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Report for May 1945

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

C 6/2/62

Government of India:

The Indian Mines (Amendment) Ordinance, 1945: Power to make Rules re. Creches in Mines Employing Women.

On 26-5-1945 the Acting Governor General of India issued an Ordinance — the Indian Mines (Amendment) Ordinance, 1945 (Ordinance No. XVII of 1945 amending the Indian Mines Act, 1923), which authorises the government of India to make rules for requiring the maintenance in mines wherein any women are ordinarily employed of suitable rooms to be reserved for the use of children under the age of six years belonging to such women, and for prescribing, either generally or with particular reference to the number of women ordinarily employed in the mine, the number and standards of such rooms, and the nature and extent of the supervision to ~~be~~ be provided.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 26-5-1945).

A provision already exists in the Factories Act, 1934, under which, in most of the provinces, factories employing more than 50 women workers are required to maintain creches. During the last session of the Central Assembly, the Labour Member gave an assurance that the question of making statutory provision for creches in mines was under consideration, and there ~~seems to be a general agreement as to the necessity.~~ It is expected that the rules framed under the Ordinance will provide different standards for various classes of mines depending on the number of women employed, but that, generally, they will require the maintenance of suitable accommodation for children under the age of six. It is understood that the rules will be circulated to those interested before they are finally promulgated.

(The Times of India, 28-5-1945)..

Service Conditions of Technical Personnel:
Private Bill to ensure improvement.

A non-Government Bill, entitled, the Technical Personnel Protection Bill, 1945, sponsored by Mr. Nilkantha Das, was introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly on 12-4-1945; the bill is gazetted for information in the Gazette of India dated 21-4-1945.

The Bill defines "Technical Personnel in industries" as "persons employed in all industrial concerns by virtue of their technical training or scientific education or both, such as, chemists, physicists, metallurgists, engineers and others of similar education and training". It stipulates that the Government of India shall provide for the protection of the technical personnel in industries by making rules and regulations in all matters affecting the interests of such personnel, including cadres of pay, bonuses, etc., and other conditions of service, including security and fixity of tenure, as also recognition, appreciation and encouragement of invention, originality and initiative, and by enforcing such rules and regulations by making their infringement legally punishable.

The Statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that the bill is intended to put India's industrial progress on a stable basis.

and to make such progress, not only steady and continuous, but more indigenous and popular. The technical personnel in industries, which consists of chemists, physicists, metallurgists, engineers and such others, is not less in importance than capital and raw materials. It is moreover different from ordinary skilled labour. In the majority of industrial concerns in India this technical personnel is uncared for, if not unfairly treated. Indian industries thrive under protection. The comparative inefficiency of Indian industries is mainly due to the lack of initiative on the part of technical men and experts in the matter of research for improvements and inventions. If the genius, skill and knowledge of technical and scientific men are not carefully nursed and properly utilised by ~~ensuring~~ ensuring for them desirable conditions of service, it is apprehended that Indian industries will not be able to survive in open world competition, and justifiably claim protection in the post-war period.

(The Gazette of India, dated 21-5-1945; Part V, pages 109-110). - ✓

Bihar:

The Bihar Maternity Benefit Bill, 1945: Circulated for soliciting Public Opinion. +

The Government of Bihar has published in the Bihar Gazette dated 2-5-1945 the text of the Bihar Maternity Benefit Bill, 1945, for eliciting public opinion. The Bill will be taken into consideration on or after 13-5-1945.

The bill prohibits employment in factories of a woman ~~worker~~ worker during the four weeks following the day of her delivery or during the two weeks following the day of miscarriage; and provides for the payment to her of maternity benefit at the rates prescribed for a period up to four weeks of absence before and four weeks after delivery and for the period of three weeks from the day of miscarriage, as the case may be. The rate of benefit is fixed as the average daily earnings calculated to the nearest quarter of an anna, on the total wages earned on the days when full time work was done during ~~the~~ a period of three months immediately preceding the date on which notice of pregnancy is given or 8 annas a day, whichever is greater. The bill also provides that every employer, in whose factory fifty or more women are employed or where not less than twenty-five per centum of the ~~work~~ workers employed are women and the number of such women is not less than ten, shall set apart a room in the factory premises which shall be used as a creche for the children of women employed in the factory, and employ a female attendant thereat to look after such children, and shall also employ, either by himself or in combination with other employers, a trained woman health visitor for looking after the welfare of the women concerned.

(The Bihar Gazette, dated 2-5-1945: Part V Pages 34 to 42). - ✓

Bombay:

The Employment of Children (Railways other than Federal Railways) Rules, 1944.

The Government of Bombay has gazetted the Employment of Children (Railways other than Federal Railways) Rules, 1944, made under the Employment of Children Act, 1938 (XXVI of 1938) (vide page 2 of the Report of this Office for January 1945).

Inspectors' Powers.— According to Rules 3 and 4, an Inspector appointed by the Provincial Government under section 6 of the Act may at any time enter any section of the Indian State Railways situated in the Province of Bombay specified in the Schedule annexed to the Rules wherein persons are employed in any occupation connected with the transport of passengers, goods or mails, and may require any person to give evidence and may take such evidence on the spot or otherwise, and Medical Officer in charge of any section of the said railways may grant certificates of age in respect of young persons in employment or seeking employment in such section. No charge shall be made for the issue of any such certificate.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 31-5-1945, Part IV-A, pages 73-75). ✓

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SOCIAL POLICY.

2nd Meeting of the Statutory Labour Advisory Committee,
Hyderabad State.

Addressing the 2nd Meeting of the Statutory Labour Advisory Committee, held in April 1945, the Hon'ble Nawab Zaheer Yar Jung, Labour Member, the Nizam's Government, emphasized the fact that the general prosperity of the country, no less than its industrial progress, depended primarily on cordial relations between labour and capital. He detailed the measures taken by the Hyderabad Government, in the legislative as well as in the executive spheres, to promote the welfare of labour. The main points brought out by the Labour Member are given below:

Review of Work Done.- Since the first meeting of the Labour Advisory Committee, the sub-committee appointed to discuss the question of Standing Orders of the Committee has submitted its report. In the Labour Department, a Labour Welfare Inspector and a Labour Welfare Inspectress have been appointed and have started their work. An Employment Exchange has been established, which will work on purely voluntary basis, i.e., the employer will be under no obligation to employ any particular worker sent to him by the Exchange, nor will the worker be under any compulsion to accept any job offered to him. The Workmen's Compensation Act required certain important amendments. A draft Bill was prepared and submitted for being introduced in the Legislative Council, but to accelerate its enforcement it was considered desirable to introduce it as a Regulation. The dispute in the Hyderabad Spinning and Weaving Mills was referred for conciliation to Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Mirza, who was successful in bringing about a satisfactory settlement. A cess is being levied on the price of coal and the amount thus collected will be spent for the welfare of labour in the coal mines. An Advisory Committee with an equal number of representatives of employers and employees is being set up in this connection. Work in connection with the Cost of Living Index numbers and Labour Statistics is being carried on by the Statistics Department.

Legislation is being planned for the institutionalization of ~~taxation~~ ~~provident~~ a compulsory Provident Fund for the benefit of labour; it is hoped, this social security legislation, would serve as a nucleus for the introduction of further measures such as Sickness Insurance and Unemployment Insurance.

(Hyderabad Information, April, 1945).

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CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Wages.

Changes in the Wages of Factory Workers in India
1939-1943: Textile Wages nearly doubled.

The following table giving the figures of the average annual earnings of workers of the principal occupational categories in 1943, and corresponding wages in 1939, is taken from ~~the Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India~~ the Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India dated 28-5-1945; these data have been compiled from the returns under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, from all Provinces, excepting Assam:

| Industry. | 1939 | | 1943 | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Average No. of workers in hundreds. | Average annual wage. | Average No. of workers in hundreds. | Average annual wage. |
| | | Rs. | | Rs. |
| Textiles | 7,957 | 293.6 | 10,157 | 571.2 |
| Engineering | 1,050 | 312.1 | 2,354 | 529.0 |
| Minerals & Metals | 599 | 462.8 | 974 | 502.7 |
| Chemicals & Dyes | 512 | 246.2 | 810 | 398.8 |
| Paper and Printing | 515 | 388.6 | 614 | 413.4 |
| Wood, Stone & Glass | 412 | 193.8 | 725 | 303.0 |
| Shoes & Hides | 118 | 220.3 | 385 | 410.7 |
| Ordnance Factories | 266 | 361.9 | 1,253 | 527.4 |
| Mints | 18 | 367.4 | 68 | 574.4 |
| Miscellaneous. | 203 | 282.8 | 731 | 392.0 |

An analysis of the above figures shows that there was an increase of about a fifty per cent in the average number of wage earners, above the corresponding figure for 1939, while the average earnings per worker rose, in 1943, by nearly 83 per cent over the amount earned in the pre-war year. The textile industry leads in the list in employment, the engineering group occupying the next place. Ordnance factories have displaced minerals and metals from the third place to the fourth. In the matter of the average wage, the first place is taken by mints, textiles and engineering being the second and third in this respect. Workers in the ordnance factories draw on an average almost as much as those in the engineering industry, and the next place goes to minerals and metals. The wartime increase in the wages appears most striking in the textile and engineering industries and the increase is the least in the establishments coming under the group of minerals and metals.

The variations in these averages are partly due to the differential basic wage rates and the differences in the amounts of dearness allowances and bonuses paid.

(Industrial Bulletin (No.470) dated 28-5-1945 of
the Employers' Federation of India, dated
28-5-1945). + ✓

Welfare.

Training of Labour Welfare Officers: Calcutta University Institute Diploma Course for Social Work.

The Senate of the Calcutta University has decided to institute a Diploma Course in Social Work (Labour Welfare).

The Government of India has made the Calcutta University the only centre in India for the training of Labour Welfare officers and the University has also been approached by various industrial organisations outside Calcutta industrial area for the training of their labour welfare officers.

At the instance of the Indian Jute Mills' Association, the University instituted a specialised training course for labour welfare officers in 1942, this being the first such course undertaken by an Indian University.

(The Hindu, dated 14-5-1945). ✓

Welfare Activities in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills Madras, during 1944

The following information is taken from the 23rd annual report for 1944 relating to welfare activities in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, of the Welfare Committee of the Mills:

General Survey.- Ten ordinary meetings and one special meeting of the Welfare Committee were held during 1944. The Welfare Sub-committee, consisting only of the labour representatives, held four meetings and discussed questions connected with the firewood situation, canteens for the workers and mill holidays. The year 1944 witnessed the inception of the Provident Fund scheme for which the Committee had been labouring since 1928. Other important questions discussed were general increase in wages, cash bonus, increasing the war production allowance, dearness allowance, raising the percentage of increase of wages to workers of five years' service and more, twelve-loom system, privileges for temporary workers and amenities for night-shift workers. On the Social Welfare side, the difficulties caused by the system of rationing of rice and firewood were discussed. While the Social Welfare organisations continued their normal activities; a Reading Room was opened in the Mills Institute with a radio and facilities for indoor games; the Safety First Association was reorganised; and arrangements were

* Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Welfare Committee 1944. The Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras. pp. 22.

made for the starting of a canteen for the workers.

Departmental Committees.- 78 meetings in all of the various Departmental Committees were held to discuss problems of Departmental importance such as production, health and welfare, wages, etc.; the level of discussions showed a marked improvement and many questions which, if left unsolved, would have disturbed the peaceful atmosphere of the Departments, lowered the morale of the workers and hampered production, were amicably settled.

Dearness Allowance.- The following is the scale of allowance paid during the period under report:-

| | RS. A. P. | | | | RS. A. P. | | |
|----------|-----------|----|---|-----------|-----------|----|---|
| January | 17 | 0 | 0 | July | 18 | 4 | 0 |
| February | 17 | 12 | 0 | August | 18 | 6 | 0 |
| March | 18 | 0 | 0 | September | 18 | 6 | 0 |
| April | 18 | 0 | 0 | October | 18 | 6 | 0 |
| May | 18 | 2 | 0 | November | 18 | 10 | 0 |
| June | 18 | 6 | 0 | December | 19 | 0 | 0 |

Accident Compensation, Holidays with Pay and Leave for Temporary Workers.- A resolution moved at a meeting of the Committee held on 12/11/44 asked for payment of Compassionate Allowance to temporary workers who were given medical leave as a result of their meeting with accidents inside the Mills; the Company have been paying this allowance to permanent workers in addition to the compensation payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The President accepted the resolution. The Labour representatives asked at the meeting of November 7 that the temporary workers of over six months' service should be given payment of wages for mill holidays. It was pointed out in this connection that just as holidays were given for festivals to permanent workers, they were given to temporary workers as well, but that the latter were not paid for such holidays as the permanent workers were. The President in reply said that the Management gave the permanent workers certain benefits and privileges in order to encourage them to remain in employment, but it was not necessary to offer the same inducement to the temporary workers who might have to find other employment as soon as the war was over. At the same meeting it was requested that if temporary workers who had put in more than six months' service wanted to go to their villages to attend to important business they might be granted sufficient leave for the purpose. The President in reply said that temporary workers were given leave up to six days at a time, which should be enough to cover their needs when they had to go to their villages. However, the Managing Agents have since decided to grant fifteen days' leave with pay per annum to those temporary workers whose total service in the Mills amounted to five years or more, including broken periods of service. +

General.

Lighting in Indian Factories: Suggestions for Improvement.

Problems connected with lighting arrangements in Indian Factories and Mills were discussed in a paper read at a Conference of Chief Inspectors of Factories in India held at New Delhi towards the close of 1944; the intensification of lighting difficulties because of war conditions which, in particular, have led to great increase in night work was specially emphasised. The main points brought out in the paper are noticed below:

Pre-War Conditions; Not Much Night-Work.- Before the war, lighting in factories was not a problem which commanded serious and immediate attention. Relatively few Indian factories and workshops needed to resort to artificial lighting except to augment deficient day-lighting, and to provide minimum pilot-lighting for watch and ward. In consequence, their artificial lighting systems are generally incapable of providing the standard of illumination necessary for night work.

War Increases Night-Work; Lighting Problems intensified.- The problem of artificial lighting became real and acute when industries had to be mobilized for war production, and when night work in factories became the rule rather than the exception. The problem was further aggravated by the obscuration measures undertaken to comply with the lighting restrictions. The result was of serious consequence to war production, and the question of welfare of labour had literally to be shelved for the time being.

Relative Neglect of Lighting Problems.- While the Governments in the U.K., U.S.A., and Australia recognized the importance of lighting for production purposes and for the amelioration of working conditions in factories engaged on war production, India could do very little, primarily because of the lack of materials, but also to a large measure because of the lack of planning and appreciation of the necessity of good artificial lighting by the industries concerned.

Night Work likely to continue after war; Need for better Lighting Arrangements.- It is likely that after the war night work in factories will continue to a considerable extent, especially in the textile industry. This will probably at least set off the reduction in night work in factories now producing munitions of war which will mostly either close down or revert to the production of consumer goods. The value of good lighting in a factory is beyond dispute, whether it be from the point of view of labour welfare, accident reduction, improved quality and increased output; and it is interesting to note that in some of the modern well-established Indian factories, the lighting installations, with minor alterations, can even be brought up to standards of illumination recommended by the Illuminating Engineering Society. But in a majority of the older factories, it may be found necessary to scrap the existing lighting arrangements completely, and instal a new system in their place. In others, it may be possible to augment the illumination by providing additional light points interspaced between the existing lights. The main deficiency in even some of the existing fairly satisfactory installations is with regard to the spacing of the light points. Modern lighting practice is to provide fairly uniform illumination over the whole working area. For this, the light points must be arranged symmetrically, and not spaced too far apart, the spacing depending on the mounting height and the type of reflector used. General lighting combined with local lighting may be necessary both from a practical and economic point of view in shops where high values of illumination are required for fine and exacting detail work; but it is essential to consider local lighting as supplementary.

supplementary to the general lighting system, which should provide the required minimum illumination throughout the interior.

