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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

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INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for January 1934, 26 FEB. 1934

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References to the I. L. O.

The Government of India published in January the report of the Indian delegates to the 14th session of the League Assembly. The chief recommendation embodied in the Report is for the appointment of a permanent Indian representative at Geneva who will be available not only for the annual League Assembly, but ^{also} for other international conferences in Europe. The delegates think that such an appointment would satisfy Indian opinion as "the fact must be faced that the League has not in India that whole-hearted support of public opinion which is so much to be desired and that there are important sections of opinion which regard India's membership of the League as a vain thing and benefits derived from it as not equivalent to its cost. We believe this view wholly incorrect and mischievous, but its existence is a fact to be reckoned with." The report further argues that such a permanent representative will be able to keep a close eye on the appointments of Indians to posts on the Secretariat and the I.L.O. and on the selection of Indians to serve on permanent organs of the League or on various commissions set up by the League and would be able to bring pressure, if necessary, to bear on the proper quarter.

A summary of the recommendations was published in almost all Indian dailies and other periodicals.

The above recommendation of the Indian delegation has had a mixed reception in the Indian press. The Times of India of 17-1-34 and the Servant of India of 18-1-34 whole-heartedly support the recommendation. The Hindu of 17-1-34, while criticising the League for its "extravagant" expenditure and for not electing India to the

Council, points out that India's co-operation with the League Organisations is valuable and strongly supports the recommendation. The Sunday Chronicle (Madras) of 21-1-34 is of opinion that the League experiment is a thorough failure, that the fact has been realised by all thinking persons and that sending out delegations to the conferences held at Geneva or appointing a permanent representative there would be ^awaste of public money. The Leader of 25-1-34 says, "We do desire that a large number of Indians should be appointed on the League Secretariat and the I.L.O., but we did not know that in the absence of a permanent representative at Geneva the appointment of a larger number of Indians could not be made. We recollect that though America is not even a member of the League, the number of Americans employed at the Secretariat is larger than that of Indians. As regards the appointment of India's ⁿ to serve on the permanent organs of the League and on ^cCommissions, it may be pointed out that not all the countries who are represented at the League Council have got permanent representatives at League headquarters. The paper is of opinion that the expenditure which will have to be met to maintain a permanent delegation can be utilised for other useful purposes.

* * *

The Hindustan Times of 11-1-34, and Labour Times, Madras, of 15-1-34, publish a communique issued by this Office on 6-1-34 giving a summary of the speech of the Director of the I.L.O. before the Industrial Co-Partnership Association, London (Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute K.1/115/34 dated 11-1-34).

* * *

The full text of the speech of Mr. H.B. Butler on U.S. trade recovery measures, delivered before the Industrial Co-Partnership Association, London, is published, with ^a photograph of the Director, in the National Call, Delhi, and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 28-1-34 (*vide our minute K/260/34 dated 1-2-34*)

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 7-1-34 publishes a letter from its Geneva correspondent dated 20-12-1933 under the caption "League Crisis". In the course of the letter, the note of confidence in the stability of the League organisations sounded by Mr. H.B. Butler, Director of the I.L.O., in a recent speech delivered by him at Manchester, is referred to and a summary of the speech given. The letter also gives a summary of Mr. Butler's speech ^{before} the Industrial Co-Partnership Association at London on the industrial recovery measures initiated in the United States by President Roosevelt.

* * *

A Reuter's cable from Geneva dated 13-1-34 ^{gives} sent a short summary of an article recently written by the Director of the I.L.O. on his impressions of the American Recovery measures. The message is published in the Statesman and Hindu of 14-1-34, the Times of India of 25-1-34 and in other papers.

* * *

Labour Times, Madras, of 15-1-34 publishes a communique issued by the Government of India announcing two additions to the agenda of the 18th session of the I.L. Conference.

* * *

The Guardian, Madras, of 18-1-34, publishes a short editorial note on the I.L.O. Questionnaire on Reduction of Hours of Work. The note summarises the salient features of the Questionnaire.

* * *

The January 1934 issue of the Indian Review, Madras, publishes at page 71 a note under the caption; "International Labour Conference". The note deals with the partial revision of the I.L. Convention re. workmen's compensation for occupational diseases, and, after summarising the recommendations of the Whitley Commission re. payment of compensation in India for occupational diseases, states that the Government of India have implemented these recommendations.

* * *

The **Excerpts** from the proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during the month of December, 1933, reproduce the communique issued by the Government of India announcing the agenda of the 18th I.L. Conference and inviting suggestions for the nomination of the non-government delegations to the Conference. The "Excerpts" state that the Association recommended the name of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai as the Indian Employers' Delegate.

* * *

The December 1933 issue of the Indian Textile Journal publishes in its news columns the recommendation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to nominate Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai as the Indian Employers' delegate to the 18th I.L. Conference.

(For a list of other Journals which published the news, vide page 9 of our December 1933 report).

* * *

Labour Times, Madras, dated 8-1-34 and Federated India, Madras, of 10-1-34 publish a communique issued by this Office on 20-12-33 on the Grey Report on "Employment of Women in Underground Works in Mines."

(A list of other journals which published the communique is given at pages 7 of our report for December 1933. Copies of the communique were sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/2306/3. dated 21-12-33).

* * *

The January 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, (a monthly journal issued by the G.I.P. Railway Accounts, Administrative & Executive Offices Staff Unions), publishes extracts from the speech of Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose at the first session of the National Trade Union Federation which contained extensive references to the I.L.O.

Commenting on the speech, the same issue of the Union Herald associated ~~it~~ itself with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Bose in reference to the co-operation of Indian labour with the I.L.O.

* * *

Mr. Aftab Ali, Indian Labour delegate to the 17th I.L. Conference in a statement to the press, expressed his views on the possibility of bringing about unity in the ranks of Indian labour. As regards the question of Indian labour co-operating with the I.L.O., he is of opinion that such co-operation is necessary and that the Central organisation of the Indian Trade Unions should make suggestions for the nomination of ^{the} labour delegation to I.L. Conferences. In the event of such procedure being not agreeable to the All India Trade Union ~~Conference~~ ^{Congress}, he suggests that the individual unions should be

given the discretion to make the suggestions for nomination. Aftab Ali's statement is published in the Indian Labour Journal of 21-1-34.

* * *

The Bengal Provincial Labour Conference which held its session on 16 & 17-12-1933 passed a resolution reaffirming its policy of opposition to labour delegates being sent to Geneva Labour Conference. A summary of the resolutions is published in the Indian Labour Journal of 24-12-1933.

* * *

At a meeting of the B.B. & C.M. Railway workers held at Bulsar on 5-1-34 under the presidentship of Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta, ^{the} following resolution was passed on the Government of India's resolutions recommending non-ratification of the Draft Conventions adopted at 17th I.L. Conference:

"This meeting strongly condemns the action of the Government of India in refusing to ratify, and also in recommending to the Legislative Assembly not to ratify, the important conventions of the 17th Session of the International Labour Conference on Invalidity, Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance and the Abolition of Fee-charging Employment Agencies and warns the Government that non-ratification of such important measures affecting the wellbeing of the workers will only result in sowing the seed of discontent in the hearts of the workers throughout the country."

* * *

Labour Times, Madras, of 15-1-34 commenting editorially on the reference to labour uplift in the speech of the Viceroy before the Associated Chambers of Commerce, Calcutta, states that the effect of the Viceroy's appeal ^{to} ~~to~~ employers is lessened by the fact that the Government itself has not been showing much solicitude for labour. The article remarks; "Nor can the workers afford to place any great faith in the Government discharging their duty by them,

for, fair samples of their platitudes in practice, abound not only in their attitude towards labour disputes in the past, but particularly in the latest manifestation of it - the summary refusal by the Government to ratify the conventions agreed to at the last International Labour Conference on ^{Invalidity} ~~old-age, Disability, Widows'~~ and Orphans' Pensions and Abolition of Fee-charging Employment Agencies."

* * *

The January 1934 issue of the Anglo-Gujarati Quarterly Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes a communique issued by this Office on 23-10-1933, reviewing the world unemployment situation during the third quarter of 1933. The communique was based on a Geneva communique on the subject.

* * *

Commerce and Industry, Delhi, of 30-1-34, publishes a communique ~~issued under~~ ^{under} the caption "World Unemployment Situation" issued by this Office, based on a communique issued by the Geneva Office on the Unemployment ~~in~~ situation during the last quarter of 1933. A short summary of the communique was published by the Hindustan Times of 29-1-34.

The issue of the Commerce and Industry of ~~30-1-34~~ ^{June} comments editorially on the communique ^{or} summarising its salient features.

* * *

The Guardian, Madras, of 11-1-34 publishes a letter from its Egyptian correspondent reviewing the social and economic problems of the country. In the course of ^{the letter} which references are made to Mr. Butler's visit to Egypt and his recommendations for dealing with

the labour problems of the country.

* * *

The January 1934 issue of "India and the World", Calcutta, publishes a long and appreciative review of the "Report on Labour Conditions in Egypt" submitted by Mr. H.B. Butler.

* * *

The October 1933 issue of the Asiatic Review, London, publishes at pages 644-653 a long article under the caption "The International Labour Office in India," contributed by the Director of this Office. Off-prints of the article have been forwarded by this Office to Government Officers who are interested in labour problems, leading Indian employers' and Workers' organisations.

United India and Indian States, Delhi, of 6-1-34 publishes a long and appreciative editorial note on the article, and compliments the Director of this Office on the success that has attended his efforts to popularise the Office.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 21-1-34 publishes a long and appreciative editorial article on the work of the I.L.O. during 1933. The article is based on the Geneva communique on the subject, a copy of which was forwarded to the Journal by this Office. The Journal states; "Whatever the short-comings of the League of Nations may be, the International Labour Organisation has been doing a distinct service to the workers of the world. We wish the Organisation all success in this year's session which will tackle the problem of unemployment."

* * *

The December 1933 issue of the Indian Textile Journal publishes an appreciative review of the I.L.O. Year Book, 1932.

* * *

The December 1933 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, publishes at pages 609 - 610 a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "Freedom of Association."

* * *

The Indian Finance of 9-12-33 publishes a long review of the book: "India Analysed" Vol. I (Publishers — Victor Gollancz) in the course of which appreciative references are made to the articles in the book by Dr. Lanka Sundaram and Mr. Jenks of the I.L.O. regarding India's connection with the I.L.O.

* * *

The November and December combined issue of H.E.H. the N.S. Railway Employees' Union Bulletin publishes in full the speech delivered by the Director of this Office on formally opening the 4th session of the Nizam's State Railway Employees' Conference, held at Secunderabad in November 1933. (For a summary of Dr. Pillai's speech, vide pages 45-46 of our November 1933 report).

* * *

Federated India of 3-1-34 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 14-11-33 under the caption, "Germany and the League".

(For a list of other journals which published the communique, vide page 3 of our November 1933 report. Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute K.1/2045/33 dated 16-11-1933).

* * *

Interpellations were put in the Council of State on 14-12-33 by the Hon. Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee regarding the number of Indians in the League Secretariat and the annual cost of the New Delhi Branch of the I.L.O. The text of the questions and the replies thereto extracted from the Council of State Debates of 14-12-1933 (Vol. II No. 13 page 420-421), are given below:-

The Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee; Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indians with their names working in the Secretariat of the League of Nations at Geneva and the salaries they are drawing?

The Honourable Mr. G.H. Spence; The total number of Indians at present employed in a permanent or temporary capacity is believed to be nine. A statement containing the desired information with reference to the six Indians permanently employed is laid on the table. No particulars are available with reference to the temporary employees.

Statement showing the names of Indians permanently employed in the League of Nations Secretariat, and the I. L. O. and the salaries drawn by them.

Name	Salary.
<u>League of Nations Secretariat.</u>	
Mr. A. C. Chatterjee	--- 20,000 Swiss Francs.
Mr. S. N. Ghose.	--- 7,900 -do-
Mr. J.J. Dalal	--- 18,500 -do-
Mr. S. M. Dhume	--- 19,800 -do-
<u>International Labour Office</u>	
Mr. K. Kuriyan	--- 20,900 -do-
Mr. R. K. Das.	--- 23,000 -do-

The Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee; Will Government be pleased to state the cost of the Office of the International Labour Bureau of Geneva at New Delhi including the salaries of the members of the staff, and whether the entire cost of any portion thereof is borne by the Government of India?

The Honourable Mr. D.G. Mitchell; According to the budget estimates of the League of Nations the total annual cost of the New Delhi Branch of the International Labour Office is about Rs. 40,000. The funds are wholly provided by the International Labour Office, and no part of the cost is directly borne by the Government of India.

The Times of India of 9-1-34 publishes an article contributed by Mr. B. Shiva Rao, (advisor to the Indian workers' delegate to the 12th session of the I.L.Conference) under the caption "Labour Conditions in India; What of the Future?" In the course of the article, the part played by the I.L.O. in accelerating the paces of labour legislation in India is acknowledged.

The article is reproduced in the Leader of 13-1-34 and the Advocate of 28-1-34.

* * *

At the 8th session of the All-India Women's Conference held at Calcutta from 27 to 31-12-33 resolutions were passed demanding the inclusion of women in the Indian delegations to I.L.Conferences and the raising of the age of admission of children to employment in industrial occupations to 14 in conformity with the I.L.Convention on the subject. (The text of the resolutions of the 8th All-India Women's Conference is given in this report under the section: "Women and Children").

The resolutions were published in almost all dailies and other journals.

* * *

The Indian National Social Conference which held its session at Madras on 29-12-33 under the presidentship of Mr. G.K.Devadhar passed a resolution on labour legislation recommending to the Government, among other matters, to implement ^{the} I.L.Convention advocating the grant of right of association to agricultural workers and fixing the age of admission of children to employment in agriculture. (A summary of the proceedings of the Conference is

given in this report in the section: "Social Conditions").

Details regarding the proceedings of the Conference and text of the resolutions adopted were published in all daily papers.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 24-12-33 publishes a long letter from its Geneva correspondent in the course of which the text of the resolutions passed by the Japanese Trade Union Congress on the question of holding an Asiatic Labour Conference is reproduced.

* * *

The Annual Report for 1932 of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, contains the following references to the I.L.O.

1. At pages 40-55 is published the speech of Mr. Mathuradas Canji Natani at the 25th annual General Meeting of the Chamber, held at Bombay on 27-1-1933, in the course of which he made the following reference to the I.L.O.:

"You all know that since the termination of the World-war important international organisations, like the League of Nations and the International Labour Office, have come into existence. The International Labour Office studies important social and labour problems of international importance. I do not propose to go into details about the activities of the International Labour Office. Important deliberations affecting industry and labour all over the world are continuously taking place in Geneva. Our industries, compared with highly advanced industries of the West, suffer from various disadvantages, I would, therefore, urge our industrialists and Chambers of Commerce representing interests of employers to take increasing interest in the activities of the International Labour Office."

2. At pages 43-44 and pages 354-358 are published the communique issued by the Government of India announcing the agenda of the 16th I.L.Conference and inviting suggestions regarding

nomination of non-government delegates to the Conference and the recommendations of the Chamber regarding the Indian Employers' delegation to the Conference.

3. At pages 44-45 and pages 358-360 are published the Government of India communique announcing the agenda of the 17th I.L. Conference and the recommendations of the Chamber regarding the nomination of the Indian Employers' delegate to the Conference.

4. At page 41 and pages 340-346 is published the correspondence which passed between the government and the Chamber regarding the Chamber's views on the I.L.O. Questionnaire on the Abolition of Fee-charging Employment Agencies.

5. At page 361 are published two letters from the Government of Bombay, one dated 13-7-1932 forwarding to the Chamber the I.L.O. Questionnaire on Invalidity, Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance for an expression of the views of the Chamber and another dated 23-8-33 requesting the chamber not to take any action on the former letter as the Government of India had decided not to reply to the Questionnaire in detail.

** * *

The December 1933 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, reproduces a Safety Pamphlet recently issued by the British Government on the subject of "Safety Organisation in Factories". The pamphlet quotes the resolution passed by the I.L. Conference of 1928 on the subject. Extracts regarding functions of a Safety Organisation from the Recommendation re. prevention of industrial accidents, passed in 1928, are also published.

* * *

The Hindu of 31-12-1933 publishes a summary of the proceedings of a discussion held at Madras on 30-12-1933 on the subject of "India and the League of Nations". The meeting was organised by Mr. T.S.Ramanujam of the League of Nations Union and at which the following persons, among others, took part in the discussions: Pandit Hirdaynath Kunzru, Mr. N.M.Joshi, Mr. T.R.Venkatarama Sastriar (Ex-Advocate General, Madras) and Mr. G.K.Devadhar, President, Servants of India Society. Extensive references were made by the speakers to the I.L.O. in the course of the discussion. Mr. T.S.Ramanujam said that the League of Nations has been able to achieve a great deal particularly through the I.L.O. ~~Pandit~~ Pandit Hirdaynath Kunzru said that " the record of the International Labour Conference was certainly a good one." Mr. N.M.Joshi explained in great detail the working of the I.L.O.

* * *

The Statesman of 12-1-34 publishes a long letter from one Mr. G.K.Mockerjee in which the writer, after detailing the benefits which have accrued to India as a result of her association with the League of Nations and the I.L.O., enters a strong plea for appointing a permanent Indian delegate at Geneva in order to increase India's co-operation with these organisations. Such co-operation, in his opinion, would ^{enhance} increase India's international status.

* * *

The Times of India of 5-1-1934 publishes a long 'Safety First' article under the caption "How to combat Illiteracy". The article

refers to the work of the I.L.O. in this field and states that "the deliberations of the International Labour Conference made it clear that the fundamental principle underlying safety work is the education of all engaged in industry in the exercise of a higher standard of personal care".

* * *

Ratifications.India and the Convention re. Fee-Charging Employment ✓Agencies; Council of State Adopts Motion for Non-ratification

A brief reference was made at page 10 of our December 1933 report to the adoption by the Council of State on 14-12-1933 of a motion recommending non-ratification of the I.L. Convention and non-acceptance of the Recommendation re. Fee-charging Employment Agencies. Further details regarding the debates which took place over the motion are given below.

An identical resolution as the one introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 23-11-33 was introduced in the Council of State by the Hon'ble Mr. D.G. Mitchell, Secretary, Industries and Labour Department, on 14-12-33, recommending non-ratification of the Convention and non-acceptance of the Resolution. In moving his resolution, Mr. Mitchell, at the outset, paid a tribute to Sir Atul Chatterjee's valuable services rendered in the various capacities of Government of India's delegate to the various sessions of the I.L. Conference, President of the Conference, member and, finally, chairman of the Governing Body.

