

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for May 1939.

N.B. Every section of this Report may be taken out separately.

<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. National Labour Legislation.-	
<u>Government of India:</u>	
(a) Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Act, 1939. (Act XIX of 1939).	1
(b) The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1939. (Act No. XIII of 1939).	1
(c) The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Amendment) Act, 1939. (Act No. XIV of 1939).	1
<u>Bengal:</u>	
(d) Amendment of Bengal Trade Union Regulations, 1927.	2
(e) The Bengal Factories (Exemption) Draft Rules, 1939.	2
<u>Bombay:</u>	
(f) The Hazardous Occupations (Rubber) Rules, 1939.	2- 3
(g) The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1939. (L.A. Bill No. XXV of 1939).	3
(h) The Prevention of Free or Forced or Compulsory Labour Bill, 1939. (L.A. Bill No. XXVII of 1938).	3- 4
(i) The Bombay Lifts Act, 1939. (Act No. X of 1939).	4
<u>Central Provinces and Berar:</u>	
(j) The Central Provinces Payment of Wages (Non-federal Railways) Rules, 1939.	4- 5
(k) The Berar Payment of Wages (Non-Federal Railways) Rules, 1939.	5
(l) Proposed Amendments to C.P. Factories Rules, 1935.	5
(m) Proposed Amendments to Berar Factories Rules, 1935.	5
(n) The Central Provinces and Berar Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1939.	6
<u>Punjab:</u>	
(o) Proposed Amendment to Punjab Factories Rules, 1936.	6
<u>United Provinces:</u>	
(p) The United Provinces Agriculturists and Workmen Redemption Bill, 1939: Select Committee Report published on 6-5-1939.	6- 7

- (q) United Provinces Rural Labourers Minimum Wage Bill, 1939. 7- 8
(r) The U.P. Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 1939. 8

Sind:

- (s) The Bombay Maternity Benefit (Sind Amendment) Bill, 1939. (Bill No. LXXVI of 1939). 8- 9

2. Conditions of Labour.-

- (a) Sweepers' Wages and Conditions of Service: U.P. Government appoints Committee of Enquiry. 10
(b) Rescue Stations in Jharia and Raniganj Coal Mine Areas: To be established by Government of India. 10-11
(c) Strike Statistics of British India for Quarter ending 31-12-1938. 11
(d) Factory Administration in Mysore, 1935-1936. 12-13
(e) Working of the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Regulation in Mysore State, 1935-36. 13-14
(f) Nagpur Textile Workers' Demands: Recognition of Union, Minimum Wage and Leave with Pay. 14
(g) Stay-in-Strikes Illegal: Principle enunciated by Government of Bombay. 15
(h) Reservation of Posts for Anglo-Indians in certain Government Departments: Minimum Monthly Pay of Rs. 55/- fixed by Government of India. 16
(i) Bonus forms part of Wages: Interpretation of Payment of Wages Act, 1936: Employers to appeal to Bombay High Court. 16-17
(j) Forced Labour in the Punjab: Government's Proclamation banning it. 17-18
(k) Industrial Disputes in British India during 1938. 18-19
(l) 6 Annas Minimum Daily Wage for Salt Workers: Arbitrator's Award in Jagannaikpur Salt Factory Dispute. 19-20
(m) Short Time abolished in B.B. & C.I. Railway Workshop, Ajmer: 48-Hour Week restored. 20
(n) Conditions in Assam Tea Estates: Assam Government appoints Enquiry Committee. 20-21
(o) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for various Centres in India during March 1939. 21-22
(p) Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in India, 1937. 22-23
(q) Forced Labour in Sirahi State: Enquiry Committee appointed. 24

3. Enforcement of Conventions.-

- Working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on Indian Railways, 1937-38. 25-28

4. Industrial Organisation:

Workers' Organisations.-

- (a) 1939 Annual Convention of All-India Railwaymen's Federation, Madras, 1-5-1939. 29-31

(b) The Bengal Shop-Assistants Conference, Calcutta, 7-5-1939.	31-32
(c) Inauguration of Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress: Demand for comprehensive Labour Legislation.	33
(d) 17th Half-Yearly Meeting of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation with the Railway Board at Simla on 19-5-39.	33-35
5. Intellectual Workers.-	
Compulsory State Insurance Scheme for Government Employees: Baroda Government's Decision.	36
6. Economic Conditions.-	
Standards of Living in India: Enquiry to be undertaken by Economic Advisor to Government of India.	37
7. Social Conditions.-	
(a) Review of Prohibition Activities of Congress Ministries: Total Prohibition in 3 Years.	38-40
(b) Total Prohibition in Sind in Seven Years: Enquiry Committee's Recommendations.	40
(c) Closure of Liquor Shops on Pay Days: Orders passed by Government of Mysore.	41
8. Public Health.-	
(a) Rural Medical Relief Scheme for Bhopal: One Indigenous Dispensary for every 6,000 Inhabitants.	42-43
(b) Punjab Government's Rural Medical Relief Scheme: Subsidised Doctors for Villages.	43
(c) 2nd Punjab Civil Surgeons' Conference, Lahore.	43-44
(d) Rural Medical Relief in Bombay Presidency: Scheme of Subsidised Doctors.	45-46
(e) Health Conditions in Asansol Coal Mines - 1937-38.	46-47
9. Education.-	
(a) Technical Training of Textile Workers: Proposal for Municipal Textile School.	48
(b) Educational & Reorganisation in U.P.: Compulsory Primary Education correlated with Manual Training recommended by Enquiry Committee.	48-49
(c) Vocational Training in C.P.: Local Government appoints Committee of Enquiry.	50
10. Agriculture.-	
(a) Rural Uplift in C.P.: Government appoints Committee.	51
(b) Cambay State Agricultural Enquiry Committee's Report.	51-52
11. Migration.-	
(a) Scheme to repatriate non-Ceylonese Daily-paid Employees: Threat to Indians in Ceylon.	53
(b) Maternity Benefit for Women Labourers in Estates: New Ceylon Agreement.	54
(c) Standing Emigration Committee's Meeting at Simla on 26 and 27-5-1939: Government's South African Policy endorsed.	54-55

- (d) Indians in Malaya, 1937: Report of the Agent of the Government of India. 55-58
12. General.-
- (a) Gandhi Seva Sangh and Labour: New Labour Committee appointed. 59
- (b) Plans for Co-ordinating Labour Legislation: Government of India to convene Conference of Provincial Labour Ministers in August 1939. 59-60
13. List of more important Publications received at this Office during May 1939.- 61-~~62~~-62
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1

National Labour Legislation.

Attention is directed to the following:-

Government of India:

Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Act, 1939. (Act XIX of 1939.)--

This Act, which was passed by the Central Assembly on 4-4-1939 (vide page 9 of our April 1939 report) will be brought into force from 27-5-1939. Sufficient interval will, however, be allowed before the Excise duty under section 5 of the Act is imposed. It is at present intended to impose this duty with effect from December 1, 1939, at the rate of two annas per ton on coal and soft coke and three annas per ton on hard coke. The Government of India are taking steps to constitute the Coal Mines Stowing Board and to frame rules in consultation with the Board. Orders under section 9 of the Act will not be issued by the Chief Inspector of Mines until these rules have been promulgated and the Stowing Board is ready to give assistance towards stowing operations.

(The Statesman, 23-5-1939
and the Hindustan Times,
26-5-1939)..

Government of India:

The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1939. (Act No. XIII of 1939).--

The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 1939, was introduced in the Central Assembly on 27-2-1939 (vide page 8 of our February 1939 report). The Bill, as passed by the Central Legislature, received the assent of the Governor-General on 28-3-1939; the text of the Act is published at page 150 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 1-4-1939.

(Gazette of India dated
1-4-1939, Part IV, page 150)..

Government of India:

The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Amendment) Act, 1939. (Act No. XIV of 1939).--

The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Amendment) Act, 1939, received the assent of the Governor-General on 28-3-1939; the text of the Act is published at page 151 of Part IV of the Gazette of India, dated 1-4-1939.

~~(Gazette of India dated~~
^{Gazette}
1-4-1939, Part IV, page 151)..

Bengal:Amendment of Bengal Trade Union Regulations, 1927.- -

The Government of Bengal proposes to make certain amendments in the Bengal Trade Union Regulations, 1927; the amendments related mainly to the provisions in respect of the cancellation of registration of unions, and prescribe new forms for submitting certain annual returns. The amendments will be taken into consideration after 5-8-1939.

(Notification No. 1316-Com-dated 22-4-1939. Published at pages 1101-1107 of Part I of the Calcutta Gazette dated 4-6-1939)..

Bengal:The Bengal Factories (Exemption) Draft Rules, 1939.- .

The Government of Bengal has published the Draft of the Bengal Factories (Exemption) Rules, 1939, made under section 43 of the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934), and in supersession of rules 74 and 77 to 88 of the Bengal Factories Rules, 1935. The Draft will be taken into consideration on or after 15-8-1939, and any objection or suggestion received by the Joint Secretary to the Government of Bengal with respect to the Draft before that date will be duly considered.

(The Calcutta Gazette dated 11-5-1939, pages 1147-1153, Part I)..

Bombay:The Hazardous Occupations (Rubber) Rules, 1939.- -

These rules supersede the Hazardous Occupations (Rubber) Rules, 1937, of the Government of India. They declare the following operations hazardous: (a) The operation of spreading a solution of rubber in an inflammable solvent on cloth and its subsequent drying by the aid of machinery; (b) The preparation and drying of patent shoes; (c) The operation of mixing rubber ~~in an inflammable solvent~~ between

rolls; and (d) the preparation of a solution of rubber in an inflammable solvent with the aid of machinery. The employment of women, children and adolescents in factories carrying on the above operations is prohibited. It also prescribes certain protective provisions in the case of certain operations, such as spreading a rubber solution in an inflammable solvent on cloth, preparation and drying of patent shoes, etc.; these provisions include ban on naked lights, obligation to carry such operations in separate buildings, etc.

(Draft Notification No. 1539/34 of the Government of Bombay, pages 786-788 of Part IV-A of Bombay Government Gazette dated 4-5-1939)..

Bombay:

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1939. (L.A. Bill No. XXV of 1939).-.

The provisions of the Bill exempt from attachment the property not exceeding two thousand rupees in value of a judgment-debtor who is an industrial worker, an artisan, or an agriculturist. The Bill defines a workman as "any person who is employed as a wage-earner in agriculture, trade, business or industry or any other domestic service and whose monthly wages, including any privilege or benefit which is capable of being estimated in money, do not exceed Rs. 100 per month", and an "agriculturist" as "any person who ordinarily engages personally in agricultural labour or who personally cultivates as a tenant agricultural land or who owns agricultural land not exceeding 10 acres of garden land or 20 acres of dry land".

Mr. S.V. Parulekar introduced the Bill in the Bombay Legislative Assembly on 3-4-1939.

(The Bombay Government Gazette dated 10-5-1939. Part V, pages 247-249).+

Bombay:

The Prevention of Free or Forced or Compulsory Labour Bill, 1939. (L.A. Bill No. XXVII of 1939).-.

The Bill was introduced by Mr. S.V. Parulekar, M.E.A., on 13-4-1939 in the Bombay Legislative Assembly.

The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that the evil of forced labour prevails in its most aggravated form in certain rural areas in the Bombay Presidency where feudal remnants still survive. A convention for abolition of forced labour was adopted by the I.L. Conference of 1930, but the Govern-

ment of India has refused to ratify it, and at the same time it has taken no steps to eradicate the evil. But what is more reprehensible is that the Government of Bombay, instead of devising measures for the suppression of all forms of free or forced or compulsory labour, should have been enamoured of free labour from villagers. The principle that no person can be compelled to labour against his will is recognised by section 375 of the Indian Penal Code. But the wording of the section is so vague that it has failed to root out this evil. The mischief does not lie in compulsion alone, but in non-payment of wages and often times in inadequate payments.

The Bill seeks to make free or compulsory or forced labour an offence punishable with imprisonment or fine. It recognises two exceptions to compulsory labour. It allows impressed labour provided for in the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and the Bombay Irrigation Act, 1879, but at the same time makes provision for adequate payment of such labour.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, 10-5-1939, Part V, pages 252-254).

Bombay:

The Bombay Lifts Act, 1939. (Act No. X of 1939).

The Act provides for the regulation of the construction, maintenance and safe working of certain classes of lifts and all machinery and apparatus pertaining thereto in the Province of Bombay. The Act received the assent of the Government of Bombay on 15-5-39.

(The Bombay Government Gazette dated 17-5-1939, Part IV, pages 417-423).

Central Provinces and Berar:

The Central Provinces Payment of Wages (Non-federal Railways) Rules, 1939.

These rules prescribe for non-federal railways (including

factories) the various registers (register of fines, of deductions for damage or loss, of wages, etc.) to be maintained, and the forms to be filled up for annual returns under the Payment of Wages Act.

(No. 1455-2270-VII of 1938 dated 1-5-1939. C.P. and Berar Gazette dated 5-5-1939, Part III, pages 569-576). +

Central Provinces and Berar:

The Berar Payment of Wages (Non-Federal Railways) Rules, 1939. +

These Rules contain similar provisions as the C.P. Payment of Wages (Non-Federal Railways) Rules, 1939, referred to above.

