

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICEINDIAN BRANCHReport for May 1932.Contents.

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References to the I.L.O.

During the month under review the I.L.O. received a great deal of publicity in India. Two factors account for this. First, the holding of the 16th session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva from 12th to 30th April 1932, made available excellent matter for publicity purposes and this Office was able to send out numerous communique dealing with subjects that came up for discussion at the Conference, special attention, of course, being paid to matters which concerned India. Secondly, the sad news of the death of our late regretted Director, Monsieur Albert Thomas was followed up by several obituary notices, articles, etc. sent out by this Office. Further, several daily newspapers and other organs of public opinion in this country published appreciative articles on the life and record of work of the late Director. In addition, this Office carried ~~on~~ during the month its usual routine publicity work. Below are given details of references to the I.L.O. occurring in the Indian press during May 1932. (It has to be pointed out in this context that though the obituary notice, communique, etc., issued by this Office have received the widest publicity in the Indian press, we are able to give, in the absence of a press cutting agency in India, details only of references to the I.L.O. occurring in the few dailies, weeklies etc., either subscribed for by us, or received free here).

Immediately on receipt of the cable conveying the news of M. Albert ~~Al~~ Thomas' death in this Office, a short communique was issued to the Associated Press of India on 9-5-1932 for telegraphic transmission to the Indian press. The communique contained also a brief sketch of the life of the deceased. The communique was published in the

Statesman and the Hindustan Times of 10-5-1932, the Times of India of 11-5-1932, the Leader of 12-5-1932, the Indian Social Reformer of 14-5-1932 (Vol.XLII, No.36), the May 1932 issue of the B.B. and C.I. Railwayman (Vol. 3, No.10) and the Press Report of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation of 16-5-1932 (No.9), and in all papers. (Copies of the communique were sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/1231/32, of 12th May 1932, and cuttings of these are being sent herewith under separate batch — "References to M. Albert Thomas").

The Hindu of 10-5-1932 published a British Official Wireless message from Rugby announcing the death of M. Thomas and giving a short biographical sketch of the deceased. (Cutting is being sent in batch — "References to M. Albert Thomas").

The Hindustan Times of 11-5-1932 and the Times of India of 12-5-1932 publish photographs of M. Thomas. Copies of the photograph were supplied to these newspapers by this Office.

In addition to the short communique mentioned above, a two-column obituary notice was prepared in the Office and roneoed copies of it were forwarded direct to all the principal daily newspapers and weeklies in India. The communique appeared in the Hindu of 16-5-1932, New India of 19-5-1932 (Vol. VI, New Series No.7), Federated India of 18-5-1932 (Vol. VI, No.20) and in all papers. (Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/1231/32 dated 12th May 1932, and cuttings are being sent under batch — "References to M. Albert Thomas").

Articles on the life and work of the late M. Albert Thomas, contributed by Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office, were published in the Hindustan Times of 11-5-1932, the Daily Herald of 14-5-1932 and the May 1932 (Vol.3, No.5) issue of the Indian Post.

(Cuttings of the first two articles are being sent under the heading "References to M. Albert Thomas". Copy of the May 1932 number of the Indian Post has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 4/1578/32, dated 16th June 1932).

Besides the above references, the Servant of India of 19-5-1932 (Vol. XV, No.20) published a long and appreciative editorial article on the late M. Thomas. (The cutting has been sent to Geneva with this Office's minute P/1308/32, dated 26th May 1932). New India of 12-5-32 (Vol. VI, New Series No.6) (cutting is being sent in batch "References to M. Albert Thomas") and the May 1932 issue of the Indian Post (Vol.3, No.5) published short editorial notes on the subject. (The May 1932 issue of the Indian Post has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 4/1578/32, dated 16th June 1932). An appreciation of the late Director was contributed to the Hindu of 11-5-1932 by Dr. Lanka Sundaram (cutting forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute P/1292/32, dated 19th May 1932).

(Besides the above press references, numerous condolence messages regarding the death of M. Albert Thomas have been received in this Office from the Government of India and representative organisations of employers and workers in India during May 1932. They have all been forwarded to Geneva on their receipt).

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The proceedings of the 16th session of the International Labour Conference received a satisfactory measure of publicity in the Indian Press. In the course of the month under review this Office issued the following four communique re. the 16th Conference:-

On 11-5-1932 - A communique containing the full text of the speech delivered by Mr. R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, Indian Employers' Delegate, in the discussion which followed the presentation of the Director's report to that Conference. (Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 5/1232/32 dated 12-5-1932). The communique was published in Federated India of 25-5-1932 (Vol.VI, No.21), the Statesman of 17-5-1932, the Hindustan Times of 13-5-1932, the Times of India of 14-5-1932 and the Hindu of 17-5-32.

On 12-5-1932 - A communique giving fairly full extracts from the speech delivered by Diwan Chaman Lall, Indian Workers' Delegate, in the course of the debate which followed the Director's Report to the Conference. (Copies of the communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 5/1299/32, dated 19th May 1932). The communique has been published in Federated India of 25-5-1932 (Vol.VI, No. 21), the Sunday Advocate of 22-5-1932 (Vol. IX, No.16), the May 1932 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, (Vol. 3, No.5), the Statesman of 13-5-1932, the Hindustan Times of 14-5-1932, the Times of India and the Hindu of 17-5-1932, the Leader of 21-5-1932 and the Railway Times, Karachi, of 30-4-1932.

On 27-5-1932 - A communique containing a summary of the proceedings of the 16th Conference. (Six copies of the communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 5/1425/32, dated 2nd June 1932). The communique has been published in the Daily Herald of 29-5-1932 and the Hindu of 31-5-1932. (Other cuttings published in June 1932 will be forwarded with our June 1932 report).

On 31-5-1932 - A communique summarising the main points in the speech delivered by Sir B.N. Mitra, Delegate of the Government of India, in the course of the debate which followed the presentation

of the Director's report to the Conference. (Six copies of the communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 5/1426/32, dated the 2nd June 1932). Cuttings of this communique will be forwarded to Geneva with this Office's ~~minu~~ June 1932 report).

The following are some of the other references to the 16th session of the Conference appearing in the Indian press:-

The Sunday Advocate of 22-5-1932 (Vol.IX, No.16) publishes a long editorial article under the caption "Child Labour in India" on Diwan Chaman Lall's speech, in the course of which it supports the allegations made in the 16th I.L.Conference by Diwan Chaman Lall regarding the conditions of work of children in India, and ~~condemning~~ the present Government for tolerating such conditions.

A Reuter's cable to the effect that an article fixing the age of admission of children to employment in non-industrial occupations at 10 years in India and 14 in other countries was ~~published~~ included in the Convention on the subject adopted by the 16th I.L.Conference, was published in the Statesman of 1-5-1932, the Hindustan Times of 1-5-1932 and the Leader of 2-5-1932.

The Times of India of 6-5-1932 publishes a short editorial article entitled "Child Labour in India" based on the above news, in the course of which it explains the previous Conventions passed by Geneva to regulate the labour of children and the present position of child labour in India.

A communique dated 25-5-1932 which was issued by the Government of India under the caption "Employment of children: Geneva Draft Convention", was published ~~1~~ by the Hindustan Times and the Statesman of 25-5-1932, the Hindu, the Leader and the Times of India of 27-5-1932 and the Indian Social Reformer of 28-5-1932 (Vol. ~~XI~~ XLII, No. 38).

The communique explains the special position given to India in the Convention re the employment of children in non-industrial occupations and gives the text of the articles defining India's obligations under the Convention.

The Leader of 1-5-1932 publishes a short editorial article on Sir B.N. Mitra's (Indian Government Delegate to the 16th I.L.Conference) plea of financial stringency with which the Government of India is confronted, for not giving effect to the Hours Convention in the Indian State-managed railways. The article, while admitting the existence of financial stringency, is of opinion that Government cannot bring forward this excuse in this case alone, while they are not influenced by financial stringency in the matter of payment of Lee Concessions to Government officials. The article says: "At the same time what one cannot understand is that while the Government are unable to give effect to this recommendation, which has the support of a world-wide organisation, and also of Indian public opinion, they are managing to find funds for the payment of the costly Lee concessions to which Indian opinion has never reconciled itself".

Photographs of the 16th Session of the I.L. Conference and of the Indian Delegation to the Conference were published in the Hindustan Times of 12-5-1932 and 14-5-1932, the Statesman of 18-5-1932 and the Hindu Illustrated Weekly of 22-5-1932 (Vol. 37, No. 21).

Federated India of 4-5-1932 (Vol. VI, No. 18) publishes the 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 were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/790/32, dated 14-4-1932).

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The communique issued by this Office on the I.L.O. Questionnaire regarding the recruiting and placing of professional workers was published by the Statesman,^{and} The Leader of 2-5-1932, the Hindu of 3-5-1932, the Federated India of 11-5-1932 (Vol. VI, No.19) and all other papers. (Copies of the communique were sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/991/32, dated 5-5-1932).

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Federated India of 11-5-1932 (Vol. VI, No. 19) republishes an article under the caption "The I.L.O. and Democracy" contributed by the Director of this Office to the February and March combined issue of the New World (Vol. I, Nos. 4 and 5).

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The following note regarding the application of the Washington Hours Convention on Indian Railways is taken from the Press Report (No. 9) dated 16-5-1932 issued by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation

"The Railway Board state in reply to a reference from the Federation that they would consider the application of the Convention on Railways in which the Government are not financially interested after they have been applied to all railways in which the Government are financially interested and that a separate communication will be issued in regard to the enforcement of the Hours of Employment Regulations on H.E.H. the Nizam's State Railway and Mysore State Railways. It is to be remembered that although the Government ratified these Conventions more than 10 years ago, they are practically a dead letter on most of the Indian State railways. Railways like B.& N.W., R.& K., and M.& S.M., which have been paying to their share holders very high dividends amounting to more than 10 to 17 per cent. even in the present period of trade depression, have not yet been asked by the Government to enforce the Hours of Employment Regulations, with a view to avoid at least unnecessary discharge of staff though the Railway Board is the Statutory Authority over all Railways, Government and non-Government, according to the Indian Railways Act."

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The Hindustan Times of 1-5-1932 publishes an article under the caption: "The I.L.O. and Unemployment: Problem of the Intellectual Worker" contributed by Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office. The article deals at length with unemployment among intellectual workers in India and contains many references ~~to~~ the Questionnaire issued by the I.L.O. regarding 'placing' of professional workers.

The same article by Mr. K.E. Matthew, is published at pages 177-180 in the May 1932 (Vol.3, No.5) issue of the Indian Post under the caption: "The I.L.O. and Unemployment Problems of Intellectual Workers".