After explaining the chief provisions of the Draft Convention and Recommendation, Mr. Mitchell explained the grounds on which the Government found it unable to ratify the Convention and accept the Recommendation, as follows:-

There is little likelihood of free public agencies being established or expanded to the extent contemplated by the Convention and the Recommendation within the next three years. This means that, if we ratify the Convention, we must abolish within three years all agencies which are run for profit, and the placing of labour will then be very largely confined to those charitable agencies which are not run for profit. There seems to be no justification for such a drastic step in India at present. We are all aware that abuses have occurred, and we shall all sympathise with any practicable scheme for preventing the exploitation of the poor labourer by dishonest and selfish men. But occasional abuse notwithstanding, private employment agencies run for profit do render useful services

to the working population of India, and Government is unable to agree that they should be abolished entirely simply in order to avoid occasional abuse. Nor does Government agree that these agencies are not entitled to a reasonable remuneration for the services rendered by them. Some sympathy could be expressed for a proposal to forbid the charging of fees to labourers, but even if such a course were practicable — which is doubtful — an incomplete scheme of this kind would not be sufficient to enable us to ratify the Convention.

To sum up, the Convention and the Recommendation are too drastic and the Government ask this House to agree that they should not be accepted.

The motion was adopted without further debate on the resolution.

(Summarised from pages 465-466 of the Council of State Debates of 14-12-1933. Vol.II-No.13).

(For details regarding the debates in the Legislative Assembly over the motion, vide pages 16-19 of our November 1933 report).

India and the Conventions and Recommendation re. Invalidity,
Old-age, Widows' & Orphans' Insurance; Council of State
Adopts Motion for Non-ratification.

Reference was made at page 10 of our December 1933 report to the adoption by the Council of State on 14-12-1933 of a motion recommending non-ratification of the I.L.Conventions and non-~~ratifi~~ acceptance of the Recommendation re. Invalidity, Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance. Further details regarding the debates in the Council of State over the motion are given below:-

An identical resolution as the one moved in the Legislative Assembly on 23-11-1933 was introduced in the Council of State on 14-12-1933 by the Hon'ble Mr. D.G.Mitchell, Secretary, Industries and Labour Department. In the speech moving the resolution, Mr. Mitchell pointed out the various labour and financial considerations

which ~~under~~^{renders} it impossible for the Government of India to ratify the Conventions and adopt the Recommendation. These are; (1) the existence of a large number of workers in seasonal factories whom it is impossible to bring under the schemes of insurance contemplated by the Conventions. (2) the difficulties involved in disbursements to millions of workers scattered in every village and town in India and (3) the financial difficulties involved in the actuarial inquiries to arrive at a working estimate of the cost involved. Mr. Mitchell continued;-

From the last census reports, I find that there are at present in India in very round figures, eight million people over 65 years of age, 26 million widows and 200 million people between the ages of 15 to 65, of whom perhaps one million will be incapacitated. I cannot find figures for fatherless children, but I make the rough guess of one for every three widows. This will give about eight million fatherless children. This makes a grand total of well over 40 millions of old people, incapacitated people, widows and orphans. However, we have to make very large deductions for the Indian States and for persons not within the scope of the Conventions. For the purposes of this very rough approximation, I make a fairly safe guess in saying that probably not less than one-eighth of the 40 millions will be in receipt of relief at any one time — that is, five millions. At Rs.5 a month or Rs.60 a year, this works out at 300 millions of rupees a year. The real figure may be much less than this, it may be much more. But the rough calculation is enough to show that the sums involved will not be expressed in lakhs ($\frac{1}{10}$ th of a million) or in millions but will certainly be expressed in terms of millions of rupees and perhaps in hundreds of millions of rupees, and I submit that until the average earnings per head in India have risen a great deal above their present level, the ~~such~~ scheme is not practicable.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Jagadish Prasad, while supporting the resolution, suggested that the Government should examine whether the time has not come when a beginning should be made with the initiation of some scheme of insurance for factory workers.

Sir Frank Noyce, in reply to Lala Jagadish Prasad, announced that the Government had already under consideration a scheme of sickness insurance for workers which would be brought before the House at an early date.

The motion was then adopted.

(Summarised from Council of State Debates of 14-12-33, Vol.II.No. 13).

(For details regarding the debates in the Legislative Assembly ~~on~~^{over} the motion, vide pages 14-15 of our November 1933 report).

Conditions of Labour.

19

Future of Indians in Burma;Sir Samuel Hoare's Memorandum. ✓

One of the most complex questions connected with the possible separation of Burma is the future of Indians in that country. So long as Burma continues to be a province of British India and a unit of the Federation there can be no question of any legal discrimination, but it is common knowledge that for some years past there has been growing opposition to the unrestricted entry into Burma of Indians. Point is now lent to this opposition and the consequences involved by a memorandum which Sir Samuel Hoare has submitted to the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee. The memorandum, ⁱⁿ dealing with the prevention of legislative discrimination, follows the principle that British subjects of United Kingdom domicile should be accorded the same measure of protection in Burma as in India, while British subjects of Indian domicile should be protected in a similar manner, except that in view of the necessity of controlling the flow of immigrant labour to Burma, there should be no unrestricted right of entry. Subject to the prior sanction of the Governor, the Burma legislature should be enabled to pass measures dealing with immigration to which British subjects of Indian domicile should be amenable.

Note: According to the 1931 census figures, out of 7,964,855, which represents the total population of Burma, 1,017,825 are Indians. The vast majority of them are labourers engaged in agriculture, industrial undertakings and transport organisations. Though quite a number ~~of~~ have married Burmese wives and settled down ~~in~~ the country, the vast majority look forward to ultimate return to their villages in India.

The reaction to the proposals of Sir Samuel Hoare, as could be gauged from comments in the ^{Indian} press, has been hostile.

(The Times of India, 1-1-1934).

Labour Recruitment for Assam Tea Gardens
from Bengal, 1932 - ,1933. ✓

The following information regarding labour recruitment for Assam Tea Gardens from Bengal is taken from the Bengal Governments' Resolution on the Report on inland emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901) for the year ending the 30th June 1933.

According to the Resolutions, there was a further decrease in the number of emigrants despatched to the labour districts during ~~the~~ the year under review, recruitment being curtailed owing to the general economic depression. Recruiting operations in Bengal Presidency were conducted only in the districts of Birbhum and Midnapore. The number of garden sardars employed during the year was 13 (including 3 sardarnis) as against 60 and 100 in the two previous years. They all worked under the control of licensed local agents. The number of local agents' licenses was 15 as against 14 issued in the previous year. The total number of emigrants recruited in Bengal was 56 as against 97 in the previous year. Of these, 13 came from Birbhum and the rest (43) from Midnapore. The total number of recruits from Bengal and other provinces embarking at Goalundo was 569, as compared with 1,522 in the previous year. During the year under report no emigrant was despatched to Assam by the steamer route via Goalundo, though 1,027 emigrants were sent by this route in the previous year. The reason for this is apparently that the railway route via Amingaon is preferred as being the quicker for conveyance of emigrants to the tea gardens of Assam proper. The rest houses

for emigrants at Asansol, Kharagpur, Naihati and Goalundo maintained by the Tea Districts Labour Association were frequently inspected and their condition was found to be in all respects satisfactory. Of the 51,193 emigrants who halted at Naihati, 12,926 went to the Dooars and the rest with the exception of one mentioned below went to Assam, Cachar and Sylhet via Amingaon and Goalundo. Among the total number of emigrants who arrived from the different recruiting districts in and outside the Presidency of Bengal, two deaths, one from small-pox and the other from diarrhoea, and one desertion occurred during the half at Asansol and one desertion ^{at} ~~and~~ Naihati; no other death or desertion occurred amongst the emigrants in transit. As in the previous year there was no desertion nor death among the emigrants during their journey from Goalundo to their final destinations. In connection with the transport of labour to Assam both receipts and expenditure increased from Rs.700 to 950 and from Rs. 7,544-6-0 to Rs. 7,748-5-0, respectively, as compared with the previous year.

(Supplement to the Calcutta Gazette ,
dated 28-12-1933).

~~Table showing the number of emigrants from Goalundo to Assam during 1932-33~~

Quarterly Strike Statistics for the Period ✓
ending 30-9-1933.

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 30-9-1933, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 44 disputes during the quarter involving 41,334 workers and entailing a loss of 531,357 working days. The largest number of disputes

occurred in the Bombay Presidency, where 19 disputes involving 11,167 workers entailed a loss of 135,199 working days. Bengal comes next with 10 disputes involving 9,878 workers and entailing a loss of 109,056 working days. There were 6 disputes in C.P. involving 12,100 workers and entailing a loss of 233,953 working days; 4 strikes in Madras involving 6,618 workers and entailing a loss of 22,628 working days; 2 strikes each in Assam and U.P. involving 361 and 1,160 workers and entailing losses of 561 and 28,660 working days respectively, and 1 in Ajmer-Merwara involving 50 workers and entailing a loss of 1,300 working days.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 22 disputes involving 20,701 workers ~~and~~ entailing a loss of 291,809 working days.

Jute mills were responsible for 4 disputes involving 8,474 workers and entailing a loss of 99,402 working days. There was one dispute in the engineering workshops and one in Railways (including Railway workshops) involving 40 and 3,448 workers and entailing losses of 40 and 3,448 working days respectively. Other miscellaneous industries were responsible for 16 disputes involving 8,671 workers and entailing loss of 136,658 working days.

Of the 44 disputes during the quarter under review, 30 were due to wage questions, 7 due to those of personnel, one to a question of bonus and 6 to other causes. In 3 disputes, the workers were successful, in 8 partially successful and in 28 unsuccessful; 5 disputes were in progress at the end of the quarter.

(The Statistics of industrial disputes for the quarter ending ~~ix~~ 30-6-33 are summarised at page 35 of the September 1933 report of this Office.)

Arrest and Imprisonment for Debt;
Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce. ✓

At pages 10-12 of our April 1933 report was given a summary of a circular letter (No.L.3013 dated 12-4-1933) issued by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India to all local governments and administrations in order to elicit the views of interests concerned on the subject of arrest and imprisonment for debt. In their reply to the Government the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce laid emphasis on the importance of retaining the present powers in the case of ~~com~~mercial debts, as they felt that, while there may be grounds for the abolition of arrest and imprisonment for debt in the case of workers drawing wages or salary amounting to under Rs.100 monthly, as recommended by the Royal Commission, except in cases where the debtor has been proved both able and unwilling to pay, the arguments adduced in favour of the worker do not apply with equal or any considerable force in the case of commercial debts. The views expressed by the Chamber are as follow:

(1) in the case of industrial workers in receipt of wages or salary amounting to less than Rs.100 monthly, arrest and imprisonment for debt should be abolished where the debtor can prove his inability to pay. The Chamber is opposed, however, to the proposal to transfer the onus of such proof from the debtor to the creditor;

(2) in the case of judgment debtors in commercial transactions, the present powers of arrest and imprisonment should be retained as a means of enforcing payment of such debts, and the present law in this respect should be administered with less laxity than in the case at present;

(3) the amendment and reform of the present administration of the insolvency law is a matter of considerable urgency which the Government of India should take in hand at the earliest opportunity.

(Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal
Chamber of Commerce for October 1933.
No.359.

Labour Conditions of Factory Operatives inBaroda State, 1931-32.* ✓

The information given below regarding the conditions of labour working in factories in Baroda State is taken from the Annual Report of the Department of Commerce, Industries and Labour, Baroda State, for the year ending 31-7-1932:-

Number of Factories and Workmen. - The number of factories subject to control of the Baroda Factories Act during the year was ~~122~~ 129 as against 133 in the previous year. These factories employed between them 21,491 workers during 1931-32 as against 19,271 in 1930-31 and 17,704 in 1929-30. Of these 21,491 operatives, 18,228 were engaged in the cotton industry and 3,263 in other industries. The total number of 21,491 workers included 3,863 women and 1,126 children. The figures for 1930-31 and 1929-30 were, 3,742 women and 1,114 children and 3,314 women and 1,098 children respectively.

Wages. - The average daily wages for skilled and unskilled labourers did not show any variations from the figures for 1930-31. The combined average wages for skilled and unskilled workers were Rs.0-9-7 for men, Rs.0-8-0 for women and Rs. 0-6-8 for children.

Inspection. - The report states that all the perennial factories were inspected more than four times and that the seasonal, once and, in few cases, twice or even more.

* Annual Report of the Department of Commerce, Industries and Labour, Baroda State - For the year 1931-32 (ending 31st July 1932) - Baroda State Press 1933. - Price Re.0-6-0 - pp. 95.

Accidents and Workmen's Compensation. - The number of accidents amounted to 80, of which 49 were minor, 19 serious and 12 fatal. There was 1 accident in the railway workshop as against 5 in the preceding year. There was no prosecution for violation or infringement of the provisions of the Factories Act as well as the Boiler Act. During the year compensation amounting to Rs.1,856-2-10 was paid for 35 accidents by the insurance companies.

Welfare Work. - According to the report, 13 mills in the State provided medical relief to their operatives; of these, 6 mills provided both "Allopathic" and "Ayurvedic" treatment, one "Ayurvedic" treatment alone and the remaining 6 "Allopathic" treatment alone. 15 mills provided about 2,000 rooms for the housing of their workmen; 7 mills provided creches for the children of their women employees; 5 mills provided cheap clothing to their operatives through shops opened in mill premises and 2 mills ran shops for providing cheap grain and fuel to their workers.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in India, 1932.* ✓

Review of Administration in the Provinces;- The total number of cases coming within the purview of Statement I (number of cases and compensation paid in factories, mines, railways, docks, and tramways) decreased from 17,489 in 1931 to 14,261 in 1932. The total compensation paid also showed a decrease from Rs.1,066,356 in 1931

* Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1932 - together with a note on the working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, - Published by order of the Government of India. - Delhi: Manager of Publications 1933. - Price; As.5 or 6d. - pp.4

to Rs. 823,145. The figures for cases and for compensation are the lowest recorded since 1926. Increases in the number of cases were shown only by Bihar and Orissa, Delhi and Baluchistan. The increase in Bihar and Orissa was from 1,904 to 2,151 cases, but even there compensation fell from Rs. 140,164 to Rs. 117,976. Railway cases fell from 5,060 to 3,636, and Railway compensation from Rs. 349,445 to Rs. 248,297. There was no increase in the amount of compensation paid in any major province. The continued decline in accidents is reported to be due largely to trade depression. This led to some diminution in the number of 'workmen' covered by the Act, and it has also had an important effect, so far as accidents are concerned, in diminishing the number of inexperienced recruits, and consequently increasing the proportion of persons who have experience of the hazards of industry. The level of wages was, on the average, somewhat lower in 1932 than in 1931 and this factor also contributed to the reduction in compensation. The average sum paid per case fell from Rs. 61 to Rs. 58.

Bengal reports stated three cases of ex gratia payments where compensation had not been awarded on contest. In Bombay payments totalling Rs. 3,225 were made by employers who were under no legal liability to pay compensation. Employers in Bombay were found very ready to make good insufficiency in deposits, and their attitude generally was helpful. The Calcutta Claims Bureau was again active. This Bureau handled most of the insured workmen's compensation business over a wide area and the Bengal report refers to its valuable co-operation. The number of claims settled through Insurance Companies in Bombay was 275, that is, about 47 per cent, of

the total number, as against 50 per cent in 1931. Trade Unions were, according to the report, still comparatively inactive in assisting workmen to obtain compensation. In Calcutta, the Indian Seamen's Union, the Bengal Mariners' Union and the Calcutta Port Trust Employees' Association took up certain number of cases. In Bombay the National Seamen's Union and the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association gave considerable assistance. In Burma, one Union, the Burma Labour Association, has begun to assist in representing claims. The operations of the Kharagpur Bureau were suspended during the year. Other Claims bureaux are mentioned as having done useful work in Bombay.

The special arrangement for seamen engaged on ships registered outside India, which was mentioned in the note for 1931 (vide page 8 of our February 1933 report) continued to work smoothly in Bengal.

Applications Filed Before the Commissioners. - The statistics for proceedings before Commissioners showed no very marked change. The number of applications under section 10 of the Act was 596 as compared with 563 in 1931 and 640 in 1930. The number of distribution cases filed under section 8 of the Act was 514 as against 545 in 1931 and 652 in 1930. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of by Commissioners was 23.9 compared with 21.65 in 1931 and 21.5 in 1930. Of 992 agreements presented before Commissioners for registration, only 22 were modified, and 29 not registered on account of inadequacy or other causes.

24 appeals were filed during the year in the High Courts while references to the High Courts under section 27 of the Act were made in three cases -- one in Bengal and two in Burma.

Occupational Diseases. - Two cases of lead poisoning were mentioned in the report for Bengal. The claim in one case was allowed; in the other it was dismissed after a contest.

Legislative Changes. - The Workmen's Compensation Act remained unchanged throughout the year; but the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, which was introduced in the Assembly during the year has since been passed into law. The changes effected by it will come into operation in 1934.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in India in 1928 is reviewed at pages 35-39 of the June 1930 report, that for 1929 at pages 28-31 of the July 1931 report, that for 1930 at pages 31-34 of our February 1932 report, and that for 1931 at pages 6-9 of our February 1933 report.)

Wage Rates in the Punjab, 1927-32;

Report of Fifth Wages Survey.* ✓

The report on the Fifth Regular Wages Survey of the Punjab, taken in December 1932, gives the following information regarding wage conditions in the Punjab during the period 1927-32:-

General Survey. - Decline in Wages. - Owing to the worldwide depression and slump in trade and consequent fall in prices of agricultural produce during the quinquennium under report, the wages of all classes of labour have been on the decline though they began to show some improvement in 1932. The fall has been universal both in the urban and rural tracts.

* Report on the Fifth Regular Wages Survey of the Punjab taken in December 1932. - Lahore; Printed by the Supdt., Government Printing, Punjab, 1933. Price Re.1-2-0 or 1s.9d. -pp. 39.

