

C6/2/3

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for July 1940.

H.S. Every section of this report may be taken out separately.

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National Labour Legislation.

Government of India.

Payment of Wages (Amendment) Ordinance, 1940.

The Governor General has promulgated an Ordinance to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, so as to enable an employer to deduct from the wage of a person employed by him sums intended for investment in furtherance of approved War Savings Schemes.

(The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, dated 2-7-1940, page 291).

The British War Savings Movement has, in respect of Federal railways, mines and oil-fields, been declared by the Government of India, an approved War Savings Scheme.

(Notification No. 2,3068 dated 4-7-1940: The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 6-7-1940, page 983).

Government of India.

The Draft Explosives Rules, 1940.

The Government of India has published the draft of the Explosives Rules, 1940, which it proposes to issue. The rules relate to the general administration of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884. The draft is to be taken into consideration by 17-9-1940.

(Notification No. M-1217 dated 17-7-1940: The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 17-7-1940, pages 351 to 425).

Government of India.

Authorization of Deductions from Wages for Amenities and Services.

The Government of India has authorized the deduction from wages of persons employed by federal railway administrations, for certain specified amenities and services.

(Notification No. L.3070, dated 4.7.1940: The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 6.7.1940, page 983.)

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Government of India.

Scale of Provisions for Lascars in Home-Trade Ships.

The Government of India has amended the daily scale of provisions in the case of lascars and other native seamen engaged for service on home-trade ships, and has fixed new scales.

(Notification No. 31-M.II(4)/40,
dated 13-7-1940; The Gazette of India, *Part I*,
dated 13-7-1940, pages 998).

Bengal.

The Bengal Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1940.

The Bengal Government has published the Bengal Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1940.

(Notification No. 2180 Com. dated
2-7-1940; The Calcutta Gazette,
Part I, dated 11-7-1940, pages
1905 to 1914).

Bengal.

Draft Amendment to Payment of Wages, Rules, 1937.

The Bengal Government proposes to amend the Payment of Wages Rules, 1937, in regard to deposits of amounts involved in claims arising out of deductions from wages or delay in payment of wages or penalty for malicious or vexatious claims. The draft is to be taken into consideration by 31-10-1940.

(Notification No. 2379 Com. dated
16-7-1940; The Calcutta Gazette,
Part I, dated 25-7-1940, page 2049
to 2050).

Bombay.

Amendment to Hazardous Occupations (Rubber) Rules, 1939.

The Government of Bombay has amended the Hazardous Occupations (Rubber) Rules, 1939, so as to authorise the Chief Inspector to relax the protective measures enumerated in clause 4(1) of the Rules (vide page 5 of our October 1939 report) in the case of any factory the arrangements provided in which are in his opinion sufficient to protect the persons employed.

(Notification No. 1539/34 dated
18-7-1940; The Bombay Government
Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 25-7-1940,
page 915).

Madras.

The Madras Agency Debt Bondage Abolition Regulation, 1940.

A system of debt bondage called "gothi" is practised in certain parts of the "partially excluded areas" in the districts of Visagapatam and East Godavari in the Province of Madras. Under this system, a labourer contracts debts which he agrees to pay off by working for the creditor. The debts accumulate and are never entirely repaid, with the result that the debtor will ordinarily be in bondage to his creditor for life. In some cases the bondage extends to the debtors' children. The Madras Agency Debt Bondage Abolition Regulation, 1940 (Madras Regulation III of 1940), abolishes this system and renders void all gothi agreements entered into after the commencement of the Regulation.

The Regulation provides for written labour agreements under which advances intended to be repaid by labour can be regulated in an equitable manner. Any labour agreement entered into after the commencement of the Regulation by which a labourer agrees to repay the advance with interest thereon by rendering service to the employer cannot be enforced if a copy thereof has not been filed in the office of the Agency Divisional Officer or other authority appointed by the Government, or if the period for which the labourer is to perform service exceeds or is likely to exceed one year. The Government is given power to fix the standard of wages from time to time. If the standard of wages is not fixed, the wages of a labourer should not be less than Rs. 7 per mensem where he is not fed by the employer, and Rs. 4 per mensem where he is fed by the employer. Agreements under the old gothi system subsisting on the date of the commencement of the Regulation cannot be enforced, unless they are settled in accordance with the principles laid down in the Regulation. A labourer can free himself from the obligation to perform labour under an agreement at any time by paying off the balance of the advance left after deducting the value of labour already performed. The agreement will lapse on the death of the labourer and cannot be enforced against his heirs or his estate. If the labourer withholds the stipulated labour or does not perform it with reasonable assiduity, the employer can terminate the agreement on one month's notice and apply to the Agency Divisional Officer to recover the money value of labour not performed.

(Notification No. 16: G.O. No. 111
Legal, dated 27-6-1940: Fort St.
George Gazette, Part I, dated 9-7-1940,
pages 891 to 893.)

Punjab.

Rice-Husking Factories declared Seasonal

The Punjab Government has declared all rice-husking factories in the province to be seasonal factories for the purposes of the Factories Act, provided that in the case of factories in which rice-husking is combined with other operations, only those of them will be treated as seasonal factories in which the combined operations are of a 'seasonal' nature. Those in which rice-husking is combined with operations of a 'perennial' nature, will be treated as perennial factories.

(Notification No. 5091-I. & L. 40/28924 dated 9-7-1940: The Government Gazette, Punjab, Part I, dated 12-7-1940, page 1268.)

Punjab.

Rules re. Persons exempted from Restrictive Provisions of the Factories Act.

The Punjab Government has promulgated certain Rules under Section 45 of the Factories Act. The Rules define the classes of persons deemed to hold positions of supervision or management and persons working in confidential capacity, the nature of work which may be claimed to be urgent repairs, and the classes of workers who are deemed to be employed on preparatory and complementary work, intermittent work, continuous processes, etc.

(Notification No. 4952 - I. & L. 40/28944 dated 9-7-1940: The Government Gazette, Punjab, Part I, dated 12-7-1940, pages 1268 to 1271.)

Sind.

Draft Amendment of Payment of Wages Rules, 1936.

The Sind Government proposes to amend the Sind Payment of Wages Rules, 1936; the amendments proposed relate to the form in which returns under the act are to be made.

(Notification No. 154-M/38 dated 10-7-1940: The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 18-7-1940, pages 1230 to 1234).

United Provinces.

Provision of Shelters during Periods of Rest.

The Government of the United Provinces had amended Rule 93 of the U.P. Factories Rules, so as to provide in factories employing more than 150 persons adequate shelter facilities for workmen during periods of rest. (Notification No. 829/XVIII - 1044-38 dated 26-3-1940: The U.P. Gazette, Part I-A, dated 30-3-1940, page 210).

The Government has recently issued a further notification detailing the classes of factories to which the amended Rule 93 will apply. Such factories are: (1) tanneries; (2) clothing factories; (3) harness, saddlery and boot factories; (4) railway workshops and factories; (5) water works pumping stations; (6) all textile factories (including woollen, cotton, cotton waste, and jute factories); (7) electricity generating and transforming stations; (8) iron and steel smelting and rolling mills; (9) flour mills; (10) all general engineering works; (11) perennial sugar factories and distilleries; (12) chemical works; (13) bone mills; (14) match factories; (15) oil mills; (16) vegetable ghee factories; (17) turpentine and resin factories; (18) woodworks and wood-product factories; (19) paper mills; (20) strawboard and paper-board factories; (21) glass factories; (22) brushware factories; and (23) ginning, pressing and baling factories.

(Notification No. 1640/XVIII - 1044 dated 29-6-1940: The U.P. Gazette, Part I, dated 6-7-1940, page 548).

Social Policy.

Immediate Labour Legislation Proposals: Joint Conference
of Industrial Employers proposed by All India
Organisation of Industrial Employers
to consider Proposals.

A meeting of the Committee of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers was held at Calcutta on 21-7-1940 under the chairmanship of Lal Bahadur Shastri to consider the proposals for labour legislation put forward by the Government of India in pursuance of the decisions of the First Labour Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi in January 1940 (vide pages 6 to 8 of our January 1940 Report)

With regard to the various proposals as regards sickness insurance, recognition of trade unions, etc, circulated to all Provincial Governments by the Central Government, the Committee decided that a Conference of all industrial employers in India should be held under the joint auspices of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers and the Employers' Federation of India to decide upon the line of action which they should adopt with regard to these proposals. The Committee further decided that such a Conference should be attended by a representative each of the major industries which are affiliated to the Organisation, such as, cotton textiles, sugar, mining, tea planting, jute baling, salt, glass and shipping. The attitude of the organisation and its views on the question of sickness insurance to be submitted to the Joint Conference were also discussed. As regards the question of recognition of trade unions, the Committee has decided to consult its affiliated industrial associations in all the Provinces, before formulating its opinion.

It is expected that the proposed Conference would be held in September 1940 in Bombay under the joint auspices of the Employers' Federation of India and the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated
23-7-1940).

Labour Advisory Board: Set up by Sind Government.

The Government of Sind has constituted an Advisory Board of persons interested in labour matters for promoting better relations between employers and employees and to advise Government on labour matters in general. The functions of the Advisory Board are:

(a) to offer expert opinion and advice on all important matters concerning labour, (b) to conduct surveys of labour, (c) to examine comprehensively problems of labour in all their aspects, (d) to devise schemes for the development of better relations between employers and employees, (e) to call for information and advice regarding labour developments of special value or interest to Sind, and (f) to examine any other question on the subject considered suitable by the Board.

The Minister for Education is Chairman, and the Commissioner of Labour, the secretary of the Board. The personnel of the Board, which consists of twenty members, includes men selected to represent both employers and employees.

(Notification No. 540 M/40 dated 24-7-1940, Sind Government Gazette dated 1-8-1940, Part I, page 1908).

