

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICEINDIAN BRANCHReport for July 1932.Contents.

|  | <u>Pages.</u> |
|--|---------------|
| 1. <u>References to the I. L. O.</u> ... ..  | 1 - 8         |
| 2. <u>National Labour Legislation.</u>   |               |
| Two New Bills in Legislative Assembly: Amendment of<br>Trades Disputes Act & Land Acquisition Act. ... | 9             |
| 3. <u>Conditions of Labour.</u>  |               |
| (a) Conditions of Mining Labour in C.P.&<br>Berar, 1931. ...   | 10 - 12       |
| (b) Safety Devices and Fencing; Agreement re.<br>Standardisation in Jute Mills. ...                    | 12 - 13       |
| (c) General Strike in Railways; Provisionally<br>fixed for 1-9-1932. ...                               | 13 - 14       |
| (d) Factory Administration in Bengal, 1931. ...  | 15 - 20       |
| (e) Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act,<br>in Bihar and Orissa, 1931. ...                       | 21 - 22       |
| (f) Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act<br>in Madras, 1931. ...                                  | 22 - 24       |
| (g) Factory Administration in U.P., 1931. ...  | 24 - 26       |
| 4. <u>Industrial Organisation.</u>   |               |
| <u>Workers' Organisations.</u>   |               |
| (a) Trade Union Unity Conference, Madras, 1932. ...  | 27 - 31       |
| (b) 1st Conference of the I.T.U. Federation,<br>Madras, 1932. ...                                      | 32 - 37       |
| (c) Progress of Indian Trades Union<br>Federation - 1929 to 1932. ...                                  | 38 - 42       |
| (d) Central Labour Board, Madras; Office Bearers<br>for 1932-33. ...                                   | 43            |
| 5. <u>Intellectual Workers.</u>  |               |
| 8th Annual Meeting of Bombay Teachers' Union,<br>Bombay, 1932. ...                                     | 44            |

110

C1903/44

|     |  |         |
|-----|--|---------|
| 6.  | <u>Economic Conditions.</u>  |         |
|     | (a) New Cotton Contracts Act, Bombay; Bill Circulated for Opinion. ...                       | 45 - 46 |
|     | (b) Extension of Tata's Steel Plant; Directors Sanction Scheme. ...                          | 46 - 47 |
|     | (c) Impetus to Hyderabad Industries; Tariff Alterations. ...                                 | 47 - 48 |
|     | (d) Diversion of Trade from Bombay; Demand for Investigation Committee. ...                  | 48 - 49 |
|     | (e) Textile Crisis Precipitated by Japanese Dumping; Tariff Board Enquiry Ordered.           | 49 - 51 |
|     | (f) New Cottage Industries Institute, Hyderabad State. ...                                   | 52 - 53 |
| 7.  | <u>Employment &amp; Unemployment.</u>  |         |
|     | (a) Industrial Occupations for the Unemployed; A Bengal Scheme. ...                          | 54      |
|     | (b) Middle Class Unemployment in Bombay Presidency; Inquiry Demanded.                        | 55      |
| 8.  | <u>Social Conditions.</u>  |         |
|     | Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency, 1931-1932.                      | 56 - 58 |
| 9.  | <u>Public Health.</u>  |         |
|     | (a) Leprosy Survey in Jute Mill Areas...   | 59      |
|     | (b) Health Clinics and Creches for Jute Mills; Efforts of Indian Jute Mills Association.     | 59 - 61 |
| 10. | <u>Co-operation.</u>   |         |
|     | Co-operation in the C.P. & Berar, 1930-31.   | 62 - 65 |
| 11. | <u>Women &amp; Children.</u>   |         |
|     | Working of Borstal Schools in Madras, 1931.  | 66 - 67 |
| 12. | <u>Education.</u>  |         |
|     | (a) Progress of Education in Hyderabad; Emphasis on Vocational Bias, 1931-32 .               | 68      |
|     | (b) Raising Age Limit for Compulsory Education; Bombay Corporation School Committees' Views. | 69      |
| 13. | <u>Agriculture.</u>  |         |
|     | Rural Uplift Work in Baroda; Working of Kosamba Scheme. ...                                  | 70 - 71 |
| 14. | <u>Migration.</u>  |         |
|     | (a) Indian Migration to Malaya & Ceylon, 1931.   | 72 - 78 |
|     | (b) Indian Labour for Reunion Island; Offer to Natal Indians. ...                            | 79 - 80 |

References to the I. L. O.

The news of the election of Mr. H. B. Butler as Director of the I. L. O. has received wide publicity in India.

A British Official Wireless message announcing Mr. Butler's appointment was published in the Statesman of 3-7-1932, the Times of India and Hindu of 4-7-1932 and in all papers.

Immediately on receipt of the information of Mr. Butler's election, this Office issued a communique on 4-7-32 giving a biographical sketch of Mr. Butler. The communique was published in the Statesman of 6-7-1932, the Leader and the Times of India of 9-7-1932, the Servant of India of 21-7-1932 (Vol. XV, No.28), New India of 7-7-1932 (Vol. VI New Series No.14) and in the May & June 1932 combined issue (Vol. 3, No.11 & 12) of the M. & S.M. Railwayman. (Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1883/32 of 7-7-32).

The Statesman of 10-7-1932 published a photograph of Mr. H.B. Butler.

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This Office issued a communique on 1-7-32 in the nature of an interview given to the Associated Press of India by the Director of this Office on his recent mission to Geneva. The communique summarises the main decisions arrived at by the 16th session of the International Labour Conference. (Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1883/32 of 7-7-1932). The report of the 'interview' was published in the Statesman of 3-7-1932, the Hindu of 5-7-1932, the Leader of 6-7-1932, and Federated India of 13-7-1932 (Vol. VI, No.28).

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The communique issued by this Office on 24-6-1932 on the subject of "Invalidity, Old-Age and Widows' and Orphans' Insurance" (Vide page 2 of the June 1932 report of the Office) was published also in the Statesman of 1-7-1932, the Sunday Advocate of 3-7-1932 (Vol. IX No.22), and Federated India of 6-7-1932 (Vol. VI No.27).

\* \* \*

A communique issued by this Office on 13-6-1932 announcing the publication of the I.L.O. Year Book, 1931, and giving a brief description of its contents is published in the July 1932 issue of the B.B.C.I. Railwayman (Vol.3, nos. 11 & 12). (For names of periodicals which published the communique during June 1932, vide page 2 of June 1932 report of this Office).

The Times of India of 12-7-32 also publishes a short review of the Year Book.

A communique issued by this Office on the 19th July 1932, under the caption "I.L.O. Activities in 1931: Forward Trend in Social Policy Maintained", being a lengthy summary of the I.L.O. Year-Book, 1931, was published in the Hindustan Times of 22-7-32, the Hindu of 27-7-32, and the Leader of 31-7-32<sup>etc.</sup>, (Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1995/32 of 21-7-1932).

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In the course of his presidential address at the Trade Union Unity Conference held at Madras on 14th and 15th July 1932, Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta, dealing with the question whether Indian Labour should participate in the sessions of the I.L. Conference, affirmed that, in spite of all the short-comings of the I.L. Conference, it

was desirable that Indian Labour should participate in the work of the Conference and reiterated his faith in the I.L.O. The portion of Mr. Mehta's speech dealing with this subject is quoted in full in the section: "Workers' Organisations" of this report. Mr. Mehta's speech was published in the Hindu of 14-7-1932 and in all papers. (A copy of Mr. Mehta's presidential address was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute A.1/2057/32 dated 25-7-1932)

The Trade Union Unity Conference, attended by 108 delegates representing 54 unions, passed a resolution on 15-7-32 reiterating its faith in the I.L.O. and recommending that the Indian Trade Union Congress should continue to participate in the activities of the I.L.O. The resolution also stated that the Indian Trade Union Congress should continue to recommend delegates to Government for nomination as workers' delegates to the I.L.Conference, The resolution relating to the I.L.O. is incorporated as clause VIII of the "Platform of Unity" adopted by the Congress. (A detailed account of the proceedings of the Unity Conference is given in the section: "Workers' organisations" of this Report). It will be remembered that one of the reasons, among others, for the Nagpur split of 1929 was the unwillingness of certain extreme sections of the Indian trade union movement to continue to participate in the activities of the I.L.O.

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In the course of his presidential address at the General Meeting of the Indian Trades Union Federation held at Madras on the 16th & 17th July 1932, Mr. V.V.Giri made a few important references to the I.L.O. He remarked that though India has ratified the I.L. Convention on Unemployment, the Government has taken no action to

discharge the obligations incurred by ratification of the Convention. In order to expedite labour legislation, he suggested the setting up of a special machinery in this country on the lines of the I.L.Organisation. He also referred to the position which labour should occupy in the reformed constitution and demanded that labour legislation should be treated as a federal subject in order that Geneva Labour Conventions may apply to the whole of India. ( A summary of Mr. V.V.Giri's presidential address is given in the section: "Worker's Organisations" of this report. A copy of the presidential address was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute A.1/2057/32 dated 25-7-1932),

Mr. Giri's speech is published in the Hindu of 16 & 18-7-32 and in all papers.

\* \* \*

The Director of this Office, who attended the 1st session of the Indian Trades Union Federation held at Madras on the 16th & 17th July 1932, was requested by the President of the Conference, Mr.V.V. Giri, to address the Conference. In the course of his speech the Director referred to the splendid work done by the Indian Labour delegations to the various sessions of the international Labour Conference. He also referred to the resolution adopted by the 15th session of the I.L.Conference urging the holding of an Asiatic Labour Conference under the auspices of the I.L.O. and appealed to all Unions to take a keen interest in the matter so that an Asiatic Labour Conference may be held as early as possible.

A summary of the Director's speech is published in the Hindu of 18-7-32, "Justice", Madras, of 18-7-32, and in several other papers.

*Dr Pillai also addressed a Mass Meeting on 18.7.32 at Wadia Park, Perambore, on India and the I.L.O. The meeting which was organised by the Madras Labour Union was very well attended. (See the Hindu of 19.7.32)*

The report on the working of the Indian Trades Union Federation during 1929-1932 submitted by the Secretary to the 1st Conference of the Federation held at Madras on 16 & 17-7-32, contains several references to the I.L.O. It deals at length with the work of the Indian labour delegations to the I.L.Conference sessions of 1930, 1931 and 1932 (Vide pages 19 - 26 of the Report). A summary of the progress that has hitherto been made in the matter of holding an Asiatic Labour Conference under I.L.O. auspices is also included. Reference is also made to a meeting of the overseas representatives on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. held at Geneva in 1932 which Mr. N.M.Joshi attended, where the following questions were considered:-

- (1) How non-European bodies could derive the largest possible benefit from the I.L.O.
- (2) The desirability of bringing subjects of importance to non-European countries on the agenda of the I.L.Conference.
- (3) Adequate representation of non-European countries on the Governing Body and Committees.
- (4) Representation on non-European countries on the staff of the I.L.O.(vide pages 26-27).

The report also makes a feeling reference to the late M.Albert Thomas and congratulates Mr. Butler on his accession to the post of Director (vide page 34).

(A copy of the Report was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute A.1/2057/32 dated 25-7-1932).

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The July 1932 issue of the Anglo-Gujarati Quarterly Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes at pages 112-115 the full text of the speech delivered by Mr. R.K.Shanmukhan Chetty, M.L.A., Indian Employers' Delegate, in the course of the debate which followed the presentation of the I.L.O. Director's Report to

the 16th I.L.Conference, 1932. The text of the speech was forwarded to the Journal by this Office in a communique dated 11-5-1932. (Copies of this communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.5/1232/32 dated 12-5-1932).

\* \* \*

The June 1932 issue of the E.B.Railway Labour Review (Vol.V, No.6), published an article under the caption: "Forward Programme of Social Policy adopted at the International Labour Conference". The material for the article was supplied by a communique issued by this Office on 27-5-32 (Vide page 4 of our May 1932 report and page 3 of our June 1932 report for names of Indian periodicals which published the communique during May and June ).

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The May and June combined issue (Vol.3, Nos.11 & 12) of the M. & S.M.Railwayman devotes considerable space to I.L.O. activities. The place of honour is given to an article entitled: "I.L.Conference —16th Session", which gives a fairly full summary of the subjects discussed at the Conference. (The material for this article was supplied by a communique issued by this Office on 27-5-32, and copies of which have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.5/1425/32 dated 2-6-1932). Next follow lengthy extracts from the speeches delivered at the 16th session of the Conference by the Indian Workers' delegate and the principal Government delegate to the Conference (Extracts from these speeches were supplied to the M. & S.M.Railwayman by this Office's communiques dated 12-5-1932 and 31-5-1932, respectively, Copies of these communiques have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minutes H.5/1299/32 of 19-5-32

and H.5/1426/32 of 2-6-1932). The same issue also publishes lengthy extracts from the speech delivered by the late M. Albert Thomas in reply to the general debate which followed the presentation of his annual report to the 16th session of the I.L-Conference. (Extracts from M. Albert Thomas' speech were supplied to the M. & S.M. Railwayman by our communique dated 4-6-1932, copies of which have been forwarded to Geneva with our minute H.5/1481/32 dated 9-6-1932).

\* \* \*

The Indian Finance Year-Book, 1932, issued by the Indian Finance Office, Calcutta, publishes a long article under the caption: "India and the International Labour Conference," contributed by Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office. The article deals with the gains that have accrued to India by the country's participation in the past sixteen sessions of the I.L.Conference.

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The June 1932 issue of the E.B. Railway Labour Review (Vol.V, No.6), Calcutta, reproduces a note published in the issue of the Press Report of the I.F.T.U. dated 7-5-1932 on the statement dealing with the attitude of employers and workers on the Washington Hours Convention made by the Director of the Geneva Office in his report to the 16th session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Seventh Annual Conference of the M. & S.M. Railway Union which was held at Bezwada on 21 & 22-5-1932 passed two resolutions which are of special interest to the I.L.O. The first resolution referred to the demise of M. Albert Thomas. The second resolution requested the M. & S.M. Administration to enforce in the M. & S. M.

Railway system the Hours and Weekly Rest Conventions.

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The July 1932 issue of "Labour" (Vol.XII, no.6), the official Organ of the Bengal and Assam Circle of the All-India Postal and R.M.S.Union, publishes an article under the caption "Growth of Indian Labour", in the course of which a tribute is paid to the influence exerted by the I.L.O. in accelerating the pace of labour legislation in this country.

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A Press Note issued by this Office on 21-7-32 under the caption: "Rationalisation of Employment in Egypt: Alternative to Retrenchment of Workers", was published in the Hindustan Times of 23-7-1932, the Leader and the Hindu of 25-7-32, the Times of India of 26-7-1932 and the Indian Social Reformer of 30-7-32 (Vol. XLII, No.47). The Press Note was based on an item on the subject published in the issue of "Industrial and Labour information" dated 4-7-32 and directed attention to the possibility of the introduction of a system of leave by rotation being introduced in India as an alternative to retrenchment of staff. (Copies of the Press note were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/2074/32 of 28-7-32).

National Labour Legislation.

Two New Bills in September 1932 Session: Amendment of  
Trades Disputes Act & Land Acquisition Act.

At pages 14 & 15 of the report of this Office for March 1932 reference was made to the announcement made on 17-3-32 by Sir Joseph Bhore on behalf of the Government of India that the Central Government was contemplating the speedy introduction of Bills relating to trade disputes, mines and land acquisition on the lines recommended by the Whitley Report. Information is now to hand that the Government of India has decided to introduce in the forthcoming September session of the Legislative Assembly two Bills to amend, respectively, the Trade Disputes Act and the Land Acquisition Act. It is understood that the amendments sought to be introduced are based on the recommendations made in this behalf by the Royal Commission on Labour. (For recommendations of the Whitley Commission regarding the methods to be adopted for settlement of Industrial disputes, vide pages 337 to 348 of the Whitley Report. For recommendations re. amendment of the Trade Disputes Act, vide page 347 of the Report. For recommendations of the Whitley Commission re. amendment of the Land Acquisition Act, vide pages 290-291 of the Report).

Conditions of Mining Labour in C.P. & Berar -1931\*

The following information about the conditions of mining labour in the Central Provinces and Berar is taken from the Annual Review published by the C.P. Government on the District Reports on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in C.P. & Berar for the year ending 31-12-1931.

