

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICEINDIAN BRANCH

110

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Report for September 1932.Contents.

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References to the I. L. O.

The printed Excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during July 1932 contain the following three references to the I. L. O.

(1) A note states that the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay, suggested that the exemptions under the Indian Factories Act, given since 1925, ~~for~~<sup>for overtime</sup> overtime work performed by oilers and ~~to~~ work done in the mechanic shop in textile mills, can now be withdrawn. This suggestion was made as a result of the Government of Bombay asking him to review the exemptions granted under the <sup>permi<sup>t</sup>t<sup>i</sup>ng overtime work</sup> Factories Act with a view to reduce them to a minimum, in accordance with the resolution on Unemployment adopted by the Governing Body of the I.L.O. at its 56th session held in January 1932.

(2) A note is published regarding the reply given by the Association to the Bombay Government containing its views on the Grey Report and Questionnaire on Abolition of Fee Charging Employment Agencies - an item on the agenda of the 16th and 17th sessions of the I.L.Conference. The note states that the Association replied that it is not in a position to express any views on the subject as it is not aware of the existence in this country of any fee-charging employment agencies in the Textile Industry, or, for the matter of that, in other large industries. At the same time, endorsing the opinion expressed in the Grey Report that "there might still be an important part for private non-profit earning agencies to play in filling up the gaps," it is stated by the Association that it would deprecate the imposition of any stringent regulations.

(3) A brief note is published on the reply sent by the Asso-

ciation in response to the request by the Government of Bombay that it should reconsider its decision on the proposed enquiry into conditions of work etc., in the cotton textile industry, suggested by the I.L.O. (For views already expressed by the Association on this question vide page 7 of our June 1932 report). The Association's reconsidered reply stated that, while it felt that the kind of enquiry proposed would be misleading and would do no good, it was prepared to help the inquiry if Government came to the conclusion that an investigation of this character might serve some useful purpose.

\* \* \*

The August 1932 issue of the E.B. Ryland Labour Review (Vol.V, No.8) publishes relevant extracts from the press note issued by this Office on 21-7-32 under the caption "Rationalisation of Employment in Egypt: Alternative to Retrenchment of Workers" based on a note published in Industrial & Labour Information of 4-7-1932. (Vide pages 8 and 1 of our July and August report respectively for names of Indian periodicals which published this press note).

\* \* \*

Federated India of 14-9-32 (Vol.VI No.37) publishes a communique issued by this Office on 4-7-32 on the election of Mr. H.B. Butler to the Directorship of the I.L.O. (vide page 1 of our July 1932 report for a list of other Indian periodicals which published this Communiqué. Copies of the Communiqué were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1883/32 of 7-7-1932).

\* \* \*

The printed Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during July 1932 contain a note incor-

porating the views of the Chamber re. the I.L.O. Questionnaire on the Abolition of Fee-charging Employment Agencies, which was forwarded to it by the Director of Information and Labour Intelligence, Bombay. The Committee referred the question to the Labour Sub-Committee of the Chamber and later sent a reply to the Director stating that it was of opinion that, while very few important firms in Bombay had any experience of fee-charging agencies, the general feeling was that if such agencies were to be permitted, they should be licensed under strict official control and that a definite scale of charges should be drawn up, but that there should be no charge for registration. The Committee did not formulate detailed answers to the questionnaire, since, as indicated above, this did not, in its opinion, appear to be a question of very great importance to Bombay.

\* \* \*

The Government of India have recently ~~xxxx~~ published the Report of the Delegates of the Government of India to the Sixteenth Session of the I.L.Conference as a bulletin of the Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India (Bulletin No.48 of the Indian Industries and Labour Department. A copy of the Bulletin was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/2372/32 of 15-9-32).

\* \* \*

The August and September combined issue of the Trade Union Record (Vol.III Nos. 6 & 7) publishes a short summary of the proceedings of the 1st session of the Indian Trades Union Federation held at Madras on the 16th and 17th July 1932,(vide pages 32-37 of our July 1932 Report for a summary of the proceedings). The report in the Trade Union Record makes special mention of the fact that the

Director of this Office attended the Conference as a distinguished visitor. The Record also gives a short summary of the speech delivered by the Director of this Office at the Conference.

\* \* \*

Attention is specially directed to clause X of the "Platform of Unity" adopted by the 12th session of the All India Trade Union Congress held at Madras from 10th to 12th September 1932. Clause X lays down that the A.I.T.U.C. "shall not send delegates to the so-called International Labour Conference held under the auspices of the League of Nations, as the Indian workers can expect no good out of those conferences held expressly with the purpose of reconciling the interests of capital and labour." (A special report on this year's session of the Congress was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute A.1/2369/32 dated 15-9-1932, vide pages 28-33 of this report under the section "Workers Organisations" for fuller details of the Congress).

The proceedings of the Congress and the resolutions adopted by it <sup>were</sup> published in most of the Indian newspapers.

The Hindustan Times of 18-9-32, in the course of an editorial article under the caption "Trade Unionism and Communism in India", criticises the "Platform of Unity" adopted by the Congress and pays a tribute to the I.L.O. for the part played by it in promoting progressive labour legislation in India. The article was written by the Director of this Office and the cutting from the Hindustan Times was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/2417/32 of 22-9-32.

The Leader of 19-9-32 publishes an editorial article under the caption "T.U.C's Latest" in the course of which disapproval is expressed regarding the clause in the "Platform" relating to the

participation of Indian labour in the sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The August 1932 issue of the Indian Labour Journal, (Vol.IX, No.II), Nagpur, publishes at page 205 an appreciative review of the I.L.O.Year Book, 1931.

\* \* \*

The August 1932 issue of the Indian Labour Journal (Vol.IX, No.II), Nagpur, and Federated India of 28-9-1932 (Vol.VI No.39) publish at pages 205 and 9 respectively, short reviews of Dr. P.P. Pillai's book "India and the International Labour Organisation".

\* \* \*

The press communique issued by the Government of India on 27-9-32 announcing the items on the agenda of the 17th session of the I.L.Conference to be held in May 1933 and calling for recommendations from organisations <sup>f</sup> employers and workers, regarding the nomination of non-government delegations, was published in the Hindustan Times of 30-9-32 and in all papers.

\* \* \*

The printed Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during August 1932 publish a short note stating that a copy of the I.L.O. Questionnaire on Invalidity, Old-age and Widows' and Orphans' Insurance was sent to the Association for opinion by the Bombay Government, but that it was later asked not to take any action on it as it was understood that the Government of India did not propose to send any detailed reply to the Questionnaire as this country had not the necessary experience to enable it to contribute to the solution of the problem before the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Leader of 23-9-32 published a short editorial note based on a note giving Statistics of Czechoslovakian emigrants who settled in Canada during 1930 and 1931, published in a recent issue of "Industrial and Labour Information". This Geneva weekly<sup>is</sup> referred to in the article as "a most valuable publication of the International Labour Office, Geneva".

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 3-9-1932 publishes an article under the caption "Child Labour in India" contributed by Mr. R.Rao of the Geneva Office.

\* \* \*

A Reuter's cable dated 7-9-1932 from London, to the effect that the Director of the Geneva Office appealed for a steady and understanding support of the trade union movement of the world at the recent session of the British Trade Union Congress, was published in the Hindu of 8-9-1932, the Statesman of 9-9-1932 and in all papers.

\* \* \*

Ratifications.

Action on Convention re. Marking of Weights on  
Heavy Packages Transported by Vessels.

The following is the text of an interpellation and answer extracted from page 883 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of 19-9-1932 (Vol. IV No.10) re. the action taken by the Government of India on the I.L.O. Convention re. marking of weights on heavy packages transported by vessels:

Mr. N.M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state;

- (a) what steps they have taken for the enforcement of the provisions of the Convention of the International Labour Organisation concerning the marking of weights on heavy packages transported by vessels; and
- (b) whether they are aware that the provisions of the Convention are actually being enforced?

The Honourable Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar (Member, Commerce Department): In consultation with the Local Governments and the Agent, Assam Bengal Railway, the Government of India came to the conclusion that for all practical purposes it was possible for the present to give effect to the provisions of the Draft Convention by means of bye-laws framed by the several Port Trusts, and at Chittagong, where the jetties belong to the Assam Bengal Railway by action under the Indian Railways Act. The several Port Trusts and the Agent, Assam Bengal Railway, have accordingly framed the necessary bye-laws.

2. The Government of India have no reason to believe that the provisions of the bye-laws (or in other words, of the Convention) are not being enforced.

National Labour Legislation.

Land Acquisition Act (Amendment) Bill, 1932.

At page 9 of the Report of this Office for July 1932, reference was made to the intention of the Government of India to introduce in the September, 1932 session of the Legislative Assembly <sup>a Bill</sup> to amend the Land Acquisition Act of 1894. Below are given the full texts of (1) the Bill which the Central Government has introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 5-9-32, and (2) the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

Legislative Assembly Bill No.34 of 1932.

A bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, for certain purposes.

1894. Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. This Act may be called the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, 1932.  
Short title. Act, 1932.

1894. 2. After section 38 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the following section shall be inserted namely:-  
Insertion of new section 38 A in Act I of 1894.

"38A. An industrial concern, owned by an individual or by an association of individuals and not being a Company, desiring to acquire land for and in connection with the erection of dwelling houses for workmen employed by the concern, shall, for the purposes of this Part, be deemed to be a Company, and the references to Company in sections 5A, 6, 7, 17 and 50 shall be interpreted as references also to such concern."

3. In sub-section (1) of section 40 of the said Act, for clauses (a) and (b), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:-  
Amendment of section 40, Act I of 1894.

- "(a) that the purpose of the acquisition is to obtain land for and in connection with the erection of dwelling houses for the workmen employed by the Company, or
- (b) that such acquisition is needed for the construction of some work, and that such work is likely to prove useful to the public."

## 4. In section 41 of the said Act, =

Amendment of section  
41, Act I of 1894.

- (a) after the word "that" where it first occurs, the following words shall be inserted, namely:-  
"the purpose of the proposed acquisition is to obtain land for and in connection with the erection of dwelling houses for the workmen employed by the Company, or that"; and
- (b) for clauses (4) and (5) the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:-  
"(4) where the acquisition is for the purpose of erecting dwelling houses, the time within which the dwelling houses shall be erected; and  
(5) where the acquisition is for the construction of any other work, the time within which and the conditions on which the work shall be executed and maintained, and the terms on which the public shall be entitled to use the work."

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

The Land Acquisition Act, 1894, makes it possible, where the previous consent of the Local Government has been obtained, to acquire land compulsorily on behalf of companies, provided that the land is needed for a work "likely to prove useful to the public". The Royal Commission on Labour have recommended that the Act be so amended as to enable land to be thus acquired where it is needed for the housing of labour, either by companies or by other employers. They stated that, in a number of instances brought to their notice, land eminently suitable for the development of housing schemes had been held at ransom by the owners, fantastic values being placed upon it as a result of the construction of factories and other industrial concerns in the neighbourhood. The provision of adequate housing for workmen is one of the urgent needs of Indian industry, and the Bill seeks to give effect to the Commission's recommendation.

(Extracted from the Government of India Gazette dated 10-9-32, Part V, Page 191.).

Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1932.

Reference was made at page 9 of the Report of this Office for July 1932 to the intention of the Government of India to introduce in the September 1932 session of the Legislative Assembly.

*the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill*

Below are given the full text of the Bill which the Government of India have introduced on 5-9-32 in this connection and (2) the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons' therefor.

Legislative Assembly Bill No.36 of 1932.

A Bill to amend the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for certain purposes

of 1929. Whereas it is expedient to amend the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; it is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. This Act may be called the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Act, Short title. 1932.

2. In section 13 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, -  
Amendment of section  
13, Act VII of 1929.

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

- (1) for the words "except with the consent in writing of the Secretary of the Trade Union or of the person, firm or company in question" the words "if the Trade Union, person, firm or company in question has preferred a request to the Court or Board that such information shall be treated as confidential" shall be substituted, and
- (11) for the words "without such consent" the words "without the consent in writing of the Secretary of the Trade Union or the person, firm or company in question, as the case may be" shall be substituted;

(b) in sub-section (2) after the words "before a Court or Board" the word "wilfully" shall be inserted; and

(c) after sub-section (2) the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:-

"(3) No Criminal Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence under this section.

(4) No Criminal Court shall take cognizance of any offence under this section except with the previous sanction of the authority appointing such Court or Board; and no Civil Court shall without the like

sanction entertain any suit against a member of a Court or Board, or any person present at or concerned in the proceedings before a Court or Board, for any matter arising out of such proceedings."

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

The attention of the Government of India has been called from several quarters to the fact that section 13 of the Trade Disputes Act affords inadequate protection to those who serve on or are connected with Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation. The members of such tribunals are at present placed under the necessity of deciding in respect of every item of information obtained by them concerning any Trade Union or business whether such information should be regarded as confidential or not. Suits and prosecutions may be preferred on complaint without any previous sanction in respect of any disclosure, wilful or accidental; and offences are triable by any Magistrate.

The Bill seeks to remedy these defects. Clause 2(a) seeks to make it the duty of the person desiring information to be kept confidential to prefer a request to this effect. Clause 2(b) is designed to limit the operation of the section to wilful disclosures. The proposed sub-section 13(3) provides for the trial of offences by Magistrates of the highest class, and the proposed sub-section 13(4) makes the sanction of the authority appointing the Court a condition precedent to the institution of a suit or prosecution. This clause embodies a recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour. A similar recommendation was recently made by the Railway Court of Inquiry.

(Extracted from the Government of India Gazette dated 10-9-32, Part V, Page 193).

(The full text of the Trades Disputes <sup>Bill</sup> Act, 1928, <sup>was sent as an</sup> ~~is given as~~ pages annex <sup>to</sup> the <sup>1928</sup> Report of this Office).

*(The Amendment Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 14-9-1932).*

Indian Emigration (Amendment) Bill - 1932.

The following is the full text of a Bill introduced by the Government of India in the Legislative Assembly on 5-9-1932 to amend the Indian Emigration Act for certain purposes.

Legislative Assembly Bill No.35 of 1932.

A Bill further to amend the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, for certain purposes.

VII of 1922. Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Indian Emigration

Act, 1922, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. This Act may be called the Indian Emigration (Amendment) Short title. Act, 1932.

2. For clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 24 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(b) the licensing, supervision and control of persons in British India engaged in causing or assisting persons to emigrate and in the conveyance and accommodation of emigrants, and the prohibition of unlicensed persons from being so engaged";

3. In section 25 of the said Act, -  
Amendment of section 25, Act VII of 1922.

(a) in clause (b) of sub-section (2), for the words "induces, or attempts to induce" the words "causes or assists or attempts to cause or assist" shall be substituted; and

(b) sub-section (3) shall be renumbered as sub-section (4), and the following sub-section shall be inserted as sub-section (3), namely:-

"(3) When in the course of any proceedings in connection with emigration in which a person licensed in accordance with rules framed under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 24 is concerned, a breach of the provisions of this Act or of the rules made under this Act is committed, such person shall be liable to the punishment provided by sub-section (2), unless he shows that he was not responsible for and could not have prevented the commission of the breach".

