

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

C 1903/14

Indian Branch

B. I. T. Railway

Report for January 1930. 3 MARS 1930

Contents.

	File No:	Pages
1. <u>General</u>	Referred to:	1 - 2
2. <u>References to the I. L. O.</u> ...	Applied	3 - 7
3. <u>National Labour Legislation:</u>		
(a) The Washington Hours Convention and the Indian Railways.		8
(b) Bill to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890		9 - 12
(c) The Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1930		13 - 15
(d) India and the Minimum Wage Convention		16 - 23
4. <u>Conditions of Labour:</u>		
(a) Ahmedabad Wages Dispute		24
(b) Conciliation Board Proceedings: B. B. & C. I. Disputes		25 - 28
(c) Communist propaganda in India (Meerut trial)		28 - 29
(d) Mining Labour in Mysore		30
(e) G. I. P. Railway strike		31 - 34
(f) Industrial Disputes in British India in 1929.		35 - 36
5. <u>Industrial Organisation:</u>		
<u>Employers' Organisation</u>		
(a) Bombay Millowners' Association and Employers Representation at I. L. Conference		37 - 38
(b) Proposed All-India Employers' Federation		38 - 41
(c) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, Delhi.		41 - 42
<u>Workers' Organisation</u>		
(a) Proposed All-India Textile Federation		43
(b) Madura-Tinnevelly Labour Conference		43 - 44
(c) N. W. Railway Employees' grievances demand for Court of Inquiry		45
(d) A.I.T.U.C. Executive Council Meeting, Jamshedpur		46 - 47
(e) Demands of Postal Employees		47 - 48
6. <u>Intellectual Workers:</u>		
(a) Salaried Employees' Convention, Calcutta		49 - 50
(b) Condition of Work of Indian Journalists		50 - 51
(c) Provident Fund Scheme for Government Servants		52
(d) New Gratuity and Pension Scheme in Mysore		52 - 53

ii.

	Pages
7. <u>Economic Conditions:</u>	
(a) Textile advisory Committee, Madras	54 - 55
(b) Indian Trade Commissioners	55
(c) Mill Piece-goods Exhibition Train ...	56
8. <u>Employment and Unemployment:</u>	
Central Provinces Unemployment Committee	57
9. <u>Social Conditions:</u>	
(a) Devdasi Bill, Madras	58 - 61
(b) Prevention of Gaming Bill, Madras ...	61 - 62
(c) Criminal Tribes in the Punjab ...	63 -65
10. <u>Women and Children:</u>	
All-Asia Women's Conference	66

General.

As indicated in my previous report, the winter session of the Indian Legislative Assembly commenced on the 20th instant. The opening day was ominous, in that it revealed the mutual distrust between President Patel and the officers of the Government. On a little matter arising out of the report of a Committee which President Patel had appointed to enquire into the arrangements for policing the Assembly Buildings so as to prevent the recurrence^s of ^{outrages like} the Bombay outrage of the last year, there has been a conflict of authority, the President holding that the responsibility for safeguarding life and property within the four walls of the Assembly is his, while the Government and the Chief Commissioner of Delhi held it to be ~~their~~ theirs, which they could not properly surrender to the President. The result of this dead-lock has been that no visitors are now admitted to the Assembly except newspaper reporters. A minor consequence is that I have not been able to attend any of the sittings of this session. The President and the Leader of the Opposition have had several separate conferences with the leaders of the opposition groups, who have also been seeing the Viceroy on this matter. The only result so far has been to accentuate the acerbity created, as it now transpires that while on the one hand the President did not give the Leader of the Opposition an opportunity to discuss the various issues outstanding before the House met, the Leader of the Opposition himself did not convey to the President ~~the fact that he had received an~~ ^{an} urgent message from the Viceroy (who was then on tour) to the effect that Mr. Patel should withhold any statement he might have to make on the action of the Government till His Excellency returned to the Capital. His Excellency is now

~~is now~~ once again on tour, and is expected back this week, when another attempt will be made to get over the present impasse.

The absence of the Swarajist contingent from the Assembly meetings has rendered it a dull body. Not much work has been transacted, and the only political work now being carried on is the canvassing by Government of further support from the moderate sections for the Round Table Conference. Attention may, however, be invited to the new bill to amend the Indian Railways Act, which seeks to embody the principles of the Washington Hours Convention in Indian legislation. This office has been supplying copious information to the members of the Select Committee which is now considering the Bill, and a copy of the bill as amended by this Committee is included in this report.

The controversy over the method of choosing the delegates of Indian employers to International Labour Conferences is still going on. It was Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas's idea that the Indian Committee of the International Chambers of Commerce ought to be the body to be consulted by the Government in this behalf. In opposition to this, the Bombay Millowners' Association is now sponsoring the idea of an Indian Employers' Federation, and it has circularised the various industrial organisations in the country to find out whether they are prepared to be members of this body if it is called into being. It is as yet difficult to see what response would be elicited by the Bombay Millowners' Association; but it seems pretty safe to predict that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry would be strongly opposed to the proposed Federation.

References to the I.L.O.

The Hindu of 4-1-1930 publishes in full the educational article on the 13th International Labour Conference supplied by this office.

... ..

The same article is published in the January issue (Vol. 3, No.1) of the South Indian Teacher at pages 15 to 19 (copy has been already forwarded to Geneva). *Also in the Calcutta Review February, 1930 (Vol 34 No. 2).*

other (The article has also been forwarded by this Office to over twenty ~~different~~ journals with the request that duplicate copies of the numbers in which it is published may be forwarded to this office, but as the request has not been complied with, this office is not in a position to forward to Geneva copies of other journals in which the article may have been published.)

... ..

The Press Communique prepared by this Office on the Preparatory Coal Conference at Geneva has appeared in the Hindustan Times of 4-1-1930, Hindu of 6-1-1930, Times of India of 7-1-1930, and Statesman of 7-1-1930, as also in all the other leading Indian papers. The communique draws attention to the preparatory and technical character of the Conference.

The information supplied in this Office's communique has been supplemented by several Reuters telegrams from Geneva about the progress of the Conference, which also have been given prominence in all the Indian papers.

The Times of India of 22-1-1930, in the course of a leaderette on the subject welcomes the Conference's decision to recommend the placing of the question of the hours of work in coal-mines on the

agenda of the next International Labour Conference.

(A batch of cuttings dealing with the Preparatory ~~and~~ Coal Conference is sent separately).

... ..

The Statesman of 16-1-1930 and all leading papers publish brief accounts of the meeting of the Central Committee of the League of Nations Union held at New Delhi on 14-1-1930. The Committee has voted a sum of Rs. 500/- for the equipment of a library and reading room and for subscribing to journals dealing with international affairs. The Committee has also decided to take immediate steps towards establishing new branches and actively co-operating with existing members.

... ..

"My impressions of Geneva" was the subject of an address delivered by Mr. P. Mukerji, adviser to the employers' delegate at the 12th session of the International Labour Conference, on 17-1-1930 at a meeting of the Delhi Rotary Club. In the course of his address, Mr. Mukerji referred appreciatively to the work carried on by the I.L.O. at Geneva. Brief accounts of the speech appeared in the Times of India of 20-1-1930, the Pioneer of 21-1-1930, and in most of the other leading papers.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 12-1-1930 publishes a list of the delegates that the Punjab Provincial Trade Union Congress has recommended to form the workers' delegation at the 14th I.L. Conference.

... ..

The Pioneer of 26-1-1930 and other papers publish a British Official Wireless message to the effect that M. Albert Thomas visited London on 23-1-1930 at the invitation of the British Labour Minister in connection with the Bill for ratification of the Washington Hours Convention.

... ..

The Hindu of 25-1-1930 publishes the names of persons nominated by the All India Salaried Employees' Convention held at Calcutta on 11 and 12-1-1930 to form the employees' delegation to the 14th I.L. Conference. The following are the names recommended:- Mr. Mukunda Lall Sircar (Delegate); Messrs. A.B. Dutta, J.N. Gupta, M.H. Vakil, M.A. Khan, S.D. Hasan, R.W. Fulay and A.T. Gidwani (Advisers). The Convention also recommended the immediate ratification by India of the Minimum Wage Convention adopted by the 11th I.L. Conference (1928) and condemned the dilatoriness shown by the Government of India in ratifying the Convention on Sickness Insurance adopted by the I.L. Conference of 1927. (The resolutions passed ~~in~~ by the Convention are given elsewhere in this report).

... ..

The Hindu of 6-1-1930 comments editorially on "the alarming pace at which the expenditure of the League grows and tends to grow" and points out that two successive Indian delegations to the Assembly have directed attention to this aspect. The article then refers to the arrears in their contributions totalling up to 10,24 million gold ~~marks made by~~ ^{lacs from} such defaulting states as Bolivia, China, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Salvador, and points out that if these arrears are realised it may be possible to lighten India's contribution substantially.

The Hindu of 30-1-1930 publishes a two-column letter from its correspondent at Geneva. The letter directs pointed attention to India's inadequate representation in the Geneva organisations and formulates a series of demands ^{for India,} of which the following are the more important:- (1) A seat on the Council of the League of Nations; (2) More posts for Indians in the higher grades of the League of Nations Secretariat and the International Labour Office; and (3) The establishment at Geneva of a permanent Indian delegation to the League.

... ..

The article supplied by Geneva on the activities of the I.L.O. during 1929 has been forwarded by this Office to about thirty journals. The Hindustan Times is publishing the article serially and the first instalment has been published in that paper's issue of 31-1-1930. The Bombay Chronicle has promised to publish the article.

... ..

In its issue of 1-1-1930 (Vol. I, No.11) the B.B.& C.I. Railwayman publishes a short note about the 14th session of the I.L.Conference and points out that as the second item of the Conference, i.e., Hours of Work of Salaried Employees gives this class of workers an opportunity to put forward ^{its} ~~their~~ claims in a matter which vitally interests ^{it} ~~them~~, the various Unions should take care ~~only~~ to recommend ^{only} the fittest persons to form the workers' delegation to the Conference.

... ..

The Servant of India in its issue of 9-1-1930 (Vol.XIII, No.2) publishes a short summary of the article on the 13th session of the I.L. Conference forwarded to it by this Office.

... ..

The Servant of India in its issue of 23-1-1930 (Vol. XIII, No.4) publishes a small editorial note commenting appreciatively on the ~~work~~ work accomplished by the League of Nations in 1929.

... ..

The Labour Gazette, Bombay, in its issue of December 1929, (Vol. IX, No.4) publishes at pages 365-374, the views of several employers' and employees' bodies in the Bombay Presidency with regard to the questionnaire issued by the I.L.O. on the Hours of Work of Salaried Employees.

... ..

At pages 246-248 of the January, 1930 (Vol. I, No.7) of the M. & S.M. Railwayman, the official organ of the M. & S.M. Railway Employees' Union, is published an article under the caption "The Saner Path" contributed by the Director of this Office. The article points out that the methods of steady, orderly progress for which Geneva stands will serve the true interests of Indian labour better than the gospel of violence inculcated by communist propagandists. (A copy of the journal in which the article appears has been already forwarded to Geneva).

... ..

The Times of India of 11-1-1930 publishes the views expressed by Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby in the course of an interview, on the work of the League during the last ten years and gives prominence to his opinion that the League will in course of time obviate the need for powerful national defence forces.

