

Report for August, 1930.

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General.

The all-absorbing topic of the moment is the failure of the peace negotiations initiated on their own responsibility by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. M.R. Jayakar to bring about a settlement of the political impasse in India. The progress of the negotiations had been fully chronicled in my previous report, in which I had ended my account of the peace negotiations with the statement that at the suggestion of Sir Tej Bahadur and Mr. Jayakar the Viceroy had agreed to a joint consultation between the two Nehrus and Gandhi and that conversations between the Nehrus and Gandhi and other nationalist leaders lodged in Yerawada jail took place in the jail premises on 12 and 13-8-1930 (see page 8 of the July 1930 report of this office).

It is necessary for the sake of continuity to take up the tale of the negotiations from this point and briefly narrate the progress of events which led to the dramatic announcement by the peace-makers on 5-9-1930 "We regret to announce that the present negotiations have failed", and to the subsequent release in full of the correspondence that passed between the peace-emissaries on the one hand and the Viceroy and the Congress leaders on the other. As the result of the conversations held on 13, 14 and 15-8-1930, the Congress leaders gave a letter to Sapru and Jayakar with permission to show it to the Viceroy. Mr. Jayakar took the letter to Simla on 21-8-1930, and Sir Tej Bahadur and Mr. Jayakar had several interviews with the Viceroy as a result of which the Viceroy gave them a letter to be shown to the Congress leaders. They left Simla on 28-8-1930 and interviewed the Nehrus in Naini Jail on 30th and 31st August, at the end of which the Nehrus gave out their final decision in a ~~note~~ note with which Sapru

and Jayakar again travelled to Yerawada Jail and had conversations with Gandhi and the other Congress leaders on the 3rd, 4th and 5th September. The upshot of these protracted discussions was, as has been stated before, a complete breakdown of the negotiations, it being found as the result of exchange of views that there were irreconcilable and fundamental differences of opinion between the view points of the Viceroy and the nationalist leaders on the basis on which a settlement was possible.

Having chronicled the sequence of events which led to the failure of the negotiations, it is necessary next to briefly refer to the more important of the letters and notes that were exchanged in the course of the negotiations and which, with the permission of the Viceroy and the Congress leaders, were published in full in the Indian press. In his letter dated 24-7-1930 addressed to the Nehrus in ~~the~~ Naini Jail, Gandhi defined his position thus:-

(Attending the Round Table Conference)

"(1) So far as this question is concerned, my personal position is that if the Round Table Conference is restricted to a discussion of the safeguards that may be necessary in connection with full self-Government during the period of transition, I should have no objection, it being understood that the question of independence should not be ruled out if anybody raised it. I should be satisfied, before I could endorse the idea of Congress attending the Conference, about its whole composition.

(2) If the Congress is ~~is~~ satisfied as to the Round Table Conference, naturally civil disobedience would be called off, that is to say, disobedience of certain laws for the sake of disobedience - but (i) peaceful picketing of foreign cloth and liquor shops will be continued, unless the Government themselves can enforce the prohibition of liquor and foreign cloth, and (ii) the manufacture of salt by the populace will have to be continued and the penal clauses of the Salt Act should not be enforced. There will be no raids on the Government salt depots or private depots. I will agree even if this clause is not made a clause in these terms, but is accepted as an understanding in writing.

(3) (a) Simultaneously with the calling off of civil disobedience, all Satyagrahi prisoners and other political prisoners, convicted or under trial, who have not been guilty of violence or incitement to violence should be ordered to be released; (b) properties confiscated under the Salt Act, Press Act and Revenue Act and the like should be

restored; (c) Fines and securities taken from convicted Satyagrahis or under the Press Act should be refunded; (d) all officers including village officers who have resigned or who may have been dismissed during the civil disobedience movement and who may desire to rejoin Government service, should be restored - N.B. The foregoing should refer also to the non-co-operation period; (e) The Viceregal Ordinances should be repealed".

At the end of the meetings between Gandhi and Jayakar held on 31st July and 1st and 2nd August, Gandhi further defined his position in a Note. It may be noted here that this Note contained the stipulations with regard to the right of secession and the right of India to have all British claims and concessions given to Britishers in the past examined by an independent tribunal, on which the negotiations broke down.

"(1) No constitutional scheme would be acceptable to Mr. Gandhi which did not contain a clause allowing India the right to secede from the Empire at her desire and another clause which gave the right and power to India to deal satisfactorily with his eleven points.

(2) The Viceroy should be made aware of this position of Mr. Gandhi in order that the Viceroy should not consider later that these views of Mr. Gandhi had taken him by surprise when they were urged at the Round Table ~~Conf~~ Conference.

(3) The Viceroy should also be made aware that Mr. Gandhi would insist at the Round Table Conference on the clause giving India the right to have examined by an independent tribunal all British claims and concessions given to Britishers in the past".

The position of the Congress leaders was stated with more elaboration and in greater detail in the letter dated 15-8-1930 addressed to Sapru and Jayakar over the signatures of Gandhi, the two Nehrus, Sarojini Naidu and Vallabhai Patel. After ~~stating~~ ^{asserting} that the civil disobedience movement was not harmful, ill-timed or unconstitutional and after ~~stating~~ ^{making the proviso} that the signatories were not in a position to formulate authoritative terms without reference to a properly constituted Congress Working Committee, the letter stated that no solution will be satisfactory unless

(a) "it recognises in as many words the right of India to secede at will from the British Empire, (b) it gives to India a complete

national government responsible to her people, including control of defence forces and economic control, and covers all the eleven points raised in Gandhiji's letter to the Viceroy, and (c) it gives to India the right to refer, if necessary, to an independent tribunal such British claims, concessions and the like, including the so-called public debt of India, as may seem to the National Government to be unjust or not in the interest of the people of India.

If the foregoing appears to be feasible to the British Government and a satisfactory declaration is made to that effect, we should recommend to the Working Committee the advisability of calling off civil disobedience, that is to say, disobedience of certain laws for the sake of disobedience. But peaceful picketing of foreign cloth and liquor will be continued unless the Government themselves can enforce prohibition of liquor and foreign cloth. The manufacture of salt by the people will have to be continued and the penal clauses of the Salt Act should not be enforced. There will be no raids on Government or private salt depots.

Simultaneously with the calling off of the civil disobedience (a) all Satyagrahi prisoners and other political prisoners, convicted or under trial, who have not been guilty of violence or incitement to violence, should be ordered to be released; (b) properties confiscated under the Salt Act, Press Act, Revenue Act and the like should be restored; (c) fines and securities taken from convicted Satyagrahis or under the Press Act should be refunded; (d) all officers, including village officers who have resigned or who may have been dismissed during the civil disobedience movement and who may desire to rejoin Government service, should be reinstated. Note.- The foregoing sub-clauses refer also to the non-co-operation period; (e) all Viceregal Ordinances should be repealed.

The question of the composition of the proposed Conference and of the Congress being represented at it can only be decided after the foregoing preliminaries are satisfactorily settled".

The following are the important points in the Viceroy's letter dated 28-8-1930 ~~in the~~ addressed to Sir Tej Bahadur in reply to the terms of the Congress leaders:-

"(1) The Government was prepared to do everything it could to help Indians to obtain as large a share in the management of their own affairs as could be shown to be consistent with making provision for those matters in regard ~~x~~ to which they were not at present in a position to assume responsibility. It would be among the functions of the Conference to examine in the light of all material available what those matters might be and what provision might best be made for them. (2) Those attending the Round Table Conference would have the unfettered right of examining the whole constitutional problem in all its bearings, and secondly ~~that~~ any agreement at which the Conference was able to arrive would form the basis of the proposals which His Majesty's Government would later submit to Parliament".

"In view both of the general tone by which ~~that~~ ^{the Congress leaders'} letter is inspired and of its contents no useful purpose would be served by an attempt to deal in detail with the suggestions there made and discussion on the basis of the proposals contained in the letter is impossible".

and the Congress, further negotiations would be fruitless.

The publication of the list of delegates from India to the Round Table Conference followed immediately after the break-down of the peace negotiations. The list of persons invited by the Viceroy to attend the Round Table Conference was issued on the 10th September. The delegates from British India number 50 and the delegates to represent Indian States number 16. The list contains no surprises. In view of the decided opposition of the Congress group, the delegates have been selected almost entirely from the liberals. Dewan Chaman Lal has been included to represent labour interests, but according to a Free Press telegram from London dated 16-9-1930 Chaman Lal has declined the invitation.

Meanwhile, the Government is continuing its policy of stern repression of nationalist activities. On 21-8-1930 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the acting President of the Congress, was arrested at Calcutta under the Intimidation Ordinance. On 25-8-1930 the Chief Commissioner of Delhi issued a notification declaring the Congress Working Committee an unlawful body. The Working Committee met at Delhi on 27-8-1930 despite the Notification and all the members, among whom were Mr. V.J. Patel, ex-President of the Assembly, Pandit Malaviya and Dr. Ansari, were arrested. On 28-8-1930 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was sentenced to 6 months' simple imprisonment and on the same date the members of the Working Committee arrested at Delhi were also sentenced to 6 months simple imprisonment. Arrests and convictions of civil resisters are going on in all the provinces and the authorities are finding it difficult to house ^{the} ~~so~~ large a number of prisoners *on their hands.*

References to the I.L.O.

The proceedings of the 14th session of the International Labour Conference are still receiving a considerable measure of publicity in the Indian press. The article on the 14th session forwarded to this office by Geneva and which this office had distributed among various newspapers, educational reviews and other journalistic publications has been published either in its entirety or with slight ~~alterations~~ alterations, by several journals.

Among the daily newspapers, the Hindustan Times, Delhi, of 1-8-1930, Justice, Madras of 2-8-1930, the Pioneer, Allahabad, and the Statesman, Calcutta, of 3-8-1930 and almost all the important papers have given publicity to the article.

In addition to the above, the article has been also published in the following journals:- The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, August 1930 (Vol.VII, No.11), pages 199-201. A copy of the publication has been forwarded with this office's minute M.la/1544/30 dated 11-9-1930; the Educational Review, Madras, ~~Agst~~ August 1930 (Vol. XXXVI, No.8) pages 459-462, Copy forwarded with this office's minute K/1561/30 dated 18-9-1930; the Messenger, (Organ of the E.I.Railway Workers), Khagole, Patna of 20-8-1930 (Vol.1, No.5) pages 5-7 article incomplete copy forwarded with this office's minute K/1561/30 dated 18-9-1930; the Planters' Chronicle, Madras, of 16-8-1930 (Vol.XXV, No.19) pages 500-503, (copy not forwarded).

It is reasonable to assume that the article on the 14th session of the Conference has received wider publicity than indicated by the above list. Several journals to which the article has been supplied have published the article without acceding to the request of this

office for being supplied with duplicate copies of the issues in which the article has been published and hence this office is not in a position to supply details of such publication. *in such Cases.*

Several papers have commented editorially on the work of the 14th Conference. Indian papers have devoted special attention to the results achieved in respect of forced labour and the hours of work of salaried employees. The Pioneer, Allahabad, in the course of a lengthy leading article on the subject in its issue of 5-8-1930 observes:-

"For the first time last year two questions of far-reaching importance, namely, forced labour and hours of work of salaried employees were presented to the International Labour Conference for consideration. The draft convention on forced labour was adopted by 93 votes without opposition. This fact alone is of significance, for the question of forced labour is a complicated one and is apt to be misunderstood. But the decision of the Conference shows that every aspect of the matter has been carefully weighed, and while the recommendation accelerates progress towards the ideal, accommodation has been made for conditions in which forced labour is not ~~is~~ in essence the evil which the dictates of humanity require should be eradicated. That the Conference was handling a more intricate problem in settling the hours of work of salaried employees was made apparent from the large volume of opposition it had to face. The convention was carried only by 86 votes to 31. The hostility displayed by such a considerable number is intelligible."

While the comments appearing in the Indian press have been generally appreciative of the work of the Conference, the Indian Labour Review, Coimbatore, in its July-August 1930 issue publishes two notes on the Conference under the captions "Geneva (I.L.O.) Disappointments", and "Convention Misfits" and observes:-

"Only two out of the three Draft Conventions on the Agenda were adopted and even these - one on Forced Labour and one on Hours of Work of Salaried Employees - were whittled down or made to suit special circumstances. For example on the vexed question of Forced Labour recourse may be had to this "for public purposes only", subject to certain condition - the question of its final abolition to be considered after five years. Two Recommendations and four Resolutions were adopted, but a Resolution, moved by Mr. S.C. Joshi, to establish an Asiatic Advisory Conference as a sort of Eastern adjunct to the I.L.O., failed to get the quorum necessary for its adoption."

The Review, however, recognises the ~~diff~~ difficulties of the I.L.O. in framing Conventions capable of universal application and pays a handsome tribute to the work of the I.L.O. "in tabulating and circulating reliable information and in the creating of that public opinion and atmosphere which are absolutely essential to progress".

The same paper republishes an article contributed to the Labour Magazine by Mr. George Thomas, entitled "A Crisis at the I.L.O.". The writer is of opinion that while the results of the 14th Conference are disappointing, there is no reason for trade unionists to lose faith in the I.L.O. (Copy of the Indian Labour Review is not forwarded as the Review is subscribed for by Geneva).

... ..

The full texts of the speeches of Mr. Amritlal Ojha, Indian Employers' Delegate, and Mr. S.C. Joshi, Indian Workers' Delegate, at the 14th session of the Conference have been supplied by this office to the Associated Press and the Free Press, the premier news agencies of India, and these speeches are still attracting a good deal of attention.

The full text of Mr. Joshi's speech is published in the General Letter (July 1930, Vol.X, No.4) published by the Bombay Presidency Branch of the All India Postal and R.M.S. Union, while a summary of the speech is published in Circulars Nos. 3 and 4 (June-July 1930) issued by the R.M.S. B. Division Branch (Poona) of the All India Postal and R.M.S. Union.

The M. & S.M. Railwayman in its issue of August 1930 (Vol.2, No.2) publishes in full the editorial comments of the Indian Daily Mail, Bombay, on the speech of Mr. S.C. Joshi and the objections which have

been taken to it on the score of its political nature. The following are relevant extracts from the Indian Daily Mail's comments:-

"In the course of his speech at the International Labour Conference at Geneva Mr. Joshi, the Indian Workers' delegate, made a passing but pointed reference to the political situation in this country. The Reuter message containing the report vouchsafed the additional information, which bears an undoubted propagandist, bias about it, that Mr. Joshi's speech gave rise to comments in the Conference circles and that surprise was expressed that the President had allowed him to proceed. The implication is obviously that an Indian delegate who sought to abuse the privilege of an international rostrum, which was meant to discuss purely Labour questions, by dragging in the politics of his own country, ought to have been cut short. This is a view which will not find acceptance except among those nations who have subject peoples whose affairs they are not anxious to discuss in the open. The fact that the President of the Conference, however, did no more than 'rebuke' Mr. Joshi for exceeding the time limit of fifteen minutes may be taken as evidence that his offence was not as serious as the message would have us believe. But one can go further and say that in raising the Indian question before the International Labour Conference, not only was Mr. Joshi perfectly within his rights, but he raised an issue which had a logical and relevant connection with the brief that he was entrusted with, viz., the interests of Indian Labour".

The M. & S.M. Railwayman strongly supports Mr. S.C. Joshi's speech and observes "Mr. Joshi did well in voicing the real views of Indian workers and they approved every word uttered by him".

The speeches of Messrs. Joshi and Ojha are also commented upon in the July 1930 issue of the Indian Journal of Economics which is the organ of the Indian Economic Association and is issued by the Department of Economics and Commerce of the Allahabad University. As this office has no spare copy of the Indian Journal of Economics to forward to Geneva, the Journal's comments are reproduced below in full:-

"The Indian Delegations to the Fourteenth International Labour Conference again made its mark at Geneva. Of the speeches made we feel that Mr. S.C. Joshi did well in emphasising the necessity of the International Labour Office directing their special attention to Asiatic Labour questions. While it is true that industrialization has not reached anywhere near the stage it has arrived at in the West, yet we feel that it is just in the period of change, from a transition

from mediaeval conditions of production to the modern factory system that the workers need the greatest amount of protection. It can be easily established that in the case of Asiatic, indeed all coloured labour, the need for such protection is all the greater. We also feel that he was on very solid ground when he said that from Africa ~~there~~ should be directed colonial labour representation to the conference. We understand that treatment and conditions of labour of the African workers is far from satisfactory. Geneva must champion their cause.

We would also strongly endorse Mr. Ojha's (Employers' delegate) contention that the Indian States should be brought under the operation of the International Labour Office, Draft Conventions and Recommendations. Ever since factory legislation has been instituted in this country, Indian States have remained outside its obligations. Unquestionably it gives a distinct advantage to the employers or capitalists inside the states. Our industries, the very best of them, are not so strongly entrenched that they can serenely face this flank attack of industrial competition from the Indian States. All their efforts can do is to meet the frontal attack of severe competition from abroad. The Imperial Government needs to pay serious attention to this matter. However, to be fair to the Indian States, we must say that some states like Mysore, Baroda and Travancore have a splendid system of factory legislation and we are pleased to note that only recently the Nizam too has enacted a satisfactory Factory Act."

During the month, the I.L.O. Souvenir Album has been appreciatively reviewed in three journals. A copy of the June 1930 (Vol.XIV, No.1) issue of the Bombay Co-operative Quarterly which publishes at pages 26-27 a review of the Album has been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute M.la/1436/30, dated 21-9-1930.

A copy of the August 1930 (Vol.VII, No.11) issue of the Indian Labour Journal which publishes at pages 197-199 a review of the Album has been forwarded with this office's minute M.la/1544/30 of 11-9-1930.

A copy of the July 1930 (Vol. IX, No.7) issue of Education, Cawnpore, which publishes at pages 266-269 a review of the Album has been forwarded with this office's minute M.la/1564/30 dated 18-9-1930.

... ..

The B.B. & C.I. Railwayman of 15-8-1930 (Vol. II, No. 2) publishes a summary of the speech of Mr. M. Umar Rajab, advisor to the Indian Workers' Delegate to the 14th Conference protesting against the proviso in the Washington Hours Convention providing a 10-hours day and a 60-hours week for Eastern countries.

