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Industrial and Labour Developments in July, 1946.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

Coal Mines Pithead Bath Rules, 1946.

The Government of India has gazetted this month, the Coal Mines Pithead Bath Rules 1946. The rules have been framed under section 30 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, and in pursuance of the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1946 passed in February 1946 (vide page 1 of the report of this Office for March 1946).

Under the rules coal mines are divided into the following categories:-
(i) "Category 'A' mine", viz., a coal mine, the average monthly output of which exceeds 500 tons but does not exceed 2,500 tons; (ii) "Category 'B' mine", viz., a coal mine, the average monthly output of which exceeds 2,500 tons but does not exceed 10,000 tons; (iii) "Category 'C' mines", viz., a coal mine, the average monthly output of which exceeds 10,000 tons but does not exceed 20,000 tons; and (iv) "Category 'D' mine", viz., a coal mine, the average monthly output of which exceeds 20,000 tons. The owner of every coal mine is required to provide a pithead bath with shower baths on the following scale:- Category 'A' mine: 10 for men and 4 for women; Category 'B' mine: 20 for men and 8 for women; Category 'C' mine: 24 for men and 10 for women; and Category 'D' mines: 40 for men and 16 for women. The rules also prescribe, among other things, the standards of construction for pithead baths, the lighting arrangements, the scale on which sanitary facilities shall be provided by the different categories of mines and the way in which locker rooms shall be provided.

These rules are to come into force on 1-7-1947.

(The Gazette of India dated 27-7-1946,
Part I, pages 1137-1138).

Mines Creche Rules, 1946.

The Mines Creche Rules, 1946, framed by the Government of India, under section 30 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 (reference was made at page 1 of the report of this Office for May 1945 to the amendment of this Act by an Ordinance), have now been gazetted. The rules require the owner of every mine to construct thereat a creche in accordance with plans prepared in conformity with the rules and previously approved by the competent authority, prescribe the standards of construction, and maintenance, and include a provision for the regular medical examination of the children attending the creche once every month.

(The Gazette of India, dated 27-7-1946,
Part I, pages 1138-1139).

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Ajmer - Merwara :

Amendments to Ajmer - Merwara Factories Rules:
Draft.

The Chief Commissioner, Ajmer - Merwara, has gazetted this month the draft of certain rules he proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 45 of the Factories Act, 1934, to replace existing rules 90 to 101 of the Ajmer - Merwara Factories Rules.

The draft rules ~~unlike~~ seek to define the classes of persons and categories of work exempted from the restrictions imposed by the Factories Act, 1934, on the working hours of adults and prescribe the conditions subject to which such exemptions may be permitted.

(The Gazette of India, dated 20-7-1946,
Part II-A, pages 239-241).

Delhi :

Delhi Factories to submit Half-Yearly Returns:
Fresh Draft Rule.

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has published the draft of certain amendments and additions he proposes to make to the rule under the Factories Act already in force. The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 1-9-1946. The rule, now proposed to be added, requires the manager of every non-seasonal factory to submit to the Chief Inspector of Factories, on or before the 15th of January and the 15 of July each year a half-yearly return in a prescribed form. Among the details the manager is required to submit are the average number of men, women, adolescent-males, adolescent-females, boys and girls employed daily, and the number of days worked during the preceding halfyear.

(The Gazette of India, dated 13-7-1946,
Part IIA, page 232).

Madras :

Payment of Wages Act to be extended to Tramways and
Omnibus Services: Draft Notification.

The Government of Madras has published, on 25-7-1946, the draft of a notification extending the application of the Payment of Wages Act to all classes of persons employed in the tramways and motor omnibus services. The draft is to be taken up for consideration on or after 25-10-1946.

(The Fort St. George Gazetted, dated 23-7-1946,
Part I, page 489).

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Extension of Weekly Holidays Act, 1942.

By a notification dated 30-7-1946, the Governor of Madras has directed that the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942, shall come into force on 1-8-1946 in more than 350 panchayats in the Province specified in a schedule appended to the notification.

(The Port. St. George Gazette, dated 30-7-1946, Part I, pages 525-526).

Sind:

Closing Hours of Shops: Proposed order under
Sind Shops and Establishments Act, 1940.

The Government of Sind proposes to pass an order under the Sind Shops and Establishments Act, 1940, that no shop situated in any place to which the above Act applies shall be closed on any day after later than 8 P.M. in winter months, viz., from November to February, and 9 p.m. during the remaining months of the year.

(The Sind Government Gazette, dated 4-7-1946, Part I, page 770).

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SOCIAL POLICY.

Minimum Wages Bill: Indian Merchants' Chamber's Views.

In its reply to the Commissioner of Labour, Bombay, on the Minimum Wages Bill, the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, expresses the view that in guaranteeing minimum wages to the worker, there must be a similar guarantee regarding minimum output in order to ensure efficiency of production on the part of the ~~workers~~ worker. The Chamber favours the insertion of a section in the Act to achieve this objective. It further suggests that apprentice labour should be exempted from the section granting the minimum wages.

(The Times of India, 11-7-1946).

Mr. Giri on Conciliation Machinery: Conciliation to be attempted before Disputes Breakout.

A plan for the prompt settlement of differences between employers and workers even before they reach the stage of a dispute was outlined by Mr. V.V. Giri, Minister for Labour and Industries, Madras, in an interview to a press correspondent at New Delhi on 23-7-1946.

Conciliation Machinery to be set in Motion even before Disputes Breakout.— Urging that "the Government need not wait till a dispute between employers and employees has actually occurred, but on the very apprehension of a dispute the official conciliators should effect a settlement", Mr. Giri, suggested that the conciliators should always be in direct touch with employers and workers' organizations and must set themselves to the task of settling differences before they come up to the stage of a dispute. If this fails, the Commissioner of Labour of the province should intervene and effect a settlement. If that too fails, the Minister of Labour should settle the matter without further prolongation. Whenever this procedure does not secure the expected result, Mr. Giri recommended that the Government should lose no time in appointing a conciliation board or a court of inquiry. The whole procedure, according to Mr. Giri, should not take more than a few weeks. He had always held, and experience had proved the fact, that an effective internal settlement of a dispute between the parties themselves is of a more abiding and satisfactory nature than an external one imposed either by the Government, a board of conciliation, a court of inquiry, or adjudicator, or an industrial court. This machinery must, however, be there automatically 'to deal with disputes, impartially, swiftly and efficiently'.

Plan to establish Conciliation Machinery in Madras.— Mr. Giri stated that the Madras Government intended to enact an Industrial Disputes Act embodying the procedure described by him and establish industrial courts. Pending legislation, this procedure had already been adopted in Madras during the past two months, and the adjudicators who were appointed were district judges. The district judges were likely to become Industrial Court judges under the proposed legislation.

Need for Strong Workers' Organizations.— To make the above propositions workable, not only in the case of essential services, but also in other industries, Mr. Giri considered two things as essential. In the first place, workers in industries must have effective organizations, with sanctions behind them. These sanctions must not be used capriciously or without extreme provocation, ~~but~~ i.e., the unreasonable and unyielding attitude of the employer in conceding unreasonable conditions of service. Secondly, India's industrialists must realize that the workers are the dominant partners in the industry and as such genuinely make the workers understand that their interests and those of the employers are identical.

Emphasizing that a strong trade union organization is an asset to the industry, Mr. Giri urged that workers should be made to feel that they are not mere slaves of the system, but free citizens who have a duty towards the community apart from being wage-earners. He felt that workers' organizations in India should decide to come to a definite conclusion, especially in the present state of things in the country where there is need for intensive production. The workers, had, of course, an inherent right to strike but Mr. Giri ~~should~~ maintained that privilege should only be exercised as a last resort when all other methods at settlement failed. In this connection he pleaded for the discouragement and discontinuance of lightning strikes and ~~stay-in~~ stay-in strikes.

Need for Mutual Recognition of Rights and Duties.— Finally, Mr. Giri realized the great responsibility that rested on the central and provincial Governments for effectively legislating to guarantee freedom of association and fundamental rights and other social security measures. But real peace in industry he felt ~~it~~ could be established only if employers and workers realized their respective rights, responsibilities and privileges.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-7-1946).

Bombay Government's Plans for Labour: Labour to be associated increasingly with Industry.

The plans of Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Bombay's Labour Minister, to ameliorate the lot of Bombay's industrial and non-industrial workers, are outlined in a press report from the special correspondent of the Hindustan Times published on 30-7-1946.

Measures to strengthen Workers' Organizations.— One of the main objectives of the Government of Bombay is to give "a very real impetus to the growth of sound organizations of industrial and other workers". This will take the shape of a Bill to amend the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act. The Bill has already been drafted (vide pages 5-8 of the report of this office for June 1946). The Bombay Government also intends to open a School of Citizenship and Trade Unionism where intelligent labourers will be trained for trade union work.

Labour Inspection Department for Non-Factory Workers.— A general Labour Inspection Department is being organized for the benefit of labourers other than factory workers. A large-scale survey of agricultural labour will be followed by a welfare scheme.

Training of Workers: Technical Training for Labourers.— An industrial training workshop already exists in Ahmedabad where workers out of employment are given secondary alternative training in carpentry, foundry work, tailoring, etc. During the day, workers' children receive training in this workshop, while at night the workers themselves undergo training. When a

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... employment has completed his training, his market value naturally goes up and he is skilled in more than one trade. Often he gets employment at a higher wage than before. Bombay and Sholapur will soon have industrial training workshops. A pre-employment training workshop is to be set up to train unskilled labourers and there will be an employment bureau which will put the employer and the worker seeking employment into touch with each other.

Workers' Education.— Literacy classes for workers' children are an important feature of the labour welfare work being carried on in Bombay under the guidance of the Director of the Labour Welfare Centre. The Government is instituting scholarships for workers' children to give them higher education.

Housing.— The housing of labour is a problem that presents serious difficulties. Mr. Nanda holds that private enterprise is at present incapable of providing housing for labour, local bodies have not enough resources and provincial Governments have very little money to spare. According to Mr. Nanda, it is obvious that the Central Government must come forward to shoulder this responsibility.

Co-operation.— Co-operative credit societies have already been established among the labour population of the province; co-operative housing exists in Ahmedabad, but there are no co-operative stores for workers. These will be started soon.

Holiday Centres to be set up for Workers.— Another plan, on which Mr. Nanda is working, is a scheme for setting up holiday centres and convalescent homes for workers. At present, though they get holidays with pay, they have nowhere to go. In holiday centres workers will live without any rent; they will be charged only for food.

Increasing Association of Labour with Industry.— Another objective, which Mr. Nanda is steadily working to achieve, is the increasing association of labour with industry, is also one of the objectives which Mr. Nanda is steadily working to achieve.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-7-1946).

Alwar Labourers demand Factory Act and better Conditions of Work.

A deputation of representatives of labourers recently met the Prime Minister of Alwar, Sir S.M. Bana, and has placed before him the following demands:— (1) A Factory Act on the lines of the Act in the U.P. must be introduced in the State; (2) Eight-hour working days should be fixed and the total number of working hours in a week should be 48 only; (3) There should be one holiday in a week; (4) Wages of labour should be scheduled by the Government; (5) Bonus to workers; (6) Cheap grain shops; and (7) Fifteen days' notice before an employee is removed.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-7-1946).

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9th Session of Standing Labour Committee, New Delhi,
25-26-7-1946: Better Labour Conditions.

The Standing Labour Committee (vide page 6 of this Office report for May 1946), met at New Delhi on 25 and 26-7-1946, under the Chairmanship of Mr. S. Iali, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India. Besides Central Government officials, representatives of the provinces, States, workers and employers, including Messrs. Gulzarilal Nanda, Labour Minister, Bombay; V.V. Giri, Minister for Labour, Madras; N.M. Joshi, Miss Raniben Kere, and Sir Shri Ram, attended the meeting.

Agreement on Revision of Factories Act: Report of Housing Sub-Committee approved.— The Committee adopted the Central Labour Department's proposals to revise the Indian Factories Act so as to secure better working conditions for industrial labour. The proposals envisage the registration and licensing of factories and inclusion of specific provisions regarding the health, safety and welfare of the workers in the Act itself (vide page 8 of this report). By another resolution, the Committee expressed general approval of the report of the Industrial Housing Sub-Committee (vide page 54 of this our report for June, 1946), and emphasized that special steps should be taken for obtaining building materials which are still in short supply. According to the resolution, the Government subsidy for construction of workers' houses should be increased and in view of the fact that the rent charged from the workers will be uneconomic, the deficit should be shared equally by the Central Government, Provincial Governments and the employers. The minimum standards laid down in the report are accepted as suitable and the early formation of a national and regional housing boards is urged.

Criticism of Resettlement and Employment Directorate: Plea for Provincial Administration.— Strong criticism of the Government of India's resettlement machinery was made by Congress representatives, particularly Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda (Labour Minister, Bombay) and Mr. V.V. Giri (Labour Minister, Madras) when the progress report of the Resettlement and Employment Directorate came up for review. It is understood that they criticized the top-heavy administrative machinery of the department. In this connection it is pointed out that during the period 1-7-1945 to 1-5-1946, out of 222,091 persons who registered themselves with the employment exchanges only 55,752, or approximately 15 per cent found employment. The amount proposed to be spent on the Department is reported to be nearly Rs. 140 million. Thus for placing one man in employment over Rs. 40,000 will have to be spent. Another criticism was that though there were vacancies for 30,000 persons, only 4,000 had been actually sent up for training under its technical training schemes. Congress Ministers are also reported to have protested against the discriminatory policy followed by the Resettlement Directorate in giving jobs only to ex-servicemen and discharged war workers and ignoring the "Indian National Army" personnel and other unemployed persons who are equally in need of assistance.