The same paper in its issue of 25-1-1930 publishes an article contributed by Sir Eric Drummond under the heading "The League's Work -- Tasks of Today and Tomorrow".

... ..

VDS.

National Labour Legislation

The Washington Hours Convention and the Indian Railways.

At pages 16-18 of this office's Report for September 1929 was reproduced the text of the Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill, designed to give legal effect to the ratification by India of the Washington Hours Convention in so far as it affects Indian railway workers. The Bill as it was first introduced only sought to make the Governor-General-in-Council the competent authority to regulate the hours of work and periods of rest of Indian railway servants; it was thus rightly felt by the few members of the Assembly interested in labour questions that the passing of the Bill in the form in which it was first introduced would really result in a curtailment of the powers of the Indian Legislative Assembly in that behalf. Sir George Rainy, the Member in charge of Railways and Commerce, taking into consideration the non-official objections against the form of the Bill, has now re-drafted it, the substantive provision limiting the hours of work to 84 a week in the case of railway servants whose employment is essentially intermittent, and to 60 a week in the case of other classes of railway servants, is now incorporated in the Bill itself, as also the general provision regarding the weekly day of rest. The newly drafted Bill, and "the Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules" to be brought into force under section 71E of the new Bill, are reproduced below. It is expected that the Bill will be passed in the course of the present legislative session.

A

BILL

Further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890,
for certain purposes.

IX of
1890

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend, the Indian Railways Act, 1890, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows :-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Indian Railways (Amendment) Short title and commencement. | Act, 1930.

(2) This section shall come into force at once; and the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette of India, direct that the other provisions of this Act shall come into force in respect of any railway on such date as he may by the notification appoint.

IX of 1890

2. After Chapter VI of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, Insertion of new Chapter VIA in Act IX of 1890. | the following Chapter shall be inserted, namely :-

"CHAPTER VIA.

Limitation of employment of railway servants.

71A. In this Chapter, unless there is anything repugnant Definitions | in the subject or context, &

(a) the employment of a railway servant is said to be 'essentially intermittent' when it has been declared to be so by the authority empowered in this behalf on the ground that it involves long periods of inaction; during which the railway servant is on duty but is not called upon to display either physical activity or sustained attention; and

(b) except in section 71B, a 'railway servant' means a railway servant to whom this Chapter applies.

71B. This Chapter applies only to such railway servants or Application of Chapter VIA. | classes of railway servants as

as the Governor General in Council may, by rules made under section 71E, prescribe.

71C. (1) A railway servant, other than a railway servant
Limitation of hours of work. | whose employment is essentially inter-
| mittent, shall not be employed for more
than sixty hours a week on the average in any month.

(2) A railway servant whose employment is essentially intermittent shall not be employed for more than eighty-four hours in any week.

(3) Subject to rules made under section 71E, temporary exemptions of railway servants from the provisions of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) may be made -

- (a) when such temporary exemptions are necessary to avoid serious interference with the ordinary working of the railway, in cases of accident, actual or threatened, or when urgent work is required to be done to the railway or to rolling-stock, or in any emergency which could not have been foreseen or prevented; and
- (b) in cases of exceptional pressure of work not falling within the scope of clause (a).

Provided that a railway servant exempted under clause (b) shall be paid for overtime at one and a quarter times his ordinary rate of pay.

71D. (1) A railway servant shall be granted, each week
Grant of periodical rest. | commencing on Sunday, a rest of not
| less than twenty-four consecutive
hours.

Provided that this sub-section shall not apply to a railway servant whose employment is essentially intermittent, or to a railway servant to whom sub-section (2) applies.

(2) The Governor General in Council may, by rules

made under section 71E, specify the railway servants or classes of railway servants to whom periods of rest may be granted on a scale less than that laid down in sub-section (1), and may prescribe the periods of rest to be granted to such railway servants.

(3) Subject to rules made under section 71E, temporary exemptions from the grant of periods of rest may be made in the cases or circumstances specified in sub-section (3) of section 71C:

Provided that a railway servant shall, as far as may be possible, be granted compensatory periods of rest for the periods he has foregone.

71E. (1) The Governor General in Council may make rules -
Power to make rules §

- (a) prescribing the railway servants or classes of railway servants to whom this Chapter shall apply ;
- (b) prescribing the authorities who may declare that the employment of any railway servant or class of railway servants is essentially intermittent;
- (c) specifying the railway servants or classes of railway servants to whom sub-section (2) of section 71D shall apply;
- (d) prescribing the authorities by whom exemptions under sub-section (3) of section 71C or sub-section (3) of section 71D may be made;
- (e) providing for the delegation of their powers by the authorities prescribed under clause (d); and
- (f) providing for any other matter which is to be provided for by rules or which the Governor General in Council may deem to be requisite for carrying out the purposes of this Chapter.

(2) Such rules shall be subject to the provisions of section 143.

71F. Nothing in this Chapter or the rules made thereunder shall

Railway servant to §
remain on duty.

authorise a railway servant to

leave his duty where due provision

has been made for his relief, until he has been relieved.

71G. (1) The Governor General in Council may appoint persons
Supervisors of | to be Supervisors of Railway Labour.
Railway Labour. |

(2) The duties of Supervisors of Railway Labour shall be-

(a) to inspect railways in order to determine if the provisions of this Chapter and of the rules made thereunder are duly observed, and

(b) such other duties as the Governor General in Council may prescribe.

(3) A Supervisor of Railway Labour shall be deemed to be an Inspector for the purposes of sections 5 and 6.

71H. Any person under whose authority any railway servant is
Penalty. | employed in contravention of any of the provisions of this Chapter or of the rules made thereunder shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees."

THE RAILWAY SERVANTS HOURS OF
EMPLOYMENT RULES, 1930.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 71E of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, as amended by the Indian Railway (Amendment) Act, 1930, the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following rules for the hours of employment and periods of rest of railway servants, namely :-

1. These rules may be called the "Railway Servants Hours of Short title. ¶ Employment Rules, 1930."

2. In these rules,-

Definitions. ¶

(a) "the Act" means the Indian Railways Act, 1890, and

(b) "Chapter", "section" or "sub-section" means a Chapter, a section or sub-section of the Act.

3. (1) The provisions of Chapter VIA shall apply to the following classes of railway servants, namely :-

Extent of application of Chapter VIA. ¶ ¶

- (1) Operating Staff.
- (2) Transportation Staff.
- (3) Commercial Staff.
- (4) Traffic Staff.
- (5) Engineering Staff.
- (6) Mechanical Staff.
- (7) Shed Staff.
- (8) Watch and Ward Staff.
- (9) Staff of the Stores Department or Branch.
- (10) Staff of the Medical Department or Branch.
- (11) Staff of the Accounts Department.
- (12) Office Staff.

(2) For the purpose of this rule, these classes shall be held to exclude -

- (a) Running Staff, viz, Drivers, Shunters, Firemen, Guards, Brakesmen, Travelling Van Porters, Travelling Van Checkers, Travelling Ticket Examiners, Travelling Stores Delivery Staff and other staff who habitually work on running trains;

(b) those chowkidars or watchmen, watermen, sweepers and gatekeepers whose employment is declared by the Head of a Railway to be essentially intermittent and of a specially light character; and

(c) persons who may be declared by the Railway Board to be persons holding positions of supervision or management, or persons employed in a confidential capacity.

4. The power of declaring that the employment of a railway

Power to Head of Rail-
way to declare employ-
ment essentially inter-
mittent.

¶
¶
¶

servant is essentially inter-
mittent, within the meaning
of section 71A, shall vest in

the Head of a Railway.

5. (1) Power to make temporary exemptions of railway servants

Power to make tem-
porary exemptions.

¶
¶

from the provisions of sub-section
(1) and (2) of section 71C, of sub-

section (1) of section 71D, and of rule 6, shall vest in the Head of a Railway.

(2) The Head of a Railway may delegate his powers under this rule to such authorities subordinate to him as he may, by order, prescribe.

6. (1) The following classes of railway servants may be

Grant of periods of rest
on less than the normal
scale.

¶
¶
¶

granted periods of rest on a
scale less than that laid down

in sub-section (1) of section 71D, namely :-

(a) Artizans and unskilled labour employed -

- (i) on lines under construction, and
- (ii) for temporary purposes on open lines.

(b) Mates, Keymen, and gangmen employed on the maintenance of permanent way.

(2) Such railway servants shall enjoy in every calendar month at least one period of rest of not less than 48 consecutive

hours or two periods of rest of not less than 24 consecutive hours each.

7. A railway servant exempted under the provisions of sub-
Compensatory periods of rest. ¶ section (3) of section 71D from the
grant of periods of rest shall not
be required to work for 21 days without a rest of at least 24 consecutive hours.

8. A Railway Administration shall furnish for communication
Supply of information. ¶ to the International Labour Office
such information concerning the application of the provisions of
Chapter VIA or of these rules as may be called for by the Railway
Board.

9. A Railway Administration shall make known either by duty
Display of hours of employment. ¶ lists, rosters, or other documents
placed in conspicuous places, the
duration of hours of employment and the incidence of periods of
rest.

10. A Railway Administration shall keep in a conspicuous
Affixing of rules ¶ place at each station of its railway
a copy of Chapter VIA and of these rules.

INDIA AND THE MINIMUM WAGES CONVENTION

Assembly Proceedings.

The following extracts are taken from the Indian Legislative Assembly Debates of the 20th January 1930 :-

Mr. President: The House will now resume discussion of the following Resolution moved by the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra on the 26th September, 1929:

"This Assembly, having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation regarding the machinery for fixing minimum wages in certain trades adopted at the Eleventh International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation."

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Sir, this Convention, as pointed out last year by the Honourable Member who moved the Resolution, was passed in June 1928. A year and a half has therefore already elapsed since the Convention was adopted by the International Labour Conference. It is true that, since the Convention was passed, a Labour Commission has been appointed with very comprehensive terms of reference which include an inquiry regarding machinery for fixing a minimum average. But considering the wide scope of the terms of reference, one need not be surprised if the Commission's Report is not available much before the end of the next year. There need again be no surprise if the Government of India take about two years to arrive at definite views with regard to the recommendations of the Commission. I should therefore personally have liked that this convention should, in the interval, be accepted by the Government. Unfortunately, however, when I read the various articles of the Convention, I found that article 9 of the Convention stood in our way. It says that:

"A member who has ratified the Convention may denounce it after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the convention first comes into force."

It is obviously impossible for us, therefore, to accept the Convention as we shall not be able to modify it earlier than ten years since its introduction in the light of the Commission's recommendations. I propose, therefore, that we should not dispose of the Convention finally today. I know that, even if the Resolution is passed in the present form, there is nothing to prevent us from reconsidering the matter at some future date. But I should like the matter to be kept alive in a more formal way and to throw upon the Government the responsibility of bringing the question again to the notice of the House at a subsequent date. If you will therefore permit me, I shall move the following amendment:

"That the following words be added at the end of the Resolution: 'pending the Report of the Indian Labour Commission'."