The same issue of the B.B. & C.I. Railwayman publishes a short editorial comment on the speech made by the Director of the I.L.O. in reply to the debate which followed the presentation of his annual report to the 14th Conference. (The reference to India in the speech has been sent out as a communique by this office on 22-7-1930, and a copy of the communique has been forwarded with this office's minute H 2/1133/30 dated 24-7-1930.)

... ..

The Young Utkal, Cuttack, of 15-8-1930 discusses the responsibility of Indian princes to adopt and apply the Conventions adopted by the League of Nations and the I.L.O. and points out that as the princes are represented in the Indian Delegations to the League Assembly they have a moral obligation to apply the Conventions accepted ^{by India} in their respective states.

... ..

The Pioneer of 28-8-1930 publishes a short editorial comment on the proposals made by the Committee appointed for the reorganisation of international staff and civil servants attached to the secretariats of the League and the I.L.O. and points out that India has been 'protesting for some time against the disparity between her contribution and the number of her nationals on the staff of the Geneva institutions'.

The Hindu of 22-8-1930 publishes an article by Leslie R. Aldous on the Conference on Silicosis which is to meet at Johannesburg in August under the auspices of the I.L.O. The article explains the objects of the Conference.

... ..

The Report of the Behar and Orissa Chamber of Commerce, Patna for the year 1929 contains at pages 16-18 the summary of a speech delivered by the Director of this office on the work of the I.L.O. at the 4th Annual General Meeting of the Chamber held at Patna on 21-3-1930. The speaker explained in some detail the functions and methods of work of the I.L.O. and stressed the fact that the services of the organisation were always at the disposal of Indian employers in the matter of securing authoritative information on industrial, social and economic problems. A copy of the Report has been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute D 1/1543/30 dated 11-9-1930.

... ..

The July 1930 (Vol.XI, Part I, No.40) issue of the Indian Journal of Economics makes a short review of the Grey-Blue Report on hours of work in Coal Mines issued by the I.L.O.

... ..

The return of the Director of this Office to Delhi on 26-8-1930 after his mission to Geneva and the resumption by him of his duties have been wired out by the Associated Press and the news has been published by the Hindu of 28-8-1930 and by all papers.

... ..

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.Proposed Extension of Hyderabad Factories Act.

A Press Note issued by Mr. B. Abdy Collins, Director-General and Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department of the Hyderabad State, Hyderabad, says that in accordance with Section 2(3) of the Factory Act, the Government of Hyderabad State propose to extend the Hyderabad Factories Act so as to apply to all ginning and pressing factories in which not less than ten persons are employed on any one day in the year. The Government of Hyderabad State consider it necessary to extend the Act to these factories for the following reasons. According to reports received from the Chief Inspector of Factories, Hyderabad State, there are at least 75 ginning factories which are ~~not~~ not at present subject to the Act in any way whatever. It is most desirable that all gins should be subject to the Factory Act, because the machinery employed by them is intricate, and unless properly fenced, may be dangerous. Ginning factories employ women and children to a great extent and unless they are prevented by law, many of them work their machinery for as much as 14 or 15 hours a day in the season. In accordance with Section 63 of the Act, all ginning and pressing factories subject to the Act are obliged to take out licenses. It will be unfair to the larger gins and presses if the smaller ones are allowed to work long hours while they are prevented from doing so. Unless the smaller gins are made subject to the Act, it is likely that a large number of small gins will spring up, whereas it is probably in the interests of the trade that cotton should be ginned in large factories.

(Times of India, Bombay, 19-8-1930).

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR.Quarterly Strike Statistics (period ending 30-6-1930).

The following information about industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 30th June 1930 is taken from a communication dated 28-8-1930 forwarded to this office by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India. A statement of the statistics of industrial disputes for the first quarter of 1930 is given at pages 41- of the June Report of this Office.

The total number of industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 30th June 1930 was 53, involving 87,550 men and entailing a loss of 506,345 working days. Of the 53 disputes, 27 were due to questions of wages, 1 to a question of bonus, 13 to questions of personnel, 2 to demand about leave and hours of work and 10 to other causes. The results of the strikes were as follows:- 10 were successful; 8 were partially successful and 35 were unsuccessful. There were no disputes in progress at the end of the period.

The disputes may be classified according to industries thus:- There were 21 disputes in the cotton industry, involving 29,631 men and entailing a loss of 185,212 working days. Railways (including railway workshops) accounted for 5 strikes, involving 39,282 men and entailing a loss of 153,754 working days. In the jute industry there were 5 strikes, involving 6700 work~~ans~~ and entailing a loss of 26,100 working days. There were 4 strikes in engineering workshops, involving 392 men and entailing a loss of 3988 working days, and in mines there was one strike involving 200 men and entailing a loss of 1900 working days. The remaining 17 strikes which involved 11,345 men and entailed a total loss of 135,391 working days were distributed among the other industries.

During the period under review the largest number of strikes occurred in the Bombay Presidency, where 187,845 working days were lost and 38,198 men were involved in 20 industrial disputes. Bengal comes second where 12 disputes involving 19,052 men were responsible for a loss of 86,374 working days. Madras which ranks next in point of the number of disputes had 7 disputes, involving 7,548 men and entailing a loss of 56,870 working days. Assam had 6 disputes, Bihar and Orissa 3, Burma and Delhi 2 each and United Provinces 1. During the period under review there were no industrial disputes in the Central Provinces and the Punjab.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923,
in Bengal during 1929.*

The total average number of workers employed per day in the registered factories in Bengal in 1929 was 664,909 of which 20,939 were minors. It may be noted that the Act applies not only to the persons employed in registered factories, mines, etc., in respect of which returns are received but also to railway servants, dock labourers, workmen employed in building trades, etc., for whom no returns are to be submitted to the Commissioner. According to the returns received from 1,497 employers, of which 1,343 came from factories, 145 from mines, 2 from tramway companies and 7 from Port commissioners there were 149 deaths, 315 cases of permanent disablement (including cases of 3 minors), and 2,018 cases of temporary disablement (including the cases of 8 minors) in respect of which compensation was paid during the year. The amount paid by way of compensation were Rs. 106,285 for deaths, Rs. 72,473 for permanent disablement out of which the 3 minors received Rs. 1,338, and Rs. 29,158 for temporary disablements, from which Rs. 57 were paid to the 8 minors affected. One case of lead-~~poisoning~~ poisoning in the Government Press was reported for which Rs. 2,730 was paid by way of compensation.

The number of contested cases showed no appreciable increase and in the opinion of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, has nearly found its level, but distribution cases showed a remarkable increase, the number being double that of the previous year.

(The Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal for the year 1928 is reviewed at pages 27-28 of the Report of this office for the month of August 1929).

* Government of Bengal - Commerce Department - Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during the year 1929. Calcutta, Bengal Secretariat Book Depot, 1930. pp. 14. Price, Indian, 11 annas 6 pies; English, 1s.

18

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923,
in the Madras Presidency during 1929.*

The returns submitted by 1,465 out of 1,604 industrial establishments in the Madras Presidency show that during 1929, there were 23 cases of death, 35 cases of permanent disablement and 594 cases of temporary disablement in the factories of the Presidency in respect of which compensation was paid. The average compensation paid in cases of temporary disablement was nearly the same as in the previous year; in cases of permanent disablement it was lower and in cases of death slightly higher. The number of memoranda of agreement sent for registration under section 28 of the Act increased from 35 in 1928 to 40 in 1929, and the total amount of compensation paid to the disabled workmen in respect of these agreements was Rs. 10,869-7-1. Memoranda of agreements were registered in almost all cases of accidents resulting in permanent disablement.

The number of cases filed during the year was 128 as against 237 in 1928. Of these 128 cases, 20 relate to proceedings instituted for the recovery of compensation under section 10 of the Act, 64 to distribution of compensation to the dependents of deceased workmen under section 8, 40 to memoranda of agreements registered under section 28, 1 to recovery under section 31 of compensation awarded to a claimant, and 3 to deposits of compensation under section 8(2).

A Bill for the amendment of the Act (see pages 23-26 of the April 1929 report of this office) was passed into law during the year. The amendment of schedule II has enlarged the scope of the Act by including certain additional classes of employees within the definition of workmen. The application of the Act was extended in July 1929 by a notification of the Government of India to certain classes of employees on canal works whose occupations were declared to be hazardous.

(The working of the Act in the Madras Presidency during 1928 is reviewed at pages 31-32 of the monthly report of this office for August 1929.)

* Government of Madras, Public Works & Labour Department. G.O.No.1782-L 17th June 1930. Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923- working- 1929 - Recorder pp. 20.

Conditions of Work in the Bombay Presidency.*

Number of Factories.- The factories subject to the control of the Factories Act increased during the year 1929 from 1,661 to 1,751 in the Bombay Presidency. 146 factories were added to and 56 were removed from the Register. The largest number of additions were in Bombay City, where 24 new factories were started during the year under review. Next in importance come Ahmedabad with 19 factories, Ahmednagar with 17, East Khandesh with 14, Poona and ~~Bur~~ Dharwar with 9 each, and Sholapur and Bijapur with 6 each. Of the number of 56 factories ^{removed} from the register, Bombay City was responsible for 28 removals. The number of factories that worked in 1929 was 1,543 as compared with 1,498 in the previous year. 749 of the working factories were perennial and 794 were seasonal concerns. 225 of the perennial and 669 of the seasonal factories were connected with the cotton industry.

Number of Operatives.- The number of operatives employed in all industries as ascertained from the annual returns received from the factories was 3,66,029 as compared with 3,56,083 last year. The number of operatives employed in the cotton textile industry was 232,087. This figure is an increase of nearly 13,000 over last year's ~~work~~ figure but the increase has been somewhat unevenly distributed over the various centres. The Bombay mills returned a total of 118,368 which was a considerable falling off from the figure of two years ago. Strikes, the prevailing depression and the introduction of efficiency methods in the mills have led to considerably less employment. About half of the increase reported from Ahmedabad was due to the erection of new mills or to extensions in others. The other moiety was due to the extra persons employed on the night shifts that were worked in several mills during the strike period in Bombay.

Inspections.- Of the 749 perennial factories, 88 were inspected once, 232 twice, 154 thrice and 269 more than thrice whilst 6 escaped inspection. Of the 794 seasonal factories 313 were inspected once, 340 twice, 90 thrice and 38 more than thrice whilst 13 were not inspected. ^{in addition to the above,} 2,391 special visits were made for enquiry into accidents and to check whether the statutory rest periods and holidays and the specified working hours were observed. Surprise visits were made to the seasonal factories, and the results are reflected in the prosecutions instituted for the irregular employment of women.

Sanitation.- Inspectors have reported a general compliance with the statutory annual limewashing and improved cleanliness in the factories and ~~compound~~ compounds. The Certifying Surgeons in Bombay and Ahmedabad were also vigilant in ensuring the maintenance of reasonable standards. In Ahmedabad the habit of using the mill compound as a dump for miscellaneous scrap has been curtailed but has

*Annual Factory Report of the Presidency of Bombay 1929: Bombay, Printed at the Government Central Press, 1930. R pp. 77. Price - Annas 3 or 4d.

not been entirely stopped. Standard latrine plans were sent out to factories a few years ago and, with the steady pressure exerted by the staff, considerable improvements have resulted.

Ventilation.- Considerable progress has been recorded in this respect. In two of the Ahmedabad mills, reported last year as having made improvements, the ventilating and cooling plants were removed owing to financial ^{difficulties} ~~disputes~~. In 12 additional mills ventilation has been improved during the year either by the installation of expensive systems or by improvements in the fans, cooling chambers or distributing ducts. Thus improvements have been effected, often at a large expense, in 47 of the older mills in Ahmedabad & in the last few years. All the new mills at this centre have been equipped with very efficient ventilating and cooling plants. It has been proved that an efficient roof spray on the weaving shed roof in the hot and dry climates of Sholapur and Ahmedabad reduces the internal temperature in the hottest months by about eight degrees. Three weaving sheds in Sholapur and several in Ahmedabad have recently been provided with sprays. The "all-in" cost of the nozzles, piping, pump, etc. is about Rs. 8-0-0 per loom. Several of the mills in Bombay have fitted conical diffusers to a special type of ventilating and humidifying apparatus with appreciable benefit to the operatives. The Rules relating to the provision of hygrometers and the recording of wet and dry bulb temperatures are generally observed. A few instances were noted of the admission of live steam at high temperatures. Working conditions in the sizing rooms of mills have been bettered by the holding of the cylinders and the provision of exhaust fans.

Wages and Strikes.- In Ahmedabad, the question of an increase in wages was referred to an umpire who awarded an increase of 5 per cent. to weavers and 8 per cent. to spinners. The Labour Union in Ahmedabad has proposed to utilise some of the increase to finance a labour exchange, an unemployment benefit fund and a labour bank. (For the labour situation in Bombay during 1929, see summary of a White Paper issued by the Government of Bombay given at pages 24-27 of the Report of this office for February 1930.)

Employment of Women and Children.- In 1929, the number of ~~men~~ women employed in the factories of the Presidency was 74,924 (27,741 in Bombay City and 47,183 in the mofussil) and that of children 4527 (56 in Bombay City and 4471 in the mofussil). The following table gives the number of women and children ^{employed} in the Presidency during the years 1925-29.

Year	Women			Children		
	Bombay	Mofussil	Total	Bombay	Mofussil	Total
1925	34,510	43,114	77,624	592	7,868	8,460
1926	35,752	45,352	81,104	306	6,772	7,078
1927	34,571	45,584	80,155	164	6,158	6,322
1928	28,173	46,919	75,092	122	5,061	5,183
1929	27,741	47,183	74,924	56	4,471	4,527

The Bombay mills have practically ceased to employ children whilst the number employed in the Ahmedabad mills would probably have been ~~again~~ reduced had it not been for the night shifts in the mills. The double employment evil has, to all intents and purposes, been stamped out of Ahmedabad. The starting of several mills on double shifts led to a temporary increase in the demand for child labour. Out of 5,719 children who presented themselves for examination, 1,206 were candidates for a second certificate which would have enabled them to work in two factories. It is claimed that very few escape the vigilance of the Certifying Surgeon and the Inspector. Children and parents are becoming increasingly more familiar with the provisions of the law, and the average child presented for certification is a ~~ditto~~ distinct improvement over his predecessor of a few years ago.

Nine factories were prosecuted for the irregular employment of children and seventeen for the irregular employment of women. These resulted in 15 and 244 convictions respectively. The prosecutions ~~for~~ for the irregular employment of women were largely the sequel to the surprise visits of the Inspectors to ginning factories in outlying areas. In several large centres, special inspections failed to reveal any serious irregularities and it is abundantly clear that most of the abuses regarding the employment of women in such areas have been stamped out as a result of the prosecutions instituted in the last five years. The factories in the remote areas offer however a real problem owing to the difficulty of access.

Fencing of Machinery.- As in past years, considerable attention has been paid to this important question. Further progress was made in the replacement of the hook type of shuttle guard on looms by the bar variety; practically every scutcher in the Presidency has been provided with a lap guard, whilst, in accordance with the agreement reached a few years ago with the Millowners' Associations, all new carding engines are provided with automatic locking arrangements on the stripping doors. Serious blow room machinery accidents have been practically eliminated by a rigid insistence on a very high standard for the automatic locks for the beater covers and desk doors. Practically all the power presses in the metal stamping factories have been equipped with automatic guards of the sweep away type. These have undoubtedly prevented several serious accidents. Twenty-four prosecutions for breaches of the law relating to fencing were instituted. They were all successful and fines ranging from Rs.5 to Rs. 400 were imposed.

Accidents.- During 1929, 6,282 accidents were reported (51 fatal, 1,421 serious, and 4,810 minor) as against 4,518 accidents in 1928 (39 fatal, 1,060 serious and 3,419 minor) and 4,800 in 1927 (59 fatal, 1,169 serious, and 3,572 minor). There was a considerable increase in reported accidents especially marked in the Bombay, Ahmedabad and Karachi areas.

The accident rate per 100 persons employed was 1.72 for the whole Presidency as against 1.27 in 1928 and 1.25 in 1927. The increasing total of accidents has naturally given rise to some concern, but part of the increase is due to the fact that minor accidents in one concern had, owing to oversight, not been reported in the past. Besides, the Workmen's Compensation Act has undoubtedly led to an increase in reported accidents.

The report also states that liberal treatment in the matter of accidents and efficient medical supervision have a considerable bearing on the legally reported accident rate and tend to increase the number of reported cases of accidents. The Workmen's Compensation Act offers every inducement to work-people to report trivial injuries and to obtain full pay of absenteeism, and this has a considerable bearing on the reported accident rate. The Safety Posters for the textile industry have been displayed in all the mills in the Presidency. One manager mounted them on a slowly revolving frame lighted by electricity in a position where they would be seen by the bulk of the operatives.

Prosecutions.- 475 cases were instituted and brought to a conclusion against 66 factories by the full time Inspectors. Convictions were secured in all cases except three. Two of these were withdrawn whilst the other resulted in an acquittal. In three of the successful cases the accused were convicted and warned. In the others the fine ranged from Re.1 to Rs. 400 and totalled Rs. 9,321. The average per case was approximately Rs. 20 and per factory Rs. 141.

Maternity Benefits and Creches.- The passing of the Maternity Benefit Act by the Legislative Council and the deputing of responsibilities under it to the Factory Inspectors was a notable feature of the year. The labour disputes in Bombay have again hindered the work of the Lady Inspector. 15 creches were however in operation at the close of the year. The average attendance in December was 371 as compared with a maximum during the month of 443. This clearly proves steady appreciation by the mothers. Only seven infants admitted to the creches had never been given opium, but the opium drugging of 243 infants was stopped after admission. The approximate monthly expenditure on the creches was Rs. 1,775. The Millowners' Association, Bombay, have recently advised all their members to provide creches in the mills and it is expected that the current year will witness a large ~~an~~ increase since eight more creches will shortly be started.

Welfare Work.- The report states that an excellent programme of welfare work is being carried out at the Gokak Mills, Gokak, where practically all the 5,000 employees are provided with housing accommodation by the management on nominal rents. Other amenities provided by the management are the maintenance of a plague prevention staff, a fully equipped hospital with two maternity wards and a ~~hospital~~ baby welfare clinic, the starting of provident fund and gratuity schemes for long service and the provision of free education to children of mill operatives.

