

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICEINDIAN BRANCHReport for April 1932.Contents.

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References to the I.L.O.

The March 1932 issue (Vol. XI, No.7) of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces at pages 709-713 the provisional reply of the Government of India to the I.L.O. Questionnaire on the Age of Admission of Children to Employment in Non-Industrial Occupations.

The same issue publishes at pages 713-715 the first part of the replies of the various industrial interests in the Bombay Presidency to whom copies of the questionnaire were sent.

The April 1932 issue of the Labour Gazette, (Vol. XI, No.8), Bombay, publishes <sup>at pages 808-826.</sup> the remaining portion of the replies of the industrial interests in the Bombay Presidency to the above questionnaire.

... ..

The April 1932 issue (Vol. XI, No.8) of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces at page 771 the Resolution of the Government of India announcing the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 16th session of the I.L. Conference.

The personnel of the Delegation has also been published in the Hindu of 6-4-1932, the Times of India of 7-4-1932, the Daily Herald of 7-4-1932, and in the printed Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the month of March 1932.

... ..

The April 1932 issue (Vol. III, No.4) of the Indian Post, Delhi, the April 1932 issue (Vol. XXV, No.2) of the Anglo-Gujarati Quarterly Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, the Hindustan Times

of 8-4-1932, the Statesman of 10-4-1932, the Times of India of 12-4-32, the Leader of 13-4-1932, the Hindu and Daily Herald of 14-4-1932, and all papers publish a communique issued by this Office under the caption "The 16th Session of the International Labour Conference". The communique deals with the various items on the agenda of the Conference and their importance to India. Copies of the communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/728/32, dated 7-4-1932.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 14-4-1932, the Statesman of 15-4-1932, the Daily Herald of 15-4-1932 and the Hindu of 18-4-1932, and all papers, publish a press communique issued by this Office under the caption "The I.L.O. and Development of Social Policy; Director's Report to the 16th I.L. Conference, 1932". Copies of the communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/790/32, dated 14-4-1932.

... ..

The text of the resolution presented by Diwan Chaman Lall, the Indian Workers' Delegate to the 16th session of the I.L. Conference, urging, \* in cases where the agenda of the I.L. Conference includes questions which affect mandated territories or colonies or territories where the ruling race is different from the race to which the majority of the working population belongs, the desirability of convening a preparatory advisory conference, before such questions are taken up for first discussion by the general conference, has been published by the Hindustan Times of 29-4-1932.

... ..

A Reuter's cable stating that Diwan Chaman Lall, the Indian Workers' Delegate to the 16th session of the I.L. Conference, made a statement, in the course of his speech on the question of India's delaying the application of the Washington Hours Convention, to the effect that Indian railway employees often worked 22 hours daily, is published in the Hindu and the Statesman of 28-4-1932, the Hindustan Times of 29-4-1932, and the Leader of 30-4-1932.

... ..

"Indian Finance", Calcutta, of 23-4-1932 (Vol. IX, No.16) publishes at page 548 a long and appreciative review of the book "India and the International Labour Organisation" by Dr. P.P. Pillai, the Director of this Office. The book, it will be remembered, contains the Banailli lectures delivered by Dr. Pillai at Patna in 1929.

... ..

The issues of New India of 31-3-1932 (Vol. V, New Series No.53) and of 21-4-1932 (Vol. VI, New Series No.3) reproduce at pages 6-7 and 5-6 respectively extracts from the article "Women Workers in Indian Industries" contributed to the International Labour Review by Dr. R.K. Das, a member of the staff of the Geneva Office.

... ..

The March 1932 issue (Vol.III, No.3) of the Indian Post, Delhi, publishes at pages 97-101 a long article under the caption "The World and the Worker! the I.L.O. at Geneva" contributed by Mr. K.E.Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office. The article deals with the

varied efforts for the amelioration of ~~the~~ labour conditions throughout the world which are being carried on under the auspices of the I.L.O.

... ..

The Hindu of 20-4-1932 publishes a long summary of a speech delivered by Dr. Lanka Sundaram at the Y.M.C.A. auditorium, Madras, on "India and the League of Nations" under the auspices of the Truth Seekers' Fraternity, Madras. Dr. Sundaram explained to his audience the various ways <sup>in</sup> which India was profited by her connection with the League of Nations and the I.L.O. He demonstrated the necessity for India's permanent association with the League and put in a strong plea for the formation of an Asiatic <sup>b</sup>loc of States as a part of the League.

... ..

The April 1932 issue (Vol. IX, No.7) of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, publishes at pages 103-105 the second and concluding instalment of the article entitled "The International Labour Office" contributed by Mr. Prentiss B. Gilbert. The first instalment was published in the March 1932 issue of the Indian Labour Journal (vide page 3 of the report of this Office for March 1932).

... ..

New India of 28-4-1932 (Vol. VI, New Series No.4) publishes at page 17 a short note on unemployment based on ~~the figures~~ a communique issued by this Office under the caption "The I.L.O. and Unemployment:

Questionnaire on Recruitment of Professional Workers". Copies of the  
 communique have been forwarded with this Office's minute H 2/991/32,  
 dated 5-5-1932.

... ..

The Leader of 29-4-1932 publishes an editorial article under the  
 caption "Backbone of Economic System" based on the press communique  
 entitled "The I.L.O. and Unemployment: Questionnaire on Recruitment  
 of Professional Workers", issued by this Office. The article, after  
 quoting figures of the unemployed in the different countries to show  
 the extent of the depression, refers to the efforts that are now being  
 made to bring about a British Empire economic unit at the forthcoming  
 Ottawa Conference.

... ..

The Servant of India of 7-4-1932 (Vol. XV, No.14) publishes at  
 page 115 an article under the caption "I.L.O. and Unemployment" con-  
 tributed by Dr. Georges Thalín. The article deals with the efforts  
 that are being made by the I.L.O. to devise adequate remedies for the  
 present heavy incidence of unemployment, and directs special attention  
 to the significance to the Christian world of the I.L.O.'s contribution  
 in this sphere.

... ..

One of the recommendations made in the Report of the Trade  
 Union Unity Committee appointed by the Trade Union Unity Conference,  
 Bombay, is that the Indian Trade Union Congress should, in future,  
 send its representatives to the sessions of the I.L.Conference. A  
 summary of the Report of the Committee is given at pages 25-27  
 of this report.

Ratifications.Abolition of Forced Labour in C. P.:Bill to Amend C.P. Land Revenue Act, 1917.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Nelson will introduce a Bill to amend the C.P. Land Revenue Act of 1917 at the next session of the C.P. Legislative Council. The objects and reasons of the Bill as published show that the Legislative Assembly as well as the Council of State passed resolutions in October 1931 agreeing to the Draft Convention and Recommendations concerning forced or compulsory labour adopted by the 14th session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in June 1930. The Government of India decided to accept the resolution passed by the Indian legislatures. The Bill is intended to give effect to the recommendations by amending section 53 of the C.P. Land Revenue Act which in its present form permits of the employment of compulsory labour.

(The Leader, 13-4-32).

Questionnaire on Age of Admission of Children to  
Non-Industrial Occupations; Views of Bombay  
Industrial Interests.

The March 1932 issue (Vol XI No.7 pages 713-715) and the April 1932 issue (Vol. XI No.8 pages 808-826) of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publish the replies of the industrial interests in the Bombay Presidency to the I.L.O. Questionnaire on the Age of Admission of Children to Non-Industrial Occupations. The text of the replies are not reproduced as the Labour Gazette, Bombay, is being regularly received at Geneva.

National Labour Legislation.

The Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Bill, 1932: Reference to  
Select Committee.

At pages 9 - 13 of the report of this Office for March 1932, the main headings of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Bill (L.A. Bill No. 28 of 1932) as also the Statement of Objects and Reasons for the Bill were given. On 5-4-1932, the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Industries and Labour) moved in the Legislative Assembly the following resolution re the reference of this Bill to a Select Committee:

"That the Bill, to amend the law relating to emigrant labourers in the tea districts of Assam, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Mr. K. Ahmed, Mr. C.C. Biswas, Mr. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Mr. A.G. Clow, Mr. Tin Tut, Mr. H.B. Fox, Mr. N.M. Joshi, Mr. B.N. Misra, Mr. H.P. Mody, Mr. G. Morgan, Mr. T.R. Phookun, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, Mr. K.P. Thampan, Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan, Sir Frank Noyce, Mr. S.G. Jog and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Moving the resolution Sir Joseph Bhore said: The first principle is the acceptance, as an ideal policy, of the removal of restrictions on ~~and~~ impediments to the free movement of labour. I do not think that anybody in this House will object to ~~that~~ that policy which has the endorsement of two Royal Commissions. But it may be that that policy may not be susceptible of complete acceptance here and now without some temporary modification or qualification, and we have, therefore, provided in the Bill for power to exercise control over the forwarding or the recruitment of labour to Assam or ~~■~~ over both, should this become necessary in the interests of the emigrants. Our position is that we would like to see all restraints removed but realising how easy it is for abuse to creep in, we have provided power to impose control should this be necessary.

The next principle of importance is to secure to the emigrant to Assam the right of repatriation. That is a matter of great importance. It is perfectly true that this will lay a statutory burden upon the employer. But I venture to think that his gain will also be substantial. His labour, feeling that their return to their homes is definitely secured, will be more contented and for that reason more efficient. We are providing for a definite right to repatriation at the end of three years, and we are also providing for the exercise of that right before the expiry of that period in certain eventualities. The other provisions of the Bill deal with procedure machinery and other necessary details.

In the debate which followed, Messrs. K.P. Thampan, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, H.M. Fox (Assam-European), C.S. Ranga Iyer, N.M. Joshi, B. Sitaramaraju, B. Das and A.G. Clow (Government of India Nominated Official) took part. Below are given summaries of the speeches made by Messrs. Abdul Matin Choudhry, H.M. Fox <sup>and</sup> . . . . .

Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhry: The Bill is a very important measure. It will affect the future happiness and well-being of thousands of workers in Assam tea plantations. The House should realise the true implications of this Bill, that it should have an idea of the dangers and pitfalls to which it exposes emigrants to Assam tea gardens, and that the House should examine very carefully the sufficiency of the measures that are proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of labour. This Bill is primarily intended to facilitate the flow of labour to Assam tea gardens. Now, in a poor country like ours, where unemployment is chronic, it is pertinent to inquire why is it that labourers from distant parts of India do not flock to Assam gardens when there is a great ~~man~~ demand for labour there. Why is it that the tea planters find it necessary to spend as much as Rs. 150 per recruit to get labourers from outside? On no other industry, is it necessary to spend money on recruiting organisation. The Assam Oil Company at Digboi is able to attract recruits without any recruiting organisation: the B.O.C. oil wells in Sylhet and Cachar are worked with local men. Assam sends labourers even to other parts of India. The only conclusion to be drawn from all this is that the conditions of life and work and also wages in tea gardens are not such as to tempt anybody to go there and seek service there.

I shall tell the House what are the conditions that I consider essential and should be incorporated in this Bill before the Government can encourage emigration to Assam tea gardens. The first essential condition, I think, is that the emigrants in tea gardens and the general public should have opportunities of coming into closer contact with each other than is at present the case, and that the general public should be given the right of access to the tea gardens. There are about 900 tea gardens in Assam, but there is not one single labour organisation to protect the interests of the labourers. The labourers themselves are illiterate and the public are shut out from the gardens. All over India the trade union movement is progressing, but in Assam plantations it is non-existent. It is impossible to start a labour union as the public have no right of access to the gardens. The trade union being non-existent, the labourers remain ignorant even of the beneficial measures that the Government pass for their protection. And being ignorant of their rights, they cannot assert or claim them and are thus absolutely at the mercy of the planters. The commission recommended that steps should be taken to secure closer contact between the tea garden labourer and the public outside.

Next as regards wages. If the labourer is assured of a reasonable wage, no further impetus to induce the labourer to go to the tea gardens will be required. But with regard to wages the planters there are moving in a vicious circle. They keep ~~x~~ their wages low and therefore they are confronted with a scarcity of labour. Because they are confronted with a scarcity of labour, they spend huge sums of money to secure recruits from outside, and because they spend large sums of money on securing recruits from outside, they are forced to keep down their wage bill. In the year 1929, this industry spent over a crore of rupees in securing recruits. Had they spent that money on the wages of the labourers, the wages could have been increased by 25 per cent.

