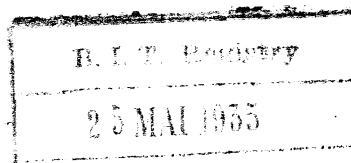


INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for April 1935



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References to the I.L.O. ✓ +

The Hindu of 27-3-1935 publishes a short article under the caption; "Plantation Labour in Colonies: I.L.O's Welcome Move", contributed by Dr. Lanka Sundaram. The article deals with the decision of the Governing Body to place the question of recruiting of labour in colonies and in other territories with analogous labour conditions on the agenda of the 19th session of the I.L.Conference. It examines how this subject is of great interest to India in view of the great number of Indians recruited for employment in Burma, Malaya and Ceylon. The article also enters a strong plea for sending a full complement of advisers with the non-official delegates to this year's conference.

... ..

The March 1935 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, and the April 1935 issue of "Advance India", Madras, publish a communiqué issued by this office on 13-3-1935 on the Grey Report on Holidays with Pay.

(For a list of other papers which published the communiqué, vide page 3 of our March 1935 report).

... ..

The National Call of 13-4-1935, the Statesman, the Times of India, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, and Commerce and Industry of 16-4-1935, the Hindu of 17-4-1935, the Indian Labour Journal of 21-4-1935, the April 1935 issue of Advance India, and Financial News, Bombay, dated 4-5-35, publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 11-4-1935 on the Grey-Blue Report on Unemployment among Young Persons.

... ..

The Hindu of 17-4-1935 comments editorially on the above communiqué on unemployment among young persons. The view is expressed that the remedy advocated by the I.L.O. is not suitable for India, and that if the I.L.O.'s suggestion is adopted, it will increase and not lessen juvenile unemployment in the country.

... ..

The Industrial ~~News~~ Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, dated 22-4-1935 publishes a short note on the I.L.O. Blue Report on employment of women underground in mines of all kinds.

... ..

The Hindu dated 11-4-1935 and the Hindustan Times dated 14-4-1935 publish a news item to the effect that Sir Joseph Bhore and Sir B.N. Mitra will be representing the Government of India at the 19th session of the I.L.Conference.

... ..

The Hindustan Times and the Hindu dated 12-4-1935 publish an Associated Press of India message from Bombay to the effect that Begum Shah Nawaz left Bombay on 11-4-1935 for Geneva to attend the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations and the forthcoming session of the I.L. Conference as an adviser to the Indian Government delegation. The message also gives a brief account of the Child Welfare Committee.

... ..

The Times of India and the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 17-4-1935 publish a Bombay message to the effect that Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Laljee has been nominated the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 19th I.L. Conference and that he leaves Bombay for Geneva on 20-4-1935.

... ..

The Statesman, the Hindu and the Hindustan Times of 30-4-1935, and the National Call, the Times of India, and the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 1-5-1935, publish an Associated Press of India message to the effect that the Government of India have decided to send advisers ^{with the} for non-Government delegates to the 19th I.L. Conference. The following is the composition of the non-Government section of the Indian delegation to the Conference as announced in the message:

<u>Employers' Delegate:</u>	Mr. Husseinbhoj M A. Lalji.
<u>Adviser:</u>	Mr. K.L. Dutt, Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta.
<u>Workers' Delegate:</u>	Mr. V.M. Ramaswami Mudaliar.
<u>Adviser:</u>	Mr. V.P. Kolte.

... ..

The March 1935 issue of "Union Herald", Bombay, publishes a long editorial article on the Assembly debate on railway workers' grievances. The article draws attention to the unsatisfactory manner in which ~~in~~ ~~which~~ India has implemented the Washington Hours of Work Convention and to the decision of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. on the complaint made by Mr. Jammadas Mehta on this point.

Portions of the editorial article are reproduced in the Leader dated 8-4-1935.

... ..

The March 1935 issue of "Union Herald", Bombay, publishes a long letter received by it by air mail from Geneva summarising the decision arrived at by the Governing Body of the I.L.O. on the complaint of Mr. Jammadas Mehta on the dilatory manner adopted by the Government of India in implementing the Washington Hours of Work Convention. The letter also deals with Mr. Mehta's work at Geneva in connection with this complaint.

... ..

The Statesman, the Hindustan Times, and the National Call, dated 10-4-1935 and the Leader of 12-4-1935 publish an interview given by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to the Associated Press of India on his recent mission to Geneva.

In a letter from the Bombay correspondent to the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, published in the issue dated 14-4-1935, the interview is summarised.

... ..

The Hindustan Times dated 9-4-1935 publishes a news item to the effect that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta returned to Bombay on the 8th April after attending the 69th Session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

... ..

The March 1935 issue of "The Progress of Education", Poona, publishes a summary of a communiqué issued by this office on 13-2-1935 on the new ranking of the eight States of chief industrial importance announced by the 69th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 25-4-1935, the Statesman of 26-4-1935, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 5-5-1935, the Leader, dated 8-5-1935, the Times of India and the Hindu of 29-4-1935, ^{and} Commerce and Industry, Delhi, of 30-4-1935, publish a communique issued by this office on 24-4-1935 on the 70th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

... ..

The National Call dated 29-4-1935, and the Statesman, the Hindu, and Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 30-4-1935, publish a communique

issued by this office on 27-4-1935 on the postponement of the Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference from 1935 to 1936 and the agenda of the Conference.

... ..

The Hindu dated 2-4-1935, the Hindustan Times, the Times of India, and the Statesman of 3-4-1935, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 4-4-1935, and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 21-4-1935, publish a Reuter's message dated 2-4-1935 from Geneva giving the latest figures issued by the I.L.O. regarding unemployment in Great Britain, Germany and Italy.

The Statesman of 5-5-1935 also publishes a ^{pictorial} ~~diagramatic~~ representation of the figures of unemployment issued by the I.L.O.

... ..

Commenting on the above message, the Times of India of 8-4-1935 says that it is evident from the I.L.O. figures that dictatorship, after all, is no panacea for unemployment. It also points out that democracy is about as powerless to solve the problem as dictatorship.

... ..

The April 1935 issue of the Anglo-Gujarati Quarterly Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes a communiqué issued by this Office on 22-1-1935 on the regulation of hours of work in the cotton and wool textile industries.

... ..

Federated India, Madras, dated 3-4-1935, publishes a long review of the I.L.O. publication; "Social and Economic Reconstruction in the United States".

... ..

"United India and Indian States", New Delhi, dated 20-4-1935 publishes a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "Social and Economic Reconstruction in the United States".

... ..

Federated India, Madras, dated 10-4-1935 and "United India and Indian States", New Delhi, dated 4-5-1935, publish appreciative reviews of the I.L.O. publication: "Social Aspects of Industrial Development in Japan".

... ..

The Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 8-4-1935 publishes a summary of the note published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 18-3-1935 on French employers and the 40-hour week.

... ..

The April 1935 issue of the Insurance World, Calcutta, publishes a short summary of the note on social insurance in Canada, published in "Industrial and Labour Information", dated 4-3-1935.

... ..

The March 1935 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the following items:-

- (1) A note on the 69th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. published in the February 1935 issue of the Ministry of Labour Gazette, London.
- (2) The note: "Great Britain and the Protection of Dockers", published in "Industrial and Labour Information", dated 28-1-1935.
- (3) The note: "Japan and Conference Decisions" published in "Industrial and Labour Information", dated 4-2-1935.
- (4) The note: "National Labour Union Federation, Japan", published in "Industrial and Labour Information", dated 18-2-1935.

The Hindu dated 2-4-1935 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 7-4-1935, publish the text of the presidential address of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai at the 2nd annual meeting of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers which was held at Delhi on 31-3-1935. Extensive references to the I.L.O. were made by Mr. Lalbhai in the course of the address.

... ..

The Leader of 12-4-1935 publishes a "Letter to the Editor" from Mr. Ramji Das Vaishya, an adviser to the Indian Employers' delegation to the 14th session of the I.L.Conference, commenting on the presidential address of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai at the 2nd session of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers held at Delhi on 31-3-1935. Mr. Vaishya repudiates the allegation that British India is suffering from unfair industrial competition from Indian States, as labour in Indian States is very much less efficient than British Indian labour.

... ..

The National Call dated 15-4-1935 and the Times of India dated 23-4-1935 publish a "Letter to the Editor" over the nom-de-plume "Indian India" on the above subject. The writer points out that if Indian States do really compete with British India in the industrial field, no complaint need be made as British India has captured Indian States markets in other fields. He instances the case of British Indian railways trying to expand British Indian markets at the expense of Indian States and of the banking industry in Indian States being captured by British Indians or foreigners.

... ..

"United India and Indian States", New Delhi, dated 20-4-1935, publishes an editorial note under the heading: "Industrial Conditions in States", commenting adversely on the views expressed by Mr. Kastur-bhai Lalbhai. Extracts from Mr. Vaishya's "Letter to the Editor", published in the Leader of 12-4-1935 are quoted in the note.

... ..

The Times of India of 19-4-1935 and the Hindustan Times and the National Call of 20-4-1935, publish the text of the Annual Report of the Employers' Federation of India. The report contains several references to the I.L.O. (A summary of the Federation's report is given in the Section 'Employers' Organisations' of this report).

... ..

The March 1935 issue of Indian Insurance, Bombay, publishes an article under the caption: "Insurance in India", contributed by G.N. Krishna Moorty. The article draws attention to the Government of India's resolution in the last session of the Legislative Assembly recommending non-ratification of the I.L. Convention re. unemployment insurance.

... ..

The April 1935 issue of the Insurance World, Calcutta, publishes a short summary of the debate in the Council of State on the Government resolution recommending non-ratification of the I.L. Convention re. unemployment insurance.

... ..

The Leader dated 29-3-1935 and all other dailies and the Servant of India dated 11-4-1935 publish a detailed report of the debate in

the House of Commons on 28-3-1935 on the Government of India Bill in the course of which the question of applying I.L. Conventions in Indian States came up for discussion.

... ..

The following message having reference to the I.L.O. emanating from Reuter was published in the Indian press during April 1935:

(1) A Reuter's message dated 2-4-1935 from Geneva re. unemployment statistics issued by the I.L.O.

... .. +

National labour Legislation.

The Central Provinces Maternity Benefit (Amendment) ✓

Bill, 1935 (Bill No.23 of 1935). +

The following is the text of the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1935, which is to be introduced in the Central Provinces Legislative Council by the Local Government:-

A Bill to amend the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930.

).

Preamble. Whereas it is expedient to amend the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930, in the manner hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

Short

Short title. 1. This Act may be called the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1935 .

Amendment of section 1 (b) C.P.Act VI of 1930. 2. For clause (b) of section 1 of the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(b) It extends to the whole of the Central Provinces and applies to women workers in all factories".

Amendment of section 2 C.P.Act VI of 1930. 3. For section 2 of the said Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

"2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, -

4.

(a) 'factory' means a factory as defined in section 2(j) of the Factories Act, 1934, or any premises declared to be a factory under section 5 of that Act;

(b) 'benefit' means benefit as provided by this Act;

4.

(c) 'employer' means an occupier of a factory as defined in section 2(1) of the Factories Act, 1934, and includes the manager of the factory;

- 11
- (d) the expression ' Inspector of Factories ' means the Chief Inspector of Factories appointed under sub-section (2) of section 10 of the Indian Factories Act, 1934;
 - (e) 'worker' means a worker as defined in section 2(h) of the Factories Act, 1934;
 - (f) 'employ' means 'employ as a worker', 'employed' means 'employed as a worker' and 'work' means 'work as a worker'."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The object of the Bill is to make certain consequential modifications in the definitions in the Act, so as to bring them into accord with the Indian Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934). The opportunity is also taken of improving the drafting of section 1 (b) of the Act.

(Pages 189-190 of Part II of the Central Provinces Gazette dated 19-4-1935).

The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1935.

Act No.V of 1935. ✓

At pages 17-23 of our January 1935 report was given the full text of the Indian Mines Act (Amendment) Bill, 1935, introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 22-1-1935. On 28-1-1935 the Bill was referred to a Select Committee which presented its report to the Assembly on 5-3-35. The Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 8-4-1935 and the Council of State on 17-4-35. The Act received the assent of the Governor General on 21-4-35. The text of the Act is reproduced below:-

Act No.V of 1935

An Act further to amend the Indian Mines Act,1923,
for certain purposes.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Indian Mines (amendment) Act,1935.
Short title and commencement. (2) It shall come into force on the 1st day of October, 1935.

2. In section 3 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act),-
Amendment of section 3, Act IV of 1923.

(a) for clause (c) the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(c) 'child' means a person who has not completed his fifteenth year;"

(b) clause (cc) shall be re-lettered as clause (ccc) and before that clause as so re-lettered the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(cc)'day' means a period of twenty-four hours beginning at midnight;" and

(c) after clause (j) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(jj) where work of the same kind carried out by two or more sets of workers working during different periods of the day, each of such sets is called a 'relay'".

3.(1) For clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 10 of the said Act, the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-
Amendment of section 10, Act IV of 1923.

"(c) a person, not being the Chief Inspector or an Inspector, nominated by the Local Government;"

(2) To sub-section (1) of section 10 of the said Act, the following clause shall be added, namely:-

"(e) two persons to represent the interest of miners, who shall be nominated in accordance with the following provisions:-

(1) if there are one or more registered trade unions having in the aggregate as members not less than one quarter of the miners, the said persons shall be nominated by such trade union or trade unions in such manner as may be prescribed;

(ii) if sub-clause (i) is not applicable and there are one or more registered trade unions having in the aggregate as members not less than 1,000 miners, one of the said persons shall be nominated by such trade union or trade unions in such manner as may be prescribed and the other by the Local Government;

(iii) if neither sub-clause (i) nor sub-clause (ii) is applicable, the said persons shall be nominated by the Local Government.

Explanation.- In this clause 'miner' means a person employed, otherwise than in a position of supervision or management, in any of the mines for which the Mining Board is constituted."

4. Section 20 of the said Act shall be re-numbered as sub-section (1) of section 20 and to that Amendment of section section as so re-numbered the following 20, Act IV of 1923. sub-sections shall be added, namely:-

"(2) The Local Government may, by notification in the local official Gazette, direct that accidents other than those specified in sub-section (1) which cause bodily injury resulting in the enforced absence from work of the person injured for a period exceeding forty-eight hours shall be entered in a register in the prescribed form or shall be subject to the provisions of sub-section (1).

(3) A copy of the entries in the register referred to in sub-section (2) shall be sent by the owner, agent, or manager of the mine, within fourteen days after the 30th day of June and the 31st day of December in each year, to the Chief Inspector".

5. In section 22 of the said Act, for the word "or" the words Amendment of section "and shall cause every report submitted" 22, Act IV of 1923. shall be substituted.

6. In Chapter VI of the said Act, before section 23 the following sections shall be inserted, Insertion of new sec- namely:- tions 22A, 22B, 22C and 22D in Act IV of 1923.

"22A. No person shall be allowed to work in a mine on more Weekly day of rest. than six days in any one week.

22B.(1) A person employed above ground in a mine shall not be Hours of work above allowed to work for more than fifty-four ground. hours in any week or for more than ten hours in any day.

(2) The periods of work of any such person shall be so arranged that, along with his intervals for rest, they shall not in any day spread over more than twelve hours, and that he shall not work for more than six hours before he has had an interval for rest of at least one hour.

(3) Persons belonging to two or more relays shall not be allowed to do work of the same kind above ground at the same moment:

Provided that for the purposes of this sub-section persons shall not be deemed to belong to separate relays by reason only of the fact that they receive their intervals for rest at different times.

22C. (1) A person employed below ground in a mine shall not be allowed to work for more than nine hours in any day.
Hours of work below ground.

(2) Work of the same kind shall not be carried on below ground in any mine for a period spreading over more than nine hours in any day except by a system of relays so arranged that the periods of work for each relay are not spread over more than nine hours.

(3) No person employed in a mine shall be allowed to be in any part of the mine below ground except during the period of work shown in respect of him in the register kept under sub-section (1) of section 28.