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New India of 26-5-1932 (Vol. VI, New Series No. 8) publishes a long article under the caption: "The League of Nations" contributed by Mr. A.C. Chatterjee, Officer in charge of the Bombay Bureau of the League of Nations. The article contains a few references to the I.L.O. also.

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The recently published Report of the Proceedings of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry for the year 1931 contains four references to the I.L.O. The first reference is to two reports submitted by Mr. D.S. Erulkar in connection with the January 1931 session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. which he attended as a substitute member. Mr. Erulkar put forward the following three proposals in his two reports:-

- (a) for securing representation on the Executive Committee of the International Organisation of Industrial Employers:

- (b) for securing a seat on the Governing Body of the International Labour Office;
- (c) for appointing a full-time Indian with an office to represent the Federation either at Geneva or at Paris and to be in constant touch with the affairs of the International Labour Organisation and to be of use and assistance in guiding guiding the Indian Employers' Delegations at General Conferences.

The second reference is to the Federation's nomination of Indian Employer's delegation to the 15th I.L. Conference (page 6 of the report); The third refers to the protests entered by the Indian Employers' delegate at the 15th I.L. Conference against the nomination of a non-national on the employers' delegation to the XV session of the I.L. Conference (page 7 of the report). The last reference relates to the nomination of representatives of the Federation to the Preparatory Technical (Maritime) Conference which was to have been held in October 1931 (page 11 of the report). (A fairly full summary of the relevant portions in the Report of the Proceedings of the Executive Committee of the Federation for 1931 is given at pages 17-19 of this report).

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The Hindu of 12-5-1932 publishes the summary of a speech delivered by Mr. K.K. Kuruvilla, M.A., as president of the 8th annual session of the Travancore Labour Conference held at Alleppey, Travancore, on 8 and 9-5-1932, in the course of which Mr. Kuruvilla paid a tribute to the work of the I.L.O. and urged the various labour unions in Travancore to affiliate themselves to the All-India Trade Union Federation which, in collaboration with the I.L.O., was rendering valuable services to the Indian labour interests.

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Ratifications.

Abolition of Forced Labour in Kalat State, Baluchistan.

The Indian State of Kalat, Baluchistan, has announced its intention to shortly abolish unconditionally all forms of forced labour in the State. The decision was announced by His Highness the Khan of Kalat on 26-4-1932 on the occasion of his installation as ruler by His Excellency the Viceroy.

(The Statesman, 27-4-1932).

(Kalat is a native State in Baluchistan, having an area, including Makran and Kharan, of 71,593 square miles and a population in 1921 of 328,281.)

Conditions of Labour.Labour Conditions in Mysore, 1930-31.

The following are extracts from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce of the Mysore Government for the year 1930-31 dealing with conditions of labour in Mysore State.

Number of Factories. - The total number of factories on the Register of Factories at the beginning of the year stood at 172. Seventeen factories were newly taken on the Register, the most important of which were the Electric Generating and Transformer stations and the factories situated in the mining area proper in the Kolar Gold Fields. Seven factories were struck off the Register. At the end of the year there were in all 182 factories. Of these factories, 18 were owned and worked by Government and the rest were private concerns. The number of seasonal factories that worked during a season in the year was 45 and the remaining factories worked throughout. Grouped under important industries, there were 28 rice mills, 30 decorticators, 22 ginning and pressing factories, 12 brick and tile factories, 11 textile factories, 10 printing presses, ~~nine~~ 9 Engineering Works, 7 flour mills, 4 saw mills and the rest may be classed as miscellaneous.

Number of Workers. - The average number of operatives employed daily in all the factories in the State amounted to 18,800 as against 17,489 in 1929-30. The number of adults employed was 16,943 as against 15,343 in the year before. The total number of children employed fell ~~down~~ from 2,146 to 1,857 in the year under report. It is seen that there has been a decrease by 13.5 per cent in the number of children employed and an increase by 10.4 per cent in the employment of adults. In some factories the employment of grown-up persons is being substituted for the labour of children.

Inspection. - The total number of factories inspected during the year was 98 as against 131 in the previous year. Forty-nine factories were inspected more than once. It may be stated that almost all the factories in the Mysore and Shimoga Divisions were inspected during the year. It was only in the Bangalore Division that the number of factories inspected was 24 out of 106 on the Register of Factories in that Division. The serious fall in the number of inspections is due to a change in the Inspectorate during the year. Of 1,857 children employed in the factories, only 68 were examined by the Certifying Surgeons during the year under report. The proportion of children examined to the total number of children employed in the factories is quite small. As a large number of Assistant Surgeons have since been appointed to attend to this work, necessary action is being taken so that the number of children examined will show a considerable improvement during the current year.

Health and Sanitary Conditions. - The health of the operatives throughout the State was uniformly good and there was no outbreak of epidemic diseases. ventilation, lighting and general sanitary

conditions in all the factories in the Mysore Division are reported to be quite satisfactory. In the ginning and pressing factories, ventilation was very bad. Orders have been issued by the Inspector to the owners of these factories to secure sufficient light and air. Fencing of the machinery in all factories received the particular attention of the inspectors.

Hours of Work. - The daily and weekly hours of work in force in the majority of factories in the State are 10 and 60 respectively. Sunday is generally the weekly holiday observed in 90 per cent of the factories. In some places, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday is being substituted for Sunday.

Workmen's Compensation. - The total number of cases that came up before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation during the year ending June 1931 amounted to 204 as against 200 in 1929-30. The number of cases filed in Kolar District was 163, in Bangalore City 38 and in Mysore District 3. By the end of the year, 198 cases had been disposed of and six cases were pending. Seventeen cases which had been pending when the previous year closed were also disposed of during the year under report. Of the 198 cases dealt with during the year, 74 cases related to fatal accidents, 60 to non-fatal accidents, 70 to the Registration of the Memoranda of Agreements. The number of claims for compensation for injuries by accidents in the mining industry was 163. The claims in respect of accidents in the Textile Factories was 38 and in the tunnel works two and in Coffee Works one.

The total sum deposited with the Commissioners during the year under report came up to Rs.47,596-9-1. This included the sum of Rs. 1,647-11-0 received for distribution from the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Hazaribag, Bihar and Orissa. A sum of Rs. 43,016-8-0 was distributed among the dependents of the deceased workmen, and Rs.3,972-1-1 was distributed among the workmen receiving injuries by accidents which were not fatal. Rupees 608-0-0 were pending distribution at the end of the year.

The annual returns for the year 1929-30 under section 15 of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation were received in duplicate from 153 factories, the total number on the Register of Factories that year being 172. Apart from these, the returns were also received from the mining companies and other concerns in the mining area lying outside the purview of the Factories Regulation. There were in all 1830 cases of injuries by accident in respect of which a sum of Rs.69,008-12-8 was paid as compensation by the employers of labour. There were 58 fatal cases, in respect of which a sum of Rs.35,346-2-0 was paid to the dependents of the deceased workmen. The number of workmen permanently disabled amounted to 55 and the total amount of compensation paid to them came up to Rs.21,222-6-6. There were 1717 cases of temporary disablement and a sum of Rs.12,440-4-2 was paid to them as compensation.

(May 1932 issue of the "The Labour Gazette" Vol.XI.No.9)

(Attention is directed to a summary of the Report on the Labour Conditions in Mysore, given at pages 17-18 of the December 1931 report of this Office).

Quarterly Strike Statistics (Period ending 31-3-1932).

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India in a press communique dated 4-3-1932, has published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the first quarter of 1932. During the period under review, there were 25 disputes involving 42,170 workers and entailing a loss of 332,345 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency, where 7 disputes were recorded involving 11,768 workers and entailing a loss of 83,512 working days. The Central Provinces come next with 6 disputes involving 17,159 workers and entailing a loss of 97,362 working days. The figures for the other provinces are; 4 each in Bengal and Madras involving 8,120 and 3,924 workers and entailing losses of 32,964 and 115,396 working days respectively; 2 in Assam involving 719 workers and entailing a loss of 1,281 working days; 1 each in the Punjab and Burma involving 450 and 30 workers and entailing losses of 1,800 and 30 working days while no strikes were recorded in Bihar and Orissa, Delhi and the United Provinces.

Classified according to Industries, there were 11 disputes in the cotton and woolen mills involving 24,047 workers and entailing a loss of 143,480 working days, 2 each in jute mills and railways, including railway workshops, involving 7,366 and 3,980 workers and entailing losses of 130,464 and 40,070 working days respectively and 1 in mines involving 30 workers and entailing a loss of 30 working days. In all the other industries together, there were 9 disputes involving 6,747 workers and entailing a loss of 18,301 working days.

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Of the total 25 disputes, 14 were due to wages, 5 due to personnel, 3 due to questions of bonus and 3 to other causes. In 1 dispute the workers were successful, in 6 partially successful, and in 13 unsuccessful, while 5 disputes were in progress at the end of the quarter.

(The quarterly strike statistics report for the period ending 31-12-1932 was reviewed at pages 28 - 29 of the February 1932 report of this Office).

General Strike Threat by A.I.R.F: Ballot to Close by 15-6-32.

Reference was made at pages 22-23 of the report of this Office for March 1932 to the decision taken by the Council of Action of the All India Railwaymen's Federation on 18-3-1932 to proceed with a ballot for a general strike. This decision, as has already been explained in ^aprevious report of this Office, was taken as a protest against the retrenchment policy initiated by the Railway Board and the various railway administrations, with a view to meet the present economic crisis. The report of the Court of Inquiry into railway retrenchment set up by the Government of India (for summary of the Report vide pages 36-42 of the February 1932 report of this Office) proved unacceptable to the A.I.R.Federation.

In accordance with the resolution of 18-3-32 of the Council of Action, ballots were held by a few of the Unions affiliated to the A.I.R.F. On 6-5-32, a meeting of the General Council of the A.I.R.Federation was held at Calcutta to consider the results of ballot, and to define future policy in regard to the strike. According to a statement issued by Mr. Jammadas Mehta regarding the proceedings of the General Council meeting, the result of the

ballots so far held is that, out of the twelve affiliated Unions entitled to participate in the ballot, six have already declared in favour of a general strike. The six Unions in favour of the strike are: the Bombay Baroda and Central Indian Railway Union, the Bengal Nagpur Railway Union, the Eastern Bengal Railway Union, the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Union and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Union.

On account of a dispute between two rival Unions in the North Western Railway, a proper ballot of the workers in this railway could not be taken. In the case of the National Union of Railwaymen, which is chiefly composed of anglo-Indians, its executive committee decided against a strike without taking a proper ballot of the workers. In order to enable a proper ballot to be taken in the above two Unions, as well as to enable certain other unions to take the ballot, the date for closing of the ballot has been extended to 15-6-32.