Supply of Labour. - According to the Review, the slump in the coal and manganese markets continued throughout 1931. 3 manganese mines and 3 mines for other minerals were opened in the year, but slump conditions were reflected in the closing of 3 coal mines, 18 manganese mines and 16 mines for other minerals during the year. The net result was the total number of working mines fell from 117 to 86, thus throwing a considerable portion of the labour force out of employment. The fall in the labour force was as much as 52,40 and 24 per cent. in the districts of Balaghat, Jubbulpore and Nagpur, respectively, and 5 per cent. in the Chhindwara district, with the result that, the supply of labour, both local and imported, was much in excess of demand. The Mahakali and the Majri coal mines in the Chanda district, however, experienced some difficulty in obtaining skilled labour owing to the want of suitable housing and accommodation. Despite the serious dislocation of the labour market created by the slump, the review states that there were no strikes during 1931, with one exception where the discharge of 200 men led to an abortive attempt for the declaration of a strike.

Wages. - During the year, there was no appreciable change in the rates of wages. The average earnings of a male labourer employed in coal mines ranged between Re.0-6-0 to Re. 0-10-0 per day for underground and between Re.0-9-0 to Re. 1-10-0 per day for surface work, while those of female labourers varied from Re. 0-3-0 to Re. 0-9-0 per day both for underground and surface work. In manganese and other mines the daily earnings of an unskilled labourer averaged between Re.0-5-6 to Re. 0-8-8 for a male and Re. 0-3-0 to Re.0-7-3 for a female, while skilled labourers earned from Re.0-7-0 to Re. 1-14-0 per day. The rates were higher than those earned by labourers employed in agriculture and in local industries.

Health of Labour Force. - During the year under review, Influenza, small-pox and cholera broke out at several mining camps. Influenza was responsible for 399 attacks and 14 deaths. There were 301 attacks and 62 deaths from small-pox, while Cholera was responsible for 20 attacks and 7 deaths. Adequate and timely steps were taken by

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\* Annual Review on the District Reports on the working of the Indian Mines Act, IV of 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1931 - Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. 1932. Price Annas Seven - pp. 7.

all the mine managements concerned to check the spread of the epidemics. The general health of the labourers in the mining camps was satisfactory. The dispensaries maintained by the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company at their mines in ~~the~~ Nagpur, Balaghat and Bhandara districts, as well as the dispensaries at the Mahakali and the Ballarpur coal mines in the Chanda district, continued to render efficient medical help to the labourers and their families. The Tata Iron and Steel Company maintained a doctor and a sanitary gang to look after the health and sanitation of their labour force in the Balaghat district. The maternity benefit scheme inaugurated by the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company in 1930 worked successfully throughout the year under review.

Housing Accommodation and Sanitary Conditions. - Except for the fact that the depressed condition of the mining industry prevented managements from proceeding with several schemes for the construction of improved dwellings for the workers, the sanitary conditions of the labour camps continued to be satisfactory. The Review states that housing conditions in the case of a few collieries continued to be unsatisfactory and expresses the hope that the managements concerned will make efforts as soon as possible ~~to~~ to improve conditions. The only notable advance in 1931 was the completion of suitable permanent quarters for the labourers of the C.P. Manganese Ore Company in the Bhandara, Balaghat and Nagpur districts.

Prices of Food Stuffs and Clothing. - While wages remained nearly stationary, the review states that the prices of the various food-stuffs and clothing were slightly cheaper in 1931 than the prices obtaining in 1930. In several ~~mine~~ mining camps weekly markets are established for the supply of necessaries to the miners, while in other mining camps, the workers have to obtain their supplies from the weekly bazaars held in the neighbouring villages.

Education. - The education of the children of the workers is provided for in two ways. Where the schools conducted by local bodies in the vicinity of the mining camps are close enough, the children of the workers attend such schools. Where there are not such schools, efforts have been made to provide special schools for the children of the miners. Progress in this direction has been slow owing to the want of the necessary finances. The Independent Mining Local Board, which maintained 11 schools during the year, and some of the Christian missions are taking an active interest in the education of the miners' children. According to the Review, the attendance in several schools fell owing to the decrease in the number of workmen in the collieries.

Accidents. - There were 65 accidents during the year under review against 91 in the preceding year. Out of these, 21 were fatal and 44 serious. ~~Most~~ Twelve of the accidents were due to misadventure while the rest were due to the negligence of safety precautions on the part of the employees concerned. A total sum of Rs. 1,239 was paid to the victims of the accidents or to their dependants as compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Hours of Work & Employment of Women & Children. - The hours of employment on surface workings varied from 5½ to 9 hours and those for underground work from 7 to 8 hours per day. The regulations restricting the employment of women underground were observed in coal mines. No women were employed on underground work in any of the manganese mines. In the Nagpur district 1,469 women were <sup>employed</sup> on surface work in manganese mines against 1,961 in the previous year. Two cases of employment of children under 13 years of age were detected in the Ballarpur and the Mahakali coal mines in the Chanda district.

Receipts from Mines . - The provincial receipts from mines fell from Rs. 3,63,643 in the previous year to Rs. 2,41,066 during the year under review due to the depression in the manganese, coal and limestone markets. Of the total revenue, Rs. 1,07,256, was received from manganese mines, Rs. 1,24,397 from coal mines and Rs. 9,413 from mines for other minerals. The pit's mouth value of coal in Chanda district fell from Rs. 4-1-4 to Rs. 3-9-0 per ton and that in Chhindwara from Rs. 4-5-2 to Rs. 4-2-3 per ton.

#### Safety Devices and Fencing:

##### Agreement re. Standardisation in Jute Mills.

In recent years, the Factory Inspectorates of the several provinces have been taking considerable pains to impress on millowners the need for introducing standardised safety devices and fencing in the mills under their control. The Factories Department of the Government of Bengal has been holding consultations with the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, <sup>r</sup>through a conference which ended on 9-4-31, for this purpose. During May 1931, the Committee of the Association was furnished with copies of the draft agreement covering the recommendations agreed upon for all classes of jute mill machinery, commencing with the softener and progressing throughout the process of manufacture. After the circulation of the agreement among member mills, the Association signed the agreement in June 1931.

The Agreement applies to new machinery only; it prescribes

that "All new machines installed after 1st January 1932 (this date was subsequently extended to 1st July 1932, with the consent of members, in order to enable machinery makers to bring their machinery up to date in respect of the agreement) in the mills within the membership of the Indian Jute Mills Association shall comply with the following general provisions:-

- (a) Projecting bolts or set-screws on revolving parts are prohibited unless efficiently protected.
- (b) All pulleys or wheels in exposed places shall be of the disc pattern or otherwise efficiently guarded.
- (c) Couplings on direct motor-driven machines shall be enclosed.
- (d) Handles, hand-wheels, etc., operating belt striking gears, must not be inside any guard."

The Agreement also stipulates that each individual mill shall be equipped with guards and certain safety devices. (The full text of the Agreement is published at pages 87-94 of the Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association for 1931).

General Strike in Railways: Provisionally fixed for 1-9-32.

At pages 33 to 36 of the report of this Office for June 1932, reference was made to the railway strike situation and to the decision in favour of a strike made by a majority of the Unions belonging to <sup>the</sup> All India Railwaymen's Federation. It was also stated (see last para page 36) that a further decision with regard to the fixing of the day for the start of the general strike would be made at Madras about the middle of July by the railway leaders

in consultation with other labour leaders who were to meet in Madras in connection with the meetings of the Trade Union Unity Conference.

The Council of Action of the <sup>India</sup> Railwaymen's Federation met at Madras on 14, 15 & 16-7-32 ~~at~~ and, after full discussion, declared that the reply received from the Railway Board relating to retrenchment of staff was unsatisfactory. The Council of Action then laid down the programme of preparations for the general strike. The President and the General Secretary were authorised to give notice of a general strike to begin on 1-9-32, provided the Unions were ready with preparations and funds. The date is provisional and it is doubtful whether the A.I. Railway Federation would be able to mobilise such forces by that date as would embolden the Federation to initiate the strike with confidence.

Factory Administration in Bengal, 1931.\*

The following facts and figures about working conditions in factories in the Bengal Presidency are taken from the Annual Report on the Administration of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal for 1931, submitted by the Chief Inspector of Factories of the Presidency.

Number of Factories.- During the year the number of factories on the register increased by 48. The total stood at 1,603 as against 1,555 in 1930. 72 factories were added to and 24 were removed from the register. The number of factories that worked was 1,471, as against 1,444 during the previous year, an increase of 27. 1,065 were perennial and 406 were seasonal concerns. Of the 1,471 factories on the register, 67 were Government and Local Fund factories, 127 were textile factories (16 cotton, 15 hosiery, 93 jute mills, 2 silk and 1 miscellaneous), 230 Engineering factories, 9 minerals and metals factories, 640 food, drink and tobacco factories, ~~Statistics~~ (314 rice mills and 286 tea factories), 109 chemical and dyes factories, 92 paper and printing works (86 printing and bookbinding concerns), 47 factories concerned with processes relating to wood, stone and glass, 5 leather and tanning factories, 120 gins and presses and 25 miscellaneous factories.

Number of Operatives.- At the close of the year the number of operatives employed in registered factories was 480,439, as compared with 563,877 in 1930, a decrease of 83,438. The present world-wide depression in industry is stated to have seriously affected Bengal, the returns showing a very heavy decrease in the number of factory operatives. Jute mills and jute presses alone show a decrease of 63,000, following on a decrease of between 15,000 and 16,000 during the previous year. The following table shows the reductions in the number of employees which have taken place in the principal industries:-

|  | No. of operatives |         | Decrease |
|--|-------------------|---------|----------|
|  | 1930              | 1931    |          |
| Jute mills ... ..                                | 328,177           | 268,289 | 59,888   |
| Jute presses ... ..                              | 32,132            | 29,259  | 2,873    |
| Railway workshops ... ..                         | 32,607            | 28,917  | 3,690    |
| General Engineering Works                        | 24,642            | 21,455  | 3,187    |
| Ship-building and engineering                    | 14,840            | 11,796  | 3,044    |
| Iron and steel smelting and rolling mills ... .. | 9,113             | 6,716   | 2,397    |
| Ordnance factories ... ..                        | 7,458             | 5,569   | 1,889    |
| Tea ... ..                                       | 16,931            | 15,151  | 1,780    |
| Kerosene-tinning and packing                     | 5,225             | 4,292   | 933      |

\*Government of Bengal. Annual Report on the Administration of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal for the Year 1931. J.B.McBride, A.M.I.Mech.E. Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal (Offg). Calcutta: Bengal Secretariat Book Depot, 1932. Price - Indian, Rs.3; English, 5s.3d. pp.84.

Women and Children.- The average daily number of women employed in factories was 61,947 (54,762 in perennial factories and 7,185 in seasonal factories), as against 73,951 in 1930, a decrease of 12,004 as against 4,015 during 1930. This is due to the prolonged trade depression and to the general change over by jute mills to the single-shift system of working. This decrease of approximately 16 per cent, as against 5 per cent in 1930, is accounted for principally in jute mills, returns from which show a reduction of 9,860 in the number of women employed. The total number of women employed in jute mills during the year was 42,254 and that in cotton spinning and weaving mills was 1,922. Instances of illegal employment of women were few, prosecution being necessary in one case only.

The decrease in the average number of children employed during the year in registered factories is almost startling, the average daily number employed being 7,281 (5,769 in perennial factories and 1,512 in seasonal factories), as against 16,630 in 1930 and 23,036 in 1929. This decrease of 9,349 in the number of children from the 1930 figures is accounted mostly by a decrease of 8,184 minors, or 88 per cent of the total decrease, in the jute mills which employed only 3,462 children during the year under review as against 11,646 during 1930. In addition to the natural consequences of an unprecedented year of bad trade and the change over to the single-shift system of working, this heavy slump in the employment of children in jute mills is mainly the result of the continuance of the policy of substituting adults in place of children. The supply of labour now exceeds the demand and, in view of the restrictions imposed by the Act on the employment of children, mill managers now affirm that adult labour is more economical and less troublesome. Three years ago, practically every mill employed children, whereas at the close of the year under report, children were being employed in 21 mills only, out of a total of 93. In 1925 the mills employed 26,474 children as against 3,462 in 1931. The report states that, taking into account the present standard of jute mill labour in Bengal, the lack of schools, and the considerable period which must elapse before elementary education can become compulsory, this depletion in child labour is a mixed blessing. Only 3 prosecution cases were necessary for illegal employment of children as against 20 in the previous year. One was for employing a child without medical certificate, and the other two were for employing children outside the hours specified for their employment. All ended in conviction.

Inspection.- 2,953 visits were made by inspectors of this department to registered factories, and 219 to unregistered concerns. As usual, a considerable number of these visits were carried out during rest intervals or before or after legal hours for the purpose of detecting illegal overtime. The figures include 468 special visits for investigation into complaints, enquiry into accidents, collection of statistics, etc. 780 factories were inspected once, 264 twice, 131 three times and 191 more than three times. 105 factories were not inspected.

Working Hours.- According to the report, sub-section 3 of section 36 of the Factories Act which lays down the procedure which must be followed when employers alter specified working hours, has always been responsible for innumerable administrative difficulties. It is claimed to be abstruse and impracticable, and is almost impossible of application to illiterate labour, or to the conditions of employment in this

province. Employers do not and will not understand its provisions. Until its requirements are thoroughly practicable and free from ambiguity, and the exact procedure to be followed is laid down in full detail, labour will continue to be deprived of the protection which the Act is intended to provide.

Another serious matter in connection with the control and administration of legal hours of work is the problem of "contract" labour, i.e. factory labour employed by contractors. The bulk of this class of labour is found in the shipyards and the jute-pressing factories and their numbers total between 40 and 50 thousand workers. The employers contend that, in respect of their contract labour, the employment sections of the Act cannot be complied with. They emphatically state that the contract system of employment cannot be abolished, that an attendance register for this illiterate class of labour is an impossibility, and that any alternative in the form of rigidly fixed hours which would not permit of overtime or Sunday work, would deprive them of that elasticity in hours of employment which is essential to industry. The enforcement of the Act as it stands would be tantamount to forcing the abolition of the contract system of employment and would undoubtedly cause a serious upheaval in staple industries. This would be at variance with the principle of gradualness which is fundamental in measures for the amelioration of industrial conditions. In past years, every attempt to find a means of obtaining a definite check on the daily and weekly holiday has failed and, in consequence, the hours of work provisions of the Act in respect of contract labour have never yet been operative.

Wages.- During the year there has been an all-round decrease in the earnings of factory workers, the number unaffected either by cuts in wages rates, reduced working hours, or entire loss of employment, being comparatively few. In the larger concerns and better organised industries the average reduction in wages appears to be in the region of 10 per cent., but in the small unorganised factories there is little doubt that the reduction has been greater. Production costs had to be reduced to an absolute minimum and unorganised labour has been unable to resist what, in many cases, must be regarded as an undue cut in wages. The report states that cases have come to notice in which contractors have undertaken to carry out work at ridiculously low prices, their men being paid at only half the normal rate.

In the jute industry, when the general change over to the single-shift system was made, a regular four-day week of 10 hours per day was established in place of the previous four-day week of 13½ hours per day with an idle week each month. In effecting this change managers in the different areas tried to work together to establish a standard rate of pay for the various classes of workers, but apparently they have not been too successful. It has been found possible, however, to eliminate the old system of augmenting pay by means of khoraki, bonus, etc., and to establish consolidated rates in the individual mills. The effect has been a slight reduction in the total monthly wages earned.

Housing Conditions.- According to the Report, the prolonged industrial depression has made drastic cuts in the capital expenditure of many of the larger industrial establishments essential, and in consequence, housing and welfare schemes, in common with other projects requiring considerable financial support, have had to be curtailed or held up indefinitely, pending a return to more normal conditions.

In spite of financial stringency, however, and the consequent need for rigid economy, a considerable ~~many~~ number of improvements have been effected. The general improvements carried out by some of the larger factories include additional tube-wells, drinking water taps and hydrants, bathing tanks and wash houses, better drains and flushing arrangements, and street lighting in the coolie lines. The water-supply and electric lighting schemes of the Bhatpara Municipality, have now been completed, but the full benefit will not be felt until the sewerage scheme, which is making good progress, is also completed. It is stated that the completion of these three schemes will make possible a type of industrial housing accommodation far in advance of anything yet attempted in Bengal.

In connection with the housing accommodation provided for labour employed in tea factories, it is reported that, due to the present financial stringency, building programmes have been almost entirely suspended, and that in the few instances where additional accommodation has been constructed, such work has generally been undertaken with the object of keeping the labour employed, and retaining it on the garden.