22D. Where a worker works in a relay whose period of work extends over midnight, the ensuing day for him shall be deemed to be the period of twenty-four hours beginning at the end of the period of work fixed for the relay, and the hours he has worked after ~~nix~~ midnight shall be counted towards the previous day."

7. For section 23 of the said Act the following section shall be substituted, namely:-
Substitution of new section for section 23, Act IV of 1923.

"23. No person shall be allowed to work in a mine who has already been working in any other mine within the preceding twelve hours."
Prohibition of employment of certain persons.

8. Section 23A of the said Act is hereby repealed.
Repeal of section 23A, Act IV of 1923.

9. In section 23B of the said Act, -
Amendment of section 23B, Act IV of 1923.

(a) in sub-section (1), -

- (i) for the word "shifts" the word "relays" and for the word "shift" the word "relay" shall be substituted, and
- (ii) after the word "relay" as so substituted the following sentence shall be inserted, namely:-

"The notice shall also state the time of the commencement and of the end of the intervals for rest fixed for persons employed above ground.";

- (b) in sub-section (3), for the word "shift" the words "relay or in the rest intervals fixed for persons employed above ground" shall be substituted, and the comma and all the words after the words "before such change" shall be omitted; and
- (c) after sub-section (3) the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-
 - "(4) No person shall be allowed to work in a mine otherwise than in accordance with the notice required by sub-section (1)".

10. In section 24 of the said Act, for the words, figures and letter "section 20 or section 23A" the words, figures and letters "section 22A, section 22B, section 22C, section 23, or sub-section (4) of section 23B" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 24, Act IV of 1923.

11. In section 25 of the said Act, for the words, figures and letter "section 23 or section 23A" the words, figures and letters "section 22A, section 22B, section 22C, section 23, or sub-section (4) of section 23B" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 25, Act IV of 1923.

12. Before section 27 of the said Act the following section shall be inserted, namely:

Insertion of new section 26A in Act IV of 1923.

"26A. No person who has not completed his seventeenth year shall be allowed to be present in any part of a mine which is below ground, unless -

Young persons not to be allowed underground without certificates of fitness.

- (a) a certificate of fitness in the prescribed form and granted to him by a qualified medical practitioner in the custody of the manager of the mine, and
- (b) he carries while at work a token giving a reference to such certificate."

13. In section 27 of the said Act, after the word "child" the words "or has not completed his seventeenth year" shall be inserted.

Amendment of section 27, Act IV of 1923.

14. For section 28 of the said Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-
 Substitution of new section for section 28, Act IV of 1923.

"28. (1) For every mine there shall be kept in the prescribed Register of employees. form and place a register of all persons employed in the mine showing, in respect of each such person, -

- (a) the nature of his employment,
- (b) the periods of work fixed for him,
- (c) the intervals for rest, if any, to which he is entitled,
- (d) the days of rest to which he is entitled, and
- (e) where work is carried on by a system of relays, the relay to which he belongs.

(2) The entries in the register prescribed by sub-section (1) shall be such that workers working in accordance therewith would not be working in contravention of any of the provisions of this Chapter.

(3) No person shall be employed in a mine until the particulars required by sub-section (1) have been recorded in the register in respect of such person and no person shall be employed except during the periods of work shown in respect of him in the register.

(4) For every mine to which the Local Government may, by general or special order, declare this sub-section to be applicable, there shall be kept in the prescribed form and place a register which shall show at any moment the name of every person then working below ground in the mine."

15. In section 30 of the said Act, -
 Amendment of section 30, Act IV of 1923.

- (a) after clause (a) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(aa) for prescribing the form of the register referred to in sub-section (2) of section 20^{1/2};"

- (b) in clause (e), for the words "to be more than thirteen years of age" the words "to have completed their fifteenth year" shall be substituted;

after clause (e) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(ee) for prescribing the form of the certificates of fitness required by section 26A and the circumstances in which such certificates may be granted and revoked;" and

(d) in clause (f), for the word "register" the word "registers" shall be substituted.

16. In sub-section (3) of section 31 of the said Act, after the words "British India" the words "which is, in the opinion of the Governor General in Council, concerned with the subject dealt with ~~the~~ by the regulation" shall be inserted.
Amendment of section 31, Act IV of 1923.

17. Section 38 of the said Act shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of section 38, and
Amendment of section 38, Act IV of 1923.

(a) in the said section as so re-numbered, after the word "provisions" the words, brackets and figure "of sub-section (1)" shall be inserted; and

(b) to the said section as so re-numbered and amended the following sub-section shall be added, namely:-

"(2) Whoever in contravention of a direction made by the Local Government under sub-section (2) of section 20 fails to record in the prescribed register or to give notice of any accidental occurrence shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees."

18. In sub-section (1) of section 46 of the said Act, after the word "exempt" the words "either absolutely or subject to any specified conditions" shall be inserted.
Amendment of section 46, Act IV of 1923.

Continuous Process (Straw Board Manufacture)

Factories in U.P.: Proposed Draft Rules Under Factories Act.

Attention is directed to page 638 of Part I of the United Provinces Gazette dated 13-4-1935 where the proposed draft of a rule under the Factories Act, 1934, regarding continuous process factories is published. The rule treats places where straw board is manufactured as continuous process factories and permits certain exemptions with regard to the hours of work and shifts of adult workers attending boilers, engines, and straw board machines in such factories.

Returns under the Factories Act:

Proposed Rules Notified. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 544-545 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 6-4-1935 where the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has gazetted a draft of a rule regarding the returns under the Factories Act, 1934, to be submitted by managers of factories. The returns refer to information regarding the nature of the industry, the average number of workers employed daily, hours of work, rest intervals, weekly holidays, etc.

Workmen's Compensation Act: Rules re.

Annual Returns from Employers. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 521-522 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 30-3-1935 where the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has gazetted a notification regarding the form in which annual returns should be furnished by employers for purposes of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Attention is also directed to page 523 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 30-3-35 where certain amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Rules have been notified. +

Conditions of Labour.

Welfare Work in Buckingham & Carnatic Mills, Madras, 1934. ✓

The following details regarding the welfare work undertaken by the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills is taken from the Annual Report for the year ending February 1935 of the Welfare Committee of the Mills:

Working Conditions: 54-Hour Week. - A letter was addressed by the Managing Agents to the Welfare Committee calling for its recommendations as to how best the 59 hours then worked weekly might be adjusted to give a total of 54 hours a week and also on "the question of possibilities of increasing production so as to make up to some extent the loss that would otherwise be incurred by the reduced hours of work". At the meeting of the 13th August 1934 a resolution was moved for appointing a Sub-Committee consisting of representatives of the workpeople and the Management to discuss and report on the above letter of the Managing Agents and it was also stated that the bulk of the work-people desired to work from 7 to 11-30 A.M., and from 12-30 to 5 p.m., instead of from 6-30 to 11-30 a.m. and 12-30 to 5-30 p.m. The Sub-Committee met twice and made certain concrete proposals for reducing unauthorised intervals and giving closer attention to work and thereby lessening the loss in production caused by the reduction of hours. Some of these recommendations have been given effect to and ~~it is gratifying to note that~~ the figures of production for January 1935 have disclosed that the loss in production due to reduced hours has been made up to a certain extent.

Reduction in Hours and Wages.- In their letter dated 5-12-34 the Managing Agents intimated to the Committee their decisions regarding the effect of reduced hours on the wages of the workers - both daily-paid and piece-workers. When the wages of the piece-workers for January 1935 showed a certain amount of reduction, they were agitated over it. The Committee made immediate representations on the question and they are receiving the consideration of the Managing Agents.

Distribution of Wages.- At the meeting of the Committee held on ~~the~~ 18-6-34 representations were made for distributing wages on the 9th of the month if the 10th fell on a Sunday. It was submitted that since Sunday is a holiday workpeople ~~would~~^{like to} go to the bazaars and make purchases. In this connection it may be noted that in 1931, on a recommendation made by the Committee, the Managing Agents had agreed to distribute wages to workpeople on the ~~1~~ 10th of every month. That recommendation also provided that, if ~~x~~ in any month the 10th fell on a Sunday, wages should be distributed on the 11th of the month. In reply to the representations the Management pointed out that it would be impossible to complete the arrangements by the 8th of the month in order to distribute the wages on the 9th

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as the work of the Wages Section had increased considerably owing to the several deductions they had to make from the wages on account of Workmen's Stores, Co-operative Society, house rent, etc. The President thought that the difficulties that had been pointed out by the Management were such that it would be hard to ask the Managers Office to effect the desired change. He did not think that the advantages that might be derived by accepting the resolution would outweigh the difficulties that would be attached to it and since the 10th fell on a Sunday only once in 1934 he did not think that there was any great hardship existing in the present system.

Leave.- The question of granting $\frac{1}{4}$ day's Privilege Leave (per week?) to workpeople was discussed on many occasions during the year under report. The Managing Agents regretted that they were "unable to accede to the request owing to the practical difficulties and extra work that would be necessary in introducing such a system". At the meeting of ~~the~~ 24-9-34 a resolution was moved for granting ~~Extra~~ Ordinary Leave to an aggregate of 9 days per year to regular attenders. In reply the Managing Agents in their letter dated 22nd October 1934 regretted that they could not grant the request. "Ordinary Leave", they said, "is sanctioned wherever possible, when by granting the leave, the work of the department will not be interfered with, and the claims of regular attenders for ordinary leave will have, as at present, the consideration that regular attendance merits. Should a regular attender have any cause for complaint it is open to him to represent his case to the Manager for consideration."

Medical Leave and Compassionate Allowance.- At the meeting of ~~the~~ 13-8-34 it was ~~is~~ submitted that Compassionate Allowance had been granted for 20 days in the year and it was only when Medical leave exceeded 20 days, ^{the} the question of granting allowance was left to the discretion of the Manager. The President in reply said that the present position was that 20 days' Compassionate Allowance was given at the discretion of the Management and if the suggestion was that everybody was entitled to 20 days' Compassionate Allowance it was wrong.

Attachment of Wages.- The question of attachment orders on the wages of workpeople had been fully gone into in 1928 and though the Company's rule that workpeople whose wages were attached would have to leave the service continued to exist, the company had refused to accept such attachment orders in respect of daily-paid workers. It was customary to grant 3 days' leave to workpeople whose wages were attached, in order to enable them to settle their outside debts. Early in December 1934 a notice was put up to the effect that workpeople in respect of whose wages attachment orders were served on the Company would be immediately dismissed from the Company's service. Fearing that some unscrupulous creditors would take immediate advantage of the situation created by the new rule and move the Courts to attach the wages of certain classes of workpeople whose wages were not really attachable, the Labour representatives lost no time in requesting the Managing Agents not to give effect to the new rule until the question was discussed at the following

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meeting. The Managing Agents replied that "as we make very careful enquiries regarding the liability of a workman's wages to be attached when an attachment order is received we do not think they need be apprehensive of advantage being taken of the new order as is suggested." In making representations at the meeting of ~~the~~ 17-12-34 the provisions of law by which outside creditors had no right to attach the wages of daily-paid workers were explained and the necessity for granting 3 days' leave to monthly paid workers whose wages were attachable by law was stressed. In reply to the representations, while assuring the Committee that no action would be taken on attachment orders issued on daily-paid workpeople on a false affidavit, as the Company would always see whether the judgment-debtor was a monthly-paid or a daily-paid workman, the President reiterated the Company's attitude which had been explained several times before that the Company would not act as debt-collectors for money-lenders. Since he had reason to believe from the number of attachment orders the Company had been receiving and also from other sources of information that the money-lenders outside were beginning to use the three days' leave that was granted to the debtors as a means of getting their debts repaid, he thought that if the money-lenders realised that when they went to the Court and obtained an attachment order and sent it to the Company, the debtor was going to be discharged and they would lose all chances of collecting their debts, they would ~~in~~ very soon stop the practice of taking attachment orders.

Half-Timers' Services.- Representations were made at the meeting of ~~the~~ 18-2-1935 for including the period worked as Half-timers in the service of workpeople. It was explained that the object of the resolution was not to ask for payment of Gratuity Fund for the period worked as Half-timers, but only that the service put in as Half-timers might be counted. The President regretted that he did not think that the Company could allow children to participate in all the benefits that were given to grown-up workpeople.

SOCIAL WELFARE: Refreshment Stalls.- In dealing with the question of the 54 Hour Week, mention has been made of a Sub-Committee which was appointed to make recommendations, among other things, for increasing production so as to make up to some extent the loss that would otherwise be incurred by the reduced hours of work. With a view to reducing unauthorised intervals and paying closer attention to work, the Sub-Committee recommended inter alia that instead of keeping the Refreshment Stalls inside the Mills during Mill hours, it would be sufficient if they were kept open in the Mills between 2 and 4 p.m. Since the Management arranged for the complete closure of the Refreshment Stalls inside the Mills, the Committee moved a resolution for giving effect to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee and detailed the inconveniences caused to workpeople. The resolution did not receive the unanimous support of the Labour representatives. The Management, on their part, promised that in exceptional cases, where workpeople found it necessary to buy things from the Stalls, permission would be given to the workmen concerned

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to go to the Stalls which were kept outside.

Co-operative Building Society.- A Co-operative Building Society had been registered in 1933 and its Board of Directors elected. Ninety-two employees have become members and have taken up 100 shares. The paid-up share capital of the Society stands at Rs. 445-5-3. Enquiries are being made regarding suitable sites in the Mill area for building houses.

Co-operative Credit Society.- The Society made further progress during the year under report. The number of ~~xxx~~ members on the rolls in February 1935 rose to 2,461 with 13,100 shares as against 2,304 members with 12,233 shares in February 1934. The paid-up share-capital of the Society has increased during the past twelve months from Rs. 57,950-9-1 to Rs. 64,220-3-2, and 1,201 loans to members were granted amounting to Rs. 106,920. The accounts of the Society for the year 1933-34 were audited by the Co-operative Department and the Society has again been placed under class 1-A. The Society earned a net profit of Rs. 9,625-6-0 as against Rs. 3,457-15-0 in the previous year and declared a dividend of nine per cent on the paid-up share-capital of members.

Workmen's Stores.- The Stores Committee carried on its work quite successfully during the year under report. The monthly sales during the year under report ranged between Rs. 78,360-13-7 and Rs. 100,982-2-1 as against Rs. 66,116-0-0 and Rs. 92,386-5-9 in 1933. The Welfare Committee evinced greater interest in the working of the Stores during the year under report. A resolution was moved at the meeting of ~~the~~ 15-10-34 for electing the labour representatives of the Workmen's Stores Committee from among the workpeople by the workpeople. Opinion was not, however, unanimous on the point since the resolution was opposed by some of the labour representatives on the ground that the present system of election, which had been in vogue for the past twelve years, had worked quite successfully. The President agreed with the view of the opposers.

Money-lending.- At the meeting of ~~the~~ 18-6-1935 a proposal was brought forward to make representations to the Government regarding the exorbitant rates of interest the Multanese money-lenders charged when the workpeople borrowed money from them. The President promised to consider the matter. On 19-11-34 the practice of lending money at exorbitant rates of interest going on among the workpeople was discussed and it was pointed out that the Management had framed certain regulations with a view to saving the workpeople from the trouble that would be caused by borrowing money at high rates of interest. It was submitted that, if lending was completely prohibited, some of ~~the~~ workpeople would be put to the necessity of borrowing money at higher rates of interest from outside. It was, therefore, considered necessary to devise a suitable scheme to regulate money-lending amongst the workpeople and for this purpose a resolution was moved to appoint a Sub-Committee of workpeople's representatives. The ~~present~~ president agreed that the question of lending and borrowing money among workpeople inside the Mills required careful examination and accepted the resolution for appoint-

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appointing a sub-committee to go into the question.

(Summarised from a copy of the Report for 1934 sent to this Office by the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills).