Explaining the justification for deciding on a general strike, Mr. Jammadas Mehta in the Statement issued by him says:

The ruthless retrenchment that has been carried out, coupled with short time and wage-cut, as also the threatened further retrenchment, has rendered the position of the workers extremely precarious, even after 45,000 of them have been thrown out of employment. The Murphy Court of Inquiry has proved a broken reed. The Railway Board and the Railway Administration are adamant. The Board are willing to borrow crores of rupees out of the depreciation fund to make up the deficit due to extravagance and waste, but to prevent the starvation of thousands of workers they would not borrow even three crores from that fund as suggested by the Federation. The public will appreciate that the Railwaymen's Federation has left no stone unturned to come to an amicable settlement and that if a strike has now become inevitable, the entire responsibility rests on those in authority.

(The Hindu, 10-5-32).

The attitude of the Government of India towards the general

strike is, according to a special representative of the Statesman in Simla, as follows:-

The Government's position in this dispute - if it is a dispute yet — is about as strong as it well can be. The Railways are still employing some thousands of men who were due to come under the axe last summer but were retained despite steadily falling receipts in a charitable rather than justifiable hope for improvement in trade conditions.

In the report of the Whitley Labour Commission neither Dewan Chaman Lall nor Mr. Joshi nor Mr. Cliff dissented from the view that when "Circumstances may arise necessitating a reduction of the staff employed in the various departments this is a matter of policy to be decided by the administrations and in our opinion must be differentiated from discharges connected with discipline or efficiency." They also agreed, incidentally, that "many of the recommendations and suggestions contained in this report must, if adopted, result in increased working costs unless economies are effected in other directions."

Nevertheless, in response to Labour opinion, the Government appointed an independent board of inquiry to investigate complaints consequent on retrenchment. The railwaymen's ostensible leaders eventually accepted the board. Its inquiry cost a good deal of money. The Government is already prepared to act on nearly all its recommendations and the Railway Unions now repudiate its findings. It may be that they hope by bluff and threats to repeat the advantage that they gained ~~there~~ thereby last year, but this time either their bluff must be called or the railways, it seems, must softly and silently fade away and leave no source of income whatever, either for the retrenched or for the retained. If there is a strike, of course, it will be interesting to hear whether the workers prefer that they themselves or the strikers should come under the heavier retrenchment.

(The Statesman, 17-5-32).

The Fifth half-yearly meeting of the A.I.R. Federation ^{with} and the Railway Board is to take place in June 1932, after which it is expected, a final decision regarding the declaration of a general strike will be taken. In view of the uncertainty connected with the strike situation, it has been decided to postpone the annual convention of the A.I.R. Federation to December 1932, and that, in the meantime, the existing Office-bearers should continue to hold office.

(The Hindu, 10-5-32).

Industrial OrganisationEmployers' OrganisationExecutive Committee of Federation of Indian Chambers;Report of Proceedings in 1931.

The Secretary, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, has recently issued a report of the proceedings of the Executive Committee of the Federation during 1931. The following items of interest to the I.L.O. are extracted from the Report:-

Meetings of the Committee in 1931. - The Executive Committee of the Federation for the year 1931 held four meetings during the year under report, the first at Delhi on 9th April, 1931, the second *at* Calcutta on 30th May, the third and fourth *at* Bombay on 11th August and 10th October, 1931.

Representative of the Federation in Germany. - The question of appointing a Representative of the Federation in Berlin engaged the attention of the representatives of Member-Bodies at the Fourth Annual Session of the Federation, and it was decided to recommend to the Executive Committee to consider the scheme put forward by Mr. J.K.Mehta and, if they are satisfied regarding the details, they were authorised to spend a sum ~~of~~ not exceeding Rs.1500 during the next 12 months. The Committee accordingly appointed Mr. Chempakaraman Pillai as the Representative of the Federation in Germany. Mr. Pillai has opened his office at ~~Kr~~ Krausenstrasse 38-39, Berlin SW 19 (Germany). The report says that he is in weekly communication with the members of Member-Bodies of the Federation in connection with the various trade enquiries addressed to him by them.

Mr.D.S.Erulkar's Reports; Relations with I.L.O. - Mr. D.S. Erulkar submitted two Reports, one on the meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Organisation of Industrial Employers and another on the January Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office. The Committee referred these Reports to a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. D.P.Khaitan, Fakirjee Cowasjee, Kasturbhai Lalbhai, M.A.Master and J.K.Mehta, with a request to report on them in all their aspects, ~~as well as on the experience of the International Labour Organisation.~~ The Committee put on record their appreciation of the work done by Mr.Erulkar for representing them on the Executive Committee of the International Organisation of Industrial Employers and on the January Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office.

Permanent Representation at Geneva: Proposal Postponed. - The Sub-Committee considered the three proposals put forward by Mr. D. S. Erulkar in his two Reports, namely (a) for securing representation on the Executive Committee of the International Organisation of Industrial Employers; (b) for securing a seat on the Governing Body of the International Labour Office; (c) for appointing a full-time Indian with an office to represent the Federation either at Geneva or at Paris and to be in constant touch with the affairs of the International Labour Organisation and to be of use and assistance in guiding the Indian Employers' Delegations at General Conference.

With regard to the first two proposals, no action was, in the opinion of the Sub-Committee, necessary as the Federation secured a seat on the Governing Body of the International Organisation of Industrial Employers and as regards the second proposal, under the arrangement arrived at, at the XV Session of the International Labour Conference, India was given a permanent Deputy's seat and a Titulary seat for 1932-33 on the Governing Body of the International Labour Office.

With regard to the third proposal, the Committee thought that the consideration of this question should be held over, pending the settlement of the constitutional problems and in view of great financial commitments in respect thereof.

Protest Against Employment of non-National on I.L.O. Delegation.- The Committee authorised the Employers' Delegate to the 15th I.L. Conference, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, to lodge a protest with the Credentials Committee of the Labour Conference against the appointment of a non-national, Mr. E. S. Parltan, as an Advisor to the Employers' Delegate. The Committee considered the joint Report submitted by Mr. Walchand Hirachand and Mr. D. S. Erulkar in connection with the protest lodged by them against the nomination of a non-national, Mr. E. S. Parltan, on the Employers' Delegation to the XV session. The Committee thanked both Messrs. Walchand Hirachand and D. S. Erulkar for the work they did in connection with the lodging of the protest.

Preparatory Technical (Maritime) Conference. - At the instance of the Indian National Steamship Owners' Association, Bombay, the Committee addressed a communication to the Government of India with a view to secure nomination of representatives of the Federation to the Preparatory Technical (Maritime) Conference which was to be held in October, 1931. It was further agreed that in view of the difficulties that arose and the discussion that took place at the 13th Session of the International Labour Conference (Maritime) regarding nomination of non-Government Delegates and Advisors, the Federation should consult the Committee of the Indian National Steamship Owners' Association, Bombay for a panel of names for submission to the Member-Bodies for election of one person to be recommended to the Government as Indian Employers' delegate to the said Technical Conference. The names of Mr. M. A. Master of Messrs. Scindia Steam Navigation Coy. Limited, Bombay, and Mr. Kaikobad C. Dinshaw of Messrs. Cowasji Dinshaw and Bros., Bombay, were accordingly recommended for panel. Mr. M. A. Master was elected by the Member-

Bodies of the Federation for being nominated by the Government of India as Indian Employers' Delegate. The Government of India were approached to nominate Advisers to help the Employers and Labour Delegates in their work at the Conference. The Government of India, in view of the existing financial stringency, were unable to accept the proposal of the Federation to allow any Advisers to the non-Government Delegations. The Conference which was to open at Geneva on the 8th December, 1931, has been postponed indefinitely.

Organisation of Textile Section Postponed. - It was suggested that an attempt should be made to organise a Textile Section of the Federation which would look after, and speak with authority on behalf of, the Indian textile cotton industry as a whole. Accordingly letters were addressed to all "Indian" Mills on the Congress list - about 222 in number. The replies received from these were submitted to the Committee and the Committee decided that it was not desirable for the Federation at this stage to have a textile branch. The Committee, further, appointed a Sub-Committee of the following gentlemen with powers to co-opt to go further into the matter:- Lala Shri Ram; Mr.G.D.Birla; Mr.Lalji Naranji; Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai; and Mr.Kasturbhai Lalbhai.

Labour Legislation. - At the instance of certain Member-Bodies, the Committee of the Federation considered the question whether Labour Legislation should be treated as a federal subject or a central one in the future constitution of the country. The majority view of the Committee was that ~~the~~ labour legislation should be treated as a federal subject but the provincial Governments specially interested in particular industries should have some latitude to pass legislation concerning those industries, but not inconsistent with the legislation of the federal Government.

Industrial Organisation.Workers' Organisation.The 8th Travancore Labour Conference, Alleppey, 1932.

The 8th annual conference of the Travancore Labour Association was held at Alleppey on 8 and 9-5-1932 with Mr. K.K. Kuruvilla, M.A., B.D., Headmaster, Mar Thoma English High School, Kottayam, in the chair. The conference was attended by about 8,000 labourers. As Travancore, along with Hyderabad, Mysore, Gwalior, and Baroda, ranks among the few Indian States which have registered a considerable measure of advance in industrial matters and have organised labour activities, a short account of the proceedings of the Conference is given below:-

The Conference commenced with a literary competition organised with the object of creating among labourers an interest in education. Contests were held in elocution, reading, dictation, lecturing, writing and recitation under the supervision of an examination board.

In the course of his presidential address, Mr. K.K. Kuruvilla said that eight years had elapsed since the Travancore Labour Association had been started, in the course of which it had to encounter various ~~and~~ obstacles which deserved careful consideration. The antagonism of some of the capitalists, the lethargy of the labourers and the scarcity of money would all have created some depression in the minds of the promoters, but by dint of patience and perseverance they had weathered ~~the~~ the storm and established the Association on a sound basis. Speaking about the Whitley Commission Report he said that it was a pity that the Indian States did not come under its scope. The Commission's recommendations were well worthy of note. It was a custom at present that labourers in India had to work for 60 hours a week. He opined that the labourer was not to work for more than 48 hours per week.

Proceeding, he said, that there were not many laws in Travancore affecting labourers or labour problems. It was highly necessary that members should be returned to the Legislative Council to get laws brought into effect in Travancore aiming at the welfare of the labourers. Without depending on the nominations to the Council by Government, the labourers should set up their own candidates from some of the constituencies for election. Instead of one ~~diffusant~~ organisation, they must have unions for different sections in different places, and there must be a combination of such unions into one Travancore Federal Union to work jointly in public matters. He further said that it was advisable that this Federation of Travancore Labour Unions should be affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Federation which, notwithstanding the split in ~~labour~~ labour ranks that occurred in 1929, was a powerful body and was doing valuable work for the ensurance of Indian labour interests by active participation in the proceedings of the International Labour Conference.