As regards welfare conditions, the Commission made many detailed recommendations. There is one recommendation which I want to emphasise, namely, the establishment of a statutory Board of Health and Welfare. The functions of these boards will be to lay down regulations with regard to conservancy, drainage, sanitation and other welfare activities. I should like to remind the House that at the instance of the Government of India the Federated States of Malaya incorporated in their "Labour Code" similar provisions in the interests of Indian emigrants. In Ceylon also the interests of Indian emigrants are similarly protected. I want that in this Bill identical provisions should be inserted to safeguard the interests of emigrants to Assam.

Mr. H.B. Fox: Honourable Members who know little of Assam and of the tea industry might perhaps fall into the error of thinking that the chief object of this Bill is to confer benefits on a favoured industry. Such, is far from being the case. In the dim distant past, labourers in Assam were under penal contracts, and naturally the recruitment and employment of such labour was regulated by statute. In those bygone days Assam was remote, inaccessible and unhealthy, labour was ~~at~~ difficult to get. There are 600,000 ex-tea garden coolies settled on 500 square miles of land which they hold direct from the Government of Assam, and these settlers were all imported at the

expense of the tea industry. That might probably be one of the reasons why we did not achieve a flow backwards and forwards between Assam and the recruiting districts. The difficulty of obtaining labour in those days was responsible for the creation of a class of professional recruiters who reaped rich harvests at the expense both of the tea industry and the emigrant. The situation inevitably gave rise to all sorts of recruiting malpractices and as a result Assam acquired a bad name, first as a remote and unknown place, a foreign land like Fiji or Malaya. I maintain, and I have the support of the Royal Commission in maintaining that apart from the vague fears of the recrudescence of the old recruiting abuses, there is no justification whatever for the perpetuation of a system whereby one single industry in one province is legally hampered in the engagement of its labour force.

This Bill grants to the emigrants statutory rights of repatriation. The tea industry has no objection whatever to this. The first object of the Bill is, while making it possible to exercise such control as may be justified and required by the interests of the emigrant, to ensure that no restrictions are imposed which are not so justified. The industry has no fear of these threatened restrictions, so long as the criterion of their introduction is the interests of the emigrant and not the interests of rival employers. It was clearly contemplated by the Royal Commission on Labour that there should be a marked difference between the introduction of control over forwarding and the imposition of restrictions on recruiting. The former was to be the normal state of affairs; and unless and until it is considered desirable to do without such control, the restriction on recruiting was in no case to be normal or automatic or precautionary; it was only to be resorted to if a situation developed that made such restrictions unavoidable. We find in the Bill, however that the manner of introducing a regime of forwarding control and a regime of restricted recruiting is precisely the same in each case, with no safeguard whatever that there should be cause shown before the latter step is taken. If such safeguards are not given, the interests of the emigrants themselves may be gravely prejudiced and the tea industry will have no alternative but to regard this Bill as a threat of an indefinite ~~per~~ perpetuation of a system of unjust and unmerited restriction for which there is no parallel in India.

The motion to refer the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Bill to a Select Committee was finally passed by the Legislative Assembly.

(Summarised from pages 2978-2998 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, 5-4-1932, Vol.III, No.15).

11

The Employers and Workmen (Disputes) Repealing Act, 1932.

At page 7 of the January 1932 report of this Office was given the text of the Employers and Workmen (Disputes) Repealing Bill, with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 28-1-1932. The Bill was passed on 3-2-1932 by the Legislative Assembly without any modifications or changes and the Act received <sup>the</sup> assent of the Governor General on 5-3-1932. The text of the Act is published at page 2 of Part IV of the Gazette of India of 12-3-1932.

Conditions of Labour.Conditions of Work on Indian Railways, 1930-31\*

The following information regarding the conditions of labour on Indian railways ~~are~~ is taken from the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1930-31, Vol. I, which has recently been published by the Government of India. As in the previous years the Railway Board's Annual Report on Indian Railways is published in two volumes. Volume I is the report proper and reviews the general administration and the financial results of the railways during the year. Volume II is a compilation of financial and statistical summaries and statements covering the main heads of the capital and revenue accounts <sup>which</sup> ~~and~~ are sufficiently comprehensive to embrace the complete range of railway working. For reasons of finance and for accommodation in connection with the dates for the presentation of the Railway as well as the General Budget in the House of the Legislature, the period for which the report is prepared is reckoned from the 1st April in one year to the 31st March in the following year.

Earnings of the Railways:- The depressed state of Indian trade during 1930-31 is reflected in the large decrease which has to be recorded in the gross earnings of the railways. The earnings of State-owned lines fell from Rs. 1,020 millions in 1929-30 to Rs. 950 millions in 1930-31, representing a decrease of approximately Rs. 70 millions. The net loss from the working of State-owned railways was Rs. 51.9 millions. In accordance with the convention regarding the separation of railway from general finances, a contribution of Rs. 57.4 millions was made from railway to general revenues for the year, the amount being taken from the railway reserve fund. The decline in earnings was as much due to the fall of passenger traffic as of goods; the earnings from passenger traffic on all railways both State-owned and others fell from Rs. ~~386~~ 386 millions to Rs. 343 millions, a decrease of 43 millions, while the earnings from goods carried fell from Rs. 688 millions to Rs. 644 millions, a decrease of Rs. 44 millions. The more noticeable decreases in the movement of goods traffic were in the export of jute and cotton and fewer shipments of oil-seeds. In sympathy with depressed trade there was smaller movement of passengers whether travelling short or long distances.

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\* Government of India - Railway Department (Railway Board) - Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1930-31, Vol. I. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch 1932. Price Rs. 4-14 or 8s. pp 117.

Number of Staff.- The total number of employees on all Indian Railways and in the office of the Railway Board and other offices subordinate thereto (excluding staff employed on construction) at the end of the year 1930-31 was 781,130 as compared with 817,733 at the end of 1929-30. The increase in route mileage during the same period was 557 miles. The following table shows the number of employees by communities on the 31st March 1930 and 1931.

Date	Europeans	Statutory Indians.				Grand Total.
		Hindus	Muslims	Anglo Indians and domiciled Europeans.	Other Classes	
31-3-1930	4,981*	579,040*	182,349*	14,647*	36,716*	817,733*
31-3-1931	4,799	553,851	172,321	14,350	35,809	781,130

\*The figures with asterisk represent <sup>revised</sup> figures due to minor corrections made in the figures published last year.

Cost of Staff.- The total number of staff on open line on 31-3-1931 was 746,111 being less by 37,791 than on 31-3-1930. The total number of staff on construction was 14,136 as compared with 15,466, showing a decrease of 1,330. The greater part of the reduction in number was, however, made shortly before the close of the year and its effect is therefore not reflected in the total cost of staff, which in the year 1930-31 was Rs. 399,220,220 as compared with Rs. 396,953,154 during 1929-30.

Recruitment.- Indianisation (1).- State-managed Railways:- In the last report of the Railway Board, a reference was made to the decision, taken in 1925 as a result of the recommendations of the Lee Commission, to take steps to advance recruitment in India to 75 per cent. of the total number of vacancies in the Superior Services and to the special measures adopted to encourage the recruitment of Indians for the Transportation (Power) and Mechanical Engineering Department, where, owing to the lack of qualified candidates in the country, the recruitment prior to 1929-30 was practically confined to Europeans. As a result of similar measures taken during the year under review, two Indians have been recruited for these departments through the High Commissioner for India and the Public Service Commission had been requested to arrange for the recruitment of three more in India.

During the year under review, the total number of permanent appointments made in the gazetted ranks on State-managed Railways was 80, of which 12 went to Europeans and 48 to Statutory Indians, of whom 20 were Hindus, 5 Muslims, 19 Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans and 4 of other communities. The ratio of Indian to European recruitment was 80 to 20 in respect of permanent appointments.

The above figures do not include the appointment of 12 apprentices all of Asiatic domicile, recruited in India for the Transportation (Power) and Mechanical Engineering Departments during the year under review. The communities to which these apprentices belong are as follows:- Hindus - 7; Muslims - 1; Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans - 2; and Other communities 2.

(2) Company-managed Railways.- The progress made in the direction of Indianising the Superior Services on Company-managed Railways falls short of that on State-managed Railways. The Companies have agreed to fall in line with the policy of Government as indicated in paragraph 73 but have not yet been able, owing to various reasons, to advance Indian recruitment up to 75 per cent. of the total vacancies. The South Indian Railway alone has so far been able to reach this percentage. During the year under report, the Companies ~~have~~ <sup>were</sup> reminded of their obligation to fill, as quickly as possible, 75 per cent. of all vacancies in all the departments taken together by persons of Indian domicile. During the year under review, the total number of appointments made in the superior service on company-managed railways was 72, of which 32 went to Europeans and 40 to Statutory Indians, of whom 30 were Hindus, 1 Anglo-Indian and domiciled European, 6 Muslims and 3 of other communities. The ratio of Indian ~~and~~ <sup>to</sup> European recruitment was 55.6 to 44.4 in respect of permanent appointments and 61. to 38.5 in respect of all appointments, whether permanent or temporary.

(3) Review of Progress made since 1925.- The Indian element in the superior services has risen from 28.02 per cent. on State-managed and 17.74 per cent. on Company-managed Railways in 1925 to 37.68 per cent. on State-managed and 31.90 per cent. on Company-managed Railways in 1931 by a corresponding reduction in the European element.

Emergency Reorganisation of Superior Cadres of State-managed Railways.- During 1929 the Railway Board prepared a scheme for the reorganisation of the cadres of the superior services on State-managed Railways. The principal features were the institution of a separate cadre for each of the State-managed railways; the provision of a reserve for leave and deputation; the abolition of the Provincial Engineering Service and the Local Tariff Service; and the constitution of a new Lower Gazetted Service in all branches. The approval of the Secretary of State was received in February 1930, and considerable progress has already been made towards giving effect to the reorganisation.

Rules for the Recruitment and Training of Subordinate Staff.- During the year under report the Railway Board drew up rules for the recruitment and training of workshop apprentices and of other subordinate staff generally, calculated to ensure the adoption of systematic methods of recruitment and training of the staff compatible with the local conditions, and requirements on each railway. The rules relating to workshop apprentices cover apprentice mechanics and trade apprentices who after training qualify for appointments as supervising subordinates and skilled artisans respectively. These rules were discussed with the Central Advisory Council in July 1930 and were issued for adoption on State-managed Railways with effect from the recruitment to be made in 1931, a copy being simultaneously forwarded to Company-managed Railways to enable them to carry out such revision in their practice and procedure as may be necessary. The rules for the recruitment and training of the subordinate staff were not finally issued until the commencement of the following year.

Training Staff.- It is reported that the Railway Staff College, Dehra Dun, continued to function satisfactorily during the year under review.

Improvements in the Service Conditions of the Staff.- The year under review witnessed considerable progress in the carrying out of the various schemes referred to in the last report for the amelioration of the service conditions of the staff, more particularly of the lower paid employees. A brief account of the progress made is given below.

(1) Revision of the scales of pay of lower paid employees.- As stated in the last report a comprehensive examination of the wages of the lower paid employees of railways was commenced in May 1929 and a revision sanctioned for the Eastern Bengal and Great Indian Peninsula Railway with effect from the 1st April 1930 at an estimated recurring cost of Rs. 450,000 and Rs. 500,000 per annum respectively. The year under review was marked by considerable progress in the direction of extending the scheme of revision to other railways.

(2) Similar schemes have been inaugurated in the Engineering and Medical Departments of the Assam Bengal Railway from 1-4-1929 at a total estimated expenditure of Rs. 118,296 per annum, in the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway in June 1930 at a total estimated annual cost of Rs. 460,107, and in the East Indian Railway from 1-9-1930 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.65 millions.