Quarterly Strike Statistics for the Quarter
Ending 31-12-1934. ✓

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the 4th quarter of 1934 ending 31-12-1934, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 29 disputes during the period involving 20,534 workers and entailing a loss of 231,533 working days. As usual the largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency, where 19 disputes involving 9,310 workers entailed a loss of 62,160 working days. Next comes Bengal with 3 disputes involving 6,164 workers and entailing a loss of 126,248 working days; the Central Provinces, Madras and the United Provinces with 2 disputes each involving 2,323, 252 and 902 workers and entailing losses of 38,506, 252 and 2,784 working days respectively and Burma with 1 dispute involving 1,583 workers and entailing a loss of 1,583 working days.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 18 disputes which involved 8,254 workers and entailed a loss of 58,631 working days, jute mills with 1 dispute involving 120 workers and entailing a loss of 120 working days and engineering workshops with 2 disputes involving 2,092 workers and

entailing a loss of 5,231 working days. Other industries were responsible for 8 disputes involving 10,068 workers and entailing a loss of 167,551 working days.

Of the 29 disputes during the quarter under review, 18 were due to wage questions, 7 to personnel, 1 to leave and hours and 3 to other causes. In 6 disputes the workers were successful, in 3 partially successful and in 18 unsuccessful. 2 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report.

(Strike statistics for the quarter ending 30-9-1934 are given at pages 43-44 of our January 1935 report).

Industrial Disputes in British India, 1934.

According to a communique dated 13-4-1934 on industrial disputes in British India during 1934, issued by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, the total number of strikes during the year (including 6 strikes in progress on 31st December 1933) was 159 and the total number of workers involved was 220,808 as compared with 146 strikes involving 164,938 workers during 1933. The total number of working days lost during the year was 4,775,559 as compared with 2,168,961 during 1933. More than half the total loss in working days was due to the general strike in the Bombay textile mills which lasted from April to June and in which over 90,000 men were involved. Other strikes of some magnitude were a strike in the Sholapur cotton mills from February to May and a strike in the Empress cotton mills at Nagpur between May and July. Each of these involved a loss of about 460,000 working

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days. In all, cotton textile mills account for 60% of the strikes, 83% of the workers involved and 91% of the loss of working days. In 108 of the strikes, or 68%, the chief demand related to wages or bonuses. The number of strikes in which the workmen were successful in gaining any concessions was approximately 36% of the total number of strikes ended during the year.

During the year under review, there were 92 disputes in the Bombay Presidency involving 168,441 workers and entailing a loss of 3,832,582 working days. Bengal comes next with 21 disputes involving 15,354 workers and entailing a loss of 262,122 working days; Madras with 14 disputes involving 3,826 workers and entailing a loss of 26,489 working days; Assam, Bihar and Orissa and Burma with 6 disputes each involving 3,260, 5,975 and 3,990 workers and entailing losses of 6,260, 50,309 and 55,929 working days respectively; the Central Provinces with 5 disputes involving 10,573 workers and entailing a loss of 502,850 working days; the United Provinces with 4 disputes involving 2,397 workers and entailing a loss of 5,166 working days; Delhi and the Punjab with 2 disputes each involving 5,450, and 1,401 workers and entailing losses of 24,790 and 8,917 working days respectively and Ajmer-Merwara with 1 dispute involving 145 workers and entailing a loss of 145 working days.

Of the 159 disputes during the year 107 were due to questions of wages, 24 to those of personnel, 6 to those of leave and ^{leave} ~~bonus~~, 1 to that of bonus and 21 to other causes. In 32 cases the workers were successful, in 25 partially successful and in 100 unsuccessful, while 2 disputes were in progress at the close of the year.

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Classified according to industries, there were 96 disputes in cotton and woollen industries involving 184,087 workers and entailing a loss of 4,374,445 working days, 5 in jute mills involving 5,845 workers and entailing a loss of 109,520 working days, 3 each in engineering workshops and railways (including railway workshops) involving 2,262 and 806 workers and entailing losses of 9,311 and 1,050 working days respectively and 1 in mines involving 1,970 workers and entailing a loss of 5,954 working days. In all other industries together there were 51 disputes involving 25,838 workers and entailing ^{a loss of} 275,279 working days.

(The Communique on Industrial Disputes in British India during 1933 is reviewed at pages 24-25 of our April 1934 report).

Grievances of Labour in Baroda: Government Urged to
Revise Factory Act.

A representation has been submitted to the Baroda Government, over the signature of Mr. D.M. Pangarkar and other leaders of the labour movement in the State, requesting the Government to revise the Factory Act. Their chief demands are (1) the reduction of ~~the~~ working hours from ten to eight per day, (2) the observance of Sunday as a holiday (as against one holiday at the end of every ten days), and (3) the payment of wages every week instead of every month.

The memorial points out that the Whitley Commission recommended the above provisions, which, it is stated, have been brought into

force, to some extent, in the State Press and the Railway workshop .
It is contended that as the Government Departments ^{are} ~~is~~ in favour of such concessions it is essential that these should be enforced in private enterprises such as cotton mills and ginning and other factories.

The representation also recalls the repeated disputes between the owners and labourers of the New Mills in Baroda when the mill-hands readily agreed to the terms of the compromise arrived at through the intervention of Mr. Ramlal H. Desai, the then Dewan, and which failed on account of the millowners ~~is~~ failing to carry out the terms of the agreement.

The memorial appeals to Government not to sacrifice labour interests for the benefit of the few millowners of the state, and to redress their legitimate grievances.

(The Times of India, 10-4-1935)

Depressed Classes in Hyderabad (Deccan):

Appeal to Abolish "Begar". ✓
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An appeal to H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad was made by Mr. B.R. Varma, a prominent Harijan leader, who, presiding over the 14th annual celebrations of the Adi-Hindu Social Service League, pointed out that the sum set apart by the State for the uplift of the Depressed Classes, was inadequate, as there were nearly 2.5 millions of Harijans (Depressed classes) in the State. Mr. Varma

requested the State authorities that a Labour Department should be started by the State for Harijan uplift. He protested against the "Begar" system under which ignorant villagers were compelled to do compulsory and gratuitous service, although the Nizam had prohibited the system. He urged the Government to take measures to enforce the Nizam's order on the subject.

(Hindustan Times, 12-4-1935). +

Factory Administration in Mysore, 1933-34.* ✓

The following details regarding factory administration in the Mysore State during 1933-34 are taken from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce of the State for the year ending June 1934.

Number and Classification of Factories.- The total number of factories coming under the purview of the Mysore Factories Regulation stood at the beginning of the year under review at 199 as against 185 in the year before. 8 factories were added during the year and one was struck off, leaving 206 factories on the Register at the close of the year. Of the above number, 46 were seasonal factories and the rest worked throughout the year. Grouped under important industries, there were 39 decorticators, 25 rice mills, 27 textile factories, 11 brick and tile factories, 20 engineering works, 9 flour mills, 8 printing presses, and 10 oil mills. The rest may be classed as miscellaneous.

* Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore, for the year ending June 1934. - with the Government review thereon. - pp.28.

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Number of Operatives.- The average number of persons employed daily in all the factories decreased from 20,223 in 1932-33 to 18,709. The number of adults decreased from 18,374 to 17,016, and the number of children from 1,849 to 1,693. 4,219 persons were working in Government factories and 10,172 in textile factories.

Inspection. - Only 86 factories were inspected during 1933-34 as against 130 in the previous year. 65 factories were inspected once and 21 twice. 120 factories were left without inspection. Of the 1,693 children employed in factories, only 262 children were examined by certifying surgeons, and of those inspected only 215 were granted certificates. The report repeats the suggestion made in the last year's report that it ~~is~~ is necessary that there should be a full time officer for the purpose of medical examination of children in factories in and around Bangalore and Mysore Cities and Davangere. During the year under report, two additional factory Inspectors were appointed for purposes of inspection of electrical fittings and apparatus in factories.

Health of Operatives and Industrial Safety.- The Inspectors during their inspections paid special attention to the provision of ventilation and lighting and supply of drinking water and other sanitary conveniences. These were found to be satisfactory. In the majority of factories inspected, ~~the~~ fencing and guarding of machinery was also satisfactory. The total number of accidents reported during the year was 109 as against 126 last year. Of them three proved fatal, 50 were serious and 56 were minor ones. 23 factories have provided housing accommodation to their employees.

Hours of Work.- The daily and weekly hours of work in factories were regulated by the owners of factories in accordance with the provisions of the Factories Regulation. Rest intervals were granted in almost all factories as provided for in section 21(a)(1) of the Regulation. Sundays are observed as holidays in almost all the factories and in other cases, another week day is substituted for Sunday. During the year under review, ~~three~~ three factories were granted exemptions in respect of certain provisions re. hours etc. in view of great pressure of work. Managers of 3 factories were prosecuted for failure to comply with the provisions of the Regulation and were fined.*

Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Regulation. 30 ginning factories and 6 pressing factories were working in the State. The ex-officio Inspectors of these factories appointed under the Regulation inspected the factories. Most of the factories ^{conformed} ~~conformed~~ to the provisions of the Regulation and Rules. The pressing factories in the State regularly sent the weekly return of cotton pressed in their factories. The total number of bales pressed during the year amounted to 21,019 as against 28,301 in the previous year.

Labour Disputes and Industrial Relations.- There was no labour disturbance in the State during the year under report. The relations between the employers and workmen were cordial throughout the year. The supply of labour was good, but the demand was not steady. There was no fall in the nominal level of wages. The

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seasonal conditions were satisfactory and the prices of food grains maintained the level of the year before.

Action on Whitley Report.- Proposals to amend the Workmen's Compensation Regulation and Factories Regulation with a view to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India and to bring them into conformity with the British Indian Acts, have been submitted to Government.

Board of Conciliation.- Members of the Board of Conciliation constituted by Government in their Order No.D.680-91-I.& C.44-31-1, dated 31st July 1931 (vide pages 40-41 of our August 1931 report) to deal with strikes and labour disturbances continued to function during the year under report. It met twice and reviewed existing conditions.

Welfare Work.- The mining companies and the textile mills have been devoting much attention to ameliorate the conditions of labour. In the mining areas, the Welfare committee paid special attention to the improvement of drainage and provision of additional sanitary conveniences to the labour lines. Additional electric lights were put up, cattle ~~sheds~~ sheds and new trees have been planted, all of which have made the lines much cleaner. Two additional night schools have been opened. Greater attention is being paid to games. Lectures were arranged on various subjects, and sufficient entertainment was afforded to the labourers in the form of Dramas, lectures, etc. Electric gramophones with loud speakers continued to give amusement to large numbers of labourers in the lines. The Welfare Department of the Bangalore Woollen, Cotton and Silk Mills Co., Ltd., is also doing commendable work. The Deena Seva Sangha, Malleswaram, Bangalore, is doing much to improve the conditions of labourers in Bangalore City. It has established three settlements in Bangalore and has attracted many labourers to ~~their~~ their night and day schools.

(Factory Administration in Mysore in 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 15-17 of our May 1934 report).

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Working of the Workmen's Compensation
Regulation in Mysore State, 1933- 34.* ✓

The following details regarding the working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation in the Mysore State during 1933-34 are taken from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in the State for the year ending June 1934.

Number of Cases.- The total number of cases that came up before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation was 176 during the year as against 204 in 1932-33. 171 cases were disposed of and 5 cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the 171 cases disposed of, 57 related to accidents which proved fatal, 16 to non-fatal accidents and 98 to registration of memoranda of agreements. The number of claims for compensation for injuries by accidents in the mining industry was 160, in textile factories 3 and in oil mills 1.

19 claims were contested during the year. 9 cases were dismissed. One appeal to the High Court was pending at the beginning of the year. Two more appeals were filed in the High Court during the year. All the three cases were disposed of during the year, the orders passed by the Commissioners being up-held in all the cases.

Amount of Compensation Paid.- The total amount deposited with the Commissioners during the year was Rs. 36,914-6-0 as against Rs. 40,744-0-5 in 1932-33. A sum of Rs. 33,186-8-0 was distributed among the dependants of the deceased as compared with

* Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore, for the year ending June 1934. -with the Government Review thereon. - pp.28

Rs. 33,219-8-0 last year. A sum of Rs. 447-8-0 was returned to the employers since there were no claimants for the same. A sum of Rs. 660-14-0 was distributed in non-fatal cases as against Rs. 3,647-5-7 in 1932-33. When the year closed, a sum of Rs. 2,619-8-0 was pending distribution.

Returns under Section 15.- The annual return under Section 15 of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation for 1932-33 was received from 188 factories out of 199 factories in the State. Returns were also received from all the mining companies and other concerns in the Mining area.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation in Mysore during 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 17-18 of our May 1934 report).

Conditions of Work in Glass Bangle Industry in

India: Questions in Assembly. ✓

As the result of certain interpellations in the Legislative Assembly on 29-3-1935 regarding conditions of work in ^{the} glass bangle industry in India, Sir Frank Noyce, Member in charge of Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India, made the following statement:-

"The Government are aware that the glass manufacture may entail certain hazards to workers, such as inhalation of poisons and lead poisons but I have no detailed information as to the extent of hazards involved in the bangle mixing process. ~~he said.~~ The Government of the United Provinces, in 1931, regarded the labour conditions in the glass bangle industry at Ferozabad as unsatisfactory and rules under Section 33(u) of the Factories Act 1934 are about to be made with a view to protection of workers employed in hazardous operations and I shall be glad to consult local Governments and particularly the U.P. Government as to the

need for special protection to the glass industry, when their opinion is invited on the draft rules. I understand that the U.P. Government have taken steps to ensure that those of the Firozabad factories which come under the Factories Act are properly regulated under that Act."

(The Hindu, 30-3-35)

Free Rice for Indian Labour in Ceylon Estates. ✓

The issue of free rice to Indian estate labour or, alternately, the free issue of meals to children under 10 years of age which is one of the clauses in the Agreement with the Government of India will, it is understood, be given legal force in Ceylon in connection with the amendments of the law concerning Indian estate labour at present under consideration of the Executive Committee, Labour, Industry and Commerce Department, Ceylon. The agreement provides for the free issue of rice at the rate of one-eighth bushel per month to each working man and each widow with one or more non-working children.

(The Statesman, 4-4-1935). +

Extension of Hours of Employment Regulations

to M. & S. M. and B.B.& C.I.Railways:

Action in 1935-36. ✓

According to the Press Reports of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, the Member in Charge of Commerce and Railways with the Government of India is reported to have stated that it was proposed to enforce Hours of Employment Regulations on M. & S.M. and B.B. & C.I.Railways during the course of ~~next~~ ^{the Current} financial year (1935-36).

In the course of discussions on the Railway Budget for 1935-36 in the last session of the Legislative Assembly, the desirability of placing the Supervisor of Railway Labour directly under the Department of Industries and Labour, instead of under the Railway Board as at present, in order to ensure greater independence of action by this officer was expressed by the non-official section of the House.

(Union Herald, April. 1935).

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INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION

Employers' Organisations.

The Employers' Federation of India: Report for 1934.

At pages 36-38 of our March 1935 report was given a summary of the presidential address of Mr. H.P.Mody at the ~~1st~~ 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Employers' Federation of India which was held at Delhi in March last. The following is a summary of the Report of the Federation for the year 1934 submitted by ~~the~~ Secretary of the Federation at the annual meeting:-

Membership.- During the year, the Titaghur Paper Mills Company were elected members. The following comprise the existing membership of the organisation:-

(THESE FIGURES ARE CONFIDENTIAL & ARE NOT TO BE PUBLISHED).

The Indian Tea Association, with ...	741,000	workers;
The Indian Jute Mills Association, with ...	244,000	"
The Millowners' Association, Bombay, with ..	180,000	"
The United Planters' Association of Southern India, with ...	150,000	"
The Indian Mining Association, with ...	95,000	"
The Indian Engineering Association, with ...	48,000	"
The Employers' Federation of Southern India with	41,000	"
The Indian Metallurgical Association, with	39,000	"
The Upper India Chamber of Commerce, with	28,000	"
The Indian Sugar Producers' Association with	18,000	"
The Central Provinces & Berar Mining Association with	13,000	"
The Bengal Industries Association, with	12,000	"
The Burmah-Shell Oil Storage & Distribution Co. of India, Ltd., with	8,000	"
The Titaghur Paper Mills Company, with	6,000	"

There was no appreciable change in the number of workers employed by the constituents of the member organisations, the total being 1,623,000; and the subscription for 1934 was the same as for the previous year.