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury (Assam: Muhammadan): Sir I want to oppose both the Resolution and the amendment. When, Sir, a particular convention is passed by the International Labour Conference, surely it is not meant only for the benefit of the Western countries. On the other hand the idea is to raise up the standard of wages and the working condition in the less progressive countries of the East to the level of the more advanced countries of Europe and America. After discussion in two annual sessions of the International Labour Conference, after consultation with all the various Governments, and after hard Committee work for about three weeks, the representatives of labour, of capital and of the Governments of over 40 countries of the world come to a unanimous decision that such and such a convention ought to be universally adopted for improvement of the conditions of labour, and when that comes before the Government of India, the usual practice here seems to be summarily to reject that recommendation,

saying that the Government of India should not ratify the Convention. In this particular case, Sir, what is it that we are asked not to ratify? The first Article of the Convention says:

"Each Member of the International Labour Organisation which ratifies this Convention undertakes to create or maintain machinery whereby minimum rates of wages can be fixed for workers employed in certain of the trades or parts of trades (and in particular, in home working trades) in which no arrangements exist for the effective regulation of wages by collective agreement or otherwise and wages are exceptionally low."

Now, Sir, it is an admitted fact that in India the workers are too disorganised to effect regulation of wages by collective agreement, and in many trades in India wages are exceptionally low. When the two elements of disorganised labour and low wages co-exist in India, it was the duty of the Government to set up a minimum wage-fixing machinery without waiting for the International Convention, ~~but~~ ^{but} to remind them of their duty, whenever the Government do not desire to do a thing, they have plenty of excuses. Now the latest excuse is that the Labour Commission is sitting, I remember, Sir, in a speech that Mr. Joshi delivered at Geneva he said that, if the Government of India trotted up the inquiry by the Labour Commission as an excuse for postponing labour legislation, he would rather resign from the Whitley Commission than serve on it. Now, as a matter of fact, the Whitley Commission cannot help us very much in the matter. This Convention refers particularly to home working trades which are, I maintain, outside the scope of the terms of reference to the Whitley Commission. Will the Honourable Member kindly say whether the Royal Commission is going to inquire into industries such as lace-making, knitting, hosiery, and the carpet industry, or in other similar home-working trades? If they

are not going to do that, Sir, the recommendations of the Whitley Commission will be of no use to us in regard to the question of ratifying this Convention, and I therefore urge that the House refuse to accept the motion.

Maulvi Mohammad Shafee Daoodi (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan):

I think, Sir, that the ratification of the Convention and the acceptance of the Recommendations of the International Labour Conference should not be delayed any longer. It ought to have been done long before, because everybody knows that labourers in these home industries suffer very much as they are much scattered all over the country, and they have no resources at their back, and unless we, who understand their difficulties, help them, there are no chances of this being done. I think, Sir, that the International Labour Convention at Geneva has done the right thing. So many countries were represented at the Conference and ~~all men interested in labour~~ ^{were all men interested in labour} were those who have discussed the matter, ^{course} and I do not think we have any other ~~cause~~ ^{course} to adopt. My friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru says that, if the recommendation is adopted today and the Whitley Commission reject it, it will take ten years for us to revise it, but I do not think such an axiomatic truth can be denied by the Whitley Commission or by any Commission. It is absolutely necessary that things like this should be expedited and not postponed till the Report of the Whitley Commission. I would urge upon Government that it is in the fitness of things that matters like this should not be postponed, ² otherwise I should say, in the interests of Government themselves, that they will have greater difficulties to face later on if they are not going to look to the interests of such people for whom there is nobody to speak strongly. Unless their case is taken

up by Government, they will have much greater cause of grievance against the Government, and I should not like, Sir, that this popular Assembly, sitting here as the representative of the people, should give its vote for postponing the ratification of ~~the~~ the Convention. I am strongly opposed to postponement and I would ask my friend over there, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, to consider this question again and see his way to throw out this Resolution of the Government and press the Government to accept the draft convention and the Recommendations.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I may state at the outset that I am quite willing to accept the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, if you, Sir, are prepared to put that amendment to the vote of the House. The opposition on the part of my friends Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury and Maulvi Mahamed Shafee Daoodi to the course of action proposed by Government is, I submit, based on a misapprehension of the situation. Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, if I heard him correctly, stated that this Draft Convention referred to home-working trades only. Article 1 refers to "workers employed in certain of the trades or parts of trades and in particular, in home-working trades" From Article 2 it is also clear that the convention is not confined to home-working trades or parts of such trades. Now, Sir, supposing Government had decided to ratify this particular Convention, what would the implication be arising therefrom? Is it seriously contended that Government must forthwith take a plunge, a leap in the dark and ask this House immediately to pass any legislation which it might have been possible for them to bring forward? In

fact, I, who am the responsible Member of the Government in this matter, cannot yet even sketch out roughly in my mind what would be the form of that legislation. Before a Bill could be given proper shape, it would have been necessary to start extensive inquiries, in consultation with the parties concerned, as to what would be the form of the machinery. The Royal Commission on Labour is examining this matter already as one of the various problems to which ^{it} is devoting its consideration. My friend Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury is certainly not correct in saying that they will not deal with home industries. Now, the expression "home industries" is rather indefinite. Take the cotton mill industry of Bombay. Is it not partly a home industry? Is not part of the production intended for consumption in India?

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: May I know if home-working trade includes the cotton mills of Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I do not quite understand what my Honourable friend means.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: Sir, by home-working trade, the International Labour Conference meant those trades in which workers did their work at home and in which the difficulty of organising them was inherent in the nature of the work that they were doing.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I am afraid I did not quite follow my Honourable friend's arguments. I think, however, the Honourable Member specifically referred to the carpet industry. I know as a matter of fact that the Royal Commission went to Amritsar to examine the position of the carpet industry there. That being so, I am sorry that I cannot agree to take action on the lines suggested either by my friend, Mr. Abdul Matin ~~Chaudhury~~

Chaudhury or my friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi. At the same time, in order that the matter may not be lost sight of and may be again taken up for consideration by this House when the recommendations of the Whitley Commission have reached Government, I am quite willing to accept the amendment proposed by my friend, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: Do I understand that, after the Whitley Commission have made their recommendations, the Government will come up with this Resolution before this House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: There is no question of this Resolution being brought forward again, My Honourable friend must realise that this House will cease to exist in the near future and the Resolution, if not disposed of by them, will have in fact lapsed automatically.

Mr. President: The original Resolution was:

"This Assembly, having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation regarding the machinery for fixing minimum wages in certain trades adopted at the Eleventh International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation."

Since which the following amendment has been moved:

"That the following words be added at the end of the Resolution:

'pending the Report of the Indian Labour Commission'."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is that the following Resolution as amended, be adopted:

"This Assembly, having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation regarding the machinery for fixing minimum wages

in certain trades adopted at the Eleventh International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation pending the Report of the Indian Labour Commission."

The Assembly then divided; and the Resolution was carried by 47 votes to 3.

VDS.

Conditions of Labour.

Ahmedabad Wages Dispute.

At pages 14 to 15 of the report of this Office for November 1929 was given a brief summary of the award given by Dewan Bahadur K.M. Zaveri (Retired Judge of the Small Cause Court, Bombay), who was chosen as umpire in the dispute between the Ahmedabad Labour Union and the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association regarding the question of increased wages for Ahmedabad textile workers. The award gave an 8 per cent increase to the employees of the spinning department and a 5 per cent increase to the employees of the weaving department from 1st January 1930. The mills accordingly, although the trade conditions had become worse, agreed to abide by the award and prepared pay sheets, according to the increased scale. The Labour Union, however, has raised an objection contending that the award had been misinterpreted and that the increment was to be given from the cut effected in the year 1923, and not from the cut effected in 1930. ~~They~~ ^{It} ~~has~~ advised the men not to accept wages as per the pay sheets prepared by the mills and ~~has~~ ^{has} referred the matter to the umpire again for a definite ruling. It is said that in the present disturbed condition of the textile industry, the Labour Union is not taking a wise step in burdening the mills in this manner, and the step is calculated to affect the industry adversely, which is already suffering on account of Japanese competition.

Times of India, 31-1-1930.

Conciliation Board Proceedings:

B.B.& C.I. Dispute.

At pages 23-24 of the report of this Office for December, 1929, reference was made to a dispute between the employees in the Parel (Bombay) workshops of the B.B.& C.I. Railway and the management re. the transfer of the workshops to Dohad and the proposed reduction of 10 per cent. of the wages of the employees in the transferred workshops. The Conciliation Board appointed by the Governor General-in-Council on the application of the B.B.& C.I. Railway Employees' Union held sittings at Bombay on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 21st and 22nd January 1930. The Railway Company was represented by Mr. Bulabhai J. Desai, Advocate, and Mr. J.J.C. Paterson, Loco and Carriage Superintendent, Bombay, while the Employees' Union was represented by Mr. F.F.J. Ginwala and Mr. M.H. Vakil, Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Marcell-Fernandez, Honorary Secretary.

At the outset, Mr. Ginwala objected to the Railway Company being represented by an eminent counsel in a purely labour dispute, and explained that though he himself was a solicitor he appeared only in his capacity as an office-bearer of the Union. The objection was over-ruled.

The case for the Railway Management as put forward by Mr. Desai may be briefly summarised as follows:- The workmen concerned, who number about 2,200, are employees at the Railway Workshops at Parel. The transfer of these men to Dohad (a station 340 miles from Bombay) was intended to be effected as a business proposition consistent with the provision of proper amenities to workmen and facilities of travel and transport. When the transfer arrangements were made it was at first proposed to make only a 10 per cent. cut in the

wages of those workmen whose wages were more than Rs. 1/2/0 per day, as it represented a special allowance for Bombay, where the cost of living was high. When the Employees' Union elected to refer the matter to a Conciliation Board, the management had reserved the right to state ^{its} ~~their~~ case de novo before the Board, and therefore, the management has now decided to make a 20 per cent. cut in wages. Even this higher cut was justified because of the cheapness of living in Dohad. At Dohad, the Company proposed to build quarters for employees and let them out so cheaply that for the sort of accommodation which would cost an employee Rs. 5/- a month in Bombay, he would have to pay only Rs. 0-8-0 at Dohad. Besides, the employees and their families would improve in health by changing their residence from the congested chawls of Bombay to the open air quarters at Dohad. The prices of almost all articles of food were cheaper at Dohad than at Bombay. The transfer to Dohad would thus mean better living conditions for the workmen and considerable economy in expense to the Company. On the one hand the Company was faced with the demand of the public for cheaper service and greater facilities for travel and transport of goods and on the other the employees were demanding higher wages and more amenities. The Company was therefore reduced to such expedients as the transfer of the workshops to Dohad which would enable it to effect a 20 per cent. cut in wages without lowering the real income of the employees in terms of commodities and conveniences. Further, the Company would appoint an officer to investigate the extent of the indebtedness of the employees of the workshop in Bombay and make arrangements for the liquidation of the debts.