An enquiry was conducted, during the year in ~~the~~ review, into the conditions of service of the employees of the printing presses of the East Indian Railway and Eastern Bengal Railway and as a result, the following changes were sanctioned in October 1930:-

(i) Employees to be rated in future on a suitable monthly rate of pay based on 200 hours of work in the month and initial pay in the new scales to be fixed by the Agent; (ii) To give good workmen the opportunity of earning increased wages, a system of piece-work rating to be introduced concurrently with the introduction of the revised rates of pay for specified classes of employees; and (iii) Overtime to be avoided as far as possible and to be paid for, when worked, at one and a quarter times the normal rate of pay.

Hours of Employment and Periods of Rest.- In the last report a reference was made to the Indian Railways Amendment Act, 1930, enacted with the object of giving effect to the statutory obligations incurred by the Government of India by the ratification of the Washington and Geneva Conventions relating to a 60-hour week for India and a weekly rest day respectively. It was also stated that considerable progress had been made by the North Western and East Indian Railways in the application of the provisions of these conventions and that proposals were in hand to appoint officers on special duty on the remaining Class I Railways, with a special officer attached to the Railway Board, in order that the amendments to the Indian Railways Act effected by the new Act, should be applied with as little delay as possible. In April 1930 an experienced officer was placed on special duty with the Railway Board to direct and co-ordinate the working out of the schemes on the various railways through the agency of special officers placed on special duty on individual railways for the purpose. These officers met in conference at Simla during the following month and received detailed instructions regarding the lines on which their work was to be carried out. The final draft of the rules and instructions prepared to give effect to the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act of 1930 (vide pages 9-12 of the report of

this Office for January 1930) was discussed with a deputation of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in September 1930 and after a further examination by the Railway Board and the Government of India, the rules were published in the Government of India Gazette, dated the 31st January 1931, thus assuming a statutory character. The rules, according to the present report, will come into force on each Railway from a date to be notified in the Gazette of India. During the year under report, arrangements for the introduction of the rules were completed on the North Western and East Indian Railways, while detailed schemes for the entertainment of the additional staff and construction of quarters required with a view to giving effect to the rules were prepared by the other railway administrations, of which those relating to the Eastern Bengal, Bengal, Baroda and Central India, South Indian and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways were finally approved by the Railway Board.

Revision of Leave Rules.- As stated in the last report, new leave rules were introduced on the State-managed Railways with effect from the 1st April 1930. These rules were also circulated to the Company-managed Railways and in August 1930 a copy was forwarded to the Secretary of State with a recommendation for the modification of the Fundamental Rules for the guidance of Railway Companies in the light of the new rules introduced on the State-managed Railways. This recommendation was accepted by the Secretary of State in April 1931 and the Company-managed Railways are taking steps to modify their leave rules to bring them into line with the new State Railway leave rules.

Acceleration of payment of salaries.- During the year under review, the scheme inaugurated on the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway for speeding up payments of salaries was extended to the Howrah Division of the Railway with equally good results. A demonstration was also given at Moradabad in December 1930, which was attended by several officers of the State and Company-managed Railways with a view to encouraging the various railway administrations to adopt suitable measures for the acceleration of payments.

Investigation into the System of Raising and Recovering Debits.- The Railway Board addressed a questionnaire to the Agents of the State-managed and Company-managed Railways in December 1929, detailing the main heads under which debits are commonly raised and enquiring as to the policy and procedure followed on each railway in raising and recovering debits, the authorities competent to impose debits and other cognate matters. The replies were received and examined in October 1930 and in the following month a senior traffic officer was placed on special duty on the East Indian Railway, to make further enquiries and to report. The report of the officer was received by March 1931 and a meeting of the representatives of the various railway administrations is to be held to discuss the report and take necessary action.

Welfare:- (1) Education of Employees' Children.- As fore-shadowed in the last year's report, provisional rules were issued, with the concurrence of the Central Advisory Council, in September 1930, for the grant of assistance towards the education of their ~~children~~ children to State-Railway subordinate employees within certain limits of pay, other than persons in inferior service, and so as to eliminate all racial discrimination for future employees. Towards the end of 1930, a senior officer of the Education Department was placed

on special duty to prepare estimates of the cost of the new rules on the State-managed Railways as well as of the cost as it would be if the rules were liberalised to improve the scale of the assistance and to extend it to the High School standard and to subordinate employees drawing more than Rs.300 per mensem and further to report on the administration of schools maintained by the State-managed Railways.

(2) Relief of Indebtedness.- A substantial beginning has been made on the East Indian Railway towards giving some relief to the lower paid employees in the matter of indebtedness. The Agent of the East Indian Railway drew up a scheme for the reconstitution of the Indian staff loan fund which had been started in 1910 with grants from the fine fund ~~which had been started in 1910~~ into a new fund to be called the "Lower Paid Staff Loan Fund". This scheme has been sanctioned by the Board and while the Indian staff loan fund granted loans only to members of the provident fund drawing pay not exceeding Rs. 60 per mensem, loans from the new fund are paid at reasonable rates of interest to persons who are not members of the provident fund with not less than 3 years permanent service and whose age is not less than 18 and whose pay does not exceed Rs.25 per mensem at the time the loan is made.

(3) Staff Benefit Fund.- Towards the close of the year under review, it was decided, with the approval of the Government of India, to introduce staff benefit funds on the State-managed railways with effect ~~in~~ from the 1st April 1931. The new fund has accordingly been started with effect from the 1st April 1931 on all the State-managed railways. As regards the Company-managed Railways, the Railway Board have sanctioned the adoption of a staff benefit fund on the Assam Bengal Railway. The other Company-managed Railways have agreed generally to the adoption of the fund on their lines.

Staff Retrenchment.- The report states that in 1929, it became apparent that railway earnings were decreasing to an alarming degree and the Railway Board wrote to the Agents of Railways impressing upon them the necessity of taking all possible steps to keep working expenses under control, of ensuring that every avenue of economy was explored and that no new items of expenditure were sanctioned without a clear realisation of their necessity and urgency. This was followed up, in July 1930, by a further letter in which railways were instructed to make a special investigation into the methods by which expenditure could be curtailed, and the main directions in which it might be found possible to reduce working costs were indicated.

Owing to the continued decrease in traffic earnings the Railway Board, in January 1931, summoned the Agents of ~~the~~ Class I Railways to Delhi in order to decide upon what further measures would have to be taken to meet the situation. As a result of the meeting with the Agents, the estimates of working expenses of railways for the year 1931-32 were cut down from Rs. 585 millions to Rs. 530 millions. By this time, it was realised that it would be impossible to retain the large number of surplus employees who with the continued fall in traffic were becoming more numerous every day and that the drastic reduction in working expenses which had become necessary, would inevitably entail the discharge of workers on a large scale. In the circumstances, the Railway Board and the railway administrations felt it incumbent upon them to commence towards the end of the year an economy campaign involving inter alia large ~~the~~ reductions in staff.

In order to regulate discharges in a fair and reasonable manner and to minimise the hardship entailed, orders were issued by the Railway Board, early in March 1931, to the Agents of the State Railways, with an invitation to Company-managed railways to follow the same procedure, that the least efficient employees should first be discharged, next those of short service and after that those nearing the age of superannuation, and further, that all practical steps should be taken to see that the unfortunate necessity for reducing staff did not operate to the detriment of communities not at present adequately represented in the railway services. A waiting list was also required to be maintained for employees brought under reduction to ensure that no outsider was appointed in any department, division or district of a railway so long as a suitable man was available from such list.

(The report of the Railway Board for the year 1929-30 has been reviewed at pages 20-25 of the Report of this Office for December 1930)

Labour Conditions in Kolar Gold Fields:

Government Review on Enquiry Report.

Reference was made at pages 17-18 of the report of this Office for December 1931 to the Report submitted by the Special Officer appointed <sup>by the Mysore Government</sup> to enquire into the labour conditions in the Gold Fields and suggest means of improving these conditions. The <sup>Mysore</sup> Government have now reviewed the report and in this review the various suggestions made in the report and the action already taken and yet to be taken are indicated. The Heads of the Departments concerned and the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, have been requested to take steps for the settlement of points still to be dealt with. The following is a brief summary of the Government review:-

Payment of Attendance Bonus.- The special officer suggested the payment of attendance bonus to contract labour as is now being paid to company labour. Government observe that the Mining Companies have since arranged to grant attendance bonus to underground contractors' labour.

Improved Sanitary Conditions.- As regards the improvement of drainage in the cooly lines, it is stated that the question is receiving the attention of the Sanitary Department and of the authorities of the Mines. The Mining Companies have stated that improvements will continue to be made. The mining authorities, it is stated, have also accepted the suggestions of the Special Officer regarding the improvements of the comforts and amenities of the coolies by providing electric lights and facilities for bathing and washing clothes near the lines. With regard to the building of concrete or masonry housing in place of present thatti huts, Government say that any material improvement in housing is a question involving large outlay of funds and can only be attempted gradually. However, they observe that when new constructions are undertaken, the Mining Companies will be requested to consider the desirability of providing better structures. The mining authorities have given effect to the suggestion made by the special officer in regard to the reorganisation of the Mine Panchayats on a more really elective basis and utilising them for the free representation of complaints and grievances and of suggestions for the improvement of working and living conditions.

Subsidiary Occupations.- The special officer suggested several measures calculated to improve the income of the coolies by promoting subsidiary occupations for unemployed and partly-employed members by the encouragement of cottage industries, chief among them being (a) hand-spinning, (b) making of bamboo thatties, bamboo hats, and (c) cultivation of vegetable plots and plots of land in the neighbourhood. Government say that as bamboo suitable for making thattis, etc are available only at a long distance from the mines, it is therefore not possible to organise a subsidiary industry employing this raw

material. Kitchen gardens, it is reported, are not practicable and are also considered not desirable on sanitary grounds.

Establishment of a Spinning Centre and Technical School.- The Director of Industries and Commerce, the Government observe, has been requested to examine whether a hand-spinning and weaving centre could be organised in the fields.

The starting of a large technical school in the field with facilities for training in useful crafts and ~~z~~ vocations and in the use of mechanical appliances including mining appliances, suggested by the special officer has been referred to the Director of Public Instruction in Mysore, for his recommendations, with special reference to the responsibility devolving on the mining companies in carrying out the measures proposed.

Licensing of Money-Lending.- The special officer in his report suggested the licensing of the profession of money-lending by providing for the regulation of the rate of interest. With regard to this matter, the mining companies state that they would welcome any action that could be taken for the better control of money-lenders and for the relief of debtors. Government say that <sup>the</sup> ~~what~~ <sup>what</sup> measures can be adopted for achieving the objects of these suggestions require examination and the recommendations are reserved for separate consideration. The Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, is requested to examine this question and submit proposals.

Inauguration of Provident Fund.- As regards the inauguration of a Provident Fund for employees, suggested by the Special Officer, the mining companies state that there is provision in the service regulations <sup>of</sup> a gratuity scheme for retirement on grounds of sickness or old age and that if it is possible the ~~the~~ benefits under this scheme will be improved. The Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, is requested to report after consulting the mining authorities what improvements are proposed to make the gratuity scheme serve as far as possible the purpose of a provident fund.

(The Hindu, 23-4-1932).

Interesting U.P. Compensation Case:Owner Responsible for Faulty Machinery.

Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, Mr. Justice Boys<sup>of the Allahabad High Court</sup> on 7-4-1932, awarded Rs. 840-8-0 as compensation to a workman named Abdul Hamid, whose <sup>both of</sup> both hands were cut off up to the wrist in a cutting machine in the Chand Press owned by Mr. R. Saigal. The district magistrate of Allahabad, acting as Commissioner under the Act, had awarded as compensation a sum of Rs. 882 and this was reduced ~~to~~ to the above figure by his lordship on an appeal by Mr. Saigal from the order of the district magistrate.

Circumstances of the case.- His lordship in his judgment said there was no denial on the part of the appellant of a permanent disablement suffered by Abdul Hamid, nor was there any denial that that injury was received in the course of his employment except in so far as it was suggested that Abdul Hamid was using a machine in disobedience of the orders of his superiors. The accident occurred on January 10, 1931. Abdul Hamid was using a cutting machine for trimming copies of the Chand, a magazine, when the heavy knife fell on his hands. An appeal apparently was made by Abdul Hamid to the Commissioner, in this case, the district magistrate. After some correspondence between the Commissioner and Mr. Saigal, the employer, the magistrate fixed May 22, 1931 for the attendance of Mr. Saigal.