It is also understood that some of the Congress Governments, have informed the Government of India that they would prefer transfer of resettlement work to the provinces, provided the Centre paid 60 per cent of the expenditure, and have declined to pay 40 per cent provincial contribution for the upkeep of employment exchanges. The Provincial Governments are also unwilling to abide by all the directives of the Resettlement Directorate, whose functions in their opinion should be merely advisory. The Central Government, however, explained that the Directorate was newly created and that it was doing very valuable work by collecting statistical data and other research work. It was also mentioned that the I.L.O. and representatives of the Ceylon and Burma Governments had praised the work done by the Directorate.

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Central Legislation for Shop Employees.— The Committee also considered the question of regulating the conditions of employment in business houses and commercial undertakings in urban areas and agreed to the proposal that a Central Act should be legislated in order to secure uniformity in all provinces.

Demand for greater Indian representation on I.L.O.— Other items discussed were the I.L.O. questionnaire on medical examination of young workers and minimum standards of social policy and the revision of the Indian Mines Act. The Committee passed a resolution in regard to the composition of the governing body of the I.L.O. and the recruitment of I.L.O. staff. The resolution calls for adequate representation for Asiatic and African countries on the governing body. Taking the population into account, it also advocates equitable international representation on the staff of the I.L.O. and puts forward the claim of India for higher representation, in view of its industrial status, the large contribution it makes to the I.L.O. and the needs and problems of the country.

Position of Indian States: Machinery for enforcing Committee Decisions.— The question of enforcing labour laws, particularly in Indian States, also is understood to have evoked considerable discussion at the meeting. The main question raised was whether States Representatives could commit States to any decision taken by the Committee. In this connection it was pointed out that while the Committee has often modified its programme to meet the States viewpoint, States Representatives could neither commit their principals nor guarantee the implementation of the decisions reached by the Committee, the Committee decided. This question is to be discussed further at the next meeting of the Committee.

(The Hindustan Times, 26 and 27-7-1946.
The Statesman, dated 31-7-1946.
The National Call, dated 27-7-1946).

Proposal for Revision of the Indian Factories Act, 1934.

The following is a summary of a memorandum intended to serve as a basis for discussion on the revision of the Factories Act, 1934, prepared in connection with the ninth session of the Standing Labour Committee.

Defects of the Existing Factories Act.— The Indian Factories Act, 1934, applies only to factories employing more than a specified number of workers. As the definition stands, several industrial undertakings are excluded from the scope of the Act. It is, however, felt that in essential matters, relating to health, safety and welfare, there is little justification for differentiating between industrial undertakings on the basis of number of work-people employed. Another defect is that as the I.L.O. Conventions apply to all workers employed in the industries to which they refer, with the Factories Act covering only a section of the workers, it becomes difficult to implement the Conventions by a modification of the Factories Act. Further, more essential points are now left to the rule making powers of provincial Governments. It is, however, considered desirable that all the essential provisions should be covered by the substantive provisions of the Statute itself. Another outstanding defect of the Act is that it leaves a very great deal of what should be prescribed in the Act itself to the discretion of the Inspectors. This places an unnecessary and undesirable responsibility on these officers. Essential measures for the health, safety and welfare

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of the worker should be provided for in the Statute itself, to be amplified wherever necessary by rules and regulations prescribed by provincial Governments. The other advantage of making specific provisions in the Act is that it would enable employers to know exactly what their obligations are.

Definition of Factory.- To remedy these defects, it is suggested that the scope of the Factories Act should be widened by adopting the more comprehensive definition of "Factory" as given in the United Kingdom Factories Act. This will help all undertakings where manufacturing processes are carried on with a view to sale or profit being brought within the definition of a factory. Contract labour will be included, as also labour employed within the vicinity of the factory for purposes connected with the work of the factory. As the U.K. definition is wide one, it is suggested that all the provisions of the Act need not be applied to factories falling within the scope of the definition. Provisions relating to essential requirements like lighting, ventilation, cleanliness, hours of work etc., will be applicable to all factories, while certain specified sections prescribing a more elaborate system of control will apply only to specified factories and factories employing more than a specified number of workers. With this procedure, a separate Act to regulate the working conditions in 'unregulated' factories would not be necessary.

Registration and Licensing of Factories.- It is proposed that every factory should be registered and should be required to take a licence for working, the licence being subject to renewal at periodical intervals. It is also proposed that previous permission should be obtained before a new factory is erected or an existing factory is extended. Under such a system it would be easy to insist upon all essential requirements relating to health, sanitation and welfare of the workers being complied with; and the levy of a registration fee and an annual licensing fee may provide at least a part of the funds required to strengthen the Factory Inspectorates.

I. General Provisions regarding Health: Cleanliness.- In order to secure the adoption of uniform health measures in factories, it is proposed that detailed provisions to secure cleanliness on the lines of the I.L.O. Standard Code of Industrial Hygiene should be incorporated in the Act.

Ventilation.- The present Section 14 of the Indian Factories Act combines general provisions for ventilation along with special provisions requiring mechanical ventilation in cases where dust and fumes are emitted in the process of manufacture. The two should be separated. It is suggested that as in the U.K. Act (section 47), a statutory obligation should be laid on occupiers to provide exhaust fans and take such other practicable measures as are necessary to protect workers against breathing dust, steam, fumes or other impurities, whether injurious or offensive and to prevent such dust, etc., accumulating in a work-room.

Temperature.- As regards the temperature in factories, Section 16 of the Act, as at present drafted, places too great an emphasis on the cost to the employer, of measures designed to secure a proper temperature in the workroom. The memorandum proposes that a provision should be made requiring the maintenance of a reasonable degree of temperature in the work-rooms, and suggests among other measures the prohibition of the use of unprotected corrugated iron sheets for the roof and sides of work-rooms exposed to the sun.

Overcrowding.- Under this head, it is suggested, that instead of discretion being left to provincial Governments as at present, certain minimum standards of so many cubic feet of space per person should be laid down in the Act itself.

A number of other improvements are suggested in the sections of the Act dealing with lighting, latrines and urinals and spittoons in factories and the need for a provision for medical examination and supervision, in particular circumstances where there is reason to believe that cases of illness may have occurred due to conditions of work or that some new process may give rise to a risk of injury to health is emphasized.

II. Safety Measures.- It is alleged that the provisions in the Indian Factories Act concerning safety are wholly meagre and out of date. Under the Act there is an obligation to fence only the exposed parts of prime movers, all further measures being left to be dealt with by rules or to be ordered at the discretion of the Inspector. There is no obligation on the factory owner installing new machines, not specifically covered by the rules or notified by the Inspector as dangerous, to take any measures for the safety of their workers. It is suggested that the only satisfactory method is to lay down on the factory owners a definite responsibility to take all measures necessary to secure the safety of the workers in the factory. In this connection, the memorandum recommends the incorporation in the Indian Act of the relevant sections of the U.K. Factories Act.

III. General Provisions regarding Welfare.- Under this head, the memorandum suggests that provision should be made in the Act itself for the supply of pure drinking water to workers and that a statutory obligation should be placed on industrial undertakings employing more than 50 women (a) to provide suitable crèches for the children of such women under the supervision of attendants trained in the care of children, with facilities for washing and changing clothes; (b) to supply free milk; and (c) to provide facilities for the mothers, while on duty, to feed their babies when necessary. Suggestions are also made for the provision of seating facilities to workers, for adequate arrangements for first aid and for empowering provincial Governments to issue welfare regulations.

IV. Special Provisions regarding Health, Safety and Welfare.- The memorandum suggests that as in the U.K. Act, it would be advantageous to have a separate chapter in the Indian Factories Act containing all the provisions applicable to special types or classes of factories or hazardous processes and covering such matters as humidification, the removal of dust and fumes, shelters for rest and meals, protective equipment, etc.

Industrial Accidents and Diseases.- Under the present Act, investigation into accidents have to be conducted only by Factory Inspectors, but it is considered advisable that the provincial Government must have the power to appoint one or ~~two~~ more persons with, if necessary, technical assessors to investigate into the accidents and to make recommendations. The memorandum further suggests the inclusion of a provision in the Indian Act requiring every medical practitioner or hospital authority attending on a patient who, he has reason to believe, is suffering from an industrial disease to send a notice giving full particulars of the case to the Chief Inspector of Factories. The incidence of industrial diseases in India is bound to be greater than that suggested by the number of claims made under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and the above provision would also help in the collection of information regarding the incidence of diseases among workers not subject to the Health Insurance Scheme.

Employment of Children.- Under this head, the memorandum points out that in respect of factories the I.L.O. Convention as modified in respect of India has been fulfilled, but if the definition of factories is considerably widened, most of the prevalent abuses in small industries which are not factories as defined in the existing Act will disappear, provided there is efficient machinery for supervision. Also, it is pointed out

that in regard to non-industrial occupations, the I.L.O. Convention prohibits employment of children who have not completed 13 years of age and no exemption has been made in favour of India. A fortiori there is a case for increasing the limit to 13 years in respect of employment in factories. There may be a further provision enabling provincial Governments to fix a higher age limit in case of hazardous occupations. It is further suggested that the Act should provide for an annual medical examination of children with a view to examine fitness for employment in the particular class of industry in which the child is in employment.

Among the other changes, recommended in the memorandum, are a reduction in the maximum hours of work of children from 5 to 4½ and an enabling provision by which provincial Governments could issue directions for provision of a rest shed, a midday meal and for schooling of children between 13 and 15 years.

(Summarised from a "Memorandum on the Revision of the Factories Act", prepared by the Department of Labour, Government of India).

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CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Hours of Work and Weekly Rest, etc.

Working of Hours of Employment Regulations on Railways during 1944-1945.

The Indian Labour Gazette, June 1946, publishes a note, based on the report given by the Chief Labour Commissioner, on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on Railways during the year 1944-45. The following is a brief summary.

Class of Railways and Categories of Staff affected.— All Class I Railways in ~~British~~ British India are now under statutory obligation to observe the Regulations, which in the main, regulate the hours of work of the railway servants, the grant of compensatory periods of rest to them and the payment of overtime allowance when the limit of hours of work proscribed by the Regulations is exceeded in certain specified ~~circumstances~~ circumstances.

~~Staff~~ In the year 1944-45, there was an appreciable increase in the number of staff entitled to the protection of the Regulations (650,148 as against 598,151, reported last year). The figures in respect of each Class ^{1st} I Railway are given below:—

Name of Railway.	Number of workers affected.
N.W.R.	93,452
E.I.R.	117,711
B.& A.R.	104,202
G.I.P.R.	91,226
M.& S.M.R.	39,789
B.B.& C.I.R.	57,699
O.& T.R.	31,994
S.I.R.	38,378
B.N.R.	75,697

The above table, however, does not include the staff governed by the Factories Act and the Mines Act. Also running staff, staff engaged in supervision or management and certain well defined categories of inferior staff have been excluded from the scope of the Regulations. The interests of such staff known as 'excluded staff' are carefully watched to see that they are not deprived of the protection of the Regulations without sufficient justification. The hours of work of 'excluded staff' are scrutinised and changes are suggested which may appear necessary on humanitarian grounds.

The following statement gives figures of staff under the Hours of Employment Regulations, Factories Act and the Mines Act for the year under review.

Name of Railway.	Number of Workers affected.
N.W.R.	149,301
E.I.R.	148,232
B. & A.R.	127,055
M. & S.M.R.	54,974
B.B. & C.I.R.	75,105
O. & T.R.	41,718
S.I.R.	46,762
B.N.R.	91,599
G.I.P.R.	114,890

Classification of Railway Workers.— The question of classification is of vital importance to railway servants as on the correct classification depends their title to certain privileges given by the law. In the case of a 'continuous worker' the maximum limit of hours of work is 60 hours a week averaged over a month and he is entitled to a rest of 24 consecutive hours every week, whereas an 'essentially intermittent' worker may be required to work up to 84 hours a week without any statutory period of rest. In view of the importance of this question of classification, every endeavour is made to improve the classification of the staff on the Railway Administrations. The number of cases in which classification was challenged or was considered as open to doubt during the year 1944-45 as compared with 1943-44 is given below separately under each Railway. It will be seen that the figures for the year under report compare favourably with those of the last year.

Name of Railway.	Year 1944-45.	Year 1943-44.
N.W.R.	22	55
E.I.R.	29	24
B. & A.R.	34	70
G.I.P.R.	8	24
M.S.M.R.	4	11
B.B. & C.I.R.	25	28
O. & T.R.	15	16
S.I.R.	4	9
B.N.R.	8	22
Total.	147	237

Temporary Exemption and Payment of Overtime.— Sub-rule 1 of Rule 5 of the Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1951, vests in the Head of Railway the power to make temporary exemptions from the limits of hours of work prescribed in Section 71C and from the grant of periods of rest prescribed by section 71D; Sub-rule 2 of the same empowers the Head of a Railway to delegate this power to subordinate authorities. Full advantage was taken of the rule and the power delegated to a large number of subordinates, giving rise in some cases to objectionable results. The rules for payment of overtime were generally observed although in some cases matters had to be set right by reference to the Railways concerned.