Conditions of Work

Hours of Work

Demand of Shop Employees in Bengal for Sunday Closing: Government postpones Action.

The Bengal Legislature has under consideration the Bengal Shops and Establishments Bill to regulate hours of work, leave and payment of wages to persons employed in shops and commercial establishments and establishments for public entertainment or amusement (vide pages 1 to 2 of December 1939 and pages 1 to 2 of June 1940 reports of this Office). According to a press-note issued by the Director of Public Information, Bengal, on 12-7-1940, a request was recently made to the Bengal Government by a large body of employees in shops and commercial establishments that even before the Bill is enacted into law Government should, by an Ordinance, close all shops on Sundays and thus give them some relief. Government invited opinion of different organisations in the Province on this suggestion, but protests have been made against compulsory closing on Sundays as it has been represented that the fixing of the day of the weekly holiday must be left to the employers. The Bill comes up for consideration in the Bengal Council on 30-7-1940; Government has, therefore, decided that no Ordinance need be promulgated now.

(Press Note issued on 12-7-1940
by the Director of Public Information,
Bengal.)

Reduction of Hours of Work in Jute Mills from 54 to 45.

The Indian Jute Mills Association at its meeting on 16-7-1940 has decided to reduce the weekly hours of work in jute mills from 54 to 45 from 19-8-1940. The reduction will not however affect mills with 220 looms or less.

In explaining the reasons for this decision, it is pointed out that since the reduction of hours from 50 to 54 on 8-4-1940 there has been a reduction in Hessian stock, amounting to 120 millions of yards, but the stocks of heavy goods have shown an increase of 25 millions yards. Against this, however, the large sandbag orders will be completed by mills at the end of July 1940, and it is known that at present about one sixth of the total looms in the Association are engaged in the manufacture of sandbags. The Controller of Purchase (Jute) has been informed that orders for sandbags of the same magnitude as those previously given cannot reasonably be expected, although orders for other materials are forthcoming. Another factor which influenced the decision is the decreasing shipments abroad of jute products.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-7-40)

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Industrial Health and Safety.

Progress of Safety First Association of India, Bombay, in 1939*.

Industrial Safety Service.- During the year, 11 communiques were issued bringing the total, since this service was instituted in 1935, to 49. The Association took steps to bring the communiques to the notice of workmen through their Safety First Committees.

Factory Safety Committees.- Industrial members of the Association were advised that their plan of campaign should be directed towards the elimination of the causes of accidents which are typical and that the best course would be to institute Factory Safety Committees and delegate to them the important function of improving efficiency through accident prevention. It is reported that not only were several new committees formed but the committees organised in previous years continued to work successfully. Reports from several industrial concerns showed that through these committees accidents had been reduced by as much as 50 per cent.

Propaganda Posters.- To meet the requirements in regard to instruction for the restoration of persons suffering from electric shock, the Association had issued a chart illustrating the two common methods of artificial respiration, viz., Prone and Sylvester methods. The value of this poster was quickly recognised and over, 1000 copies were distributed during the year. To meet the requirements of organisations whose employees could not understand English, the poster was reprinted in Marathi.

The Association also reprinted 5,000 copies of the caution board for use in connection with medium pressure electrical installations. Unfortunately many industrialists who had posted this poster on the walls of their workshops expected that alone to prevent accidents. This failed to attract the workers and teach them to observe the precautions. The Association has suggested that workers' attention should be drawn through Factory Safety Committees. It is also suggested that it would be an advantage if the Red Triangle were painted on all machines and approaches which require caution in handling and passing.

Safety Codes.- Alarmed at the increase in the rate of accidents in the sugar industry, the Association obtained from the Javanese Government a copy of their safety regulations governing sugar factories. This was translated into English (through the courtesy of the International Labour Office, Geneva) and published. The regulations consist of three parts, viz., (1) general provisions, (2) protection of mechanical prime movers, machines, appliances and installations, (3) safety arrangements for electrical power plant, machines, apparatus and installations. Over 50 sugar factories have been benefitted by this service.

* The Safety First Association of India. Report of the Council, Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 1939.

The Association took up the question of lift legislation with the Chamber of Commerce and the Government of Bombay as far back as 1934. Its efforts resulted in the Bombay Lift Act, 1936. A Technical Committee consisting of representatives of the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company and all known representatives or agents in Bombay of lift manufacturers was subsequently appointed to draw up an agreed set of Draft Rules which may suitably form the basis of what was required under this Act. This Committee finished its labours during the year and a set of Draft Rules for passenger lifts was submitted to Government.

Film Service.- The Association's film service was availed of by police departments, educational institutions and several industrial and social organisations. These were shown in Moradabad, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Surat, Ahmedabad, Hubli, Dharwar and other centres. Reports indicate that these exhibitions have awakened public consciousness to the gravity of the accident peril and the need of preventing it by organised safety measures.

Appointment of Committee of Enquiry under Coal Mines Safety Stowing Act.

Under section 11 of the Coal Mines Safety Stowing Act a Committee of Enquiry has been set up from among the members of the Indian Mining Association, the Indian Colliery Owners' Association, and the Indian Mining Federation, to enquire into references arising out of orders passed by Inspectors of Mines to mine-owners in respect of protective measures, including stowing, in mines.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 24-7-1940)

Wages.

Wages in Textile Industry of Bombay and Ahmedabad.

There has of late been a controversy between Bombay and Ahmedabad over the question of the textile wage-levels in the two centres. Representatives of the Ahmedabad industry have been categorically asserting that the level of wages obtaining in that centre is 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. higher than that in Bombay. These assertions have affected adversely the industry in Bombay, and the Bombay mill-owners have, therefore, issued a Note explaining the wage position in Bombay.

Basis of Calculation of Wages wrong.- The Note states that a recent statement of the President of the Millowners' Association of Ahmedabad that their wages were higher than those in Bombay seems to have been based on certain wage statistics contained in the interim report of the Textile Labour Inquiry Committee. But the figures of average earnings set out in that report are in no way comparable. The occupations on which the Bombay average was calculated were not all numerically important, nor were they representative. If the average wage in each centre had been struck, taking into consideration the earnings of all workers, the results would have been very different.

Comparison of Wage Rates:- It was established in the conciliation proceedings that the average wage in Ahmedabad was Rs. 35 per month. The corresponding figure for Bombay was Rs. 32-1-6 per month, which is about 9 per cent. less than the average wage in Ahmedabad. The average wage in Bombay, however, is lower than it should be owing to the fact that the mills in Bombay employ a large surplus of women labour in reeling and winding. There is very little reeling in Ahmedabad as most of the yarn is used up in weaving.

Greater Number of Women Workers in Bombay.- On the other hand, a considerable quantity of saleable yarn is produced in Bombay and this entails the employment of a large number of women workers. The piecework rates in both reeling and winding in Bombay are high, but owing to the surplus numbers employed, these women operatives do not get full work and their average earnings per month are around Rs. 18. The low monthly earnings of this very large complement of women workers, who are not kept fully employed obviously reduces considerably the general average wage level in Bombay.

In Ahmedabad, on the other hand, surplus labour is not employed in the reeling and winding departments, and the average wage level is not adversely affected on this account.

Difference in Character of Production.- Apart from this factor, other important contributory causes for the wage differences are that there is considerable difference in the character of production, and that the Government Labour Office in compiling the official wage statistics for the Ahmedabad industry has not taken into consideration the wages paid to

contract labour. Another point is that in occupations such as reeling and winding, where the earnings are relatively low, Ahmedabad mills engage fewer hands than in Bombay. Moreover, the average count in Ahmedabad being finer and the machines being longer than in Bombay, the number of doffers employed, say, per 10,000 yards, is much less than in Bombay. This larger number of low-paid workers in Bombay tends to lower the average earnings for Bombay. Another factor which contributes to the higher average earning in Ahmedabad is the newness of the machinery and the larger number of spindles on each frame.

As regards the relative wage levels at the two centres at present, the Bombay cotton mill worker has been receiving a dearness allowance of Rs. 3-4 per month since 1st December, 1939, against a dearness allowance per worker in Ahmedabad mill of Rs. 3-8 for February, Rs. 2-8-9 for March, and Rs. 1-14-7 for April and May, ¹⁹⁴⁰. The total dearness allowance paid to those mill workers in Bombay who worked continuously from 1st December to 31st May, would, therefore, amount to Rs. 19-8 per worker, against a payment in Ahmedabad in the same period of Rs. 9-13-11 per worker.

(The Indian Textile Journal, July 1940 issue. Also Excerpt from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for June 1940).

Does Bonus form Part of Wages? Bombay High Court
Decision in the Negative.

Reference was made at pages 16 to 17 of our May 1939 report to a test case instituted in Bombay to get a court ruling whether bonus formed part of "wages" as defined in the Payment of Wages Act. The City Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the District Judge of Ahmedabad gave judgments to the effect that bonus did form part of "wages". The Arvind Mills, Ahmedabad, the party adversely affected by the decision, appealed to the Bombay High Court against the District Judge's decision and it has recently pronounced judgment reversing the lower courts' decision.

Respondent's Case.- Counsel for the Respondent contended that the term "Wages" has been defined in the Act so as to include all payments of money to employees which "would be payable" subject to certain authorized deductions. It is not restricted in meaning to the amount actually paid. The section expressly includes "bonus" in the term "wages". It was further argued that it was not open to a workman to contract himself out of the Act and to subject himself to a condition - e.g., that he would not be entitled to any part of the bonus at all if he did not attend 6 full days in a week. If he actually happened to attend only 4 out of the 6 days in a particular week he would be entitled under the Act to 3/4 of the bonus, in spite of any such condition attached to the bonus. Such condition would be invalid, and the employee could claim a proportionate part of the bonus.