Factories Act.- The first important question that engaged the attention of the Federation during the year was with regard to the provision in the Factories Bill for the enforcement of a

54-hour week for adult male workers in non-seasonal factories.

Many members of the Federation had originally opposed this provision but an appeal was made by the Hon'ble Member for Industries and Labour in the Government of India that employers should reconsider the question in the light of the discussions that had taken place since the proposal was first made. The President accordingly addressed the members, suggesting that they should agree not to oppose the 54-hour week, while emphasising the difficulties with which employers and industrialists would be faced on account of increased costs of production, particularly at a time of severe competition from other countries, and also because of the fact that similar legislation was not enforced ~~in~~ in the Indian States. The replies from all the members favoured the course recommended by the President, and he addressed Government on behalf of the Federation that they did not desire to oppose the 54-hour week. He also drew the attention of Government to the representation of the Tea and Rubber interests with regard to the classification of their factories, and emphasised the anomaly of the position of the Indian States, where the working hours would be longer, and where conditions generally were such as were calculated to lead to the migration of capital and enterprise to their territories. He urged that steps should be taken to ensure uniformity of conditions in the States, as otherwise, both labour and industry in British India would have to suffer.

The Government of India replied, expressing their keen appreciation of the attitude taken by the Federation on the question of ~~the~~ hours of work. They, however, regretted that they could not reconsider the provisions for the classification of tea and rubber factories, as they thought that reasonable facilities had been allowed to them under the Bill. With regard to the position of the States, Government stated that the matter was receiving their attention and it would be of assistance to them if the Federation were to supply them with information as to States, and industries in which the Federation apprehended developments ^{which} might prejudicially affect British Indian interests.

Labour Legislation in Indian States.- In connection with this question, the Federation had during the course of the year collected considerable information with regard to industries and States where differential conditions of labour legislation and other factors are bound to place British India at a disadvantage. The President accordingly addressed a representation to the Government of India, pointing out how industries in several States were benefiting from factors which did not exist in British India. (A summary of the President's representation to the Government was given at pages 11-14 of our December 1934 report). ~~The~~ In reply, the Government of India stated that they were examining the whole question very carefully, and that they had already invited the States in which there were factories of any importance to consider the desirability of introducing and enforcing legislation on the lines of the Indian Factories Act, 1934, and were awaiting

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their views. The Federation will take up the question again when Government have had time to consider the representation made, and after a more detailed study of the actual conditions in various parts of the country.

Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Acts.- As the Trade Disputes Act of 1929 was due to expire in May 1934 and the Government of India had not had sufficient time to consider the various suggestions made for its proper amendment, a short Bill had been passed in April last, extending the Act for an indefinite period. But in the course of the proceedings in the Legislature, Government had stated their intention to take the earliest opportunity to amend the Act in the light of the examination made by the Royal Commission on Labour and the opinions expressed by various organisations on the proposals made by Government with regard to the Act. Before the Federation could prepare a memorandum embodying the views of the members, severe labour trouble had broken out in Bombay. The opportunity was, therefore, taken to elicit the opinions of members as to whether the Federation should press for the amendment of the Act in such manner as to empower the authorities to deal effectively with purely communistic agitation and exploitation of labour, without interfering with the development of a genuine trade union movement.

The member organisations, after very careful examination, sent in replies which supported in general the proposals in the Federation's circular, and some offered important suggestions, which made it necessary to re-examine the question. On further consideration, it was found that the Trade Unions Act of 1926 also required to be amended, if the purposes sought to be achieved by the amendment of the Trade Disputes Act were to be fully realised. A representation was then prepared, embodying all the important views on the two Acts and submitted to the Government of India for very early consideration. But Government were unable to take immediate action, as their attention was occupied with other labour legislation. Recently, however, the President has been informed that the matter will probably be brought up before the Legislature, after certain Bills now under discussion have been passed. In view of the recent labour troubles in various centres, the question has assumed great importance, and it may be hoped it will be dealt with at an early date.

Advances to Agriculturists.- At the annual General Meeting last year, the United Planters' Association of Southern India had referred for examination the question of the action of the Mysore Government in regard to certain regulations for the recovery of debts from persons who might be agriculturists, and had desired to have full information as to the practice in other parts of the country. The Federation has collected a large amount of material on the subject, but it has not been possible to draw any final conclusions on account of the fact that radical legislative changes have been recently made in certain Provinces and are in contemplation in other parts of the country. Copies of the various measures, passed or proposed, were not available till the end of the year,

but some of them have now been obtained. The information collected ~~is~~ be circularised to the members at an early date.

The Workmen's Compensation Act.- Consequent on the decision of the Privy Council, in the matter of certain appeals from New Zealand, that employers were liable under the Workmen's Compensation Act of that Dominion to pay compensation for accidents sustained as a result of earthquakes, and the opinion of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation in Bengal that employers were similarly liable in India, employers in this country had to examine the question as to what amendment was desirable in the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act. Having been requested by the Associated Chambers of Commerce to give their support to a representation which had been made by them, the Federation urged Government to so amend the Act as to exclude from its operation accidents caused by or arising out of earthquakes or other convulsions of nature, unless it could be proved that the nature of the employment itself involved some special exposure to such risks and the accidents arose out of such special exposure (vide pages 32-33 of our ~~XXI~~ January 1935 report for details). The Government of India have rejected (vide pages 29-30 of our March 1935 report) these arguments and declined to consider any amendment of the Act as desired. The Federation is now in communication with its members and the various other organisations who had made similar representations as to what further action can be taken.

The International Labour Conference.- Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai was nominated as the Employers' Delegate to the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in June last. A number of memoranda were prepared on the questions which concerned Indian employers generally, and these were circularised for the opinion of the members of the Federation, and communicated to the Delegate with a request that he should press these views at the Conference. The memoranda dealt with the proposal for the reduction of hours of work, the question of the employment of women in underground mines, the partial revision of the convention regarding the employment of women at night, and the attitude of Japan towards International Labour Conventions. The Federation opposed any reduction of hours of work, so far as India was concerned, as proposed at the Conference. They agreed to the early prohibition of the employment of women in underground mines; and in the matter of the convention regarding the employment of women at night, it was pointed out that the law in India was in advance of the proposals made at the Conference and that the provisions in force in this country should be followed. A special note was sent to the Employers' Delegate, urging him to draw the attention of the Conference to the unfavourable attitude of Japan towards important International Labour Conventions.

Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai represented the interests of the employers with ability and judgment, and on his return to India, he had a meeting with the President of the Federation, and also forwarded a report of the work done by him at the Conference. He expressed the opinion that there should be continuity in the personnel of the Delegation from this country, and that adequate

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assistance should be given to the Delegate by the appointment of a sufficient number of Advisers, as was being done by other countries. His report was circularised to the members of the Federation.

In proposing nominations for the Conference in 1935, the President has strongly urged that Government should appoint Advisers so that the Delegate might be able fully to discharge his responsibilities, and that Government should not allow financial considerations to stand in the way of such appointments. The decision of Government in this matter is being awaited.

(Summarised from the annual report, copies of which were sent to this Office by the Secretary of the Federation. A copy of the Report was forwarded to Geneva with our minutes D.2/ 744 /35 dated 4th April 1935.)

All India Organisation of Industrial Employers:

Annual Report for 1934.

At pages 41-44 ^{of our March 1935 Report} was given a summary of the presidential speech of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai at the Second annual meeting of the All India Organisation of Industrial Employers which was held at Delhi on 31-3-1935. The following is a summary of the annual report for 1934 submitted at the meeting by the Secretary of the Organisation.

New Members.- During 1934, three industrial organisations and four industrial concerns were elected to the membership of the Organisation. The total number of members on the roll at present is 9 Associations representing different industries and 86 industrial concerns, making a total of 95 members. The 9 associations are the following:-

- (1) The Indian Salt Association, Bombay.
- (2) The Indian National Steamship Owners' Association, Bombay.
- (3) The Indian Sugar Mills Association, Calcutta.
- (4) The Baroda Millowners' Association, Baroda.
- (5) The Indian Glass Manufacturers' Association, Ogalevdi.
- (6) The Indian Colliery-Owners' Association, Calcutta.
- (7) The Indian Tea Planters' Association, Jalpaiguri.
- (8) The Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta.
- (9) The Delhi Factory-Owners' Federation, Delhi.

The distribution by industries of the 86 industrial concerns is as follows:- (1) Cotton -20, (2) Jute - 4, (3) Salt -3, (4) Sugar -13, (5) Iron and Steel - 4, (6) Shipping - 6,(7) Match Manufacture - 3, (8) Constructional Engineering -7,(9) Cement and Potteries -5, (10) Oil extracting - 3, (11) Drugs and Chemicals -2, (12) Coal Mining -2, (13) Glass - 6, (14) Metal Manufacturing - 3, (15) Milling - 2, (16) Tea Gardens - 2, (17) Straw Boards - 1.

Employers' Delegation to I.L.Conference.- On a reference being made to the Committee by the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry regarding the nomination of ~~the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry regarding the nomination of Indian~~ ^{the} Employers' Delegation to International Labour Conferences, the Committee informed the President of the Federation for the information of its Member-bodies that the persons to be recommended to form the Employers' Delegation should be from amongst ~~the~~ industrial employers.

18th I.L.Conference.- Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 18th session of the International Labour Conference, submitted ~~his report~~ ^{coreference} to the Committee of the Organisation on the work done at the said Conference and the Committee adopted the following resolution thereon:-

"The Committee of the Organisation having gone through the Report of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, the Indian Employers' Delegate to XVIII Session of the International Labour Conference, record their grateful thanks to him for his work at the said Conference.

"The Committee invite the attention of the Members of the Organisation to several of the difficulties of the Indian Employers' Delegate at Geneva and recommend to them for their careful consideration the suggestions made by the Delegate regarding continuity of delegation and nomination of advisers for proper discharge of the duties of the Employers' Delegation at Geneva.

"The Committee further recommend to the Members a careful study of the Director's Report to the Conference on world conditions".

"The Committee further requested the President to convey to Sir Bhpendra Nath Mitra, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., C.B.E., Government's representative to the International Labour Conference, their grateful thanks for the support and help given to the Indian Employers' Delegate, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, at the said Session on several occasions, particularly with reference to the election of the Indian Employers' representative on the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation."

19th I.L.Conference.- The Committee agreed to recommend to Government the following personnel for the Indian Employers' Delegation to the 19th Session of the International Labour Conference
Delegate: Mr. Hooseinhoy A. Lalljee, Bombay.

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Advisers: 1. Mr. K.Dutt, Calcutta, (2) Mr. P.S.Sodhbans, Lahore,
and (3) Mr. I.D.Varshnei, Bahjoi.(U.P.)

The Committee decided to circulate the various items on the agenda of the 19th session of the International Labour Conference to employers' organisations in India with a view to elicit their views on those items and to forward the same to the Employers' Delegation to the Labour Conference.

Nomination of Advisers to Employers' Delegates.-The Committee represented to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, pointing out that while they were contributing huge sums to the expenses of the League of Nations, they should not economise in the number of Advisers ~~given~~ to the Delegations and they should utilise their membership of the League of Nations and the International Labour Organisation to the fullest extent by appointing a sufficient number of Advisers to non-official Delegations with a view to enable them to discharge their duties adequately and properly in the best interests of India.

(Summarised from the Annual Report of the Organisation, copies of which were forwarded to this Office by the Secretary of the Organisation. A copy of the Report was sent to Geneva with out minute D.2./744/35 dated 4-4-1935).

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Workers' Organisations.

Trade Union Movement in the Bombay Presidency, 1933-34.* ✓ +

Number of Registered Unions.- Ten new unions were registered during the year under **Report**, bringing the total number of registrations up to 31-3-1934 to 81. The registrations of 27 unions had been cancelled before 1st April 1933 and during the year under report the names of nine other unions; ^{namely,} (1) the Bank Peons' Union, Bombay, (2) the Karachi Motor Drivers' Union, Karachi, (3) the Bombay Steam Navigation Company's Employees' Union, Bombay, (4) the Private Car, Bus and Lorry Drivers' Union, Bombay, (5) the Hubli Textile Labour Union, Hubli, (6) the West Khandesh Bus Drivers' Union, Dhulia, (7) the Poona Press Workers' Union, Poona, (8) the Pratap Mills Kamgar Union, Amalner, and (9) the Bombay Suburban District Motor Drivers' Union, Bandra, were removed from the register. The total number of unions on the register as at 31-3-34 stood at 45.

Classification of Unions.- Of the 45 registered unions at the end of the year under report, only 39 individual unions submitted annual reports. These 39 unions may be classified thus:- Textile workers' unions - 6; Railway workers' unions including those of railway workshops employees -8; Seamen's unions -2; Municipal workers' unions -4; Port Trust and Dock workers' unions -7; Miscellaneous unions -12.

Membership and Finances of Unions.- The total membership of the reporting unions decreased from 55,221 to 52,513 during the year under report. The number of withdrawals from membership was nearly

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Bombay Presidency for ~~19~~ the year 1933-34. - Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press-1935. pp.13 - Price Anna 1 or 1d.

one and a half times the number of accessions. The female membership of registered trade unions decreased from 1,755 to 391. This is largely due to a heavy fall in the membership of the Kajugar Kamkari Union, Bombay, which consists almost entirely of female workers. The opening balance of the combined general funds of the 39 unions was Rs. 349,973-6-2 and the closing balance Rs. 367,133-8-3.

The general fund was the principal liability of the majority of the unions. It formed the only liability of twelve unions and a minor liability of one union, while only two unions had liabilities other than the general fund. The total amount at the credit of the general fund account of all the unions was Rs. 376,312-0-4 and other liabilities amounted to Rs. 25,848-11-3 as against total assets amounting to Rs. 402,160-11-7. The figure for total assets includes an amount of Rs. 245,989-6-0 for unpaid subscriptions, the real value of which is very doubtful. The amount of cash assets was the largest in the case of the Railway group and amounted to Rs. 64,649-14-3. To this sum the National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma alone contributed cash assets amounting to Rs. 54,173-9-3. Securities amounting to Rs. 39,887-7-0 were held by six unions, two of which held securities worth over Rs. 10,000 each.

Political Fund.- The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay, continued to maintain its political fund.

Number and Membership of Registered and Unregistered Unions.-

The total number of trade unions - registered as well as unregistered - in the Bombay Presidency was 105 with a membership of 108,747, while at the close of the year there were 103 unions comprising

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115,186 members. Of the new registrations one, the Telegraph Messengers and Lower Grade Staff Union, Karachi, was an association of Government servants. This is the second union of Government employees registered under the Act, the Government Central Press Employees' Union, Bombay, being the first to be registered in 1932-33.

(The Annual Report on the working of the Trade Unions Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 26-27 of the March 1934 report of this Office). +

Madras Young Men's Labour League: 1st Session
of Conference, Madras, 1935. ✓

The 1st session of the Conference of the Madras Young Men's Labour League was held at Madras on 8-4-1935 with Mr. T. Prakasam as president. The Conference was well-attended and in welcoming the members, *Mr. R.A. Rajsoopal Naidu, Chairman of the Reception Committee,* traced briefly the origin and growth of labour organisations in the City. He said that the Madras Labour Union (for textile workers) was the only labour organisation in the city that had been able to function effectively for the last two decades. The position today was that only one or two unions were functioning in the city, and a few more were existing in name only while several others had passed into oblivion. It could not, on that account, be said that the workers in factories did not think it necessary to have organisations for the promotion of their interests. The time had come for young men to create the conditions necessary for the successful functioning of labour organisations throughout

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the country. It was with that object that they had started the Young Men's Labour League. Politicians and the general public, he said, ought to help the movement.