Cost of Principal Food-grains. - The following table shows the average price of the principal foodgrains of the province prevailing during the quinquennium under report as compared with the three previous quinquennia:-

		<u>Retail Prices in Rupees per Maund (80 lbs)</u>			
		Wheat.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Gram.
(1)	Average 1906-07	3.37	2.63	2.87	2.82
(2)	do 1910-12	3.09	2.49	2.78	2.69
(3)	do 1913-17	3.90	3.20	3.48	3.20
(4)	do 1918-22	5.93	5.71	5.98	5.33
(5)	do 1923-27	4.82	4.11	4.21	3.76
(6)	do 1928-32	3.18	2.87	2.87	3.26
Decrease percentage between items 5 & 6.		-34	-30	-32	-13

Factory Workers. - The figures given below show that the number of factories in the province is gradually increasing but the number of adult male labourers working in them has been decreasing. In 1932 there was a slight increase as compared with that of 1931;

Year.	No. of factories.	Average daily no. of operatives employed (male adults).
1928	602	43,296
1929	613	41,986
1930	640	41,597
1931	647	37,316
1932	673	38,529

Urban Wages. - Skilled Labour.- Lahore, Amritsar and Multan towns were selected for enquiry into the rates of labour in urban areas. The percentages of increase or decrease in the wages of certain selected classes of labour as compared with those of 1927 are given below.

Class of labourers.	Percentages of increase or decrease.		
	Lahore.	Amritsar.	Multan.
Workers in iron and hardware.	-50	-20	-25
Brass, copper and bell metal workers.	-14 ¹⁴	+7	-25
Carpenters.	-22	-7	-3
Cotton weavers.	..	-47	..
Masons and bulders.	-28	-38	-17
Unskilled labourers.	-47	-30	-30

It would appear that the decrease in wages as compared with 1927 is general except in the case of brass, copper and bell metal workers in Amritsar which show a slight increase over the figures of the preceding survey. The decrease is due to (a) general depression in trade which has lowered the financial position of the people, (b) less demand for workers and hard competition owing to unemployment and (c) to considerable fall in the prices of food stuffs. The rise in the wages of brass, copper and bell metal workers in Amritsar is ascribed to increase in the number of factories for the manufacture of utensils of brass, copper, etc., and consequent large demand for labourers in these factories.

Urban Wages - Unskilled labour. - The following table shows that the rates paid to unskilled labourers in urban areas are as usual higher than the rates paid in rural areas.

District.	Unskilled Labourers.	
	Urban	Rural.
	Annas.	Annas.
Lahore.	8	6 to 8½
Amritsar.	10½	6 to 9½
Multan.	7	4 to 6½

Wages in Rural Areas. - The number of villages selected for enquiry into rural wages rose from 1948 in 1927 to 2101. The rates of wages taken into account are those paid in the open market to ordinary healthy men between 20 and 45 years of age and no account has been taken of the wages paid to old men, women, children or men who are either weak or specially strong. The results show that there was an all round decrease in the rural wages. 93 per cent of the selected villages reported the wages of unskilled labourers. In the remaining villages no unskilled labourers were employed at the time of survey. The number of villages reporting purely cash wages is now 67 per cent of the total number of reporting villages as against 61 per cent in the preceding survey. The percentage of villages reporting cash wages with supplements, has come down from 38 to 32. Cash payments are generally taking the place of payments in kind. The percentage of villages reporting purely grain wages is one and has remained stationary. The most common rate in the province is now 6 annas as against 8 to 12 annas in the preceding survey. The marked decrease of 63 per cent in wages is reported from Hissar district owing to the failure of the kharif harvest of 1932 and scarcity of foodgrains. In other districts the percentage of decrease varies from 20 to 50.

Labour Unrest in Textile Industry during January 1934.

References were made in the earlier reports of this Office to the crisis in the textile mill industry of India as a result of which drastic reductions in wages have been made by millowners and many mills have actually closed down. Some idea of the magnitude of the crisis may be obtained from a study of the position of the Bombay City textile mills, ^{in 1933} a review of which is given in this report under the section "Economic Conditions". The conclusion of the trade agreement between India and Japan has not registered any improvement in the economic conditions of the industry. Mills continued to close down here and there, and fresh cuts in wages were made by several managements with the result that a great amount of labour ^{has been} unrest was occasioned. The Girni Kamgar Union, Bombay, has attempted to use this unrest as a lever for organising a general strike in the textile industry. With this end in view, the Union convened a textile labour conference at Bombay during the month under review (for a summary of the proceedings of the Conference, vide section in this report "Workers' Organisations"). In Bombay, trouble broke out in the Sassoon Spinning and Weaving Mills in which the workers declared a strike on 29-12-1933 as a result of the reduction from 55 per cent. to 25 per cent. of the dear-food allowance paid to workers. The mill started work soon after the strike with a fresh complement of workers. On 8-1-1934, the strikers and strike-breakers came to a clash as a result of which police resorted to firing on the workers. None was fatally injured. The strike continued till 2-1-1934 and ^{on} the management raising the dear-food allowance from 25 to 30 per cent, work was resumed.

(The Times of India, 10 and 15-1-34).

Ahmedabad. - The dispute between the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Union over ~~the~~ general reduction in wages which was referred to Mahatma Gandhi and Seth Chimanlal Girdharilal for arbitration (vide pages 13-14 of our October 1933 report) is still under consideration of the Arbitration Board.

Industrial Organisation.Employers' Organisations.Annual Meeting of Associated Chambers of
Commerce, Calcutta, 1934. ✓

The annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India was held at Calcutta on 8th and 9th January 1934, under the presidentship of Mr. J.S.Henderson. The meeting was formally opened by His Excellency the Viceroy.

In the course of his speech welcoming the Viceroy and other guests, Mr. Henderson referred to the visits of the Lancashire and Japanese delegations. As regards the former, he said, it was a matter of extreme regret that the Agreement, which had had such far-reaching consequences on the relations between Great Britain and India, should be subjected to so much misrepresentation and adverse criticism. He expressed the hope that India might soon have reason to be grateful to those whose goodwill and statesmanship had rendered possible the conclusion of the agreement. He welcomed the successful termination of the Indo-Japanese trade negotiations and, finally, he referred to the evidence of the Chambers' representatives regarding the coming constitutional changes.

In the course of his opening address, Lord Willingdon dealt with several subjects of economic, commercial and political importance. Extracts from the speech dealing with communism, labour conditions in India, middle-class unemployment, the recent cotton talks and economic planning are given below:-

Communism. "It would be superfluous for me to argue the case against Communism before an audience such as this. You are all well aware of what it has produced elsewhere. But I would like to draw your attention to this question because I feel that there is a danger of under-estimating the appeal which the crudest economic theories make to the uneducated or the half-educated, and particularly

to those who are not getting adequate opportunities under the present system. If a man thinks he has nothing to lose but his chains, it is not difficult to persuade him that any change must be for the better, and if civilization is to be conserved it must make life worth living for the people as a whole."

Labour Conditions. - "Now there are, as it seems to me, at least two classes to whom the opportunity of a reasonably adequate life is too often denied. The condition of labour in our industrial centres, although it has improved considerably in recent years, still leaves a great deal to be desired. My Government are endeavouring, as you know, to strengthen the foundations of the industrial structure, by carrying out a careful programme of labour legislation, and I believe this has already had important effects on the relations of labour with society as a whole. But the scope of legislation is very limited and the most pressing needs of the worker — better housing, greater security, improved health and the development of the corporate and civic sense— cannot be provided without local and often individual efforts. I am well aware that employers have done much to ameliorate conditions in many places; they have often shouldered alone a burden which should have been discharged by local bodies. But if I urge increased attention to what is generally known as welfare and to the improvement of contact between employer and employed, it is because I believe that it will give an ample return both in material prosperity and in the more lasting satisfaction that comes from every attempt to serve our fellowmen."

Middle-Class Unemployment. - "The other class which deserves your special attention is the educated middle class. Hundreds, nay thousands, of young men find themselves today without adequate opportunity for occupation and it is little to be ~~wondered~~ wondered at that some of them afford a fruitful soil for those whose culture takes the form of direct action of a revolutionary character. It is easy to argue that the malady can only be cured by remedies so sweeping and drastic as to be quite beyond our power ^{and influence} by alterations going deep into social and even religious systems, but I suggest to you as employers and particularly to those of you who are British that it is of the utmost importance to provide what opportunities you can for the employment of young Indians. I am one of those who believe that India will need and will welcome for very many years to come the business experience and business gifts of Englishmen which have done so much to develop industry in the past. But that experience and those gifts will be fully effective only in cooperation with Indian enterprise and talent and the aim should be to increase and strengthen the bonds of partnership in every way possible. I urge this on your earnest consideration in the interests of all concerned and not least in your own."

Mody-Clare Lees Pact re. Textile Trade. - "If the Ottawa agreement was evidence of a new and closer trade relationship between India and the United Kingdom brought about by negotiation between the two Governments concerned, we have lately witnessed an example of negotiation of another kind. I refer to the discussions between the cotton textile industrialists of India and Lancashire. It is inappropriate that I should comment at this juncture upon the

merits of the agreement which has been reached. That agreement will in due course receive the full consideration of my Government, but I may be permitted to express the hope that the visit of the Lancashire delegation has ushered in a new era in the commercial relationships of India and the United Kingdom. Such personal contacts must inevitably lead to a greater degree of mutual understanding and goodwill between the two countries which can only be fruitful of results beneficial to both".

The Viceroy also referred in the course of his speech to the recent Japanese trade agreement and to the appointment of the recent Economic Enquiry Committee.

Resolutions.- Some of the more important resolutions adopted by the meeting were (1) urging the government of India to remove the 25 per cent surcharge on imported sugar; (2) urging the Government to empower customs authorities ~~within the purview~~ to detain goods bearing designs which are infringements coming within the purview of the Indian Patents and Designs Act; (3) urging the Government to abolish the export duty on hides and skins; (4) requesting the total removal or at least a substantial reduction in the 15 per cent surcharge on coal freights imposed by railways; (5) impressing on the Government the necessity for introducing provincial legislation, where it does not at present exist, for the prevention of adulteration of foods and for the more rigorous enforcement of the Acts on the subject in provinces which have already such Acts in their statute books; (6) urging the Government to adopt legislation to protect the rights of the seller in hire-purchase transactions until he has received payment in full; (7) urging the abolition of the present surcharge on air-mail traffic; (8) urging the introduction of

VDS.

concession rates for commercial documents in air mail services;
(9) urging the reduction of postal insurance charges on money remittances; (10) urging the Government not to incur fresh expenditure from the general revenues until the emergency ~~such~~ surcharges on income-tax and customs duty and the cut in salaries of Government servants are removed; (11) urging that the restoration of the second moiety of the cut in salaries of the services should not be effected unless the 25 per cent surcharge on income-tax be abolished or substantially reduced and (12) ~~xxxxxx~~ recommending that no local body should be empowered to levy professional or trades taxes.

(The Times of India, 10 & 11-1-1934).

The Director of this Office was invited by the Chamber to attend the meeting and he was present on both days of the meeting.

Labour Union Movement in the Punjab, 1932-33 ✓

Progress during the First Quinquennium. - The year 1932-33 completes the first quinquennium of the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in the Punjab, considering that in 1927-28 the Act was in operation only for a period of nine months. In judging the development of trade unionism ^{in the Province} during the last five years the under-mentioned figures will be found interesting:-

Year	Applications Received for registration.	Unions registered during the year.	Total at the end of year.	Total membership of unions which submitted returns.
1927-28 (nine months)	10	6	6	5,799
1928-29	5	10	15	14,507
1929-30	7	6	19	26,319
1930-31	8	8	22	9,001
1931-32	9	7	25	21,007
1932-33	10	9	30	21,003

It will be observed that the number of trade unions increased from 6 in 1927-28 to 30 in 1932-33, and their membership from 5,799 to 21,003. The total membership was, however, still below the peak number of 26,319 reached in 1929-30. A very important union, viz., the General Workers' Union, North-Western Railway, whose membership stood at 10,170 in 1929-30 has since ceased to exist. Reviewing these figures and the general condition of the unions, the report states that it appears that the movement would have shown still better results had not dissensions crept in ^{at} the

* Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act 1926 in the Punjab during the year 1932-33. - Lahore: Printed by the Supt., Government Printing, Punjab -1934. -Price:Rs.0-12-0 or 1s.2d. - pp.19.

ranks of labour leaders in the province. During 1928-29 a split occurred in the Central Council of the North-Western Railway Union over the election of office bearers. During 1930-31 the Registrar had to deal with complaints and counter-complaints in respect of the Punjab Labour Board, the Lahore Rate-payers' Association, the Punjab Provincial Trade Union Congress, and the North-Western Railway Union. It is a matter of gratification, however, that in the end wiser counsels prevailed and differences have been generally patched up, except in the case of the North-Western Railway Union regarding which some civil litigation is still proceeding in court.

Number of Registered Unions. - During the year under report, 10 applications were received for registration as against 9 in the previous year. ~~The total number of unions, including 3 federations,~~ stood at 30 at the close of the year as against 25 during last year. Only one application for registration which was received towards the end of the year remained pending. The names of four unions were removed from the register during the year, and their certificates of registration were cancelled under the provisions of section 10 of the Act.

Membership and Finances of Unions. - Of the 27 registered unions at the close of the year under review, complete annual returns in the prescribed form were not submitted by six. The total number ^{of members} of the 21 unions from whom returns have been received, stood at 21,863 at the close of the year as compared with 21,627 at the end of 1931-32. The average number of members per union on the figures available works out to 1,041 as compared with 1,138 in 1931-32 and

662 in 1930-31. The North-Western Railway Union deserves particular mention for having enrolled as many as 17,298 members, or approximately 86 per cent. of the total number of members on the rolls of all the unions in the Punjab. As regards federations, the total number of unions affiliated with the three federations was 55 at the end of the year as compared with 49 in 1931-32 and 45 in 1930-31. Out of a total of 55 unions 31 were affiliated with the Punjab Labour Board.

The opening balance of the 21 unions from which full returns were received, was Rs.1,173, the income during the year Rs.12,187 and expenditure, Rs. 11,057. The closing balance of the unions was Rs.2,275 as against Rs. 1,807 in 1931-32. This reveals a ~~slight improvement~~ ^{marked improvement} with regard to the finances of the unions as compared with last year. The average income per union increased from Rs. 444 in 1931-32 to 580 during the year under report, the average expenditure from Rs. 505 to Rs. 523 and the closing balance from Rs. 106 to Rs.108. These figures show that the majority of the unions kept their expenditure within their income. It is remarked that the general financial position of the unions might have been better, had the times been more favourable and had the workers in the various trades been not subjected to cuts in their wages. The report also remarks: "The desirability of building up reserves for unions cannot, however, be over-emphasized, as without adequate funds it will not be possible for them to engage themselves in any activity for the amelioration of the condition of workers." The income of the three federations during the year was Rs.733-12-0 as against Rs. 989-11-0 during the previous year. The

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expenditure also showed a decrease from Rs.933-14-9 to Rs.892-2-0.

Political Funds & Appeals. - As in the previous years none of the unions or federations contributed to any political fund, nor was any appeal preferred against the orders of the Registrar.

Remarks. - The following general remarks are made by the Registrar. It is disappointing to note that the unions generally have not been sufficiently active to further the interests of the labour. For instance, during the course of the year under report I invited the opinions of the important trade unions in the Punjab on matters arising out of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour, namely, those relating to (a) employers' liability in regard to payment of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, (b) the Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill, (c) the proposal that besetting an industrial establishment for the recovery of debts should be made a criminal and cognizable offence, (d) exemption of salary and wages of labour from attachment, and (e) revision of the Indian Factories Act, etc. In most of these cases I did not receive any reply from any union. In one case I received a reply from one union and in another from three. This indicates that the office bearers of unions or the labour leaders were apathetic and did not take sufficient living interest in matters pertaining vitally to the welfare of labour. I have, however, to note with satisfaction that some of the unions made efforts for the removal of grievances and difficulties of the workers.

15th Session of A.I. Postal and R. M. S. Conference, Ahmedabad, 1933.

The 15th session of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference was held at Ahmedabad on the 25th and 26th December 1933 under the presidentship of Mr. S.C.Mitra, M.L.A. Meetings of the Council of the Union were held on the 24th & 25th December 1933. The following were some of the more important items on the agenda of the meeting of the Council of the A.I. Postal and R.M.S. Union:- (1) Preparation of the agenda for the 15th session of the A.I. Postal and R.M.S. Conference. (2) Adoption of the Annual Report for 1932-33. (A brief summary of the Report is given elsewhere in this report). (3) Budget and Finances. (4) Reorganisation; (a) Propaganda, (b) Communal disputes. (5) Amendment of the rules of the Union. (6) Registration of the Union. (7) Recognition of the Union, and (8) Election of Office-bearers of the Union.

The principal issue which engaged the attention of the Conference was the heavy retrenchment of staff in the Postal Department. Mr. Mitra devoted the major portion of his speech to a criticism of the administration of the Department the defects in which, he said, ^{were} mainly responsible for the magnitude of the retrenchment. He protested strongly against the discrimination made in the case of postal employees in the matter of salary cuts in that while the salaries of government servants in other departments, below a certain level were not subjected to cuts, such a level was not maintained in the case of the salaries of the employees of the Postal Department. He also condemned the action of the Government of India in according official recognition to the Indian Posts and

Telegraphs Union which, ~~to~~ the All India Postal & R.M.S. Union ^{showed} maintains, is a communal union. This ~~shows~~ a change of policy as Sir Hubert Sans, former Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, as well as Sir Frank Noyce had laid down that the administration would not accord recognition to communal unions.

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

Retrenchment. - (a) This Conference places on record its deep sense of ~~apprehension~~ ^{despair} and dissatisfaction that is prevailing in the rank and file of the subordinate staff in the Post Office and R.M.S. ~~due~~ ^{due} to the drastic policy of retrenchment pursued in the Department culminating in :-

(i) the retrenchment of a large number of appointments in the cadres of postal clerks, sorters, postmen and lower grade staff such in excess of what is justified by the fall in traffic and ~~the~~ ^{the} application of the Power Time-test;

(ii) ~~the rapid conversion of Clerical and Sorters' appointments in the ordinary time scale into lower division posts and of appointments in the extra departmental into extra departmental ones;~~

(iii) ~~the indiscriminate abolition or conversion into ordinary time-scale appointments of a considerable number of lower selection grade appointments and conversion of a number of higher selection grade appointments into lower selection appointments in the Post Office and R.M.S.;~~

(iv) the conversion of all the 84 selection grade appointments of First Class Town Inspectors into time-scale ones; and

(v) the indiscriminate reduction of R.M.S. sets by extension of beats of R.M.S. sections and by the introduction of a new standard of work, ~~as partly by day and partly by night.~~

(b) This Conference further expresses its considered opinion that these measures of retrenchment have worsened the already limited prospects and pitiable condition of service, have killed all incentive, have seriously affected the efficiency of the staff and have resulted in laxity of supervision and consequent deterioration of efficiency of postal service and seriously affected public confidence in the regularity, infallibility and trustworthiness of the postal system as evidenced by the increase of public complaints, ~~inspite of the restriction imposed on them by withdrawal of the concession of exemption from postage for postal complaints.~~ *for postal complaints.*

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(c) This Conference, while expressing its sincere sympathy with the Department in the present financial difficulties, expresses its considered opinion that the policy of retrenchment hitherto pursued in the Post Office and R.N.S. has been without the slightest justification and implores the Government to appoint a Joint Committee of officials and Union representatives to review the situation created by the measures of retrenchment adopted in the Post Office and R.N.S. and advise the Department as to remedial measures.