Welfare Work.- Great advance in welfare work was made in the year under review. The Indian Jute Mills Association had under consideration during the year a scheme for establishing in jute mill areas welfare centres, baby clinics and creches, particulars regarding the scheme is given elsewhere in this report. Progress in the provision by employers of hospital facilities for labourers was continued during the year. Messrs. Bird and Co. appointed a full-time European Secretary to organise and manage welfare in the jute mills under their management. An important development in connection with welfare work is the provision of leprosy clinics or facilities for treating the disease. These clinics or treatment centres have been established in several jute mills during the year.

With regard to welfare work in tea gardens, the payment of maternity benefits, which have been in force for several years now has been continued. The scale of benefit and the method of payment varies from factory to factory, consisting in some cases, of a small lump sum paid when the ~~x~~ child is born, and in others, of monthly payments during pregnancy and after delivery. In an endeavour to induce the mother to rear the child, some factories contribute a small monthly amount to its support for periods varying from 6 to 12 months. In other cases such inducement takes the form of a small lump sum, paid 6 to 12 months after birth. An interesting innovation in connection with welfare work in tea factories is the introduction ~~x~~ by one ~~xxxxxx~~ concern, of a system of free insurance. The object of the insurance is to induce the worker to keep himself in a good state of health and to attend his work regularly. All premiums are paid ~~by~~ the company, who offer a bonus for good attendance. The bonus is not paid in cash to the worker but is credited to his account in the insurance fund.

Sanitation.- The Report states that sanitary and cleanly conditions of factories are being improved, though perhaps but slowly; the principal difficulties being met with in the smaller factories, and factories in outlying districts, where ~~xxxx~~ arrangements are very often antiquated and unsatisfactory. The irregularities noted refer mostly to the dirty condition in which the conveniences, drains, etc. are kept, to insufficient or unsuitable latrine accommodation, and to general uncleanly conditions in factory buildings and precincts. The tendency to delay limewashing until the Inspector draws attention to the matter,

still continues, and requires constant vigilance. Prosecutions were instituted in four cases of wilful failure to carry out the requirements of the Act and Rules. During the year, rules 33 and 34 of the Bengal Factories Rules which deal with the scale of latrine accommodation in ratio to the number of employees, and provide for the manner in which latrines must be constructed, maintained and tended, were revised. Plans of six septic tank latrines and one activated sludge plant were approved by the Director of Public Health for installation in 6 factories.

Ventilation.- Throughout the year special attention is reported to have been given to the question of dust removal, and the problem in its general application is now fairly well understood. The principal problems concern the jute and tea industries, the different dusts presenting different difficulties. It was realized, however, that the present is not the time to ask firms to instal expensive plants unless the degree of impregnation is a serious menace to the health of the workers. With regard to tea ~~industry~~ factory sorting rooms, there has been no alteration in policy during the year under report, i.e., orders for the installation of exhaust trunk systems of dust extraction are still being held in abeyance, pending a return to normal trade conditions. In printing presses, one of the principal sources of lead poisoning is dust in the atmosphere which arises from type case sweepings and lead dross, and whilst type cases are being cleaned. An endeavour has been made during the year to stamp out, as far as possible, the practice of cleaning type cases within the composing rooms by means of hand bellows.

Safety.- The general standard of fencing and safeguarding is stated to be slowly improving and, with some exceptions, occupiers and managers manifest an increasing willingness to comply with the requirements of the Act in this respect. The Report states that the lack of an instructive handbook on the protection of machinery and power transmission apparatus in factories had always been a handicap and it has been decided, therefore, to compile a "safety" pamphlet on lines somewhat similar to those published by the Home Office. The proposed pamphlet in English should be ready for publication before the end of 1932 and it is hoped that, at a later date, it will be possible to have it translated into Bengali and Hindi. It will embody the experience of this department together with the latest methods and practices adopted by other countries, and to this end, various safety publications, including those issued by the International Labour Office, Geneva, are being freely drawn upon. The Department arrived at, during the year, an agreement with the Indian Jute Mills Association for the provision of Safety devices and fencing for machinery in jute mills (details re. the agreement are given elsewhere in this report). The execution of this agreement is a very definite step towards adequate safety conditions in this huge industry which at present employs approximately 268,000 workers, and is evidence of the desire and willingness of the employers to do whatever lies in their power to protect their workers and reduce the possibilities of accidents.

Safety First Movement.- An interesting innovation in the furtherance of the Safety First movement is the installing of warning hooters or sirens in textile factories, their purpose being to warn employees that the power plant and machinery is about to be set in motion. The Ludlow Jute Mill Safety Committee continued to do useful work during the year. Another factory in which the safety first

movement has been developed in the Indian Iron and Steel Works. In this factory the foremen give monthly lectures to their men on the hazards connected with the Iron and Steel industry, and the best methods of avoiding accidents. Instruction is also given in first aid, and first aid boxes, fully equipped, have been placed at vantage points throughout the factory, each box being in charge of a trained man. Safety notices have been painted on walls, chimneys, and other conspicuous places throughout the factory in such positions that the workers are continually being confronted by them.

General Health.- It is reported that the general health of operatives was much the same as in previous years. A leprosy survey carried out amongst the labour employed in tea factories and tea gardens resulted in a number of cases being detected. Most of them were placed under treatment and several cures were effected. Many, on the other hand, gave up treatment, and some absolutely refused to take it, and rather than submit, bolted away from their gardens and were lost ~~in~~ sight of. In no case, however, was any segregation done, the contention being that, in consequence of the coolies' strong objection to interference with his domestic arrangements, any attempt at isolation would probably lead to trouble. There is undoubtedly much force in this, but at the same time, lepers should not be handling tea in the course of manufacture. Managers are, therefore, being urged to take all precautions they can to prevent lepers from being employed in the factory.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents reported during the year from registered factories in Bengal was 3,313, of which 36 were fatal, 972 serious and 2,305 minor. This is a decrease of 21 fatal, 293 serious and 555 minor, i.e., a total decrease 869 accidents compared with the previous year. The accident rate per thousand persons employed is 6.89, a decrease of ~~152x~~ .53. This drop, substantial as it is, is to be explained mainly by the fact that the majority of factories have been working much below their normal capacity. The effect of a reduction of fully 85,000 in the number of factory workers is reflected in the comparatively small drop in the accident rate per thousand. ~~The~~

Prosecutions.- The total number of cases instituted was 114, of which 91 were against managers, 20 against occupiers, 1 against occupier and manager jointly, and 2 against sub-ordinates, e.g., clerks in charge of registers. 88 cases ended in conviction and 5 in acquittal. An appeal filed against one conviction is as yet undecided. One case was withdrawn, the accused having given an undertaking to comply with the requirements of the Act in future; one was filed as the factory had closed down permanently and the whereabouts of the accused could not be traced; two were postponed sine die as the accused had absconded; and 17 were undecided at the close of the year.

The Report remarks that the results of proceedings still show a remarkable disparity in the value of the penalties imposed, and a lack of appreciation by the courts of the seriousness of the cases put before them. In order to remedy this state of affairs, the Chief Inspector has recommended that Special Magistrates should try cases under Factories Act (vide Chapter V of Whitley Report for the Royal Commission's recommendations on this subject).

(The Report on Factory Administration in Bengal during 1928 was reviewed at pages 39-43 of our September 1929 report, that during 1929 at pages 26-30 of our August 1930 report and that during 1930 at pages 29-34 of our August 1931 report).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923,  
in Bihar and Orissa, 1931.\*

The following facts regarding the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bihar and Orissa are taken from the Statistical Returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1931 submitted by the Government of Bihar and Orissa to the Government of India.

The daily average attendance of persons employed is reported to have been 130,921 adults and 1,743 minors in 1931, as compared with 158,602 adults and 1,363 minors in the preceding year. The decrease in respect of adult workers is attributable to the general depression in trade, while the expansion of the mica industry in the district of Gaya accounts almost entirely for the small increase in the number of minors employed. There was no case of occupational disease during the year under review. 122 persons lost their lives as the result of accidents and the numbers of those who suffered from permanent and temporary disablement <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ 121 and 1,661 respectively, whereas in 1930 the corresponding figures were 170, 132 and 2,579. The total sums paid as compensation for the three classes of accidents were Rs. 53,617-11-0, Rs. 44,327-5-1 and Rs. 42,219-0-3 against Rs. 84,797-14-0, Rs. 44,582-4-9 and Rs. 44,610-12-0 respectively in the preceding year. Out of these amounts, Rs. 53,592-11-0, Rs. 9,494-15-3 and Rs. 108-8-0 respectively were paid through the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation as compensation for fatal accidents, permanent disablement and temporary disablement. The average amount paid as compensation

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\* No. <sup>257</sup> ~~XL-16~~ COM.R. Government of Bihar and Orissa. Revenue Department. Statistical returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the Calendar year 1931. Dated Ranchi, the 29th June 1932. pp.6.

for a fatal accident was Rs.439 and for permanent disablement Rs.366 as compared with Rs.498 and Rs. 337 in 1930. There were no accidents of any class to minors in respect of which compensation was paid.

The report notes that the provisions of the Act are generally fairly well known, though reports from North Bihar still state that employees are not generally aware of its provisions.

(The working of the Act in Bihar and Orissa during 1930 is reviewed at page 21 of the report of this Office for September 1931).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Madras, 1931\*

The following facts regarding the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Madras Presidency <sup>during 1931</sup> are taken from the Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Madras Presidency for 1931, submitted by the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation with the Government of Madras.

Returns under section 16 of the Act were received from 1,541 establishments out of a total of about 1,700. The defaulters were only in respect of the smaller establishments and even in these cases, the non-submission was, in most cases, due to the fact that they were not working during the year owing to trade depression. The usual permission was given to the Calcutta Claims Bureau, Calcutta, of which a number of Insurance Companies are members, to submit returns on behalf of the employers who have insured their liabilities with them.

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\* Government of Madras - Public Works and Labour Department  
G.O.No.1311 L., 17th June 1932 - Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 -  
Working - 1931 - Report - pp. 24

The number of employers on behalf of whom the Insurance Companies submitted returns was 40. Many of the big employers have not yet insured their liability and this shows that accident insurance has not yet become popular in this Presidency.

In all cases, except 142, only 'nil' returns were received. 23 cases of death, 61 cases of permanent disablement and 1,058 cases of temporary disablement were reported in these 142 returns, as against 23 cases of death, 63 cases of permanent disablement and 710 cases of temporary disablement reported last year. The total amount of compensation paid in respect of the 23 cases of death, 61 cases of permanent disablement and 1,058 cases of temporary disablement was Rs. 10,048-0-4, Rs. 12,955-14-11 and Rs. 15,290-6-1 respectively, as against Rs. 10,861-8-0, Rs. 12,081-4-3 and Rs. 6,720-15-9 respectively paid during the last year. The compensation paid during the year in cases of accidents resulting in death and in permanent disablement was nearly the same as in the previous year. The number of accidents resulting in temporary disablement reported during the year was very nearly one-and-a-half times the number reported in the previous year, and the total amount of compensation paid was more than double the amount paid during the previous year.

The number of cases filed during the year was 148 as against 146 in 1930. Of these 148 cases, 35 relate to proceedings instituted for recovery of compensation under section 10 of the Act, 50 to distribution of compensation to the dependents of diseased workmen under section 8, 42 to memoranda of agreement for registration under

Section 28, and 7 to recovery under Section 31 and 14 to other deposits under Section 8(2).

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Madras Presidency for 1928 is reviewed at pages 31-32 of the August 1929 Report, that for 1929 at page 18 of the August 1930 report and that for 1930 at pages 23-24 of the September 1931 Report of this Office).

Factory Administration in U.P., 1931\*

The following information regarding the working of the Indian Factories Act in the United Provinces during 1931 is taken from the Annual Report on the subject submitted to the U.P. Government by the Chief Inspector of Factories with that Government.

Number of Factories. - The total number of factories on the register in the United Provinces at the close of 1931 was 461, against 409 in 1930. This represents an increase of 12.7 per cent in the number of factories, against 6.51 and 2.95 in 1930 and 1929, respectively. The increase is mainly due to the registration of 33 small sugar factories in Bareilly. Of the 461 factories, 210 were seasonal and 251 perennial. Of these, 424 factories (188 seasonal and 236 perennial) worked during the year and 37 remained closed.

Number of Operatives. - The average daily number of persons employed in the registered factories as obtained from the annual returns submitted was 93,223 against 92,161 in the previous year. Nearly 93 per cent of this is adult male labour. 77 per cent of the total number of persons were employed in perennial factories and 23 per cent in seasonal concerns. The increase in the number of operatives is entirely due to the registration of the new factories. Out of the 93,223 operatives, 32,054 were employed in the textile industry, 19,547 in Government and Local Fund factories, 12,422 in food, drink and tobacco factories and 9,996 in gins and presses.

Employment of Women & Children: - The average numbers of women and children employed during the year were 6,316 and 641 respectively as against 6,623 and 863 respectively during 1930.

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1931 by the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers - Allahabad: The Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, United Provinces - 1932 - Price Rs. 1-8-0 - pp. 35.

798 women were employed in tea factories and 3,433 in cotton ginning factories. There was a decrease of about 4.6 per cent in the number of women employed and the proportion of women to the total number of employees was lowered to 6.8 per cent, against 7.2 in the previous year and 6.98 in 1929. The decrease was principally due to less women being employed in the Cawnpore factories, the cotton ginning factories, and the Manauri oil mill which closed down permanently during the year.

The large decrease in the number of children employed noted in the previous year continued and in the year under report there was a further drop of over 25 per cent from the figures for 1930. The proportion of children to the total number of persons employed is now slightly less than .7 per cent. The following classes of factories were mainly responsible for the reduction of children from employment: textile, opium, glass and cigarette factories, also to a lesser extent, paper, printing, leather and oil.

Inspection. - The number of inspections and visits made during the year was 1,114, as against 990 in 1930. 141 factories were inspected once, 120 factories were inspected twice, 59 factories were inspected thrice, 64 factories were inspected more than three times, while 40 factories were not inspected. The total number of inspections and visits were 124 more than in the previous year. The greater part of this is reported to be due to a large number of visits by the assistant inspector to investigate the conditions of work in the glass bangle concerns situated at Firezabad, and also to some extent to the increase in the number of inspections made by officers of the Public Health department.

Sanitary Arrangements and Ventilation. - According to the report, in most cases sanitary arrangements were found to be fairly satisfactory. A number of warnings were, however, issued regarding the cleanliness of latrines and also for the periodical lime washing and coal-tarring of latrines and receptacles in compliance with the rules, but no prosecution was necessary.

Ventilation was satisfactory in most factories, Some minor alterations were ordered in a few cases where an improvement appeared desirable.

Fencing of Machinery. - The fencing of machinery and the provision of suitable guards were, according to the report, generally well maintained, but in two cases prosecutions were instituted for failure to provide necessary guards.

Accidents. - 1,683 accidents, (11 fatal, 289 serious and 1,383 minor) were reported during the year, as compared with 27 fatal, 246 serious and 1,592 minor in 1930. The total number of accidents decreased by nearly 10 per cent but there was a notable reduction in fatal accidents from 27 in 1930 to 11 in the year under report. This is the lowest figure attained since 1922 and is even considerably lower than the average for the previous ten years, viz., 16.

A safety poster published by the Indian Red Cross Society depicting the correct and incorrect type of clothes to be worn by persons attending transmission machinery was issued to all factories in the province. It was not till the latter part of the year that all factories had been supplied with the poster, and it is too ~~early~~ early to judge the ~~the~~ educative influence of the poster on the workers.

Housing of Factory Operatives. - 269 additional quarters (198 single and 71 double) were constructed in 15 districts during the year. In addition to these the Cawnpore Improvement Trust built 24 Double, "A" Type quarters each consisting of two rooms, a store room, kitchen, verandah, latrine and courtyard; 20 Single "B" Type, quarters each consisting of one room, verandah, latrine and courtyard, and 20 Single "C" Type quarters each consisting of one room and a verandah.

Hours of Employment. - The majority of factories worked up to the maximum limit allowed by the Act. 62 factories worked less than 48 hours per week, 30 between 48 and 54 hours, while 325 factories worked more than 54 hours. Labour was plentiful in all districts throughout the year.

Welfare Work. - According to the report, there was no material progress in welfare work during the year under report, but the beneficent work already existing was continued. The British India Corporation, Limited, Cawnpore, built six quarters for a Segregation Hospital in their settlements and their medical staff treated a total of 163,451 persons. Their maternity and child welfare service had a very satisfactory record during the year. The schools in the settlement of the above corporation were well attended, the average daily attendance being over 500.

