

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

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References to the I. L. O. ✓

The October 1933 issue of the Asiatic Review, London, publishes an article under the caption "The I. L. O. in India" contributed by the Director of this Office.

\* \* \*

The September 1933 issue of H.E.H. the N.S.Railway Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 8-10-1933 publish the Government of India Communique announcing the agenda of the 18th I. L. Conference and inviting suggestions regarding the nomination of non-Government delegates.

(A list of other papers which published the communique was given at page 2 of our September 1933 report).

\* \* \*

"Insurance World", Calcutta, publishes in its October 1933 issue a long and appreciative review of the pamphlet "Social Insurance in 1932" (Reprint from I.L.O. Year-Book, 1932).

(For a list of other journals which published reviews of the pamphlet, vide page 3 of our September 1933 report).

\* \* \*

The Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the year 1932 (vol.II) publishes the following references to the I.L.O.:-

(1) At pages 113 to 127 is published a brief account of the negotiations between the Chamber and other employers' organisations regarding the establishment of the All-India Federation of Employers' Association. One of the primary objects of the Federation, it will be remembered, is the authoritative consideration of the various Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the I.L.Conference so as to ensure adequate notice being taken of the views of the employers.

(2) At pages 773-777 is published the correspondence which passed between the Chamber on the one hand and the Government of India and other employers' organisations on the other, regarding suggestions for the nomination of the Indian employers' delegation to the 17th I. L. Conference.

\* \* \*

The September 1933 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a short note at page 1 on the Bill which was introduced recently in the Legislative Assembly to implement the Draft Convention re. the protection against accidents of workers engaged in loading and unloading ships. (The text of the Bill was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/1779/33 of 5-10-1933).

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 4-10-1933 and all papers publish a brief British Official Wireless message summarising the statement made by Mr. Alexander Loveday, Head of the League of Nation's Financial Section, at the meeting of the Assembly's Economic and Monetary Committee, about the indications which go to show that the world is recovering from the period of economic depression. Prominent reference is made in this context to the un-employment statistics for July, August and September 1933 issued by the I.L.O. which testify to a diminution in the numbers of the world's unemployed.

\* \* \*

The Servant of India, Poona, of 5-10-1933 publishes a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication ; "Hours of Work and Unemployment." The book was reviewed by Mr. V. V. Giri.

\* \* \*

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce

for the month of July 1933 publishes the views expressed by the Chamber in a letter to the Government of India on the Indian Dock Labourers' Bill, 1933, which was recently introduced in the Legislative Assembly and is intended to implement the Geneva Convention re. Protection against accidents of dock workers. In response to the Bengal Government's request for the views of the Chamber on the provisions of this Bill, the Chamber's Committee, after consultation with its Shipping Sub-Committee, replied that, although it was true that they were against the ratification of the Convention in 1930, they now recognise that the weight of opinion was in favour of ratification. The amendments given effect to in the revised Convention were, in the opinion of the Committee, in the nature of improvements, and the Chamber accordingly took no exception to any of the provisions of the draft Bill, but suggested that the period of ten years laid down under Article 22 appeared to be too long and that, therefore, it might be reduced to five years.

\* \* \*

The Statesman of 14-10-1933 publishes a short account sent out by Reuter of the proceedings of the Joint Select Committee on Indian reforms at its session of 13-10-1933 when Sir Samuel Hoare was examined on the subject of administrative relations between the Government of India and the various Indian provinces. An important aspect of the question which engaged the attention of the Committee was the possibility of a single province being in a position to block all social and labour legislation. The following are extracts from the Statesman report:-

Mr. N.M.Joshi referred to the inability of the Federal Legislature to pass "concurrent" legislation, imposing financial obligations

on the provinces, and asked what modification was proposed. Sir Samuel Hoare agreed that, as matters stood, a province was able to hold up social and labour legislation involving expenditure and ~~it~~ said; "I think it goes too far and ought to be modified to enable one to see what sanction can be applied. If the delegates and members can suggest a way, without striking at the root of provincial autonomy, I will be grateful".

A similar difficulty was encountered with reference to the ratification of international conventions. Mr. Morgan Jones inquired what would be the position, in the event of India undertaking to ratify a Convention and one province remained obdurate. Sir Samuel Hoare pointed out that the provinces were not entitled to contract out, but there was trouble about sanctions. He expressed the opinion that it was carrying the proposals too far to allow one province to vote against an agreement which the rest of India wanted. Sir Samuel Hoare undertook to consider the point, but reminded them that the session was intended to apply only to the Governor-General's powers in the field of special responsibilities.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, the National Call and the Hindustan Times of 13-10-1933 and the Leader of 14-10-1933 publish a fairly lengthy report of a lecture delivered <sup>on 12-10-33</sup> by Professor Kulkarni of Gwalior in the Hindu College, Delhi, on "International Understanding". In the course of the lecture, Professor Kulkarni paid a tribute to the contribution that the League of Nations and the I.L.O. were making towards the creation of better international relationships. Dr. P. P. Pillai, who presided over the meeting, pointed out that true internationalism as represented by the Geneva organisations was built on the basis of the existing separate national units and did not aim at their suppression. Its object was to multiply the points of contact between one national unity and another, so that there ~~it~~ might arise an international consciousness of common needs and a desire to satisfy these needs by co-operative efforts. The most signal successes of Geneva, have been just in those spheres where isolated national action has hitherto failed. The major world

problems of today - world peace and economic stability could be satisfactorily solved only on this basis. India, ~~which~~ which has always been rich in the gifts of the spirit, can make an invaluable contribution to world peace and good understanding by cultivating foreign contacts and spreading her ideals of catholicity and universality.

\* \* \*

At the session of the Hindu Mahasabha, the premier communal organisation of the Hindus, held at Ajmere on 14-10-1933 a resolution was adopted to the effect that the problem of minority communities in India should be tackled on lines recommended by the League of Nations and that in this connection a deputation of the Hindu Mahasabha should proceed to Geneva by the end of October 1933 to present the facts of the situation before the League of Nations. The supporters of the suggestion argue that as both Great Britain and India are signatories to the Treaty of Lausanne whereby the League appointed a committee to solve the minorities problems of European countries, the British Government is <sup>morally</sup> bound by any decision that the Committee might make in respect of the problem of Indian minorities also. The Statesman of 15-10-1933 and all Indian papers give prominent publicity to the resolution adopted at the Hindu Mahasabha session. According to the Hindustan Times of 20-10-1933, Dr. Moonje, Dr. Radhakammal Mukerjee and another Bengali Hindu gentleman will form the deputation.

\* \* \*

Commenting editorially <sup>on</sup> the Hindu Mahasabha decision to send a deputation to Geneva, the Indian Social Reformer, Bombay, in its issue of 21-10-1933 observes:-



The President's complaint that, under the plea of protection of minorities, the Hindus are being sought to be relegated to an inferior citizenship, represents a wide-spread feeling. The Mahasabha has appointed a delegation to invoke the help of the League of Nations in Geneva, against this attempt. If the League receives the deputation, which, we are almost sure, it will not, it may endorse the present policy as the best in the interests of India.

\* \* \*

Utilising information supplied by a Geneva communique dated 2-10-1933 on the world unemployment situation, this Office issued a statement on 23-10-1933 regarding the outstanding features of the unemployment situation as indicated by the unemployment statistics issued by the I.L.O. for July, August and September 1933. The statement made it clear that a comparison of the present situation with the situation a year ago indicated that there has been a substantial diminution in the number of unemployed recorded. The statement was forwarded for publication to the Indian Journal of Economics, Allahabad, Indian Finance, Calcutta, and to five other journals interested in economic problems. *The Indian Finance dated 28-10-33 has published the statement.*

\* \* \*

The Statesman of 25-10-1933 and all papers publish a Reuter's telegram to the effect that Germany, which had withdrawn from the League of Nations, has signified its intention to resign from the International Labour Organisation also.

\* \* \*

Commenting on the withdrawal of Germany from the League and and the position of the different Member States in the League, the Indian Social Reformer, Bombay, comments editorially in its issue of 21-10-1933:-

Germany has withdrawn from the League of Nations. Japan left the League not long ago. Russia is out of the League, and the

United States refused to join it and has never regretted its refusal. Great Britain and France with Italy are now the only Great Powers in the League. Italy once before protested that Britain and France were dominating the League to the detriment of other members. Britain herself is rather a subordinate element in European politics at the present day. She has to support France against Germany. Thus the real dominator of the League and of Europe today is France. Britain must support France however much her policies may be distasteful to the British public. Someone in disgust wrote recently in an English newspaper that Britain's position is that of a tin can tied to the tail of a mad dog. The position of India is that of a piece of metal in the can to make the noise more tedious. The League, as an English commentator has said, is tottering.

\* \* \*

The Statesman of 27-10-1933 and the National Call of 30-10-33 publish a lengthy statement explaining the circumstances that led to ~~the~~ Germany's withdrawal from the I.L.O. and the legal implications of such action. The statement which is published as "From a Correspondent" was issued by the Director of this Office.

\* \* \*

National Labour Legislation.Bombay Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill;Views of Select Committee. ✓

At pages 18-21 of the June 1933 report of this Office, reference was made to the Bombay Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill which was to be introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council during its second session of 1933. The Bill, after introduction in the Council, was referred to a Select Committee, with the Hon'ble Mr. R.D.Bell, Home Member, as Chairman. The Select Committee completed its consideration of the Bill at one sitting on 2-10-1933. The two chief questions under consideration were; what rate was to be paid to women working in mills and factories, and what period of employment would entitle them to the benefit. It is understood that the Select Committee, have decided that the rate, namely the average daily wage, should stand as in the Bill and that the period of nine months' employment, as in the Bill, was satisfactory. The result is that the Government Bill, as originally placed before the Council *will stand and go to the Council* for second reading at its next session.

(The Times of India, 5-10-1933).

Notice of Extension of Workmen's Compensation Act;Hazardous Occupations to include Transport of Timber etc. ✓

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour have published a notification (No. L-3002 dated 6-10-1933) deciding to enlarge the list of hazardous occupations under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The following is the text of the notification:-

No.L-3002. - In pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 2 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923), the Governor General in Council is pleased to give notice of his intention to declare the following occupations, namely:-

- (a) the felling and logging of trees,
- (b) the transport of timber,
- (c) the control or extinguishing of forest fires, and
- (d) elephant-catching operations,

as hazardous occupations and to direct that the provisions of the said Act shall, subject to the provisions of the said sub-section, apply in the case of any person who is employed in any such occupation.

Any suggestions or objections with reference to this notification should reach the Government of India not later than the 31st January 1934.

(Extracted from the Gazette of India dated 14-10-1933. Part 1, page 1036).

Mysore & Whitley Recommendations;

State Factories Legislation to be Modelled on New

Indian Factories Act. ✓

In reply to an interpellation put by Srimati Sakamma, in the Mysore Legislative Assembly on 7-10-1933 as to the measures that the Government of Mysore proposed to take with a view to implement the Whitley Commission's recommendations regarding the conditions of work in factories, Mr. Abdul Wajid, Development Secretary, said that the question of amending the Mysore Factories Regulation, in the light of the recommendations would be taken, as soon as the Indian Factories Bill which is now before the Indian Legislative Assembly, became law. He explained that the consideration of the recommendations was postponed till the British Indian Bill was passed with a view to secure, as far as possible, uniformity in the State and British Indian Law.

(National Call, 10-10-1933).