(No. 1456-2270-VII of 1938 dated 1-5-39. C.P. and Berar Gazette dated 5-5-1939, Part III, pages 577-584). +

Central Provinces and Berar:

Proposed Amendments to C.P. Factories Rules, 1935. +

The Central Provinces Government proposes to revise Rules 72, 73 and 74, detailing persons holding positions of supervision on management and employed in confidential capacity and exemptions therefrom, of the Central Provinces Factories Rules, 1935. The revised rules shall remain in force for not more than three years. Objections and suggestions, if any, to the proposed revised Rules will be received up to three months from 12-5-1939.

(Notifications Nos. 1599-26-VII dated 11-5-1939. Published at pages 620-623, Part III of the C.P. and Berar Government Gazette dated 12-5-1939)..

Central Provinces and Berar:

Proposed Amendments to Berar Factories Rules, 1935. +

Identical amendments as indicated above in the case of the Central Provinces Factories Rules, 1935, and proposed to be made by the Provincial Government, in case of the said rules as applied to Berar also.

(Notification No. 1600-26-VII dated 11-5-1939. Published at pages 623-626 Part III of the C.P. and Berar Government Gazette dated 12-5-1939). +

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Central Provinces and Berar:

The Central Provinces and Berar Cotton Ginning and Pressing
Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1939. +

A Committee appointed by the Central Provinces Government in March 1938 to regulate the rates for ginning and pressing by pools of such factories recommended that Government should regulate the rates by appointing rate-fixing committees which will prescribe maxima rates for ginning and pressing. Government has accepted this recommendation, and the present Bill seeks to implement the recommendation.

Opinions on the Bill should reach the Government by 20-6-1939.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette,
19-5-1939, Part II, pages
121-123). +

Punjab:

Proposed Amendment to Punjab Factories Rules, 1936. +

The Punjab Government proposes to exempt workers employed in the manufacture of starch from the provisions of section 34 (Weekly Hours), 35 (Weekly Holiday), 36 (Daily Hours), 37 (Intervals for rest), and 38 (Spread over) of the Factories Act, 1934. Objections, if any, to the proposal will be received up to three months from 12-5-1939.

(Notification No. 2504-I & L. -
39/16880 dated 4-5-1939.
Published at page 671 of Part
I of the Government Gazette,
Punjab, dated 12-5-1939). +

United Provinces:

The United Provinces Agriculturists and Workmen Redemption Bill,
1939: Select Committee Report published on 6-5-1939. +

The Select Committee report on the above Bill was published on 6-5-1939. Of the 14 members of the Committee, four have signed the report, subject to notes of dissent. The alterations made by the Select Committee are of such importance that the Bill has been

republished.

Experience has shown that the provisions of the United Provinces Acts which were passed for the liquidation of agricultural debt in 1935 have failed to reduce debt to a level which would enable any measures which may be passed to put agricultural credit on a sound basis in future, to be effective. Before, ~~therefore,~~ such measures can be effective it is necessary to pass an Act which will effectively reduce agricultural debt. This is the main object of the Bill which applies only to loans incurred before the 1st January 1938. Under the Bill debt is reduced by the application of low rates of interest - 5 per cent. per annum simple interest in the case of secured debt and 8 per cent. per annum simple interest in the case of unsecured debt in those cases in which the contractual rate is greater than these rates. The Bill applies to proprietors who pay not more than Rs. 500 land revenue and to tenants who pay not more than Rs. 500 rent. It also applies to persons employed on wages not exceeding Rs. 60 per month.

(The United Provinces Gazette Extraordinary dated 8-5-1939, page 1 to 29).+

United Provinces:

United Provinces Rural Labourers Minimum Wage Bill, 1939. +

The United Provinces Rural Labourers Minimum Wage Bill, 1939, was introduced in the United Provinces Legislative Assembly on ~~5-5-1939~~ 5-5-1939: The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill says:

The lot of an ordinary labourer in rural areas is very terrible. In areas where there are no subsidiary industries or other work, the wages are so low as 2 annas per day, the zamindar in such areas paying only 5 or 6 pies per day. While so much is being done for the urban mill worker who, compared with the rural labourer, has got a decent income, no thought is being given to the wretched lot of the rural labourers who mostly belong to the depressed classes. It is time that attempts to improve his lot and income be at once taken in hand. Looking to the rural conditions in these provinces, this can be done only by legislation, i.e., by fixing minimum wages and penalizing the infringement of this law. The rural labourer, unlike the city worker, is overworked for longer hours and needs relief in this respect also, specially the women and children among them. Therefore in the present Bill power has been given to the

Local Government to fix minimum wages for different rural areas to fix hours of work. Infringement of the provisions of the law has been penalised, while, in the case of persons in authority such as landlords, creditors and public servants, etc., it has been made an offence.

The more important provisions of the Bill are summarised below:

Definition of Rural Labourer.- A rural labourer has been defined as one performing unskilled work whether on daily or monthly wages, and includes ordinary agricultural labourers, ploughmen, etc., but excludes skilled workers such as masons, carpenters, etc.

Minimum Wages.- Within three months of the coming into force of this Act, the Local Government shall fix the daily and monthly wages to be paid to a rural labourer in different local areas considering the wants and necessities of the rural labourer and the demand and supply of such labour in different localities. Different rates of wages shall be prescribed for adult male labourers, for female rural labourers, and for children rural labourers between the ages of 12 and 18 years.

Hours of Work.- An adult male rural labourer shall not be required to work more than 8 hours (excluding the interval for absolute rest and mealtime); a female adult rural labourer and a child rural labourer between the ages of 12 and 18 years shall not be required to work for more than 7 hours and 6 hours respectively in a day. Every rural labourer engaged on monthly wages shall be entitled to leave with pay for four days on an average in every month.

(U.P. Government Gazette,
dated 13-5-1939, part VII,
pages 104-105). +

United Provinces:

The U.P. Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 1939. +

This Bill corrects a printing error which occurred in the United Provinces Maternity Benefit Bill and which was detected after the Bill had become an Act. (Vide page 3 of the August 1938 report of this Office).

(U.P. Government Gazette,
dated 20-5-1939, page 119
of Part VII (a)). +

Sind:

The Bombay Maternity Benefit (Sind Amendment) Bill, 1939.
(Act No. VIII of 1939). (Bill No. LXXVI of 1939). +

Under clause (b) of section 3 of the Bombay Maternity Act,

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1929, the expression "factory" has the same meaning as is assigned to it under the Factories Act, 1934. Accordingly, the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, applies to factories in which a manufacturing process is carried on. But there are other industries in which women work, but in which no manufacturing process is carried on. It is proposed to extend the benefit of the said Act to women working in such of these industries as are declared by the Provincial Government by a notification issued in that behalf in the local official Gazette to be factories. Provision is also made in this Bill to empower the Provincial Government to make rules for providing free medical aid to pregnant women working in such factories. Section 5 of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, has been amended to increase the amount of benefit payable to women.

(The Sind Government
Gazette Extraordinary,
Part IV, pp 598-600,
dated 22-5-1939). r

Conditions of Labour.

Sweepers' Wages and Conditions of Service:

U. P. Government appoints Committee of Inquiry.

The U.P. Government has appointed a Committee with Mr. Karan Singh Kane, M.L.A., Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister for Education, as Chairman, to examine wages and conditions of service of sweepers employed in municipalities and notified areas in the United Provinces, and to make suggestions for their improvement.

The Committee will enquire into the wages paid to sweepers, male and female, and into their service conditions, relating to appointment, leave, promotion and permanency, and report in what respect improvements need to be effected. In this connection, the desirability of introducing a system of minimum wages, of holidays with pay, and of maternity leave for women, will be especially considered. It will also examine and report on their living conditions, with particular reference to housing and indebtedness, and make recommendations in regard to such ameliorative measures as may be feasible in the near future.

(The National Herald, 30-4-1939).

(U.P. Gazette, Pages 1659 to 1660.
Part IV. Date - 6-5-39).

Rescue Stations in Jharia and Raniganj Coal Mine Areas:

To be established by Government of India.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Coal Mines Rescue Rules, 1939, the Government of India has set up a Rescue Stations Committee consisting of seven members, including representatives of mine-owners and workers.

The Committee, it is expected, will maintain one Rescue Station in the Jharia and another in the Raniganj coalfields. A permanent rescue corps, consisting of not less than six fully trained men, is also to be maintained. The duty of the corps will be to conduct rescue work and take all practicable steps to minimise danger in mines after any explosion or outbreak of fire or dangerous irruption of noxious or inflammable gas and to generally fulfil any other obligations imposed upon them by the Coal Mines Rescue Rules.

The Miners' representatives on the Committee are Mr. P.C. Bose, Secretary, Indian Miners' Association (nominated by registered trade unions of miners) and Rao Bahadur D.D. Thacker, Pure Jheria Colliery (nominated by the Central Government to represent the interests of miners).

(The Amrita Bazar Patrik
1-5-1939).+

Strike Statistics of British India for
Quarter ending 31-12-1938. +

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the fourth quarter of 1938 ending 31-12-1938, published by the Department of Labour, Government of India, there were 136 disputes during the period. The 136 disputes involved 123,831 workers and entailed a loss of 1,999,161 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bengal, where 66 disputes involving 87,277 workers entailed a loss of 1,325,499 working days. Next comes Bombay with 34 disputes involving 16,169 workers and entailing a loss of 182,332 working days, United Provinces with 10 disputes involving 3,464 workers and entailing a loss of 23,013 working days, Madras with 8 disputes involving 4,139 workers and entailing a loss of 126,038 working days, Bihar with 7 disputes involving 8,621 workers and entailing a loss of 327,415 working days, the Central Provinces and Berar, and Sind with 4 disputes each involving 1,409 and 324 workers and entailing losses of 4,224 and 794 working days respectively, the Punjab with 2 disputes involving 78 workers and entailing a loss of 456 working days, and Assam with 1 dispute involving 350 workers and entailing a loss of 1,400 working days; there were no disputes in Delhi and Orissa.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 28 disputes which involved 20,424 workers and entailed a loss of 201,316 working days; engineering workshops were responsible for 14 disputes involving 5,031 workers and entailing a loss of 132,938 working days; jute mills were responsible for 12 disputes involving 67,947 workers and entailing a loss of 1,114,856 working days; other industries mines were responsible for 3 disputes involving 3,790 workers and entailing a loss of 226,380 working days; other industries were responsible for 79 disputes involving 26,639 workers and entailing a loss of 315,671 working days.

Of the 136 disputes during the quarter under review, 74 were due to wage questions, 28 due to personnel, 10 due to leave and hours of work and 24 due to other causes. In 16 disputes the workers were successful, in 42 partially successful, and in 66 unsuccessful, 12 disputes were progressing at the end of the period under report. +

Factory Administration in Mysore, 1935-1936.*

The following details regarding factory administration in the Mysore State during the year ending June 1936 are taken from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce of the State for the year 1935-36.

Number and Classification of Factories.- There were 209 factories on the Register of Factories at the beginning of the year. 20 factories were added during the year and 13 were struck off, leaving 216 on the Register at the close of the year. 51 out of the 216 factories were seasonal and the rest non-seasonal. Grouped under important industries, there were 51 disintegrating and decorticating factories, 50 food, drinks, etc., factories, 41 textile factories, 24 engineering workshops, 20 brick and tile factories, 16 oil mills, 8 printing presses, 4 chemical factories and 2 tanneries.

Number of Operatives.- The average number of persons employed daily in all the factories was 20,708 as against 17,757 in 1934-35. The number of adults employed rose from 16,086 to 20,708 and that of children fell from 1,449 to 1,285.

Inspection.- 235 factories were inspected during the year as against 165 in the previous year. 165 factories were inspected once, 30 twice and 2 thrice. 47 factories were not inspected during the year.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents reported during the year was 112 as against 119 in the previous year. Of these, 3 were fatal, 5 serious and the rest minor.

Labour Disputes and Industrial Relations.- During the year under report, there were four labour disputes, one in the Kolar Gold Fields and three in the textile mills at Bangalore and Mysore. Except for these four cases the relations between the employers and the employees in the other industrial concerns in the State were satisfactory. The seasonal conditions were fair. There was no great change in the level of the prices of food grains and other articles consumed largely by the labouring classes and the demand for labour continued to be steady.

The Board of Conciliation which had been reconstituted by Government for a period of two years with effect from 31st July 1934 met on three occasions during the year and reviewed the action taken to terminate the strikes that occurred during the year. The existence of the Board has had a salutary effect on the relations between the employers and employees in the State.

* Administration Report on the Working of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year ending June 1936. pp 31. (A copy of the Report was forwarded with our Minute D.1/790/39 dated 4-5-1939.)

Trade Union Legislation.- The question of introduction of into Mysore of legislation providing for the registration of trade unions was engaging the attention of the Department and of the Board of Industries and Commerce. The Board considered the subject and decided to call for the views of the large employers of labour and also the organisations interested in the well-being of labour regarding the need for introducing legislation in the State. Further action was taken in the matter.

Maternity Benefit.- A Bill on the subject was introduced in the Mysore Legislative Council by two private members during the year under report. The provisions of the Bill were considered by the Board of Industries and Commerce and recommended to Government for adoption with a few modifications made therein.