Periods of Rest.— All Railway workers who are governed by the Hours of Employment regulations and who have not been declared by the Head of a Railway to be 'essentially intermittent' workers nor been granted periods of rest on less than the normal scale under the Railway Servants' Hours of Employment Rules, 1951, are entitled to a rest of not less than

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24 hours on bloc each week. The percentage of the staff enjoying a calendar days' rest during 1944-45 as compared with the year 1943-44 on each Railway is as follows:-

Railways.	Percentage of the staff enjoying a calendar days rest to the staff entitled to rest day.	
	1943-44	1944-45
N.W.R.	68.4	70.0
E.I.R.	72.0	69.8
B.& A.R.	65.9	65.4
M.& S.M.R.	92.6	91.5
B.E.& C.I.R.	74.0	70.3
O.& T.R.	69.7	69.4
S.I.R.	64.1	80.9
B.N.R.	78.6	74.9
G.I.P.R.	66.2	65.4

During the year 1944-45, 56 cases of employees working habitually and 54 cases of working occasionally during the periods of weekly rest on all Railways were detected as against 151 and 124 in the year 1943-44.

Inspection: Working hours include time spent in 'taking over'.- The strength of the Inspectorate stood at 23 throughout the year 1944-45 though a few of the posts remained vacant. The number of establishments inspected by the Inspector during the year 1944-45 was 5,518 as against 7,741 reported for the previous year. Emphasis continued to be laid on special investigations and specific enquiries rather than on routine inspections.

On almost all Railways it was usual not to include the time spent in taking over and handing over charge in the duty hours specified in the rosters. The question was taken up with all the Railway administration and most of the railways have agreed to treat the time spent in making and taking over as part of the working hours of the employees for the purposes of the Regulations. One hundred and fifty-one cases in which railway servants were found habitually working outside rostered hours and 64 cases in which they were found working occasionally outside rostered hours were discovered during the year under report.

(Indian Labour Gazette, June, 1946).

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Industrial Health and Safety.

Defective Factory Design in India: Criticism at Empire
Scientific Conference.

The unsuitability of the present factory designs in India, to her climatic conditions, was emphasized at the Empire Scientific Conference in London, during a lengthy discussion on the effect of heat and humidity on the human body.

Defects in Factory Design.— Indian factories were roofed with a single sheet of corrugated iron, affording little protection from solar radiation and making work very trying.

It was stated that experiments which had been carried out during the war showed that the efficiency of factories declined and the accident rate increased at higher temperatures in factories. Research carried out into the composition of sweat to see if valuable substances such as vitamins were lost, showed that with the exception of salt nothing much of value is lost in sweat, but salt must be replaced to maintain efficiency.

Need for Research into Industrial Building in Tropics.— It was recommended that authoritative reports should be prepared on desirable standards for domestic and industrial building in the tropics and that there should be research into engineering and development aspects of air conditioning. Suggestions were also made that traditional methods of building might be more suitable ~~than modern~~ in India than a modern building of brick or concrete.

(The Statesman, 6-7-1946).

Wages.

Piece Wage Rates raised in Bombay Mills to compensate for reduction in working hours.

As the reduction in hours of work in cotton mills from 54 to 48 per week or from nine hours per day to eight from 1-9-1946 (vide page 4 of our report for April, 1946) would result in loss of production and a corresponding drop in earnings in the case of workmen employed in piece-work occupations, the Mill-owners' Association, Bombay, has allowed an increase of 12 1/2 per cent in the basic rates of wages in all piece-work occupations with effect from that date.

The wages of time-workers have not been reduced, and they will continue to receive the same rates of wages, though they would be putting in one hour less per day.

(The Hindustan, dated 18-7-1946).

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Industrial Disputes.

Peaceful Picketing Defined: Madras Government
Communique.

The Government of Madras issued on 4-7-1946 a Press Communique defining the meaning and the scope of peaceful picketing and the consequences that follow the transgression of the limits. The communique has been issued in connection with industrial disputes in progress in two important mills in the Madras City and the attempts made by workers to strengthen their position by resorting to picketing, even though a Conciliation Board appointed by the Government under the Trade Disputes Act was sitting to effect a settlement.

Workers right to Peaceful Picketing Recognised.— The communique makes it clear that it has never been the intention of Government to deny the workers their inherent right of carrying on peaceful picketing, which, it states, has been recognised all over the world. But, the communique adds, picketing in order that it may be lawful must be peaceful and non-violent in a real sense. So long as this is done, there should be no interference on the part of the Police or other Authorities concerned.

Violent Picketing Defined.— While the workers have the inherent right of peaceful picketing, the communique emphasises that lying across the road, use of abusive language and slogans or gestures which result in or are intended for the intimidation of the employers, and the offer of physical obstruction to such of the workers as do not desire to participate in the strike will not constitute peaceful and non-violent picketing. On the other hand, standing on the pavement in an orderly manner or by the side of the roads leading to the places of work, without being unduly near or in such numbers as virtually not to cause obstruction to traffic, and intended only to invite sympathy and support to the strike will be construed as peaceful and non-violent picketing. The communique, accordingly, calls upon the workers and their organisations scrupulously to follow the above principles, upon the Police in the City and in the province not to interfere with the legitimate exercise of the right of peaceful picketing by the workers.

Finally, the communique draws attention to the strikes started in some parts of the province and the violence that had followed in their wake, sometimes resulting in murders, and declares that the Government will not hesitate to take the necessary steps to put down violence and maintain peace.

(The Hindu, dated 5-7-1946).

(Communique issued 25-7-1946, issued by the
Department of Labour, Government of Madras).

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Industrial Disputes in British India during
Quarter ending 30-9-1945.

According to statistics published by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of stoppages during the quarter ending 30-9-1945 (including 9 in progress at the close of the quarter) was 179, and the number of workers involved 184,697 as against 120 stoppages involving 109,819 workers for the same quarter of the previous year; the total number of man-days lost was 858,559 as against 446,466. There were 5 stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers, and 5 involving more than 10,000 workers. In one stoppage the number of man-days lost was more than 100,000.

Provincial Distribution.— The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay, where there were 71 stoppages involving 58,557 workers and entailing a loss of 311,783 working days; followed by Bengal with 50 disputes involving 72,533 workers and entailing a loss of 295,007 working days; C.P. and Berar and Madras with 15 disputes each, involving 16,751 and 7,260 workers and entailing losses of 24,410 (excluding figures for one stoppage) and 18,959 working days respectively; United Provinces with 12 disputes involving 9,520 workers and entailing a loss of 25,875 working days; Bihar with 7 disputes involving 18,007 workers and entailing a loss of 191,946 working days; Assam with 4 disputes involving 1,927 workers and entailing a loss of 2,147 working days; and finally, Sind with 3 disputes involving 562 workers and entailing a loss of 452 working days.

Classification by Industries.— Classified by industries, the largest number of disputes occurred in cotton, woollen and silk mills, where there were 49 disputes involving 58,953 workers and resulting in a loss of 247,303 working days; followed by engineering industries with 20 disputes involving 21,440 workers and resulting in a loss of 45,795 working days; jute mills with 10 disputes involving 25,568 workers and resulting in a loss of 105,749 working days; and, Railways (including Railway Workshops) and Mines, with 2 disputes each, involving 8,284 and 534 workers and resulting in losses of 52,008 and 5,270 working days respectively. In the miscellaneous industries' group there were 93 stoppages involving 71,918 workers and resulting in a loss of 424,454 (excluding figures in respect of 1 stoppage), working days. Thus, the textile (cotton, silk, woollen and Jute) mills accounted for 33 per cent of the number of stoppages, 45 per cent of the workers involved and 41 per cent of the man-days lost.

Causes and Results of Disputes.— Of the 179 disputes, 95 arose out of questions of wages and bonus, 37 on account of personnel, 20 on account of leave and hours and 29 due to other causes. 56 disputes were wholly successful, 38 partially successful and 71 unsuccessful; No definite results were obtained in respect of 25 disputes and 9 disputes were in progress at the end of the quarter.

(Communique dated 25-7-1946, issued by the
Department of Labour, Government of India).

Welfare.

Labour Welfare in Hyderabad: Finance Member Outlines Measures taken to promote welfare of Colliery Labour.

At a recent meeting of the shareholders of the Singareni Collieries, the Hon'ble Mr. Zahid Hussain, Finance Member of the Nizam's Government, referred to some of the measures taken to promote welfare of labour employed in the Collieries and said that everything would be done to meet the just and reasonable demands of labour.

Grievances of Colliery Labour.- The Finance Member, after detailing various difficulties which the Collieries had to face during the war, such as, lack of equipment, shortage of labour, rising cost of coal, etc., said that about the middle of 1945, the Government had appointed a non-official Committee to inquire into the grievances of colliery labour. The recommendations of this Committee were considered by the Board of Directors, and action had been taken on most of them.

Workers' Union to be Recognised.- The management had offered to the Workers' Union terms and conditions of recognition drafted on exactly the same lines as those accepted by the Railway Union, the biggest labour organization in the State. Negotiations were proceeding and it was hoped that the various labour problems would be settled through collective bargaining and mutual discussions. Advisory Committees were also being set up in which elected representatives of workers would be able to discuss with representatives of the Management the various day to day problems. A draft of Standing Orders laying down the conditions of employment had been finalised and approved. This draft follows the Standing Orders for textile mills as approved by the Bombay Industrial Court.

Other Measures.- Other welfare measures included a housing scheme, which it was expected to complete within three years, opening of six new primary schools and a middle school at Kothagudim and a proposal to appoint a lady doctor for the better medical care of families. The collieries were already maintaining a large and efficient hospital at Kothagudim, which was recognised to be one of the best equipped hospitals run by an industry in India.

(Hyderabad Information, July, 1946).

General.

Working Conditions in Madras Textile Industry:
Madras Government sets up Court of Enquiry.

A Press note issued by the Government of Madras on 5-7-1946 announces that the Government has decided to set up a Court of Enquiry to investigate the conditions of workers in the textile industry in the Province. A similar Court of Enquiry to report on the conditions of working in the textile industry was appointed by the Government of Madras as recently as 1937-38, but, the press note points out working conditions have changed rapidly during the war and these changes necessitate another comprehensive enquiry into these matters. The Government has, accordingly, appointed Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramaya as a Court of Enquiry to go into all problems connected with various working conditions of labour in the Textile Industry in the Province.

Scope of Enquiry. The scope of the Court of Enquiry was explained by Mr. V.V. Giri, Minister for Industries and Labour, Madras, in a statement issued on 5-7-1946. Mr. Giri referred to the large number of trade disputes and strikes that had occurred in the province during recent months, and held that these showed that a comprehensive review of the conditions of employment in the textile industry was expedient and desirable. The enquiry now proposed by Government, will cover a wide field and will deal with questions regarding wages, scales of pay of various grades and categories of workers, security of service, hours of work, leave facilities, housing conditions, bonus, provident fund, gratuity maternity benefits, canteens, social security measures, standardisation of working conditions and all other matters relating to the welfare of the workers.

Requesting trade unions and employers to cooperate with the Court of Enquiry, Mr. Giri appealed to the former to eschew violence and terrorism and to withdraw the strike notices, if any, they had already given, especially, in view of the present shortage of cloth. In this connection Mr. Giri drew the attention of organised textile trade unions in particular and the working classes in general in the Province, to the most recent murders at Coimbatore, Srirupur, Vikramasingapuram and Mettur which are alleged to be due, among other things, to rivalries between workers' unions and urged that workers should steadily build organised unions on sound trade union lines and utilise all the opportunities they have to improve their working conditions. He warned the disruptive elements that were responsible for these deeds of violence and murders which interfered with the true spirit underlying freedom of association, that law and order would be enforced at all costs.

(Government of Madras, Press Note No.69,
dated 5-7-1946.
The Hindu, dated 7-7-1946).

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Informal Meeting of National Planning Committee,
Bombay, 9-7-1946.

An informal meeting of the National Planning Committee was held at Bombay on 9-7-1946, under the presidency of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Among the resolutions passed was one recording the Committee's protest against the abolition of the Planning and Development Department of the Government of India (vide page 82 of this report).

The Committee welcomed the restoration of constitutional Governments in the provinces and the steps that are being taken by the provincial Governments to formulate plans for development of the provinces.

Sub-Committee Reports to be circulated to Provincial and State Governments for Opinion.— The Committee considered the reports of the Priority and Development Sub-committees appointed at the last meeting of the Committee (vide page 20 of the report of this Office for November, 1945) to consider urgent national problems of food, education and housing; and in view of the importance of these questions at the present juncture decided that the ways and means recommended by these sub-committees in regard to each of these problems should be published immediately and copies of these reports be forwarded to all Provincial and State Governments with a view to inviting their opinion to enable the Planning Committee to formulate formal resolutions on these subjects at its next meeting.

The Committee further considered the reports of the Technical, Scientific, Education, Fisheries, Internal Trade and Power and Fuel Sub-Committees and decided to release to the Press summaries of their conclusions and recommendations.

Sir J.C. Ghosh and Prof. K.T. Shah were nominated to the All-India Council for Technical Education and representatives of the National Institute of Science and the Indian Scientific Congress Association were co-opted as members of the National Planning Committee.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-7-1946).

Aluminium Industry in India: Future Prospects.

An A.P.A. report from New Delhi reviews the progress made by India's aluminium industry during recent years.

The aluminium industry in India, though developed as war-time exigency, has made spectacular developments during the past three years. It is the only non-ferrous metal of which large deposits are found in India.

Aluminium was for the first time produced in India in the year 1943 at Aluparam (Travancore State) Reduction Works of the Indian Aluminium Company. The rolling mills in Bellur, Calcutta, and the manufacturing plants produced sheet metal, and components for aircraft parts, radio, and field telephone equipment, range finders, field hospital equipment, etc.

Future Output.— Plans are in hand for the further development of the industry and the Travancore factory will produce annually 5,000 tons of aluminium when its power requirements are met. The

aluminium works at Juri (Bihar), when completed, are expected to have a capacity of 40,000 tons per year. Arrangements are also being made to further increase the present annual output of 1,000 tons of the Aluminium Corporation of India, Asansol. The prospects for rapid development would, therefore, seem to be fairly bright.