4. In sub-section (3) of section 30 of the said Act, for the words "induces, or attempts to induce" the words "causes or assists or attempts to cause or assist" shall be substituted.

#### Statement of Objects and Reasons.

In several cases where there had been a clear breach of the Indian Emigration Rules, the prosecution failed owing to the absence of proof of inducement within the meaning of clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 25 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922. The word "inducement" was used as a convenient abbreviation for describing those activities of a recruiting agent which result in the emigration of a person. The Courts, however, appear to have interpreted it as

connoting enticement and to have held that mere assistance is not inducement.

To remove all doubt it is considered necessary to substitute the word "assist" which is used in sections 16(1) and 18(2) of the Act. It is also proposed to provide that when, in connection with emigration or attempted emigration, there is a failure to comply with any of the rules, and the person licensed to recruit is not punishable for the failure under sub-section (2) of section 25, he shall be punishable unless he proves that he was not responsible for, and could not have prevented, the failure to comply with the rules.

2. It is also considered desirable to widen the scope of clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 24 of the Act so as to provide for the licensing of recruiters of all description and not only of such persons as make a business of recruiting.

#### Notes on Clauses.

Clause 2. - The amendment of clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 24 of the Act will authorize the making of a rule to prohibit anyone who does not hold a licence to recruit from causing or assisting a person to emigrate. The clause as it stands has been interpreted as not authorizing the making of such a rule. There is, therefore, nothing in the existing Act to prevent an employer of labour in Ceylon from entering India and recruiting emigrants himself though he holds no licence.

Clause 3 (a). - This clause <sup>and clause</sup> substitute for the word "induce", which was narrowly interpreted by the Courts, the words "cause or assist", thereby making clear that no element of enticement need necessarily be present to constitute the offence.

Clause 3(b). - Amends the Act to provide for the punishment of such breaches of the rules as are committed in the course of recruitment proceedings, even when the breach is not actually committed by the licensed recruiter himself provided that the recruiter is privy to the breach. An example of such breach would be the appearance of an intending emigrant before a Munsiff of a village other than his own, with the object of facilitating the concealment of facts which might affect his chance of obtaining sanction to depart.

(Extracted from the Government of India Gazette dated 10-9-32, Part V, page 192).

*(The Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 12-9-1932 and by the Council of State on 23-7-1932)*

Children (Pledging of Labour) Bill, 1932.

Below is given the full text of (1) a Bill which the Central Government has introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 5-9-1932, to prohibit the pledging of the labour of children <sup>and</sup> (2) the Statement of Objects and Reasons for introducing the Bill.

L.A. Bill No. 38 of 1932.

A Bill to prohibit the pledging of the labour of children.

Whereas it is expedient to prohibit the making of agreements to pledge the labour of children, and the employment of children whose labour has been pledged; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Children (Pledging of Labour) Short title & extent. Act, 1932.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India.

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

"an agreement to pledge the labour of a child" means an agreement, written or oral, express or implied, whereby the parent or guardian of a child, in return for any payment or benefit received or to be received by him, undertakes to cause or allow the services of the child to be utilised in any employment;

~~"child" means~~

"child" means a person who is under the age of fifteen years; and

"guardian" includes any person having legal custody of or control over or direct benefit from the wages of a child.

3. Whoever, being the parent or guardian of a child, makes an agreement to pledge the labour of that child, shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

Penalty for parent or guardian making agreement to pledge the labour of a child.

4. Whoever makes with the parent or guardian of a child an agreement whereby such parent or guardian pledges the labour of the child shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

Penalty for making with a parent or guardian an agreement to pledge the labour of a child.

5. Whoever, knowing or having reason to believe that an agreement has been made to pledge the labour of a child, employs such child, or permits such child to be employed in any premises or place under his control, shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

The Royal Commission on Labour found evidence in such widely separated areas as Amritsar, Ahmedabad and Madras of the practice of pledging child labour - that is, the taking of advances by parents or guardians on agreements, written or oral, pledging the labour of their children. In some cases, the children so pledged were subjected to particularly unsatisfactory working conditions. The Commission considered that the State would be justified in adopting strong measures to eradicate the evil, and the Bill seeks to do so by imposing penalties on parties to agreements pledging the labour of children and on persons knowingly employing children whose labour has been pledged.

(Extracted from the Government of India Gazette dated 10-9-1932, Part V, page 195).

Conditions of Labour. ✓Forced Labour in Angul, Orissa.

The following information about the existence of forced labour in Angul, a backward Agency Tract in Orissa, is extracted from a Memorandum prepared by the people of Angul in September 1932. ~~The deputation~~ for presenting the Memorandum was led by Mr. Gati Krushna Das, President, Angul Tenants' Association. The object of the Memorandum, it may be pointed out, was to canvass public opinion ~~for~~<sup>in</sup> support of the plea that, in the forthcoming constitutional Reforms, steps should be taken, to prevent Angul from being treated as a 'backward' Agency Tract, that a full measure of constitutional government should be provided for the District and that the existing exactions of forced labour should be altogether stopped. Angul District consists of 1681 square miles and contains a population of 222,736 (according to the census of 1931). Referring to conditions of forced labour in Angul District, the Memorandum points out:

Apart from the administrative drawbacks, there is prevalent in the district the pernicious system of supply of Rasad (Provisions) and Bethi (Forced Labour) to the local officers in the district, just as are in force in the neighbouring Orissa States. Under this cruel system the Sarbarakars and the tenants are bound to supply Rasad of every description — from rice, dal, vegetables, ghee, milk, fish and fowl and eggs down to fuel, charcoal and even straw — either free or at an abnormally low rate fixed by the local officials, and this occurs at frequent intervals that the people are taxed unreasonably and unseasonably. At the time of kheda for elephants (recently abolished owing to uneconomic sale of Government elephants) forced labour used to be exacted even at a stretch for one month while this invariably used to synchronise with the harvest season. Bethi (Forced Labour) is exacted from the tenants in the shape of carrying the luggage of, and rendering other menial and domestic services to the local officers and to any Government servants touring the district and also supplying labour for shikar or beats for which they are seldom paid — and invariably the beaters provide their own food, — be it for ordinary shikar or for elephant kheda. Under the bethi and rasad rules, any tenant can be demanded to provide any commodities or render any service at any time to the detriment of his fundamental rights of person and property. It may be particularly noted that these are exacted with the help of

notices and parwanas issued from time to time from the different Courts and offices of the district. It is worth mentioning here that the land revenue paid by the tenantry in Angul is on the same scale as in the other districts of British Orissa, so that there is no moral justification for imposing the additional burdens of bethi and rasad on the Angul tenantry.

In Appendix B of the Report are reproduced 21 orders issued by the administrative authorities of the district commandeering forced labour and supply of provisions at nominal prices from the people of the district in connection with the tours, hunting parties, etc. of administrative Officers.

(A copy of the Memorandum was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute D.1/2437/32 dated 29th September 1932.).

Overtime Exemptions; Curtailment in Textile Industry, Bombay. ✓

The following information regarding efforts to curtail overtime working in the textile industry with a view to minimise unemployment, in accordance with the resolution on unemployment adopted by the Governing Body of the I. L. O., at the 56th Session, which are being made in the Bombay Presidency is taken from a Note on the subject published in the Excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during July 1932.-

G. B. Resolution on Unemployment, 1932. - About the end of May 1932, the Director, Labour Office, Bombay, forwarded to the Bombay Millowners' Association a copy of the Resolution on Unemployment adopted by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its 56th Session held in January 1932. In this Resolution certain suggestions were made in connection with overtime, hours of work etc. In connection with this Resolution, the Chief Inspector of Factories was asked by the Government to review the exemptions granted under the Factories Act that had the effect of permitting the employment of individual workers for hours exceeding the ordinary limits laid down in the Indian Factories Act, viz., 11 a day and 60 week, with a view to reduce such cases to a minimum.

Engine & Boiler Staffs; No Modification Recommended. - The Chief Inspector of Factories addressed a letter on this subject to the Association, and with reference to the exemptions granted for the engine and boiler staffs as per Bombay Government Notification No. 7261 dated 13-2-1931, he expressed the opinion that, with the Factories Act as at present framed and in view of the technical difficulties involved, it did not appear feasible to make any modifications so far as these exemptions were concerned.

Curtailment of Overtime Work by Oilers Recommended. - With regard, however, to the exemption given in 1925 to work performed by oilers and to work done in the mechanics shop, the Chief Inspector stated that it had not been utilized to any great extent in the textile industry and there appeared to be no objection to recommending its cancellation. The main grounds on which exemption was urged by employees in respect of oilers was that certain machines required continuous oiling or that cleaning and oiling could be carried on only when the machinery was stopped. In regard to the employees in the mechanics shop, foundries, etc., it was contended that the nature of their occupation was such that in the event of a breakdown in machinery, it would be necessary to work the mechanics shop or the smithy, as the case may be, beyond the limits laid down by Sections 27 and 28. The Chief Inspector, however, pointed out that there

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was a difference between ordinary maintenance work and work on urgent repairs. The latter was specially exempted under Section 30(3) of the Act and the conditions had been prescribed in Rule 79. On these grounds the Chief Inspector urged the advisability of cancelling the exemptions given to oilers and workmen in mechanics' shops.

Millowners' Committee Agree with Recommendations. - The Committee of the Association has agreed with the views expressed by the Chief Inspector of Factories.

Factory Administration in C.P. & Berar, 1931\*

The following information regarding the factory administration

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Millowners' Committee Agree with Recommendations. - The Committee of the Association has agreed with the views expressed by the Chief Inspector of Factories.

#### Factory Administration in C.P. & Berar, 1931.\*

The following information regarding the factory administration in C.P. and Berar is taken from the Report on the Administration of the Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1931.

Number of Factories and Inspection. - During the year under review, the total number of factories coming within the purview of the Act showed a slight rise from 902 to 911, the increase being mainly in the rice mills. The actual number of working factories increased from 695 to 734, of which 102 were perennial and 632 seasonal. The report states that all these factories were inspected during the year.

The total number of inspections was 1,583 as against 1,832 in the previous year; of these, the expert inspectors were responsible for 1,342 and the District Magistrates and additional inspectors 241, as against 1,401 and 431, respectively, <sup>in the previous year.</sup> The decrease in the total number of inspections is accounted for ~~the~~ by the fact that the cotton crop was a poor one and in consequence the working of seasonal factories was irregular.

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\* Report on the Administration of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (Act XII of 1911), as modified up to the 1st June 1926, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1931. - Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P., 1932. - Price - Re. 1-8-0 - pp.35.

13 factories were removed from the register during the year, of which 9 were ginning factories, 2 rice mills, 1 printing press and 1 oil mill.

Number of Operatives and Conditions of Labour. - The average number of persons employed daily in factories declined from 68,856 to 64,386, of whom 42,299 were men, 20,866 women and 1,221 children. The decrease occurred chiefly in the cotton ginning and pressing factories and cement works due to trade depression. Wages for both skilled and unskilled labour showed a decided downward tendency. There were four strikes in four cotton mills at Pulgaon, Jubbulpore, Klichpur and Akola. The one at Pulgaon was due to a reduction in the rate of the dearness allowance and lasted for a month and a half. The other three were of a minor nature and terminated quickly.

Health of Operatives and Welfare Work. - The health of the operatives appeared to be generally good. Sporadic cases of cholera and small-pox occurred in a few places and their progress was arrested by prompt medical aid. The number of cases treated at the factory dispensaries was 170,248 as against 175,449 in the preceding year. Provision for housing accommodation remained much the same as in the previous year, no effort having been made to improve the conditions in seasonal factories. Six cotton mills and one pottery works continued to provide crèches in which 259 babies were looked after against 280 in the preceding year. With the introduction of the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act in January 1931, 16 perennial factories granted maternity benefits to 498 female operatives to the extent of Rs.9,766, the bulk of the benefits being paid by the cotton mills. With the exception of the Express Mills, Nagpur, and the Gun Carriage Factory,

Jubbulpore, whose exemplary welfare work continued to progress as usual, no further advance was made in welfare work in general owing to the prevailing financial depression. Although the employment of child labour in factories was reduced by 10 per cent, the number of children receiving education in factory schools increased from 675 to 765. Government hopes that a further advance in this direction will be made in the future.

Accidents and Prosecutions. - The number of accidents shows a slight rise from 303 to 308, of which 32 were fatal, 46 serious and 240 minor. Of the fatal accidents, in one instance 16 persons lost their lives through the sudden subsidence of the side walls of a well under excavation. The sum of over Rs.9,000 was paid as compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act as against Rs.7,121 in the previous year. The number of offences for which prosecutions were instituted was 61 as against 123 in the preceding year, 57 cases resulting in convictions; in two cases the accused were acquitted and the remaining two cases were pending at the end of the year.

(The Factory Administration Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1930 is reviewed at pages 28-29 of the Report of this Office for August 1931).

Quarterly Strike Statistics (Period ending 30-6-1932).

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, in a press communique dated 30-8-1932, has published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the second quarter of 1932. During the period under review, there were 35 disputes involving 29,276 workers and entailing a loss of 332,588

working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency where 17 disputes involving 7,895 workers were responsible for a loss of 92,291 working days; Bengal comes next with 6 disputes involving 6,567 workers and entailing a loss of 87,847 working days; Madras Presidency with 5 disputes involving 7,803 workers and entailing a loss of 44,247 working days; the Central Provinces and the Punjab with 2 each involving 2,200 and 514 workers and entailing losses of 63,500 and 3,124 working days respectively; Bihar and Orissa, Burma and the United Provinces with 1 dispute each involving 4,000, 197 and 100 workers and entailing losses of 40,000, 1,379 and 200 working days respectively while no strikes were recorded in Assam and Delhi.

Classified according to industries, there were 21 disputes in cotton and woolen mills involving 11,078 workers and entailing a loss of 168,546 working days, 3 in jute mills involving 4,187 workers and entailing a loss of 60,872 working days, and 1 each in engineering workshops and mines involving 589 and 4,000 workers and entailing losses of 883 and 40,000 working days. <sup>respectively</sup> In all the other industries together, there were 9 disputes involving 9,422 workers and entailing a loss of 62,287 working days.

Of the total 35 disputes, 17 were due to wages, 12 due to personnel, 2 due to leave and hours and 4 to other causes. In 5 the workers were successful, in 8 partially successful and in 20 they were unsuccessful while 2 were in progress at the end of the quarter.