Welfare Work.- The mining companies and the textile mills were as usual, devoting a good deal of attention towards improving the conditions of labour. The panchayat Boards in the mining area were working satisfactorily. The members of these Boards are elected by the labourers themselves. The Panchayats endeavour to redress the grievances of the labour by moving the management in the matter.

(The report on factory administration in Mysore in 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 25-26 of our June 1936 report).*

Working of the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Regulation in Mysore State, 1935-36.*

Number of Cases.- The total number of fresh cases that came up before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation was 217 as against 209 in 1934-35. Including the 12 cases that were pending at the commencement of the year, the total number of cases for disposal was 229. Of the 229 cases, 216 cases were disposed of and 13 were pending at the close of the year. Of the 216 cases disposed of during the year, 78 related to accidents which proved fatal, 54 to non-fatal accidents and 84 to the Memoranda of Agreements. The number of claims disposed of relating to accidents in the mining industry was 212.

68 claims were contested during the period, of which 15 were allowed and 4 were dismissed, and 39 cases were compromised. One appeal was pending at the beginning of the year and two were instituted during the year. All the three were disposed of at the close of the year.

* Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year ending June 1936. pp 31. (A copy of the Report was forwarded with our Minute D.1/790/39 dated 4-5-1939).

Amount of Compensation paid.- A total sum of Rs. 53,851-13-0 was deposited with the Commissioners during the year as against Rs. 31,528-4-0 last year. The total amount available for distribution during the year was Rs. 54,296-9-0. Of this amount Rs. 47,137-0-0 was distributed among the dependants of the deceased and Rs. 3,262-0-0 was distributed in non-fatal cases, leaving Rs. 3,897-9-0 pending at the close of the year.

Returns under Section 15.- The annual returns under Section 15 of the Regulation were received from 176 factories out of 209 on the Register.

The Mysore Workmen's Compensation Regulation amended.- The Mysore Workmen's Compensation Regulation was amended and brought into a line with the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation in Mysore during 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 27-28 of our June 1936 report).

Nagpur Textile Workers' Demands: Recognition
of Union, Minimum Wage and Leave with Pay. †

Representatives of the Nagpur Textile Union led by Mr. Ruikar met the Prime Minister and the Minister for Industries, Central Provinces, at Pachmarhi on 9-5-1939. Mr. Ruikar pressed for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act for settlement of: (1) recognition of Union, (2) minimum wage, (3) leave with pay, and (4) departmental grievances, including security of service.

In reply, the Minister for Industries pointed out that Bills relating to the minimum wage and leave with pay are already before the Central Provinces Legislature and therefore they are not fit subjects for a Conciliation Board, and also that departmental grievances are being investigated by the Labour Officer and that his report will be submitted by 15-6-1939. As regards the Textile Union, Mr. Ruikar was asked if he would accept recognition on the basis on which the Nagpur Electrical Workers Union has been recognised by the employers. Mr. Ruikar required a week's time to consult his Union. The question of utilising the machinery under the Trade Disputes Act will depend upon the report of the Labour Officer. It was pointed out that in the meantime the possibility of recognition of the Union by negotiation could be utilised. Further steps, however, will be taken after receipt of Mr. Ruikar's reply.

(Summarised from a Press Note dated 11-5-1939 issued by the Publicity Officer, C.P. and Berar). †

"Stay-in-Strikes" Illegal: Principle enunciated
by Government of Bombay. †

Consequent on the "stay-in-strikes" resorted to by the workers of the Phoenix Mills, Bombay City, during April 1939, and the arbitral award given by Mr. Justice H.V. Divatia, the Government of Bombay has declared "stay-in-strikes" both a criminal offence and a civil wrong.

A press communiqué dated 12-5-1939 issued on the subject by the Public Relations Officer, Government of Bombay, points out that the "stay-in-strike" in the mill premises continued for some part of the day and a whole night and had the effect of wrongfully restraining some of the officers of the mills from coming out of the office. This is the first occasion on which a "stay-in-strike" was staged in Bombay and the Government has thought it necessary to draw attention to the illegality of such strikes as held by judicial tribunals in several countries. By remaining in the employer's premises, despite his wishes and outside the hours of work, the striking workers constitute an unlawful assembly and are guilty of criminal trespass and are also liable for infringing the property rights of the employer. Exercise of the right of association as held by courts does not justify the occupation of the premises in which the undertaking is conducted or over the immovable property, merchandise or equipment used for such conduct. The occupation of such premises during a strike constitutes a wrong giving the employer a right to compensation in a civil court against the workers, their leaders or the Unions concerned with the strike. It has been held that this right does not lapse on conclusion of a collective agreement terminating a strike. The Government, therefore, has warned those concerned that a "stay-in-strike" is both a criminal offence and a civil wrong, and has expressed the hope that the workers hereafter will not be a party to action of this nature which will land them into consequences of which they are probably not aware.

(Summarised from Press Communiqué dated 12-5-1939, issued by the Public Relations Officer, Government of Bombay). †

Reservation of Posts for Anglo-Indians in certain
Government Departments: Minimum Monthly Pay of
Rs. 55/- fixed by Government of India. ,

Further special reservation of posts for Anglo-Indians in certain sections of the Railway, Posts and Telegraphs, and Customs Departments, with which the community has past association, and also the fixing of Rs. 55 as minimum monthly remuneration for the community in the Railway and the Posts and Telegraphs Departments are announced in a Government of India resolution published on 5-5-1939. Where necessary, the minimum remuneration will, in the case of Anglo-Indians in railways and in the telegraphists grade, be made up by payment of a special allowance on account of their ~~tax~~ liability to service in the Indian Auxiliary Force.

The above modifications of the rules, which the Government of India consider necessary to give effect to the guarantees contained in Section 242 of the Government of India Act, are to take effect from April 1, 1939. Provisions for the minimum remuneration will apply to persons in service on this date as well as to new entrants.

(The Hindustan Times,
6-5-1939). +

Bonus forms part of Wages: Interpretation of
Payment of Wages Act, 1936: Employers to appeal
to Bombay High Court. +

In November 1937, the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay, issued a circular to all owners of factories in which it was stated that the definition of "Wages" in the Payment of Wages Act incorporated into wages any bonus that may be offered by the employer for good attendance, good work, good production or matters of that kind and that the bonus becomes payable whether or not the conditions governing the earning of the bonus are fulfilled or not. The

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Ahmedabad Millowners' Association contested this point of view, and a test case was filed against the Arvind Mills, Ahmedabad, in the Court of the City Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ahmedabad. The judgment of the City Sub-Divisional Magistrate was against the employers. (Vide pages 16-17 of our June 1938 report). The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association thereupon appealed to the District Judge of Ahmedabad who has recently pronounced judgment; the judgment also went against the employers. It is understood that the matter is being taken on appeal to the Bombay High Court.

Regarding the interpretation that bonus is included in wages, the District Judge, Ahmedabad, in his judgment observed:

"The several provisions of the Payment of Wages Act leave no doubt on the subject that bonus is included in wages, and its deductions brings the case within the purview of this Act. I do grant that this interpretation is not beneficial to the employed person either, as to the employer. The result of this interpretation, as the learned counsel very plainly suggested, would be to impel the employer to do away with the offer of bonus altogether and there is nothing in this Act, so far as I can see, to prevent him from doing so; so that the ultimate effect of this interpretation will no doubt rebound upon the wage earner. But a Court of Justice has not to guard the interest either of the employer or of the employed. Its only duty is to interpret the statute as it stands irrespective of its consequences of such interpretation."

(Summarised from Circular
No. 52 dated 13-5-1939 issued
by the Employers' Federation
of Northern India, Cawnpore).

Forced Labour in the Punjab: Government's
Proclamation banning it. †

Reference was made at page 14 of our report for April 1939 to the attitude of the Government of the Punjab with regard to forced labour in the Province. A further step to abolish totally the practice of begar (forced labour) has been taken by the Punjab Government. Instructions, it is understood, have been issued by the Government that a proclamation should be made by beat of drum in every village of the province that begar of all kinds without proper remuneration has been strictly prohibited by the Government. It is further understood that special efforts will be made to convey the decision of the Government to the members of the depressed classes. In order to ensure this, it has been arranged to obtain signatures or thumb impressions of leading

members of the depressed classes as well as the village headmen on a certificate showing that the proclamation had been duly made.

(The Hindustan Times,
19-5-1939). +

Industrial Disputes in British India during 1938. +

According to a communiqué dated 17-5-1939 on industrial disputes in British India during 1938, issued by the Department of Labour of the Government of India, the total number of strikes during the year was 399 (including 13 strikes in progress on 31-12-1937), the figure being the highest yet recorded of industrial disputes in British India during the last 20 years, and the total number of workers involved was 401,000 as compared with 379 strikes (including 7 strikes in progress on 31-12-1936), involving 648,000 workers in 1937. The total number of working days lost during the year was 9,199,000 as compared with 8,982,000 during 1937. In all, cotton textile mills and jute mills accounted for 39 per cent. of the strikes, 70.8 per cent. of the workers involved and 71.1 per cent. of the loss of working days. In 212 of the strikes or 53 per cent. the chief demand related to wages or bonuses. The number of strikes in which the workmen were successful in gaining concessions was 181 or approximately 46 per cent. of the total.

Provincial Distribution.— During the year under review, there were 157 disputes in the Province of Bengal involving 162,888 workers and entailing a loss of 2,698,742 working days. Next comes Bombay with 111 disputes involving 62,188 workers and entailing a loss of 694,118 working days; Madras with 52 disputes involving 65,290 workers and entailing a loss of 2,226,049 working days; Bihar with 21 disputes involving 27,471 workers and entailing a loss of 1,103,182 working days; the United Provinces and the Central Provinces and Berar with 14 disputes each involving 53,851 and 18,260 workers and entailing losses of 2,046,868 and 307,043 working days respectively; the Punjab with 13 disputes involving 3,522 workers and entailing a loss of 38,852 working days; Sind with 12 disputes involving 1,703 workers and entailing a loss of 6,123 working days; Assam with 4 disputes involving 2,506 workers and entailing a loss of 6,276 working days; and Delhi with 1 dispute involving 3,396 workers and entailing a loss of 71,455 working days.

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Causes and Results of Strikes.- Of the 399 disputes during the year, 209 were due to questions of wages, 92 to those of personnel, 21 to those of leave and hours of work, 3 to those of bonus and 74 to other causes. (Of the 399 strikes, one was common to four industries). In 51 cases the workers were fully successful, in 133 partially successful and in 206 unsuccessful; 12 disputes were in progress at the close of the year.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 129 disputes in cotton and woollen industries involving 167,265 workers and entailing a loss of 4,442,577 working days; 42 in engineering workshops involving 27,228 workers and entailing a loss of 853,992 working days; 28 in jute mills involving 116,909 workers and entailing a loss of 2,098,551 working days; 7 in mines involving 10,602 workers and entailing a loss of 406,495 working days; 1 in railways (including railway workshops) involving 440 workers and entailing a loss of 660 working days. In all other industries together there were 195 disputes involving 88,631 workers and entailing a loss of 1,306,433 working days. (One strike was common to four industries).

(The communiqué on Industrial Disputes in British India during 1937 is reviewed at pages 14-15 of our June 1938 report). +

6 Annas Minimum Daily Wage for Salt Workers:
Arbitrator's Award in Jagannaikpur Salt
Factory Dispute. +

Mr. S.V. Ramamurti, Commissioner of Labour, Madras, who was appointed Arbitrator in the dispute between the Oriental Salt Company, lessees of the Jagannaikpur Salt Factory at Cocanada, and the workers employed in the factory, issued on 5-5-1939 his award recommending a minimum daily wage of Re. 0-6-0 for the salt workers concerned. The following are the salient features of the award.

The point of dispute was what constituted a fair day's wages for the worker and both sides had agreed to abide by the arbitrator's decision. The number of workers at the factory varies from about 30 to 100. The daily wage of a worker working at irrigation and scraping of salt is Re. 0-4-6. The employers also pay the wages of one labourer to bring food for every ten workers. The hours of work are said to be from about 7-30 A.M. to 12 A.M. and 2-30 P.M. to 5-30 or 6 P.M. If a worker comes for work before 7 A.M. he is paid half anna extra for the day.

The arbitrator has held that six annas a day is a fair rate of wages to a daily worker at the Jagannaikpur Salt Factory. When this wage is paid, the payment made for carrying food for workers living at a distance need not be separately made, as an urban wage taking into account increased cost of living in an urban area or increased effort in walking to work from a rural area. The hours of work to which this wage of six annas is applicable would be the same as those to which four and a half annas has been hitherto applicable.

(The Hindu, 10-5-1939).

Short Time abolished in B.B. & C.I. Railway Workshop,
Ajmer: 48-Hour Week Restored. †

The Railway Board has agreed to the restoration of full-time working in the Locomotive and Carriage and Wagon Workshops of the B.B. & C.I. Railway, Ajmer. A 44-hour week was introduced in certain departments of these workshops in January 1931, to avoid wholesale retrenchment of staff on account of shortage of work, and it was subsequently found necessary to extend the application of short-time working to every department. Owing to increase in locomotive and coaches construction work, the management has now found it possible to revert to the 48-hour week.