Defence Arguments.- Mr. Saigal, his lordship observed, had complained in this appeal that he was not aware that May 22 was fixed for an enquiry into the matter and was not further aware that he was expected to produce his ~~xxx~~ evidence on that date. He stated in an affidavit that he had asked verbally to be allowed to produce evidence. Without entering into the truth of his allegation, his lordship thought it better, in any case, to allow Mr. Saigal an opportunity of producing evidence. Two witnesses were accordingly produced ~~and~~ by Mr. Saigal - Mr. Mitra, superintendent of his press, and Barkat Ali, foreman. The principal allegation on behalf of Mr. Saigal was and had been that Abdul Hamid was working the machine in flagrant disobedience of orders given to him not to use it as it was in a dangerous condition. His lordship said he saw no reason to differ from the Commissioner who had

said that he did not believe that such orders were given to Abdul Hamid and observed there was much stronger ground to disbelieve this evidence now on the record produced by Mr. Saigal ~~that the machine was~~ than there was before.

It was sworn to by the witnesses for Mr. Saigal that the machine was known to be out of order; that a mistri had been at work on it somewhere about 1 o'clock in the day; that Abdul Hamid was given cutting work to do at 1 o'clock; that he actually did cutting work to the extent of about 1,000 copies of the Chand; that the work must have taken at least an hour, apparently two hours; but nobody had attempted to stop him using the machine during the whole of that period that the work was urgent and he was told it was urgent; and finally that no steps of any sort or description were taken to put up a notice on the machine that it was not to be worked or to render it impossible for any ignorant or careless workman or even any careful workman to work it until it was put in order. In fact, it had not been put in good order. There was no other possible solution of Abdul Hamid working the machine. There was another machine which also was worked by mechanical power, the only difference being that the wheel had to be turned backwards and forwards and there seemed no reason whatever why Abdul Hamid should have used the machine that was out of order except with the tacit or express permission of the superintendent or foreman unless he had been given reasons to suppose that it was in order.

Owner's Responsibility.- His lordship remarked that a fact which stood out most markedly in this case was that nobody appeared to have been really responsible for seeing that the machine which was dangerously out of order was not used. He was satisfied that no negligence on the part of Abdul Hamid had been established and the latter was, therefore, entitled to compensation. The man had been given Rs. 882 as compensation. His lordship calculated that under the Act he was entitled to a compensation of Rs. 850-8-0. Of this sum, he or his wife had already Rs. 10 in cash and the employer was entitled to have that sum deducted. His lordship did not think the employer was entitled to have deducted the sum which, he alleged, he had paid to the hospital for the treatment of Abdul Hamid.

"One may hope", his lordship concluded, "that this case would be a warning to Mr. Saigal and to other employers to take more care in regard to machines in what practically amounts to a ~~factory~~ factory, to see that there is proper supervision over them and that they cannot

be used to the injury of the workmen, except, of course, where the workmen are definitely and personally to blame. His lordship, in the result, allowed the appeal in so far that he reduced the compensation from Rs. 882 to Rs. 840-8-0. In other respects the appeal was dismissed.

Mr. K.D. Malaviya appeared for the appellant (Mr. Saigal) and Mr. Akhtar Hussain Khan for the opposite party (Abdul Hamid).

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The Leader, 9-4-1932.

Industrial Organisation

Workers Organisation

1st Textile Labour Union Conference, Hubli, 1932.

The first annual conference of the Textile Labour Union, Hubli, was held on 24-4-32 under the presidentship of Mr.P.R.Sharma. It was attended by a large number of fraternal delegates from other unions. The following resolutions were unanimously passed at the conference:-

(1) This conference resolves to organize the workers in the cotton industry at Hubli, Gadag, Gokak and other places and to bring about the formation of a Karnatak Textile Federation for all textile workers in the Karnatak province. (2) This conference gratefully thanks the proprietors and the manager of the Bharat mills for their general sympathy for the workers and requests them to immediately recognize the Union and deal with it on all matters regarding the relations between themselves and the workers. (3) This conference requests the executive to form a special committee for preparing a memorandum of various grievances of the employees and requests the management to discuss them with the deputation of the workers with a view to redress their grievances and promote peace in industry. (4) This conference accords its fullest support to the memorandum submitted by Messrs.N.M.Joshi, V.V.Giri and B.Shiv Rao to the Round Table Conference regarding the place of workers in the future constitution and reiterates its stand for adult suffrage, representation of labour through trade unions and reservation of at least 10 per cent. seats for them in the Provincial and Central Legislatures and other Local Governments like the District and Taluka Boards and Municipalities. (5) This conference requests the Government of India to expedite giving effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in view of the present deplorable conditions of workers in all most every part of Indian industry. (6) This conference resolves to give its support to the development of the Indian textile workers' federation and requests the various labour leaders to take immediate steps in that direction."

( The Trade Union Record, April 1932 ).

Report of Trade Union Unity Committee - 1932.

Reference was made at pages 55 & 56 of the report of this Office for May 1931 to the proceedings of <sup>the</sup> Trade Union Unity Conference held at Bombay on 10-5-31 under the auspices of the All India Railwaymen's Federation and under the Chairmanship of Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta; as also <sup>to</sup> the appointment of a small committee by the Conference to consider the possibilities of trade union unity and to report on it later on. The Trade Union Unity Committee, which was presided over by Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, issued its report on 29-4-32. The report is signed by all members of the Committee, but it is understood that one of them has subsequently withdrawn his signature. Four members have appended their own minutes of dissent. The following is a brief summary of the report:-

Resume of Events since Nagpur split. - After referring to the split in the labour ranks at Nagpur in 1929, followed by a further widening of the gulf at Calcutta next year, the report states that the split left the Indian workers divided into two rival camps, which seriously interfered with healthy trade union activities. The report comes to the conclusion that there are three distinct sections of labour with stability and a record of service, namely the Communist group, the Liberal group and the rest."The possibility of all the three groups functioning as one body", says the report, "is extremely remote. Conflict of ideas alone would make it very difficult, but that is not all."

Position of Communist Unions. - The number of Communist unions which preach political and economic doctrines inspired by Soviet Russia is no doubt insignificant and their following very

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meagre, but there is a candour about their opinions which has secured for their leaders a hearing quite out of proportion to their influence. Such leaders, continues the report, would not unite with any body except on their own terms. They would accept no compromise, recognise no middle course and tolerate no differences. "Every one who is not with us, is against us" is their motto. Even more than their principles their methods are unacceptable as they involve violence and exclude democracy. The gulf which divides the communists and other unions, therefore, observes the report, is entirely unbridgeable.

Collaboration between remaining groups. - Having thus disposed of the Communist group, the report next considers whether there are prospects of abiding unity in principle and method between the two remaining groups. Although "safety first" is the guiding principle of the Liberal group, which consists of Liberal politicians and eschews the politics of the Indian National Congress, yet the report considers that there is much common ground between the two groups. The third group consisting of the All-India Trade Union Federation and the All India Railwaymen's Federation, would form a compact and formidable body with a large majority of Nationalists in their ranks, and if the Liberal group and these could unite, the report states "a solid and united labour party in India functioning as one is quite possible".

Main Planks of Unity Platform. - With a view to making this central organisation possible, the committee have defined what the Trade Union Congress is and what it stands for, and have suggested among other things the following as most essential conditions for a platform of unity:-

- (1) The basic task of the Trade Union Congress shall be to

organise workers, and advance and defend their rights <sup>and</sup> interests and, during the transitional period to socialism, to resort to negotiations, representations, and other methods of collective bargaining.

(2) The Indian Trade Union Movement shall support and actually participate in the struggle for India's political emancipation from the point of view of the working classes.

(3) The Indian Trade Union Congress shall stand for the freedom of the Press, speech, assembly and organisation.

(4) The immediate demands of the Indian Trade Union Congress shall be a six hours' working day, minimum wages, weekly payments of wages, if demanded, equal wages for equal labour without racial or sex discrimination, one month's leave with full pay, unemployment, sickness, old age and maternity insurance, better housing and working conditions, abolition of child labour under fourteen years, abolition of women labour, six weeks prior and after delivery, abolition of recruiting of all other systems of labour except through labour unions.

(5) No representative of a union should accept nominated seats in the councils without previous election by a trade union.

(6) The Trade Union Congress should send its representative to the International Labour Conference under the auspices of the League of Nations, and such delegates shall be elected by the Trade Union Congress.

(The Hindu, 30-4-32).

A.I. Trade Union Congress: Council to meet on 9-5-32

The General Secretary of the A.I. Trade Union Congress has published the following notification in the press relating to the next meeting of the Executive Council of the A.I.T.U.C. :

"The next session of the Executive Council of the All India Trade Union Congress will be held at Nagpur on the 9th May and it is expected to continue for three days. The questions of unity in the Trade Union movement, the situation arising out of the proposed general strike on all railways, the present political situation in relation to the Indian working class, the future constitution, and foreign propaganda, on behalf of A.I.T.U.C will be important subjects, among others, for discussion at the Nagpur meeting.

(The Hindu, 1-4-32).

INTELLECTUAL WORKERS.

Disabilities of Indian Medical Practitioners: Delhi

Medical Association's Demands.

The annual general meeting of the Delhi Medical Association for 1932 was held on 12-4-1932 at Delhi with Dr. J.K. Sen in the chair. Several questions relating to the conditions of work of Indian medical practitioners were discussed <sup>at</sup> by the meeting. The more important of such questions related to the prohibitive nature, because of additional cost, of specialisation, the low earnings of Indian doctors as compared with doctors in European countries, the practice in India of charging no fees for consultations in a doctor's residence or dispensary, and the competition which Indian doctors have to face from government and municipal dispensaries which give free services and free medicines.

The report for 1931-32 of the Association presented by the Secretary, Dr. Roy Chaudhry stated :-

"Cost of Specialisation.- Excepting a very limited few of the private practitioners of this locality, I dare say that, we do not make decent living out of our profession. I think overcrowding is neither the only nor the chief cause. I may refer to a hint given in the presidential address of last year. General practitioners were advised to specialize in suitable subjects. Of course, at the most half a dozen of us in this locality may utilize that suggestion. But there are difficulties in that also. After completing a costly education like ours very few can well afford to pay for specialization, for which, unfortunately one has to go abroad.

Free Consultation.- If we compare our lot with that of our brothers in some of the European countries, we find that though the profession is more overcrowded there, still the condition of the private practitioners is much better than ours. The reason for the difference, I think, lies in the fact that in those places, though the general practitioners charge ~~something for consultation~~ moderately, they always charge something for consultation; whereas in our country, though the visiting fee of a general practitioner is nominally high, most of our services rendered in the consultation room are demanded and given free of charge.

Free Services.- Another obstacle in the ways of improving our lot is the system of indiscriminately giving free services and free medicines <sup>at</sup> hospitals. Those who are in a position to pay for their treatment should everywhere be charged for the services rendered to

them. Of course, in our professional dealing, the poor should always be treated leniently.

Municipal Dispensaries.- Referring to the administration of municipal dispensaries, Dr. Roy Chaudhury added: I understand that in a number of such dispensaries of this locality the daily attendance varies from 300 to 500 or more. Is it not absurd for one doctor to do even a semblance of justice to so many patients even if he works from morning till midnight? On the other hand, these gentlemen in charge of dispensaries have to attend their private practice as well. I would suggest that the municipality, in addition to the doctor-in-charge, may engage one or more junior general practitioners in each dispensary on a small allowance".

The following office-bearers for the year 1932-1933 were elected:-

President: Dr. J.K. Sen; Secretary - Capt. P.L. Burman; Treasurer - Capt. G.N. Khanna; Members - Dr. Chandrabanshi; Dr. K.N. Sharma; Dr. Miss R. Rekhi; Dr. R.N. Kapadia; Capt. A.R. Chaudhry; Dr. B.C. Sen and Dr. N. E. Trouton.

(The Statesman, 13-4-1932).