Land for Landless Labourers;

Ceylon Bill to Implement Recommendation of Land Commission;

The Ceylon Legislative Council has now under consideration a bill meant to give effect to some of the principal recommendations of the Land Commission of the Colony which reported some time back. One of the problems which Ceylon, like certain other countries, is faced with, is that of the landless labouring classes. 80 per cent. of the people of the Island fall under this category. When rubber, tea and other plantation products were experiencing a boom, as they used to do till a few years back, these classes found work in the plantations or in industries financed by the profits of the plantation industries. But now that these have been faced with a heavy depression, people have been thrown out of work in thousands and have been experiencing much suffering.

In this connection, the following latest statistics of migration of Indians to and from Ceylon will give an idea of the magnitude of the problem. The Indian estate population in Ceylon has fallen from 740,000 in December 1929 to 651,000 in December 1932. During the first nine months of the current year, 41,998 estate labourers were repatriated to India at public expense. Of these, 26,883 were repatriated under the Scheme of 1932 for Tea Estate Labourers, 11,238 under Ordinance No. 1 of 1923 and the Scheme of 1924 and 3,877 under the ~~the~~ Special Scheme of 1930 for Rubber Estate Labourers. The number of labourers other than repatriates at public expense who returned to India from Ceylon in this period is estimated at 39,794. The total exodus, therefore, amounted to 31,792. The number of labourers who immigrated into Ceylon in these nine months was 17,463. ~~Only 1,053 labourers arrived Ceylon for the first time.~~ The excess of emigration over ~~immix~~ immigration is 64,329 or 7,137 per month.

It is now felt that, if these people had been dependent, not exclusively on such commercial crops as tea, coffee~~x~~, cocoa and rubber, but on food crops raised on their own land, the distress would ~~x~~ not have been as great as it is now. This feeling has found expression in a demand for a change in the land policy of the Island. Hitherto, Crown lands were being assigned in large blocs<sup>k</sup> to estate-owners not all of them being children of the soil. Now it is suggested that Crown lands should be parcelled out among the landless unemployed in small lots so that in course of time a healthy peasantry devoted to the land might grow up and form the basis of the future prosperity of the Island. The Land Bill<sup>1/3</sup> intended to promote the welfare of such peasants. It provides for the allotment of Crown lands in small parcels on easy terms to those of the landless classes who show promise of becoming successful farmers.

To the general policy underlying the Bill it does not appear that there is any opposition in the Island. It is being attacked, however, on the ground that the scheme it embodies is neither complete nor calculated to secure the object for which it is designed. In the first place, it is pointed out, land is assigned, not as free hold, but on a type of precarious tenure. According to the Bill as it stands,<sup>1/2</sup> one takes a grant from the State, develops it a great deal, but subsequently finds that he has no money to cultivate it and make it yielding, he will then have no means under the Bill, of getting ~~x~~ value for his labour; for he could not alienate it, the land reverting to the State in the event of his being unable to develop it. There are also other limitations placed on alienation. The son cannot ipso facto succeed to the rights of the father in the event of the latter's death. Some of these restrictions are meant to see that

land does not pass into the hands of capitalists or usurers but is retained in the hands of cultivating tenants who would put it to the best use possible. Certain constructive suggestions are also made. One of these is that the farmer should be provided with the necessary credit and other facilities in order to enable him to become a successful farmer. (The Hindu, 21-10-1933).

Ahmedabad Labour Dispute;

To be Referred Back to Arbitration Board. ✓

Reference was made at pages 39-40 of the September 1933 report of this Office to the dispute in Ahmedabad between the Mill-owners' Association and the Labour Association. Mention was also made of the definite cleavage that had occurred in the Conciliation Board, consisting of Sheth Chimanlal Parekh, representing the Millowners' Association, and Mr. Shankerlal Banker, representing the Labour Association, to which, at the suggestion made by Mahatma Gandhi in Bombay, the questions of dispute between the two bodies, including the wage-cut of 25 per cent, were referred and that Sheth Chimanlal, tendered his resignation from the Conciliation Board, following a demand from the Labour Union for certain informations from the Millowners' Association. (vide page 40 of the September 1933 report). Seth Chimanlal Parekh explained his attitude, in a letter to Mahatma Gandhi. He pointed out that, whenever wage questions were settled in the past, such information was not demanded or supplied and further that, ~~but~~ such information, being trade secrets, was studiously kept aside and settlements <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ reached by considering the minor points only. (The Hindustan Times, 8-10-33).

The Conciliation Board having failed by virtue of the resignation of Seth Dhimanlal Parekh, the question in dispute between the Mill-Owners' Association and the Labour Association, including the proposed cut of 25 per cent in wages, will be referred back to the arbitration board consisting of Mahatma Gandhi and Seth Chimanlal Parekh.

According to the Hindu of 11-10-1933, ~~it appears that~~ till the question of a wage cut is finally decided by the Arbitration Board,



the Mill-Owners' Association will not proceed to make a direct cut in wages. If, however, there is delay in getting the award of the Arbitration Board, a large number of mills contemplate closing down till the existing stocks are reduced and the position of the industry improves. The millowners are likely to confer with Mahatma Gandhi before any definite step is taken. They feel strongly that, with wage cuts in other centres and high railway freights, they cannot stand the competition. In fact, they have actually lost Calcutta, Amritsar and other markets in North India. They also contend that even with reduced wages, workmen will not get less than they were getting in 1926, when the cost of living was much higher. The Labour leaders, on the other hand, contend that workmen should share the advantages of improvements and efficiency, and, till the industry is proved to be actually suffering a loss, there can be no case for a wage-cut.

A sitting of the Arbitration Board is expected to take place by the end of the month, as Mahatma Gandhi has already extended an invitation to the Millowners' Association. The arbitrators will decide on what materials they should base their provisional or final awards. If the award is unanimous, both parties will accept it cheerfully. If there are differences of opinion the dispute will be referred to an umpire, as was done in 1929, when an eight per cent. increase was granted to commence in 1930, though it was resented by the millowners.

(The Times of India, 20-10-33).

✓ Labour Recruitment for Assam from Bihar and Orissa during 1932-33

The following information regarding labour recruitment for Assam from Bihar and Orissa during 1932-33 is taken from a Resolution of the Revenue Department of Bihar and Orissa published in the Bihar and Orissa Gazette, dated 4-10-1933.

"During the year under review no recruitment for the labour districts of Assam took place in any of the districts of the Patna Division nor in the districts of Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Purnea, and recruitment from the district of Balasore was made through the Kharagpur local agency in Bengal. The total number of emigrants including their dependants, recruited from the other districts of the province and the Orissa states was 30,409 against 36,415 in 1931-32 and 33,092 in 1930-31. The district of Sambalpur which is one of the principal recruiting centres in the province is said to be mainly responsible for the decrease. <sup>The</sup> ~~the~~ remarkable fall in emigration shown in that district is reported to be due partly to cheap markets and partly to the falling off in the demand <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ labourers, some of the gardens having closed recruitment owing to the depression in the tea industry. The places of accommodation for emigrants were maintained in a good and sanitary condition and were inspected regularly. There was no outbreak of epidemic diseases in any of the places. The number of criminal cases connected with emigration, which were tried, and the number of persons convicted were 11 and 10 respectively as compared with 10 and 9 in 1931-32 and 15 and 11 in 1930-31".

(Supplement to Bihar and Orissa Gazette, dated 4-10-33, p.958)

✓ (Labour recruitment in Assam ~~for~~ from Bihar and Orissa during 1931-32 is reviewed at page 28 of the September 1932 report of this Office).

Proposed Restriction on the Loads of Women

in Quarries and Open Workings. ✓

At page 129 of their report, the Royal Commission on Labour in India recommended that permissible loads for women should be prescribed in quarries where depth and load exceed a certain standard <sup>and that both load and standard</sup> of depth and load should be fixed by the Mining Boards. Reference was made at pages 25-26 of our December 1932 report to the views of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, on giving effect to these recommendations. Recently, the Government of India have issued a circular letter to all Local Governments to elicit the views of the interests concerned on <sup>the</sup> draft of certain amendments to be made in the Indian Coal Mines Regulations and the Metalliferous Mines Regulations with a view to implement the above recommendations of the Whitley Commission. The text of the proposed draft amendments is as follows:-

Draft amendments to the Indian Coal Mines Regulations.

After regulation 69 of the said Regulations, the following regulations shall be inserted, namely:-

"69A. Every footpath along which loads are carried in open workings by human agency shall comply with the following requirements -

- (a) its breadth shall not be less than 4 feet;
- (b) its slope shall not be greater than 1 vertical to 2 horizontal;
- (c) at every place where its slope exceeds 1 vertical to 4 horizontal, level steps shall be provided such that the dimension of every step measured horizontally from the edge to the back is not less than 18 inches and is at least twice its vertical height.

69B. Where women are employed in carrying loads, the weight of the loads and the height and distance to which they have to be carried shall not be such as to involve risk of injury to the health of the women. If any dispute arises in this respect, the decision of the Chief Inspector shall be final."

The draft amendments to the Metalliferous Mines Regulations are in similar terms.

After considering the views received (vide pages 25-26 of our December 1932 report), the Government of India were of opinion that maximum loads, as recommended by the Commission, could not suitably be prescribed and that restrictions on the lines of the draft amendments, if imposed, should meet the object the Commission had in view. In reply to the Government's request for an expression of <sup>Indian Mining</sup> the Association's views on the draft amendments, the Committee stated that they had no objections to put forward. The Committee repeated, however, that they were strongly in favour of the complete withdrawal of women from quarries at the same rate as they were being withdrawn from underground workings in coal mines.

(Summarised from the proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of a meeting of the Indian Mining Association held on 20-9-33).

Proposed Revision of Trades Disputes Act; Views of the  
Bombay Millowners' Association.

At pages 15-17 of our June 1933 report was summarised a circular letter issued by the Government of India on 14-6-1933 to all Local Governments and Administrations inviting their views, after consulting the various provincial interests concerned, on the desirability of amending the Indian Trades Disputes Act on the lines recommended by the Whitley Commission. The points on which the views of the various interests were desired were:-

1. Whether the present Trade Disputes Act, which expires in March 1934, should be renewed, and if so, whether it should

be converted into a permanent measure;]

2. Whether, in addition to the machinery provided for under the Act, State assistance could be rendered to the parties through conciliation officers, to adjust their differences so that the possibility of a cessation of work might be avoided;
3. Whether it was desirable to provide for the prohibition of strikes in pursuance of disputes which were under reference to a Court or Board;
4. Whether picketing in connection with disputes which were under investigation should be prohibited; and
5. Whether any other amendments were desirable in the existing Act.

The following are the views of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, on the subject:-

Renewal of the Present Act. - On the question of the renewal of the Act, the Committee were agreed that such legislation should find a permanent place on the Statute Book, but they were of opinion that, in view of the experience of the last few years, there should be an opportunity for reviewing the position at the end of five years. For that reason, their suggestion was that the Act should have a currency of only five years.

Appointment of Conciliation Officers. - With regard to the appointment of conciliation officers, one of the main objects which the Royal Commission on Labour had in view when they suggested intervention of this character in the preliminary stages of a dispute was to provide in some way against needless cessation of work. With this object, the Committee were entirely in agreement, but they desired to point out certain considerations of a practical character:-

- (a) The collapse of the 1929 strike completely crippled the power of the then existing trade unions. A vast majority of the Bombay textile operatives now owed no allegiance to any union. Under these conditions, the efforts of a conciliation officer were bound to encounter serious difficulties. There would be no assurance to the employers that any compromise arrived at between themselves and the operatives would be regarded as binding on the part of the latter.
- (b) So far as the Bombay Textile Industry was concerned, in practically all cases, workpeople had gone on strike without giving any warning or notice. It was doubtful if the services of a conciliation officer would be of any use in such circumstances. Once the operatives came out on strike, the machinery provided under the existing Act would be adequate to deal with the situation.
- (c) The intervention of a conciliation officer at too early a stage of the dispute might encourage the operatives to persist in their attitude, however unreasonable it might be, and might

lead to multiplication of grievances and unnecessary prolongation of the dispute.