Applicant's Case.- On the other hand, Counsel for the Applicant argued that the term "wages" in the Act applied only to such wages as had been earned according to the terms of the contract of employment. He further stated that in the present case, the workmen in question had

K.
not fulfilled the condition attached to the bonus, and that therefore they had not earned it, and it did not fall within the definition of "wages" in Sec.2 (vi) of the Act. The Act was intended to help the workmen and the interpretation sought to be put by the Respondent and accepted by both the lower courts would not benefit them, for, in ~~farther~~ future no employer would declare any such bonus at all.

High Court's Decision.- The Chief Justice delivering the judgment of the High Court, Bombay, accepted the arguments advanced by Counsel for the Applicant and expressed the opinion that the word "wages" in Sec. 2(vi) had to be read subject to anything repugnant in the context and that Sec. 7 of that Act which deals with payment could not possibly apply to wages which had not been earned. He therefore held that the bonus in the present case, not having been earned by fulfilment of the conditions by the workers in question, was not within the term "wages" in the Act and the employers were right in not paying any part of it at all. The Revision Application was therefore granted with costs throughout.

(Summarised from Circular No.131 dated 17-7-1940 issued by the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore.)

14

Industrial Disputes

Settlement of Industrial Disputes in U.P.
Government to undertake Legislation.

According to the Associated Press of India, the adoption of an Industrial Disputes Act for U.P. is now under examination by the U.P. Government. The Bill, it is learnt, is intended to stabilize conditions of labour and settlement of industrial disputes in the province. It may be pointed out that the last Congress Government ^{of the Province} had drawn up an Industrial Disputes Bill and had invited opinions thereon, among others, of the Cawnpore Masdoor Sabha and the Employers' Association of Northern India (vide page 7 of the July 1939 report of this Office). The Government, it is learnt, is now examining the views of these organizations on the Bill.

(The Leader, 15-7-1940.)

Nagpur Textile Strike.

Reference was made at page 31 of our June 1940 report to the dispute in the Nagpur textile mills on the question of the grant of a dearness allowance and to the notice given by the Nagpur Textile Labour Union to declare a general strike on 3-7-1940. The strike was declared on 3-7-1940, the number of workers affected being 17,000 (The Hindu, 7-7-1940). On the same date the Model Mills declared a lock-out (The Statesman, 5-7-1940). The management of the Express Mills, accepted on 3-7-1940 the recommendations of the Textile Enquiry Committee (for details of the Committee's recommendations, vide pages 42-43 of our May 1940 report), and the Union therefore decided to call off the strike in the Express Mills (The Hindu, 5-7-1940), but it was not until 15-7-1940 that the management was prepared to re-open the Express Mills. The workers of the Express Mills returned to work on 15-7-1940; the strike in the Model Mills, however, is continuing. On 26-7-1940 the workers started peaceful picketing of the mills. The C.P. Government is trying to bring about a settlement.

Forced Labour.

Abolition of Gothi System of Debt Bondage in
Madras.

The Government of Madras has issued a Regulation to abolish the system of debt bondage, called Gothi, existing in the "partially excluded" areas in the Madras Province. A summary of the main provisions of the Regulation is given in the section: "National Labour Legislation" of this report.

16

General

Assam Tea Garden Labour Enquiry Committee:
Government Orders Discontinuance of Enquiry.

Reference was made at pages 20-21 of our May 1939 and pages 14-15 of our July 1939 reports to the appointment of a Committee to enquire into and report on the existing conditions of labour in the tea plantations in Assam and to the hostile attitude of the Indian Tea Association, Assam, towards the Committee.

Replying to an interpellation in the Assam Legislative Assembly on 9-3-1940, the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Minister for Labour, stated that the Government has decided not to continue the enquiry as the whole question of labour legislation has been reviewed at the First Labour Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi on 22 and 23-1-1940 (vide pages 6-10 of January 1940 report). It was also pointed out that consideration of labour legislation for the province will be taken up when the proceedings of the Labour Ministers' Conference become available.

(Assam Legislative Assembly Debates
of 9 and 11-3-1940; Vol. I, No.8,
pages 609-611.)

Industrial and Labour Statistics Bill:
Proposed Legislation by Central Government.

In order to collect certain statistics concerning labour and industries in the country, the Government of India, it is learned, proposes to introduce in the Central Assembly a Bill called "The Industrial and Labour Statistics Bill".

Provisions of the Bill.- The proposed Bill will authorize the provincial Governments to direct the collection of statistics relating to all or any of the following: (a) factories or any class of factories; (b) welfare and conditions of labour; and (c) industrial and labour disputes. It will make provisions for the issue of notices by prescribed authority to employers to furnish returns and empower such authority to have access to documents in the custody of the employer and to enter, at any reasonable time, the factory, shop or place of business of the employer. The Bill will confer rule-making powers upon provincial Governments subject to directions issued from time to time in this behalf by the Central Government. Rule-making powers of the provincial Governments will cover particulars in regard to the following matters: particulars to be furnished in relation to any matter in respect of which statistics can be collected; the manner in which notices calling upon employers to submit returns may be issued; and the time within which such returns shall be furnished.

The Government of India, it is reported, is now consulting the provincial Governments regarding the provisions of the draft Bill.

It may be pointed out that the Bill is the outcome of one of the decisions of the Labour Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi in January 1940 (vide pages 6 to 8 of our January 1940 report).

(The Statesman, 15-7-1940)

18

Economic Conditions.

Depression in Cotton Textile Industry:
Curtailement of Production effected.

Since the war began, the cotton textile industry of India has been experiencing a depression and in several centres steps have been taken to curtail production.

The mills in the Central Provinces were the first to act, and now these cotton textile mills in Bombay intend stopping work totally and six others intend discontinuing their night shifts during July. As a result, nearly 9,000 men will be thrown out of employment in Bombay. The cotton textile industry in the United Provinces is also feeling the effect of the depression. One mill in Cawnpore is stopping the manufacture of certain lines and another will reduce its spinning section's working hours by discontinuing the night shift. Here, however, only a small number of workers, will be rendered unemployed.

War orders have no doubt given work to cotton textile mills in the U.P. and Bombay, but the industry in both centres is largely dependent on India's domestic demands, which have been dwindling steadily. In spite of repeated price reductions by local mills, the demand has been far from satisfactory.

Stocks are reported to be mounting, and manufacturing costs are higher than the bazar selling prices. A further curtailment of production may be necessitated soon.

(The Statesman, dated 14-7-1940).

Bengal Working Class Cost of Living: Plan
for collection of Data by Board of
Economic Inquiry, Bengal.

In order to prepare scientifically dependable cost of living index number for the labour population in the province, the Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal, has, at the instance of the Bengal Government, drawn up a programme to collect family budgets and other relevant information in respect of industrial labourers.

Details of Scheme.— To begin with, five important industrial areas will be selected. In each area, or "zone", the localities in which the labourers reside will be ascertained and, where necessary, a list of labourers and labour holdings prepared from the registrars of the industrial concerns and of Municipalities or Union Boards. From these maps and lists the Indian Statistical Institute will select at random about 1,000 labour families or two per cent. of the total number of labourers in the area, whichever is greater. A paid staff, trained both in the statistical and in the

practical side of the work, will then visit the selected labour families and collect the fullest possible information about the family budget of each family. The investigators will at the same time collect the price statistics and other relevant data about housing conditions and health of the labourers. Advantage will be taken of the experience gained in such enquiries already conducted in Madras, Bombay, Cawnpore, and other places to make the technique as perfect and results as accurate as possible.

The Government and the Board are anxious that the data collected and the index numbers prepared should be as dependable and authoritative as possible. To ensure success in the work, the active support and co-operation of the owners of industrial concerns, labourers and local bodies and leaders is sought by Government.

The enquiry is proposed to be made by replicated statistical random sample survey and the Board will obtain the assistance of Professor P.C. Mahalanobis of the Indian Statistical Institute, as its Statistical Adviser. The Sub-Committee conducting the enquiry will consist of the Labour Commissioner (Chairman), and Professor P.C. Mahalanobis, Dr. A.M. Mali, Professor J.C. Sinha, and the Secretary of the Board of Economic Enquiry as members.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 12-7-1940)

Credit Facilities for Medium-sized Industries in Bengal:
Schemes examined by Bengal Industrial Survey Committee.

A scheme for organising a new credit machinery with necessary resources and equipment for undertaking responsibilities for long term finance, is under the consideration of the Finance Sub-Committee of the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee. The sub-committee is at present engaged in examining the details of a scheme for meeting the credit requirements of the medium-sized industries of the province.

Work of Industrial and Technical Education Sub-Committee.— The Industrial and Technical Education Sub-Committee has been making a comprehensive enquiry into the problem of technical training available in the province in order to meet in a more effective and satisfactory manner the requirements of different kinds of industries — large, medium-sized and cottage — with special reference to the present organisation and equipment of different types of technical institutions now working in Bengal. At present the question of providing wider facilities for training in apprenticeship through a suitable scheme for bringing some of the existing higher technical institutions into closer touch with industrial employers, or organising new ones for some of the major industries, is under consideration of the sub-committee. It is expected that the enquiry will be completed by the end of August, 1940.

The Secretary of the Survey Committee has addressed a circular letter to important industrial firms in the province, requesting them to supply him with necessary information so that he may appraise the

position in regard to opportunities hitherto available for apprenticeship training to the young men of the province.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
dated 19-7-1940).

Economic Survey of U.P: Government's Plans
to conduct Survey along with 1941
Census.

Along with the population census enumeration due to take place in 1941, it is understood that a number of provinces and States propose to carry out special statistical inquiries of their own. The United Provinces, for instance, is thinking of having an economic survey.

(The Leader, dated 17-7-1940).