A workmen's welfare committee was set up in the Government Harness and Saddlery Factory, Cawnpore, and their recommendations were forwarded to Army Headquarters for orders.

The Mazdoor Sabha, the workers' organisation, has its own building in which the Sabha maintains a library and a reading room for members and a small dispensary where over 11,000 persons were treated.

(Previous References:-

|  | Pages | Month of Report. |
|--|-------|------------------|
| Working of the Act in U.P. during 1928 | 25-27 | Oct. 1929        |
| " " " 1929                             | 29-31 | Nov. 1930        |
| " " " 1930                             | 27-29 | Sept. 1931).     |

Trade Union Unity Conference, madras - 1932.

Full details regarding the split in Indian labour ranks which occurred at Nagpur in 1929 (vide pages 24-29 of the November 1929 report of this Office) and of the several steps that have been taken to heal the schism have been given in previous reports of this Office. The first definite step in the direction of healing the split, as will be remembered, was taken on 10-5-1931 at Bombay by holding a Conference under the auspices of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. This Conference, attended by 42 trade unions, appointed a Committee — the Trade Union Unity Committee — in order to formulate proposals for effecting a union between the All India Trade Union Congress and the All India Trades Union Federation (vide pages 55-56 of our May 1931 Report). The Report of the Committee was published in April 1932 (vide pages 25-27 for a summary of the Report. A copy of the Report was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/1482/32 of 9-6-32). In order to consider the Report of the Trade Union Unity Committee and, if possible, to adopt a "Platform of Unity", a Trade Union Unity Conference was held at Madras on 14 & 15-7-32 under the auspices of the All India Railwaymen's Federation with Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta in the chair. The following is a brief summary of the proceedings of the Conference. (A special report of the proceedings of the Conference was sent by Air Mail with this Office's minute A.1/2057/32 dated 25-7-32).

The Conference was attended by 108 delegates from all over India representing 54 Trade Unions. Prominent among those present were Messrs. Joshi, Bakhale, Chitnis and Khedgikar of Bombay, Mr. Ghani of the Punjab, Mr. L.I. Aiyar of Bangalore, and Messrs Giri,

Shiva Rao, Ramaswami Mudaliar, V.V.Sastri, V.L.Sastri and Basu Dev of Madras. No representative of the All India Trade Union Congress was present. Mr. C. Basudev of the Central Labour Board, Madras, welcomed the delegates to Madras. Mr. Jammadas Mehta then read his presidential address, a summary of which is given below.

Summary of Presidential Address. - In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Jammadas Mehta emphasised the necessity for complete unity among labourers ranks, especially at the present time when labour is passing through a crisis as a result of the economic depression. He put in a vigorous plea for developing the trade union movement of India along independent lines. He said, "We should not be open to the suspicion of being the ante-chamber of the Government on the one hand and the dupes of Moscow on the other". He uttered a grave warning against developing the Indian movement along communistic lines and declared that the ideal of the Indian trade union movement should be socialism and not communism. Mr. Mehta next referred briefly to the more important recommendations made by the Trade Union Unity Committee, viz., those regarding the definition of the <sup>term</sup> ~~word~~ 'Trade Union' and the functions of a trade union, the participation of trade unions in politics, the demands of labour, the affiliation of <sup>the proposed</sup> Central Labour Organisation of the country to <sup>the</sup> I.F.T.U. and the representation of Labour at <sup>the</sup> sessions of the International Labour ~~Conference~~ Conference. Dealing with the last recommendation of the Committee, namely, the representation of Labour at <sup>the</sup> Sessions of the I.L.Conference, Mr. Mehta said;

"The Committee also advises that India should continue to send delegates to the International Labour Conference at Geneva. The limitations of that Conference are too well-known to be ignored; but all the signatories to the League Covenant are pledged to the following nine points:- (1) Labour should not be regarded as a commodity

for sale. (2) The principle of an adequate wage according to local circumstances. (3) Freedom of combination for all lawful purposes. (4) A forty-eight hours working week. (5) The weekly rest day. (6) Regulation of the labour of young persons and the total abolition of child labour. (7) Proper inspection of factory labour and the enforcement of legislation in regard to it. (8) Complete equality of the sexes in the matter of compensation for equal amount of work. (9) Equal treatment of the non-nationals with the nationals in any country. When this is the programme which the International Labour Conference at Geneva has laid down for itself, no Trade Unionist can wisely decide to boycott it!"

Lastly, Mr. Mehta made a fervent appeal for unity and declared that Labour should work out ~~in~~ its own salvation and that it should not expect too much from the advent of "Swaraj" as the Indian capitalist has not been found to be in any way better in their treatment of labourers than ~~the~~ foreigners. (A printed copy of Mr. J.M. Mehta's presidential address was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute A.1/2057/32 of 25-7-32).

After delivering his presidential address, Mr. Mehta called for a general discussion of the main points raised in the report of the Trade Union Unity Committee, and it was clear that, while some extreme trade unionists, as represented by Dr. Chitnis (Bombay Scavengers' Union) and Mr. R.A. Khedgikar (G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union), were not inclined to accept the remarks and recommendations made in the report against the communists, there was another section represented by Mr. N.M. Joshi and his school, which thought that some of the recommendations in the report were unpractical and that a clearer lead should be given by the Unity Conference against the disruptive methods of the communists. On the second day of the meeting (15th July), Mr. Giri moved the adoption of the report of the Trade Union Unity Committee, and every Article of the "Platform of Unity", as amended by the Trade Union Unity Committee, (see page 10 of the Report of the Trade Union Unity Committee), was taken up for discussion.

In the main Mr. Giri's motion was carried and the report was adopted.

The "Platform of unity" as adopted by the Conference runs as follows:-

Platform of Unity. - I. A trade union is an organ of class struggle; its basic task, therefore, is to organise the workers for advancing and defending their rights and interests; and although 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, Labour and Capital cannot be reconciled in the capitalistic system.

II. That whenever necessary co-operation with the employers in the interests of the workers is not excluded.

III. 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, socialisation and nationalisation of all means of production and distribution as far as possible.

IV. The Indian Trade Union Congress stands for:- (1) freedom of the press; (2) freedom of speech; (3) freedom of Assembly and (4) freedom of organisation.

V. The immediate demands of all the Trade Unions shall be:- (1) A statutory enactment providing a 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 month's 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; (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) Leave with pay to women workers for six weeks preceding and six weeks after child-birth; (11) Abolition of all other systems of recruiting labour except through Trade Unions; (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.

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 or "Amsterdam"; the final decision to be reached in the light of the result achieved.

VII. No representative of any Trade Union should accept nominated seats in the Central or Provincial Legislature and the Central Labour Organisation will be entitled to repudiate the

representative character of a nominee 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 recommend 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.

IX. The methods of achieving the objective of the labour movement shall be peaceful, legitimate and democratic.

X. When unity is achieved, the central organisation that is to be formed will be called "The All India Trade Union Congress".

The Conference then appointed a Committee consisting of Mr. J.M. Mehta (Chairman), Mr. V.V.Giri (Secretary), Messrs. Bakhale, Chitnis, Abdul Ghani, Aftab Ally and Basudev to draft a constitution for an All India Labour Organisation on the lines of the "Platform of Unity" as now revised and to present it to the All-India Trade Union Congress, the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the All-India Trade Union Federation and other labour organisations as well as to unattached unions at a joint conference of these bodies to be convened after the draft is prepared.

The resolution on the "Platform of Unity" adopted by the Conference has been accepted by the All India Trades Union Federation which held its sittings at Madras on the 16th and 17th July 1932 (details re. the Conference of the All India Trades Union Federation are given elsewhere in this report). From a communique issued by the Acting General Secretary of the A.I.T.U.C., it is understood that the Trade Union Congress will be holding its annual session at the end of August 1932 and that one of the important subjects for consideration of the Congress will be ~~the~~ consideration of the "Platform of Unity" adopted by the Trade Union Unity Conference.

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1st Conference of the I.T.U. Federation, Madras, 1932.

The first Conference of the Indian Trades Union Federation was held at Madras on the 16th and 17th July 1932, immediately after the session of the Trade Union Unity Conference held at Madras on the 14th and 15th July. Mr. V.V.Giri, Bar-at-Law, General Secretary of the A.I. Railwaymen's Federation, was in the Chair. The Conference was attended by about 30 delegates from 23 unions from all over India, representing nearly 62,500 members.

The Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. Kotiswaran Mudaliar, in welcoming the delegates said that they were meeting at an auspicious moment with the hope of attaining unity in the labour ranks in the near future and expressed <sup>the</sup> hope that the Federation would accept the proposals of the Unity Conference. He then referred to the crisis through which Labour was passing and the action taken by the Federation to ameliorate those conditions.

The following is a summary of the presidential address delivered by Mr. V.V.Giri:-

Mr. Giri, in his presidential address, fully dealt with <sup>a few of the</sup> more important aspects of the problems confronting Indian labour. After referring to the economic and trade depression and explaining its repercussions on labour welfare, he said that even the Whitley Report, from which labour had expected much, did not come up to expectations and that even the modest recommendations of the Commission were likely to be shelved owing to Government's apathy. He said that the one step necessary for the acceptance of labour's minimum demands was cent per cent organisation of labour in this country. He said that the total number of workers at the present moment in this country is estimated to be between 55 to 60 millions. According to the memorandum prepared by the India Office to the League of Nations, there were nearly 27.8 million agricultural workers employed as farm servants and field labourers. In the transport industry, nearly 1.5 millions are actual workers. Public Administration claims nearly 1 million workers. Industry claims 11.8 millions, while trade claims 4 millions according to census of 1921. The number of organised workers is about 400,000 of which <sup>the</sup> All India Railwaymen's Federation claims about 160,000, <sup>the</sup> All India Trade Union Congress about 104,000, <sup>and the</sup> Indian Trades Union Federation about 664,000. These figures, he said, clearly demonstrated the need for concentrated

activity in the direction of labour organisation.

The problem of unemployment, Mr. Giri said, was of equal importance. In the railways nearly 42,000 were thrown out of work; 50 per cent of Indian seamen were on the waiting list; in the Bombay alone 30,000 textile operatives were on the streets workless; the jute industry of Bengal was at its lowest ebb; and even possibilities of agricultural employment have shrunk. State insurance against unemployment, old-age and invalidity was, therefore, insistently needed. He deplored the fact that though the Government of India had ratified the Unemployment Convention, it has taken no steps to fulfil its obligations under the Convention, despite the vigilance of the I.L.O. In this connection, Mr. Giri said, that some special machinery acting in the same manner as the I.L.O. was necessary for co-ordinating the economic policy of the Government, for conducting labour research and for supervising labour legislation.

Mr. Giri condemned the fissiparous tendencies in the Indian labour movement and criticised severely the communalistic spirit which had recently manifested itself in certain unions. He also condemned the communistic tendencies of the extreme sections of Indian Labour. He put in a vigorous plea for united action and said that politics could not be excluded from the purview of trade union activities. The worker was as much a citizen as anybody else and concerted political action on non-violent lines was necessary on the part of the workers to free the country from the yoke of foreign bondage. In this connection Mr. Giri suggested that it would be desirable if the I.L.O. would take up seriously the question of the removal of political obstacles that stand in the way of the emancipation of the workers, especially in back-ward countries like India. (A copy of Mr. V.V.Giri's presidential address was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute A.1/2057/32 dated 25-7-1932).

The Conference next proceeded to consider the report presented by Mr. R.R.Bakhale, General Secretary of the Federation, on the working of the Federation from December 1929 to June 1932. The Report was adopted by the Conference. ( A full summary of the Report of Mr. Bakhale is given elsewhere in this report).

The Director of this Office, who attended the Federation as an Observer, was requested by the President on the second day of the Conference to address the Conference. In the course of his speech, the Director referred to the <sup>plaudits</sup> good work done by the Indian Labour delegations to the past sessions of the International Labour Conference, and to the resolution adopted by the 15th session of

of the I.L.Conference to hold an Asiatic Labour Conference. He appealed to all the Unions to take a keen interest in the matter so that an Asiatic Labour Conference may be held as early as possible.

Platform of Unity; Referred to Working Committee. - The "Platform of Unity" as adopted at the Trade Union Unity Conference held on 14 & 15-7-32 next came up for discussion. There was keen feeling that the "Platform" should be endorsed by the Federation also. Mr. N.M.Joshi, however, pointed out that in several respects that "Platform" was unworkable, and that it will have to be further implemented and amended. Thus, he was anxious that the new All India Labour Organisation which they wanted to create should affiliate itself definitely to the International Federation of Trade Unions. But this ~~was~~ proposal was lost at the Unity Conference as the members of the Left Wing still wanted to leave this question of affiliation to the discretion of the new Labour Organisation to be called into being, in order that the question may be indefinitely put off. Further, he said that though he was keen on unity, he wanted to proceed cautiously, so that it may be a real unity and *not* a mere paper unity which they were going to achieve. He, therefore, proposed that the Working Committee of the Federation should consider the report and the recommendations of the Unity Committee and the constitution that might be drafted by it. There was vigorous opposition to Mr. Joshi's suggestion, and in the resumed discussion on the next day (17th July), the President of the Unity Conference himself appeared and spoke in favour of the adoption of his report by the Federation. In the result the following resolution was passed by the Federation:-

"This Federation welcomes the efforts made by the Trade Union Unity Conference to establish unity in the ranks of Labour, and while substantially agreeing with a large number of proposals made by the Conference and recognising that there are certain points of importance which remain to be considered, authorises its Working Committee to consider and report upon the recommendations of the Conference after consultation with the affiliated unions. The Federation further authorises the Working Committee to enter into discussions with the representatives of other organisations, if necessary, for facilitating the reconciliation of differing points of view".

Other Resolutions Passed. - The other resolutions passed by the Conference were the following:-

Fundamental Rights. - I.(a) This Federation is emphatically of the opinion that the future constitution for India should have among its essential features:-

- (1) A declaration of fundamental rights guaranteeing inter alia to the workers, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of Assembly and freedom of Organisation, the right to strike, the right to work and provision against old age, unemployment, sickness, etc.

(2) Universal adult suffrage as the basis of franchise.

(3) For a period of three elections after the inauguration of the new constitution and thereafter as long as special representation for other interests remain a feature therein, representation shall be accorded to labour by means of election through Trade Union Constituencies to the same extent as may be conceded to the Capitalist Classes.

(4) Labour Legislation to be made both an All India Central or Federal or Provincial Subject and Provincial Legislatures also ~~shall~~ have the right of Legislation thereon.

(5) The Central (All India or Federal) Government to possess the power of ratifying the conventions and recommendations of the I.L.O., and securing their enforcement ~~throughout~~ throughout India.

(b) This Federation is further of opinion that in any scheme of representation to the Federal Legislatures from the Indian States, the interest of the workers in those states should be safeguarded in the same manner and to the same extent as in British India.

Representation in Legislatures. - II. (a) This Federation is of the opinion that the scheme of representation for workers as recommended by the Indian Franchise Committee falls seriously short of their requirements for the adequate protection of their interests, and strongly urges that the number of seats for workers in all the Legislatures, both Central and Provincial, should be at least 10 per cent. of the total number.

(b) The Federation strongly condemns proposals for the earmarking of seats allotted to the working classes on a communal or racial basis as such proposals are detrimental to the solidarity of the movement and consequently unacceptable to the workers.

Non-affiliation of Communal Unions. - III. This Federation expresses its unqualified condemnation of the efforts made to organise workers on communal or racial lines and resolves that no such Unions or organisations shall be affiliated to the Federation; further, it makes an earnest appeal to the workers in their own interest not to join such organisations and not to encourage or support them in any form.

The Capitalist Tactics Condemned. - IV (a) This Federation views with the deepest disapproval the organised attacks of the Capitalist Class on the rights and standards of life of the workers by means of wage cuts, retrenchment and refusal to recognise the workers' elementary right of organisation.

(b) This Federation condemns the indiscriminate support which the Government accords to the Capitalists in resisting the legitimate demands of the workers by the use of various sections of the Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes and other repressive measures.

(c) This Federation, therefore, calls upon the workers to strengthen their organisations particularly with a view to meet the present menace to their rights and interests.

(d) This Federation makes an earnest appeal to all Employers of labour, whether Government or Private, not to deprive workers of their right, by penalising them for being members of a trade union.

X Speeding up of Whitley Recommendations. - V. This Federation expresses its grave concern at the utterly inadequate efforts made so far by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments in carrying out the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour and urges in particular that immediate action be taken with a view to the introduction of a 48 hours' week, schemes for health and unemployment insurance and maternity benefits, minimum wage for workers, compulsory housing, relief of indebtedness, control of working conditions in un-regulated and seasonal industries, and the organisation of Labour Department as recommended by the Whitley Commission.

