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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH  
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Report for June 1942

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

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Government of India.-

Amendment to Subsidiary Instructions under Hours of  
Employment Rules, 1931.

The Government of India has gazetted an amendment to the subsidiary instructions ~~to~~ sections 71A and 71H of the Indian Railways Act, 1931. The new provision is to the effect that, in the case of essentially intermittent workers, the time spent in travelling between their headquarters and any other station at which they may be deputed for duty shall be included as hours of employment up to a limit of 35 hours in a week, any time in excess of 35 hours in a week being excluded.

(The Gazette of India, Part I,  
dated 13-6-1942, page 1047).+

Madras.-

Proposed Extension of Payment of Wages Act.

The Madras Government proposes extending the operation of the Payment of Wages Act to the payment of wages to all classes of persons employed in industrial establishments within the meaning of section 2 (ii) (f) which have been or may be declared to be factories under section 5 of the Factories Act. The proposal is to be taken into consideration by 15-9-1942.

(The Fort St. George Gazette  
Part I, dated 30-6-1942,  
page 675.)+

Mysore.-

The Mysore Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill Passed.

On 4-6-1942, the Mysore Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill which seeks to extend the benefits of the Mysore Maternity Benefit Act, 1937, to women employed in mines, was introduced by the Development Secretary, Mysore State, in the State Representative Assembly. The Bill was passed by the House the same day.

(The Hindu, 6-6-1942.)+

Mysore.-

The Mysore Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill Passed.

On 4-6-1942 the Mysore Representative Legislative Assembly passed the Mysore Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill which amends Section 4 (I) D of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1929, so as to provide for payment of compensation, as from the date of injury, to persons who suffer injuries resulting in temporary disablement for a period exceeding seven days.

(The Hindu, 6-6-1942.) ✓+

Tripartite Labour Conference to be held in August 1942:  
standing Advisory Committee to be set up:  
Proposals of Government of India. ✓

In order to secure greater collaboration between employers, labour and the State, the Government of India proposes to hold a plenary conference of all these interests in Delhi on 7 and 8-8-1942. The conference is expected to set up a standing advisory committee consisting of representatives of labour, employers, provincial Governments, Indian States and the Government of India for the purpose of advising the Government on various labour problems. The function of both the conference and the proposed committee will be purely advisory.

Plenary Conference and Standing Advisory Committee.- Full collaboration between the Government, employers and workers, in the opinion of the Central Government, is a necessity. Some provincial Governments have developed or are considering methods of joint consultation. The Government of India feels that there is urgent need for some collaborative organisation at the Centre which could be called together fairly easily and whose advice would be available to the Government of India on subjects having India-wide importance. The Central Government thinks that such collaborative machinery might be developed along with the tripartite conference. According to the Central Government, it will be clearly impossible that the conference, which must necessarily be a large one, can be called together often enough to be able to serve by itself the object aimed at. It therefore points out that if the conference were brought into being as a plenary one to meet once or twice a year, it would be suitable for the conference to nominate a standing advisory committee on labour matters with powers to co-opt additional members.

Composition of Plenary Conference.- The plenary conference will, it is suggested, be composed of three representatives of the Central Government, one representative from each province with one adviser each, one representative from each of the larger States and of the Chamber of Princes, with one adviser each, four representatives each of the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour, with one adviser for each of the delegations, one representative from any other trade union representing in the opinion of the Central Government more than 50,000 workers and not affiliated to either the Trade Union Congress or the Federation, and four representatives each of the two main employers' associations, with one adviser for each of the delegations. The Labour Member of the Government of India will be the chairman of the conference.

Composition of Standing Advisory Committee.- The standing advisory committee will be composed of the Labour Member (ex-officio chairman), two representatives of provinces, two representatives of States, four representatives of employers, and four representatives of employees.

(The Statesman, 18-6-1942.) ✓

## CONDITIONS OF WORK

### Wages

#### Wage standardisation in Indore Mills: state Government Passes Orders on Conciliator's Report. ✓

The Government of Indore State recently appointed Captain H.C. Dhanda, the Commerce Member of the State, to conduct an enquiry in regard to standardisation of wages in the textile mills in Indore and other matters connected therewith. The Government has recently passed orders on the report; the following are the main features of the Government's decisions.

Wages of Weavers.- With effect from 1-4-1942, the wage of a 2-loom weaver in all the mills except the Rai Bahadur Kanhaiyalal Bhandari Mill is to be standardised at Rs. 38 for 26 working days on 76 per cent. efficiency on the weighted average reed space on the basis of the weighted average revolutions per minute of the looms in all the Mills. The allowances for dobbie work, etc., are to be made on the basis suggested by the Bombay Textile Labour Enquiry Committee for Bombay in its Report subject to such changes in it as may be mutually agreed to by both sides or as may be settled by Government by arbitration;

The present rates for weaving 'daries' and blankets will remain unaffected and weavers working on these shall not come under the new standard. As their net earnings, however, will be depressed as a result of the revision in the method of calculating dearness allowance as approved under item (4) of the order, they will receive a compensatory rise of  $6\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. on their basic wage rates;

In view of the particularly low level of efficiency in the industry at present, in which substantial improvement is normally expected only in due course, as a result, inter alia, of the new arrangement placing the industry and the operative as a whole on a firmer footing, it is considered desirable in the interest of giving the new scheme a fair chance that, pending such improvement in production and earnings generally, all the mills except the Rai Bahadur Kanhaiyalal Bhandari Mill should guarantee the payment to weavers on all sorts at a rate which will be  $6\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. higher than the current rates for such sorts. This guarantee should be in force in the first instance for a period of six months with effect from 1-4-1942, after which Government will decide whether there is need or justification for extending or discontinuing it.

Wages of other Operatives.- With effect from 1-4-1942, except in the case of Rai Bahadur Kanhaiyalal Bhandari Mill, wages of operatives other than weavers in such occupations as have been mentioned in the list given in the ~~III~~ Bombay Labour Enquiry Report II at pages 134-138 should be fixed as follows: The average of wages paid in these different occupations in each mill should be taken for the year 1941, excepting the months of April and May which were affected by a strike. With this as the basis for each occupation, the average will then be drawn by taking into account the actual average wages being paid in that occupation in different mills and these average rates shall be made the minimum basic rates for each occupation in all the mills below which in future no mill will go irrespective of the period for which the rest of the settlement will be effective. Mills paying lower than these rates will step up to these rates. Those paying higher rates than this will continue to pay the existing higher rates. In both cases there should be a further  $6\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. rise above the new minimum and on the existing rates higher than the minimum and the rates thus

arrived at should be adopted as the prevailing rates in each mill.

Period for which new Rates are to be in Force.- The basic rates as approved above are to remain in force from 1-4-1942 to 30-9-1944, after which it would be open to either the Millowners or the operatives to demand a revision in them in the event of circumstances, including the condition of the industry during 1942 and 1943, justifying such a revision. Failing conciliation between the millowners and the operatives in regard to either a demand for increase or decrease, both sides should seek arbitration by Government.

Dearness Allowance.- With effect from 1-4-1942, instead of paying the dearness allowance on the present basis of 0-3-3 per rupee on the basic wages, it is to be paid on the following basis: The weighted average earning per worker shall be calculated for all the mills excepting the Rai Bahadur Kanhaiyalal Bhandari Mill on the basis of the basic wages as calculated after standardisation of weavers' wages and on the revision of the other operatives' wages. Upon this average, ~~dearness~~ dearness shall be calculated at the rate of 0-3-3 per rupee. This amount should be paid to each operative irrespective of his basic wage. The dearness allowance at this rate is to continue until future rise and fall necessitate variations in the rate.

Wages in R.B. Kanhaiyalal Bhandari Mill.- In the Rai Bahadur Kanhaiyalal Bhandari Mill (a) a rise of 15 per cent. is to be granted in the basic wage at present paid to the weavers; (b) in the case of wages of operatives other than weavers a total maximum increase of 12 1/2 per cent. is to be made in a graduated manner so that operatives getting lower wages get a higher rate of increase and those getting higher wages, comparatively, lower rate of increase, subject to the condition, among others, that the total rise in all these occupations may not be more than 12 1/2 per cent. over the present wage bill for these occupations. Dearness allowance in this mill is, during the period of the war, to be paid on the same basis and in the same manner as the other mills.

(Federal India and Indian States, Bangalore, 24-6-1942.) ✓ +

## Industrial Disputes

### Industrial Disputes in British India during the quarter ending 30-9-1941. ✓

According to a Press Note on industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 30-9-1941, recently issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of disputes during the period was 78, involving 108,820 workers and entailing a loss of 1,184,919 working days, as against 121 disputes involving 64,475 workers and entailing a loss of 1,225,240 working days in the second quarter of 1941.