Presidential Address.- Delivering his presidential address, Mr. Prakasam said that the working classes formed an integral part of the body politic. Labour organisations the world over had developed to a very high degree. In a country ^{like India} where there were so many divisions, - communal, social and religious - it was not easy to build up a nation as in countries where the population was small and where there were not so many divisions. But the people of India had a certain strength inherited from their ancestors which enabled them to unite on critical occasions. He was really anxious that the infant organisation whose first anniversary they were celebrating and all other such organisations throughout the country should develop to such an extent as to become a real power. Mr. Prakasam said that Indian labour organisations were not strong enough to demand and secure adequate representation in the Legislatures under the constitution which was being forged for India in London.

He said that if they really desired to strengthen the labour organisation, they could not do better than join the Congress. During the last fifteen years of their national struggle attempts had been made to bring labour organisations into the fold of the Congress. But there were politicians who thought that Labour organisations should be left alone and should not be absorbed in the Congress. The Congress had dropped civil disobedience and had adopted a constitutional programme. It was the duty of all the labour organisations in the country to join the Congress. If the labour organisations

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had been absorbed by the Congress and if the constructive programme chalked out by Mahatma Gandhi had been put into effect, there would have been no need for civil disobedience. If labour had stood side by side with the Congress, no Government could have dared to deny freedom to India. If they had not succeeded in getting Swaraj it was because labour was standing out and the communal poison had been eating into their vitals.

Resolutions.- The following is a summary of the more important resolutions adopted at the Conference:-

1. Briefances of Retrenched Employees.- The first resolution urged upon the Government to appoint a committee with two representatives of employers, two of labour and one representing the Government, to investigate the grievances of workers thrown out of employment.

2. Five-Year Plan for Unemployment Relief.- The Conference called upon the Government of India to inaugurate a five-year plan ^{of industrial development} to relieve unemployment in the country.

3. Inauguration of Unemployment and Old-age Insurance Schemes Urged.- The Government and the employers were requested to start insurance schemes for the benefit of those that might be thrown out of employment due to old age or other causes.

4. Adult Franchise.- The Conference urged the grant of adult franchise.

5. Security of Tenure.- The Conference condemned the system whereby mill employers sought to keep workmen in temporary service for six years and more and replace permanent hands by temporary ones.

6. Educational and Medical Facilities.- The Conference sought the help of the Government in the matter of giving free educational facilities to the children of poor employees up to the Matriculation standard and also in the matter of establishing hospitals for the benefit of the working classes.

(The Hindu, 9-4-35)+

14th Session of the All India Trade Union
Congress, Calcutta, 1935.

The 14th session of the All India Trade Union Congress was held at Calcutta from 20 to 22-4-35, with Tundit Harihar Nath Shastri as president. According to press reports about 52 unions affiliated to the A.I.T.U.Congress were represented at this year's session.

Mr. K.C.Mitra, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in the course of his address welcoming the delegates, traced the development of the trade union movement in Bengal and appealed to the workers to strengthen the movement by joining it in large numbers. The following are extracts from his speech:

History of Trade Union Movement in Bengal.- Although factories and mills were started in Bengal during the closing decades of the last century and seamen from Calcutta serving in ships chanced to come in contact with the active labour movement and organisations in European countries and became imbued with their ideas and started clubs and Anjumans here in the first decade of this century, no real and regular organisations of workers were formed till the year 1918 — when, due to the unprecedented economic depression caused as an after-effect of the world-war and the consequent wage-cut, retrenchment and other kinds of repression resorted to by the employers the first batch of workers' unions in Bengal began to be started. In 1918 the Port Trust Employees' Association and the Indian Seamen's Union were formed; and these were soon followed by the Press Employees' Association and the Calcutta Tramway Employees' Association, formed in the following year. The movement developed and grew apace and a number of unions in jute, textile and railways were soon started. Quite a good number of young men from the intelligentsia identified themselves with the working-class interest and built up the movement in Bengal. After the Non-Co-operation movement had passed through its first phase and was in a temporary lull, a further band of untiring young men transferred their field of activity to the labour movement and many of them after years of sacrifice and suffering are still guiding the movement in and outside Bengal.

Splits in the Trade Union Movement.- The year 1928 saw great upheaval in the Labour world in India—a strike-fever pervaded the entire land. There were large-scale and momentous trials of strength between the growingly conscious working class and the

alarmed capitalists, and railways, textile, jute, oil, petrol, steel works and its subsidiaries, viz., tinsplate etc., collieries and almost all important industries experienced the shock. Happily most strikes at this period were entirely or partially successful. But soon discord among the leaders on so-called principles brought about danger for the workers; and at the 8th session of the Congress at Jharia in 1928 the first symptoms of a sharp difference were visible. The situation became worse when many of the best leaders were arrested and some sent to Meerut to stand their trial there.

Even then the movement in Bengal was growing in intensity and the working class held their own against all odds. In the following year the Ninth Congress at Nagpur saw the split within the Congress and the right wing seceded from the parent body: while in Bengal the movement suffered much owing to a further difference among the left wing leaders themselves. This sectarian move culminated in yet another split and the ultra-leftists seceded from the Congress at ~~the~~ its eleventh session at Calcutta in July 1931. Due to ~~these~~ ^{these} internecine quarrels among the leaders — which in fact did not very much concern the rank — both ^{the} organisational and educative activities of unions were considerably checked. Even then the Bengal Provincial body of the A.I.T.U.C. held very successful conferences of employees in ^{the} jute and oil and petrol industries, and reorganised the unions in other industries, viz., textile, railways, steel and collieries.

A.I.T.U.C's Work from 1932.— During the period, however, again imperialistic repression recommenced in full swing and many of our active workers were arrested and imprisoned on various pretexts in 1932. Then followed a period of low activity and almost a fall when most of the unions existed in a moribund condition and it was not until April, 1934 that a new life ^{was} ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~movement.~~ ~~was~~ ~~infused.~~ From then till now, i.e., in the course of the last twelve months, the A.I.T.U.C. put up a splendid fight by organising strikes in Bombay, Sholapur, Ahmedabad, Delhi and Cawnpore, and Bengal also took up her share both in the fight and in the organisational activity. During this period there were strikes of the Port and Dock workers in Calcutta, R.S.N. and I.G.N. workers, Bird Company's workers, textile workers at Ghosurey; engineering and metal workers of Metiabruz. Eight new unions were formed during this period.

The following is a summary of the presidential address delivered by Pandit Harihar Nath Shastri.

Capitalist Offensive and Government Repression.— Mr. Shastri declared that the trade union movement in the country was undergoing a serious crisis being faced with a determined capitalist offensive ~~and~~ on the one hand and vindictive Government repression on the other. The wage-cuts that commenced as early as in the

year 1928, has since then been going on unabated, with the result that in principal industries, wages have generally gone down by about 45 p.c. and in some cases by over 60 per cent. The earnings have gone down to starvation level, to a level where it has become almost impossible for workers to get on even with the bare necessities of life. The increasing unemployment has made the situation still worse. In every industry and in every important industrial city thousands of workers have, in the course of the last six years, been thrown out of employment.

The Capitalist offensive has become all the more formidable due to the Government repression that is every day increasing with the intensification of the class struggle. When the Trade Union Movement was in its infancy in this country, the Government did not take it much seriously. During the strike period of 1919-20, it generally adopted an attitude of neutrality. But as class consciousness grew among workers and the struggle developed, the attitude of neutrality could not be maintained. In the course of strikes that took place in the years 1928-29, the Government openly allied itself with the capitalists in crushing the struggle of workers. Free and arbitrary use of section 144 was made in stopping strike meetings and processions and prominent labour workers were thrown into prison. Government from the very outset exercised all its influence to check the spread of the strike wave by stopping meetings and demonstrations, by keeping important workers out of the field of action by arresting them and launching prosecutions against them. Cases under the Trade Disputes Act were instituted against a number of labour leaders for advancing the cause of the general strike. Soon after the general strike was over, a number of Trade Unions in Bombay were declared unlawful. This was followed by similar ban on Trade Union activities in the Punjab, Madras and Bengal. In the last province the position is the worst conceivable. Here the Government is bent upon allowing no progressive movement to grow. Last year Dr. Charu Chandra Banerji, the Vice-President of the All India Trade Union Congress, was interned for indefinite period under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. 18 important labour workers were arrested and prosecution was launched against them in connection with certain ordinary meetings and demonstrations.

Imperialism.- All these repressions are part of a policy on the part of imperialism to keep under check the rising tide of discontent among the masses. Imperialism is consolidating all the reactionary forces in the country under its banner with a view to retaining its foothold in this country. The Joint Parliamentary Committee report is a glaring instance of this policy. The reforms promised in the report grant no freedom to the masses. In fact it is simply intended to bribe the Indian princes, landlords, and the native bourgeoisie and to win them over to the side of imperialism. Restricted franchise based on property qualifications, introduction of second chamber in provinces, the system of indirect elections to Federal Legislatures, protection of commercial rights and joining the princes in federation, all these are clear indications of the imperialist policy of preserving old allies and creating new ones. The princes and landlords have always been

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devoted adherents of British rule in India. But the Indian capitalists were inclined towards the national movement till some time back. The Indian National Congress received considerable support from them from time to time, This made imperialism change its policy towards the native capitalists. Instead of looking exclusively to and guarding the interests of the British bourgeoisie, it deemed it more expedient ~~and probable~~ in the long run, to make the native bourgeoisie partners in the exploitation of the masses. Hence the post-war trade pacts, abolition of excise duty, grant of protection, bounties and other concessions. All this has been done to bring the dissatisfied bourgeoisie of this country closer to the side of imperialism. And to satisfy the political aspirations of this class, imperialism has promised them the reforms indicated in the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report.

Trade Union Unity.- Mr. Shastri declared that ~~in order~~ to fight ~~all the above~~ reactionary tendencies and to preserve the trade union movement the only course was trade union unity. He deplored the splits in the ranks of Indian labour and said that now a stage has come, when every group that is sincerely devoted to the cause of workers should realise the supreme importance of solidarity in the Trade Union Movement. Consolidation of different parties in the working class movement is taking place all over Europe on account of fascist menace. Mutual differences in past between communists and socialists in Europe helped the forces that were hostile to the interests of workers. Thus the dissensions between these two parties were instrumental in establishing fascist regime in Germany, where the working class movement is being ruthlessly ~~x~~ crushed today. Different shades of labour opinion in European countries and especially in Italy and Germany are seeking rapprochement today. This has had its repercussions in our country also and the evidence of a growing desire for Trade Union unity has encouraged the All India Trade Union Congress to once again take the initiative in the matter. In January 1935 it set up a sub-committee that was directed to approach all the trade union groups in the country in order to devise ways and means to bring about unity. A conference was convened at Cawnpore on the 9th March to discuss this question, but as representatives of the two important groups did not attend the Conference it could not be held. Since then some representatives of the All India Trade Union Congress met some leaders of the N.F. of Trade Unions as a result of which a joint statement was issued from Delhi on the 12th March 1935 proposing the formation of a Joint Committee (for details vide pages 64-65 of our March 1935 report), where representatives of the A.I.T.U.C. and N.F. of T. Unions could sit and chalk out a programme of joint work in trade union field, with clear understanding that the two will not indulge in mutual recriminations. While realising that nothing short of structural unity could achieve lasting solidarity in the labour movement, the Trade Union Congress accepted this position as a step forward in the right direction. Mr. Shastri then appealed to all labour unions to sink minor differences and bring about ~~x~~ unity in the labour movement in order to survive the present crisis.

Organising the Peasantry and Youth.- After setting its own house in order, the working class must turn its attention towards formation of alliances with other radical sections in the country that have got an identical mission to fulfil. In an essentially agriculturist country like India, the peasantry is one of the most important factors in the struggle for bread and freedom. The plight of the Indian peasantry is no better than that of workers in the cities. They are actually groaning on the one hand under the oppressions of parasitic landlords and on the other under the yoke of foreign domination. The miseries that the peasants have been subjected to in recent years have made them alive to the necessity to organise on a class basis in order that they may give a brave fight to those who are exploiting them. Consequently, Kishan Sanghs has been started in many provinces. These Sanghs are yet in their infancy and they have to be developed on right lines in order that they may not drift into wrong channels. They should be guarded against being dragged towards a policy of barren reformism or towards ultra-leftism. The importance of the national struggle from the view point of the masses must be brought home to the peasantry and contacts between workers and peasants that have been ignored in the past must be established without further delay.

Next to the peasantry, another potent factor in the national struggle is that of the educated youth of the country, whose aspirations remain unfulfilled under the present regime. There is therefore deep-rooted discontent among them against foreign rule—discontent that found its manifestations from time to time in the course of the nationalist movement. In them the Indian working class can find an ally that can join hands with it in the fight for national independence. The organisation of this class must be immediately taken up in hand with a conscious endeavour to bring them closer to the working class ideology and programme.

Workers in Indian States.- The Trade Union movement in British India has so far neglected the workers in Indian States, whose plight is even worse than that of the British Indian Workers. Even the most ordinary legal rights enjoyed by the British Indian Workers are denied to them. They are suffering under the additional handicap of being ruled by Indian princes, who are not prepared to allow them any freedom of organisation and agitation for the betterment of their lot. Trade union activities are generally banned in most of the Indian states. The Indian working class should fight for the right of organisation of their fellow workers in Indian States. An effort is being made to keep the subject of labour legislation out of the scope of the Federation. This move should be vehemently opposed and the demand should be put forward that the laws in native states must be brought into line with those of British India. The workers of the native states must be made to realise that their struggle and the struggle of British Indian workers is a common one.

Organisation of the Unemployed.- Another function that the working class has to perform in order to stabilize its position ~~x~~ is the organisation ~~of~~ the unemployed. The army of the unemployed that has been constantly increasing since 1928 has now assumed terrible proportions. The Indian Government is utterly indifferent to the problems of unemployment in this country. Recently, the International Labour Convention on Unemployment Insurance was rejected by it. Now it is the task of the working class to fight for the rights of unemployed. For some time the All India Trade Union Congress has moved in the matter in right earnest. On its initiative, the "Unemployment Day" was celebrated ^{recently} on a very large scale throughout the country, when the problems of the unemployed came to the fore-front for the first time. This work has now to be placed on a permanent footing by the formation of Unemployed Leagues throughout the country.

Alliance with Congress Socialist Party.- No less important a group with which the working class should form an alliance is the growing radical wing in the Congress, known as the Congress Socialist Party. This party is the outcome of the deep discontent that is evident in the rank and file of the Congress, which has lost all faith in the present Congress leadership and programme. The leaders of the Indian National Congress, have been crying from the housetop that they stand for the economic emancipation of the masses and for complete national independence. But, in actual practice, they have always been striving to enter into a compromise with imperialism. They have begun to realise that if the national struggle has to be fought effectively and in the interest of the masses, without compromise with imperialism, the present leadership in the Congress has to be overhauled and a correct programme, clearly embodying their economic demands, must be placed before the masses. The masses have fought under the banner of the Congress and it is they who have undergone the greatest suffering in the cause of freedom and as such they have every right to see that the Congress stands for their interests. Therefore, without wrecking the Congress, its ideology and programme have to be revolutionised. The formation of the Congress Socialist Party is a practical manifestation of this radicalisation. The Indian working class should form an alliance with this radical group in the Congress. Such an alliance has already been in progress since the party came into existence and a pact was concluded between the A.I.T.U.C. and the Congress Socialist Party last year. Members of this party have begun to take active interest in the Trade Union Movement.

Labour and Future Wars.- The impending world war is yet another important factor that makes it incumbent upon the working class to consolidate its position. During the last Great War of 1914-1918, workers of every country fell a prey to imperialist diplomacy and under a false sense of nationalism they fought for their rulers and butchered their fellow workers in other countries. In India too, multitudes of workers and peasants joined the army

and fought for the preservation of foreign domination. The war offered a golden opportunity to India to strive for its freedom. But due to lack of proper organisation and consciousness among the people, that opportunity could not be availed of. The then leaders of Indian nationalism too did not rise equal to the occasion. They joined hands with imperialism and placed all the resources of the country at their disposal. This time the workers must resolutely refuse to participate in the war and they should fully avail themselves of the opportunity, whensoever it offers itself, of achieving independence. With that object in view, requisite preparations must now be set on foot. A country-wide campaign, warning the masses of war dangers must be started by the working class in co-operation with other anti-imperialist groups in the country.