New Scales of Pay. - This Conference invites the attention of the Government of India to the great hardship and injustice that will be done to the officials now in service in the matter of application of the reduced rates of pay and therefore requests them to issue clear orders to the following effect:

(A) that the revised scales should be applied only to those employees who were taken into service for the first time after the 16th July 1931;

(B) that express mention may be made that the revised scales will not affect those officials, who were in service prior to 16th July 1931 whether on permanent, officiating, temporary or provisional basis, irrespective of the fact that their services are not continuous or whether they were employed on the understanding that they would be employed in the new scales of pay and new leave rules and;

(C) that those who were in service prior to 16th July 1931 should, on promotion to higher grades or posts at any time in service, be entitled to old scales of pay, applicable to such higher grades or posts.

Compulsory Retirement of Employees. - This Conference views with regret the compulsory retirement of the officials below 55 years of age as a measure of economy which has created a wide-spread discontent amongst the officials. This Conference requests the authorities not to proceed with it and to allow those who have been forced to retire against their will, to return to duty.

Appointment of Superfluous Telegraphists in Post Offices. - This Conference places on record the grave concern and panic caused among the employees of the Postal Department by the rumour that the Department is contemplating to post such of the departmental telegraphists as are recommended to be surplus by the Telegraph Staff Enquiry Committee, presided over by Mr. S.P. Varma, in combined offices. This Conference further enters its strong and emphatic protest against any such measure of pitchforking departmental telegraphists in postal vacancies as being an act of great injustice to the postal staff.

Non-filling up of Vacancies. - This Conference emphatically

protests against the non-filling up of all vacancies since 1930 which has been harshly operating on the incumbents in many ways and respectfully requests the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs to issue immediate orders for the permanent filling up of the vacancies as has been done in cases of higher appointments.

Restoration of Salary Cuts. - While expressing its thanks to the Government of India for the restoration of half of the salary cut, this Conference requests the Government to restore it in full from the 1st April 1934 as assured by the Finance Member.

Working Hours in R.M.S. - (a) This Conference strongly protests against the Director General's Memo No.454-2s. A.32 dated the 28-12-32 fixing the standard of working hours of the R.M.S. section working partly by day and partly by night, as the application of the standard has resulted in unjustifiable reduction of rates and urges that each hour of duty in a mail-van after 20 hrs. and before 8 hours should count as 5/4 hours and the total hours of duty after such conversion should not exceed 36 hours a week.

(b) This Conference further requests the General Secretary of the All India Union to submit an exhaustive Memorandum to the Director General on this subject.

Representation in Central Legislature. - This Conference has urged upon the Government the necessity of reserving one seat in the Central Legislature to represent and safeguard the interests of the Postal and R.M.S. Workers.

Threat of Withdrawal of Recognition. - (a) In view of the fact that the ~~Government~~ ^{General Secretary} of the All India Union in the matter of publication of the extracts from the Report of the Appropriation Accounts for 1931-32, in the Indian Post, was accepted by the Director-General, this Conference feels that the step taken by the Director-General in serving threat of withdrawal of recognition and giving publicity to the same was neither necessary nor justifiable.

(b) Further, this Conference is of considered opinion that the organs of the service associations are not subject to the Government Servants' Conduct Rules and requests the Government not to apply the Government Service Conduct Rules to such organs.

Office-Bearers for 1933-34. - This Conference elects the following office-bearers of the All India Union for the year 1933-34:- President - Mr.S.C.Mitra, M.L.A.; Vice-Presidents- Mr. Gayaprasad, M.L.A. and Mr. Abdul Rehman Khan; General Secretary - N.C.Sen Gupta, B.A., B.P.; Hon.Secretary - Pt. Manmohanlal Tapa; Asst. Secretaries, - Mr.N.C.Datt, Mr. Garubukhh Singh, Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan; Hony.Treasurer - Mr. A.N.Vaid, Auditors - Messrs.R.R. Mohan & Co.

(For a review of the 12th session of the A.I.Postal and R.M.S. Conference, vide pages 48-51 of our June 1932 report).

✓ Progress of A.I. Postal & R.M.S. Union, 1932-33. ✓

The following information about the progress of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union during 1932-33 is extracted from the Annual Report for 1932-33 presented to the 13th session of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference held at Ahmedabad on 25 and 26-12-1933 under the presidentship of Mr. S.C. Mitra, M.L.A.

Review of 1932-33. - Reviewing the progress of the Union during 1932-33, the report says:-

The year under report saw the restoration of the harmonious relation of the Union with the Government and the authorities which were interrupted towards the close of the previous year by the sudden and unexpected withdrawal of official recognition of the Union and all its affiliated branches. The orders withdrawing the recognition, and particularly a clause therein, created some panic amongst members to whom the orders were broadcasted through a Director-General's Special General Circular and consequently affected the membership. The incident also afforded an opportunity to the communal Unions to cause a defection in the membership by an insidious campaign of propaganda against the Union. Thanks to the vigilance and unflinching loyalty and co-operation of all the Branch Unions, the loss in membership was ~~reduced~~ during the year under report. The year was a dismal and gloomy period in the life of the Union and its members due to the ravages of the various retrenchment measures.

Representation of Grievances. - According to the report, during the year 46 specific grievances relating to conditions of service of members of the Union were taken up by the union with the authorities concerned. The report states that though a few of the grievances represented were redressed, decisions with regard to important grievances like standard of working hours of R.M.S. section, salary cuts, retrenchment, etc. were still awaited.

Retrenchment. - In spite of all agitation and representation by the Union and the criticism of non-official members in the Assembly, the Department effected drastic retrenchment in the Post Office and R.M.S., while leaving the Telegraph Branch practically untouched. Over 6,000 clerical and Postmen's appointments have been retrenched by the close of the period under report, and 137 selection grade appointments, including those of First Class Town Inspectors, have either been abolished or converted into time-scale supervisory appointments. A large number of ordinary

time-scale appointments have also been converted to lower division posts.

Membership. - The following table shows the membership of the Union and its distribution among different classes of employees.

Name of Provincial Branch.	Numerical strength		Total.
	Clerks, Sorters & above	Below Clerks &c.	
Bengal & Assam	2,945	3,309	6,254
Bihar & Orissa	700	554	1,254
Bombay	3,264	399	3,778
Burma	652	348	1,000
Central Circle	509	686	1,195
Delhi	163	-	163
Madras Circle	2,507	2,722	5,229
Punjab & N.W.F.	-	-	2,011
Sind & Baluchistan	-	-	321
United Provinces	820	263	1,083
D.G.M-Staff Union	100	-	100
GRAND TOTAL			22,358

Financial Situation. - The cash balance in hand at the close of the year was Rs.4,985-7-4. The income during the year amounted to Rs.8,722-14-0, while the expenditure amounted to Rs.7,496-14-0.

(Summarised from the Annual Report of the All-India Postal and R.M.S.Union, published at pages 2-9 of the Indian Post, Delhi - Vol.V. No.1).

(Progress of the A.I.Postal and R.M.S.Union during 1931-32 was reviewed at pages 51-54 of our June 1932 report).

All-India Textile Workers' Conference, Bombay:Resolution re. General Strike Passed. ✓

It will be recalled that one of the resolutions passed at the 13th session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, which was held at Cawnpore from the 23rd to the 25th December 1933, advocated the organisation of a general strike in the textile industry at an early date. In pursuance of this resolution, the Girni Kamgar (Red Flag) Union, Bombay, which was taking a leading part in organising protests in Bombay against the retrenchment and wage cuts in the textile industry during the last two years, called together a Conference of textile workers on 28-1-34. These unions alone who subscribed to the same creed as that of the Girni Kamgar Union were invited and, according to press reports, only about forty delegates representing a dozen unions took part. The Conference was presided over by Mr. Hariharnath Shastri, President, All India Trade Union Congress.

In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Shastri, after analysing the causes of the present crisis, affirmed that there was stark destitution among the working classes in the ~~industry~~ midst of unheard of plenty. He then described the methods used by industrialists and capitalists to meet the crisis, viz., wage reduction, ~~retrenchment~~ retrenchment of workers and other rationalisation methods which tended to swell the ranks of the unemployed. He estimated unemployment figures in Bombay City alone at 70,000. He then postulated that there can be no compromise between capital and labour and referred to Stalin's analysis of the present situation that (1) The economic crisis is the ~~compulsory~~ ^{inevitable} result of capitalism. (2) These crises came in the world simultaneously with the birth of capitalism. ~~within~~ (3) Within the confines of capitalism crises can neither be prevented nor removed. (4) In order to exterminate the crisis we must exterminate capitalism. Mr. Shastri finally explained the object of the Conference and exhorted the workers to declare a general strike. In order to link up different textile centres in the country and to ensure concerted action, Mr. Shastri proposed the formation of an All-India Textile Workers' Federation, not only for the immediate object of conducting the general strike,

but as a permanent institution.

(The Indian Labour Journal,
28-1-1934).

The main resolution of the conference stated that in view of the offensive started by the textile employers all over India against textile workers as a class, the conference was of opinion that the workers could effectively resist it only by resorting to a country-wide general strike. It was, therefore, resolved to organise, within a period of the next three months, a general strike of all textile workers.

The resolution also sets forth a number of demands for acceptance by the employers and the government. These included stoppage of further wage-cuts, and restoration of all wage-cuts effected since June 1933, immediate stoppage of all plans of rationalisation in the industry which would entail reduction of hands, payment of non-contributory unemployment benefits, a 48-hour week, fixation of a minimum wage in the industry and recruitment of labour through workers' committees of each mill.

(The Times of India, 30-1-34).

Intellectual Workers.Hours of Work in Government of India Secretariat. ✓

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As the result of an interpellation in the Legislative Assembly on 7-12-1933 on the subject of hours of work in the Government of India Secretariat, the following reply was elicited from Sir Harry Maig, Home Member:-

The question of Office hours is, within limits, one for each Department to decide for itself, but generally the prescribed hours of work in the Government of India Secretariat are from 10-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M., except on Saturdays when the hours are usually from 10-30 A.M. to 2 P.M. The office hours in the Army Department have been from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. for some time. Departments sometimes find it necessary temporarily to extend their office hours in the exigencies of the public service. When this is necessary there is no question of paying any allowance, for the whole time of a Government servant must be regarded as at the disposal of the Government.

(Extracted from the Legislative Assembly Debates of 7-12-1933, Page 2712 - Vol. VIII No.13).

Economic Conditions.Cotton Talks; Indo-Japanese Trade Agreement Concluded. ✓

The long drawn out cotton talks between the Indian and Japanese Governments which began on 23-9-33 and to which references were made in the previous reports of this Office (vide pages 47-51 of August 1933 report, 50-51 of September 1933 report, 30-37 of October 1933 report, 53-55 of November 1933 report and 56-58 of December 1933 report) came to a conclusion on 5-1-1934, on which date the Japanese delegation communicated their acceptance of India's final terms. The news came unexpected as, towards the last week of December, there were strong rumours that the Japanese textile interests would decline to arrive at an agreement on account of the increase in import duties announced on 22-12-1933.

Terms of the Agreement. - The following is a record of the proceedings of the meeting between the Japanese and Indian Government delegations on 5-1-1934, at which the former accepted the final proposals of the Indian Government. There were present:- For Japan; His Excellency Mr. Setsuzo Sawada, Mr. Susumu Terao, Mr. Tetsuichire Miyake. For India; Sir Joseph Bhole; Sir Frank Noyce.

His Excellency Mr. Sawada spoke as follows; - I am happy to state that agreement of views has been reached between the Japanese and Indian Delegations on all important problems relative to the commercial relations between Japan and India, including (1) the most-favoured-nation treatment to be accorded reciprocally to the goods of the two countries; (2) the negotiations to be held concerning the modification of customs duties that may adversely

affect the trade interests of the two countries; (3) the measures to be taken to correct the effects of the exchange fluctuations; (4) the duties applicable to Japanese cotton piecegoods imported into India; (5) the quota to be applicable to such Japanese goods; and (6) the enforcement of the present agreements.

I take liberty to state my understanding of the agreements of views arrived at between the two Delegations on these problems, which I trust will be concurred in by the Indian Delegation.

Most-favoured-Nation Treatment. - In respect of customs duties, Japan and India shall reciprocally accord the most-favoured-nation treatment to any article, the produce or manufacture of the other country.

Modification of Customs Duties. - Subject to the reservation by both countries of the right to make such changes in their customs tariffs as may be necessary for the protection of their own interests, Japan and India agree that, should any modification of the customs tariff by either country result in the trade interests of the other being adversely affected in any appreciable measure, they shall, upon the request of the country so affected, enter into negotiations with the object of reconciling, as far as possible, the trade interests of the two countries.

Measures to Correct Exchange Fluctuation. - Notwithstanding all other agreements that have been entered into, the Government of India shall have the right of imposing or varying from time to time special rates of customs duty on articles, the produce or manufacture of Japan, other or higher than those levied on similar articles, the produce or manufacture of any other country, at such rates as the Government of India may consider to be necessary to correct the effects of any variation of the exchange value of the Yen relative to the rupee subsequent to December 31, 1933.

In imposing or varying, or on being requested by the Government of Japan to vary, the Government of India undertake to give full consideration to relevant factors which tend to raise export prices of Japanese goods, such as the purchase by Japan of raw materials in markets outside Japan and the adjustment of internal Japanese prices, and to limit such rates to what is necessary to correct the effects of the depreciation of the exchange value of the yen relative to the rupee on the duty-paid value of Japanese goods imported into India. The Government of India further undertake that no change in any such rate shall be made until it has been in force for at least five weeks.

Reciprocally, the Government of Japan shall have the right of imposing or varying special rates of customs duties similar to

those to which reference has just been made, on articles, the produce or manufacture of India, under similar circumstances and subject to similar conditions, provided that such right should not accrue to the Government of Japan unless the exchange value of the rupee relative to the yen shall be depreciated below the value of .732 yen.

Customs Duties on Japanese Piecegoods. - Without prejudice to the agreements concerning the most-favoured-nation treatment and the measures to correct the effects of exchange fluctuation, customs duties to be imposed by the Government of India on Japanese cotton piecegoods should not exceed the following rates:-

Duty on plain greys 50 per cent ad valorem or 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ annas per pound.

Duty on others 50 per cent ad valorem.

It is understood that the Government of India shall not impose on Japanese cotton piecegoods other than plain greys a specific duty exceeding 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ annas per pound, subject to the agreement concerning the most-favoured-nation treatment.

Quota Applicable to Japanese Piecegoods. - (a) Calculation of the Quota of Japanese Cotton Piecegoods;- The quantity of Japanese cotton piecegoods to be exported to India in the period of one year beginning April 1, shall be limited within a quota which shall be fixed in accordance with the quantity of Indian raw cotton exported to Japan in the period of one year beginning January 1, of the same year.

It is to be noted that the period of one year for the purpose of fixing the quota of Japanese cotton piecegoods (or Piecegoods Year) shall be from April 1 to March 31 of the following year, while the period of one year for the purpose of calculating the quantity of Indian raw cotton exported to Japan (or Cotton Year) shall be from January 1 to December 31.

(b) The Basic Quota and the Modification of the Basic Quota. - (i) The basic quota of Japanese cotton piecegoods to be exported to India in a Piecegoods Year shall be 325 million yards and it shall be linked with 1 million bales of Indian raw cotton exported to Japan in the corresponding Cotton Year.

(ii) In ~~the~~ case the export of Indian raw cotton to Japan in any Cotton Year should fall below one million bales, the quota of Japanese cotton piecegoods for the corresponding Piecegoods Year shall be determined by reducing the above basic quota at the rate of 2 million yards for every 10,000 bales of deficit.

(iii) In case, however, such export in any Cotton Year should exceed one million bales, the quota of Japanese cotton piecegoods for the corresponding Piecegoods Year shall be determined by increasing the above basic quota at the rate of 1.5 million yards for every additional 10,000 bales, provided that the quota should

in no case exceed 400 million yards.

(iv) In case the export of Indian raw cotton to Japan in any Cotton Year should exceed 1.5 million bales, the quantity thus exported in excess of 1.5 million bales shall be, for the purpose of determining the relevant quota of Japanese cotton piecegoods, added to the quantity of raw cotton exported to Japan in the following Cotton Year.

(v) In respect of both cotton piecegoods and raw cotton, re-exported quantity shall be deducted from the imported quantity.

(c) Two half-yearly Instalments of the Quota:- (i) A Piecegoods Year shall be divided into two half-yearly periods, the first half yearly period running from April 1 to September 30, and the second half-yearly period from October 1 to March 31 of the following year.

(ii) The quota for the first half-yearly period shall be two hundred million yards.

(iii) The quota for the second half-yearly period shall be provisionally fixed at the quantity which will be derived by deducting ~~kw~~ 200 million yards from the yearly quota calculated on the basis of the estimated export of Indian raw cotton to Japan in the corresponding Cotton Year. The adjustment of the export of Japanese cotton piecegoods to India shall be made by the end of the said period on the basis of the exact quantity of Indian raw cotton exported to Japan in the corresponding Cotton Year, subject to the rules of the allowances between periods.

(iv) A transfer from the quota of the first half-yearly period to the quota of the second half-yearly period shall be permitted up to a maximum of 20 million yards.

From the second half-yearly period to the first half-yearly period of the succeeding Piecegoods Year and vice versa, a transfer up to a maximum of 20 million yards shall be permitted.

(d) Classification of the Quota into Categories:- The quota of cotton piecegoods shall be classified into the following categories in conformity with the following percentages:-

Plain greys 45 per cent.

Bordered greys 13 per cent.

Bleached 8 per cent.

Coloured and others 34 per cent.