('Dawn', dated 4-7-1946).

Central Government to set up Mineral Information Bureau.

A Mineral Information Bureau is to be set up shortly in the Geological Survey of India to give information and advice to industries.

The main functions of the bureau will be the dissemination in non-technical language of facts and correct information relating to Indian minerals, fuels; iron ore and ferro-alloy minerals, light and base metal minerals, precious metals, gems, minerals for chemical industries, industrial clays, sands and miscellaneous minerals. The bureau will advise on the uses and processing of raw minerals and quantitative data on the availability and suitability of minerals for industries, and will help industrialists by carrying out laboratory tests and by recommending technologists for mine survey, geological survey, prospecting and opening up of economic deposits.

It will be under the supervision of Dr. D.H. Wadia, and its services will be free though small charges may be levied for special analytical work.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-7-1946).

Bombay Sales Tax Act 1946, to take effect from 1-10-1946: Additional Protection to Poorer Consumers Provided.

In view of its large financial commitments, notably in the spheres of food, village water supply and education, and generally in respect of the whole field of development and rehabilitation, the Government of Bombay has decided to proceed to implement the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1946, (vide page 24 of this office report for April, 1946). The Act is to come into force from 1-10-1946.

Exemptions List Enlarged: Poorer Consumers Protected.- With a view, however, to providing adequate protection to the poorer consumers, the Government proposes to enlarge the schedule of exemptions by inclusion of a number of articles which enter into the consumption of the poorer classes. Among the items to be added are: handloom cotton cloth, woollen lamblis (blankets) used by the poor, butter-milk, curds and certain edible

oils, firewood and charcoal, manures (including oil cakes), the more common agricultural implements and a variety of school requirements and ~~now~~ including approved text-books.

(Bombay Information, 6-7-1946.
The Eastern Economist, 5-7-1946).

Multipurpose Projects to Harness India's Rivers:
The Kosi, Mahanadi and Damodar Valley Projects.

Kosi River Dam Project: Cost estimated at Rs. 500 Million.- It is understood that the Central Waterways, Irrigation, and Navigation Commission of the Government of India has recently submitted to the Government of Bihar a detailed scheme for carrying out the Kosi Dam Project. The river Kosi which originates from the Himalayas and passes through Nepal and North Bihar is subject to sudden spates, and is notorious for its changing bed. In the last two hundred years it has steadily advanced 75 miles westwards laying waste in this movement some 2,000 to 3,000 square miles in Bihar and 300 to 500 square miles in Nepal. The Kosi flood plain has a population of about 900 per square mile.

The execution of the project, according to the plan, will take about ten years and cost about Rs. 500 million. The project, which is designed to provide for flood control, soil conservation, irrigation, drainage, reclamation of waterlogged areas, malaria control, navigation, power, fish culture and recreational facilities, will comprise the following component units:- (1) A dam, possibly 750 ft. high, to trap harmful sands and to store upto 10.6 million acre feet of water (gross storage) of which 2.1 m.a.ft. will be live or useable storage for purposes of irrigation, navigation and power generation. (2) A power plant at the dam to generate 0.93 to 1.4 million kilowatts of cheap power. (3) A barrage (in Nepal) across the Kosi, some distance below its debouch in the plains, to control and stabilize the river channel and to provide facilities for diverting river supplies into the canals. The barrages will be provided with navigation locks and carry an arterial road bridge. (4) 2 canals taking off from the barrage to irrigate areas in Nepal and if possible, in Bihar. (5) A barrage (in Bihar) across the Kosi near the Nepal-Bihar border similar to the barrage in Nepal. (6) Two canals taking off from the Bihar barrage. (7) Measures for soil conservation, reclamation of waterlogged lands, malaria control, etc.

The protective part of the project will be to assure flood control, save further destruction to cultivable lands due to the vagaries of the Kosi bed, and reclaim an area of about 3,000 sq. miles in Nepal and Bihar ruined by the Kosi and reclaim large areas of waterlogged lands, improve drainage and dry up stagnant pools and eliminate malaria. The productive part of the project will be to extend irrigation to over 3,000,000 acres of land in Nepal and Bihar; provide facilities for fish culture which will afford protective food in periods of scarcity; assure navigation; and provide for the generation of about a million kilowatts or more of cheap power.

Rs. 600 Million Mahanadi Valley Project.- A second big multipurpose project for which the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission of the Government of India is now preparing a detailed scheme is the Mahanadi Valley Project expected to cost about Rs. 600 million.

The project aims at controlling the Mahanadi river in Orissa by means of storage dams to provide flood control, irrigation, navigation, power generation, fish culture and recreational facilities coupled with effective anti-malaria measures. A beginning has already been made in implementing the project with the laying of the foundation stone of the Hirakund Dam by the Governor of Orissa on 15-3-1946 (vide page 25 of the report of this Office for March 1946).

The project envisages construction of three dams on the Mahanadi river with provision for power generation and of three canal systems taking off at these dams for purposes of irrigation. The first dam will be at Hirakund, nine miles above Sambalpur. The second dam will be located at Tikharpara, some 150 miles downstream, and the third near Naraj, about ten miles upstream of Cuttack. The three dams will store nearly 20 million cubic feet of water of which ten million will be available for use in perennial irrigation and power development and another five million at the top as flood reserve. The project will provide navigation facilities from the head of the lake formed by the Hirakund dam right down to the sea—a distance of over 300 miles.

If the scheme materializes, it will be possible to trap all harmful sands at the reservoirs, afford complete flood protection to the delta areas in Orissa, extend perennial irrigation to over 2½ million acres both in Orissa and the adjoining States; generate cheap hydro-electric power (possibly 200,000 K.W.); provide navigation facilities from the sea to the head of the Sambalpur reservoir and to create extensive lakes for fish culture and recreational use. It is also pointed out in this connection, that with cheap hydro-electric power it will be possible to exploit the great mineral wealth of Orissa and the neighbouring States, pump out water from waterlogged areas for their reclamation and for extension of irrigation and otherwise to extend the amenities of life to the urban and rural areas. The project will include adequate provision for the effective control and eradication of malaria. The subsequent control and development of the two other major rivers, the Brahmini and the Baitarni, and the two smaller rivers, the Burabaling and the Subarnarekha, will add further to the prosperity of Orissa and its neighbouring States.

Progress of Damodar Valley Project.— During the past nine months engineer units of the Indian Army have also been making preliminary investigations, on the Damodar valley project, which is estimated to cost Rs. 550 million (vide page 17 of the report of this Office for August 1945). This includes the survey of the three dam sites and reservoir areas, sub-surface exploration and the testing of materials available for construction.

According to the report of the Central Technical Power Board the first dam to be built will be at Maithon. This dam will be approximately 2¼ miles long, of which ¾ mile consists of high ground where no construction is necessary. Its maximum height above the river bed will be 160 feet. The hydro-electric plant will have an installed capacity of 40,000 kilowatts in three units. The reservoir will extend up the river some 15 miles and will have a maximum width of seven miles. The next dam will be at Aiyar on the Damodar river. It will be a rock-filled dam, maximum height about 200 feet and some 4 ¾ miles long. The third dam, Sanolapur, is also on the Damodar. It will be about 5 miles long and about 100 feet high. The reservoirs will extend about 24 miles up the river with a maximum width of 10 miles. These are the only three dams which have so far been considered in any detail. They are the largest both in size and in storage capacity, in the project. Incidentally they will be among the largest dams of their types in the world.

(The Hindustan Times, 6, 8 and 12-7-1946).

India Grants Rs. 50 Million Loan to Siam.

As a result of negotiations between the representatives of the Governments of India and Siam, the Government of India has agreed to grant the Siamese Government a long-term loan amounting to Rs. 50 million. The credit is for 20 years from 1946 and will carry interest at 5 per cent.

This credit will enable the Siamese Government to purchase goods in India (mostly war surpluses) in order to assist in the early restoration of normal conditions in Siam, which is essential for accelerating the progurement of the rice so urgently needed in India.

The loan is to be utilised in India and Siam intends to buy two classes of goods—those which will help her in reconstruction, such as railway engines, rolling stock and transport vehicles, and secondly essential consumer goods, much of which will be textiles. Of the first class, the Government of India will permit the export of only such articles as are surplus to India's requirements.

To facilitate purchases in India a Siamese purchasing mission is expected to arrive in India shortly and will set up its headquarters in Delhi.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-7-1946.
The Statesman, dated 16-7-1946).

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Bihar Assembly Votes for Abolition of Zamindari System.

On 26-7-1946 the Bihar Legislative Assembly adopted a resolution moved by Mr. Purushottam Chauhan (Congress) recommending to the Government to take immediate steps for abolition of the zamindari system. Discussion on the resolution lasted for five days.

Landlords to be Compensated.— Speaking on the resolution Mr. Sri Krishna Sinha, the Prime Minister of the Province, urged the landlords to accept the verdict of the times on the zamindari system. The Permanent Settlement, he maintained, had been a great fraud, economically it had been vicious, politically it was mediaeval. While urging that the abolition of zamindari was demanded by new social forces that were at work today, he, however admitted that compensation had to be paid to landlords if zamindari were abolished. The question of compensation could not be ruled out under the present structure of society in India.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-7-1946).

Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1946.

The Bihar Legislative Council passed on 19-7-1946 the first Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, Chotanagpore Tenancy (Amendment) Bill and the second Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill as passed by the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

The first two Bills debar the landlords from claiming any share from the tenants in straw and husk while the third Bill entitles the tenants to get their rent in kind commuted into rent in cash on the basis of prices prevailing in 1939 and 5 years before that period.

- (Amrita Bazar Patrika, 22-7-1946).

Bombay Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1946: Further Protection to Tenants.

An Official Bill to re-enact the Bombay Tenancy (Amendment) Act of 1941 and to amend the Bombay Tenancy Act, 1939, was referred to a select Committee by the Bombay Legislative Assembly on 19-7-1946.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons, attached to the Bill, points out that the experience of the working of the Act in the limited areas to which it has been applied since 1-4-1941, has shown that the rights conferred, on the tenants and the liabilities imposed on the landlords have not been effectively enforced, as the tenant is too ignorant and illiterate and too much under the control of the landlord or the sarkar (moneylender) to assert his rights against the landlord or to enforce the liabilities imposed on the landlord under the Act. It is therefore necessary, if the rights conferred on tenants are to be effectively asserted and the liabilities imposed on the landlord effectively enforced, to modify the relevant provisions of the Act, to shift on the landlord the onus of proving that the tenant is not entitled to certain rights ~~conferred~~ conferred on him by the Act and to prescribe penalties for the failure of the landlord to discharge the liabilities imposed on him by the Act. The

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U.P. Assembly debates Abolition of Zamindari System.

Government Resolution favouring Abolition of Zamindaris.— On 19-7-1946, Mr. Kari Ahmed Kidwai, Minister for Revenue, moved in the United Provinces Legislative Assembly a resolution expressing approval in principle of the abolition of the Zamindari system in the province. The following is the text of the resolution: "This Assembly accepts the principle of the abolition of the zamindari system in this province which involves intermediaries between the cultivator and the State and resolves that the rights of such intermediaries should be acquired on payment of equitable compensation and that the Government should appoint a committee to prepare a scheme for this purpose."

Moving the Bill, Mr. Kidwai stated that the Government was opposed to the system of intermediaries. There should be a method of direct payment of land revenue and other taxes to the Government by tenants. The principal object of the resolution was to save tenants from oppression and suppression so that they could flourish.

Muslim League Amendment.— The Muslim League Party, moved an amendment, which, while accepting the principle of abolition of the zamindari system with fair and adequate compensation, sought the abolition of all other forms of private ownership in industries, the wiping out of all debts in cases where a reasonable amount had already been paid and empowering the Government to appoint a committee to prepare a scheme for implementing the foregoing objects. The Government objected to the amendment on the ground that it was irrelevant and extended the scope of the resolution.

Debate on the resolution continued on 20-7-1946 and further debate has been postponed till after the budget session.

(The Hindustan Times, 21 and 25-7-1946).

Madras Agricultural Dispute referred to Adjudicator:
Difficulty in Implementing Award.

By an order dated 6-6-1946, the Government of Madras referred to an adjudicator appointed under the Defence of India Rule, 81-A, a dispute which had arisen between the mirasdars (landlords) in Mannargudi Revenue Division of the Tanjore District and their agricultural labourers and cultivators, in regard to certain matters. A scheme drawn up by the Adjudicator was formally accepted by representatives of both the parties on 15-6-1946.

Adjudicator's Scheme: Proposal to set up Conciliation Board.— The scheme which the adjudicator induced the parties to accept contemplates the establishment of a Conciliation Board, to decide questions arising from time to time in the working of the agreement. The Kisan (cultivator) Sabhas should be free to work for the welfare of the agricultural labourers and constitutionally agitate for the redress of their grievances. As far as possible panna or varam (types of lease under which land is held), should not be changed and labourers should not be thrown out of employment without adequate reason. Labour except where it is insufficient, should

be imported only after a reference to the Conciliation Board. Questions relating to refusal or shirking of work and payment of daily wages should be brought before the Board within a limited time and the Board's decision would be final. These terms, the scheme proposes, should be in force so long as the Government considered food crisis to continue.

As for the smaller landowners the Adjudicator divided the small lessees, into two classes: (1) those holding less than 5 acres and (2) those holding 5 and more but not more than 12 acres. In regard to the first, the leases were not to be changed unless under exceptional circumstances. Regarding the second, the leases could be changed under notice to the Conciliation Board.