Women Workers in Mines. - VI. Whereas the elimination of women workers from underground is already going on on a considerable scale as required by law and whereas miners are greatly suffering because of the sudden fall in their ~~family~~ families' incomes by such elimination without a proportionate increase in the wages of the men miners, this Federation urges on the Government to instruct the Mining Board to enquire into this matter in consultation with the representatives of miners to insure the family income of miners.

Indian Seamen and Climatic Restrictions. - VII. Whereas no climatic restrictions were observed with regard to the employment of Indian seamen during the great war and whereas Indian seamen stood equal to any other maritime labour in all seasons and in all waters and whereas the re-enforcement of these climatic restrictions have thrown out of employment hundreds of Indian seamen, giving room to Chinese and Malayan seamen, this annual Congress of the Indian Trades Union Federation strongly urges upon the Government of India to remove the said climatic restrictions without any further loss of time and thereby to save the Indian Deck Crews, specifically of the Port of Calcutta, from further unemployment and its consequent hardships

Office Bearers. - The following Office bearers were elected by the Conference:

President: Mr. M.K. Bose of Bengal, Vice-President: Mr. Aftab Ally, General Secretary: Mr. R.R. Bakhale, Assistant General Secretary: Mr. S. V. Parulekar.

General Council. - The following persons were chosen to form the General Council of the Federation; Messrs. K.C. Roy Chaudhary, M.K. Bose and Aftab Ally of Bengal, Messrs. Syed Munawar, N.M. Joshi and S.V. Parulekar of the Bombay Presidency, Messrs. B. Shiva Rao, K.T. Bashyam, S.R. Varadarajulu, M.S. Kotiswamy, G. Selva Pathy Chatterjee & V.M. Ramaswami Mudaliar of the Madras Presidency, Messrs. M.A. Ghani & Diwan

Chaman Lal of the Punjab, Mr. P. C. Bose of Jharia, Mr. R.W.Fulay of Nagpur, and Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao of the West Coast.

Working Committee. - A Working Committee consisting of messrs. N.M.Joshi, B. Shiva Rao, P.C. Bose, M.A.Ghani, R. W. Fulay and K.T.Bashyam was also elected.

1933 Conference. - It was also decided to hold the next year's session of the Federation at Lahore.

Progress of Indian Trades Union Federation -1929-1932\*

The following information about the activities of the Indian Trades Union Federation and the progress achieved by it during the period December 1929 - to June 1932, is taken from the report for the period submitted by the Secretary of the Federation to the General Meeting of ~~the~~ the Federation which met at Madras on 16 & 17-7-32.

Origin. - The circumstances under which the Federation came to be organised were unfortunate and deplorable. Between the years 1920 and 1929 the Indian Trade Union Movement grew and developed under the auspices of the All India Trade Union Congress which was the one central body of organised Indian workers. In the year 1927 differences in respect of ideals and methods began to appear on the surface. By the unfortunate removal, due to arrests, of experienced elements in the extremist group of the Congress, matters reached a crisis in the 1929 Nagpur session, which passed certain resolutions, which it was not possible to accept or acquiesce in, without sacrificing some of the fundamental principles. The following were the principal decisions of the All India Trade Union Congress which necessitated a split: - The Boycott of the Whitley Commission, the affiliation of the Congress to the League against imperialism, and to the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat, the rejection of the proposal to hold the Asiatic Labour Congress, the refusal to send delegations on behalf of the Indian workers to future session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva, the recognition of the Workers' Welfare League, the rejection of the offer from His Majesty's Government of a Round Table Conference and the condemnation of the Nehru Report. Because of the above decisions, a large number of influential and strong trade unions had to secede from the All India Trade Union Congress. Representatives of the seceding unions met in conference at Nagpur on 1-12-1929 and took steps to form the All India Trade Union Federation. (For detailed account of the proceedings of the Nagpur session of the A.I.T.U.C. see pages 24-29 of the November 1929 Report of this Office). The Conference appointed a Committee of Management with Mr. V.V.Giri as President and Mr. R.R. Bakhale as Secretary, to organise the A.I.T.U.Federation, to frame a constitution for it and to secure the support of as many Indian Trade Unions as possible. On 20-7-1930, when 7 trade unions accepted the provisional constitution drafted by the Committee of Management, the All India Trade Union Federation formally came into existence.

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\* Indian Trades Union Federation Secretary's Report (From December 1929 to June 1932) - Published by Mr. R.R.Bakhale, Secretary, Indian Trades Union Federation at Federation Office, Servants of India Society Buildings, Sandhurst Road, Bombay 4. - pp.36 + liii

Affiliations and Membership. - The report states that applications for affiliations from trade unions came in very slowly at the beginning, the reasons being the political unrest prevailing in the country, and the unwillingness of many Unions to take the definite step of linking themselves with any section of the divided labour movement. Thus, most of the railway unions which had seceded in 1929 chose to stand aloof from both the A.I.T.U. Federation and the A.I.T.U. Congress. Still the membership of the Federation increased mainly owing to the vigorous propaganda carried on by the Secretary. According to the report, in June 1932 the number of unions affiliated to the Federation was 40, with an approximate membership of 78,000. The provincial distribution of unions affiliated to the Federation was as follows at the end of June 1932:- Bengal - 7, Bihar and Orissa - 1, Bombay - 8, C.P. & Berar - 3, Madras - 16, Punjab - 4, Indian States - 1. The report states that in view of the continued political unrest in the country, the nervousness created among Unions owing to the split in the labour movement, and the present neutral attitude of the railway unions, which on the whole are favourably disposed to the Federation, the strength which the Federation has been able to build up is very encouraging.

Activities of the Federation. - The period under report - December 1929 to June 1932 - the Report states, was a particularly important one as such subjects as trade union unity, the provisional decisions of the Round Table Conference, the franchise for the working classes, the selection of labour delegations to the I. L. Conference at Geneva engaged the attention of the newly started Federation. Owing to various causes, no general meeting of the Federation could be held during the period and the work of the Federation was carried on through Circulars issued by the Secretary to the affiliated Unions. The report states that, during the period under review, no less than 30 circulars were issued by the Secretary.

Labour Platform Defined. - Among these circulars, two require special attention. When the first Round Table Conference was over, it was found that some of the conclusions arrived at were prejudicial to the interests of the working classes and the masses generally and that it was, therefore, necessary to define the labour 'platform' with regard to the important constitutional changes that were seen to be effected. The Federation gave a lead on the subject with a view to mobilise working class opinion on these points and draw the attention of the Unions affiliated to it to the following points:-

(a) That in any constitution for India there should be a declaration of Fundamental Rights guaranteeing to the workers, inter alia, the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the freedom of association and the right to strike, the right to work and provision against old age, invalidity, etc.

(b) That the constitution for India should provide for adult franchise as the basis of election to the legislatures.

(c) That labour legislation and its administration should be made a federal subject.

(d) That co-equal powers should be given to the federal and provincial legislatures and that a provision should be inserted in the constitution that the legislation of the federal legislature shall prevail over that of the provincial legislatures.

(e) That the federal government should possess the power of ratifying the Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Organisation and secure its enforcement through the whole of federal India.

Franchise Problem. - The report states that the deliberations of the Indian Franchise Committee brought to the fore the question of what share labour should have in the political electorate. The Federation advised affiliated Unions to emphasise the following points in the memoranda that they were to submit to the Franchise Committee:-

(a) Adult franchise should be introduced and constituencies framed, preferably on the direct vote.

(b) If the introduction of adult franchise on the basis of the direct vote is likely to create unwieldy constituencies, some age limit, say 25 or 30 years, should be imposed on all classes, so as to limit the number of voters.

(c) Even if adult franchise is introduced, labour may not get for some years adequate representation, owing to lack of organization; and, therefore, separate constituencies of registered trade unions should be created and maintained in sufficient numbers for about 20 years.

(d) In the general electorates where there is a large number of working class population, it should be insisted that a certain number of seats would be reserved for the workers and peasants.

(e) The central legislature — particularly the Legislative Assembly — should consist of between 500 to 600 members, the provincial legislatures of large provinces should consist of between 300 to 400 members and those of smaller provinces of between 200 to 250 members. In each of these legislatures including the Council of State, labour should be given at least 10 p.c. of the seats.

Labour Representation in Legislatures. - The report gives the following list of persons connected with the Federation who have been either elected or nominated to the Indian legislatures, fresh elections to which took place at the end of 1930:- Legislative Assembly - Mr. N.M.Joshi (nominated); Bengal Council - Messrs. K.C. Roy Chaudhary and Latafat Hussain (both nominated); Bombay Council - Messrs. Syed Munawar and R.R.Bakhale (both nominated); and Mr. S. Asavale (elected) and Dr. B.R.Ambedkar (nominated); C. P. Council - Mr. R. W. Fulay (nominated); Punjab Council - Mr. Abdul Ghani (nominated); Madras Council - Mr. V.M. Ramaswami Moodaliar (elected).

Labour Legislation. - The report gives the following brief summary of recent labour legislation in the Central and Provincial Legislatures:-

Central Legislature. - The Government of India have begun to take, though slowly, some action on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India. They have brought forward in the Legislative Assembly three Bills all of which are based, more or less, on the recommendations of the Royal Commission. The first Bill repeals the Employers and the Workmen (Disputes) Act of 1860. It had practically ceased to be used anywhere in the country and involved the principle of criminal breach of contract. The Bill has been passed into law. The second Bill amends the Workmen's compensation Act of 1923. The third Bill, the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Bill, removes some of the restrictions on the recruitment of labour for Assam tea estates and creates a Controller of Emigrant Labour, with adequate staff to administer the system which the Bill seeks to establish. It also provides for <sup>certain rights</sup> ~~a small~~ rights regarding repatriation. As regards the revision of the law relating to factories, as recommended by the Royal Commission, the Government of India have recently issued a circular letter, to the provincial Governments and others interested in the subject, detailing the recommendations of the said Commission and their views on them. To this circular is appended a draft Bill prepared by the Government of India on the subject and they have invited the opinions of those concerned, by the 1st December 1932. This draft Bill seeks to reduce the present 60 hours a week and 11 hours a day provision to 54 hours a week and 10 hours a day respectively. The Government of India has issued another circular asking for the opinions of the provincial Governments and others, regarding the desirability for legislation on the lines of the Employers' Liability Act of Great Britain.

Provincial Legislatures. - A few Bills have also been introduced in the provincial legislatures by some of the labour members. Mr. Syed Munavar, in the Bombay Council, and Mr. Fulay, in the C.P. Council, have introduced Money Lenders Bills, Mr. Fulay has given notice to introduce a Bill regulating the unregulated factories in the Central Provinces and Berar. Mr. Ghani has also introduced one or two Bills affecting the interests of Labour in the Punjab Legislative Council. Mr. Bakhale has introduced in the Bombay Council two Bills to amend the Primary Education Acts so as to increase the upper age limit of primary education from 11 to 12. He has further given notice of a Bill to amend the Karachi Port Trust Act, so as to give representation to labour on the Karachi Port Trust Board of Trustees.

General Labour Conditions. - In a general review of labour conditions in all the Indian provinces, the report states that conditions in almost all trades and industries have gone from bad to worse. While the economic and trade depression is one of the causes for this, the report points out that the weakness of the Trade Union movement made it extremely difficult for workers to resist the attacks of the employers on their standards of life and that the result was retrenchment, wage-cuts, strikes and lock-outs in many industries. Where the Unions were strong, benefits resulted from strikes. The report gives concrete instances where employers have refused to recognise Unions, and other cases where the law

has been impressed by the employers and the government authorities to curb the activities of Unions. The arrests, prosecutions and convictions of labour leaders, all over the country, according to the Report, have given a definite set-back to legitimate trade union activities. Particular attention is drawn to the depressed condition of the jute industry in Bengal, to the plight of railwaymen threatened with wholesale retrenchments, and seamen faced with chronic unemployment.

References to the I.L.O. - The report contains several references to the I.L.O. It deals at length with the work of the Indian labour delegations to the I.L.Conference sessions of 1930, 1931 and 1932. A summary of the progress that has hitherto been made in the matter of holding an Asiatic Labour Conference under I.L.O. auspices is also included. Reference is also made to a meeting of the overseas representatives on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. held at Geneva in 1932 which Mr. N.M.Joshi attended, where the following questions were considered;- (1) How non-European bodies could derive the largest possible benefit from the I.L.O. (2) The desirability of bringing subjects of importance to non-European countries on the agenda of the I.L.Conference. (3) Adequate representation of non-European countries on the Governing Body and Committees. (4) Representation of non-European countries on the staff of the I.L.O. The report also makes a feeling reference to the late M. Albert Thomas and congratulates the new Director.

Fraternal Delegations. - The following list is given of important national and international meetings attended by members of the Federation. Messrs. S.C.Joshi and Muhammad Umar Rajab in 1930, Mr. Bakhale in 1931, and Mr. Chaman Lall in 1932 attended the meetings of the Executive Committees of the International Federation of Trade Unions. Messrs. Shiva Rao and N.M.Joshi attended the British Trades Union Congress annual sessions in 1930 and in 1931 as fraternal delegates from India. Mr. Rajab was also present at the 1930 sessions.

Finances. - The income of the Federation for the period 9-12-29 to 9-7-32 amounted to Rs. 5,080-14-7 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,868-10-6, the balance being Rs. 2,212-4-1. The affiliation fees amounted only to Rs. 437-8-0 and the report points out that many Unions are in arrears in respect of affiliation dues. The British Trades Union Congress donated Rs. 637-11-0 and the International Federation of Trade Unions Rs. 3,520-3-7 to the funds of the Federation, for which the report makes handsome acknowledgement to the two bodies. At the same time it is pointed out that financial help was given by these two bodies solely with a view to build up a strong Trade Union movement in India and not with any ulterior intention of influencing the policy of the Federation.

Central Labour Board - Madras.

Office-Bearers for 1932-33.

At page 63 of the report of this Office for May 1931, reference was made to a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Central Labour Board, Madras, held on 27-5-31 when a resolution, among others, was passed to the effect that efforts should be made to induce all the labour Unions of Madras to affiliate themselves to the Central Labour Board. Since then, it would appear, that the Central Labour Board has succeeded in securing the affiliations of several Unions of Madras city, which in the beginning were not agreeable to the idea of affiliation to the Board. In July 1932 the Board had about 34 unions affiliated to it. A general body meeting of the Board was held at Madras on 9-7-32 when 90 representatives from 34 unions were present. The following office-bearers for 1932-33 were elected by the meeting:-

President: Mr. T.V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar; Vice-Presidents: (1) Mr. P.R.K. Sarma, (2) Mr. R. Sabapathy Mudaliar, and (3) Mr. B. Shiva Rao; Joint Secretaries: (1) Mr. C. Basu Dev, and (2) Mr. N.S. Koteswaran Mudaliar; Treasurer: Mr. P.V. Subramania Mudaliar.

The election of the 10 members of the Executive Committee was adjourned for the purpose of amending the constitution of the Board so as to give representation for every Union on the Executive Committee. Mr. Basu Dev congratulated the members of the board on the enthusiasm they exhibited in the cause of Labour, and said that ~~that~~ it was a happy day, which saw the closing up of ranks of <sup>the</sup> <sup>Indian</sup> Labour in Madras.

Intellectual Workers.

8th Annual Meeting of Bombay Teachers' Union, Bombay, 1932.

The eighth session of the annual general meeting of the Bombay Teachers' Union was held at Bombay on 7-7-1932 with Miss C.C. Thompson, Principal, St. Colomba High School for Girls, in the chair. The following persons were elected to the Executive Committee after the annual report for 1931-32 and statement of accounts of the Union for the above period were adopted by the meeting:

President.- Mr. H.V. Hampton, Principal, Secondary Training College. Secretaries.- Mr. M.R. Ingle, Assistant Master, Ram Mohan English School, and Mr. N. Nanabhai, Assistant Master, Wilson High School. ~~Treasurer~~ Treasurer.- Mr. Y.M. Rane, Assistant Master, St. Sebastian Goan High School.

In addition to the above office-bearers, ~~the~~ an Executive Committee of six ordinary members was also elected.

All the <sup>institutions</sup> mentioned above, in which the newly elected members of the Executive Committee of the Union are employed, are situated in Bombay City.

(The Times of India, 14-7-1932)

Economic Conditions.