Statutory Orders prescribing Minimum Standards suggested.- The issue of statutory orders specifying ~~the~~ minimum standards of illumination will help employers in ~~Indian~~ India to understand their obligations under the Factories Act, and will widen the attention paid to conditions of industrial lighting. It will also arouse interest and appreciation of the importance of this subject, and this should surely lead to the provision of desirable standards rather than the mere legal minima.

Fluorescent Lamps may replace Tungsten Lamps.- The fluorescent lamp is twice as efficient as an ordinary tungsten filament lamp, so that for equal light output the heat radiated is only 1/4 or 1/5 as much. The use of fluorescent lighting in factories is a development of the last few years and because of its advantages over ordinary incandescent lamps, has spread very rapidly in America and United Kingdom.

(Indian Textile Journal, April, 1945).+ ✓

standardizing Conditions of Work in Jute Mills;
Indian Jute Mills Association's Draft Rules
Circulated.

Recognising the need for standardizing conditions of service of workers, the ~~Indian Jute Mills Association~~, in consultation with the Government of Bengal, have drawn up certain rules in draft form. These have now been circulated to all jute mills in Bengal for consideration.

(Bulletin issued by the Indian Central Jute Committee, April, 1945).

Forced Labour in Banswara State.

According to a letter published in the Hindustan Times, dated 13-5-1945, several varieties of forced labour are still exacted from the bhils (an aboriginal tribe) ~~living~~ in the forest areas of Banswara State, ~~Western~~ India, by the ~~Forest officers~~ of the State. The correspondent, after a tour of the state, reports that the State's Forest Officers and their staff often harass the bhils by first accusing them falsely of committing ~~forest~~ ^{made} offences and then demanding geese, ghee and goats as penalties; ~~under~~ ^{are also} varied forms of forced labour.

(The ~~First~~ Hindustan Times, 13-5-1945). ✓

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Trade of India in 1942-1943 *

General World Situation: Accentuation of Inflationary Tendencies.-The military situation which developed after the outbreak of war with Japan had apparently many adverse features and yet it was that temporary setback which gave a tremendous impetus to the psychological forces behind the war effort of the United Nations. In the United Kingdom, the mobilisation of manpower was complete, while the United States was rapidly approaching that stage; and in the last quarter of the year, shortages of labour had already begun to appear to a varying extent in different sectors of the American economy. The stage of specific "bottlenecks" was over and scarcity now permeated all branches of the economic system. The increased expenditure created a two-fold pressure on the price structure: it reduced the physical volume of goods available for civilian consumption, while simultaneously increasing the volume of purchasing power in the hands of consumers. Except in countries where the surplus purchasing power could be drawn off through taxation, borrowing or rationing, the prices of consumer goods registered a sharp advance and the interaction of prices and costs gave rise to an inflationary spiral. The extent of the rise in prices varied in different countries, but there is no doubt that the year under review witnessed a marked accentuation of the inflationary process in most of the democratic countries.

Extension of Raw Material Control to International Field.- One of the most significant trends in the world commercial situation during the year under review was the extension of control over raw material allocations from the domestic to the international field. This was rendered necessary by the acute stringency of the raw material position which developed after the outbreak of war with Japan. The loss of the rich Pacific sources of important raw materials like rubber, tin, aluminium, tungsten, oilseeds and mineral oils which were as essential to the war effort as to the maintenance of civil economy, made it inevitable that the United Nations should pool all available resources and arrange for their equitable distribution. In the absence of control, shortage gives rise to speculation and competitive bidding, both of which accentuate the inevitable rise in prices. In the conditions prevailing in the early months of 1942, the tendency was present to a marked extent and was encouraged by the fact that the expanded programme of war production involved an unprecedented demand for raw materials. The machinery of the Combined Raw Material Board was, therefore, evolved. This Board, which was established in January 1942 and was composed of the representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States, was invested with the functions of taking stock of all available resources (including those from non-Allied sources) and of allocating them to the various United Nations. In addition to evolving a plan of allocation, the Board also

* Review of the Trade of India ^{in 1942-43} (69th issue) - Issued by the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India and Published by the order of the Governor-General in Council. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi 1945. Price Rs. 3-14-0, pp. 245.

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arranged for coordinated purchases in order to eliminate competitive buying. Another factor which played a very important role in the Allied trade in 1942 and which may have far-reaching repercussions on the nexus of trade relations in the postwar period is the Lease-Lend transactions between the United Nations.

Rise in Prices: Accentuated Tendencies in India.- Two important aspects of the international situation during the period under review were a general world shortage of raw materials and consumer goods and the rising trend of public and private expenditure. The inevitable rise in prices resulting from these factors varied in extent from one country to another according to the degree of maladjustment between demand and supply and the extent of control exercised by the State over production and consumption. In countries like the United Kingdom where private enterprise and individual liberty of choice had been completely subordinated to the requirements of the war effort, prices naturally rose to a relatively smaller extent than in other countries. The average index number of wholesale prices in the United Kingdom (January-June 1939=100) rose to 140 in 1940 and 167 in 1941; but in 1942 it rose only by 7 points to 164. The increase in cost of living which is inevitable in a country so largely dependent on imports was also kept under control; the index number of cost of living in the United Kingdom (January-June 1939=100) rose only by one point from 129 in 1941 to 130 in 1942. China and certain Middle Eastern countries like Iraq showed the worst state of inflation. The Indian price level also showed a steep ascent during the period under review. In the latter half of 1942 and the first half of 1943 India was being rapidly drawn into the vortex of war inflation and the first few months of 1943 saw Indian prices soaring to their highest levels since the outbreak of war. The Economic Adviser's index number of wholesale prices in India (10th August 1939 = 100) averaged to 158 for 1942 as against 129 for 1941 and 119 for 1940. In March 1943, the index number stood at 214.

Repercussions of War with Japan: Agricultural Prices Soar up.- The phenomenal rise in the prices of agricultural commodities was the most outstanding feature of the agricultural situation in the country during the year under review. The years immediately preceding the outbreak of the war were characterized by slump conditions during which agricultural prices were seriously depressed. The outbreak of war in September 1939 completely altered the situation, and agricultural prices shot up. Since the rise was in September 1939, a natural reaction soon came into play and this factor, coupled with certain other special circumstances, brought down prices sharply though they still continued to be substantially above the prewar prices. After the fall of France in June 1940, a fresh and even greater setback was registered, wiping out a larger part of the increase in prices that had been recorded during the initial months of the war. Simultaneously with the loss of export markets, there were unusually good harvests in 1940-41 leading to a huge accumulation of stocks. The country was faced with a major agricultural crisis and various measures had to be adopted to restrict the production of surplus commodities and to support their prices. In 1941-42 the acreage under cotton and jute, the two crops which had suffered most from the war developments, was drastically curtailed. As the effects of these various measures were beginning to be felt, the war with Japan broke out and the markets were again unsettled by the series of events which followed thereafter. The Japanese occupation of Burma, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies had a two-fold effect on agricultural prices. In the first place, the prices of all such articles as India normally imported from these territories shot up. The most important instance was that of rice which used to be obtained in substantial quantities from Burma. As an indirect consequence, the general food situation showed a marked deterioration from this time onwards. Secondly, the closure of all Far Eastern sources of a whole range of agricultural and other commodities of considerable strategic value to the United Nations increased India's importance as the

source of supply in the East. In the meanwhile, the transport situation had greatly deteriorated owing to the shortage of wagons and the pressure of military traffic, and bottle-necks became increasingly common. The normal distributive channels too did not function smoothly owing to internal political disturbances and the malpractices of hoarding and profiteering on the part of producers and dealers. Hoarding was also resorted to by consumers as confidence was shaken in the ability of the normal distributive channels to meet consumers' demand adequately and at reasonable prices. The index for agricultural commodities nearly doubled by the end of March 1943 as compared with March 1942. The rise in prices was greater in the case of agricultural commodities than in the case of manufactured articles, the former rising by 98 per cent in 1942-43 as against a rise of 40 per cent in the case of the latter.

Increase of Area under Food Crops.- During the year under review, there was an increase in the area under all the important crops except cotton as compared with the preceding year and with the exception of rice and cotton, every other crop showed an appreciable increase in yield. The increase in the acreage under foodcrops was mainly due to the Grow-More-Food Campaign aided by the natural stimulus of rising prices. In April 1942, the Government of India convened a Food Production Conference and on its recommendation requested Provincial and State Governments to undertake an intensive propaganda among cultivators for increasing the output of food crops whether by a fuller exploitation of the existing cultivated areas, by diverting land from commercial to food crops or by developing culturable waste lands. Provincial Governments and States were promised financial assistance to enable them to subsidise diversion of lands from short staple cotton to food and fodder crops and it was announced that the Central Government would be willing to support the prices of foodgrains by open market purchases, if this became necessary as a result of the increase in output. The Provincial and State Governments on their part offered several inducements to the cultivator to expand the production of foodgrains through the provision of cheap seeds and manure, the grant of advances, reductions in water ~~rates~~ rates and remissions of land revenue.

Marked Rise in Industrial Prices.- The year under review witnessed a marked rise in industrial prices in India. The index number of prices of manufactured articles compiled in the Office of the Economic Adviser (19th August 1939=100), appreciated from 162 in March 1942 to as much as 227 in March 1943, a rise of 40 per cent. This rise in the prices of industrial articles was in sympathy with the rise in the general level of prices which was the most outstanding feature of the Indian economy during the year under review. While the rise in industrial prices was of an all-round character, certain industries exhibited this tendency more markedly than others. The most conspicuous instance was that of cotton manufactures (indigenous and foreign), the index number for which appreciated from 195 in March 1942 to 442 in March 1943. Jute manufactures were very firm in 1942-43 and the ~~relative index number~~ relative index number appreciated from 178 to 220 between March 1942 and March 1943. Prices of coal, cement and leather advanced by 28, 23 and 6 per cent respectively during the same period, the relative index numbers in March 1943 being 155, 145 and 141 respectively.

Industrial Production: Over-all Increase because of War Orders.- A composite index of industrial production has not yet been constructed for India. It is hoped that full information will be available when the Industrial Statistics Act which was passed by the Central Legislature in February 1942 is implemented in all the Provinces. The production of cotton piecegoods, jute manufactures, paper and coal showed a marked decline during the year under review. In the case of the first three industries, the decline was mainly due to coal shortage and labour difficulties which became particularly acute during few months following political disturbances of August 1942. ~~Coal~~ Coal production also was greatly hampered by labour shortage. The general ~~industrial production~~ industrial production, however,

Industrial situation, however, was characterised by a greatly increased demand for manufactured articles of all kinds both because of the intensified war effort of the country and the expansion of civilian purchasing power and this must have inevitably brought about a substantial increase in the output of several other industries which were comparatively free from the difficulties mentioned above. During the year under review, the total value of orders placed by the Supply Department amounted to Rs. 2,560 million as compared with Rs. 1,840 million in the preceding year. The productive capacity of many industries has been greatly extended and several products which were wholly imported before the war are now being manufactured in India. Some of these are of use to the Defence Services only, e.g., military lorry bodies for armoured fighting vehicles, minesweeping trawlers, new types of weapons and ammunition and various items of personal and other equipment. Others are likely to be of more permanent importance. The manufacture of a number of special steels, for example, is being planned for the first time and it is expected that at the end of the war, India should be able to meet a considerable proportion of her demands for tool steel, taps, dies and small tools from domestic production. The use of plastics has been developed and the technique of die-casting has been improved. Machine tools are being made not only in larger quantities but in better qualities and five leading manufacturers are participating in an expansion scheme to be carried out with the aid of modern technical staff. New chemical plants are coming into production and further development is contemplated. Under the stimulus of war demand, both raw silk and silk weaving industries have made considerable progress. Considerable expansions in tyre production are in hand. Rubber production has increased and goes hand in hand with developments in the use of substitutes and planting of new rubber-yielding plants.

Increase in Industrial Disputes: Political Factors intervene.- There were 694 strikes during 1942 as compared with 359 in the preceding year. The numbers of men involved and working days lost were 773,000 and 5,780,000 as against 291,000 and 3,331,000 respectively. Most of the strikes occurred in the cotton and engineering industries, which together accounted for 51.0 per cent of strikes, 63.8 per cent of workers involved and 66.3 per cent of the working days lost. In 438 or 63 per cent of the total number of disputes the chief demand related to wages or bonus. In 286 out of the 694 strikes workers were successful in getting some concessions. The statistics for 1942 cannot be regarded as normal in view of the large number of stoppages due political causes.

Rise in Index Number of whole sale Prices: March 1942-144: March 1943-213.- The most outstanding feature of economic conditions in this country during the year under review was the phenomenal rise in the general level of prices. Between March 1942 and March 1943, the Index Number of Wholesale Prices in India (compiled by the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, with 19th August 1939 as the base), rose from 144 to 213, a rise of 48 per cent as against a rise of 25 per cent during 1941-42. The rise in prices was steeper during the second half of the year under review when the situation became extremely disquieting and continued to remain so until May 1943 necessitating strong action on the part of Government. The rise in prices may be ascribed to several factors. The year under review saw a rapid expansion in the volume of currency which was not accompanied by a proportionate increase in the volume of consumable goods. The ~~imported~~ imports of manufactured goods were restricted owing to shipping difficulties and the shortage of supplies at the source. Internal production also failed to keep pace with the increasing demand owing to various causes such as shipping difficulties in obtaining mill stores, machinery, etc., from abroad, and internal transport difficulties. Wage increases, dearness allowances and bonuses given to industrial workers raised the costs of production and indirectly raised the prices of manufactured articles. In the matter of agricultural commodities, while internal production could not cope with the increased demand, the position was aggravated by Japan's entry into the war and her subsequent conquest of Burma and other territories. The Japanese

successes had a two-fold effect; in the first place, the prices of all such articles as India normally imported from territories that had now fallen under Japanese domination (e.g., rice from Burma) shot up; secondly, the loss of valuable sources of supply of a whole range of agricultural commodities of considerable value to the United Nations increased India's importance as a major source of supply in the East. The rise in prices was aggravated by speculation as well as wide-spread hoarding on the part of producers, dealers and consumers. In addition to the over-all shortages created by these factors, there were prolonged local scarcities caused by transport difficulties.

Working Classes' Cost of Living.- The year under review witnessed a steep rise in the cost of living of working classes in India. Between March 1942 and March 1943, the Bombay index rose by 52 per cent, the Madras index by 48 per cent and the Cawnpore index by 65 per cent. The increases in the Lahore and Jamshedpur index numbers were very steep, amounting to 75 per cent and 89 per cent respectively. As compared with August 1939, the increases in the Bombay, Madras, Cawnpore, Lahore and Jamshedpur indices amounted to 98, 73, 148, 154 and 145 per cent respectively.

Trading Conditions.- Trading conditions in 1942-43 were generally less favourable than in the preceding year. The volume of foreign trade showed a sharp decline. The value of exports of private merchandise from British India declined from Rs. 2,380 million in 1941-42 to Rs. 1,880 million in 1942-43, while the value of imports declined from Rs. 1,730 million to Rs. 1,100 million. The value of the re-export trade in private merchandise amounted to only Rs. 70 million in the year under review as against Rs. 150 million in the preceding year.

Export Trade.- Exports of all the principal groups of commodities, with a few exceptions — cotton manufactures being the most important among them, decreased considerably in 1942-43 as compared with the preceding year. The largest reductions were under jute manufactures and raw cotton. The general deterioration in the export trade situation during the year under review is to be mainly attributed to the outbreak of war with Japan and her subsequent occupation of Hong Kong, Malaya, the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies and Burma. The cessation of Japanese competition, however, gave a strong fillip to the export trade in cotton manufactures.