These, in the opinion of the Committee, were some of the obstacles<sup>5</sup> in the way of the realisation of the object which the Royal Commission had in view. If, however, the appointment of conciliation officers was decided upon, then provision should be made in some way to ensure that no strike should take place without adequate notice and before the services of a conciliation officer had been availed of. The Committee recognised the difficulties inherent in this suggestion, but unless some assurance was forthcoming in this respect, they did not see what object could be served by the creation of conciliation officers.

The Committee also pointed out that unless Labour was properly organised, and was led by men who believed in trade union principles, a great deal of the machinery which might be set up to ensure peace in the industry would fall into disuse. This state of things constituted a serious handicap to the Industry, and had always to be taken into account when concerting measures such as the one under consideration.

Prohibition of Strikes and Picketing. - With regard to the third and fourth points, the Committee felt that it would be very desirable that on the appointment of a Court or Board, resumption of work should take place. They were unable to agree with Government that reference to a Court or Board would ordinarily be sufficient to secure a continuance of work during the enquiry, and they thought that the prohibition of stoppage of working would not only be "logical" but also necessary. Should, however, a provision of this character be not found feasible, the Committee were strongly of opinion that picketing, at any rate, should be stopped altogether during the pendency of an enquiry. It was essential for the success of such an enquiry that the proper atmosphere should be maintained, and it would be impossible to secure it if the sort of picketing which took place during a strike was allowed to be resorted to. ~~The principle is maintained~~ All activities on both sides including even speeches and publication of matters relating to the dispute under investigation, or containing incitement to abstain from work or to commit acts of violence etc. should cease altogether on the appointment of a Court or Board.

Suggestions for Amendments.- An amendment which the Committee had to suggest in connection with the Trade Disputes Act of 1927 related to the law on the subject of picketing in general. The Committee were of the opinion that this law should be brought into conformity with that prevailing in England. In India, there must be intimidation to make picketing illegal. In England, intimidation had got to be proved only when picketing took place at or near the

workman's place of employment. The law there made such an act illegal even without intimidation if it was done at or near a workman's place of residence with the object of inducing him to abstain from working. It was precisely this type of picketing which it was most desirable to prevent. The strike which took place in Bombay in 1929, when private residences and chawls were systematically picketed to prevent those who desired to go back to work from doing so, brought out very clearly the necessity of putting a stop to a method of intimidation which practically deprived those on whom it was practised all liberty of action.

(Summarised from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during September 1933).

### Indian Trade Disputes Act;

#### Views of Tramway Men's Union, Bombay. ✓

The following is a summary of the views expressed by the Tramway Men's Union, Bombay, on the Indian Trade Disputes Act in the course of a letter addressed by the Secretary of the Union to the Labour Commissioner, Bombay:

Existing Act Unsatisfactory. - The Indian Trade Disputes Act was passed in 1929 and it is to expire on May 7, 1934. The Government of India now propose to make this a permanent measure. From the workers' point of view this Act should operate for 5 years to be extended thereafter if necessary. It can be seen from the Government's note on the working of this Act for the last four years, that the Government of India did not enforce this Act, though recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour in 1931. The Act was invoked only in 4 cases out of over 500 during its life so far and hence the workers are afraid to accept the proposal of the Government to make it a permanent measure.

Need for a Permanent Industrial Court.- It should be made compulsory by law that in every trade or industry, a works committee of equal number of the representatives of workers and the management should be formed, which should dispose off all the trade disputes in that particular trade or industry. When this Committee is unable to settle any dispute, the same should be referred to a permanent Industrial Court constituted under this Act. According to the Union, this court should consist of an independent Chairman who is not interested in or connected with any trade or industry, one represen-

-tative

of the employers and one representative of workers, both of them being chosen by the parties to the dispute to assist the Chairman in investigating the dispute. They shall be members for such time as their dispute is under reference before the court. The Chairman would be permanent and the two members who are to assist him would be changing from time to time according to the trade or industry in respect of which the dispute arises. The duty of the Court should be to inquire into, investigate and report on the dispute and the decision of this Court would be legally binding on the parties to the dispute.

(The Times of India, 26-9-1933).

Indian Trade Disputes Act:

Views of the B.B. and C.I. Railway Employees' Union. ✓

The following are the views expressed by the B.B. and C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay, in a letter addressed <sup>by the Union,</sup> to the ~~Indian~~ Labour Commissioner, Bombay, on the proposed revision of the Trade Disputes Act.

The letter points out that the Act contains provisions which should never have found a place in it. Sections 16 to 18 of the Act have nothing to do with Trade Disputes properly so-called. In particular, the prohibition of general strikes and the penalties for such strikes are not only out of place in labour legislation, but savour of political bias on the part of the Government and the legislature. The Union is therefore of opinion that these sections should be repealed; any measure prohibiting general strikes must stand or fall on its own merits and should not be mixed up with legislation dealing with settlement of trade disputes.

The present Act makes strikes without notice in public utility companies illegal and penal clauses are provided against those who may be found guilty of not having given the statutory notice. This section about notice should either be withdrawn or the Union concerned should be considered the right and the proper authority for giving notice on behalf of the workers.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-10-33)

Indian Trade Disputes Act:

Views of the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha. ✓

The following are the views expressed by the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha (Workers' Union) on the proposed revision of the Trade Disputes



Act:-

Conciliation Board.- The Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha is of opinion that it is discretionary on the part of the Government to utilize the machinery proposed under the Act or to refrain from doing so. Therein lies the greatest weakness ~~of~~ and defect of this Act. If the Trade Disputes Act is to be made a permanent measure, it should be made obligatory on the part of the Government to appoint a conciliation board or a court of inquiry whenever either of the party to a dispute make an application for it. Without such an obligation, it will be useless to make the Act a permanent measure.

Drawbacks in Government's suggestions.- The Labour Commission pointed out that the weakest point of the Indian provision is that, while it restricts the powers of workers in public utility services to coerce their employers, it gives in return no assurance that their grievances will receive a hearing. They further note that the official outlook, like that of the public, has been concentrated largely upon the final stages of disputes, and that at present officers dealing with labour tend to depend on police reports for their information. The attention of the authorities is thus apt to be concentrated too exclusively on the effects which a dispute is likely to have on the public peace.

Permanent Industrial Courts.- The Government have not suggested any machinery to ensure that these mistakes will not take place in future. <sup>Permanent Industrial Courts</sup> The Act should provide for the appointment of permanent industrial courts on the lines of the British Industrial Court Act of 1919. These standing industrial courts will do much to ensure industrial peace.

Strikes.- The proposal of the Government to make strikes illegal pending a reference to a court or a Board is uncalled for and unnecessary. It will impose an additional handicap on labour without imposing a corresponding obligation on Government or employe

(The Statesman, 8-10-1933).

#### Shorter Periods of Wage Payments in Burma:

##### Views of the Burma Chamber of Commerce.

The following is the statement sent by the Burma Chamber of Commerce in reply to the enquiry of the Government of Burma regarding shorter periods of wage payments, such as the system of weekly payments recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour:

The Chamber is of the opinion that the benefits which the Royal Commission on Labour foresaw in the introduction of short wage per are largely illusory, and that the change would act detrimentally to the interests of the workers. The Chamber is wholly opposed to the idea of any legislation on this point. Whatever might be the suitability of it to other provinces, the Chamber is emphatic that conditions in Burma are such that the change proposed would result only in hardship. A large proportion of the labour in Burma is Ir and migrant and the labourers are in the habit of sending monthly

remittance to their homes in India. Weekly payments would necessitate frequent remittances, which would entail additional money order expenditure as well as more payments to some literate person to put the remittances through. There is a tendency on the part of the workers to abstain from work for one or two days after the receipt of payment and to spend these days in drinking or gambling. The introduction of shorter wage periods would result in a frequent repetition of absence and consequently the efficiency of the work would be reduced along with the earnings of the worker. Shorter period of wages would mean shorter periods of notice to the worker on dismissal, thus impairing the security of his employment.

(The Hindu, 20-10-1933).

Plea for Factory Legislation and Abolition of Forced Labour;

Demands of 1st session of Central Indian States' Peoples' Conference. ✓

The first session of the Central Indian States' Peoples' Conference held at Khandwa under the presidentship of Raja Bahadur Govindlal Pitty of Bombay in the second week of October 1933 passed a number of resolutions relating to conditions of labour in the Central Indian States. The following are some of the more important of the resolutions concerning labour interests passed by the Conference:-

Fundamental Rights.- This Conference considers it essential that fundamental rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of press, right to assemble and form associations, right to follow one's own form of worship and Rule of Law should be guaranteed to the people of the States of Central India.

Rights of Untouchables.- This Conference urges on all the Indian State Rulers in Central India to grant the so-called untouchables their right to use public associations, temples, wells, taps, schools and dharmashallas situated in their territory in equality ~~to those with~~ ~~obtaining to~~ the higher castes.

Plea for Labour Legislation.- This Conference resolves and requests the Central India States Rulers to introduce and enforce the Factory Act, and Workmen's Compensation Act on British Indian lines in ~~the~~ mills and factories wherever they are not in force, for there are many mills and factories in the territory of Central India States wherein the operatives are required to put in a ten to twelve hours day and wherein there is no compensation for accidental injuries.

Forced Labour.- This Conference urges on the Central India States' Rulers to stop at once the prevailing system of forced labour in the States where it still lingers.

Committee for Further Investigation.- This Conference appoints

a Committee of <sup>the</sup> following five gentlemen to collect, arrange and publish materials regarding conditions obtaining in all Central India States;

(1) Mr. S.M. Agarkar, B.A., (2) Mr. A.G. Arzare, B.A., (3) Mr. Siva Narayan Vaidya, (4) Mr. Raghunath Prasad, and (5) ~~Mr.~~ Moulana Rizami.

(The National Call, 17-10-1933).

Workmen's Compensation Act for Ceylon;

To be Modelled on Indian Act..

<sup>A</sup> The draft Ordinance to provide for compensation <sup>to</sup> workmen who are injured in the course of their employment has been under consideration for some time by the Executive Committee of the Labour Department, <sup>Ceylon.</sup> This draft was prepared in 1929 and was circulated to employers, trade unions, and representatives of insurance companies for their criticism. As a result of adverse criticism, it has been decided to abandon the prepared draft and to prepare an Ordinance following as closely as possible that now working in India. The Indian Ordinance, it is pointed out, is simple and its working has been favourably reviewed by the Whittely Commission on Labour in India.

(The National Call, 24-10-1933)

Industrial Organisation.

Workers' Organisations.

Bombay Provincial Working Class Party:

A New Labour Party Formed. ✓

Reference was made at pages 44-46 of our August 1933 report and at pages 46-48 of our September 1933 report to the formation of a few provincial labour parties <sup>in India</sup> and to the efforts that are being made by some political and labour leaders to make Indian labourers politically minded. As the result of a number of preliminary meetings and discussions, it was resolved at a meeting of a large number of trade union leaders and workers of Bombay held on 5-10-1933 to form a provincial workers' political party. Accordingly, a party by the name of the "Bombay Provincial Working Class Party" was formed and a provisional committee was appointed to popularise the programme of the party and to enrol members. The aims and objects of the party, it is stated, will be the establishment of a Socialist State involving the control of the economic life of the country by Workers' and Peasants' Councils. But the achievement of complete national independence of the country, it is stated, will be the immediate task of the party. The Party will also support and work for the ultimate demands of peasants and form peasants' unions.