Provincial Distribution.- During the period under review, there were 24 disputes in Bombay, involving 91,182 workers and entailing a loss of 1,01,084 working days. Next come Bengal with 22 disputes involving 36,997 workers, and entailing a loss of 281,705 working days; the United Provinces with 7 disputes involving 29,753 workers and entailing a loss of 268,433 working days; C.P. and Berar and Madras with 6 disputes each involving 3,317 and 15,223 workers and entailing losses of 44,998 and 317,894 working days respectively; the Punjab with 4 disputes involving 795 workers and entailing a loss of 17,665 working days; Assam with 3 disputes involving 950 workers and entailing a loss of 1,063 working days; Bihar and Delhi with 2 disputes each involving 2,422 and 2,200 workers and entailing losses of 17,125 and 10,600 working days respectively; and Ajmer-Merwara and Sind with 1 dispute each involving 7,983 and 98 workers and entailing losses of 124,303 and 49 working days respectively.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 34 disputes in cotton, woollen and silk mills involving 61,443 workers and entailing a loss of 661,919 working days; 3 each in jute mills and engineering workshops involving 21,904 and 309 workers and entailing losses of 212,017 and 1,449 working days; 2 in railways including railway workshops involving 9,583 workers and entailing a loss of 143,503 working days; and 1 in mines involving 922 workers and entailing a loss of 14,125 working days. In all other industries together, there were 35 disputes involving 14,659 workers and entailing a loss of 151,906 working days.

Causes and Results of Strikes.- Of the 78 strikes, 50 were due to questions of wages, 9 due to questions of personnel, 5 to questions of bonus, 4 to disputes about leave and hours, and 10 to other causes. In 17 disputes the workers were fully successful, in 24 partially successful and in 31 unsuccessful. 6 disputes were in progress on 30-9-1941. ✓ +

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## Holidays

### Holidays With Pay:

#### Views of A.I.T.U.C. on Government of India's Legislative Proposals. ✓

Reference was made at page 1 of our May 1942 report to the draft Bill prepared and circulated for opinion by the Government of India regarding holidays with pay for industrial workers. The General Secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress (Mr. N.M. Joshi), in his reply to the Government of India, makes the following comments on behalf of the Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. on the provisions of the Bill:

Legislation should cover more Categories.- While welcoming the move, the Working Committee suggests that a separate piece of legislation instead of the proposed amendment of the Factories Act, 1934, would have been more advisable. As regards the actual proposals, the Working Committee suggests that paid holidays should be given not only to non-seasonal factory workers, but also to as many other categories of work-people as possible; at least to workers in all organised industries, such as mines, plantations and others. The claims of these workers cannot on any account be excluded or disregarded. "Information published by the International Labour Office", Mr. Joshi says, "shows that up to 1935, in 22 countries the statutory regulations regarding paid holidays covered all categories of work-people, ~~as~~ manual and clerical."

Limitations on Grant of Holidays.- A provision of the Bill proposes that a worker will be obliged to forgo his privilege of paid holidays in the event of "involuntary unemployment" exceeding one month. The Working Committee thinks that this provision is very unfair to the worker. He must not be made to suffer if his employer fails to keep him employed. At any rate he must get a proportionate number of days as paid holidays even if he is kept out of employment by his employer for a time longer than one month. The principle of giving a proportionate number of paid holidays should also be made applicable in the case of workers who have not been able to put in a year's continuous service. They should be entitled to not less than one paid holiday for each completed month of service. This leads to the question of the total annual number of paid holidays.

Insufficiency of 7 Paid Holidays per year.- The Working Committee feels that a period of 7 paid holidays per year is much too small and cannot be expected to achieve, to any appreciable extent, the principal objects with which the Bill is introduced. The object admittedly is to provide the worker with opportunities to relieve the monotony of his daily toil and recoup his health. This object is not likely to be achieved in India unless the period is continuous and sufficiently long. The period, therefore, should not be less than two weeks at a stretch. Only in exceptional cases should it be allowed to be divided into two periods of one week each.

(The Trade Union Record, Bombay,  
June 1942 issue). ✓

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### Sugar Industry of Bengal: Report of Bengal Industrial Survey Committee.

The Bengal Industrial Survey Committee appointed by the Government of Bengal recently submitted a detailed report on the sugar industry in Bengal. The enquiry was entrusted to a Sub-Committee representing industrial and growers' interests and consisting of official and non-official technical experts. The Sub-Committee submitted its report with only one dissentient, which was then considered by the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee.

Terms of Reference.- The terms of reference to the Committee were:- To consider the position in regard to the production and supply of sugarcane in Bengal as well as the manufacture of sugar and sugar bye-products and to make recommendations with a view to an adequate supply of sugarcane of good quality at prices fair both to the growers as well as to the manufacturers, and the marketing of sugar and sugar bye-products so as to secure a fair and reasonable profit to the manufactures.

Committee's Report: Possibilities of Sugar Production.- After examining the existing position of sugar industry in Bengal, the Committee find that the potentialities of this province for the development of this industry are quite promising and are not in any way inferior to those of any other province in India. It is also found that provinces like the United Provinces and Bihar, where the industry has achieved notable progress, do not possess decidedly better geographical advantages in comparison with Bengal.

Recommendations.- The following are some of the important findings and recommendations of the Committee:-

1. Need for Better Transport Facilities and Control.- The unsatisfactory condition of the present cane supply in the case of some of the mills in Bengal is a cumulative and combined effect of a number of causes, viz., short crushing period of the Bengal mills, absence of suitable varieties of cane (early and late) and absence of necessary sense of confidence and security on the part of the cultivators with regard to the disposal of their cane, etc. Since attractive prices may move the cane crops to the areas proximate to the mills, the problem of inadequate supply to mills should be tackled by the improvement of transport facilities and by the initiation of a scheme of price control.

2. Provincial Sugar Board suggested.- Since the sugar industry is progressive and its problems are likely to change their complexion from year to year in the light of new developments and sometimes during the same crushing season according to exigencies which it is not possible to foresee, there should be constituted a broad-based and comprehensive Provincial Sugar Board to advise the Provincial Government and the interests concerned as to the methods of dealing with every situation. The Board should be constituted with 16 members consisting of the representatives of growers, industrialists and traders and also of official and non-official experts. The Minister in Charge of Agricultural and Industrial Department will be the ex-officio Chairman.

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In order to facilitate the discharge of the various functions of the Sugar Board representative local Advisory Bodies may be set up.

3. Price of Sugar Cane.- Methods of weighment of cane by the mills are looked upon by cultivators with misgivings. The Provincial Sugar Board should investigate this problem in greater detail, and, if necessary, special legislative measures may have to be undertaken to the effect that mills shall purchase sugarcane either direct or through co-operative societies, licensed purchasing agents or licensed contractors, and that it will be a punishable offence to purchase or sell cane or to make payments therefor except on the basis of a standard weight. A fair price of the sugarcane should bear relationship to the cost of cultivation of cane and the price of sugar, and Bengal mills should take into consideration the price of sugar in determining their purchase price of cane. The conflicting considerations involved in the price factors may be reconciled, if, at least as an interim measure, the determination of proper prices of cane to be paid to cultivators from year to year according to crop conditions and the prospects of the sugar industry in the province, is entrusted to an agency capable of taking detached and comprehensive view. Any machinery for regulating cane prices in Bengal should be maintained on a fairly elastic basis.

4. Development of By-products.- The possibilities of developing by-products of sugar industry in Bengal are indeed promising, but have not yet been exploited to any extent.

(Press Note dated 27-6-1942 issued by the Director of Public Information, Bengal). ✓

Exemption from Import Duty of Soda Ash extended by One Year:  
Concession to Glass Industry.

In June 1935 the Government of India announced its decision to exempt from import duty soda ash used for the manufacture of glass. This concession was granted with a view to affording some measure of relief to the Indian glass industry and was sanctioned for a period of three years in the first instance. The expectation that the assistance thus given would lead to the development of indigenous production of soda ash on a commercial scale was not realised during this period, but as there still existed prospects of such development, the concession was twice extended, on each occasion for a period of two years, and is now due to expire on 22-6-1942. Although considerable progress has now been made by certain industrial concerns with their schemes for the production of soda ash, it will be some time yet before they go into actual production. The Government of India has accordingly decided to extend the existing concession to the glass industry for a further period.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 6-6-1942, page 984.) ✓

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Post-War Reconstruction Suggestions:  
Sir M. Visvesvaraya's criticism of Government's War-time Industrial Policy.

In his presidential address at the first quarterly meeting for 1942-43 of the Central Committee of the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation held at Bombay on 21-6-1942, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, President of the Organisation, reviewed the industrial and economic policy of the Government of India, criticised it for its neglect of Indian national interests and outlined a plan of post-war reconstruction for India. The following is a summary of the more salient points brought out in the address:-

Neglect of Indian Industrial Interests.- Sir M. Visvesvaraya pointed out that the one circumstance which differentiates India from countries like Canada or Australia is that in the latter countries leading industrialists and public men control policies and plans; while in India, Government is taking upon itself full responsibility to do things without consulting the wishes or <sup>the</sup> interests of the taxpayer. Referring to the recommendations for the establishment of a War Cabinet, the separation of production and supply departments and the establishment of a new production department with an independent head ~~made in the American Technical Mission's report~~ (vide pages 33-35 of May, 1942, report) and the Government of India's views on the report, he said that not many progressive Indian industrialists would agree with the Government's views. According to him, if industrialists in this country were slow and apathetic, it was due to the defeatist mentality they have imbibed owing to Government not taking them into their confidence, and owing to the delays and discouragement which have been their lot in their efforts to advance the cause of Indian industries. He pointed out that in the three belligerent countries associated with the Allies, namely, the United States of America, Canada and Australia, orders for heavy machinery and war material required during the war, both for Great Britain and the country concerned, were placed with local industrial firms in the respective countries, but such good fortune did not come to Indian industrialists. The textile industry, a number of smaller industries and some petty chemical industries have benefited by war orders but, just as the Indian element is entirely absent in the higher ranks of the Army, Navy and Air Force services, so heavy industries have been excluded from the orders placed with Indian industrialists of firms. Unlike the practice followed in the ~~Sominions~~, all matters in this connection are treated with extreme secrecy. In spite of war opportunity, Indian steel production remained practically where it was before the war, that is at about 1¼ million tons a year. He said that there was a similar tale to tell regarding the attempt to manufacture automobiles in India. Government has been opposing this even after satisfactory arrangements had been made for its establishment by private parties. The total amount of war orders placed in India both by the Government of India and the British Government comes to about Rs. 3,000 million, whereas it is recorded that in Canada the value of similar orders placed with Canadian firms by the Canadian and British Governments

since the commencement of the war has amounted to over Rs. 11,000 million. India, he pointed out, had to be content with industries connected with the feeding and clothing of the troops, but it was not entrusted with the production of military equipment and war armaments in which Indian engineers and workmen could have acquired practice, capacity and skill.