Import Trade.- India's import trade in respect of all important groups of commodities suffered heavily during the year under review as compared with the preceding year. Imports of cotton yarn and manufactures registered a considerable decline. Imports of machinery were also reduced. Control over imports, difficulties of obtaining shipping space and the fact that the supplying ~~country~~ countries were fully engaged in war production, were the principal factors which explain the reduction in imports during the year under review.

Balance of Trade.- The balance of trade in private merchandise in favour of India increased to Rs. 843 million in 1942-43 as compared with Rs. 800 million in the preceding year. These figures do not include the value of stores exported abroad for Defence purposes or the value of imports on this account. It is probable that the aggregate merchandise balance of trade would be much greater if the value of transactions on Defence account were included.

(Trade of India, 1941-42, was reviewed at pages 2-6 of February, 1944, report of the New Delhi Office. A copy of the Review of the Trade of India in 1942-43, was sent to Montreal with New Delhi office's minute No. D.1/785/45 dated 4-6-1945.)

"Earned Income" Relief in Income Tax:
Income Tax (Amendment Ordinance),
1945.

The Indian Finance Act, 1945, provided that, if the Indian Income-Tax Act, 1922, were amended so as to give exemption in respect of "earned income", an amount equal to one-tenth of an assessee's earned income (subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,000) would be deducted from his total income. The Income-Tax Act, 1922, has been amended for this purpose by the Indian Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1945. The "earned income" exemption applies only to incomes which may be described as derived from personal exertion and does not apply, for example, to the income of companies or to income derived from dividends, or from interest on securities or from property. Furthermore, it applies ~~only~~ only in respect of income-tax and is not applicable in respect of super-tax. It is understood that all salaries earned in 1945-46 will obtain the benefit of earned income relief and in making deduction of tax at source earned income relief will be given in respect of salaries paid during 1945-46.

(Press Note issued by the Government of India in second week of May 1945, and the Hindu, dated 13-5-1945). + ✓

Industrial Statistics: New Section opened
by Commerce Department, Government of India.

In order to maintain upto-date statistical data regarding India's diversified industrial output, the Department of Commerce, Government of India, has recently set up an Administrative Intelligence Section, with Major P.M.S. Mumfrey as its first Director. The Section will assemble statistics about a wide range of ~~various~~ industries, and would pay particular attention to statistics of exports and imports. The Section is sanctioned in the first instance for 6 months, but sanction is likely to be extended.

(National Call, 13-5-1945). ✓

Industrial standardisation: Plea for Adoption ^{of} International
Industrial Standards.

Indian Finance, Calcutta, in an editorial note in its issue of 19-5-1945, while commending the proposal of the Government of India to introduce the decimal system of coinage in India, enters a strong plea for initiation of a policy of industrial standardisation. It points out: Of more immediate importance to the development of the country is the establishment of a central organization which will lay down standards of industrial practice and define specifications for the products of industry. The growth of wartime industrial activity and the prospect of ^aplanned drive to accelerate development in the post-war period underline the need for an organization

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which will formulate standards and revise them periodically to keep abreast of scientific and technical advance. So far as standards of measurement are concerned, convenience and common sense alike dictate the adoption of internationally accepted units.

India, so far, has been making ^{use} of the British Standards Institute standards and the Government of India makes an annual contribution to B.S.I. funds. This makeshift arrangement could be justified so long as industrialisation proceeded at the pace of the bullock-cart and the range of materials involved was limited, so that devising Practice Standards to suit local conditions did not present a difficult problem. But with a programme of rapid expansion under way, ad hoc arrangements will prove inadequate, and it will be necessary to set up machinery to devise standards of quality, performance and practice to suit Indian conditions. The policy of transplanting standards defined with respect to entirely different conditions, climatic and otherwise, will be no better than having no standards at all, as the necessity of individual adjustment in actual working will lead to chaotic conditions. It is of interest to note in this connection that, in addition to B.S.I. standards which are in general use, some engineering concerns in India have recently begun to adopt American A.S.A. standards as they permit "tolerances" more in keeping with manufacturing practice.

The task of laying down standards for adoption by industries throughout the country calls for the ~~establishment~~ establishment of an organisation similar in function and structure to analogous institutions in Great Britain and the U.S.A.

(Indian Finance, 12-5-1945).+ ✓

5-Year Plan for Sugar Industry Development:
to be prepared by Indian Central Sugarcane
Committee.

About Rs. 14.5 million out of the excise duty pool on sugar released in 1943-44 and 1944-45 have been placed at the disposal of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee and the Committee has been asked to prepare a first five-year plan for development of the sugar industry in the country and submit it to the Government of India for approval.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-5-1945).

Reviewing the post-war prospects of the Indian sugar industry at the 8th annual meeting of the Indian Sugar Syndicate held at Lucknow in the first week of May 1945. Mr. ~~M~~ram Chand Thaper, chairman of the Syndicate, said that the industry was very advantageously placed for phenomenal expansion in the immediate post-war years. He pointed out that more than a third of the world's sugar production had been ruined by the war and that it would take years before it was restored. In these circumstances, India would be one of the few countries that would be called upon to make good the deficit in world production, at least for countries in the Middle East. He pleaded for increased sugar production and for bringing about this urged an increase in the price of sugarcane and a corresponding increase in the price of sugar. As it is, he said, the all-India production of sugar in the current season (1944-45) is expected to fall below 1 million tons, as against an output 1.25 million tons in 1943-44,

(The Hindustan Times, 7-5-1945). ✓

The Leader, in an editorial in its issue dated 7-5-1945, criticising Mr. Thaper's demand for raising sugar prices says: Every effort should be made to increase production. But we do not agree with the suggestion that for this purpose higher sugar and cane prices should be fixed for the next crushing season. The consumers of sugar are already paying a high price. They cannot afford to pay more. In the post-war period, which is now in sight, the price of sugar cannot be kept at artificially high levels as foreign competition would revive and prices will have to be kept at competitive levels. This should be perfectly possible if the average yield of sugarcane crop in India is improved. At present the yield is only 16 tons per acre but with some effort it can almost be doubled.

(The Leader, 7-5-1945).

Indian Industrial Delegation to U.K. and U.S.A.

An unofficial Industrial delegation to the United Kingdom and the United States of America left India in two batches towards the middle of May 1945. The deputation includes Mr. J.R.D. Tata, Mr. A.D. Shroff, Sir Ashangir Ghandy, Mr. G.D. Birla, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker and Sir Sultan Chinoy; Dr. P.S. Lohanathan is Secretary to the delegation.

The delegation is reported to spend about six weeks in America and six weeks in the United Kingdom. Their visit is expected to forge bonds of mutual co-operation between industry in Britain and India and promote better economic relations. The delegation during its tour abroad, will study the present industrial organisation of the ~~various~~ countries visited, the technical advances made by them during the last few years and their post-war industrial plans. The members will be free to arrange their programme and discuss any matters, unfettered by terms of reference or by any form of control by the Government. The Government will, however, arrange facilities for them to visit industrial establishments and to contact leaders of industry and prominent businessmen in Britain and the United States.

(The Times of India, 16-5-1945).

At the time when the delegation left, doubts were expressed in certain quarters that the ~~deputation's~~ deputation's tour abroad might result in Indian industrialists arriving at an understanding with foreign ~~exploitation~~ ~~of India's industrial possibilities~~ to the detriment of the country's real interests. Mr. G.D. Birla, one of the deputationists, at a reception held in Calcutta on 10-5-1945 repudiated such intentions and said: "Our only object is to study new methods and come back with new ideas and tell our countrymen how far other countries have progressed. We are going with a mind clear and with the one object to serve the best interests of the country".

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 12-5-1945).

Indian Film Industry: Central Film Academy and a Research Laboratory to be set up.

The following information about the Indian film industry are taken from an article in the Bombay Chronicle dated 31-5-1945:

While post-war industrial development in various directions is being actively considered by Government and industrialists alike, the film industry has not so far received the attention it deserves. An unofficial delegation of the Indian film industry is expected to leave shortly for the United Kingdom and the United States of America to collect full and up-to-date information that may be helpful in the comprehensive development of this industry.

The cinema industry has existed in India for forty years and has made fair progress, considering the various difficulties in its way. India is ~~now~~ said to be the third film-producing country in the world, the first and second being respectively the United States of America and Japan. But that is the position in the aggregate. Considering the vast population of this country, the progress, though encouraging, can hardly be said to be satisfactory. According to a pamphlet published by the Independent Film Producers' Association, Bombay, India produced only 179 pictures in 1937-38 and 149 in 1943-44. As far as cinema houses are concerned, India has now only about 1,700 theaters, as against 19,000 in the U.S.A. with a population of 122 million. There is, indeed, need for vast expansion in India now is that beyond her power in spite of political difficulties.

Among the most urgent needs of the industry are a central institute for ~~the study of India for the training of technical talent~~ and a research laboratory to enable the country to be self-sufficient in the production of raw films, technical machinery and other accessories. A Committee has been recently set up to formulate plans for the ~~establishment~~ establishment of a Central Film Academy and a Research Laboratory, working under the joint auspices of the Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association and the Independent Film Producers' Association. Sir Homi Mehta has been elected Chairman of the Committee.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 31-5-1945). ✓

Working Class Cost of Living Index for Various Centres in India during October, 1944.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during October, 1944, as compared with September, 1944.

| <u>Name of Centre</u> | <u>Base=100</u> | <u>September, 44.</u> | <u>October, 44.</u> |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Bombay | Year ending June 1934 | 239 | 239 |
| Ahmedabad | Year ending July 1927 | 220 | 221 |
| Sholapur | Year ending January 1928 | 205 | 207 |
| Nagpur | August 1939 | 263 | 258 |
| Indhiana | 1931-35 | 328 | 339 |
| Cawnpore | August 1939 | 331 | 329 |
| Patna | Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914. | 332 | 341 |
| Jamshedpur | Ditto | 366 | 373 |
| Jharia | Ditto | 432 | 421 |
| Madras | Year ending June 1936 | 204 | 204 |
| Madura | Ditto | 196 | 198 |
| Coimbatore | Ditto | 227 | 229 |

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for October, 1944). ✓

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SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Provident Fund for Jaipur State Employees:
Scheme sanctioned by Government.

The Government of Jaipur State has sanctioned a scheme of Provident Fund for its employees. The scheme provides for the payment of 3 per cent compound interest on the contributions made by the employees, who will also be entitled to the usual pensions and gratuities. +

(The Hindustan Times, 1-5-1945).,

Action on Adarkar Report on Health Insurance: Government
to urge Provincial Governments with a view to
Central Legislation.

The Government of India is going ahead with its plans to take action on Professor Adarkar's report on health insurance of industrial workers. (Vide pages 24 and 25 of the report of this Office for October 1944). According to an Associated Press of India message, dated 11-5-1945 from New Delhi, the Government of India has forwarded to Provincial Governments, a report on the subject of Social Security for industrial workers in India, covering health insurance, maternity benefit and employment injury. On receipt of the replies from Provincial Governments, the question of introducing a Bill in the Central Assembly to carry out the scheme will be considered.

While Prof. Adarkar's proposals provided for progress by a series of steps, on the advice of Messrs. Stack and Rao of the International Labour Office, who came to India at the invitation of the Central Government, the Government of India's present plans are to tackle several steps at once. The proposed scheme, therefore, covers all perennial factories and may remove some of the defects that have crept into the present working of the Workmen's Compensation Act and of the Maternity Benefit Act.

Prof. Adarkar had proposed that the Insurance Fund should set up its own medical service. According to the revised scheme, however, the provincial Medical Services will be utilised for the purposes of the health insurance scheme. This change is intended to secure that the Provincial Ministries of Health remain ultimately responsible for all health services operated within their jurisdiction, and that Provincial Governments will have a very close interest in the working of the scheme.

The Central Government will meet two-thirds of the cost of administration as an ex-gratia payment for the first five years; the Provincial Governments are being asked to meet one-third of the cost of medical care of standard quality by the provision of medical services, and the remainder of the cost will be met from employers' and workers' contributions. The administration of the scheme will be controlled by a statutory corporation—a Central Board of Social Insurance—to be set up under a Federal Act. In addition, there will be regional boards and local committees and judiciary, as suggested by Prof. Adarkar in his report.

(The Hindu, dated 12-5-1945). + ✓

Provident Fund Scheme for Temporary Central
Government Employees.

Employees eligible for admission to the Fund.- The Government of India have recently decided to institute a Worker's Contributory Provident Fund for temporary workmen employed in the following Central Government establishments: (i) the Posts and Telegraphs Workshops; (ii) the Central Public Works Department work-charged establishments; (iii) the Mints; and (iv) the Security Printing, India, including (a) Security Press, (b) Currency Note Press, and (c) Central Stamp Store.

Conditions of admission.- The following are the conditions laid down for workmen for admission to the Fund: (a) that he is in receipt of minimum monthly emoluments of Rs. 20 or above; and (b) that he has had at least three years' continuous service in any of the establishments, provided that a break in service caused by (i) discharge in the interests of the State, or (ii) temporary physical unfitness which, in the opinion of the medical authorities, was neither due to his own neglect nor to intemperance or irregular habits, shall not be held to constitute a break in continuity of service.

Optional Subscribers.- It is further provided that a workman drawing pay not less than Rs. 10 per mensem but less than Rs. 20 per mensem and fulfilling the condition (b) above, may be admitted as an optional subscriber.

Rate of Subscription.- The rate of subscription, which the subscriber himself has to pay is to be not less than one anna in the rupee of his emoluments (excluding rent, overtime, and other extra allowances) and not more than an anna and half in the rupee. The rate of Government contribution will be 5/4 per cent (1/16th) of the subscriber's emoluments.

Gratuity for pre-Fund Employment.- It has also been provided that if a workman has rendered service of five years or more on emoluments of Rs. 20 a month or above before the introduction of the Fund, he shall, on retirement, get in respect of that service gratuity equal to half a month's emoluments for each completed year of service, subject to a maximum of nine months' emoluments.

(Indian Labour Gazette, May 1945). ✓

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Government of India's Scheme for Training Coal Mining Experts.

It is learnt that the Government of India proposed to send ten persons to Sheffield for training at the centre for mechanical mechanisation of coal mines, inaugurated by the Ministry of Labour, London. The batch will consist of one colliery manager and nine persons who have obtained the mining diploma from the Indian School of Mines and have had some subsequent experience. The training, which will last six months, is designed to give instruction in maintenance and general repair work for all types of machinery and mechanical appliances underground. It will also enable the trainees to acquire electrical and mechanical knowledge to diagnose and rectify faults and to give advice in general in connection with the operations of the machines. The colliery manager will, in addition, be trained in instructional duties.

(The Hindu, 12-5-1945)..+

Reduction of Employment Opportunities in Post-War
Period apprehended: Calcutta University Appointments
Board's Report for 1942-44.

A note of warning with regard to the probable repercussion, which would be created in the employment market, after the cessation of hostilities, was sounded in the report of the Appointments and Information Board of the Calcutta University for the years 1942-44.

Statistics of Registered Appointments and Employments Secured.- The report deals with the board's work in various avenues of employments, such as the telephone exchange, jute mills, tea gardens, recruitment of non-combatant officers and labour welfare officers. One of the important developments in the activities of the Board was the starting of the Indian air training corps primarily for the recruitment of officers to the general duties of the R.I.A.F. The ~~number of~~ actual number of candidates for whom the Board could secure employment or training was 119 in 1942-43 and 171 in 1943-44. The number of candidates registered during these two years were 373 and 422.