(The Statesman, 20-5-1939). †

Conditions in Assam Tea Estates: Assam Government
appoints Enquiry Committee. †

The Government of Assam has constituted a Committee with Mr. S.K. Ghosh, I.C.S., Controller of Emigrant Labour, as Chairman, to enquire into and report on the existing conditions of labour in the tea plantations in Assam. The Committee will consist of five members including representatives of labour and of tea gardens

under European and Indian ownership. The terms of reference of the Committee are:-

- (1) To determine what is the root cause of recent strikes and other manifestations of discontent on tea gardens in Assam; and particularly whether there are economic grievances either generally in the districts concerned or in the affected estates.
- (2) What measures are required in order to remove the root cause or causes of the said strikes?
- (3) Whether and, if so, what form of organisation is desirable for enabling labourers on tea gardens to communicate their grievances to the management in such effective manner as will remove any doubt that their interests are secure, and to procure settlement of such grievances, if any, by negotiation.

(Page 715 of Part II of the Assam Government Gazette, dated 24-5-1939). +

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for various Centres in India during March 1939. +

The cost of living index number for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during March 1939 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in March 1939 declined by 1 point to 103. The average in the year 1938 was 105.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad in March 1939 declined by 1 point to 68; for 1938 the average was 71.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during March 1939 remained stationary at 71. The average for 1938 was 72.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1927) of the cost of living in March 1939 declined by 1 point to 59.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1937) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in March 1939 declined by 1 point to 56.

(Extracted from March 1939 issue of the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in India, 1937. * +

Review of Administration in the Provinces.- The total number of cases increased from 26,246 (excluding Burma and Aden) in 1936 to 29,645 in 1937, but the amount of compensation paid fell from Rs. 1,364,268 in 1936 to Rs. 1,288,764. Increases both in the number of cases reported and the amount of compensation paid were registered in Baluchistan, Bombay, the Central Provinces and Berar, Madras, the North-West Frontier Province, Orissa and Sind. The compensation paid for accidents on Railways fell from Rs. 365,223 in 1936 to Rs. 341,452 in 1937. The average sum paid during the year per case was Rs. 43.4 as against Rs. 51.9 in 1936.

Activities of Trade Unions.- As in previous years only a few trade unions were reported to have assisted their members to obtain compensation. In Bengal, the Press Employees' Association continued to take an active interest in rendering help to their members. The Indian Seamen's Union, Bengal, also showed some activity, particularly in the first half of the year. In Bombay, the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association was the only trade union which continued to play any real part in settlement. The total number of claims handled by this union during the year was 244 as against 200 in 1936 and the amount of compensation secured by them was Rs. 21,915. In Bombay, the working of the Act was greatly facilitated by the co-operation of insurance companies representing employers, and by Claims Agencies representing workers. In Bengal the Calcutta Claims Bureau, as the representative of the largest number of insured employers, continued to render assistance in the speedy disposal of claims against employers insured by them.

Applications filed before Commissioners.- There was an increase in the number of proceedings before Commissioners, the total number of cases (including those pending from the previous year) being 2,823 as against 2,654 in 1936. The number of fresh applications

* Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1937 together with a note on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. Published by order of Government of India, Manager of Publications, Delhi. pp 5.

under section 10 of the Act was 889 as compared with 784 in 1936 and the number of fresh deposits under section 18 of the Act was 1,285 as compared with 1,300 in 1936. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed off by Commissioners was 55.8 as compared with 59.4 in the previous year. 1,572 agreements were presented during the year. Out of these, together with applications pending from 1936, 1,468 were registered without modification and 25 after modification; 47 were not registered on account of inadequacy or for other reasons and 161 were pending at the close of the year.

Appeals before High Court.- 21 appeals were filed during the year while 18 were pending at the beginning of the year. Of these, 27 were disposed off and 12 were pending at the close of the year.

Occupational Diseases.- There were 6 cases of compensation for lead poisoning during the year (1 in Bihar and 5 in Delhi). Compensation amounting to Rs. 4,664 was paid. A case of alleged lead poisoning in Bengal, which was instituted in the previous year, resulted in the award of compensation. Two other cases of the same nature were instituted, but were undecided at the end of 1937.

Amendments to the Act.- Section 35 of the Act was amended so as to permit the transfer abroad of distribution proceedings, where the employer does not object and the dependents are in a country other than the one in which compensation has been deposited.

The following employments were added to Schedule II of the Act by Notifications under section 2(3):-

- (i) Persons employed, otherwise than in a clerical capacity or as agricultural labourers, in the handling or transport of goods in or within the precincts of: (a) any warehouse or place in which on any one day of the preceding twelve months ten or more persons have been so employed; or (b) any market in which on any one day of the preceding twelve months one hundred or more persons have been so employed.
- (ii) Persons employed in any occupation involving the handling and manipulation of radium or X-ray apparatus, or contact with radio-active substances.

The following occupational diseases were included in Schedule III of the Act by notification under section 3(3):-

- (i) Arsenical poisoning or its sequelae; (ii) Pathological manifestations due to: (a) radium and other radio-active substances, (b) X-rays; (iii) Primary epitheliomatous cancer of the skin.

The Workmen's Compensation (Transfer of Money) Rules, 1935, were formally amended during the year.

(A copy of the Report reviewed above was sent to Geneva with this Office Minute D.1/9/4/39 dated 1-6-1939. The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act during 1936 was reviewed at pages 18-19 of our June 1938 report). +

Forced Labour in Sirohi State: Enquiry
Committee appointed.

An Enquiry Committee to go into details and report on "land rent and forced labour" prevalent in khalsa villages in Sirohi State, Rajputana, has been appointed by the Chief Minister of the State. A number of jagirdars and State officials have been nominated to work on the committee, which will be assisted by Mr. Khemchand Babu, a former Revenue Commissioner of the State.

(The Bombay Chronicle,
25-5-1939). +

Working of the Hours of Employment Regulations
of Indian Railways, 1937-38. * +

Scope of Application: Railways covered .- The Hours of Employment Regulations were applied to the North Western and East Indian Railways with effect from 1st April 1931 and to the Eastern Bengal and Great Indian Peninsula Railways with effect from 1st April 1932. The Regulations were extended to the Bombay, Baroda and Central India and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways with effect from the 1st November 1935. These Regulations were further extended to the Bengal and North-Western Railway with effect from 1st October 1937. The State-managed railways are thus now complying with the provisions of the Regulations, together with three very important company-managed systems, so that the majority of railway servants in India are now protected by legislation.

Number of Staff covered.- The total number of non-gazetted employees on all Class I Railways in India on 31st March 1937 was ~~22~~ 649,077 and of these 500,362 are employed on the seven Railways on which the Regulations are in force; in other words 77 per cent. ~~of the total staff are now enjoying the benefits of the legislation.~~ The total number of staff on all Class II and III Railways only amounts to 33,752 so that their exclusion from the above figures, it is pointed out, makes very little difference in the percentage given. Even those Railways on which the legislation has not yet been introduced cannot be said to be entirely unaffected by it. The principles of the Act have in many cases been applied and the report maintains that there is reason to believe that the hours of work of majority of employees fulfil the provisions of the law.

Classified according to railways, the staff covered is distributed as follows: North Western Rly - 101,283; East Indian Rly - 125,106; Eastern Bengal Rly. - 52,230; Great Indian Peninsula Rly. - 81,672; Madras and Southern Mahratta Rly - 49,745; Bombay, Baroda and Central India Rly. - 63,176; Bengal and North-Western Rly. - 27,150; total = 500,362.

Inspection.- The following table shows the actual number of establishments inspected by Labour Inspectors with the branches of Railway Service to which they belong:-

* Government of India, Department of Labour - Annual Report on the Working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on the North Western, East Indian, Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula, Bombay, Baroda and Central India, Madras and Southern Mahratta and Bengal and North Western Railways during the year 1937-38 - by Khan Bahadur K.M. Hassan, Supervisor of Railway Labour. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939. Price annas 7 or 8d. pp 13.

	Transportation.	Way and Works	Power and Carriage	Miscellaneous	Total
N. W. Railway ...	1,008	314	168	237	1,727
E.I. Railway ...	761	155	103	124	1,143
E.B. Railway ...	309	53	56	76	494
G.I.P. Railway ...	476	85	79	101	741
B.B. & C.I. Rly. ...	675	106	121	210	1,112
M. & S.M. Rly. ...	519	151	120	95	885
B. & N.W. Rly. ...	190	94	63	73	420
Total ...	3,938	958	710	916	6,622

The average number of establishments inspected per Labour Inspector, works out at 544. Workshop staff employed in large workshops on railways which have been declared by Provincial Governments as "Factories" come within the scope of the Factories Act. Detailed figures are not available as to the exact number of such factory workers, but ~~this is immaterial for the Factories Act~~ also complies with the provisions of the Washington and Geneva Conventions. All other Railway servants come within the direct scope of the Hours of Employment Regulations, except in so far as those Regulations exempt a few categories.

Remarks on Application of Regulations.- With regard to the application of the Regulations to the various railways, the report makes the following observations: Although the Regulations have now been in force for several years on the four State-managed Railways and the initial difficulties in their application have mostly been overcome, still there is room for improvement, particularly in the matter of classification. The position on the Eastern Bengal Railway has considerably improved during the last two years, having almost reached the standard achieved by the Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways. This cannot, however, be said of the East Indian Railway. As regards the Company-managed Railways, it is yet too early to comment on the conditions prevailing on the Bengal and North-Western Railway. As regards the Bombay, Baroda and Central India and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways, so far as the general application of the Regulations is concerned, the position is satisfactory. There, however, appears to be a tendency on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway to conform more to the letter than to the spirit of the law, with the result that some of the staff are not deriving the full benefits of the Regulations.

Hours of Employment.- The staff who occasionally or habitually work beyond their rostered hours, it is pointed out, are very limited and are confined to certain well defined categories of staff, such as goods clerks and the inferior staff under the Transportation Department, who are called upon to do the loading and unloading of "smalls"

in addition to their normal duties. Cases relating to other staff have also come to notice, but their number is negligible.

Periods of Rest.- According to the report fewer cases have been reported by Inspectors in which staff have infringed the Regulations by coming on duty when they should have been enjoying their weekly rest. The efforts made from time to time during the last few years to arrange for the periodic rest to coincide with a calendar day and to increase the number of continuous workers whose rest is a calendar day rather than the legal minimum of 24 hours as required by the Regulations have not been in vain. A calendar day's rest generally means anything between 24 hours to 32 - whereas the legal minimum is only 24.

Classification of Staff: (a) Continuous Staff.- As a result of the recommendations made by the inspecting staff under the Supervisor of Railway Labour and due to the sympathetic attitude generally adopted by Railway Administrations, a large number of staff who until recently were classes as Intermittent are now classified as Continuous. ~~In this connection attention is invited to the figures given in the Appendix. It will be seen that~~ Whereas in 1936-37 the percentage of "Continuous" to the total staff (excluding those under the Factories Act) ranged between 55 to 71, during the year under review it ranged between 54.8 to 71.6.

(b) Intermittent Staff.- As regards the Intermittent Staff there is a slight change for the better on the North Western and Great Indian Peninsula Railways, practically no change on the East Indian, Eastern Bengal and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways, but on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway the percentage has come down from 27.6 to 23, and there has been an increase in the percentage of the Continuous staff.

(c) Excepted Staff.- The percentage of the excepted staff varies among 1937-38 between 2.9 to 5 compared to 2.9 to 5.3 in 1936-37. The Bengal and North Western Railway, however, shows a very high figure viz., 9.5, under this head. This is probably due to the fact that a large number of staff such as chowkidars, watermen and sweepers working on this Railway have been excluded from the operation of the Regulations; it is suggested that the Administration should look into the matter. The report states that Railway Administrations have been reminded that in their legitimate desire to reduce expenditure on staff, there should not be a change in classification from Continuous to Intermittent unless it is fully justified.

Overtime Work.- The report points out that the organisation of relieving staff has gone a long way to reduce the number of occasions on which staff have to work beyond their rostered hours of duty, and that the necessity for maintaining proper records of the overtime worked has been stressed upon the Administrations. Till recently there were a few cases of delay in payment of overtime wages, but, it is pointed out, that the passing of the Payment of Wages Act, which does not leave any option in the matter in the hands of the Railway

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Administrations, but makes it obligatory for them to pay overtime within ten days of the wage-period. will improve the position in this respect considerably.

(The report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations during 1936-37 was reviewed at pages 34-38 of the report of this Office for September, 1937).+

Workers' Organisations.1939 Annual Convention of All-India Railwaymen's
Federation, Madras, 1-5-1939. +

The 1939 Annual Convention of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held at Unity House (M. & S.M. Railway Workers' Union premises) Perambur, Madras, under the presidentship of Mr. J. Jammadas M. Mehta. The Convention was attended by several delegates from all over India, including Mr. H.M. Joshi.

Mr. V.V. Giri, Minister for Industries and Labour, Madras, while declaring the Convention open remarked that it might be said that a Provincial Government had no direct interest in railway workers, the Government of India being their guardian. But he held that the Provincial Government would have to watch with great care and attention as railway disputes might have repercussion on law and order for which the Provincial Governments are responsible. With the introduction of the Federal Government and the creation of the Statutory Railway Board, railways will not only be under the control of the Central Government, but will also be independent of all popular control. With ~~that independence could the railway administrations treat the workers employed by them as they please?~~ The railways would naturally have a tendency to be totalitarian in their administration, but Provincial ~~Governments cannot afford to be helpless spectators of conditions of service that might lead to frequent disputes between the workers and their employers.~~ Whatever may be the legal anomalies, there ought to be some sort of co-ordination between Central and Provincial Governments, particularly in respect of legislation affecting workers.