Proposed War Risk Insurance for India:
Outline of Government Scheme.

According to a ^{the} Communique recently issued by the Government of India, at instance of various associations in Bombay and Karachi, the Central Government has recently been considering the establishment of a Government scheme for war risk insurance on commodities on land in British India. A rough outline of the scheme which the Central Government has under consideration is given below. It follows generally the lines of the United Kingdom scheme modified to suit conditions in India.

Outline of Scheme.- Risks to be insured against, "King's enemy risks", is defined in the United Kingdom Act, generally speaking, as risk of loss or damage caused by the acts of an enemy or by acts done in repelling any enemy.

Commodities to which the scheme will apply:- All commodities, except those such as growing crops, coal, cement, certain metals and other ores which are exempted in the United Kingdom scheme and mineral oils of all descriptions. War risk insurance will be compulsory in the case of all stocks of commodities of a value of Rs. 20,000 or more which are insured against fire, and voluntary in the case of stocks of commodities which are not insured against fire or which are insured for a less sum than Rs. 20,000.

Rate of Premium.- The rate of premium will be fixed at three-monthly intervals, and will be adjusted (either by increase or decrease)

on the basis of experience. The rate proposed in the first instance is $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent per month which is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the original British rate. The scheme will be administered by fire insurance companies in India as agents of the Central Government. Premiums received will be paid into a fund. Claims will be met from the fund, but if the fund proves insufficient to meet claims the necessary contribution to the fund will be made from general revenues. If at the end of the war the balance in the fund is in excess of claims, that balance will be credited to general revenues.

Various associations in India are being consulted on these proposals and on receipt of their replies which have been asked for urgently, the matter will be further considered by the Central Government.

(The Statesman, dated 20-7-1940).

Crisis in Sugar Industry:

Production Quotas and Prices to be fixed by Government.

The Indian sugar industry, which is a protected industry, has been in the last few months passing through a crisis due mainly to over-production and maintenance of high prices.

It is estimated that at present the industry is burdened with a carry-over of 500 to 400 thousand tons of sugar, as against a normal seasonal carry-over of 150,000 tons. Further, the area sown with cane has increased considerably, and in the normal course of events the production of sugar in the next season (1940-41) will also be heavy and will exceed the consumption by another 300,000 tons, so that there might be a carry-over of between 500 to 700 thousand tons in November 1941. At the same time, the Indian Sugar Syndicate, a body accorded statutory recognition by the Governments of U.P. and Bihar (these two are the principal cane-growing provinces) and which practically controls the industry, insisted on keeping the price of sugar high and fixed a minimum price, and this led to further accumulation of stocks. In June 1940, as the result of differences between the two Governments and the Syndicate, the former withdrew the statutory recognition they had accorded to the Syndicate and freed sugar factories from the obligation of being members of the Syndicate.

The problems facing the industrialists and the authorities are threefold: First, the manufacturing interests which have given a good account of themselves during a period of nine years of protection, by making India virtually self-sufficient in sugar have to be assured that they will be given adequate protection by the Government until the industry is able to stand on its own feet; at the same time, the industrialists have to exert themselves to put the industry on a sound footing. Secondly, the agriculturist cane-grower needs to be assured that he will get a fair price and thus benefit by the development of the industry. Thirdly, the Central Government has to watch vigilantly the interests of the consumer and to see that he gets a fair deal.

In his opening speech at the Sugar Conference held at Simla on 14-6-1940, Sir Hanaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Government of India, directed pointed attention to the obligations entailed on a protected industry in the matter of ensuring that other interests do not suffer through the protection accorded to it. Emphasising this aspect, he said:

As a protected industry, the Central Government has a direct responsibility with reference to the sugar industry. It cannot dissociate itself from the reactions that may be taking place, from time to time by the manner in which the industry is conducted either by the proprietors or by any authorities. Being a protected industry, the Government of India has a responsibility not merely to

see that the amount of protection is sufficient to enable the industry to keep on its own legs, but also to see that the other interests which are connected with it are not unduly prejudiced....

The sugar industry is a big industry. In more than one respect, it differs from the cement industry or the textile industry and from other industries, because the raw material can easily deteriorate if it is kept for a length of time. The Tariff Board which examined the question of protection of sugar took that into consideration when it laid down as a corollary to the protection of the sugar industry that there must be a certain amount of protection to the sugarcane grower. The Government in 1934 passed the Sugarcane Prices Bill and the Legislature fixed a minimum price for the sale of sugarcane and the working of the Act was left to the Local Governments concerned. The object of the Act was to prevent the exploitation of the agriculturists by the very much more powerful industrialists.....

The Indian Fiscal Commission had remarked about a protected industry, that a time will come when the burden on the consumer would be relieved by the growth of such internal competition as would necessarily bring down the prices for the manufactured article. How far is this principle violated by the organisation of trusts or combines which fix minimum prices for the sale of a commodity and by such combinations prevent under pains and penalties anybody selling below a certain figure? Normally, in the capitalistic system, it is not a crime if traders come into a combine, but with reference to a protected industry that is not quite so simple, and I am not all sure whether steps should not be taken to prevent it. I do not suggest that in all circumstances, with reference to a protected industry, the fixation of a minimum price by a combine is necessarily wrong, but I do venture to state that such a state of affairs requires to be justified before the Government of India.

(Commerce and Industry, 25-6-1940)

As the result of further negotiations, the recognition withdrawn from the Syndicate by the U.P. and Bihar Governments in June 1940, has since been restored. A joint communiqué on the subject issued in the first week of August 1940 by the two Governments states that the following decisions have also been reached:

The present prices of sugar are to be brought down and correlated with probable prices of the next crushing season in order to relieve factories of stocks and thereby to give the maximum relief to cane-growers.

Production in the year 1941-42 should be regulated according to demand by regulating cultivation, while the supply stocks of the current year should be carried over the following year.

A marketing organization should be set up under the full control of the Government in respect of its policy regarding price quote and production.

The constitution of the Syndicate is to be revised. The Syndicate will have its headquarters at Cawnpore and the body will be a selling organisation only for the purpose of regulating sales within the

limits of prices and quotas fixed by the Government, and will confine its activities exclusively to the marketing of sugar; the election of the chairman of the Syndicate will be subject to Government approval, and the executive officer of the Syndicate will be nominated by the Government.

A Sugar Commission will be set up by the two Governments which will be the final authority on the subject of Government control on all matters connected with the production and sale of sugar, and fixing of cane prices.

(The Statesman, 8-8-1940)

25

Social Insurance.

Pension for Jute Workers of Bengal:
Scheme under Consideration.

The possibility of all jute mill workers in Bengal being granted pension in the near future was hinted at by the Labour Minister of Bengal, Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, in reply to certain interpellations on the subject in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 18-7-1940. He said that the matter had been engaging the attention of the Government for some time and that he had impressed upon the employers the desirability of granting pension to workers and that many of them were doing so at present. The Minister proposed to have further discussions on the matter with the Indian Jute Mills Association and hoped that he would be able to come to a satisfactory agreement with them. He, however, said the difficulty was the want of proper service record "in the compilation of which subversive elements are creating all kinds of obstacles".

(The Hindustan Times, dated 19-7-1940).

Sickness Insurance Scheme of Government of India:
Views of Textile Labour Association and Millowners' Association,
Ahmedabad.

The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, has submitted to the Commissioner of Labour, Bombay, its views on the sickness insurance scheme proposed by the Government. The Association states that "any scheme of sickness insurance would necessarily require compulsory contribution by the employers, employees and Government if sickness insurance for the workers is to take effective and tangible form. It would not suffice to provide only for some cash relief during the periods of sickness. Though such cash relief is a necessity, it would have to be supplemented by free medical treatment to the workers through a panel of medical practitioners in different industrial cities." The medical expenses, the Association says, will be met from the Sickness Insurance Fund created by compulsory contribution from the employers, employees and Government. The contribution by Government should also form an integral part of the Fund. With regard to the amount of contribution by the employers, the Association feels that, with the present inadequate wages of most of the workers, it would be equitable if the employers are made liable to contribute two-thirds of the total contribution. The Association agrees that workers getting more than Rs.25 per month should be made to contribute compulsorily 1/3rd of the total contribution. Contribution by workers whose wages are below Rs.25 per month, the Association feels, would entail very great hardship on them and they should be exempt from it, though they should be entitled to receive the benefit equally with

others.

Ahmedabad Millowners' Association opposes Scheme.- The Millowners' Association, on the other hand, is of opinion that the depressed condition of the industry and the additional heavy and extravagant burden it has been called upon to bear makes it impossible for the industry to contribute even the smallest portion towards the scheme. It contends that the responsibility for such a scheme rests with the State, but for the present, on account of the war, it may not be possible for the Government to consider the undertaking of any financial liability.

(The Times of India, dated 17-7-1940).

Sind Secondary School Teachers' Provident
Fund Rules.

The Government of Sind has published a Press Note announcing Rules to regulate Provident Fund facilities for teachers in non-pensionable service in recognised secondary schools in Sind. The question of establishing a State-aided Provident Fund for such teachers was under the consideration of Government during the years 1923-27, but it was postponed on financial grounds. Government now thinks that the time has come when it should be taken up in the general interest of secondary education.

Scope.- All secondary schools, including secondary schools for Europeans and Anglo-Indians, which are not recognised permanently by the Educational Department on 1-4-1940, and all secondary schools receiving recognition or grant, for the first time after the aforesaid date, shall adopt the scheme of the Fund. Secondary schools already recognised before 1-4-1940 may join the Fund within the period stipulated by the Director of Public Instruction, Sind. Those schools which have already established provident funds are to adopt the present scheme. These rules shall apply to all teachers in non-pensionable employment who receive pay of not less than Rs. 30 per mensem.