Referring to a change in the mentality of the candidates, the report points out that the candidates interviewed in recent years show a greater inclination for a career in commerce and industry than was the case five years ago. They are neither afraid of hard work nor do they show a disinclination to take a certain amount of risk, while a considerable number of them were desirous of going in for technical lines or for outdoor work rather than regular office work and more or less settled life. During these two years 38 firms and Government offices had taken apprentices, ~~or employed graduates and under-graduates~~. 211 others had agreed to co-operate with the Board. Moreover, 24 Government and semi-governmental departments, besides seven military departments, had also agreed to utilise the services of the Board.

Unemployment in Post-War Period.- The report points out that in the immediate post-war years most of the war industries and war departments would be closed down and the activities of other industries considerably curtailed. All these would violently upset the existing economic balance. The Board,

therefore, felt that immediate steps should be taken to review the whole position and enquiries initiated as to the manner in which the entire personnel engaged in various activities of the war, both directly and indirectly, could be absorbed in the normal economic life of the country. ~~There~~ There was no foundation, it added, for the belief that the business and industry of the country, unless sufficiently expanded, would be in a position to absorb all persons released from various services with the end of the war.

The report stressed that, so far as people connected with civilian work were concerned, it would be extremely difficult to provide them with employment in commercial houses which insist on some amount of commercial experience and knowledge of commercial technique. As regards technical personnel, unless a definite plan be adopted immediately for expansion of industries, these technical people would be placed in difficult situations. With their technical knowledge in a particular branch, it would be next to impossible for them to fit in with new ~~an~~ environments and circumstances.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 17-5-1945). †✓

MIGRATION.Indians in Different Parts of British Empire: Developments during 1943-44*

The following review of the events relating to or affecting Indians in the different parts of the British Empire during 1943-44 is based on the annual report for the period issued by the Department of Commonwealth Relations, Government of India.

South Africa.

The Third Broome Commission appointed.— The Union Prime Minister has appointed on 17-3-1944 the Commission foreshadowed in the Assembly speech on 22-3-1943 of Mr. Lawrence, the then Minister of the Interior, "to enquire into and report upon matters affecting the Indian community of the province of Natal, with special reference to housing and health needs, civic amenities, civic status and provision of adequate residential, educational, religious and recreational facilities and to make recommendations generally as to what steps are necessary further to implement the uplift clauses of the Cape Town Agreement of 1927, and as to all matters affecting the well-being and advancement of the permanent Indian population of Natal". The Commission had for its chairman Justice F.N. Broome and consisted of 3 European and 2 Indians members.

The Pretoria Agreement.— The Government of India was opposed to the Trading and Occupation of Land (Transvaal and Natal) Restriction Act, 1943, from the beginning and had been endeavouring to persuade the Union Government to repeal it. The Indian legislature also passed the Reciprocity Act which provided for the same treatment being accorded to subjects of the countries within the British Commonwealth as were meted out to Indians in these countries. Meanwhile, the discussions that were being held between the representatives of the Union Government and the Natal Indian Congress resulted on 19-4-1944, in what is known as the 'Pretoria Agreement' between the Union Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior on the one hand and a deputation of Natal Indians, including members of the Natal Indian Congress, on the other. According to this agreement, the Pegging Act was to be replaced by an Ordinance to be passed by the Natal Provincial Council providing for the creation of a Licensing Board consisting of two Europeans and two Indian members with a third European with legal training as Chairman. The Ordinance would create a machinery for the Board to control occupation by licensing of dwellings. This agreement, on the whole, met with a satisfactory reception amongst the majority of Indians in South Africa. A section of the Natal European community, however, launched an agitation against the Pretoria Agreement mainly on the ground that the Durban City Council was not consulted during the preliminary discussions and that the grant of unrestricted right of investment to Indians, as contemplated in the Ordinance, would gravely prejudice European interests in Durban. A draft Ordinance embodying the major points of the Pretoria Agreement and generally acceptable to the Natal Indian Congress was introduced in the Natal Provincial Council on 19-4-1944 and, after the first reading, referred to a select committee.

*Review of Important Events Relating to or Affecting Indians in Different Parts of the British Empire during the year 1943-44. Pages 12.

Franchise for Indians in Natal.- Indians in Natal were deprived of parliamentary franchise in 1893 and of municipal franchise in 1924. The question came into prominence when Senator Clarkson said, on 3-12-1943, in an address to the Natal Municipal Association, that Indians should be given representation on a communal roll, based on property and educational qualifications, on municipal and provincial councils and in the Union Parliament. This opinion of Senator Clarkson, though personal, received a favourable press in South Africa. Indians on the other hand, asked for franchise on a common roll. The question was also discussed in the Union Parliament and it was noted that at least some Europeans were in favour of the restoration of franchise — first municipal and then political — to Indians.

Increased Old Age Pension for Indians in Union.- The old age pension of £ 6 per head per annum to which Indians were entitled in 1937 was raised by the Union Government in April, 1943, to £ 15 for urban and £ 12 for rural Indians. By a later enactment the rate was raised to the coloured pensioners' level of £ 21 (afterwards raised to £ 24). Apart from the benefit provided to the Indian community, this decision also removed the distinction between Indians and the coloured persons.

East Africa.

Immigration Restrictions in Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda.- In the last quarter of the year under review, the three Governments of British East Africa, viz., Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda promulgated Defence (Immigration) Regulations to restrict non-native immigration in their respective territory on the ground of shortage of food and housing accommodation. The regulations in all the three Colonies were, more or less, on the same lines. Under the regulations all persons of non-native descent entering the colony had to obtain an entry permit from the Government concerned. Entry permits would be granted normally only to such new entrants as are required in the Colonies in furtherance of the war effort. Persons normally resident in the Colony have been exempted from the operation of the new regulations provided they have not been absent from the Colony for more than two years. The Government of India, after careful consideration of these regulations and their implications, came to the conclusion that at least some of the provisions were likely to result in serious hardships; for example, owing to the acute shipping position, many East African Indians might not be able to return to their homes within the prescribed period of two years, and this enforced staying away from their homes, property and business, might prove ruinous to many of them. The Government, therefore, took up with the three Governments the objectionable features of the legislation; but no settlement had been arrived at the end of the period under review.

Bills to control Transactions in Land in Kenya and Tanganyika.- During the period under review the Kenya Government announced their intention to introduce in the Kenya Legislative Council two Bills, namely, (a) the Land Control Bill and (b) the Crown Lands (Amendment) Bill, 1944. The objects of the former bill were stated to be (i) putting land to the most beneficial use, (ii) empowering the Crown to acquire land for settlement purposes, and (iii) prevention of speculation in land to the prejudice of post-war settlement. A Board was to be established to have, subject to any special or general directions of the Governor, absolute control over all transactions in land. The Board was to consist of three official members (Europeans) and four other persons to be appointed by a majority of the European elected members of the Legislative Council of the Colony. One of the objects of the second Bill was to make the provisions of the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915, more effective by giving a power of veto to the Governor in exercise of which he could disallow inter-racial transfers of shares in a landowning

company, as is being done in the case of inter-racial transfers of land. The bills came to the notice of the Government of India at the end of the year under review.

In September, 1943, an Ordinance, namely, the Land (Restriction on Transfer) Ordinance, 1943, was passed by the Tanganyika Legislative Council. Under it no disposal of land or of any interest therein was to be made in favour of a non-native without the consent of the Governor. The Ordinance would cease to be operative within one year after the end of the war. The reasons for the promulgation of the Ordinance were stated to be (i) to prevent persons of alien descent and hostile sympathies from acquiring land in strategic areas and (ii) to prevent inflation of prices. The Ordinance gave rise to agitation among Indians who apprehended that it was only Indian interests that would be adversely affected by it. The Tanganyika Government, however, gave definite assurances that the Ordinance would not be used against any particular community.

Ceylon.

Labour Conditions on Estates. - The tea and rubber industries continued to be prosperous during the year. The policy of both the industries continued to be one of maximum production; there was therefore ample employment and no surplus or unabsorbed labour; on the other hand, there was a considerable shortage. The Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order, 1942, prohibiting strikes and lockouts in essential services was made applicable to the tea and rubber industries. The Seven Point Agreement continued to regulate the procedure for the settlement of disputes by conciliation. The regulations regarding restrictions on the holding of public meetings in plantations continued to be operative, and this, coupled with the general attitude of the planters in regard to the right of entry into estates of labour leaders, left little scope for trade union activities.

Operation of Wages Boards Ordinance. - No wages boards or District Wages Committees were constituted under the Wages Boards Ordinance No. 27 of 1941 during the period under review. An amending Ordinance, No. 50 of 1943, was passed on 29-10-1943 providing, inter alia, for a minimum rate of wages, including dearness allowance based on the cost of living index number computed by the Controller and the basic rates, and raising the limit of aggregate deductions from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the wages.

Modified Rates of Dearness Allowance. - The Special Committee constituted at the end of the year 1942 to examine the whole basis of the calculation of dearness allowances submitted its report in February, 1943. The Board of Indian Immigrant Labour considered the committee's recommendations. Three of the important modifications approved by it were (1) that women and children were to be paid 4/5th of what the men were getting (2) that, for the calculation of the cost of living index, market prices should be taken as basis, and (3) that the dearness allowance for up, mid and low country male labourers should be in the ratio of the relative minimum wages, viz. 57: 55: 53. The modified system was brought into force in April, 1943; it was again modified by the decision that the control prices furnished by the price controllers for food, clothing and miscellaneous articles should be accepted as conclusive by the Labour Department. In practice, in a market in which all commodities are in short supply the control price is always substantially below the actual price at which the commodity can be bought. These changes in the system of computing the cost of living index affected labour adversely. The Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon took up the matter with the Honourable the Minister for Labour and at the time of the Report it is understood that the question was receiving the attention of the Ceylon authorities.

Piece-rate Wages Regulation.- The planters had frequently expressed the view that the principle of minimum wage legislation diminished the incentive to maximum production. On instructions from the Commander-in-Chief, Ceylon, the Planters' Association made concrete proposals which in effect meant the payment of wages by piece-work without regard to the minimum wage. The Controller of Labour then evolved a modified scheme based on the claim of the Planters' Association that slackers were fewer than 5 per cent of the tappers. Under this, it was permissible for 5 per cent of the tappers to be paid less than the minimum wages. The Government of India recorded their objection that the new regulations violated the principle of minimum wage and also the conditions on which the emigration of labour to Ceylon was permitted. The adoption of the scheme was left to the option of the employers and as it did not prove a success after a 3 months' trial it was ~~rescinded~~ rescinded by notification on 26-11-1943.

Government of India's First Representative in Ceylon appointed.- Mr. M.S. Aney, a former member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, was selected as India's first Representative in Ceylon, and he assumed charge of his duties on 23-8-1943 at Colombo.

West Indies.

Constitutional Changes in British Guiana, Trinidad and Jamaica.- Representation had been made to His Majesty's Government strongly urging that provision should be made (a) for one East Indian (Indian) being nominated to the Jamaica Legislative Council and (b) that at least one seat in the Jamaica Legislative Assembly (now to be called House of Representatives) be reserved for East Indians. His Majesty's Government replied (a) that appointments to the Legislative Council would be made by the Governor who would endeavour to arrange that, when suitable persons were available, all important sections of the community which did not secure representation in the Lower House should be represented in the Upper House, the overriding consideration in all selections being that of fitness of the persons concerned to advise on matters of public policy and (b) that as the House of Representatives was entirely elected, it would not be possible to reserve a seat there for East Indians. The matter was being pursued by the Government of India. No information had been received whether the two Franchise Commissions in British Guiana and Trinidad had submitted their reports.

Fiji.

Dispute between Sugar Cane Growers and Refining Company.- In view of the rising cost of living due to the war, the sugar cane farmers in Fiji, mostly Indians, demanded, in June, 1943, higher price for their cane. The Sugar Refining Company, owning the monopoly of sugar production in the Colony, refused to effect any increase in the price of cane beyond that which was admissible under certain agreements entered into between the Company and the cane-farmers in 1940, and this virtually meant no increase in the price of cane until the price of sugar was increased by the Ministry of Food, United Kingdom, to whom the Company was bound to sell all its produce. The farmers thereupon decided not to harvest their crop and carried out their resolve in spite of the appeals of the Governor of the Colony. As the crushing season advanced, feelings were further embittered. Some of the cane growers even ploughed in their crops. All attempts on the part of Indian leaders to reach an amicable settlement having failed, the major part of the cane crop in the Colony ~~remained~~ remained unharvested. In March, 1944, the Secretary of State for Colonies announced in the House of Commons his decision to send an independent expert to the Colony to report upon the matter and further informed the House that Dr. C.Y. Shephard of Trinidad had agreed to conduct the enquiry. It was understood that Dr. Shephard would leave for Trinidad by

the end of July 1944.

Australia.

Exchange of High Commissioners between India and Australia.- With a view to strengthening the means of co-operation between Australia and India, the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia proposed, in October 1943, to appoint a High Commissioner in India. The Government of India welcomed the proposal and also decided to appoint a High Commissioner in Australia. This decision was mainly based on the necessity of maintaining close political contact with the Dominions. The Australian High Commissioner, Lieutenant General Sir Iven Mackay, arrived in India in March, 1944. The Government of India selected Sir R.P. Paranjpye as their first High Commissioner in Australia.

Mauritius.

Firing on Estates.- With Disturbances occurred on 4 estates pending the settlement of a demand for higher wages. The police are reported to have been assaulted and in the course of the firing which followed, 3 persons were killed and 3 wounded. A commission of enquiry was appointed to investigate the causes of the outbreak and the Conciliation and Wages Boards examined the question of adjustment of wages. (The findings of the Commission are summarised at pages 18a to 19 of our report for December 1944).

Far East.

Consideration of proposals regarding the Reconstruction of Burma.- Early in 1945, the Government of India learnt that the Government of Burma were engaged on drawing up plans for the reconstruction of Burma after its re-occupation. In so far as these plans concerned the question of immigration into, and status in, postwar Burma of Indians, the Government of India took note of them and, with a view to safeguarding the interests of Indians in post-war Burma, took up the consideration of the question in consultation with the interests concerned.

Burma Refugee Organisations.- The Burma Refugee Organisation, Assam, continued to function during the year. The Organization dealt with only 1,100 refugees during the six months ending June, 1943, including those who were evacuated from China by air. The Burma Refugee Organisation, Bengal, had a strenuous time during the year under review. Large scale exodus of refugees from Arakan started in April, 1943, and thousands of Arakanese Muslim refugees began to pour into the forward camps of the Organisation established south of Chittagong. The refugee influx practically stopped by November, 1943, but the forward camps had necessarily to be maintained at full strength throughout the year on the advice of the Army. The estimated expenditure on the Bengal Organisation for 1943-44 was Rs. 16.1 million, of which the expenditure on the maintenance of refugees alone was Rs. 7.1 million.

Assistance to Evacuees and Families in India of British Subjects detained in Enemy occupied Territories.- The scheme of financial assistance to evacuees and dependants of British subjects in enemy occupied territories sanctioned in 1942 continued throughout the year with some modifications. Allowances for the education of children not exceeding Rs. 10 per mensem in the cases of children attending vernacular schools and not exceeding Rs. 20 per mensem in the cases of children attending English Schools, were sanctioned in addition to maintenance allowances. Special allowances to cover expenditure on special and genuine needs of evacuees, such as the purchase of clothing and provision of medical treatment, were sanctioned.

scheme of capital advances was also put into operation to assist evacuees to start some business or trade in place of monthly maintenance allowances. This scheme did not, however, find favour with evacuees and full advantage of it was not taken by them during the year. It was estimated that nearly 50,000 evacuees and dependents were in receipt of relief and the amount disbursed was approximately Rs. 9 million. Financial grants were also made to university students from enemy occupied areas.