Post-War Industrial Scheme.- Outlining a scheme for post-war reconstruction, he said, that at the end of the war it would be necessary to launch industrial schemes involving an outlay of Rs. 1,000 million or more on a five-year plan. This sum was not large considering the vast resources of the country and the enormous size of its population. Canada, which has a population of only 3 per cent. of that of India, had already developed industries in which over Rs. 11,000 million of capital has been invested. For want of official statistics such as are maintained in Canada, the corresponding expenditure in India is not known. It is perhaps less than Rs. 8000 million.

American Technical Mission's reports.- Dealing with the American Technical Mission's report, he pointed out that the recommendations of the Mission had reference only to war work. The Mission had not taken any notice either of post-war requirements or deficiencies in peace time industrial practices; its full report will be awaited with interest.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 23-6-1942, and the National Call, 22-6-1942.)\*

India's Role in Post-War Economy:  
Industrialisation and No Over-Emphasis on Agriculture:  
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's Plea.

That danger lurks in the Anglo-American Trade Agreement, the text of which has not yet been released in India, that the operations of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation constitute not only a scandal but a menace to Indian export trade, that the Grady Mission's (American Technical Mission's) recommendations seek to reduce India to the position of a raw material providing agricultural colony, was the view expressed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in a special interview to the foreign press on 24-6-1942, reviewing the war-time and post-war reconstruction programme of Great Britain and the United States of America.

Retention of Britain's Foreign Markets.- Pandit Nehru, who is Chairman of the National Planning Committee, pointed out in the interview: "One aspect of the post-war world has not been lost sight of by British interests - this is the retention of their foreign markets especially Indian markets for British goods. The Eastern Group Supply Council, it is well known, took special care not to encourage any industry in India which might come into conflict with British industry after the war. The Government of India, even ignoring the necessities of war, have discouraged the growth of basic Indian industries. The policy appears to be, as a whole, to

retain India as an agricultural country producing raw materials."

India's Industrialisation a Vital Need.- "India does not lack anything for rapid industrial development and only such development can solve India's problems and raise the standard of living. It is difficult to judge the Grady Report without seeing it in full, but certain hints in it seem to emphasise that the production of raw materials would be the special function of India. Also, we should rather concentrate on repair shops and not on big production plants. With this, I am sure, Indians will not agree. We are not going to accept a colonial agricultural position."

Anglo-American Treaty.- "The recent Anglo-American Trade Agreement contains many fine phrases, but looking at it from the point of view of India, danger lurks in it. Again there is a tendency to divide the world into an industrial and manufacturing group on the one side and a group of primary raw material producers on the other. Presumably, India is in the latter group. Secondly, it appears the U.S.A. seeks concessions from England at the expense of other countries. We know from past experience that India has often to pay and bear the burden whenever it is of advantage to Britain. Public opinion must be alive to all these dangers and it must be made clear that on no account is India going to accept the kind of treatment she got after the last war. How the Lease-Lend Act is applied to India now must be clarified and we must know exactly where we stand in regard to it."

(The Hindu, 24-6-1942.)+

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India for February and March 1942.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during February and March 1942 as compared with the preceding month:-

| <u>Name of Centre</u> | <u>Base=100</u>  | <u>January</u> | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                       |  | <u>1942</u>    | <u>1942</u>     | <u>1942</u>  |
| Bombay                | Year ending June, 1934                                 | 137            | 135             | 137          |
| Ahmedabad             | Year ending July 1927                                  | 95             | 94              | 96           |
| Sholapur              | Year ending Jan. 1928                                  | 96             | 93              | 96           |
| Nagpur                | January 1927   | 88             | 86              | 85           |
| Ludhiana              | 1933-35  |                |                 |              |
| Cawnpore              | August 1939  | 145            | 144             | 150          |
| Patna                 | (Average cost of living for five years preceding 1914) | 139            | 141             | 150          |
| Jamshedpur            | Ditto  | 144            | 138             | 140          |
| Jharia                | Ditto  | 144            | 144             | 150          |
| Madras                | Year ending June 1936                                  | 117            | 115             | 115          |
| Madura                | Year ending June 1936                                  | 110            | 110             | 111          |
| Coimbatore            | Year ending June 1936                                  | 118            | 114             |              |

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India, February and March, 1942) +

## SOCIAL INSURANCE

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### Provident Fund for Industrial Workers: Views of Bombay Employers. ✓

The question of Provident fund for industrial workers was one of the subjects discussed at the Third Conference of Labour Ministers held in Delhi in January 1942. The main principles as envisaged by the Conference, which provident fund schemes should provide were:- (i) that any fund should be constituted by the joint contributions of the employer and the employee, which should be equal; (ii) that employees with at least one year's continuous service only might be eligible to subscribe; (iii) that the worker should be liable to lose the employer's share of the contributions, if he was dismissed for any act of misconduct on his part; or to lose such share in part or in whole if he resigned within a short period of joining the fund; (iv) that withdrawals from the fund should be subjected to strict control; and (v) that the fund should be invested in some form of Government securities and, in any case, outside the particular undertaking. Industrial interests in the country were recently invited to express their views on the question; the views expressed by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, are given below:-

Views of the Millowners' Association, Bombay.- The Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, was in agreement with the ~~conclusion reached at the conference that the introduction of provident fund schemes should not be made compulsory.~~ It felt that the extension of existing schemes or their introduction in mills where they were not in existence at present should be left entirely to the mill management after ascertaining the wishes of the workers concerned. The conditions in the Bombay cotton textile industry at present were far from normal. A very large proportion of the permanent labour force had already left the city and their position had been temporarily taken up by substitutes. There was, therefore, a good deal of uncertainty as to how long the latter would stick to their positions. Under these conditions, the Committee felt that no useful purpose would be served by taking up this question at the present time. The proper time for consideration of this and other questions would be on the termination of the war when normal working conditions would have been restored. Even then, the question of instituting provident funds should not be dissociated from other similar questions and an employer must be told in advance what other commitments Government proposed to ask him to undertake in the shape of social and welfare schemes for workers. In this view of the case, the Committee suggested that the subject may be reopened on the termination of the war after Government had decided on their programme of social and welfare legislation.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during May, 1942).

Views of Bombay Chamber of Commerce.- The Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce stated that it was in agreement that the introduction of provident funds throughout industry was a very desirable object and accepted the five main principles set out by the Conference of Labour Ministers. As regards questions of detail, the Committee pointed out that the rules laid down under the Income-tax (Provident Fund Relief) Act governing recognised funds had been drawn up largely

in the interests of employees and did not materially differ from the five points referred to above, whilst, in fact, they went much further. These rules had been in operation for some considerable time and were acceptable to both employer and employee. It was suggested therefore that they should form the basis of any further legislation on the subject.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during May 1942.)

Views of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.- The Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, stated that the present conditions were not suitable for consideration of such social legislation as the proposal for provident fund for industrial workers and that the consideration of the same should be postponed till after the war. In the opinion of the Committee such piecemeal proposals for labour reform would lead to confusion unless they were discussed in their entirety, bringing in all aspects of such legislation on an all-India basis including Indian States. The Committee feared that any lack of uniformity in labour standards would result in unequal competition which was not desirable. It also emphasised that all such measures on which decisions might be taken should be applicable to labour employed by Government, both Central and Provincial, as also those employed by quasi-Government undertakings. It further pointed out that the experience of mills in Bombay with regard to implementation of such schemes was not encouraging as the workers were not found very enthusiastic in giving their share of contributions to such funds. Besides, owing to war a part of the permanent labour employed in the textile industry in Bombay had migrated to the interior and their place was taken by other new workers. This was bound to create a situation in which the success of such a scheme was doubtful.

(~~Excerpt from the Proceedings of the Committee~~  
Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, ✓  
June 1942 issue.) ✓

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Middle-Class Unemployment in Bengal: Government  
decides to Suspend Enquiry.

The Government of Bengal, it is understood, has decided that all work in connection with the middle class unemployment enquiry committee will remain suspended for the present. The enquiry was set on foot under the auspices of the Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal, as early as December 1941 at the suggestion of Mr. N.R. Sarker, the then Chairman of the Board.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28-6-1942).✓

MIGRATION

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Modification of Ceylon Labour Ban under Contemplation. ✓

Modification of the ban against labour emigration from India to Ceylon is understood to be under consideration. The existing restriction has meant, in practice, that for three years Indian labourers settled in Ceylon have not been able to visit their relatives in India - even in connexion with marriage or death ceremonies - for fear that they will not be allowed to return to Ceylon. The existing ban has worked hardship on this class of Indian residents in Ceylon and the question under consideration is whether relief can be given to such labourers by modifying the ban so as to permit them to return to Ceylon after a brief sojourn in India. There is no intention, however, to lift the ban in ~~respect~~ respect of emigration of fresh labour to Ceylon.