New Cotton Contracts Act, Bombay

Bill Circulated for Opinion.

The Government of Bombay have circulated among the principal commercial and business bodies in Bombay, including the East Indian Cotton Association, the Bombay Cotton Brokers' Association, the Bombay Millowners' Association and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the text of the new Bill which will be introduced at the next session of the Bombay Legislative Council regulating transactions in cotton. These bodies have been requested to forward their views on the proposed measure.

Provisions of the Bill. - The new Bill seeks to give certain wide powers, which Government could enforce in times of emergency. It materially differs from the present Cotton Contracts Act in three respects. Firstly, it is proposed to acquire powers to recognize any association which applies to Government for official recognition. Hitherto the East India Cotton Association has been the only recognized body competent to control the cotton trade in Bombay. The Bill provides; " A cotton association, desirous of being recognized for the purpose of this Act, shall make an application in writing to the Governor-in-Council for such recognition and shall submit by-laws for the regulation and control of transactions in cotton and furnish such information in regard to such recognition as the Governor-in Council may from time to time require. The Governor-in-Council may give or refuse such recognition, provided no such recognition shall be given unless the by-laws submitted by the cotton association shall have been published in the Bombay Government Gazette at least one month before the date of such recognition." The Bill also recognizes the East India Cotton Association for the purposes of the Act.

Secondly, the Bill seeks to give special powers to Government to withdraw the recognition given to any cotton association. The section referring to this point says:- "The Governor-in-Council may at any time withdraw recognition given to a cotton association which shall thereupon cease to be a recognized cotton association".

Further, the Bill provides emergency powers, under which Government may supersede any Board of Directors and may appoint "in place of such Board such persons as they think fit to constitute a Board of Control and may also appoint one of their members to be chairman." These are fundamental changes in the New Bill.

Opposition of Indian Merchants. - The proposed Bill has created great dissatisfaction among the members of the East India Cotton Association, which body at present enjoys a monopoly of the cotton brokerage business in Bombay. On 29-7-32, a special meeting of the Association was held to discuss the attitude which it should adopt towards the proposed measure, but the meeting had to be postponed as no definite conclusion could be reached at the meeting.

The Government is introducing the Bill in view of the fact that the control of the cotton trade is largely in the hands of Congress sympathisers and that as a result trading in cotton has been very irregular during the last two years owing to frequent hartals. Another factor is that boycott of European firms and even of those Indian firms which have done business in defiance of the Congress has been successfully enforced by the Congress faction which at present controls the Association. The existing cotton Contracts Act expires by 31-8-32 and the Government is hopeful that the new Bill when passed will make free trading in cotton possible in Bombay city.

Extension of Tata's Steel Plant; Directors Sanction Scheme.

It is learned on good authority that the Board of Directors of the Tata Iron and Steel Company have recently considered detailed schemes for the extension of the plant for producing steel sheets, both black and galvanized, and they have sanctioned a scheme which will enable them to bring their annual output up to about 25,000 tons black sheets and over 90,000 tons galvanized sheets, which will mean double the present output. The extension has been planned in two stages, the first of which should be in operation before the

end of 1933, and the second during 1934. This extension should enable the Company to supply about three-quarters of the Indian demand for galvanized sheets at the present rate of consumption and it is so designed as to leave scope for a further increase of output by 50,000 tons when circumstances justify further development.

Impetus to Hyderabad Industries; Tariff Alterations.

The review of industrial progress issued by the Commerce and Industry Department of Hyderabad State for the year 1340 Fasli ( 1931 — 32 . ) reveals that a determined drive is being made by the State authorities to stimulate industries in the State and to attract industrialists from outside the State to start new industrial enterprises in Hyderabad. In addition to taking vigorous action to improve local industries, the State has taken various constructive steps during the period under review to make the industrial facilities of Hyderabad attractive to outside capitalists. Thus, during the year under report, a scheme for the reservation and laying out of an industrial area, offering special advantages for a concentration of different industrial concerns, was submitted to the Nizam and received his sanction. The work of laying out the area has commenced and some plots have already been sold. Another advantage held out to industrialists is that no income tax is levied in the State. Further, there is an ad valorem duty of 5 per cent on all manufactured articles imported into the State. These facilities combined with a railway system radiating in all directions from the capital and joined to the main lines of British India, will, it is hoped, be taken full advantage of, and that as the present

world-wide depression passes away opportunities for establishing factories will attract increasing attention. Another important measure in this direction passed during the year was the issue of orders for the exemption of all manufactured articles from export duty and a number of raw materials from import duty. The Octroi levied in Hyderabad City was also abolished. The principles accepted by the Government require further detailed orders, and a new schedule is now under consideration.

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Diversion of Trade from Bombay; Demand for Investigation Committee

The unprecedented trade depression, coupled with the increasing diversion of trade from Bombay to the Kathiawar ports, has hit the Bombay docks very hard and rendered several of them idle. Inquiries recently made in the dock area of Bombay city reveal that deplorable conditions are prevailing in some of the most prominent docks which, until recently, were busy for almost 24 hours a day. According to an Associated Press report published in the Statesman of 26-7-32, out of the 23 wharfs in the Alexandra Docks, the premier dock in Bombay, over 15 are idle. The same is true of various other docks; for instance, in the Princes Dock eight wharfs out of 20 and in the Victoria Dock nine out of 15 are idle. If the present state of ~~xx~~ affairs continues for some time and the diversion of trade increases - as it threatens to do in the near future - then the Bombay Port Trust will soon have to consider what they should do to safeguard their interests against competition from the Kathiawar ports.

Public opinion in Bombay city has already begun to express itself and favours immediate action in the matter by the Government. It is being felt that if the competition of the Kathiawar ports is allowed to continue unchecked, the port of Bombay would decline, and incidentally cause further unemployment among Bombay seamen. The Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber has requested ~~that~~ the Bombay Government to appoint a representative committee to inquire into the matter and to recommend what preventive action should be taken.

Textile Crisis Precipitated by Japanese 'Dumping'

Tariff Board Inquiry Ordered.

The Government of India have recently been receiving representations from the Bombay Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association requesting them to take immediate action to impose additional duties on cotton manufactures imported from Japan in view of the recent fall in the price of such goods occasioned by the depreciation of the yen in terms of the rupee. This request has been supported by a number of Chambers of Commerce and other commercial associations including the Bombay, Bengal, Upper India, Karachi and Mysore Chambers of Commerce, the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, and the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay. (A representative deputation of the interests concerned led by Mr.H.P. Mody waited, in this connection, on the Commerce Member of the Government of India on 11-7-1932). While the majority of these representations have laid special stress on the need for immediate action of

the nature indicated in respect of manufactures of cotton, a further request has been made to the Government of India to take power to impose additional duties upon articles of various kinds, the price of which has been similarly affected by the depreciation of the currency in the country of origin. (The principal industries, other than the textile industry, affected are the cement, paint, shoe and hosiery industries).

As a result of the urgent representations made, the Government of India have decided to refer the question whether the imposition of additional duties under Section 3(5) of the Indian Tariff Act is required and what further action should be taken to protect Indian interests, to the Tariff Board. The terms of reference of the Tariff Board Inquiry, according to a Government of India communique dated 25-7-32, are as follow:-

To report whether cotton piecegoods, not of British manufacture, are being imported into British India at such a price as is likely to render ineffective the protection intended to be afforded by the duty imposed on such articles under part VII of the second schedule of the Indian Tariff Act of 1894, by the Cotton and Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930, to similar articles manufactured in India and if so to consider:

(a) To what extent, if any, the duty on cotton piecegoods not of British manufacture should be increased and whether in respect of cotton piecegoods (plain grey) only or of cotton piecegoods (others) only;

(b) whether the duty should be increased generally or in respect of such articles when imported from or manufactured in any country or countries specified; and

(c) for what period any additional protection found to be required should be given and to make recommendations.

On 26-7-32 a deputation representative of Japanese commercial interests waited on the Commerce Member to present the Japanese side of the case. Mr. Urabe, the leader of the Deputation, vigorously

denied the charge of 'dumping' and pointed out that Japan in 1930-31 imported Rs.239 million worth of goods from India and exported to that country only Rs.145 million worth. The increase of Japanese exports to India was, he argued, due to abnormal, temporary factors such as the crisis over the gold standard in Japan, the Far Eastern situation, the alarm in India over an impending cotton famine, and the bullish sentiment of American cotton. He denied that the Japanese Government had either deliberately lowered the exchange or subsidized the export trade, and argued that one reason for the low price of Japanese goods was the rationalization carried out in Japan.

The Commerce Member, in his reply, invited the Japanese deputation to lay its case before the Tariff Board Inquiry.

As the matter is one of extreme urgency it is expected that the Tariff Board will report at an early date.

New Cottage Industries Institute, Hyderabad State.

Hyderabad State, Deccan, has been making in recent years sustained efforts to revive the drooping cottage industries of the State and to put them on a stable footing. The most important cottage industries of the State are handloom weaving, dyeing and printing. It is estimated that one-third of the cloth worn in Hyderabad is manufactured on handlooms, while the industry uses raw materials consisting of yarn, silk, dyes and gold and silver lace to the value of about 15 million rupees, or approximately 10 per cent of the total value of the articles imported into the State. After agriculture, hand-loom weaving and dyeing are much the most important industries in the State. Although hand-loom weaving has held its own in a wonderful manner against the products of the power-loom, the weavers of the State as a body are illiterate, ignorant and ill-organised. It is the object of the Department of Industries and Commerce of the State to teach the indigenous weavers improved methods and new designs so as to enable them to hold their own against increasing competition, both inside and outside the State.

With this object in view, a Cottage Industries Institute has been opened on 4-7-1932 at Mushirabad, a place near Hyderabad City, the capital of the State. Together with the existing industrial institutions in the State, such as the Technical School at ~~Sarurnagar~~ Sarurnagar, the Osmania Central Technical Institute at Hyderabad and a small one styled the Barton Technical School in Secunderabad, it is hoped the new Cottage Industries Institute will play an important part in developing the cottage industries of the State.

Scope of Activities of the Institute.- The principal work of the Institute, which has been placed in charge of the Textile Expert of the State, is the organisation of demonstration parties for teaching by practical demonstration to weavers, dyers and other classes of

artisans in the villages improved methods of weaving, the use of the latest implements and accessories, such as the fly-shuttle and the dobby, and the correct and artistic use of different kinds of dyes and colours. A great advantage of the system is that the ~~class of~~ village artisans ~~are~~ taught these latest methods etc. in their own homes and this, it is pointed out, will act as a deterrent to the ~~the~~ rush of artisans from villages to congested industrial centres in urban areas. In addition to such practical teaching work, the Institute is to manufacture improved looms and dobbies and supply them to weavers. The Institute is also to be a place where research will be carried on as to the best kind of looms and accessories. It is also hoped that the Institute will, in course of time, be able to offer the weavers new and attractive designs which are likely to enhance the marketing possibilities of the finished products. In order to sell the product of the Institute a Sales Depot has also been established.

Minor Cottage Crafts.- While the new Institute is mainly concerned with the handloom industry and the allied crafts of dyeing and printing, the research work carried on in the Institute will also contribute substantially to the improvement of small cottage industries and to the introduction of new ones. With this purpose in view, special sections have been included for knitting, canework, embroidery, toy-making, durry-making, munda-making and the like, while a small woollen plant has been installed in order to see whether it is possible to increase the use of Hyderabad wool which is exported in its raw state in large quantities.

Cost of Institute and Yearly Running Expenses.- The Institute has cost Rs. 122,738 to erect and Rs. 54,016 to equip. The gross annual cost of running the Institute is Rs. 92,895 and the immediate estimated income from its products is put at Rs. 43,300. The authorities are hopeful that after two or three years' working, the working expenses will be reduced to Rs. 30,000 per year.

Employment and Unemployment.

Industrial Occupations for the Unemployed: A Bengal Scheme.

The Minister-in-Charge, Industries Department, Government of Bengal, issued a circular a few months back calling forth schemes which, without entailing heavy outlay on the part of the Government, would, in themselves, offer a medium of lucrative employment to as many young men as possible. In response thereto, an Indian member of the Bengal Legislative Council has submitted a scheme, in which he suggests a number of small industries not requiring a large capital nor elaborate machinery for their establishment, in which young men of respectable families could find a living for themselves.

The industries suggested include:- brass and bell-metal works (requiring a capital of Rs.500); soap-making (Rs. 400 to Rs.500); cutlery (Rs.700); pottery (Rs.500 to Rs.600); paddy husking (Rs.300); umbrella-making (Rs.500); hosiery (Rs.500 to Rs.600); conch-shell bangle making (Rs. 500); jute weaving (Rs. 300); and boot and shoe-making (Rs.500).

All the industries mentioned above have been more or less completely investigated and their economics fully studied. It is estimated that each of these industries will bring in a monthly income of Rs.100 to 150 a month. It is suggested that the Minister should take steps at once to start training classes in all these subjects and attract suitable men to them and that Government should help the trained men in buying the required machinery on the hire-purchase system.

Middle Class Unemployment in Bombay Presidency.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, has now under consideration a proposal for conducting an inquiry into the extent of and remedies for unemployment among the middle classes in Bombay Presidency. At the quarterly meeting of the Chamber held on 24-7-1932, Mr. K.T. Shah moved a resolution stating that it was the opinion of the Chamber that unemployment among the middle classes in the city had assumed serious proportions and that, therefore, the Chamber should appoint a representative committee to consider the problem in all its bearings and suggest remedies to end or minimise the evil. An amendment being moved that the proposition be referred to the Executive Committee of the Chamber, the proposition has been referred to the Executive Committee.

Social Conditions

Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency,  
1931-32.\*

The following is a summary of the report on the working of the settlements established under the Criminal Tribes Act, and allied institutions in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31-3-1932, submitted by the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer, Bombay Presidency, to the Government of Bombay.

Population.- The total population of settlements as it stood on 31-3-1932 was 7,786 as against 8,842 a year ago. There is a fall of 1,056. During the year, 935 persons including dependents were released on license to Free Colonies attached to settlements and 301 persons including dependents to villages. 78 registered persons with 105 dependents were interned in settlements on the recommendation of the Police. Out of the number discharged from settlements on license, 42 persons including dependents were recalled to settlements during the year for breach of the conditions of license. A number of persons ceased to be legal dependents on account of the death of the principal members or the cancellation of their registrations for old age or good conduct. The excess of births over deaths in the ~~settlements~~ settlements was 179 during the year. The population of the Free Colonies increased ~~by~~ from 4,982 to 5,752 during the year.

Employment.- The report states that, owing to trade depression and unstable economic conditions, very strenuous efforts were needed to keep employment in the various settlements at its normal level during the year. The majority of settlers were employed in Spinning and Weaving Mills, Railway Workshops and Factories. All the new arrivals, with the exception of some of the dangerous characters who were interned in the Reformatory Section of the Bijapur Settlement, were sent to the Nira Projects Settlement where unskilled labour was available. The report notes that, considering the acute depression existing throughout the country, Settlement Managers are to be congratulated on their success in keeping the people under them in work.

Health, Housing and Sanitation.- A high standard of health was maintained among the inmates of the settlements and free colonies. There was no serious epidemic. The settlers in the sub-settlement at Kambharganvi were subjected to a good deal of malaria during the cold season. Cholera was prevalent in many districts where settlements are located but, with the co-operation of Municipal Health Departments, most of the settlers were inoculated as a result of which only 12 fatal cases occurred during the year under review. An ~~increasing~~ tendency on the part of the settlers to avail themselves of the treatment

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\* Annual Administration Report on the Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency. Part I. (Price - anna 1 or 1d).  
Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1932. pp. 31+2.

provided by the settlement Dispensaries had a great effect in warding off sickness and bettering the standard of health amongst the children.

The great majority of settlers live in huts constructed at their own expense. The report states that, in the earlier stages of reformation, this is healthier than living in houses on account of the huts being open to the air and sun and the surroundings being kept in a sanitary condition. Careful attention was paid to the allotment of sanitary house sites with plots demarcated, both in the Free Colonies and inside settlements. The report notes with satisfaction that the practice of building substantial residences in the free colonies is increasing among the reformed settlers who have been discharged on license.

Education.- Education in settlements is compulsory. Out of a population of 7,786 in ~~settled~~ settlements proper, the number attending the day and night schools was 1,976 and 298 respectively. The corresponding figures for the free colonies were 1,090 and 152 respectively against a population of 5,752. This shows a rate of 292.3 per thousand for settlements and 215.9 for free colonies. Prominence was given to manual training which is a special feature of settlement schools. During the year 56 boys passed the examinations in carpentry and drawing, and 20 the examination in weaving, held by the Committee of Direction for Technical Instruction. Training in agriculture was also given to some boys in agricultural settlements. The report expresses satisfaction at the great advance in literacy, as children of both sexes pass on to the higher standards. In general, the school work showed a marked improvement during the year.