(The Review of Important Events relating to Indians in the British Empire in 1942-43 was noticed in our October 1943 report pages 18-27).

Indian Workers in Ceylon: 4th Annual Session of Ceylon Indian Congress Labour Union, 1945

The fourth annual session of the Ceylon Indian Congress Labour Union held at Colombo in the second week of May, 1945, adopted 16 resolutions designed to improve the lot of Indian workers in Ceylon. Mr. Sanyal Mearthy Thondaman presided over the session.

The resolutions demanded additional privileges and amenities for Indian labour, such as better educational and medical facilities, better machinery for settling labour disputes and basic minimum wage of Rs. 1-50 per diem and a pension scheme for old, disabled and sick workers. One resolution demanded the abolition of the practice prevalent in the estates, which required that immigrants should take the previous permission of their employers before receiving visitors at their residence. Another resolution demanded that in any social security scheme to be introduced by the Ceylon Government there should be no discrimination against Indian workers in Ceylon.

Mr. Thondaman, in his presidential speech, expressed gratification that the Trade Union Movement in the Island had gathered strength during the last four years and had been able to settle a number of disputes by negotiations under the sevenpoint agreement with the Government. Only a few cases were referred to the special tribunal. After dwelling on the contribution made by Indian labour to the Island's economy. Mr. Thondaman referred to the plight of estate labourers, numbering 650,000, who formed the bulk of Indian labour. He urged considerable improvements in their conditions, including better educational and medical facilities, housing and social services. He suggested that estate labour presented a useful field for the introduction of a social insurance scheme.

(The Hindu, dated 15-5-1945).

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Indians in Trinidad: Improved Conditions of
Living urged by Pt. Kunzru.

Pandit H.N. Kunzru, M.L.A. (Central), who specialises in the study of the problems of Indians overseas, paid a short unofficial visit to Trinidad in the first half of May 1945. He had long talks with the leaders of the Indian community in Trinidad, and later interviewed the Governor of Trinidad, and represented to him the principal needs of the Indian community. The community's major demands were: (1) the appointment of an Indian Agent-General and a Trade Commissioner to the colony; (2) improvement of housing conditions on the sugar estates; (3) provision of better facilities for education, including technical education; (4) registration of Hindu marriages; (5) facilities for erection of a crematorium and of a night shelter for destitute Indians; (6) the appointment of a fair proportion of Indians in the civil service, including the higher posts; and (7) wage improvement and provision of better medical facilities.

(The Hindu, dated 13-5-1945).+✓

AGRICULTURE.

Jute Production: Target for Five Years fixed by
Indian Central Jute Committee.

An All-India jute target for the immediate future of 10 million bales was decided upon by the Planning Sub-Committee of the Indian Central Jute Committee at a meeting held at Calcutta in the first week of May, 1945. The Committee decided that the data available was insufficient to enable it to make long-term proposals. It, therefore, confined its recommendations to the five-year period commencing with the jute crop year 1946-47. Of the 10 million bales to be produced, 6.6 million will be used for internal mill consumption, .6 million for ~~internal~~ internal village consumption and 2.8 million for export. The Sub-Committee agreed that the All-India target should be apportioned among the ~~four~~ four provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Orissa on the basis of area and production during the last fifteen years for which data were available.

To ensure that the ~~target~~ targets fixed may be achieved in practice, the Sub-Committee recommended immediate action on the following lines:

- (1) Government should guarantee to producers an assured market and a remunerative and stable price.
- (2) Government should provide for the maintenance of buffer stocks in order to ensure stability of price.
- (3) A suitable marketing organisation, co-operative or otherwise, should be developed to provide for the sale of the produce and to ensure the maximum possible return to the producer.
- (4) Standards or grades should be prescribed for jute fibre, and marketing should take place only on those standards or grades.
- (5) Where necessary, Government should acquire legislative power to apply compulsion in such matters as the establishments of regulated markets for jute, the adoption of standard grades and contracts, and the regulation of areas.

(The Hindu, dated 12-5-1945). + ✓

Measures to increase Fruit Production: Central
Government's Subsidy Scheme. +

Both short-term and long-term plans for developing the fruit-farming and fruit-preservation industry in India are being worked out by the Government of India, who have offered substantial subsidies to finance the fruit development scheme of the various Provinces and States. Outlining these schemes, the Government of India's Fruit Development Adviser, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Lal Singh, in an interview at Lahore on 11-5-1945 said that India has a great future not only in fruit farming but also in industries like canning, and making of marmalades, jams, juices and squashes. Government's aim is to increase the present acreage under fruit cultivation by at least 50 per cent, or, if possible, by 100 per cent, to meet the absolute minimum fruit requirements of the entire country.

He indicated that the Government of India, at the ~~sugar~~ suggestion of the Indian Fruit Preservers Association, propose to enact a Fruit Products Control Order with a view to raising the standard of the quality of Indian-made products and improving the hygienic conditions of manufacture. The

Indian Institute of Fruit Technology, established by the Government a month ago, would carry on research in fruit preservation and give training and guidance on the subject. Government's short-term schemes aim at bringing about an immediate increase in fruit production by increasing the area under quick yielding fruits like papaya, banana, pineapple, etc., and by improving the standard of cultivation in the ~~at~~ existing gardens and ~~as~~ ~~nurseries~~ ~~the~~ orchards. ~~so as to increase the yield.~~

Side by side with the opening of plant nurseries, the training of malis (gardeners) on a mass scale is being taken up. To begin with, the Government of India are making arrangements for giving stipends to about 2,000 men who will be trained as efficient gardeners. Besides, plans are under way for training agriculture graduates in horticulture to be put in charge of the various fruit development schemes that are pending for want of sufficient staff.

(The Vanguard, 13-5-1945). + ✓

Welfare of Agricultural Workers in Madras: Labour Sub-Committee recommends extension of existing legislation to Plantation Labour. + ✓

The Labour Sub-Committee of the Madras Post-War Reconstruction Committee at one of its meetings held early in May 1945 took up for consideration the conditions of life and work of the agricultural labourers of the province and the means for improving them.

The employers' point of view was that the majority of workers in the province being agricultural, many workers would not be benefited by any scheme of welfare unless it took into consideration the wage standards of the majority and fixed them. The labour view was that measures for improving the condition of industrial labour should not be deferred until the conditions of agricultural labour ~~should not~~ were improved. On the other hand, ~~and~~ any improvement in the conditions of industrial labour will be reflected in the conditions of agricultural labour. The example of the wages of the agricultural workers having risen in the neighbourhood of the industrial town of Coimbatore was instanced in point.

In the end, the Committee came to the conclusion that the existing legislation designed to improve the condition of the industrial worker should be extended to agricultural labourers and to plantation labour in the first instance which is well organized.

The Labour Sub-Committee, also recommended the setting up of a tripartite organization in the Province, consisting of representatives of Government, employers and workers, for consideration of labour problems. It is learnt that the Government of Madras is considering the question of enacting legislation on the lines of the Central Provinces Unregulated Factories Act to cover small non-power factories in this Province. Quite a good number of small-scale industries or unregulated factories ~~exists~~ exist in the province, as, for example, several hundreds of beedi manufacturing factories. Labour conditions in such small-scale industries have been far from satisfactory and legislation will surely help in ameliorating the conditions of these workers. In this connection, the Labour Sub-Committee has recommended that provision for weekly rest day, limitation of working hours and holidays with pay should be made in the proposed legislation. The Committee has also stressed that the existing provisions which are applicable to factories in regard to the prohibition of employment of women and children in hazardous occupations should also be extended to non-power factories.

(The Eastern Economist, 25-5-1945). + ✓

Long-Term Agricultural Planning in U.P.:
Mechanisation to be introduced.

The U.P. Government is at present contemplating a long-range scheme of agricultural improvement. The plan as a whole contemplates an all-round drive for food production and its main features are: multiplication and distribution of improved seeds to the tune of about 1.5 million maunds (1 maund=82 lbs.) every year; conversion of the night-soil of some larger cities into 'activated sludge' to add to the manurial resources of the province and the distribution of fertilizers and oil-cakes to the extent of about 1.8 million and 1 million maunds, respectively; introduction of better implements, and power-driven machinery wherever possible, and modern technique in agricultural practice generally; development of fruit and vegetable production; and provision of interest-free loans to agriculturists to sink wells in unirrigated areas.

The application of scientific knowledge is to be promoted in the villages by diverse propaganda activities of an extended and improved Publicity Section, by 48 agricultural farms and 157 demonstration plots and by so expanding, within about 10 years, the field staff of the department as to make the free services of one kamdar available to every group of 20 villages. There are two mechanical cultivation schemes providing (i) 40 tractors for deep ploughing to eradicate kaus, an obstinate weed, which has rendered considerable areas unculturable in Bundelkhand, and (ii) 80 tractors for bringing under cultivation uncultivated lands in other parts of the province. The whole agricultural plan for five years involves a capital expenditure of Rs. 60 million and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 36 million.

(The Leader, dated 31-5-1945). ✓

Mechanisation of Agriculture: Experimental Start
in Bombay Province.

Nearly 600,000 to 700,000 acres of land in the southern division of Bombay province, at present infested with hariali weed, will be brought into effective cultivation within the next 10 years under the Bombay Government's scheme of "mechanised cultivation" for the province. The Government have recently imported a few tractors and allied equipment from the United Kingdom and the United States and a fleet of 100 tractors is expected to be in full operation in the province by the end of 1946.

The scheme, costing approximately between Rs. 3 and Rs. 3.5 million, aims, for the present, at the eradication of hariali and kaus in lands infested by these weeds, at seasonal ploughing and cultivation of farm lands and, later, at the conservation of land by mechanical bunding machinery. The Government's agricultural experts, in explaining the scheme, are emphasising that cultivation and ploughing can be done, "at a much cheaper cost by mechanical methods when they are carried out on a co-operative basis".

(The Times of India, 28-5-1945). ✓

Stabilising of Agricultural Prices.

The Agricultural Commodities Price Fixation Committee, appointed by the Government of India's post-war Reconstruction Committee, met at the Reserve Bank building, Bombay, in the first week of May 1945 to discuss the draft questionnaire issued by the Government regarding the fixation of prices and the setting up of machinery to enforce them. In the absence of Sir V.T. Krishnamachari, Chairman, Sir Pheroze Kharegat presided.

The Committee discussed the principles on which producers fix prices of agricultural produce, which include crops grown for industrial purposes and for food. The Committee is commissioned to devise machinery by which such prices could be enforced effectively, at the same time, providing an assured market. In drafting its report, the Committee anticipates conditions in the post-war period in which a substantial measure of Government control over the procurement, distribution and prices of commodities will exist, as well as conditions in which such control has been relaxed or abolished and normal trade conditions will have been restored.

(The Times of India, 9-5-1945). ✓

Rs. 80 Million Agricultural Improvement
Scheme for Sind.

A comprehensive scheme for the development of agriculture in Sind, estimated to cost Rs. 80 million, has been submitted to the Government of India by Mr. Roger Thomas, Adviser to Government on agriculture and post-war reconstruction. Explaining details of his plan at a press Conference on 4-5-1945, he said that he had placed great emphasis on educating agriculturists in better methods of farming. In each district, special areas would be selected for intensive publicity through cinema films and talks on agriculture, public health, sanitation and other problems of rural welfare. In view of the sound financial position of the Government, Mr. Thomas felt that the province could raise the necessary funds to put the scheme into operation.

(The Statesman, 6-5-1945). ✓

Pilot Schemes for improving Agricultural Production:
Recommendation of the Policy Committee on Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries.

The second meeting of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Education Health and Lands, Government of India, was held at New Delhi, from April 12 to 14, The Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member-in-charge of the Department, presiding.

Pilot Schemes-- The Committee recommended the undertaking of pilot schemes on a large scale which should work out within 3-5 years the relative merits, potentialities and economics of the various systems of farm organisation, i.e., on the comparative merits of the peasant system of farming; peasant holdings being consolidated; peasant farming with co-operation introduced in various directions such as crop planning, joint ploughing, harvesting and threshing; joint village management, collective and State farms. It was agreed that the different systems should be tried in distinct set of conditions of soil, climate, tenure etc. Collective farms, it was suggested, might be possible in new areas which belong to the State or waste land which may be brought under cultivation. It was left to the discretion of Provinces and States to try any experiments that they chose, the Central Government providing such assistance as might be necessary.

The Committee also passed a resolution recommending that the Central Government should take steps to encourage the development of cattle breeding and dairying on proper lines to increase milk production, and also recommended the establishment of an Indian Central Fish Committee and the setting up of a Central Fishery Research Institute.

(Indian Information, 15-5-1945). + ✓

NAVIGATION.

Indian Seamen's Welfare in India and Foreign
Ports: Improved Wages and Improved Amenities:
Commerce Member's Review of Commerce Member.

The various measures that have been initiated by the Government of India since the outbreak of the war for the provision of improved amenities ^{for} and for ensuring their general welfare were reviewed by Mr Anisul Haque, Commerce Member, Government of India, in a speech made by him in the Central Assembly on 23-3-1945 in the course of the debate on the Finance Bill. The points brought out by the Commerce Member are briefly noticed below:-

Improved Wages.- As early as December 1943, the Commerce Member took up the question of wages of Indian seamen with the Government of the United Kingdom and British Shipping Companies. In December 1944, as the result of prolonged negotiations, the shipowners announced substantial increases for all categories of Indian seamen, with retrospective effect from 1-1-1944. (Even before the wage increases announced in December 1944, Indian seamen were given certain increases). The position was thus summed up by the Commerce Member:

"Before the war a cook used to get Rs. 70; before the present increase he was drawing Rs. 81. Now he will be getting Rs. 87. A seaman in the pre-war period used to receive Rs. 60; before the present increase he was getting Rs. 67, and now he will draw Rs. 74. A seaman was getting Rs. 40 before the war, and now he will draw Rs. 46. A gunner was getting Rs. 40 before the war, and now he will draw Rs. 46. A first mate was getting Rs. 120 before this increase and will get Rs. 130 now. The first tindal was getting Rs. 54 as his pre-war wage. Before the present increase he was getting Rs. 111 and at present he will draw Rs. 127. Seamen who were getting between Rs. 22 (which represented the minimum wage) and Rs. 33 were getting three times that amount before the increase and will now get five times his pre-war wages. Taking the pre-war wages of Indian seamen as the basis or standard, their present basic wages are double their pre-war wages. Their war risk money used to be till recently equal to their pre-war wages. Now they have got another 200 per cent increase in war risk money with a ceiling of Rs. 66 p.m."

In order that every seaman may also be able to save a part of his money and be thrifty, half of the increase will be funded to his credit as post-war credit.

Improved Amenities and Comforts.- The Government of India has taken steps to provide better amenities and comforts for seamen. The War Purposes Fund set up by the Viceroy has allotted Rs. 600,000 for welfare work for Indian seamen and another Rs. 600,000 for similar work for British and Allied seamen.

Amenities Officers.- Two Amenities Officers for Indian seamen have already been appointed, one is posted at Calcutta and the other at Bombay. A strong Welfare Committee composed of officials and non-officials has been established at each of these ports; other ports have also not been neglected. The jurisdiction of the Amenities Officer at Bombay has been extended to cover all ports on the West Coast and that of the Calcutta Officer to all ports on the East Coast, including Chittagong. It has also been decided to have special Welfare officers at Cochin, Karachi and Madras, in addition to those already appointed at Bombay and Calcutta.

Clubs, Canteens, Amenities Shops.- Better arrangements for clubs, institutions, canteens, etc., have been provided and Indian seamen are now allowed facilities of the Indian Troops Amenities Shop and canteen in

Calcutta; special arrangements have also been made for the issue of free cinema tickets to them; a club has been started with radio sets, gramophones and facilities for games; food and refreshment are also available there at concessional rates.