(The Statesman, 18-6-1942.) ✓

Recruiting to Indian State-Managed Railways:  
Recruiting Commission for N.W. Railway set up for  
2 Years: Government of India's Orders on D'Souza Report.

In 1939, Mr. Frank D'Souza, till lately Member of the Railway Board, was appointed to review the working of the rules and orders relating to the representation of minority communities in the services of the (then) four State-managed Railways. Mr. D'Souza's Report was received in the following year and has since then been under consideration. (Pages 26-27 of October 1940 report of this Office). Government has recently ascertained the view of the Central Advisory Council for Railways on the major recommendations made by Mr. D'Souza. *The Government of India's decisions on some of his recommendations are given below:*

Criticisms of Present System of Recruitment Unacceptable. - One of these recommendations relates to the establishment of a central recruiting Commission for the recruitment of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways. The reasons adduced for this recommendation are that the lack of uniformity and the alleged perfunctory manner in which recruitment is conducted at present have caused discontent and that the establishment of a central Commission would give greater confidence to minority communities. Government is unable to accept either of these reasons as valid; it has not observed any wide-spread dissatisfaction with the present methods, nor has it reason to believe that their application is perfunctory. The Government cannot also assume, in the face of the facts which Mr. D'Souza has set out in the rest of his Report, that minority communities have any reason to complain of unjust treatment.

Central Recruitment Commission for Railways Rejected. - Government realises, however, that the establishment of an independent recruiting agency will command wide popular support and that relieving the executive officers of the very heavy work which recruitment at present entails will contribute to their greater efficiency. The difficulties in the way of establishing a Commission which will serve all the State-managed Railways (now increased to five in number) are, in Government's opinion, insuperable. Such a body will not be able to function effectively without becoming unwieldy. It is, on the other hand, possible that Commissions for individual State-managed Railways might function efficiently, though it is difficult to state definitely whether such a scheme is practicable unless it is tried.

Experimental Commission appointed for N.W.R. - The majority of the members of the Central Advisory Council who expressed an opinion believed that the establishment of these separate Commissions would be desirable. Government has, therefore, decided to establish, as an experimental measure for two years in the first instance, a Commission with functions restricted to the recruitment of subordinate staff on the North Western Railway. The Commission will consist of a Chairman and two Members. It will be under the administrative control of the Railway Board. After two years' experience of the working of this Commission, Government will review the position before deciding on their future policy in this matter..

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 13-6-1942, pages 1046 to 1047.) ✓

Employers' Organisations.

Organisation of Mills in C. P. and Berar. ✓

Recently, mills in the Central Provinces and Berar, which are members of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, organised themselves into a Local Committee under the aegis of the Millowners' Association, Bombay. Towards the end of May 1942 an informal meeting of the representatives of the mills in the Central Provinces and Berar was held in Bombay under the chairmanship of Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, M.L.A. (Deputy Chairman of the Millowners' Association), to discuss certain matters of common interest. The following decisions were taken at this conference:-

- (a) All mills in C.P. and Berar should, as early as practicable, introduce uniform standing orders for operatives on more or less Bombay model. Copies of the standing orders wherever they had already been introduced should be sent to the Millowners' Association, Bombay, by the mills concerned and the Association should, from the standing orders already in force, draw up a model set of standing orders for introduction in all C.P. and Berar mills.
- (b) All mills should study the book of "Labour Recommendations" published by the Association and arrive at conclusions by mutual consultations as to which of these recommendations should be given effect to, with or without modifications, to suit particular conditions in C.P. and Berar mills.
- (c) All mills in C.P. and Berar should form themselves into a Local Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. S.H. Batlivala of the Empress Mills, Nagpur, this Local Committee meeting as often as is necessary in Nagpur, or at some other centre to discuss matters of common interest. The Local Committee should meet and dispose of matters of purely local interest, and all questions of a major character which, in Mr. Batlivala's opinion, required consideration by the Association on an all-India basis, should be referred to the Association in Bombay.

To make the Local Committee an effective organisation, both from the point of view of the C.P. Government and of individual mills in C.P. and Berar, it was also declared that :

- (a) Individual mills should forthwith send a communication to the C.P. and Berar Government stating that, as they had formed themselves into an organisation under the aegis of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, of which they were all members, with Mr. S.H. Batlivala as the Chairman of the Local Committee, and as this Local Committee would be responsible for co-ordinating and putting forward the views of all mills in C.P. and Berar on all questions of policy, it might facilitate matters if communications from Government requiring employers to express an opinion on such matters were addressed to Mr. Batlivala.
- (b) Individual mills agreed to consult Mr. Batlivala on all matters of local importance.
- (c) Millowners in C.P. and Berar should, as early as possible,

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appoint Labour Officers in their respective mills and send such  
Labour Officers for training to the Association.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee  
of the Millowners' Association, Bombay,  
during 1942.) ✓+

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Workers' Organisations.

Recognition of Trade Unions:  
Views of A. I. T. U. C. ✓

Reference was made at page 1 of our April 1942 report to the draft Bill to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, with a view to provide for "recognition" of trade unions. The General Secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress (Mr. N.M. Joshi), replying to the Government of India's letter inviting the A.I.T.U.C.'s views on the Bill, has made the following comments:

Conditions of Recognition.- While welcoming the move, Mr. Joshi points out that several important particulars in the Bill are left to be laid down by Rules. He, therefore, suggests that the rules to be made under the legislation should be first published and opinions of the trade union movement invited and considered before the rules are finally adopted. He points out that the condition that a trade union shall be a registered one should be enough and that ~~therefore~~ a union applies for recognition it should have been registered for a minimum period of six months/should not be laid down. The condition that the executive of a union ought to meet once a quarter should be relaxed in the case of those unions the membership of which is scattered over a large area. In their case, only six-monthly meetings should be made obligatory.

Strength of a Recognised Union.- The power sought to be given to the Provincial Governments to lay down additional condition or ~~conditions~~ is too wide and will enable the Provincial Governments to change the whole nature of the legislation and therefore should not be given. In limiting the power of the Provincial Governments as regards minimum membership, the limit of 30 per cent. allowed in the Bill, to be prescribed by the Provincial Governments, is too high. In the opinion of the A.I.T.U.C., the condition regarding minimum membership is not necessary at all as the only privilege sought to be given to recognised trade unions is that the employers shall consider representations made by the unions. If the legislation had proposed to compel the employers to make an agreement with the trade unions binding on all the employees of the employers or to compel the employers to recognise only one trade union in the industry as is done in the Bombay Trade Disputes Act, the requirement of minimum membership is understandable. If at all the condition regarding minimum membership required for recognition is allowed to be laid down, Provincial Governments should not be empowered to fix the minimum number beyond 5 per cent. of the total number of the employees in the industry from which the Union draws its membership. If Government insists, a higher percentage not exceeding 10 may be fixed only for Unions the membership of which is confined to one industrial undertaking or factory. In this connection he draws the attention of the Government to the fact that even in Great Britain the proportion of workers organised in trade unions to the total number of industrial workers is only 26 per cent.

Too Wide Powers for Registrar.- The power given to the Registrars to call for 'further information' is unlimited and this power is not subject to an appeal to a Court as his power under the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926, is. The discretion to Provincial

Governments to grant or not to grant recognition or to withdraw recognition after it is given even though all the requirements of the Act may have been fulfilled, is unsatisfactory. Mr. Joshi suggests that at least a right of appeal to the High Court should be provided against unreasonable use of this power and to decide whether the Union has reasonably satisfied all the requirements or not.

Scope of Trade Union action.- Clause 28 G (1) seems to restrict the obligation of the employer to negotiate with the Union only on matters affecting the general body of his employees and not affecting an individual employee or even some individual employees; this is not desirable. Provision should be made that a conclusion once arrived at by the employer may be reopened after a lapse of two months and even earlier if the circumstances have altered.

Discrimination to be avoided.- In conclusion, Mr. Joshi points out that the A.I.T.U.C. would like the Government to enact a clause that no employer shall dismiss or discharge or fine or in any manner discriminate against an employee for being a member of a trade union or for taking part in its activities. Without such a clause recognition of trade unions will have no meaning.