(The quarterly strike statistics report for the period ending 31-3-1932 was reviewed at pages 13-14 of our May 1932 report).

"General Strike" on Railways: A.I.R.F. Special ConventionPostpones Action.

At pages 13-14 of the July 1932 report of this Office reference was made to the decision of the Council of Action of the A.I.R. Federation to declare a general strike on Indian railways on 1-9-1932. It was also stated that the choosing of the date was of a provisional character and that the strike would materialise only if the A.I.R.F. were able to mobilise sufficient forces to declare a strike with confidence of success. As the preparations made by the railwaymen for the strike were not progressing at a satisfactory pace, a Special Convention of the All India Railwaymen's Federation to consider the proposal to declare a general strike on the Indian Railways over the question of retrenchment in railway workers met at Madras on 2-9-32, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, President of the Federation, presiding. There was a large and representative gathering of workers of various Unions, including <sup>those of the</sup> B.B.C.I.Ry., B.N.Ry., G.I.P.Ry., M. & S.M.Ry., and S.I.Railway. The draft notice to the Railway Board prepared by the President on the question of declaring a general strike on Indian railways was placed before the meeting for discussion and approval. The notice stated:-

"In pursuance of the ballot taken on the various railways by the affiliated Unions and in view of the fact that the requisite majority in favour of a general strike was obtained and further in view of your unsatisfactory reply to the two alternative demands made on behalf of the All India Railwaymen's Federation to get the reinstatement of 40,000 employees retrenched last year and to avoid retrenchment as foreshadowed in the Press Communique of the 11th June 1932, we, the President and Secretary respectively of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, being duly authorised by the special convention of the Federation held at Madras on the 2nd September 1932, which reaffirmed a similar authority given by the special convention held at Simla on the 26th June 1931, do hereby under Section 15 of the Trade Disputes

Act of 1929 give you notice that as and from 8 a.m. on Friday, 30th September 1932 the workmen on Indian Railways will go on a strike and will not return to work until their demands are satisfactorily settled. As a matter of precaution, the affiliated Unions are giving notices similar to this to their respective Agents."

Strike Postponed. - Notice of a few amendments to this resolution had also been given to the Secretary, one by the representative of the G.I.R. Ry. Workers' Union. This amendment sought to dissolve the Committee of Action appointed by the Convention and to fix 3-11-32 as the date for the General Strike. After a heated debate for over two hours, the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

"Having read the draft notice as amended in the matter of the General Strike and having received the reports from the affiliated Unions regarding the preparations they have made, this Special Convention is satisfied that the determination of the workers to launch on a general strike as a protest against retrenchment remains unshaken; but while the preparations in several Unions have reached the stage of completeness there are others where considerable leeway remains to be made. This Convention therefore while adopting the notice prepared by the Council of Action resolves that the same may be sent to the proper quarters as soon as every affiliated Union has appointed (1) a Strike committee (2) remitted to the headquarters of the Federation the full quota of Strike levy and as soon as 600 junctions and stations are fully and effectively organised.

This Convention expresses disappointment that in these circumstances some delay is inevitable and while it is convinced of the absolute necessity of a General Strike at an early date on the issue of retrenchment, it feels equally certain that the success of strike will be best assured when preparations have been made on a scale commensurate with the responsibilities which a strike involves."

Confidence in Leaders. - The following resolutions were also adopted by the Convention.

"This Special Convention, having taken note of the fact that a resolution of a grave character subversive of discipline and falsely impeaching the leaders of the Federation has been moved by certain delegates representing G.I.R. Ry. Workers' Union and B.B.C.I. Ry. Employees Union, resolves that the concerned Unions be requested to state whether the resolution was moved with their consent and authority and whether the said Unions are in agreement with the resolution and, if not, what disciplinary action the Unions propose to take against the members concerned, and further, if the Unions have authorised the proposals of such resolutions they be called upon to explain why they should not be disaffiliated for such disloyal and disruptive conduct."

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"This convention strongly condemns the disruptive tactics of certain individuals like Sir Henry Gidney and Mr. Khedgikar closely associated with certain affiliated Unions of the Federation ~~by~~ attacking the Federation, especially at a critical time like the present one, and calls on such individuals to withdraw such allegations and expresses its fullest confidence in the work so far done by the executive of the Federation in its activities on ~~such~~ behalf of the railway workers.

Labour Recruitment for Assam from Bihar & Orissa during 1931-32.

A resolution of the Revenue Department of the Government of Bihar and Orissa (Resplution No.539/VII E-11 Com.R. dated 15-9-1932), published in the Bihar and Orissa Gazette of 21-9-1932, No.32, gives the following information regarding the recruitment of labour for Assam from the Province *during 1931-32*

During the year under review there was no recruitment for the labour districts of Assam from any of the districts of the Patna and Tirhut Divisions nor from the districts of Bhagalpur, Purnea and Balasore. The total number of emigrants including their dependants, recruited from the remaining districts of the province and the Orissa States, was 36,415 against 33,092 in 1930-31 and 34,595 in 1929-30. The districts of Ranchi and Sambalpur which are the principal recruiting centres in the province are solely responsible for the rise in the total number of emigrants, and there has been a fall in the number recruited from the other districts except Singhbhum, where the number remained the same as in the preceding year. The increase in Ranchi is probably due to the greater popularity of short-term recruitment, and in Sambalpur it is attributed to the present economic depression. The decreases in other districts are due to a contraction in the demand for labour. In all districts the number of sardars sent out to recruit was less than in the previous year. The places of accommodation for emigrants were maintained generally in a good and sanitary condition and were inspected regularly. Only one case of small-pox occurred at Sambalpur and the patient died in hospital. There was no death in any of the other districts. During the year, 10 criminal cases connected with emigration were tried and 9 persons convicted. The corresponding figures were 15 and 11, respectively in 1930-31 and 26 and 24 in 1929-30

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Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

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29th A.I. Railway Conference: Agenda of 1932 Session.

At pages 36-37 of the Report of this Office for October <sup>1931</sup> a short summary was given of the proceedings of the 28th session of the All India Railway Conference, which met at Simla from 10 to 14-10-31, under the presidentship of Mr. D.S. Burn, Agent, G.I.P. Railway. The agenda for the 29th session of the All India Railway Conference which will meet in Simla in October 1932 is nearing completion. The information to hand goes to show that several matters vitally affecting the interests of railway workers will be discussed at the ensuing session of the Conference. The following items have up to now been given a place on the agenda: -

Consideration of a report on the possibility of railways in India developing and increasing goods traffic; revision of provisions for joint station and other similar working agreements between railways to meet the present day conditions, with special reference to their simplification and standardization; equalisation of metre gauge; expansion of rolling stock; consideration of the report of the mechanical and electrical section; consideration of the general secretary's report; consideration of the audited accounts of the conference; financial relations of the Indian Railway Conference Association with the Railway ~~Conference Association~~ Board; election of members to form an executive council and election of the president for the next year's Conference.

Workers Organisations.

12th Session of the A.I.T.U.C., Madras, 1932.

The 12th session of the All India Trade Union Congress was held at Madras from the 10th to 12th September 1932, under the presidency of Mr. Jatindra Nath Mitra. The Congress was attended by nearly thirty delegates representing the left wing group of trade unions, of whom nine were from Bombay, five from Bengal, two from Central Provinces and the rest from Madras. The session was not attended by trade unionists belonging to the Indian Trades Union Federation or All India Railwaymen's Federation. The chief item on the agenda of the Congress was the consideration of the "Platform of Unity" drawn up by the Trade Union Unity Conference held at Madras on 14 & 15-7-1932 (vide pages 30-31 of our July 1932 report for text of the "Platform").

Mr. V.M. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, M.A., B.L., M.L.C., Chairman of the Reception Committee, in welcoming the delegates made a conciliatory speech stressing the importance of achieving unity in ~~the~~ labour ranks. He said that the ideal which has been placed before the Trade Union movement in this country by the "Platform of Unity" adopted in July 1932, is socialism, and the methods to be employed to achieve this ideal are to be constitutional and nonviolent. He expressed the opinion that these should meet with the approval of the Congress and appealed to them to sink their differences on minor issues and to accept the "Platform", as it is, in the larger interests of the movement. He next ~~next~~ dwelt on the impending political reforms and on the necessity for labour to organise itself on a non-communal basis, as well as on the unemployment problem. Mr. Mudaliar expressed <sup>the</sup> his

opinion that only a thorough economic reorganisation of Indian society can offer a satisfactory solution to the unemployment problem. As regards the rights of labour, he said that any minimum programme should concede to trade unions, inter alia, the right to fight for an 8 hour-day in commerce, industry and agriculture, prohibition of night work, compulsory free education and ~~the~~ state ownership of industries and natural resources. With regard to agricultural Labour, <sup>he said that</sup> the establishment of national grain stores to protect the consumer against the possible rise in the cost of living, and the producer against international financial speculation, the development of agricultural education, and an extension of agricultural credit funds can, with profit be tried. The motto, he <sup>declared</sup> ~~said~~, should be maximum output in minimum time at maximum wages. In addition, he said that there must also be a method devised, in view of the large number of disputes between the employers of the working classes, to obviate this waste of any human talent and energy. He closed his address with a reiterated appeal for unity in ~~the~~ labour ranks.

Mr. K. Nageswara Rao Pantul~~e~~r, who formally opened the proceedings of the Congress, traced the growth of industrial progress in India and dwelt on the present unemployment and political problems. He also ~~st~~ stressed the necessity for organisation for concerted action and appealed for unity in ~~the~~ labour ranks.

Mr. J. N. Mitra began his presidential address <sup>by tracing the</sup> ~~with~~ history of trade unionism in India. Coming to more recent political events, Mr. Mitra declared that the special labour constituencies recommended by the Lothian Committee were unsatisfactory from the labour point of view. He was of opinion that nothing favourable could be expected from the British Government and declared that a movement should be

set afoot with the object of enfranchising only those classes in India which are directly and indirectly exploited by Imperialism. He recommended the utilisation of elections to legislatures in the reformed constitution to carry on an intensive and extensive propaganda in favour of this movement. In order that the movement may flourish, as well as for other reasons, the speaker said, unity in ~~the~~ labour ranks was essential, and <sup>towards that end,</sup> he ~~then~~ recommended the adoption of the Unity Platform formulated by the Girni Kamgar Union. In conclusion, he exhorted the delegates to sink minor differences and make a concerted effort to inaugurate "a state of the workers and an economic system for the benefit, not of the exploiting few, but of society as a whole in its truest sense".

Resolution on Platform of Unity. \* One of the main items before the Congress for its consideration was the framing of a "Platform of Unity" acceptable to all labour interests. After long discussions in the Subjects Committee on 10 & 11-9-32, the Congress, in open session, adopted the "Platform of Unity" framed by the Bombay Girni Kamgar (Red Flag) Union, as early as January 1931, with a few alterations. The "Platform of Unity" as amended and adopted by the Congress, was in the following terms:-

I. A Trade Union is an organ of class-struggle. Its basic task is to organise the workers in a particular trade or industry for defending and advancing their rights and interests. Therefore, under no circumstances, can the object of any Trade Union be to reconcile the interests of capital and labour.

II. The immediate demands of all the Indian Trade Unions are:  
 (1) Eight hours' working day, including an hour's rest, in all trades and industries; (2) minimum wages guaranteeing all the workers an irreducible standard; (3) weekly payment of wages wherever demanded; (4) equal wages for equal labour without racial or sex discrimination;

(5) one month's leave a year with full pay; (6) unemployment, sickness and old age insurance; (7) maternity benefit extending for three months at the expenses of the employers; (8) better housing and working conditions for all the workers (the rent for workers' ~~living~~ lodgings not to exceed 8 per cent of the wages); (9) establishment of independent workers' committees in factories, shops, mills, pit-heads, harbours, dockyards, plantations and all other places where collective work is performed, to supervise that the conditions of labour comply with the standard fixed; (10) abolition of the employment of children under 14 years of age; (11) abolition of the employment of women and children underground in mines; (12) ~~the~~ provision of free primary compulsory education; (13) abolition of all other systems of recruiting labour except through Trade Unions; (14) abolition of fines imposed by the employers, be they private individuals or Government, and (15) transfer of the control of the Provident Fund from the employers to the employed.

The clause relating to abolition of fines imposed by the employers to be referred to all unions for further elucidation.

III. The entire Trade Union Movement of the country shall carry on under the central leadership of the A.I.T.U.C. an energetic, ceaseless and well co-ordinated agitation for enforcing the minimum demands of (1) right to bear arms, (2) right to strike. The method of self-appointed delegations negotiating with the employers or State authorities shall be rejected as unauthorised and harmful. The agitation shall take the form of mass meetings, demonstrations and strikes.

IV. Whenever the workers in one particular trade or industry are engaged in a dispute with the employer, the entire Trade Union movement shall support them actively. The support shall be extended through the declaration of class solidarity, financial aid and sympathetic strike.

V. In case of conflict with the employers, no step shall be taken, no agreement shall be made by the leaders of the Union except with the approval of the workers concerned expressed in general meetings or in delegates' conference convened for the purpose or in any other effective way enabling the workers to express their views adequately.

VI. Every Union shall hold regular annual general meetings for reviewing past activities and re-electing its executive. In case of the office bearers of any Union failing to comply with this, the membership shall take the initiative for getting the conference together, and call upon the office-bearers to render account. On such occasions, the A.I.T.U.C. shall intervene in favour of the rank and file, and help them to dislodge the refractory office-bearers.

VII. Delegates to the A.I.T.U.C. shall be elected by the entire membership or the respective affiliated Unions in annual meeting convened for the purpose.

VIII. The Executive of the A.I.T.U.C. shall not make any agreement or enter into negotiation for the purpose of making one, with the employer or the government except with the knowledge and approval of *the* Trade Union of the workers in the particular trade or industry concerned. The terms of any contemplated agreement shall first be submitted to a

delegates' conference of the Union for consideration and approval.

IX. The A.I.T.U.C. shall not affiliate itself with the International Federation of Trade Unions (Amsterdam International) because the latter supports or connives at the system of Colonial exploitation, nor shall it affiliate itself with any international body.

X. The A.I.T.U.C. shall not send delegates to the so-called International Labour Conference held under the auspices of the League of Nations, as the Indian workers can expect no good out of those conferences held expressly with the purpose of reconciling the interests of capital and labour.

XI. No representative of the A.I.T.U.C. shall accept nominated seats in the Central or Provincial Legislature, Municipality, local or District Board, nor serve on any Government Committee.

XII. The A.I.T.U.C. shall support and actively participate in the struggle for National Freedom from the point of view of the working-classes. It does not believe that any compromise between the foreign and Indian bourgeoisie (Responsible Government or Dominion Status) will ever change the condition of the workers substantially. The basic political demand of the Indian working classes is the termination of Imperialist domination, overthrow of capitalism, and socialisation of the means of production.