Improved Accommodation.- Efforts are being made to find better accommodation for seamen. In Bombay, the Indian Sailors' Home caters for the needs of Indian seamen at the port and has sleeping accommodation for 494 men. The Home has a library, reading room and a store room. A grain shop has been opened in the premises for sale at cost price of rationed articles. This is insufficient and steps are being taken to provide additional accommodation with an up-to-date club, canteen and other arrangements for seamen. A scheme to accommodate seamen with arrangements for all amenities and comforts in a temporary building for the present is under active consideration both for Calcutta, and for Bombay. Steps are also being taken so that as soon as the war is over the construction of an Indian Seaman's Home in Calcutta and of a similar Home in Bombay may immediately be proceeded with, the cost of each of which will come to at least Rs. 3 million. The needs of Karachi, Visagapatam, Cochin and Chittagong have also been looked into.

Transport.- The problem of transport for seamen has been specially gone into. Buses have been provided at Calcutta. A bus service has been arranged exclusively for seamen at Karachi. Steps are being taken to make similar arrangements in other places.

Health: Venereal Diseases Clinics.- Clinics for the treatment of venereal diseases have been provided at different ports and arrangements have been made for the treatment of seamen in special cases in general.

Relief of Distressed Seamen.- Funds have been placed at the disposal of the Marine Department, at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Barmali to provide relief to distressed and shipwrecked seamen on arrival at these ports; at minor ports the work is done by the local officials of maritime Provincial Governments and any expenditure incurred by them is reimbursed by the Central Government; adequate stocks of clothing have also been provided on a number of R.I.N. escort vessels and at major and more important minor ports for rescued merchant seamen.

Welfare of Indian Seamen in Foreign Ports.- The arrangements for the welfare of Indian seamen in the United Kingdom, United States of America, South Africa, Ceylon and Australia have been looked into and a Welfare Officer for Indian seamen has recently been appointed at New York; three Welfare Officers and one Assistant Welfare Officer for Indian seamen have been appointed for the United Kingdom ports. It is proposed to have a similar officer in Australia, and the question of appointing Welfare Officers at other ports visited by Indian seamen is also under consideration. Special arrangements are also being made to provide comforts and amenities for Indian seamen in all these Colonial and foreign ports.

Central Welfare Directorate.- The Government of India has decided to create a Welfare Directorate in the Commerce Department with a Director who will be responsible for planning and provision of amenities throughout India and two Deputy Directors, one of whom will concern himself with British and Allied seamen and the other with Indian seamen.

~~Unemployment, Disablement and Compensation, Sickness Insurance, Old Age Pension, etc. Conventions and Recommendations, etc.~~ Other important seamen's questions requiring the attention of the Government of India include unemployment, medical examination at ports, training, care of disabled and injured men, pensions and compensation paid to dependants of deceased seamen. In addition, the Government is proposing to take up almost immediately the questions of sickness insurance and old-age pension, National Maritime Board, protection from civil litigation during absence from this country, articles of agreement, and Conventions and Recommendations relating to seamen of the I.L. Conference.

(Indian Information, 15-4-1945).r

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES
AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Military Academy for training Indian Officer Personnel to
be sent to Government of India's National War Memorial.

The Government of India have decided that the establishment of a military academy, on the lines of the United States Military Academy at West Point, for the education and basic training of future officers of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force, would be the most suitable form for an Indian National War Memorial.

Education up to the university standard will be imparted at the academy. This will embrace ~~and~~ a comprehensive course in general subjects such as history, modern languages, sciences and engineering, as well as in purely military subjects. Stress will be laid on the development of character, self-reliance, leadership and self-discipline.

In pursuance of this decision, the Government of India have decided to appoint a committee with the following terms of reference:-

(a) To prepare a scheme for the establishment of the proposed military academy, with special reference to such matters as the title of the academy, its location and size, the strength of its establishments, the age and method of entry, the duration of the course and the syllabus, the degrees or other qualifications ~~conferred~~ by the graduates of the academy, and the methods by which it should be financed; (b) To examine whether any special educational institutions should be established to serve as feeders to the academy. The Committee will be presided ~~by~~ over by the Commander-in-Chief.

(The Statesman, dated 2-5-1945).✓

Housing.Labour and Poor Class Housing in Bangalore.

As a step towards solving the housing problem in Bangalore City to some extent, ~~within~~ the Bangalore City Municipal Council has actively taken up four schemes, the major among them being a lay-out for the construction of about 400 houses for municipal employees, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 1.2 million, in a period of three years. In the first year, about 150 houses will be built; and a provision of about Rs. .4 million will be made in the new year budget. Besides, a suite of rooms for poor students at an estimated cost of about Rs. 70,000 will also be built and the site for this has been chosen near the Municipal Buildings. A sum of Rs. 50,000 has already been provided for this purpose in the present year's budget and the plans are now ready. Another scheme that the Municipal Council have under-~~taken~~ is the construction of about 500 plinths for huts, at a cost of about Rs. 125,000, these plinths being available for poor labourers, and municipal employees. A scheme for the construction of five blocks of huts for the municipal sweepers, prepared by the Commissioner, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 30,000 has also been approved by the Council and the first stage of the work will be taken up shortly.

(The Hindu, 7-5-1945). ✓

The Bengal Slums Improvement Bill, 1945: Government
to be invested with powers to order Private Owners
to Improve Slum Areas.

The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary dated 31-5-1945 publishes the draft text of the Bengal Slums Improvement Bill, 1945, a bill to provide for the improvement of slum areas in Bengal. The Bill extends to Calcutta and to every area constituted a municipality under the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932.

The statement of objects and Reasons appended to the Bill states: In many urban areas in the Province, and particularly in the city of Calcutta and the municipality of Howrah, there exist slums which will eventually have to be totally demolished. Pending such total demolition, which will take time and which will necessitate the re-housing of those who live within the slum areas, it is proposed in this Bill to empower the Provincial Government ~~to~~ to direct the owners of property situated within areas to be notified as "slum areas" to take steps to improve their property and to enable the Provincial Government or a local authority or person authorised by the Provincial Government to carry out the improvements if the owners refuse or neglect to carry out the improvements as directed. These improvements will be carried out as far as possible at the expense of the owners, although provision has been made in the Bill to enable the Provincial Government or a local authority to bear such part of the expense as the Provincial Government thinks fit. The improvements will be directed towards securing the immediate amelioration of living conditions in the slum areas and the removal of circumstances likely to cause or facilitate the spread of disease.

The improvements which an owner may be required to carry out, or which the Provincial Government or any local authority may carry out, may include:

(a) the removal of any hut or other building in a slum area either wholly or in part; (b) the construction of streets, passages and drains in such area; (c) the providing of the means of lighting, water-supply, common bathing arrangements and common privy accommodation for the use of the tenants in such area; and (d) the filling up of tanks, wells, ditches or trenches and low lands in such area. The bill also makes provision for compensating owners in necessary cases.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary,
dated 31-5-1945, pages 137-142).+✓

Workers' Organisations.

1st Conference of Madras Hotel Workers, Madras, 1-5-1945:
8-Hour Day and other Demands.

The 1st Conference of Madras Hotel Workers was held at Madras on 1-5-1945; Mr. K.S. Shetty presided.

Mr. T.S. Ramanujam, inaugurating the Conference, said that the Conference should give authoritative expression to the just demands of hotel workers and should get the public to support these demands. Though hotels were functioning under the Essential Services Ordinance, the workers in these institutions did not receive the benefits, such as dearness allowance and bonus, which other workers in Essential Services were getting. He appealed to the Government to ensure that these benefits were extended to hotel workers.

Mr. Shetty, delivering the Presidential Address, said that the hotel industry had been rapidly growing and had come to stay as a public necessity. The interests of the employers and the workers in it, were, however, divergent. Under existing conditions, the workers had to toil more than 12 hours a day and were paid very low wages. He demanded that government should apply the Factory Act to hotel workers, for at present their conditions of work were such that they suffered all the disadvantages to which the industrial worker and the domestic servants were subject, without enjoying the privileges of either.

The Conference adopted a resolution deciding to appoint a committee to state the grievances of the workers and take action for their redressal. By other resolutions, the Conference demanded an 8-hour day, a weekly holiday with pay, security of tenure and sick leave privileges for hotel workers. It also demanded that boys under fifteen should not be employed in hotels. The Conference urged the Government to apply the Weekly Holidays Act to Madras.

A Committee was appointed to conduct a ballot in June 1945, on the question of the workers resorting to a strike, since so far neither hotel proprietors nor the Government had attempted to meet their grievances. The Conference also decided to start a co-operative society for the benefit of its members.

(The Hindu, dated 2-5-1945). ✓

Trade Unionism in the Bombay Province in 1944: Report
of the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Committee

According to the report for 1944 of the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Committee, the Committee had a strength of 45 unions with a total primary membership of 73,092 in the beginning of the year, which increased to 71 and 1,03,457, respectively, at the close of the year.

Involuntary Unemployment.- In October 1944, the Committee organised a special conference to bring pressure on the Government of Bombay for the payment of adequate compensation to involuntarily unemployed workers. At this conference a comprehensive resolution on the subject was passed. The resolution, after expressing grave concern over ~~involuntary~~ involuntary unemployment that was forced on sections of industrial workers in parts of the province, particularly in Khandesh, Gujarat and Shelapur, deplored the fact that compensation to unemployed workers was not given, and strongly urged upon Government the necessity of taking immediate legislative steps to make compulsory provision for the payment of adequate compensation by introducing a scheme in consultation with the B.P.T.U.C. In December 1944, the Government of Bombay informed the B.P.T.U.C. that, where stoppages had occurred and relief was not given to unemployed workers, a demand for compensation would be a fit subject for adjudication, thereby indicating that workers could move the adjudication machinery for the purpose of securing compensation during periods of enforced idleness.

Provincial Tripartite Machinery.- In pursuance of the resolution on the above subject, a representation was made to the Governor of Bombay in January 1944, pointing out the necessity of setting up a tripartite machinery in the province of Bombay. It was urged that the Provincial Government should follow the lead given by the Central Government in this matter. The suggestion was, however, turned down by Government; ~~thereby~~ in its reply the Government stated that "the question of setting up Provincial tripartite collaborative organisations had already been considered by Government very carefully and that it was decided that the time was not opportune for setting up a new organisation of such a type". ✓

* Report-Bombay Provincial Trade Union Committee of the AITUC, 1944:
Office address- Servants of India Society's Home, Sandhurst Road,
Girgaon, Bombay; Price Annas Eight; pages 24 .

3rd Session of Madras Washermens' Conference,
Chidambaram, 20-5-1945.

The 3rd Madras Provincial Washermen's Conference was held on 20-5-1945 at Chidambaram, Mr. M. Bakthavatsalam, ex-Parliamentary Secretary, Madras, presiding.

Mr. M. Radhakrishna Pillai, Mayor of Madras, who opened the Conference, deplored the educational backwardness of the washermen community and observed that, if they wanted to keep pace with the members of other communities, they must get their children educated.

Mr. Bakthavatsalam, delivering the presidential address, said that, in a free India, the agriculturists and the labouring classes would ~~play~~ play a prominent part in the administration of the country. He expressed the hope that the members of the washermen community would provide all the educational facilities to their children needed.

Resolutions requesting the Government to provide soda, indigo and charcoal for washermen at controlled prices and urging the grant of educational facilities, scholarships, etc, to the children of the community were passed. The Municipalities and District Boards were requested to open dhobi-shanas. The inclusion of the members of the community in the list of the Scheduled Classes and the provision of one seat to the members of the community in the Legislature was also urged.

The following office-bearers were elected: President: Mr. P. Parimanam (Trichinopoly); Vice-Presidents: Mr. K. Ponnuswamy (Madura); and Secretary: Mr. S. Perumal (Madura).

(The Hindu, dated 23-5-1945). + ✓

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Health of Indian Mine Workers: General Improvement
in Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields: Chief Inspector
of Mines Report for 1942.

The general health of the mining population in the Jharia and Raniganj coalfields continued, on the whole, to be satisfactory, and the death rate per thousand persons was lower in both the coalfields, according to the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending December 31, 1942.

Raniganj Coalfields.— In the Raniganj coalfields, where the Asansol Mines Board operates, the death rate fell from 19.4 per thousand in 1941 to 12.4 per thousand in 1942. The decline in infant mortality rate was more marked during the year—the rate of infant deaths per thousand births being 55 in 1942 as compared with 105.5 in the previous year. The birth rate dropped from 30.6 per thousand in 1941 to 18.8 in 1942. The report mentions intensive measures for the protection of water supply, isolation and quarantine, undertaken by the Sanitary Department at the time of the outbreak of cholera. The total number of persons protected by inoculation was 24,000. The Board of Health carried out anti-leprosy work in co-operation with the Asansol Leprosy Relief Association. The Association was responsible for the maintenance of 14 leprosy clinics, a leper hospital, vaccination camps for infectious cases and a staff of trained and health workers. A specially qualified lady superintendent was appointed for the management of the Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres. Five of the Welfare centres are provided with maternity wards for admission of cases among miners' families.

Jharia Coalfields.— The standards of health among the colliery population in the Jharia Mining Settlement, where the Jharia Mines Board of Health operates, was at a higher level than that of the general population. The protected population of the Settlement was 500,501. The death rate was 11.21 per thousand as compared with 14.37 in the previous year. There was a marked decline in the infant mortality rate from 78.35 in 1941 to 71.93 in 1942. The death rate among colliery population was 6.75 per thousand during the year as against 8.69 in 1941. The sickness rate among colliery population was 3.41 per cent in April, the healthiest month of the year, and 11.5 per cent in August. The Board of Health carried on maternity and child welfare work at 11 centres throughout the year.

(The Vanguard, dated 13-5-1945). ✓

EDUCATION.

Education in Madras Province 1943-44: Increase in Pupils and Institutions.

Some idea of educational progress in the Indian provinces during ^{the} war years can be had from the following information about educational activities in Madras Province during 1942-43 taken from the report for the period recently issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Madras. The main points brought out in the report, are ~~mainly~~ noticed below:

Increase in Number of Students and Institutions.- There was an increase in the number of students under instruction in colleges and secondary schools in the Province from 2,96,663 in 1942-43 to 3,34,619 in 1943-44. There was, however, a reduction both in the number of elementary schools and in their strength. The reduction was due to the closing down of a large number of uneconomic and ill-working schools. The Educational department has for some time past been working on the plan that only children who reach at least the 7th standard of an elementary school are likely to remain permanently literate, and one of the objectives kept in view is that the number in the 7th standard should not be lower than 25 per cent of the number of pupils in Standard I. That objective has been increasingly realised in recent years.

Girls' Education.- Another objective is that the education of girls should ~~keep pace~~ with the education of boys and the department has generally enforced the condition that in cases in which a single school serves the needs of both the boys and girls of a local area, at least 25 or 30 per cent of the ~~total~~ of school age of that area should be brought under instruction in the school, according as the school is styled a boys' school or girls' school. Partly as a result of the enforcement of this condition, the percentage of girls to boys receiving instruction in elementary schools is now about 50.

Education of Muslims.- The total number of public institutions specifically intended for Muhammadans increased from 3,019 to 3,102, but the strength in them decreased from 277,085 to 265,887 mainly due to a fall in the number of attending elementary schools. The number of Muhammadan students in Arts Colleges rose from 918 to 967, of whom 44 and 57, respectively, were women. There was a similar increase in the number of Muhammadan pupils in secondary schools, from 16,036 to 17,504 boys and from 1,511 to 1,811 girls.