(The Trade Union Record, Bombay, June 1942.)✓

Recognition of Trade Unions:

Views of Employers. ✓

Reference was made at page 1 of our April 1942 report to the draft Bill to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, with a view to provide for "recognition" of trade unions. The views on the Bill expressed by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, are summarised below:

Views of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.- The Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce expressed the view that the present time was inopportune for the introduction of a far reaching measure of such importance and that it should definitely be shelved until the conclusion of hostilities. The Committee feared that even discussion of such matters might have unfortunate consequences on the working conditions in industry at the present day. The Bombay Trade Disputes Act had been working reasonably satisfactorily in Bombay for some years and although it needed certain amendments, the Committee considered similar legislation might be introduced in other provinces pending the revision of the Indian Trade Unions Act after the war. The Committee added that if, however, Government were determined to proceed with the legislation forthwith, it would draw attention to various points which had been omitted from the Bill, the addition of which the Committee considered of particular importance. Before a Union can be recognised, the following conditions should be satisfied:- (1) Unions should be controlled and organised by the workers and not less than 50 percent. of the officers of a registered trade union should be actually engaged or employed in the trade or industry with which the union was concerned. (2) Submission of grievances

and all the processes of negotiation and conciliation in existence or which might be devised should precede the submission of a notice to strike work. (3) A general strike should not be called unless a ballot had been taken and a two-thirds of the votes cast and not less than 50 per cent. of the workers concerned had voted in favour of the general cessation of work. (4) Notice of not less than 14 days should be given for a strike to an individual employer and notice of not less than one month for a general strike. (5) Union rules governing the constitution and the administration of the union should be submitted to employers before the union commenced to function as a recognised union and employers should be given the right to discuss these rules with the Union and to appeal to the Registrar should any rule seem to them to be objectionable. (6) Unions should not support unauthorised strikes by individual employees or groups of employees nor a strike caused by an unrecognised union or unlawful association. (7) Unions should abide by any mediation machinery agreed upon between the trade union and the employer or employers' association.. (8) Unions should agree to co-operate with the Government Labour Officer and to furnish him with details of any grievances at the same time as they are brought to the notice of the employer. (9) Membership of unions should be purely voluntary. (10) Union subscriptions should not be collected on the employer's premises. (11) Unions should not partake in union activities on the premises or during working hours except to the ~~extent~~ <sup>extent</sup> mutually agreed upon between the recognised unions and the employer ~~or employers' associations.~~ (12) Unions should not attempt to subvert discipline. (13) Unions should discourage the use of any violence of any description either directly or indirectly. (14) ~~The accounts of the unions should be audited by the Government Auditor at regular intervals and at least once every twelve months.~~

As regards the provisions of the Bill, the Committee pointed out that it was essential to lay down a minimum percentage strength applicable to all provinces instead of leaving the question to the decision of individual provinces. The Committee recommended that a minimum percentage of 25 of the workers of an industry must be members of a union before that union could apply for recognition, and that this minimum should be laid down in the Act. The Registrar should be empowered to withhold recognition of any union if he was satisfied that the workers in that branch of industry were already represented adequately by an existing recognised union.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the  
Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce  
during May 1942.)

Views of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.- The Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, suggested that the consideration of such social legislation which concerned the welfare of labour and the relations between the employers and the employees might be postponed till after the war. The Committee was of opinion that the object of Government would not be served by enforcing recognition by law as was envisaged in the proposals. It was, however, stated that if Government was bent upon considering the proposals now the following suggestions of the Committee should be incorporated in the draft rule: (a) The minimum membership of a union of workers of an industry or factory for recognition should be 60 per cent. of the total number in such industry or factory as against 30 per cent.

proposed. (b) At least 2/3 of the executive of a union should be actually workers employed in the industry. (c) The union should have been in existence at least for one year and not for six months as proposed. (d) The penalty for failure to reply to a communication of a recognised union, which is Rs. 500, was considered high; it was suggested that the first default should carry only a warning and the subsequent defaults should be dealt with by a token penalty.

(Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, June 1942 issue.) ✓

Membership Strength of the Indian Federation of Labour

The Indian Federation of Labour, the "anti-Fascist" labour Organisation recently established by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, M.L.A. (Central) as President and Mr. M.N. Roy as the General Secretary claims that, by April 1942 it has had affiliated to it 150 labour unions as set out below:

List of Unions affiliated to the Indian Federation of Labour.

|    |                         | Membership.     |
|----|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Bombay 21 Unions        | 18,195          |
| 2. | Bengal 30 Unions        | 15,334          |
| 3. | Bihar 23 Unions         | 35,750          |
| 4. | U.P. 15 Unions          | 13,000          |
| 5. | Punjab 40 Unions        | 60,000          |
| 6. | Madras 15 Unions        | 20,000          |
| 7. | Delhi 5 Unions          | 4,450           |
| 8. | Sind 1 Union            | 2,000           |
|    | <b>Total 150 Unions</b> | <b>168,729.</b> |

The Bengal Chamber of Labour with about 70 Unions and a membership of about 120,000 members is an associate member of the Federation.

(Independent India, Delhi, dated 3-4-1942.)

Vagrants' Homes in Bengal:  
Financial Aspect of Scheme. ✓

Reference was made at page 39 of our January 1942 report to the Vagrancy problem in Calcutta; a scheme of establishing homes for vagrants, both adults and children, was recently proposed. The proposed scheme of vagrants' homes will cost the Government of Bengal about Rs. Rs. 900,000 for construction, while another sum of Rs. 30,000 will be spent on clothing, bedding and hospital equipment of the homes. The Government will also incur an expenditure of Rs. 20,000 for opening receiving centres in Calcutta for beggars and for their dispatch to the homes ~~in~~ in Murshidabad. The recurring cost of running the homes will be about Rs. 100,000 annually per bloc of 750 beggars and this will include provision for staff, food, fuel, medicines, etc. The recurring cost in the children's home will be comparatively higher because of the education to be imparted to child vagrants.

() The Statesman, 28-6-1942.)+

Government Grant to Municipalities for Public Health Schemes:  
Bombay Scheme. ✓

Prior to 1931 the Government of Bombay gave financial assistance to municipalities for water-supply and drainage schemes. Since then, however, it has been considered that, with the development of local self-government and the necessity of conserving the limited funds of the Government for social services for the benefit of the general public, municipalities should be in a position to carry out such schemes, which should in theory be self-balancing, by the imposition of local taxation. Assistance was thus limited to reducing centage charges in the case of schemes entrusted to the Public Works Department staff for execution. Experience has shown that in certain instances municipalities are unable to undertake such projects even with adequate taxation without the assistance of the Government. The Government has, therefore, decided that, when funds are available, grants-in-aid should be given to municipalities which tax themselves adequately and maintain an adequate standard of general administration and are yet unable to meet the cost of the scheme without assistance. It has, accordingly, made a lump sum provision of Rs. 1 million for public health schemes in the current year's budget. The grant will be limited to 50 per cent. of the total estimated cost of each scheme in the case of minor municipalities and to  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. in the case of major municipalities, and to that part of the expenditure which cannot be met by the municipality concerned out of its own resources.

(Press Communiqué No. 528 dated  
2-6-1942 issued by the Director of  
Information, Bombay.) ✓

Progress of Adult Education in Bombay, 1941-42. ✓

The third year of the Adult Literacy Campaign in the Bombay city closed with 31-3-1942, and the Adult Education Committee stated that the total number of adults made literate during the period of three years comes to nearly 40,000. They belong mainly to the working class population of the city, speaking six or seven different languages.

Progress in 1941-42.- During the year 1941-42 about 1,050 literacy classes spread over three sessions of four months each were maintained, and out of the total of 19,600 who were enrolled, more than 9,300 achieved literacy. Even taking into consideration about 270 classes which were in session at the close of the year, it was found that the total number of literates turned out at the end of the year falls far short of the normal figures which range between 14,000 ~~to~~ to 15,000. The reasons for the fall are the communal riots during the beginning of the year and the development of the war situation in the East during the last quarter of the year. Both the disturbances did not only affect the daily average attendance, but also the total number of classes which could have been ordinarily run during the year.

Efforts of other organisations.- Besides the above number of literates, nearly 700 adults, mostly women, were made literate in the classes aided by or run under the direction of the Committee. The Committee was able to provide the new literates with follow-up facilities on a far wider scale than in previous years. ~~Nearly~~ Nearly 100 post-literacy classes were maintained throughout the year and the new literates were given the necessary guidance by regular teachers to continue their habits of reading ~~and~~ writing.

Systematisation of Campaign.- Though the Committee could not show very encouraging results by way of new literates owing to circumstances over which it had no control, it was able to systematise the campaign in various ways. The six short term training classes which were held during the year trained a large number of the teachers in the principles and practice of adult teaching and a marked change in the method of teaching adopted by them is now in evidence. The Committee also conducted a few experimental classes with a view to determine the period required by an adult to become literate and to evolve proper methods of teaching. A plan of week-end reading classes has also been under trial.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 4-6-1942.) ✓

Wages

Extension of Dearness Allowance Scale fixed by  
Millowners' Association, Bombay. ✓

Employers in the cotton textile industry in Bombay City have since December, 1939, paid workers a dearness allowance to meet the rise in the cost of living. The first rate of dearness allowance was recommended by the majority of the Rangnekar Board of Conciliation in February, 1940, and, when the cost of living rose above the official cost of living index numbers covered by this recommendation, the Millowners' Association, Bombay, with the approval of the Government, adopted a sliding scale to cover further variations in the cost of living index numbers. This sliding scale started at Rs. 4-8-0 per month of 26 working days for index number 124 and ended at Rs. 9 for index number 143. The index number for the month ended May 15, 1942, was 142, and, as a further increase in the cost of living was likely, the Millowners' Association has decided to extend the sliding scale of dearness allowance up to index number 163 at the same rates of increase. The rates range from Rs. 9-4-0 when the index number is 144 to Rs. 13-12 when the number is 163.

(The Times of India, 22-6-1942.) ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance to Low-paid Government  
Servants in Madras.