XIII. The A.I.T.U.C. shall fight for :- Freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of organisation and the right to bear arms.

The resolution <sup>on the above "Platform"</sup> was moved by Dr. Chitnis of Bombay and was supported by Messrs. S.C.Mhapankar, Rajani Mukherjee and Parthasarathi Mudaliar, and was adopted unanimously. Mr. V.M.Ramaswami Mudaliar suggested the appointment of a committee <sup>with powers</sup> ~~to be authorised~~ to negotiate with other schools of thought on the basis of the "Platform of Unity" now adopted and to find out how far others were agreeable to it. It was resolved to submit Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar's suggestion to the Subjects Committee for consideration.

(vide our minute A.1/2369/32 dated 15-9-32 for a summary of the points of difference between the "Platform" enunciated by the Unity Conference at Madras (pages 30-31 of our July 1932 report) and the "Platform" adopted by the Congress).

Other Resolutions. - A summary of the more important of the other resolutions adopted by the Congress is given below:-

Labour Legislation. - The Congress expressed <sup>the</sup> its opinion that labour legislation introduced by the Central and Provincial

Governments was deceptive and one-sided in application so far as every law was sought to be strictly applied to labour unions, while the employers were left free to do as they liked and even to withhold recognition from properly constituted labour unions; and, therefore, urged upon the workers to strengthen their organisations to compel recognition from the employers on the strength of their solidarity and united action.

Railway Strike. - The Congress held that, in view of the present policy of retrenchment adopted by the Railway Board and in view of the sporadic strikes in railways at many centres, it was clear that the workers all along the line were determined to declare a general strike at any moment, and the responsibility for postponing it indefinitely lay upon leaders like Messrs Jammadas Mehta, V.V. Giri and S.C. Joshi, who were guiding the policy of the A.I. Railwaymen's Federation. The Congress resolved that railway workers should realise the need for overthrowing such leadership and evolve an effective leadership of their own. It assured the railway workers of its whole-hearted co-operation and sympathy in their impending fight against the Railway Board.

Political and Communist Prisoners. - The Congress demanded the withdrawal of the prosecution against Mr. Mukundlal Sircar and also condemned the action of the Government in detaining Mr. Subash Chandra Bose in jail for an indefinite period without trial. It also demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners including the State prisoners, detenus, Garhwal prisoners, Meerut under-trials and all the labour leaders who are in jail, including Messrs. M.N. Roy, R.S. Ruiker, Subash Bose, G.L. Kandalkar, M.R. Shetty, Abdul Majeed, G. Mascarcenas, L. Pendse, and called upon the workers in India as well as in Great Britain and other countries to start a country-wide agitation in support of the demand.

Enquiry into Grievances of Madras Textile Workers. - The Congress authorised its Madras Provincial Committee to appoint a special committee to make a thorough enquiry into the present grievances of the textile workers in the presidency and to report to the General Council of the T.U.C. for consideration.

Organisation of Plantation Labour. - The Congress authorised the Coimbatore Labour Union to appoint a special committee to organise and consolidate the tea and coffee plantation workers in the Madras Presidency.

Labour Legislation in Indian States. - The Congress demanded that Indian States should enact labour legislation on the lines of the Indian Trades Union Act in force in British India.

Lothian Report. - While condemning the Lothian Committee report recommending the enfranchisement of <sup>a large number of</sup> the agricultural workers of India and recommending a totally inadequate representation to industrial workers, the Congress declared that the Indian working classes would not be satisfied by any measures of grants in the interest of the Indian upper classes and demanded the transfer of all power to the toiling masses to the exclusion of the exploiting minority. The Congress deplored the attempt that is being made in different parts of the country by communalists to form communal unions and declared that such attempts were detrimental to the interests of the working classes.

(vide pages 49-54 and 34-35, our July 1932 and September 1932 reports respectively for review of the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the A.I. T.U.C.)

Intellectual Workers. ✓Teachers in Madras City: Enquiry Report.

An interesting report on the economic conditions of teachers in the aided secondary schools of the city of Madras has recently been published by Mr. Bhvaraha Murthi, M.A., Dip. Econ. The report was compiled from an analysis of 82 replies from representative teachers in madras city to whom copies of ~~the~~ questionnaire <sup>were submitted</sup> were sent. The following is a summary of the report:-

Number of Teachers. - There are about 600 teachers, comprising of L.T. and Secondary Grades, Pandits and Instructors, in all the 23 aided schools in the city. Of these, about 20 per cent are untrained, most of whom being the Pandits and Instructors.

Housing Conditions. - Nearly 4 per cent of the families live in single roomed tenements; 53 per cent in two-roomed tenements; 33 per cent in tenements with three rooms; and the rest in tenements with 4 or more rooms. About 10 per cent of the families studied, living in overcrowded conditions. As most of the families coming under the category of the lower middle class live in two roomed tenements, with some free space going by the name of Verandah, the housing accommodation for teachers cannot be said to be insufficient in about 60 per cent of the families.

Of the 82 families studied, 5 alone live in their own houses; 32 families have no bedrooms as such and use some space like the verandah or rooms common to all the tenants in the house, as lying down space. Of the 82 teachers, 5 own houses, 14 live in single tenement houses, 36 live in houses with 2 tenements, 12 live in houses with 3 tenements, 7 live in houses with 4 tenements, 6 live in houses with 5 tenements, and 2 live in houses with more than 5 tenements.

Strength of the Family. - The 82 families whose returns were analysed consist of 129 men, 133 women and 164 children. The average strength of the family, therefore, is 1.6 men, 1.6 women and 2 children i.e., 5.2 which number, when compared with the strength of the middle class family in Bombay, stands a little higher. The enquiry showed that teachers with higher income have larger families generally. There are 45 families with one or more dependants. The dependants are either aged parents, young brothers or widowed sisters or sisters-in-law, orphaned nephews or nieces, or aunts.

Analysis of Family Budgets. - An analysis of 72 budgets gave the following average of expenditure on various groups; Food, Rs.33.9, fuel and lighting Rs.5.1; rent Rs.12.5; clothing 7.9; Provident Fund and Insurance Rs.5.2; interest on debt Rs.5.2; miscellaneous Rs.15.9; Total Rs.86.0. Though the actual expenditure on food items in terms of money increases with higher income groups, the percentage of

expenditure on food to total expenditure decreases. The inference is drawn that among lower salary groups a large percentage of expenditure on the prime necessities, like food, leaves less for other items of expenditure which make for comfortable living.

Minimum of Subsistence and Standard of Living. - The Report then goes on to consider the question of family budgets in the light of the estimate made by the Salaries Committee of the Government of Madras and the investigations of Dr. Slater and Mr. Leith, and concludes that the minimum requirements of a middle class family of five persons will be :- Food Rs. 25; milk and buttermilk Rs.7-8; ghee and oil Rs.3-4; clothing Rs.8; rent Rs.12; fuel and lighting Rs.3; Total Rs.58-12 or nearly Rs.59 a month.

Bearing in mind that the conception of the minimum subsistence is not the same as that of the standard of living and that the conditions studied are not those of the labouring classes who depend on daily wages, but those of the lower middle classes on monthly salaries, the report has worked out the minimum of subsistence to Rs.72 nearly. Somehow the teacher has to make this sum if he should maintain the standard he is accustomed to and hence lower salaries paid to teachers, it is remarked, do not imply by any means that they would manage to live solely on their salaries. Their low salary is supplemented by income <sup>in many cases</sup> derived from undertaking private tuitions.

Salary and Scales. - Analysis of the salary of the teachers from whom returns were received show that among Graduates, 2 teachers of over 10 years' service are drawing salaries below Rs.80; among Secondary Grade teachers 6 with more than 10 years' service are drawing salaries less than Rs.50; and one S.S.L.C. trained teacher of over 15 years' service is drawing only Rs.35. Among Pandits, instructors etc., 8 teachers of over 10 years' service <sup>could</sup> under the group Rs.35 and below. It was found that all these teachers had left an institution and taken service in another. Some have seen service in three or four institutions.

There is no uniform salary scale for all the aided schools. The usual scale of salary for L.T. is Rs.60 or 70-5-100 or 120. For the Intermediates, it is Rs.35 or 45-3-60. For the S.S.L.C. trained, it is Rs.30 <sup>or</sup> 35-2-45, or 50. For the Pandits and instructors it is Rs.30 or 35-2-50. In those schools with more than one pandit the senior pandit gets a little more than the junior pandits. There is a scale, but the scales of salary do not cover a long period of years. When one, at the age of 25, enters service he reaches his maximum in about 5 or 8 years and then with the growing needs of his family, he has to increase his income by doing extra work which in most cases take the form of giving tuition to boys or of writing books. Under the conditions obtaining at present, supplementary income is an important part of the teachers' total income (ranging from 21 per cent of the total income in the case of collegiate trained teachers to 42 per cent in the case of Pandits). Any profession which makes supplementary income a necessity cuts down the legitimate leisure of the member,

drives him to overwork himself and deprives him of opportunities for social service.

Indebtedness. - Only 7 out of 72 teachers are found to be able to live within the limits of their annual salary. All of them are collegiate trained teachers; 4 of the seven are drawing salaries over Rs.100 per month and their real income is higher still. The other three teachers have just started life and have comparatively small families. One of them owns a house. Except one, the others are not burdened with ancestral debt. The rest of the teachers, it is remarked, are not able to live within their salary limits but are compelled to add to their income by having recourse to tuition work. 24 out of 72 teachers or 33.3 per cent live beyond their income. Two-thirds of the deficit budgets come from the class of teachers whose income does not exceed Rs.80 per month. All of them are lower salaried teachers, (secondary grades, Pandits and instructors) who even with additional incomes are not able to balance their budgets.

22 teachers are free from debts; 7 have debts below Rs.100; 14 below Rs.250; 9 teachers below Rs.500; 7 below Rs.750; 2 below Rs.1000; and 10 teachers have debts exceeding Rs.1,500. It is found that some of the important causes for this indebtedness have been the following: (1) Expenditure on domestic ceremonies. (2) Marriages or deaths. (3) Sickness. (4) Borrowing for unproductive purposes. (5) The credit purchase system. The report states that it is a relief to find that they are wise enough to go to the Cooperative Credit Societies of Fund offices. Of the 72 teachers, only one has borrowed of a Marwari (Professional money lender).

Security of Tenure. - From an analysis of the answers, it is found that some of the causes leading to insecurity of tenure are the following: (1) It is a practice in some of the schools to recruit a teacher in July or August for a period of 9 or 10 months only with a view to avoiding the payment of vacation salary. (2) Some managements keep teachers on probation or temporary service for more than a year, even two or three years, thus avoiding the payment of increments and Provident Fund contribution. (3) In some of the schools under Mission management non-Christian teachers appear to be under constant fear of losing their jobs due to religious preference. But it is clear from the evidence on hand and observation that service conditions and tenure are better in most Mission Schools than those in other schools. (4) The relation of the teacher with the Headmaster is found prominently mentioned by many as one of the causes of insecurity of tenure. ~~Many have referred in somewhat bitter strain to their relations with the headmaster.~~ Service in most of the non-mission aided schools is not on any agreement, notwithstanding the G.O.No.180 re. the agreement.

Conditions of Service. - Most schools meet only for 5 days a week, a few even half a day more and every teacher has to work 18 to 22 hours out of 25 hours a week and to do much correction work out of school hours. There is provision in all schools for casual leave for a period of 10 to 15 days; but there is no uniformity in the provision for sick leave. In some schools sick leave for 15 days or one month

is granted on half-pay. Only in one school a sick leave of 15 days can be accumulated for 8 years and commuted to leave on full pay. Details could not be obtained about the provisions for the payment of gratuity to teachers; but according to the answers received, only a few managements have made provision for the payment of gratuity to those of the teachers who had put in long years of service in their schools.

*Conclusion*  
Suggested Remedies. - Various remedies suggested by teachers show that a large majority of teachers are neither satisfied with the system of education nor with their pay and service conditions; nor are they satisfied with their status in life or with the school conditions under which they have to do their work. It would seem that ~~that~~ the most discontented class among educated people is the teacher class.

Economic Conditions.Mysore Banking Committee Report: Recommendations.

Reference was made at pages 41-42 of our December 1931 report to a Banking Enquiry Committee in Mysore, appointed to study the material furnished in the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Report and the recommendations made therein (For summary of recommendations in the Report relating to provisions re. money lending and cooperation, vide pages 45-49 of our September 1931 report), to examine how far they are applicable to the conditions in Mysore and to formulate proposals for developing the organisation and expanding the operations of the Bank of Mysore in close association with the Government for the general improvement of banking service in the State. The following recommendations inter alia have been made by the Committee in their report which was published recently. The recommendations of the Committee are detailed under two heads: (1) Future constitution of the Mysore Bank and its relation to the Government and (2) development of its organisation and expansion of its operations.

Government and Mysore Bank. - As a result of the examination of the Central Banking Enquiry Committee's recommendation regarding the promulgation of a special Bank Act (vide pages 450-473 of the Banking Enquiry Committee's majority report), the Mysore Committee has arrived at the conclusion that, ultimately, the constitution of the Mysore Bank and its association with the Government should be placed on a statutory basis, but that, for the present, it is necessary to watch the developments in India before having resort to legislation. They are of opinion that the relations with <sup>the</sup> Government should rest on a contractual basis as hitherto for another period of not less

than three years, by a renewal of the present agreement with certain changes.

Industrial Finance. - The Committee have devoted great attention to the consideration of the important subject of industrial Finance, <sup>particularly to the recommendations of</sup> ~~and refer to~~ the Banerji Committee, the Seal Committee, the Indian Central Banking Committee and the Macmillan Committee. The following scheme, which is calculated to achieve the object in view without materially interfering with the traditional sphere of work ~~of~~ the Mysore Bank, has been suggested: (1) A separate Industrial section may be formed in the Bank of Mysore for dealing with accommodation to Industries. (2) The funds required for this section may be raised in one or more of the undermentioned ways, viz., additions to share capital, long-term deposits from public debentures and deposits from Government. (3) For the purpose of improving the Bank's capital resources and providing adequate funds for the Industrial Finance section, the share capital of the Bank may be doubled. (4) The Government may be requested to advance on the cash credit ~~for a term~~ ~~of ten years~~ ~~in the~~ basis a sum of money up to Rs.1 million. (5) The Government may also guarantee payment of the principal and interest of the debentures that may be floated from time to time by the Bank subject to Government's approval and under such conditions as may be laid down by them provided that the total amount of debenture so issued will at no time exceed the total paid up share capital allotted for the use of this section. (6) The Industrial branch will deal with all classes of industrial loans, (a) block loans, i.e., those secured on the fixed assets of the concerns, and (b) current finance secured on the floating assets and stock-in-trade, as well as on the personal credit of the borrowers. (7) An Advisory Board may be constituted for managing the affairs of the Industrial Section and of considering applications for industrial loans.