General Strike.- Mr. Shastri said that conditions in all industries, especially the railways, warranted the organisation of a general strike since there was no other way of improving the condition of the workers.

Resolutions.- The following is a summary of the more important resolutions passed by the Congress:

Constitutional Reforms.- "Neither the newly proposed reforms nor the much coveted Dominion Status will, in any way, free the Indian working class and any other oppressed exploited classes from the continued economic exploitation and political bondage. Therefore, this Congress emphatically condemns the India Bill as an attack on the movement for national liberation. This Congress is of opinion that capture of political power by the oppressed masses is the essential condition for real national freedom.

This Congress further declares that any constitution, worked out by the spokesmen of the British Raj and their allies in India, will not be acceptable to the Indian people. This Congress maintains that none but the Indian people have the right to frame the future constitution of free India and the fundamental laws of a free National State can only be formulated through the National constituent Assembly, the only democratic organ of power of the Indian oppressed masses".

Basic Principles of Future Constitution.- "This Congress reiterates the following basic principles of the constitution of a Free India as formulated by the Cawnpore Session of the All India Trade Union Congress:

1. Transfer of all power to the oppressed and exploited masses.
2. Abolition of Indian States and parasitic landlordism.
3. Freedom of peasantry from ~~all~~ exploitation and exactions so that the greater part of their surplus production remains in their hand.
4. Nationalisation of land, public utilities, mineral resources, banks, and all other key industries in the country.

5. Unconditional repudiation of all debts contracted by the foreign Government.

6. Improvement of the condition of the industrial workers through the introduction of minimum wage standards, limited hours of work, insurance against unemployment, old age and sickness and maternity and social legislation for general protection of labour.

7. Control of the economic life of the country by the oppressed masses to guarantee that the fruits of national freedom will not be usurped by the fortunate few.

8. Abolition of indirect taxation and introduction of free compulsory primary education.

9. Freedom of the press, speech, association, expression and assembly.

10. Abolition of all other charges, except a unitary tax, on the peasantry.

Labour to Contest Elections.- One ~~impr~~ important resolution authorized the Executive of the Congress to arrange for contesting the Labour Constituenc~~y~~ seats in the Provincial Councils provided under the new Constitution.

Unemployment.- "This Congress views with great alarm the increasing unemployment among the working masses brought about by the sharpening of the world economic crisis and the fall of agricultural prices, which accentuated the political crisis in the country. This Congress, therefore, realises the necessity for alleviating the sufferings of the unemployed and proposes the following immediate lines of action:

(a) The setting up of unemployed workers' councils composed of the delegates elected by the district or provincial unemployed workers' councils ~~in working class areas~~ under the centralised leadership of the A.I.T.U.C.

(b) The Councils to draw up their demands and to link them up with the demands of the unemployed workers.

"Further, this Congress draws the attention of the constituent elements of the Trade Union Congress to the dire necessity for propagating amongst the unemployed masses the basic causes of unemployment and emphasise~~s~~ that the entire wiping out of unemployment will not take place so long as there is no radical reconstruction of the Indian social structure".

Office Bearers.- The following office-bearers were elected for 1935;- President: Mr. R.S. Ruikar; Vice-President: Messrs. Jawaharlal Ganguly, S.P. Agasthi, Ali Bahadur Khan, and Abaji Salunka; General Secretary: Mr. R.A. Khedgikar; Treasurer: Mr. S.H. Jhabawalla.

1936 Session of the A.I.T.U.C.- It is understood that the next session of the All-India Trade Union Congress will meet at Bombay in 1936.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 28-4-1935).

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Trade Union Unity: An All-Parties Conference

held at Calcutta, 21-4-1935. ✓

According to press reports, a Unity Conference of representatives of ~~all the labour organisations which~~ ^{All India Trade Union Congress and the Red Trade Union Congress} participated in the 14th session of the All India Trade Union Congress which opened on 20-4-35 was held at Calcutta on 21-4-1935 under the presidency of Pandit Harihar Nath Shastri. The following resolution was adopted:-

"In view of the increasing capitalist and imperialist offensive in the country against the Indian working class, this conference of the representatives of the All India Trade Union Congress and the Red Trade Union Congress realising the urgent need of trade union unity with a view to immediately chalk out an effective programme of mass action to meet the increasing imperialist and capitalist offensive, resolves to arrive at the following agreement between themselves as a basis of Trade Union Unity:-

1. The acceptance of the principle of class struggle.
2. ~~The~~ A.I.T.U.C. to be the central organisation of the Indian working class.
3. (a) The principle of one union in one industry to be accepted by the united organisation. The constituents of the Red Trade Union Congress will be affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress within a month from this period.
(b) The question of amalgamation of parallel Unions will be dealt with by a Sub-committee appointed by the All India Trade Union Congress after the amalgamation of the All India Trade Union and the Red Trade Union Congress has taken place.
4. No affiliation to any foreign organisation.
5. The question of sending delegates to Geneva to be decided by a majority each year in the T.U.C.
6. Every group or party in the All-India Trade Union Congress shall have the right of free propaganda and criticism consistent with the discipline of the All India Trade Union Congress and the affiliated unions without indulging in mutual recrimination. So far as action is concerned, the decision of the majority to be binding on all affiliated unions and persons connected with the affiliated unions.

"This conference realising the immediate necessity for unity with the National Trades Union Federation, welcomes the formation of a joint committee as explained in the joint statement of Mr. Harihar Nath Shastri and Mr. Ruikar as a step in the direction of Trade Union Unity (vide pages 64-65 of our March 1935 report) and urges upon the A.I.T.U.C. representatives in the joint committee to strive for unity with the Federation on the above basis"

(The Indian Labour Journal, 28-4-1935).

All Bengal Jute Workers' Conference, Calcutta, 1935. ✓

The All Bengal Jute Workers' Conference was held at Calcutta on 19-4-35 under the presidentship of Mr. R.S. Nimbkar. The Conference was attended, besides a large number of jute workers, by the delegates to the All India Trade Union Congress held at Calcutta on 20-4-35. Mr. R.S. Nimbkar ~~president~~ in the course of his presidential speech, laid stress on the numerical strength of the Bengal jute workers who numbered about 250,000 and urged the jute workers to unite, as this, the speaker said, was the only way to redress their grievances. In that connection the speaker also advised the jute, cotton and textile workers to fight their struggles shoulder to shoulder standing on a common platform of unity without which, he said, they would not be able to improve their status in future. In conclusion the speaker appealed to the workers to sink all their petty disputes and assemble on a common platform to devise means to safeguard their ~~own~~ interests.

Messrs. Harihar Nath Shastri, R.S. Ruikar, Pathak and others ^{Labour Leaders}

also addressed the gathering and conveyed greetings to the Bengal Jute workers on behalf of their respective Unions.

Resolutions:-

The Conference adopted several resolutions regarding the general demands of the workers and the specific demands of the jute workers. A sub-committee was formed consisting of seven members to investigate ^{of jute workers} ~~into~~ the conditions of jute workers and to organise ~~jute~~ unions to safeguard their interests.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 23-4-35)

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Economic Conditions.

Rural Indebtedness in Kapurthala State:

Relief Measures Adopted: "Begar" ^{Cess} Abolished ✓

With the object of ameliorating the financial and economic condition of his zemindar subjects, providing facilities for marketing their produce by the construction of pucca roads in rural areas, removing the prevailing indebtedness by advances of big sums to zemindars as taccavi loans, and introducing up-to-date scientific methods of agriculture, His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala has sanctioned the following measures:-

Forced Labour Cess Abolished.- Haq-ul-Khidmat (or forced labour cess), at present realised at the rate of RS. 3-10 per ~~cent~~ ^{Rs. 100/-} of the land revenue will be entirely abolished forthwith.

Reduction in Land Revenue.- A suitable reduction in the land revenue rates has been sanctioned and will come into force from the next Rabi collections of 1992 Bikrami (A.D. 1935). Errors in the classification of lands resulting in undue increase in the land revenue may be rectified after due investigation, for which the services of an experienced Revenue Officer, who was one of the members of the Inquiry Commission, have been requisitioned and he has already taken this work in hand.

Agricultural Loans.- It has been decided to advance taccavi loans on a liberal scale and it is hoped to set apart ~~₹~~ 100,000 rupees for this purpose during the current year for the supply of seed, purchase of cattle and sinking of wells.

Rural Indebtedness.- To remove the prevailing indebtedness of the agriculturists a committee has been set up to examine this subject and submit concrete proposals, keeping in view the interests of sahukars and zemindars, on receipt of which suitable measures will be promulgated.

Construction of Roads.- The annual income accruing from the excise duty on sugar manufactured in the State will be utilised exclusively for the construction of roads and the supply of sugar-cane and seed to the agriculturists.

(The Statesman, 16-4-1935).

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State-aid to Industries in U. P. : Committee

Submits Report. ✓

Reference was made at pages 37-38 of our November 1934 report to the appointment by the Government of the United Provinces of a Committee of banking and commercial experts with Sir Sorabji Pochkhanwalla as chairman to examine the question of financial aid to industries in the Province and to consider, inter alia the recommendations of the Industries Reorganisation Committee on the subject. It is now understood that the Committee has recently presented an unanimous report which meets with the general approval of the Government. Though its recommendations and findings have not yet been made public, it is understood that the following are some of the more important recommendations:

Establishment of an Industrial Bank.- The Committee has recommended, firstly, the establishment of an industrial bank for the U.P., with headquarters at Cawnpore and branches at important industrial centres of the Province, for supplying long term credit to major and minor industries. The capital of the bank will be Rs. 2.5 millions and it will work mostly with long term deposits. It seems the Committee has also recommended that a dividend of 4 per cent must be guaranteed by Government.

Help to Cottage Industries.- As regards cottage industries, it is stated that the difficulties which stand in the way of their progress were not only those of finance but also of sales of manufactured goods. The Committee is, therefore, reported to have recommended

the formation of a marketing board, which will provide finance to artisans either individually or through co-operative societies. These societies will purchase the articles manufactured by them and push on their sales. The capital of the marketing board will be Rs. 500,000 which will be underwritten by the bank.

Formation of Stock Exchange.- Further, the Committee seems to have recommended the formation of a Stock Exchange at Cawnpore in order that the shares and debentures of the companies ~~are~~ formed in the U.P. might find a ready sale.

(The Times of India, 8-11-35).

Relief of Rural Indebtedness:

Five United Provinces Legislative Measures. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 22-44 of Part VII of the United Provinces Gazette, dated 27-4-1935, where are published the following five legislative measures, passed by the U.P. Legislative Council with a view to relieve rural indebtedness in the Province. All the five measures received the Assent of the Governor General on 10-4-1935:

1. The United Provinces Agriculturists' Relief Act, 1934 (Passed on 11th December 1934).
2. The U.P. Regulation of Sales Act, 1934 (Passed on 10-2-34).
3. The U.P. Encumbered Estates Act, 1934 (Passed on 8-12-34).
4. The U.P. Temporary Regulation of Execution Act, 1934 (Passed on 10-12-34).
5. The Usurious Loans (U.P. Amendment) Act, 1934 (Passed on 15th November 1934).

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Competition between Match Factories in Indian States
and British India.

In the excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during February last, it is stated among other things that, in January last, the Chamber received a copy of a joint representation that had been submitted to the Government of India by the Indian Match Manufacturers' Association and the Western India Match Company, Ltd., in regard to the competition of match factories situated in certain Indian States with manufacturers of matches in British India. It was submitted (1) that the Central Government should use every endeavour to prevail on those States which were levying import duty on matches on the amount of the excise duty to waive such duty; and (2) that, if this representation should fail, the same duty should be levied on matches imported into British India from a State as was levied by that State on matches manufactured in British India entering the State.

The Committee addressed the Government of India in support of the first of the abovementioned submissions.

Rubber Statistics of India, 1933.

PRODUCTION STATISTICS. -

Area and Number of Plantations.- The number of rubber plantations in India during 1933, according to the latest figures, was 4,637, covering an area of 253,427 acres, as against 5,142 with an area of 266,100 acres, in the preceding year. New lands planted

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with rubber in the estates during 1933 amounted to 6,920 acres, and the area of old cultivation abandoned amounted to 9,910 acres, showing a net decrease of 2,990 acres, on the total area of 180,049 acres in 1932. The total area under rubber in the year under review was thus 177,059 acres, which is about two per cent below the area of the previous year, and of this area only 76,181 acres were tapped. Of the total area under cultivation, 59 per cent was in Burma, 28 per cent in Travancore, seven per cent in Madras, five per cent in ~~Cochin~~ ^{Cochin} and ~~one~~ ^{cent} per cent in Coorg and Mysore.

Production Statistics.- The total production of raw rubber during the year is reported to be 12,915,162 lb. (Hevea 12,531,337 lb., Ceara 148,625 and Ficus elastica 235,200 lb.) as against 6,381,556 lb. (Hevea 6,205,730 lb. and Ceara 175,626 lb.) a year ago. The yield per acre of tapped area was 174 (against 186 lb. in 1932) in Burma, 171 (against 147 lb.) in Travancore, 151 (against 70 lb.) in ~~Cochin~~ Madras, and 143 (against 69 lb.) in Cochin.

Number of Workers.- The daily average number of persons employed in the plantations during 1933 was returned at 14,128, of whom 10,996 were permanently employed and 3,132 temporarily, as compared with 8,239 (6,840 permanent and 1,399 temporary) in the preceding year.

Exports.- The exports of rubber by sea from India to foreign countries during 1933-32 amounted to 17.2 million lb., as compared with 7.3 million lb. in the preceding year. The United Kingdom absorbed ~~19.1~~ 19.6 per cent, the Straits Settlement 45.5 per cent, Ceylon 20.7 per cent, Germany 2.1 per cent and the United States of America 7.6 per cent of the total exports. Burma accounted for 60.3 per cent, Madras 33.9 per cent and Travancore 5.8 per cent of the total trade.

(The Statesman, 1-4-1935).

Industrial Development of Ceylon:

Ten-Year Plan Proposed. +

An important step in the way of Ceylon's economic progress is the introduction of the Statistics Bill in the near future by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce. The Bill is to be ^{the} foundation of the economic survey recommended by Sir Sorabji Pachkhanawala in the course of his report on Ceylon's credit and banking facilities, and will help to gather all information necessary for the resuscitation of trade and industry in the Island. Behind the proposed economic survey is a ten-year plan of economic reconstruction which the Executive Committee proposes to launch in the near future.

Much of the preliminary spade work for the ten-year plan has already been done. The first step was the survey of the Banking Commission under Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala. The second step was the engagement of the services of Mr. H.G.Champion, of the Forest Service in India to undertake a survey of Ceylon's forests in order to exploit their wealth scientifically. The third step was the asking of Mr. G.Guha from Bengal to undertake an industrial survey in order to explore the possibilities of starting industrial enterprises based on the Island's raw products.

(The Times of India, 22-4-35).

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The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief (Amendment) Bill, 1935.

(Bill No. X of 1935).

The following is the text of the Statement of Objects and Reasons and the operative section of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief (Amendment) Bill, 1935, which was introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council on 27-3-1935 by Mr. M.H. Gazdar:-

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The money lenders in India have been keeping three sets of books one for the Income-tax Department and the other for the debtors and the third for themselves. The poor and ignorant agriculturists are persuaded to pass several receipts and documents for a single transaction and the creditors hold them responsible for each receipt or document separately. To put a stop to this practice which is detrimental to the interest of the agriculturists the early introduction of this measure is necessary.

Main Provisions of the Bill: Creditor to Furnish Statement of
Account of Debtors' Transactions.