(The Hindu, 9-10-1933).

Proposals for Formation of an All-India

National Textile Federation. ✓

References have been made in the earlier reports of this Office to the crisis in the Indian textile industry and to the effects of the crisis on the textile operatives. Consequent on the inability of the Indian market to absorb the products of Indian mills owing to Japanese 'dumping' methods several mills had to close down,

throwing out of employment a large volume of labour. A few other mills reduced their labour force and almost all the mills which decided to continue to work with or without reduction in their labour force effected substantial cuts in the wages of the labourers. As a result, unrest among operatives in the textile industry has been far too evident during the last few months and the Girni Kamgar Union (Red Flag), Bombay, was to the fore in advocating extreme methods. An effort is now being made by the moderate leaders of the Indian labour movement to canalise the present unrest into constructive channels by organising the textile workers of the country under an All India Federation. The idea has been broached by Mr. B. Shiva Rao, at a meeting of labourers held at Cawnpore on 13-10-1933. In the course of his speech at the meeting he said ;

"Unfair advantage is being taken of the disorganised condition of the workers to cut down their wages and in other ways to deprive them of the few rights they possess. Even in Madras where Ordinances were administered with exceptional severity it was made clear that the right of picketing in strikes and industrial disputes conferred on registered trade unions would not be interfered with. But in Cawnpore, I am told, labour leaders have been sent to prison for insisting on the rights of the workers. It is incredible that the workers' wages can be declared to have been forfeited because they participated in a strike."

He announced that himself and a few other leaders were contemplating organising a National Textile Federation of an All-India character to protect effectively the interests of textile workers. The scheme has been placed before Mahatma Gandhi and is awaiting his approval and co-operation.

(The Leader, 14-10-1933).

Intellectual Workers.

Service Conditions of Non-Government Teachers:

S. I. Teachers' Union's Draft Bill. ✓

The South Indian Teachers' Union, ~~which is~~ an organisation formed to advance the interests of the members of the teaching profession (not belonging to Government services) in South India, is at present engaged in making efforts to bring about an improvement in the conditions of service of teachers. While the interests of teachers in the government education service are protected to a certain extent by government service rules, the large body of teachers working in private schools are, in respect of service conditions, practically at the mercy of the managements of these institutions. To remedy this state of affairs the S.I. Teachers' Union is sponsoring a Bill called the Non-Government Teachers' Service Conditions Bill with a view to its introduction in the Madras Legislative Council. The Working Committee of the S.I. Teachers' Union has published in the Hindu of 22-10-33 an appeal for public support of the Bill. The following information about the Bill is taken from the appeal.

The Case for the Bill. - The case for the Bill rests on abuses that exist in the matter of Service conditions. ~~which~~ The revelations of District Educational Officers in the Report on Education furnish enough evidence in support of Service scandals. The Bill recognises the existing state of affairs, namely that service is under a contract between the employer and employee where both are responsible and subject to the control of the Department of Education. It pleads for a statutory recognition of service of teachers in Non-Government schools on the following grounds; (1) That teachers are a class of public servants doing public educational service; (2) that teachers are limbs of the Government Educational machinery; (3) that teachers have to be placed above insecurity, with definite service rules to enable them to labour in their vocation honestly; (4) that teachers require, as a profession moulding the citizens of tomorrow, to be organised on the basis of a code of professional conduct, as <sup>now</sup> ~~for~~ lawyers and doctors; (5) that teachers have to be freed from party politics and agitation in the ~~academic~~ interests

of sound education; (6) that teachers as partners in the work of educational institutions with employers require protection from the vagaries of educational employers.

Abuses of the Existing System. - The abuses in the school <sup>administ-</sup> <sup>ations</sup> would call for redress. Contracts are enforced against the free will of employees by employers. Salaries are fixed arbitrarily irrespective of qualifications, service, seniority, etc. Salaries promised in the contract are in many districts binami salaries, and even these are delayed after due date or are cut, without the consent of the party to the contract at the pleasure of the employer. Provident Fund Rules are violated in practice and worked to the disadvantage of the teacher by management cum Department in the district offices. Leave rules are arbitrary and worked with no regard to the service and efficiency of teachers. Terminations of service are made a matter of routine, under the letter of the contract, ignoring the spirit of termination for only gross professional misconduct and, if resisted, managements hide the real extra-educational and professional grounds and hit teachers behind their backs with unproved charges. It is difficult to expose breaches of contract in schools while teachers continue in service without <sup>impairing</sup> ~~offending~~ the healthy and harmonious relationship which ought to subsist between employer and employee.

What the Bill Aims at. - The Bill of the South Indian Teachers' Union is, therefore, a piece of constructive effort on the part of teachers to offer a solution to the vexed problem of Teachers' Service conditions. The duties and rights of teachers are to be defined statutorily in respect of pay, leave rules, cadre, transfers, code of conduct, period of service, terms for termination and right of redress, and control. The existing right of employers to be masters on the spot is recognised. But the employer's obligations, which in the existing state of contract fluctuate at his will, are clearly sought to be defined and controlled with a view to prevent vagaries and minimise unwanted friction which exists in educational institutions between employer and employees, between head ~~the~~ teacher and assistant teacher and between teacher and teacher.

Control by Provincial Board of Education. - Managements will have their individuality as agencies and their vested interests in schools and colleges will be preserved intact. But their right to own schools and to run schools will be conditioned by well-defined obligations in terms of endowments and proper use of the same as dedicated to public work. Managements will no longer be arbitrary masters but partners, in educational service with teachers. Managements and teachers alike will be subject to control by a duly constituted Provincial Board of Education, like the one recently constituted for Anglo-Indian Education. This Board will have powers of co-ordinating the work of educational agencies, mission, non-mission, Board and Municipal Schools, controlling the Teaching Service through a teachers' registry and regulating recruitment, appointment, terms of service, transfers, control, discharge and redress. The Board is the machinery which will hold the balance

between employer and employee and help the stabilisation of the material, moral and intellectual endowments of educational institutions.

The appeal makes it clear that, though the members of the South Indian Teachers' Union are alive to the possibilities of getting the Union registered under the Trade Union Act and of initiating even 'strike' action, <sup>they</sup> feel that, so long as the teaching profession is not classed as a technical service, trade unionism will not be of immediate advantage to teachers and that a 'strike' will lead only to diminution of employment. The Union is, therefore, concentrating on canvassing public support for the Bill and ensuring that it is introduced in the Madras Legislative Council during its next session.

(The Hindu, 22-10-33).



Economic Conditions.The Cotton Talks.

The conference between the Governments of India and Japan for arranging the terms of a new trade convention between these two countries, (the existing convention expiring on the 10th of November next as a result of one month's extension given to it), and the unofficial talks between the representatives of the textile industry of India, Japan and Lancashire, to which reference was made at pages 50-51 of our last month's report, were resumed in Delhi on the 23rd October and subsequent days. The proceedings are still kept extremely confidential, and so far no memorandum of any kind dealing with the various <sup>social</sup> aspects of the problem appears to have been issued to the public. It is also understood that the discussions have centered round the cardinal point of a reduction of the Indian tariff duty on foreign textiles, coupled, on the side of India, with an attempt to impose quotas for the import of foreign textile goods into India. So far no serious discussion appears to have taken place on the social aspects of the economic problem, and questions such as those of the number of working hours, wages, and the social amenities provided for labour among the three competing countries seem to have received ~~any~~<sup>no</sup> attention.

On the question of quotas there is a large volume of Indian opinion which considers that any such arrangement would lead to a contraction of the home market for Indian-made goods. The average consumption in India for the last ten years of local-made as well as of imported textiles has been about 3,600 million yards only. In 1932 the Indian mills alone actually produced about 3,200 million yards; and in the month of December 1932 Indian production totalled

over 290 million yards. It is thus evident that the capacity of Indian production ~~has~~ is fast reaching up to the point of local consumption, and it is argued that any system of quotas permitting importation of foreign goods would, to that extent, deprive the local producer of his home-market. Further any system of quotas would disturb the Indian system of protective customs tariffs. Whatever duties might be imposed on textiles would cease to be protective duties and become simple revenue duties; and the advantage that customs duties possess of being a method of optional taxation will be lost in the case of goods whose imports come in the quota system. It is, therefore, contended that if a system of quotas for imports into India is now agreed upon, the quotas must be fixed on a descending scale, so that a progressive reduction distributed over a period of time would at last result in the home-market being regained exclusively for the home-producer.

It is understood that the Japanese case is for the restoration of the status quo as regards import duties, and that if a quota must be imposed, the Japanese ought to be allowed to import to India 579 million yards of cotton piece goods, which was the figure of Japanese imports into India last year. The Government of India, it is understood, are not prepared to accept this figure as normal, for the import of Japanese piece-goods into India during the last ten years averages only between 250 to 280 million yards per year. The Government of India's proposals are thus that Japan might import 330 million yards on condition of the annual purchase by Japan of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million bales of Indian raw cotton (it will be remembered that Japan has boycotted Indian raw cotton as a reply to the raising of the Indian tariff against her), and an additional 200 yards of piece goods to

every extra bale of Indian raw cotton purchased by Japan from this country.

There has been much speculation as to whether Japan will receive favoured-nation terms, and at one stage it was believed that she would not, but more recent developments give the impression that the basic duty will be one which will affect all foreign countries, and that Japan will be penalised only by the quota fixed on her imports into India and by the possession of her currency. In so far as the quota is concerned, there is little she can do to counteract this; but as regards the tariff she will have a certain amount of control in that she will gain by any rise in the value of the yen caused either by manipulation or by the state of the external trade.

Figures have been produced on the Japanese side to show that in spite of the depreciated yen, the high duty now ruling has seriously affected their costs. The following figures may be of interest:-

Taking Account of Raw Cotton Cost

Before depreciation of Yen.

	<u>Yen</u>	<u>Rs.</u>
Cotton cost	55	
Other costs	45	
C.I.F. cost	100	133.3
Duty (31 $\frac{1}{4}$ )		41.56
Landed cost		174.86

At present Yen Rate.

	<u>Yen</u>	<u>Rs.</u>
Cotton cost	92.20	
Other costs	56.25	
C.I.F. costs Rs.148.45 (at 80)		118.76
Duty (31 $\frac{1}{4}$ ) (75 p.c)		111.33
Landed cost		230.9

It will be seen that their costs have risen considerably and although it is as yet too early to produce import figures, the duty having been raised in June last and existing contracts for delivery

two or three months ahead having hardly been completed, it is said that Japanese shippers and manufacturers are not receiving the same amount of business from the Indian markets that they did before the rise in duty. Against this it must also be remembered that the Indian buyer has every reason to believe that as a result of the conference, the duty may be lowered and this will undoubtedly influence him in the forward business which he may be doing during the course of the present negotiations. Coupled with this is his belief that the yen may not further depreciate and therefore he may be wise to purchase goods and cover himself by buying yen at its present value. The cost of production in Japan is regarded as being considerably lower than the cost of production in Lancashire, ~~leaving~~ leaving aside the cost of raw cotton. It is this that may account for the difference in the "Landed Price", ~~in the case of each country the difference being given as follows:-~~

	<u>Before depreciation.</u>	<u>At present.</u>
Lancashire	175.0	172.2
<del>Japan</del>	174.86	230.0

We have already mentioned in our earlier reports that the unofficial tripartite conference between the cotton textile interests of India, Japan and Lancashire was sponsored by Mr. H.P. Mody, the President of the Bombay Millowners' Association. The scheme, however did not work according to plan and instead of there being a frank exchange of views between the three parties sitting round a common table, there have been a series of bilateral conversations and the full tripartite conference never met at all. The reason for this is that while <sup>the</sup> Japanese are able to give a firm undertaking in return for the reduction of tariffs to the effect that their imports would

be restricted and that they would take a certain amount of India raw cotton, the Lancashire delegation has no quid pro quo to offer. It is understood that Mr. Mody's efforts to persuade the Indian textile industry to agree to a reduction of 5 per cent in the customs duties which are now levied on Lancashire imports into India have not been successful; to this extent, therefore, the tripartite conference must be held to be a failure.