The Note issued by the Government of Bombay on the Report emphasises the following points:- (1) There was an increase of 5.4 per cent. ~~a~~ in the number of factories as compared with the last year. The increase in the number of factories has been accompanied by an increase in the number of operatives employed. Though there was an increase in the total number of operatives, Bombay shows a considerable drop in the number of operatives in cotton textile factories owing to strikes, the general depression and the introduction of efficiency methods in the mills. (2) The number of women employed was practically the same as in the preceding year though there was a drop of 12.6 per cent. in the number of children employed. The Bombay mills have practically ceased to employ children while the Ahmedabad mills have maintained their usual number of children on account of night work.

(3) There was a considerable increase in the number of accidents as well as in the number of persons injured. The Railway Workshops in the Town and Island of Bombay are mainly responsible for a great number of accidents on account of the better treatment offered by the Railway authorities to the injured persons under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

(The Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1928 is reviewed at pages 26-32 of the Report of this Office for September 1929).

Factory Administration in Madras, 1929.
Conditions of Work in the Madras Presidency.*

Number of Factories.- The year began with 1,480 factories under the operation of the Act. 172 new factories were brought on the register during the twelve months under review, the number being made up as follows:- One metal factory, 6 printing presses, 4 jewellery works, 1 engineering works, 4 motor and coach building works, 4 oil mills, 3 match factories, 1 aluminium factory, 1 tannery, 36 rice mills, 38 groundnut decorticating factories, 15 cotton ginneries, 24 gins and decorticators, 15 rice milling and decorticating, 1 rice mill, decorticator and oil mill, 2 rice mills, decorticators and foundry, 1 paddy hulling and metal factory, 6 hosieries, 6 tea factories, 1 tile making and rice milling factory, 1 bone crushing mill and 1 saw mill. 29 factories were struck off the register, in 19 cases machinery and plant had been removed, in one the use of mechanical power was discontinued and in the other 9 there was no proof of over 19 persons being simultaneously employed as required by the Act. The 1,623 factories on the register at the end of the year were made up of 1,190 perennial and 433 seasonal. 155 of the perennial and 313 of the seasonal are connected with the cotton industry. 1,530 factories were in commission during the year, the remaining 93 being closed for various reasons.

Number of operatives.- The average daily number of operatives employed in the 1,530 factories was 143,217 as against 136,973 in 1928. The increase may be attributed to the larger number of factories on the register. Of these, 6,372 were employed in Government and Local Fund, and the rest in private factories. The cotton spinning and weaving industry engaged 33,333 operatives during the year, while 6,274 persons were employed in jute spinning and weaving mills.

Number of Women and Children.- The total number of women and children employed in registered factories during the last five years were:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
1925	26,884	4,006	2,422
1926	27,096	3,746	2,095
1927	30,860	4,253	2,455
1928	32,095	4,091	2,275
1929	35,036	4,319	2,328

*Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act, XII of 1911, in the Madras Presidency for the year 1929. ~~Enc. to~~ Government of Madras
G. C. No 1254 of 20-6-30.

In certain industrial areas a decrease in child labour has been noticed, presumably the salutary effect of a rigid enforcement of the provisions of the Act relating to this class of operatives and the consequent preference to adult labour wherever available. The general increase in women and children in factories in the Presidency as a whole may be accounted for by the greater number of factories on the register.

Inspections.- Of the 1,530 factories, 460 factories were inspected once, 659 twice, 268 thrice and 91 more than three times. The total number of inspections by all Inspectors was 2,913 (inclusive of visits by additional Inspectors) as against 2,916 in the previous year 52 factories were not inspected during the year for the following reasons:- 29 were found closed at the time of the Inspector's visit, 5 were registered late in the year and 18 had already closed for the season when the Inspector was in those parts. The total number of inspections and visits by departmental officers for 1929 is 4,153 as against 4,141 during 1928.

Health.- The health of the operatives was generally good, no epidemics among factory operatives being reported during the year. The cleanliness of factory premises and their surroundings was well maintained. Orders issued departmentally, and in several cases, on the suggestions of District and Municipal Health Officers were, as a rule, promptly carried out. Legal remedies however had to be resorted to in 19 cases.

40 factories in addition to the 211 already recorded in 1928 provided housing accommodation for operatives during the year. In 18 out of these 40 factories, no rent is charged. Educational facilities for the children of operatives were provided during the year by 4 factories in addition to the 70 providing such facilities in 1928.

Welfare Work.- A few large industrial undertakings continue as usual to take an interest in the welfare of their workers. Special attention to the provision of medical facilities has been paid in tea estates, where estate coolies and factory operatives alike are benefited by them. Since 1928 creches for women operatives and their babes-in-arms have been provided in three factories.

Limewashing and painting.- The periodical limewashing of the inside walls and painting or limewashing of wood work of factories were generally carried out according to rules.

~~Latrine~~ Latrine ~~ex~~ The provision of latrine accommodation and the maintenance of latrines in a sanitary condition has been insisted upon. 17 prosecutions had to be taken up to enforce compliance.

Wages and Strikes.- The daily rates of wages for skilled labour in 1929 varied from Rs. 1-5-4 for an engine driver to Rs. 0-10-0 for a weaver (cotton) and Rs. ~~0-9-10~~ 0-9-10 for a spinner (cotton). The average daily rates for unskilled labour ranged from Rs. 0-10-7 for a press coolie (male) and Rs. 0-6-0 for a press coolie (female) to Rs. 0-8-0 for a male coolie and Rs. 0-4-6 for a female coolie in rice mills.

There were 13 strikes in registered factories during 1929, out of which 5 occurred in textile mills.

Hours of Employment and Weekly Rest.- The rest interval of one hour prescribed by section 21 (1) (a) of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, is observed in 1,350 factories. Up to date only 5 factories, i.e., three printing presses, and the Ordnance Factory of Madras and a sugar factory in South Arcot district have availed of the proviso to section 21, requisite sanction of Government having been obtained, to adopt the half-hour's interval mentioned in the proviso. Exemption to the majority of the operatives from section 21 of the Act has been availed of by 80 factories on condition that sufficient time though not a fixed period is allowed for meals. Returns were not received from 95 factories.

Sundays are generally observed as holidays in most of the factories. Substituted holidays in lieu of these were however given in 734 factories when Sunday work was done some time or other during the year. Exemption from section 22 has been availed of by 109 factories subject to the essential stipulation that no person shall be allowed to work for more than 14 days without a holiday for a whole day.

The number of factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above 48 was 335 for men and 291 for women, ~~about~~ above 48 but not above 54, 217 for men and 161 for women, above 54 was 883 for men and 738 for women. The 30-hour week for children is observed in 52 and more than 30 in 162 factories, respectively. This note will show that the 54-60-hour week is commonly adopted in many industries in the Presidency.

Accidents.- 1558 accidents occurred in factories during the year as against 1,358 in the previous year. The number of accidents and the percentage of persons injured to the average number of operatives employed for the last five years are as follows:-

Year.	Number of persons injured				Average per 100 operatives employed.
	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total	
1925	15	210 210	667	1,092	.88
1926	15	227 267	981	1,263	.99
1927	11	221 260	962	1,233	.92
1928	12	222 258	1088	1,358	.99
1929	20	1,022 359	1179	1,558	1.09

Prosecutions.- The occupiers and managers of 81 factories involving 95 persons were prosecuted during the year under report. 359 convictions were obtained in the aggregate and fines ranging from Rs.4 to Rs. 225 imposed on 100 persons.

The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, in forwarding the Report to the Government of Madras emphasises the following points:-

There has been an increase in the number of factories both perennial and seasonal. The majority of the factories which account for this increase are engaged in rice milling or groundnut decortiating or cotton ginning or a combination of some two of these industries. There was an increase as compared with the previous year

in the number of women and children employed in factories. This increase is due to the general increase in the number of factories during the year. The health of the operatives continued to be good and the facts mentioned in the Chief Inspector's report indicate an increasing desire on the part of the factory owners to promote the welfare of their employees by providing housing, educational and other facilities. The number of industrial disputes culminating in strikes was slightly larger than in the previous year but very few of them were of long duration. There was a greater number of accidents than in the previous year and the ~~stat~~ statistics point to the need for more frequent inspection by ~~a~~ the departmental staff.

Factory Administration in Bengal, 1929*

Number of Factories.- The total number of factories under the operation of the Act rose from 1,446 in 1928 to 1,482 in 1929, an increase of 36. During the year 71 factories were brought on to the register and 35 ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~off~~ were removed. Of the factories brought on to the register, 3 jute mills, 2 coach-building and motor-car repairing works, one lac factory, one printing press, one soap factory, and one cotton ginning and baling factory are new concerns; the remainder comprise small factories which have lately been enlarged sufficiently to bring them within the scope of the Act, or long established concerns which, on account of more effective administration in out-lying districts; have been discovered during the year. The factories removed from the register have, in all cases, closed down permanently.

Number of workers.- The average daily number of persons employed in registered factories rose from 571,079 in 1928 to 589,860 in 1929, ^{net increase} an increase of 18,781. Jute mills, general engineering works, rice mills, tea factories, cotton mills, shipbuilding and engineering works, match factories, iron and steel smelting works, and jute presses account for increases of 7,766, 2,446, 1,673, 1,343, 1,274, 1,171, 910, 898 and 708 workers, respectively.

Inspections.- During the year 2,668 visits were made by Inspectors of the Department to registered factories, and ~~114~~ to 114 unregistered concerns. The figures include 583 special visits for investigation into complaints, enquiry into accidents, the collection of statistics and information relating to subjects under enquiry by the Royal Commission on Labour, etc. 855 factories were inspected once, 259 twice, 106 three times and 158 more than three times. 15 factories however remained uninspected.

Sanitary arrangements and ventilation.- The sanitary arrangements in jute mills and the larger concerns have, on the whole, been satisfactory. Generally, the infractions discovered concerned the non-maintenance of hand-service latrines in a cleanly condition, non-compliance with lime-washing orders, non-maintenance of registers showing the daily number of users of septic tanks and non-maintenance of septic tank automatic turnstiles in proper condition.

*Annual Report on the Administration of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal for the year 1929. Calcutta, Bengal Secretariat Book Depot, 1930. pp. 56. Price - Indian, Rs. 2-4-0; English, 4s. 3d.

Wages.- In July of the year under report the Indian Jute Mills Association adopted a 60-hour working week, i.e., the weekly hours in jute mills were increased from 54 to 60; multiple shift mills changing from a four-day working week, to a four-day and a five-day week alternately; single-shift mills changing from a five-day week to a week of five and a half days. In consequence, wages rose more or less in proportion to the extra hours worked and, also, as the result of a general strike which followed the change, further wage concessions were obtained by the workers. The earnings of jute mill employees are therefore increased, but in other industries there has been practically no change during the past few years, so that with the exception of jute mills, the statistics for 1927 may be taken as a fair indication of the present wages level.

Industrial disputes.- Wages again constituted the most important question at issue in the labour troubles which arose during the year. A considerable number of disputes involving stoppages of work arose in individual factories, but as a rule they were short-lived and unimportant. A general and most serious strike of jute mill operatives, however, took place in July, following immediately on the increased working week. The apparent cause of the strike was wages, the workers claiming that the increase in wages was not commensurate with the extra hours worked. Work was resumed about the middle of August on certain concessions being granted by the employers, but a strong undercurrent of unrest still remains.

Tea Factories.- The rates of wages paid to tea factory employees have remained steady during the year. Relations between employers and workers are generally good. Minor troubles are from time to time experienced on individual gardens but these, as a rule, are of very short duration.

Housing and conditions of living.- The provisions of housing accommodation for factory employees is confined almost entirely to the textile industry and a few other large concerns, and has been a regular feature of their welfare work for many years. Although there has been steady progress, the available accommodation is still inadequate. In many cases employers are anxious to provide sufficient accommodation for all their workers, but are unable to do so on account of the prohibitive prices demanded for the necessary land. Up till now, housing provided by the jute industry accommodates approximately 50 per cent. of the total mill operatives. Practically all the houses are pucca; one or two mills only have kutcha houses, and a few have both pucca and kutcha. Excluding 5 mills, the rents charged for pucca houses range from "rent-free" to Re. 1 per month, the average being approximately 12 annas per month. During the past few years the new lines erected show a steady advance in design, construction and lay-out. Jute mill operatives who are unable to obtain accommodation in mill lines, and operatives in the smaller factories where housing is not provided, usually live in municipal or privately-owned bustees. These bustees, as a rule, are filthy, insanitary and overcrowded.

Maternity Benefits.- A notable development in welfare work during the year has been the introduction of maternity benefits in a large number of jute mills. This, to some extent, may be attributed to the general strike when the managing agents of jute mills agreed to give the matter their consideration. The schemes inaugurated by the different firms are more or less alike, differing only in minor details. Particulars of one scheme, therefore, will serve as a general indication of the amount of benefit granted and the rules under which it is obtainable. These are as follows:-

1. Eligibility.- One year's service, with attendance of sufficient regularity to prove that the worker has not been employed elsewhere for such a period as would entitle her to draw benefit from two employers.

2. Applications for Benefit.- The worker must report her condition, at least two weeks previous to the expected date of confinement.

3. Medical Inspection.- In cases where there is reason to doubt that the worker is pregnant, she is sent to the mill doctor for examination and report.

4. Method of payment.- The worker is handed a Maternity Benefit Form signed by the Assistant in charge of the department and countersigned by the manager. This form is presented weekly at the mill office by the woman or a relative and the payment recorded thereon.

5. Amount and Number of payments.- Payments are made at the rate of Rs. 2-4-0 weekly for four weeks. A fifth payment styled "Special payment" is made if sanctioned by the manager. Any worker wishing to leave the district for the purpose of going to her home for her confinement is allowed to draw the first two payments in advance and the balance is paid when she resumes work. The third, fourth and special payments are only made after acceptable assurance of a birth, and must be claimed within three months of leaving work.

Apart from the jute industry, however, it must be said that employers have done very little in the way of granting women not only leave of absence before and after confinement, but also adequate allowances, and it would therefore appear that legislation somewhat on the lines of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, is called for.

Pension scheme.- Another notable feature during the year is the inauguration, by one firm of managing agents, of a scheme of pensions for the workers in the group of jute mills under their control. It has been a practice for some years in most jute mills to pay pensions only in a few special cases of long and faithful service or on account of disablement due to accident, but the above is the first definite scheme for all workers. It provides for pension at "half-pay" and workers become eligible when they have not less than 20 consecutive years of faithful service, the pension being granted when the applicant has been medically certified as unfit to discharge his or her ordinary duties without suffering undue fatigue or distress.

Welfare Work.- A general review of the welfare work in the province reveals that welfare is carried almost to its farthest point by a number of individual firms. There has been, however, no co-operative effort on the part of employers to combine together for initiating

welfare schemes. So far action has been limited to individual effort, yet, in a huge industry such as the jute mills, it ought to be possible for employers to join together and carry on certain forms of welfare work collectively.

Employment of women.- The average number of women employed daily in registered factories was 77,966, an increase of 2,468 over the previous year. This increase has taken place almost entirely in jute mills, rice mills and tea factories, the returns from these industries showing respectively, 992, 874 and 778 additional women employed. On the other hand, jute presses and cotton-ginning and pressing factories show decreases of 250 and 227, respectively. The number of women employed in jute and cotton mills is 54, 670 and 1,897 respectively, the remaining 21,399 being distributed over the other industries.

Prosecutions in respect of the illegal employment of women were less, six cases only being instituted as against 14 in the previous year. All six cases were for contravention of section 24, viz., the employment of women before 5.30 a.m. in the morning or after 7 p.m. in the evening. In tea factories there is still an impression that women employed in stalk-picking and hand-sorting do not come under the purview of the Act. In the Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts 24 and 13 orders respectively were issued concerning failure to enter the names of sorting room women in the employment register.

Employment of Children.- The gradual decline in the number of children employed in registered factories continued during the year, the number being 23,036 as against 24,422 in 1928, i.e., a decrease of 1,386. The number of children employed in jute mills is 17,278 and in cotton mills 1,040, the remaining 4,718 being distributed over other industries. Owing to the disadvantages arising out of the restrictions placed on the employment of child labour by the Act, the elimination of children now appears to be a general policy among managers. One prosecution case during the year against the manager of a jute mill resulted in every child being dismissed from the mill and their places filled by adult labour. The only solution to the problem of child labour in Bengal, the Report maintains, is the introduction of compulsory primary education. Irregularities in the employment of children in multiple shift jute mills show little, if any, improvement. The futility of the Act in respect of child protection where multiple shift systems are worked has been the subject of criticism and controversy for many years, and it is hoped that the facts, figures and information put before the Royal Commission on Labour will have the desired effect.

Section 44A of the Act, which was introduced in the amended Act of 1926 for the purpose of preventing the employment of children in two factories on the same day, is ineffective. A certain amount of double employment is known to exist but it is impossible for either managers or inspectors to detect it. 16 prosecutions were instituted for illegal employment and, in every case, conviction was obtained. The charges were for the employment of children (1) without medical certificates, (2) for more than six hours per day, and (3) beyond specified hours.

Age certification of children.- During the year 18,625 children were examined by the Certifying Surgeons, and of that number 12,699 were certified as being over 12 years of age and physically fit for employment, 542 were rejected as being under 12 years of age or physically unfit, and 5,384 were certified as over 15 years of age. In comparison with last year, these figures show a decrease of 2,091 in the number of children certified and an increase of 56 in the number rejected.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents reported during the year from registered factories in Bengal was 4,540, of which 79 were fatal, 1,391 serious and ~~52~~ 3,070 minor, i.e., an increase of 187 serious and 696 minor over last year's figures; the number of fatal accidents being exactly the same. The percentage of accidents on the total number of persons employed is .76 an increase of .13 over the previous year.

The report states that the comparative figures above, however, are misleading. Jute Mill accidents accounts for .02 per cent. of the increase, but otherwise, the accident returns reveal that seven factories only account for practically the whole of the total increase, and on investigation, it was found that, with one exception, these were factories which had been warned regarding their slackness in reporting accidents, and had, in consequence, determined to keep on the right side of the law by reporting every trifling injury. It is, therefore, safe to say that there has been little, if any, increase in the actual number of reportable accidents occurring in these factories.