The Madras Government has passed orders increasing the special compensatory cost of living allowance granted to its employees which now stands at one rupee a month to one rupee and eight annas per month with effect from 1-6-1942. The allowance will be continued at the enhanced rate till the average index number for the cost of living in Madras falls below 118 for three consecutive months. So long as the increased rate of Re. 1-8 is in force, Government servants in Madras City whose emoluments exceed Rs. 40 a month but not Rs. 41-8-0 and those in mofussil Rs. 30 per mensem but not Rs. 30-8 will be granted such allowance as is necessary to make their total emoluments Rs. 41-8 and Rs. 31-8 per mensem respectively.

(The Hindu 26-6-1942.) ✓

Cheap Grain for Low-paid Municipal Employees in Delhi. ✓

The Delhi Municipal Committee at its meeting on 18-6-1942 decided that, in order to induce sweepers to stay in the city during emergency periods, arrangements should be made to supply them with mixed wheat and barley flour at cost price. It was also decided to stock sufficient wheat for this purpose. The Committee further resolved to make similar arrangements for other low-paid servants employed in the sanitary and fire extinguishing services.

(The Statesman, 19-6-1942.) ✓

Government of India's Scheme to Collect Retail Price Statistics:  
Meeting of Advisory Committee, New Delhi, 1-7-1942. ✓

The Government of India has been considering for some time past a scheme for the preparation and maintenance of cost of living indices throughout India under a Centrally controlled organisation. Since that scheme will necessarily take time before any useful results are obtained from its operations and since there has been insistent need for some practical information about prices as a guide for settling questions relating to dearness allowances, etc., the Government of India has been recently considering the preparation of retail price statistics, the intention being to fill the gaps wherever necessary so that information for practical use is collected with all possible expedition. In this connection, it has been found necessary to decide on various broad problems arising before the actual work of retail price statistics is taken up; these relate to the centres to be selected, the method of price collections, the items for which the prices are to be collected, etc. Early in 1942 the Government of India convened a conference of Provincial representatives and independent experts to discuss the question of compiling retail price index numbers. As a result of the decisions reached at this conference, an Officer on Special Duty was appointed to be in charge of the scheme. It was, however, felt that for the early inauguration and successful completion of the scheme it would be desirable that Government should be advised in this matter by an informal committee. ~~From~~ The Government of India therefore appointed in June 1942 a small Committee including representatives of the Central Government and two representatives of employers and two of workers to advise it on the matter.

Important decisions on compiling retail price index numbers for industrial centres in British India were taken at the first meeting of the Committee held at New Delhi on 1-7-1942, Mr. H.C. Prior, Secretary, Department of Labour, Government of India, presiding. The more important decisions arrived at were:-

- (1) The selection of 15 rural centres for which retail price index numbers will now be compiled for the first time.
- (2) The selection of 43 centres which are important either from the industrial or Railway point of view for which retail price index numbers will also be compiled.
- (3) The constitution of advisory committees consisting of an equal number of representatives of employers and workers to advise the officer in charge of the scheme in centres where it is feasible to form such committees.

(The Hindustan Times, 2-7-1942.) ✓ 1

Control Measures.

28

Assam Coal Distribution (Lakhimpur) Order, 1942. ✓

The Assam Government has promulgated the Coal Distribution (Lakhimpur) Order, 1942, which extends to the whole province, and prohibits the sale of or disposal of coal to anyone not holding a permit from the Controller appointed for the purpose.

(Notification No. APC. 34/42/87 dated 13-6-1942; The Assam Gazette Extraordinary dated 13-6-1942). ✓\*

Sugar Control Order, 1942. ✓

The Sugar Control Order issued on 29-6-1942 lays down that no producer shall after such date as the Controller may notify in this behalf, dispose of, or agree to dispose of or, in pursuance of any agreement entered into on or before such date, make delivery of, any sugar except to or through a recognised dealer or to a person specifically authorised by the Controller to acquire sugar on behalf of the Central Government or a Provincial Government. The Controller may prohibit or limit the manufacture by any producer or by producers generally of such types or grades of sugar or sugar products as may be specified and no producer to whom the Controller's order applies shall manufacture any sugar or sugar products in contravention thereof. The Controller may from time to time fix the prices at which any sugar made in India may be sold and no person shall sell or purchase any sugar at a price different from that fixed.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 29-6-1942, pages 789 to 790.) ✓\*

Bihar Early Closing of Shops Order, 1942. ✓

The Bihar Government has gazetted the Bihar Early Closing of Shops Order, 1942, which applies to all shops except hotels and restaurants, chemists' shops and liquor bars. The Order states that no article or things of any description whatsoever shall be sold after 8-30 p.m. in any shop other than the excluded categories of shops, in the area of supply of any licence granted under section 3 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, or in any area in which a person is entitled to distribute electrical energy by virtue of a sanction granted under section 28 of the said Act. District Magistrates can grant exemptions from the above Order.

(Notification No. 792-Misc.-R dated 24-6-1942: The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary dated 25-6-1942.) ✓\*

Price Control

Appointment of Inspectors of Prices in Industrial Areas in Bengal. ✓

The Government of Bengal, in its efforts to control prices of foodstuffs, has appointed several special officers charged with the

duty of watching the movement of supplies and course of prices. These special officers are assisted by 16 inspectors twelve of whom are inspectors under the Shops and Establishments Act whose services have been diverted for work in connection with price control measures. Their jurisdiction has been divided by wards and each of them has been assigned a large private market to take care of. Until recently, there was no adequate inspecting arrangement in the industrial area round about Calcutta and complaints to this effect were received by Government from time to time. Four inspectors have now been appointed for this area with Headquarters at Serampore, Titaghur, Kankirara and Budge Budge respectively. Their main duty is to watch prices and to receive complaints against profiteering.

Control now extends over a number of necessaries of life such as atta and flour, dal, mustard oil, salt, sugar, popular medicines, kerosene, and a number of other articles.

(Press Note dated 27-6-1942 issued by the Director of Public Information, Bengal). ✓

### Employment.

#### Orissa Essential Services Regulation of Wages and Conditions of Service Rules, 1942. ✓

In pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1942, the Orissa Government has promulgated on 17-6-1942 the Essential Services Regulation of Wages and Conditions of Service Rules, empowering District Magistrates in the province within their respective jurisdictions, subject to the general supervision and control of the Provincial Government, to regulate the wages and other conditions of service of all employees of essential services. "Essential Service" means any service declared as such by the Provincial Government under section 3 of the Ordinance.

(The Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated 19-6-1942, page 249.) ✓

#### Mysore Essential Services (Maintenance) Bill, 1942. ✓

On 2-6-1942, the Mysore Representative Assembly took up for consideration and adopted the Essential Services (Maintenance) Bill, which seeks to provide for the maintenance of certain essential services, by making it an offence for any person employed in these services to disobey any lawful order or to abandon such employment or absent himself from work or to depart from any specified area without reasonable excuse or consent of proper authority.

(The Hindu, 4-6-1942.) ✓

#### Civil Pioneer Force for India; Disciplined Corps of Workmen for War Construction Work. ✓

A start has been made with the formation of a Civil Pioneer Force in India. In certain Provinces the initial units are well under way. The Force is intended to carry out such duties as will be required in India in war-time to be performed by an organised and

disciplined corps of workmen. These include ~~work~~ duties in conjunction with Civil Defence, construction of roads, buildings or aerodromes, loading and unloading of transport vehicles and work in dock areas. The Force is at present limited to 10,000 persons.

The selection of officers by Provincial Governments has already commenced and a number of them have been commissioned and are learning their duties. Recruitment and training of Civil Pioneers has also started. During the preliminary training, stress is laid on the physical development of the recruit and the first month is wholly devoted to building up his strength and in helping him to become accustomed to new surroundings. Physical recreation and games play a large part in the preliminary training.

(Unofficial Note dated 30-6-1942 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India.) ✓

Employment for Indian Evacuees:  
Registration Offices opened in Provinces. ✓

A few months ago when refugees from Malaya and Burma began arriving in India in large numbers, the Labour Department of the Government of India addressed the Provincial Governments emphasising the desirability of finding employment for Indian evacuees, without prejudice to the interests of the permanent residents. It was suggested that in some Provinces it might be possible to institute ~~land development or colonisation schemes~~. In others it might be possible to add to industrial development. Some of the refugees might be suitable for enrolment in the Civil Pioneer Force.

As a result, registration offices where refugees can register themselves for employment have been established in all Provinces where Indian evacuees from Burma and Malaya have arrived. Skilled and semi-skilled workers are directed by these offices to the National Service Labour Tribunals who find them employment in industry. The registration offices also keep in the closest possible touch with employers and attempt to place refugees in occupations fitted to their previous experience and training.

It is now gathered that 25 registration offices have been opened in Madras, an evacuee employment Bureau in the C.P., a registration Bureau under the control of the Employment Adviser in Bengal and an Evacuees' Bureau in the U.P. In the Punjab and the N.W.F.P., arrangements for the registration of evacuees have been made at the headquarters of the Districts. District committees have been formed in Bihar. In Sind the Commissioner of Labour has been entrusted with the arrangements. Registration offices have also been opened in the Central administered areas of Ajmer and Beawar.