The main points of the workmen's case ~~xxx~~ as presented by Mr. F.J. Ginwala were the following:- The Company had at first announced that only a 10 per cent. cut would be made and the present action of the Company to effect a 20 per cent. cut was entirely unjustified. Even the 10 per cent. cut would mean great hardship to the workers and was unwarranted and unjustifiable. The argument of the Company that the 10 per cent. cut represented only the allowance paid to the workers in Bombay for the high cost of living was not tenable. The scales of wages in the B.B.& C.I. railways were very low compared with those obtaining in other railways. The B.B.& C.I. workers were only demanding that the same terms should be extended to them as were offered to the G.I.P. Railway employees who were recently transferred to Delhi. Drawing attention to the disadvantages of Dohad, Mr. Ginwala pointed out that Dohad was not so cheap a place as asserted by the Company and said that the lack of proper schools at Dohad would interfere with the education of the workers' children. Mr. Ginwala further said that since the Company wanted to make a 20 per cent. cut, he would demand a 20 per cent. increase in wages. Mr. Ginwala then put forward the following ~~clams~~ claims on behalf of the workmen: Two-room tenements instead of one-room tenements; easy loans to employees at low rates of interest; 14 days' leave with pay for breaking up their Bombay establishment; special gratuity for those who could not join the provident fund between 1902 and 1917 at the rate of a month's pay for each year of service; the workshop to be kept open for 26 days in a month; electric installation in all quarters and arrangements for vegetarians and non-vegetarians colonies.

Evidence was then offered on behalf of the Company by Mr. Hobbs, Staff Officer, Mr. H.R.M. Macmillan, Construction Engineer at Dohad, Mr. E.M. Gilbert-Lodge, Chartered Valuer and Mr. M.P. Parekh, an employee of the Loco Shop, Bombay, to show that Dohad was a cheap place, that the housing conditions in Dohad would be superior to those in Bombay and that the workmen would not be losers by the transfer even after the proposed cut is effected.

The proceedings before the Conciliation Board are continuing.

Communist Propaganda in India.

At pages 1 to 5 of the Report of this Office for April 1929 reference had been made to the arrests of 31 communists on a charge of conspiring to deprive the King of the sovereignty of India. The trial of the accused at Meerut which was a protracted affair has recently been concluded, and Mr. Milner-White, the Special Magistrate, has committed all the 31 accused except one, who has been discharged, to the sessions court. The Committal order passed by the trying magistrate is interesting in that it conclusively finds that the Communist International has been definitely engaging itself in India to incite peasants and workers to revolution. It thus confirms the suspicion entertained in certain quarters that in spite of the non-intervention pledge of the Soviet Government, "red" propaganda has been sedulously continued in India.

Referring to the activities of the Communist International in India, the committal order says that it has been definitely proved that its (the communist International's) plan includes the formation of such bodies as the communist party of India and workers' and peasants' parties;

The immediate work of these parties is to gain control of the

working classes by organising them in unions, teaching them the principles of Communism, inciting them to strikes in order to educate them and teach them solidarity and in every way to use every possible method of propaganda and instruction;

Workers are thus to be taught mass organisation with a view to declaration of a general strike followed by revolution;

Peasants are to be organised in a similar manner so as to form an effective reserve force for proletarian masses and to effect an agrarian revolution;

In pursuance of these aims a Communist party of India and four workers and peasants parties in Bombay, Bengal, the Punjab and the United Provinces were formed;

These bodies were given financial aid from Moscow and their policy was dictated from Moscow directly and via England and the Continent through communications conducted in a secret and conspiratorial manner;

In addition to this several persons such as Allison, Spratt and Bradley were sent out to India for the express purpose of organising work and fomenting revolution;

In pursuance of the directions and with the financial help thus obtained, these bodies have organised unions, conducted demonstrations, edited papers, instituted youth movements, initiated and conducted strikes and used all possible methods of propaganda;

Their express aim in all these activities has been to overthrow the sovereignty of the King-Emperor in British India with a view to the establishment of a Socialist state under the dictatorship of the proletariat and the supreme command of the Communist International.

Pioneer.- 16-1-30.

Mining Labour in Mysore.

The Mysore Government in its review of the administration report of the Department of Mines states that, as in the past years, five companies carried on gold mining operations, all of them in the Kolar gold mining area. The total quantity of fine gold and silver produced was approximately 375,886 ozs. and 21,082 ozs. respectively. The total value of both fine gold and silver amounted to £1,606,391 as against £1,629,998 in the past year showing a decrease of £23,607 due to reduced production. The total amount paid in dividends showed a decrease of £4,464 which works out to 18.44 per cent, on the paid-up capital. There was a decrease of £1,615 in the royalty payable to Government, the actual amount paid being £87,531. From 1882 to the end of 1928 the total quantity of fine gold produced was 15,899,279 ozs. of the aggregate value of £68,779,314 and the royalty realised by the Government was £3,626,286.

There was a slight decrease in the total quantity of labour employed, but the working cost increased both under wages and mining, chiefly due to the adoption of improved methods and supporting under-ground works to the great depths the mines have reached. The conditions of work were ameliorated by better ventilation and the introduction of measures calculated to secure the *personal safety of the* persons employed. A sum of Rs.1,30,118 was paid to workmen as compensation for injuries. The Workmen's Compensation Regulation came into effect from 1st June, 1929, superseding the scheme of compensation instituted by the Mining Board. Up to the end of June 1929, a total sum of Rs.20,715 was deposited in the Court under this Regulation and the total amount actually distributed was Rs.19,107.

VDS.

G. I. P. Railway Strike.

A strike has been initiated on the G.I.P. Railway system by the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union on 4-2-1930. The intention of the Union at first was to declare a one-day strike on the 4th February by way of protest against the Railway managements' dilatoriness in redressing the grievances of the G.I.P. Railway workers. The one-day strike idea has, however, been abandoned by the Union, and the strike is still continuing. The following are the more important of the workers' demands as set forth in a communique issued to the press by Mr. R.S. Ruikar, M.A., LL.B., the President of the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union:-

(1) That Union workers should not be victimised; (2) that the present conditions of insecurity of tenure of service should be changed (The communique states that during the last six months more than 600 individual complaints, mostly relating to arbitrary dismissals, have been submitted to the Agent, and that few of them have received sympathetic consideration); (3) that a living wage should be guaranteed to the workers (The communique states that at present about 33,000 workers, i.e., gangmen, coolies, telegraph peons, call-boys and others are paid less than Rs. 15/- per month; there are railway servants whose wages vary from Rs. 8 to Rs. 9 per month; that about 40,000 workers, i.e., levermen, porters, etc., draw wages which are below Rs. 30/- a month; ~~the~~ The Union demands that to begin with no railway employee should be paid anything less than Rs. 15/-; that those who draw a salary of less than Rs. 50/- should be given an immediate increment of 10 per cent only and that a living wage of Rs. 30/- should be guaranteed to all railway workers. The Union ~~even erred on the side of caution and~~ suggested the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the correct figure about a living wage for the railway worker; but none of these fair demands have been considered properly by the Agent). (4) that the present hours of work are scandalously long and that no railway worker should be obliged to work for more than 8 hours a day and that there should be a weekly day of rest for all workers (The communique points out that at present the commercial staff is supposed to do duty for 12 hours; number-takers, shunting masters and others are also in the same miserable position; gangmen, coolies and engine shed staff are obliged to drudge on for 10 hours; the weak-end changing staff is supposed to work for 14, 16, and 24 hours; and there are others who are expected to be on duty for 24 hours. The Anglo-Indian and European station-masters and assistant station-masters ~~of course~~ enjoy an eight hour day.); (5) that the G.I.P. Railway administration is vitiated by racial discrimination which pervades the whole administration and that this should be stopped (The communique points out that out of

nearly 400 A Grade guards, there is none who is an Indian. Invidious distinction is observed in the pay of Indian and Anglo-Indian ticket collectors, assistant station-masters, station-masters, guards, drivers, controllers, etc. This distinction is even observed in the diet that is supplied to employees under training in the Bina School, and also in the supply of furniture, clothing, waterproof, quarters, medical treatment, etc. All the higher posts in the railway are now a monopoly of the Anglo-Indian and European community) (6) that the periodical medical examinations to which the employees are subjected at present should be abolished, as besides being a source of hardship, they become an instrument of favouritism; (7) that the present leave facilities which are extremely inadequate should be altered (The communique points out that at present the menial staff is not entitled to any sick leave, while European and Anglo-Indian employees are entitled to three months' sick leave on full pay). The Union demands conditions of leave for the staff as follows:-

Menials: Privilege Leave for 30 days; Sick Leave for 30 days on half pay; and Casual Leave for 10 days on full pay.

Clerks and Candidates:- Privilege leave for 30 days; Sick Leave for 60 days on full pay; and Casual Leave for 14 days on full pay.

(8) that free railway passes should be more liberally available to all railway employees and that Union officials should be entitled to free passes when on Union work; (9) that proper uniforms and waterproofs should be supplied to the menial staff; (10) that daily paid workers should be placed on a permanent basis; (11) that the management of the Mutual Benefit Society should be thoroughly overhauled to ensure their being useful to the employees; (12) that the grievances of the workers at the railway workshops at Matunga, Parel and Jhansi, are in a class by themselves and should be immediately redressed; and (13) that greater attention should be paid by the Agent to individual complaints forwarded by the Union. (The communique states that in 1928-29 the Union submitted about 1759 individual complaints but most of them have been turned down. In the current year about 600 complaints have been submitted to the Agent; the Agent has no-doubt appointed ~~as~~ liaison officer to inquire into these grievances of the staff and two more officers have been also recently appointed but these officers are absolutely ~~but~~ out of touch with the Union officials and their inquiries bring no relief to the oppressed railway workers). The Union demands that Joint Committees of the railway officials and the representatives of the Union should inquire into such complaints.

The communique ends with an appeal that as these demands of 125,000 G.I.P. Railway workers have been for two years before the authorities without evoking any sympathetic response the public should sympathise with the strikers.

On 26-1-1930 the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway issued a statement ~~ix~~ with reference to the strike-threat of the Union. The following are its principal points:-

(1) The rules of the Union require that no strike shall be declared until three-fourths of the members agree to ~~declare~~ declare it by hands or ballot and no such ballot has so far been held, the strike having been declared by the president and standing committee of the Union only. (2) A systematic examination of the service conditions of the lower-paid employees is in progress on the G.I.P. Railway as on the other railways. (3) In respect of wages inquiries were instituted in June last and certain recommendations of the Agent for increasing the wages are already before the Railway Board. (4) ~~The~~ Revised rules regulating discharge and dismissal have already been issued and they afford adequate safeguards against wrongful discharge or dismissals and lay down that ~~the~~ appeal must in no case and in no sense be treated as a formality. (5) Rules have already been framed to give effect to the Washington and Geneva conventions relating to hours of work and weekly rest and they are not only designed to fulfil ^{the} obligations incurred by the ratification of the Conventions, but go appreciably further and are likely to cost over Rs. 6 lakhs per annum on the G.I.P. Railway alone, apart from the sum of Rs. 10 lakhs or more for additional quarters. These rules will be issued as soon as the Bill empowering the Governor-General-in-Council to make them, which has already been introduced in the Legislative Assembly, has been passed. (6) Revised rules have also been drawn up in respect of leave and are now under final examination. (7) No ballot of Union members has been held and further the fact that no employee of the Railway has as yet personally given notice of his intention to go on strike as required by section 15 of the Trade Disputes Act justifies the inference that ~~the~~ strike is being engineered by ~~the~~ small section of the Union for ~~the~~ purposes of its own.

(Times of India, 27-1-1930).

