation, new railway projects, reduction in hours of work, ~~staxp~~ etc., were discussed at length, the Railway Board explaining the extent to which action had already been taken in these various directions; the extent to which action would be further considered; and the limitations of such expedients in the absorption of staff who might become redundant. The Federation, however, reiterated its claim that it should not be necessary to discharge any staff at all and asked for a categorical assurance from the Board on this point.

The Chief Commissioner of Railways said that the feelings of the ~~men were fully appreciated and that both the Board and General Managers~~ of Railways, with whom he had discussed this matter the previous week were of the opinion that the present and anticipated conditions are such as to require the continued employment of the greater number of these men. Administrations were aware of the attitude of Government in regard to this matter through various instructions which had been issued concerning the handling of surplus staff. At the same time, it was impossible to foretell how the position would develop during the next 18 months in connection with the various activities which would of themselves absorb staff, or in regard to the general level of traffic, so that he was not able to give the categorical undertaking for which the Federation were asking.

In order, however, that the Federation should be kept in close touch with developments, the Chief Commissioner said that the Board was ready to meet a small committee of Federation officials in two or three months' time or even earlier, when the position could again be reviewed and the Federation informed of the position then obtaining regarding surpluses and discharges on railways with such indication of future developments as might then be possible.

Commenting on the Railway Board's attitude in the meeting, Mr.V.V. Giri in a statement to the press, said that though the threat of retrenchment was the immediate issue, equally important were the questions of a living wage and a compensatory dearness allowance; and the Railway Board's replies to these questions had been "indecisive and unsatisfactory". He deplored that the Board was not prepared to meet the legitimate demands of railwaymen, and that the latter would have to resort to a strike to enforce them. The Federation had, however, in view of the railwaymen's obligations to the public decided, as a last attempt at achieving its object through negotiations, to refer the matter to the Labour Department with a request to appoint an Adjudicator or a Court of Inquiry and he urged upon the Labour Department to treat the matter as one of the most urgent importance. Finally, he appealed to the Railway Board to suspend all discharges.

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The extent of retrenchment of railways, ^{and} the prospects of re-employment of displaced personnel in rehabilitation works and in new works to be undertaken by railways, were explained further by the Railway Board in a press communiqué dated 12-12-1945. The salient features of the position, as stated by the Board are as follows:-

Provisions for Discharged men.- In regard to those who have to be discharged because no suitable alternative employment can be found for them, including those who are not willing to undertake alternative employment, a bonus is being given, either at a rate of one day's pay per month of service in the case of daily-rated staff, or two thirds of a month's pay for each whole year of service in the case of others. They are being allowed to ~~be~~ continue to deal at the Railway grain shops at concessional rates ~~at~~ for a period of one month. Particulars of the men who have to be discharged are being sent to the local Employment Exchange so as to give them an opportunity of finding alternative employment outside railways, while lists ~~are~~ also being maintained so that if more railway work materializes in a reasonable time, they can be offered ~~for~~ further employment. Moreover, when any large bodies of such employees have to be discharged, administrations contact the recognized unions and ~~and~~ discuss with them any ways and means which may be possible to avoid throwing them out of work.

vacancies for ex-Servicemen.- The number of vacancies to be filled by the ex-servicemen, which are now filled by temporary Railway workers, are estimated up to 31-12-1945, to be 70,000. Since demobilisation from the Army is expected to be spread over a considerable time the displacement of the present occupants of these posts will be correspondingly slow. This being the case, there is every chance of their being absorbed either in permanent vacancies, which occur after 31-12-1945, due to wastage or to new work being available, or in temporary posts which always exist on railways to a greater or less degree. It is not considered, therefore, that any appreciable number of these men will be thrown out of employment.

The Railway Board is unable to accept the Federation's demand that, on no account, should a railwayman, temporary or otherwise, be discharged. It estimates that, out of over 850,000 employees, only 8,000 have been or are in the process of being discharged.

The Railway Board believes that no considerable numbers will have to be discharged in the near future or during 1946, but it is impossible to foresee the extent to which additional work can be found ~~in~~ or in fact, what volume of traffic railways will be asked to handle in the next year or 18 months.

(The Statesman, 8 and 13-12-1945;
The Hindu, dated 8-12-1945). +

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Five Year Development Plan for Jodhpur State.

Five-Year Development Plan to cost Rs. 40 Million.- It is understood that the Jodhpur Government has formulated a five-year plan for post-war development. Forty million rupees have been earmarked to meet the expenditure on various schemes.

The Jawai irrigation-sum-hydro-electric project is estimated to cost over 20 million rupees. The area commanded by irrigation will be 230,700 acres. Hydro-electric energy to the extent of some 3,000 to 5,000 K.W. will be generated. The Public Works Department has also a roads, building and town planning programme.

A five-year plan has also been prepared for the establishment of 25 towns municipalities and 2,810 village panchayats.

Industrialisation Plans.- Sanctions has been given for starting factories for the manufacture of heavy chemicals, cement and colour and dye-stuffs. A woollen textile mill, a bone crushing factory, two oil mills and four electric power houses are to be established in district towns.

(The Times of India, 21-12-1945).

Government's Plans for National Research Laboratories:
Sir A. Dalal Lays Foundation Stone of Central Glass and
Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta, 24-12-1945.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, laid the foundation stone of the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute at Jodavpur near Calcutta, on 24-12-1945. This is the first of five national laboratories which the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is to establish in India.