Inquiries in the Indian markets show that arrivals of Japanese goods show practically no decrease since the new duty was brought in. Allowing for the fact that such duty came in June 1933 and that forward contracts had to be fulfilled, one may fairly safely take it that two to three months' delivery from date of placing indents is the limit, whilst even now, in mid October, deliveries continue on a steady scale, thus showing that indents were placed for forward deliveries after the new duty became effective. The following figures are illuminating:-

A.- Taking No Account of Raw Cotton Cost.

<u>Before depreciation.</u>		
	<u>Yen</u>	<u>Rs.</u>
C.I.F. Value	100	133.3
Duty (25 p.c)	25 p.c.	33.3
		<u>166.6</u>
<u>At present.</u>		
	<u>Yen</u>	<u>Rs.</u>
C.I.F. Value	100	80
Duty	(75 p.c)	60
		<u>140</u>

B.- Taking Account of Raw Cotton Cost.

<u>Before depreciation.</u>		
	<u>Yen</u>	<u>Rs.</u>
Cotton cost	34	
Other costs	66	
C.I.F. cost	<u>100</u>	133.3
Duty	31 $\frac{3}{4}$	41.7
		<u>175.0</u>

At present.

	<u>Yen</u>	<u>Rs.</u>
Cotton cost	57	
Other costs	66	
C.I.F. cost		98.4
Duty		73.8
		<u>172.2</u>
Landed cost		172.2

(The Statesman, 19-10-1933)

The following communique has been issued as a result of the bilateral conversations between the non-official textile delegations of Japan and Lancashire:-

"The conversations were opened with a statement on the part of the British delegation made by their Chairman, Sir William Clare Lees. It was explained that the British cotton and artificial silk industries regarded the accelerated pace of Japanese competition in their common markets as abnormal and as constituting an unprecedented situation calling for exceptional measures to meet it. It was the hope of the British delegates that an orderly solution by common consent might be found as an alternative to measures taken independently.

"The statement included much detailed explanation of the British points of view. In addition, it was made particularly clear that the British delegation not only paid tribute to Japanese efficiency but also appreciated fully how difficult it was for the Japanese industries to deal with the problem on the lines suggested. The British delegation expressed a keen desire to contribute to the maintenance of good relations between Japan and Great Britain which had been traditional for so many years.

"At subsequent meetings, the Japanese point of view was explained by the Chairman of the Japanese delegation, Mr. K. Kurata. He made it definitely clear that they had been appointed to visit India on the understanding that the field of their discussion would be limited to the question of cotton piecegoods trade in India. He laid great stress on the desirability of arriving at a solution by common consent which was the very object of their mission.

"Explaining the recent history and present position of the Japanese cotton industry, he emphasized that the expansion of the Japanese export trade was the natural result of their own honest and sincere efforts. He dealt with some of the problems raised by the British delegates such as standards of living, working conditions, and currency standards. He showed how standards of life amongst the industrial workers in Japan, and their working conditions were being steadily improved and how this added to the nominal wages in arriving at the labour costs of Japanese manufacture.

"The Japanese delegation then elucidated their lines of discussion with Indian industrialists to the effect that they would consider in

an accommodating spirit a quantitative limitation of exports on the express condition that a satisfactory solution of the question of reduction in tariff rates should be made. The conviction of the Japanese was that limitation of quantities would have the effect of dealing with the price ~~of~~ difficulty.

"The British delegation referred to the desire of British interests to consider the problem of competition as a whole. The views they had expressed were put forward with the object of suggesting basic principles on which measures of common consent might be formulated. They took note, however, of the fact that the Japanese delegation at Simla was limited in its terms of reference to cotton piece-goods trade in India.

"Following further discussion it was agreed to adopt the resolution which appears below as summarizing the position reached in the Conference at Simla:-

"This Conference of Japanese and British representatives, so far as they are respectively authorised to deal with the matter, are un-animously in favour of adjusting the problem of competition by measures of common consent. It is the urgent desire of all parties to the Conference to contribute to the maintenance of the best possible relations amongst the countries concerned, and it is hoped that when the present world depression in trade gives way to improved conditions it may be possible for them to make progress in healthy and amicable competition".

(The Statesman, 28-10-1933).

The following is the full text of the Agreement entered into between Sir William Clare Lees, Chairman of the British Textile Delegation and Mr. H.P. Mody, Chairman of the Millowners' Association, Bombay:-

"Following the Conferences between the representatives of Indian and British Cotton Textile Industries, which opened in Bombay on the 19th September 1933, an understanding has been reached to which the respective parties are the Millowners' Association of Bombay and the British Textile Mission to India. The parties wish to record their conviction that great benefit has been derived by all concerned from a full and frank exchange of views, personal contact, which have been established and a greater understanding which both the sides have secured of each other's position.

"The parties are agreed that it would be in the best interests of the industries, they represent, to maintain and develop in future the contacts which have been established and it is hoped that it will become a practice for views to be exchanged, whenever circumstances render it desirable.

"The following headings of Agreement have been adopted on the assumption that the cotton duty is not increased above the present level of half-anna per pound:-

Reasonable Protection.- (1) It was agreed that the Indian Cotton Textile Industry is entitled for its progressive development to a reasonable measure of protection against the imports of the United

Kingdom yarns and ~~the~~ piecegoods. It was also agreed that under the present conditions, owing to lower costs and other factors operating in foreign countries, the industry required a higher level of protection against them than against the United Kingdom.

(2) As regards cotton piecegoods, it was agreed that if and when the revenue position of the country made it possible for the Government of India ~~of India~~ to remove the general surcharge on all imports imposed in October 1931, the Indian side would not make fresh proposals with regard to duties applicable to the United Kingdom imports.

Cotton Yarns.- (3) In the matter of cotton yarns, the Indian side has agreed that so far as imports from the United Kingdom are concerned, the duty may be five per cent. ad valorem with a minimum specific duty of one and quarter annas per pound.

Silk Piecegoods.- (4) So far as artificial silk piecegoods are concerned, the Indian side has agreed that, in the case of the United Kingdom, the duties may be as follows: 30 per cent. ad valorem or 2½ annas per square yard for ~~hundred~~ hundred per cent. artificial silk fabrics and 30 per cent. or 2 annas per square yard for a mixture of fabrics of cotton and artificial silk.

Share in Empire Markets. <sup>(5)</sup> In so far as the Empire and other overseas markets for piecegoods and yarns are concerned, it is agreed that any advantages, which might be arranged for British goods should be extended to the Indian goods, and that India in the markets in which she has no independent quota should participate in any quota which might be allocated to United Kingdom. In respect of overseas in which Indian mills lack established connections, it is agreed that the Manchester Chamber of Commerce should use its good offices to bring about contacts between the Indian manufacturers and British houses, which are already established in these markets.

Two Years Duration.- (6) In regard to raw cotton, the Indian side strongly emphasised the urgent necessity of further efforts being made in the United Kingdom to popularise and promote the use of Indian raw material. They welcomed the undertaking that the British Textile Mission would be prepared to recommend effective action being taken and keep the Indian side regularly in touch with developments. It was further agreed that the other avenues of co-operation in this field should be explored in the interests of the Indian cotton grower. This understanding is limited in its duration to the period ending on the 31st December 1935".

(The National Call, 30-10-1933).



Industrial Conditions in Bombay Presidency, 1932-33.\*

The following information about industrial and economic conditions in the Bombay Presidency during 1932-33 is taken from the Annual Report for the period of the Department of Industries, Bombay Presidency.

General.- Commercial and industrial depression ~~was~~ continued and became more acute during the period. India's trade along with that of other countries, declined further. Commodity prices continued to decline. The most outstanding feature of the year was the very low prices of all agricultural produce prevailing throughout the Presidency proper and Sind. The slump in prices which set in by about May 1930 continued during the year. The purchasing power of agriculturists, therefore, continued to be very restricted during the year. Below are given short reviews of the conditions prevailing in the principal industries:-

Cotton Textile Industry.- The condition of the industry during the year under review was far from satisfactory. The difficulties experienced by the industry during the previous years became more acute and the general position became worse. Japanese competition was extremely severe due to the continuous depreciation of Yen. Bombay Island, in particular, as well as mill centres in the Presidency had during the year some mills shut down temporarily due to accumulation of large stocks on account of adverse market conditions. The annual reports for 1932 received from 32 cotton mills working ~~in~~ in Bombay City disclose the following position:-

~~in~~ 17 mills show a loss of Rs.3,873,756; 15 mills show a gross profit of Rs. 2,271,474; out of these, only 6 mills whose net profits amounted to Rs. 539,000 were able to declare a dividend. Even out of these 6, two had to draw dividend equalisation fund. The rest had either to credit the profit to wipe off losses sustained in previous years, or to ~~the~~ depreciation of machinery, building, etc. fund.

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\*Department of Industries, Bombay Presidency. Annual Report 1932-33. Published by order of the Government of Bombay. (Price - Annas 3 or 4d). Bombay; Printed at the Government Central Press, 1933.

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The following statistical tables covering cotton mills in the Bombay Presidency are illustrative of the conditions prevailing in the industry:-

For the year ending 31st August	Number of mills	Number of spindles.	Number of looms	Average number of hands employed daily	Cotton consumed Cwts.	Paid-up capital Rs.
1930	220	6,172,792	135,808	252,488	5,511,184	239,202,145
1931	218	6,290,233	138,153	250,357	5,470,906	240,166,075
1932	220	6,443,519	141,241	256,200	5,984,720	245,820,663
Percentage increase or decrease as compared to 1931.	..	+2.4	+2.2	+2.3	+9.4	....

Production in and Imports of Yarn and Piece-goods into Bombay Presidency.

Year ending 31st March	Yarn (in million pounds)			Piece-goods (in million yards)		
	Presidency production	Imports into the Presidency	Percentage of imports to production.	Presidency Production	Imports into the Presidency	Percentage of imports to production
1929-30	467	19	4.1	1,725	789	45.7
1930-31	476	9.9	2.1	1,830	347	18.9
1931-32	549	12.3	2.2	2,188	389	18.0
1932-33	432*	17.6	..	1,744*	638	..

\*Figures ending 31st December 1932.

Woollen Mills.- The condition of the woollen industry though unsatisfactory showed signs of very slight improvement during the year under review. The two mills which were working during the last year continued to work during the year 1932. There was an increase of about 6 per cent. in the quantity of woollen goods produced in these mills and of about 35 per cent in the value of the same, when compared with the figures for the last year. In the year 1931 the woollen mills showed a total production of 1,754,352 lbs. valued at Rs. 2,211,250, whereas in the year 1932 the total production was 1,857,835 lbs. valued at Rs. 3,006,810. Bombay woollen mills supply a very small quantity of the Presidency's requirements. Although there was a small increase in the local production, the woollen industry in the Bombay Presidency is not in a satisfactory position.