Teachers' Subscription.- The maximum amount of a teacher's subscription shall be one anna for each complete rupee of the teacher's monthly pay. A part-time teacher serving in two or more secondary schools at least one of which has adopted the scheme of the Fund shall subscribe separately as a teacher in each such secondary school adopting the scheme of the Fund on the basis of the pay received by him in that secondary school. When a teacher is in receipt of board and lodging as remuneration in addition to his pay, he may at his option subscribe in addition to the subscription on his pay one anna for each complete rupee of the estimated value of the board and lodging with the consent of the Controlling Officer. A teacher may subscribe during leave with pay. A teacher on leave without pay shall not be permitted to subscribe during the period of such leave.

Contribution by Management.— The Management shall contribute out of the school funds, to the account of each teacher a sum equal to one-half of the sum subscribed by the teacher, provided that in the case of a newly employed teacher the Management shall have the option of contributing after the teacher has put in a year's service in the secondary school. Contribution in excess of this limit shall not be permitted. Failure to contribute shall involve forfeiture of the ~~Government grant~~ Government grant. The Management shall not contribute out of the school funds for any period during which a teacher does not or is not permitted to subscribe to the Fund.

Contribution by Provincial Government.— The contribution of the Provincial Government shall be paid when the final payment to a teacher becomes due, and shall be paid in lump sum, equal to one-third of the sum standing to the teacher's credit on that date. If any balance is outstanding of any advance paid, that balance shall be deemed for this purpose to be part of the sum standing to the teacher's credit.

The Fund shall be managed by means of the Post Office Savings Bank System.

Advance from the Fund.— A temporary advance not exceeding three months' pay or half the sum standing to his credit whichever is less may be granted to a teacher from the amount standing to his credit in the Fund with the approval of the Controlling Officer for any of the following or other similar purposes - (i) to pay expenses incurred in connection with the illness of the teacher or a member of his family, (ii) to pay for the passage over the sea for reasons of health or education of the teacher or any member of his family, (iii) to pay expenses in connection with marriages, funerals or ceremonies which, by the religion of the teacher it is incumbent upon him to perform and in connection with which it is obligatory that expenditure should be incurred: Provided that the amount standing to the credit of the teacher shall not be reduced below Rs. 300. ~~(*)~~ Advances shall be recovered at the discretion of the Management in not less than twelve instalments and in not more than twentyfour instalments. ~~(*)~~ After the principal of the advance has been fully repaid, interest shall be paid thereon at the rate of 1/5th per cent. of the principal for each month or broken portion of a month during the period between the drawal and complete repayment of the principal.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part I, dated 25-7-1940, pages 1869 to 1873).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923,
in Assam in 1939.

During 1939, the year under report, Rs.27,348-3-3 was paid as compensation to the dependants of deceased workmen and to workmen permanently and temporarily disabled. Out of this amount Rs.11,268-0-6 was paid through Commissioners and Rs.16,060-2-9 by employers direct. In addition, the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, received Rs.3,194-2-0 from Bengal, for payment to the dependants of certain deceased workmen and the payment was made during the year.

The Tea Industry paid Rs.10,718-4-9 as compensation to dependants of deceased workmen and to workmen permanently or temporarily disabled. Of this amount Rs.4,446 was paid through Commissioners and Rs.6,272-4-9 by employers direct. The Assam Oil Company and the Assam Railways and Trading Company paid through Commissioners Rs.3,619-0-6 to the dependants of deceased workmen and to workmen permanently disabled. They also paid a sum of Rs.9,546-5-6 direct to workmen permanently or temporarily disabled. Other Industrial concerns paid Rs.3,179 through Commissioners to dependants of deceased workmen and Rs.285-8-6 direct to workmen permanently and temporarily disabled.

The average number of ^{workers} adults employed per day was 48,711 adults and 2370 minors.

(Extracted from Report on the Working
of the Workmen's Compensation Act
for 1939, forwarded to this Office by
the Chief Secretary to the Government
of Assam.)

* Printed letter No.G.-1766- G.J. dated Shillong, the July 1940, from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, embodying the Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, for the year 1939.

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Employment, Unemployment and Vocational Training.

Settling Educated Unemployed on Land:

Details of Mysore Government's Colonisation Scheme.

Reference was made at page 24 of our May 1940 report to a colonisation scheme recently sanctioned by the Mysore Government to settle educated unemployed on land. Further details of the scheme, now available, are given below:

Salient features of the Scheme.- Fifteen acres of land to each colonist on lease for six years, an advance by Government to each colonist Rs. 1,500 for capital expenditure, a house and a cattle shed, bullocks and ploughs, and Rs. 500 annually for meeting working expenses: these are the salient features of the scheme for ~~an~~ the agricultural colony in the Irwin Canal Area in the Mysore State to afford facilities to suitable educated young men to engage themselves in agriculture. The Director of Agriculture has been requested to select, in consultation with the Revenue Commissioner, suitable lands in a compact block, if possible, and give wide publicity to the scheme, and start the colony at an early date.

Details of Scheme.- Persons who have read up to the Secondary School Leaving Certificate standard and who are either graduates in agriculture or have passed out of an agricultural school may be taken as colonists, the selection being made by a Committee appointed for the purpose. To start with, 10 colonists are to be selected. The colony will be under the direct charge of the Manager of the Irwin Canal Farm and the general supervision over the colony would be vested in a Committee with the Director of Agriculture as Chairman.

If the colonists succeed, the land would be conveyed to them at the end of six years at a fair upset price which may be fixed at the present market value of the land, the price being recovered in 10 annual instalments from the date of sale. The amount required for cultivation would be advanced to the colonists on the security of crops to be grown on the land and recouped every year as soon as the crops are harvested. Each colonist will be asked to give a deposit of Rs. 1,000 in token of his earnestness and as security for the amount advanced by Government. The colonists would be encouraged to take to industries subsidiary to agriculture, such as poultry-farming, dairying, sheep-breeding, etc.

The advance made to the colonists will carry no interest for the first four years and will bear interest at four per cent. per annum thereafter. The balance of advance after adjustment of the deposit will be recovered in five equal annual instalments after the fourth year. But if the colonist selects to purchase the land, the purchase price will include the balance of advance that may be due by him.

Cost of Scheme.- The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 20,000 which will be advanced to the colonists, free of interest. Under the triennial rotation of crops and with the growing of money crops in the colony, the income of each colonist, it is estimated, will be about Rs. 600 per annum.

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Committee to execute Scheme.- A Committee with the Director of Agriculture, Mysore, as Chairman has been appointed to work out further details and give effect to the scheme.

(Mysore Information Bulletin,
July 1940.)

Unemployment among Coir Factory Workers in Travancore:
Government appoints Committee to frame Relief Measures.

The Government of Travancore has appointed a Committee to investigate the question of starting public {relief} works to meet the immediate necessities of ~~unemployed~~ labourers in Alleppey who have been thrown out of employment due to coir factories in the area suspending work in the situation caused by the war. The Committee will include representatives of both employers and labourers. A representative of the Public Works Department Advisory Committee and an officer of the Public Works Department will also be on the Committee.

Meanwhile, to avert the starvation of unemployed labourers, the owners of the major factories at Alleppey have agreed to give doles of rice to the labourers. Half the cost of this will be met by Government. In regard to labourers in small factories thrown out of employment, the doles will be given entirely at the cost of Government.

(The Hindu, 17-7-1940)

Registration of Educated ^{Un-}Employed in Sind:
Government Scheme.

It is understood that the Sind Government is ~~announcing~~ considering a scheme for the registration of educated unemployed with a view to afford them facilities for getting adequate and timely information about prospective avenues of employment.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-7-1940)

31

Migration

Restrictions on Indian Immigration into Ceylon.

The Government of India is understood to have addressed an inquiry to the Ceylon Government about the nature of the proposed legislation for the control and restriction of immigration into Ceylon. It is learned that the Board of Ministers, at a recent meeting, approved of a despatch on the subject to be forwarded to the Government of India. The main principles of the legislation are that visitors to Ceylon will be admitted on permits and will have to return to the countries from which they came within a stipulated period, while others coming to Ceylon for employment, including estate labour, will have to obtain permission for the purpose.

(The Times of India, 18-7-1940).

Agriculture.

Progress of Consolidation of Holdings in India.

Investigations into the fragmentation of holdings in India shows that in the Punjab, the United-Provinces, the Central Provinces, the North-West Frontier Province and in the States of Baroda and Jammu and Kashmir the need for action has been recognised and action taken.

The Punjab.- In the Punjab some of the areas which were hitherto lying uncultivated owing to their being either small or unwieldy have now been brought under cultivation. On account of the change brought about in the shape and size of the fields, the interest of cultivators, in their land has increased and this has resulted in more efficient management of the fields and better yield of crops. In the rain-fed areas, it has now become more convenient to make embankments round the fields to retain rain water. It has resulted in an increased use of improved implements and better conservation of manures. With the improvement in the level of fields there is greater economical use of the irrigation water. The system of cropping has changed and poor crops are generally giving place to better ones.

Central Provinces.- In the Central Provinces it has improved the general standard of agriculture in the rice-growing tract of the Chhattisgarh division. The removal of bunds between small fields and straightening of field boundaries have added about two per cent to the actual area under rice crop. The gross produce of crops in the consolidated villages (in the Central Provinces) is estimated to have increased by about five to ten per cent. In general, consolidation of holdings has saved a good deal of the time and energy of cultivators formerly wasted in going over to scattered plots. The outstanding example of consolidation through the revenue staff is in the Chhattisgarh division (Central Provinces) where up to April 1938, over 1,100,000 acres had been repartitioned in 1,172 villages of Drug and Raipur districts, the average size of a plot being raised from half an acre ~~to~~ three and one-fifth acres, and the total number of plots brought down from 2,370,000 to 384,000. The average size of a rice field in these consolidated villages is now six times the size of former rice dells. Intervening bunds are being demolished and compact holdings have now come into being. The average cost of consolidation is four annas an acre and the entire cost of consolidating a village is willingly deposited by the villagers in advance.