The following is a summary of the more important resolutions passed at the Conference:- One resolution requested the Government of Travancore to amend the present constitution of the Travancore Legislative Council and extend adult franchise (to both sexes) and till that time to allow special representation to labourers. The Conference also requested the Government to introduce the necessary ~~xx~~ legislation in the constitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Municipal Councils, Panchayat Courts and other representative institutions so as to allow adequate representation to labour interests. Another resolution requested the Government to revoke the Factory Regulation now in force in Travancore and introduce factory legislation as in vogue in British India, but based on the Whitley Commission Report.

(The Hindu, 12-5-1932).

Trade Union Unity Committee's Report:

Amended Platform of Unity.

At pages 25-27 of the Report of this Office for April 1932 was given a summary of the Report of the Trade Union Unity Committee presided over by Mr. Jamnadas M.Mehta. As the summary, which was taken from a newspaper report published in the Hindu of 30-4-32, is not sufficiently detailed, below is given a fuller summary taken from the Report, a copy of which has been subsequently received in this Office.(A copy of the Report was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute No. D.1/1482/32 dated 9th June 1932).

The Trade Union Unity Committee was appointed by a representative conference held in Bombay ^{in 1931.} The report is signed by Messrs Jamnadas M.Mehta, V.V.Giri, S.C.Joshi and Syed Munawar. Messrs. B. Shiva Rao and C. Sambashivarao have attached separate minutes of dissent. The separate minutes of Dr.G.V.Chitnis and Mr. V.V.Sastri are not included in the report, as they have not been received in time for publication.

Referring to the situation that developed after the Nagpur split of 1929, the report says:-

The split at Nagpur has kept Indian workers divided into rival camps and seriously interfered with healthy trade union activities. The All India Trade Union Congress lost the allegiance of a substantial section of its adherents as a result of the 1929 split and the further split at its Calcutta session in July last has completed the debacle; a separate organisation by the name of the All India Trade Union Federation came into existence immediately after Nagpur, while the largest and the most powerful Trade Union organisation, viz. the All India Railwaymen's Federation to which all Railway Unions are affiliated has maintained a position of detachment from both these rival Central Bodies. Besides, there are several provincial and local labour unions, which are unattached to any central organisation of labour. Unfortunately there are some unions based on race and religion and have no wider sympathies outside their parochial groups. There is thus no central organisation of Indian labour commanding the allegiance

of all the Unions and it is not possible even after patient and genuine work to bring such a body into existence. In the first place, some unions like the Postal Union are not allowed to affiliate to any labour organisation. Others are only mushroom growths, springing up and going down with equal suddenness. Some unions are still in a condition of great backwardness; while others have hardly anything to their credit, except a feverish activity when the annual nominations to the Geneva Conference are to be made or except when some Official Committee or Commission is about to be appointed.

After eliminating unions of the aforesaid description, the Report divides the remaining sections of Indian labour into three main categories - the Communist ^{group,} the Liberal group, represented by the All India Trade Union Federation, and the rest, in which is grouped the All India Trade Union Congress, the All India Railwaymen's Federation and scores of other Unions which are attached to no central labour organisation.

According to the Report, the possibility of these three groups functioning as one body is extremely remote. After surveying the distinguishing characteristics of the three groups, the Report arrives at the following conclusions:- (1) It is practicable to formulate a scheme whereby the large majority of workers could be brought under one central body (2) The name of this central organisation, for ensuring continuity, should be the All India Trade Union Congress. (3) For ensuring unity, a Platform of Unity should be chalked out. (4) In this platform two main points should be recognised, namely (a) that a Trade Union is an organ of class struggle (b) that collective bargaining is an integral part of trade unionism.

The following are the clauses in the Platform of Unity as amended by the Trade Union Unity Committee:-

Platform of Unity

(As amended by the Trade Union Unity Committee).

I. A trade union is an organ of class struggle; its basic task therefore is to organize the workers for advancing and defending their rights and interests; and although labour and capital cannot be reconciled in the capitalistic system, collective bargaining is the necessary implication of a Trade Union and in the transitional period to Socialism, negotiations, representations and other methods of collective bargaining must remain an integral part of Trade Union activities.

II. The Indian Trade Union movement shall support and actually participate in the struggle for India's political freedom from the point of view of the working classes. This would mean the establishment of a socialist state and during the interval, socialization and nationalization of all means of production and distribution as far as possible.

III. The Indian Trade Union Congress stands for:-

- (I) Freedom of Press,
- (II) Freedom of Speech,
- (III) Freedom of Assembly and
- (IV) Freedom of Organisation.

IV. The immediate demands of all the Trade Unions shall be:-

1. A statutory enactment providing six hours working day.
2. Minimum wages guaranteeing all workers an irreducible standard to be fixed after investigation.
3. Weekly payment of wages wherever the workers demand it.
4. Equal wages for equal labour without racial or sex discrimination.
5. One months leave a year with full pay.
6. Unemployment, sickness, old age and maternity insurance at the expense of the employers.
7. Better housing and working conditions for all workers. Compulsory housing accommodation for employees of State and Public Bodies, rent not to exceed 10 per cent of the wages.
8. Formation of elective workers' committees in factories, workshops, business houses and all other places where collective work is performed with a view to control the conditions of work inside those places.
9. Abolition of the employment of children under 14 years of age.
10. Abolition of the employment of women for six weeks preceding and six weeks after child-birth.

11. Abolition of all other systems of recruiting labour except through Trade Unions. Abolition of the system of indentured labour as in the plantations.
12. Abolition of fines imposed by the employers, be they private individuals or Government.
13. Abolition of the employers' control over the Provident Fund of the employees.

V. In order to realise the ideal and the immediate demands as stated above, it is essential to have a central organization through which energetic, ceaseless and well co-ordinated propoganda could be carried on by means of mass meetings, negotiations, demonstrations and, in the last resort strikes. But in order that this programme can become effective the internal organization of the Trade Unions should be made as perfect as possible.

VI. The Trade Union Congress should consider whether an experiment should not be made for three years or more by affiliating the Congress to the International Federation of Trade Unions at Amsterdam; the final decision to be reached in the light of the result achieved.

VII. No representative of the Trade Union should accept nominated seats in the Central or Provincial Legislatures nor serve on any official committee or commission except when such nomination is in pursuance of a prior election by the Trade Union Congress or a subsequent ratification by its Executive.

VIII. The Trade Union Congress should send delegates to the International Labour Conference held under the auspices of the League of Nations, such delegates to be elected by the All India Trade Union Congress.

Dissenting Minute of Mr.B.Shiva Rao, - The following are

the principal points in Mr.Shiva Rao's dissenting minute:-

(1) The Report suggests that the Nagpur split was not occasioned by any sufficient reason. Mr. Shiva Rao does not agree with this view-point and maintains that a split was inevitable owing to the difficulty of working with the communist/elements in the A.I.T.U.C.

(2) Mr. Shiva Rao is of opinion that the insinuations made against the A.I.T.U.Federation in the Report are offensive in taste and detract from the dignity of the Report.

(3) Mr. Rao thinks that the immediate demands of Indian labour,

as defined in paragraph iv of the Platform of Unity, are mere paper demands and that they do not accord with his sense of realism.

(4) Mr. Rao is against the definition of a Trade Union as "an organ of class struggle" and believes that there are many lines of activity along which co-operation between employers and workers is both practicable and desirable.

Dissenting Minute of Mr. Sambasiva Rao. - Mr. Sambasiva Rao's dissenting minute agrees on the whole with that of Mr. Shiva Rao, as the principal point brought out in it is opposition to the definition of a Trade Union as "an organ of class struggle".

Trade Union Unity Conference:

Postponed from 24-6-32 to 14-7-32.

The following notification issued from Poona by the General Secretary of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, regarding the postponement of the Trade Union Unity Conference scheduled to meet in Bombay on 23-6-32 is published in the "Sunday Advocate", Bombay, dated 19-6-32:-

Owing to the disturbed conditions in Bombay and on representations from various trade unions and workers in different parts of India, the Trade Union Unity Conference advertised to meet at Bombay on the 23rd and 24th of June is postponed. The Unity Conference now meets at Madras on the 14th and 15th July. All Unions are requested to send their representatives without fail. The time and place of the session at Madras will be announced later.

Intellectual Workers.

Better Service Conditions for Teachers;

Demand of Madras Provincial Educational Conference.

The 24th session of the Madras Provincial Educational Conference which was held at Madura from 12 to 14-5-1932 passed two resolutions relating to the service conditions of teachers in aided schools in the Presidency. The following is the text of the first resolution regarding the salary scales of teachers:

In pursuance of the reports of the Standardization and Vigilance Committees, this Conference (a) declares that the conditions of service in aided schools are unsatisfactory and that the contract in practice produces more hardship to the teachers than before and therefore resolves that the acceptance of the following standard scales of salaries for teachers (vide scales below) and the adoption of leave rules similar to those for the vacation departments of Government be made a condition of recognition and (b) authorises the Working Committee of the South Indian Teachers' Union to frame a bill for the regulation of service conditions of teachers in aided schools to be presented at an early session of the Legislative Council

Headmaster - Licensed Teachers' grade plus Rs.40 allowance;
 Licensed Teachers - Rs.75-5-150; secondary grade Inter. and F.A. -
 Rs. 60-3-105; Matric or S.S.L.C. - Rs. 50-3-95; Qualified Pandits -
 Rs. 50-3-95; drill and drawing instructors - Rs. 40-3-85; Manual
 Training and Commercial Instructors - Rs. 45-3-95; ~~Higher grade~~ and
 clerks - Rs. 35-3-80.

The second resolution passed by the Conference related to the contract system of engagement of teachers in schools. The following is the text of the resolution:

(a) in view of the fact that the model agreement imposed by G.O.180. Education dated 6-2-30 is not bilateral in spirit and is vague, arbitrary and injurious to the cause of the teachers' tenure of service; in view also of Government's irresponsiveness to the demands of the South Indian Teachers' Union for unification of the Teaching Service by the framing of a definite service code and for the establishment of ad hoc Arbitration Boards; this Conference, while retaining its opinion that the contract idea is not in keeping with the dignity of the Teaching Service and that the S.I.T.U. solution alone is sound and practicable, urges upon the Government the immediate need for amending the contract on the following lines:

1. The contract should be the same for all schools and not to vary from school to school.

2. The scales of salaries should be defined as in the resolution (given above) of this Conference.

3. The leave rules should be similar to those for the vacation departments of Government.

4. Termination of service must be normally only after 30 years of service or for physical incapacity or proved inefficiency or gross unprofessional conduct proved by a judicial enquiry or by mutual consent of parties with 3 months' notice on either side at the end of the school year.