(Unofficial Note dated 18-6-1942 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India.) ✓

## Production

### Production of Machine Tools: Government Scheme for Assistance. ✓

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Well over 100 licensed firms in India are now manufacturing machine tools of various types, ranging from simple drills and lathes to special purpose machines required for munitions production. Their total output runs to some 170 machines per month, not including ancillary plant which is produced by the hundred. Altogether, nearly 500 units are manufactured per month, and this figure is rapidly increasing. Prior to the war there was practically no production of machine tools in India, though a few firms were making a small number of special machines for their own requirements. Since the outbreak of war, however, there has been a rapid expansion and licences have been issued to a large number of firms throughout India for the manufacture of machines of various types. The most popular types of machines manufactured are lathes (including small capstans), drilling, shaping, planing, slotting, and hack-sawing machines, presses, furnaces, power blowers, and sand-blasting plant. Some higher class machines, such as cold saws, horizontal borers, production millers and thread millers, are also produced in Railway workshops. Besides these machines, various gauges, tools, jigs, etc., are also being manufactured in the country. The Railway tool rooms alone are producing some 1,000 gauges weekly for use in ordnance factories, while Tatas are manufacturing 50,000 tools of various types every month.

Rs. 1.5 million scheme. - With a view to further expanding the production of the higher class machines, a scheme costing some Rs. 1.5 millions, has recently been evolved by the Machine Tool Controller and approved by the Government of India. The scheme, when launched, is expected to enable the firms selected for the purpose to produce 80 to 100 such machines per month, with prospect of further expansion at a later stage. The possibilities of manufacturing small machine tools, such as taps, reamers, twist drills and milling cutters, are also under investigation. A scheme for giving assistance to firms willing to undertake manufacture of such tools has recently secured the approval of Government. Apart from efforts to promote new production, several important measures have been taken since the introduction of the Machine Tool Control Order on 1-3-1940, to secure better utilisation of existing machine tools in the country. By a census of machine tools throughout India, held in July 1940, it has been possible to locate all plant and machinery existing in the country and to ensure their utilisation in the best possible manner. Nearly 1,000 of the machine tools thus located have been requisitioned and placed in the Central Workshop.

A Reserve of Tools. - In addition, a scheme was framed last year to create a reserve of machine tools in the country as a safeguard against delays and possible interruptions in the arrival of shipments from abroad. Nearly Rs. 2 millions was set aside for the purpose, but only a portion of it has been spent so far owing to the difficulty in obtaining supplies. Much as already had been done in developing indigenous production and in conserving supplies, much more is still required. India's present requirements of machine tools are far in excess of her potential capacity as now envisaged, and it is unlikely that she will be able to do without considerable imports for some time to come. The production of machine tools is a highly specialised industry, requiring huge outlays of capital, and it can reasonably be

expected to flourish only when there are large basic engineering industries to support it. In India, such industries are still in an embryonic stage and will take some time to grow. But, meantime, a start has been made with her machine tool industry and the progress so far has been encouraging

(Indian Information, New Delhi, 1-6-1942) ✓

Internal Combustion Engines;  
Possibility of Production in India Reported. ✓

Five firms in India have been manufacturing complete internal combustion engines and their spares for some years, and they now state that their standard machine-shop equipment is quite sufficient for the machining of the major parts of the engines and can produce the imported parts, if the Government would assist them to enlarge their existing plants by obtaining special machinery—such as crank turning lathes, heavy drop forging machines, grinding machinery, etc. according to an Interim Report of the Exploratory Committee on Internal Combustion Engines set up by the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. Internal combustion engines for transport work, the Report adds, can be made by the Indian manufacturers if their works are properly organised. There are technical men and material available for carrying out the complete work in India. If a scheme is inaugurated for the production of internal combustion engines on a large scale, two of the Indian firms are in a position to extend their machine shops by installing machine tools of their own manufacture and if assistance from the Government could be given to them to obtain such machine tools as they are not able to produce, they will have no difficulty in producing complete units of engines without having to depend on foreign supplies of specialised parts.

(The Hindu, 3-6-1942.) ✓

Action on American Technical Mission's Report;  
War Resources Committee for India set up. ✓

The Governor-General-in-Council, it is announced, has considered the report of the American Technical Mission (summarised at pages 33 to 35 of our May 1942 report) and has decided to implement its recommendations to the maximum extent possible. In pursuance of one of the most important of these recommendations, a committee of the Executive Council has been set up to deal with and co-ordinate problems of war production, transportation, communication, finance, rationing of goods and materials, and all connected matters. This committee is to be known as the "War Resources Committee of Council" and will consist of: - The Governor-General (President); the Defence Member; the Supply Member (Vice-President); the Finance Member; the Commerce Member; and the Communications Member. The Committee will have a wholetime Secretary. It will meet from day-to-day, and one of its first tasks will be to push on with the action already taken on the report. The Committee will, when necessary, co-opt other members of the Government of India, and its decisions will be binding on all authorities in India.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-6-1942.) ✓

33

Stimulation of Small-Scale Industries  
for War Purposes: Plan for grant of State-Aid. +

War orders to the value of Rs. 49.8 million were placed by the Government of India with small-scale industries during the year 1941-42. Of these, camouflage nets accounted for Rs. 18.2 million, woollen blankets for Rs. 11.8 million, leather goods for Rs. 9.6 million and pith hats for Rs. 4.8 million. During 1942-43 additional orders to the value of Rs. 61 million are expected to be placed with small-scale producers. These will include cotton textiles worth Rs. 18.6 million, leather goods worth Rs. 8.4 million, camouflage nets worth Rs. 7.1 million and pith hats worth Rs. 6.5 million.

The further utilization of small-scale industry for the production of war supplies has for some time been engaging the attention of the Supply Department of the Government of India, and, as a result of a conference held in March, 1942, representatives of Provincial and State Governments, a scheme has been launched for the planning of production in this field. Under the scheme all the participating Provinces and States have undertaken to establish official agencies with whom the Department of Supply will contract for the supply of certain goods which can suitably be manufactured by small-scale industry.

These official agencies - which in the case of the Provinces will be the Directors of Industries and/or the Registrars of Co-operative Societies-will be responsible for the acceptance and ~~execution of orders including the supply of raw materials, provision of finance, instruction in manufacture, inspection during production, delivery of goods to the Supply Department, and final payment to the manufacturers.~~ The actual allocation of orders to these official agencies will be done through Controllers of Supplies who will be given quotas for each area. The Controller will also supply specifications and manufacturing information where needed, and will settle prices. The working capital will ordinarily be provided by the Provinces, but the Government of India will afford financial assistance within certain limits, where necessary.

The authorities recognise that the products of small-scale industry are not necessarily either good or cheap and that there are great variations in the quality of the work. Nor can such an industry work to the prices which are possible for mass production. On the other hand, the use of small-scale industry is being encouraged as it relieves factories for other work, extends employment and disperses production.

(The Statesman, 9-6-1942.) ✓ x

Alternative Fuel to Petrol for Road Transport:  
Manufacture of Power Alcohol. +

In view of the present acute shortage of petrol, the Government of India and the provincial governments are endeavouring to find alternative fuels to keep road transport moving, and among the latest developments are steps to provide power alcohol in Bombay. All facilities for the manufacture of power alcohol have been promised. The Government of India recently stated that they are prepared to assist in obtaining priorities for the supply and shipment of power alcohol plants from America, but certain firms in India have undertaken to build such plants locally. Some of the progressive Indian States,

such as Mysore and Travancore, have already promulgated power alcohol Acts and motor spirit sold in those States contains from 15 to 20 per cent. alcohol. Bhopal also proposes to make power alcohol for this purpose. In Bombay a formal conference of the various interests was held in October 1941 last and enough data has since been collected for a formal scheme to be prepared for the approval of the Government of India.

(The Times of India, 12-6-1942.)

Indian Manufacture of Small Tools:  
New Expansion Schemes.

Ninety per cent. or over 4,500 out of a total of some 5,000 items, of small tools required for munitions production and other war supply purposes are now manufactured in India. Small tools, generally speaking, are the simple types of tools used in manual operations. The most common of these are pick axes, felling axes, hand axes, boring and jumping bars, carpenter's augers, vices, twist drills, etc., - all of which are now produced in India on a fairly large scale. Production is mainly confined to a few large and well-equipped firms, but additional sources of supply are steadily being developed.

To meet the growing demands for the various types of small tools, several schemes for the provision of increased capacity are under active consideration by Government. One such scheme is designed to treble the existing capacity for twist drills and to provide new capacity for reamers and milling cutters. Another scheme aims at establishing production of taps and dies, for which no capacity at present exists in India. A third scheme, which has recently been sanctioned, provides for the further expansion of the more difficult operations in fabricating forged tools.

("Bombay Information", Bombay, 20-6-1942.)

Rationing

The Tyre Rationing Order, 1942.

On 13-6-1942, the Government of India promulgated the Tyre Rationing Order, 1942, which brings the sale and acquisition of tyres under strict control. With immediate effect no person may purchase a new tyre or tube except by securing ~~a tyre or tube except by~~ securing a permit from the competent area rationing authority. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Owing to the urgent need to conserve rubber for vital war purposes, permits will be issued only in respect of vehicles which, it can be shown are essential to the maintenance of war production or the health and safety of the community. With the exception of giant tyres, as fitted to commercial vehicles, permits are also required to acquire retreaded tyres or to have tyres retreaded. Worn tyres are the main source of reclaimed rubber, and in order to secure every possible worn tyre for this purpose, no new or retreaded tyres may be supplied except against the surrender of worn tyres, and no person may retain in his possession for a period of more than ten days any unserviceable tyre or tube, but must dispose of them to a recognised supplier or

reclaim manufacturer. It should be appreciated that the supply of tyres for civil purposes is extremely limited and will leave even some of the most vital needs unsupplied. An appeal is therefore made to the public to co-operate to the fullest extent by making application for permits only for the most urgent and essential purposes.