(Indian Information, New Delhi.
dated 1-7-1940).

The Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Second
Amendment) Bill, 1940.

The Bengal Government intends introducing shortly a Bill to amend the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act, 1935.

According to the Statement of Objects and reasons appended to the Bill, apprehensions aroused among landlords and creditors by discussions of the terms of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act, 1935, at the time of its passage through the Legislature, prompted many of them to take hurried action towards obtaining decrees in pending suits and towards executing them before such action could be stayed. Consequently, a large number of debtors lost their holdings through sales in execution of decrees before they were able to have recourse to any Debt Settlement Board for relief; and in a number of cases Civil Courts held and confirmed sales in execution of decrees in spite of the issue of a notice under section 34 of the Act. The main object of this Bill is to provide a machinery for restoration of such holdings to as many as possible of their former possessors, subject to the payment of proper compensation to the decree-holder.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 11-7-1940, pages 137 to
140).

34

Navigation.

Proposed Home for Indian Seamen in Calcutta:
Government appoints Committee to draw up Scheme.

Reference was made at page 29 of our June 1940 report to the decision of the Government of India to appoint a Committee to consider the question of the establishment of a home for Indian seamen at Calcutta. It is now announced that the Committee has been appointed with the following personnel: Sir Thomas Elderton (Chairman), Messrs. C.E.S. Fairweather, W.A.S. Lewis, K.R. Daddow, G.L. Mehta, J. Worshead, K.A. Mohamed, B.G. Mukerji, Aftabali, Major J.H. Gorman, Doctor A.W. Malik and Captain J. Forsyth.

The Committee will draw up and submit to the Government a scheme for the proposed home and for its control and management and will suggest at the same time ways and means for the collection of funds for the ~~xxx~~ purpose.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-7-1940)

Conditions of Service of Teachers in U.P. Non-
Government Schools: Recommendations
of Committee.

The Government of the United Provinces appointed in 1939 a committee to examine the administration and working of the non-Government aided Anglo-vernacular institutions and to suggest ways and means for their improvement. The report of the Committee has recently been published; a summary of those recommendations relating to the conditions of work of teachers is given below:-

Salaries Grades.- Grades instead of a time-scale should be introduced for salaries as follows: (a) For trained graduates - Rs.70-90-110-140; per month; (b) For trained under-graduates Rs.40-50-60-80-100; (c) Language teachers, art masters and Manual Training teachers - Rs. 30-40-55-70; (d) Headmasters should be on a time scale as follows:- Single section school - Rs.150-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -210; Double section school - Rs. 150-10-250.

The grades for teachers in intermediate colleges should be Rs.90-110-130-165-200.

Service Conditions.- The present teachers' agreement should be terminated and a new amended agreement should be drawn up to be signed by every teacher old and new. The period of probation should be one year. Managers of aided schools should be reminded of their responsibilities in regulating the amount of private tuition. Heads of aided institutions should not be allowed to undertake private tuition. Adequate reasons for giving notice of termination of services, to be included in the agreement should be (a) inefficiency, (b) general retrenchment decided upon for reasons of financial stringency or (c) the abolition of a subject or (d) the abolition of section or class. In no case should notice be valid without previous reference to the inspector. Two months' notice referred to in paragraph 12 of the present standard agreement should not include vacations. Paragraph 15 of the agreement should omit the word "discharge" and add the following proviso after (3) "provided that the manager or teacher in cases of discharge may refer their cases to the Director of Public Instruction for review through the inspector". No teacher should be employed in a school who is within one remove of relationship to any member of the managing committee, of the principal or the head master.

Service Conditions of Head masters and Principals.- The form of agreement for heads of institutions should be amended in accordance with the decision arrived at in connection with the teachers' agreement form. In paragraph 10 "adequate reasons" for giving notice would be inefficiency as a head master or principal. The period of probation for a head master or principal should be one year extendable to two.

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Transfer Facilities.- The inspector of schools may keep a register of teachers desiring transfer and will exchange this with other inspectors who may circulate it to schools. Any teacher who as a result desires mutual transfer may be accommodated provided the respective managers are willing. All applications should be made through the managers concerned.

Provident Funds.- Teachers' salaries should be paid not later than the day after that on which the fees are realized in accordance with paragraph 109 of the Code. Salaries should be paid by cheque on a recognised bank where one exists.

When the management fails to lodge their share of provident fund in the Post Office Savings Bank, the inspector should be authorized to deduct a proportionate amount from the next instalment of the grant and lodge it in the Post Office on behalf of the management.

The clerical establishment of recognised institutions should also be eligible for Government contribution to their provident fund.

Increased rates for provident fund necessary as a result of reducing the age of retirement to 55 should be referred to a departmental committee.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
9-7-1940).

Nutrition

"Rice": Nutrition Bulletin issued by Government of India.

The Government of India has recently issued in the Health Bulletin Series, a new Bulletin prepared by the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor, and approved by the Nutrition Advisory Committee of the Indian Research Fund Association. The bulletin entitled "Rice," deals in detail with the nutritive value of rice and the defects of the poor rice-eater's diet.

Rice is the staple food of about half the human race. In India the area under rice exceeds that under all other cereals put together. Diet surveys have revealed the composition of the poor rice-eater's diet, showing that he consumes in addition to his staple cereal, only very small quantities of such food as pulses, vegetables, fruits and meat. Milk and milk-products are taken in negligible quantities. In the circumstances the nutritive value of the main ingredient in the diet is of primary importance.

The bulletin describes the effect of milling on rice. The outer layers of the grain are richer in vitamins than the inner starchy part. Hand-pounding removes some of the outer layers, but does not very greatly impoverish the nutritive value of the grain. But when raw rice is machine-milled, there is a serious loss of vitamins and particularly of vitamin B (1), which prevents and cures the disease of beri-beri. But parboiled rice, even when highly milled, retain most of the anti-beriberi vitamin originally present in the unmilled grain. The washing of rice removes a considerable amount of food material, including about 50 per cent. of vitamin B (1). Cooking with excess of water also reduces nutritive value. A section of the bulletin is devoted to beriberi and it is shown that this disease is a serious public health problem in only one part of the country - Northern Circars districts of the Madras Presidency. The reason for this is that in this area the poor prefer raw rice. Elsewhere in India parboiled rice is usually preferred and this contains enough vitamin B (1) to prevent beriberi. Ways and means of improving the poor rice-eater's diet are also considered in the bulletin. The nutritive value of the staple itself can very easily be increased by preventing the losses occurring in milling, washing and cooking.

Supplementary Foods.- Finally, "supplementary" foods are discussed. The actual diet of the poor rice-eater and a well-balanced diet are compared and it is shown that the former contains too little milk, pulses, vegetables, and other foods. Milk supplies many of the needs in which rice diets are deficient. Skimmed milk and butter milk of good quality are valuable supplements. The partial substitution of rice by one of the millets, particularly ragi, improves poor rice diets. The bulletin stresses the need for the increased production of vegetables, especially green leafy vegetables, and urges the development of the fishing industry.

(The Statesman, 14-7-1940).

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Living Conditions

Housing

Middle-Class Housing in Calcutta:

Improvement Trust's Scheme.

A scheme for providing building sites in the suburbs of Calcutta city at cheap rates for the middle class population of the city has, it is understood, been finally adopted by the Board of the Calcutta Improvement Trust. The scheme, which has been under consideration for the last few months, also provides for allocation of sites to accommodate the bustee (slum) dwellers dislodged through operations of the Trust in the neighbouring area. A large area of land will be acquired, half of which will be available for disposal as surplus lands and the other half will be required for improvement purpose—for providing open spaces and new and widened roadways. It is intended that the surplus lands which will be available for sale will be divided into several plots.

The entire scheme is expected to cost the Trust about Rs.80,000,000 of which the engineering works will entail a cost of about Rs.10,000,000. The land acquisition cost of the scheme will exceed Rs.7,000,000.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
21-7-1940)

Trade Unions in Jharia Coal Fields:

Indian Mining Association's Effort to Form a Single Union for the Area

As it was felt by the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, that most of the trade unions in the Jharia coalfield were not truly representative of the workers but were merely tools in the hands of professional agitators for the furtherance of communistic propaganda and the promotion of class hatred, the Committee enquired of the Government of Bihar whether it had any suggestions to make with a view to the formation of a single trade union to take the place of the numerous trade unions which at present exist in the coalfields. It was the opinion of the Committee that it should be possible by collaboration between Government and the representatives of employers to bring about a considerable improvement in the present unsettled conditions in the Jharia coalfield, and in addressing Government it was made clear that members of the Association were not opposed to the formation of trade unions of workers as such and would be prepared to give recognition to a Union which was representative of the workers as a whole and was non-political and properly run.

The Government's Reply.- The Government of Bihar, in its reply dated 28-5-1940 to the Association stated that, while the Government would welcome the development of a healthy trade union movement, there were formidable difficulties in the way of achieving this result. After enumerating the various difficulties, the letter stated that the Provincial Government did not regard them as insurmountable and that, if the Association desired to take the initiative in the matter, Government would help to bring employers and labour together with a view to initiating discussions and settling negotiations in motion.

Committee urges Institution of Enquiry.- The Committee of the Association expressed the view that before discussions are initiated and negotiations set in motion, it would be of advantage to the coal trade and to Government to conduct an enquiry into the trade unions now in existence in the Jharia coalfield, their financial resources and their leaders. This would enable those concerned to gauge exactly the strength of the difficulty of liquidating such unions and their absorption into a comprehensive union recognised by the coal trade and having the support of Government in the early stages of development.