5. In the event of termination due to breach of contract by either side, the aggrieved party shall have the right of appeal to a judicial tribunal constituted by Government for the purpose, whose decisions must be binding on both parties to the Contract.

(b) This Conference requests the Government to immediately constitute an ad hoc Arbitration Board for each district, consisting of representatives of Government, of Managements and the Teachers' Guild and to make its decisions binding upon the parties concerned.

(The Hindu, 16-5-32).

not to have anything to do with the Co-operative Department.

Conclusion. - In spite of all the disabilities the ryot generally labours under, he is depicted by the Special Officer as an irrepressible optimist. he says: "The spirit of contentment and the cheerful outlook on life they possess is a matter for ~~envy~~ envy: when discussing the general needs of the village an old ryot calmly observed, 'when we have no difficulties what have we got to say to you?' ".

(The Statesman, 22-5-32).

(Attention is also directed in this connection to a report on the agricultural indebtedness in Hyderabad State, which was reviewed at pages 51-52 of the report of this Office for February 1932.)

Japanese Competition in Piece-goods:

Indian Cotton Interests Resent 'Dumping'

At pages 54 to 57 of the report of this Office for March 1932 reference was made to the decision of the Government of India to refer the question of continuing the protection given to the textile industry to the Tariff Board, and to the attitude of the Bombay millowners, who are of opinion that, in view of the serious Japanese competition in the piece-goods trade, the protective tariff ~~on cotton~~ on cotton should be maintained at the present level. The extraordinary low prices at which Japan has been able to sell her piece-goods in Indian markets during the last two or three months have been causing grave anxiety in the minds of millowners

both in Bombay and Ahmedabad.

According to an Associated Press report published in the Hindu of 5-5-32, Japan has so perfected her industrial capacity that she is able to sell certain types of goods at considerably lower rates than Indian mills whose cost of production of that type of goods itself will be higher than the ~~the~~ prices at which Japan offers her goods for sale after paying increased import duties and leaving a five per cent margin. Similarly, ~~English~~ Japanese goods are sold cheaper than English or any other country's goods with the result that the Indian market is practically dumped with Japanese goods.

The anxiety of the millowners has been increased by a report received in Bombay stating that a particular Japanese firm has booked 75,000 bales of cloth for an up-country merchant at a price which defies all competition. The millowners regard this as the first step in ^{a scheme for} "dumping the Indian market" ~~scheme~~, which Japan has been planning for some time past. The Millowners' Association of Bombay is busily engaged in collecting all such data for preparing the case which they will have to present to the Tariff Board. The Bombay cotton industry will not only urge upon the Tariff Board the necessity for continuing the existing protective duties, but will also in all probability ask for special measures to check Japanese 'dumping' in the Indian market.

The consensus of opinion among Bombay industrialists is that special measures are needed to effectively put an end to the abnormal import of cotton cloth and yarn from Japan into India.

(The Hindu, 5-5-1932).

Jute Crisis in Bengal: Intervention by Government.

At pages 44-45 of the report of this Office for April 1932 reference was made to the jute crisis with which Bengal was threatened owing to overproduction and the secession of certain mills from the agreement with regard to the introduction of reduced working hours. The situation that has developed in the industry is summed up thus by the Times of India of 3-5-1932:-

The secessionists consist of three Indian-owned and Indian-managed jute mills, which were formerly members of the Indian Jute Mills Association. They are small concerns and their total combined loom power is not more than 2,500. It will be seen, therefore, that they are small fry and the fact that they have been working double shifts and an 108 hour week has made really very little difference to the total output of the industry.

Their importance at the present juncture, is, however, psychological rather than material, for the example they have set has created a certain amount of not unnatural envy in the breasts of other small mill-owners, both Indian and European, who see that if they scrapped the working agreement and went in for capacity production they might, and probably would, make substantial profits for a short period.

They, therefore, threaten that unless the recalcitrant mill managers are brought back into the Association they too will secede and make what extra money they can whilst the going is good. Others of the wealthier and bigger concerns are in favour of abandoning the working agreement and by reversion to a policy of "laissez faire", and all that involves, teaching the small newcomers to the industry a lesson which they feel is long overdue. (The Times of India, 3-5-1932).

The Times of India of 7-5-1932 reported the break-down of the negotiations for a settlement. The paper furnishes the following details about the terms ~~as~~ proposed for the settlement:-

"The talks between the President of the Association on the one hand and the representative of the three outside mills centred in the last stages on the nature and extent of the facilities to be accorded to the new mills in view of the lesser reserves and greater handicaps of the latter. It was suggested from the side of the Association that the new mills would not have to seal 15 per cent of their looms and could work longer hours, that is, nearly 40 per cent more than is the case with the others. In offering such terms the Association had to counter the opposition from some of its own members who also could put forward convincing cases about their own special handicaps and their claim to special facilities. Opposition of this kind was overcome only because the Association as a body and the jute trade as a whole were convinced that no needless obstacle should be placed in the way of a compromise between the Association and the Non-Association

Mills. The negotiations finally broke down as one of the mills stated definitely that it was not prepared to sign any arrangement.

After the break-down of the negotiations, an informal conference of businessmen interested in the jute industry was held at Government House, Calcutta, on ~~10-5-1932~~ 10-5-1932, when Sir John Anderson, the Governor of Bengal was present, as a result of which an agreement was reached whereby the jute mills which are not members of the Association have agreed to work for one year on the terms offered by the Indian Jute Mills Association, namely, 54 hours a week. (The Statesman, 11-5-1932).

The agreement, however, did not lead to a final settlement and further negotiations were, therefore, necessitated. On 18-5-1932 the Bengal Government issued the following communique with regard to the ~~ju~~ jute crisis:-

"In connection with the dispute of the Jute Mill industry His Excellency the Governor met representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and Jute Mills again this morning. Certain modifications in the proposals for settlement drawn up at the last meeting were considered and the basis on which it is hoped an agreement will be reached was formulated". (The Hindu, 18-5-1932).

A Bill for Regulation of Money Lending, Madras Presidency.

The following is the statement of objects and reasons of a Bill for the regulation of money lending for the introduction ^{of which} in the Madras Legislative Council ~~of which~~ notice ~~is~~ has been given by Mr. C. Basudev, M.L.C:

The business of money lending with which is often associated the sale of jewels and articles of common use as carried on by certain classes of money lenders is very unsatisfactory and places the debtors who are largely drawn from the middle and working classes at the mercy of the money lenders. The need, ignorance, and illiteracy of the debtors are being exploited by certain classes of money lenders to unconscionable degrees. Certain classes of money lenders, as a rule, never give receipts for the money they receive from the debtors and they keep their accounts in a language and in a form which none but themselves can decipher or understand. Again, the interest charged is exorbitantly high and it is time a reasonable maximum is fixed.

The aim of the Bill, therefore, is to fix a reasonable maximum rate of interest to provide for good ~~and~~ and safe conduct of the business of certain kinds of money lending and "to secure as between certain classes of money lenders and debtors an improved system of keeping accounts which will give to the latter a means of ascertaining periodically how their accounts stand and how they are composed". At the same time the Bill is cautious enough not to unnecessarily harass the lender and constrict the ~~loan~~ facilities for credit. Also, by excepting certain classes of loans, it expressly avoids interference with accounts connected with Trade and Commerce. The penalties for non-compliance with the provisions of the Bill are not hard, but reasonable, and just sufficient to meet the requirements of the case.

This Bill is practically the same as the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act of 1930, with a few necessary modifications to suit local conditions.

(The Hindu, 24-5-1932).

A Scheme for Marketing Products of Cottage Industries
in Travancore State.

According to a Correspondent of the Times of India, a scheme for encouraging cottage industries and their small producers in Travancore has been formulated by the State Director of Industries.

There are over ~~30~~ 60 purely vocational schools in the State, but it is found that the students trained in these institutions do not

generally take to industrial pursuits in their after-life, chiefly owing to difficulties in the matter of marketing their products profitably.

The scheme contemplates the opening of a Central Sale Depot at Trivandrum ~~with~~ with branch depots at suitable centres, which will utilise to their fullest possibilities modern advertising methods. It is also intended that the scheme is to be worked in co-operation with other States, such as Mysore and Hyderabad.

(The Times of India, 27-5-1932)

Depression in Travancore Rubber Industry.

The following information about the depressed conditions prevailing in the Travancore rubber industry is taken from the recently published report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee appointed by the Travancore State. (A copy of the Report has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute dated 23rd June 1932).

Area under Cultivation. - The area under rubber cultivation is estimated at 61,986 acres. Though no reliable information is available as to the acreage and investment that can be attributed to Travancoreans and outsiders, it is estimated that about 17,000 acres belong to Travancoreans whose investment in cash is not less than Rs. 3.5 millions.

Rubber Export Figures. - The statistics of the export of rubber from 1925-26 to 1930-31 are given below:-

Year.	<u>Quantity.</u> lbs.	<u>Value</u> Rs.
1925-26	627,932	11,129,992

Year	Quantity. lbs.	Value Rs.
1926-27	7,656,306	9,070,631
1927-28	7,779,844	8,313,903
1928-29	9,291,799	5,834,344
1929-30	10,185,818	5,121,879
1930-31	9,665,452	3,494,453

Average Yield. - The average yield is estimated to be from 150 to 350 lb. per acre, as compared with 950 lb. in Java and the Dutch East Indies where scientific methods are extensively adopted. There has been a surprisingly large increase of rubber output in Travancore in recent years, the export being about ten million lb. during 1929, 1930 and 1931 while it was 627,932 lb. in 1925-26.

Reasons for increased Production. - This large increase, according to the report, was due to the adoption of scientific methods by the large planters, the yield rising from the Travancore average of 250 lb. to over 500 lb. per acre. Secondly, in the years 1925 to 1927, the price of rubber was about one rupee per lb. and it served as a great incentive to bring additional areas under rubber. Thirdly, on account of the low price in 1929 strenuous efforts were made towards reducing the cost of production and increasing the output per acre. Tapping was, therefore, conducted in a very intensive manner so as to obtain very high crops. The present price of rubber is, according to all estimates, far below the cost of production.