Government's inability to Implement Scheme.- It has now been announced, however, that the Government of Madras was confronted with certain technical difficulties in the way of implementing the above agreement. The IAW Member, the Government of Madras, visited the locality on 28-7-1946 and tried to bring about a sort of 'Gentlemen's Agreement' between the two parties considering the critical food situation in the country, but his efforts proved unsuccessful.

(The Hindu, dated 15-6-1946 and 31-7-1946.
The Fort St. George Gazette, dated 11-6-1946,
Part I, page 390).

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NAVIGATION.

Medical Facilities for Seamen: Committee
Appointed to Consider Existing
Facilities.

A committee appointed by the Government of India to examine the existing medical facilities for seamen at Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi and other ports in India, and suggest suitable modifications met in New Delhi on 29-7-1946.

It is understood that the committee is considering the question of supply on payment or free of charge of medicines to clinics and hospitals for the treatment of seamen, the setting up an organization for the pre-entry medical examination of all seamen by medical officers appointed by the Government and the laying down of standards of physical fitness to which all candidates for employment should conform. Other matters under consideration include the question of setting up committees at ports other than Bombay, Calcutta and Karachi to look after the health of seamen, the recommendations of the Port Health Committees existing at Bombay, Calcutta and Karachi on the existing and proposed medical facilities for seamen at these ports.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-7-1946).

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PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Ceylon State Council Salaries Committee Recommendations: Higher Scale of Pay for Government Employees.

The Salaries Committee of the Ceylon State Council, has recommended higher scales of pay for Government employees of all grades, involving additional recurrent expenditure of Rs. 51,400,000 a year. The revised scale is to have retrospective effect from 1-1-1946.

The new salaries scheme assumes a permanent 53-1/3 per cent increase in the cost of living above the pre-war level. The Committee was of the opinion that there should be no reduction in the existing scheme of war allowance, and recommended a further five per cent cost of living allowance to ~~those~~ those whose salaries are Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 a month and a flat rate of five per cent between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,500.

The Committee also went into provident fund, pensions, uniforms, hours of duty and public holidays. As regards provident fund, the Committee recommends that Government and individual contributions should be fixed at seven and a half per cent and five per cent respectively.

The Committee further expresses the opinion that salaries should be subject to periodical review every five years.

(The Hindu, 17-5-1946).

23-Day All-India Postal Strike: Fresh Concessions Worth Rs. 28.2 Million For Low Paid Postal Staff.

Reference was made at page 27 of the report of this office for June, 1946, to the strike notice served on the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs by the Secretary of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade (including R.M.S.) Staff Union, in the last week of June.

Commencement of Postal Strike.— The strike of postmen and lower grade staff of the Post and Telegraphs Department, including Railway Mail Service workers, sorters and packers called by the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union began on 11-7-1946 and affected most provinces and States. In the Bombay area, in Delhi and in most of the towns of the United Provinces the strike was complete, while Calcutta and a number of other towns were partially affected. An informal conference held at Poona on 14-7-1946 between Mr. B.G. Eher, Premier of Bombay, the Hon'ble Mr. Mangaldas Patil, President of the Bombay Legislative Council, Mr. R.E. Shalom, Postmaster General, Bombay and Mr. V.G. Dalvi, General Secretary All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union, to discuss the situation arising out of the postal strike ended in failure; on the same day postmen in Madras also stopped work. It was announced that the Government of India was giving immediate consideration to the report of the adjudicator in the postal dispute (vide page 37 of the report of this Office for March 1946) which it had just received.

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Government of India announces Acceptance of Adjudicator's Award.- On 18-7-1946 the Government of India announced its willingness to accept in their entirety the adjudicator's recommendations for ~~relief~~ relief to non-gazetted staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department on new scales of pay to take effect from 1-7-1946.

Clarifying its position regarding the 12 demands which were included in the strike notice served on the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs by the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union (vide pages 27-28 of the report of this Office for June 1946), the Government made the following announcement:- (i) Those relating to pay and conditions of service would be dealt with by the Pay Commission; (ii) on five demands Government had passed favourable orders. These related to over-time allowance for work performed by postmen and packers on Sundays and postal holidays; the provision of a leave reserve for these two grades; abolition of medical examination upon promotion to a higher grade; reservation of posts in the clerical cadre for departmental candidates; and the offer of alternative employment as vacancies occurred to suitably qualified personnel upon retrenchment.

At the same time the Government of India accepted the recommendations of the Adjudicator proposing an increase in the basic pay, ranging between five per cent and 50 per cent for the different categories of postal staff. Other recommendations of the adjudicator also accepted by Government include retrospective effect to be given to the above relief in respect of all categories except one from 1-1-1945 to 1-6-1946, that is, for one and a half years on the basis of the relief on 1-7-1946. Grain concession allowance to be given to all the new scale employees at places where no grain concession scheme was in operation, at a rate equal to the money value of the concession at Bombay, in respect of three and a half consumption units. The present value of the concession is Rs. 3/12 per month; up-grading of all the "C" areas into "B" category with the result that the dearness allowance given to the new scale employees at places included at present in "C" category would be increased by Rs. 2 per month. It was calculated that the retrospective payment of the increase for 18 months would mean a lump payment of about Rs. 150 to the lowest paid staff. The cost of these reliefs would be ~~Rs. 7.5 lakhs~~ non-recurring and Rs. 1,009 ~~lakhs~~ recurring. The proposed grain concession allowance was calculated to mean an annual expenditure of Rs. 45 per employee. The increases proposed by the adjudicator, it was announced by Government, would be for the interim period till the Pay Commission's report was made.

Refusal of Union to Call off Strike: General Strikes in Bombay and Calcutta.- The Secretary of the All-India Postmen, Lower Grade Staff and R.M.S. Union, however, refused to call off the strike on the ground that the award affected partially only one out of 12 demands of the Union that relating to the abolition of classification into "A", "B" and "C" areas for purposes of scales of wages, dearness allowance and house rent, and announced that the strike of the lower grade postal employees would not be called off unless the Government agreed to meet representatives of the strikers with a genuine desire for a settlement. On 18-7-1946 a Council of Action set up by Postal and Telegraphs workers attached to seven unions in Calcutta, decided to call a general strike of postal and telegraphs workers from midnight on Sunday, 21-7-1946, and in a press note issued on 19-7-1946 the Post-Master-General, Calcutta, announced that all public postal transaction would cease from mid-night 20-21 July until further notification and only Government 'dak' would be accepted over the counters of the G.P.O.. On 27-7-1946, the Central Telegraph Offices in Bombay were closed for the first time since they were installed 70 years ago, when workers in the upper categories joined the strike of the lower-grade staff. Nearly 250,000 workers, including those employed in transport services, in Bombay stayed away from work to mark their sympathy towards

the postal and telegraph workers in the city, following a call for a general strike issued by the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Congress. At noon on 22-7-1946, ~~the~~ 35 textile mills and seven major workshops and over 200 minor industrial concerns in Bombay city were completely closed. Twentythree textile mills worked with about 20 per cent of the normal staff, while only 10 mills worked normally. All the principal markets in the city were closed, as clerks and 'gunastas' participated in the general strike. This was followed on 29-7-1946 by an one-day general strike in Calcutta in which except water, electric and gas supply all other services were suspended and business houses, banks, and newspaper offices were almost all closed.

Failure of Settlement Efforts.- Meanwhile, on the initiative of Mr. B.G. Kher, Prime Minister of Bombay, and Mr. Mangaldas H. Fakvasa, President of the Bombay Legislative Council, a meeting was arranged between Mr. Krishna Prassada, Director General of Posts and Telegraphs and Mr. V.G. Dalvi, General Secretary of the All-India Union of Postmen and Lower-grade Staff Union at Poona on 22-7-1946 and exploratory talks, with a view to reaching a settlement between the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs on the one hand, the Strike Committee of the Union on the other, were continued at Bombay. The negotiations, however, broke down. The Union was prepared to call off the strike only if all points on which no settlement could be reached were referred to an independent non-official arbitrator, stipulating also that there should be no victimisation and that strikers should be paid for the period of their absence from duty. The Government of India, on the other hand, maintained that decisions favourable to the staff concerned had already been taken by Government in respect of seven of the demands not covered by reference to the Pay Commission and orders thereon were under issue. The remaining demands which the Strike Committee now proposed should be referred to a non-official arbitrator, were all matters with which the Pay Commission was directly concerned. They could not, therefore, be referred to an independent non-official arbitrator.

Strike threat by Federation of Posts and Telegraphs Unions.- The situation was further complicated in the last week of June by the decision of the General Council of the Federation of Posts and Telegraphs Unions (this union had till then kept aloof from the postal strike) to launch a strike from the midnight of 25/26-7-1946, if no satisfactory reply were received from the Government of India to certain demands it had made, following the publication of the award of the adjudicator which it described as unsatisfactory. The Federation's demands involved an additional expenditure of about Rs. 15,600,000 on top of the relief of Rs. 14,000,000 obtained in March 1946 and Rs. 10,900,000 recurring and Rs. 7,300,000 non-recurring relief granted under the award. To facilitate friendly negotiations the Federation put off the strike till 3-8-1946.

Further Concessions announced by Government.- On 1-8-1946, the Government of India announced further concessions involving expenditure of nearly Rs. 10,000,000 in addition to the concessions costing Rs. 18.2 million recommended by the adjudicator and accepted earlier.

The new concessions announced by Government included:- (1) retrospective effect from 1-2-1945, to the grain compensation allowance of Rs. 3/12 per mensem recommended by the adjudicator for non-gazetted staff on the old scales of pay and new scales of pay, in places where the Department has no cheap grain shops; and (2) a number of fresh concessions with regard to ~~the~~ house rent allowance to postal workers, telegraphists and clerks in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. The result of these new concessions, it was pointed out, was that a ~~porter~~ porter in Bombay whose pay before the war was Rs. 16 will now get Rs. 70/5 and a lump sum of Rs. 65; and a porter in "C" Area whose pay used to be Rs. 15 also, and who now gets Rs. 42, will get Rs. 51/4 and a lump sum of Rs. 126.

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Strike Called Off.- Following the above announcement, the Federation of Post and Telegraph Unions on 1-8-1946 decided to direct the six unions affiliated to it not to go on strike. Accepting the advice given to him by a number of Congress leaders including Sardar Patel, ~~Mr. V.G. Dalvi~~ Mr. V.G. Dalvi, General Secretary of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade (including RMS) Staff Union called off the strike on 2-8-1946 and asked the postmen to resume work on 3-8-1946 or as early as possible thereafter.

The situation, however, still remains confused. By 5-8-1946 the postal strike had ended in Bombay, the Punjab, the C.P. and Madras. At Poona and a number of other places, however, the ~~postmen~~ postmen were still holding out despite Mr. Dalvi's appeal calling off the strike on the ground that the Government should agree to pay the strikers for the period of their absence from duty owing to the strike.

(The Statesman, 12, 19, 20 and 23-7-1946;
The Statesman, 2, 3 and 5-8-1946.
The Times of India, 25 and 27-7-1946.
The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 21-7-1946).

Office Employees in Bombay Demand for Better Conditions of Service.

~~Bank~~

Bank Employees' "Charter of Rights"- The Federation of Bank Employees' Unions in Bombay has drawn up a "Charter of Rights" covering almost every aspect of pay and service of the bank employees of Bombay. The main points in the "Charter" ~~are~~ are: basic salary of Rs. 75 for clerks and Rs. 40 for all lower paid employees; pay grades to be fixed with maxima to be reached within 20 years, maximum for lowest grade, Rs. 300 for clerks, Rs. 110 for lower paid employees; dearness allowance at the rate of 50 per cent of salary with a minimum of Rs. 35 up to Rs. 300 a month; 40 per cent from Rs. 301 to Rs. 500; and 25 per cent up to Rs. 1,000, no dearness allowance above Rs. 1,000; bonus at the rate of at least two months' salary per year. Provident fund and pension schemes, the former with contributions equivalent to one-twelfth of salary paid by both staff and management; gratuity at the rate of one month's salary for each year of service on leaving; stoppage of appointment of non-Indians to officers' posts, which are to be filled by senior clerks; ~~clerks'~~ clerks' posts being filled by sepoys; elaborate procedure for disciplinary action, including dismissal, and maintenance of employees' service books; leave: one month's privilege leave with full pay for every 11 months' service; 15 days' casual leave a year; one month's sick leave for every year of service; and in addition, every bank is asked to arrange ~~for~~ for a suitable dining, recreation and rest room, and to encourage the establishment of a co-operative canteen. Banks are also asked to insure employees against accidents injury and to introduce a scheme for giving bonus shares at par to employees.

"Charter" is to be placed before Bombay bank managements by 1-8-1946 and in case it is not accepted, the Federation proposes to give strike notices with the object of going on strike on 1-9-1946.

Bombay Clerical Workers' Demand.- A meeting of clerical workers in Bombay on 2-7-1946 called by the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Congress, adopted a resolution viewing with deep concern "the fast worsening standard

of living of office employees and the most unsatisfactory scales of salaries, conditions of service and social security provisions. The resolution call upon the Government of Bombay immediately to institute a comprehensive inquiry into the economic conditions of all classes of office employees. Labour leaders and representatives of the working classes, who spoke on the occasion, called upon the clerical fraternity to organize trade unions and to federate into a central body to secure better working conditions and remuneration.

Bombay Chamber of Commerce to Revise Terms and Conditions of Service of Commercial Staff.- It is understood that in view of the prevailing 'Strike fever' in Bombay, the special sub-committee of the Commission of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, in consultation with heads of firms employing large clerical staff, has appointed a special sub-committee to draw up a specimen code of terms and conditions of service for clerical employees.