In chapter III a section 13B shall be added, which should run as under:-

"13B. A creditor shall, in order to comply with the provisions of this Act, ~~shall~~ furnish every year ~~to~~ the Court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction defendant or any of the defendants resides with a legible statement of account signed by the creditor or his agent of any balance or amount that may be outstanding against each debtor on the 31st December in each year. This statement of account shall include all transactions relating to the loans entered into during the 12 months to which the statement relates and shall be sent in such manner and in such form with such details as the local Government may prescribe. In case of ~~the~~ non-compliance ^{with} of the provisions of the section the Court shall dismiss the suit."

Problem of Educated Unemployed: Legislative

Assembly Questions.

A series of questions regarding the problem of educated unemployed in India were asked in the Legislative Assembly during question hour on 27-3-35. Below are reproduced the questions and the answers hereto:-

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the problem of unemployment amongst the Bhadrалоке (educated middle class) classes throughout India is becoming more and more acute?

(b) Has the Government made any arrangement for having reliable statistics about the number, status, education and other particulars of the unemployed?

(c) What remedial measures, if any, have been suggested and formulated by Government for the solution of the problem? What steps have actually been taken to give effect to the same in the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Government are aware that "middle class" unemployment is causing considerable anxiety.

(b) An attempt was made, at the 1931 Census, to obtain figures of unemployed graduates but it did not yield any satisfactory results.

(c) As the Honourable Member appears to be aware, the question is one that primarily concerns the Provincial Governments and a number of them have appointed special Committees to consider the question in recent years. It is impossible for me to give any indication of the various steps suggested by these Committees within the limits of a reply to a question, nor am I in possession of a record of the steps taken. The opportunity was taken to discuss the subject at the Fifth Industries Conference in Simla in 1933 and a summary of the views expressed and the deliberations will be found on pages 121 to 134 of Bulletin No.50 of the Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour, a copy of which is in the Library. Partly as a result of their deliberations, Local Governments were recently addressed on the subject of educational reconstruction by the Department of Education, Health and Lands.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are the Government of India taking any steps, therefore, to relieve unemployment among the middle classes, or, to the best of their knowledge, have any Local Governments taken any steps positively to relieve middle class unemployment?

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The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, I can only suggest that my Honourable friend should study the Local Governments' records on the subject. It may be of interest to him to know that of the Governor's Provinces, Bengal, Madras, the Punjab, the United Provinces, Assam and Bombay have held enquiries into middle class unemployment and the Government of Bihar and Orissa are now about to hold such an enquiry. I think my Honourable friend is also probably aware that in the United Provinces an enquiry committee is at present sitting under the chairmanship of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. I am absolutely certain that, with Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru as Chairman, that committee is bound to produce a most useful report.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Apart from enquiries and committees, will the Honourable Member state whether any single step has been taken either by the Government of India or any Local Governments to their knowledge to relieve middle class unemployment?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I cannot possibly say in reply to a supplementary question what Local Governments have done to implement the recommendations made by the various committees I have mentioned.

Mr. T.S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How long have they been dealing with this problem?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: It will go on engaging the attention of the Local Governments until they are nearer a solution of a problem which I admit is serious.

Mr. N.M. Joshi: May I ask, what steps have Government taken to collect statistics regarding unemployment after their failure to get statistics in the last census?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I can say that it is impossible to ascertain the number of unemployed at any time without a census of the most elaborate kind. It is questionable whether it would be possible to get reliable statistics by means of a census, owing to the difficulty of discriminating between voluntary and involuntary unemployment. We all know the problem is there, and I do not think that the collection of statistics would help towards its solution.

Mr. N.M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India are aware that they have undertaken to supply figures relating to unemployment to the International Labour Office on account of having ratified the convention passed ~~at~~ at the Washington Conference?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think my Honourable friend had better put down a question on that subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the suggestion of conscripting all these educated unemployed and training them

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and engaging them in eradicating the colossal illiteracy in this country?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That, Sir, is a matter for Local Governments. I do not know whether you, Sir, will permit me to take a little more time than I might otherwise be allowed to take in replying to a supplementary question, but it may be of interest to the House to know what the conclusions of the Industries Conference of 1953 on this subject were. They held that:

"(1) The true remedy for unemployment amongst the middle classes, as indeed amongst other classes, is the rapid development of the resources of the country.

(2) In most provinces an undue proportion of the resources available is being devoted ~~in~~ to purely literary education, particularly in the higher grades.

(3) An industrial bias from the earliest stages would be useful in changing the general outlook of the educated classes.

(4) All possible new careers for instance, in the Army, the Navy, Mercantile Marine, Civil Aviation, etc., should be opened up to Indian educated young men as rapidly as possible"

Prof. N.G.Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of establishing a Central Employment Bureau to serve the needs of the middle class unemployed?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think that is more a matter for the Local Governments than for the Government of India.

(Pages 2841-2843 vol. III of 1955 of the Legislative Assembly Debates).

Health Conditions in Jharia Coal Mines, 1933-34.*

The Annual Report on the working of the Jharia Mines Board of Health for the year 1933-34, published by the Government of Bihar and Orissa, gives the following details regarding health conditions in the coal mine area in Jharia:

Jharia Mines Settlement. - The estimated population for 1933 (excluding Dhanbad Municipality) is 516,164. The estimated population is arrived at by applying the annual increment to the last census figures. There were 16,112 births (8,144 males and 7,968 females) during 1933 as compared with 16,704 (8,574 males and 8,130 females) in the previous year. The rate of birth per mille was 31.21 against 32.68 in 1932. The death rate showed a decrease by 2.34, there being 6,886 deaths (3,659 males and 3,227 females) as against 8,012 deaths (4,241 males and 3,771 females) in 1932. The death-rate per mille was 13.34 as against 15.68 in the previous year. The rate of increase of population, i.e. the excess of birth-rate was 17.87 in 1933 while that of 1932 was 17.01.

Colliery Population. - According to the report, the average daily labour force employed in 1933 was 52,352 as compared with 56,390 in 1932. Of these, 30,031 men and 5,321 women were underground workers and 12,736 men and 4,240 women were above ground workers. The total number of births in 1933 among the colliery population was 1,864 as against 1,942 in 1932, the rate per mille being 17.8 against 17.22 in the previous year. The total number of deaths came to 1,016 as against 980 in 1932 and the death rate per mille was 9.7 as compared with 8.68 in 1932. During the year under review, there were 36 cases of cholera with 7 deaths and 384 cases of small-pox with 15 deaths. There were ~~22~~ 29 deaths from influenza during the year. 547 accidents, were reported in 1933 of which 83 were fatal, 362 reported as recovered, and 102 minor as against 88 fatal, 337 reported as recovered and 104 minor giving a total of 529 in 1932.

Dhanbad Municipality. - The scheme for the construction of major drains in Jharia was taken over from the District Board in 1931, a sum of Rs. 12,240 being allotted by the Jharia Mines Board of Health for its completion. At the end of July 1933 the work was under the disposal of the Executive Engineer, Public Health Circle. The conservancy arrangements undertaken by the Municipality were satisfactory though no headway was made in extending the services.

* Jharia Mines Board of Health - Annual Report for 1933-34 by the Chairman, Jharia Mines Board of Health. - Printed by H.Chatterjee at the Art Press, Dhanbad.1935. pp.28+8

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Water Supply.- In the course of the year, 5 collieries were connected to the Jharia Water Board mains, bringing the total number of connected Collieries to 173. Ten working collieries still remain unconnected. At the June and July Meeting of the Board the question of these unconnected collieries was closely gone into and it was decided that it was not feasible to bring pressure to bear on the collieries to make them take connection, they being small collieries, usually with no resident Labour force.

Housing in Colliery Areas.- The depression in the Coal industry ~~g~~ had its affect upon the housing of the labourers. The Board could only insist that existing dwellings should be kept in good repair, but many of them could well be replaced by houses of a better type. The moratorium first granted in 1926 still continued in force. The number of permanent licenses in 1933 was 21,086 as compared to 22,312 in 1932.

Food Adulteration... During the year 104 prosecutions were made under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act of which 86 ended in convictions, 10 were dropped as the accused could not be ~~xxx~~ traced, 2 were withdrawn and 6 were pending at the end of the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.- Owing to the financial stringency in the ~~Coal~~ industry, it has not been possible to extend the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, which covers only part of the ~~Coal~~field. The work of the midwives (who are employed by the Collieries) has not been so satisfactory. It seems difficult to obtain the services of suitable women who are willing to fit in with local conditions.

The duties of the midwives and Health Visitors are not confined to attending child birth. Every encouragement is given to the indigenous dais to undergo training and they attend the cases under the supervision of the midwives. Antenatal and postnatal care of the mothers, and supervision of the health of the children are included in their duties. The Victoria Memorial Scholarships Fund continued to subscribe Rs. 25 per month during the year, and the Board allotted Rs. 4,000 for the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. A number of indigenous dais who had attended sufficient lectures and had been under ~~supervised~~ training for a long period were examined, and five of them were given certificates authorising them to practise locally. When the financial depression lifts it is hoped to extend this system to all indigenous dais, and then to obtain Government sanction for power to prosecute uncertificated dais who are found practising. The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme is well received by Colliery Managers and others connected with the Industry, who obviously appreciate the benefits conferred on the women and children of the labourers. Only shortage of funds is holding up development.

Leprosy Relief Scheme.- The Board subscribed Rs.1,500/- to the Dhanbad and District Leprosy Relief Fund, in whose hands all Leprosy work in the Sub-division is now concentrated. The Chief Medical Officer is Honorary Secretary of the Fund and has supervised all the Leprosy work throughout the year.

(The Health conditions in Jharia Mines during 1932-33 are reviewed at pages 60-63 of our November 1933 report).

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CO-OPERATION

Co-operation in Travancore: Recommendations of Enquiry
Committee. * ✓

Reference was made at pages 61-62 of our January 1933 report to the appointment by the Government of R Travancore of an enquiry committee, under the Presidentship of Mr. G.K.Devadhar, to report on the progress of the Co-operative movement in the State and to make recommendations for future development. The Committee has recently submitted its report (A copy of the Report was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute D.2/704/35 dated 21-3-1935). The following are the recommendations of the Committee as regards women and co-operation, students and co-operation and co-operation as a remedy for agricultural indebtedness.

Women and Co-operation.- The Co-operative Department and the public should bestow greater attention on the expansion of co-operative movement among Women.

Students and Co-operation.- 1. When the various schools start independent store societies they should conveniently be linked to a central organisation.

2. Thrift or compulsory saving societies should be started in schools and colleges for the benefit of the teachers and the taught.

3. Suitable changes should be effected in the curricula of studies to provide for the study of co-operative subjects.

4. Co-operation should be a compulsory subject in High Schools.

Rural Reconstruction and Redemption of Agricultural Indebtedness:

- 1. A special staff should be made available to the Registrar to undertake and carry on rural reconstruction work. Societies should devote for such work 10 to 15 per cent of their annual profits according to their capacity.

2. Colonisation Societies should be organised to solve unemployment.

3. A marketing officer should be appointed and he should be got trained under the chief marketing officer of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

* Report of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee -1934 -Trivandrum; Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, 1935. pp.379.

4. A scheme of compulsory organisation of co-operative societies for cultivators should be undertaken by the Co-operative Department.

5. A vigorous co-operative scheme for the industrialisation and for the promotion of supplementary occupation should be initiated by the Co-operative Department.

6. Agricultural Associations as in Bengal and Deccan should be organised.

7. Overdue and time-barred loans in co-operative societies should be given extensions of time.

8. There should be a general reduction of rate of interest ordinary as well as penal.

~~9. A similar system of insolvency law should be introduced.~~

9. Members of Co-operative Societies also should be enabled to get the benefit of any scheme of general reduction of total indebtedness with the help of Co-operative Department Conciliation Boards, to be set up for their relief by the Registrar.

10. Co-operative Societies should conduct a ~~no~~ vigorous educational propaganda on a country-wide scale for eradicating extravagant social expenditure.

11. Debt Conciliation Boards may be set up and amount of debt for repayment should be compounded at 65 per cent of the total debt.

12. Banks and co-operative Societies should be compelled to utilise their resources built by them out of their projects to wipe off the agriculturists' debt and reduce their volume.

13. Industrial indebtedness should also be liquidated by conciliation boards.

Progress of Co-operative Movement in Burma, 1933-34. ✓

Statistics of Societies and Membership.— According to the annual Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies Act in Burma for the year ended 30-6-1934, there were 2,165 societies of all kinds at the close of the year under review as against 2,335 at the close of the previous year. Of the 2,165 societies, 11 were Central Banks, 145 non-agricultural credit societies, 1,462 agricultural credit societies and 547 other societies. The total membership of the 2,165 societies was 75,592 as against 76,662 during 1932-33.

General Features.— The Department's activities were confined to liquidation work (including the administration of land and other properties that came into the possession of the liquidators), weeding out hopeless societies and arbitration cases. Great difficulty was experienced in getting cash repayments from members due to scarcity of cash resulting from the low price of agricultural produce, especially at harvest. Another difficulty was the work in connection with the administration of lands in the possession of the liquidators. Amidst these difficulties, reconstruction of certain societies which had reduced their outside liabilities to one-tenth of their total working capital and had the necessary elements for their future efficient working, was undertaken, with good results, by reducing the rates of share instalments and by empowering the Committee to extend loan instalments, judging by the earning capacity of each member, after suitably amending their by-laws.

The method of repayments in kind in the areas served by the Prome District Central Bank continued to work with great satisfaction. This system was also adopted in the Pegu and Henzada District Bank areas but without as much success as in the Prome Bank area. This system enabled the members to sell their produce at a much more favourable price than might have been obtained for it, if it were sold at the usual time by the members themselves, and it also enabled the Bank to get a higher percentage of repayment.

Outlook for the Future.— The view that the future outlook of the Co-operative movement is not discouraging has been fully substantiated by the fact that, in spite of the continued setbacks and "depression", new societies of various types (as many as 15), were registered during the year. They sprang up spontaneously and the Department assisted them only in technical matters. Schemes sketching the main lines on which the future working of the Department should run are being formulated in consultation with Government. As soon as the principles of those schemes are approved, the attention of the Department will be directed towards the successful materialization of the plans, and the drawing up of the methods of working in detail, keeping in mind the mistakes of the past, will be undertaken. Regret is expressed that during the crisis of collapse when more hands are necessary to save the situation from further downfall, necessity is felt, for financial reasons, to retrench the number of field workers.

*Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies Act in Burma for the year 1933-34 - Rangoon: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma-1935. Price - Rs.1-8-2s.3d. - pp.21+ Liv.

Co-operative Conference in the Punjab:

Future Policy Enunciated. ✓

A Conference presided over by H.E. the Governor of the Punjab was held at Lahore on 15, 20 and 26-3-1935 to consider the main lines of policy to be followed in future by the Co-operative Movement in the Province. The conference included, besides the Minister and officials immediately concerned, a majority of non-officials, both Members of the Legislative Council and prominent co-operators. Criticisms of the working of the department were invited, and the difficulties with which the movement was faced were explained, together with the steps being taken to overcome those difficulties. Certain practical suggestions were made, on which the Registrar was directed to take action.

The main decisions of the Conference are given below:

Consolidation of Holdings.- It was agreed that this work was of so beneficial a character that it should be pushed forward with all possible energy. Hitherto the work has been done in the Punjab through the agency of Co-operative Societies, and it was agreed that the process should be continued, but that an experiment should also be made of direct consolidation through a special revenue staff selected for the purpose, on the same lines as are being followed in the Central Provinces. The Registrar is reported to be submitting a scheme of expansion, for consideration in connection with the Government of India's grant for measures of rural benefit. It was also agreed that a legislative measure should be prepared authorising compulsion of a small recalcitrant majority in a village under consolidation to fall into line and providing for the removal of certain other practical difficulties encountered in the work.

Land Mortgage Banks.- A detailed discussion was held on the subject of Mortgage Banks. The obstacles encountered by the existing Mortgage Banks were explained and the prospects of removing those difficulties examined. The system now being followed in the Madras Presidency was described, and it was pointed out that two features which distinguish that system from that hitherto followed in the Punjab are the strict official control (with considerable Government assistance), and the ability to foreclose on and sell up the land of defaulters. The second resource is denied to banks in the Punjab by the Alienation of Land Act, which it is not proposed

to modify. This also makes more difficult the question of Government assistance. It was finally decided to appoint a Sub-Committee of the conference to consider whether it is possible to devise in the province any system of long-term credit which would afford adequate benefit to the borrower, as compared with the existing system, and would at the same time offer adequate security to the lending agency, and particularly to Government, if Government were required to give any form of guarantee.