The percentage allotted to each of the above categories may be modified subject to the following conditions:-

(i) The increase in the category either of bordered greys or bleached shall not exceed 20 per cent of the quantity allotted to that category, and the increase in any other category shall not exceed 10 per cent of the quantity allotted to that category;

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(ii) The quantity transferable from the category either of bordered greys or bleached shall not exceed 20 per cent of the quantity allotted to that category, and ~~that~~ quantity transferable from any other category shall not exceed 10 per cent of the quantity allotted to that category; and

(iii) The total quota of cotton piecegoods for any Piecegoods Year shall not be increased by the above modification of the quantity allotted to each category.

(e) The quota for the period intervening between the enforcement of the arrangement and the commencement of the first Piecegoods Year. - (1) The quota of cotton piecegoods for the period between the date on which the present Indian customs duty on cotton piecegoods will be reduced to 50 per cent and April 1, on which the first Piecegoods Year begins to run, shall be the proportionate fraction of the quantity that would have been allotted to the whole Piecegoods Year from April 1, 1933, to March 31, 1934, on the basis of the quantity of Indian raw cotton imported into Japan in the Cotton Year of 1933.

(ii) The quota for this period and the first half-yearly instalment of the first Piecegoods Year quota shall be consolidated into one for the period of approximately 9 months ending at the end of September 1934.

Enforcement of the Agreement. - (a) Separation of Burma. - It has been agreed upon that the terms of the new Treaty shall remain in force throughout its full term whether or not Burma is separated.

(b) Duration of the New Treaty. - It has been understood that the new Treaty shall be signed as soon as possible at London by the respective representatives of the Japanese Government and the British Government. The Treaty shall come into effect immediately after the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force until March 31, 1937.

I have above stated the substance of the agreement of views that has been arrived at between the two Delegations in the course of the negotiations since September last, and I trust that the Indian Delegation are ready to concur that this agreement of views has been reached.

Sir Joseph Bhore replied as follows:-

I have great pleasure in informing Your Excellency and Your Excellency's colleagues that the Indian Delegates find themselves in full agreement with the substance of the statement which has just been made by Your Excellency. I would, however, offer the following remark, not by way of modification of anything which

Your Excellency has said, but in order to secure the elucidation of a point which might otherwise be ambiguous and in order to remove an apparent inconsistency. I refer to the provision that the allotment for the first part of the Cotton Piecegoods Year shall be 200 million yards. In the event of the purchase of raw cotton by Japan being less than the quantity which would justify a total yearly quota of this amount, I assume that Your Excellency agrees that the necessary adjustment should be made from the next year's quota.

Mr. Sawada; "I am happy that my statement has been concurred in by the Hon'ble Sir Joseph Bhole. I wish therefore to propose the two Delegations proceed immediately to the actual drafting of the new agreement to be formulated upon the basis of agreement of views that has been reached. I trust that the Indian Delegation are ready to accede to the proposition."

Lifting of Cotton Boycott by Japan. - Mr. Sawada; "According to information just received from my Government, the Cotton Spinners' Association of Japan, at the Committee meeting held at Osaka on January 4, decided to withdraw on January 8, 1934, the resolution concerning the suspension of the purchase of Indian raw cotton."

Sir Joseph Bhole; "In view of the withdrawal of the resolution referred by Your Excellency and in view of the agreement of views between the two Delegations referred to above, the Government of India will reduce the customs duties on Japanese cotton piecegoods imported into India to the rates which have been agreed upon between the two Delegations from January 8, the date from which the resolution of the Cotton Spinners' Association of Japan concerning the suspension of the purchase of Indian raw cotton is withdrawn, and will accord most-favoured-nation treatment in respect of customs duties on Japanese cotton piecegoods imported into India. From the same date such conditions as have been agreed upon between the two Delegations will be applied to imports of Japanese piecegoods into India."

(The Statesman, 7-1-1934)

Cotton Mill Industry in Bombay City - 1933. ✓

The following information regarding conditions in the cotton mill industry in Bombay City and Island in 1933 is taken from a note on the subject published in the November 1933 issue of the Indian Textile Journal.

In the year 1932, according to ~~the~~ official statistics, the annual balance sheets of 32 cotton mills located in Bombay City and Island disclosed a most unhappy position. An aggregate loss of Rs. 3,873,000 is shown by 17 of the mills and a gross profit of Rs. 2,271,000 is shown by ~~only~~ 15 mills, out of which ~~only~~ 6 mills whose net profits totalled Rs. 539,000 were in a position to declare a return to shareholders. Two of these latter mills had to have recourse to the dividend equalization fund and the rest had to either credit the profit to wipe off total losses sustained in previous years or to the depreciation of machineries, and buildings, etc., fund.

During the current year the position of Bombay mills has been going from bad to worse. Out of a total number of 84 mills, no fewer than 31 have been closed since January, and more are likely to follow suit in the coming months. It has been computed that the industrial depression and other causes have been responsible for the stoppage of 22 to 37 per cent of the spindles and 14 to 30 per cent of the looms in Bombay mills alone. There has correspondingly been a steady falling off in production from month to month. The production of yarn and woven goods in January 1933 was 24,679,000 pounds and 20,915,000 pounds respectively, as against 22,810,000 pounds of yarn and 18,398,000 pounds of woven goods in July ~~last~~ 1933. In other words, there has been a decrease

of 8 to 9 per cent in yarn and about 10 per cent in woven goods during this period.

The closure of these mills has swelled up the operative unemployment roll to the huge figure of about 50,000, and is welling up serious discontent in the mill areas. During November^{last}, there were a number of sporadic strikes in individual mills and, according to press reports, the leftist labour leaders, chiefly of the Girni Kamgar Union, have been carrying on a vigorous campaign to bring about a general strike. Two of the most important groups of mills - the Sassoons and Currimbhoys - are virtually closed. The fate of several others is still to be settled, although some of these have been sold away to up-country merchants or have been in the hands of debenture-holders. Four cotton mills, which were once the pride of Bombay, have been altogether scrapped and the machineries sold to second-hand dealers as junk materials at "pig-iron" prices.

Reviewing the present position of the industry, the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, makes the following comments:-

All matters fairly and evenly considered, it would appear to be certain, despite super-optimists who incorrigibly wait for something that might turn up by way of a boom, that the strength of the mill industry in Bombay may have to undergo a severe contraction to almost half. Certain mills in the City have always been lame ducks, saddled with enormous liabilities, and it is futile to prop up these mills by temporary palliatives. This was actually done some years ago, and today some of them have crashed and others are in the act of crashing. It is possible that with the total but welcome ~~step~~ disappearance of the chronically diseased units, such of the mills which are financially safe from the rocks will ~~par~~ presumably concentrate on higher ranges of quality production with the aid of up-to-date machinery and better management. Present indications undoubtedly point out to this ideal.

The premier place that Bombay holds as the leading centre of the textile trade is rapidly sliding down the gradient. Otherwise, who can explain away the sorry plight of the Bombay mills vis-a-vis the rest of the Indian mills which are on a safer plane in the face of sustained depression and severe foreign competition from Japan?

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Coal Output Restriction; Details of Scheme. ✓

References were made at pages 46(a) to 46(c) of our October 1933 report and at page 56 of our November 1933 report to the crisis through which coal industry in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa is passing and to the scheme sponsored by the Indian Mining Association and the Indian Mining Federation for the restriction of output. Copy of a letter from the Association to the Government of India containing details of the scheme has recently been ~~communicated~~ ^{forwarded} to this Office by the Indian Mining Association. A summary of the present conditions in the industry ^{of the more important details of} and the scheme are given below.

Conditions in Coal Industry. - According to the letter, the pit-smooth prices of all grades of coal have fallen to a level which is uneconomic and which in most cases may now be said to be below cost of production. The fall in prices has been continuous for the ~~past eight years and in spite of strenuous efforts~~ on the part of those responsible for the administration of the coal trade it has been found impossible to arrest this decline. Measures adopted to meet the continued depression have included drastic reductions in the scale of salaries and wages of all persons connected with the industry, the stoppage of important developments, the whittling down to a dangerous margin of safety of all measures required for the care and maintenance of the mines and the voluntary curtailment of output on the part of some of the larger owners. It may be said that the wages now being paid to the labour in the coalfields are below the economic minimum which can enable them to live up to their average standard. A position has now been reached where further restrictions along these lines are impossible without seriously endangering the safety of the mines or causing the loss of large areas of coal. The continued depression in prices has had very disastrous effects on the coal industry, particularly of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. A number of mines have already been forced into liquidation or have closed down and ceased production. Reference has already been made at pages 36-37 of our November 33 report, while reviewing labour conditions in Indian coal mines during 1932, to the very low prices realised for coal and to the consequent closure of many coal mines. Conditions in this respect have not improved during the year.

Formulation of Restriction Scheme. - A deputation from the Indian Mining Association waited on the Commerce Member, Government of India, on 9-11-1933 to place the case for the restriction scheme before the Government. The Commerce Member gave a sympathetic hearing to the deputation but stated that before Government could

give effect to any scheme a satisfactory measure of agreement would be necessary within the trade.

The letter mentions that the coal trade of the country is made up of many divergent interests of which the chief controlling bodies are the Indian Mining Association, the Indian Mining Federation and the Indian Colliery Owners' Association. Although attempts have been made at intervals to bring about agreement among the members of these Associations for the betterment of the industry, the clash of interests has generally resulted in negotiations breaking down without any agreement being arrived at. Matters have, however, now become so serious and the dangers ahead are so apparent to all concerned that as a result of joint conference between these bodies a restriction scheme has been unanimously agreed upon and the only divergence of opinion applies to minor details. It is the general desire of the trade that the scheme, if acceptable to Government, should become operative on the 1st of April next or earlier and the matter is, accordingly, one of some urgency. The Government has been requested to arrange a meeting between the Members for the Commerce Department and the Industries and Labour Department on the one hand and the representatives of the coal trade on the other.

Details of the Scheme. - The following is the scheme as formulated by the Association:-

(1) (a) The Restriction Scheme shall be in force for a period of three years in the first instance, restriction being effected by control of wagon supply.

(b) The operation of the Scheme shall be restricted to Collieries in British India, situated chiefly in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and the Central Provinces.

(2) The Scheme shall be administered by a Committee of nine persons, eight being members nominated by the Coal Trade, as follows:- 4 members by the Indian Mining Association, 2 members by the Indian Mining Federation and 2 members by the Indian Colliery Owners' Association, with an independent Chairman appointed by Government.

* Foot note. - The Committee of the Indian Mining Federation, however, has sent a telegram to the Government of India to the effect that the Federation is not in agreement with the Association over certain fundamental provisions of the scheme and that, therefore substantial agreement has not been secured. It is understood that the differences centres chiefly round the administrative details of the scheme. (The Statesman, 15-12-33, and the Leader, 18-12-33). The presence in Calcutta early in January of most of the Departmental Chiefs of the Government of India in connection with the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce was availed of by the Federation and the Indian Colliery Owners' Association to discuss with them the subject of coal output restriction. It is understood that the Railway Board is ~~now~~ arranging to obtain certain figures regarding coal traffic as a basis for action on the representations made by the several bodies for reduction of freight charges. (The Statesman, 21-1-1934).

(3)(a) The Standard Tonnage of all collieries shall be the average annual output of the years 1930-31-32. The lowest quota shall be 75% of the Standard Tonnage but the Committee shall have power to vary the quota from time to time as they consider necessary. The initial quota shall be not less than 80% of the Standard Tonnage, and every colliery in receipt of an initial quota shall be registered with the Committee. The minimum quota allotted to any colliery shall be 18,000 tons per annum and any colliery which was closed down for the whole or part of the period 1st January 1930 to 31st December 1932 shall be allotted either the minimum quota of 18,000 tons referred to above or $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the colliery's actual raisings during that period, less the percentage of restriction in force for the time being, whichever shall be the greater.

(b) Collieries in Central Provinces (British India) shall be allotted a quota equal to 100% of their standard tonnage.

(4) (a) The whole or part of any quota may be transferred from, or sold by, one colliery to another. All sales and transfers of quota shall be registered by the Committee. Sales and transfers of quota shall only be permitted between registered holders of quota.

(b) In the case of colliery in receipt of the minimum quota of 18,000 tons the sale or transfer of quota shall be limited to the Standard Tonnage, or to 18,000 tons whichever is less. In the case of any such sale or transfer the balance of the quota, over and above the Standard Tonnage if any, shall be cancelled.

(5) In the case of collieries which were closed on or before the 31st December 1929 or which started despatches after 1st January 1930, each individual one shall be dealt with by the Committee on its merits, due regard being had to the productive capacity of such colliery.

(6) Collieries manufacturing soft coke shall be on the same footing as all other collieries.

(7) In cases of shipment to ports outside India and Burma extra wagons will be given without any penalty.

(8) In the case of collieries which, prior to the introduction of the scheme, have sold beyond their quota, the Committee shall, on the application of such colliery, scrutinise all contracts made and shall have power to award such additional quota to such colliery as in their opinion is considered justified. Any additional quota so awarded shall however in no case be effective later than 31st March 1935.

(9) Sanction shall be sought from Government to amend the Coal Grading Board Act 1925 to allow of all expenses in connection with the working of the Restriction Scheme to be met from funds at the disposal of the Indian Coal Grading Board.

(10) The Committee shall deal with all matters arising out of the Restriction Scheme and their decisions shall be final and binding.

(Summarised from the Communication dated 13-12-1933 sent to the Government of India by the Indian Mining Association, a copy of which was forwarded to this Office).

Representation of Jharia Indian Miners' Association for Higher Wages. • In the note forwarding the above scheme, it will be noted that the Association states that the wages now being paid to labourers in the coalfields are "below the economic minimum which can enable them to live up to their average standard". It may be mentioned in this connection that the Indian Miners' Association, Jharia, have sent a telegram to the Railway Board on 11-12-1933 appealing to the Board to stipulate, when accepting tenders of raising contractors in regard to railway collieries, not to reduce the wage rates below a fair economic level. The Association has pointed out that in the Argada Colliery, the rate per tub has been recently reduced from $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas to $2\frac{3}{4}$ annas per tub, and that similar drastic reduction is being threatened in other collieries as well.

The Miners' Association points out that in 1930 the average rate of wages paid to the miners was 7 annas per tub of 15 cubic feet, which rate, was considered very low at that time as the rate prevailing in 1922-23 was 10 annas per tub. Since then in the name of reduction in raising cost, the rate of wages was being reduced without any consideration for the bare needs even of workers till the rates now obtaining is $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas, and in the Argada Colliery, $2\frac{3}{4}$ annas. It is also pointed out in the representation that few years hence when women labour will be completely eliminated from under ground work, the family income of a miner will be naturally reduced to half of what he is getting now even if the present rates do not change, and that if the rates are not increased to a certain extent and a minimum wage is not guaranteed, the condition of the miners and their family will be rendered miserable.

The Association has requested the Railway Board to insist in all future appointments of raising contractors that guarantees are given by them to pay an equitable minimum wage for miners and day-labourers. The Association has suggested, taking into consideration the depressed condition of the industry, 6 annas per tub for miners and 8 annas per day for day-labourers as the equitable minimum rate. Skilled workers are to have special rates.

(Summarised from a communication to the Office from the Secretary, Indian Miners' Association, Jharia).

-C. P. Bills to Allviate Rural Indebtedness. ✓

Two Bills have been introduced in the Central Provinces Legislative Council with a view to protect the rural population from high rates of interest charged by money lenders. The first is the Usurious Loans Amendment Bill, 1934, ^{which} ~~and~~ has been introduced, according to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, since certain difficulties regarding the decision of what constitutes "excessive interest" (used in Sec.3 of the Act) have been experienced. In the absence of a definition of what constitutes excessive interest there is a tendency on the part of the courts to use as criteria the prevailing high rates of interest. The courts are also disinclined to raise suo motu the defence permitted by the Act. The aim of the Bill is to remove these difficulties with a view to make the Act a more effective instrument for the relief of debtors, who, as a class, are unable to deal with the money-lending class on equal terms. The Bill does not attempt an absolute definition of excessive interest, other than compound interest, but provides for a presumption ^{of "excessive interest"} being raised when the stipulated rates exceed certain limits felt to be reasonable for certain kinds of loans.

The second Bill is the Central Provinces Money-Lenders Bill, 1934, "to make better provision for the regulation and control of the transaction of money-lending". According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the need of controlling by legislation the transaction of money-lending in order to protect

ignorant debtors against fraud and extortion is now generally recognised, and the Bill is designed to secure this end, without, at the same time, interfering unduly with the freedom of private contract. It has been framed on the lines of the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act, 1930, but embodies, in addition, the principle of damdupat, with a view to discourage creditors from postponing the enforcement of their claims unconscionably. It also gives the courts extended power to fix instalments for execution of decrees. This Bill together with the Usurious Loans (Central Provinces Amendment) Bill, 1934, constitute measures calculated to ~~xs~~supplement the Central Provinces Debt Conciliation Act, 1933 (for details of the C.P. Debt Conciliation Act, vide pages 45-46 of our January 1933 report).

(Summarised from the C.P. Gazette, dated 12-1-1934 - Part II pages 1-6).

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Economic Survey of India;
Terms of Reference of Enquiry Committee. ✓

Reference was made at pages 50-52 of our November 1933 report to the appointment by the Government of India of a small Committee consisting of Professor Bowley, Mr. Robertson and three Indian members to undertake an economic survey of India. The following are the terms of reference of the Committee;

"With a view to facilitating the further study of the economic problems of India, to report on the existing organisations and

range of statistical and other information bearing on the economic condition of India with special reference to the gaps which exist at present and the means of filling these:

In particular

- (i) to make recommendations as to the organisation of a central statistical department which in addition to the collection of statistics can co-ordinate statistical enquiry and information for the whole of India,
- (ii) to consider the practicability and scope of ^acensus of production,
- (iii) to consider the materials obtainable for measurement of national income and national wealth,
- (iv) to make recommendations as to the initiation or continuation of ^aseries of index numbers of prices, wages, production, etc.

II. As it is desirable that the collection of the information referred to under (1) should be, as far as possible, ^{be} designed to serve as a guide to practical policy, the main problems which arise in regard to the full utilisation of India's economic resources should be formulated."

(Commercial Gazette, 17-1-34)

HHK.

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Employment & Unemployment.

Schemes for Relief of Unemployment; A Four-Year Plan for Siam ✓

A four-year programme for the agricultural, commercial and industrial development of Siam was outlined by the State Councillor for the Ministry of Economic Affairs, ^{Siam,} at a session of the National Assembly held in Bangkok during January. This development programme launched by the Siamese Government is of particular importance, inasmuch as the successful operation of the project forms the main task confronting the National Government and the Assembly of People's Representatives which was recently inaugurated by His Majesty the King.