Prosecutions.- There has been an increase in the number of prosecution cases, but the figures are not altogether an indication of the degree of observance of the provisions of the Act. Not only is it necessary ~~to~~ before instituting proceedings to take into consideration the circumstances of each particular case, but it often happens, especially in regard to illegal employments, that when an Inspector is unable personally to prove the offence, the risk of depending upon the witnesses makes prosecution undesirable. Complaints regarding excess hours have been received from workers and surprise visits have proved that illegal hours were being worked, but when cases are taken into court, the workers - generally through fear of dismissal - refuse to give evidence. This department has never yet succeeded in getting a worker into court to give evidence against his ~~own~~ or her employer. In one instance the actual workers who made a complaint came into court in support of the manager, and gave evidence in direct contradiction to their own declarations to the Inspector.

During the year prosecution proceedings were instituted in 171 cases, 162 of which were against managers of factories, 3 against occupiers, 2 against managers' assistants, one against two time-babus, 2 against durwans, and one against the occupier and manager jointly. The more important ~~of the~~ offences and the number of cases under each, are as follows:- illegal employment of children, 16; illegal employment of women, 6; employing persons beyond or without specified hours, 20; employing persons for more than 60 hours a week, 6; employing persons for more than 11 hours a day, 1; non-observance of weekly holidays, 50;. Convictions were obtained in 130 cases 6 ended in acquittal, 8 were withdrawn and 27 were undecided at the close of the year.

The Report of the Factories Act in Bengal for the year 1928 is received at page 39 Co 43 of the Report of this Office for the month of September 1929.

Factory Administration in Burma, 1929*

Number of Factories. The number of factories registered in Burma and the Northern Shan States at the end of 1929 was ~~XXXX~~ 1,064 compared with 1,047 at the end of 1928. 88 factories were closed throughout the year, leaving 976 which were running for at least some part of the year, compared with 968 in the previous year. Trade was generally slack and many of the 976 factories were only open for a few weeks. The establishment of a few trades which have not been previously recorded in the reports has to be noted. A woolen (weaving) factory was opened at the Insein Jail, and a hosiery factory and a stone crushing yard in Rangoon.

Number of Operatives. The general slackness of trade has resulted in the number of persons employed dropping from 101,586 in 1928 to 98,077 in the year under report. Speaking generally the more important trades such as ricemilling, saw milling, engineering and petroleum refining appear to have suffered more than the minor industries. The proposal to extend the Act to small factories is still in abeyance and seems likely to remain there unless the Provincial finances show an unexpected improvement.

New Rules. No new rules or alterations to the previous notifications relating to exemptions were issued by the Government of India or the Local Government during the year.

Housing of Industrial Labour. The housing of labour has not altered materially during the year. At Mamtu, Yenangyaung and Chauk the housing is excellent and the surroundings have nothing to be desired. At the larger mills it is generally satisfactory and as a rule becomes less good at the smaller mills. In Rangoon the larger saw mills house the greater part of their staff but the small mills do not provide accommodation. The rice mills house the skilled mill staff but usually a portion at least of the coolies have to find accommodation elsewhere.

General Health. The general health of the operatives was normal throughout the year. The question of lead poisoning in the Burma Corporation's works at Namtu was gone into and attention was called to certain dangerous conditions.

Employment of Women. Women are employed in the cotton ginning factories but those mills are open for only a few months in the year. they also work during the dry weather in the boiled paddy business and it is here that illegal employment at night may be looked for mainly. The match factories work throughout the year and employ considerable numbers of women, who are the cause of considerable anxiety to the department as there is a strong tendency to overcrowding in the hand-filling department and this adds to the danger from fire which is always present. Out of the total of ~~XXXXXX~~ 98,077 factory workers in Burma during 1929, 9988 were women.

Employment of Children. The total number of children employed in factories was 752 (523 boys, and 299 girls) in 1929, as against 845 (620 boys, 225 girls) in 1928 and 1,089 (778 boys, 311 girls) in 1927. There has been a steady diminution in the number of children employed in factories.

Accidents. In 1929 there were 1,988 accidents (20 fatal, 351 serious, 1,617 minor) as against 1482 accidents (16 fatal, 248 serious 1218 minor) in 1928, and 1452 accidents 28 fatal, 275 serious, 1149 minor) in 1927. There was ^{thus} a very large increase in the number of

accidents reported during the year. All the industrial districts contributed to this increase except Mandalay and the Northern Shan States and ~~in~~ in the latter area the drop in the total number of accidents reported was accompanied by ~~an~~ increase in the number of fatal and serious accidents. Better reporting is at least a partial explanation, but it seems clear that the year was an exceptionally ~~an~~ unfortunate one and that the bad trade conditions accompanied by less employment did not, as might have been expected, result in fewer injuries.

Inspections. The inspection staff conducted 379 inspections during 1929 as against 715 in 1928 and 817 in 1927. 345 factories were inspected once, 31 factories twice, 1 factory thrice, and 2 factories more than three times. 597 factories were not inspected even once during the year, as against 253 in 1928 and 123 in 1927.

Noteworthy Features. The most noteworthy features in the report for 1929 are:- (1) the failure of the inspecting staff to carry out its programme of annual inspection of all factories on the registers; (2) an exceptional increase in the number of accidents reported and also of the number of deaths caused in the accidents; (3) the attention that has now been directed to lead poisoning, and (4) the difficulty met with in enforcing the law about the weekly holiday.

(The report of the ~~working~~ of Factory Administration in Burma for the year 1928 is reviewed at pages 23 to 24 of the report of this Office for the month of October 1929.)

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, in Burma for the year 1929. Rangoon, Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1930. Price, Rs.3 =4s.6d. pp. 56.

EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATION37th Annual General Meeting of the United Planters'Association of South India.

The 37th annual general meeting of the United Planters' Association was held at the Mayo Hall, Bangalore, ^{from 18th to 22nd} ~~on the 18th~~ August 1930, Mr. W.A.J. Milner, Chairman presiding. There was a large attendance of members which included Messrs. R. Fouke, ex-Chairman, F.E. James, M.L.C., planting member, C.R.T. Congreve, P.G. Tipping, G. Mcpherson, A.J. Wright, Lt.Col. C.H. Brock, H. Waddington, E.L. Hill, Dr.W.S. Shaw, K.B.W. Jones, W.W. Mayne, and representatives of many plantations both firms and associations. Among the visitors present were His Highness the Yuvaraja of Mysore, His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore, Lt.Col. R.J.C. Burke, Hon. British Resident in Mysore, Mr. G.H. Cooke, I.C.S., Collector and District Magistrate, Civil and Military Station, Dr. Leslie O. Coleman, Director of Agriculture in Mysore, Mr. G.R. Hilson, Director of Agriculture in Madras and Dr.H.E. Watson of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

In his presidential speech, Mr. Milner made a rapid survey of the prospects before the tea, coffee and rubber industries of India. Referring to the tea industry he said:-

In the case of "Tea", we may reasonably hope that the worst is now past. Stocks in the United Kingdom are estimated to be round about 227 million pounds, a reduction of 60 millions from the highest figure at which they stood at the end of last year. Reliable opinion in London favours a steady improvement in the position. At the same time one must not be too optimistic. Java Estates are producing larger and larger crops every year, which it apparently pays them to sell in the London market at about 8d.-9d. a lb. It would be interesting to know what their cost of production is. There are very few instances in South India I imagine of the C.I.F. London cost being lower than 9d.; in many cases 10d. would be the correct figure. In Sumatra, during 1929, 20,000 acres of young tea came into bearing and a further 11,000 acres this year, but it is satisfactory to note that they have come into the Restriction Scheme although, strictly speaking, they need not have done so. This, together with new openings in other producing countries must eventually mean a large increase in production. World consumption of tea on the other hand appears to be almost at a standstill. The advertising campaign in

in the U.S.A. has not yet produced appreciable results despite the expenditure of large sums annually by the Indian Tea Cess Committee. The Russian market has not come up to expectations owing to difficulties of finance. In India itself with its population of over 300 millions the consumption is said to be only 1/5th lb. per head per annum. The Indian Tea Cess Committee I understand, are consulting the proprietary interests at home with a view to intensifying their efforts for increasing the sale of tea in this country and will, we hope, shortly be able to put forward some definite proposals.

Referring to the Coffee industry Mr. Milner said:-

Coffee also has suffered ~~xxx~~ severely from the general depression in prices, the rates being paid fully 25 to 30 per cent below those obtained at the same period last year. South Indian Coffee is, I understand, feeling the competition of the Central African product and like tea, the best remedy lies at our own doors; and it is therefore encouraging to learn that the consumption of coffee in this country is steadily increasing. Coffee in South India is faced with a serious problem in respect of Stephanoderes and measures to deal with this most dangerous disease must be decided on at this meeting. I must pay a warm ~~tributex~~ tribute to the interest shown in this matter by Dr. Coleman and the Agricultural Department of the Mysore Government and for the energy they have displayed in preparing schemes for the control and ultimate extinction of the Stephanoderes pest. Dr. Coleman's scheme is based upon contributions in money from the U.P. A.S.I., the Governments of Mysore and Madras, the Administration of Coorg, and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. I am bound to say, however, that the full value of this expenditure will be largely nullified ~~in~~ if the carrier of the pest - unroasted coffee beans from Java and Africa - is allowed to have access to this country. We have made repeated representations to the Government of India on this question, with the result that the import of this commodity is prohibited in South Indian ports. I am glad to be able to add that the Government of India were giving the question of total prohibition their most immediate and careful consideration. Nothing short of complete prohibition will satisfy the coffee industry in this country.

Reviewing the position of the rubber industry, he said:-

Rubber is in the worst position of all but one can only hope that the efforts now being made by the Combined Anglo-Dutch Committee to induce their respective Governments to introduce legislation for restriction of output will be successful. The world consumption of rubber is estimated to be about 63,000 tons a month; production is 71,000 tons; and, if these figures are correct, it means that close on 100,000 tons of surplus rubber will be thrown on the market this year in addition to the present very large visible stocks. It seems almost inconceivable, in view of the vast capital involved, that the Anglo-Dutch Committee's appeal to their respective Governments will fall on deaf ears. It is impossible to devise any scheme on a voluntary basis, which can effectively meet the present situation. Government legislation is essential if the whole foundation of the industry is not to be seriously endangered and hundreds of thousands of native producers and estate labourers as well as the European staff engaged in rubber growing deprived of their means of livelihood.

The conference discussed and passed resolutions on a number of subjects of importance to planting interests. The conference authoritatively defined the attitude of the European planters of South India to Indian political aspirations. Mr. F.E. James, the representative of planting interests in the Madras Legislative Council, whose lead in political matters has been endorsed by the Conference, in a speech on the political situation said:

"We in Madras have advocated full responsible Government and the greatest amount of autonomy in our province, without some of the restrictions which are thought necessary in other provinces. With regard to the Central Government, it will be difficult for our community to put forward very detailed views, and our leaders should be content with formulating certain general principles which they wish to see applied in the new constitution. It is of the utmost importance that this constitutional problem should be settled on lines which will permit India's growth on well-defined lines.

"There is however one matter on which Europeans of all shades of opinion are united, and that is the necessity for their protection against discrimination in the matter of taxation and legislation. This is a plain fact which no Indian party should ignore, because it is bound to carry considerable weight in Britain. We must be prepared to say what safeguards we want. At the Round-Table Conference realities will take the place of phrases, and our representatives must be prepared to put forward concrete proposals".

Mr. James condemned the civil disobedience and boycott movements, welcomed the Round-Table Conference and said that the conference must be held despite the threatened abstention of Congress groups. (Hindu, 19-8-1930).

The following is the text of some of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Conference:-

"In view of the fact that this pest (*Stephanoderes Hampei*) has been found alive on imported coffee, this Association would, once more press upon the Imperial Government the extreme urgency of the immediate total prohibition of the import of all coffee, in the raw state, into India, - with the exception of such consignments as are imported for experimental purposes only through the Director of Agriculture, Madras. It desires to express its strong dissatisfaction with the Government of India for not applying earlier the Destructive Insects and Pests Act of 1914 to the import of raw Coffee into India, in spite of repeated representations made by this Association from 1925 to 1930. And further, this Association would urge upon the Imperial Government the justice of financing, entirely, such schemes for stamping out this pest, as may be decided upon by the agriculture authorities of the Governments concerned". (carried).

"That in view of the delay which is likely to occur before any definite decision can be reached regarding help by the Imperial Government, and in view of the extreme urgency of the case, this Association asks all South Indian Governments concerned to co-operate to take such steps as are necessary to control and ultimately eradicate the pest known as *Stephanoderes Hampei*". (carried unanimously).

"In view of the telegram received by the Planting Member from the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and in view of the remarks made by Dr. Leslie Coleman, this Association is of the opinion that a close co-operation between Mysore Government and the other interested Governments and Associations of South India is essential and that the conditions laid down by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are not acceptable in their present form". (carried).

"That this Meeting do consider the question of Coffee Propaganda" (carried).

"That the Executive Committee be empowered to negotiate with the Indian Tea Association with reference to the continuance of the affiliation of the U.P.A.S.I. with the Tea Scientific Station at Tocklai on a reduced subscription". (carried).

"That the Indian Tea Cess Committee be requested to take every possible step to increase the sale of Tea in India if necessary by the formation of a separate selling Agency". (carried).

"That the U.P.A.S.I. should approach the Madras Government with a view to its expediting the delegation of powers to Inspectors under the Food Adulteration Act as far as Tea is concerned, as until this is done no steps can be taken to check the trade in adulterated and imitation teas". (carried).

"That this Association do represent to the Revenue authorities of the Madras Government the injustice of levying a tax on water used for industrial purposes from streams and rivers the beds of which are included in the pattas and are assessed to land revenue". (carried).

"That the Madras Government be requested to introduce or facilitate the introduction of a Bill in the Legislative Council for the extension of the provisions of the Malabar Compensation for Tenants' Improvement Act, 1899, to the Gudalur Taluk of the Nilgiris and that the Planting Member be asked to make representations to that effect". (carried).

"That in view of the importance of the proposed railway from Pollachie to Vananthurai to the Planting and Agricultural interests of the district, the Government of India be requested to provide the necessary funds in the next budget of the Railway Board so that the construction may be taken in hand without undue further delay". (carried).

"That this Association urges on the Government of Madras that the Kuruvanuth-Kodaikanal Road Station Road be made a trunk road and does not allow it to revert back to the Madura District Board". (carried).

"That this Association do approach the Madras Government with the following request that all roads passing through the Malabar Wynaad now under the control of the Public Works Department do continue to remain, and that they do not revert to the District Board for future maintenance". (carried).

"(a) That the Postmaster-General be requested to make the Santaveri Post Office a sub-office of Chikmagalur.

(b) and also be requested to arrange for the establishment of a mail service by Bus between Chikmagalur and Santaveri". (carried).

"That this meeting unanimously adopts the conclusions of the Anglo-Dutch Rubber restriction liason committee". (carried).

(The proceedings of the 2 36th general meeting of the U.P.A.S.I. was summarised at pages 36-41 of the report of this office for the month of August 1929).

All-India Employers' Federation: Scheme temporarily Shelved.

At pages 38-41 of the report of this office for January 1930, reference had been made to the letter addressed by the Bombay Mill-owners' Association to a number of important employers' associations in India regarding the proposal for forming an All-India ~~Federation~~ Employers' Federation. In its letter, the Bombay Millowners' Association had suggested that a preliminary meeting for discussing the details incidental to the forming of the Federation should be held at Bombay early in 1930 and had invited employers' bodies to send one or more delegates to the meeting. As several employers' bodies did not find it convenient to have an early date in 1930 fixed for the preliminary meeting, it was at first expected that the meeting will be held towards the end of May 1930. Subsequently, the Bombay Mill-owners' Association has, however, in a letter dated 24-7-30, intimated the employers' organisations concerned that for various reasons it had not been found possible so far to hold the preliminary meeting. At first it was a question of the convenience of the various bodies concerned and later the abnormal political situation which developed throughout the country. Whilst the situation was possibly a little easier in July, the Millowners' Association thought that it would be agreed that it would be advisable to wait for some time before inaugurating the proposed Federation. The position at present is, therefore, that the proposal for the formation of the All-India Employers' Federation is left in abeyance for the time being.
(Extracted from the report of the proceedings of the Indian Mining Association held on 20-8-30.)

INTELLECTUAL WORKERS.

38

Annual Meeting of the Madras Teachers' Guild, 1930.

The Annual meeting of the Madras Teachers' Guild was held at Madras on 16-8-30 under the chairmanship of Mr. P.A.Subramanya Iyer, B.A.,L.T., the President of the Guild. About 150 members of the teaching profession in Madras attended the meeting.

The report for 1929-30 presented by Mr. G.S.Sabhesan, the General Secretary of the Guild, stated that the Protection Fund of the South Indian Teachers' Union had now nearly 500 members on its rolls, of whom 100 were members of the Guild. The object of the Fund was to protect teachers in their grievences against school managers. A membership of 500 was encouraging, but the Madras Teachers owed a duty to themselves, and to the Guild to join the fund in large numbers and make Madras itself a unit. The year under review has been no improvement in the lot of the teacher. The recent G.O. on the 'security of tenure' had on all hands, been condemned as inadequate, disappointing and unsatisfactory. It was a pity that resolutions after resolutions passed by the Madras Teachers' Guild praying that a mere contract between the teacher and the Management could be of no use, and that the enforcement of a standardised scale of salaries and a code of service rules was absolutely necessary in the interests of sound education, should not have been given any consideration at all by the Government. It was to remedy this state of affairs that the Provincial Educational Conference resolved to put up a candidate for the University seat in the Madras Legislative Council.

The general sense of the meeting was that the teachers of the Presidency should organise themselves more efficiently. At present the membership of the Teachers' Protection Fund was 500. It was felt that while this was good for a beginning, efforts should be made to induce the 10,000 odd teachers in the Presidency to become members of the Fund.

(Hindu 18-8-30.)

Salaried Employees' Activities.

During August 1930 the following activities of salaried employees' organisations have to be reported:-

The Quarterly Conference of Teachers under the auspices of the Malabar Teachers' Guild (South India) was held at Palghat on 2-8-1930 under the chairmanship of the President of the Malabar Teachers' Guild.

... ..

The Annual General Meeting of the ministerial establishment of the Army and Royal Air Force Headquarters was held on 25-8-1930 in the Assembly Chamber, Simla. Over 400 members attended. Many questions of vital interest to the lower grade clerks were raised, the chief being the question of raising the efficiency bar in the second division. Mr. B. Dass urged that, in view of the precedent in the Civil Secretariat, the Government of India, could not reject the proposal in the case of the Army and Royal Air Force Headquarters offices without being inconsistent and unreasonable.