Statistics of Indian Cotton Industry.

The following answer containing statistics regarding Indian cotton industry was elicited as the result of an interpellation in the Legislative Assembly on 16-9-1932 by Mr. B.Das:

Mr. B. Das: (a) Are Government aware that most of the cotton mills in India are working double shift and are understood to be making huge profits?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state;

- (i) the number of workers in all the cotton mills in India;
- (ii) the number of handloom weavers; and
- (iii) the production of cotton piece-goods in each case?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement for the two years 1928-29 and 1931-32, giving:

- (1) the total cotton yarn produced in Indian mills;
- (2) the total piece-goods manufactured in Indian mills; and
- (3) the total cloth produced by handloom weavers,
  - (i) from mill spun yarn, and
  - (ii) from hand spun yarn?

(d) Are Government aware also that handloom weavers, owing to high prices of cotton yarns and low level of prices of cotton goods, are getting most uneconomic wages?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) A number of cotton mills are working on two or more shifts; but I do not think that the majority are so working, and I am not aware that all those so working are making substantial profits.

(b) (1) The number in British India in 1931 was 363,576. Figures, for the whole of India are not available.

(b)(ii) and (d). Government have no information.

(iii) For 1931-32 the figures were:

by mills 2,999 million yards,  
by handlooms 1,500 million yards.

(c) A statement is laid on the table giving the information available.

Statement showing the production of cotton yarn and piece-goods  
by Indian mills and of cloth by handloom weavers.

	1928-29	1931-32
(c) (1) Total cotton yarn produced in Indian mills.		
Million pounds.     ...	648	966
(2) Total piece-goods manufactured in Indian mills.		
Million yards     ...	1,893	2,990
(3)(i) Total cloth produced by handloom weavers		
from mill spun yarn.     ...		
Million yards     ....	1,080	1,500
(ii) Figures are not available.		

Employment & Unemployment. ✓Unemployment in India: Visweswarayya's Analysis.

An interesting and well-informed lecture on unemployment in India, its causes and cure, was delivered by Sir M. Visweswarayya, Ex-Diwan of Mysore, before the University Union, Bangalore, early this month. The following is a brief summary of his lecture.

Causes of Unemployment in India. - The unemployment problem in its present acute form in India may be attributed to three causes. One is temporary, attributable to the world wide disturbance of economic order since 1929 due to maldistribution of the world's gold supplies, failure to meet War debts, uneven production and high tariffs. A second cause is the rapid growth of population in India after the War, and a third one, the defects and disabilities under which this country has been labouring for a long time past.

Statistics of Unemployed. - After quoting the numbers of unemployed in European countries, from the statistics supplied by the publications of the I.L.O. and the League of Nations, Mr. Visweswarayya said that the statistics of employment, production, etc., in this country are defective which makes it difficult to get a true picture of its affairs. No data are maintained of industrial establishments which employ less than 20 persons, and no estimates are forthcoming of the value of production or income from agriculture, industries or other occupations. His rough estimate is that the number of unemployed in India is 40 millions and that the total number of persons suffering from insufficient food, clothing, and shelter, even judged by the low Indian standards, cannot possibly be less than a hundred millions.

The Present Unbalanced Occupational Structure. <sup>the Main Cause of Indian Poverty:-</sup> The agricultural population of India gets regular employment for from four to six months in the year, and for all practical purposes, has a holiday for the rest of the time. The proportion of population which derives its support from agriculture in India is about 75 per cent. The corresponding percentages in other countries in recent years have been:-

United Kingdom	----	-----	10.0
United States	----	---	22.0
Germany	----	----	30.5
France	----	---	38.3
Canada	--	---	35.0

These figures show that the pressure of the population on the soil in India, is excessive, there being about twice as large a number of persons engaged in agriculture as are to be found in countries in which agriculture and industries are more evenly balanced. The proportion of population which derives its support from industries in India is about 11.2 per cent, the corresponding percentages in other countries in recent years being :-

United Kingdom	---	---	39.7
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United States	...	29.3
Germany	...	38.1
France	...	31.1
Canada	...	26.9

The chief point brought out by a comparison with figures for other countries is that, in many of the other countries, the percentage of population employed in the agricultural group has decreased in pursuance of a policy of industrialisation, while in India, it has gone on increasing owing to the absence of such a policy.

Within the past 24 years, the population of India has increased by about 38 millions. So vast an increase of population in so short a period cannot occur without ~~suffering~~ <sup>incurring</sup> a decline in the average income and standard of living. The following table indicates in a rough way the per capita income from industries and agriculture, respectively, of five of the most progressive countries of the world as compared with India:-

<u>Country.</u>		<u>From Industries.</u>		<u>From Agriculture.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
United States of America.	...	1,300	...	286	... 1,586
Canada	...	1,047	...	464	... 1,511
United Kingdom	...	808	...	80	... 888
Sweden	...	334	...	129	... 518
Japan	...	120	...	85	... 205
India	...	13	...	67	... 80

India's income from industries is only about one-fifth of that from agriculture, whereas in the case of other countries their main source of wealth lies, not in their fields, forests and mines but in their factories. In most estimates published by economists, it will be found that in regard to divisible wealth per capita, India ranks lowest of any country in the world, China alone excepted. The population of the country has been growing without any corresponding growth in income. Competent observers have remarked that the village population in many parts of the country lives on food often insufficient and of poor quality, and child mortality is excessive. The average duration of life in India is only about one half of what it is among the more prosperous nations of the West.

Necessity for Increasing Industrial Output. - Sir Visweswarayya then stressed the importance of developing the industries of the country by the Government by a policy of State aid, of restricting the growth of population and of training the individual. He was of opinion that, to increase the industrial output of the country, women should be admitted to many of the occupations now restricted by social conventions to men alone. Sir M. Visweswarayya then referred to the need for the training of the people in self-discipline and in team work and for the Universities devoting more attention to scientific research, engineering, technology and higher commerce. [He goes on to suggest three emergency schemes in order to increase production and enlarge employment. They are:-

- (1) Rapid industrialization <sup>by</sup> multiplying factories and

industrial establishments,

(2) Rural Reconstruction by increasing production from agriculture and from cottage and home industries in rural areas by the cooperative effort of the people.

(3) Establishment of Practical Training institutions to provide the first stages of precise knowledge needed for the practice of callings connected with industry and agriculture, for educated youths and adult businessmen.

The following are the salient features of the schemes:-

(1) Rapid Industrialisation. - Industries may be divided into three classes: minor industries including cottage industries, medium scale industries and large scale industries. For developing minor industries, the country is to be divided into small units of 1,000 houses or a population of 5,000. Complete statistics of industrial production in each unit ~~is~~ to be maintained for every year and the optimum conditions for each industry studied. An elected council of representatives consisting of business men and experts, as far as available, is to concert measures to energise the population and mobilise local resources to keep industrial activity at top speed.

As regards medium scale and large scale industries and manufactures, these are to be pioneered by groups of businessmen and financiers with the active support in money and advice of the provincial governments.

(2) Rural Reconstruction. - (Full details of Sir Visweswarayya's scheme of rural reconstruction are given at pages 60-61 of our June 1931 report).

(3) Practical Training Institutions. - This institution is proposed with a view to provide the final stages of instruction, chiefly practical, needed by young persons before entering any particular calling. It may be also attended by adult persons already in business to improve their skill in management. The institution will give the knowledge and skill required by graduates and other young persons who have completed their scholastic training and wish to obtain practice or practical hints before they enter a farm, an industry or a shop. Every city is to have a fully equipped institute, every town a practical training school, and groups of villages <sup>are</sup> to join together to have a training class. The Institutes are, in addition to providing instruction, to act as intelligence bureaux to collect and supply information from other centres or from abroad.

Social Conditions. ✓Hyderabad to Legislate Against Begging;Poor Houses to be Established.

The indiscriminate resort to begging by large numbers of the Indian population - by poor, indigent and physically unfit people, by able-bodied men and women who prefer to beg for their living than earn it by honest work, <sup>&</sup> by Hindu religious mendicants and Mahomedan faqirs— has long been a source of acute embarrassment to the public and to the authorities in this country. The absence both of legislation against begging and of Poor Houses etc for the relief of beggars established by the Government, local or municipal authorities, combined with the existence of a religious sentiment, both among Hindus and Moslems, which give tacit sanction to begging for alms by religious mendicants like Gosais etc. has tended to increase the number of beggars in the country. Apart from the huge drain on the national man-power caused by the existence of large numbers of beggars who either would not or could not work, the problem of beggary in India has of recent years been engaging serious attention, in view of the fact that the beggars, who are allowed to roam in unrestricted freedom both in urban areas and in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> villages and a large percentage of whom are suffering from contagious diseases, are potential carriers of the germs of various kinds of infectious diseases. The presence of large numbers of beggars, both religious mendicants as well as actually poor and disabled persons, at the various annual fairs held at different places <sup>and</sup> at important places of pilgrimage, has, in particular, occasioned serious apprehensions among the various sanitary bodies responsible for the maintenance of public health. Though the beggar

problem has often been the subject of lively discussions in the municipal councils of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and other important cities, the immensity of the numbers concerned and the complexity of the problem have hitherto stood in the way of either the central or the provincial governments, or any of the Indian States from undertaking legislation against beggary on the lines of the legislation on the subject existing in European countries.

Hyderabad, the premier Indian State, is, however, proposing to introduce shortly in the Legislative Council of the State, a Bill for the prevention of beggary in the Nizam's Dominions. This attempt to introduce legislation against begging is practically the first attempt of the kind in India. The preamble to the Draft Bill says; "Times necessitate the regulation of charity. Generous donors have to bind themselves by some rules and regulations. As long as the Government does not apply itself to provide the means of livelihood to the beggars of today all legislation for the prevention of beggary is futile". The following are the principal provisions of the Bill:-

Definition of Beggar. - A beggar is defined as a person begging alms on thoroughfares or in lanes or streets or from door to door either in sitting or standing posture or a person insisting upon begging in a business place or by entering any man's residence, except the religious guru or a religious propagandist.

Poor Houses. - A general committee, consisting of members of the Municipal Committee or any special sub-committee appointed by the local board for the purpose shall be authorised to establish poor houses, to arrange for food, residence, physical exercise, and industrial and religious education for the beggars. The committee can aid poor houses run by the public or recognise such houses as their own.

For every poor house the committee shall appoint managers and the duty and powers of the managers shall be decided by the General Committee.

Facilities for Industrial Education. - In every poor house established, the following arrangements shall be made:-

1. Residence and food for the beggars.

2. Provision for their health and physical exercise.
3. Teaching of hand-industries and mechanical work.
4. Elementary education.
5. Every bona-fide beggar or a person without any support can apply to be admitted into the house. After being admitted the applicant will have to sign a bond to conform with the rules of the house.
6. No beggar who is sent to the poor house by the Fouzdari Nizam (any judge with Fouzdari rights who resides in the locality where the bill is enforced) shall leave the house before the expiry of his term. After the expiry of such term the Fouzdari Nizam will enquire if the beggar has earned the capacity to lead an independent life.
7. If the beggar contravenes the rules and runs away within his prescribed period he is liable to be arrested and sentenced to suffer imprisonment.

Scope of Application. - The General Committee is authorised to receive donations from the public for the upkeep of the poor houses.

To prevent the breach of this law the General Committee will appoint special officers or authorise the Gazetted Officers of the Government.

Six months after the publication of this Bill in the Zarida, the law will come into force in ~~city~~ municipal areas only. If in the opinion of the Government it is found necessary, the bill will be enforced later on in other parts of the Dominions.

It will be noted that besides aiming at the ~~suppression~~ <sup>the Bill</sup> ~~of~~ begging, provides also a system of Poor Houses for the relief of the indigent poor and that facilities are provided in the Poor House, for imparting elementary and industrial education to the inmates. Religious sentiments have been respected by the inclusion of a clause in the definition which provides that a religious guru or propagandist who solicits alms is not to be classed as a beggar. Public opinion in Hyderabad State has warmly approved the Bill.

Public Health.First Aid Classes; Working of Bombay Millowners' Scheme.

Reference was made at pages 43 to 44 <sup>of the Report of His Office for February 1932,</sup> to a scheme initiated by the Bombay Millowners' Association for organising 'First Aid' classes for mill operatives. The following information about the progress of the scheme is extracted from a Note on the subject published in the printed Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during July 1932:-

Three first-aid classes were opened in three centres in Bombay City towards the end of 1931, viz, at the Kohinoor Mills' Institute, the Social Service League Hall, and the Currimbhoy Workmen's Institute, respectively and instruction was imparted in English, Marathi and Gujarati. The classes were laid out to accommodate 40 students each. With the exception of the Gujarati class, the classes started with the full complement of students in each case, but after some time, it was found impossible for various reasons to maintain the original strength. For example, some of the mills which commenced to work double shift subsequently, could not dispense with the attendance of some of their candidates. Sickness was also responsible for a number of students missing lectures. In the Gujarati class, only 26 candidates (out of a total provision for 40) were forthcoming, and out of these, nearly half the number found it impossible to continue the course for one or ~~the~~ other of the reasons already mentioned. The final strength of all the classes immediately before the examinations was English— 23, Marathi — 43 and Gujarati — 13. Of these, 20 passed from the English section, 35 from the Marathi section and 12 from the Gujarati section. The instructors were all honorary

workers, being serving Brothers of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, but the Committee of the Association have recognised their services by sanctioning an honorarium of Rs.50 each, payable by the Association.

At a recent meeting of the <sup>of the Association,</sup> Committee, the results of the 4 classes organized by the Association were reviewed, and it was considered that the expenses and labour involved in the establishment of these classes had been fully warranted by the results obtained, which, considering the standard of educational qualification obtaining in a number of cases, should be considered extremely satisfactory. The question of organising ~~and~~ similar classes in the future was also considered, and it was decided that arrangements should be made for a further batch of students to be trained immediately after the monsoon, the Association meeting all the expenses in connection with these classes, and the mills concerned defraying the cost of the students' certificates and badges.

#### The Housing Problem in Bangalore.

Keen interest is being taken of late by the Bangalore Municipality in housing the poorer classes of the population living in and around Bangalore city (Mysore State). At pages 50-51 of our January 1932 report, reference was made to a scheme sponsored by a municipal councillor to solve the problem; that scheme was referred to the Managing Committee of the Municipality. On 17-9-32 an informal meeting of officials, industrialists, labour representatives and representatives of the Co-operative movement was held in the Bangalore City Municipal Council Chamber, with the President of the City

Municipality in the Chair to consider the scheme of Mr. P.H.Krishna Rao, a municipal councillor, for providing additional housing accommodation in the city to relieve the present congestion. No decision was finally arrived at, but Mr. Krishna Rao's paper gave the following figures about the congestion in Bangalore and <sup>an</sup> ~~an~~ outline of a scheme to relieve that congestion.