(The Times of India, 26-7-1946.
The Hindustan Times, 3-7-1946.
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 27-7-1946).

Conditions of Service of Government Employees:
Central Pay Commission's Questionnaire.

The Central Pay Commission, (vide pages 29-30 of the report of this Office for May, 1946) has issued a questionnaire calling for comprehensive information and opinion on all points relating to Government servants remuneration, their leave and retirement benefits and machinery suitable for resolving differences between them and the Government. The questionnaire contains six sections with 45 questions in all.

Price Level Fluctuation.- As the main problem is to fix the pay of public servants on the basis of a fairly stable level of the cost of living, the commission calls for reasonable forecasts as to when such stability will be resumed during the next few years and at what level, compared to the level of 1932, a year in which there was a general revision of salaries in many departments. Suggestions are also invited for devising a method by which pay for certain classes of Government servants can be varied and adjusted according to fluctuations in the cost of living, and it is further asked that the classes of Government servants requiring such readjustment may be specified. Talking of the immediate future, the commission inquires whether the present arrangement of granting dearness allowances is working satisfactorily and whether the allowances may be absorbed in part or full in future scales. The commission further asks whether the remuneration of any classes of Government servants is so inadequate for the purpose of maintaining themselves and their families in a reasonable state of health, comfort and efficiency, that it should be upgraded for reasons of general equity apart from that of a steep rise in the cost of living.

Skilled and Unskilled Labour.- Another question inquires, on what basis unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour should be differentiated from one another, and the manner in which daily-rated employees may be ensured fair wages and fair terms. Suggestions are also invited on such other general conditions of service as hours of work, payment of overtime and other allowances, the working of the daily rate system and the piece-work system and holidays for public servants.

Difference of Pay between Women and Men.- Two of the questions relate to the need or otherwise of differentiation in pay between women and men in the same services and between employees of commercial and industrial departments and other employees of the Government.

Family Provision.- Adequacy of the existing provision for a Government servant and his family against the eventualities of retirement and death is the basis of a number of detailed inquiries. Suggestions are invited for a method to ensure family provision in the case of employees dying in harness or dying soon after retirement. Opinions are invited on four ways of achieving this, three of which relate to making adjustments in pension or provident fund or both, while the fourth is a suggestion for compulsory State insurance.

Benefit to Railway Employees.- By another question, the Commission seeks to ascertain how far the recommendations made by the (Whitley) Royal Commission on labour in India have worked for the benefit of railway employees.

Machinery for Settling Disputes.- The final section of the questionnaire relates to machinery which will be needed for conciliation between employees and the Government and for securing proper redress of Government employees' grievances. While the desirability of introducing the Whitley Council system in regard to government services is the subject of a specific question, opinions and suggestions are also invited for forming any other suitable machinery.

(The Statesman, 25-7-1946).

Bikaner Government Servants to Receive Increased Dearness Allowance.

The Bikaner Government has sanctioned an all-round increase in the scales of dearness allowance to the Bikaner Government servants with retrospective effect from 1-4-1946 as also in the limit of pay from Rs. 150/- to Rs. 200/- per mensem up to which the allowance will be admissible. The new scales involve an extra annual expenditure of nearly Rs. 700,000 making the total expenditure on dearness allowance Rs. 1.7 million.

(The Hindustan Times, 2-7-1946).

NATIVE AND COLONIAL LABOUR.

Uplift of Bombay Aborigines: Five-Year Scheme of Western India Adivasis (aboriginals) Workers Federation.

It is learnt that a Five-Year plan for the social, economic and cultural educational and physical uplift of the 1.6 million aboriginal tribes of the Bombay Province has been submitted to the Bombay Government by a committee appointed by the Western India Adivasis Workers' Federation.

The Scheme suggests introduction of compulsory education in a period of 10 years and complete prohibition in 3 years. In view of many cases where members of these tribes are ejected out of lands and their crops attached many times for doubtful debts, the Committee asks the Government to make suitable amendments to the Bombay Tenancy Act and the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act.

('Dawn', dated 2-7-1946).

Welfare of Aboriginal Classes: Bihar Government sets up new department.

It is understood that the Bihar Government has established a new department called the Welfare Department to deal with the welfare of the aborigines and Scheduled Castes.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-7-1946).

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Madras Scheme to encourage Khadi Production.

A Conference of departmental officials and representatives of the All-India Spinners' Association was held at Madras on 25-7-1946, under the presidency of Mr. T. Prakāsam, the Madras Premier. The Conference, which was attended among others by the Minister for Food, the Provincial Textile Commissioner, the Director of Industries, the Secretaries to the Government in the Finance and Development Departments, was called to consider the Government's scheme of 'Khadi' (hand-spun and hand woven cloth) production.

The scheme has been formulated with a view to making it possible for production in one selected firka (locality) in each district of Khadi cloth sufficient to clothe the entire population of that firka.

To execute the scheme the Government proposes to form a Provincial Khadi Board consisting of 16 members both official and non-official. The scheme will be worked "through and with the assistance of village and firka khadi committees" specially constituted for the purpose. Altogether 25 firkas have been selected for the whole province with two firkas for the Vizagapatam district. It is expected that it will be possible to supply every year 20 yards and 10 yards respectively for every adult and child in each of the selected firkas.

In putting the scheme into effect, an attempt will be made to secure as many spinners as possible, each family in a firka being expected to contribute not less than one spinner. Steps will be taken by the Government to give instructions to and train villagers in spinning wherever necessary. Charkas (spinning wheels) will be produced and sold to the villagers to the extent required. Where the spinners are unable to secure their own supply of cotton, the Government will assist by selling to them either cotton or silvers, as may be found necessary. All the hand-spun yarn will be woven into cloth through handloom weavers residing in the firka concerned. But if the number of looms available within the limits of a firka is found to be insufficient for the weaving of all the yarn spun under the scheme, the weaving will also be entrusted to handloom weavers working in centres nearest to the firka.

(The Hindu, dated 26-7-1946).

Nutrition.

Cooked Food Canteen for Railway Workmen
at Lahore.

Cooked food canteens for ^{their} workmen were opened early this month, by the Railway authorities at the North Western Railway Mechanical Workshops, Lahore.

The object of starting these canteens is stated to be the provision of wholesome and inexpensive food for workmen under comfortable conditions near the place of work and also to supplement their cereal rations. The canteens will serve a meal for only one anna consisting of "tanduri roti" (leavened bread) "dal" (pulses) and iced water. An additional feature is that the workmen will be able to supplement this meal with a vegetable or meat dish for another two annas. The canteens are to be managed by a committee consisting mainly of workers' representatives.

(The Hindu, dated 2-7-1946).

Indian Representatives attend South-East Asia Nutrition
Conference, Singapore 15-16-5-1946.

India was represented at a Nutrition Conference, convened by H.M.C's Special Commissioner in South East Asia, held at Singapore from 15-16-5-1946. The Conference was attended by nutrition experts from China, Hongkong, Ceylon, Burma, Indo-China, Singapore, the Malayan Union; and representatives of the British Military Administration in Borneo.

Calory Requirement of Tropical Countries.—The Conference considered the recommendation of the "Hubert Young Working Party Report" suggesting that 1,700 calories was the minimum daily requirement for an average adult in tropical countries who was not engaged in any manual labour. The diet suggested is Rice 12 ounces, Pulses 3 ounces, Fish-meal $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce, Food Yeast $\frac{1}{8}$ ounce, Oil $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, Fresh fruits and vegetables 4-7 ounces, Lime $\frac{1}{4}$ gramme, Sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, Soyabean Sauce $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce, and Curry Powder $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. The Calory value of the above diet before cooking is estimated at 1,700.

Among the other important recommendations made by the Conference were:—
(a) introduction of the canteen system of feeding in institutions, works, factories and offices; (b) protection of vulnerable groups by reserving all milk supplies for infants, children and invalids; and an increase in the allowance of foods rich in protein, such as fish, for expectant and nursing mothers; (c) wherever practicable, every school should be asked to maintain a garden for cultivation of food crops by school children, with specialised tuition in cultivation; and (d) creation of Nutrition Units in the Health or Medical Departments for administration of nutritional relief, and the constitution of Nutrition Councils to guide the different administrations.

(Nutrition, 1-7-1946).

Singapore Government sets up People's Restaurants.

A chain of restaurants which will serve meals for 55 Straits cents (about As. nine) is the Government of Singapore's answer to black markets and inflation. Called the "People's Restaurants", they serve rice, meat and vegetables each meal. The first of the chain, located in downtown Singapore, can accommodate 2,000 persons. Another downtown restaurant is scheduled to be opened soon. The restaurants are modelled on the lines of the British Government restaurants in the United Kingdom. The Social Welfare Department manages them.

(The Hindu, dated 23-7-1946).

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Housing.

National Planning Committee: Report of the Housing
Priority Sub-Committee.

The report of the Housing Priority Sub-Committee set up by the National Planning Committee was released to the press in the middle of July. It lays down the broad outlines of an extensive housing programme to provide a "pre-determined standard for housing accommodation for every human being with the necessary minimum of amenities and services which modern life in industrial centres demands".

Urgent need for Urban Housing Programme.— According to the Sub-Committee the problem of housing is not of the same urgency, or of the same importance, as the problem of food and education, in as much as the shortage of housing accommodation is felt only in the larger centres of population. Only 15 per cent of India's total population lives in towns according to the Census Report for 1941. Again, as regards the great majority of the people who live in villages, the report suggests that climatic conditions for the greater part of the year, make pucca housing relatively unimportant. The matter, thus concerns mainly the larger industrial centres, where congestion of population, combined with a lack of space and other ~~essential~~ amenities, makes the problem very acute. The report recommends that the entire problem of housing shall be considered as one of national urgency, to which special priority must be given for immediate action in the national plan.

The report deals with four main aspects of the provision of housing for the population: (1) The nature and extent of the housing provision; (2) The responsibility for providing it; (3) The finance or ways and means of housing; (4) The agency immediately concerned with providing housing, regardless of the ultimate financial responsibility.

10-Year Housing Programme.— The report recommends a programme of housing spread over ten years. For the urban population, 100 sq. ft. per capita is considered the minimum necessity. Technical details, plans or designs for standard housing will be for architects and engineers to work out, but the report rules out the practicability of having pre-fabricated housing ~~expanses~~ from the point of view of the Indian population as a whole, and, particularly, as regards the rural population. But housing on the scale that India needs would involve the development of ancillary industries like brick-making, iron and steel, cement, woodwork, paint and varnishes, furnishing and equipment in general, essential for modern residential accommodation.

Rents to be related to Tenant's Income.— The report regards housing as a public utility service and suggests that the rents charged cannot be what is called an economic return on capital investment made by a private profit-seeker. It should be correlated as much to the ability or income of the occupant as to the capital cost incurred on constructing the standard dwelling. In this connection the Sub-Committee suggests that the rent charged should be about 8 $\frac{1}{5}$ per cent of the tenant's income, and should in no case exceed 4 per cent of the capital investment.

Responsibility for Housing.— The responsibility for housing, according to the Sub-Committee, is not exclusively that of any single individual, corporation or authority, and the State will have to take, in one aspect or another, an increasing share in providing, regulating and controlling the housing service as a whole. As housing is a public utility service of national importance, the report maintains that, the

central authority of the country must bear its share of this obligation, though the burden need not be shouldered entirely and exclusively by that authority. The actual agency for constructing houses, however, must be the local authority.

The employer of labour is an outstanding class to whom the responsibility may quite fairly be entrusted for providing housing. Another alternative agency is competitive private enterprise. The minimum ~~and~~ standard of equipment and amenities are to be enforced by the Central Government authority.

Finance.— The Sub-Committee considers that the financial responsibility for housing must be shared, being not exclusive to any one of the parties concerned—the State, the employer and the private entrepreneur providing housing. If housing as a public utility service, is provided by the State or some organ, representative or delegate of it, and run on a co-operative basis, or rather, on a contributory basis, the income derived by each of these agencies, ~~and~~ ~~responsibility~~ responsible for providing and maintaining the housing service, could be easily determined as part of a long-term ~~arrangement~~ arrangement, even though, initially, relatively a heavier burden might fall upon a given section only.

In this connection, the report commends the latest proposal of the Government of India to grant a subsidy of 12½ per cent, subject in each case to prior approval of the provincial Government concerned, and a maximum of Rs. 200 per house. (Vide pages 26-27 of the report of this Office for February 1946). This is to be spread over a period of ten years, with 50 years to recover the cost. This, in turn, can be supplemented by a similar subsidy of 12½ per cent, subject to a maximum of Rs. 200, making the total Government subsidy of Rs. 400 per house from the local Government or Municipality to some statutory corporation or building society.

(The Times of India, 19-7-1946).

Workers' Organisation.

French India: Third Session of Labour Conference,
Pondichery 6-8-4-1946.

The third session of the French-India Labour Conference was held from the 6th to the 8th of April 1946 at Pondicherry, under the presidency of Mr. V. Subbia, founder member of the labour movement in French India. The Conference was inaugurated by Mr. S.S. Mirajkar, Vice-President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, and was extensively attended by 225 delegates from 25 Unions with a total membership of 21,400 representing textiles, cotton and jute, press, engineering, shaving saloons, municipal and electric services and oil mills.

Amongst the resolutions passed was one requesting the C.G.T. to send a delegation to French India. Other resolutions related the Trade Union demands of the various groups of the French-India Trade Union Congress.

(The Trade Union Record, June, 1946).

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

"Indian Women's Charter of Rights and Duties".

The Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference during a three-day session held at Calcutta from 26 to 28-7-1946, passed a number of resolutions and adopted the Indian Women's Charter of Rights and Duties demanding social, economic and political equality of man and woman so that the latter may contribute her legitimate share to the general reconstruction of the life of this country.

Indian Women's Charter of Rights and Duties.- Equality of all citizens before the law, irrespective of caste, creed or sex and attachment of no disabilities to any citizen by reason of religion, caste, creed or sex in regard to public employment, office of power or honour and in the exercise of any trade or calling are amongst the fundamental rights included in the Charter.

As to civic rights, the Charter does not accept the present basis of franchise, which "restricts the number of men and women, especially the number of women, to a small percentage of the total population", and demands universal adult franchise.

According to the Charter, there should be no basic difference between the ~~educational~~ education of man and woman as their duties as citizens are the same. Co-education should be adopted in all states, but exception may be made in the secondary stage until prejudice against it has been overcome.

Demand for Legislation to eradicate Social Evils.- The Charter urges the Government to make immediate efforts, if necessary by legislation, to eradicate the evils of child marriage, child labour, purdah and untouchability. On the question of health, the Charter demands the adoption of a nationwide plan of free pre-natal and infant welfare clinics with maternity hospitals and nursing services. Referring to the immoral traffic in women, the Charter suggests that there should be an equal moral standard for men and women, and rescue homes on scientific lines should be established to rehabilitate those who have fallen.

Social Insurance for Housewives.- According to the Charter the housewife, has so far received no recognition in the sense that no steps have been taken for ~~the~~ her protection. The Charter demands that the husband shall have no right to dispose of his entire income without the consent of his wife and any social insurance scheme adopted by Government should include the housewife. With regard to the latter, the Charter demands that in any scheme of social insurance that Government may introduce for the benefit of the workers who work outside home such as workers in fields or factories, teachers or nurses, the homemaker shall be included for purposes of benefits; and ~~pay~~ contribution to be made to the fund shall be deducted from the husband's income if the wife has no separate income ~~for~~ of her own.

Other demands, made in the charter include an equal share for both sons and daughters in the property of their fathers or mothers, and a revision of the one sided marriage laws at present in force in India to suit modern conditions of life.

Resolution on Labour in Tea Plantations.- Among the resolutions passed by the Committee was one on the report of the Investigation Committee on Assam tea plantation labour (vide pages 50-51 of the report of this Office for December 1945). It recommended adequate wages for both men

and women, prohibition of children under 14 from working in tea gardens, compulsory basic education for the children of labourers, institution of provident fund and better housing and sanitation.

The Indian Women's Charter of Rights and Duties is to be submitted to the National Central Government and the provincial Governments, in India.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-7-1946;
The Hindustan Times, 31-7-1946).

Bombay Bill to prevent Bigamous Marriages.

On the 26-7-1946, in the Bombay Legislative Assembly a Bill introduced by the Government, providing for the prevention of bigamous marriages among Hindus, was given its first reading and subsequently referred to a select committee with a request for its report within six weeks. Speaking on the Bill, Mr. Morarji R. Desai, Bombay's Revenue and Home Minister, characterised it as revolutionary in character in as much as it changed the existing Hindu law in regard to marriages. He also hoped to bring forward legislation providing for divorce of marriages under Hindu law.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bombay Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill, 1946, points out that there has been a steady growth of public opinion against the institution of polygamy among Hindus and legislation for the prevention of such polygamy has already been enacted in some Indian States. Women's associations have long been pressing for this reform which is designed to put men and women on the same basis in respect of matrimonial rights. The Bill is intended to bring the law relating to Hindu marriages more into conformity with enlightened public opinion by penalising the performance of bigamous marriages and providing that any such marriages contracted in future shall be void.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated
22-7-1946, Part V, pages 68-70;
The Times of India, dated 27-7-1946).

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PUBLIC HEALTH.

College of Nursing in Delhi.

A press note issued by the Government of India, announces that the Government has established a College of Nursing to prepare young women for the degree of B.Sc.(Hons) in Nursing instituted at the University of Delhi.

Course of Study.- The course of study extends over a period of four ~~academic~~ academic years and the students will be resident at the college throughout the period. A few scholarships will also be offered to deserving students.

The first session begins 26-7-1946.

(The Statesman, 11-7-1946).

Bombay Government's Fight against Epidemics in Rural Areas: Health Minister Outlines Measures Taken.

In a recent interview given to the special correspondent of the Hindustan Times, Bombay's Minister of Health and P.W.D., Dr. H.D. Gilder, outlined some of the measures taken by the Congress Ministry of Bombay to combat epidemics in rural areas and to render villagers immune.

Mobile Hospitals to be established.- According to the correspondent, the Bombay epidemic squads are being organized which can be rushed to affected areas, and the Government is establishing mobile hospitals in rural areas. These contain in all 2,000 beds divided into 40-bed units. The units are independent and self-contained. Most of them have been equipped from Army surplus stores and have cost the Government between 1.2 and 1.5 million rupees.

Every Taluk to have a Medical Unit.- In addition, the Government plans to increase the number of other medical units, which at present are only three, to one for each taluka. These units look after village sanitation, maternity, child welfare and general medical work. Village medical practitioners are subsidized and given allopathic, ayurvedic and unani drugs free of charge. Free medical aid to those villagers who cannot afford to pay for such aid is also given.

The Government also proposes to set up cottage hospitals in talukas and big towns.

Medical Education to be Expanded.- As regards the expansion of medical education in the province, two Government medical schools, one in Poona and another in Ahmedabad, have been raised to the status of colleges. Private medical schools will be encouraged to rise to the standard of colleges, and the Government intends to establish more centres of medical education so that there may be no difficulty in finding medical practitioners of the right type.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-7-1946).

EDUCATION.

National Planning Committee: Report of Priority Sub-Committee on Education.

The Priority Sub-Committee on Education set up by the National Planning Committee (vide pages 20-22 of the report of this Office for November 1945) recommends, in its report, an extensive programme "integrated with and fitted into the main plan of national development" for educating 55 million children and youth and 250 million adults. The report declares that it is difficult to make or maintain a distinction between short-term and long-term plans of education, which must of necessity form part of an all-round social development. Nevertheless, the Sub-Committee has conceded special urgency to the following four items of national education, which it suggests, may be treated as matters for short-term planning to be put immediately into operation:-

(1) Education of illiterate adults of both sexes, whether past the school-going age as defined in the national plan, or those remaining illiterate because of wastage or stagnation in their school period.

(2) Provision and training of teachers, both for imparting literacy to the adults and for the main system of national education as part of the national plan.

(3) Provision of buildings and furniture needed for the entire programme of national education under the plan, including furniture, apparatus, material and other equipment.

(4) Financial aspect of the plan, both in the long-range and in the immediate operation.

The other recommendations of the Sub-Committee have already been summarised at pages 62-65 of the report of this Office for April, 1946.

(The Hindu, 20-7-1946).

Free Education for Scheduled Castes: Madras Government's Move.

The Government of Madras has issued a directive that Harijan students who seek admission in educational institutions in the province should be admitted as free scholars, and that no deposit amount is to be collected from them during the time of their admissions except laboratory and other special fees.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-7-1946).

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Conscription of Students for Literacy Drive:
Suggestion in Bombay Assembly.

On 22-7-1946, the Bombay Assembly debated a resolution urging the desirability of conscription of students of high schools and colleges for service as teachers. Moving the resolution, Mrs. Lilavati Munshi urged that Government should institute a scheme in the province whereby graduates and matriculates, excepting those eligible for higher education, could be conscripted for service as teachers in secondary and primary schools for a period of two years on the minimum scale of salary mentioned in the Sargeant Plan. She held that only by conscription would Government be able to enlist the number of teachers required in the province. There were at present 46,000 teachers in Bombay of whom only 22,000 were trained. Existing facilities for training could be utilised only by 640 teachers at present. Therefore, it was clear that the 60,000 teachers required to work the scheme of compulsory primary education could be had only by conscription.

The resolution was, however, withdrawn by the mover on the assurance of the Prime Minister, Mr. B.G. Eher, that Government was taking steps to remove illiteracy and to promote adult education without which compulsory primary education would not be effective.

(The Times of India, 25-7-1946).

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THE TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE.

Wages.

"Dearness" and "War" Allowances not part of "Ordinary rate of pay":
Associated Chambers of Commerce Challenge Government's Interpretation.

Reference was made at page 62 of this Office report for March, 1946, to the Government of India's view that dearness or war allowance forms part of "ordinary rate of pay" for the purpose of calculating overtime pay under Section 47 of the Factories Act 1934.

It is understood that the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India ~~have~~ advised the Department of Labour, Government of India, that industrial employers do not accept this "exparte" interpretation, and until the matter is otherwise decided by a competent court, they hold, and will act upon, the view that an employee's ordinary rate of pay does not include emergency allowance or other emoluments which are temporary in nature and not based upon the actual rate of pay.

(Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Abstract of
Proceedings—March/Apr, 1946).

Industrial Disputes.

Wide spread Strike Wave in India - Eastern Economist's Comments.

During recent months there has been widespread labour unrest throughout the country. According to official statistics, there were 168 cases of stoppages of work in factories and other industrial concerns in India during April, 1946, involving 302,332 workers and a loss of about 1,335,787 mandays as against 160 disputes involving 238,749 workers and a loss of 1,056,875 man-days in March 1946. Bengal topped the list with 61 strikes and was followed by Bombay with 56 and Madras 18. Classified according to industries the textile industry recorded 57, strikes, the jute industry 24 and the engineering industry 16. Stoppages of work also occurred or were apprehended in a number of Central Government undertakings. Some of the more important of the disputes were in the Railways, Ordnance Factories, Port Trusts, and Presses. Unrest also prevailed among workers of the H.M.I. Dockyard, Bombay; the Bombay Telephone Company, and the Mint in Calcutta over demands for payment of bonus and security of service, etc.

Adjudication on and Settlement of Disputes.- During April, 1946, the Central Industrial Relations Machinery dealt with 38 cases of strikes or apprehended strikes of which 11 were amicably settled. Four labour disputes were referred to adjudication under the Defence of India Rule 81-A by provincial Governments and orders were issued enforcing awards of the adjudicators in two cases.

In 40 per cent of the disputes the question of wages and of dearness allowance was the only cause of dispute. The rest of the stoppages were over bonus, hours of work, reinstatement of dismissed personnel, supply of food rations, etc. Of the stoppages that ended during April 1946 and of which results are known, 50 per cent representing 21 per cent of the workers involved, resulted in complete or partial success for the workers, while 51 per cent, representing 73 per cent of the work people involved, were wholly unsuccessful.

There was also, during the period, a noticeable increase in the activities of trade unions. A number of new unions were formed while most of the old unions intensified their activities.

Eastern Economist's Comment.- Commenting on the strike wave in India in a leading article in its issue dated 26-7-1946, the Eastern Economist draws attention to certain new features now appearing in India and discusses some of the measures that can be taken to meet the situation.

Recent strikes have shown clearly that the strike is no longer a weapon of the factory operatives only. Sweepers and scavengers, clerks, teachers, tramwaymen, railwaymen, postmen all have declared or threatened direct action for a better deal. Again, for the first time in India agricultural workers are refusing to work for the Zamindar if their demands are not conceded. If this trend persists, it will give rise to a new problem in India's rural economy.

Defects of Trade Disputes Act, 1929. Sixx Discussing the steps that may be taken to meet the situation, the article characterises the two enactments at present in force in India for dealing with industrial disputes, viz., the Trade Disputes Act of 1929 and the rules under the Defence of India Act of 1939 as half hearted measures. The Trade Disputes Act, 1929, comes into operation only at a very late stage of an industrial

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dispute. Again under the Act, it is not obligatory on either the provincial or the Central Government to appoint a board of conciliation for every dispute with the result that many strikes which could have been easily averted are allowed to occur. Finally, it does not contain provisions to foster the development of healthy trade unionism, which can play an important part in maintaining industrial peace. Future legislation for the settlement of industrial disputes, it is suggested, should not only remove these patent defects but also utilise the experience of war-time control of strikes under the Defence of India Act. For example, the existing provision of giving at least 14 days notice before declaring a strike or lockout can be retained and made obligatory for all industries. The attitude of Government towards strikes depends on the nature of the industrial dispute and the industry affected. Strikes detrimental to public interest call for ~~drastic~~ drastic action, which may even take the form of compulsory arbitration. In the case of other collective disputes, compulsory conciliation would be more desirable. Individual disputes can be promptly disposed of by special courts and Industrial courts which may be set up for this purpose throughout the country.

Need for an Industrial Service Commission.- But as prevention of industrial disputes is more important than fixing up machinery for their settlement, the article recommends positive Government action to promote labour welfare. Industries should be compelled by law to earmark a certain percentage of ~~gross~~ gross profits or a fixed amount for the labour welfare fund, before declaring dividends and this fund should be at the disposal of a committee consisting of representatives of workers and employers of the concern. Finally, the article suggests that an Industrial Service Commission should be set up for laying down conditions of services, payment of salary and recruitment of labour officers. This Commission should consist of ^{an} equal number of representatives of labour management and Government and should be financed by industry and Government. Under such a scheme, it will be possible to draw genuine ~~and~~ social workers and give them an opportunity of rendering real service to labour, without the fear of losing their jobs. They will also win the confidence of labour as well as management, because both will regard them as their own men.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-7-1946.
The Eastern Economist, 26-7-1946).

Textile Industry.

Prices of Coarse Cloth to be Increased: Strikes and the Eight-hour day blamed for Rising Costs.