Plight of Small Farmers. - As a rule the small planters are heavily indebted or otherwise embarrassed. Having no reserves and no credit, they find it difficult to undertake even the minimum expenditure that is necessary to maintain their estates without allowing them to go into neglect. The present condition of rubber planters in general, is that in most cases, ordinary upkeep of the estates without tapping is less expensive than the loss on the manufacture of rubber. The main factor operating against Travancore rubber planters is that it is impossible to produce rubber at the present prices so as to leave even the bare minimum of profits.

No Prospects of Immediate Revival. - The gist of the evidence placed before the Committee is that the small planters can run their estates without loss if they can obtain a price of 3½ to 4 annas per lb. The small planter can produce more cheaply than the large planter; but the latter has the advantage of better quality and better price. The opinion of the committee is that there are no difficulties peculiar to the small planter as such and those that do exist are largely of his own making. Both large and small planters have invested in rubber beyond their capacity. The general trend of evidence shows that there is no immediate prospect of this industry regaining its former position.

H.H.K.

Employment & Unemployment.

Unemployment in Kashmir; Starting of Relief Test Public Works.

The Government of Kashmir have sanctioned the opening of unemployment relief works in Srinagar and have selected for the purpose one of the projects outlined in a recent State report on flood relief works in Kashmir State. The rate of wages in the proposed unemployment relief test works will, according to a press communiqué issued by the Publicity Officer, Kashmir State, be two-thirds of the rates prevailing in the Kashmir Public Works Department. The work, which has been sanctioned, is ^{the} construction of a cut from the vicinity of the seventh bridge to Anchar Lake. This work will be started at the earliest possible moment, and plans and estimates are already before the Government. (The Statesman, 28-5-32).

Unemployment in Travancore:

State Committee Advocates Starting of Public Works.

On 18th April 1931, the Government of Travancore appointed, in response to demands made in the Travancore Legislative Council and in public memorials, an Economic Depression Enquiry Committee, the terms of reference [&] which were "to investigate and report upon the extent and causes of the present depression so far as it affects Travancore, and to propose measures that might be adopted to meet the situation". The Committee which was presided over by Dr. N. Kanjan Pillai, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D., submitted its report on ^{the} 30th September 1931, with dissenting minutes from 5 members out of 11 members ^{constituting} ~~consisting~~ the Committee. As one of the main results of the economic depression in Travancore was ^a phenomenal increase of unemployment,

the Committee in the course of its investigations directed attention to the measures that are to be taken for the relief of unemployment and, in this connection, the starting of public utility works with a view to provide employment for the numbers of workless people in the State engaged the attention of the Committee. The following questions under the head of Public Utility Works were included in the Questionnaire issued by the Committee.

1. Do you think that if Government undertook a regular scheme of public works, some relief would be afforded to the people in general?

2. It has been suggested that such works should be confined to rural areas, so as to benefit agricultural classes. Do you accept this suggestion?

3. Mention some schemes that, in your opinion, would be conducive towards the promotion of general prosperity in the country.

Below are given the principal references in the report of the Committee to the starting of public works as a remedy for unemployment:

"We have already pointed out that the disbandment of coolies from estates and the necessity forced upon the agriculturists by the present depression to postpone many items of work which they would have otherwise undertaken in normal times, have contributed to the increase of unemployment in the country. If conditions do not change - there is no sign yet of any appreciable change for the better - the problem of unemployment is bound to become more and more acute. The only remedy that has been suggested by several of our witnesses for the mitigation of this serious evil, at least temporarily during the depression, is that Government should carry out a large number of public works distributed throughout the State. The Rev. Rao Bahadur John Kuriyan pressed this point strongly in his memorandum and in his oral evidence, and so did many other witnesses also. We know that the Government are fully aware of the seriousness of the situation and of the necessity of providing work for the unemployed as far as possible. The railway extension and the water works in the capital, two big schemes involving an expenditure of several lakhs of rupees, are being pushed through by Government with all possible expeditiousness, even in this time of great financial stringency. Besides, they have also provided funds in the budget for the current year for the construction of bridges at Neriya Mangalam and Thottapalli, and we have no doubt that these works will be taken in hand with the least possible delay. Such large works confined to two or three centres cannot possibly benefit the large body of unemployed found throughout the State. With a view to distribute the benefit over as large an area as possible we may be permitted to make a

suggestion. We understand that the Irrigation Committee have already submitted their Report, and we daresay they must have recommended the earmarking of an annual allotment for the repair and improvement of irrigation tanks. There is already a provision of Rs. 200,000 for this purpose in the budget for 1931-32. Our suggestion is that Government should take immediate steps for spending this amount, and any further amount that they find convenient to provide for the current year, distributed according to necessity in different parts of the country. This will provide work for the unemployed in different places and at the same time enable the paddy cultivators to increase the outturn of their crop and their net income."

In the dissenting minute appended by Mr. Thariathu Kunjithomman, a member of the Committee, the following reference is made to the advisability of starting public works as a remedy for unemployment, particular emphasis being placed on public works designed for the development of rural communications as the most profitable form of activity in this sphere as far as Travancore State is concerned:-

"More money should be allotted for the construction of roads and bridges in the rural parts of every taluk and such works should be taken in hand immediately. With the closing of work on the rubber estates and the reduction of labour force and wage rates on the tea estates, the great majority of the labourers in central and north Travancore have been turned out of employment. The decline of the lemon-grass cultivation and the fall in the price of ginger have deprived many people of work and the means of livelihood. Relief from the distress caused by the low prices of agricultural produce has to be obtained by reducing the cost of cultivation as much as by reducing the export duties and, therefore too, plenty of roads and bridges should be constructed in the rural areas, as early as possible. Numerous roads and bridges are necessary in the interior parts of the country for the conveyance of green leaf and other kinds of manure as well as for the transport of ~~raw~~ produce. The need for such works has been repeatedly represented in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly by the members of the taluks concerned. In Trivandrum where the number of Government officers is greater than in other parts of the country, the present depression is not so keenly felt. The carrying out of costly schemes like the Trivandrum Water Works and Railway Extension does not prove to be of use towards relieving the distress of the labourers and the agriculturists in the rural parts of the country. The reduction of allotments for public works in the rural areas has resulted in acute distress in the present period of economic depression."

(Extracted from the Report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee, Travancore, Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, Trivandrum).

Public Health.Vital Statistics for India for 1929*

The chief statistical facts relating to the public health of British India in 1929 are set out below; (1) The birth rate rose from 34.77 per mille in 1926 to 35.27 in 1927; to 36.78 in 1928; and fell to 35.47 in 1929. (2) The death rate rose from 24.89 per mille in 1927 to 25.59 per mille in 1928; and to 25.95 in 1929. (3) The infantile death rate (i.e., the death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 born) fell from 189 in 1926 to 167 in 1927; rose to 173 in 1928; and to 178.39 in 1929.

These figures can be best appreciated by consulting the following table, where the rates for British India can be compared with those of certain other countries.

Country	Birth rate per mille.	Death rate per mille.	Infantile death rate per 1,000 births (of infants under one year).
India	35.5	25.9	178
England and Wales	16.3	13.4	74
Scotland	19.02	14.5	87
New Zealand	19.0	8.8	34
United States of America (Registration Area)	18.9	11.9	68
Australia	20.3	9.6	51
Canada	24.0	11.6	92
Union of South Africa (White)	26.2	9.5	64
Federated Malay States	34.7	26.4	178
Egypt	43.7	27.3	159
Palestine	51.2	26.5	187

Births (British India) - Live births numbered 8,565,341 (4,445,943 males and 4,119,398 females) or 317,222 less than the figure for 1928; the birth rate was 35.47 per mille against 36.78 in 1928 and 34.98 the quinquennial mean. The birth rate for males was 18.4 and for females 17.6. As compared with the rate of birth

* Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for 1929- Volume I with appendices - Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch 1932 - Price - Rs. 3-10-0 or 6s.3d. - pp.472

in England and Wales and the Dominions, the Indian birth rate, according to the report, though much lower than it was in pre-war years is, however, still very high.

The highest birth rate was recorded in Delhi province, viz., 47.89 and the lowest in Coorg (22.12). The most noticeable decrease occurred in United Provinces (-3.91), Bihar and Orissa (-2.7) and Central Provinces (-2.55). Except in Bihar and Orissa, United Provinces and Central Provinces the quinquennial average was exceeded in all the provinces.

Birth ratios exceeded death ratios in all the provinces except Coorg where the death rate was in excess of the birth rate by 1.62. The largest increases in the birth rate occurred in Punjab (15.75), Madras (12.63), Assam (11.86), Delhi (11.10), and United Provinces (10.07).

Deaths (British India). - Deaths numbered 6,267,391, males being 3,255,402 and females 3,011,989, as compared with 6,180,114 in 1928 — an increase of 87,277. Registered births exceeded deaths by 2,297,950. Coorg excepted, all the provinces contributed to the increase. The death rate was 25.95 per mille as against 25.59 in 1928 and a quinquennial mean of 26.09. The rates varied between 20.91 per mille (the lowest) in Assam and 36.79 per mille (the highest) in Delhi Province. The other Provinces recording increases as compared with the previous year were North-West Frontier Province (+4.4), Ajmer-Merwara (~~xx~~ +4.12), Punjab (+4.03), Bombay (+3.25), Bihar and Orissa (+1.6), Burma (+.78), Central Provinces (+.47), and United Provinces (+.11), while Coorg recorded a decrease of 7.47 per mille, Bengal of 2.0, Assam of 1.25 and Madras of 1.1. The urban death rate was 31.39 against 30.06 and the rural rate was 25.41 against 25.15 in 1928. The rural rates exceeded the urban in Bihar and Orissa, and Assam, while the urban rates were in excess of the rural in Coorg by 24.17, in United Provinces by 20.12, in Burma by 17.57, in Delhi by 14.57, in North-West Frontier Province by 12.38, in Madras by 4.42, in Central Provinces by 3.72, in Punjab by 3.03, and in Bombay by .33.

Infant Mortality (under one year). - 1,528,026 deaths, or 24 per cent of the total mortality, occurred during the first year of life against 1,536,186 or 25 per cent in 1928. In England and Wales the corresponding figures for 1928 and 1929 were 9.3 and 9.0 per cent respectively. The death rate for India, per 1,000 live births, viz., 178.39, which has increased by 5.65 per mille in 1929 is $2\frac{1}{2}$ times that for England and Wales, five times that for New Zealand, $3\frac{1}{2}$ times that for Australia, nearly double of that for Canada, and about three times that for the Union of South Africa. This points to the difficulties which the infant welfare organisations working in the different provinces have to surmount and to the necessity of augmenting those organisations.