Presidential Address.- The following is a summary of the presidential address:- Reduced wages and continued long hours of work, not to speak of the other worsened conditions, had been the marked features of the transport industry in almost all parts of the world. Two lakhs of railwaymen, if not more, are wholly outside the hours of work regulations and the fight shall have to be begun again before the entire body of railway workers in India attain the benefit of the Washington convention. Even since 1930 the experience shows that Indians in charge of Commerce Department ^{have} proved to be more hard-hearted and indifferent to the cry of the distressed railway workers. The Royal Commission on Labour recommended that all those employees who were in receipt of Rs. 20 or more per mensem should be compulsorily admitted to the membership of the Provident Fund and those receiving less than that should be given the option of joining the fund if they desired. This recommendation was made in 1930. The urgency of admitting all the workers to the benefit of the provident fund has been repeatedly pressed on the Railway Board, but the attitude of the authorities has remained adamant. The railways slowly ^{look up} after the depression and the reform most urgently needed is the admission of the humbler employees to the benefits of the provident fund. The absence of a reliable machinery for the settlement of disputes is very seriously felt. The Government has been reluctant to apply the machinery recommended by the Royal Commission

on labour. The time when the workers will have a ready and easy access to the machinery of settlement for their numerous grievances is still as distant as ever. Meanwhile discontent grows, injustice multiplies and workers are fast losing faith in the administration. Referring to recognition of railway unions, Mr. Mehta said that the recommendations of the Royal Commission in this behalf had so far remained unimplemented. The railway administrations did not seem to look with favour on trade unions.

Mr. N.M. Joshi.- Mr. N.M. Joshi in his address urged that railwaymen must first strengthen their organisation. Dealing with the grievances of railwaymen, Mr. Joshi suggested that as an experiment they should tackle one problem first. He suggested their taking up first the problem of hours of work which required an early solution. The Geneva Hours Convention had been ratified by India about 20 years ago and the time had now come when they should not be satisfied with getting legislation applied to these railwaymen to whom it was not applied, but should agitate for a general reduction of hours of work for all railwaymen to 48 hours a week.

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

Railwaymen's Grievances: Demand for Conciliation Board.-

"Whereas the Railway Board has so far continued to deny relief to the legitimate representations of the Federation specially in respect of provident fund benefits, accumulation of unused or denied leave, pass rules, working hours and weekly rest, application of new scales of pay, continued unemployment of those retrenched in 1931, and whereas such an unfavourable attitude in view of increasing railway earnings is unjustifiable, and could be proved so if an investigation is ordered.

This Convention resolves that the attention of the Railway Board be invited to the serious injustice done to the thousands of workmen on the railways and to the necessity of immediate redressal by the appointment of a Conciliation Board under the Trade Disputes Act for the settlement of the disputes."

It was further resolved that in case no satisfactory settlement was reached within three months, the Convention should meet again to review the situation.

Freedom of Association in Mysore State.- The Mysore Government should be moved to remove the ban against freedom of association of Mysore State Railway workers, and to permit the formation of a recognised free trade Union on the basis of the model constitution drawn up by the Railway Board as followed in other Class I Railways."

Consultation of Trade Union Representatives.- Another resolution adopted urged the Railway Board to associate representatives of Railway Trade Unions in all enquiries relating to railway accidents and to impress upon the railways the necessity of *for a*

sympathetic attitude towards Trade Unions by taking them into full confidence in all labour questions.

Railway Federal Authority condemned.- The Convention condemned the proposed constitution of the Railway Federal Authority, and expressed its emphatic opinion that Indian Railways, being a vast national concern, directly connected with the life of the nation in all its spheres, must be under popular control with adequate representation for Indian railway workers.

(The Indian Labour Journal,
7-5-1939). +

The Bengal Shop-Assistants Conference,
Calcutta, 7-5-1939. +

The 1939 Session of the Bengal Shop Assistants Conference was held at Calcutta on 7-5-1939 under the presidentship, in the absence of the President-elect, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, M.L.A., ex-Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, of Professor Humayun Kabir. Security of tenure, reduction of hours, and general improvements in conditions of work were the more important demands enunciated at the Conference.

Presidential Address.- The president, Professor Kabir explained the provisions of the Shop Assistants Bill which he was sponsoring in the Upper House of the Bengal Legislature. He stated that a misapprehension had arisen owing to inaccurate reports in the press that he had withdrawn his Bill. Only on Mon. Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy giving an undertaking that the Government would be bringing forward a Bill to this effect next session, he agreed to postponement of the consideration of his Bill. If, however, the Government failed to implement their promise, he would press his Bill next session. He regretted that though notice of his Bill had been given a year and a half ago, the Government had so far taken no step in this direction, while other Governments such as Bombay and U.P., coming late in the field, had already, on the basis of this Bill, passed legislation for relief of shop-assistants.

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

Demand for Committee of Enquiry.- The Conference records its grave concern at the excessive hours of employment of thousands of shop assistants and at the rapid spread of tuberculosis among shop assistants working in large departmental stores and municipal as well as private-owned markets, and urges upon the Government of

Bengal to appoint a Special Committee to enquire into the matter.

Improvement of Working Conditions.- In the opinion of the Conference, the unregulated hours of work, total absence of weekly and other holidays and unremunerative wages, are some of the primary causes ~~of the distress of shop assistants~~ and the Government should immediately regulate hours of work, provide weekly and other holidays, and fix minimum rates of wages for shop assistants.

Regularity of Payment of Wages.- The practice of payment of wages by irregular instalments in most of the Indian-owned shops, sometimes extending over several months, should be stopped and the Government should at once extend the application of the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act to shop assistants.

Shop Assistants Bill.- The Conference wholeheartedly supports the Shop Assistants Bill sponsored by Professor Humayun Kabir, M.L.C., in the Bengal Legislative Council, and by Mr. J.C. Gupta, M.L.A., Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, M.L.A., and Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashmey, M.L.A. in the Bengal Assembly, and requests the Government to accept the principle of these bills.

Conditions in Markets.- The Conference draws the attention of the ~~Public Health and Local~~ Self-Government Departments to the miserable conditions of Calcutta's markets with regard to ventilation, sanitation, supply of drinking water, lighting arrangements, washing facilities and seating accommodation for shop assistants, and requests that these conditions should be immediately improved.

Shop Assistants and 1941 Census.- The Conference is of opinion that the Government should make suitable arrangements for separate enumeration and classification of shop assistants during the next decennial census in 1941.

Medical Fees.- The Conference draws the attention of the Government and medical authorities as regards fees charged by the medical profession and requests that arrangements be made either to revise the scale of fees charged or make some special concessions in the case of poor shop assistants.

Labour Welfare Funds.- The Conference is of opinion that out of funds earmarked for labour welfare shop assistants should also receive their due share.

(Summarised from the May 1939 issue (Conference Number) of "Bengal Shop Life", and a copy of the resolutions adopted at the Conference forwarded to this Office by the Shop Assistants Association of Bengal).

Inauguration of Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress:

DEMAND for comprehensive Labour Legislation.

At a Conference of representatives of over 40 labour unions from all over the province of Madras held at Congress House, Madras, on 10 and 11-5-1939 a Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress, with Mr. P.R.K. Sarma and Mr. P. Ramamurti as President and Secretary respectively, was inaugurated.

A deputation of the representatives of the Congress met the Hon'ble Mr. V.V. Giri, Minister for Industries and Labour on 12-5-1939 and represented the need for early labour legislation. Mr. P.R.K. Sarma, President of the Congress, presented a memorandum outlining certain broad principles which should form the basis of suitable labour legislation. The growing number of trade disputes, it was urged, called for legislation without further delay if industrial peace was to be assured. The Congress was desirous that legislation should be enacted on the lines of the proposals made in the memorandum, particularly as regards settlement of trade disputes, unemployment insurance and social welfare.

The Hon'ble Mr. Giri said that the proposals put forward by the workers would receive his careful consideration. He added that he proposed to discuss with employers, the lines of the proposed legislation.

(The Hindu, 12-5-1939).

17th Half-Yearly Meeting of the All-India Railwaymen's

Federation with the Railway Board at Simla

on 19-5-1939.

The 17th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held at Simla on 19-5-1939. Mr. Guruswami, the General Secretary of the Federation, led the deputation of the workers.

Subjects Discussed.- The Federation made representations on the following subjects:-

Pass rules, case of running parcel clerks of the Eastern Bengal Railway, extension of provident fund membership to inferior staff of State-managed railways, accumulation of leave for inferior staff of State-managed railways, extension of hours of Employment Regulation to certain railways, and joint standing machinery as recommended by the Whitley Commission.

Below is given a summary of the representations made and the replies given on some of the more important subjects:

Leave Rules.- On the question of leave rules, the Federation complained that the inferior staff could not accumulate the leave earned, which automatically lapsed when they were not given leave applied for.

The Chief Commissioner said that he understood that on the North Western Railway approximately 86 per cent. and 99 per cent. of the applications for leave from subordinate and inferior staff, respectively, had been met during 1937, while on the East Indian Railway, in respect of inferior staff, other than gangmen, against the total number of leave-days applied for in 1937-38, the number of leave-days refused was 5.3 per cent, the corresponding leave-day figures in regard to gangmen being 73,260 and 2,703 respectively.

The Federation in reply stated that, from the volume of complaints received from the staff, the figures did not appear to represent the actual position, and granting that the figures were correct, it should be easier for the Board to agree to the representation of the Federation in the light of the recommendations on the question of the Royal Commission on Labour.

Extension of Hours of Employment Regulations.- On this subject, the Chief Commissioner said that in view of the heavy additional expenditure involved, they had to consider either extending the regulations only to two railways covering all categories of staff to which these regulations apply at present on other railways or extend the regulations only to a few categories on the four remaining principal railways, namely, the Assam-Bengal, Bengal-Nagpur, Rohilkhand and Kumaon, and South Indian Railways. The Chief Commissioner desired to have the views of the Federation on this point.

Mr. Guruswami stated that the Federation would prefer to discuss this point at the special meeting to be held in Bombay in July 1939.

Standing Machinery for Settlement of Disputes.- On the subject of the Joint Standing Machinery as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour in India, the Federation observed that they were not satisfied with the Industrial Advisory Board set up at Calcutta by the Government of India. They urged that this Board should be replaced by the Joint Standing Machinery contemplated by the Royal Commission on Labour.

The Chief Commissioner pointed out that, in view of the limitations on the powers of the Railway Administration and for several other reasons, the recommendation of the Royal Commission could not be accepted.

Nomination of Workers' Representatives on Industrial Advisory Board.- The Federation next referred to the persons nominated by the Government of India to form the panel of members representing workers, announced in the Government of India, Department of Labour Press communiqué dated November 10, 1938, and observed that none of

them was recognised the workers as being representatives ^{their} of ~~theirs~~. They had already brought this to the notice of the Department of Labour. The Federation also submitted that the labour representative nominated by the Federation should be appointed at least in the capacity of an assessor on the Industrial Advisory Board, which should be a standing machinery instead of being an ad hoc body.

The Chief Commissioner agreed to bring to the notice of the Department of labour, for their consideration, the points put forward by the Federation.

(The Statesman dated 21-5-1939 and the National Herald of 24-5-1939). +

SPG.1

Intellectual Workers.Compulsory State Insurance Scheme for GovernmentEmployees: Baroda Government's Decision.

The Baroda Government has recently introduced a scheme of compulsory insurance for State servants. The scheme will come into operation with effect from August 1, 1939. Mr. A.C. Mukerjee, Director of Statistics, has been appointed as Insurance Officer. The scheme, as sanctioned, would be made applicable to all new recruits to Government service, except those drawing Rs. 20 and below.

(The Times of India,
30-5-1939). +

Economic Conditions.

Standards of Living in India: Enquiry to be undertaken
by Economic Adviser to Government of India.

It is understood that Dr. T.E. Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, has decided to undertake an important investigation into the question of standard of living in India. One object of the enquiry is to ascertain how far during the last twenty years the standard of living in India has progressed or otherwise. The question will be studied from an all-India point of view with the help of all available statistics.

So far as public health and nutritional standards in India are concerned, efforts have already been made by Sir John Megaw and Sir Alexander Russell to study the position, but the Economic Adviser's enquiry into the standard of living will attempt to tackle the problem from an economist's point of view. Assembling data about total output of Indian agriculture, consumption of commodities, volume of services, etc., Dr. Gregory will try to find whether there is evidence of deterioration in the standard of living in India in the widest sense of the word.

Another enquiry which he is planning to make is an enquiry into the significance of Indian industrial statistics. Hitherto Dr. Gregory has been engaged in studying the effect of tariffs in India, and he proposes very soon to publish a series of studies giving economic balance sheets of protection in India, based on a general review of tariffs, their working, and their actual burden in recent years.

(The Hindustan Times,
20-5-1939).

Social Conditions.