A communique issued by the Government of India and published in the Times of India of 10-2-1930, defining Government's attitude towards the strike points out:-

"From a report which the Government of India have received from the Agent of the Railway, it appears that about 20,000 men struck work on February 4, of whom 13,000 were employed in the workshops at Parel, Matunga, Jhansi and Manmad, and 7,000 were the staff concerned with the movement of traffic. On the following day the workshop hands at Jhansi and most of those at Manmad, a total of nearly 5,000 men, returned to duty and over a thousand of the other staff also came back to work. But on February 6, the men in the Jhansi workshop again went on strike and on that day there were about 12,500 workshop employees out ~~ix~~ about 6,000 staff concerned with the movement of traffic. Passenger traffic is working freely all over the line and so is goods traffic, except in the Bombay division. It should be added that the total number of the staff on the G.I.P. Railway concerned with the moving of traffic is nearly 100,000, of whom only some 7,000 have gone on strike.

The demands put forward by the Union on behalf of its members had either been dealt with already or were being actively and considerably examined both by the Railway Administration and by the Government of India. The Government of India wish to give their employees an assurance that the least possible time would be allowed to elapse before the outstanding requests of the men are dealt with. In particular, new and more generous leave rules for the lower paid staff have been prepared and are likely to be brought into force in the course of a few weeks and revision of the scales of pay of the lower paid employees has been engaging their attention for several months and their proposals in regard to it are nearly ready!

A statement issued to the press by Mr. Ruikar on 10-2-1930 contradicts the statement in the Government communique that only 7,000 men have struck work and asserts that at least 50,000 men have struck work and that the strikers' numbers are increasing.

(Hindustan Times, 12-2-1930).

The strike is ~~still~~ proceeding, but the railway authorities are still running the services, though to delayed timings.

KB.

in British India
Industrial Disputes in 1929.

According to a communique issued by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, under date 11-2-30. The total number of strikes in British India for the year ending 31st December 1929 was 141 and the total number of men involved was 531,059 as compared with 203 strikes involving 506,851 men during 1928. The total number of working days lost during the year was 12,165,691 as compared with 31,647,404 during 1928. Two general strikes which occurred during the year (1) in the Bombay Textile Mills and (2) in the Bengal Jute Mills were by themselves responsible for a loss of 9,632,192 working days, (6,736,192 and 2,896,000 days respectively). About 109,232 men were involved in the former strike, while about 272,000 men were affected by the latter. The number of strikes where the workmen were successful in gaining any concessions was approximately 42% of the total number.

During the year there were 70 industrial disputes in Bombay, involving 178,725 men and entailing a loss of 8,329,703 working days; Bengal came next with 35 disputes, involving 324,528 men and entailing a loss of 3,489,885 working days; Bihar and Orissa had 2 disputes involving 3,100 men and entailing a loss of 152,168 working days; Madras had 12 disputes involving 13,829 men and entailing a loss of 93,947 working days. The Punjab had no industrial disputes.

Of the 141 disputes in the year, 55 were due to questions of personnel, 54 to questions of wages, 3 to questions of leave and hours of work, 2 to questions of bonus and 27 to other causes. From the point of view of the results of the strikes, out of the total number of 141 strikes 80 were unsuccessful, 31 successful, 27 partially successful and 3 were in progress at the end of the year.

Classified according to industries there were 78 disputes in cotton and woolen mills, involving 185,894 men and entailing a loss of 8,353, 748 working days; 13 disputes in jute mills involving 316,169 working men and entailing a loss of 3,241,153 ^{working days}; 7 in engineering workshops involving 4,427 working men and entailing a loss of 174,481 working days and 4 in railways including railway workshops involving 1,590 men and entailing a loss of 7,436 working days. In all the other industries together there were 39 disputes involving 22,979 men and entailing a loss of 388,873 working days.

VDS.

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

Bombay Millowners' Association and Employers' Representation
at International Labour Conferences.

The occasion of the nomination of the employers' delegation to the 14th I.L.Conference has been availed of by the Bombay Millowners' Association to acquaint the Government of India with its views on how the nominations should be effected. In a letter addressed to the Government of India in this context, the Committee points out that its attention has been directed to the following statement appearing in the press on 24th October 1929 as having been made by Sir Geoffrey Corbett before the Credentials Committee of the International Maritime Conference, Geneva, in connection with the discussions which took place in that Committee over the nomination of Mr. R.P. Browne:-

"The Credentials Committee of the International Maritime Conference has recommended the acceptance of the nomination of Mr. R.P. Browne as Adviser to the Employers' Delegate to the Conference in view of the statement by Sir Geoffrey Corbett that the Government of India hoped in the future to appoint the employers' delegate and his advisers on the basis of an agreement between the two federations of India".

The Committee took strong exception to the statement, and in its letter to the Government of India asks whether the statement attributed to Sir Geoffrey Corbett was correct, and if so, whether Sir Geoffrey was indicating the policy which Government proposed to adopt in the future in regard to the nomination of the Employers' Delegation to the International Labour Conference. In this connection, the Committee also invited the attention of the Government of India to the undermentioned extracts from their letter of 14th December 1927 in connection with the selection of an employers'

delegate to the eleventh International Labour Conference:-

"Article 389 of the Peace Treaty lays down that of the four representatives to be delegated by each member-state 'two shall be Government Delegates and the two others shall be delegates representing the employers and the workpeople of each of the members', and further on in the same Article, it is stated that 'the members undertake to nominate non-Government delegates and advisers chosen in agreement with the industrial organizations, if such organisations exist, which are most representative of employers or workpeople, as the case may be, in their respective countries'".

"It seems clear from the above-quoted Article that in nominating a delegate to represent the employers of this country, Government should be guided mainly by the recommendations of Employers' Associations. My Committee are of course fully cognisant of the importance, which the Government of India attach to the views expressed by Chambers of Commerce on general and mercantile questions, and my Committee fully agree that due weight should be given to their views on such questions. At the same time, however, my Committee maintain that it would be violating the spirit of the Treaty of Versailles if Government, while nominating a delegate on behalf of the employers of this country, were to attach greater importance to the recommendations of the different Chambers of Commerce than to the recommendations of the recognized Associations of Employers".

Proposed All-India Employers' Federation.

The Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association have addressed a letter to a number of important employers' associations in the country to enlist their sympathy and active support for the formation of an All-India Employers' Federation. The associations concerned have been requested to forward their views in respect of:-

- (1) Whether it would be advisable to establish a Federation of Employers' Associations;
- (2) Whether they would be prepared to become members of this Federation, if and when established; and
- (3) Whether they would be prepared to send one or more delegates to attend a meeting to be held in Bombay early in 1930 for the purpose of discussing the details incidental to the formation of the Federation.

Details regarding eligibility for membership, annual subscription etc., have been left over to a sub-committee which it is proposed to form once the idea receives general support, after the preliminary meeting has been held.

The idea of the formation of such a Federation is not a new one. In September 1920 the Collector of Bombay addressed a letter to the Association, regarding the nomination of representatives of employers for the International Labour Conferences and Commissions of Enquiry, under Articles 389 and 412 of the Treaty of Versailles. He explained that, according to the terms of the Treaty, it was essential that the persons nominated as representatives of employers and workers should possess the full confidence of their respective groups and further stated that, so far as the employers were concerned, although there were several associations of standing, ~~representing~~ representing different interests, there appeared to be no common organization or machinery for electing a representative of all the different associations in the country. He therefore thought that it was practically impossible for India to fulfil this condition of the Treaty of Versailles.

These difficulties were keenly felt when the Government of India was called upon to nominate a representative for the International Labour Conference held in Washington in ~~the~~ October 1919, and in the absence of any adequate machinery in India parallel to that in Western countries for securing representatives, they had nominated, on the recommendation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Mr. A.R. Murray (now Sir Alexander Murray) as the representative of employers. In 1920, the Government of India approached the Bombay Millowners' Association to choose a representative whom the Government of India would nominate for the panel from which members for the Commission of Enquiry, ^{under Art. 412 of the Treaty,} would be selected. [The Collector of Bombay further added that, in the opinion of the Government of India, it was very desirable that the different employers' associations in India should themselves devise a machinery by means of which they could elect a common repre-

representative for the whole of India for the employers' panel as well as delegates and advisers for the General Conferences, and that he had been accordingly asked by Government to consult the employers' associations in Bombay in regard to this matter, and to request them to take steps to set up in co-operation with each other some machinery whereby it would be possible to secure ~~to secure~~ nomination representative of all interests concerned. He therefore requested to be informed of the action the Association might decide to take in connection with the subject.

The Committee thereupon communicated with the leading associations representing employers throughout India in regard to the matter, and subsequently, at a meeting of representatives of all such associations held in Bombay in December 1920, it was explained by the late Mr. Rahimtoola Currimbhoy, the Chairman, that a Federation of Employers' Associations, once in existence, would prove a useful medium for the transmission to Government, of the considered and unanimous views of industrial organizations upon methods of general principle affecting all branches of industry. Nothing, however, could be done for the furtherance of the project owing to the death of Mr. Rahimtoola Currimbhoy and Sir Vithaldas Thackersey, who had evinced considerable interest in the scheme, and to whose initiative in the matter, much was due.

In 1925, the Committee of the Association, feeling the necessity of a closer and more constant co-operation between the leading associations in connection with the increasing volume of labour legislation, and other important questions on which their views were solicited by Government, decided to make another attempt for the inauguration of a Federation of Employers' Associations.

Leading associations in India were addressed in the matter, and definite proposals for launching the Federation were placed before them. It was thought that, if the scheme received sufficient support a preliminary meeting of the representatives of all Employers' Associations concerned should be called to discuss the draft rules, and to concert measures for the speedy realisation of the idea. Subsequently, however, on the representation of some of the employers' associations, who desired to be granted further time to consider the proposals put forward by the Committee, it was resolved to postpone the preliminary meeting. Since then, the Committee of the Association had their hands full with domestic problems of vital importance, and though the need for a central organization of employers' associations was often felt, it was not found possible to devote that amount of time and energy necessary to bring such a project to successful completion. [It is under the above circumstances that the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association has again ~~revised~~ revived the scheme.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, Delhi.

The third annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is to be held on 14, 15 and 16-2-1930 at Delhi, under the presidentship of Mr. G.D. Birla, M.L.A., Below is given the full text of the Resolution to be moved at the meeting re. the nomination of Mr. Browne as adviser to the Indian Employers' Delegate at the 13th I.L. Conference;

"(a) Whereas the Government of India appointed a non-national as adviser to ^{the} Indian Employers' Delegate for the 13th International Labour Conference held at Geneva in

October 1929 in contravention of the names submitted by the Federation in that regard, the Federation vehemently protests against the said appointment and trusts that in future only Indian nationals will be chosen to represent Indian Employers in the capacity of Delegate and Advisers.

(b) The Federation has learnt with great surprise that the Credentials Committee of the International Labour Conference has seen fit to accept the nomination of a non-national in the composition of the Indian Employers' Delegation in spite of the protests of various Indian Chambers of Commerce and in spite of the definite principle of national representation underlying the relative clauses of the Treaty of Versailles.

(c)(i) The Federation strongly protests against the efforts of a delegate of the Government of India to the 13th Session of the International Labour Conference to create an impression that negotiations with Indian and European Chambers of Commerce were being conducted to arrive at an amicable settlement on the question of the constitution of the Indian Employers' Delegation to the International Labour Conferences.

(ii) The Federation condemns such efforts based upon incorrect statements as the Federation does not know of any such negotiations, the more so as it is totally opposed to the underlying insinuation that the opinion of the European Chambers of Commerce in India counts in this connection whereas it has no value whatsoever".