Hosiery Industry.- The general economic depression together with very keen competition from imported hosiery has affected the cotton mills equipped with hosiery knitting machines as well as the small hosiery factories in this Presidency. Both the production and value of the same have been reduced. During 1930-31 production was

approximately 480,000 lbs. valued at Rs. 1.308 millions. In 1931-32 it was 447,213 lbs. valued at Rs. 1.204 millions. The imports of woollen and cotton hosiery during 1930-31 were valued at Rs. 2.1 millions. The imports for 1931-32 were valued at Rs. 2.05 millions; although the value of import was lower in 1931-32 yet the quantity of hosiery increased considerably. The reason for this is the fall in prices of imported goods due to various factors.

Match Industry.- During the year under report two match factories were closed but two new factories were opened; thus the number of match factories in the British Districts of the Bombay Presidency remained the same. Two factories were also working in Indian States, making a total of 15 factories in the whole of the Bombay Presidency. The total number of persons employed during the year in the 13 match factories in the British Districts was 5,100. Imports of matches during the year amounted to 25,790 gross match boxes valued at Rs. 17,194. It is reported that during the year under review match factories, with the exception of one factory, did not fare well owing to keen internal competition.

Other Industries.- The other industries of importance may be catalogued as follow:- Gas Mantles, Chemical Industries, Sugar, Paper, Glass, Oil Mills, Vegetable Ghee, Soap, Shoe Polish, Gold Thread, Cigarettes, and ~~Al~~ Aluminium. Most of these industries passed through a difficult time in the period under report.

New Industries.- During the year under report several new types of factories were started in the Bombay Presidency, e.g., one was for the manufacture of non-ferrous alloys, one for the manufacture of Bakelite electric accessories such as push buttons etc. from Bakelite, one for the manufacture of A.C. ceiling fans, one for the manufacture of razor blades, all in Bombay, an optical factory established in Karachi for the manufacture of spectacles, one for the manufacture of porcelain enamel sign boards, enamel-wares etc. in Nasik, two silk factories in Bombay for manufacture of silk-fabrics such as crepe-de-chine, georgette etc. and one for manufacture of ~~st~~ stationery paper such as press copy books, office files, index files, etc.

New Flotations.- Despite the fact that there was general trade slump, during the year under review many new companies were floated. During the year 1932 about 105 new concerns started working or were sufficiently extended ~~x~~ so as to come under the Indian Factories Act. Important among these were: 2 tin can-making factories, 1 foundry, 1 electric fan factory, 3 oil mills, 5 engineering works, 2 dyeing and bleaching works, 5 weaving factories, 1 vegetable ghee factory, 4 metal ware works, 2 healds and reeds works, 8 leather and washer works, 7 cigarette factories, 1 tricycle works, 2 fire works, 1 tannery, 18 ginning and pressing factories, 4 gul factories, 5 cotton mills, 1 safe works, 1 match factory, 1 lace factory, 20 rice and flour mills, 1 cotton opening factory, 1 salt works, 1 carbon paper and ribbon factory and 2 hosiery factories.

Liquidations.- During the year under review, 2 cotton mills, 1 engineering works, 3 mining companies, 1 flour mill, 2 ginning and pressing companies, 1 cinema company, 2 motor works, 1 record manufacturing company and 1 fruit canning company with total paid up capital of Rs. 3.81 millions went into liquidation.

Banking Facilities in Ceylon;

A Banking Enquiry Committee Appointed.

It is understood that in accordance with <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ motion <sup>adopted by</sup> ~~of~~ the Ceylon State Council for the appointment of a Banking Commission to investigate internal banking credit facilities locally available and to formulate ways and means for extending the same, the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce have decided to appoint a Banking Enquiry Commission in Ceylon.

According to the scheme decided upon by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce, the Commission is to be a whole-time one, the expenses of which are to be provided for three months. It is expected that the Commission should be in a position to place its report in the hands of Government at the end of that period. The Commission is to consist of three members, two appointed locally and the Chairman recruited from abroad.

The Chairmanship of the Commission has been offered to Mr. P.J. Thomas, formerly Lecturer of Economics in the Ceylon University College and <sup>at</sup> present ~~the~~ Professor in that subject in the University of Madras.

(The Hindu, 14-10-1933).

Financial Working of Indian Railways -1932-33.

The following information about the working of Indian railways during the year 1932-33 is taken from the Report for the period published by Mr. M.W.Braysbay, Chief Commissioner of Railways and Mr. P.R. Raw, Financial Commissioner of Railways, and which has been recently released for publication by the Railway Board. The report states that the figures are not yet in their final form and have to be considered as still approximate, but any adjustments which may alter them ultimately may not be to a large extent.

Receipts & Working Expenses. - Gross receipts in 1932-33 amounted to Rs.845 millions, or 20 millions less than in the previous year. Working expenses, including the usual appropriation for depreciation amounted to Rs.615 millions, about Rs. 12.5 millions less than in the previous year. The net receipts of Rs. 230 millions or Rs. 10 millions less than in 1931-32, were insufficient to meet interest charges. The deficit of Rs. 100 millions was, as in the previous year, borrowed from the accumulated balances of the Depreciation Fund.

Savings from Salary Cuts. - The ordinary working expenses, excluding depreciation amounted to nearly ~~Rs.~~ Rs. 480 millions, or Rs. 15 millions less than in the preceding year. The decrease in working expenses made up for over two-thirds of the fall in receipts. A large part of this decrease was due to the operation of the cut in pay in force throughout the year, whereas it was in force only during the last 4 months in the previous year.

Comparison with Results of 1929-30. - The last good year for Indian Railways was 1929-30, and it may be of interest to compare the results of 1932-33 with those of that year. The receipts in 1932-33 may be stated to be about Rs. 195 millions (19 percent) below the receipts of 1929-30, and the ordinary working expenses about Rs. 85 millions (15 per cent) below the working expenses of 1929-30. To put it in another way, Indian railways have made up by savings in working expenses about 45 per cent of the loss in gross receipts as compared with 1929-30.

Railway Finance Since Separation Convention. - Of the nine years that have elapsed since the separation of railway revenues from the general revenues of India, the first six were prosperous years. After paying interest charges, and putting by a net sum of Rs. 120 millions in the Depreciation Fund, and after meeting such of the expenditure on renewals and replacements, as is chargeable under rules, to the Fund, the total surpluses amounted to Rs 525 millions.

During the next three years, the position was very different. There were deficits amounting to Rs. 245 millions though at the same time the balance in the Depreciation Fund increased by ~~Rs.~~ Rs. 140 millions. In other words, the net result of the working of the Indian State-owned railways during the nine years 1924-25 to 1932-33 inclusive was a surplus of Rs. 280 millions, and an accumulated balance in the Depreciation Fund of Rs. 260 millions.

Under the Separation Convention, railways were liable to make a contribution to general revenues which amounted on the average to a net payment of Rs. 60 millions a year. They were able to make this payment from the current surpluses in the first five years; in the sixth year, partly from the surplus of the year and partly from accumulated reserves, and the seventh year wholly from the latter; thereafter, they have not been able to pay any contribution. The total amounts paid during the period were Rs. 420 millions. As the surplus during the period was only Rs. 280 millions, the balance of Rs. 140 millions had to be borrowed. A temporary loan was, therefore, taken of that amount from the Depreciation Fund, the actual balance of which at the end of 1932-33 was thus reduced to Rs. 120 millions.

The net traffic receipts of about Rs. 230 millions in 1932-33 amounted to less than 3 per cent of the capital ~~and~~ charge. This result was the worst experienced since the separation.

Loss in Passenger & Goods Earnings.- Under gross receipts, passenger earnings have fallen by about 19 per cent and the goods earnings by about ~~Rs. 175 million~~ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, as compared with 1929-30. As compared with 1931-32 the passenger earnings are about the same, while goods earnings have fallen by about 3 per cent. During that part of the current year which has passed, it is interesting to note that, the position has changed. The passenger earnings are considerably less, while goods earnings are very much more than in the corresponding period of 1932-33. The earnings in 1932-33 amounted to about Rs. 26,400 per open mile, against Rs. 32,900 per open mile in 1929-30, a drop of nearly 20 per cent.

Though the percentage fall in goods earnings during 1932-33 as compared with the previous year is comparatively slight, being only 3 per cent, the variations in individual commodities were surprisingly large. There were increases in certain commodities, mainly under cotton, raw and manufactured, iron and steel wrought, raw jute and jaggery and molasses, of about 10 per cent or over. On the other hand, there were heavy decreases in oil seeds, food grains including rice and wheat, sugar and kerosine and petrol. The decrease under oil seeds was nearly 20 per cent while that under food grains on the whole was over 10 per cent.

Working Expenses. - The comparable figures for ~~making~~ expenses are as follow:

1929-30;	Rs. 559.2 millions.
1930-31;	Rs. 558.1 millions.
1931-32;	Rs. 498 Millions, and
1932-33;	Rs. 493.6 millions.

The reduction in working expenses, apart from the emergency deductions in pay, amounted to nearly ~~half-~~ Rs. 50 millions as compared with the past year, but was about Rs. 65 millions as compared with 1929-30. Including these deductions, the reduction of working expenses was compared with 1929-30 ~~was~~ about 85 millions, or over 15 per cent.

Profits and Loss; Position of Various Railways. - As regards net receipts, the East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and the South Indian Railways are better than last year; the Eastern Bengal and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways are about the same, whereas the Assam-Bengal, the Bengal-Nagpur, Burma, Madras and Southern Mahratta and the North Western Railways are appreciably worse. During 1932-33, there were only two of the bigger systems that continued to work at a profit, viz. the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway, which showed a net gain of Rs. 4.2 millions and the South Indian Railway, which showed a net gain of Rs. .6 millions. Even the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway which showed a profit in the previous year of Rs. 1.4 millions, showed a loss of Rs. 1.9 millions during the current year.

Works Programme in 1932. - In 1932, as in the previous two years, the works programme, was cut down to the bone. It became clear in the latter part of 1929 that owing to conditions both in India and abroad it was improbable that it should be possible to obtain funds for capital expenditure on railways at a reasonable rate of interest. The policy was therefore adopted of concentrating almost entirely on pushing schemes already in hand to completion in order to obtain an early return of the money invested, and in 1932-33, as in the two previous years, of avoiding the undertaking of new schemes and adding to commitments at a time when the future was so uncertain. The works carried out were therefore restricted practically entirely to unavoidable and essential improvements.

Reduction in Passenger & Goods Traffic. - The number of passengers carried during 1932-33 was the lowest since 1922-23. It was 492 million, only 3½ million less than in the past year, but 131 million, or over 20 per cent less than in 1929-30. The number of passenger miles was similarly the lowest in recent years. It amounted to 16,900 million, which is 5,300 million less than the peak figure of 1929-30. The average number of miles a passenger was carried fell from 35.0 in the previous year to 34.3. As regards goods traffic, the actual weight carried was 89½ million tons - a fall of 5 per cent as compared with the previous year and over 20 per cent as compared with 1929-30. The average number of miles a ton of goods was carried was 190 and registered a fall of 2 miles as compared with the previous year.