Review of Prohibition Activities of Congress

Ministries: Total Prohibition in 3 Years. +

The Congress and Prohibition Ideal.- Prohibition has been adopted for nearly 20 years as a prominent plank of the constructive programme of the Congress. Article 13, of the resolution on Fundamental Rights passed at the Karachi Congress Session states that intoxicating drinks and drugs shall be totally prohibited except for medicinal purposes. After Congress had accepted office in the various Congress provinces, the Working Committee of the Congress had adopted a resolution that it expects Congress Ministries to introduce total prohibition within their respective provinces. Below is a brief account, province by province, of the work accomplished in this sphere by the various Congress Governments.

Madras.- This Province was the first to tackle the problem. Prohibition was introduced in on 1st October, 1937 in Salem district and extended to Guddapah and Chittoor districts in 1939. It will be extended to North Arcot district from 1st October 1939. From this date prohibition will be in force in a compact area of 23,819 square miles which would be 1/5th of the total area of the Province. The loss of revenue by the introduction of prohibition in these four districts will amount to 2/3rds of Rs. 10 million.

Bombay.- Including the areas where prohibition was introduced in 1938 the areas which will have the benefit of this programme from 1st August, 1939, will be Ahmedabad City and the whole of the North and South Daskrota taluks, the whole of the Sub-division of the Broach and Panch Mahal and some taluks of Ahmednagar and North Kanara districts. The most outstanding step is the decision to extend prohibition to the whole of Bombay City and suburbs. The loss of revenue to the Government due to these measures will be Rs. 18 million.

Central Provinces.- The Congress Ministry in Central Provinces decided to extend prohibition to the districts of Akola and Wardha this year, and including the area in which it was introduced in 1938, the total dry area will consist of three whole districts and one large Sub-division, besides two other towns. The dry area comprises of about 1/6th of the total area of the Province or 1/4th of the non-aboriginal territory. The loss of revenue by this measure would be Rs. 850,000.

The United Provinces.- In 1938 prohibition was introduced in the two districts of Etah and Manipuri. In the current year it has been decided to extend the dry area to four more districts, viz., Badaun, Faurakhabad, Bijnor and Jaunpur. In the remaining districts

the number of shops will be reduced by about 20 per cent.

The scheme of prohibition and the adoption of various other restrictive measures as the raising of the retail sale price of charas and the extension of the system of State management to certain important industrial centres, have brought about a reduction in Provincial consumption of more than 30 per cent. in liquor, 25 per cent. in charas, about 43 per cent in ganja and about 25 per cent. in opium. Their excise revenue has decreased from Rs. 15.2 million in 1936-37 to Rs. 11.5 million as a result of these measures.

Bihar.- Prohibition was introduced in Saran district on 1st April 1938. The district covers 2,683 square miles and has a population of about 2.5 millions. Attempts are also being made to reduce the consumption of spirits in other districts by reducing the number of shops or curtailing the hours of sale and by other restrictive measures. It has been decided to extend prohibition this year to parts of two more districts, viz., Ranchi and Hazaribagh and Hajipur Sub-division, which will result in a further reduction in revenue of Rs. 1 million. The Government are also considering the question of extending prohibition to the labour area of Dhanbad Sub-division.

Orissa.- Prohibition was started in Balasore district and the first step taken in this direction was by restricting the sale of opium under strict State control from October 1938; and only 14 shops were allowed to be opened at the borders of the district. Other reforms have also been adopted as the cancelling of licences to open new shops, prohibition of sale of intoxicants after sunset, stopping of tree booth sales of toddy and sale of toddy or liquor on days of festivals. The loss of revenue due to these measures is Rs. 950,000.

N.W.F.P.- It was decided by the Government to introduce total prohibition in Dera Ismail Khan district.

Assam.- In Assam, a scheme for the total prohibition of opium in two years has been adopted by the present Government.

Success of Prohibition.- Periodical official reports have been published in the various Provinces on the working of the scheme of prohibition. In Madras Province, the Annamalai and Madras Universities deputed scholars to make economic survey of prohibition in Salem district. Some specific urban and rural centres were selected and the conditions were carefully studied. The results which have been published as a result of the survey, show that there has been a raising of the standard of living among those people who were leading a precarious existence before. It has been found that more money is spent on food, clothing, debt redemption and on entertainments. Before prohibition was introduced, the hand-loom weavers of Salem town were spending 40.3 per cent. on food, 29.1 per cent. on drink, 4.7 per cent. on clothing and 9 per cent. on amusements. After prohibition they are spending 61.2 per cent. on food, 3.8 per cent. on amusements and 6.6 per cent. on clothing. There was a general reduction in the number of crimes in Salem district. Street

brawls are tending to disappear. The health and happiness of industrial labourers have improved considerably.

Future Programme.- The Congress and Mahatma Gandhi expect that Total prohibition will be introduced by the Congress Ministries in three years. As Excise revenue forms a major item of receipts to the Governments, they have to make good the loss of revenue and also find money for national-building programmes. This task has been faced boldly and the Congress Ministries have launched fresh measures of taxation. As salt, customs, posts, telegraphs, railways, etc., cannot be touched by the provinces to increase their revenue, the provincial Governments have begun to levy taxes on petrol, electricity, tobacco, entertainments, sale of particular goods like manufactured cloth or general sales, urban immovable property, employment of superior officers, crossword competitions, etc.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
1-5-1939).

Total Prohibition in Sind in Seven Years:
Enquiry Committee's Recommendations.

The Sind Prohibition Committee which was appointed on 5-10-1938 to consider and report as to the means to be adopted to establish total prohibition in the province of Sind has recommended the immediate prohibition of the use of charas and ganja. In contrast with prohibition schemes in other provinces, specially Bombay and Madras, where the experiment is being introduced by complete experimental prohibition in isolated tracts, the Sind Prohibition Committee has suggested equality of treatment for the whole province and the bringing about of total prohibition within the space of seven years.

The recommendations are now receiving the attention of the Government of Sind.

(The Times of India,
11-5-1939).

Closure of Liquor Shops on Pay Days:
Orders passed by Government of Mysore.

The Government of Mysore have passed orders in the first half of May 1939 instructing the Deputy Commissioners of Mysore, Kolar, Chitaldroog and Shimoga Districts, to see that all excise shops in Mysore City, Kolar Gold Fields, Davangere and Bhadravati respectively, all industrial towns, are closed on pay days.

(The Hindu,
16-5-1939).+

42

Public Health.

Rural Medical Relief Scheme for Bhopal: One Indigenous
Dispensary for every 6,000 Inhabitants.

A scheme for the provision of rural medical relief on a scale, it is claimed, never yet attained in India has been prepared by Colonel Rahman, the Chief Health Officer, Bhopal State, and is now under the consideration of the Government. The central feature of the scheme is the adoption of the inexpensive indigenous system of medicine in place of the present expensive Western system for the treatment of the more common, but not very complicated, diseases, which, it is estimated, constitute 13 per cent. of the illness of the State, and the utilisation of the money thus saved for provision of more ample medical facilities.

Details of Scheme.- The plan aims at providing a dispensary for every 6,000 people in the State and a hospital for every 40,000 to 50,000. One of the essentials of the scheme is the fullest use of the cheap indigenous system of medicine. It is calculated that 83 per cent. of the illness in the State is amenable to very simple treatment if that treatment is given in time; 13 per cent. of the cases require simple hospital treatment, and the remaining 4 per cent. demand specialised treatment.

Shafakhana and Western Hospitals.- On the basis of these statistics, it is planned to spread throughout the State a network of dispensaries, or shafakhana which will supply indigenous remedies and simple Western medicines. These shafakhana, each of which will be in charge of a hakim qualified at Aligarh, Benares, or Delhi Universities, will deal with the 83 per cent. of cases. The shafakhana will be divided into groups of eight or ten, and each group will centre round a small hospital. This hospital will treat the 13 per cent. of illness, consisting mainly of pneumonia, dysentery, typhoid, malarial meningitis, and other diseases. Equipped with 20 to 30 beds, each hospital will have two fully qualified doctors.

Simpler Hospitals.- The shafakhana, it is claimed, will cost very little to build and maintain. At the same time they will render instant and effective medical aid. In the case of hospitals also, simplicity is aimed at. They will be built as cheaply as possible and their equipment will not be elaborate. This simplicity will, it is believed, quickly overcome the present fear of hospitals amongst the rural population.

Treatment of complicated Cases.- The cases requiring specialised treatment, comprising four per cent. of the total, will be brought to Bhopal where there already exists a hospital equipped

for specialized work. For this purpose the present number of ambulances will be increased.

(The Statesman,
4-5-1939).+

Punjab Government's Rural Medical Relief Scheme:
Subsidised Doctors for Villages. +

A scheme to provide medical relief in rural areas is under preparation by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab, and is expected to be put into operation shortly.

Subsidised Dispensaries.- It is proposed to make a beginingⁿ by opening 85 new subsidised dispensaries in selected ~~xxx~~ villages, where, either the District Board concerned or the villagers themselves through co-operative societies, medical benefit societies or other similar collective organisations, undertake to contribute a sum of Rs. 500 per annum towards the maintenance of each dispensary. The cost to be borne by the Government at the rate of Rs. 600 for each dispensary, will be about Rs. 50,000.

Subsidised Doctors.- For the free treatment of the poor and of all Government servants each doctor settling down for practice in these rural dispensaries will be paid Rs. 50/- per month or Rs. 600/- for the year. The remainder of their income will be derived from fees paid by people above the pauper class. The Provincial Government will guarantee for three years a contribution of Rs. 1,200 per annum to each appointed subsidised practitioner, Rs. 600/- as personal subsidy and Rs. 600/- as cost of drugs, dressings, etc.

(The Statesman, 1-5-1939).+

2nd Punjab Civil Surgeons' Conference, Lahore.

The Hon'ble Mian Abdul Haye, Minister for Education and Public Health, Punjab, speaking on the ^{above} subject at the 2nd Punjab Civil Surgeons' Conference held at Lahore on 10-5-1935 said:

The scheme of subsidised medical practitioners in the villages has engaged the attention of the Government and the medical department for some time past. The Government have agreed to give a fair

trial to the scheme and a provision of Rs. 50,000 has been made in the current year's budget for this purpose. The scheme has all the elements necessary for success, inasmuch as it is based not on the one-sided solicitude of the Government for the people, but on the enthusiasm and collective efforts of the people themselves.

The feeling at the Conference was that the scheme would run best under the aegis of a co-operative medical society, ~~and~~ that was the readiest and cheapest method of affording relief to the rural population. By this method it was possible to afford relief to four times the number of people with the same amount of funds spent on the maintenance of one rural dispensary, and it would further afford a living wage to a very large number of medical practitioners.

(The Tribune, 12-5-1939).+

Rural Medical Relief in Bombay Presidency:

Scheme of Subsidised Doctors. +

As an experimental measure the Government of Bombay sanctioned in October 1936 a scheme for subsidising private medical practitioners in selected centres in 6 districts in the Province. The subsidised medical practitioners in these cases were all persons professing the allopathic system of medicine. Later Government extended the scheme to several other centres and have subsidised ayurvedic and unani practitioners also in some of the new centres which have been opened.

Government subsidy and Medicine Allowance.- The rules relating to the appointment and conditions of service of subsidised medical practitioners of ayurvedic and unani systems of medicine have been recently published. These practitioners will have to be registered under the Bombay Medical Practitioners' Act, 1938. The Civil Surgeon and the President of the District Local Board will be jointly responsible for the selection of the medical practitioners to be in charge of a rural dispensary. He will get an honorarium of Rs. 30 per month and a travelling allowance of Rs. 15 per month if his duties are not confined to one village area. A grant of Rs. 150 per year will be given for medicines. Indents for supply of medicines should, however, be sent through the Civil Surgeon of the District. The medical practitioner may, however, purchase locally such herbs and other ingredients of medicines as are obtainable cheaply after obtaining the sanction of the Civil Surgeon to such local purchase.

Visits to Patients, etc.- The subsidised medical practitioner should attend to indigent patients from the area allotted to him at such places and during such hours as may be fixed by him in consultation, if necessary, with the President of the District Local Board. The examination and subsequent treatment of all indigent patients will be free. The medical practitioner will be entitled to carry on private practice and to charge all patients who are not indigent. An indigent patient is one who is in receipt of an income of Rs. 30 or less per month, or who is a member of the family of such person and is actually dependent on him. Fees to be paid to the subsidised medical practitioner for attendance at the residence of patients who are not indigent and for giving ^{subcutaneous} or intra-muscular injections have been fixed. Visits during day time to places within the limits of the village are chargeable at Rs. 1/- per visit, and visits during night at Rs. 2 per visit. Double fees are chargeable for visits beyond the limits of the village in which the dispensary is situated and also travelling allowance at the rate of 2 annas per mile, unless a free conveyance is provided. Provision to charge Re. 1/- per injection, in addition, to the cost of the drug injected and the visit fee has also been made. Option has been given to the medical practitioner to lower

the fees in any case in which he may consider it necessary or desirable to do so.

Additional Work.- The subsidised medical practitioner is required to do such duties as may be assigned to him by the Civil Surgeon or the President of the District Local Board in times of epidemics. The execution of such duties shall be free of charge. The medical practitioner shall execute a bond which will be in the custody of the Civil Surgeon agreeing to serve under the scheme for a period of at least 3 years, to be extended further, if necessary.