(Notification No. SS/63(2)/42 dated 13-6-1942; The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 13-6-1942, pages 1030 to 1039.) ✓

War Risk Insurance

Insurance of Immoveable Property against War Risk:  
Bombay Government examines Scheme. ✓

The Government of Bombay is engaged in examining the possibilities of undertaking schemes for insuring immovable property within Bombay Province and country craft operating on the coast against war risk and for facilitating the payment of compensation to industrial workers for war injuries. Government's decision on all these problems is expected <sup>shortly.</sup>

~~It is learnt~~ It is learnt that Government has reached a tentative decision for the insurance of immovable property within the province other than that already covered by insurance schemes framed by the Central Government as a measure of restoring confidence. The necessary data relating to the valuation of properties coming under the scope of the scheme has been collected and a draft scheme is now being worked out. The scheme will be put in its final form after ascertaining the views of commercial and public bodies in the province. The Government of Bengal is engaged in working out a similar scheme and a committee of experts has examined the question (vide page 36 of our May 1942 report). While the move of the Provincial Governments is considered to be in the right direction, it is generally felt that war risk insurance schemes are essentially matters for the Central Government since the resources of the Provincial Governments are limited and the premiums are likely to be rather high in view of the limited area in which the scheme will operate and the consequential limitations on the law of averages.

Workmen's Compensation for War Injuries.- The proposal for the workmen's compensation scheme is aimed at ensuring for industrial workers adequate compensation in case of injuries by enemy action. It is learnt that several employeess have represented to the Government of Bombay that the war effort can be accelerated if the workers responsible for it are assured that they will be adequately compensated for any loss that they may sustain by enemy action. The implications of the proposal are being examined by Government.

(The Times of India, 18-6-1942.) ✓

Clarification of Insurable Value of Factories under  
War Risk (Factories) Insurance Ordinance. ✓

Reference was made at pages 35 to 36 of our April 1942 report to the promulgation of the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Ordinance, 1942. The Government of India received representations recently from certain Chambers of Commerce and factories wanting the exact meaning explained of insurable value in connexion with the Ordinance. It

appears that there have been instances where factories have either under-insured or over-insured. According to an authoritative interpretation, insurable value means the present value of plant or machinery less depreciation. Insurable value for the purposes of the Ordinance has been illustrated by the following example, in a press communique: "A" bought a machine 10 years ago for Rs. 1,000 which on the date of application would cost new Rs. 3,000. The insurable value then is Rs. 3,000 less reasonable depreciation for 10 years use. If reasonable depreciation ~~for~~ in this case were considered to be 3 per cent., then the sum insurable would be Rs. 2,100. The owner of the property himself should be able to judge as to what life can be expected of the property and to what extent its life or efficiency has been impaired by use or other causes from year to year and should be able therefore fairly to assess reasonable depreciation."

(The Statesman, 18-6-1942.) ✓

Industrial Health and Safety

Protection of Factories in War Time:  
Bengal Government's Measures. ✓

The Government of Bengal has in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of rule 51-D of the Defence of India Rules gazetted a notification to the effect that in certain areas specified in a Schedule annexed, no factory wherein two hundred or more workers may be employed shall be erected, and no factory wherein two hundred or more workers are employed shall be extended for the purpose of carrying on any manufacturing process except with the permission of the Provincial Government and in accordance with such requirements as to lay out, materials and construction as the Provincial Government may impose, for the purpose of rendering the factory less vulnerable to air raids or of affording better protection to persons using or resorting to it.

(Notification No. 1073 Com. (C.D.) dated 8-6-1942: The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 18-6-1942, pages 1547 to 1548.) ✓

Seamen

Amenities for Indian Seamen:  
Contributions from War Purposes Fund. ✓

According to a press note recently issued by the Government of India, the question of providing comforts to Indian seamen has been engaging the close attention of the Government of India. The Viceroy has made contributions on various occasions from his War Purposes Fund, out of which different funds have been started at the ports of Calcutta and Bombay for the benefit of the seamen. An Indian seamen's Amenities Fund has recently been created at Calcutta and Bombay with initial grants of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 5,000 respectively from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. The object of this fund is to supply to vessels carrying Indian crews books, games requisites, etc., and to provide amenities, including the supply of warm clothing when necessary, to Indian seamen in general. Not infrequently Indian seamen return to this country in an utterly destitute condition and require on their arrival clothing, food or other necessaries of life, medical help and even monetary assistance for the payment of

railway fares to their homes. At Calcutta and Bombay provision now exists to supply the necessary funds, out of grants received from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. So far about Rs. 6,000 have been placed at the disposal of the Principal Officers, Mercantile Marine Department, Calcutta and Bombay for the above purposes.

Advances to Widows and Children.- Arrangements have also been made by the Government of India for the payment of compensation to injured seamen and to the widows and children or other dependents of seamen who are missing, killed or taken prisoner by the enemy under the various seamen's compensation schemes framed by His Majesty's Government. As however formal investigations into their claims to compensation naturally take some time, this involves great hardship to them. In order, therefore, to minimize their hardship, the Viceroy has placed at the disposal of the Principal Officers, Mercantile Marine Department, Calcutta, and Bombay a sum of Rs. 27,500 for giving advances in necessitous cases to the seamen or their widows and children or other dependents.

(The Statesman, 7-6-1942.)/4

Expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council:  
Dr. Ambedkar succeeds Sir Firoz Khan Noon as Labour Member. ✓

For the second time since the outbreak of the war the Viceroy's Executive Council has been expanded. The need to create a membership for Defence, to provide for India's representation at the War Cabinet and in the Pacific War Council and to divide the heavy single charge of Communications has involved the addition of three members to the Council, and increasing its strength from the present 12 to 15 members.

As in the previous expansion of the Council in 1941 (vide pages 39-40 of June 1941 report of this Office), the present expansion is <sup>designed</sup> to associate representative Indian opinion more closely in the conduct of the war and to provide for the increasing burden of war work, within the framework of the present constitution. Hitherto Indian representatives in the Council had been chosen from among principal communities and interests which were co-operating in the war effort and now to them, for the first time, have been added representatives of the Sikhs, the Depressed Classes and the European community. The new members are Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Sir E.C. Benthall, Sir Jogendra Singh, Sir J.P. Srivastava and Khan Bahadur Sir Mohammad Usman.

Distribution of Portfolios. - The distribution of portfolios, according to a press communique dated 2-7-1942, issued by the Government of India, is as follows:- War - General Sir Archibald Wavell; Home - Sir Reginald Maxwell; Finance - Sir Jeremy Raisman; Defence - Malik Sir Firoz Khan Noon; War Transport - Sir E.C. Benthall; Supply - Sir H.P. Mody; Information - Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar; Civil Defence - Sir J.P. Srivastava; Posts and Air - Sir Mohammed Usman; Commerce - Mr. N.R. Sarker; Education, Health and Lands - Sir Jogendra Singh; Labour - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar; Indians Overseas - Mr. M.S. Aney; Law - Sir Sultan Ahmed; Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar continues to be a member of the Council.

Representation in War Cabinet and Pacific Council. - Simultaneously with the expansion of the Council, it is officially announced that the Government of India has accepted the invitation of His Majesty's Government to arrange for India's representation on the War Cabinet and on the Pacific War Council in London. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar has been nominated for this purpose, and he will be joined in London by the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, who will represent the Princely Order.

Commenting on Dr. Ambedkar's appointment as Member in charge of Labour, the Statesman of 3-7-1942 says: Dr. Ambedkar gets the portfolio of Labour and as a gifted leader of the depressed classes he will have all the scope he may want for doing all he wishes to do for the under-dog. Perhaps no more appropriate portfolio could have been allotted to him.

(The Statesman, 3-7-1942.) ✓

List of the more important publications received in this Office during June 1942. ✓

Economic Conditions.-

Indian Central Cotton Committee. Twentieth Annual Report, 1941. Published by Indian Central Cotton Committee, Vulcan House, Nicol Road, Ballard Estate, Fort, Bombay.

Social Insurance.-

Annual Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1940. (Price As. 3). Karachi: Printed at the Government Press. 1942.

Agriculture.-

- (1) Report on the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Madras Presidency, for the year 1940-41. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras. 1942. Price 8 annas.
- (2) Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India, 1938-39. Issued under the Authority of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1941. Price Rs. 6 or 9s. 6d.

Co-operation.-

- (1) Year-Book and Directory of Indian Co-operation, 1942. General Editor: The Hon'ble V. Ramadas Pantulu. Published by the All-India Co-operative Institutes' Association and the Indian Provincial Co-operative Banks' Association.
- (2) Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 30th June, 1941. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1942. Price Re.1-4-0.
- (3) Report on the Co-operative Societies in Orissa for the year 1940-41 (July to June). Superintendent, Government Press, Orissa, Cuttack, 1942. Price Re.1-10-0.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) The Employers' Association of Northern India. Proceedings and Speeches. Fifth Annual General Meeting, 28th May, 1942.
- (2) Report - Nineteenth Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, Cawnpore, 1942. Model House, Proctor Road, Girgaon, Bombay.

Education.-

Report on Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency for the year 1940-41. Volume I. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras. 1942. Price 6 as.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) Madras Administration Report, 1940-41. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1942.
- (2) Madras in 1941 (Outline of Administration). Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, 1942. ✓