Extent of Congestion. - The city is now about 12 square miles in area and the population is 172,000. There is an urgent need, according to him, for finding accommodation for 10,000 families in the city today. The problem has been considered by him from three standpoints; (1) the class of people who are to be housed and the types of houses suited for such class; (2) the portions of the city where sites may be allotted or buildings constructed for them; and (3) the several ways in which the scheme may be financed.

Methods of Providing Houses. - As regards the methods of providing the houses, Mr. Krishna Rao said that what is already Government or Municipal land may be divided into sites and allotted to the poor people for ~~upset~~ prices just covering the cost of lay out, or it may even be leased on monthly rents till the upset price is realised, when the property will become the ~~lease~~ lessees, the condition to be enforced being that houses would be built in brick with Mangalore tiles and according to the designs furnished by the Municipality. The next method advocated by him is for the Municipality to build houses and rent them out. Private capitalists, the Government and the Municipality may all finance this scheme and build ~~the~~ houses ranging in rent from Rs.2 to 7. The third method is to build houses and ~~to~~ sell them on the hire-purchase system. This is particularly suited for poor officials. Both the Government and the Municipality can do much to give relief to their employees in this direction. Finally, there is the system of acquiring land, laying them into sites and selling them by public auction.

Mr. Krishna Rao then pointed out the vacant lands in several portions of the city which could be easily available and pointed out the methods of financing these schemes. Forming sites out of land that was already Municipal or Government, and disposing them off was a self-supporting scheme. The cost of acquisition of lands would come to about Rs.500,000 and this would have to be borrowed and the money made good as sites were disposed of. The Municipality would have to borrow money also for building houses and disposing them off on hire purchase system. This would be a self-supporting scheme as the instalments would be enough to pay both interest and the principal. The Municipality would have to provide from its normal revenues money for building houses for its own menials like the sweepers, scavengers and other menials. The Municipality has already made a beginning by providing Rs.10,000 in its budget this year.

Financial Aspect of the Problem. .- The Government, Mr. Krishna Rao said, may help by advancing the necessary money for acquisition and laying out sites without interest, the money being repayable as the sites are being sold. They may contribute money for houses being built and disposed of on hire purchase system to Government officials; and thirdly, Government may contribute outright some money to the House Building Fund for being utilised for building houses and disposing them off outright and building more houses and so on. The Municipality and some private philanthropists may also contribute to this end. The large employers of labour might help by investing a part of their reserves in houses for their labourers. Mr. Krishna Rao then said that private people may be given land at cost price by the Municipality for the purpose of building houses for the poor and certain banks may invest part of their reserves in immovable property. In conclusion, Mr. Krishna Rao pointed out that, if all these agencies co-operated, and were able to invest at least <sup>Rs.</sup> 300,000 ~~of rupees~~ per annum, they would be able to build about 600 houses per year and the private people would be able to build another 400 houses making altogether a thousand houses per annum which was the least that must be built to relieve congestion in the city.

It will be recalled that the Whitley Commission had called the the attention of Indian Municipalities to the need for their taking action to relieve congestion within their municipal limits, <sup>(vide pages 285-286 of Whitley Report.)</sup> and that the Madras Corporation has already taken in hand an extensive scheme for the purpose (vide pages 66-68 & 59-60 of our October 1931 and June 1932 reports, respectively). Bangalore City is outside British India and it is a hopeful sign that even in native states the matter is receiving attention.

#### Health Conditions in Jharia Coal Mines, 1931-32.

The Government of Bihar and Orissa have published the annual report on the working of the Jharia Mines Board of Health for the year 1931-32, in the Supplement to the Bihar and Orissa Gazette dated 21-9-1932 (No.38). The following information regarding health conditions in coal mines area in Jharia is taken from the report.

Jharia Mines Settlement. - In the report for 1930, the population of the Jharia Mines Settlement was given as 518,031. This was

an estimated population, based on the census figures for 1911 and 1921. For 1931, according to the actual census of 1931, the population was 504,736. There were 15,631 births (8,065 males, 7,566 females) during 1931 as against 14,556 (7,471 males, 7,085 females) during 1930. The rate of birth per mille was 30.97 for 1931 as against 28.09 for 1930. The birth rate has increased by 2.88. The report states that owing to the decreased staff available since September 1930, it was necessary to revert to the old practice of obtaining information of births and deaths from the police registers. In 1931 there 8,110 deaths (4,355 males, 3,755 females) in the Settlement as against 8,380 (4,394 males, 3,986 females) during 1930, the rate per mille being 16.07 as against 16.18 during 1930. The rate of increase of population, i.e., excess of birth rate over death rate was 14.9 in 1931 and 11.91 in 1930.

Note on Colliery Population. - From the Monthly Reports submitted by Collieries, the average daily labour force employed in 1931 was 61,504 as against 63,244 in 1930. Of these, 32,386 men and 8,228 women were underground workers and 15,386 men and 5,504 women were above ground workers as against 31,336 men and 8,594 women underground workers and 16,942 men and 6,372 women above ground workers in 1930. The figures show a slight decrease in the number of women employed underground. The total number of births in 1931 among the Colliery population was 2,008 (1,048 males, 960 females) as against 1,586 (824 males, 762 females) during 1930. The rate per mille was 21.77 in 1931 as against 16.72 in 1930. The total number of deaths during 1931 was 1,205 (716 males, 489 females) as against 1,314 (732 males, 582 females) during 1930, the rate per mille being 13.06 in 1931 as against 13.86 in 1930. During 1931 there were 100 cases of Cholera with 30 deaths as against 118 cases with 42 deaths in 1930, and 163 cases of Small-pox with 6 deaths, as against 381 cases with 21 deaths in 1930, in the Settlement. 508 accidents were reported during 1931 of which 133 were fatal, 289 reported as recovered and 106 minor, as against 133 fatal, 284 ~~fatal~~ reported as recovered and 101 minor accidents giving a total of 434 in 1930.

Dhanbad Municipality. - The Jharia Mines Board of Health undertakes the administration of the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, the control of epidemic diseases and all vaccination work within the municipality. The population within the municipal area is 16,356, according to the 1931 census figures. During the year under review, the Jharia Drainage Scheme was taken over from the District Board. A sum of Rs.10,000 was allotted by the Jharia Mines Board of Health for the completion of the Scheme which is hoped to be effected by March 1932. The Dhanbad municipality is responsible for the conservancy work within its own area. Sanitary conditions are reported to be not as good as one would like them to be. There has been some improvement since last year chiefly in the matter of the construction of a few important drains. An effort to work in conjunction with the East Indian Railway Sanitation Committee is at length meeting with some success.

Water Supply. - In the course of 1931, eleven collieries were connected to the Jharia Water Board mains, bringing the total number of connected collieries to 163. 39 still remain unconnected for various reasons but chiefly because they are small collieries and cannot afford a connection. During the year notices were issued by the Board on six collieries, requiring them to link up. Attempts continue to be made to educate and encourage villagers to accept the responsibility of protecting their own water-supplied but without much success.

Housing on Collieries. - The Moratorium first granted in 1926, suspended the Housing Rules, but nevertheless there has been an improvement in conditions as is shown by the fact that the number of permanent licences for approved houses issued by the municipality has been increasing and that the number of temporary licences for non-standard houses has been decreasing during the period since 1926. In August 1930, the Board decided that the Moratorium should cease in February 1931, but, at a meeting held in July 1931, reconsidered their decision on account of the poor condition of the coal industry generally, <sup>and resolved that</sup> the date of the final closing of the Moratorium is to be decided later.

Food Adulteration. - The campaign against the sale of adulterated and impure foodstuffs, which had been progressing, met with a check early in the year, owing to a decision of the High Court, whereby it was made evident that the Act is not perfect as it stands. Prosecution of wholesale dealers who sell ghee in unopened tins was therefore not undertaken during the year. Government have decided that amendment of the Act is not necessary, but they pointed out that a wholesale dealer selling adulterated ghee from a particular source may be warned <sup>that</sup> that ghee is adulterated, whereafter if he again sells ghee bought from that source he would be liable to prosecution if the ghee is found to be adulterated. During 1931, 116 prosecutions were undertaken of which 101 resulted in conviction.

Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. - The Board engaged a Maternity Supervisor in November 1930, but the work did not actually begin till early in 1931. A group of adjacent collieries was chosen to begin with. These either engaged a midwife for the colliery alone, or two or three collieries combined together to share the cost. In all, four midwives were engaged by these collieries during the year. Their work was supervised by the Board's Maternity Supervisor. Maternity and child welfare centres have been formed with the aid of the collieries concerned, at 4 places.

A certain amount of work has also been done in independent collieries in the neighbourhood. At these centres indigenous dais are trained, and paid for attending classes. The Board originally sanctioned Rs.4,000 for the first year's working. Of this, it was found that only Rs.3,000 would be required ~~and~~ it was decided to increase the allotment by Rs.1,000 making it Rs.5,000 for 1932. The Board has sanctioned the extension of the maternity and child welfare work with the employment of a Health visitor as from the 1st January 1932. It is hoped ultimately to cover the whole coalfield area but, the report states, that, owing to financial considerations, progress in this direction must at present be slow. The scheme so far has proved an undoubted

success though it has not appealed to all the collieries concerned to an equal degree.

(The Health conditions in Jharia Mines <sup>during</sup> 1929-30 and during 1930-31 were reviewed at pages 5-8-~~1931~~ of our January 1930 report and at pages 62-65 of our October 1931 <sup>revised</sup> report).

### Combating Smoke Nuisance:

#### Report of Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission -1931.

The following information about the efforts made to rid the atmosphere of Calcutta and its suburbs from the black smoke emitted from factory chimneys etc., which constitutes a serious menace to public health, is taken from the annual report for 1931 issued by the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission:-

Average Emission of Smoke Reduced. - The average emission from each factory chimney in Calcutta and its suburbs was, according to the Report, the equivalent of .18 minutes of dense black smoke per hour. In 1931, it was reduced to .08 minutes, which was the lowest recorded, and means that the total black smoke had been reduced by about 900 minutes. In 1906 the daily emission of black smoke was about 200,000 minutes; and in 1931 it is about 3,100 minutes. The report states that the difficulty lies in bringing the people who are responsible for the emission of smoke to recognize the extent to which they are doing harm, and to limit the output of smoke to the lowest possible extent. It is a well-known fact that a large amount of the smoke is due to ~~the quantities issuing from~~ the multitude of fires in the streets, dwelling houses and bustees (workmen's quarters).

Domestic Smoke Nuisance. - The most deadly of the smoke nuisances, it is stated, is the low-lying smoke discharged at ground level from over a quarter of a million furnaces which for several hours, particularly during the cold weather evenings, shrouds some suburban areas in an irritating and suffocating pall. Although domestic smoke does not come under legislation, the Commission decided to tackle the problem on a small scale, and during the last eight months of 1931 the chief and assistant inspectors visited bylanes, carried out instructional tests and demonstrated to the people that to stop smoke, more draught was required when lighting fires. The eight months' local experience showed that domestic smoke could be very greatly reduced. An unsuccessful attempt was made in the past to secure legislation to deal with this evil, but, it is reported, another attempt will be made shortly.

Statistics of Offences Reported. - During the year 4,864 offences were reported against 4,217 in the previous year. Statutory warnings were served in 7 cases against 6 last year. Inspections and tests for educational purposes rose from 9,135 to 15,135. The Commission is convinced that a broad educational and cooperative policy in the skilled work of smoke abatement gives the best results. During the year 78 complaints were received against 56 in the previous year. Many of the complaints were against domestic smoke, regarding which no action could be taken under the existing legislation. Proposed amendments to the existing legislation, it is stated, are under consideration, which it is hoped, will shortly be submitted to Government.

Smoke Nuisance in Industrial Concerns. - With regard to industrial concerns, the report states that properly proportioned furnaces, flues and chimneys are the basic factors for efficient smoke abatement; thus increasing the power of the plant and reducing overhead and fuel expenses. Under the existing legislation, new plants installed or alterations made to old ones must be approved by the Commission. During the year, the Commission examined and approved 52 plans covering nearly all types of industrial furnaces. The Commission recommends the installation of electrical and smokeless gas appliances, both for commercial and domestic use, as permanent remedies for atmospheric pollution, and are glad to note that there is an increasing demand in Calcutta and Howrah for these appliances.

Concluding, the report states that the emission of black smoke from the chimneys of factories, steamers, etc., is not only a sign of fuel waste but causes injury to health, and is destructive of all kinds of materials, buildings and vegetation, and calls for the co-operation of managers, engineers and others in a determined effort to abolish this nuisance.

Agriculture. ✓

Progress of Agricultural Education in Burma,  
1931— 32.\*

The Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Burma, for the year ending 31-3-1932 gives the following information regarding the progress of agricultural education in that Presidency.

Agricultural College, Mandalay. - Owing to the necessity for economy, recruitment of students was suspended, with the result that there were only two classes, a second year and a third year class, in attendance during the year. In the second year class there were seventeen on the roll and in the third year class nine. Of the nine third year students who sat <sup>for</sup> the final diploma examination in March 1932, eight passed, one with a first class, and seven with second class diplomas. The Principal reports that the results were, if anything, below the average and the year was not a particularly good one. It has been decided to suspend recruitment again so that, during the coming year, there will only be a third year class of eighteen students.

Pyinmana Agricultural School. - The School is an attempt to provide an agricultural training in addition to the ordinary middle school curriculum. It has been in existence since June 1923. The school reopened in November 1931 with 81 pupils: 27 in the First year class, 21 in the Second year class, 8 in the Third year class, 22 in the Fourth year class and 3 in Special classes. Two left during the year, leaving 79 at the end of the year. Owing to financial stringency, Government has been compelled to reduce its former annual

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\* Report of the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Burma, for the year ended the 31st March 1932 - Rangoon: Supdt., Government Printing and Stationery, Burma 1932. Price Rs. 1-8-0 = 2s.3d. - pp. 35 + XXXV.

grant to the school from Rs.22,000 to 10,000. The Superintendent of the school has, therefore, prepared a readjustment programme for the school which is <sup>reported to be</sup> ~~at present~~ before the committee of management. The scheme proposes reduction in the courses, in the sholarships, in the number of students and in the staff of the School.

Farm Schools. - As in previous years, farm schools were maintained at the Hmawbi and Mahlaing Agricultural Stations. At Hmawbi ten students were enrolled for a nine months' training class. One student had to leave on account of sickness and the remaining nine were successful in the final examination held in January 1932. The Deputy Director remarks that the classes continue to be popular and the number of applications for admission increases yearly. He points out that, while some of the applicants hope to obtain fieldmen's posts in the department after completing the course, an increasing number are prepared to attend in order to become better fitted to work their own land or that of others.