The following is a brief summary of the more important of the other resolutions figuring on the agenda of the Conference:-

(1) The Federation views with grave alarm the ill-advised and disastrous ratio of 1sh.6d. on the trade and industries of the country, strongly recommends a review of the financial position by a selected number of people and urges the establishment of a real gold standard with a free gold mint and gold currency; (2) the Federation urges the Government to help the cotton textile industry by raising the import duty on cotton goods or by some other effective means; (3) the Federation is of opinion that the policy underlying the Coastal Reservation Bill is not based either on confiscation or racial discrimination and trusts that the Bill will be placed on the Statute Book.

Workers' Organisations.Proposed All-India Textile Federation.

Mr. R. R. Bakhale of the Bombay Textile Workers' Union delivered an address before a meeting of the Madras Labour Union on 1-1-1930 in the course of which he outlined the plans that were being made to combine all the different textile unions in India into an All-India Textile Federation. It was necessary, he said, that just as the employers in this industry had a combined organisation to advise them on all matters relating to wages, production and sale, ~~it would be in the interests of~~ ^{that} the textile workers in the country ^{Should also} ~~to~~ unite themselves under a single organisation. He proposed that the All-India Textile Federation when it was formed should be affiliated to the International Textile Workers' Federation in England.

(Hindu, 1-1-1930).

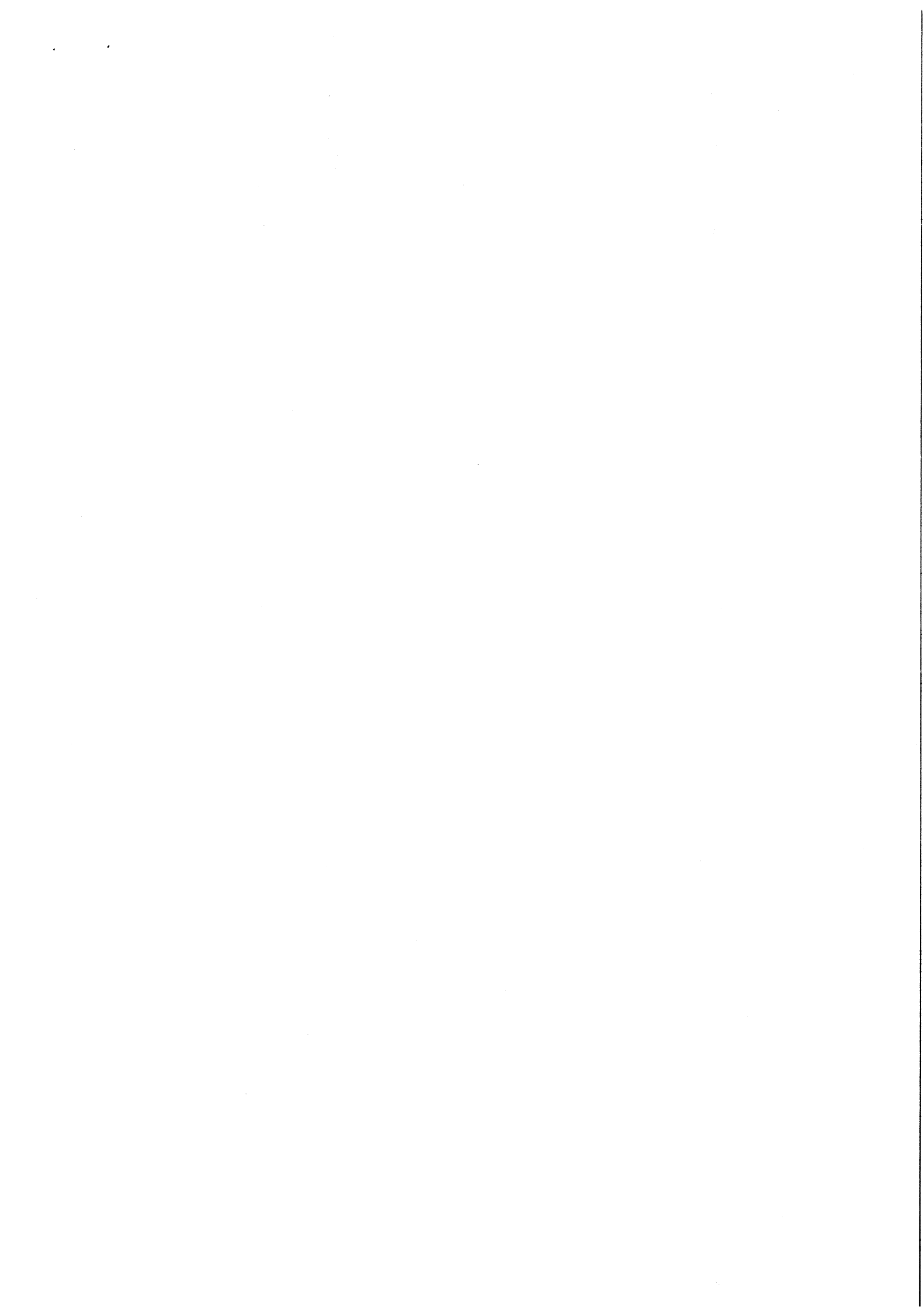
Madura-Tinnevelly Labour Conference.

The Madura-Tinnevelly (South India) Districts' Labour Conference was held at Tuticorin on 17-1-1930 under the presidentship of Mr. B. Shiva Rao. In his presidential address, Mr. Shiva Rao said that conditions of work were harder and wages lower in South India than in other parts of India and pointed out that South Indian Labour was in this plight because of the lack of trade union organisation in South India. Referring to the Nagpur split, he said that though it weakened the cause of Indian trade unionism to a certain extent, it was welcome in that it freed the movement from the taint of Moscow. The prospects of the newly started Federation of All India Trade Unions would, however, be endangered if the Government and the employers are not ready to meet labour's just demands in a reasonable

way. He asserted that both Government and employers have done little on their side to discourage the growth of communism. Many employers still look upon trade unions as undesirable manifestations of a spirit that must ruthlessly be put down. The Conference recently held in England, at the instance of Lord Melchett, between British employers and the representatives of the British Trade Union Congress furnished an example for India to follow. He suggested that efforts for holding a similar conference should be made by the various Chambers of Commerce, both European and Indian, and the representatives of the newly formed all-India Trades Union Federation to eliminate many preventible causes of friction. He deplored the tendency on the part of certain politicians to exploit labour for purely political purposes. The Whitley Commission was the fittest body to redress labour grievances. But if the interests of the working classes were to be conserved, labour interests should be given adequate representation not only ^{at} ~~in~~ the Round Table Conference to be held in London, but also in the Provincial and Central Legislatures. (Hindu, 17-1-1930).

The Conference passed resolutions inviting the Whitley Commission to visit Madura and Tuticorin, approving ^{the} ~~of~~ proposals to hold the ^{Madras} Provincial Labour Conference in March and welcoming the formation of the National Textile Federation and the Indian Trades Union Federation. The conference drew up the demands of the Tuticorin textile workers for presentation to employers in the first instance and then to the Local Government for the appointment of a Court of Inquiry.

(Times of India, 21-1-1930).



N.W. Railway Employees' grievances: Demand for Court of Inquiry

Dewan Chamanlal, M.L.A., President, N.W.R. Union, has sent a communication on 6-1-1930, to the Secretary, Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, New Delhi, and also the Secretary, Railway Board, Delhi, and the Agent, North Western Railway Lahore, demanding the redress of the grievances of the N.W. Railway employees.

The memorandum states that the interests of the 120,000 members of the Union demanded that the removal of their grievances which were brought to the notice of the authorities as long ago as October, 1929, should be undertaken as early as possible.

These grievances relate principally to:- (1) Hours of work; (2) pay and prospects; (3) block in promotion; (4) leave rules; (5) housing; (6) education; (7) appeals; (8) discharges; (9) dismissals; (10) withdrawal of passes from Union officials; (11) formation of a local board presided over by the Agent on which there should be equal representation of the Union and of the Agency authorities for the purpose of dealing with the conditions of service of N.W.R. employees.

The memorandum states that any ex parte decisions arrived at by the Railway Board would not be acceptable to the N.W.R. (Recognised) Union and concludes with the demand: "A situation has, therefore, arisen which demands the setting up immediately of a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act of 1929. I hereby request you to be good enough to take the necessary action under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929".

(Pioneer, 9-1-1930)

All-India Trade Union Congress Executive Council Meeting,
Jamshedpur.

A meeting of the Executive Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress was held at Jamshedpur on 20-1-1930, Mr. Subash Chandra Bose presiding.

An important point discussed was the split at the recent session of the Congress at Nagpur. Mr. Naidu, secretary of the Jamshedpur Labour Association, moved that the resolution passed at the Nagpur session in favour of affiliation of the Congress with the League against Imperialism and boycott of the Labour (Whitley) Commission be rescinded and individual unions be given freedom of action in the matter, and also a Convention of ~~the~~ all the affiliated unions be called at a central place some time during Easter, for the purpose of confirming the resolution. The proposal was ruled out of order by the President as in his opinion resolutions passed at a general session of the Congress could not be rescinded by the Executive Council.

A general discussion took place and the following resolution was passed:- "In view of the keen struggle ahead of the Indian worker, the Executive Council of the Trade Union Congress is of opinion that the time has come when all efforts should be made to strengthen the trade union movement in India. This Committee deploras the action of those gentlemen who have been trying since the Nagpur session to split the workers' ranks by acting in contravention of the resolutions of the Congress and by trying to form a rival organisation. It further appeals to the rank and file of the workers and their unions to stand by the Congress and support the militant programme on the basis of which alone can the solidarity of the working class be maintained and a united front presented to its common enemies.

A resolution was moved by Mr. Deshpande, the general secretary of the Congress, to the effect that a Workers' Defence Committee be formed to raise funds to help the undetrials in the Meerut Conspiracy Case ~~and~~ and was carried.

Another resolution was carried greeting the Indian National Congress for the adoption of the independence resolution at Lahore. The meeting adhered to the view that complete independence can only mean the complete political and economic freedom of the country from "British Imperialism" and "Indian Feudalism", abolition of capitalism and establishment of a workers' republic.

(Pioneer, 23-1-1930).

Demands of Postal Employees.

The following demands ^{for} ~~about~~ increased scales of pay made by the postal employees of India are taken from the presidential address delivered by Dewan Chaman Lal, M.L.A. at the 9th session of the All-India (including Burma) Postal and R.M.S. Conference held at Peshawar on 10-11-1929.

Minimum demands of Postal Employees. (1) For Graduates, Rs. 80-5-110-10-200; (2) For Undergraduates, Rs. 70-5-100-10-200; (3) For other Clerks and Sorters, Rs. 60-5-100-10-200; (4) Local allowances to compensate for specially expensive, unhealthy ^{places} and Hill Stations; (5) For Postmen, Rs. 30-2-80 and Rs. ~~30~~ 30-1-50, (for various localities according to conditions); (6) For Inferior Servants, Rs. 20-1-30; (7) For Branch Postmasters, Overseers, and Overseer Postmen, Head Postmen, Cash Overseers and Mail Guards, Rs. 50-4-100; For Inspectors and Head Clerks to Superintendents, Rs. 200-20-300.