Railway Staff:- Reduction in Numbers & Wages Bill. - The total number of staff in 1932-33 on all Class I Railways was 678,000, as against 699,000 in the previous year and 785,000 in 1929-30. The cost of staff fell to ~~Rs. 345~~ Rs. 345 millions, as against Rs. 362.5 millions in the previous and nearly Rs. 400 million in 1930-31.

Paying a warm tribute to the way in which the staff on all railways have met the trying conditions of the depression the

Report says:-

"They have faced most gallantly the most adverse circumstances that Indian railways have known, and have worked without flinching through these prolonged critical times, in spite of the fact that the process of economies that has been forced upon Indian railways has profoundly affected them. They have carried on their work with a cheerfulness and a devotion to duty that is beyond all praise. In spite of the large number of discharges which we had most reluctantly to order, in spite of the large reductions in the earnings of every member of the staff that we have had, equally unwillingly, to give effect to by definite cuts in the pay of every member of the staff; and notwithstanding the reduction in earnings caused by curtailment of special pay and working short time in workshops and the fall in mileage allowances suffered by the running staff as a result of the fall in traffic and so on; in spite of all these we have had the whole hearted co-operation of the staff, and it gives us great pleasure here to acknowledge their services and assure them of our deep gratitude."

(Extracted from a summary published in the Hindu of 11-10-1933)

The Bengal Money Lenders' Act, 1932.

At pages 41-43 of the October 1932 report of this Office, reference was made to the introduction of a bill called the Bengal Money Lenders' Act of ~~1932~~ in the Bengal Legislative Council on 7-9-1932. The Act was passed by the Council and received the assent of the Governor General on the 9th October 1933.

The Bill as passed is published at pages 68-70 of the Calcutta Gazette dated 26th October 1933.



Simla Industrial Ministers' Conference;

Report to be Published in November 1933. ✓

At pages 42-43 of the July 1933 report of this Office, reference was made to the Industrial Ministers' Conference held at Simla in June 1933. It will be recalled that the proceedings of that conference, which was called for the purpose of securing co-operation between the different provincial administrations in the matter of industrial planning and research, were kept confidential at the time.

It is understood that the report of the Conference will be released for publication early next month. It is also reported that no action is for the present proposed to be taken by the Government of India towards the establishment of a Central Council for Industries, as the proposal involves a recurring expenditure of about Rs..1 million which the straitened finances of the Government do not permit them at present to undertake.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-10-33).

Crisis in the Bengal and Bihar Coal Industry;  
Colliery Owners' Representation to the Railway Board.

The Committee of the Indian Colliery Owners' Association, Calcutta, have addressed a letter recently to the Secretary, Railway Board, proposing a scheme for the restriction of the output of coal in India and a fair distribution of the patronage of the Railways among the various collieries. The occasion for the letter is the critical state of the coal industry in India, especially in Bengal and Bihar, due to the following reasons which are represented in the letter:-

1. Disparity in Rates of Freight Between Coals of Different Provinces. - There is at present a disparity in the basic rate of railway freight between the Central Provinces and Bengal coal to the disadvantage of the latter. Representations were made to the Railway Board by the Association to the effect that if the railways were quoting a lower rate of freight on C.P. coal because of its inferior quality as compared to that of Bengal coal, there was ample reason and justification for giving a specially reduced rate of freight to the inferior quality of coal produced in Bengal and Bihar as well. As yet nothing has been done by the Railway Board to remove this anomaly.

2. Internal Rate-War. - Bengal and Bihar are experiencing an internal rate-war in the matter of coal with the result that smaller collieries in these provinces find it difficult to secure business at a remunerative price. The cost of production of both superior and inferior qualities of coal is practically the same. Both these qualities are subjected to practically similar taxes and royalties. This being so, comparatively inferior grades of coal find no market when superior grades are being sold at ridiculous low prices. In view of this situation the inferior grades of coal in Bengal and Bihar are entitled to the protection that C.P. coal enjoys.

3. Working of Railway Collieries. - Another grievance of the colliery owners of Bengal and Bihar is in regard to the working of the Railway Collieries. The estimated output of the Railway collieries when worked to the fullest capacity, is almost equal to the quantity of coal required by these railways. But in accordance with the representations made by the coal industry, the Government of India adopted a policy under which the Government undertook to purchase half the requirements of the Railway from the market. In view, however, of further representations made by the industry the Government of India have since purchased from the market up to 70 per cent of the requirements of the railways. This is evidently done with a view to help the coal industry. It is represented by

Association that even this amount of support has not helped the industry far. The letter says: "The coal industry is now in the grip of an impending collapse. There is no immediate prospect of custom from other quarters and if the industry is to be saved from ~~the~~ impending ruin it can only be done by giving it ~~an~~ additional custom from the railway or, in other words, by the total closing down of the Railway collieries and purchasing the entire railway requirements from the market." It is pointed out that, in view of the present unorganised state of the industry and especially in view of the internal rate competition, mere closing down of the Railway collieries, would not ~~solve~~ the problem unless some other measures are adopted conjointly.

The Committee has, <sup>in</sup> ~~under~~ the circumstances, made suggestions to help the industry tide over the critical days. The following is a summary of the more important proposals of the Committee:-

1. Distribution of Custom. - Distribute the amount of the total quantity of coal required by the Railways proportionately among the collieries working at present so that the advantages of the custom may also be made available to the smaller, and therefore, necessarily more helpless section of the coal industry. This can be done by purchasing the requirements of the Railways from collieries in proportion to their raisings. In proposing this, the Committee feel that the Railway Board can fix the quantity of coal to be purchased from the various collieries on a certain agreed basis.

2. Fixation of Price of Different Grades. - The Government can also fix the prices of the different qualities of coal in consultation with the representatives of the industry on a certain fixed basis, which may leave a reasonable margin of profit to the producers and not allow the price to fall below the irreducible minimum by reason of unhealthy competition among the producers. The Committee of the Association understand that the Governments of ~~the~~ other countries have, with the co-operation of the industry, been able to fix up such prices and to distribute the custom of Government equitably amongst ~~the~~ various collieries.

3. Restriction of Output. - To devise a scheme for the restriction of the output of coal in India on lines similar to those adopted in the case of the tea industry.

4. Removal of Surcharge on Freight. - The removal of the 15 per cent surcharge on the railway freight on coal which has proved greatly detrimental to the interests of the consumers of coal situated at a long distance from the coalfields. ~~The~~ Consumers have to pay a comparatively high price for coal on account of the surcharge on freight and they are not, therefore, in a position to take advantage of the cheap fuel. It is very necessary, therefore, that the 15 per cent surcharge on the railway freight on coal should be removed as early as possible.

5. Removal of Disparity in Basic Rates of Freight. - The disparity in the basic rates of freight between C.P. and Bengal Coal, which has proved to be a great handicap to the coal industry in Bengal and Bihar should be removed ~~★~~ without any loss of time.

~~★~~ In addition to making these suggestions, the Committee has requested the Railway Board to hold a Conference of the representatives of the various coal interests to discuss this problem and to devise a suitable scheme whereby the coal industry might be benefited.

(The Leader, 11-10-1933).

Social Conditions.

David Sassoon Industrial and Reformatory Institution, Bombay:

Progress during the Year 1932-33\*.

According to the annual report on the working of the David Sassoon Industrial and Reformatory Institution, Matunga, Bombay, there were 371 boys in the institution at the end of the year under report as compared with 357 in the previous year. The number of admissions during the year was 99 as against 112 in the previous year. The report states that discipline of a gratifying standard has been maintained during the year and punishment records showed a distinct reduction in volume.

Considerable progress was seen in the technical education of the boys in the institution. During the year 4 boys were attending the School of Art<sup>a</sup> for instruction in Stone-carving, Engraving, House Decoration and Painting and Silver-Smith's work. In spite of the depressed industrial conditions prevailing, the sales of workshops products reached <sup>a</sup>the gratifying level and the closer association of technical lesson in the class room and practical demonstration in the workshop<sup>s</sup> has resulted in a noticeable improvement in the interest of the boys. Out of the 79 boys discharged during the year, 35 were taught spinning; 9 carpentry; 7 painting and polishing; 6 motor mechanics' work; 5 black smith's work; 5 cane weaving; 5 tailoring; 4 fitter's work and 3 gardening. The report points out that the workshops of the institution made considerable progress, the value of things made in the workshop<sup>s</sup> coming to Rs. 7,842-1-10 during the year.

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\*Annual Report of the David Sassoon Industrial and Reformatory Institution, Matunga for the Year 1932-33. Price - Annas 2 or 3d. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1933.

In view of the increasing difficulty in securing technical employment for boys on discharge, it was decided to consider the possibilities of an amplified scheme of agricultural training. An agricultural teacher with excellent qualifications has been engaged and the existing garden facilities are <sup>under way</sup> ~~in the progress~~ of reorganisation.

1931 Census of India; Report Published.

At pages 54-55 of our March 1931 report and at pages 58-60 of our October 1931 report the provisional and revised figures of the 1931 census of India were given. The Government of India have recently published the report of Dr. J.H.Hutton, C.I.E., D.Sc., F.A.S.B., Census Commissioner for India. The report consists of five parts: (1) Report of the Commissioner; (2) ~~the~~ Statistical tables for India, (3) a collection of papers of ethnographical interest, (4) ~~the~~ social and linguistic maps for India and the Provinces bound separately and (5) an administrative report, the two latter volumes being intended primarily for departmental use. Besides this report, twenty-seven volumes, being the census reports of the Commissioners for the various provinces and Indian States, have also been published. Attention of the Geneva Office is directed to chapters I, II and VIII of Dr. Hutton's Report (Vol.I, Part I, - India) which deal with distribution and movement of population, urban and rural population and occupation respectively.

Public Health.Smoke Nuisance in Ahmedabad; Recommendations of <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ Enquiry Committee.

On January 15, 1931, a special committee was appointed by the Ahmedabad Municipality to inquire into the smoke nuisance question and to publish a report of its findings. This committee, composed of eminent citizens and technicians of Ahmedabad, after meeting 11 times and studying the question from different points of view, has made several recommendations.

The following are some of the more important suggestions made in the report:-

Among other things, the committee requests the Ahmedabad Municipality to urge the public to make use of soft coke, from which substance no smoke can ~~be~~ issue.

The committee has recommended that, to set an example to the public, the Municipality should instal in its waterworks and gutter pumping stations, a carbon dioxide indicator, a combined smoke and density recorder and indicator, a remote control pyrometer and draught gauze.

Special attention is drawn by the Committee to the following paragraph of the 1929 report on "Industry of Japan and China" -

"In some mills in China and Japan, kitchens on a large scale are maintained by the management, and nourishing food is supplied to the mill labourers. These kitchens are huge in size and scrupulously clean in appearance. Much thought and care is bestowed on the choice of nutritious foods. The material and food bought from these kitchens are cheaper by 20 to 30 per cent. from those bought in the bazar".

The Committee suggests that the Municipality should start a model factory within the city limits on the lines laid down and in this connection welcomes the report of the Municipality <sup>regarding a</sup> scheme to start an electric power house of its own. If the Municipality took upon itself the supply of electricity and gas, the smoke nuisance in every home, mill and industry would disappear.

(The Times of India, 17-10-1933)

Labour Housing in Rangoon;  
Report of Stevenson Conference, 1933\*

The following is a summary of the report submitted by the Rangoon Labour Housing Conference convened by the Government of Burma in pursuance of a resolution passed by the Governor in Council on 26-1-1932:

Terms of Reference.- The Government Resolution directed that the Conference will have to deal with two main divisions of the problem: (1) Rest-houses for temporary accommodation, and (2) Housing for more permanent occupation.