#### Provident Fund Scheme for Journalists:

##### Report of Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta, 1931-32.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta, was held at Calcutta on 3-4-1932 under the presidentship of Prof. Monmotho Mohun Bose, Vice-President of the Association. The following are the salient features of the half-yearly report of the working of the association for the six months from August 1931 to January 1932 which was submitted by the secretary at the meeting.

The period under review, according to the report, has been one of vigorous activity in various directions. Some of the construc-

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activities undertaken by the Association could not be pushed forward because of the operation of the Press Ordinances. The membership of the Association was 122 at the end of June 1931 and 164 at the end of December 1931. The Association has however been able to obtain wide recognition of its activities.

Principal Activities. - During the period under review, the Association has undertaken the following programme of activities for the benefit of working journalists: (a) Institution of a mutual benefit fund; (b) institution of a provident fund; (c) establishment of a faculty of journalism in the University of Calcutta; (d) giving of training in journalism by correspondence; (e) publication of a periodical for journalists and publicists to be known as the "Indian Recorder"; (f) registration of bonafide journalists; (g) formation of a club.

The following programme of activities for the benefit of the press as a whole was undertaken:- (a) Campaign against paper tariff. (b) Campaign against other taxation proposals affecting newspapers and periodicals such as the increase of postal rates, of V.P.charges, registration charges etc. (c) Obtaining of blue books for newspaper offices.

Details of Mutual Benefit Scheme. - A sub-committee was appointed to draft a scheme for Mutual Benefit for Journalists. The scheme was finally approved by the Executive Council at its meeting on the 28th August, 1931 (Vide page 40 of September 1931 report of this Office). The provident fund scheme which was prepared during the last year, was sent to the newspaper offices, and the proprietors of some of the papers expressed willingness to adopt

the scheme for the benefit of their employees who have, however, the scheme still under their consideration.

Training in Journalism. - The Association has been in correspondence with the authorities of the Calcutta University regarding the establishment of a Faculty of Journalism. The University asked the Association for a scheme. The scheme is now under the consideration of a committee appointed by the University. Training in journalism by correspondence has not yet been undertaken due to the pre-occupation of the Association with other matters.

Employment Facilities. - The Publication Sub-committee appointed by the Executive Council has prepared a scheme for the publication of a quarterly periodical which would contain reports of current events including statistics. The scheme was finally approved by the Executive Council on the 28th August, 1931, and an editorial board was appointed to be in charge of the publication. Arrangements are being made to bring out the first issue as early as possible. A register is being kept at the office of the Association of bona fide journalists with particulars relating to their qualifications, experience, connection with papers, etc. This is likely to be of use to ~~the~~ journalists seeking employment and <sup>to</sup> ~~for~~ the proprietors on the look-out for suitable hands.

(The Hindu, 12-4-32)

(A summary of the Report of the Association for 1930-31 was given at pages 40-41 of the September 1931 report of this Office).

Large Industrial Establishments in India -1929\*

The following information about large industrial establishments in India and the number of operatives employed in them is taken from the publication "Large Industrial Establishments in India -1929" (Tenth Issue) published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India. The publication is intended to serve as a directory of large industrial concerns in India. It is a biennial publication. It includes all factories which come under the operation of the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911), as amended by Act II of 1922 (excepting those in which the average number of persons employed daily is less than twenty) and also those establishments in Indian States in which are considered to be of sufficient industrial importance, so far as it has been possible to procure information. The average number of persons employed daily has been shown in each case. The industries have further been classified according to the articles manufactured. The publication also contains a diagram illustrating the relative importance, according to the average number of persons daily employed, of the different classes of factories, as also a short index for easy reference.

The following table shows the number of establishments and the operatives employed in each industry in British India, as also the grand total for the whole of India, consisting of British India and the Indian States (including French Settlements):-

	British India.		Grand Total (including Indian States)	
	No.	Persons.	No.	Persons.
Textiles	457	700,066	570	759,416
Engineering	688	253,699	755	267,126
Minerals & Metals	97	54,924	118	60,246
Food, drink & tobacco	2,537	180,759	2,698	189,296
Chemicals, dyes, etc.	409	48,546	469	56,126
Paper & printing	349	44,741	379	47,760
Process relating to wood, stone & glass	348	41,347	457	71,418
Process connected with skins and hides	29	6,211	77	9,481
Gins and presses	2,060	176,316	2,852	229,146
Miscellaneous	117	35,564	173	52,845
Total	7,091	1,542,173	8,548	1,742,860

\* (Tenth Issue) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Large Industrial Establishments in India-1929. Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1932.No.2296. Price Rs.5-4-0.

Relative Importance of Industries.- The following table shows the relative importance of the different classes of factories in India in 1929:-

<u>Kinds of Factories.</u>	<u>Number of Workers.*</u>
Cotton (spinning, weaving and other) factories.	387,000
Jute Mills.	349,000
Cotton ginning and baling.	191,000
Railway and Tramway works.	145,000
Engineering workshops.	108,000
Rice Mills.	74,000
Tea factories.	62,000
Printing and book binding, etc.	41,000
Jute press.	37,000
Dockyards, shipbuilding and engineering.	31,000
Ordnance factories.	22,000
Rope works.	19,000
Saw mills.	18,000
Matches.	17,000
Sugar factories.	15,000
Bricks and tiles.	15,000
Oil mills.	14,000
Petroleum refineries.	13,000
Cement, lime and potteries.	11,000
Kerosene tinning and packing.	11,000
Tobacco.	11,000
Woollen mills.	10,000
Coach building and motor car repairing.	9,000
Leather and shoes and tanneries.	8,000
Dyeing and bleaching and indigo.	8,000
Flour mills.	6,000
Stone dressing.	6,000
Paper mills,	6,000.

\*The number represents the average number of persons employed daily in the respective industries.

Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India\* - 1930-31.

The following information about the estimates of area and yield of the principal crops in India for 1930-31 is taken from a publication issued on the subject by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India. The crops dealt with are rice, wheat, sugarcane, tea, cotton, jute, linseed, rape and mustard, sesamum, castor seed, ground-nut, indigo, coffee and rubber. The estimates for cotton, wheat, castor seed (in the case of castor seed, no estimates are framed for the mixed crop of the United Provinces), and jute, as also those of tea, coffee (in the case of coffee, estimates are framed for plantations having an area of 10 acres or more), and rubber, relate to all the tracts in India where these crops are grown to any extent, excluding certain unimportant outlying tracts such as Baluchistan, Kashmir, Nepal, and Sikkim. For other crops, however, the estimates relate to all the British provinces where they are grown to any considerable extent, but exclude Indian States, except certain Feudatory States in the Central Provinces, the Rampur State in the United Provinces, the States in the Bombay Presidency and the States of Hyderabad, Mysore, and Baroda in certain cases. The figures given in this volume do not therefore agree in all cases with those in the Agricultural Statistics of India.

Rice.- The provinces to which the estimates for rice relate are Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Burma, Madras, the United Provinces, certain Feudatory States in the Central Provinces and the States in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind). These tracts comprise about 97 per cent of the total rice area of India. The total area under rice in all these tracts in 1930-31 was reported as 82,428,000 acres, as compared with 80,622,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was good. The total yield was estimated at 32,034,000 tons, as against 31,132,000 tons in 1929-30. To this figure should be added

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\*Thirty-third Issue. Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India 1930-31. Published by Order of the Governor-General in Council Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1932. Price Re. 1 or 1s.9d. No. 2313. pp.51.

about 1,043,000 tons in respect of other tracts (Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Ajmer-Merwara, Manpur Pargana, and certain Indian States) having an area of about 2,706,000 acres, for which no forecasts are made.

Wheat.- The provinces and States to which the estimates for this crop relate are the Punjab (including Indian States), the United Provinces (including Rampur State), the Central Provinces (including Indian States) and Berar, Bombay (including Sind and Indian States), Bihar and Orissa, the North-West Frontier Province, Bengal, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Central India, Gwalior, Rajputana, Hyderabad, Baroda, and Mysore. These tracts contain practically the whole of the area under wheat in India. The total area under wheat in 1930-31 was reported to be 32,180,000 acres, which is greater than the area of the preceding year by 2 per cent. The condition of the crop was good. The total estimated yield was 9,305,000 tons, which is 11 per cent. below the record yield of 1929-30. An addition of some 157,000 tons should be made to this estimated yield in respect of some other tracts (Burma, Madras and Kashmir), having an area of about 542,000 acres, for which no reports are made.

Sugarcane. The provinces to which the reports on this crop relate are the United Provinces, the Punjab, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, Madras, Bombay (including Sind), the North-West Frontier Province, Assam, the Central Provinces and Berar, and Delhi. Reports are also received from the Rampur State in the United Provinces and the States in the Bombay Presidency and from Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda. These tracts contain a little over 96 per cent of the total area under sugarcane in India. The total area reported under sugarcane in 1930-31 was 2,785,000 acres, as compared with 2,513,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be good. The estimated yield amounted to 3,193,000 tons of raw sugar (gur), which is 16 per cent above the final figure (2,752,000 tons) of the preceding year. To this figure should be added approximately 124,000 tons in respect of other tracts for which no separate estimates are made.

Tea.- The provinces where tea is grown are Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces, the Punjab, Madras, Coorg, and the States of Tripura (Bengal), Travancore, Cochin and Mysore. In Burma, tea is grown principally for consumption as pickles. The total area under tea in 1930 was reported to be 805,800 acres, as compared with 788,000 acres in the preceding year. The total production of manufactured tea (black and green) was calculated at 391,080,800 lbs., as against 432,842,000 lbs. in the preceding year.

Cotton.- Cotton is grown in all the provinces. There are two crops, namely, the early and the late, of cotton grown in India. Early cotton grows mainly in central and northern India, and late cotton in southern and western India. The estimates given below relate to all the cotton-growing provinces and States in India.

The total reported area under cotton was 23,827,000 acres in 1930-31, as against 25,922,000 acres in 1929-30. The condition of the crop was reported to be fair. The total estimated outturn was 4,912,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, as compared with 5,243,000 bales in 1929-30, or a decrease of 6 per cent. The table given below compares

the estimates of yield for the years 1928-29 and 1929-30 with the sum of exports and internal consumption (in thousand of bales). The figures of mill consumption are those supplied by the Indian Central Cotton Committee and refer in the case of mills in British provinces to Indian cotton alone. The estimate of mill consumption in Indian States refers to all cotton, but it is presumed that little foreign cotton was consumed in the States during those two years.

	<u>1929-30</u> <u>1,000 bales.</u>	<u>1928-29</u> <u>1,000 bales.</u>
Exports ... ..	3,868	3,933
Mill consumption ...	2,373	1,992
Extra-factory consumption (conjectural) ... ..	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>
Approximate crop ...	6,991	6,675
Estimated in forecast	5,243	5,782

Jute.- The provinces where it is grown are Bengal (including Cooch Behar and Tripura States), Bihar and Orissa, and Assam. It is also grown to a small extent in the Nepal State, but no reliable information is available from that State except the figures of export. The total area under jute in 1930 was 3,492,000 acres, which is 2 per cent greater than that of the preceding year, and the estimated yield 11,205,000 bales (of 400 lbs. each), which is 8 per cent. above that of 1929. The area and yield of jute in 1931 are estimated to be 1,858,000 acres and 5,535,000 bales, a decrease of 46 and 51 per cent respectively, as compared with 1930.

Linseed.- The provinces to which the estimates ~~xxx~~ relate are the Central Provinces and Berar, the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, Bombay and the Punjab. Reports are also received from Hyderabad, Kotah (in Rajputana), the States in the Bombay Presidency, and certain Feudatory States in the Central Provinces. These tracts comprise about 92 per cent. of the total area under linseed in India. The total area under linseed in all the reporting tracts in 1930-31 was 3,020,000 acres, which is 8 per cent above the final figure of the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good. The total estimated ~~xxx~~ yield was 378,000 tons, as against 380,000 tons last year. To this figure should be added some 39,000 tons for other tracts (Madras, Assam, Ajmer-Merwara, Manpur Pargana and Certain Indian States), for which no reports are made.