33 New Relief Centres.- Government has recently sanctioned the opening of 33 new rural medical relief centres for subsidised medical practitioners under the above scheme in the districts of Satara, Nasik, Ratnagiri and Poona. 14 of these practitioners will be ayurvedic medical practitioners and 6 of them allopathic practitioners, and the type of practitioners for the rest of the centres has not yet been decided.

(Information extracted from a Note on the subject published at page 2 in the issue dated 1-5-1939 of "Public Information Series, Government of Bombay").

Health Conditions in Asansol Coal Mines - 1937-38. * .

Health Statistics.- The total area of the Asansol Mining Settlement is 413 square miles and the population according to the 1931 census is 382,680; out of this, 47,659 lived in municipal areas and 355,021 in other areas. The total number of registered births in 1937 was 11,135 against 10,751 in 1936. The birth-rate was 29.09 per 1000 compared to 28.0 in 1936. The average birth-rate for the preceding 5 years was 28.5 per 1000. The corrected birth-rate in 1937 was 26.7 per 1000. The registered deaths numbered 7076 in 1937 against 7,220 in 1936. The death-rate was 18.4 per 1000 compared to 18.8 in 1936 and 19.8 per 1000 which is the average for the preceding 5 years. The corrected death-rate in 1937 was 17.09 per 1000. ~~Better prices prevailed during the year. The health of the mining population continued to compare favourably with that of the general community.~~ The death-rate among the resident mining population fluctuated between 8.6 per 1000 in February 1937 and 18.5 per 1000 in November 1938, as against 17.1 and 22.8 per 1000 in the general population and was considerably below the general death-rate throughout the year.

Economic Conditions.- Better prices prevailed during the year. Although production increased, demand increased more than proportionately, while labour was less available owing to a good harvest. At the same time, the cost of ~~mine~~ production rose to some extent and this was due, among other causes, to: (a) shortage of labour, (b) increased wages, (c) replacement of women labour by men who draw higher wages, (d) introduction of regulations leading to increased expenditure, (e) adoption of mechanical means involving the use of explosives with the object of making the mine less

* Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1937-38. Oriental Press, Asansol. 1938. pp 45 & tables.

dependent on supply of labour.

Mining Conditions.- A Coal Mining Committee was appointed by the Government of India in October 1936 to report on measures to be taken, (a) to secure safety of those employed in mines; and (b) to prevent avoidable waste of coal. The report of the Committee (presided over by Mr. L.B. Burrows, C.B.E.) was published in April 1937. Among the recommendations are: (i) A very large measure of state control without, however, nationalising the mines or the royalty rights; (ii) compulsory stowing for purposes of safety and conservation to be financed by a general cess on all coal and coke; (iii) the appointment of a Statutory Authority to administer funds for the stowing scheme and control methods of working; (iv) two Central Rescue Stations - in Jharia and Raniganj fields; (v) a Coal Research Board - as a complement of conservation and safety; and (vi) changes in the Act and Regulations.

Safety Conditions.- In the Asansol Exhibition held in March 1937, ~~prize~~ of place was given to a specially prepared Section on Safety in Mines in order to focus the attention of all concerned in the mining industries on the desirability of infusing a safety sense among the illiterate miners and the subordinate staff. A Centre was opened in one colliery in Jharia coalfield for training in rescue ~~work and some collieries took the opportunity to get their staff~~ trained. It is proposed to establish a Central Rescue Station in the Coalfield - a proposal recommended by the Coal Committee, which is also of opinion that gasmasks and self-rescue apparatus kept at the collieries might be useful in certain circumstances.

Wages.- Improved demand for coal together with an ~~an~~ inadequate supply of labour led to an increase in wages by about 25 per cent. The recruiting cost went up by about 200 per cent. Much of this goes to the pocket of the miners directly or indirectly. It is ~~very~~ very doubtful, however, if the average daily income of the miners showed any appreciable increase in spite of the above factors as the majority were working for less number of days per week and showed an unwillingness to work upto their full capacity. →

Education.

Technical Training of Textile Workers: Proposal for
Municipal Textile School. *

A proposal to start a technical school for cotton textile workers was considered by the Bombay Municipal Corporation on 22-4-1939 and eventually referred to the Law Committee for report.

Mr. R.S. Nimbkar moving the resolution stated that the mill-owners had been contending that labour in India was not as efficient as it was in Manchester or Japan. In fact, a statement to the effect that textile labour in Bombay required training had been made before the Textile Enquiry Committee. The Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute provided training for those who aspired to be officials in the mills, such as weaving or dyeing masters. There was, of course, the Working Men's Institute, conducted by the Social Service League, but between 1934 and last year, only 121 had passed out of the Institute. The textile industry was the primary industry of Bombay City and no fewer than 150,000 workers were employed in it. If the municipality started a school, the standard of efficiency of the labouring population would rise and there would be a greater turn-over.

Mr. Mohanlal M. Desai moved that the matter be referred to the Law, Revenue and General Purposes Committee for report, particularly on the question whether the starting of a school of the kind suggested fell within the purview of the Municipality.

The amendment was finally carried as a substantive proposition.

(The Times of India,
29-4-1939). *

Educational Reorganisation in U.P: Compulsory
Primary Education correlated with Manual
Training recommended by Enquiry Committee. *

In March 1938 the United Provinces Government appointed a Primary and Secondary Education Reorganisation Committee under the chairmanship of Acharya Narendra Deva, to consider various problems connected with Secondary and Primary Education in the Province.

The Committee has recently submitted its report and the recommendations of the Committee are now under the consideration of the

Government. The following are the more important findings in the report:

Primary Education.- The committee recommends that compulsory primary education should be provided free on a nation-wide scale and should extend over seven years beginning from the age of seven. And throughout this period, education should be correlated with one or more forms of manual and productive work and with the social and physical environment of the child. Every child must be taught spinning on the takli and elementary agriculture or gardening.

Secondary Stage.- The secondary stage of education will begin at the age of 12 and will last for six years. Schools of primary education will be called basic schools, which should replace all preparatory, primary, vernacular and Anglo-vernacular middle schools. The secondary institutions will be called colleges and the standard which these institutions should aim at will be somewhat higher than the present intermediate standard. The terms 'high school' and 'intermediate' will be given up and there will be one unified stage.

Medium of Instruction.- The medium of instruction in basic schools and at the college stage should be Hindustani, viz., the language commonly spoken and understood in the United Provinces, ~~definitely combating tendencies towards over Sankritization or over Persianization.~~ English will not be taught in these schools. It will be compulsory at the college stage. The committee also recommends the establishment of a college of domestic science and colleges for technical and professional studies.

Technical Institutions.- Industrial and technical schools and colleges should be transferred from the Department of Industries to the Ministry of Education, and a Bureau of Technical Education and Vocational Guidance should be established. A central pedagogical institute with library and reading room should also be established.

(Leader, 13 & 14-5-1939).+

Vocational Training in C.P.: Local Government
appoints Committee of Enquiry. +

The Government of the Central Provinces have appointed a Committee with 19 leading educationists, including Mr. S.V. Gokhale, Education Minister, as Chairman, and Dr. Venishanker Jha, as Secretary, to investigate the possibilities of improvement in vocational training in secondary schools. This step has been taken with a view to give effect to the Haripura Congress resolution, based on the Wardha education scheme which aimed at bringing secondary education in the province in line with modern progressive educational ideas and national needs.

(The Statesman,
22-5-1939). +

Agriculture.Rural Uplift in C.P.: Government appoints Committee.

The Government of Central Provinces and Berar has appointed a Committee of 17 members to investigate and report on the various topics connected with rural uplift work in the province. The Chairman and Secretary of the Committee will be the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government and the Secretary to the Government in the Local Self-Government Department respectively.

The terms of reference to the Committee, include among others, reviewing the existing organisation and progress of village uplift in the province, studying the systems of village uplift recently introduced in other provinces particularly Bombay, the United Provinces and Bihar, and to report how far these systems could be adopted to suit the local requirements of the province, suggesting measures for the co-ordination of the village uplift activities of Government with a view to evolving a definite plan of action if possible with a definite time limit.

~~The Committee has been requested to submit its report, if possible, by the end of June, 1939.~~

(The Central Provinces and Berar Government Gazette dated 19-5-39. Part I pages 391.)

Cambay State Agricultural Enquiry Committee'sReport.

A Committee under the chairmanship of Rao Saheb Pranvallabhdas H. Banatwalla, appointed to enquire into the condition of Cambay State (Bombay Presidency) agriculturists, has submitted its report to the Government of the State.

The report states that the condition of the agriculturists in the State is not a happy one on the whole. It attributes their indebtedness to social customs, depreciation in prices, famines, frost and failure of crops. To remedy the existing indebtedness ~~of~~ the committee suggests that the ryots should be given facilities for paying off debts by annual instalments and to charge interest at the rate of 4 per cent. The State will have to shoulder the responsibility of supplying capital or of securing punctual recovery of scaled-down debts. The committee also suggests the

establishment of land mortgage banks.

For the general uplift of the farmers, the committee recommends that the State should encourage subsidiary industries, including spinning, weaving, poultry-farming, bee-keeping, and dairying, and that credit and marketing facilities should be provided. The construction of good roads, it urges, should be taken up at the earliest opportunity as the most important item of rural development. The Committee has made other suggestions, including one for forming an Advisory Board of Agriculture to deal with the difficulties of farmers. It has also submitted draft rules to regulate the dealings of farmers with moneylenders.

(The Times of India,
26-5-1939). +

Migration.Scheme to repatriate non-Ceylonese Daily-paid
Employees: Threat to Indians in Ceylon.

A scheme sponsored by Major J.L. Kotelawala, Minister for Communications and Works, Ceylon, and discussed by the Ceylonese Board of Ministers for repatriation of all daily-paid non-Ceylonese employed in Government Departments in Ceylon since 31-3-1934 with a view to provide employment opportunities for unemployed Ceylonese is creating considerable alarm among the Indians in Ceylon.

10,000 Posts to be Released. - A memorandum explaining the scheme submitted by Major Kotelawala points out that the question of unemployment in Ceylon is daily assuming graver proportions. In Colombo alone there are now over 15,000 unemployed. Nearly 1,200 men are now being employed by the Government on relief works in Colombo or its neighbourhood, but useful work of this nature cannot be found indefinitely for them. In the Ministry of Communications and Works alone there were approximately 6,000 non-Ceylonese in a ~~total of daily-paid staff of 25,000~~ in these Departments, drawing wages totalling between 2 to 22 million rupees per annum. The discontinuance of these 6,000 men would mean 6,000 posts for Ceylonese unemployed; if the daily-paid non-Ceylonese in the Departments under other Ministries are also discontinued, another 4,000 posts would be released for absorption of unemployed Ceylonese, or in all about 10,000 posts.

Repatriation with Gratuity. - Briefly, Major Kotelawala's suggestion is that all daily-paid non-Ceylonese workers in Government Departments should be repatriated to the country of their birth, with a small gratuity, and their fare paid, and that stringent regulations should be enforced to prevent their return. He urged that not only would there be a saving to the tax-payers, but that much money now sent to India and other countries would be spent in Ceylon if his plan is adopted.

(The Hindustan Times,
6-5-1939). -

Maternity Benefit for Women Labourers in Estates:
New Ceylon Agreement.

It is understood that an agreement has been entered into between the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services, Government of Ceylon, and the planting interests in the Island with regard to maternity protection for Indian women employed on estates.

Details of Agreement - Cash Bonus, Provision of Maternity Room and Midwives.- According to the agreement, a woman labourer will not be allowed to work for one month after confinement and will receive during this time one-eighth of a bushel of rice and 75 cents in cash each week. At the end of the third month, she will receive a further cash bonus of Rs. 2 for the maintenance of the child. At least one maternity room will be provided for every 250 women labourers, but estates in close proximity to Government hospitals with provision for maternity cases need not provide such rooms. If a woman labourer refuses to use a maternity room provided by the estate, the bonus of Rs. 2 need not be paid to her. Every estate which employs more than 700 women labourers will engage a midwife. Where fewer women are employed, one midwife may be appointed for a group of adjoining estates.

(The Hindustan Times,
14-5-1939). -

The Standing Emigration Committee's Meeting at
Simla on 26 and 27-5-1939: Government's
South African Policy endorsed.

The Standing Emigration Committee met at Simla on 26 and 27-5-1939. The following information about the proceedings is taken from a press note dated 27-5-1939 issued by the Government of India.

South African Situation.- The situation in South Africa, including the pending Asiatic (X Transvaal Land and Trading) Bill, was fully discussed. The negotiations which have taken place between the Government of India and the Union Government, and the stage now reached in those negotiations were explained in detail. The Committee considered the various lines of action open to the Government of India, together with their possible implications. The course of action which the Government of India have proposed was endorsed by the Committee, who also expressed approval of the manner in which the case was being presented. The correspondence between the two Governments conti-

3

nues to be confidential.

The Situation in Burma.- The questions at issue between the Government of India and the Government of Burma were next discussed. The action being taken by the Government of India regarding the main question of compensation and immigration was explained to the Committee and approved.

The Ceylon Situation.- The situation in Ceylon was then discussed. The latest proposals placed before the Ceylon State Council regarding repatriation of Indian daily-paid labour were explained and the representations so far made by the Government of India were placed before the Committee. Possible lines of action in the event of the situation deteriorating were considered. +

(The Hindustan Times, 28-5-1939).