(Proceedings of meetings of the
Committee of the Indian Mining
Association during April and June
1940.)

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Meetings Announced.

12th Session of the Industries Conference:
To be held in Lucknow on 9 and 10-12-1940.

It is understood that the 12th session of the Industries Conference will be held at Lucknow on 9 and 10-12-1940. The Commerce Member, Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar, will preside.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
19-7-1940).

4th Annual Conference of Indian Economic
Association: To be held at Mysore
in December 1940.

The 4th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association is to be held at Mysore during the last four days of December 1940 under the auspices of the Mysore University.

(The Statesman, dated 31-7-1940).

Next Session of the A.I.T.U.C. to be held in
Bombay in September 1940.

The first session of the All-India Trade Union Congress after the re-establishment of unity with the National Trades Union Federation is to be held in Bombay on 28 and 29-9-1940.

(The Times of India, dated
30-7-1940).

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Public Health.

Changes in the Prohibition Policy of the
Bombay Government.

In the course of a judgment delivered by the Bombay High Court on 1-7-1940, the Court held that the notification issued on 17th July 1939, under Section 14-B (2) of the Bombay Abkari Act 1878, prohibiting the possession of intoxicants in Bombay city, was not validated by Bombay Act VI of 1940 (the Governor's Act) and was ineffective. The High Court also stated that it was beyond the powers of the provincial legislature to enact an order prohibiting possession of intoxicants in such a way as to encroach upon the right to import and export across the customs frontiers.

Appeal to be preferred to Federal Court.- The Government of Bombay proposes to appeal to the Federal Court against the judgment of the High Court. But so long as the view taken by the High Court is not reversed or modified by a higher tribunal it has to be followed, and any notification issued under Section 1-B (2) of the Bombay Abkari Act prohibiting possession of intoxicants would have to exclude from its purview the possession of any intoxicant following upon, or incidental to, the import of such intoxicant across a customs frontier, or preceding or incidental to the export thereof across such frontier.

Alteration in Policy.- Under these limitations, the Government proposes to do what is possible to reduce to a minimum the consumption of country liquor and toddy in the prohibition areas, while relaxing to a considerable extent the conditions relating to foreign liquor. The following is the procedure which will now be adopted in the prohibition areas:- (1) No sale of country liquor or toddy will be permitted in any prohibited area, except as at present, for authorised sacramental purposes. (2) Though it will not be possible effectively to prohibit entirely the entry of country liquor or toddy in a prohibited area, its entry will be discouraged, by the imposition of a high excise duty on any transport into a prohibited area etc., from any area outside it, and no country liquor or toddy will be allowed to enter the area unless a receipt for such duty having been paid is produced.

The duty will, if possible, be so fixed as to raise the price of country liquor approximately to that of foreign of similar alcoholic content within the area, and of toddy to that of fermented foreign liquor.

(3) Arrangements for the sale and possession of opium and hemp drugs will be essentially as at present, as the import and export of these are controlled under the Dangerous Drugs Act.

(4) The sale of foreign liquor to the public will be permitted. A restricted number of retail vendors will sell at prices approximately as high as at present, if such prices can be made administratively effective in the face of possible import.

(5) The Government, while not contemplating the renewal of licenses to mere 'on' shops 'bars' and the like, considers that reasonable facilities should be given to those accustomed to foreign liquor for its consumption under proper conditions. The Government, therefore, proposes, within certain limitations, the further extension to clubs and to reputable hotels and restaurants of the privilege of serving foreign liquor.

Additional Revenue to go towards relief from Taxation.- The Government intends to devote any additional revenue from these changes to the relief of taxation under the property tax, but it should not be assumed that any large relief will be possible since the Government anticipates that these arrangements will mean the continued sacrifice of most of the revenue from the sale of country liquor and toddy.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated 16-7-1940).

Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Health, Poona, 22 to 24-7-40

The third session of the Central Advisory Board of Health was held at Poona from 22 to 24-7-1940 under the presidentship of the Hon. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India. The meeting was attended by about forty people, consisting of representatives, with their advisers, from the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and from the States of Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda. A brief summary of the proceedings is given below:

Inoculation of Pilgrims against Cholera.- A full discussion was initiated on the report submitted by a special committee appointed by the Board to examine the possibility of introducing a system of compulsory ~~inoculation~~ inoculation of pilgrims against cholera. This committee was presided over by Dr. Rajan, the late Minister for Public Health, Government of Madras. The committee drew attention to the enormous number of persons who now willingly submit themselves annually to inoculation against cholera, even though the incidence of the disease is decreasing in the country, and suggested that it is unlikely that any system of compulsory inoculation would meet with serious opposition. Particular attention was drawn to the successful scheme of enforcing inoculation at the Pandharpur annual festival in Bombay presidency, and it was suggested that provincial and State Governments should for a start select suitable festival centres to try out the Pandharpur scheme. The necessity for using only genuine cholera vaccine prepared from the true strains of the organism was again emphasized.

Prohibition and Health of Population.- The Board discussed reports received from certain provinces on the effects of the new prohibition policy on the health of the people. The information collected so far was found to be of a limited nature, particularly owing to the short time during which the experiment has been in force.

Food Adulteration.- The report of the Food Adulteration Committee appointed by the Board to investigate the question of food adulteration

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in India, with particular reference to the legislation now in force in the different provinces and to the varying standards in force, was discussed. The report dealt with the technical aspect of the question and made some important recommendations, among which one related to the formation of a Central Committee for Food Standards, which will act in an advisory capacity, on the lines of the Society of Public Analysis in England and the British Standards Institution. The early task of this committee would be the preparation of a set of instructions for public analysis.

The Committee considered that in this way a big step would be taken towards removing the differences now existing between provincial standards for foodstuffs, which constitute a definite obstacle to free inter-provincial commerce in certain important articles of food. The report dealt with the question of standards for ghee and made important recommendations. It was also recommended that the controversial question of coloring edible hydrogenated vegetable oil is a suitable subject for investigation by the proposed Central Committee for Food Standards.

Teaching of Hygiene. - The Board then considered the subject of teaching hygiene in schools and medical inspection of schools and children. Various memoranda were submitted by the Governments of Madras and the Punjab and the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India. The Board recommended that the Chairman should appoint a special committee to report on the teaching of the hygiene in schools, primary, and secondary, rural as well as urban, and on the medical inspection of school children, their treatment and, in the primary stage, also their nutrition.

Bad Housing and Tuberculosis. - An important subject considered by the Board was the effect of bad housing and over-crowding on tuberculosis. It was agreed that, while rectification of the defects in the existing slum areas may be difficult, there can be no excuse when, after costly slum-clearance, cleared areas are permitted to be built over without due regard to the requirements of light, ventilation and sound hygiene construction. Strict enforcement of building by-laws, in these circumstances, is, therefore, an urgent necessity.

Other Subjects. - The Board also discussed questions relating to (a) prevalence of Fluorosis, (b) establishment of laboratories for the free examination of clinical material, (c) reduction of the cost of quinine, (d) public health publicity, and (e) control of opium addiction in Assam.

(The Times of India, 24 to 26-7-1940)

Education.

Reorganisation of Secondary Education in Madras: Government's Decisions.

In recent years there has been widespread demand for the reform of the present system of education in India, and the authorities have been making efforts to re-organise the educational system so as to make it more suited to present day conditions. The Government of Madras has recently formulated its decisions with regard to the reorganisation of secondary education; the following is a summary of the Government's decisions:

Vocational Bias in Secondary Education.- The Secondary School course should be bifurcated at the end of the IV Form (VI Form is the matriculation class) into a pre-University side and a vocational side. The vocational side may in some cases extend to three years where the course is technical.

There should be at present no examination for deciding who is to go to the pre-University course and who to the vocational courses. If the voluntary diversion of pupils to the vocational side fails, the question of introducing a test examination for those who wish to take the pre-University course can be considered later. Voluntary diversion to the vocational side will be encouraged by making an avenue to Government employment.

School Leaving Examination.- The examination for the S.S.L.C. or Government certificate will be confined to pupils on the vocational side, there being no Government examination for those who choose the pre-University side for which there will be only the University Matriculation, which the Universities have decided to revive. Those who do not wish to sit for the Matriculation and proceed to the University will merely receive the headmaster's certificate that they have completed the course.

General Education in Vocational Schools.- The vocational side of the high school must continue to have a fair amount of general education included. Details of the curricula will be left to the Director of Public Instruction in consultation with the institutions. Such subjects as shorthand, precis-writing, letter-writing or drafting, type-writing, book-keeping, commercial geography and handwriting might form normal curriculum subjects for high schools which are unable to provide more technical subjects.

The Director of Public Instruction will fully exercise his powers in regard to grants-in-aid and recognition to compel high schools to fall into line with the new scheme.

Recruitment to Government Service.- Lower division clerks and similar classes of Government servants will be recruited by competitive examination where the number of vacancies is large or by other methods.

of selection by the Madras Services Commission in the smaller cadres. The S.S.L.C. (vocational) will be the primary qualification for entrance to the selection by examination or otherwise. The passing of the Matriculation examination will not be a qualification for Government service.

A proportion of upper division clerks will be recruited from graduates by a similar but separate competitive examination, the remainder of the posts going to men from the lower division who prove themselves fit for promotion. What the proportion of the vacancies in upper division available to lower division clerks should be, will be settled after examination in each department having regard to its special requirements.

For recruitment to lower division, age-limit will be 18 to 20 with a corresponding upper limit for existing specially treated classes, of 22. The age-limit for direct recruitment to upper division will be 19 to 23, with again an extra two years for the "special" classes.