Rape and Mustard.- The provinces from which reports are received are the United Provinces, the Punjab, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, Assam, Bombay (including Sind), the North-West Frontier Province and Delhi. Reports are also received from the States of Alwar (Rajputana), Baroda, Hyderabad and from the States in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts contain a little over 94 per cent of the total area under rape and mustard in India. The total area under rape and mustard in all the reporting tracts in 1930-31 was 6,586,000 acres, as against 5,907,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crops was reported to be fairly good. The total estimated yield (991,000 tons) was 9 per cent below the final figure of the preceding year. To this figure should be added some 54,000 tons in respect of other tracts, for which no reports are made.

Sesamum.- The provinces to which the estimates for sesamum relate are Burma, the United Provinces, Madras, Bombay (including Sind), the Central Provinces and Berar, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, the Punjab, and Ajmer-Merwara. Reports are also received from the States of Hyderabad, Baroda, Kotah (Rajaputana), and the States in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts contain 89 per cent of the total area under sesamum in India. The total area under sesamum reported in 1930-31 was 5,564,000 acres, as against 5,346,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was good. The total estimated yield was 526,000 tons, as against 455,000 tons in 1929-30. An addition of approximately 62,000 tons should be made to this figure in respect of other tracts (Assam, North-West Frontier Province, Delhi, Manpur Pargana, Coorg and certain Indian States), containing an area of about 654,000 acres under sesamum, for which no reports are made.

Castor Seed.- The estimates for the crop relate to Madras, Bombay (including Sind), the Central Provinces and Berar, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces, Reports are also received from the States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda and those in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts contain practically the whole area cultivated with castor seed in India. The total area sown in these tracts in 1930-31 was estimated at 1,452,000 acres and the yield at 118,000 tons, as against 1,285,000 acres with an estimated yield of 116,000 tons last year.

Groundnut.- The estimates for the groundnut crop relate to Madras, Bombay (including Indian States), and Burma, these being the provinces where groundnut is grown to any considerable extent. Estimates are also received from the Hyderabad State. The total area under groundnut in these tracts in 1930-31 was reported to be 6,366,000 acres, which was 11 per cent greater than that of the preceding year. The estimated yield (3,108,000 tons of nuts in shell) was also 16 per cent greater than that of the preceding year.

Indigo.- The provinces to which the estimates for indigo relate are Madras, the Punjab, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces, and Bombay (including Sind). No report is received from any Indian State except the State of Khairpur in Sind. These tracts contain 89 per cent of the total area under indigo in India. The total reported area (62,800 acres) in 1930-31 was 10 per cent below the final figure of the preceding year. The total estimated yield of dye was 12,800 cwts., which was 11 per cent less than the ~~yield~~ yield of the preceding year.

Coffee.- The crop is practically confined to southern India, comprising the Madras Presidency, Coorg, and the States of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin. The total reported area under coffee in 1929-30 was 163,500 acres, the yield of cured coffee therefrom being estimated at 39,423,900 lbs. The area and yield of cured coffee in 1930-31 are estimated to be 160,900 acres and 32,973,000 lbs., a decrease of 2 and 16 per cent respectively, as compared with the preceding year. The figures are, however, defective, inasmuch as plantations of less than 10 acres are not taken into account.

Rubber.- The provinces where rubber is cultivated to an appreciable extent are Burma, Madras, Coorg, and the States of Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin. The total area under rubber in 1930 was 172,100 acres, as against 170,900 acres in the preceding year. The total yield of dry rubber was 24,351,500 lbs., as against 28,022,800 lbs. in 1929.

HHK.

Unfair Competition of Prison Labour:

Punjab Chamber of Commerce's Protest.

Mr. Roberson Taylor, in his presidential address at the 27th annual general meeting of the Punjab Chamber of Commerce held at Delhi on 15-4-32, made a vigorous protest against the growing competition that private industrial enterprise in India had to face from gaol industries. Referring to the subject, he said:-

"The Chamber is very much concerned about the growing competition of gaol industries with private enterprise, which is developing ~~behind~~ behind prison walls. This Chamber has taken the matter up with the Associated Chambers of Commerce and a resolution was tabled in the name of this Chamber at the annual general meeting which was held in Calcutta in December last. Government's policy seems to tend towards the conversion of gaols into industrial concerns engaged in supplying all the needs of Government Departments. It is no argument to contend that prisoners must be employed. Everyone knows that they cannot be kept in idleness, but there is a great difference between keeping prisoners busy, between teaching them trades and turning gaols into factories.

"The result of this policy on the part of the Government is, firstly, that private concerns are unable to compete against gaols which have special conditions and have to bear no capital charges, and which also employ free forced labour; and, secondly, there must be decreased employment amongst free workers. In this unequal struggle, with an extension of this mechanization of gaols for industrial purposes, private enterprise must go under. Unless a stand is

made now there is no limit to the extent to which such competition may proceed, no limit to the devices which any future Government out to exploit peculiar economic theories under the guise of reforming prisoners may not go. ~~As~~ <sup>S</sup> Since the committee set up by the Punjab Government to inquire into the methods of finding further taxation have definitely recommended that the gaols in the Punjab should follow the example of other provinces, we would ask the Government to consider the result of such a step before action is taken."

(The Statesman, 15-4-32).

Mr. J.N.G. Johnson, Chief Commissioner, Delhi, in a speech he delivered at the same meeting referred to the criticism made by Mr. Taylor against gaol labour. Defending Government's policy in this respect, Mr. Johnson said:-

"While the Chamber was entitled to scrutinise jealously the ~~the~~ policy of the Government in the matter of jail industries, the Government felt that in the interests of the tax-payer, they were bound to recoup themselves to some extent for their expensive upkeep of jails and further more to turn their prisoners out into the world better equipped to earn an honest livelihood. So long as there was no underselling by the Government in the open market, the question of unfair competition with private enterprise should not arise.

(The Hindu, 15-4-32).

Imperial Preference & the Ottawa Conference:

Indian Employers' Hostile Attitude.

India's delegation to the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa, was announced in the Legislative Assembly on 4-4-32, when Sir George Rainy made an important statement on the Government of India's attitude to the Conference. The delegation will consist of:-

Sir Atul Chatterjee, leader; and Mr.S.Chetty, Sir Padamji Pestonji Ginwala, Sth Haji Abdulla Haroon, Sahibzada Abdul Samad Khan, and Sir George Rainy, members.

Sir George Rainy said the principal item would be a discussion of the policy of a trade agreement within the Empire and in particular, so far as India is concerned, whether there should be a reciprocal preferential tariff agreement between India and Great Britain to benefit the trade of both countries. Any changes in Indian tariffs involved as a result of the Conference, added Sir George Rainy, would be placed before the Legislature for its approval, as the Government wished the legislature to be satisfied that any such changes effected were in the interest of India.

The principal Indian employers' organisations express the fear that Indian interests will suffer if a policy of imperial preference is adopted in the present stage of India's economic development. In this connection, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries has addressed the following representation to the Secretary of State, the President of the Ottawa Conference, H.E. the Viceroy and the India Government.

"The personnel of the Indian delegation to Ottawa though consisting mainly of non-official members, was appointed without consulting the Federation, which represents predominant Indian commercial and industrial interests and the Members of the delegation therefore, are not likely to give independent opinions. The Federation unequivocally state that until India gets effective fiscal control she should not reconcile imperial preference and reciprocity.

It is desirable that the Indian delegation should not commit themselves to any policy at Ottawa, not to speak of preference and reciprocity, and should leave to the future government freedom to shape its policy. No commitment will be binding on India until she formulates for herself a fiscal policy suitable to her needs."

(The Hindustan Times, 27-4-32).

Commenting on the representation made by the Federation, the Hindu of 28-4-32, in the course of a leading article says:-

The memorandum on Imperial preference of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, of which we published the text yesterday, forcefully lays down the attitude of the Indian mercantile community regarding the Ottawa Conference, an attitude which the New Delhi correspondent of the London Times has sought to misrepresent by saying that the announcement regarding the personnel has been welcomed in India. Apart from complaining about the Government's failure to consult Indian commercial opinion on the matter, the memorandum, it may have been noticed, maintained that the Indian delegation to the Conference cannot speak for the people of India, being but nominees of an irresponsible bureaucracy and not of a democratic government and that "no commitment, not only in respect of imperial preference and reciprocity, but also in regard to all economic questions made at the said conference will be binding on India until she gets full freedom over her own affairs and until she formulates her own fiscal policy suitable to her own needs and requirements after going through the pros and cons of the question". That this warning is justified cannot be questioned; for there is an impression in some quarters that the Indian delegation to Ottawa is competent to commit India to any fiscal policy formulated there. (The Hindu, 28-4-32)

The Leader, Allahabad, of 28-4-32 in the course of a leading article on the same subject observes:-

It should also be clearly understood that Indian opinion does not attach much importance to the supposed safeguard provided, that even if the Indian delegation at Ottawa accept imperial preference, the Government will not take action on the recommendations of the Imperial Economic Conference without securing the approval of the legislature. The Assembly which has been boycotted by the most powerful nationalist organization represents in even a lesser degree than before the country's views. In March, 1930, when Congressmen and other nationalists had not yet decided to boycott that body, Mr. Jayakar speaking in the Assembly during the debate on the Cotton Textile Industry Protection Bill said that the present legislature with the official bloc sitting there with their nominated colleagues, cannot be said to be truly representative of non-official India. What value attaches to the verdict of the present Assembly which is dominated even more than before by the bureaucracy and its henchmen?

(The Leader, 28-4-32).

Sugar Industry Protection Bill, 1932:

Passed by Assembly on 2-4-32.

On 1-4-32 Sir George Rainy moved in the Legislative Assembly the consideration of the Sugar Industry Protection Bill. He explained the salient features of the changes made by the Select Committee, and pointed out that the industry would be protected till March 1946, and that till 1938, the basic duty of Rs.7-4-0 per cwt. would be maintained, and thereafter there would be an enquiry, not to decide whether there should be protection, but to decide the rate at which the protective duty should be fixed. In the meanwhile, if there were any changes in the prices at which imported sugar was sold, the Government would increase the duty to the extent justified. Sir George Rainy drew pointed attention to the facilities proposed for research as a means of developing the industry.

On 2-4-32 when discussion of the Bill was resumed by the Assembly, Mr. N.M.Joshi moved an amendment providing inter alia

that undertakings engaged in manufacturing sugar should give a declaration pledging themselves:

1. not to pay any fee or equivalent sum to shareholders and other participants with limited liability, a greater sum by way of annual dividend than what they would get at six per cent on the actual capital invested in the undertaking by the persons concerned;
2. to employ any further surplus in consolidating the position of the undertaking in a manner approved by the Government of India;
3. not to employ any one who is not an Indian except with the permission of the Government of India; and
4. to produce a certificate, that the labour conditions in the undertaking are satisfactory, from a committee of three persons appointed by the Government of India for that purpose.

On being put to the vote Mr. Joshi's amendment was lost .

The Bill was then passed by the Assembly.

( The Hindu, 4-4-32 ).

The passing of the Bill has given a great fillip to the Indian Sugar industry. The Times of India of 16-4-32 states:-

"It is learnt that as many as fifteen new companies for the manufacture of sugar will shortly be started in different parts of India as a direct result of seven years' protection to the industry recently granted by Government!"

( The Times of India, 16-4-32 ).

Jute Crisis in Bengal: Demand for Government Intervention.

At pages 50-51 of the report of this Office for March 1932, reference was made to the serious dislocation of the jute industry in Bengal caused by over-production and to the secession of certain mills from the agreement with regard to reduced working hours in jute mills with a view to lessen production. Subsequently negotiations have been proceeding between the Indian Jute Mills' Association and the firms who seceded from the Association, with a view to the latter's readmission.

Commenting on the situation, the special correspondent of the Statesman, Calcutta, in its issue of 9-4-1932 says:-

When several mills left the Association recently, the view was expressed that the seceders were being selfish at the expense of the industry as a whole. Considered impartially, it seems certain that unless the mills which left the Association rejoin that body, grave consequences will ensue. These mills are now working 108 hours a week ~~with~~ with all looms working, whereas, mills in the Association work only 40 hours a week, with 15 per cent. of the machinery idle. The latter obviously cannot compete on a profitable basis, and the position, therefore, resolves itself into this — that other firms (amongst them several European houses of prominent standing) will also leave the Association and work full time, thus starting a competition in production which can end only in flooding the market with goods which, in turn, will inevitably bring ridiculously low and unprofitable prices, and end in ruin for many people.