Indians in Malaya, 1937: Report of the Agent
of the Government of India. * +

Indian Population in Malaya.- According to the annual report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for 1937, the total population of Malaya at the end of 1937 was estimated at 5,137,474. Of these, the number of Indians was estimated at 754,849 - an increase of 130,840 over the enumerated population of the 1931 census. Nearly two-thirds of this increase is accounted for by the migrational surplus during the post-census period. Indians form 14.2 per cent. of the total population for the whole of Malaya. The presence of Indians in any locality is determined by the penetration and extension of the plantation industry.

Immigration.- 54,489 labourers were assisted to emigrate by the Malayan emigration authorities. Of this number only 5,337 were recruited by licensed kanganies; the remaining 49,512 were voluntary assisted emigrants, 97 kangani licences were issued in the year, of which 84 were in the first quarter of the year. During this period there was a general shortage of labour in the country. Most of these licences were for oil-palm and tea estates. Following the recommendation of Mr. Sastri to abolish the kangani system of recruitment, the whole question of recruitment was under examination at the close of the year. Besides the above, 67,717 came as deck passengers paying their own passages, of whom 73 per cent. or 50,128 were labourers, the rest being traders and others. The total immigrants during 1937 were 122,506 and the labour immigrants were 104,977.

* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1937 - Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1939. Price Re. 1 or 2s. pp 36.

The total repatriates were 6,566. 37,920 people returned to India paying their own passage, of whom 23,054 were labourers. 9 repatriates and 12 deck passengers died on the voyage to India.

Strength and Distribution of Indian Labour.- 306,759 working adults were employed in the estates, mines, factories and Government and Public Departments as against 247,327 in 1936. The total labour population in 1937 was 434,178, which included 306,759 working adults and 127,419 dependants, as against the total population of 358,502 in the previous year. There is also a fairly considerable population of indeterminate and general labour not accounted for by any departmental returns. This population is about 50,000 to 60,000. In all the present total labour population in Malaya is about 500,000.

Sex-ratio.- The sex-ratio for the Indian estate population in 1937 was 643 females to 1,000 males. This gross figure does not convey an accurate idea as to the proportion of sexes in the reproductive ages (15 to 45). An analysis of the census statistics by age periods for the whole of Indian population (separate figures not being available for estate and non-estate population) shows that in the age period 20 to 40 there are 588 out of 1,000 males and 451 out of 1,000 females with a sex-ratio of 370 females to 1,000 males.

Economic Conditions.- In the earlier part of 1937 there were signs of high prosperity and of buoyant optimism in the rubber industry. There were also signs of labour unrest. The labour situation was rapidly eased by increasing the wage rates paid to all labour, including South Indian labour. The permissible exportable percentages of the basic quotas fixed by the International Rubber Regulation Committee were progressively raised from 75 in the first quarter to 80 in the second quarter and thereafter to 90 for the remaining half of the year. Despite the setback to the industry towards the end of the year, trade conditions for the year remained on the whole satisfactory. The appreciation in the wage rates, the greater production and the higher price level for rubber - all these are reflected in the large scale movement of Indian labour from India during the year.

Wages.- The main principles governing the rates of wages of unskilled Indian labour are the fixation of certain standard rates of wages having statutory force in certain selected areas known as 'Key' areas and the provision for higher standard rates in certain less accessible and more expensive areas as distinguished from ordinary areas. From 1930 the standard rates had been subjected to a cut of 20 per cent. owing to the prolonged depression in the rubber industry. ~~one of~~ The main recommendations in Mr. Sastri's report were that the standard rates of wages should be fully restored to 50 cents for men and 40 cents for women, the distinction between 'Key' and 'Non-key' areas should be abolished and the higher rates of standard wages in the less popular areas should be allowed to continue. In January 1937 the rates of wages were increased from 40 and 32 to 45 and 36. In April 1937 they were again raised

to 50 and 40. No standard wages enquiries were held to give effect to these two increases, nor were the rates 'gazetted'. Though the rates were fully restored to the pre-slump level, they were only nominal rates and prevailed as such throughout the year. The legal rates were and continue to be 40 and 32.

According to the labour laws in Malaya, 9 hours' work constitutes a full working day. In the case of tappers there have been varying practices in different places. When the reduced wage rates were in force, the tappers were left alone after they had done their 6 to 6 1/2 hours' customary morning work. When the wages were increased, they were compelled to do field work for 2 hours in the afternoon so as to earn their full wage for the day. They were not credited with any extra work which left them ineligible for over-time payment. On an estate of 1,500 acres, the value of 'free' labour of this kind was estimated at \$ 2,000/- in a year. Deductions by way of 'half-names' on account of short work caused by rainy days or such other circumstances beyond the control of the labourers are frequent. The persistence with which complaints are made year after year go to show that the practices are fairly widespread.

Housing.- There are many estates in which the living conditions are not quite enviable. As no statistics are collected, it is difficult ~~to~~ to say what progress is being made.

Medical Relief and Maternity Benefits.- The total number of hospitals maintained by different estates in 1937 was 232. The report shows that married women working on estates are paid maternity allowances in cases of child birth for one month before and one month after confinement as provided in the labour laws; that is 2/6ths of the earnings of the previous six months for the first birth and 2/11ths of the previous 11 months' earnings for the second and subsequent births. Larger estates are called upon to pay considerable sums owing to the great increase in the child population on the estates. Except for occasional complaints, these allowances are generally paid.

Education.- Both in the Crown Colony and in the protected Malay States, vernacular education is compulsory for the Malays and voluntary for the immigrant races. The total number of vernacular schools, aided and unaided, on the estates has risen from 534 to 622 in 1937. The number of pupils enrolled for the same period has risen from 18,598 to 22,331.

Legislation.- An ordinance to regulate the immigration into the Colony of aliens and of British subjects and protected persons (other than those born in the Colony or a Malay State respectively) and to control their residence therein was introduced in the Legislative Council in August 1937 but was withdrawn in October 1937. Several of the Unfederated Malay States have adopted the Workmen's Compensation Enactment.

Sick-pay.- The Federated Malay States Government have

3.6

recently decided that daily-paid labourers in Government services should receive half-pay when they are confined to hospital. This concession will apply to labourers whose pay does not exceed \$ 1/- per day and normally the payment will be made in respect of any period not exceeding 30 days. But this maximum may be extended to 3 months at discretion. The same concessions apply to the employees in the Federated Malay State Railways. In the municipalities of Singapore and Penang, labourers, while undergoing treatment in the hospital or medically certified unfit for duty, may be granted sick leave on full pay up to a maximum of 28 days a year. In the P.W.D. and other Government Departments of the Straits Settlements and in the Singapore Harbour Board, no wages are at present paid to labourers while they are sick. These concessions are not in force in any form in the Unfederated Malay States.

General.- Whether there is an Indian problem or not, recent events have shown that the identity of Indians, as a community, particularly in the Federated Malay States, is being obscured as a result of certain administrative measures. On the representation of a former Agent, the statistics relating to the Ceylon Tamils were separated from those relating to the Indians in the census of 1931. This practice has not been adopted in the various departmental returns. Indians and Ceylon Tamils are invariably shown under 'Tamils' - an extremely doubtful form of classification. This practice causes much confusion besides conveying misleading information so far as the Indians are concerned. An extension of this principle has been made to cover the representation of Indians on public bodies. Indian opinion feels that there is no justification to inflict a double injury on the community. Not only is the community deprived of a right to representation, but it is forced to accept the position that their representative shall be an Indian created either by statute or by definition.

Indians along with the other non-Malay Asiatic races are not admitted to the Malayan Civil Service and to the Malay Administrative Service which is constituted for the Federated Malay States only. A statement was made in June 1937 in the Straits Settlements Legislative Council and subsequently in identical form in the Federal Council that the High Commissioner saw no reason why higher technical posts under Government should not be given to Asiatics provided they were fully qualified and efficient. He, however, made it clear that the Malayan Civil and the Administrative Services would be open only to Europeans and Malays.

Indians in Malaya are increasingly alive to the fact that the status of the Indian community depends on its own inherent strength as well as on the readiness and ability to assume responsibility to bring about the desired changes within the society so as to give it a coherence and a unity of purpose.

(The Annual Report of the Agent to the Government of India in British Malaya for 1936 was reviewed at pages 76-80 of our October 1937 report).-

General.Gandhi Seva Sangh and Labour: New Labour
Committee appointed.

The 5th Conference of the All-India Gandhi Seva Sangh was held at Brindaban (District Champaran, Bihar) from 3 to 7-5-1939. Mahatma Gandhi opened the Conference. Among other matters, the labour programme of the Sangh came up for discussion at the Conference.

On 6-5-1939 Mr. Mashruwalla, the President of the Sangh, announced that an autonomous committee was to come into existence on which the members of the Sangh might serve and which would take up work among the labouring class on a permanent and broadbased scale, in place of the small committee which functioned during last year under the auspices of the Gandhi Seva Sangh. The resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the Sangh in this connection says:-

"The Executive Committee of the Sangh, having gone through the report of its Labour Committee for last year, expresses its satisfaction on the progress made by the Committee in the field of service of the working classes and appreciates the enthusiasm of labour to ~~organise itself, and in response to the suggestion of the Committee to create a bigger and autonomous body in order to meet adequately the demands of extension work in this field and its vast possibilities, resolves to form such a body and to dissolve the present "Labour Committee"~~.

The importance of the Gandhi Seva Sangh lies in the fact that it consists of political workers who take their lead directly from Mahatma Gandhi; the leaders of the Sangh are now in control of the Indian National Congress.

(The Bombay Chronicle,
8-5-1939).

Plans for co-ordinating Labour Legislation: Government
of India to convene Conference of Provincial
Labour Ministers in August 1939.

It is understood that invitations have been issued by the Government of India to the Provincial Governments for a Labour Ministers' Conference in Simla which, if sufficient response is forthcoming, is

likely to be held in August 1939. ~~A referen~~

Under the Government of India Act both the Central and Provincial Legislatures are competent to legislate on labour matters. The need for some co-ordinating machinery which may help to secure uniformity in labour legislation has for a long time been urged by commercial bodies. The coming conference, it is expected, will take up this question and try to evolve a suitable machinery. Even within the last few months it has been seen that some provinces like Madras and Bombay are forging ahead with far-reaching proposals such as sickness insurance, etc., while others are lagging behind. As has been pointed out by commercial bodies, it may have an undesirable effect on the industry as a whole and also produce undesirable repercussions in the relations between labour and capital in other provinces if individual provinces go ahead without reference to others.

As the Government of India is also a large employer of labour its interests are in some ways involved. The conference is, therefore, ~~being convened in order to bring Labour Ministers together for considering the problem in all its aspects,~~ particularly the feasibility of setting up a co-ordinating agency.

(The Hindustan Times,
21-5-1939).

List of more important publications received
at this Office during May 1939.

Conditions of Labour.-

Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1937, together with a Note on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1939.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Government of the United Provinces - Detailed Estimates and Grants for the year 1939-40. (As passed by the Legislative Assembly) Final. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1939. Price Rs. 5/- .
- (2) Government of the Central Provinces and Berar - Report of the Industrial Survey Committee, Part 1, Vol. 1. Nagpur: Superintendent, Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1939.

Employment and Unemployment.-

Career Lecture Series, No. 14 - Shipping in India - delivered by Gaganvihari L. Mehta (Scindia Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.,) President, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, 28th March 1939. Appointment and Information Board, Calcutta University.

Public Health.-

- (1) Annual Report for 1938 - League of Nations, Health Organisation, Eastern Bureau, Singapore. Printed by G.H. Kiat & Co., Ltd., Singapore.
- (2) Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1937-38. Asansol: Oriental Press. 1938.
- (3) Tenth Health Number (dated 15-4-1939), The Calcutta Municipal Gazette. Received from the Manager, the Calcutta Municipal Gazette, Calcutta.
- (4) Administration Report of the Medical and Public Health Department of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government for the year 1346 Fasli, (from 6th October 1936 to 5th October 1937) with the Review thereon. Hyderabad: Government Central Press. 1939.
- (5) Annual Public Health Report of the Province of Orissa for the year 1937 and the Annual Vaccination Report for the year 1937-38 - by Lt. Col. G. Verghese, I.M.S., Director of Public Health and Inspector-General of Prisons, Orissa. Cuttack: Press Officer, Government Press, Orissa. Price Rs. 2/- .

Co-operation.-

Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the United Provinces for the year 1937-38. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1939. Price Re. 0-5-0.

Education.-

Report on Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency for the year 1937-38. Vol. 1. Madras: Superintendent, Government Press, 1939. Price Re. 0-10-0.

Agriculture.-

Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Government of India - Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1937-38. Published by Order of the Governor-General in Council. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939. Price Rs. 1-8-0. or 2s. 3d.

Migration.-

"Indians Overseas" - by T.S. Rajagopal, M.A., L.L.B., Lawyer, Santhepet, Mysore. Printed at the City Power Press, Mysore. Price Re. 1/- . 1938. (Purchased by the office).

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bihar, for the year 1937-38. Patna: Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar. 1939. Price Rs. 1-4-0.
 - (2) "Handbook of Information on the Administration of the Presidency of Madras". 1939. Price Rs. 2/- .
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