Education of Depressed classes.- There was a rise in the number of pupils, belonging to the scheduled classes in all stages of instruction:-

| | 1942-43 | 1943-44 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Colleges | 272 | 348 |
| Secondary schools | 2,101 | 11,371 |
| Elementary schools | 314,469 | 322,967 |

Dearness Allowance for Teachers.- The Government ~~will~~ have from time to time ~~passed orders designed to secure~~ for teachers employed in non-Government institutions a dearness allowance on a reasonable scale. In the case of aided elementary schools the allowance has been provided wholly at the cost of Provincial funds and the allowance which was Rs. 3 per mensem ~~was~~ ~~thereafter~~ per teacher in the year under review was thereafter raised to Rs. 4 and subsequently to Rs. 8. Local bodies are granted subsidies from Provincial funds to the extent to which they are unable to meet from their own resources the cost of the allowance provided for their teachers.

(The Hindu, dated 3-5-1945).+ ✓

Educational Reorganisation in Travancore State:
Technical courses for Workers' Children .

The Education Reorganisation Committee, Travancore State, which recently concluded its labours, has, among other recommendations, suggested certain measures for the education of children of working class parents.

The Committee has recommended the introduction in Travancore State of compulsory primary education of five years' ~~minimum~~ duration for children between the ages of five and 10. In regard to the pre-school age, the committee has recommended the opening of nursery schools in towns and other industrial centres for children whose mothers go to work. The Committee has stressed that the most important objective to be achieved in the case of children who did not go beyond the primary schools was to fit them for various forms of manual labour and artisan work and that the curriculum must be designed to foster the wage earning capacity of those children as ~~literati~~ literate manual workers. After the primary stage, opportunities should be given for short and intensive courses of technical training to equip these school boys as wage-earners. Regarding the High Schools, the committee recommended that they must be reorganized in such a way as to lead to direct employment. The committee regarded the provision of vocational training, both during and after various school stages, as an urgent necessity.

(The Hindustan Times, 1-5-1945). +✓

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

Dearness Allowance and Good Conduct pay for Postal Employees.

The Government of India has sanctioned the following new rates of Dearness Allowance and Good Conduct Pay to the non-gazetted staff of the Posts and Telegraph Department with effect from 1-1-1945.

Dearness Allowance.-

| Class of Area. | Pay limits. | Dearness Allowance. |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| A. | Below Rs. 40/- Rs. 40 to 250/-. | Rs. 20/-. 17 1/2 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 22/-. |
| B. | Below Rs. 40/- Rs. 40/- to 200/-. | Rs. 16/-. 17 1/2 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 18/-. |
| C. | Below Rs. 40/- Rs. 40/- to 150/-. | Rs. 14/- 17 1/2 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 16/-. |

War Allowance.- As regards the non-gazetted staff drawing pay in excess of the limits of pay mentioned above in the different stations, such staff will draw a War Allowance at 17 1/2 per cent of pay.

| <u>Good Conduct Pay.-</u> | | |
|--|---------|---|
| Below Rs. 40/- p.m. | Rs. 7/- | Such amount as will bring their pay upto Rs. 47/-. |
| From Rs. 40/- to Rs. 42/- | Rs. 5/- | Such amount as will bring their pay upto Rs. 125/-. |
| Rs. 42/- upto Rs. 120/- | | |
| Exceeding Rs. 120/- but below Rs. 125/-. | | |

(The Indian Post, May, 1945) + ~

Production.

Exportable Surplus of ^{Natural} Rubber to be
utilized: Indian industry to use synthetic
rubber.

With a view to ~~enhance~~ ^{natural} the supplies of ~~natural~~ rubber available for export to meet Allied war needs, the rubber manufacturing industry in India will shortly be converted to the use of synthetic rubber to the maximum possible extent. The substitution of synthetic for natural rubber, it is pointed out, gives rise to many production and processing problems. A mission from the Indian Rubber Control administration is at present studying these problems in the United Kingdom and, on its return, will be able to advise and assist Indian manufacturers in dealing with them. In addition, representatives of some of the larger Indian manufacturers have also gone to the United Kingdom and United States of America for the same purpose. All manufacturers have agreed to pool technical information, and panels, covering the various branches of the industry, are ~~are~~ being set up for this purpose.

Throughout the war, India has helped the United ~~the~~ Nations in solving the problem of rubber shortage. Side by side with rigid economy in the consumption of rubber by Indian manufacturers, special efforts have been made to increase production of natural rubber. These measures enabled India to export, in 1944, 8,000 tons of crude rubber, vitally needed by the United Nations, after meeting her own demands.

(The Hindu, dated 3-5-1945). + ✓

Control Measures.

Textile Industry (Control of Production) Order, 1945: Stimulating Production of Utility Cloth.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub Rule (2) 81 of the Defence of India Rules, the Government of India issued on 18-5-1945 the Textile Industry (Control of Production) Order, 1945. Considerable difficulty is still being experienced in the purchase of ordinary cloth for dhoties (men's dress) and sarees (women's dress) and the purpose of the order is to lessen the cloth shortage by ordering mills to reserve a percentage of their weaving energy and loom-hours for the production of utility cloth (dhoties, sarees, etc.) to meet the requirements of the ordinary householder and his family. The operative part of the order enjoins that no producer shall in any month utilise less than 90 per cent of his entire weaving energy as expressed in loom-hours for the production of utility cloth; other restrictions imposed by the Order relate to number of varieties of cloth produced, restrictions on ~~new~~ new varieties, width of saree borders, etc. The Order comes into force from 1-6-1945.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 18-5-1945, pages 451-452)...

Cloth Rationing in Bombay City to start from 1-6-1945: 15 yards for each adult each half-year.

Rationing of mill-made cloth will be introduced in Bombay city and the Suburban District in the first week of June 1945. Under the scheme, every adult will be entitled to buy 15 yards of rationed varieties of cloth every half year, while children will be free to buy up to seven and a half yard per head. Individuals will be, however, free to meet their additional requirements from cotton goods manufactured by handlooms and power looms and silk and woollen fabrics. There will be no restrictions on the sale of ready-made garments until the present stocks are exhausted.

Only a few important varieties of cloth, which have been difficult to obtain at controlled rates, are to be rationed. These cover dhotis, sarees, mulls, voiles, dorias, coating and shirting, including bleached long cloth.

The Government of Bombay have approved 337 shops for selling rationed cloth. The remaining cloth shops will be free to sell non-rationed cloth of mills and other manufacturing agencies. It is learned that the rationed cloth shops will not compete with these shops in accordance with a mutual understanding.

(The Times of India, 23-5-1945)...

Employment.

Civil Labour for Army needs: Conditions of Work
Pay, etc.

With the demand for more manpower for labour purposes as Indian army forces advance more and more into Burma, large numbers of the regular labour forces recruited for the Indian army are being released from Army base establishments in India, and to fill the place of this released regular Army labour personnel, civil labour is being recruited. In ~~Burma~~ Bombay Province, which is one of the main areas for civil labour recruitment, ~~for~~ the men enlisted, either directly or through army recruiting organizations, for civil labour are taken to Thana base establishment, near Bombay city, where they are first medically examined, and then for a fortnight they are taught personal ~~hygiene~~ hygiene and sanitation.

In batches of 25 they work at dumps, depots and stores, under the direction of a "makadam" (headman). They are controlled by civilian officers under army supervision. Normal rate of pay is 12 annas a day, with free rations, clothing, accommodation and medical attention. It is possible for the men to save Rs. 15 to Rs. 18 a month; in one camp recently Rs. 25,000 was sent by the ~~working~~ workmen by money order in one month. The men sign and contract for one year, which can be extended by a year at a time. They work for 56 hours a week, with extra money for overtime.

(The Statesman, 22-5-1945).+✓

Food.

Bengal Famine Enquiry Commission's Report * :
Causes of the Famine and Government of Bengal
Policy of Relief: One and a Half Million
Deaths.

The Famine Enquiry Commission, presided over by Sir John Woodhead, set up in 1944 by the Government of India to inquire into the recent famine in several parts of India, and more particularly in Bengal, reported on 7-5-1945. In the final summing up, the report says: "A million and a half of the poor of Bengal fell victims to circumstances for which they themselves were not responsible. Society, together with its organs, failed to protect its weaker members. Indeed, there was a moral and social breakdown, as well as an administrative breakdown". Both the Government of Bengal and the Government of India have come in for a measure of severe criticism for not taking necessary action in advance.

Terms of Reference.- The commission was set up by the Government of India in 1944 to investigate and report to the Central Government upon the causes of the food shortage and subsequent epidemics in India, and in particular in Bengal, in the year 1943, and to make recommendations as to the prevention of their recurrence, with special reference to (a) the possibility of improving the diet of the people and the quality and yield of food crops, and (b) the possibility of improving the system of administration in respect of the supply and distribution of food, the provision of ~~emergency relief and the emergency arrangements for the control of~~ epidemics in famine conditions in those areas and in those aspects in which the present system may be found to have been unsatisfactory.

The more important findings in the Report are noticed below:

Causes of the Famine.- In the first part of the report, in which the ~~causes of the famine~~ causes of the famine, the measures taken before and during the famine and the responsibility for the calamity, the Commission, summarising their main conclusions, state:

The economic level of the population previous to the famine was low in Bengal, as in the greater part of India. Agricultural production was not keeping pace with the growth of population. There was no large "margin of safety" as regards either health or wealth. These underlying conditions, common indeed to many other parts of India, were favourable to the occurrence of famine accompanied by high mortality. Shortage in the supply of rice in 1943 was one of the basic causes of the famine. The main reason for this was the low yield of the aman crop reaped at the close of 1942. Another reason was that the stocks carried over from the previous year (1942) were also short. Again, during 1943 the loss of imports from Burma was only partially offset by increased imports from other parts of India. It appears probable that the total supply during 1943 was not sufficient for the requirements of the province.

* Famine Inquiry Commission Report on Bengal. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1945.

Government of Bengal's Mistakes: Failure to Control Supplies and Ensure
 In the summer of 1943, that is some months before the
 famine in Bengal, a situation had arisen in the rice markets
 of India, including those in Bengal, in which the normal trade machinery was
 beginning to fail to distribute supplies at reasonable prices. It was
 necessary for the Bengal Government to undertake measures for controlling
 supplies and ensuring their distribution at prices at which the poor could
 afford to buy their requirements. The measures taken by the Government of
 Bengal to achieve control of supplies and prices during 1943 were inadequate
 and, in some instances, wrong in principle. The Government of Bengal erred
 in pressing strongly for "unrestricted free trade" in the Eastern Region in
 May 1943 in preference to the alternative of "modified free trade". The
 introduction of "unrestricted free trade" was a mistake. It could not save
 Bengal and was bound to lead to severe distress and possibly starvation in
 the neighbouring areas of the Region. So long as this policy was followed it
 was not possible to introduce rationing in Greater Calcutta. Even after the
 policy was reversed there was considerable delay in the introduction of
 rationing. The absence of control over the distribution of supplies in
 Calcutta and the failure to introduce rationing at any time during 1943
 contributed largely to the failure of control over supplies and prices in
 the province as a whole. The delay in facing the problem of relief
 and the non-declaration of famine were bound up with the unfortunate
 propaganda policy of "No 'shortage'" which, followed during the months April
 to June with the support of the Government of India, was unjustified when the
 danger of famine was plainly apparent. The measures initiated in August were
 inadequate and failed to prevent further distress, mainly because of the
 continued supply position which had been allowed to develop. A Famine
 Relief Commissioner was not appointed till late in September. It appears
 that at one stage in 1943, the expenditure on relief was limited on financial
 grounds. There is no justification, whatever, for sitting down
 relaxed in times of famine on the plea of lack of funds. If necessary, funds
 should be provided by borrowing in consultation with the "reserve bank" or
 the Government of India. The medical relief provided during 1943 was also
 inadequate. Some of the mortality which occurred, could have been prevented
 by more efficient medical and public health measures.

Government of India's Mistakes: Failure to transport Adequate Supplies
 and Control Region. The Government of India failed to recognize at a
 sufficiently early date the need for a system of planned movement of food-
 grains, including rice as well as wheat, from surplus to deficit provinces
 and States; in other words, the Basic Plan should have come into operation
 much earlier than it did. The Government of India must share with the
 Bengal Government responsibility for the decision to de-control in March 1943.
 That decision was taken in agreement with the Government of India and was in
 accordance with their policy at the time. By March, the position had so
 deteriorated that some measure of external assistance was indispensable if
 a disaster was to be avoided. The correct course at the time was for the
 Government of India to have announced that they would provide, month by
 month, first, the full quantity of wheat required by Greater Calcutta, and
 secondly, a certain quantity of rice. It would then have been possible for
 the Government of Bengal to have maintained controlled procurement, and
 secured control over supply and distribution in Greater Calcutta. The
 Government of India erred in deciding to introduce "unrestricted free trade"
 in the Eastern Region in 1943 in preference to "modified free trade". The
 subsequent proposal of the Government of India to introduce free trade
 throughout the greater part of India was quite unjustified and should not
 have been put forward.

Development of Food Industry: Food Member's
review of action taken.

Sir J.P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, in his address at the first meeting of the panel of scientists formed to advise the Food Department on food technology held on 1-5-1945, stressed the need for a full-fledged food industry in India with its tropical and in some parts humid climate, and reviewed the steps that the Government of India had already taken and those that it intends to take for developing the food industry. The main points brought out by the Food Member are briefly noticed below:

The objectives aimed at by the Government of India in its food policy are to (1) prevent or diminish spoilage, (2) remove food stuffs from seasonal glut, thus preventing waste and making them available in other seasons, (3) increase or retain the nutritional value of foodstuffs, and (4) produce new foods like yeast, synthetic vitamins, vitamin concentrates, etc. The Indian climate provides ideal conditions for food stuffs to undergo spoilage by insects, micro-organisms and also by normal bio-chemical processes. The economic loss owing to this spontaneous spoilage, must be running into tens of crores of rupees. India is pre-eminently a country where food technology should have reached a high water mark of development. The question of prevention of spoilage of cereals is receiving much greater attention now than before. Canning of fruits has been started on a large scale in the N.W.F.P. and with increasing standardisation of fruits and further improvement of processing, Indian standards will at least be equal to that of best canned fruits of other countries. The development of the hydrogenated oil industry has received a great spurt; the biscuit industry has been considerably expanded. Industries like the pepper, mustard, golden syrup, sugar cubes, lime juice cordial, refined salt and chutney industries have been developed; these industries outlast the war. The problem of the production of vitamins and the fortification of various food stuffs with vitamins and minerals, as has been done in the U.K. and the U.S.A., is ~~is~~ being considered. The question of food yeast production from molasses is also receiving consideration. The new industry of dehydration has been greatly developed as a result of the war. The fruit dehydration industry which has started on a large-scale in the N.W.F.P. may be established on sound lines and become a permanent feature of the food industry in this country. Dehydration of vegetables and fish has been carried out indigenously in village homes in various parts of the country for a long time, and with the help of the knowledge now available about more scientific methods of dehydration, the old indigenous methods may be improved or transferred to new lines. Refrigeration is now considered to be the best method of preservation of perishable materials like fish, meat, vegetables, etc., and this matter is also receiving attention.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 5-5-1945). + ✓

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Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Expansion of Employment Exchanges: Labour Department Plan for
the Resettlement of Demobilised Personnel.

A Government of India Press Note issued in the second week of May 1945 gives particulars of the co-ordinated organisation of employment exchanges which the Central Government is setting up to deal with the resettlement and re-employment in civil life of demobilised members of Defence Services and discharged war workers.