He voiced the sentiments of the low paid clerks and gave expression to their feelings that refusal to comply with a reasonable request in regard to raising the ~~the~~ efficiency bar in the second division had created an impression in their minds that the existing efficiency bar was being retained with a view to compel clerks to volunteer for the third division and thus reduce the so called concession offered by the Government of India, of allowing the existing staff to remain in the second division, to a disgraceful farce. (Pioneer, 27-8-1930).

... ..

Scheme for House -

40

-Building Advances for Officers, Mysore State.

In July 1928, the Government of Mysore sanctioned certain rules for the grant of advances to Government servants for house-building and for purchase of houses for residential purposes. The Mysore Government have recently passed revised rules whereby advances up to one year's pay are admissible to all officers of Government for building or purchasing houses for their residence in all places in the State where no suitable houses are available or where house rent is exceptionally high, subject to certain conditions. Advance will be free of interest in the case of officers on pay ^{of} less than Rs.250 per mensem; interest will be charged at 6 per cent. per annum and the advance will be limited to an officer to the maximum of Rs. 10,000 in the case of officers on higher rates of pay. In all cases advances will be adjusted by monthly deductions of one quarter pay besides interest on the amount; and the repayment will be completed within four years. More favourable commissions are granted to officers residing in Bangalore, Mysore or in Yodatore. (Hindu, 7-8-1930).

Gratuities for Retired Temporary Employees,
Hyderabad State.

The employees in the various departments of the Hyderabad State were for some ~~years~~ months past expressing their dissatisfaction with the conditions of service in the State, one of the principal grievances being the fact that employees were entertained for long periods in Government service, in some cases even for 12 to 15 years, on the temporary establishment and were liable to summary dismissal without any pension, bonus or gratuity. The Hyderabad Government has recently issued a circular to all Government departments and offices directing that from the date of promulgation of the order when men are entertained even on the temporary establishment, they would be entitled, at the time of their retirement, resignation or dismissal, to a gratuity amounting to one month's salary per each year of service.

(Hindu, 1-8-1930).

Economic Conditions.Economic Depression in India.

The most arresting feature of the general economic situation in the country is the phenomenal depression which is prevailing in the country's agricultural and industrial activities. Two of the most noticeable features of the economic depression have been an appreciable fall in the revenues of the government both central and provincial and the increase of unemployment with its inevitable repercussions on labour conditions in the country.

There was a drop in Bengal's revenue for the first quarter of the present official year of Rs. 2.3 millions, while the deficit for the second quarter is expected to be still greater. From the other provinces similar tales of distress are pouring in. Bombay anticipates a deficit of Rs. 10 millions, or nearly 20 per cent of the annual revenue of the province. Excise, Stamps and Forests as heads of revenue for provincial governments are all registering phenomenal falls in receipts. While receipts have dramatically fallen, the cost of administration has simultaneously increased mainly owing to governments' differences with the Congress and the necessity to fight the civil disobedience campaign. If such is the situation in the provinces, the finances of the Central Government are in an even more parlous condition. The customs revenue, the great stand-by of Finance Members has sadly shrunken, and unfortunately the fall in imports has brought no corresponding boom in the Indian market, which might have produced expansion of revenue elsewhere. On the contrary though piece goods are not coming in mills are closing down. The Central Government too feels the burden of extra expenditure, as the military operations on the North West Frontier necessitated by recurring raids by border

tribes constitute a heavy charge on central revenues.

The serious drop in the revenues of the Government is reflected in the following figures of the income accruing to Government from Railways and customs. According to the Times of India of 26-8-1930 the total approximate gross earnings of all State-owned Railways for the week ending August 9, 1930 amount to Rs. 13.9 millions - Rs. 0.7 millions less than the figures for the last week and Rs. 3.3 millions less than the figures for the corresponding week of the previous year. The total approximate gross earnings up to August 9, 1930 amount to Rs. 33,960 millions or Rs. 20.1 millions less than the figures for the corresponding period of the previous year and Rs. 22 millions less than the corresponding period of 1928-28. (Times of India, 26-8-30)

According to the Reports on Foreign Trade for July 1930 published by the Collectors of Customs of Karachi and Bombay, there have been heavy falls in the value of the export and import trade of both these ports. The statistics for foreign trade of Karachi Port for July 1930 show that the total value of imports (merchandise) amounted to Rs. 15.5 millions, a decrease of Rs. 7.2 millions and that of exports to ~~Rxix~~ Rs. 17.4 millions, a decrease of Rs. 6.7 millions as compared with the figures for the corresponding month of last year. The progressive totals for the four months ending July 1930 show ~~that~~ a decrease of Rs. 20.9 millions or 23 per cent. under imports and Rs. 30 millions or 29 per cent. under exports. (Times of India, 26-8-1930).

The statistics of foreign trade of the port of Bombay for July 1930 showed that the aggregate value of the foreign trade of Bombay - imports and exports - for the month of July 1930 amounted to Rs. 101.4 millions, showing a fall of Rs. 35.1 millions, or nearly 26 per cent. as compared with the figures for the corresponding month of the previous year.

Imports of merchandise were valued at Rs. 43.4 millions, showing a decrease of Rs. 21.1 millions, or 33 per cent due mainly to smaller arrivals of most of the principal articles of imports, the more important being cotton piecegoods (—nearly 25 million yards and —Rs.7.092 millions), motor cars - including motor wagons, cycles and parts thereof (—Rs. 2.635 millions), mineral oils (—nearly 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons, imports of kerosene oil being ~~nil~~ nil as against 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons valued at Rs. 3.11 millions in July 1929), cotton twist and yarn (—over 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ million lb. and —Rs.1.436 million), silk manufactures (—Rs. 1.424 millions), other manufactures of cotton (—Rs. 1.124 millions), wool manufactures (—Rs. ~~2~~ 0.623 million) and metals and ores (—Rs. 0.502 million).

Exports of Indian produce were valued at Rs. 43.5 millions as against Rs. 54.6 millions in the same month last year, showing a decrease of Rs. 11.1 millions or 20 per cent. owing mainly to smaller ~~shipments~~ shipments of raw cotton (—2,112 tons and —Rs.9.267 millions), hides and skins - raw and tanned (—Rs.0.823 million), cotton twist and yarn (—over $\frac{1}{4}$ million lb. and —Rs.0.31 million) and raw wool (—nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ million lb. and —Rs. ~~2~~ 0.269 million).

The trade statistics of the first four months of the financial year 1930-31 show a contraction of Rs. 0.468 millions, or 13 per cent. in imports and of Rs. 0.654 millions, or 23 per cent. in exports as compared with the figures of the corresponding months of the preceding years. (Times of India, 25-8-1930).

While the Government has thus been faced with a serious financial crisis, the agricultural and industrial interests in the country are passing through no less difficult times. The prices of rubber, tea, jute, wheat and rice have fallen heavily. A number of Ceylon rubber

estates have decided to close down at the end of September 1930 if there is no appreciable increase in price or if a scheme restriction is not in force by that time. The price in Colombo of rubber, in many cases, is below the actual cost of production, and the figures of rubber exports from Ceylon for July 1930 show a drop of Rs. 7 millions as compared with that of the preceding month. (Pioneer, 21-8-30) The position in other spheres of production is equally serious. So is the position in the jute industry owing to over production and fall in prices that the Indian Jute mills Association decided on 13-8-1930 to curtail production by extending the system of closing all jute mills for one ~~month~~^{week} each month during July, August and September 1930, up to 31st March 1931. (Statesman, 14-8-1930). The same distressing phenomena of over-production and fall in prices have been observed in the tea and coffee industries. Owing to the competition of Java and Sumatra tea estates tea has been selling in the London market at about 8d. ~~or~~ to 9d. a lb., while the cost of production in India comes in many cases to 10d. a lb. Coffee also has suffered severely from the general depression in prices, the prevalent price rates being fully 25 to 30 per cent below those obtained during the same period last year. (Statesman, 20-8-1930).

While everybody is in agreement on the point that there is an unprecedented and an all round economic depression in the country, there are considerable differences of opinion about the causes ~~of~~ and remedies suggested for the present state of affairs. Thus, the Times of India, Bombay, in its issue of 28-8-1930 in the course of a leading article on the subject observes:-

"The question naturally to be asked is what are the immediate causes of the depression and how long is it going to last. India is closely knit economically to the outside world, as all countries of importance now are. She suffered from the Wall Street collapse last autumn in common with European and other Asiatic countries, and the

feeling of pessimism has continued until today when there is very little confidence in the immediate future. Bombay's premier industry is thoroughly in the doldrums and politics having come in at the door has driven economics and business out at the window. Potential markets therefore, in this country are unable to buy. Moreover, the low price level of food grains and raw materials has reacted on the purchasing power of the cultivator, who has for some time been at the mercy of the inability of production to adjust itself to consumption. Restriction of production has been tried in the case of such primary products as rubber, coffee, tin, copper, oil and steel but unexpected factors have in these cases made regulation extremely difficult, if not in some cases impossible. In the meantime every effort must be made to curtail costs on the one hand and above all on the other to bring about the return of confidence and political security. There is hardly a single business man in Bombay who is not heartily sick of the civil disobedience campaign and who longs to be left to pursue his ordinary business activities. Capital, proverbially shy, has been, we think, only temporarily frightened away and with the improvement in politics followed by the moving off of accumulated stocks, one of the most outstanding features of the depression, a change for the better will take place.

Finally, there is an international problem that will require solution - the relation of gold to prices. Very considerable stocks of sterilised gold could be set free. The League of Nations and the Bank for International Settlements, not to mention the League's Gold Committee and the British Banking Enquiry Committee, have no more important question to solve. Sir George Schuster in his last Budget speech, it will be remembered, emphasised in getting at the facts, the necessity of more and better statistics, and an Advisory Economic Council of the best economists and financiers in the country. We venture once again to emphasize the need of a centralised Department of Statistics under the Finance Department of the Government of India"

While Anglo-Indian papers attribute the depression to the civil disobedience movement, leading Indian businessmen and economists point out the half-truths contained in such arguments and assert that the trade depression is due mainly to the Government's iniquitous financial policy. Thus, Mr. G.D. Birla in the course of a statement reviewing the general economic situation issued to the press on 14-8-1930 says:-

"There are people who attribute the present state of affairs mainly to the existing political tension but I am afraid little proof is available to substantiate such an assertion. True, the present unstable political situation has greatly contributed to the feeling of insecurity about the future of trade and has particularly hit some of the importing trades, specially of imported cloth, but to maintain that the present economic depression is due mainly to the political unrest is to make a statement lacking entirely in truth. Take, for

instance, the example of the Cotton Textile Industry. It would be sheer absurdity to maintain that due to the movement of the boycott of foreign cloth, Indian mills are adversely affected. The ~~matter of~~ fact is that, but for the boycott movement most ~~in the~~ Bombay mills would have shut their doors long ago. Normal consumption of cloth in India is estimated to be about 4,800 million yards out of which 1,200 million yards is produced by the hand-loom industry. The Indian mills have been producing when they worked full about 2,400 million yards and on this basis in order to meet our normal requirements, we still require about 1,200 million yards for which we have to rely either on imports or an increased production in India. So far as foreign cloth is concerned, it is practically totally boycotted, whereas Indian production instead of showing any signs of increase is expected to be very much affected by the contemplated closing down of a large number of mills in Bombay. With such a short supply of cloth at our disposal we should have by this time found ourselves in the grip of a severe cloth famine. But what do we find instead? The stock of mill-made cloth is accumulating and mills are experiencing serious difficulties in disposing of their products.

One naturally asks for an explanation of such a situation. But the reply is very simple, The purchasing power of the agriculturist has dwindled down to an extent never experienced before and as the prosperity and otherwise of the trade, commerce and industry must naturally depend entirely on the economic condition of the cultivators, the plight of the latter is having its repercussion on the former. To put the situation in a nut-shell, our present trouble is only a reflection of the distress of the agriculturists. Jute in Bengal is sold at Rs. 4 per maund. Wheat was being sold in the Punjab at Rs. 2/6 per maund only until recently a most unusually low price. Cotton in C.P. was being sold recently at Rs. 125 per candy. These are prices much below the cost of production. Can any one expect the agriculturists under the circumstances to consume much when his production does not fetch even his cost price? And I wonder how by any stretch of imagination any one can prove that the absurdly low prices of the agricultural products are due to the present political unrest in the Country.

Many of us have all along maintained that the main cause of the economic depression in India is to be traced in the ruinous financial policy of the Government and I still maintain that until the financial policy of the Government of India is shaped to suit our own requirements we cannot get out of the economic slough into which we are sinking deep and deep every day. No cessation of political unrest can create a millenium so long as the present policy of the Finance Department of the Government continues. Continuous contraction of currency is being made. During this financial year alone, about 210 millions worth of ~~rupees~~ rupees has been deflated and over and above this, borrowing at fancy rates by the Government in and out of season has become the fashion of the day. God alone can help trade under such circumstances". (Hindustan Times, 17-8-1930).

Between these extreme schools of opinion come the views expressed by Mr. E.C. Benthall at the ~~the~~ last annual general meeting of the Imperial Bank of India:

"While the fall in public revenues is clearly principally due to the Congress movement, it is fair to say that the trade position would be depressing anyhow, owing to world causes. Both imports and exports would in any case have declined in some degree in sympathy with international stagnation, and neither jute nor tea would be in adequate demand even though the political horizon were cloudless. When the present era of falling world prices is over and stability is reached Indian trade will inevitably react quickly to the improved situation. It is not low prices but falling prices that cause depression; the curse of the world's markets is the alternation of boom and slump, and the fact that every ascending curve of prices has to be paid for by the subsequent descent!" (Statesman, 21-8-1930).

Future of Indian Cotton mill industry:

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Mr. Arno S. Pearse's Conclusions.

Little hope for Lancashire that she will regain India's cotton trade is given by Mr. Arno S. Pearse, advisory expert to the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners, who recently made investigations into the Indian cotton industry. The results of his inquiry are revealed in a book, "Cotton Industry of India", just published in which Mr. Pearse forecasts that Indian mills will be eventually able to supply the whole Indian market, though the future he thinks, lies not with Bombay but with mills more favourably situated to avoid high costs of production.

Mr. Pearse emphasises the enormous strides which the Indian industry has made and expects this advance to continue but considers that tariff protection has not been an unmixed blessing since it has saved the Indian industry from the full results of its inefficiency and deprived the millowners of real incentive to put their house in order. He suggests, for instance, that in Bombay much machinery is antiquated, that managing agents are out of touch with both mills and markets. He has a poor opinion of the individual operative and finds that organised labour is misguided in its aims and methods. Generally speaking, however, Mr. Pearse points out that the technical equipment of Indian mills is so far advanced that the millowners are not in the least afraid of Lancashire's present competitive capacity in goods made from yarns up to forties and even in finer goods the competition of Lancashire is not regarded seriously.

Referring to the outlook for Bombay, Mr. Pearse points out that a humid atmosphere and supply of skilled labour are no longer essential for the establishment of a successful cotton industry and while Bombay is suffering from the highly concentrated situation of its

mills, from obstructionist Labour tactics, and high rents, rates and cost of living, the indications are that future development will be in cotton-growing centres and near seaports not in mass formation but in scattered districts. Mr. Pearse comments on the difference in efficiency in Bombay mills and says that some of them are financially unsound. Referring to amalgamations as a remedy he says that, when it takes place, the first reform will be the abolition of the managing agent, which will effect considerable economies.

Mr. Pearse refers also to Indian millowners' fears of Japanese competition and says that the result of the recent protective legislation would be to drive Japan to manufacture finer goods.

(Pioneer, 3-8-1930).

Indian Tea Consumption Statistics.

The accumulation of Indian tea stocks and the increasing production of Java tea-estates have caused serious alarm among Indian tea interests. A summary of the review of the immediate prospects of the Indian tea industry given by Mr. W.A.J. Milner, in his presidential speech of the 37th annual meeting of the United Planters' Association of South India held at Bangalore from 18 to 22-8-1930 is given at pages 33-34 of this report. According to Mr. Milner the work of the Indian Tea Cess Committee to increase the consumption of Indian tea and popularise it in America and elsewhere, despite the large sums of money spent for propaganda work has not appreciably increased world consumption of tea.

It appears from the report of the Tea Cess Committee for the year ended March 31, 1930 that 314 liquid tea shops and 1,373 leaf tea shops were opened in India during the period. Monthly orders ranging from 23,000 odd lbs. to as much as 54,560 lbs. and totalling over the year to 438,533 lbs. were secured for distributors through whom approximately 3,950 dozen pice-packets were also sold. The committee have allotted Rs. 675,000 for expenditure in India during 1930-31, with a further ^{sum} of Rs. 1,00,000 for additional work in India and Burma on extra propaganda to popularise Indian tea in centres where there is evidence of a demand for it. An allotment of £40,000 was sanctioned for expenditure in America during 1929-30, with a special allotment of £10,000 in addition, for expenditure in connection with the extension of the demonstration work in cooking schools and domestic science classes.

The samples of the advertising and publicity-matter ~~was~~ which reached the Committee from the London Association during the year

indicated very clearly that this section of the India Tea Bureau's work was being continued energetically with successful results, and that the virtues of India tea were being widely proclaimed throughout America with the aid of the "India Emblem" mark. An interesting feature of the most recent newspaper advertising was the success which appeared to be attending the endeavours to foster the practice of afternoon tea drinking in offices and banks. The committee allotted a sum of £ 50,000 for expenditure in the United States of America during the year 1930-31. This will permit of the work there being energetically continued as in the past year with particular attention to the demonstration work which continues to give entire satisfaction.

(The Planters' Chronicle,
Vol. XXV, No.19, dated 16-8-1930)

Proposed State Aid to Industries Bill, Bengal.

To encourage industries in Bengal that are new, of the cottage type or on a small scale, the Government of Bengal has drawn up a State Aid to Industries Bill, which will be moved at the forthcoming session of the Bengal ~~Legis~~ Legislative Council. According to the published Draft of the Bill, assistance may be given in the shape of loans repayable within not more than 20 years, guarantees with banks, taking of shares and debentures, guarantee of interest on preference shares and debentures and of a minimum return on capital grant of land or other property of the Bengal Government, the payment of a subsidy for research or the purchase of machinery, and supply of machinery on the hire-purchase system. It is proposed to set up a non-official Board of Industries to report to the Government on applica-
tions

for such aid. The Board will consist of an employee of the Imperial Bank of India, two members appointed by the Government and one member elected by each of the following bodies:- The Bengal Legislative Council, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Marwari Association and the Calcutta Trades Association. All the members of the Board must have banking or business experience. The Government may delegate to the Board its power to grant aid.