Co-operation and Debt Conciliation.- Another question examined was the extent to which co-operative organisations would help in the conciliation of debts under the provisions of the recent Relief of Indebtedness Act, when that is brought into operation. The Registrar was instructed to issue orders to officials of the Department to give every possible ~~an~~ assistance to the working of the conciliation boards which would be established.

Co-operation and Rural Reconstruction.- The part to be played by co-operation in the general rural reconstruction movement was also fully discussed. The policy which had previously been followed of advancing to "Better Living" through "Credit" was criticised, and it was agreed that the policy, which is now being adopted by the Department, of establishing the principles of "Better Living" before encouraging the growth of Credit, was correct. The Commissioner for Rural Reconstruction urged the desirability of founding Co-operative Better Living Societies as a means of consolidating and making permanent the work of rural reconstruction in villages. It was agreed that the Registrar should prepare a scheme for the expansion of Better Living Societies in the next two years, for consideration in connection with the Government of India grant.

Other Objects.- Other ~~an~~ subjects discussed were the co-operative organisation of stock breeding, marketing, village industries, and urban banks; in regard to the last of these a special investigation of the possibility of expansion has been carried on during the last year. In all branches of the work, the present situation was explained, and suggestions made for further development or enquiry, where it seemed possible. The position of Women's Co-operative Societies was also examined, but non-official opinion was divided on the question whether a substantial advance was desirable at the present time. It was agreed that for the co-operative movement as a whole, the right policy at present was not to embark on wide expansion, but to make sure of the ground already gained, and consider only particular lines of advance for which there was demonstrably a need, and for which adequate staff could be provided.

Conference to be an Annual Feature.- A general wish was expressed to make a conference of this nature an annual event.

(From a Communique dated 16-4-1935 issued by the Director, Information Bureau, Punjab, Lahore).

Progress of Co-operation in Travancore, 1932-33. ✓

Reviewing the administration report of the Co-operative Societies in Travancore during 1109 (1932-33) the Government state that as a result of the policy of consolidation and rectification which was continued from the previous year, the dormant societies were steadily weeded out and fresh registrations were not ordinarily encouraged. The Government reiterate what they said on the report of 1107 (1930-31) that consolidation and rectification must be on right lines and they note that the Department and non-officials have recognised the fact that expansion, consistent with the safety of the movement, is essential to the economic welfare of the State.

Number of Societies.- The total number of societies decreased from 1,786 in 1931-32 to 1,782 in 1932-33. Out of this number, 20 had not started work and 1,671 societies did merely credit work. The Government state that they are constrained to note with regret that the progress of the movement along non-credit lines has been very little as in previous years. The propaganda work done by the Inspectors in charge of non-credit societies appears to have borne no fruit, as financial stringency stood in the way of organisers of fresh societies on non-credit basis.

Auditing of Societies.- The Government state that with reference to the circular issued by the Registrar laying down the correct mode of calculating divisible net profits so as to make audit profit of the societies in the State to correspond to the system adopted in British Indian provinces and other Indian States, the system was not given effect to fully but that in auditing accounts, the principle

that revenue actually collected should be taken into account in arriving at net profits, was rigorously observed. As a natural effect a large number of societies had to show losses. The total losses sustained by the societies amounted to Rs. 412,275. 16 societies' accounts were not audited.

Loan Transactions.- In the matter of loans, the Government observe that the Central Bank and Primary Societies have deteriorated considerably. This was no doubt due to the economic hardship of the ryots. Loans granted for the discharge of prior debts form the bulk of the loans granted, second comes the loans granted for trade purposes and third, those for agricultural purposes. The Government express the opinion that supervising unions ought to scrutinise loan transactions of societies to rectify defects and by fixing periods for the repayment of loans according to their purposes and according to the capacity to repayment and that such approximation would inevitably help the societies to draw a line of distinction between long-term, short-term and medium_term loans.

(The Hindu, 11-4-1935).

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19th U.P.Co-operative Conference, Orai, 1935.

The 19th session of the United Provinces Co-operative Conference was held at Orai on 6 & 7-4-1935 with Mr. G.K.Devadhar of the Servants of India Society, Poona, as the President. The part that the co-operative movement can play in improving the lot of the Indian agriculturist, particularly in relieving him of his great indebtedness, was one of the subjects dealt with by Mr. G.K.Devadhar in his presidential address. The following is a summary of Mr. Devadhar's speech.

Extent of Rural Indebtedness.- The main problem in India today is the improvement of agriculture and the agriculturist. Of ^{these} the indebtedness of the agriculturist is the most outstanding. The Indian peasant is burdened with a debt of 9,000 millions of rupees, and the agriculturist in the United Provinces is groaning under a debt of Rs. 1,250 millions.

Poor Agricultural Return.- The agricultural position of India is not satisfactory. Take for instance the principal crop of North India. It is evident from the following figures regarding the average yield of wheat per acre in various countries of the world that India stands lowest in the list. That explains the poverty of this country even in these days of scientific advancement. This is one of the directions in which progress on right lines must be brought about with the help of modern science and co-operative methods. The following figures represent the average yield per acre, during 1929-1932, in lbs: Albania 1170.4, Germany 1927.2, Austria 1346.4, Belgium 2358.4, France 1469.6, Great Britain 1918.4, Netherlands 2560.8, Canada 968.0, Australia 800.8, Argentina 783.2, and India (British) 589.6.

Disabilities of Indian Farmers.- It is clear that the Indian farmer is labouring under a great many disadvantages, and he must be made to reap the benefit of modern science with the help of democratised credit. He must be given adequate assistance in the matter of improvement of his soil by the supply of modern instruments and appliances. He must be provided with best manures. The cultivator must be able to keep good poultry and good breed of cattle in addition to other supplementary occupations. A plentiful supply of milk should enrich his and his children's bodily health and an abundant supply of food rich in vitamins, should be provided. The necessary medical relief, both of the preventive and curative type, should be at his disposal in which the official and non-official bodies like the Indian Red Cross and the Seva Sadan for women should be enlisted for service.

Illiteracy.- Regarding the supply of cheap credit as attempted in the past, Mr. Devadhar said that it must be confessed, as was observed by the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India, that hundreds of societies would have to be liquidated before the effects of past mistakes could be completely wiped out. This can only be attempted by protecting the interests of the agriculturists from within as also from without. The mistakes which are clearly observed and to which frequent references are traceable directly to lack of education which had been neglected and which neglect had been the bane of this movement.

Strength of Movement in U.P.- The growth of the co-operative movement in this province as revealed by the number of societies, their membership, the working capital, the growth of non-credit co-operative activities is far from adequate to meet the needs of the growing towns and villages and the increase in rural population. The position is such as must occupy the best attention of Government, the Department and non-official co-operators. The movement has been neglected by Government and educated young men and women who would have readily come forward if right kind of appeal had been made to them.

Financing the Movement.- As regards the finance of the movement is concerned there has been the demand for a provincial co-operative bank to regulate the functions of the net work of the central banks in the province. Mr. Devadhar suggested that the province should follow the model of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank as one of the most progressive apex co-operative banks in India. With the establishment of such a bank the whole movement will be enlivened and vivified.

Liquidation of Rural Indebtedness.- If the indebtedness of ~~the~~ the Indian peasantry is to be liquidated, one of the remedies that has been suggested and that has been engaging the attention of co-operators during the last ten years or more, is the institution of land mortgage banks working in close conjunction with debt conciliation boards. The Central Provinces have made a name for themselves by their vigorous advocacy and partial adoption of these measures. It is found by experience that the land mortgage bank, without the adjunct of debt conciliation boards is not a very effective means of providing the necessary relief either to the agriculturist or to the creditor who is prepared to compromise his claim.

Resolutions.-The following is a summary of the more important of the resolutions adopted by the Conference:

1. Village Uplift.- Resolved that the Government be requested to grant sufficient annual aid for five years to the U.P. Co-operative Union for introduction of adult education on an extensive scale amongst the members of the Village Societies to extend to

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five years and grant for undertaking village uplift work on an extensive scale throughout the Co-operative field.

Encouragement of Non-Credit Societies.- The second resolution requested the Registrar to encourage to a large measure the formation of non-credit societies.

Co-operation and Rural Work.- The Conference requested the Government to utilize as far as possible the co-operative agency in furtherance of rural reconstruction activities in the province; to train all rural uplift workers and guides required for expansion of rural uplift work at the Co-operative Training Institute, Partabgarh, to give preference to the employees and members of the staff of the U.P. Co-operative Union while making recruitment; to extend such support to the land mortgage banks in the province, as in Madras, to ensure a successful working; to approach the Government of India to exempt sugar factories registered under Co-operative Act from the excise duty; to exempt the members of the Co-operative Societies from the operation of the Provincial Insolvency Act and to reduce rate of charges for irrigation fixed by the cannal department on account of fall in prices.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-4-1935).

Education.

Industrial Education in Mysore, 1933-34* ✓

The following details regarding industrial education in Mysore State during 1933-34 are taken from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in the State for the year ending June 1934.

Chamarajendra Technical Institute.- The strength of the Chamarajendra Technical Institute on 30-6-34 rose from 228 to 258 and the average attendance from 193 to 255. 30 students of the Institution appeared for the Madras Government technical examinations in drawing, painting, engraving and modelling held in November 1933, and 22 students were successful, three being placed in I Class. 45 students of the Government High Schools attended the fitters and machine shop classes of the Institute. During the year under review the production of the workshop section of the Institute amounted in value to Rs. 39,586 which, on sale, realised Rs. 40,265.

Industrial Schools.- A new industrial school with weaving and lacquerware classes was started at Melamangala in January 1934. Besides the Chamarajendra Technical Institute, there are now 9 industrial schools under the control of the Department. 4 of these schools are located in the district headquarter stations and the rest at taluk headquarters. The classes in ~~and~~ carpentry, weaving, smithy, rattan, and lacquerware were popular. There were

* Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore, for the year ending June 1934. with the Government Review thereon. - pp.28

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486 students in all the nine schools. The results of the working of the schools during the year were satisfactory. There was an increase in the total output and sales. The realisation of Rs. 25,050 exceeded the anticipation to the extent of Rs. 4,423.

Aided Industrial Schools.- Five private industrial schools were receiving grants-in-aid from the Department. The District Board of Mysore made contributions to the two weaving schools at Sindhughatta and Sosale. The average attendance in these seven schools was 177. The subjects taught in these schools are carpentry, rattan work, lacquerware, manufacture, weaving, tailoring, cabinet making, blacksmithy, carving and brass work.

Home Industries Classes.- The Department has been aiding with grants several institutions which run classes for imparting practical instruction in arts and handicrafts to women. These classes are now being conducted at Bangalore, Mysore and Chikmagalur. The main object of these classes is, to give training to women in useful handicrafts so that they may earn a small income by pursuing these industries during their spare hours. The Department has also placed at the disposal of the institutes at Bangalore, the services of a well trained instructor in embroidery. The weaving inspector and the lady weaving demonstrator supervise the weaving classes. The total number of women under training during the year was 229. The total amount of grant disbursed to the institutions during the year came up to Rs. 7,954. (Industrial Education in Mysore during 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 59-60 of our May 1934 report).

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Bombay Adult Education Association:
Scheme to Spread Literacy Among Workers.

In pursuance of one of its principal aims, the Bombay Presidency Adult Education Association has decided to make a beginning in the spread of literacy among adult illiterates in Bombay City, especially among the workers. Arrangements are now complete for the conduct of six classes which are undertaken as an experimental measure. It is proposed to approach employers with a view to seeking their active co-operation. In addition to the spread of literacy, it is proposed to impart general knowledge to the workers, by organising periodical lectures on useful topics, such as healthy habits, extravagance in marriage and funeral ceremonies, duties of neighbourliness, elementary knowledge of history and geography. Two centres have been selected in Farel, the mill area. Some of these lectures will be illustrated by lantern slides.

(The Guardian, 2-5-1935).

Employment of Indian Seamen in British Ships:

Mr. J.Mehta Advocates System of Statutory Quotas.

Considerable resentment is being felt by Indian seamen at the position taken up by the Parliamentary Labour Party in the course of the debate in the British Parliament on the Act (recently passed) for subsidising tramp steamers that the party would agree to the grant of subsidies only if the Government would give an undertaking to reduce unemployment among British seamen at the expense of Chinese, Arab and Indian seamen by dispensing with their services. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, acting on behalf of Indian seamen, recently sent a letter of protest in this connection to Mr. George Lansbury. The following is a summary of the letter, the text of which has recently been released for publication in the Indian press:-

"Coloured" Sailors to give room to Unemployed British Seamen.-
The letter draws the attention of the Leader of the Labour Party to the injustice that is being done to Indian seamen employed in British-owned ships and urges him to take immediate steps to set matters right. Mr. Mehta points out that the spokesmen of the Labour Party stated that there were about 40,000 British seamen out ~~REASONS FOR DOMINANCE OF BRITISH SHIPPING~~ of work and, therefore, it would be a wrong policy at such a time to spend the taxpayers' ~~on~~ subsidies on shipowners unless such payment resulted in a reduction of unemployment among British seafarers and that if the desired reduction could not be brought about in the ordinary way, it should be effected by discharging what are called "coloured" men from British-owned ships. The conclusion was that "coloured" seamen should be given the sack if the Labour Party's support was desired.

Reasons for Dominance of British Shipping.- In order to justify the conclusions which Mr. Mehta had arrived at from reading the debates and other literature connected with the subject, he quotes extensively from the speeches of Labour M.Ps. and Labour Lords during the debate on the subject. He challenges the claim made that British ships were entirely and exclusively constructed from the resources of people born and working in Great Britain. He maintains that the dominance of British shipping in the world had been rendered possible and had since been maintained mainly through the fact that India and other eastern countries in the British Empire ~~and the people of these countries~~ had not been given opportunities

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to construct, own and run their own mercantile or even coastal shipping services.

50 per cent Quota for Coloured Seamen.- British shipping companies could not be ignorant of the fact that without India, Africa and portions of Arabia and China, the major portion of their revenue and their ability to pay wages to their White crews would disappear. He therefore requests the Parliamentary Labour Party to recognise that lascars and Oriental crews had an obvious right, along with the White crews, to employment in British-owned ships. In justice to the seamen of both countries, Mr. Mehta suggests that a statutory system of quotas should be adopted, there being a ratio of at least 50 per cent of Oriental employees on all British ships. The time had arrived when such a quota policy had become imperative.

Objectionable Attitude of British Labour.- Mr. Mehta further points out that after the helpful co-operation which he had received from all labour organisations and the Labour Party in Parliament in the matter of moving certain amendments to the Government of India Bill, a perusal of the debate gave him a surprise. It was a negation of what Labour stands for all over the world. If the British Empire was to become a real Commonwealth, the distinction between British seamen and an Arab sailor or an Indian lascar, who are all British subjects, should be forgotten. Judged by this test, the attitude of the Parliamentary Labour Party was open to the greatest objection.

Threat of Retaliatory Measures.- Mr. Mehta, in conclusion, warns the British Labour Party of the possible consequences in India when the full facts were known and the likely retaliatory measures Indians would be forced to adopt. He says: "When the facts are known in India, they will arouse indignation among Indian seamen and their organisations. Indian labour as a whole will feel bound to protest. There will be a cry for the organisation of dockworkers with a view to refusing to load and unload ships which do not carry a fair proportion of our crews. The Indian Legislative Assembly will be moved by us for protection and there will be a demand for retaliatory measures which nationalist sentiment in this country will favour and support. The unemployment among British seamen, far from diminishing, will probably grow worse. The logical but deplorable outcome of the situation created will be a demand for the removal of the White men from our railways, telegraphs, post offices and engineering departments."

(The Statesman, 22-4-1935).