At Mahlaing, thirty-two applications were received and twelve pupils enrolled. The morning sessions were devoted to practical work in the field and the afternoon sessions to simple veterinary hygiene, farm carpentry and the theories underlying successful farm practice. At present the extensive demonstration scheme financed by the Indian Central Cotton Committee is absorbing most of the passed pupils as demonstrators but four returned to work their own land and it is hoped that the number of such will increase yearly.

Training of Adult Cultivators. - Owing partly to financial stringency and partly to the disturbed state of many of the districts, activity under this head was greatly curtailed. In only three circles were attempts made to continue the provision of such training.

In the West Central Circle five cultivators were given a two months' course of general training. The practice of taking cultivators from backward tracts to adjacent areas in which are to be seen the crops and methods advocated by the department, was continued and 92 cultivators were given demonstrations in this way. In the East Central Circle five students were given a five months' course of training in practical work on dry zone crop cultivation and cattle management on the Tatkon farm from June to October 1931. At the Mudon Agricultural Station one short course of one month's duration was held, 13 students attending ~~the~~ course on horticulture. At Mudon advantage is taken of the fact that Moulmein is an important education centre to bring the pupils of the schools into contact with the work of the department. This has been done by fixing definite days for pupils of schools to visit the station when they are received by an officer of the department who conducts them round. During the year five schools visited the farm and some of these paid several visits. Three schools have also had the nucleus of an agricultural museum prepared for them to be added to and gradually improved in course of time.

(The Report on the operations of the Agricultural Department, Burma, for 1930-31 was reviewed at pages 56-58 of our November 1931 Report.)

#### Rural Uplift in C.P. : Government Scheme.

Of recent years, increasing attention is being paid by provincial Governments <sup>and</sup> a few of the Native States to the uplift of the rural masses, and a few of them, notably ~~in~~ the Punjab, the United Provinces, and Baroda have already put into execution their schemes with a

considerable degree of success. According to press reports, the Government of the Central Provinces intend~~d~~ embarking on a scheme of rural uplift shortly. The C.P. Government became interested in the subject since 1928 and deputed one of its educational officers to study the Punjab scheme which has yielded good results. The main recommendations made by that officer were that a Board on the lines of the Rural Community Board in the Punjab, consisting of the heads of the various nation-building departments and some non-officials, be constituted, and that a grant to meet a part of the cost of starting 50 night schools (to the District Councils be sanctioned). Neither of these recommendations were actually given effect to, although an effort to provide for the grant to the District Councils in the budget was made <sup>e</sup>once or twice. All the same, experiments in the village uplift work are being carried on by some Government officers in many parts of the province, but there is no central body to guide them and coordinate their efforts. The present scheme of the Government was drawn up by the Hon. Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Minister for education.

The rural uplift contemplated by the scheme is to be made in three directions: (1) literary (2) cultural and (3) utilitarian. The following are the salient features of the scheme.

1. Literacy Uplift. - The first part was mainly intended for the removal of illiteracy, and it was proposed by the minister that the Government should undertake to train about 100 educated volunteers for about 6 months and then ask them to reside in chosen villages for a period ranging from 2½ to 3 years. They would be receiving a salary of Rs.20 to Rs.35 according to circumstances, it being fully recognised that this was not a full recompense for their valuable services. During the period of these 2½ or 3 years, the volunteers would be set the task of carrying the torch of literacy to as many villagers as possible and live in a manner so as to serve as a model for the rural population, a mode of living that will be fixed for them by the Central Board.

2. Cultural Uplift. - In the second part of the scheme was

included cultural education of every kind and it was proposed that this should be imparted through a series of lectures and distribution of pamphlets and lantern shows. The idea was to harness the services of the professorial staff in the colleges for the purpose of writing simple lectures on such subjects and in such a manner as would increase the stock of information of the village-folk and serve generally to widen their cultural horizon.

3. Economic Uplift. - In the third part, it was proposed to employ the same method as was suggested for cultural uplift for the purpose of carrying useful practical hints and information on such subjects as agriculture, co-operation, medical relief, veterinary treatment, etc.

4. Action Taken on the Scheme. - After having drawn up this scheme and calculating its cost approximately, the Education Minister had it circulated to the heads of the departments and some non-officials. Most of those, while approving of the basic idea, offered criticism on the details and suggested some slight changes. The whole matter was then considered by the C.P. Government, and it was decided that in the first place, a Board, called the Village Uplift Board be at once constituted. The duty of this Board is to draw up a well-thought out scheme for the Government's approval and orders instituting this Board have accordingly been issued.

The Board consists of the Minister for Education as chairman, the various heads of the departments, such as agriculture, co-operation, medical relief, etc., along with the Vice-Chancellor of the Nagpur University, Chairman of three District Councils and two non-officials. It is understood that owing to lack of funds, the actual work of the Board could not be begun this year. The Education Minister is, however, exerting his utmost to see that some provision finds place in the next budget so that a beginning in this matter <sup>next year</sup> ~~is~~ is made.

#### Agricultural Statistics of Indian States, 1929-30\*

A review of the Agricultural Statistics of British India during 1929-30 was given at pages 69-73 of the June 1932 report of this Office. The corresponding information for the Indian States which is given below is taken from vol. II of Agricultural Statistics of India, 1929-30,

\* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India - Agricultural Statistics of India 1929-30 - Vol. II - Area, Classification of Area, Area under Irrigation, Area under crops, Live-Stock, and Land Revenue Assessment in certain Indian States. - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council - Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch 1932 - Price Re.1-10 or 2s.9d. -pp.V+94 (46th issue) (No.2363).

recently issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India. This volume deals with statistics for Indian States as far as reported. As in the previous issues, summary tables have been inserted to show the total figures relating to area, the classification of area, and the area under crops for each State or group of States, and the totals for all the reporting States. These statistics are defective for comparative purposes, as additions have been made in the number of reporting States from time to time. It should be noted that the agricultural statistics of Indian States are incomplete. They are also of far less accuracy than those of British Provinces published in Volume I. As these States comprise one-third of the total area of India, the importance of the statistics relating to them can scarcely be over-estimated.

Area and Population of Indian States. - The total area of Indian States is 462 million acres (721,000 square miles), with a population of 72 millions according to the Census of 1921. These States are divided, for purposes of agricultural statistics, into two main classes, namely, (1) States within the jurisdiction of Local Governments and Administrations, and (2) States having direct political relations with the Government of India. The total area of the States coming under the first category is 92,419,000 acres with a population of 15,544,000. The agricultural statistics dealt with in the present report, in so far as they relate to States in the first category, relate only to 31 States in the Bombay Presidency, the Punjab and the United Provinces, for which alone information is available. The total area of these 31 States is 8,701,000 acres and the total population 1,844,000.

The total area of States coming under the second category is

369,246,000 acres with a population of 56,395,000. Returns were received from only 39 States in this category, having a total area of 250,349,000 acres and a population of 46,683. These States, therefore, contain 56 per cent of the total area, and 68 per cent of the total population, of the Indian States. From the total area of all the 70 reporting States (259,050,000 acres), deduction must be made of 120,141,000 acres, comprising chiefly unsurveyed areas and lands held on privileged tenures, for which statistics are not available. The net area actually covered by these statistics is, therefore, only 138,909,000 acres by professional survey or 139,162,000 acres according to village papers.

Classification of Area. - The area of 139,162,000 acres is classified for purposes of agricultural statistics as shown in the table below:-

	Thousand acres	Per cent.
Forests. ..	16,895	12.2
Not available for cultivation ...	25,644	18.4
Culturable waste other than fallow.	17,444	12.5
Current fallows.....	12,642	9.1
Net area sown ...	66,537	47.8
Total	139,162	100

This net area sown excludes areas sown more than once in the year. If areas sown more than once are taken as separate area for each crop, the gross area sown in the year of report amounts to 69,974,000 acres.

Irrigation Statistics. - The total area irrigated in the reporting States during 1929-30 was 9,763,000 acres, as against 9,335,000 acres in the preceding year. Of this, 3,148,000 acres were irrigated from Government canals, 968,000 acres from private canals, 1,443,000 acres from tanks, 2,578,000 acres from wells, and the remaining 1,626,000 acres from other sources of irrigation. These figures, however, do not take into account areas sown more than once during the year with the help of irrigation, but indicate the extent of land actually irrigated. If areas sown more than once are counted as separate area for each crop, the gross area of irrigated crops amounts to 10,328,000 acres, of which 8,734,000 acres were under food crops. Of the total area sown, food crops occupied about 50,734,000 acres, or 73.2 per cent and non-food crops about 18,545,000

acres, or 26.8 per cent. Of the food crops, food-grains (cereals and pulses) occupied as much as 47,603,000 acres, or 68.7 per cent of the total area sown, and other food crops (condiments and spices, sugar, fruits and vegetables, and miscellaneous food crops together) covered some 3,131,000 acres, or only 4.5 per cent of the total. Of the non-food crops, oilseeds occupied 5,715,000 acres, or 8.3 per cent of the total area sown, fibres such as cotton, hemp, etc., 6,760,000 acres, or 9.8 per cent, and fodder crops 4,372,000 acres or 6.3 per cent. The other non-food crops, namely, dyes and tanning materials, drugs and narcotics (tobacco, tea, coffee, opium, etc.) and miscellaneous non-food crops together covered about 1,698,000 acres, or 2.4 per cent of the total.

Classification of Area Sown. - The gross area cultivated with crops in the reporting States covered nearly 70 million acres in 1929-30. The different classes of crops and the area occupied by each class are shown in the table below:-

	Thousand acres.	Per cent of total.
Food-grains. ....	47,603	68.7
Condiments and spices. ....	426	.6
Sugar ....	168	.2
Fruits and vegetables. ....	975	1.4
Miscellaneous food crops. ....	1,562	2.3
<b>Total of food crops. ....</b>	<b>50,734</b>	<b>73.2</b>
Oilseeds ....	5,715	8.3
Fibres ....	6,760	9.8
Dyes & tanning materials ....	7	...
Drugs and narcotics ....	429	.6
Fodder crops ....	4,372	6.3
Miscellaneous non-food crops ....	1,262	1.8
<b>Total non-food crops.</b>	<b>18,545</b>	<b>26.8</b>

Statistics of Live Stock, Ploughs and Carts. - According to the returns from 91 States which were collected in connexion with the third All India Cattle Census held in 1930, the total number of live-~~stock~~ stock of the bovine class (bulls, bullocks, cows, buffaloes and young stock, i.e. calves and buffalo calves) in these 91 states is 47,104,000, of the ovine class (sheep and goats) 32,052,000, and of horses and ponies, mules, donkeys, and camels, 1,602,000. The numbers of ploughs and carts are 5,828,000 and 1,821,000 respectively.

(The Agricultural Statistics for British India is reviewed at pages 69-73 of the report of this Office for June 1932).

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Imperial Council of Agricultural Research:

Report for Period 1-6-29 to 31-3-1931.

At pages 69-70 of the Report of this Office for June 1929 reference was made to the setting up of an Imperial Council for Agricultural Research, as a result of the recommendations of the Agricultural Commission. The first report on the working of the Council (for the period 1-6-1929 to 31-3-1931) has recently been issued and the following information on the work accomplished by the Council is taken from the report:

Development of Sugar-Cane Industry. - The council consists of an Advisory Board and a Governing Body. It held its inaugural meeting in June, 1929, when the representatives of the Provinces reported the progress made by the Provincial Governments in preparing schemes for assisting the sugar industry, and the Council decided to developing the sugarcane industry in India. The Committee of the Advisory Board recommended an inquiry by the Tariff Board into the question of granting protection to the sugarcane industry. Pending the full consideration of the Tariff Board's report, the Government of India have already taken action and raised the duties on imported sugarcane. The Council also gave effect to the committee's recommendations for establishing sugarcane research stations in sugar-growing provinces, the appointment of a technologist and the endowment, in collaboration with the Government of the United Provinces, of a model sugar factory at the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Cawnpore.

Improvement of Rice Crops. - Next, the Council attended to the needs of rice crops. Proposals for rice research from Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Burma, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces and Madras were considered by a Rice Sub-Committee of the Board and a coordinated scheme of research stations was evolved. The Committee also recommended that, in addition to the actual production of improved strains, each station, should devote attention to the general genetics of the rice crop and to the clearing up of the obscure points in connexion with the inheritance of characters. The total cost of these schemes came to Rs.11,22,408, of which only Rs.203,279 were contributed by the Empire Marketing Board, but <sup>partly</sup> progress was hampered owing to lack of funds.

Indigenous Fertilisers. - The Council appointed a committee to investigate problems relating to the conservation of indigenous fertilisers and to prepare a programme of research. The Committee recommended that Provincial Departments of Industries should provide financial and technical assistance to individuals and co-operative

societies requiring it for starting bone-crushing factories and secondly the Council should offer a prize of Rs.3,500 for a bone-crusher worked by bullock power or engine power. The second recommendation has been accepted while the first is under consideration.

Agricultural Research. - The Council also popularized agricultural Research in Universities. Nine applications for grants to carry on research in various branches of agriculture were received from Indian universities, of which five have been sanctioned. Four are under consideration. Requests for grants for schemes of research with an agricultural basis are coming to the Council in an ever increasing stream from the Universities, but that is not so on the animal husbandry side.

Animal Husbandry. - Animal husbandry research which should, from its importance to a country ~~such as~~ ~~exists~~ like India where animal power is still predominantly used in the practices in agriculture, claim an equal share in the Council's activities, did not do so during the period under review, owing to the fact that the Veterinary departments in India are greatly under-manned and secondly because the facilities for animal husbandry work had been very inadequate at most of the Veterinary colleges in the past.

Dissemination of Information. - The Council, has, during the period under review, developed its activities in the matter of ~~the~~ dissemination of information, (1) by providing facilities to scientific workers in India to attend ~~the~~ Imperial and International conferences bearing on agriculture and animal husbandry, (2) by subscribing to Imperial and International Institutions which purvey information of value to workers in India and (3) by means of its publications, (a) the journal "Agriculture and Livestock in India", (b) the Indian Journal of Agricultural Science, and (c) the Indian Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry.