During the continuance of State aid the profits of any industry shall, if distributed, be distributed only after interests due on debentures and loans have been paid, and a reasonable amount has been set aside for depreciation or obsolescence of plant and buildings, and a further amount has been carried to a reserve fund. No dividend shall be paid to share-holders and no profit shall be taken by the owner in excess of such percentage rate upon the amount of the paid-up capital as the Government may fix. Aid may be terminated for misapplication and on other grounds and in this case the amount may be recovered from the owner.

(The Statesman, 8-8-1930).

Development of Industries, Hyderabad State.

The annual report of H.E.H. the Nizam's Department of Commerce and Industry for 1,338 Fasli (1928-29 A.D.) is a gratifying record of progress in all directions. During the year 1,336 Fasli, the activities of the Department, which had been more or less in abeyance, were revived. Since then the Department has undergone gradual but steady reorganisation. One of the ^{first} steps was the appointment of an Industrial Engineer and a Textile Expert. Mr. G.H. Karmarkar, lately Industrial Engineer, Bihar and Orissa, was appointed early

in 1338 Fasli and considerable progress has been effected in the organisation of this branch. The work of the Textile Expert is mainly concerned with the chief cottage industries of the State, namely, handloom weaving and dyeing, and Mr. N.K.P.Pillai, who held the same post in the Travancore State, was appointed Textile Expert early in 1338. Important schemes for the establishment of a Cottage Industries Institute together with the reorganisation of village weaving parties have been sanctioned recently. Further Mr. Kishen Singh, a State Scholar, who returned from England, was appointed Dyeing Expert. As a result of the creation of these posts, work in the existing Demonstration Weaving Factory was improved and the way has been prepared for the successful establishment of the Cottage Industries Institute at an early date. An experimental soap factory was established during the year and it is hoped to demonstrate the possibilities of the commercial manufacture of household and toilet soap.

During the year under report, Government gave further evidence of their determination to develop the industries of the State as far as possible by the establishment of an industrial Trust Fund to give State aid to industries. The Fund is administered by a Board of three Members of the Executive Council who have complete power to invest the corpus of the Fund or to utilise the income arising from it so as to develop the industries of the State within the conditions laid down by Government. Loans to small scale industries, continued to be made under the rules in force and a number of small loans were made amounting to over Rs. 26,000. The Department was able to give assistance in various ways to new and old factories. A match factory was established at Mahbudabad by private enterprise with the assistance

of the Department, and is now turning out matches on a considerable scale, and is said to be on a sound financial footing. A new bone-crushing mill was erected at Warangal, while Government purchased shares to the value of Rs. 30,000 in the Deccan Glass Works Limited. Assistance of various kinds was given to other smaller firms.

Tariff Commission Report.- The Tariff Commission, which had been sitting for several years, submitted its report to Government, who are now considering it. The proposals made in the report are to utilise the existing tariff of 5 per cent. ad valorem which is the maximum rate at which duties may be imposed in accordance with the treaty with the British Government, to assist the development of industries. In general the Commission has recommended the abolition of import duties on raw material and of export duties on articles manufactured in the State. It is hoped that the adoption of these changes will materially assist the establishment of more industries in this State.

(Times of India, 12-8-1930).

Protection of Indian Industries: Sir P. Ginwalla's

Condemnation of Government's Apathy.

~~Protection of Indian Industries: Views of Ex-President
of Tariff Board.~~

Sir Padamji Ginwalla, who recently resigned from the Indian Tariff Board, after seven years' membership of the Indian Tariff Board, made a notable pronouncement in London condemning the Government of India's ~~apathy~~ apathy in the matter of according adequate protection to Indian industries. Interviewed by Reuter in London on 11-8-1930 regarding the policy of "discriminating protection" in India, he said

that the policy was perhaps the soundest yet evolved for the protection of industries, consistently with the interests of the consumer, provided it was administered by ^athe Government, guided ^{solely}by ~~the~~ national considerations. The Government of India, however, at present did not fulfil that condition which was the chief reason for the failure of the policy in India. He contrasted in this connection the delay in granting a measure of protection to the textile industry while ~~the~~ ^{the} prosperous oil industry was allowed to retain the substance of protection.

Sir Padamji Ginwala thought that the failure of the policy was also due to the fact that those administering it do not regard protection as a legitimate means of developing national industries with the result that ~~the~~ measures, if taken, were frequently inadequate and nearly always dilatory. A notable instance of this had occurred in the case of the chemical industry. No action had hitherto been taken on the Tariff Board's report regarding the industry though it had been in the hands of the Government of India for over a year. Sir Padamji Ginwala further said that Indian industries must suffer tremendous but unnecessary handicaps in ~~the~~ world competition so long as the railway management is not adjusted to the conditions of modern business and methods of production and distribution. He referred in this connection to the Government of India's "pathetic belief in engineers and accountants which were its railways experts".

(Pioneer, 13-8-1930).

Progress of Banking in India.*

The Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India for the year 1928, published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India, furnish valuable information about the progress of banking enterprise in India. The banks dealt with in these tables are classified into (1) the Imperial Bank of India, (2) the Exchange Banks whose head offices are located outside India, (3) the Indian Joint-Stock Banks, registered under the Indian Companies Act, and (4) the Indian Co-operative Banks, registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, II of 1912.

Imperial Bank of India.- An examination of the statement of accounts of the Imperial Bank of India reveals the fact that as compared with 1927, Government or public deposits increased in 1928, while private deposits decreased. Cash balances showed a decrease as compared with the preceding year. The table below summarises the capital, reserves, deposits, and cash balances of the Imperial Bank of India from 1925:-

31st December	Capital	Reserve and rest	Government or public Deposits	Private Deposits	Cash balances
	Rs.(1000)	Rs.(1000)	Rs.(1000)	Rs.(1000)	Rs.(1000)
1925	56,250	49,273	54,644	778,333	174,682
1926	56,250	50,950	64,536	738,970	209,010
1927	56,250	52,407	72,023	720,722	108,865
1928	56,250	53,922	79,486	713,044	105,758

Exchange Banks.- In 1928 there were 18 Exchange Banks working in India of which 6 were banks doing a considerable portion of their

*Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India, 1928, published by order of the Governor-General in Council, Calcutta: Govt. Of India
Price 1/4s 11 1/2

business in India and 12 were banks which were agencies of large banking corporations doing a major portion of their business abroad. The aggregate paid up capital and reserves of the 18 Exchange Banks doing business in India in 1928 amounted to £ 188 millions ^{but while} and their deposits and cash balances in India ^{assessments} only to £53 millions and £6 millions, respectively. The position from 1925 to 1928 was as follows:-

	Number of Banks.	Capital reserve and rest.	Deposits in India	Cash balance in India
		£ (1,000)	£ (1,000)	£ (1,000)
1925	18	138,311	52,909	7,062
1926	18	148,003	53,658	8,046
1927	18	180,919	51,647	6,098
1928	18	187,923	53,354	6,042

Indian Joint Stock Banks.- In 1928 there were altogether 74 Indian Joint Stock Banks, of which 28 belonged to Class A (banks with a paid-up capital and reserves of Rs. 500,000 and over) and 46 belonged to Class B (banks with a paid-up capital and reserves of between Rs. 100,000 and Rs. 500,000. The aggregate paid-up capital and reserves of these 74 banks in 1928 amounted to Rs. 123 millions, the deposits to Rs. 663.5 millions, and cash balances to Rs. 87.1 millions as stated below:-

Class A.

	Number of Banks	Capital and reserves	Deposits	Cash balances
		(Rs. millions)	(Rs. millions)	Rs. millions
1925	28	106.810070	544.9	101.0
1926	28	108.4	596.8	91.2
1927	29	110.8	608.4	77.0
1928	28	111.0	628.5	81.9

Class B.

	Number of Banks.	Capital and Reserves. (Rs. millions)	Deposits (Rs. millions)	Cash balances. (Rs. million)
1925	46	11.8	34.2	6.8
1926	47	12.6	34.7	8.2
1927	48	12.2	34.6	5.2
1928	46	12.0	35.0	5.2

Total Deposits.- The total deposits in all the three classes of Banks in India increased from Rs.2,120 millions in 1919 to Rs.2,170 millions in 1928. The respective shares in the total deposits in 1928 were : Imperial Bank of India 36 per cent., Exchange Banks 33 per cent., and Indian Joint-Stock Banks 31 per cent. (In the case of Exchange Banks their deposits in India only are taken into account)

Proportion of cash to Deposits.- Cash balances at the end of 1928 were 13 per cent of the liabilities on deposits in the case of the Imperial Bank of India, 11 per cent in the case of Exchange Banks. The percentage ~~of~~ for Indian Joint-Stock Banks was 13 in the case of those having capital and reserve of Rs. 500,000 and over, and 15 in the case of those with smaller capital.

Indian Co-operative Banks. The statistics in the publication relate to all Provincial and Central Co-operative Banks and registered non-agricultural (urban) Co-operative Credit Societies with limited liability and a capital and a reserve amounting to at least Rs. 100,000. These banks are subdivided, as in the case of Indian Joint Stock ^{Banks} ~~Banks~~, into two classes, namely, (A) Banks with capital and reserve of Rs. 500,000 and over, and (B) banks with capital and reserve between Rs. 100,000 and Rs. 500,000. During 1928 - 29 in

India there were 18 banks belonging to ~~Ex~~ Class A and 140 banks belonging to Class B. The following figures show the progress of co-operative banking during the years 1925-26 to 1928-29.

	Class A			Class B		
	Number	Capital and Reserves.	Deposits and loans received.	Number	Capital and Reserves	Deposits and loans received.
		Rs.(1000)	Rs.(1,000)		Rs.(1,000)	Rs.(1,000)
1925-26	10	90,62	5,37,83	104	2,02,84	9,29,81
1926-27	12	1,12,54	7,00,65	119	2,24,74	11,97,69
1927-28	16	1,49,82	8,83,56	125	2,47,34	13,16,36
1928-29	18	1,63,34	9,01,49	140	2,77,07	14,86,88

Bank Rates.- These are the rates charged for demand loans, i.e., the rates charged day by day by the Imperial Bank of India for loans advanced on such security as Government paper. The annual average of these rates for the year 1928 was 6.20, the rates at the end of June and December being 6.94 and 5.46, respectively.

Bank Failures.- In 1928 the number of banks which failed was 13 with an authorised capital of Rs. 8,170,000, subscribed capital of Rs. 3,165,740 and paid-up capital of Rs. 2,311,717. 16 banks failed in 1927, 14 in 1926, 17 in 1925 and 18 in 1924.

Indian Stores Purchase: Revised Rules.

The system and rules adopted by the Government of India for the purchase of stores for the Indian Stores Department have for a long time been a matter of complaint for Indian commercial interests, the main grievances being Government's unwillingness to introduce a rupee tender system for stores purchase and the undue preference Government was giving to articles manufactured outside India. The third annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry held at Delhi from 14th to 16th February 1930 passed a resolution deploring the halting and ineffective attitude of the Government with regard to the full and final adoption of the rupee tender system and urging that the Indian Stores Department in London ~~be~~ be made a branch of the Indian Stores Department and be controlled from India and all purchases of imported materials be made through the Indian Stores Department. (see pages 43-44 of the report of this office for February 1930). As the average value of the contracts entered into ^{by the Government} for supply of stores amount every year to Rs. 30-40 millions, it is of vital importance to the commercial interests of India to ensure that Government ^{is} ~~was~~ actuated by a desire to foster Indian industrial enterprise in placing its orders for supplies. The Administration Report of the Indian Stores Department for 1929-30 shows that Government has, in response to the pressure of public opinion introduced a rupee tender system and also revised the rules for purchase of stores framed for the guidance of the Indian Stores Department. The revised rules under the rupee tender system which will regulate the purchase of stores (other than printing and stationery stores) by all Departments and officers of the Central Government ~~of India~~ and of the provinces other than Governor's provinces, have been framed with

the object of giving effect to the policy of the Government of India of making purchases of stores for the public service in such a way as to encourage the development of the industries of the country to the utmost possible extent consistent with economy and efficiency.

They accordingly prescribe that preference in making purchases will be given ~~in~~ in the following order:-

(1) to articles which are produced in India in the form of raw materials or are manufactured in India from raw material produced in India, provided that the quality is sufficiently good for the purpose;

(2) to articles wholly or partially manufactured in India from imported materials, provided that the quality is sufficiently good for the purpose;

(3) to articles of foreign manufacture held in stock in India, provided that they are of suitable type and requisite quality;

(4) to articles manufactured abroad which used to be specially imported.

These rules are expected to widen materially the scope of operations of the Department.

The value of contracts entered into for the supply of stores during the year increased from Rs. 36,048,000 to Rs. 42,926,000, or by 19 per cent. in spite of the continued downward trend of market prices, and economies effected by the extension of measures of standardisation and bulking of demands, which have marked the operations of the Department. The fullest possible advantage was taken of the resources of India in meeting the demands placed on the Department and as a result a large quantity of business was placed with the Indian manufacturers. The textile stores purchased by the Department were, as in the past, almost entirely of Indian origin and manufacture or were manufactured in India from imported materials. There was also a considerable increase in the value, and proportion, of engineering, hardware and miscellaneous stores, wholly or partly manufactured in India.

There was a further marked reduction in the number and value of indents on the London Stores Department which were examined by the Department during the year. On the other hand, items of large value were challenged as compared with the figure for the preceding year.

(Pioneer, 12-8-1930).

Women and Children.Maternity and Child Welfare Work, Delhi Province.

Of recent years considerable attention is being paid ~~in India~~ to the organisation of maternity and child welfare work in India. The incidence of mortality in India is abnormally high. The following table gives the birth and death rates per mille in the urban and rural parts of the different provinces of India in 1927:

Provinces	Birth-Rate	Death-Rate		Total
		In Urban parts	In rural parts	
Delhi	40.53	30.22	30.48	30.32
Bengal	27.70	25.90	25.50	25.60
Bihar and Orissa	37.6	22.7	25.1	25.1
Assam	30.25	23.68	23.46	23.47
United Provinces	36.72	35.37	21.68	22.59
Punjab	42.3	29.19	27.26	27.46
N.W.F.P.	29.3	24.34	21.79	22.05
C.P. and Berar	45.58	32.53	31.17	31.31
Madras	36.5	27.8	23.8	24.3
Coorg	19.17	62.21	29.6	31.36
Bombay	36.85	26.65	25.49	25.72
Burma	25.08	36.21	17.38	19.55
Ajmer-Merwara	30.46	Not available		26.18
Total British India	35.27	29.03	24.48	24.89

The following table indicates the ratio of births to 1,000 of population in the principal countries of the world in 1927:-

Country	Birth-Rate	Death-Rate
England	16.6	12.3
United States	20.4	11.4
Germany	18.9	12.6
France	18.2	16.5
Japan	32.3	19.01
India	35.3	24.9
Australia	21.7	9.5
Egypt	42.7	24.5

Thus India is in the unenviable position of a country whose death rate beats the record of all the principal nations of the world. The census figures show that the death rate from diseases in urban

areas is several times greater than the death-rate in rural parts. It is now being realised that the efficient organisation of maternity and welfare work is the best means to lower the incidence of mortality in the country and accordingly work of this nature has been started in several centres all over India.

The following is a brief review of the maternity and welfare work carried in Delhi Province during 1929. The population of the Province is roughly 500,000 and 23 centres of ~~the~~ welfare work are maintained in the Province.

Maternity work in Delhi Province is classed under two categories, urban and rural, and is mainly conducted by Local Bodies. The urban area is divided for purposes of welfare work into the following units: (1) Delhi (old) City (with 5 welfare centres); (2) New Delhi (with 7 welfare centres) and (3) the Notified Areas ^{Civil lines,} with 3 welfare centres). In addition to the above activities, there are three other Welfare institutions in operation in the Urban Area of Delhi. One exists at the Viceregal Estate for the benefit of the staff employed there; another at New Cantonments is worked for the benefit of the wives and children of the troops stationed there), ~~This~~ and a third organization is in the nature of a first aid post which is privately organized in connection with the local mill industry.

Nature and extent of welfare work.- The work at these centres is carried on by Lady Superintendents, who are assisted by Lady Health Visitors, nurses and dais (country mid-wives). The chief features of the welfare work carried on in Delhi are (1) reception of mothers and children resorting to welfare centres for medical attention and advice; (2) house to house visits by Lady Health Visitors; (3) training of dais (~~country midwives~~); (4) attendance at delivery cases. In Delhi (old) City alone no less than 101,555 women and

children visited the five health centres, 32,773 house to house visits were made by Health visitors, over 200 dais have been trained for maternity work, and 670 out of 13,536 births occurring in 1929 were attended by municipal dais. For the adequate supply of trained nurses and mid-wives, a Health School is being conducted in Delhi, where batches of Indian ~~at~~ dais and nurses are given sound training in nursing and ^{gynae}gynecology. The Delhi Health School has developed into an institution for supplying trained nurses to all maternity and welfare centres in India.

Rural Work. - Rural work in Delhi province is carried on at three rural centres, Mahrauli, Biwana and Najafgarh. The organisation of these centres is on ~~the~~ similar lines to those at Delhi. Rural work which is a special feature of Delhi province has been a marked success and further extensions are contemplated as soon as funds permit.

Lines of future development. - There is great scope for maternity and welfare work in India, particularly in rural areas and in those quarters of towns and cities where the working population is housed. In Delhi, as had been already noted, only a small beginning has been made to establish ~~maternity~~ and welfare centres for the working classes. The need for development in this field has been recognised, but progress is arrested because of lack of the necessary funds. At present welfare work is conducted mostly by local bodies which are given grants-in-aid by the government and by private agencies. In urban areas the work is carried on by municipal bodies. The rural and industrial districts still offer great scope for the extension of welfare work.

(Hindustan Times, 7-8-1930. Tables of Birth-rates and Death-rates are taken from "Labour and Housing in India" by Raj Bahadur Gupta, M.A., Ph.D.)

Education.Rural Primary Education Bill, Bengal.