Co-operation.- The various Credit and Producer's societies have had a successful year's working and were in a stable condition. The Gadag Producer's Society took up two contract works from the Irrigation Department in the Dharwar district in order to provide work for settlers. The works were not completed by the close of the year under review, but the position was encouraging. Special attention was being paid to increasing the deposits from settlers in order to provide them with a small capital for purchasing lands or building houses on the eve of their discharge on license. Loans were granted to settlers only in approved cases, in order to avoid the risk of bad debts. The Staff Co-operative Society of the Backward Class Department made satisfactory progress and the share capital ~~as~~ stood on 31-3-1932 was Rs.5,755.

Free Colonies.- The majority of persons released from settlements had no permanent place of residence prior to their internment. These are encouraged to take up plots and build houses in the Free Colonies attached to most settlements in order to prevent them from reverting to their wandering habits after their period of internment is over. It is of course open to members of all tribes to settle down in these colonies, but the need in their ~~own~~ case is not so strong as with members of wandering tribes who are specially liable to relapse into their former ways. In most of these colonies, the habit of building good houses was spreading. Gadag, Baramati and Sholapur, in particular, have reason to congratulate themselves, and the development of this feature of the settlement administration is reported to be everywhere satisfactory. The report remarks that the steady rise in the population of the Free Colonies in the year under report, the great increase in the number of decent houses built by the colonists themselves, and the increase in the actual number of Free Colonies, are a sure indication of the measure of success attained in the progress towards reclamation.

Special Establishments.- The number in the Women's Home at Hubli as it stood on 31-3-1932 was 12. This institution is meant for immoral and troublesome women. 18 women were newly admitted during the year and 27 were discharged. The Children's Homes and Hostels at Hubli, Sholapur and Baramati continued to work satisfactorily. Children who ~~are~~ neglected by their parents, or commit petty thefts or become truants or are uncontrollable by their guardians or Probation Officers, are segregated in these Homes. The number of ~~inmates~~ inmates at the close of the year was 80. During the year 10 were admitted into the Homes and 18 were discharged. There had been a gradual decline in the number of children who are sent to the Children's Homes.

(The working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency during 1930-31, was reviewed at pages 68 - 70 of the July 1931 report of this Office.)

Public Health.

Leprosy Survey in Jute Mill Areas.

The leprosy survey of the jute mill areas in Calcutta which commenced on 1-11-29 under the auspices of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, continued throughout 1931 and was completed by the end of the year. During 1930<sup>1</sup> the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association published two interim reports on the work so far carried out in connection with the survey. But according to the Report of the Committee of the Association for 1931, the Association decided to await the completion of the survey before considering what action, if any, was called on its part. The Association received early in 1932 the final report submitted by the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene on the result of the survey. The report and the suggestions put forward by the Officer-in-Charge of the Leprosy Research Laboratory regarding the steps to be adopted by the jute mills, have been referred to the 1932 Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association. (The Office has written for copies of the Report and, when received, a copy will be forwarded to Geneva).

Health Clinics & Creches for Jute Mills:

Efforts of Indian Jute Mills Association.

The Royal Commission on Labour, while taking evidence from the representatives of the Indian Jute Mills Association, laid considerable emphasis on (a) the need for increased provision of health centres and clinics throughout the Jute Mill areas and (b) the need for the introduction, at individual mills, of creches for the protection of children. The necessity for introducing these two items of

welfare work in jute mills areas was also emphasised in the Report of the Commission. The principal recommendations of the Commission in this respect are given below:-

1. Creches should be provided for children up to the age of 6 years where considerable numbers of women are employed. This requirement should be statutory for places employing 250 women or more. The Factories Act could embody this, with discretionary power to Governments in regard to factories with fewer women (vide pp. 65-66 of the Whitley Commission's report).

2. There should be a more general extension, on the part of the employer, of welfare work in its broader sense (p.260).

3. A hospital of any size should have a woman doctor on its staff, who should be in charge of all activities dealing with the health and welfare of women and children (P. 261).

4. A Government diploma for health visitors should be instituted as the recognised qualification required of all women aspiring to such posts (P. 262).

5. In the larger jute and cotton industrial areas, mills and factories should organise in groups, each establishment having its own welfare centre and health visitor, under the supervision of a woman doctor employed by the group (P.262).

6. In the larger industrial areas, Government, Local Authorities and Industrial Managements should co-operate in the development of child welfare centres and women's clinics. Government should give percentage grants for approved schemes (P. 262).

7. Trained midwives should be obtained for the work in welfare and maternity centres (P.263).

The following information regarding the action taken by the Indian Jute Mills Association on the Whitley Recommendations is taken from the report of the Committee of the Association for the year 1931.

The Committee of the Association, agreeing with the views of the Commission, recommended in March 1930 to the members of the Association that a survey of the mill areas should be undertaken with a view (a) to the selection of localities best suited to the establishment of central health clinics and (b) to the inauguration of creches at individual mills. The replies received indicated that the proposals put forward by the Committee had the support of the mills generally, and that members were prepared to finance the suggested preliminary survey up to a maximum of Rs. 800 per month

for six months. The Committee, at this stage, called in the assistance of the Bengal Training School for Health Welfare Workers, and this led to the appointment, with effect from 29th October 1931, of Dr. Margaret I. Balfour to carry out the survey. (vide page 24 of the report of this Office for December 1931). Dr. Balfour has now completed the preliminary work of the survey, and submitted to the Association an interim report on her findings, embodying the broad lines of a tentative scheme formulated by her after consultation with a special Sub-Committee of the Bengal Training School for Health Welfare Workers. This scheme is under consideration by a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. D.J. Leckie, J. Mein Austin, M.L.C., and G.A. Mason, and Dr. F.H.B. Norrie of the Angus Jute Works. The Sub-Committee have indicated to Dr. Balfour that they approve generally of the lines on which she is working; and they have requested her to prepare the scheme in fuller detail in order that it may be submitted to the incoming Committee for consideration, and thereafter, if so decided, to members of the Association.

Co-operation.Co-operation in the Central Provinces and Berar, 1930-31<sup>2k</sup>

The following information regarding the progress of co-operation in the Central Provinces and Berar in 1930-31 is taken from the Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 30-6-1931, submitted by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies with the C.P. Government.

Societies and Membership.- According to the Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1930-31, the unprecedented economic depression of the year resulted in a partial setback to the co-operative movement and to the policy of eliminating lifeless societies, reorganizing those which are not beyond redemption and organizing fresh ones on cautious lines in suitable areas. 175 new societies were, however, registered. 175 societies were reorganized and 204 societies cancelled. At the end of the year, the number of societies and their membership stood at 4,108 and 125,614, respectively, as against 4,137 and 128,800 respectively in the previous year. Of the 4,108 societies, 3,985 were primary credit societies.

Recoveries.- The total cash recoveries by the Central Banks of the loans outstanding against societies amounted to Rs. 1,251,233 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 857,373 in Berar as against Rs. 1,834,347 and Rs. 1,787,765 respectively in the previous year. These figures represent 16.9 per cent of the total demand of the year which amounted to Rs. 12,462,201, as compared with 34.6 per cent in the preceding

<sup>2k</sup> Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 30th June 1931. Nagpur, Government Printing, C.P., 1932. (Price — Re. 1-8-0). pp. 5+30+lxiv.

year. The abnormal fall in the prices of agricultural produce was no doubt mainly responsible for the poor recoveries, but it is a matter for regret that some of the central banks are not even now doing their best to recover as much as possible.

Cash Advances.- Cash advances to societies decreased from Rs. 1,854,978 to Rs. 1,064,439 in the Central Provinces and from Rs. 1,839,227 to Rs. 794,247 in Berar. The opinion is expressed in the Report that in view of the larger withdrawal of deposits and the general shortage of cash, the banks must conserve their cash resources.

Outstanding Loans.- The loans outstanding against members of societies at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 7,001,815 in the Central Provinces and Rs. ~~1,05~~ 10,511,287 in Berar as against Rs. 6,886,094 and Rs. 9,862,678, respectively in the previous year. The percentage of overdues to the total dues increased from 53 to 62 in the Central Provinces and from 54.1 to 70.3 in Berar. Excluding dues from societies under award and liquidation, the overdues amount to 43.2 percent in the Central Provinces and 47.4 per cent in Berar as against 35.2 per cent and 37.6 per cent respectively in the year before.

Agricultural Credit Societies with Unlimited Liability.- The total number of rural credit societies with unlimited liability decreased from 3,950 to 3,915. 161 new societies were registered against ~~34~~ 324 in the previous year. The working capital of the 3,915 societies excluding those under liquidation decreased from Rs. 17,156,419 to Rs. 16,755,220 and the loans due by members from Rs. 14,351,600 ~~and~~ to Rs. 13,963,521. The total cash recoveries of central bank loans due from societies fell from Rs. 1,460,446 to Rs. 945,184 in the Central Provinces and from Rs. 1,364,700 to Rs. 459,321 in Berar.

Similarly, cash recoveries of loans of societies from members also declined from Rs. 1,765,360 and Rs. 1,733,857 to Rs. 1,239,259 and Rs. 755,908 respectively in the Central Provinces and Berar. The membership of societies other than those under liquidation fell from 59,308 to 58,016. Owing to the fear of the consequences of joint liability, withdrawals of members from societies are increasing every day. The average number of members per society however remained the same as last year, viz., 15.

Central Banks.- The number of central banks increased from 34 to 35, one more central bank being registered towards the close of the year. The total working capital of Central Banks increased from Rs. 24,055,947 to Rs. 24,563,481; share capital declined from Rs. 1,968,632 to Rs. 1,913,859 for the whole province. It fell in the Central Provinces from Rs. 1,237,641 to Rs. 1,178,960 but increased in Berar from Rs. 730,991 to Rs. 734,899; reserve and other funds also increased from Rs. 2,831,464 to Rs. 3,140,998. Of these, Rs. 1,187,277 represents provision for bad and doubtful debts. Bad debts amount to Rs. 587,093 and Rs. 959,539 in the Central Provinces and Berar, and doubtful debts to Rs. 362,784 and Rs. 415,056 respectively. Deposits from individuals fell from Rs. 14,424,531 to Rs. 14,131,258 for the whole province and from Rs. 5,029,543 and Rs. 9,394,991 in the Central Provinces, and Berar ~~to~~ to Rs. 4,782,097 and Rs. 9,349,161 respectively.

Reserve Funds of Societies.- The reserve funds of central banks and societies increased from Rs. 4,677,820 to Rs. 4,799,875. Of the total amount, the Provincial Bank owned Rs. 210,000, the Central Banks Rs. 1,055,299, the primary agricultural societies Rs. 3,387,031 and other kinds of societies Rs. 147,545. These figures include the reserve funds of societies under liquidation which stand at Rs. 353,764.

Reserve funds constitute 4.3 per cent of the working capital of central banks and 18.1 per cent of that of primary societies.

<sup>The</sup> (Progress of Co-operation <sup>the</sup> in the Central Provinces and Berar <sup>movement</sup> during 1928-29 was reviewed at pages 45-46 of the September 1930 report and that for 1929-30 at pages ~~72~~ 70-72 of the September 1931 report of this Office).

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Agriculture

Rural Uplift Work in Baroda:

Working of Kosamba Scheme.

Reference was made at page 63 of the report of this Office for February 1932 to the intention of the Baroda Government to open a rural reconstruction centre at Kosamba, Baroda State. The chief object of the Centre which started working in April 1932 is to enable the village population around the Centre to make all-round advancement, economically, socially and morally. With this object in view a very comprehensive programme of work has been drawn up, not a few of which have already been put into execution.

According to a report on the working of the scheme which has recently been published, the chief activity of the Centre was the introduction of scientific methods of poultry farming, bee keeping and kitchen gardening as subsidiary occupations for agriculturists during periods when there is no agricultural work going on. In order to facilitate the sale of produce and make the above occupations ~~lucrative~~ <sup>FR</sup> lucrative, it is proposed to start a system of co-operative marketing.

Among other activities started at the Centre to promote social and moral uplift of the villages, the most important were (1) organisation of lantern lectures and talks on agriculture, cottage industries, co-operation, sanitation and hygiene and other subjects to improve general knowledge, (2) exhibitions and demonstrations of produce from cottage industries and agriculture in villages in the State from time to time, (3) organisation of <sup>a</sup> village advisory committee in each village and inter-village advisory boards consisting of

delegates from each of the villages to educate the villagers to conduct business meetings and to make concerted action regarding the needs of the villages, (4) opening of a seasonal class at the centre, for the benefit of bonafide village boys, to impart instructions in poultry farming, bee-keeping, gardening and elementary principles of village sanitation, co-operation and recreation, and (5) organisation of rural recreation, such as groups games, physical exercises, Bhajans and singing classes.

Nine villages around the Centre have been the venue of the experiment during the year and the results achieved so far are reported to be highly satisfactory.

Migration.Indian Migration to Malaya & Ceylon - 1931\*

The following information regarding the migration of Indians to Malaya and Ceylon and general conditions of labour in these countries is taken from the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, ~~for the year 1931~~ in the Madras Presidency, <sup>for</sup> ~~the year 1931~~ <sup>the year 1931</sup> submitted to the Government of Madras by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

As in 1930, Malaya and Ceylon continued to be the only countries to which emigration for unskilled work was lawful from India. Madras & Negapatam were the ports of embarkation for emigrants to Malaya and Tuticorin and Dhanushkodi the ports of embarkation for emigrants proceeding to Ceylon. During the year, no emigrants went to Ceylon through Tuticorin but 17 indigent immigrants (13 males and 4 females) who were repatriated, returned by that route.

Staff Responsible for Protection of Emigrants. - During the year the following officers were responsible for the protection of emigrants. The Collector of Madras continued to be the Protector of Emigrants till 26th November 1931, when the Protector's office was amalgamated with that of the Special Officer for Assisted Emigrants from South Africa. At Negapatam and Dhanushkodi, the Government had appointed full time Protectors of Emigrants and at Madras, Negapatam and Dhanushkodi there were Medical Inspectors of Immigrants. Besides the staff appointed by the Government of India, the Government of Malaya maintains an Emigration Commissioner in Madras and an Assistant Emigration Commissioner at Negapatam. As usual, 12 travelling inspectors and 5 travelling inspectresses were employed by the Malayan Government to escort the emigrants and repatriates between the ports of this Presidency and the Colony during the year. The Emigration Commissioner for Ceylon is stationed at Trichinopoly, the centre of the main recruiting area for Ceylon.

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 for the year 1931 - Bangalore: Printed at the Mysore Residency Press, and published by the Government of India Central Publication Branch, Calcutta. - 1932 - Price - 8 annas or 10 d. - pp. 20.

Volume of Emigration. - The most outstanding feature of the year under review in respect of migration was the marked falling off in the number of emigrants. In the case of emigrants to Malaya, the decline was pronouncedly marked, while in the case of emigrants to Ceylon it was less so. The reduction in emigration figures, according to the report is due to the prevailing trade depression and the consequent fall in the prices of rubber and tea, as a result of which many of the rubber and tea estates had to be closed down. Below are given details of emigration statistics:-

(a) To Malaya. - The total number of emigrants to Malaya during the year 1931 was 19 (9 from Madras and 10 from Negapatam), as compared with 36,346 during the year 1930. The number of non-emigrants (i.e., labourers who had already resided in the Colony for not less than five years or the wives or children of such labourers) who proceeded to the Colony during the year was 93 (45 from Madras and 48 from Negapatam), as compared with 5,933 during the year 1930. The suspension of Kangani recruitment and the restricted assistance to such of the non-recruited emigrants as had their families in Malaya continued throughout the year as the depression in the rubber and tin industries which began in 1930 continued throughout the year.

(b) To Ceylon. - The number of persons who emigrated to Ceylon also decreased, 30,938 emigrants as against 45,101 in the previous year and 37,399 non-emigrants as against 46,321 in the previous year proceeded to Ceylon. The Protector of Emigrants to Ceylon stationed at Mandapam explains the decrease as due to the closing of many rubber and tea estates consequent on the fall in rubber and tea prices and states, what limited recruitment still exists is confined to a few tea estates.

System of Recruitment. - (a) To Malaya. - Emigrants were as usual either recruited or voluntary. As there was no recruitment to Malaya, no Kangani licence was registered or cancelled during the year.