The infant mortality rate among males was 185.46 and among females 169.49 per 1,000 births as against 150.93 and 164.32, respectively in 1928. Central Provinces recorded the highest infantile death rate, viz., 240 — attributed to poverty, ignorance,

overcrowding and bad housing conditions; the next in order being Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg, Burma, Delhi, Bombay, Punjab, Madras, United Provinces, North-West Frontier Province, Assam, and Bihar and Orissa (135 the lowest).

Industrial Health and Hygiene : - (1) Jharia Mines Board of Health. - In the colliery population of 126,000, 1,554 births (12.3 per mille) and 1,435 deaths (11.5 per mille) were recorded as against 2,128 (16.9 per mille) and 1,529 (12.1 per mille) in 1928. Influenza with 1,974 cases (2,180 in 1928), small-pox with 451 (744 in 1928), and cholera with 208 (132 in 1928), were the chief causes of sickness, and cholera with 79 deaths (36 in 1928), influenza with 46 (55 in 1928) and small-pox with 6 (24 in 1928) the chief causes of mortality. In the whole area comprising a population of 453,948, there were 599 deaths from cholera (1.3 per mille) and 64 from small-pox (.1 per mille).

(2) Asansol Mines Board of Health. - The following table gives a few particulars regarding vital occurrences in this settlement:-

	<u>1928</u>	<u>1929.</u>
Births	9,225	8,934
Infant deaths	1,283	1,296
Death rate per mille of births	139	145
Total deaths	6,896	7,644
Cholera	292	518
Small-pox	13	42
Fevers	1,151	1,351
Dysentery and Diarrhoea	310	190
Plague	1	---
Influenza	4	2
Respiratory diseases	1,581	1,425
Snake bite	25	20
Other causes.	3,519	4,096

(The Vital Statistics for India for 1927 are summarised at pages 67 - 70 of the February 1930 report and ~~that~~ for 1928 at pages 76-80 of the May 1931 report of this Office).

Co-operation.Progress of Co-operation in the Bombay Presidency* - 1930-31

The following information regarding the progress of co-operation in the Bombay Presidency during 1930-31 is taken from the annual report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Presidency (including Sind) for the twelve months ending 31-3-1931. The following were the main lines of co-operative activity in the Presidency during the year under review:-

Number of Societies.- The total number of co-operative societies increased during the year under review from 5,734 in the previous year to 5,896 during the year under review, while the total membership rose from 575,616 to 585,869. The year also registered an increase in the total working capital and reserve fund of these societies from Rs. 128,138,592 and Rs. 9,380,151 to Rs. 139,099,530 and Rs. 10,491,393 respectively. The 5,896 societies working during 1930-31 were made up as follows:- Central Banks - 20 (members 13,450); Agricultural Societies - 4,889 (members 339,202); Non-Agricultural Societies - 878 (members 233,217); Unions 101 and Insurance Societies 3. The increase is mainly in the number of Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Societies. In the case of the former, while the membership has decreased by over 4,000, the working capital has increased by nearly Rs. 4 millions, and the Reserve Fund by a little less than Rs. 0.7 millions. Similarly, in the case of Non-Agricultural Societies, as against an increase of over Rs. 5 millions in the Working Capital, the Reserve Fund has increased by about Rs. 275,000.

* Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) For the twelve months ending 31st March 1931 (Price — Annas 6 or 8d). Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1932. pp.162.

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Agricultural Credit Societies.- The number of agricultural credit societies increased from 4,526 in 1929-30 to 4,650 in 1930-31 and the total membership from 263,325 to 268,284. Working capital increased from Rs.38,730,928 to Rs. 42,588,314 and the reserve fund from Rs. 5,550,669 to Rs. 6,163,445. The policy of consolidation of agricultural societies was effectively pursued during the year.

Agricultural Non-Credit Societies.- The agricultural non-credit societies showed healthy activity during the period under review. Societies for the sale of agricultural produce, especially cotton, constituted the most important of the Agricultural Non-Credit Societies in the Presidency. There were 24 Cotton Sale Societies which sold cotton weighing 400,243, maunds (1 maund = 80 lbs.) and realised Rs.3,729,885.

Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank.- The general position of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank continued to be satisfactory. The number of share-holders increased from 2,440 to 2,512. The total resources commanded by the Bank went down by about Rs. 1,00,000. The paid-up & share capital went up by Rs. 9,150. The amount of share capital held by share-holders increased from Rs. 530,000 to Rs.541,650.

Producers' Societies:- General.- The number of producers' societies showed a decrease from 21 in 1929-30 to 18 in 1930-31 and the membership from 753 to 745. The figures for share capital, and value of articles produced also showed a fall, but working capital increased from Rs. 204,539 to Rs. 327,733. Nearly all the societies worked at a loss.

Weavers' Societies.- There were 52 weavers' societies with a membership of 2,285 during the year under review, as against 55 during 1929-30 with a membership of 2,434. The working capital also was less than that of last year. As a result of the slack demand and low prices,

coupled with the comparatively high cost of production, the majority of weavers' societies suffered badly. The sales fell considerably, recoveries were poor and losses had increased.

(The Annual Report of the working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency during 1929-30 was reviewed at pages 78-79 of the report of this Office for April ~~1932~~ 1931).

B. & O. Committee on Co-operation; Report Issued.

Reference was made at pages 72-73 of the report of this Office for October 1931 to the appointment by the Government of Bihar and Orissa of a Committee to review the present condition of Co-operative institutions and to make recommendations for the improvement of co-operation in the province. The report of this Committee which was presided over by Mr. John Austen Hubback, M.A. (Cantab), has very recently been issued to the public. The report contains as many as 265 specific recommendations which have been brought together for facility of reference in a detailed summary at the end of the report. The Committee's recommendations fall in to two broad divisions - those intended to secure a firmer financial basis for the movement, and those which concern its general conduct and development. The following is a brief summary of the recommendations.

Separation of Long-term Credit from Short-term. - The main financial recommendation is the separation of long-term credit from short or medium-term. Here the Committee goes further than the Bihar and Orissa Banking Inquiry Committee and holds that it is essential to free the existing organisation of the burden of attempting to provide long-term credit and to build up, as quickly as the obvious difficulties permit, a separate co-operative organization of land mortgage banks to take over the burden. Pending the consummation of this aim the Committee urges that the finance of the movement be strengthened by the issue of debentures by the Provincial Bank.

Borrowing Policy. - The Committee has examined the existing provision for fluid resource and advises a somewhat higher standard.

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In view of the threat of substantial bad debts the Committee would increase the proportion of profits set aside as reserve before distribution of dividends. The Committee has been struck by the absence of effective control over the borrowing policy of credit societies of all kinds which has resulted in the past in a serious glut of deposits, and has suggested means for co-ordinating financial policy throughout the movement. It ~~is~~ strongly supports the doctrine that loan policy should be based rather on the capacity of the borrowers to repay out of income than on their capital assets, and thinks that the estimation of that capacity should be vigorously taken in hand.

Recovery of Dues- The growing tendency of borrowers to fail to meet or actively to evade their liability to repay loans has forced the Committee to recommend a strengthening of the machinery for recovery of dues. To enhance the ultimate security of agricultural credit, on which the movement mainly depends, it advocates relaxation of restrictions on transfer of holdings.

Non-Financial Proposals. - The principal defect in the movement, as it stands at present, says the report, is the failure, save in comparatively rare cases, to make the primary societies anything more than an inefficient link in a credit organization. So long as they remain under the strict tutelage of the central banks, operating through an agency mainly concerned with the distribution and collection of loans, the defect will continue. The Committee's main recommendation on this side is the creation of a development staff, separated from the banking staff, and responsible to small local committees of keen co-operators, who are determined to make the societies genuinely co-operative.

While considerable advance has been made in recent years in providing training for the staff employed in the movement and for honorary workers, the Committee think that much still remains to be done, and have indicated what further steps should be taken.

The Committee has examined the position which the Bihar and Orissa Co-operative Federation at present occupies in the movement and find that it is a somewhat anomalous one. They have indicated the spheres in which it should operate effectively, and proposed means by which it may be expected to do so through standing committees. The majority of the Committee think that affiliation to the Federation should be a condition of registration as a co-operative society. They have suggested a division of the cost of audit, development and training between Federation levies and Government contributions, which they think is more logical than the present arrangement, and have endeavoured to estimate the probable incidence of both.

Effective Control. - The Committee have sought to further the ultimate ideal of a self-governing organization by strengthening control both by the Provincial Bank and the Federation. But they feel that, as long as the tax-payer is called on to make a substantial contribution to the movement and the investing public rely for the safety of their money on some considerable degree of State supervision, it is necessary to strengthen also the power of Government to inter-

-vene

in a timely and effective manner when abuses occur. With this aim they provide, with due safeguards, for surcharge against officers of societies, who ignore statutory rules or their own bylaws, and for supersession, as a less drastic remedy than liquidation, of the directorate of a badly-managed central bank. The majority also propose a nominated element in the directorates of central banks and of the Provincial Bank.

For the Department itself the Committee recommend an increase of experienced officers at the top who should be the main link with the central banks and more important primary societies. For the supervision of the ordinary societies they advocate a cheaper and more numerous staff, whose principal duty will be to establish direct touch with these societies, a duty with the discharge of which preoccupation with the affairs of central banks has latterly interfered

(The Statesman, 13-5-32)

Progress of Co-operation in the Madras Presidency* 1930-31

The following details about the progress of Co-operation in the Madras Presidency are taken from the annual report on the working of Co-operative Societies Act in that Presidency for the year ending 30-6-1931, submitted to the Government of Madras by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras:-

Number of Societies & Membership. - The total number of societies at the end of the year was 15,042 against 15,238 at the beginning, while membership in societies increased from 974,999 to 981,100, the increase being .63 per cent which gives on an average 67 members per society in the Presidency as against 66 in the previous year. Of the total number of members, 570,283 were agriculturists,

* Annual Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies Act II of 1912 for the year 1930-31. Madras; Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press - Price 1 rupee 2 annas. pp.207+4

294,965 were non-agriculturists and 115,852 were classed as persons having mixed occupations. The number of societies composed wholly or mainly of Adi-Dravidas or Adi-Andhras was 3,170 as against 3,054 at the beginning of the year. The working capital of all societies rose from Rs. ~~179.936~~ 179.936 millions to Rs. 180.052 millions in the year under review. The percentage of owned capital (share capital plus reserve fund) to working capital was 19.7 against 18.5 in the previous year.

Agricultural Credit Societies. - The number of agricultural credit societies fell from 12,540 to 12,439, while the number of members increased from 674,590 to 676,009. With the exception of 64 societies all were on the unlimited liability basis. Among the agricultural non-credit societies there were 108 societies for purchase and purchase and sale at the end of the year against 128 at the beginning. The value of stock sold by these societies was Rs. 465,192 against Rs. 356,670 in the previous year. A few of the societies undertook the sale of members' products for commission to the extent of Rs. 634,367 against Rs. 354,535 in the previous year, and the value of goods purchased rose from Rs. 353,109 in the beginning of the year to Rs. 456,087 at the end.