The four-year programme embraces a series of developments calculated to brighten the country's agricultural and commercial outlook and to enhance the wealth of the nation. Measures to relieve the plight of the Siamese farmer, as a result of general world depression and the fall in the price of rice, include the extension of the co-operative credit movement, the reorganization of internal rice markets and the furtherance of Siamese trade abroad. The plan also provides for a huge system of irrigation projects and the establishment of agricultural experimental stations.

Unemployment problems are practically new in Siam, but Government's scheme provides for the granting of initial financial assistance for the jobless and for finding work for them in certain contemplated public works projects. Scientific methods of agriculture are to be promoted under the direction of the Department of Science; researches on the extinction of insect pests are to be carried out; and ~~the~~ analyses of soils, manures, fodder and animal foods are to be undertaken. Publications are to be issued by the Department of Science as to the progress and results of scientific researches on the above subjects. Researches are also promised into the commercial possibilities of the country's vast mineral and botanical wealth.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-1-1934)

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Remedial Measures Against Unemployment Urged;

N. M. Joshi's Resolution in Assembly. ✓

On 30-1-1934 Mr. N.M.Joshi introduced the following resolution relating to unemployment in the Legislative Assembly;

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps to protect the workers in the country against increasing unemployment and reduction of wages."

The resolution was a comprehensive one, dealing not merely with industrial unemployment, but also with unemployment in agriculture and among the educated middle classes. After indicating the difficulties of measuring the incidence of unemployment and the extent of the fall in wages due to the absence of statistics, Mr. Joshi summarised the available evidence and maintained that in recent years there has been increasing unemployment, as also an increasing tendency to enforce wage cuts. He pointed out that according to census reports, the number of those supported by the workers ~~has~~ been increasing, while employment was diminishing year after year. The workers at the ports did not get work for ten or twelve days in the month, and at the same time, wages had been reduced by 30 to 40 per cent, and in some cases even more. He attributed these miseries caused by the reduction of wages and unemployment to the capitalist system based upon uncontrolled competition. There was the example of Soviet Russia, where these problems were successfully dealt with, and there were also the schemes to counter uncontrolled competition, worked out by Mussolini, Hitler and Roosevelt. He demanded a clause to be incorporated in the new constitution, laying down a Fundamental Right, to the effect that ~~workers~~ should have the right to live and to work. The Government,

should immediately give effect to the recommendations of Sir Arthur Salter and undertake a proper economic survey and industrial planning. Continuing, Mr. Joshi said that ~~the~~ present conditions were similar to ~~those of famine~~ ^{Conditions} and quoted the Whitley Commission's recommendations, ~~to meet famine conditions~~, according to which the Government should undertake ^{public} ~~big~~ works ^{to meet famine conditions.} He affirmed that the unemployed in India were entirely maintained by employed workers, so that the responsibility of the latter had increased. It was pointed out that America and other countries, despite depression, did not try to reduce wages. He demanded that the Government should make a thorough enquiry before wage reduction was made by any industry. In this connection, Mr. Joshi particularly urged the Government to see that protected industries shared with their workers a proper portion of the profits gained as a result of such protection. He warned the Government that a policy of hesitancy would not do, and that they should make a bold step forward, and give effect to the Royal Commission's recommendations. He quoted passages from the last report of the Director of the I.L.O. indicating some of the remedies to be adopted and pleaded that the urgency of the situation demanded expeditious ^{yo} action;

Among the speakers on the resolution was Sir George Schuster, Finance Member, Government of India, who observed that the real problem was not so much industrial unemployment, as ^{the} lack of purchasing power ^{of} the masses as a whole. He referred to the Economic survey now in progress, and hoped that it would lead to a better organisation of statistical information, which would be instructive

to the public, and said that the Government's difficulty regarding initiation of new public works was that no financially sound schemes could be thought of.

The debate on the resolution was resumed on 6-2-1934. Sir Hari Singh Gour declared that what the country needed urgently was a Central Board for industrial control and a Central Board of Education.

Sir Frank Noyce, Member, Industries and Labour Department, criticised the language of the resolution and suggested a modification before the Government could accept it. In regard to industrial unemployment he repeated the substance of Sir George Schuster's arguments that India was facing the effects of a world-wide phenomenon. Sir Frank admitted that there was unemployment, ^{Combined with} and economic distress and, therefore, it was the duty of the Government to direct their policy towards securing a greater volume of employment and greater security in that employment. He alluded to the increase in population and said it was difficult to provide a comfortable existence for everyone. He denied that the Government had ignored Sir Arthur Salter's recommendations, and after referring to the economic survey, now in progress, he agreed that an organisation to help towards economic recovery was essential. He objected to the expression "increasing unemployment" among factory workers and said it was inaccurate. He also ^{made a protest against the suggestion} ~~opposed the impression implied~~ that the Government had done nothing.

Sir Frank Noyce referred to several measures intended for the protection of industries. In the field of agriculture he mentioned

linseed and sugar, which were bright spots in the present depression. The Factories Bill was there to protect workers. On the railways the Government had done their best to prevent the discharge of men. In regard to the construction of roads, he referred to the resolution passed at the Simla Rail-Road Conference (vide page 56 of our April 1933 report) and hoped to ^{implement} the resolution when the use of the petrol tax could be further discussed. In regard to the suggestion for an unemployment insurance scheme, conditions had not changed since the Whitley Commission reported to prove the practicability of giving effect to it. Concluding, Sir Frank Noyce said he was prepared to accept the resolution provided it was on the following terms:

"To pursue such measures as may be practicable to protect workers in this country against unemployment and a reduction in wages."

Mr. Joshi accepted the modification and the following amended resolution was carried:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to pursue such measures as may be practicable to protect the workers in the country against unemployment and reduction of wages."

(Legislative Assembly Debates of 30-1-34 and of 6-2-1934).

Social Conditions.The Indian National Social Conference, Madras, 1933. ✓

The 1933 session of the Indian National Social Conference was held at Madras on 29-12-1933 under the presidentship of Mr. G.K. Devadhar, C.I.E. The Conference was organised and founded by Justice Ranade of Poona and the first session was held at Madras in 1887. The Conference continued to hold annual sessions till 1928, after which year no sessions were held till the present conference in 1933.

~~The~~ In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Devadhar traced in broad outlines the present social and economic conditions of the masses. Dealing with the necessity for rural reconstruction, he indicated the lines along which the problem had to be tackled. He suggested in the first place that facilities for vocational and adult education were to be made available to the masses. Secondly, the improvement of the economic conditions of the masses from the crushing burden of indebtedness, which he estimated at 9,000 million Rupees, had to be effected by initiating as early as possible schemes of debt redemption. Thirdly, improvement in public ~~sanita-~~ ~~tion~~ health had to be effected through better methods of village sanitation and personal and public hygiene, ^{or} by food reform. Mr. Devadhar suggested birth control for checking ^{the tendency for} excessive increase in the population of India. He also emphasised the urgency of improving the economic and living conditions of workers.

The following are some of the more important of the resolutions passed at the conference:-

(1) Welfare Work. - This conference desires to place on record its appreciation of the labours in the cause of national service of the various welfare-work institutions throughout the country. While welcoming the rapid growth in the number of such institutions, ~~in~~

including those devoted to rural reconstruction, this conference is of opinion that their endeavour for national uplift needs and deserves to be amply supplemented by State aid either through legislative action or through financial assistance or through both.

(2) Social Programmes. - This conference is of opinion that the time has arrived for the formation of social programmes including those relating to housing and health and for training and utilising the growing enthusiasm of the country for constructive work in the various departments of national life.

(3) Study of Social Science. - This conference is of opinion that the study of social science with special reference to Indian conditions should be actively promoted by the Universities in the country.

(4) Higher Education of Women. - This conference views with satisfaction the great advance that has been made in the matter of higher education of women, and requests the Government and the public to arrange for the establishment in each Presidency of at least one college on the model of ^{the} Lady Irwin (Domestic Science) College, recently established at Delhi, so that Women's education may be of more practical use than it is at present.

(5) Traffic in Women and Children. - This conference approves of the legislation recently enacted to prohibit immoral traffic and is of opinion that its operation should be extended to the whole of British India. It calls upon the Government and the local bodies to establish homes where girls that have to be dealt under the Act can be trained to become normal citizens of the State.

(6) Poverty and Unemployment. - This conference notes with great regret the prevalence of poverty and unemployment throughout the country and is of opinion that the situation is one which calls for immediate remedial measures.

(7) Vocational Education. - This conference desires to draw the attention of the Government and of the public to the need for the extension of vocational education closely related to the industrial needs and possibilities of the country.

(8) Labour Legislation. - This conference while appreciating the action of the Government in carrying out some of the recommendations of the Whitley Commission, emphasises the need for early action through legislation and otherwise for carrying out all its recommendations.

(9) The resolution on labour legislation was moved by Mr. O.C. Srinivasan, Mr. K.G. Sivaswamy Iyer, supporting the resolution, said that the benefit of the recommendations of the Whitley Commission in regard to the summary liquidations of indebtedness of industrial workers should be extended also to agricultural workers. ~~The Agricultural workers.~~ The Agricultural Commission had made several proposals for relieving agricultural indebtedness and he urged the Government to take immediate steps to implement them. There was need for a progressive agricultural income-tax, death duties,

and succession duties. All these reforms were necessary ~~not only~~ for removal of several social ~~and~~ economic evils that now troubled India. He wanted the conference to generally approve of legislation for protection of tenants' interests. Further, the Government of India ought to adopt steps at once to implement the decision of the International Labour Conference recommending rights of association to agricultural workers and the prohibition of ~~the~~ employ of children below a certain age in agriculture. Lastly, he urged the conference to express itself in favour of extension of the franchise to agricultural workers also. Mr. Sivaswami Iyer moved an amendment embodying all these proposals and the mover of the resolution accepted them.

(9) Birth Control Clinics. - Having regard to the prevalence even now of early marriages and the consequent early motherhood and frequent pregnancies, and the resultant deplorable deterioration in the health of young mothers, this conference approves of the proposal to open birth control clinics under the charge of competent medical authorities to give advice in proper cases.

The Conference also appointed a Committee to take the necessary action to give effect to the resolutions, to frame a constitution for the Conference and to carry on the work of the Conference during 1934. Mr. G.K.Devadhar was elected President of the Conference for 1934.

(The Hindu 29 & 30-12-1933)

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Public Health.

Vital Statistics for India - 1931.*

The most important event in connection with vital statistics in India in 1931 was the taking of the census on 26th February. (In Burma the census was taken on 24th February). The report states that the taking of the census has enabled the Public Health Commissioner to correct estimates of population during the past decennium and to assign more accurate ratios than usual for the period under review.

Population. - The decennial census was taken on 26th February 1931. The population of British India according to the census was 271,526,933; the population of the Indian States was 21,310,245; the grand total for India was 292,837,778 - a decennial increase of 10.6% in all India and 10.0% in British India. Previous increases in British India were 1.3% in the decennium 1911-20 and 5.8% in the decennium 1901-10. The increase on the whole period from 1872 when the first census was inaugurated to 1931 was 46.6%. The largest percentage increase over 1921 shown by any province in 1931 was 30.3% in Delhi and the lowest (6.7%) in the United Provinces, whilst Coorg recorded a decrease of 0.3%. The figures of population obtained in the 1931 census in the different provinces were:-

Province.	Population	Province	Population
Bengal	50,114,002	North-West Frontier Province.	2,425,076
United Provinces.	48,406,765	Delhi.	636,246
Madras. ..	46,749,107	Ajmer-Merwara. ...	560,292
Bihar & Orissa.	37,677,576	Baluchistan. ...	463,508
Punjab. ..	23,580,852	Coorg. ...	163,327
Bombay ..	21,930,601	British India including	
Central Provinces.	15,507,723	Andamans and Nicobars - Total. -	271,526,933
Burma. ..	14,667,146		
Assam. ..	8,622,251		

Registration of vital statistics is in force in a population of 265,716,405, i.e., 98% of the total of 271,497,470 (excluding the Andamans and the Nicobars).

* Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for 1931 - Vol. I - with appendices. - Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1933. Price Rs. 4-12-0 8s. - pp. 516.

Chief Vital Statistical Facts. - The chief statistical facts relating to the population of British India for 1931 are as follows:-

1. Birth Rate. - The birth rate for the year was 34.3 per mille of 1931 census population as compared with 33.4 p.m. on the estimated population for 1930 and 35.7 p.m. for the previous quinquennium (based on 1921 census).

2. Death Rate. - The death rate was 24.8 per mille of the 1931 census population as compared with 24.5 p.m. on the estimated population for 1930 and 26.0 p.m. for the preceding quinquennium (based on 1921 census).

3. Infant Mortality. - The infantile mortality rate, i.e., the death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live-births was 178.8 as against 180.8 in 1930 and 177.6 in the previous quinquennium.

Comparison with other Countries. - These facts can be best appreciated by consulting the table below where the rates for British India are compared with those for certain other countries in 1931.

Country.	Birth rate per mille.	Death rate per mille.	Infantile death rate per 1,000 births (of infants under one year.)
British India. ...	34.3	24.8	179
England and Wales.	15.8	12.3	66
Scotland.. ...	19.0	13.3	82
Australia. ...	18.2	8.7	42
New Zealand	18.4	8.3	32
Canada ...	23.2	10.1	85
Union of South Africa (White)	25.6	9.5	65
Federated Malay States.	33.9	19.4	139
Palestine.	44.9	20.7	170
United States of America.	17.8	11.1	62
Japan.	32.2	19.0	132
Egypt.	44.8	26.8	160

Compiled from the Statistical year-book of the League of Nations, 1932-33, Geneva, 1933.

Live-births (British India) - Live-births registered during 1931 numbered 9,135,890 (4,741,321 males and 4,394,569 females), being 445,176 or 5.1% more than the figure for 1930. Rural and urban areas recorded 8,253,552 and 882,338 live births, the rates being 34.5 p.m. and 39.7 p.m. respectively. In India the highest birth rate was recorded in the Central Provinces, viz., 44.1 p.m. (43.5 p.m. in 1930 and 46.0 the quinquennial average) and the

lowest in Coorg (24.5 p.m. against 25.7 p.m. in 1930 and 21.1 the quinquennial mean). The proportion of males to every 100 females born was 108. The birth rate exceeded the death rate in all the provinces, the largest increases occurring in Delhi (+18.4), Punjab (+16.7), Bombay (+12.3), Madras (+11.8), North-West Frontier Province (+10.4), Assam (+9.5) and Bombay (+9.1). In Coorg the small increase of the birth rate over the death rate (+0.7) was an unusual feature because in this province a large proportion of the population being plantation labourers are emigrants from the adjoining districts of Mysore State and the Madras Presidency who leave their families at their homes, and the excess of deaths over births has been the resultant feature in previous years.

Deaths (British India). - Deaths registered during 1931 numbered 6,615,099 (males 3,441,913 and females 3,173,286), as compared with 6,483,449, in 1930, and 6,297,391 in 1929. Urban areas recorded 655,079 deaths and rural areas 5,950,020 as against 654,027* and 5,815,589*, respectively in 1930, and 681,305* and 5,571,216* in 1929. The death rate for 1931, based on the 1931 census population was 24.9 p.m. (male 25.1 p.m. and female 24.6) as against 26.8 in 1930 (this rate of 26.8 p.m. for 1930 was based on the census population of 1921). The death rate calculated on the mid-year estimated population in 1931 was 24.8 p.m., as compared with 24.5 p.m., based on population estimates in 1930. The death rate among females exceeded that among males in Delhi (+5.7 p.m.), Coorg (+3.3), Punjab (+1.5), Bombay (+1.0), Bengal (+0.4), Ajmer-Merwara (+0.2), and Assam (+0.1). Elsewhere the male death rate exceeded the female. The Indian death rate should be compared with those of some other countries of which particulars are available. The 1931 rate for British India was double that for England and Wales, Sweden and Switzerland, three times that for Australia and New Zealand, 1½ times that for France, Hungary, Spain and Portugal and 2½ times that for Netherlands, Canada and South Africa (white).

Infant Mortality. - Of the total deaths, 1,633,476 or nearly 25% occurred among infants under one year of age, 1,226,321 or 18% among children between the ages of 1-5 years, and 363,940 or 5% among those between 5-10 years. In other words, out of every 100 deaths recorded 43 were of children below five years of age and 48 among those below ten years. In England and Wales the corresponding figures for 1930 and 1931 were 8.5% and 8.5%, respectively. The infantile death rate for British India per 1,000 live-births, viz., 178.8 declined by 2.0 per mille as compared with 1930; it was nearly 2/3 times that for England and Wales, and for South Africa; nearly 5½ times that for New Zealand; 3/3 times that for Switzerland; 3½ times that for Netherlands; 2½ times that for France; and more than double that for Germany. Countries whose figures are at all comparable with those of British India are Roumania, Hungary, Portugal, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Italy, Austria, Egypt and Soviet Russia.

* Excluding Ajmer-Merwara.

The infantile mortality rate among males was 187.3 and among females 169.6 against 189.1 and 171.9, respectively in 1930. Central Provinces recorded the highest rate, i.e., 261.2 per 1,000 live births. In diminishing sequence other figures were Delhi (228.1), Coorg (199.9), Burma (190.9), United Provinces (189.1), Madras (186.6), Ajmer-Merwara (182.3), Punjab (178.3), Bengal (174.0), Bombay (161.6), Assam (152.9), Bihar and Orissa (143.6) and North-West Frontier Province (128.4, lowest).

Chief Causes of Mortality. - Nearly 60% of the total mortality from all causes was ascribed to "fevers"; 25.2% to "other causes"; 6.4% to ~~the~~ respiratory diseases; 4.1% to dysentery and diarrhoea; 3.3% to cholera; 0.7% to plague; and 0.6% to small-pox. In other words, in 1931 the principal epidemic diseases, viz., cholera, small-pox and plague were responsible for nearly five of every 100 deaths registered.

Industrial Health -- Mines. - During 1931, the daily average number of persons working in and about the mines registered under the Indian Mines Act was 230,782 (182,875 males and 47,907 females), of whom 115,726 were working underground, 54,912 on open workings and 60,144 on surface work, 158,267 persons were employed in coal mines and 72,515 in metalliferous mines. The number of women employed underground was 16,841 (14.5%), in open workings 16,079 and as surface workers 14,987.

Asansol Mines Settlement. - In the Asansol Mines Settlement the death rate was 20.5 per mille, and the infantile death rate 135 per 1,000 births; 620 cases of cholera with 309 deaths (0.8 p.m.), 94 of small-pox with eight deaths (0.02 p.m.) were recorded. The number of anti-cholera inoculations was 43,316 and of vaccinations 63,385. A propaganda officer and a school medical officer were maintained who delivered magic lantern lectures and inspected school children. A leprosy survey showed an infection rate of one per cent of the population.