The Government of Bengal has recently introduced a Rural Primary Education Bill in the Bengal Legislative Council with a view to increase the facilities for primary education in the rural districts of the Presidency. The following information about the scheme is taken from a speech delivered by the Hon. ^{Khwaja} ~~Hawaja~~ Nazim-ud-Din, Minister for Education in Bengal, before the Calcutta Rotary Club on 7-8-1930.

The scheme aims at supplying primary education to 2,700,000 boys and 1,000,000 girls, it being estimated that the total number of children of school-going age who could be expected to attend in rural areas was 3,700,000. It was estimated that a school dealing with 60 pupils in each shift or 120 pupils in two shifts could be started at an annual cost of Rs. 420, allowing one trained teacher on Rs. 15 and one untrained teacher on Rs. 11. Where the double shift system could be worked, the expense of running the school would be Rs. 3-8-0 per pupil per annum.

On the above scale of cost the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal has worked out the following scheme of expenditure. He proposes 2,500 three-teacher-schools, 21,500 two-teacher-schools and 11,000 one-teacher-schools, which at 30 pupils per teacher would deal with ~~3,700,000~~ 3,700,000 on the double shift system. It is calculated by him that this would give one school for every two square miles and would ensure that every boy or girl would find a school within one mile of his or her residence. Calculating the annual cost of three-teacher-schools at Rs. 630, of two-teacher-schools at Rs. 420 and one-teacher-schools at Rs. 150 the total annual cost will come to Rs. 12.25 millions. In addition, there will be an expenditure on account of district school boards and for the erection of buildings, and it will ~~also~~ also be necessary to provide a small sum for unforeseen expenditure. The total annual expenditure is estimated by the Director of Public Instruction at Rs. 13.25 millions.

The state of provincial finance is such that it is impossible for the Bengal Government to find any appreciable sum for the purpose of primary education from savings in the budget or indeed from any source except fresh taxation. The Government also considered that the prospect of obtaining resources from the Government of India was not such as to justify waiting before introducing the measure. The decision was, therefore, taken to go ahead with the proposal for new taxation.

The money to be found is Rs. 13,200,000 and the Government propose to find it as follows: At present Rs. 2.2 millions is the contribution made from provincial revenue to primary education in rural areas. It is proposed to continue this contribution. A cess of $1\frac{1}{4}$ times the road and public works cess is proposed to be levied in the same manner as that cess and the proceeds are expected to amount to Rs. 10 millions. In addition, certain taxation is proposed on persons in rural areas ~~who~~

who are engaged in trade, business or professional activities. This tax is provided for in clause 34 of the Bill and is estimated to realize approximately Rs. 1,000,000, annually. Further, it is proposed to meet the cost of the inspecting staff and the training of teachers from the provincial budget, so that no part of the expenditure under this head will have to be met from the new taxation.

(Statesman, Calcutta, 7-8-1930).

The Bill is meeting with considerable opposition from the Hindu members of the Bengal Legislative Council as they take exception to the proposals for new taxation. It is expected that the Government of Bengal will be able to carry the Bill through with the help of Muslim support. An amendment to the effect that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee instead of being taken immediately into consideration moved by Mr. J.N. Gupta was defeated in the Bengal Legislative Council on 15-8-1930.

(Statesman, Calcutta, 15-8-1930).

Scheme for Education of Colliery Workers.

The Association of Colliery Managers in India ^{has received} addressed a letter to the Government of Bihar and Orissa formulating a scheme for the education of colliery workers in India. In their letter **The Colliery Managers Association** pointed out that the effective observance of a great deal of the multifarious legislation now in force in coal mines lay directly with the rank and file and as the majority of such workers were quite illiterate they were therefore not in a position to read the rules and regulations for themselves nor were they capable of comprehending that such legislation was for the benefit of their working in safety and their well-being in general. With a view to improving the intellectual position of the sirdars and workers generally it was suggested that an elementary education scheme should be introduced by Government in the form of classes for instruction in

reading, writing and simple arithmetic. As regards the funds for such a scheme, it was suggested that the necessary money could be obtained by diverting a portion of the money already being spent by Government on Technical Mining Education.

The Bihar and Orissa Government forwarded a copy of the letter on 12-6-1930 to the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, to elicit an expression of the Committee's views on the suggested scheme. As the Committee of the Indian Mining Association understood that the scheme was under discussion by the Mining Education Advisory Board ~~xx~~ and as the Committee was represented on the Board, the Committee intimated the Bihar and Orissa Government that it did not propose to submit a separate reply.

(Extracted from the Report of the proceedings of
(a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining
Association held on 16-7-1930).

Reconstitution of Mining Education Advisory Board.

The Mining Education Advisory Board for the provinces of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa has been reconstituted by the Government of Bengal with the concurrence of the Bihar and Orissa Government. In this connection the following order has been issued by the Government of Bengal regarding the personnel and functions of the Board:-

Resolution - No. 3749Ind., dated 2nd August 1930.

Members (ex-officio).- The Chief Inspector of Mines in India, President; The Inspector of Mines, No. 1 Circle; The Inspector of Mines, No. 2 Circle; The Principal, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad; The Director of Industries, Bengal; The Director of Industries, Bihar and Orissa; The Principal, Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, Secretary.

Members (ordinary).- Two representatives from the Indian Mining Association to be nominated by the Association; Two representatives of the Indian Mining Federation to be nominated by the Federation. The non-official members will hold office for a period of three years.

Functions.- The Board will exercise the following functions:-

- (1) To advise Government on all questions concerning mining education.
- (2) With regard to the existing ~~an~~ scheme of local mining classes in the coal fields - (a) to determine the syllabus for the classes, (b) to appoint local sub-committees and determine lecture centres, (c) to submit recommendation to Government for appointment and dismissal of lecturers, (d) to disburse the contingent grants allotted for the classes, (e) to conduct examination and issue certificates in connection with the classes, and (f) to levy tuition fees for the classes up to Rs. 10 per student for the session.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated
7-8-1930. Pages 12-13).

Subsidies for Agricultural Schemes: Principles Governing
Grants.

An important meeting of the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was held at Simla on 22 & 29 & 30-7-30 under the chairmanship of Sir T. Vijayaraghavachary. Regarding the principles governing grants made by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the Governing Body adopted the following principles which in its opinion should govern grants by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in future:-

1. That the scheme should be of all-India importance or in other words that the problems which it sets out to solve is one which affects more than one province.
2. That where a scheme is suggested for one province, the possibility of cooperating with the adjoining provinces in its prosecution should be explored.
3. That, ordinarily, lands and buildings required under a scheme should be provided by the Government^s or Governments concerned, the Council making a grant for equipment and staff alone.
4. That all assistance should ordinarily be limited in the first instance to five years and should not involve the Council in any pension or other permanent liability.
5. That the expenditure proposed should not be in relief of normal provincial expenditure.
6. That, ordinarily, the Government or Governments interested in a scheme should bear a part of the recurring expenditure, the exact proportion to depend on negotiation between the Council and the Government or Governments concerned.
7. That a ² scheme other than one submitted by the Government of India or by a local Government should, ordinarily, have the support of the Government of the Province from which it emanates.

(Times of India 7-8-30.)

The Governing Body then discussed a large number of schemes for Agricultural research and sanctioned altogether 22 schemes involving an approximate cost of over Rs. 2 millions. Among the important schemes sanctioned were the following:-

- (1) The improvement of rice cultivation, in Assam, Bengal, Burma and Behar & Orissa at an estimated cost of 1.2 millions which represents the total ~~maxx~~ expenditure involved for five years;
- (2) a botanical sub-station at Karnal at a cost of Rs. 141,940 for five years;
- (3) a contribution to the Imperial Bureau of Entomology at a cost of ₹500 total for five years;
- (4) agricultural meteorology at a cost of

Rs. 205,000 total for five years; (5) the establishment of a sub-station of Coimbatore Imperial Sugarcane Station at Karnal at a cost of Rs. 82,000 total for five years; (6) the establishment of a sugarcane research ~~sk~~ in Behar and the appointment of a sugarcane specialist at a cost of Rs. 160,000 total for five years.

Times of India 2-8-30.

Recruitment of Indian Seamen, Bombay.

A meeting of the deck and engine-room serangs, tindals and sea-cunnies of the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, was held in the Union's Hall, on the 17th August 1930, to concert measures to regulate the system of their employment. Mr. Abdul Karim Hassan presided.

The following resolutions were passed:- (1) That the practice of some serangs, seacunnies and tindals seeing officers on board ships prior to selection should be forthwith discontinued by a watch being kept over such seamen day and night and their names being reported to the Government Shipping Master, Bombay. (2) That the selection of seamen of above ratings should be done by open muster at the Shipping Office only. (3) That the seamen of said ratings do remain active and regular members of the Union and select as crews only those seamen who are members of the Union and pay its subscriptions regularly.

(Times of India, Bombay, 20-8-1930),

Administration of the Madras Port Trust, 1929-30.*

The following information about the working of the Madras Port Trust in 1929-30 is taken from the Administration Report for the period issued by the Board of Trustees of Madras Port. The Board consists of 15 members, 5 of whom are appointed by the Government of Madras, 4 elected by the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, 2 elected by the Madras Trades Association, 2 by the South Indian Chamber of Commerce, 2 by the Southern India Skins and Hides Merchants' Association and 2 by the Madras Piece-goods Association.

Value of trade.- Owing to the depression in ~~the~~ trade there was a fall both of the tonnage of cargo imported into and shipped for the Madras port with a corresponding reduction in the revenue receipts. The total value of the trade of the port as furnished by the Collector of Customs amounted to Rs. 506.19 millions representing 47.49 per cent. of the aggregate trade of the Presidency as against 48.64 per cent. in the previous year. Imports accounted for Rs. 405.747 millions and exports Rs. 100.443 millions. These figures are exclusive of Government transactions.

Receipts.- The actual revenue receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 4,531,021, a decrease of Rs. 424,953 from the previous year. The decrease in revenue is due to the fall in the tonnage of both imports and exports landed at and shipped from this port.

Working Expenses.- The gross expenditure inclusive of contributions to the three reserve funds amounted to Rs. 4,533,938 as compared with Rs. 6,477,293 in 1928-29. Excluding from the gross expenditure the interest on loans which in the year under review amounted to Rs. 814,488, contribution to capital (Rs. 556,374), repayment of debt

*Administration Report of the Madras Port Trust for 1929-30.
Published by the Board of Trustees, Madras Port Trust, Madras. pp. 31.

(Rs.343,626), sinking fund,(Rs.78,453) and amounts set aside for reserve funds (Rs.330,000) actual working expenses came to 53.21 per cent of the income against 52.55 per cent in the previous year.

Shipping.- Though the number of vessels that entered the harbour has decreased from 896 in 1928-29 to 878 in 1929-30, yet the total net registered tonnage has increased from 3,075,028 to 3,081,851. The average size in tonnage of each vessel has increased from 3,668 net registered tons to 3,726 net registered tons. The total number of vessels that entered the harbour during the past five years was 717, 795, 936, 896, and 878 and the number of vessels berthed at quays during the same period was 540, 599, 680, 631 and 774 respectively. The number of "Quay days" or the number of days vessels were occupying the quays for the past five years has been 1,810 days in 1925-26, 1,729 days in 1926-27, 1,954 days in 1927-28, 2,036 days in 1928-29 and 2,019 days in 1929-30. Passengers to the number of 87,162 arrived at and 85,143 left the port, making a total of 172,305 against 173,439 during last year and 232,356 in 1927-28.

Imports and Exports.- On account of the general depression of trade due to the continued fall in the prices of goods all round there was a fall not only in the imports ~~and exports that passed through the harbour during the year under~~ but also in the exports of merchandise during the year. The total tonnage of imports and exports that passed through the harbour during the year under review amounted to 1,516,563 or a fall of 4.98 per cent from the previous year, the tonnage for the previous four years being 1,595,891 in 1928-29, 1,444,342 in 1927-28, 1,133,412 in 1926-27 and 1,159,834 in 1925-26.

Imports.- The total tonnage of imports during the year amounted to 1,089,635, a decrease of 1.12 per cent from the previous year. The chief items which contributed towards the fall are rice - 39,250 tons, other food-grains - 12,878, railway plant and rolling stock - 32,530 tons, mineral oils other than kerosene oil - 5,090, dyeing and tanning substances - 4,690, matches - 3,031, Government stores - 2,090, provisions - 1,243 and gunnies - 1,188. Increases have been noted against coal + 35,246 tons, chemical manures +8,541, iron and steel + 7,073, kerosene oil + 5,822, sugar + 11,953, timber + 5,105, paper and stationery + 2,211, cycles plain + 2,346, cotton manufactures + 1,830, tobacco unmanufactured + 1,912.

Coal.- The tonnage of coal imported into this port during the year amounted to 331,719 tons or an increase of 11.89 per cent over the previous year. Out of the above quantity, 14,610 tons came by rail and was transhipped from broad to metre gauge in the harbour, and the rest came by sea from Bengal. There were no imports of foreign coal. The major portion of the coal imported was loaded into wagons at the East Quay direct from the vessels, ensuring quick despatch and the minimum of transshipment losses. The tonnage of coal booked from the harbour by rail amounted to 258,096 tons in 1929-30 against 260,938 in 1928-29, and 229,934 in 1927-28.

Exports.- The total tonnage of goods shipped from this port during the year under review amounted to 426,928 tons against 493,916 tons of the previous year or a fall of 13.56 per cent. The main items which contributed towards the decrease are groundnuts -58,513 tons, hides and skins -2,490, onions -10,297, scrap iron -5,880. Increases were noticed on the other hand chiefly against ores +3,502 tons and raw cotton +7,950.

Railway working.- The railway traffic handled during the year under review amounted to 694,542 tons in 53,008 broad gauge wagons inwards and outwards and 170,736 tons in 23,076 ~~narrow~~ metre gauge wagons inwards and outwards, aggregating in all 865,278 tons.

Congestion.- At intervals during the year the Port had to face congestion, principally in respect of groundnuts brought from up-country to Madras for shipment and lying here for some months awaiting shipment. Owing to lack of ware-house accommodation nearly 55 per cent of cargo brought in had to be stored in open spaces or in transit sheds or on quays. Foundations are now in progress for a new shed 420 feet long by 120 feet wide on the additional plot of land south of the present harbour premises recently granted to the Trust by Government.

Medical.- 818 vessels arrived here from different ports with crews numbering 74,608 and 97,221 passengers against 848 vessels with crews numbering 73,338 and 106,459 passengers during the previous year. 338 vessels with crews numbering 37,486 and 35,536 passengers were inspected and granted bills of health against 337 vessels with crews numbering 29,434 and 16,380 passengers in the previous year. There were three cases of cholera, two of smallpox, three of chickenpox, one of measles and one of mumps found among the passengers and crews of the steamers that entered the harbour during the year and they were sent to the Infectious Diseases Hospital for treatment. The disinfection of bedding and clothing of deck passengers and crews landing at, and embarking from, the port was continued in the disinfection shed in charge of a sub-assistant surgeon. A nurse is employed for the examination of female passengers. No unusual mortality of rats was reported on any of the vessels that entered and left the harbour during the year.

Administration of the Calcutta Port Trust, 1929-30.*

The following information about the working of the Calcutta Port Trust is taken from the Administration Report for 1929-30 issued by the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta:-

Tonnage handled and finances.-

The year 1929-30 was the third successive year in which both the total tonnage of ships entering the Port and the total quantity of goods handled by the Commissioners at the Jetties and Docks exceeded the highest figures for pre-war years. The figures were also higher than those for the two preceding years. The total nett tonnage of ships entering the Port amounted to 4,985,999 compared with 4,818,831 during 1928-29, and the total quantity of goods handled by the Commissioners at the Jetties ~~6,684,581~~ ~~handled in 1928-29~~ and Docks amounted to 6,684,581 tons as compared with the total of 6,609,524 handled in 1928-29. Adding the tonnage of goods discharged overside into boats, petroleum landed at Budge Budge, and goods shipped overside from boats, the total quantity of goods amounted to 10,871,166 tons as compared with 10,840,284 tons in 1928-29 and 10,439,012 tons in 1927-28. During 1929-30, Revenue for the first time had to bear a full year's interest charges on the capital cost of the construction of King George's Dock, and there was consequently a deficit on the year's working as had been anticipated. The deficit, however, amounted only to Rs. 21,44,278 as compared with a figure of Rs. 2,792,188 allowed for ~~the~~ in the original Budget Estimates for the year.

Trade and Traffic: Imports.- Calcutta Jetties. The imports landed at the Jetties amounted to 829,902 tons or 219,766 tons less

* The Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta - Administration Report and Accounts for the year 1929-30. The Model Printing Works, Calcutta. pp. v + 69.

than the quantity landed during the previous year, this difference being partly due to the greater use of King George's Dock for the discharge of general imports. No.8 Jetty was out of commission for the first three months of the year while the jetty structure was being repaired and strengthened.

Docks.- In spite of an increase of 134,043 tons in the quantity of general imports landed at the Kidderpore and King George's Docks including the Garden Reach Riverside Berths, the total tonnage of imports there landed was 311,179 tons less than in the previous year, the figures being 853,452 tons and 1,164,631 tons. This decrease was due to the smaller importations of wheat and rice, the receipts of which during 1928-29 was abnormally heavy.

Exports.- The total tonnage of general exports shipped was 1,985,042 and that of coal 3,016,185 tons as against 1,750,969 tons general exports and 2,644,256 tons coal shipped in the preceding year. The exports of wheat and seeds, rice, gunny, manganese ore, pig-iron and coal increased, and those of jute, tea, cotton, shellac, hides, skins and miscellaneous goods decreased. In the case of jute the decrease was not due solely to decreased exports from Calcutta but also to a greater proportion being shipped overside from boats instead of over the Dock quays. The exports of coal amounted to over three million tons for the first time since 1913-14. The year's receipts amounted to Rs. 8,49,285 against Rs.870,154 in the previous year.

Petroleum (Wharf, Budge Budge).- The total importations of all kinds of oil amounted to 122,462,036 gallons as compared with 131,762,582 gallons in 1928-29. The importation of petrol increased by nearly 3½ million gallons, but there were decreases in the

importations of kerosene oil, liquid fuel, batching oil, lubricating and crude oil.

Tea.- Although the exports of tea show a decrease of 1,845 tons or 1.6 per cent. on the previous year's shipments, the Commissioners' receipts increased from Rs. 521,053 to Rs. 600,238 owing to increased storage.