Non-Agricultural Societies. - The number of non-agricultural societies fell from 1,649 to 1,585, but the number of members in them rose from 259,693 to 264,925. Of these societies, 1,141 were credit societies. Among the non-credit non-agricultural societies there were 180 stores societies. The value of stocks sold by these societies fell from Rs. 2.438 millions to Rs. 1.921 millions and the net divisible profit increased from Rs. 48,843 to Rs. 58,724.

The net loss incurred by some societies fell from Rs. 33,662 to Rs. 24,868.

Supervising and Audit Unions. - There has been no increase in the number of audit unions, but the number of supervising unions increased by ten from 405 to 415. Besides these, there were three propagandist unions, twenty district federations and six training institutes. Apart from the sum of Rs. 800 granted by Government to the Provincial Co-operative Union, the Government contributed a sum of Rs. 9,065 to 11 federations and 5 central banks for conducting classes for panchayatdars. A sum of Rs. 16,000 was also contributed by Government to the training institutes to meet their running expenses. In the co-operative classes conducted at the Government Institute of Commerce, Madras, 22 candidates came out successful, out of forty selected.

Weavers' Societies. - Out of the 37 societies exclusively for weavers, 23 were dormant. The others purchased raw materials to the value of Rs. 7,937 and finished products to the value of Rs. 37,271. The value of finished products sold to the public was Rs. 29,874. The total profit earned by the societies which worked at a profit was Rs. 3,537 and the total loss incurred by others was Rs. 8,129. Special mention is made in the report of the work of the Salem Weavers' Co-operative Society which was started to find employment for the weavers of Salem. The society purchased finished articles from members to the value of Rs. 33,887 and sold goods worth Rs. 27,151. Its working capital was Rs. 16,350 and it earned a profit of Rs. 2,069.

Labour Contract Societies. - There were 43 societies of this

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type including 40 societies classed as non-agricultural as against 59 at the end of the previous year, 16 having been liquidated. 21 of these societies did no work during the year. The total number of members was 2,926, of whom 813 were helpers and 2,113 actual workers. They had a paid-up share capital of Rs. 17,813 and a Reserve Fund of Rs. 28,248. Work to the value of Rs. 62,134 was pending execution at the end of the previous year and work to the value of Rs. 131,233 was secured during the year. Work to the value of Rs. 154,104 was executed in the year and Rs. 23,868 worth of work was cancelled. The gross income amounted to Rs. 29,771. Members derived Rs. ₹ 60,625 as wages and non-members were paid Rs. 40,467. Some of the societies earned ^aprofit of Rs. 8,666 and the others incurred a loss of Rs. 12,359. The bonus paid was only Rs. 243.

(The Progress of Co-operation in the Madras Presidency during 1929-30 was reviewed at pages 80-84 of the report of this Office for April 1931).

Migration.Indians in Fiji: Conditions of Life and Work.

The plight of Indian emigrants in Fiji has recently been attracting considerable attention in India. The feeling has been gaining ground that the conditions of life and work of the Fiji Indians are far from satisfactory and that the Government of India should take active steps to secure an improvement of these conditions. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singha, M.L.A. has already sent in a number of questions on this subject to the ensuing autumn session of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Singh has interpellated the Government, in particular, on the point whether the Government of India have sent any officials to satisfy themselves regarding the condition of the lives ~~xx~~ of Indians there and if so what their reports were. In view of the growing feeling on the subject, the following information taken from an article under the caption "Indians in Fiji: Life under Crown Colony Conditions", published in the Times of India of 16-5-1932 is of special interest. The article is contributed by "A former Fiji Resident" and is written from the point of view that, though Indian emigrants in Fiji have several grievances, the balance of advantages is in their favour and that on the whole they have reasons to ~~remain~~ contented with the level of progress they have been able to attain in Fiji. The following is a brief summary of the more important information given in the article:

Numerical Strength and Political Importance.- The problem in Fiji is no easy one for a Government to tackle, but the Crown Colony Government has achieved wonders. Of a total population of about 160,000, Indians number more than 70,000, of whom about 27,000 have been born in the Colony. There are about 80,000 Fijians, and the rest of the population is made up of Europeans and islanders from other groups and a small half-caste population. The Indian is politically-minded, is more vocal and, what is most important, he is actually today of more economic importance in the Colony than the Fijians. The Fijian is in the main the aristocrat, the land-owner, while the Indian is the worker and the businessman.

Indian and Fijian Labour Compared.- The sole reason for the presence of the Indian in the South Sea Islands is his ability to do unskilled labour under tropical conditions with a continuity of energy unknown to the Fijian. The Fijian labourer, on the other hand, is incapable of continuous work, as the moment he earns a few rupees he prefers to abandon his work for a life of ease in his village. The Indian works day in and day out, taking time off only to observe his traditional festivals. He can be depended on. So he entered Fiji as a labourer. But it is long since Indians were imported in labour gangs and the position today is that only a very small minority may be classed as unskilled labour, possibly 3,000 to 4,000 as against many more than 15,000 set down in the Colony's records as agriculturists, cultivators and planters. All the crop growing of the colony is in their hands, while almost all the sugar cane in the Colony is grown by Indians. Of a total of more than 80,000 acres under cane nearly 30,000 are worked by independent Indian cultivators.

Economic and Moral Standards.- Apart from Indians on sugarcane lands, there are throughout the Colony almost 8,000 Indian holdings where the Indian cultivator and his family live in comfort and plenty. These holdings are often freehold, but are largely on a leasehold basis, the landlords being the Fijians who, however, in the great majority of cases, draw their rents through the Government and not direct from the Indian. Cases where insurmountable difficulties occur over the renewal of an expired lease are almost unheard of except ~~in~~ where tenants have proved unsatisfactory. Relations between cultivators and their Fijian neighbours are generally most cordial, although both live their own lives and inter-marriage is almost unknown. Crime in which the Indian is concerned is almost invariably confined to his own community and in most cases arises out of quarrels over jewellery and valuable possessions or over women. Almost all Indians living in Fiji are thoroughly well endowed with this world's goods, and poverty and begging are unknown. Mortality is probably of the same standard as obtains in the more advanced Indian centres. Caste has disappeared, and with it many of the moral restrictions it imposed.

Main Occupations of Indians.- Road communications are almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The Colony's fleets of over 500 taxis are owned and driven by Indians. European firms and Chinese do the bulk of the business in Fiji and yet there are more than 1,500 Indian store-keepers and traders, while many hundreds have hawkers' licences and travel throughout the scattered islands of the Colony.

Health Conditions.- Indians in Fiji live under extraordinarily healthy conditions. Epidemics have been unknown since the influenza scare during the War, and in spite of loss through repatriation the Indian population is increasing rapidly and the Fiji-born Indian is definitely superior in physique and stamina to the immigrant. The birth rate, according to the latest figures available, is 3.4 per cent. and the death rate 1.08 per cent.

Political Situation.- The Indian community has its elected representatives in the Legislative Council and has undoubtedly much more say in the Government of the Colony than the Fijian whose interests have still to be protected by the Government. The article says that

the present political discontent among the Indian community is attributable to the prevailing economic depression. Like every other country in the world Fiji has been passing through a time of depression in which the sugar market, the copra market, in fact every market affecting Fijian produce, has been adversely affected. In the writer's opinion, such depression may lead to a certain amount of vocal discontent, but as conditions change for the better, the Fiji Indians will realise that they are better off in most respects, than the corresponding class of society in the villages of the mother country.

New Cape Town Agreement: Protest against Colonisation Proposal

Since the publication of the terms of the New Cape Town Agreement (see pages 61-63 of the Report of this Office for April 1932), criticisms have been made both in India as well as in South Africa expressing dissatisfaction especially against the clause of the Agreement which requires the appointment of a Commission for exploring the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for settling Indians both from India and South Africa in other countries (vide paragraph 1, page 62, April 1932 report of this Office). The Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, Bombay, has, in a memorial submitted to the Government of India, emphatically protested against the proposal to appoint a Commission for exploring colonisation possibilities. The Hindu of ¹⁴2-5-1932 makes the following comments on the Agreement:-

The Johannesburg correspondent of the Pioneer states in most emphatic terms that there is not one solitary Indian in South Africa who is in favour of the colonisation scheme which is proposed to be investigated by representatives of Indian and South African Governments assisted by a delegate of the Indian population in the Union. So far as India is concerned, the assisted emigration scheme has proved to be a colossal failure and if those Indians who have migrated under this plan are given an opportunity to return, they would gladly do so. Nearly 80 per cent. of them are colonial-born and it is a fantastic proposal that as many of these people as possible should be sent out of the colony. Indian Opinion, an organ of the Indian community in South Africa writes in very strong language about the settlement: "With all the time, money and energy", our ~~XXXXXX~~ contemporary says, "spent in meeting at a Round Table Conference, we must conclude that the Agreement is nothing but a scrap of paper. It is a soul-less document for there is no sincerity about it".

So far as the colonisation plan is concerned, it is abundantly clear that there is no sincerity at all behind it. It is frankly recognised that South African Indians are not willing to get out of that land; and they have a right, ~~that~~ their forefathers having been invited to exploit ~~South~~ South Africa, to remain there as permanent members of the population. In these circumstances, Indian Opinion advises the community not to participate in a scheme, the professed object of which is to drive out Indians, most of whom are born and almost all of them are domiciled in South Africa. As regards the other features of the settlement, the Transvaal Land Tenure Bill, our contemporary admits, ~~has~~ ^{has} been greatly modified; but the community is opposed to the Bill root and branch because it is based upon absolutely untenable and unjust principles. Further, the Emigration Amending Act of 1931, which reduces certificates of domicile granted by the Government to mere scraps of paper, is still on the Statute Book and the licensing laws still remain in all their naked severity.

It is generally recognised in India that the Agreement is all that could have been obtained in the existing circumstances; but after all, the ultimate test by which the Agreement must be examined is whether the community most affected by it is satisfied and is willing to abide by it. Judged by this test, it is to be apprehended that the Agreement would be deemed to be a failure. (The Hindu, 14-5-1932).

One of the possible countries for Indian colonisation considered in this connection is British Guiana which, according to a writer in the Times of India of 24-5-1932, offers excellent inducements for colonisation by Indians. The possibilities of British Guiana as a field for the settlement of Indians was considered five years ago by the Indian Government, but, owing to financial obstacles, no scheme was then adopted for their colonisation. (The Times of India, 24-5-32).