Migration

Indians in South Africa - 1931.\*

The following information regarding Indians in South Africa is taken from the Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa for the year ending 31-12-1931:-

The Transvaal Asiatic Tenure (Amendment) Bill. - The most important problem confronting the Indians in South Africa during the year under review was the Asiatic Tenure Bill. The Bill was due for second reading on 16-2-1931, but the debate on the second reading did not take place in deference to the request ~~the~~ made by the Government of India that the Bill should be postponed, pending a Conference with the Government of India. The Conference, which at first was scheduled to meet in October 1931, was later postponed to January 1932. The report states that while the majority of the English papers was in favour of the continuance of the Agreement with India, the "Natal Mercury" and a few other papers were of opinion that little good would result from the proposed conference and that in view of the fact that no useful results had followed from the Cape Town Agreement of 1927, a fresh "Agreement" on the same lines would serve no purpose. (The principal changes made in the Bill as a result of representations made by the Indian delegates to the last Cape Town Agreement ~~is~~ given at pages 76-77 of this report).

The Immigration (Amendment) Bill. - On 2-2-31 Dr. Malan introduced a new immigration (Amendment) Bill. The Bill may be divided in to two parts, <sup>which</sup> that which affects Asiatics and Europeans alike, and that which affects Asiatics alone. In the first class there were two clauses which alarmed Indian~~x~~ opinion. The fears in regard to the first ~~#~~ of these clauses centred round the appearance of the crime of sedition as an offence for which a conviction renders a person a prohibited immigrant and the addition of the words "at any time" at the beginning of the paragraph. During the Committee stage, however, the words "at any time" were deleted from the Bill as being superfluous. Sedition and high treason, though not mentioned in the principal Immigration Act as originally passed in 1913, had already been added to the list of deportable offences by the Riotous Assemblies Act of 1914. Therefore the new paragraph merely consolidated the law and did not alter the position in regard to deportable offences. The second of the two clauses mentioned above, gives the Minister very wide powers. The report points out that when the clause is read in conjunction with certain section of the principal Immigration Act, it becomes clear that the Minister's power to deem a prohibited immigrant any person convicted of any offence in the Union will not apply to a person who has acquired a domicile. This power would, however, apply to those Indians who returned to South Africa before July 5th, 1930, and ~~returner~~ after a considerable absence, and are now required to re-earn their domicile, during the three years' continuous residence necessary for this purpose. There is a fear in the Indian community that this very wide power may be used to deport such persons if they commit the most trivial offences. However, when regard is had to the words "and by reason of the circumstances of such offence" in the new

\* Annual Report of the Agent of the G. of India in South Africa for the year ending 31-12-1931. Calcutta, Govt. of India Central Publication Branch: 1932. Price Re 1/6/- or 25. Pds. p. 28.

paragraph, it seems unlikely that this would often be the case.

The second part of the Bill is more important. The first provision in it that gave rise to alarm affected inter-provincial movement by limiting the right of Cape and Natal entry granted to those entitled at the time of the passing of the principal Immigration Act to reside in any Province by Section 4(2) (2) of that Act to such as had retained their domicile in the Union since the passing of that Act. The Agent, however, was successful in getting this clause altered into the form of the present section which retains the right of Cape and Natal entry for any person "domiciled in any Province of the Union," provided he was lawfully entitled to reside in any Province of the Union at the time of the passing of the 1913 Act, instead of confining it to those who had retained their domicile ever since the passing of ~~that~~ that Act. As the law now stands, such persons will re-acquire the right of Cape and Natal entry along with the rights of domicile, that is, at the end of three years' continuous residence in the Union. Therefore, hardly any Indians are expected to be permanently affected by this alteration in the law.

The clauses, however, which aroused the greatest discussion were the clauses dealing with registration certificates. Their net result is the abolition of the permanent right of entry into and residence in the Transvaal which was embodied in a registration certificate. The view of the Indian community was that these new provisions take away a definite right acquired as the result of the passive resistance movement, namely, the right of a registration certificate holder to enter and reside in the Transvaal at any time for the rest of his life. In this connection there can be no doubt that Act 37 of 1927 left Section 4(2)(b) of the principal Immigration Act intact, and from this it was natural to draw the conclusion that the Government did not intend to interfere with the rights of entry and residence conferred on registration certificate holders by Act 36 of 1908. The Government view on the other hand was apparently that in 1927 the point had been overlooked that since Sections 2 and 11 conferred on holders of registration certificates a permanent right of entry into and residence in the Transvaal, such persons would not be debarred from entering the Transvaal in the future even if their domicile had been lost by more than three years' absence. On this question of registration certificate holders the Minister refused to alter the Bill in any way.

The Bill does not appear to affect Natal and Cape Indians nor would it affect Transvaal Indians who retained their domicile, provided that these persons do not in the future remain more than three years outside South Africa. The effects of the Bill, according to the report, will probably be two-fold. In the first place it will definitely put a stop for the future to registration certificate holders staying outside South Africa for more than three years. Before its passage public opinion had remained vague as to whether this right had or had not been removed by the 1927 Act. Secondly, it will destroy any chance of return to South Africa for Indians who, relying on the provisions of Act 36 of 1908 in regard to registration certificates, failed to return before July 5th, 1930 (the date mentioned in the 1927 Act) after over three years' absence, or, having returned, having once more sailed for India. It is hoped that the number of such persons is small.

The Franchise Bill. - During the period under review, a new Franchise Bill was passed providing for adult male suffrage for Europeans throughout the Union. Previous to 1930 the position had been that adult male suffrage for Europeans existed in the Transvaal and in the Free State, but in Natal and the Cape there was a property and educational qualification. During the 1930 Session General Hertzog passed a Bill giving votes to white women throughout the Union on a universal suffrage basis. The anomalous position therefore resulted that in two Provinces of the Union, one of which was the Cape, the women's franchise was wider than the men's. The reason for introducing the present Bill was said by the Government to be the necessity of regularising this position. This Bill clearly weakens the whole non-European vote in the Cape, the Indian vote included. The number of Europeans will only obtain the vote if they possess the necessary property and educational qualifications. On 4-3-1931 the Bill passed its second reading after a most interesting debate. The Cape South African Party members strongly opposed it. The main point they made was that it represented a complete change of policy from that enunciated a year previously, when it was stated that the "coloured" people were to be taken out of the non-European category and were eventually to be treated like Europeans. Indians joined in the general protest of Cape non-Europeans against the Bill, which, however, left the Government unmoved.

*employment  
of Natal  
and* Labour Situation in Natal. - The report states that during the period under review, increased considerably. The class that is suffering from unemployment is that of the urban labourers and miners rather than that of agricultural labourers and small cultivators. The reasons, according to the report, that have led to this state of affairs may probably be grouped under three heads. The first is the "white labour" policy of the Pact Government, that is, the policy of replacing retiring Asiatics in all branches of Government service by whites. The second factor is the progressive replacement of unskilled labour by machinery. In Natal the majority of Indian workmen are unskilled, in fact, it was only recently under severe economic pressure that the Europeans began to invade this sphere. In skilled work, in the running of machines or in their manufacture, the Indian must be at a disadvantage in comparison with the European, owing to his restricted opportunities for obtaining a good technical education. The third factor is undoubtedly the trade depression. This has particularly affected the coal mining industry of Northern Natal where most of the semi-skilled work is performed by Indians.

It would not be correct, the report states, to ascribe Indian unemployment in any great measure to recent industrial legislation, that is, to the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1924 and the Wage Act of 1925. These Acts have led to an increase in wages that in some cases may be excessive but there is no evidence that this result has thrown Indians in any large number out of employment. Further, Indians are stated to be beginning to take their place in the unions. All the unions now have in theory an open constitution. Though in some of the larger bodies, such as the Typographers' Union, Indian influence is at present small, yet the Furniture Workers' Union has an Indian

majority and had till recently an Indian Secretary.

There are three grounds on which Natal Indians criticise the Government's labour policy. The first is that the Government is weeding out all Indian Government employees, the second is that it is exerting pressure on the Municipalities with the purpose of inducing them to replace Indian employees by Europeans and the third is that it is using similar pressure on private firms. The policy of the Municipalities in regard to their Indian employees has, however, been less unfavourable than that of the Government in regard to theirs. One other matter in connection with labour policy seriously alarmed the Indian community during the period under review. This was that, whereas the existing Workmen's Compensation Act of 1914 laid down a rate for compensation that was of general application, the new repealing Act that was introduced last Session lays down a special scale for Asiatic workmen, lower than the European scale. The Agent, however, understands that these discriminatory provisions might be withdrawn.

Assisted Emigration. - During the first ten months of the period under review, the number of persons availing themselves of the scheme continued low but during the last two months there was a most remarkable increase. During this period three ships sailed for Madras and Calcutta, on one of which as many as 521 persons embarked. The main reason for the remarkable increase in the number of assisted emigrants, according to the report, was the ~~acute~~ acute unemployment among Natal Indians, though Congress speakers have also attacked Government policy in this connection. Further, there appear to have been widely spread rumours that the grant of bonus would cease after the Cape Town Conference. During the year 1,707 persons proceeded to Madras and Calcutta, 1,307 of these going during the last six months of the year. Further, 254 persons sailed by British India mail steamers to Bombay. Therefore the total number of assisted emigrants during the year amounted to 1,961.

(The Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa for 1930 is reviewed at pages 76-81 of our August 1931 Report).

Present Position of Indians in South Africa:

Government Statement in the Assembly.

The following valuable information regarding the present position of Indians in South Africa was elicited from the Government of India <sup>through Mr. S. Bajpai, made by Mr. G. S. Bajpai in the Legislative Assembly</sup> in the form of a statement on 12-9-1932, as the result of certain interpellations on the subject.

Assisted Emigration Scheme Abandoned. - As it was recognised that the possibilities of the Union scheme of assisted emigration to India were now practically exhausted, action was taken by the Government of the Union to dismiss, with effect from 31-3-1932, the special staff which they had previously employed to explain the provisions of the scheme of assisted emigration which was agreed upon as a result of the 1927 Conference.

Colonisation Scheme. - On the question of the Government of India co-operating with the Union Government in exploring the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for settling Indians both from India and from South Africa, in other countries, it was stated that no suggestion has yet been received from the Government of the Union, with whom initiative in the matter rests. A conference of the South African Indian Congress, which met at Johannesburg on the 27th and 28th of August, is reported to have decided unanimously to appoint a delegate to the proposed committee of investigation, on the understanding that such cooperation should be taken to be inspired by patriotic motives, and should be limited to ascertaining if there exist any good opportunities for South African Indians in countries to ~~which~~ which the exploration might be directed.

Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Bill. - Regarding the changes made in the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure (Amendment) Bill as a result of representations made by the delegates from India in a sub-committee of the last Cape Town Conference (1932), the following modifications made in the Bill, in the course of its passage through the Union Parliament, which tend to safeguard further the position of Indians, were made:

Clause 5 of the original Bill, which sought to segregate Asiatics by provision for the earmarking of areas for the occupation or ownership of land exclusively by Asiatics, has been deleted. Instead, the Gold Law has been amended to empower the Minister of the Interior, after consultation with the Minister of Mines, to withdraw any land from the operation of sections 130 and 131 of the Gold Law, in so far as they prohibit residence upon or occupation of any land by coloured persons. This power will be exercised, after inquiry into individual cases, by an impartial commission, presided over by a judge, to validate present illegal occupations and to permit exceptions to be made in future from occupational restrictions of the Gold Law.

Fixed property acquired by Asiatic companies up to 1st May, 1930 in which the controlling interest was nominally in the hands of Europeans but de facto in the hands of Asiatics, or which stood lawfully registered in favour of an individual Asiatic on the same date, and fixed property held through European trustees immediately prior to the 15th May, 1930, will all be protected. Shares held by an Asiatic or Asiatic Company in a private company, which, in the terms of the original Bill, would have been forfeited to the State if the company acquired any fixed property after the 1st May, 1930, are protected, provided that they were held by an Asiatic on the 1st May, 1932, and have not been transferred by him since that date and they will be heritable by one Asiatic from another who lawfully held them.

The provision in the original Bill, which declared illegal the occupation of any fresh 'stand' after 1st May, 1919, in the same township by an Asiatic, has been made applicable from the 1st May, 1930. ~~xxx~~ Extensions made between the 1st May, 1919 and 1st May, 1930, are protected.

In areas, like Springs, which, according to a judicial pronouncement, were not formerly subject to the restrictive provisions of the Gold Law, but which have now been brought under those restrictions, Indians who were lawfully residing on or occupying land on the 1st May, 1930, will have their right of residence or occupation protected and will also be able to transfer the right to their lawful successors in title.

Local bodies, whom the original Bill required to refuse certificates of fitness to an Asiatic to trade on the ground that the applicant may not lawfully carry on business on the premises for which the licence is sought, shall have to treat a certificate issued by a competent Government officer to the effect that any land has been withdrawn from the restrictive provisions of sections 130 and 131 of the Gold Law as sufficient proof that a coloured person may lawfully trade on such land. If an application for a certificate, which is necessary for the grant of a licence, is refused on the ground of insufficiency of title to occupy the land on which the business is to be carried on, an appeal may be preferred to the Magistrate of the district. The decision of the Magistrate on any such appeal is further subject to an appeal to the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court.

Agitation Against the Asiatic Tenure Act. - At ~~the~~ recent meeting at Johannesburg, the South African Indian Congress passed a resolution condemning the Act and endorsing the action of the Transvaal Indian Congress which, on August, 14th, passed a resolution that the law should be resisted. It is understood that the idea is that ~~the~~ people should be advised, individually and collectively, to abstain from filling in forms which have been circulated under the Transvaal Land Tenure Act of 1932 or to do or take part in any matter or thing which might mean conforming to the requirement of the said Act. A committee to organise Passive Resistance has already been appointed, but no date has been fixed for starting the movement. Government are informed that no action will probably be taken until the Commission, which it is proposed to appoint in order to inquire into individual titles of occupation, has reported. The Government of India have

instructed their Agent in South Africa to watch developments closely and to keep them informed so as to enable them to take such action as circumstances may require.

Position of Indians Compared to White Settlers. - As regards the main points in which the position of Indians in South Africa falls short of the position of White settlers, it was stated that Indians in South Africa can be classified into three categories according to the province in which they happen to be living. Indians in the Cape Province have exactly the same privileges as the White settlers, except that they cannot stand as members of Parliament but they have the franchise. The provisions of the South African Act limit the actual sitting in either House of Parliament to members of the White race but the Indians in Cape Town have the franchise just the same as others. Then in Natal, they have neither the municipal nor the political franchise but, as regards rights of property and everything else, they are in exactly the same position as the White settlers. In the Transvaal, apart from the fact that they have neither the political nor the municipal rights, which their compatriots have in the Cape, they are also subject to this disability as regards the occupation and ownership of land which has been in existence since 1885. At the Imperial Conference of 1921, the Government of India tried to get the representatives of the Union of South Africa to accept the incongruity between the position of India as an equal partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations and the political disabilities to which Indians in South Africa were subject. The dominions of Canada, Australia and New Zealand accepted this incongruity and said that they would remove the political disabilities to which Indians there were subject but South Africa dissociated itself from the resolution.

(Summarised from Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol.IV (1932) No.5, pages 411 - 420).