Present sanctioned Scales of Pay. Below are given for purposes of comparison the scales of pay up to now sanctioned by the Government:-

1. Graduates	Rs. 65	5	145)	Two Scales, the upper for
	Rs. 55		135)	1st class offices and the
2. Under graduates	Rs. 55	5	145)	lower for 2nd class offices
	Rs. 45		135)	and the mufassil except
3. Other clerks and Sorters	Rs. 45	5	145)	Calcutta and Bombay where
	Rs. 35		135)	the scales are higher by
)	Rs. 10 and 15 respectively
)	in the minimum and 15 in the
)	maximum.
4. Postmen and Mail Guards	Rs. 22	1	34		
	Rs. 18		30		
5. Inferior servants			16-7/2-22		
6. Branch Postmasters, Overseers, Head Postmen, Cash Overseers			54-4-85.		
			35		
7. Inspectors and Head Clerks to Superintendent,			Rs. 160-10-250		

(The Unionist, Jan. 1930, Vol.I, No.9)

Intellectual Workers.

Salaried Employees' Convention, Calcutta.

The first session of the All India Salaried Employees' Convention met at Calcutta on 11-1-30. The staff of all offices, warehouses, shops, etc, were entitled to send delegates to the Convention. The Convention discussed and passed resolutions on several matters of great importance to salaried employees. The following are among the more important of the resolutions passed :-

Minimum Wage.- This Convention condemns the irrational policy involved in determining wages only on the basis of "supply and demand" ignoring the human factor and thereby lowering the standard of living and social status of salaried employees. This Convention, therefore, demands the immediate ratification and operation of the Minimum Wage Convention adopted by the International Labour Conference *at* its Eleventh Session held at Geneva in the year 1928.

Provident Fund Act Amendment.- This Convention is strongly of opinion that the Provident Fund Act, 1925, should forthwith be so amended as to extend its provisions to all provident funds constituted by companies, firms, trade establishments, Associations and other concerns.

Working Hours.- This Convention is emphatically of the opinion that the practice of over-time work should by all ~~means~~ means be discouraged. If, however, such over-time work be at all necessary, at least double the normal rate of salary must be paid for such work, the aggregate period of which must not exceed six hours a week besides the normal working hours, which should be fixed at 34 hours a week.

Time-Scale Pay.- This Convention is of opinion that time-scale system should be introduced forthwith, where such a system does not exist at present.

This Convention is of opinion that the Workmen's Compensation Act of India be so amended as to include within its scope all classes of salaried employees and further be brought into line with the English law on the subject.

Sickness Insurance.- This Convention condemns in unequivocal terms the reactionary propaganda carried on systematically by the capitalist employers against sickness insurance and further expresses its utter disappointment at the dilatoriness of the Government of India in ratifying and giving effect to the Convention on this subject adopted at the tenth session of the Labour Conference held at Geneva in the year 1927.

Unemployment.- This Convention expresses its deep sense of

horror at the serious situation caused by unemployment specially among the middle classes, threatening the progressive order of society, and while condemning the most apathetic attitude and callous indifference of the Government and the employers to this question, suggests the following ^{remedies} among others for the solution of the problem:-

(1) More Indianisation of services in actual practice, (2) the giving of a higher percentage of services to Indians in the Army and Navy, (3) nationalisation of the main industries, (4) encouragement of cottage industries and protection of the same against foreign competition, (5) Organisation of Co-operative institutions on an extensive scale, (6) introduction of compulsory technical and military education, (7) legislation for insurance against unemployment, (8) the giving of facilities to ^{agricultural} educated middle class for pursuits, (9) provision of doles from the Indian Exchequer, (10) indemnities for discharge.

Central Organisation of Salaried Employees.- That a Central Organisation of all classes of Salaried Employees in India be formed under the name and style of the "Indian Federation of Salaried Employees", with Mr. Mukunda Lall Sircar as its General Secretary.

Housing of Employees.- That this Convention is emphatically of opinion that the housing conditions of Salaried employees ^{are} deplorable and calls upon the Municipal administrations in the country to prepare a housing scheme to be given effect early for the benefit of Salaried employees. The Government is requested to contribute liberally towards the funds of the Housing Scheme of the Municipalities as is done in Great Britain and other foreign countries.

Hindu.- 25-1-30.

Conditions of Work of Indian Journalists.

A conference of Indian Journalists was held at Lahore during the Congress week under the presidentship of Mr. S. A. Brelvi, M.A., LL.B, editor of the Bombay Chronicle. In his presidential address Mr. Brelvi pointed out that the disabilities under which Indian journalists had to work were greater than those of the members of other professions. They had to work harder and in circumstances that put a heavy strain on their bodies and mind, with fewer holidays, with lower wages and with no security of tenure. There was no provision for pension or provident fund, no insurance against sickness, accident, unemployment

and old age with contribution from the employers. Nor could the Indian journalist, thrown out of employment on conscientious grounds, a contingency peculiar to the profession, console himself with the relief provided in some countries whereunder the period of notice might extend to twelve months and where normal indemnity amounted to several years' salaries. Mr. Brelvi, therefore, urged that Indian journalists should organise themselves on trade union lines as their confreres in Europe and America.

The conference passed resolutions urging the convening of a conference of experienced journalists to be held not later than 10th April 1930 to discuss the formation of an All-India Journalists' Organisation, requesting the president to take a census of working journalists employed in daily or weekly journals and news agencies, with a record of the status, pay and prospects of the various grades of workers, recommending ^{jury} giving trial for press sedition cases, and urging that the hours of work for journalists should be limited to six hours daily.

Hindu.- 3-1-30.

Provident Fund Scheme for Government
Servants.

It is understood that as a result of the deliberations of the Conference of Finance Members of Provincial Governments held recently at Delhi, proposals for replacing the pension system by a contributory provident fund system or other similar benefits have been drafted by the Government of India and forwarded to the local Governments for ascertaining the views of Service Associations. The main features of the proposals are (1) surrender of 1/3 pension at the time of appointment in lieu of the lump sum to be paid to the officer at the time of retirement or to heirs, should he die before retirement; (2) surrender of the entire pension in lieu of the equivalent lump sum to be paid to the ~~service man~~ ^{man} or to his heirs and (3) the substitution of a contributory provident fund system for the pension system as obtaining in the case of the employees of State Railways. The Government of India, it is understood, are also contemplating the introduction of compulsory life insurance scheme for Government servants with a view to secure adequate provision for the families of those persons who may fail to get the full benefit of the proposals mentioned above.

Hindu.- 18-1-30.

New Gratuity and Pension Scheme
in Mysore.

The Government of Mysore have recently sanctioned a scheme to afford relief to families of Government servants who die in harness. Under the existing pension rules the Government recognises ^{no} ~~to~~ claim by a widow on account of services rendered by her husband and there is

no provision in the regulation for relief to the family of a Government servant, who dies while still in service, whatever be the length of service rendered by him. The following are some of the main features of the scheme as at present sanctioned. The minimum service for grant of compassionate gratuity will be five years of qualifying service. For qualifying service of five years and above, compassionate gratuity will be calculated at the rate of a month's pay for each year of approved service, based on that drawn in June of each year. Service, whether of inferior or superior grade, counts equally for the calculation of gratuity. The maximum qualifying service for which compassionate gratuity will be payable is limited to 30 years, while the monthly pay for calculation of such gratuity is fixed at Rs.1,000 and the amount of gratuity payable to the family of a deceased officer will in no case exceed Rs.10,000.

The benefit of the scheme will be extended to the case of deceased pensioners, when the aggregate pension drawn by him plus the commuted value, if any, or the pension commuted, is less than the compassionate gratuity admissible under the rules, had he died on the date of retirement. In such a case the excess of gratuity over the pension drawn will be paid to the family of the deceased pensioner. If the amount of compassionate gratuity is less than Rs. 500 it will be paid in one instalment and if more it will be converted into an income policy, the term of the annuity payable being left to the option of the payee, subject however to the condition that the term elected will not be less than ten years. This scheme has been extended to pensioners of the military department governed by the Civil Pension Rules.

VDS.

Economic Conditions.

Textile Advisory Committee, Madras.

At page 51 of the Report of this Office for September 1929, reference was made to the appointment by the Madras Government of a Textile Committee to advise them on the steps to be taken to encourage the textile industry in the Presidency. A meeting of the Textile Advisory Committee was held in the Government Secretariat at Madras on 25-1-1930 under the chairmanship of the Hon.Mr.M.R. Seturatnam Aiyar, the Minister for Development.

The agenda for the consideration of the Committee included several subjects affecting the textile industry. The question of facilities to be afforded to weavers in the matter of making available to them improved machinery used in preparatory processes of marking and sizing is understood to have been the chief subject on which discussion centred. The Committee, it is understood, recommended the introduction of the hire-purchase system by which the weavers might have a larger number of instalments to pay off the cost price without any interest and over-head charges. They also recommended that certain selected Weavers' Co-operative Societies be given some machinery so that they might work them for the purpose of populating the same.

Another subject that came up for consideration was how far ~~xx~~ yarns now produced in Indian Mills adequately met the needs of the hand-loom weavers both in quality and quantity and how far the protective duty on imported yarn affected the hand-loom weaver. The two proposals made in this connection were: (1) to induce Indian mill owners to produce yarn of requisite strength suitable for hand-loom or adopt a better method of baling and (2) if that was not practicable to consider as an alternative a reduction of the import duty.

The question of import duty on gold thread also was considered and as the matter required reference to the Government of India and consideration of certain aspects connected with tariff policy, the Committee wanted more information on the subject and adjourned the consideration of the subject.

The question of import of silk was also considered. It was recognised that there was considerable competition particularly between the Chinese imported silk and locally produced silk. The Committee appear to have been unanimous in their view that every effort should be made to increase the production of silk in India and to afford protection to the same.

The Committee unanimously held that in the matter of transport facilities there should not be any distinction between the charges for bales and bundles and that there should be a reduction in the rates.

The Committee further decided that there should be a revision of the scheme for education of weavers in the presidency and that a better curriculum of studies should be devised for moffusil schools and requested the Government to give them a memorandum on the subject. They also decided that they should visit the textile schools in the Presidency.

Hindu, 27- 1- 1930.

Indian Trade Commissioners

The Standing Finance Committee of the Indian Legislative Assembly at its meeting at New Delhi on 16-1-30 gave its approval to the scheme submitted by the Government of India to appoint six Indian Trade Commissioners in Europe, America, the Near East and Africa with the object of developing India's export trade with foreign markets. The centres which have been selected for these appointments ^{are} were Hamburg, Milan, New York, Durban, Mombasa ~~and~~ and Alexandria. As a corollary to the appointment of these officers, it was proposed to strengthen the commercial intelligence department in India by the appointment of a Deputy Director of Intelligence at Bombay. It was proposed to introduce the scheme gradually by placing two officers under training each year, who would be available for appointment as Trade Commissioners the following year. The Committee approved the scheme generally and also the estimates. The cost of the scheme of Trade Commissioners would be Rs.3,09,376 per annum recurring and Rs.20,666 non-recurring ~~and~~, while the Deputy Director at Bombay may cost between about Rs.20,000 to Rs.25,500 per annum.

Pioneer.- 18-1-30.

YE.

Mill Piece-goods Exhibition Train.