Apprenticeship.- On the vocational side, as regards the more technical subjects, the possibility will be examined of a system of half-time apprentices who either work for a particular period of the year in factories or workshops and the remainder of the year in the school or attend school for a part of the day and work as apprentices for the other part of the day throughout the year.

(Press Communique dated 2-7-1940 issued by the Education and Public Health Department, Madras Government).

Social Policy in War Time.

Wages.

Dearness Relief to Calcutta Corporation Employees.

It is reported that proposals have been made by ^{the} Chief Executive Officer of the Calcutta Corporation to the special committee appointed by the Corporation to deal with the question of supply of foodstuffs at pre-war rates to the Corporation employees whose pay does not exceed Rs.30 per month. These proposals, which were formulated in collaboration with the Chief Engineer and District Engineers, are as follows:-

The Corporation should arrange with selected (including those in Municipal markets) well-established stores, that they should sell foodstuffs to the Corporation employees drawing less than Rs.30 per month at pre-war rates (i.e., rates prevailing on 31 August 1939) on production of identity cards with hatchittas; all purchases have to be for cash. Each employee would be entitled to purchase foodstuffs such as rice, pulse, atta, ghee, salt, and mustard oil up to the value of Rs.7/8/- per month. In the hatchittas, the quantity and value of goods supplied to each employee would be entered so that the same may be checked.

The difference in value between current prices and pre-war prices would be paid by the Corporation to the stores concerned after proper checking.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated
11-7-1940).

Grant of Dearness Allowance to Bengal Government Employees.

The Bengal Government has recently decided to grant a grain dearness allowance to its lower-paid employees. The following rules will govern the grant:-

1. A grain compensatory allowance at the rate of Re.1 per mensem will become payable to all Government servants in receipt of emoluments of Rs.30 or less a month on the issue of a special order of Government.
2. Such order will be issued when the price of the cheapest common rice in Calcutta rises to 8 standard seers (1 seer = 2lbs. nearly) per rupee and remains at or above that level for three months.
3. When the allowance admissible under this Resolution has once become payable, the position will be reviewed monthly, and the allowance will continue so long only as the average price during the preceding three months is 8 seers a rupee or dearer.
4. The words "Government Servants" in rule I include - (a) all persons who are in the whole-time employ of Government whether in a permanent or temporary capacity or paid at piece-work rates; (b) menials paid from contingencies; and (c) members of work-charged establishments.
5. The term "emoluments" in rule I includes the amount drawn monthly by a Government servant as pay, special pay, personal pay, overtime

allowance and pension. However, quarters in lieu thereof shall not be taken into account for the purpose of calculating emoluments. 6. Government servants on leave (other than extraordinary leave) will draw the allowance at the same rate as would have been admissible to them had they not been on leave, whether the leave is on average pay or half or quarter average pay.

(Resolution No. 1635F dated 8-7-1940: The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 11-7-1940, page 1892).

Employment.

Training of Skilled Workers for Munitions Manufacture and other War Industries: Inquiry Committee's Interim Report.

Reference was made at pages 34-35 of our June 1940 report to the appointment by the Government of India of a Committee to examine the training at present given in technical institutions in India and to recommend ways of making that training better suited to the wartime needs of industries. It is understood that in an interim report, which the Committee has recently submitted, a short intensive course of training to fit technical personnel for work in the Government's war industries has been suggested. A special syllabus for the proposed course of training is also believed to have been drawn up by the Committee.

Representatives of munitions and ordnance factories and civil aviation have now been asked to make a study of conditions of training in a number of institutions, and make a report to the committee. They will endeavour to ascertain the number of students who are willing to take up the new course. The committee will thereafter make its final report.

The men trained under the new course, together with the skilled personnel requisitioned from private industries under the powers of the recent Compulsory National Service Ordinance (pages 33-34 of the report of this Office for June 1940) would be used to fulfil the needs of the Government's war industries. Later, the needs both in war and peace time, of private enterprise are to be inquired into and arrangements made to meet them.

(The Statesman, dated 13-7-1940)

War Savings.

New Provident Fund Scheme for Government Servants
to stimulate Defence Savings Movement.

It is understood that, in order to make it easier for Government servants who wish to take part in the defence savings movement, a special provident fund is being instituted to which all Government servants can subscribe.

There are no limits fixed to subscriptions to the fund, which are purely voluntary, but a Government servant who joins has to undertake not to vary or stop subscriptions except at the beginning of the financial year. Interest will be allowed at the rate of three per cent. Subscribers will be entitled to withdraw the whole amount at their credit twelve months after the close of the war or, if they prefer it, to retain the amounts already subscribed with Government on the same terms as regards interest. They will not be allowed to withdraw money from the fund in the interim. The fund will be governed by the Provident Funds Act and deposits will enjoy all the concessions applicable to provident funds in general, such as exemption from income-tax up to a specified limit, freedom from attachment, disposition by nomination, etc.

(The Statesman, 20-7-1940)

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General

Crisis in the Servants of India Society:

Mr. N.M. Joshi's Retirement.

Certain recent developments in the Servants of India Society have led in July 1940 to the voluntary retirement of Mr. N.M. Joshi, the Vice-President of the Society and the Senior Member of the Bombay Branch, and the expulsion from membership of Mr. S.V. Parulekar and Miss Godavari Gokhale.

According to the Hitavada (a paper published by the Society), Nagpur, dated 28-7-1940, Mr. Parulekar has for some time past been causing the Society anxiety as he was publicly espousing a political philosophy which was alien to the Society's spirit and traditions, and not authorized by it. The climax was reached when in January 1940 Mr. Parulekar delivered a speech in Dharwar on "India and the War" for which he was later prosecuted and convicted under Section 124-A to 18 months' imprisonment. According to the Hitavada, in his expression of views on the war, Mr. Parulekar acted in direct and flagrant contravention of an understanding reached in October 1939 at a session of the Society that no member shall do propaganda for opposition to the war till the Society had reached a decision on the subject, and Mr. Joshi, under whom Mr. Parulekar was working was, for his part, "content with an academic dissociation with the views expressed by Mr. Parulekar at Dharwar and in the court". Failing voluntary resignation on Mr. Parulekar's part, the Society removed him from membership.

Miss Godavari Gokhale, from her admission in June 1939, evinced an eagerness to initiate and pursue Mr. Parulekar's policies which she knew had not been discussed or approved by the Society and were contrary to its traditions. Further, she disobeyed the injunctions of the President of the Society in defying the ban on public speaking which the Government had imposed on her, and so she also has been expelled.

The Society felt that the Bombay branch had to be reorganised and was of opinion that Mr. Joshi's transfer to some other branch would render the task easier. Mr. Joshi, the major part of whose life has been spent in Bombay in labour work, could not agree to a transfer, but offered to resign his Senior Membership. The Society still insisted on a transfer and Mr. Joshi offered to resign. In view of the great and meritorious services that Mr. Joshi had rendered to the Society in the past, the Society felt that he should not resign, but should retire on a pension. Mr. Joshi has, therefore, retired from the Society, but is pursuing his work independently in Bombay. His new address is Rele Building, Parakh Street, Bombay 4, to which further communications should be addressed.

(The Hitavada, 28-9-1940)

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List of more important publications received in this Office during July 1940.

Conditions of Labour.-

Annual Report on the working of the Boilers Act in Burma for the year 1939. Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma, Rangoon. 1940. Price Annas -/14/- or 1s.4d.

Economic Conditions.-

Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Statistical Abstract for British India with Statistics where available relating to certain Indian States, from 1928-29 to 1937-38. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Rs.6-2-0.

Migration.-

1. Review of Important Events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during the year 1939-40 (Department of Education, Health and Lands, Government of India).
2. "Our Countrymen Abroad - A brief Survey of the Problems of Indians in Foreign Lands" by Dharam Yash Dev, Secretary, Department of Indians Overseas, All-India Congress Committee. Published by J.B. Kripalani, General Secretary, A.I.C.C., Swaraj Bhawan, Allahabdd. 1940.

Agriculture.-

ix Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1938-39. Forty-first Issue. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Rs.1-8-0 or 2s.3d.

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Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants.-

University of the Punjab. Proceedings of the First Economics Teachers' Conference, Lahore. Lahore, April 2 and 3, 1940.

Co-operation.-

Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Burma for the year ended the 30th June, 1939. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1940. Price Rs.1-8-0 or 2s.3d.

Organisations, Congress, etc.-

1. Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry held in Delhi on 30th and 31st March 1940. Vol. III. 1940. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
2. Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce, held in Delhi on 31st March 1940. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
3. Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Meeting of the All-India Organization of Industrial Employers held in Delhi on 31st March, 1940. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.

Organisations, Congresses, etc. (continued)-

4. The Madras Kerosine Oil Workers' Union (193-D, Tiruvottiyur High Road, Tondiarpet, Madras). Second Annual Report, 1940. Presented at the Second Annual Conference of the Union held on 13-7-1940 in Sir Theagaraya Chettiar Secondary School, Washermanpet. (Tamil edition).
5. Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1939, presented to the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 11th March, 1940. Bombay: Printed by G. Claridge & Co., Ltd. 1940.

Public Health.-

Annual Public Health Report of the Province of Bihar for the year 1938, and the Annual Vaccination Report for the year 1938-39. By Lt.-Col. S.L. Mitra, D.P.H., I.M.S., Director of Public Health, Bihar. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1940. Rs.2-7-0.

Education.-

Report on the Progress of Education in Orissa for the year 1937-38. Superintendent, Government Press, Orissa, Cuttack. 1940. Price Rs.2/-.

Miscellaneous.-

1. The Safety First Association of India. Report of the Council, Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31-12-1939.
2. Bombay - 1938-39.- A Review of the Administration of the Province. 1940. Printed at the Government Central Press, Bombay.
3. Annual Administration Report of the Delhi Province for 1938-39. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Rs.3-4-0 or 5s.3d.