(b) To Ceylon. - The Kangani method of recruitment predominated so far as emigration to Ceylon was concerned. The number of new licences issued to Kanganis was 5,198 against 15,726 in the previous year. 525 old licences were reissued. No labourers were recruited on 3,037 licences. The marked fall in the issue of licences is due to the restricted recruitment. 92 licences were cancelled for illegal recruiting, of which 56 were cancelled at the instance of the Protector, 2 of the instance of District Magistrates and 34 by the Emigration Commissioner himself. 697 licences were cancelled for other reasons on the recommendation of the Controller of Labour, Colombo, and the Estate Superintendents. Of the total number of 30,938 labourers

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that were passed to emigrate to Ceylon, only 6,643 were non-recruited emigrants who applied for assisted passage under rule 30. The majority of these labourers though previously resident in Ceylon is classed as emigrants as they have not put in 5 years residence in the Colony. The Protector of Emigrants, Mandapam, rejected 420 intending emigrants for irregular or illegal recruitment against 393 in the previous year; 1,065 persons who were classified as non-emigrants were found to be really emigrants. The Protector of Emigrants, Mandapam, sanctioned the prosecution of Kanganis in 20 cases for offences such as cheating, using forged documents, false personation, etc., under the Indian Penal Code. No cases of illegal recruitment have been reported by the Protectors of Emigrants at Madras and Negapatam. Of the 30,938 emigrants to Ceylon, 10,147 were recruited from Trichinopoly, 4,653 from Salem, 3,186 from Madurai, 3,170 from Tanjore, 1,972 from Pudukotta State, 1,663 from Ramnad, and 2,738 from South Arcot.

Places of Accommodation. - (a) Madras. - The depots at Avadi and Melpakkam, licensed for accommodating 6,432 and 1,056 emigrants, respectively, were practically empty during the year, the Avadi depot alone being used for the reception of the assisted return emigrants who stay here for a few hours before despatch to their homes.

(b) Negapatam. - Negapatam continued to be the main place of accommodation and Papacoil depot which is an overflow camp was not utilised during the year. The repatriates were detained at the place of accommodation only for a day or less before they were entrained to their homes. As the number of repatriates at a time was not excessive, there was no congestion or outbreak of any epidemic in the depots.

(c) Dhanushkodi. - The Ceylon Labour Commission had agencies in 19 places in the Presidency (including one in the Pudukottai State) ~~where~~ where the emigrants were selected and registered before despatch to Mandapam. These centres were not formally declared as places of accommodation under rule 18. The arrangements at Mandapam Camp (which is notified as the place of accommodation under rule 31) for the reception, lodging and feeding of emigrants were quite efficient. The sanitary conditions were ideal and well spoken of by the officials and non-officials who visited the camp. There have been no cases of sickness and mortality attributable to the conditions in Mandapam Camp.

Health and Comfort of Emigrants. - (a) There have been no epidemics or cases of illness in the depots at Avadi, Melpakkam, Negapatam and Papacoil.

(b) Dhanushkodi. - The figures show an increase in illness and mortality in the place of accommodation at Mandapam when compared with the previous year. The health of the intending emigrants is looked after by the Resident Medical Officer and his assistant who are Quarantine Medical Officers in the camp.

During the year, 64,066 persons were treated for hook-worm. Emigrants found to be ill-clad were supplied with clothing by the Colonial Emigration authorities. Blankets were also supplied to labourers going to up-country estates. For ensuring that the health and comfort of the emigrants are properly looked after, the Government have appointed 14 non-official visitors to inspect the arrangements provided in the places of accommodation.

Transport Arrangements. - (a) Malaya. - A notable feature of the year was the large numbers of repatriates for whom transport arrangements had to be provided. To meet the rush of repatriates and other deck passengers returning from India to Malaya, the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., had to engage in addition to their usual two fortnightly steamers, 4 more steamers for several special trips from Malaya to various ports in South India. The total number of outward voyages was 26 as against 54 last year, the total number of inward voyages being 34 against 44 last year.

(b) Ceylon. - Intending emigrants to Ceylon along with the passengers who under-go quarantine at the Mandapam Camp are taken by a special train from Mandapam Camp to Dhanushkodi where they embark on the South Indian Railway ferry steamer ~~running to and fro~~ for Talaimannar. Owing to the heavy rains and severe storm on 22nd December 1931 and 23 December 1931, the Railway lines near Dhanushkodi were washed away with the result that the Railway communication to Dhanushkodi and ferry service to Talaimannar were closed for about a week. The emigrants at Mandapam Camp were held up pending restoration of communication. Among these labourers, a batch of 391 persons was sent through Tuticorin which was then open for traffic.

. Classification & Sex Ratio - (a) Malaya. - The number of persons who emigrated to Malaya during the year was very small. The temporary exemption of the Colony from the operation of the rule about sex ratio which was already extended by the Government of India till 30th June 1931 was further extended to the end of the year consequent on the stoppage of recruitment and emigration of assisted labour to Malaya.

(b) Ceylon. - The emigrants to Ceylon were drawn chiefly from the agricultural classes in the Tamil districts — the districts of Trichinopoly, Salem, Madura, Tanjore, South Arcot, Ramnad, North Arcot and Tinnevely and the Pudukkottai State contributing the bulk of the labour. Emigration to Ceylon was, as usual, in family groups as a rule. The labourers going to work in salt pans and the Pesalai fisheries were singlemen, but ~~in~~ their emigration was only for 5 or 6 months in the year and they returned after the season was over. The proportion of females to the total number of emigrants to Ceylon was 39 per cent as compared with 40 per cent in the previous year.

Wages & General Conditions. - (a) Malaya. - A temporary

reduction of 20 per cent in the standard wages of 50 cents for an adult male, 40 cents for an adult female and 20 cents for a working miner and increased hours of work appear to have been adopted throughout the year in the estates. According to the Protector of Emigrants, most of the ordinary labourers expressed their inability to maintain their families within the reduced wages even though there was some fall in the price of rice and other food-stuffs, and that the bulk of the repatriates, who had families consisting of non-working children to support, found it very difficult to maintain their families, their general complaint being that work was not available for a sufficient number of days in a month so as to bring a living wage.

(b) Ceylon. - The minimum cash wages in Ceylon prescribed by the Minimum Wage Ordinance vary according to the situation of the estate as detailed below:-

|                     | Men. |    |    | Women. |    |    | Children. |    |    |
|---------------------|------|----|----|--------|----|----|-----------|----|----|
|                     | Rs.  | A. | P. | Rs.    | A. | P. | Rs.       | A. | P. |
| Low country estates | 0    | 8  | 0  | 0      | 6  | 5  | 0         | 4  | 10 |
| Mid country estates | 0    | 8  | 4  | 0      | 6  | 7  | 0         | 5  | 0  |
| Up country estates  | 0    | 8  | 8  | 0      | 6  | 11 | 0         | 5  | 1  |

Under the Ordinance, the employers are also under an obligation to supply rice to the workers at prices not exceeding Rs. 6.40 cents a bushel. In view of the gravity of the situation caused by the fall in prices of rubber and tea, the Government of India have, at the request of the Ceylon Government, agreed to a reduction of wages of Indian men, women and children employed on estates by 5, 4 and 3 cents a day respectively, subject to the condition that the maximum price for compulsory issue of rice on estates is reduced to Rs. 4.80 cents a bushel.

. Return Emigrants. - By "Return Emigrant" is meant a person who has resided in Ceylon less than five years and is, therefore, an emigrant within the meaning of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922. During the year, 22,272 (8,455 men, 6,249 women, 7,568 children) fresh emigrants left for Ceylon, while the number of return emigrants who left for Ceylon during the same period was 8,685 (5,022 men, 2,067 women, 1,596 children). The proportion of new emigrants to old emigrants returning to Ceylon was 100 : 38.93.

Repatriated Emigrants. - The following are the statistics of Indian emigrants who were repatriated from the colonies during 1931:- From Mauritius 24 emigrants, from Trinidad - 104 emigrants, from Fiji - 41 emigrants, from Malaya (through Negapatam port only) 14,141 emigrants, from Ceylon - 5,557 emigrants (130 under Ordinance No. I of 1923; 1909 under the scheme of 1924 for the repatriation of sick and indigent emigrants; 3,518 under scheme of 1930 for repatriation of labourers on account of depression in the rubber trade), from South Africa - 628 emigrants. There were four cases of death during voyage among the repatriates from South Africa.

Causes of Repatriation. - The causes of repatriation from Malaya and Ceylon are indicated in the following tabular statement:-

| Causes of repatriation.   | Numbers.             |                        |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
|   | Malaya<br>Negapatam. | Ceylon<br>Dhanushkedi. |
| Homesick, or sick and unable to work ..                                       | 4,464                | 1,790                  |
| Too old, maimed or otherwise disabled ..                                      | 374                  | 552                    |
| Unsuitability of climate ... ..   | 5                    | 763                    |
| Death of earning members of family ..   | 1,034                | 202                    |
| Death of other members of family ..   | 746                  | 245                    |
| Kidnapped, abducted or seduced or<br>cheated by false promise by Kanganis. .. | ...                  | 25                     |
| Insufficient wages to support dependants                                      | 109                  | 684                    |
| Want of work ... ..   | 19,203               | 11,029                 |
| Unsuitability of work ... ..  | ...                  | 47                     |
| Other causes such as husbands or wives<br>deserting their spouses. ..         | 238                  | 342.                   |

Skilled Labour. - There was no emigration of skilled labour through the port of Madras. 160 skilled workers emigrated to Malaya through the port of Negapatam; 154 emigrated to Ceylon through the port of Dhanushkedi. Adequate measures have been adopted for the prevention of illegal emigration of the skilled workers. The occupational distribution of the 154 skilled emigrants who proceeded to Malaya is as follows - Industry - 20 (6 cigar makers, 5 artisans, 9 fireworks manufacturers); Commerce - 82 (51 shop assistants, 31 clerks); Other Occupations - 52 (46 cooks, 6 domestic servants); Without Occupation - 6 (dependants). The occupational distribution of the 154 skilled emigrants to Ceylon is as follows - Agriculture, Industry and Commerce - Nil; Other Occupations - 125 (68 dramatic performers, singers etc., 2 dancing party managers, 22 rivetters, 8 hammer-men, 4 circus players, 11 stone-engravers, 1 clerk, 4 servants, 5 cooks); Without Occupation - 29 (Dependants). The report states that as there have been several cases of skilled labourers emigrating without fully complying with the provisions of the law, instructions have been issued that greater vigilance should be exercised by the Protector to prevent laxity in this respect.

Assisted Emigration from South Africa. - The total number of emigrants from South Africa who availed themselves of the scheme of "assisted emigration" was 1,410 during the year, as compared with 690 during the year 1930. The despatch of emigrants from the Union continued to be quarterly till September 1931, though the number in each batch was fairly large compared with that of 1930. In December

1931, there was a sudden and large influx of 719 persons in two shipments from South Africa. This rush, though due to some extent to unemployment in the Colony, was chiefly due to the rumour spread in the Colony that the grant of the bonus of £20 to each adult repatriate will be stopped by the Union Government from the beginning of 1932. Besides the arrivals by the regular chartered vessels, a small number arrived by the Indian African line and it was noticed that these people were not paid train fare to their destination and batta as in the case of the other assisted emigrants returning by chartered vessels. The matter was brought to the notice of the Union Government who have ordered the payment of train fare to all assisted emigrants irrespective of the line of steamers by which they returned. The general sanitary conditions on board the vessels were satisfactory. The health of the return emigrants was on the whole good. There was no complaint of want of attention on board the steamers either in the matter of medical aid or in regard to food and accommodation. There were four deaths in transit, three due to old age and one (that of a child) due to diarrhoea.

Settlement of Assisted Emigrants. - The Government of Madras has appointed a Special Officer to look after the assisted emigrants and to help in the settlement of the emigrants in their native villages, or in other suitable places. The Special Officer sees to the despatch of the assisted emigrants to their destinations and they are taken in motor buses to the railway stations at the cost of the Union Government. During 1931 the assisted emigrants were paid Rs. 278,308 as bonus and their personal savings amounted to £ 5004 in cash and £ 3,734 in jewellery. Out of 823 assisted emigrants who arrived in Madras between 25-12-30 and 9-9-31, the majority proceeded to the villages and 69 settled in Madras city. The report states that some of the younger (colonial born) members of the family could not take kindly to Indian village life as easily as their Indian born parents, and had to be helped to secure odd jobs in turns. Another difficulty was that intercaste marriage in the Colony proved a handicap to many returned emigrants, as a result of which, ~~some in the cases of~~ <sup>in the cases of</sup> such marriages had to be dissolved, while others had to live as social outcasts. To escape this contingency many returned emigrant families had to settle in new places far away from their native villages.

Return to South Africa. - 41 returned emigrants (males 19, females 22) took advantage of certain terms under the assisted emigration scheme and returned to the Union.

Pensions from Union Government. - The pensions granted to decrepit emigrants by the Union Government of South Africa were given effect to from the beginning of this year. Out of 22 persons who were in receipt of pensions during the year, 7 died and 15 were in the list at the end of the year each getting 10 shillings or Rs. 6-10-8 per month.

During the year, the Hon'ble H.W. Sampson, Minister of Posts & Telegraphs and Public works of the Union Government visited the Presidency to personally supervise the arrangements made for the assistance of South African repatriates.

*(The Report on the Working of the Act during 1930 was reviewed at pages 64-70 of the report of this Office for June 1931.)*

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Indian Labour for Reunion Island:

Offer to Natal Indians.

It will be remembered that one of the clauses of the new Cape Town Agreement of 1932 provides for the appointment of a Commission for exploring the possibilities of colonisation schemes for settling Indians in South Africa in other countries. (See pages 62-63 of the report of this Office for June 1932). As the object behind these colonisation schemes is to get the Indian settlers in South Africa out of the country, opinion among Indians in South Africa and in India has, in the main, been against the proposed colonisation schemes. Efforts, however, are still being made to find a way out of the impasse in South Africa by offering inducements to Indians there to emigrate from the country. The following details about a scheme proposed by the Government of the Island of Reunion (French possession) to settle a contingent of 2,000 Natal Indians in the Island to work in its sugar plantations are supplied by the Maritzberg correspondent of the Hindu, Madras.

The Government of the Island of Reunion have made tentative proposals in connection with a scheme for recruiting through agents 2,000 Indian labourers from Natal for service in the sugar plantations of the Island. The labourers are to be employed on contracts for two years or more. In order to secure the support of the Indian community in Natal, some leaders of the community have suggested that two of their nominees should be deputed to investigate the suitability of conditions in Reunion Island for Indian settlement at the expense of the Government of Reunion. The Reunion Government on their side have made it a condition for recruitment ~~in~~ that the

South African Government should pay the usual repatriation bonus to the 2,000 labourers who are to be recruited to the Island. The Reunion Government state that liberal treatment will be afforded to coloured persons and <sup>that</sup> there will be no objection to the labourers becoming subjects of the French Republic eventually. It is stated that South African Indians, however, are not enamoured of the scheme. They consider that there is insufficient protection and that the Indian Agent in South Africa should consult the Indian Government in the matter before a final decision is made.

Note on the island of Reunion (or Bourbon). - The Island of Reunion is about 420 miles east of Madagascar. It has an area of 970 square miles and a population of 186,637, of whom 180,094 are of French extraction. The rest of the population is composed of British Indians, natives of Madagascar, Africans and Chinese. In general, the higher parts of the island are healthy, but fever is prevalent on the coast. The greater part of the land under cultivation on the island is occupied by sugar-cane plantations (162,000 acres), the remainder being under either maize-maniec, potatoes, haricots, or coffee, vanilla and cocoa plantations. The sugar-cane, introduced in 1711 is now the staple crop. Bourbon vanilla, as it is called, is of high <sup>quality</sup> character and next to sugar is the most important article of cultivation in the island. There are small plantations of cocoa and cinchona also.

The sugar industry in the Island suffered greatly from the competition with best sugar and the effects of bounties, ~~also~~ from scarcity of labour, from the ravages of the phylloxera (which made its appearance in 1878) and from extravagant methods of manufacture. It was not until 1906 that steps were taken for the creation of central sugar mills and refineries, in consequence of the compulsory shutting down of many small mills. The sugar production in 1930-31 was 50,020 metric tons. Rum is largely distilled and forms an important article of export. There are also manufactories for the making of geranium essence.

The immigration of coolies began in 1860, but in 1882 the Government of India prohibited the further emigration of labourers from India.