National Laboratories for Chemical, Physical, Metallurgical and Fuel Research.- Sir Ardeshir stated that the Research Council had approved the location of the National Chemical Laboratory at Poona and already a site of roughly 400 acres had been acquired for the purpose. The National Physical Laboratory would be located at Delhi, and land for the purpose had been secured. The Council would shortly select suitable scientific staff for these two laboratories and a certain number of selected men would be sent abroad for training in the most recent developments in the United Kingdom and the United States. Sir Ardeshir added that the plans for the National Metallurgical Laboratory, which was proposed to be located at Jamshedpur, and for the Fuel Research Institute, which would be located in the heart of the coal-mining area at Dhanbad, were also fairly well-advanced. Sir Ardeshir said that besides the five laboratories, the Council had under consideration schemes for research institutes in food technology and road and building research. Because of the great importance of road research, it was expected that a start would be made with a small research staff in co-operation with the Civil Engineering College at Roorkee. Although the Government had promised a provision of 10 million rupees for the

five laboratories and industry in India had contributed a substantial amount, the contributions had been confined to a very few industrialists, said the Planning Member. A much larger measure of assistance and co-operation was needed from private industrialists towards the capital as well as recurring expenditure.

Needs of Indian Glass Industry.- Speaking of the Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Sir Ardeshir said that although favourably situated in the matter of the availability of raw materials, markets and labour, the Indian glass industry had always suffered from lack of competent technological advice and guidance. It was to satisfy this long-felt need that the Institute was being established and he hoped that its services would be fully and freely made use of by the industry throughout the country.

(The Hindu, 25-12-1945).

Ceylon's Post-War Reconstruction Plan: Heavy Industries to be Nationalised.

State to own Heavy and Key Industries.- The blue-print of Ceylon's post-war reconstruction which has been accepted by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce, aims at making the island a self-sufficient unit and envisages the nationalisation of heavy and key industries, though basic industries already run by private persons will continue to be in private hands but under government control. New industries that are to be started, for instance the cement factory, are to be entirely government-owned and government-managed. The object of the scheme, which is based on the Bombay and Beveridge plans, is that basic industries such as all utility services, including transport and shipping, should be nationalised (but for the reservation in cases of private industries already in existence). It is pointed out that the advantages in such a combination of government and private control would be the enjoyment of such privileges as monopoly rights and tariff protection. Even subsidiary industries like handloom textiles and inks are to be included in the nationalisation programme though there will be a degree of flexibility so that in accordance with exigencies nationalised industries might be semi-nationalised and vice versa.

Protective Tariffs - Wartime Trade Regulations to be retained.- The Director of Commerce and Industries in his memorandum submitted to the Government has recommended protective tariffs ranging from 75 to 50 per cent in order to help local industries to meet foreign competition. He has further suggested that all the wartime trade restrictions and regulations should be made permanent by a new ordinance so that the island's purchasing power might be conserved.

Agricultural Production to be stepped up.- Agricultural production is to be so stepped up that the island would never again be dependent on imports. Sugar, another of the consumer goods, for which Ceylon in pre-war years was mainly dependent on imports from Java, is to be manufactured locally.

Slum Clearance and Rural Reconstruction.- Removal of the slums in the towns and the provision of sanitary houses in the urban areas is another herculean task facing the Government which is, however, confident that in five to ten years this could be achieved throughout the island with the spending of something like Rs. 40,000,000. Free libraries are

to be opened in all villages thus making available to any willing villager a fund of knowledge in any of the three languages, English, Sinhalese and Tamil which he may choose.

(The Times of India, 18-12-1945).+

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GENERAL.

Merger of Supply Department and Industries and
Civil Supplies Department.

According to a press note dated 14-12-1945 issued by the Government of India, ~~the~~ Supply and Industries and Civil Supplies Departments will be merged into a single department from 7-1-1946, and the new Department will be known as the Department of Industries and Supplies. The new Department will deal with the development of industries in accordance with the approved industrial plans; administration of Government factories not allocated to specialized departments; procurement of stores for Government; disposal of surpluses; and civil supplies.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-12-1945).

Government of India Signs Bretton Woods Agreements:
Ordinance promulgated to provide Legal Authority .

In pursuance of ^{the} decision of the Government of India to adhere to the Bretton Woods Agreements in time to secure for India the advantages and benefits of original membership of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Viceroy and Governor-General promulgated on 24-12-1945 an ordinance to provide the necessary legal authority for the assumption by India of the obligations imposed by the Agreements. The Agreements, ^{which} subsequently signed on behalf of the Government of India by the Agent-General for India in Washington on 27-~~12~~-1945 at Washington.

The Government of India proposes, however, to place ^{the} matter before the next session of the new Legislature and its decision, whether in favour of continuance of membership or of withdrawal, will prevail.

(Ordinance No. XLVII of 1945 dated
24-12-1945: The Gazette of India
Extraordinary, dated 24-12-1945,
pp. 1141-1146). +

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List of the more important publications received in this Office
during December, 1945.

Social Policy. -

Summary of Proceedings of the Sixth Labour Conference, held at New Delhi on the 27th and 28th October, 1944. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1945. Price Re.1-8-0 or 2s.3d.

Organisation, Congresses, etc. -

The Employers' Federation of India, Bombay: (1) Thirteenth Annual Report, 1945; and (2) Presidential address of Sir Homi Mody at the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Federation held in Bombay on 17-18-1945. The Employers' Federation of India, Elphinstone Building, Churchgate Street, Fort, Bombay.

Public Health. -

Asansol Mines Board of Health: Annual Administration Report for 1944-45.

Post-War Reconstruction. -

Government of Bengal, Post-War Reconstruction: Bengal Government's Plan. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1945. Price Rs.3/= or 5s.3d.