The Bombay Millowners' Association has launched on a novel scheme of advertising its wares by running a special exhibition train on a tour of all important piece-goods centres in the Punjab and the United Provinces. The exhibition train made up entirely of special coaching stock designed by the G.I.P. Railway for the effective display of merchandise, has been chartered by the Association for the purpose of showing to piece-goods and yarn merchants and the public generally what Indian mills are capable of producing. This is a novel departure in the matter of advertising and is designed to bring to the very doors of the consumers the latest mill produce. The exhibits cover a wide range of qualities, designs, textures and colourings and cost about Rs.40,000.

One of the aims of the Millowners' Association in running this train is to help people in places far removed from the centre of the Indian cotton mill industry to know something more of what is being and can be done by the oldest indigenous industry in this country. Retail sales of goods are ^{not being} made on the train, but ample facilities ^{are} provided to merchants and dealers desirous of doing business direct with the representatives of mills travelling on the train. The train left Bombay on 22-1-30. According to the programme published in the Times of India of 18-1-30 the exhibition train after visiting Bhopal, Jhansi, Gwalior, Agra, Delhi, Saharanpur, Amballa, Amritsar, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Cawnpore, Allahabad and various other places, will be returning to Bombay on February 21.

VDS.

Employment and Unemployment.

Central Provinces Unemployment Committee.

In pursuance of the resolution moved by Mr. Kalikar, M.L.C., at the last session of the C.P. Council and accepted by the Government the Governor-in-Council has appointed a committee of officials and non-officials with the Chief Secretary to the Government as its president, to investigate and report on (1) the extent of the existence of unemployment among the educated classes in the province; (2) the causes of unemployment; and (3) the possible remedies for unemployment.

Times of India, 30-1-1930.

KB.

Social Conditions.

Devdasi Bill, Madras.

Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddi, has introduced a Bill in the Madras Legislative Council to prevent the dedication of women to Hindu temples in the Presidency of Madras. The following is the full text of the Bill :-

Bill No. 5 of 1930.

A Bill to prevent the dedication of women to Hindu temples in the Presidency of Madras.

Whereas the dedication of women to Hindu temples results in
Preamble. ¶ such women adopting the profession of prosti-
tute dancing girls, it is desirable and expedient to put an end
to the practice of such dedication and whereas the previous sanction
of the Governor-General in Council has been obtained; It is
enacted as follows:-

1. This Act shall be called "The Prevention of Dedication Act,
Short title ¶ 1930."

2. The performance in the precincts of Hindu temples or other
Dedication of Hindu ¶ places of worship of pottukattu
women to temples ¶ or gajje puja or any similar
declared illegal. ¶ ceremony to a Hindu woman with a
view to dedicate her is hereby declared illegal and shall be illegal.

3. A Hindu woman who has gone through a process of dedication
Dedicated women may ¶ by the performance of pottukattu or
contract valid ¶
marriages. ¶ gajje puja or any similar ceremony
may thereafter contract a legal
marriage and it shall be recognized as valid notwithstanding any law or

custom to the contrary.

4. Whoever permits, performs or takes part in the performance of the ceremony of pottukattu or gajje puja or any similar ceremony with a view to dedicate any Hindu woman shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year and shall be liable to fine.

5. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent any person from being liable under section 372 of the Indian Penal Code or under any other law to any other or higher punishment than is provided by this Act; provided that no person shall be prosecuted under this Act, if he was convicted under any of the provisions of law mentioned above.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS

AND REASONS.

Not only the inam-holding devadasis but also other devadasis dedicate a large number of girls to Hindu temples by going through pottukatta or gajje puja or similar ceremony in Hindu temples. Whatever the origin of the practice in ancient days of the dedication of women as devadasis in Hindu temples, it is unfortunately the case that the practice has now degenerated mainly into a method of initiation of young women to a life of immorality and prostitution. The existence or otherwise of shastraic sanction to the practice of dedication as devadasis is therefore immaterial. The shastras are against vice and impurity of all kinds, and enlightened public ~~opinion~~ opinion is against

~~is against~~ tolerating the continuance of a practice which, in the name of service to God, has condemned a certain class of women to a life of either concubinage or prostitution. A Hindu woman who is so dedicated is considered by custom to be incapable of contracting a valid marriage thereafter. Therefore, it is highly desirable and expedient to prohibit the performance of dedication of girls to Hindu temples within the precincts of any temples and legalise the marriage of such girls when contracted after such dedication. There have been previous attempts at putting an end to this practice of dedication, but they have been, so to say, indirect and have not produced the desired result. By amendments to sections 372 and 373 of the Indian Penal Code, the age-limit for the disposal of minor girls for purposes of prostitution has been raised from 16 to 18 years. But though at the time when this change was effected it was supposed that it would reduce, if not put an end to, the evil of dedication of girls to temples, it has failed to achieve this result, because it does not deal with the dedication of girls as a whole. Sections 372 and 373 of the Indian Penal Code are evaded by the temples allowing dedication after the ~~rig~~ girl attains 18 years of age; and in the mufassal even minor girls are dedicated even to-day, because the temple authorities, the parents and the general public honestly feel that religion sanctions it and the law is not absolutely against it.

A legislative enactment is therefore necessary in this province for dealing with the practice of dedication per se of Hindu girls and women without touching the existing penalties for the disposal of minor girls for immoral purposes dealt with by sections 372 and 373 of the Indian Penal Code.

My object in bringing in this Bill is twofold: firstly, to have a law declaring that dedication of girls to Hindu temples is illegal and to prohibit such dedication; and secondly, to punish the persons taking part in the ceremony of dedication. In this connexion I may point out that in the adjoining Indian State of Mysore, the Government have prohibited the dedication of girls in Muzrai temples. The Mysore Government prohibited the dedication

of Hindu girls in its temples by proceedings dated 28th January 1910, which runs thus: "The Government observe that whatever may be the euphemism by which the true nature of the ceremony is concealed, Gajje puja has an intimate connexion with dedication to the profession of a prostitute dancing girl. They are not prepared to allow the performance of such a ceremony in a Muzrai temple, and are satisfied from depositions and the opinion of the Muzrai Agamik on record that no hardship will be caused by the prohibition of the performance of such ceremonies in temples.

They accordingly prohibit the performance of Gajje puja or any similar ceremony within the precincts of any temple under the control of Government in the Muzrai department."

If the British Government in India have not yet undertaken legislation on the point, it is probably out of a tender regard to alleged religious susceptibilities of Hindus. To show that public opinion is in favour of the abolition of the system, and in response to the appeal of several men and women associations and hundreds of enlightened members of the community of devadasis themselves, I have brought forward this Bill.

Fort St. George Gazette.-
28-1-30.

Prevention of Gaming Bill, Madras.

At page 44 of the Report of this Office for the period 15th to 31st July 1929 reference was made to a Bill for the Prohibition of Public Gaming which Mr. F.E.James, M.L.C., proposed to introduce in the Madras Legislative Council. The following is the statement of objects and Reasons for the Bill :-

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

The Madras City Police (Amendment) Act, 1929, was designed to deal with bucket shops in the City of Madras. There is increa-

sing evidence of the fact that bucket shops are springing up outside the municipal limits. In order to deal with them effectively ~~ke~~ and to consolidate the law on gaming and keeping common gaming-houses throughout the province, this Bill extends to the Presidency, with the exception of Madras City, those provisions of the Madras City Police Act, 1888, as amended by the Madras City Police (Amendment) Act, 1929, which deal with bucket shops. It also combines, in the same Bill, the provisions of the Madras City Police Act, 1888, and the Towns Nuisances Act, 1889, which relate to gaming and the keeping of/^acommon gaming-house.

Fort St. George Gazette.-
21-1-30.

The Bill was passed into law by the Madras Legislative Council on 30-1-30.

Hindu.- 31-1-30.

VDS.

Social Conditions.

Criminal Tribes in the Punjab*.

At the close of 1928 the total population of the notified Criminal Tribes in the Punjab amounted to nearly 130,000, of whom over 33,000 were adult males. The number of those registered under the Criminal Tribes Act rose by 1,168 to 17,005. Fresh registration and re-registration numbered 3,588, and the names of 2,338 were removed. 2,203 persons belonging to the settled tribes and 2,005 belonging to the wandering criminal tribes have so far been restricted to settlements. Of the remainder 11,302 are under ~~the~~ full restrictions, 880 are under ~~the~~ milder restrictions, and 615 though registered have been left unrestricted for the present.

The policy of the Government is to cease to apply the Criminal Tribes Act to a criminal tribe, when ordinary law-abiding standards are attained by that tribe. During the year, thirteen gangs and tribes consisting of 1,366 adult males who were proved to be addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences, and whose criminal activities would not be checked by the ordinary law, have been notified under the Criminal Tribes Act. Transfer to Reformatories and Settlements has undoubtedly a deterrent effect not only on the members of the gangs and tribes concerned, but also on others who have similar inclinations. The decreasing incidence of crime among the members of criminal tribes consequent on the operation of the Criminal Tribes Act can be seen from the following figures:-

*Report on the Administration of Criminal Tribes in the Punjab for the year ending December 1928. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1929. Price: Re.0-8-0, or 9d. pp ii + 21.

In 1916 out of 12,508 men registered as members of criminal tribes, 1,349 were convicted for criminal offences; in 1927 out of 15,837 registered members 515 were convicted and in 1928 out of 17,005 only 565 were convicted. The industrial and agricultural settlements maintained by the Department for those members of the criminal tribes whose criminal record shows two or more convictions, or whose evil reputation is established by a semi-judicial inquiry were successfully worked during the year under review. At the close of the year the total population in all the Settlements amounted to 10,839 as compared with 10,219 in 1927; 3,659 of the inmates were males, 2,633 females and 4,547 children. Of the males 3,057 are under full restriction; of the females 1,151 have been registered and restricted and the remainder are free. 157 male inmates restricted in settlement have as a result of their having completely reformed, been exempted from the operations of the Act. Of 2,633 females 1,151 have been registered and restricted and the remainder are free. 77 boys were admitted to the Reformatory Schools for ordinary education and technical training which is provided in these institutions.

The industrial Settlements are all self-supporting in so far as the personal expenses of the inmates are concerned. Remunerative occupation is provided for all settlers in the Railway Workshops, Forest Plantations and Tea Gardens, and the majority of those employed have worked industriously. The average monthly earnings per family during the year ranged from Rs. 15 to Rs. 24 per mensem. The number of the children of the criminal tribesmen attending village schools rose from 3,650 in 1927 to 5,567 at the close of the year under report. One hundred scholarships of Rs. 2 per mensem and 100 of Re.1 per mensem were given during the year as a help to the poor

VDS.3

children.

The total expenditure during the year 1928-29 amounted to Rs. 418,389 as compared with Rs. ~~518~~ 347,288 last year. Of this the recurring expenditure amounted to Rs. 300,327. The incidence of the recurring expenditure per head of the population in Settlements comes to Rs. 2-4-11 per mensem.

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Women and Children.

All-Asia Women's Conference.

Steps are being taken by the leaders of Indian women to hold an All-Asian Women's Conference in India in 1931. The proposed conference is to follow the Pan-Pacific Women's Conference which is to be held at Honolulu in August 1930 and will be succeeded by another conference of women in China in 1932. Mrs. Margaret E. Cousins, International Representative of the Women's Indian Association, Madras, has published an appeal soliciting the support of all Indian women's organisations in the matter of the proposed All-Asian Women's Conference.

(Indian Social Reformer, 4-1-1930).