Rates and charges.- Owing to the greater capacity of the cranes at the Garden Reach Jetties and King George's Dock the lowest scales of charges for loading, landing and rent were applied from the 8th July 1929 to all packages and articles weighing not more than 2 tons as compared with the limit of 35 cwts. at the Jetties.

Shipping in the Port.- During the year 1496 vessels with an aggregate gross tonnage of 8,260,502 arrived in the Port and 1497 vessels with an aggregate gross tonnage of 8,114,449 left. The movements of vessels on the river numbered 1203; those in the Kidderpore Docks 1262, of which 383 vessels were shifted by Assistant Harbour Masters and 879 by Berthing Masters. 976 vessels of gross tonnage aggregating ~~5,094,202~~ left the Dock 4,745,812 entered the Kidderpore Docks and 979 vessels of gross tonnage aggregating 5,094,202 left the Dock. 118 vessels of gross tonnage aggregating 804,795 entered the King George's Dock and 114 vessels aggregating 785,985 left. 66 vessels were shifted in King George's Dock; of these 34 were shifted by Assistant Harbour Masters and 32 by Berthing Masters.

Casualties to vessels in the Port.- There were 24 casualties during the year to vessels on the river in charge of Assistant Harbour Masters, but only in seven cases did any blame attach to the officer. There were 12 casualties in the Kidderpore Docks, and in three cases the Berthing Staff were reprimanded and in two cases warned to be more careful in future.

General.- The Royal Commission on Labour visited Calcutta during the year, and Sir Charles Stuart-Williams gave evidence on behalf of the Commissioners. The members of the Commission visited the Docks and saw the conditions under which some of the labour lived and worked. It was decided during the year that unclaimed wages should be paid into a Welfare Fund and be utilised for the general benefit of the staff. The Fund was utilised in the first instance to finance the adaptation of three existing buildings for use as Institutes, ~~in~~ two of these buildings being at the Docks and the third at the Jetties.

Revision of Service Conditions, Bombay Port Trust.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Port of Bombay held on 29th July 1930, the questions of (a) grant of ~~retiring~~ retiring gratuity to Employees of the Port Trust incapacitated for further service on account of injuries sustained while on duty and (b) increase of pay of the inferior staff of the Port Trust Railway were discussed and the following decisions were arrived at:-

"Following the practice obtaining on the Railways, the Board decided that Port Trust Employees incapacitated for further service on account of injury sustained while on duty should be eligible for grant of retiring gratuity under the rules, in addition to the benefits admissible under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

"The pay of certain of the Port Trust Railway inferior staff was revised so as to bring them into line with the scales recently approved by the Railway Board for corresponding staff on State Railways. This was in fulfilment of an undertaking given by the Board in May last to the Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union".

(Times of India, 1-8-1930)

14,136 of the licences in force in 1929. As usual the rush of labour was greatest during the summer months, May to July, when cultivation in the recruiting areas is at a standstill.

System of recruitment.- (a) Malaya.- Emigrants were as usual either recruited by Kanganis or were voluntary. During the year 2,578 Kangani licences were registered at Negapatam as against 1,115 during the previous year and 2,347 licences were registered at the Madras Port as against 1,409 in the previous year. Of the licences so issued, 57 licences were cancelled by the Protector of Emigrants, Negapatam, and 118 licences were cancelled by the Assistant Emigration Commissioner there on his own initiative. 189 licences were cancelled at Madras. Of the total number of 53,078 emigrants who proceeded to Malaya through Negapatam, 32,264 were recruited by Kanganis and the remaining 20,814 were non-recruited labourers who applied for assisted passages under rule 30. The proportion of non-recruited labourers to the total number of emigrants through Negapatam Port is 39.2 per cent as against 35.8 per cent in the previous year. The Protector of Emigrants considers this further increase in the proportion of voluntary emigrants a healthy sign indicating the growing popularity of the voluntary system in Emigration to Malaya. The Protector at Negapatam rejected 562 intending emigrants while the Assistant Emigration Commissioner refused assistance to 17,519 (would be) voluntary emigrants. At Madras the number rejected as unfit was 4,355, besides 9,596 released and 179 deserted. 36 prosecutions of Kanganis were sanctioned by the Protector of Emigrants, Negapatam, while no prosecution was sanctioned by the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, in the year.

(b) Ceylon.- In the case of Ceylon, of a total number of 58,362 emigrants (in the strict sense of the term) only 6,002 were assisted emigrants under rule 30. The Kangani method of recruitment still predominates as far as emigration to Ceylon is concerned. 19,072 Kangani licences were issued during the year and 1,811 old ones were renewed. 194 licences were cancelled during the year. There were 32 prosecutions during the year as against 51 of last year. The percentage of rejections was 25.23 against 22.14 of the previous year. ~~The percentage of rejections was 25.23~~ This large and increasing percentage of rejections indicates vigilant scrutiny on the part of the Ceylon Emigration Commissioner and the Protector.

Irregularities in Recruitment.- The prevailing types of irregularity in the method of recruitment by Kanganis were as follows:

(1) Forgery of village munsif's signature, (2) recruiting young persons without the consent of their parents or relatives, (3) pretended relationship between recruits, (4) getting recruits from one village passed by the village munsif of another, (5) passing off new recruits as non-emigrants, (6) substituting different persons in the place of those who actually appeared before the village munsif and passed by him.

The vigilance of the Protector of Emigrants at Mandapam and the Emigration Commissioner for Ceylon resulted in the rejection of 884 would-be emigrants by the former and 135 by the latter on ground of irregular or illegal recruitment. In addition, the Protector found 312 persons who claimed to be non-emigrants were really emigrants.

Places of accommodation; Madras.- (a) The Avadi and Melpakkam depots continued during the year 1929 as licensed places of accommodation (Avadi for 2,029, Melpakkam for 1,216 up to 13th October 1929 and after that for 1,056). Melpakkam was however scarcely used. Both depots are kept in good condition but Avadi, naturally receives much more attention.

(b) Negapatam.- The two places of accommodation for this port are at Negapatam and Papacoil. Owing to the heavy rush of emigrants during the year, there was some congestion and extra sheds were constructed, two at Papacoil and one at Negapatam. The scheme for the acquisition of a site on the outskirts of Negapatam and the construction of a depot on modern lines has not yet been settled.

(c) Mandapam.- There were 19 agencies of the Ceylon Labour Commission where recruits are selected and registered before despatch to Mandapam Camp. The arrangements made at Ceylon Emigration Camp at Mandapam are excellent and have been highly commended by various visitors.

Embarkation.- The British India Steam Navigation Company ran a fortnightly service between South India and Malaya with their steamships "Rohna" and "Rajula". About the middle of March the service was converted into a weekly one owing to the rush of emigrants and passengers. Four other special steamers made one trip each during the period May to July, to clear the large number of emigrants and other passengers awaiting embarkation. The total number of shipments for the year was 51 as against 47 last year. Embarkation and disembarkation arrangements continued the same as in the previous year. At Negapatam some complaints of extortion of money by boatmen were brought to notice. In two such cases boatmen were caught red-handed by the steamer authorities and were handed up to the Police.

Classification and sex ratio.- (a) Ceylon.- Emigrants are drawn chiefly from the agricultural classes in the Tamil districts. Those for Ceylon come mainly from Trichinopoly, Salem, Madura, Ramnad, Pudukottah State, Tinnevely, South Arcot and Tanjore. The districts of Trichinopoly, Tanjore, North Arcot, South Arcot, Salem, Madura, Malabar, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Tinnevely and Ramnad contributed the bulk of the labour for Malaya. About one-third of the emigrants belong to the depressed classes. As usual the labourers for Ceylon emigrated in family groups as a rule, the exception being the Nadars of Tinnevely and the people of Malabar. In the latter cases the usual rule is for the men to go unaccompanied. The proportion of females to the total number of emigrants to Ceylon was 44 per cent.

(b) Malaya.- In the case of Malaya, the sex ratio is not so satisfactory as for Ceylon, only 23.5 per cent of the total number of emigrants sailing from Negapatam to Malaya being females, as compared with 35.5 per cent in the previous year. Among the recruited labourers for Malaya sailing from Negapatam 28.1 per cent were females and among voluntary emigrants sailing from the same port 16.4 per cent were females. Figures for Madras port are not given separately for recruited and voluntary emigrants. The general percentage of females to the total number of emigrants for Malaya was 29 per cent. The rule about the sex ratio was further suspended in the case of emigration to Malaya until 30th June 1930. The Protector of Emigrants, Negapatam reports that there was a decline in the voluntary efforts of the emigration authorities to reach the sex ratio contemplated in the rules

as they had to cope with an increased demand for labour.

Wages and general conditions of labour: (a) Malaya.— The wages prevailing in Malaya are generally 50 to 100 per cent higher than those prevailing for agricultural labour in the districts in South India. It is reported that almost all the provinces and districts of Malaya have agreed to adopt the standard daily wage of 50 cents for a male, 40 cents for a female and 20 cents for minor labourer above 10 years of age. To ensure the universal adoption of these rates, the colonial authorities seem to refuse to approve licences issued to Kanganis of estates which do not agree to pay the standard rates. There have been no other variations in the conditions of employment of labour from South India in Malaya. ~~Continuity~~ Continuity of occupation, provision of free quarters, ~~for~~ free schooling for children, free medical attendance and supply of rice at cost price continue to operate as further inducements to labourers to emigrate to the Colony.

(b) Ceylon.— The minimum cash wages in Ceylon prescribed by the Minimum Wage Ordinance vary according to the situation of the estates as detailed below:—

	<u>Men.</u>		<u>Women.</u>		<u>Children.</u>	
	As.	P.	As.	P.	As.	P.
Low Country	8	0	6	5	4	10
Mid country	8	4	6	7	5	0
Up country	8	8	6	11	5	1

The Minimum Wage Ordinance came into force in December 1927. But it was only on 1st January 1929 that effect was given to the most important provisions of the ordinance, as the awards of the Estates Wages Boards were approved by the Ceylon Government only on 27th November 1928. The ordinance has improved the conditions of emigrant labour in the Colony by fixing an obligation on the employer to pay direct to the individual labourer the wages due to him, irrespective of any claims made against him by the Kanganis or other third parties. Thus the practice of recovering from wages advances alleged to have been made by Kanganis or others in connexion with recruitment has been stopped.

Return emigrants.— The phrase "return emigrants" is used in the special ~~technical~~ technical sense which excludes all who have been five years in the Colony concerned, and their wives and children. The proportion of new emigrants to old emigrants returning is 100 : 6.32 at Madras, and 100 : 12.1 at Negapatam in the case of emigration to Malaya, and 100 : 18.91 in the case of Ceylon.

Repatriation.— The number of emigrants repatriated from Mauritius, Fiji and Trinidad are 112, 286 and 126 respectively. 3,072 emigrants were repatriated ~~or~~ or assisted to return from Malaya and 3,153 were repatriated from Ceylon during the year. Of the total number of 45,973 passengers who landed at Negapatam from Malaya, about 27,000 according to the Protector's estimate were labourers returning from Malaya. The Protector of Emigrants, Mandapam, reports that during 1929 about 101,228 emigrants returned from Ceylon at their own expense and states that this figure is the highest on record.

Causes of Repatriation.- The causes of repatriation from Malaya and Ceylon are given in the following statement :-

<u>Malaya.</u> -	(1) Sick, unable to work	2,309
	(2) Too old, maimed or otherwise disabled	110
	(3) Unsuitability of the climate	16
	(4) Death of earning members of the family	365
	(5) Death of other members of the family	126
	(6) Kidnapped, abducted or seduced by Kangany	1
	(7) Wages insufficient to support dependants	..
	(8) Other causes such as husbands or wives deserting their spouses	145
	Total	<u>3,072</u>
<u>Ceylon.</u> -	(1) Unsuitability of the climate	1,857
	(2) Unsuitability of the work	47
	(3) Home sick	37
	(4) Wages inadequate to maintain the family	312
	(5) Death of earning members of the family	331
	(6) Death of other members of the family	41
	(7) Kidnapped, abducted, seduced or cheated by false promises by Kangany	15
	(8) Too old, maimed or otherwise disabled	419
	(9) Other causes such as husband or wives deserting their spouses	...
		<u>3,153</u>

Skilled Labour.- There was no emigration of skilled labour through the Port of Madras. 58 ~~emigrants~~ skilled workers emigrated to Malaya through the Port of Negapatam. 438 skilled workers went to Ceylon through Dhanushkodi; these were assisted or engaged by private persons or by firms or by the Ceylon Fisheries Department.

Scheme of assisted emigration from South Africa.- The total number of emigrants from South Africa who availed themselves of the scheme of "assisted repatriation" was 1,435 during the year as compared with 2,731 in the previous year. The fall in numbers became noticeable from April 1929 onwards. The Special Officer explains that the decrease probably means that the process of weeding out the impoverished members of the Indian community in South Africa is nearing completion. He adds however that the fall in the number of repatriates in the boats that arrived after April was probably due in part to a rumour in South Africa that the bonus was likely to be enhanced. The health of the emigrants was good. There was only one death in transit and that was a case of advanced tuberculosis of the lung. There was no complaint of any want of attention on board the steamers either in the matter of medical aid or in regard to food. There was a marked decrease in the number of decrepits among the repatriates. There were only 111 in the year as against 230 in 1928. The total amount paid to the repatriates as bonus during the year was Rs.284,523 and the savings brought by them amounted to £5,829 (excluding jewellery worth £ 4,313).

Employment of Repatriates.- The majority of the return emigrants are not finding it difficult to obtain suitable employment. The Special Officer reports that 70 per cent have settled down as agriculturists, domestic servants, etc. It is chiefly men who were

engaged in industrial work in South Africa who find it difficult to settle down in India. The Special Officer reports a tendency among such men to refuse the jobs offered to them, or secured for them by the Special Officer, till they have exhausted their money. This is due to a mistaken sense of pride which makes them reluctant to work for lower wages than they have been getting in South Africa where they were accustomed to a higher standard of living. The Union Government grants pensions to decrepit repatriates at the rate of 10 shillings a head per mensem, beginning 40 months after their arrival in India, i.e., after the period for which the bonus amount of £20 would last if spent at the rate of 10 shillings per mensem. But the bonus amount is sometimes exhausted much sooner, leaving the decrepits in destitution and danger of starvation. The Madras Government have sanctioned compassionate grants to keep such decrepits alive till they become eligible for the pension sanctioned by the Union Government.

(The Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, for the year 1928 in the Madras Presidency is reviewed at pages 52-53 of the report of this office for the period 15th July to 31st July 1929.)

Amendment of F.M.S. Labour Code, 1923.

F.M.S. Enactment No.9 of 1930.

At pages 54-57 of the report of this office for the period 15th July to 31st July 1929 (accompanying this office's minute C 1/800/29 dated 22-8-1929) an account has been given of the conditions of life and work of Indian emigrants to the Federated Malay States. The number of Indian labourers who had emigrated to the Federated Malay States in 1927 was 123,826, but in 1928 the number of Indian emigrants to the F.M.S. went down to 27,240. Conditions of labour in the F.M.S. are governed by the F.M.S. Labour Code, 1923, and the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Enactment, 1927. At the meeting of the Federal Council of the F.M.S. held at Kuala Lumpur, on 26-6-1930, the Legal Advisor proposed a Bill entitled "The Labour Code (Amendment) Bill, 1930." The most important provision in the Bill was to be found in clause 6, which clause was gazetted in an earlier Bill. The following are some of the important amendments effected in the Labour Code:-

Notification of Standard Wages.- In the discussion by the council of the Bill it was stated that clause 5 had been introduced at the request of the Government of India. The clause read as follows

5. Section 141 of the principal Enactment is amended by the addition at the end thereof of a new sub-section as follows:-

"(vi) Every employer who is subject to the provisions of this part and who employs upon any place of employment not less than 25 labourers to whom a standard rate of wages is applicable shall affix and exhibit continuously in a conspicuous position upon such place of employment a notice, in a form to be supplied by the Controller upon application by such employer, specifying in English and in the vernacular language of the majority of such labourers the standard rate of wages prescribed for the area in which such place of employment is situated. Any employer who fails or neglects to apply for such notice or to affix or keep the same continuously exhibited shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 25 dollars". (For rates of standard wages for Indian labourers see page 54 of the report of this office for the period 15th July to 31st July 1929, accompanying this office's note C 1/800/29 dated 22-8-1929).

Joint Hospitals.- Clause 6, which was said to be most important because its object was to give the Controller of Labour power to order the construction of joint hospitals, read as follows:-

6. Sub-section (ii) of section 176 of the principal Enactment is repealed and the following sub-sections substituted therefor:

"(ii) If two or more estates are so situated that the required accommodation for patients from such estates can be conveniently provided in one hospital, the Controller may, instead of ordering each employer to construct and maintain a separate hospital, order all the employers concerned to construct within a reasonable time to be stated in such order, and thereafter to maintain at their own expense one hospital, hereinafter called a "group hospital", for all such estates with accommodation for such number of patients as may be stated in the order, or if there is already a group hospital maintained by such employers (whether constructed under the provisions of this section or not) may order them to enlarge or add to such hospital~~s~~ so as to provide accommodation for such further number of patients from such estates as may be stated in the order; and may further require such employers to employ a registered medical practitioner, as defined by "The Medical Registration Enactments, 1907", to have charge of such group hospital and to provide such medical practitioner with fit and proper house accommodation to the satisfaction of the Health Officer".

Funeral Expenses.- Clause 7 was intended to include funeral expenses of a labourer who died in a hospital. As the law stood at present if a labourer was under a written contract, the employer was

responsible. There were, however, hardly any such labourers in the country. If the labourer was under a verbal agreement the employer was only liable for expenses up to 30 days. The amendment was as follows:-

"(iii) Where any such labourer as if referred to in sub-section (i) or any dependant of such labourer dies before being discharged from a Government hospital and is buried by the hospital authorities the employer shall also pay the expenses of the burial of such labourer or dependant at such rate as the Controller, with the approval of the Chief Secretary to Government, may from time to time prescribe by notification in the Gazette, and the provisions of sub-section (i) shall apply to the recovery of such expenses; provided that unless such labourer was serving under contract the expenses of burial shall not be recoverable from the employer where the death occurred more than 30 days after admission to hospital".

The proposal was passed and the Bill became Enactment No. 9 of 1930.

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