I understand that several mills, unless agreement is reached in the interval, are posting up notices of a 12½ per cent reduction in wages as from the end of this month, and further, that several mills are considering closing down entirely, rather than run at a loss as they are now doing. It is not too much to say that every new loom that enters Bengal at present is a menace to the future prosperity of the trade, and will result in reductions in wages and in the number of workers. However unpleasant the thought may be, labour unrest and troubles will undoubtedly follow, with consequences of the utmost gravity. From the Government's point of view too, there will have to be faced the possibility of losing a very substantial amount from income-tax and super-tax, and this Bengal can ill afford to do. (The Statesman) 9-4-1932).

In view of the seriousness of the situation, some of the interests involved are urging the desirability of Government intervention. According to the Statesman of 30-4-1932, one of the important questions that will be discussed by Sir John Anderson, the Governor of Bengal, in the visit that he is to make to the Viceroy at Simla early in May, will be the attitude of the Bengal Government to the crisis that has been precipitated in the jute industry of the province.

UnemploymentUnemployed Workers' League, Bombay:Dole and Other Demands Formulated.

The unemployed in Bombay, whose numbers are increasing daily, have organized themselves recently into an Unemployed Workers' League. A meeting of the unemployed was held on 27-4-32 under the auspices of this body, two of whose organizers spoke. They explained how unemployment was a permanent feature of capitalism and how in every country workers were thrown out of employment because of capitalism; but in a country like Russia where no capitalism existed, workers' wages were rising. The meeting thereupon formulated its minimum demands as Rs.25 for every unemployed worker as dole for every month, free lodging and free travelling for the unemployed and feeding and educational arrangements for their children.

(The Leader, 30-4-32).

Employment for Graduates: Allahabad University Scheme.

With a view to finding employment for graduates who pass out of the Allahabad University, the University authorities are maintaining statistics of former students and their occupations. Later, when trade improves, the University intend trying to bring big employers of labour in touch with unemployed graduates. If and when the scheme materializes it may follow the example of the Cambridge Employment Bureau and similar institutions in Great Britain which form a regular liaison organization between employers and graduates. Such a scheme has not

yet been tried in India and the Allahabad University may be the first to take this forward step.

(The Statesman, 30-4-32)

Combating Unemployment in Sind.

Ways and means to relieve the unemployed were discussed at a meeting of Hyderabad merchants and other leading citizens in the second week of April 1932. The meeting considered the report laid before it by a committee appointed last year by the Hyderabad (Sind) Co-operative Union in this connexion, and came to the conclusion ~~that~~ that small industrial concerns such as cigarette and match manufactures which could absorb as many workers as possible should be started.

(The Statesman, 19-4-32)

IHK.

Social Conditions.

Drink and Industrial Efficiency:

Report of Anglo-Indian Temperance Association, 1931 - 32.

The conviction has been growing in India that increased consumption of liquor inevitably tends to lower the industrial efficiency of the working class population. This point of view has also been stressed by the Royal Commission on Labour. In the course of their inquiries the Commission found that the liquor evil has a very direct bearing upon labour conditions. It is stated in the Report that the consumption of drink, and particularly of spirituous liquors, may be said to be a feature of the majority of industrial areas, and has created considerable havoc in some of them. Accurate figures of expenditure under this head are not available, because, as the Commissioners say, the worker who drinks is in many cases naturally reluctant to give information regarding his consumption or even to admit that he is not a total abstainer. For this reason the result yielded by family budget inquiries are certainly underestimates, even though nearly all show a substantial expenditure. The report states "the drinking of intoxicating liquors is repugnant alike to the religious beliefs and the social opinions of many persons in India, and there is a large section of public opinion in favour of the prohibition of its manufacture and sale". It is acknowledged that there are difficulties in connection with the prevention of illicit manufacture, but the considered verdict of the Commission is that "a reduction in the consumption of liquor would increase the welfare and efficiency of the industrial workers."

The following information, taken from the report for 1931-32 of the Anglo Indian Temperance Association on the efforts made by the Association and other interested bodies to reduce liquor consumption in India, will be of interest in view of the important bearings that liquor consumption has on the efficiency of the industrial worker.

Progress of Temperance Propaganda. - Commenting on the progress of the Temperance Movement in India, the report states: "Considering the absorption of the public mind in the recurring political crises of the past twelve months, it has been gratifying to find so many signs of sustained interest in Temperance propaganda and such a widespread realisation of the fact that a self-governing India must be free from the pernicious evils of the drink traffic. Throughout 1931 ample proof was given, especially in Southern India, of the tenacity with which the people adhere to the principle of Prohibition. Under the terms of the Irwin-Gandhi agreement the peaceful picketing of liquor shops was recognised as legitimate, and the sanction thus obtained was widely used in many parts of the country. There is hardly a town or village in the Madras Presidency where sustained efforts have not been made to reduce the consumption of liquor and to dissuade individuals from entering the shops!"

Restrictive Effect of Ordinances. - It has always been an integral part of Temperance work to persuade individuals not to spend their time and money in drink shops. Some of the methods hitherto employed are now severely restricted in India, and cannot under any circumstances be carried on in the neighbourhood of licensed premises. Temperance workers, individually and collectively, have to find other means of bringing their influence to bear upon the victims of intemperance. Any sign of temperance activity near a liquor shop would, under the Ordinances at present in force, be quite illegal.

Action by Municipalities. - The report notes that active steps towards prohibition have been taken by the Madras Corporation, the Bombay Municipality and the Bombay Improvement Trust.

Attitude of Congress. - Dealing with the attitude of the Congress to the Prohibition Movement, the Report observes: "in consequence of the prevalent financial stringency, the work of the Propaganda Committees formerly financed from the £ 30,000 grant of the Madras Government, has been suspended, and that this money is no longer available for the purpose. The Association is not concerned with the political activities of the Indian National Congress, but it may be noted that at the last session of this body the following resolution was unanimously passed:-

"The Congress notes with satisfaction the visible progress of the nation towards the goal of total prohibition during the past

twelve months, and calls upon all Congress organisations to continue the anti-drink campaign with renovated vigour, and hopes that the women of the country will redouble their efforts in weaning the drunkard and the drug addict from a habit that ruins both body and soul and dislocates happy homes."

Prohibition and Revenue Considerations. - The report states that the greatest obstacle to the Temperance Movement is constituted by the government's fear that prohibition will lead to a reduction of revenue. On this aspect, the Report observes: " True prosperity can never be promoted by the multiplication of liquor shops. In the long run the revenue itself will suffer if it is made to depend upon a traffic which impoverishes the people, and no Government will gain real credit in India by taking over the business of those who are now engaged in ~~the~~ illicit sales. In the eyes of India, the sale of liquor does not become more reputable because it is carried on under official auspices and used as a means of making up provincial deficits!"

(The Leader, 22-4-32).

Public Health

Rs. 30 Million Endowment: Tata Charities Scheme.

Sir Dorab Tata, a Parsi merchant of Bombay, has decided to devote property worth Rs.30 million to charity. In pursuance of this decision, it is understood, Sir Dorab recently had a trust deed drawn up on lines similar to the Wadia Charities Trust, (a Trust set up by the Wadia family of Bombay), but the provisions of the deed will not come into operation during the lifetime of Sir Dorab who will thus have full control of the trust properties. The objects of the trust, it is understood, will be to give relief in various ways to those afflicted by sudden calamities and to help public institutions, irrespective of race and colour, in all parts of the world.

Apart from this sum of Rs.30 million Sir Dorab Tata is also reported to have set aside Rs.2.5 million for institutions and scholarships for research work in connexion with what are known as "incurable diseases". It is proposed to encourage research in these directions in any part of the world and to give substantial rewards to those who are successful in their efforts.

(The Statesman, 26-4-32).

Urban Incidence of Tuberculosis: A Lahore Inquiry.

Details of an inquiry into the incidence and causes of tuberculosis in a typical suburb of an Indian city are given in a communique recently issued by the Punjab Government. For some years past, the incidence of tuberculosis in India has been attracting public attention and a widespread belief exists that the disease is steadily increasing in prevalence in this country.

The present inquiry which is to be conducted under the joint auspices of the Indian Red Cross Society and the Society for the Promotion of Scientific Knowledge is financed by the King George's Thanksgiving Fund.

The tuberculosis sub-committee of the Red Cross Society, as the result of a preliminary survey of the problem, concluded that it was necessary to obtain more precise knowledge than at present exists, not only in regard to the incidence of the disease which, it is believed, is exceptionally high in Lahore and in certain other large towns, but also in respect of the environmental and economic conditions associated with its occurrence. The Punjab Government has agreed to lend, free of cost, the services of an officer of the Public Health Department holding a diploma in tuberculosis to conduct the investigation. This ~~officer~~ officer, who is being provided with a suitable staff, including a woman doctor, is expected to commence work on May 1, 1932.

It has been decided, after careful consideration, to limit the scene of the inquiry to Mozang, a suburb of Lahore, which presents conditions typical of those prevailing in the heart of large cities. An essential part of the investigation comprises the collection of details in regard to the health, mode of living, diet, and housing conditions, etc. of the inhabitants of the selected area and for this purpose the sub-committee has drawn up a series of questionnaires. It is expected that the present investigation will last a year. Thereafter it is hoped to raise further funds to enable a similar investigation to be carried out in rural areas.

(The Statesman, 24-4-1932).

Co-operation

Progress of Co-operation in Mysore State, 1930-31

According to the report submitted to the Mysore Government by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Mysore, on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the State during the year ending 30-6-1931, the societies in the state made good progress during the period under review.

General. - The increased turnover over the level reached in the previous year was Rs.10 million against less than Rs.5 million in the previous year. The net profits fell from Rs.615,000 to Rs. 525,000, due chiefly to the non-realisation of interest on outstanding loans. The reserve fund increased from Rs. 2.132 million to Rs. 2.278 million and it constitutes 46.6 per cent of the paid-up share capital and 12.04 per cent of working capital. Reviewing the report, the Government observe that the working of the department was on the whole satisfactory.

Rates of Interest. - During the year under review, the number of co-operative circles was increased from 39 to 42 and 3 additional Inspectors were appointed. As a measure of retrenchment, the posts of two Assistant Registrars, of 2 Sub-Assistant Registrars and of 5 Inspectors were abolished. The number of societies rose from 2,102 in 1929-30 to 2,213 during the year of report with an increase of membership by 11,124. The working capital increased from Rs.16.9 million to Rs.18.9 million and the paid-up share capital from Rs.4.713 million to Rs. 4.888 millions. The average working capital per member was Rs. 138.31 against Rs.133.8 in the previous year. The total amount of deposits held at the end of the year was

Rs. 8,574 million against Rs. 7,311 million in the previous year. The deposits and withdrawals were both much larger than in the previous year. The total amount of loans issued to individual members during the year was Rs. 11,856 millions. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 4,318 million was issued for productive purposes such as cultivation and land improvement, Rs. 1,887 million for redemption of prior debts, Rs. 3,264 million for the purchase of necessaries of life and ~~Rs. 8,120,000~~ <sup>Rs. 812,000</sup> for construction of houses and repairs.

Agricultural and Depressed Classes Societies. - The report states that the number of Agricultural Societies increased by 91 and their membership by 4,190, the total working capital having risen from Rs. 4,590,929 in 1929-30 to Rs. 5,038,727 in 1930-31. At the end of the year, there were 280 Depressed Classes Societies. They had a membership of 6,221 and a paid-up share capital of Rs. 42,318.

Women's Societies. - Three co-operative societies were started in ~~certain~~ certain centres for the exclusive benefit of women. These societies have been reported to be working satisfactorily and Government hope that more societies of this nature will be formed.

Land Mortgage Bank. - There was a fall in the membership of the Land Mortgage Bank from 660 in 1929-30 to 521 in the year under review. The fall is reported to be due to the transfer of individual members residing within the jurisdiction of the primary Land Mortgage Societies. The paid-up share capital of the Bank on 30th June, 1931, was Rs. 37,723. The Bank obtained by issue of debentures Rs. 232,700 including the Government contribution of Rs. 100,000. The working expenses of the Bank up to the end of June, 1931, amounted to Rs. 20,920 and the whole of this expenditure was borne by Government.