Jharia Mines Board of Health. In the colliery population of 126,000, 2,008 births (15.9 p.m.) and 1,205 deaths (9.6 p.m.) were recorded against 1,586 (12.6 p.m.) and 1,314 (10.4 p.m.) in 1930. Influenza with 3,228 cases, small-pox (163) and cholera (100) were the chief causes of sickness, against 3,440, 381 and 118, respectively, in 1930. Influenza caused 38 deaths, cholera, 30, and small-pox six, as compared with 57, 42 and 21 respectively in 1930. In the whole area comprising a population of 504,736, there were 249 deaths from cholera (0.4 p.m.) and 25 from small-pox (0.1 p.m.). Plague was absent. The Mines Board, with the aid of the colliery authorities, opened four maternity and child welfare centres under a maternity supervisor, whilst a certain amount of this work was also carried out by the independent collieries in the neighbourhood. ~~As in previous years, close contact was maintained of the coalfields.~~

Industrial Health - Factories. - The total number of factories at work in 1931 was 8,145 (8,148 in 1930), and the average number of persons employed fell from 1,528,302 to 1,413,487. Female workers numbered 231,183 and children 26,932, being 16.2% and 1.9% respectively of the total factory population. The numbers of recorded accidents were classified as 174 fatal, 3,693 serious and 15,940 minor. The authorities concerned were alive to the necessity of minimising the risks of accidents, and measures in this direction were being taken.

Progress of Welfare Schemes. - There has been some advance in housing schemes in a few of the factory centres. From the health point of view, except for a few minor outbreaks of cholera and small-pox occurring in the Central Provinces, in three jute mills and in a cotton mill in Bengal, and sporadic epidemics of malaria in other places, the year may be regarded as normal for the factory population as a whole. General sanitary conditions in larger concerns continued to show improvement, and steady progress was maintained in the matter of improved ventilation and lighting arrangements. Despite adverse financial conditions, the volume of welfare work was maintained at a steady level in all provinces and in certain places has expanded. In Bombay over 50,000 mill hands and their families attended the health exhibitions organised by the Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association. Fairly extensive opium drugging of infants was revealed at a "week" organised by one of the Jalgaon mills. Messrs. Bird & Co. appointed a special officer for maternity and child welfare work and entertained a lady welfare worker for charge of the welfare centre, crèche and clinic in the Clive mills; whilst the Indian jute mills association, in pursuance of their proposal to establish welfare centres, baby clinics and creches in all mills within its membership, appointed a lady doctor to do a survey and to prepare a detailed scheme. The Kesoram cotton mills opened a fully equipped hospital with a creche and entertained a lady welfare supervisor. Leprosy clinics have been established in several jute mills and at the Indian Iron and Steel Company's works at Hirapur. The North-Western Railway extended its welfare programme and established a stadium for its employees at Moghulpura, whilst welfare committees have been established at Perambur and the Golden Rock. The Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act was enforced during the year.

Future Direction of Public Health. - The report, in conclusion, points that it will be necessary to take stock of the health position of India at a very early date. This course has been consistently and continuously advocated by the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, as well as by other expert workers. It has been

suggested that it should be done by an "ad hoc" commission on which all related interests would be represented as such commissions have usually been found necessary before large measures of reform were able to be introduced. Such a commission, if it were prepared to consider all the factors influencing health and especially the factors of population, finance, wages, and diet, might be able to pave the way for some more permanent and practical scheme of economic uplift. The proposed Central Health Board if its duties are properly interpreted and if it is properly administered should have a definite educative value. It should be of the greatest assistance in co-ordinating health work throughout the country and would be an admirable preparatory step for the eventual establishment of a Ministry of Health as envisaged by the Labour Commission and by those experts who have made a special study of Indian health.

(In connection with Geneva Office's letter S.I.21/7/2/4, dated the 19th January 1934 to the Secretary, Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, intimating despatch of a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee of Experts set up by the Health Organisation of the League of Nations, attention is invited to the last chapter of the Report reviewed above).

Health, Welfare and Safety Work on E.B. Railway.

The following information regarding health, welfare and safety work on the Eastern Bengal Railway is taken from a communication on the subject dated 27-1-1934 addressed to this Office by the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway:-

Staff Welfare. - The following was done with regard to the welfare of the staff:-

- (1) Health propaganda was conducted by means of vernacular posters, pamphlets, magic lantern and cinema shows and lectures by health-visitors.
- (2) The staff have been relieved considerably from their financial embarrassments by the liquidation of their debts from the Staff Benefit Fund - the money so advanced being

recovered by easy instalments - the number being dependent on ability to repay.

- (3) Assistance and advice was rendered to the Railway Institutes and Sports Clubs for the conduct of athletics, physical culture, and theatrical performances; and
- (4) Staff outings and other facilities were organised.

Health Propaganda - Exhibitions. - During the year, three health and welfare exhibitions were held at three of the more important centres under the auspices of the Staff Benefit Fund. At these exhibitions lectures on domestic hygiene, prenatal care and allied subjects were delivered by health workers, performances were given by physical culture experts and athletic sports were held which were open to the Railway staff alone. These exhibitions were so successful and appealed so strongly to the staff that it is intended to continue them in the ensuing year.

Provision of New Institutes and Playgrounds. - During the year under review, a new institute was inaugurated at Siliguri for the Indian staff and play grounds were provided for the children of Railway employees at Saidpur and Kanchrapara.

Health and Sanitation. - The number of certified days of sickness recorded an increase during the year, i.e. from 257,694 days in 1931-32 to 266,205 in 1932-33. The average number of days lost by ~~an~~ sickness per man during the year was 5.69 in 1932-33 as against 5.07 in 1931-32. The country served by the Railway experienced a severe epidemic of small-pox and special efforts were directed by the Railway Medical Department to protect the Railway staff and their dependents. 16,384 small-pox vaccinations of Railway staff and their dependents were performed by the Railway Medical Staff only. There was, however, a decrease in the number of cholera vaccinations as this has become a negligible factor in the disease incidence among the Railway population. This should be mainly attributed to the provision of better water supply, better supervision and control of food-stuffs exposed for sale and the condemnation of those found to be unfit for human consumption and prophylactic vaccinations.

Anti-malarial work. - The number of cases of malaria among the Railway staff increased from 8,040 in 1931-32 to 12,596 in 1932-33 and the certified man-days lost to the Railway increased from 39,800 to 44,141. This problem is being tackled in right earnest and satisfactory progress is expected in the current year. The Railway's Medical Department is co-operating with the Barrackpore Anti-Malarial Association and the Dacca Municipal Authorities for the prevention of mosquito breeding nuisance in Railway land at Barrackpore and Dacca. ~~Malaria is a preventable disease against malaria by~~

First-Aid Courses. - During the year courses of instruction were arranged in First Aid for 399 persons, of which 287 obtained First Aid Certificates and four Voucher Certificates. The propor-
-tion

of the total number of First Aid Certificate-holders to the number of Railway servants who are under the existing rules required to pass the First Aid Examination is 50.4 per cent which is the highest percentage on all Class I Railways. There were 3,642 holders of First Aid Certificates, 16 of Home Nursing Certificates, 150 of Vouchers, 34 of Medallions and 15 of Labels.

Safety First Propaganda. * (i) The Railway Publicity Cinema Car visits the principal stations throughout the year and displays Safety-First films. (ii) Suitable posters depicting the right and the wrong way, and the results of the latter, of ordinary operations and acts in the every day work and life of the staff, are conspicuously displayed in all workshops, engine-sheds, stations and other suitable places. (iii) First Aid lectures are given at all the principal centres, which the staff are encouraged to attend, the possession of a First Aid Certificate being compulsory in certain cases. (iv) Protection guards are provided on all machinery, including hangers, or troughs for beltings; the use of goggles, where these are desirable, is insisted on, as also that of mops for cutting out rivets, chippings etc. Warning notices are frequently issued drawing attention to the possibility of accidents if rivet heads and chippings are allowed to fly in the direction where other staff are working, the supervising staff being required at all times to watch and instruct staff under them in the avoidance of accidents, and to encourage habits of thought and consideration which will prevent injuries to themselves and to others.

Considerable progress has been made in this way in educating the staff themselves, which is the first necessity and they are now realising the beneficial effect of the safety first measures in carrying out their duties and having minor injuries attended to promptly in every case. Each shop and engine-shed is equipped with its own First Aid cabinet and stretcher box. Staff have been trained as stretcher bearers and the transport of a casualty to the hospital, is now only a matter of minutes.

Co-operation.

11th Session of Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Societies — Delhi, 1934. ✓

The 11th session of the Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Credit Societies, conducted under the auspices of the Government of India, was held at Delhi from 29-1-1934 to 1-2-1934. The Conference was attended also by Provincial Ministers in charge of Co-operation, and prominent non-officials interested in the movement. The 10th session of the Conference was held at Simla in 1928; the Conference was then discontinued for a period as some of the provincial governments were of opinion that the results obtained were incommensurate with the expenditure entailed. The phenomenal difficulties which the movement is facing owing to the present depression have led to the revival of the Conference. Sir Fazli Hussain, Education ~~Minister~~ Member, Government of India, presided over the Conference.

Explaining the need for holding the Conference, Sir Fazli Hussain traced the growth of the co-operative movement since 1928 and dealt with the effects of the present crisis on the movement. He said:- "Since 1928, the Co-operative movement continued to show signs of progress until 1930-31. The number of co-operative societies in British India and Indian States increased from 96,000 in 1927-28 to 106,000, and the membership rose from 3.78 millions to ~~4.45~~ millions. The working capital grew still faster; it rose during the same period from Rs. 76.7 millions to nearly Rs. 920 millions. After 1930-31 came a halt and the number of societies and members actually showed a slight decline in the following year. The movement which had withstood a severe test during the war received a setback with the onslaught of ^{the} general economic depression and fall in agricultural prices. Several societies and Banks had to be liquidated and the stability of several others had been threatened. Loans have been restricted at a time when they are most needed and the necessity for conserving resources has led to the curtailment of the benefits which have been associated with the name of Co-operation for many years. The strain of agricultural and industrial depression has made itself felt in the various provinces in varying degrees but none has been able to escape unscathed."

Among more important items on the agenda were ~~the~~ (1) steps to be taken to meet the present crisis; (2) place of co-operation in rural

reconstruction; and (3) establishment of a Central Co-operative Organisation. The members of the Conference were divided into three committees; the first to consider questions of legislation, arbitration and liquidation; the second, questions of finance and the third present ~~xx~~ economic conditions and lines of future development. The three committees submitted various proposals.

Decisions of the Conference.- The following decisions were arrived at by the Conference on the various recommendations of the three committees:-

(1) Legislation for All-India Registration of Co-operative Societies.- The Conference accepted the proposal to legislate to provide for registration of co-operative societies whose sphere of operation extends to more than one province, and whose object is the furtherance of common interests.

(2) Liability of Insolvents to Co-operative Societies.- The Conference passed a resolution, after considerable discussion, to the effect that the Insolvency Act be so amended that an order of discharge passed by the Insolvency Court, should not release an insolvent member of a society from liability for any debt due to a society with unlimited liability.

(3) Collection of Dues by Government.- Owing to difficulties experienced by the Bombay and Bihar societies in collecting their dues, the Conference discussed the committee's proposal to have dues collected through Government agencies. The President advised the Conference not to pass a definite resolution but leave local Governments to tackle the subject according to local conditions, and the Conference agreed.

(4) Rural Uplift through Co-operation. There was unanimity among members as to the desirability of extending the movement to villages and the ~~Government~~ Conference accepted the committee's proposal to encourage the establishment of "better living societies" in villages where there were no village panchayats (arbitration boards), or societies connected with the village welfare work.

(5) Development of Agricultural Sales Societies.- In view of the dwindling profits on agricultural produce, the Conference adopted a proposal from the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa for the expansion of co-operative sale societies for eliminating middlemen's profits in the sale of agricultural produce. It was urged that credit societies should give adequate facilities for financing members of sale societies.

(6) Slackening of Official Control over Societies.- The Conference also passed a resolution expressing the opinion that the time had not yet come for slackening of official (statutory) control over societies.

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(7) Land Mortgage Banks.— The opinion of the committee that the present system of co-operative land mortgage banking in Madras, Bombay, the Punjab and Assam required modification was accepted. Among the modifications urged were extension of the maximum period of loans to 40 years, reduction of the rate of interest ^{to a rate} as low as possible and guaranteeing of the principal as well as interest by the Government. The Conference recommended Government to encourage the establishment of co-operative land mortgage banks in provinces where they do not already exist and where conditions are suitable.

(8) Central Co-operative Board.— Sir Fazli Hussain suggested to the Conference the formation of a Central Co-operative Board. In explaining the necessity for the Board, it was pointed out that the problems with which practically all the local Governments are at present faced in regard to the administration of co-operative societies indicate the need for a full and free interchange of information between the provinces. Apart from the circumstances created by the general economic depression, which seem to call for remedial measures more or less uniform in character, the co-operative movement shows a tendency to develop in certain new directions, namely, the establishment of land mortgage banks for the purpose of granting long term credits, development of non-credit societies, such as better living societies, housing societies, marketing societies, etc. Experience gained in one province must be of value to the authorities of other provinces. In order to solve these problems he suggested that an Advisory Board should be set up to meet periodically on which the officials and non-officials from the provinces should be represented. It is suggested in this connection that such a Board would be able to deal with questions of general importance and be in a position to ascertain whether any developments in one province need be examined critically for the benefit of the other provinces. It would also function as a clearing house of information and ideas relating to the co-operative movement, and, with the assistance of a small permanent staff to maintain the reference library of co-operative books and journals, supply information at the request of the provincial authorities as well as issue periodicals reports on the progress of co-operation in India and publish, from time to time, monographs likely to be of interest and value to the provincial co-operative department.

A brief discussion occurred on the scheme, some members opposing it on the ground that it was intended to impose control from the Centre and that for the purposes of co-ordination among various provincial societies, the Registrars' Conference was most suitable. Those who supported the scheme welcomed it on the ground that it would bring about a most necessary co-ordination and exchange of experience. Sir Fazl-i-Husain said that the scheme would go to the various provinces for their opinion and in the ordinary course.

(The Statesman, 30 and 31-1-34, and
1 and 2-2-1934).

Women and Children.8th Session of A.I. Women's Conference, Calcutta, 1933;Plea for Ameliorative Labour Legislation. ✓

The 8th session of the All India Women's Conference was held at Calcutta from 27 to 31-12-1933 under the presidentship of Lady Abdul Quadir of Lucknow. The Conference passed a number of resolutions on social, economic and labour subjects, the following being the more important of them:-

Labour Legislation. - (1) Payment of Wages. - The All-India Women's Conference approves of the provisions of the Bill introduced by the Government of India in the Legislative Assembly to regulate the payment of wages to certain classes of persons employed in industry.

(2) Workmen's Compensation Act. - This Conference approves of the provisions of the Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act subject to the following modification that to the list of the dependents of a workman entitled to claim compensation be added widowed daughter-in-law and brother's widow.

(3) Representation of Women Workers in I.L. Conference Delegations - This Conference is emphatically of opinion that a woman representative on behalf of the women workers in factories, mines, plantations and other industries be deputed by the Government of India as a delegate or an adviser to the International Labour Conference held at Geneva.

(4) Factories Act. - This Conference draws the attention of the Government of India to the following recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour and urges for early legislative measures:-
 (i) Rigorous action should be taken against those factories where conditions in regard to humidification are worst. (ii) First-aid boxes should be provided in all the factories using power and in departments of factories employing over 250 persons. (iii) Comprehensive Public Health Acts should be passed in all Provinces ensuring that where pipe water supplies are not available special precautions as to purity should be taken and where industry begins to develop in a new area. It should be the duty of employers to provide suitable water to their workers. (iv) Naikins (women jobbers) should be excluded from the engagement and dismissal of labour. (v) Every factory should be compelled to maintain separate and sufficient latrine accommodation for males and females and an adequate staff to keep them clean. (vi) Creches should be provided for children up to the age of 6 years in places where considerable number of women are employed. This requirement should be statutory for places employing 250 women or more. The Factories' Act should

embody this with discretionary power given to Local Governments in regard to factories with fewer women. The organisation of factory creches should be the duty of women inspectors. (vii) Women factory inspectors should be appointed in every province. They should be of Indian domicile and not less than 25 years of age, and their pay should be adequate to attract the right type.

(5) Maternity Benefits. - Maternity benefit legislation should be enacted throughout India on the lines of the schemes operating in Bombay and Central Provinces. The scheme should be non-contributory. In the first instance, the entire cost of the benefit should be borne by the employer. The rate of benefit given by the Central Provinces Act is suitable for general application. The minimum benefit period should be 4 weeks before and 4 weeks after the child-birth. Administration of the Act should be entrusted to the factory inspection staff, and wherever possible to women factory inspectors.

(6) Hours of Work and Rest Period for Child Workers. - Maximum daily hours of work for children should be five hours. Employers should arrange to give children at least one rest interval. No child who has been employed full time in a factory should be allowed to work overtime or to take work home after factory hours. No child under the age of 14 years should be permitted to work in or about the mines.

(7) Age of Employment of Children in Factories. - This Conference strongly supports the minority view of the Royal Commission on Labour in India as regards raising the minimum age of employment in factories from 12 to 13 years for a period of 5 years and thereafter to 14 in conformity with the standard laid down in Article II of the International Labour Convention.

(8) Relief for Unemployed Women and Children. - Owing to the increase of unemployment by the closing down of several mills and factories, this Conference feels the necessity for appointing a Committee to look into the hardships suffered by women and children in these areas and enquire and report as to what measures are advisable for relief especially in the case of children of unemployed labourers.

Social Reforms. - (1) Child Marriage Restraint Act. - This Conference once again condemns all attempts to repeal the Child Marriage Restraint Act and is opposed to the exemption of any section or community from its provisions. It urges the Government not only to enforce the Act more stringently but also to amend it so as to make child marriage impossible.

(2) Beggar Problem. - This Conference reiterates its formal resolution on the beggar problem and calls upon Government and local bodies to establish poor houses for beggars and to introduce legislation to prevent begging in public places.