As a result of the quarterly review of the prices of cloth and yarn made by the Government of India in consultation with the Industries Committee of the Textile Control Board the Government of India has sanctioned as from 1-8-1946 a reduction ranging from 9 pias to 12 pias in the rupee in the case of finer varieties of cloth and an increase ranging from 6 pias to 15 pias in the rupee in the case of coarser varieties of cloth and a reduction in the prices of all counts of yarn spun from imported cotton with an increase of half an anna to one anna per pound in the case of yarn of counts up to 25s. from Indian cotton. Justifying this decision the Textile Commissioner to the Government of India stated that the Government of India had been mainly influenced by the decision to reduce the working hours of the mills from nine to eight hours with effect from 1-8-1946, and the high prices of Indian cotton that had been ruling for the past few months. These slight increases in the prices had been agreed to by Government on the clear understanding that the workers would continue to get from 1-8-1946 the same wages that they got at present. There was also the understanding that workers engaged on a piecework basis would continue to get the same level of wages as at present.

The global quota for export of cloth for the next half year, has also been reduced from 250 million yards to 150 million yards.

Milloowners' justification: Strikes and 8-hour day Blamed.- Mr. K.M.D. Thakoresay, Chairman, of the Textile Control Board, Bombay, giving reasons for these re-adjustments, at a meeting of the Board held at Bombay on 4-7-1946, said that the situation as regards the supply of cloth had gradually and in some cases rapidly worsened during the last few months. The average monthly production of Indian cotton mills during the period 1-1-1946 to 1-5-1946 had only amounted to 350 million yards as against an average production of 370 million yards per month in the same period of 1945 and against an average production of 390 million yards per month in the whole year 1945. This fall in production, he added, was due to strikes and the shortage of labour. In Bombay City alone, it was estimated that, owing mainly to strikes and hartals, there had been a loss in production of cloth of approximately 727 million yards in the period January to June 1946. This figure of loss in production did not include the loss in production arising out of the large numbers of unskilled labour which had been employed by the mills following increased absenteeism resulting in a general fall in efficiency. In addition, in the Bombay and Ahmedabad centres, about 15 per cent of the looms and spindles were idle owing to shortage of labour. Another factor which would in his opinion in the near future, aggravate the supply of cloth was the decision of the Government of India to reduce from August 1 the working hours in the mills from 9 to 8 hours per day.

Protests against Price Increase.- The above decision to sanction an increase in the prices of coarse cloth and yarn had led to ~~representative~~ considerable controversy and has been condemned by the representatives of the consumers and labour on the Textile Control Board and by a considerable section of the Press. The former, in a joint statement issued to the press, point out that the Textile Control Board is dominated by milloowners as among the 25 members of the Board only 5 represent consumers and labour, and emphasise that the Industries Committee of the Textile

Control Board which has been empowered to deal with prices consists solely of millowners' representatives. They further point out that the Excess Profit Tax has only been abolished in April last, which, if anything, is bound to put more money into the pockets of the millowners, and hold that the millowners should not have replied to this relief by adding to the burden of the people.

Bombay Government Challenge.- It is further understood that the Bombay Government has approached the Government of India protesting against the Textile Control Board's decision to increase the price of textiles and also the Central government's sanction of the same without carefully going into the merits of the question. The Bombay Government points out that there is no justification for the increase in prices recommended by the Textile Control Board, which is composed mostly of mill-owners and interested parties, and challenges the Textile Control Board's plea that the reduction in working hours has increased the wage costs. According to the Government of Bombay, this is not supported by facts and figures and the increase in wage costs due to reduction of hours of work in the mills is not such as to warrant any increase in the price of cloth.

(The Times of India, 5-7-1946.
The Hindu, dated 9-7-1946).

Note:- Government of India has since announced that the present prices of cotton textiles will remain in force pending further investigation. It is understood that in this connection the question of accelerating the import and production in India, of textile machinery will also be considered.

(The Hindu, 19-7-1946).

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Food.

American Unofficial Food Mission concludes Indian
Tour: India's demands supported.

Reference was made at page 40 of the report of this Office for June, 1946, to the unofficial Food Mission to India from the U.S.A. The leader of the Mission, Dr. Theodore W. Schultz, summed up the report that the Mission will carry back to the United States, in the course of a press interview at New Delhi on 15-7-1946 on the conclusion of a 20-day tour of the country.

In the opinion of the Mission the Government of India was not making excessive demands on the limited world grain supply, and it supported without reservation, its cautious estimates of necessary food imports.

Tribute to India's Rationing and Procurement Systems.— The Mission expressed satisfaction at the working of India's rationing and procurement systems which especially in South and Western India, represented in its view some of the most stringent governmental food controls tried anywhere in the world, and had helped considerably to avert famine conditions. The Mission was also impressed by the public co-operation observed between many of the provincial Governments and their private citizens and Dr. Schultz mentioned in particular South and Western India, and also the U.P., where procurement, he said, had been as satisfactory as it was because the Prime Minister had been able to give it his personal support.

Need for Imports.— Emphasising the need for imports Dr. Schultz said that India's ultimate reliance until the next harvest was on imports from abroad, quite irrespective of whether she could further tighten her procurement and ration controls. However, the total world situation was too tight to mobilize large stocks for any country, including India. The Mission would, however, organize public opinion in America in support of the Indian demand for food grain imports.

Dr. Schultz further emphasised that India should have a central grain reserve—a strategic reserve or, as it is called in America, a mobile buffer stock. This could be used to alleviate sudden local shortages such as were likely to appear during the critical next four months and would assist efforts to stabilize the position in places like Bengal, where low grain procurement and memories of past distress gave doubt and fear of a chance to affect the market even when the overall stock position appeared to be adequate.

Basic Requirements.— The following statistics of stocks and consumption supplied to the Mission during its tour of South and Western India show clearly the urgency of the need for imports.

(a) Madras Presidency.— The monthly consumption of food grains in Madras Presidency amounts to 225,000 tons. On 1-8-1946 the Presidency will have six weeks' stocks in hand.

(b) Mysore.— The monthly consumption in Mysore is 40,000 tons. Mysore will also have six weeks' supplies in hand on 1-8-1946.

(c) Travancore and Cochin.— Travancore and Cochin together consume 50,000 tons a month, and will, on 1-8-1946 jointly have one month's supplies in hand.

These figures do not however, give the whole picture. Within each Presidency and or State stocks held by districts vary considerably:

some parts of Malabar may for instance, be found only to have two weeks' stocks on 1-8-1946. Further, to the stocks in hand in Madras Presidency and Mysore may be added the short crop of rice—and in Mysore millets also—which is harvested in September. If weather conditions are favourable, this crop should give both State and Presidency an extra two weeks' supplies. On the other hand, the estimates of stocks do not allow for the possibility that, as the season advances, procurement will slow down. And consumption will increase above the levels mentioned as more and more "inadequate" producers of food grains exhaust their little stocks and have to have recourse to rationed supplies. The main harvest in the South and West of India is cut in December. The monsoon is now favourable.

These figures show that in the South and West there must come a time later in the year when stocks, if not replenished, will be exhausted. On these figures, both Madras and Mysore appear to need the equivalent of two and a half months' consumption of food grains to bridge the gap, while the comparable figure for Travancore and Cochin is three and a half months! Consumption is throughout reckoned on the basis of a 12-oz ration.

Ultimate reliance, in Dr. Schultz's words, is on imports from abroad. It is understood that the Mission found no marked deterioration in the people's health in the areas they visited.

(The Statesman, 14-7-1946).

Vegetables to supplement Cereals: Bengal Government's Scheme.

The Government of Bengal, according to an announcement made at a Press Conference on 12-7-1946, proposes to pay special attention to the cultivation of fruits and vegetables to make up for the shortage of cereals.

As part of the scheme the Government of Bengal propose to distribute seedlings for the cultivation of winter vegetables at nominal prices from about 600 centres in Bengal. Fifty nurseries, each of about one acre in area, are being established for raising tubers for the cultivation of sweet potatoes.

Two million papaya seedling have been raised in different parts of the province for distribution among cultivators and according to latest report the total quantity is likely to be utilised. Fifteen thousand banana suckers and over 7,000 pineapple suckers are also being distributed. During the current season over 6,000 packets of summer vegetable seeds have been sold and more are being distributed.

(The Statesman, dated 15-7-1946).

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Report of Food Sub-Committee of National Planning
Committee: Further Details.

Reference was made at pages 67-68 of the report of this Office for April, 1946, to the 15 point programme of agricultural reclamation recommended by the Food Sub-Committee of the National Planning Committee. Further details of the Committee's main recommendations have now been released to the public. These relate to the securing of a proper balance, in India's agrarian economy between commercial and food crops, the reform of the Indian land revenue system and the development of India's fish and cattle wealth.

Adjustment between Commercial and Food Crops: Grow More Food campaign criticised.- A proper adjustment between India's commercial and food crops in respect of the area devoted to each is necessary, the Sub-Committee urges, if the aggregate of the national economy is not to suffer unnecessarily. In this connection, the Sub-Committee criticises the wartime campaign in the name of 'grow more food' as a panicky measure, induced by the spectacle of deaths through sheer starvation on a large scale in certain parts of the country. It resulted in some reduction of the area devoted to the cultivation of crops forming industrial raw materials, such as cotton, jute, sugarcane, oilseeds etc., which in normal times cannot but react unfavourably upon the aggregate economy of the country. In a properly co-ordinated or planned economy, the Committee holds, a reasonable balance must always be maintained between the area of land devoted to the cultivation of crops for industrial raw materials, and those providing food grains ~~proper~~ proper. India, according to the Sub-Committee, has ample area to meet both these needs.

The Sub-Committee suggests that it might be possible to add to the area under food crops by terracing the long, level hillsides in many parts of the country and planning crops which are more suitable to the peculiar qualities of those regions. The report adds that import of food grains need not be necessary in India, and says that if all the measures suggested by the Committee are duly carried out, there need be no fear of famine in ~~India~~ the country.

Suggestions for increasing India's Resources of Fish.- Turning to India's resources of animal food, the Sub-Committee outlines plans for the improvement of India's fish and cattle wealth.

The report points out that the seas around India and some of the larger rivers of the country are rich in fish, edible and otherwise. The immediate objective, therefore, must include specific plans for adding to this form of the country's food supply on an intensive industrialized scale, by fishing with mechanical boats and instruments or other means of catching, curing, canning, drying and preserving fish. Exactly what proportion of the country's food will be added by this source, the Sub-Committee finds it difficult to ~~calculate~~ calculate but it suggests the possibility of a 10 per cent addition to the total food supply from this source. The report points out that the capital investment required for boats and equipment as well as machinery for factories, curing and canning fish would be relatively insignificant. The return from this, on the other hand, would be for years to come very substantial.

Animal Food: Suggestions for improvement of cattle.- Referring to "animal food" as distinct from fish, the Sub-Committee notes that although the country is very rich in regard to animal wealth, particularly, domestic cattle, sheep, goats, etc., a large percentage of the population of the country is either religiously adverse to meat-eating or is much too poor to afford it. Notwithstanding the losses due to the war, the Committee

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observes that the cattle wealth of India may even today be estimated at somewhere near 250 million head. But of these not a large proportion are worth keeping and are likely to be reasonably productive or efficient as a source of power. The problem, accordingly to the reports, consists mainly in proper breeding and feeding. For the latter purpose provision or development of suitable pasture ground, which under present conditions is being daily encroached upon either by food or by commercial crops, is indispensable. What is required, however, is the proper organization and setting apart of land for grazing, which will provide fodder for cattle food as may be scientifically devised. A very substantial addition to the country's food supply, the Sub-Committee holds, may be derived by the scientific breeding of cattle in India.

Reform of Land Revenue System Recommended.- Dealing with methods of agricultural improvement in the country which would also be a contributory factor in solving the food problem, in terms of long-range planning, the Sub-Committee urges ~~that~~ the necessity of a "radical reform" in the land revenue system. Criticising the present system, the Sub-Committee complains that it acts as a deterrent to many a progressive cultivator for further investment of capital or labour in that source of new wealth. The fact of land revenue settlement being open to revision from time to time makes it difficult for the cultivator to be quite sure about the returns to himself from further investment of labour and capital in the land.

Another handicap, in the present land revenue system, is the fixed cash demand which remains unchanged all through the period of the settlement, no matter what the changing level of prices may be; and no matter what the peculiar fortunes of agricultural produce in any given season may be. The report, therefore, recommends a radical reform in the land revenue system in the temporarily settled Ryotwari as well as permanently settled Zamindari areas.

Elimination of Absentee Landlords.- As regards the permanently settled Zamindari areas, the report points out ~~the~~ two most objectionable features, namely, the existence of the parasitical class of absentee landlords who take no direct share or interest in the cultivation of the land, and secondly, the growth of a number of intermediaries between the zamindar and the actual tiller of the soil. The Sub-Committee urges that the absentee landlord or the parasitic landlord "must be progressively, if not all at once eliminated, with or without such compensation as the State may determine".

Co-operative Farming under State Direction.- ~~The Sub-Committee~~ ~~suggests~~ Co-operative farming and consolidation of holdings are two other principal recommendations of the Sub-Committee for agricultural improvement and increasing the produce of the land. After proposing that the large areas of waste lands in the country be acquired or brought under the ownership control of direction of the State, the Committee says that co-operative colonies of experienced agriculturists should be established on such land to develop and cultivate it. These may be given life interest or specified return in kind from the land cultivated by them or paid actual wages. In such co-operative colonies every operation and activity concerned not only with agriculture directly but also with the whole life of the settlers in all aspects must be based upon mutual aid and all-round ~~the~~ co-operation.