(The Hindu, 2-4-32).

(A short review of the progress of Co-operation in Mysore State during 1929 has been given at page 80 of the July 1930 report of this Office).

Agriculture.

Over-Population and Fragmentation of Holdings:

Rural Economic Inquiry in U.P.

The problems of over-population in rural areas and the consequent fragmentation of agricultural holdings have for a long time been engaging the attention of Indian economists. In recent years several efforts have been made to study this aspect of the agricultural problem in India. One of the most important of such inquiries is the one which is being undertaken in the United Provinces under the guidance of Dr. Radhakamal Mukherjee, Professor of Economics, Lucknow University, in the Gorakhpur, Jaunpur and Benares Divisions, with a view to analysing the effects of the pressure of population on agriculture, on social economy and on the health of the people. The following survey of agricultural conditions in U.P. is taken from a contribution on the subject published in the Hindu of 2-4-1932:-

Excessive Fragmentation.- Certain tahsils of Gorakhpur with a density of more than 1,000 persons per square mile, show some of the highest records of rural density in the world. Expansion of cultivation seems to have reached its maximum under the present conditions in many tahsils. With the growth of population, fractionalisation of holdings has gone to a grotesque length. Since the last settlement, everything is divided, shares, holdings, plots, groves, ponds and even trees, and where there is no formal partition, there is always an informal one.

Minimum Economic Holdings.- The minimum economic holding has been estimated by the Banking Inquiry Committee for Gorakhpur division as 4 acres and 3.9 acres for statutory and occupying tenants, respectively. The average holding is actually below the minimum economic

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unit. The difference between the size of the average holding and the minimum economic holding, which is at best a rough and ready measure of poverty and indebtedness, increases, generally speaking, with the density of population in the various tahsils of Gorakhpur. Such toy holdings not only make agriculture inefficient, but absolutely make it impossible for cattle to be maintained in adequate numbers.

Rural Housing Problems.- Another serious evil of rural over-population is to be found in the enormous pressure of accommodation on village homesteads and cottages in many villages which have been intensively surveyed. The average number of persons living in a hut varies from 8 to 12. The inmates sleep along with the cattle and other live-stock. The problem of rural housing has hardly attracted the attention it deserves. In most of the congested tracts, homesteads are seen to be huddled together at all angles to utilise space as far as possible without any attention to drainage and ventilation.

Industrialisation.- No adequate remedy: In the Meerut division, the peasant depends much more than in Gorakhpur upon other occupations than agriculture, engaging in trade and small scale industries when it is in the interests of the farm to do so. In the eastern districts of the United Provinces, excessive dependence upon the farm and lack of initiative to strike out new lines have gone together and the result is overcrowding of agriculture and diminution of the size of holdings which have led to a general lowering of the standard of living. Rice mills and sugar factories are neither sufficiently numerous nor adequately developed to relieve the pressure of population. Where man breeds like field rats and rabbits without provision, even wholesale emigration or industrialisation become mere palliatives. The masses must understand economy of health and reproduction in order

that they may get release from those destructive natural checks which are now maintaining the numerical balance of men in overcrowded regions much in the same manner as these operate in the case of animals.

(The Hindu, 2-4-1932).

Maritime Affairs.Grievances of Inland Steamer Employees, Bengal.

The following resolutions about the grievances of the Inland Steamer-Employees (mariners) working under the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Ltd., and the Rivers Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bengal, were adopted at a **general meeting** of the Bengal Mariners' Union held at Calcutta, on 13-3-1932:-

(a) That the Bengal Mariners' Union views with alarm ~~at~~ the recent circulars of the I.G.N. and Ry. Co., Ltd., and the R.S.N.Co., Ltd., ~~in~~ arbitrarily reducing the wages of the masters, drivers and serangs of their laid-up steamers and flats by more than 50% approximately on average in breach of the settlement made between the Joint Steamer Companies and the Union on 16-9-1929;

(b) That the Union strongly disapproves of the action of the Joint Steamer Companies in circulating the aforesaid reductions in wages of laid-up steamers and flats to be enforced from the 1st April 1932, without consulting the Union, thereby preventing it from putting forward the views of masters, drivers and serangs;

(c) That the aforesaid reduction in wages by more than 50% is not warranted by any unforeseen economic conditions; and,

(d) That the Joint Steamer Companies be requested forthwith to withdraw their circulars, in order to avoid the serious situation that may arise in the steamer services in Bengal in case the aforesaid reductions be enforced from the 1st April, 1932.

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The Joint Steamer Companies, in reply to the above resolutions forwarded to them, stated in a letter dated 23-3-1932:- "The reductions which it is proposed to make are necessary owing to adverse trade conditions. The services of Masters, Serangs and Drivers of laid-up vessels can be dispensed with until such time as the vessels are re-commissioned and it is only necessary meantime for watchmen to be placed on board. Instead, however, of adopting such a course we are prepared in the interests of the men affected to retain their services on a reduced scale of pay and it is hoped that the men will see the reasonableness and justification of the reduction. We therefore, much regret that we are unable to adopt the suggestion of your Union."

On 26-3-1932 the Bengal Mariners' Union passed the following resolution in a special meeting:-

"That the Bengal Mariners' Union regrets the unsatisfactory reply of the Joint Steamer Companies dated the 23rd March, 1932, and urges on them the necessity of calling a meeting of the Joint Board (consisting of the representatives of the Joint Companies and the Union) on the 29th March, 1932, with a view to settle the matter amicably re: proposed reduction of wages of the masters, drivers and serangs of laid-up steamers and flats".

On 5-4-1932 a meeting of the Joint Board was held at Calcutta. Messrs. M. Daud, M.A., B.L., Bar-at-Law and M. Abdul Huq, B.L., President and General Secretary respectively of the Union and Messrs. P.T. Barrett of the R.S.N.Co. Ltd., and J.D. Sadler of the I.G.N.& Ry.Co., Ltd., were present in the meeting. The Union's representatives pointed out that the proposed wage-cut in laid-up vessels was uncalled for and unwarranted and it was nothing but a complete and direct breach of the settlement arrived at between the Union and the Joint Steamer Companies on 16-9-1929 regarding the graded system of pay introduced for masters, drivers and serangs into the services of the Joint Steamer Companies. Under the circumstances, it was not open to the Joint Steamer Companies to propose any cut in the wages of their employees without consulting the men's Union, recognised by the Companies. And as a preliminary, to test the bonafides of the Companies' letter given to the Union under date 23-3-1932, the representatives of the Union enquired whether any guarantee should be given to the masters, drivers and serangs of laid-up steamers and flats that they would be re-employed on the laid-up vessels being re-commissioned in case they take leave during the period the vessel is laid-up, as no man is ready to accept the proposed reduced wages. The representatives of the Companies were not willing to give any such guarantee and the representatives of the Union thereupon observed that the Trade Dispute is still existing as it has not been amicably settled.

On 13-4-1932 a general meeting of the Union was held at Kidderpore, Calcutta, under the presidency of Mr. M. Daud and it was resolved to collect an Emergency Fund, to enable the members of the Union to fight out the issue with the employers.— the Joint Steamer Companies. The Union has also appealed to the Government to bring pressure on the said Joint Companies for the purpose of removing their grievances and thereby to avoid any trouble which may arise in future.

(Summarised from Bulletin No. 29 of the Bengal Mariners' Union, Calcutta, forwarded to this Office by the Union).

Migration

Indians and the Unemployment Situation in Malaya.

According to the Times of India correspondent at Negapatam, which is the port of disembarkation of emigrants from Malaya, enquiries made show that the trade depression and the unemployment situation in Malaya is getting more and more acute every day consequent on the unprecedented fall in the prices of rubber and tin, the two commodities that had made Malaya the prosperous land that it was until recently. It is reported that over ten thousand unemployed persons of almost all categories are now admitted into the various emigration camps in Malaya awaiting repatriation to India and that the number of fresh applicants seeking admission into these camps and other places intended for the unemployed, is increasing every day. The regular fortnightly steamer service has been found inadequate, and the Malaya Government have arranged with the B.I.S.N. Company to run some extra steamers to send the unemployed people back to India. The first of these is expected at Negapatam from Malaya during the last week of April 1932.

(The Times of India, 26-4-32).

Cape Town Conference, 1932: Terms of Agreement.

References were made in earlier reports of this Office to the Round Table Conference held at Cape Town from 12-1-1932 to 4-2-1932. The terms of the new agreement <sup>arrived at the Conference</sup> was announced in the form of a Statement in the Central Legislature on 5-4-1932 by Sir Fazl-i-Hussain. The following are the terms of the Agreement as made out in the Statement;

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Possibilities of Assisted Emigration Exhausted: - It was recognised that the possibilities of the Union scheme of assisted emigration to India are now practically exhausted owing to the economic and climatic conditions of India as well as owing to the fact that 80 per cent of the Indian population of the Union are now South African born. As a consequence, the possibilities of land settlement outside India, as already contemplated in paragraph 3 of the Agreement, have been further considered. The Government of India is to co-operate with the Government of the Union in exploring the possibilities of a Colonisation Scheme for settling Indians both from India and from South Africa in other countries. In this investigation, which should take place during the course of the present year, a representative of the Indian community in South Africa, if they so desire, is to be associated. As soon as the investigation has been completed, the two Governments are to consider the result of the inquiry.

No other modification of the <sup>old</sup> Agreement is, for the present, considered necessary.

Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill. - ~~Amendment of Gold Law~~, -  
 The Conference decided that <sup>this Bill</sup> ~~it~~ should be considered by a Sub-Committee consisting of two representatives of each delegation. After the discussion in the Sub-Committee, Dr. Malan, who was one of the Union representatives, agreed to place informally before the members of the Select Committee which had prepared the Bill, the suggestions of the delegates from India. The results of this consultation may be summarised as follows:-

Amendment of Gold Law. - (1) Clause 5 of the Bill which embodied the principle of segregation by providing for the ear-marking  
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of areas for occupation or ownership of land by Asiatics, has been deleted. Instead, the Gold Law is to be amended to empower the Minister of the Interior, after consultation with the Minister of Mines, to withdraw any land from the operation of Sections 130 and 131 in so far as they prohibit residence upon or occupation of any land by coloured persons. This power will be exercised, after inquiry into individual cases, by an impartial commission presided over by a judge to validate the present illegal occupations and to permit exceptions to be made in future from occupational restrictions of the Gold Law. It is hoped that liberal use will be made of this new provision of the law, so as to prevent substantial dislocation of Indian business, which the strict application of the existing restrictions would involve and to provide Indians in future with reasonable facilities to trade in the mining areas without segregation.

Protection of Fixed Property. - (2) The Bill has also been amended so as to protect fixed property acquired by Asiatic companies up to the 1st March 1930, which are not protected by Section 2 of Act 37 of 1919. This will have the effect of saving many Indian properties which, though not acquired in contravention of the letter of Act of 1919, were acquired contrary to its spirit.

Right to Trade. - (3) Local bodies whom Clause 10 of the Bill requires to refuse certificates of fitness to an Asiatic to trade, on the ground that the applicant may not lawfully carry on business on the premises for which licence is sought, shall have to treat a certificate issued by a competent Government officer, to the effect, that any land has been, withdrawn from the restrictive provisions of Sections 130 and 131 of the Gold Law, as sufficient proof that a coloured person may lawfully trade on such land. As it is proposed to maintain hereafter a register of all lands in the proclaimed areas where Asiatic occupation is permitted, such a provision should prove a valuable safeguard to the Indian community.

Substantial Advance Registered. - As against these important concessions, it has to be recognised, that the recommendations of the Indian Delegation, that areas like springs and other proclaimed land, to which the restrictions of Clauses 130 and 131 do not at present apply, should not be made subject to them, and that leases for ten years or more should not be treated as fixed property, have not been accepted. On the balance, however, the amendments which, subject to ratification by the Union Parliament, have been made in the Bill represent a substantial advance on the original Bill.

(The Hindu, 5-4-32).