(3) Traffic in Women and Children. - This Conference whilst appreciating the efforts already made to suppress the traffic in women and children in India, calls upon its constituents to study the legal, moral, educational, and rescue questions concerned in their local areas; to promote, where necessary, adequate and effective legal penalties against brothel-keeping and procuration and legal protection for women and children (where the local Acts are not satisfactory, to introduce and secure wide support for the needed amendments); to urge upon parents the duty of giving graded instruction as to the moral and social uses of the creative instinct, so that boys as well as girls may be adequately taught and thus helped to make right choices in life. Where rescue work has not yet been started, a real attempt should be made to secure and train workers and start homes, using the help of experienced women already serving in the moral and social hygiene field for such training. The urgent need of women to offer for service as probation officers, moral welfare workers and magistrates is also emphasised by this Conference.

(4) Untouchability. - This Conference appeals to all Indian men and women to eradicate the evil of untouchability from society and heartily supports all endeavours that are being made to remove legal and social disabilities of the submerged classes including the principle of the Temple Entry Bills now before the Legislative Assembly.

(5) Birth Control. - In view of the appalling hygienic and economic conditions of society, this Conference is of opinion that immediate efforts be made to spread scientific knowledge on birth control amongst parents through the medium of recognised clinics.

Other Resolutions. - (1) Promotion of Indigenous Industries. - This Conference is strongly of opinion that it is essential for the industrial and economic development of the country to encourage indigenous industries and appeals to the public to use swadeshi articles, in particular khaddar (hand spun and hand woven fabrics).

(2) Franchise for Women. - This Conference reiterates its demands regarding franchise and the status of women in the future constitution of India as placed before the Joint Parliamentary Committee in London by our elected representatives and fully endorses the statements made by them before the same Committee. A special Session of the Conference to which representatives of the National Council of Women in India and the Women's Indian Association be invited shall be called after the publication of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to determine what the attitude of the representative womanhood of India should be in case their ~~repeated~~ repeated demands are ignored.

(3) Education and Sanitation in Rural Areas. - This Conference views with grave concern the conditions of life in general in

Indian villages particularly in regard to education and sanitation, and exhorts its constituencies and other women's organisations throughout India to form local committees to consider practical projects for rural reconstruction.

(4) Maternity and Child Mortality. - With a view to check the inordinately high rate of infant and maternal mortality in India, this Conference urges the need of legislative measures for compulsory registration of dais and midwives and periodic supervision by qualified supervisors.

Office Bearers for 1934. - Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade was elected President for 1934 and Mrs. S.C. Mukherjee, Organising Secretary, while Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Hamid Ali and Mrs. Faridunji were elected Vice-Presidents.

(Summarised from report in the Hindu of 27,28,29,30 & 31-12-33 and Times of India of 4-1-1934).

Agriculture.

Working of Gosaba Rural Reconstruction Centre. ✓

The following details regarding the progress of the Gosaba Rural Reconstruction experiment are taken from a speech on the subject delivered by Rev. J.Z.Hodge, Secretary, National Christian Council, Nagpur, at Nagpur early this month.

The "Co-operative Commonwealth" at Gosaba was organised by Sir Daniel Hamilton, a business man of Bengal. In starting the centre, the aim of Sir Hamilton was twofold - to settle members of the depressed classes on the land and make it possible for unemployed graduates to make ^a living by farming. ~~for he thought that the ills of rural India were mainly economic.~~ With this end in view Sir Daniel Hamilton acquired from the Government of Bengal on leases for 40 years four large concessions of uncultivated jungle land and set himself ^{in 1903} to the task of making it fit for human habitation. ~~in 1903.~~

At present the Gosaba Centre consists of 20,000 acres, of which 14,000 are already under cultivation, and the process of preclamation and development goes on steadily. There is a population of 10,000, made up of all classes, Hindus, Muslims, Christians and untouchables. A noteworthy feature of the Co-operative Commonwealth is the absence of resident magistrates and police stations. Since the beginning of the colony in 1903 only one case of murder has gone to the courts from any of its villages, of which there are at present 20. Each village has its own Panchayat, which acts as an arbitration tribunal in all disputes. The colony has the still further distinction of

being able to do without lawyers, money-lenders and liquor-sellers.

The Commonwealth now consists of 20 villages whose economic needs are ministered to by 19 co-operative societies. A well-organised health service provides three dispensaries under the charge of three doctors and one trained midwife. Education is cared for by 15 primary schools and one middle school attached to which is a boarding department, an agricultural farm and an industrial school. Every endeavour is made to give the boys a working knowledge of practical farming. They are also taught how to employ their spare time in cottage industries such as weaving of cotton, wool and silk fabrics. The cost of this educational system is met by a cess of one anna per 'bigha' (1/3 of acre) paid by the tenants, ~~and~~ supplemented by a subsidy from the funds of the estate.

There are 30 village looms, besides those in the weaving sections of the estate schools. Another cottage industry ~~is~~ which has been started recently is the tanning of locally produced hides and it is hoped shortly to start the manufacture of soaps and umbrellas.

(The Statesman, 18-1-1934).

Rural Uplift Work in the Punjab & the N.W. Frontier
Province through Radio Broadcasting: Schemes Under
Consideration.

An official trial is shortly to be given by the Punjab Government to a plan for intensive broadcasting in villages, devised by Lt.-Col. Hardinge and sponsored by the Village Welfare Associations.

The following are ^{some} ~~the~~ details of the scheme.

A single district transmitter is expected to serve an area of about 2,000 square miles. It is to be of comparatively low power, to operate on a long wave-length and to be controlled by a single electrician. The programmes are to be specially drawn up to interest and benefit the peasantry and are to consist of instruction in agriculture, hygiene, education, co-operation, etc., and information on crop prospects, weather forecasts, market prices and health statistics. Every district unit is to be put in charge of a paid secretary, whose duties would be to act as announcer and interpreter.

The cost of each district station is estimated at about £1,200 and the only cost to the local Governments will be the initial installation of such stations, for the scheme contemplates the maintenance of the apparatus by the villagers themselves by means of a subscription of annas four per head per year. It is estimated that in this way a village will be able to pay for a complete set in seven years. At the end of this period it will be necessary to instal a new and more up-to-date set.

The receiving sets, which are of special design, are so built that they cannot be tampered with or put out of order. Exceptionally strongly built, no manipulation at all is expected to be necessary as the set is to function on a single wave-length and will be switched on or off by means of a key. The batteries are to be of special type and are to be capable of supplying power for six or seven weeks without being recharged.

The scheme is expected to begin working by the end of January this year.

(The Statesman ,5-1-34)

A similar scheme is under consideration of the Government of the North-West Frontier Province and a sum of Rs.14,000 has been allotted in the 1934-35 budget for the purpose. At the outset it will be confined to ten selected villages in Peshawar district, but if the experiment is successful, the Government hope to introduce a network of transmitting stations that will serve the villagers throughout the province.

(The Statesman,14-1-34).

Maritime Affairs. ✓ ✓Recruitment of Seamen; Tripartite Conference at Bombay.

Reference was made at pages 62-65 of our December 1931 report and at pages 64-65 of February 1932 report to the controversy between the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay, and the principal shipping companies of Bombay in regard to recruitment of seamen. On 17-10-1933, a tripartite meeting was held at Bombay, presided over by Mr. A. Raisman, I.C.S., Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Department. Besides the Government representatives, the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company, the British India Steam Navigation Company, the Indian National Steamshipowners' Association, the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Messrs. Killick Nixon and Co., the Mogul Line, the Anchor Line and the Hansa Line were represented. Messrs. A. Soares, Syed Munawar and Mahomed Ebrahim Serang represented the National Seamen's Union at the meeting. The meeting was convened with a view to effect an agreement on the problems connected with the recruitment of seamen on the basis of the recommendations of the Whitley Commission on the subject (vide recommendations Nos. 154 to 162, pages 505 to 506 of the Whitley Report).

Mr. Raisman, in explaining the objects of the meeting, said that when the Government got the recommendations of the Commission, they consulted the opinion of the interests affected in the principal ports and it was found, as a result of the replies received, that an extraordinary variety of opinion existed about the possibility of or desirability of accepting the recommendations. Government therefore thought that it might be a good idea to have more or less informal discussions on the matter to see whether any general agreement could

be arrived at.

Recommendations Nos. 156 and 157.— Taking up for consideration recommendations Nos. 156 and 157, Mr. Raisman explained that recommendation No. 157 was based on a misapprehension entertained by the Commission that a register of lascars was maintained in the Shipping Office. In fact no register of lascars was maintained and a register is maintained only for serangs and butlers. He also said that it would be a matter of considerable expense to introduce a complete system of registration and that Government could not hold out any hope that such a system would be introduced in the near future owing to the existing financial conditions. He invited the views of the various interests present at the meeting on the two recommendations.

Mr. Syed Munawar, representing the National Seamen's Union, Bombay, said that the Seamen's Union had no objection to Recommendation No. 156 in so far as it gave liberty to shipping companies to choose from men who had been in their employment within a specified period, but the Union objected to the limit of two years within which the choice was confined. If a seaman was out of employment for over two years for no fault of his and if he was in possession of good discharge certificates or good certificates of service from the officers concerned he should not be denied the chance of going to sea again. He referred to the practice in the Peninsular and Oriental Company according to which seamen out of employment for a maximum period of five years (recently reduced to four) were eligible for service on their ships. He pleaded that the same terms should be extended to seamen in other lines as well. He suggested that statistics should be collected of seamen who happened to be out of employment for two years or more. It would then be possible to determine how many of them were really efficient and deserving of re-engagement by their employers. It could also be ascertained whether such men belonged to the principal ratings or to the inferior ratings. He thought that if serangs were specially instructed by Shipping Masters to select men who have been unemployed for longer periods, the number of men suffering from long term unemployment would be gradually reduced.

Stoppage of Fresh Recruitment as a Solution for Unemployment.— As regards Recommendation No. 157 Mr. Syed Munawar observed that if a shipowner was unable to fill his crew from men of his own company, he should refer his requirements to the Shipping Office. The Shipping Master might muster men of ordinary ratings also at the Shipping Office and give the employer a free choice of selection. If that system was adopted by shipowners it would be in the interests of seamen as well as of employers and the Shipping Master would also be in a position to advise both the sections properly and to see that the evils of corruption and bribery which had so often been alleged to be rampant in the matter of recruitment of seamen were effectively checked.

The views expressed at the meeting showed a general agreement between the representatives of the Shipowners and those of the Seamen's Union that it was impracticable and undesirable to fix a time limit of two years.

Stoppage of Fresh Recruitment as a Solution for Unemployment.— As regards Recommendation No. 154 of the Whitley Commission which was made with a view to reduce unemployment among seamen,

Mr. Syed Munawar pointed out that though there were numerous men of various ratings present in Bombay, some companies, notably the Peninsular and Oriental Company, had sent their requisition to the Shipping Office for the issue of fresh certificates. Captain Forsyth, Shipping Master, Bombay, explaining the circumstances in which new certificates had been granted pointed out that the recommendation of the Royal Commission referred to by Mr. Munawar was qualified in order to permit enrolment of the sons of persons already serving as seamen. The average of the cases falling within that concession came to only one or two a week and that the issue of new certificates had fallen from the time of the recommendation of the Royal Commission to the present day from 5,000 to 500 a year. Mr. Raisman stated that whilst the present conditions of unemployment among the lascars continued the policy of the Government was not to enrol fresh recruits to the sea until the situation was very greatly improved. The Shipping Master had been following that policy and the Shipping companies both in Calcutta and Bombay were also co-operating in that policy.

Principle of Rotation in Recruitment as a Check to Unemployment.
Mr. Raisman then referred to the adverse remarks made by the Royal Commission (vide pages 178-179 of their Report) ~~on their Report~~ on the principle of rotation and wanted to know what the general feeling of the meeting was about that question. Mr. Syed Munawar pointed out that the principle of rotation had been followed in the P. & O. Company for a long time. They gave preference to men who were long-~~er out of employment~~ and by experience it was observed that such men were not necessarily inefficient. He therefore urged that in view of the present unemployment among Indian seamen the system of rotation should be followed by other lines as well. Captain Forsyth pointed out that one disadvantage of the rotation system was that men who were accustomed to work in one type of ship would be required to work in another type of ship for which they might not be quite suitable. He stated in this connection though it had been very difficult for him to collect any reliable statistics of the number of unemployed seamen in the ranks of lower ratings, whatever evidence he had went to show that unemployment among lower ratings was getting within control. He quoted certain figures from the monthly report of the Sailors' Home in support of his statement. The views expressed at the meeting showed that the principle of rotation could be applied only within reasonable limits.

Signing on of crews in Shipping Office.- Mr. Raisman next took up Recommendation No. 160 of ^{the} Royal Commission (page 506 of the Report) regarding the possibility of signing on of crews taking place in the Shipping Office. He said that whatever be the merits of that suggestion otherwise, the position both in Bombay and Calcutta was that it would be impracticable to sign on all crews in the Shipping Office. He, however, invited views which might be expressed on the merits of the question. Mr. Syed Munawar said that the Seamen's Union was not disposed to press for the acceptance of the suggestion. Captain Forsyth said that it would be quite impossible on the ground of space, to accept the suggestion. The Shipping Master and Shipping Companies expressed themselves as opposed to the recommendation on grounds of want of accommodation in ^{the} shipping office and doubts regarding the usefulness of the measure.

Removal of Restrictions on Employment of Indian Seamen in Cold Latitudes.- Reference was made at pages 67-68 of our January 1933

report and at pages 70-71 of our October 1933 report to the plea of the seamen for the removal of restrictions on the employment of Indian lascars in cold ~~in~~ latitudes. Mr. Syed Munawar raised the question at the meeting and pleaded for the removal of the restrictions. One section of the Shipping Companies supported the removal of the restrictions while the other opposed it. Mr. Raisman observed that the restrictions in question were current during a certain portion of the year only and were originally imposed purely as a humanitarian measure about 40 years ago. The question of removal was under consideration now and involved correspondence with the Board of Trade, under whom the Lascar Transfer Officers in England worked.

Extension of Basic Period of Agreement.— Mr. Raisman also brought in the question of the extension of the basic period of lascar agreements from twelve to eighteen months so as to elicit seamen's views on the question. He explained that, when the matter was first represented, Government agreed that in trades where a ship found herself at sea when the 12 months' period was due to expire, a lascar signed on in those trades might sign an optional clause agreeing to remain at sea for a further period. Originally it was three months and to that was attached 25% increase of wages. In 1932 Government extended that clause so as to cover a ~~three~~ further period of six months so that the total period for which a lascar might be at sea if he signed the optional clause was eighteen months with the stipulation that during ~~the~~ whole of the full six months he would be ~~entitled to 25% increase of wages.~~ Recently Government received a representation from Calcutta both from a certain shipping line and the Seamen's Union saying that ~~the~~ the basic period of 12 months which ~~could be extended to 18 months only on condition of an additional percentage of pay, was responsible for taking away chances of employment from Indian lascars and that Chinese and Malayans were being employed because they would serve for more than 12 months without any extra pay.~~

The Union at Calcutta has asked Government to extend the 12 months' period to 18 months without any conditions of increase of pay. If the basic period of the Lascar Agreement was to be extended it must apply throughout India. What Government wanted to know was whether the lascars as a whole were prepared either to have the basic period extended without increase of pay or to have an optional clause without increase of pay. The optional clause in its present form was doing harm to the employment of lascars in Calcutta. The question which the lascars are to decide is whether they want to continue to insist on additional pay when they are employed for more than 12 months and take the consequences, i.e., the possibility of opportunities of employment going away from them to the Chinese and Malayans, or whether they would prefer that Government should abandon the limitation so as to enable them to compete with the Chinese. The limitation was designed to protect the lascars, but if the lascars themselves turned round, as they had done in Calcutta, and said that they did not want to be protected in that way there was no reason why Government should insist.

Mr. Syed Munawar promised to ascertain the views of his Union and then to communicate them to Government. Captain Forsyth stated that the number of Shipping Companies in Bombay who wanted the basic period to be extended to 18 months was comparatively few. The only one was the Ellerman Line. Captain Kippen on behalf of Ellerman Line

said that the Company was quite prepared to pay 25% more if the articles were extended in a foreign port but it was not prepared to do so in a United Kingdom port at a time when it was endeavouring to get the lascars back to India.

(Summarised from the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting^{of 11-10-33} forwarded to this Office by Syed Munawar, General Secretary, National Seamen's Union, Bombay).

Protection of Indian Seamen in Ports: ✓

Report of Indian Sailors' Home, Bombay, 1932.

Reference was made at pages 53-54 of our September 1930 report and at page 54 of the report of this Office for January 1931 to ~~the proposal for establishing a sailors' home in Bombay for the use of Indian sailors and to the laying of the Foundation stone of the Home.~~ The Home was opened by the Governor of Bombay on 16-12-31 (vide pages 61-62 of our December 1931 report). The following information regarding the facilities given in the Home is taken from the administration report for 1932 of the Indian Sailors' Home.

Seamen inmates were admitted into the Home from 17-2-32. The total number of seamen admitted into the Home up to 31-12-32 was 1300. The maximum number in residence on any one day was 278. Of the 1,300 seamen admitted during 1932, 844 were Hindus, 448 Mohamedans and 8 Christians. Of the total inmates of 1,300, deck crew consisting of 62 Serangs, 56 Tindals, 130 Seacunies, 666 Lascars and 169 others came up to 1,083, and Engine crew consisting of 6 Serangs, 12 Tindals, 93 Firemen, and 106 Others came up to

217. The period of stay ranged from under one week (516 sailors) to 9 to 10 months' stay (3 sailors).

Facilities Provided - Food, Medical Aid etc. - Food of first class quality is supplied at rates considerably below those of the local eating houses. The arrangement has not proved altogether successful owing to the lack of suitable credit facilities. A Sub-Committee was appointed to investigate the question and in accordance with their recommendations facilities for granting extended credit in deserving cases have been made available and it is hoped that the scheme will prove popular. Seamen leaving the Home to proceed on service or to their native places are given facilities for storing their surplus kit in the Store Room. During the year under review 57 seamen took advantage of these facilities. ~~The Home also provided the services of an honorary medical officer~~ who attended to 262 cases in the year. Five serious cases were sent to the ^{Hospital}, arrangements being made for their admission as in-patients.

Educational Facilities. - In August a night class was organised and a teacher engaged to attend daily from 8 to 10 p.m. (except on holidays); the subjects taught are English, Gujarathi, Urdu and Arabic. The average number of students on the roll was 22, and the average daily attendance was 12.5. Three lectures, attended on the average by about 70 to 100 seamen, were delivered under the auspices of the Home. The reading room of the Home was well patronised by the residents and other seamen.

(Labour Gazette, Bombay, December 1933.)