VI Employment Exchanges by February 1946: Regional and Sub-Regional Exchanges. A network of employment exchanges will be set up under the Labour Department to facilitate the registration for and placement in civil employment of demobilised persons. There are, at present 10 employment exchanges functioning in India for the registration and placement of technical personnel. Their number will be increased to 71 by February, 1946. There will be 1 central exchange, nine regional exchanges, two special exchanges for naval and aircraft trades and 59 sub-regional exchanges.

Employment Information Bureaux. Attached to each sub-regional exchange will be a number of employment information bureaux, to serve as a supplementary channel for communicating information and advice to demobilized persons on all matters relating to their training, registration, placement, etc. The regional and sub-regional exchanges will also have employment advisory committees consisting of representatives of workers and employers.

Agency for Linking between Employers and Demobilised Personnel. This set-up will be designed as a well-organized and co-ordinated employment service to help workers to find the most suitable employment, to assist employers to secure the most suitable workers and to ensure that the available workers and available jobs are brought together as promptly and satisfactorily as possible. It will also ensure that the necessary skills are available and distributed satisfactorily among the various branches of production. Military and industrial demobilization after the war will require effective machinery for facilitating the transfer of large number of workers from one job, occupation, industry and area to another. It will be necessary to collect in advance information regarding persons likely to be seeking work, employment opportunities likely to be available and the probable area-by-area balance of labour supply and demand.

Special Problems: Technical Training and Vocational Guidance. Employment ~~problems~~ during the transition from war to peace will raise special problems and positive steps will have to be taken to facilitate the mobility of labour, both occupational and geographical. Programmes of technical training and vocational guidance for demobilized persons have to be organized to equip them for the type of employment for ~~which~~ which they are most suited and for meeting the man-power requirements of post-war development schemes. After their placement in civil employment the interests of ex-service men and women will also need watching for some time, with a view to assisting them to adapt themselves to their new surroundings and bringing about mutual understanding and cordial relations between them and their new employers.

Administrative Machinery: 6 Directorates. These problems will be dealt with by six directorates which are being established at the headquarters under a Director-General of Resettlement and Re-employment. The Directorate of Employment Exchanges and Statistics will supervise, integrate and direct the work of central, regional and sub-regional exchanges. It will collect data regarding the number of persons likely to be demobilized and the employment opportunities likely to be available and all other relevant information pertaining to employment.

Directorates of Employment and Technical Training.- The Directorate of Employment will function as an employment-finding body. It will tap all available sources and explore new avenues of employment and keep abreast of post-war development schemes. In collaboration with Government factories, railways, provincial Governments and civil industry, the Directorate of Technical Training will organize facilities for further technical training and apprenticeship training for such demobilized technicians as may need them for civil employment.

Directorates of Vocational Training, Publicity and Welfare.- The Directorate of Vocational Training will prepare schemes for the training of demobilized persons in non-engineering trades and vocations, and will organize training facilities in collaboration with provincial Governments, universities and private institutions. The Directorate of Publicity will popularize the employment of demobilized persons in civil departments, and canvass private employers. And, lastly, the Directorate of Welfare (Follow-up) will maintain a close liaison with labour welfare organizations of the Central and provincial Governments with a view to ensuring that the interests of demobilized persons in civil employment are being properly watched and safeguarded.

Tripartite Advisory Committees.- For the purpose of this organization the country has been divided into nine regions, Punjab and N.W.F.P.; Sind and Baluchistan; Delhi and Ajmer Merwara; U.P.; Bihar and Orissa; Bengal and Assam; C.P. and Berar; Bombay; and Madras and Coorg. The regional organization will be under a Director of Resettlement and Re-employment, and attached to him will be an employment advisory committee consisting of representatives of Government departments, employers and workers' organizations and military, sailors' and airmen's board.

Training of Managerial Staff.- The resettlement organization will obviously require a managerial staff to work the new employment exchange. Arrangements for training are well in hand. The services of an officer from the Ministry of Labour and National Service in the U.K. have been obtained for conducting the training course. Civilian and services personnel required for the posts of manager and assistant managers in the sub-regional exchanges, and deputy managers and assistant managers in the central and regional exchanges is being recruited. The training of the first batch of officers will shortly begin in Delhi. Arrangements are also being made with H.M.C. for the training of managers for central, regional and special employment exchanges in the U.K.

Permanent Employment Service.- The duration of this scheme will be five years. Before the end of this period, the position will be reviewed in consultation with provincial Governments. Although the primary function of the resettlement organization will be to deal with the resettlement and reemployment of demobilized members of Defence Services, it is hoped that this organization will eventually develop into a permanent employment service closely integrated with the economic policies for achieving full employment and higher living standards for the people of India. (Statesman, 11-8-1945)

Linkage With Military Authorities.- An Indian Army Order announcing the employment exchange scheme says that it has been decided to release a limited number of qualified officers, VCOs and ratings or other ranks from the services and WACI, to fill posts as managers, deputy managers and assistant managers of exchanges. The staff of each exchange will include at least one of these, so that the interests of ex-servicemen and women will be carefully watched throughout the organization.

(The Statesman, 11-5-1945). †

Rehabilitation of Disabled Personnel:
Separate scheme being planned by
Government of India.

In a press Conference on 8-5-1945, Mr. S. Lall, Additional Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, has pointed that the Labour Department have under consideration a separate scheme for the disabled, whereby they will be provided with full opportunities for rehabilitation, in specialized vocational guidance, training or re-training, and employment in useful work.

(The Statesman, 11-5-1945). +

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Labour's Criticism of Government of India's new Industrial Policy: Mr. N.M. Joshi urges full nationalisation.

The view-point of Labour on the Government of India declaration regarding the post-war industrial policy (vide pages 51 to 58 of this Office's April 1945 report) was expressed by Mr. N.M. Joshi, M.L.A. (Central), General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress, in an interview given to the press on 5-5-1945 at Bombay.

Mr. Joshi expressed the opinion that the Government of India in assigning comparative importance to different industries have not given sufficient emphasis to the factors of social usefulness of an industry as a means, firstly, for providing the common man with much needed articles and, secondly, for raising the standard of the industrial worker by providing him with full employment. Mr. Joshi said: "It is understandable that in stating their policy regarding industrial development, the Government of India should have dealt with the production aspect only and contented themselves by merely stating that the problem of socially equitable distribution of additional wealth is axiomatic in their policy. The problem of distribution may have to be dealt with separately. But studying the statements and reports so far published by the Government of India, it seems that there is no plan yet attempted by them for securing equitable distribution". He referred to the question of a fair deal to Labour in any post-war industrial policy, and remarked that the Government had not made up their mind regarding the necessity of statutory intervention in such matters.

He added: "The policy regarding centralisation of industries as defined in the statement seems to be unexceptionable. But as regards the need for the nationalisation of industries, the statement is very halting and unsatisfactory. If industries are to be carried on for the use of the community and not for profit, full nationalisation is the only method".

(The Hindu, dated 6-5-1945).+✓

All-India Council of Technical Education:
to be set up by Government of India.

The Government of India will shortly set up an All-India Council for Technical Education to survey the needs of the country for higher technical education with special reference to prospective post-war needs and to advise the Government of India on the question of establishing technical institutions in different areas of the country.

The council will function as an advisory body for the present. It will be empowered: (a) To survey the whole field of technical education in consultation with provincial Governments and such Indian States as may be willing to co-operate with it; (b) To consider such immediate projects as are under consideration of the Government of India for the provision of a senior all-India polytechnic on the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology or the establishment of a technical college for electrical (power) engineering, and to assign to these their appropriate places in an all-India scheme; and (c) To conduct a preliminary investigation with a view to ascertaining the conditions on which the authorities concerned would

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be prepared to hand over to the all-India council such technical institutions now controlled by them as, in the opinion of the council, it may be desirable to incorporate in an all-India scheme.

The council will be composed of representatives of the Government of India, ~~business~~ provincial governments and Indian States, representatives of industry, commerce and labour and other interests and will be presided over by an eminent person connected with industry and commerce.

(The Statesman, dated 6-5-1945).+✓

U.P.'s 1st 5-Year Plan: 191 Schemes costing
Rs. 1260 million projected. +

The Post-War ~~Reconstruction~~ Reconstruction Board appointed in 1943 by the Government of U.P. to draw up a 5-year plan of post-war development for the province submitted its report early in May 1945. The Board consisted of 85 members representing various interests — commerce, industry, finance, agriculture, etc; among the sub-committees appointed was a Labour Sub-Committee to deal with labour problems. The plan put forward by the Board consists of 191 separate reconstruction and development schemes entailing a total expenditure of Rs. 1260 million.

The report defines the ultimate objective of the plan as: To ensure an ~~improvement in the standard of living~~ improvement in the standard of living of the people as a whole and of the soldiers' community in particular by developing their productive capacity and increasing their purchasing power. ~~as to the United Provinces.~~ It is also pointed out that the interests of ex-service personnel have been kept prominently in view and that there are certain special schemes devised to meet the special needs of ex-soldiers. The plan gives priority to revenue-producing schemes over revenue-spending schemes. Notable features of the Plan include: Fifteen thousand multi-purpose cooperative societies to provide cultivators with cheap credit and to arrange for the marketing of their produce. An attempt is to be made to consolidate holdings compulsorily in ten more districts; here it is suggested that quicker results would be achieved if consolidation were to take place through the agency of the multipurpose cooperative society. Under the Land Management Scheme ~~the~~ uncultivated tracts will be made to yield crops. In the industrial areas labour conditions are to be bettered and employment exchanges formed. The problems of health and of the settlement of servicemen have been carefully scrutinised. These are only a few of the spheres in which work would be begun immediately.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 6-5-1945, and
the Times of India, dated 6-5-1945).+✓

C.P. and Berar's Rs. 400 Million 5-Year Post-War Reconstruction Plan.

A five-year plan for post-war reconstruction costing Rs. 400 million has been drawn up by the C.P. and Berar Government. The main object of the plan is to raise the economic level of the people who ~~are~~ are mainly dependent on agriculture by helping industrial development. But, before the products of industry can be sold, the spending power of the population must be raised; for this reason development of agriculture takes a prominent place in the plan. Under the scheme, the highest allotment goes to Education (Rs. 90 million) and Public Works (Rs. 90 million); next comes Rural Development and Public Health with Rs. 70 million each, while Rs. 40 million goes to Industrial Development. There is a general reserve of Rs. 30 million.

Education.- The educational scheme has two currents: one sweeps over the ~~entire~~ province and vitalizes education in general; the other flows into narrow ~~fields~~ to realize the plan of the Central Advisory Board of Education. The latter is the pilot plan. The general plan provides for many primary schools, more high schools are also contemplated, particularly for girls. Stress is laid on the development of science departments in colleges and on the provision of funds for applied ~~sciences~~ sciences and for the research departments of science colleges. Measures will also be taken to have qualified teachers for subjects requiring special skill e.g. domestic science, manual training, music and art. Provision is made for pre-primary ~~schools, junior technical education and technical high schools~~ in areas where circumstances justify them. The number of primary schools will be increased to 6,887, and number of pupils receiving training in them from 255,741 to about 4,15,000. High schools which now number 146 will be increased to 218 and the pupils in them from 18,395 to 28,455.

Public Health.- Pending the ~~State~~ Committee Report, steps are to be taken to improve ~~medical~~ services in the province which has the worst health record in the country. A modern hospital with 350 beds, will be enlarged to hold 500 beds and a medical college will be built in 1946. There will be separate District Health Officers with adequate rural health squads. Child welfare work will be reorganized under an Assistant Directress of ~~Public~~ Health. Special attention will be paid to urban and rural water supplies. In the 39,000 villages of the province, 5,000 wells are needed. The Nagpur Improvement Trust is already working on several town planning schemes and has prepared a five-year plan to improve one of the most ~~congested~~ congested and unhealthy towns in the world.

Agriculture.- Improving the living condition of the people will be ~~effected~~ effected by increasing the volume and quality of agricultural production. The target aimed at is to increase food production to the largest possible extent within the shortest possible time. Schemes under "straight" agriculture may be classified under the heads: seeds, fertilization, land utilization improvement, demonstration and propaganda, protection and preservation ~~of~~ of crops and food grains, industrial schemes and training schemes.

Foreign Training Scheme.- Arrangements are being made to train abroad 30 ~~students~~ students in subjects likely to be useful in industrial development. A central thermal station near Nagpur of two 10,000 kw turbogenerator units will be built to begin with.

Road Transport.- The Government feel that the better method of securing good, cheap and ample communications will be proper development of co-ordinated road-rail transport, in which the provincial Government with ~~the~~ the Central Government must secure ~~for~~ for the present an overriding financial interest in two ~~big~~ big road transport concerns in the province.

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Effort will be made to secure the operation on main routes only of substantial and well-integrated transport concerns.

The Nagpur road plan will take about 15 years to complete and will need about a total of 23,500 miles of road costing about Rs. 260 million. These roads fall into the following classes: national highways and trails; provincial roads; district roads and village roads.

Resettlement. It is not considered necessary to provide any large ~~scope~~ for the employment of ex-servicemen. An attempt is being made to find a practicable plan for establishing small co-operative workshops in the larger towns to absorb some technicians. For men with an agricultural background, schemes are being prepared for settlement in model villages, where land will be prepared ready for agriculture and where technical advice will be available. Labour employed in Crown factories will be absorbed in construction programmes. The plan is being presented in a fluid state for public examination and criticism.

(The Statesman, 24-5-1945). ✓

Development of Air Services: Private
Agencies to run them.

The Government of India have announced in a Press communique issued in the last week of May 1945 its decision with regard to the agency by which the air services of India will be established and operated. The Government's policy is generally to promote the development and operation of air services by a limited number of sound and reliable private organizations with their own capital and operated under normal commercial principles. The operation of all air transport services will be subject to licences granted by a Licensing Board.

Air Mileage of 11,000 Miles.- The services planned provide for the operation of daily air services on a series of trunk routes radiating from the air ports of entry and exit at Karachi and Calcutta, supplemented by routes radiating from the capital at Delhi and from Bombay and Madras. The total mileage of all the air routes planned exceeds 11,000 and the air services will be operated with aircraft of from 12 to 20 passengers capacity and will carry both mails and freight in addition.

External Services.- This is a plan for the initial post-war period only and it is not the intention that there should be no further planning for either external air services or for additional internal air services. In fact, planning for the external air services of India is now in hand. Government is also confident that, stimulated by the existence of internal trunk air services, there will undoubtedly come into existence, as a result of local or private initiative, a considerable number of feeder air services to serve local needs. Plans have also been prepared and approved for the construction of the necessary aerodromes and connected buildings and for the organization of the air routes.

Air Services to be run by Private Agencies.- Detailing the policy with regard to the running of the air services, the Communique says: The policy of the Government of India is generally to promote the development and operation of air transport services, internal and external, by a limited number of sound and reliable private commercial organizations with their own capital and operated under normal commercial principles. In selected cases, Government will take a financial interest, but not a controlling interest, in the companies operating the air services and appoint a director

on the board. This policy does not, however, rule out the operation, by the State itself, of any air transport service or services in particular cases and such operation may be by the Central Government, a provincial Government or the Government of an Indian State.

Licensing Board.- The operation of all air transport services will be subject to licenses granted by a Licensing Board. The object of licensing is to ensure the safety and reliability of services, to eliminate uneconomic competition, to prevent the exploitation of the public, to conserve and utilize the national resources and effort for the optimum benefit of the country and to promote the development and expansion of air services on right lines and in the right direction.

Training of Air Personnel.-All licensed operating companies will be placed under an obligation to admit, in any of their training schemes, members of all communities and the admission of such trainees will, subject to suitable candidates being available, be in accordance with the prescribed communal proportions. Operating companies may be granted State assistance in specific cases, but such assistance will be entirely at the discretion of Government.

(The Statesman, dated 25-5-1945).