The Conference in dealing with both these main divisions should take account of sanitation, medical attention, marketing and other social and religious requirements. Under each of the main divisions it will be necessary for the Conference to consider the problem under the following heads:-

- (a) for what class of persons accommodation is to be provided;
- (b) on what scale the scheme for rest-houses or for permanent housing should be framed;
- (c) the kind of accommodation;
- (d) the location;
- (e) management;
- (f) the cost of providing and of management;
- (g) whether accommodation should be free; and
- (h) by what parties and in what shares the cost should be borne and whether taxation should be specially imposed or assigned.

Personnel.- The Conference consisted of the following members:- The Financial Commissioner (Transferred Subjects), Burma -- Chairman; The Director of Statistics and Labour Commissioner, Burma; The Chairman, Rangoon Development Trust, Rangoon; The Director of Public Health, Burma; The Municipal Commissioner for the City of Rangoon; The Chairman, Port Commissioners, Rangoon.

Representatives of employers;- Mr. R.T. Stoneham, M.L.C., nominated by the Burma Chamber of Commerce; U. Ba Glay, Managing Director Sun Press, Limited, Rangoon, nominated by the Burmese Chamber of Commerce; Mr. S.C. Ganguli, Messrs. S.B. Neogi and Co., Rangoon, nominated by the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Members representing the needs of labour.- Mr. S.A.S. Tyabji, Rangoon; Mr. E.P. Pillay, M.L.C., Rangoon; U. Thein Maung, LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, Rangoon, nominated by the Burmese Labour Bureau, Rangoon; Mr. A.L. Gordon MacKay, Professor of Economics, Rangoon University, Rangoon.

Mr. S.G. Grantham, I.C.S., Director of Statistics and Labour Commissioner, Burma, was the Secretary of the Conference.

From 15-11-1932, Mr. H.L. Stevenson, I.C.S., succeeded Mr. C.W. Dunn, I.C.S., (Financial Commissioner) as Chairman.

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\* Report of the Rangoon Labour Housing Conference with Appendices and Minutes of Dissent. Rangoon; Supdt. Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma, 1933. Price, - Rs. 2-8 = 3s.9d. pp. 119.



History of the Conference.- In its general recommendations regarding the housing of the industrial worker, the Whitley Commission had laid down that: "(a) Provincial Governments should make a survey of urban and industrial areas to ascertain their needs in regard to housing. (b) They should then arrange for conferences with all interested parties in order that decisions may be taken as to practicable schemes and the method whereby their cost could be shared". (Recommendations 220 (a) and (b) of the Commission, vide page 514 of the Whitley Report). Further, discussing industrial conditions in Rangoon, the Commission recommended: "In regard to housing, there should be a frank recognition of joint responsibility; the line of action, with the share to be taken by the parties concerned, should now be determined at a conference to be convened by Government, and including representatives of Government, the municipality, employers, the Development Trust, the port authorities and some who can voice the needs of labour". (Recommendation 328 of Whitley Commission, vide page 525 of Whitley Report).

The problem had also already been under study by the Government of Burma. In the immediate past in 1927 a committee set up in 1926 by the Local Government to enquire into the general conditions affecting the public health of the City of Rangoon and to report, among other items, on "the housing accommodation and particularly lodging houses and cooly barracks", issued its Report on the Public Health of Rangoon, which deals in one of its chapters specifically with the housing problem that the Conference has dealt with. In 1930 a committee appointed in 1929 to enquire into the effects of the removal of rent control in Rangoon referred at length in its report to the housing of labour in Rangoon. After consulting in 1929 the Local Authorities and Bodies on the possibility of providing chawls for the labouring classes in Rangoon, the Local Government introduced in 1931 in the Legislative Council the Rangoon Labour Housing Bill, which, however, in view of the criticisms it evoked, was withdrawn and circulated for opinion. Before a conclusion of this matter was reached, the Royal Commission's report had appeared, as a consequence of which the present Conference was appointed by the Local Government.

Work of the Conference.- The Conference held its first meeting on 3-3-1932 and after holding 43 sittings submitted its report on 16-5-1933. In the course of its discussions, a difference of opinion with regard to the terms of reference manifested itself among the members of the Conference, which no argument could bridge. A minority section held the view that the duty of the Conference was merely to devise, formulate and finance a building scheme and that it was not at liberty to discuss the need of one; on that point it had to accept the findings of the Royal Commission. The majority held the view that the findings of the Whitley Commission were not final so far as Burma was concerned and that, therefore, the Conference was not fettered in its discretion and that its action was not restricted to merely devising and financing a building scheme, but that it was at liberty to consider such other solutions of the problem as might be suggested.

Recommendations of the Conference.- The Conference was divided in its opinion on the issue whether there should be any housing scheme at all, that is to say, whether building was a suitable solution of the problem, or whether the whole position should be examined from the wider angle indicated by the proposals for a solution of the problem by measures which would constitute a policy of economic adjustment.

The arguments for an immediate housing scheme in Rangoon were reiterated by Mr. Pillay, a member of the Conference, in a note ~~which~~; in it facts are stated and arguments advanced which the majority of the Conference has not accepted as accurate or decisive. The Conference by a majority of 7 to 3 accepted the principle of economic adjustment as opposed to a mere building scheme and adopted the following resolutions:-

(1) Economic Adjustment Advocated.- On the fundamental question whether a building ~~scheme~~ scheme, as adumbrated by the Royal Commission should be drawn up and recommended to the Local Government for its acceptance, or whether present conditions, the unsatisfactory nature of which is recognised, should be met by a policy of economic adjustment which would include such measures as accelerated mechanisation, control of immigration, revising of the municipal bye-laws and the adoption of some co-operative plan of housing and which would thus render a building scheme unnecessary, the Conference decided ~~having~~ ~~decided~~ to advise the Local Government that on the inadequate facts and information before it relating to the problem of the housing of Indian immigrant labour in Rangoon, it is not prepared to propose any building scheme, but suggests that a policy of economic adjustment be considered.

(2) Survey of Urban and Rural Areas.- With this end in view the Conference draws the attention of the Local Government to recommendations 220 and 328 of the Royal Commission, and suggests that as the facts affecting the problem still require investigation, the proposals contained in recommendation 220 of the Royal Commission be accepted, and that a survey of urban and rural areas be undertaken which would allow of a proper conclusion being come to with regard to the position and needs of immigrant and other labour not only in Rangoon but throughout the province.

Regarding the scope of the suggested survey, the Conference recommends that they should extend to an examination of the conditions generally affecting labour not only in Rangoon but in the province generally. It should embrace the wider issues that have been raised by the proposals laid before the Conference in its later stages, such as the mechanisation of labour and the need (if any) and the desirability (if such there be) of a radical change in the industrial system of the province, and what is called an economic adjustment of conditions. The survey should comprise an examination of the general problem of Indian immigration into Burma and would in the same way embrace an examination of ~~the~~ local and particular problems which spring from the general problem such as the housing of Indian labour in Rangoon and the decasualisation of port labour. The Report points out that the proposed survey goes beyond recommendation No.328 of the Royal Commission which led to the appointment of the Conference and also beyond recommendation 220 which was confined to housing.

Appended to the Report is a dissenting minute signed by Messrs. S.C. Ganguli, E.P. Pillay, and S.A.S. Tyabji. The signatories point out that ~~the~~ industrial housing conditions in Rangoon demand an immediate policy of initiating building schemes and a policy of relying on economic adjustment and mechanisation for alleviating the

situation is unjustifiable. The dissenting minute concludes thus:-

"In our dissent we have shown how widely the Conference has gone out of the bounds, which the Resolution of Government and the Reference to the Conference had circumscribed for it; we have shown the emptiness of the cry for more material, and consequent further enquiries; how through irrelevant materials, every effort has been made to cloud the issue; how illogical the Report is when it denies the need of housing and proposes to remedy the evil through economic adjustment, whilst on the other hand it promptly throws the blame on the Corporation of Rangoon for not having provided housing for the poor; how members who were to represent the needs of labour, and Government officers even representing health of the province, support the last resolution for ushering the millenium through economic adjustment which summarily brings to an end the Conference."

"We have made an effort to prove that housing of labour is an immediate and urgent need of Indian immigrant labour in Rangoon, and is a need of the near future for ~~the~~ <sup>as well</sup> Burmese Labour. We have consequently enunciated schemes ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> which, though we claim no infallibility, will yet enable Government to consider the problem from a more practical point of view. We state that the schemes we have proposed will bear scrutiny and are not built on such flimsy basis as the Report would make them out to be. We hope we have been able to show that the need of building houses for labourers in Rangoon is pressing; we feel that this is the most opportune time to make a beginning in this respect in view of the prevailing low cost of building houses and also in view of the widespread unemployment which may to a certain extent be relieved if the scheme is now taken in hand. We have similarly shown the urgency ~~a~~ for rest-houses and press on the Government to take necessary steps without delay in the matter."

Note on Indian Immigrant Labour in Burma.- The extent to which Burma has drawn and still draws its supplies of labour from India is seen in the annual immigration figures for the province. During the last 40 years and more Indian seasonal labour has flowed in and out of the province, leaving behind a residuum which has gone steadily to increase the Indian population of the province. Already in 1889-90 — to go no further back than that — the number of immigrants registered in Rangoon was 80,609 and of emigrants 65,005 or a total of 151,614. And this volume of migration, subject of course to fluctuations from year to year due to exceptional causes such as famine in India and the War in Europe, has steadily increased since then until the following figures extracted from a statement compiled by the

Director of Statistics and Labour Commissioner, Burma, have been reached in recent years:-

Sea Passengers between Rangoon and India.

Incoming or outgoing at Rangoon	Year ending with August of (Nearest whole thousands)							
	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
Incoming	271	296	308	324	307	273	252	240
Outgoing	253	268	264	278	298	305	285	225
Balance in	18	28	44	46	9	-32	-33	15

The extent to which Indian labour is utilised in Rangoon is shown in the following table:-

Earners in Rangoon Town.

Economic Function	All Races	Indians
Cultivators	1,644	688
Herdsmen	1,019	998
Fishers and hunters	256	176
Clerical workers	12,618	6,783
Managers and officials of organised industrial undertakings	493	130
Craftsmen	36,184	20,325
Unskilled and semi-skilled labourers (excluding sweepers and scavengers)	88,353	78,183
Technical experts and professional classes (excluding medical and religious)	3,671	1,199
Traders and Shop Assistants	44,544	30,958
Rentiers	1,453	583
Army, Navy, Air-Force, Police	2,881	1,924
General public service (including municipal, etc.) not in other classes.	497	48
Religion	303	211
Medicine	1,330	586
Sweepers and scavengers	2,462	2,458
Miscellaneous	860	305
Insufficiently described	192	160
Total	198,760	145,715

Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, 1932-33.\* ✓

The Industrial Housing Scheme consisted of 207 chawls as in the previous year. The following table shows the number of chawls according to locality and the number of rooms and shops in each chawl.

Locality.	No. of chawls.	No. of rooms.	No. of shops.
DeLisle Road ..	32	2,545	15
Naigaum ..	42	3,267	77
Worli ..	121	9,476	184 & 103
Sewri ..	12	918	42
	207	16,206	421

Chawls in Use. - The following table shows the number of chawls occupied at the beginning and at the end of the year under report.

Locality.	Chawls occupied at the end of March 1932.	Rooms & Shops occupied at the end of March 1932.	Chawls occupied in March 1933.	Rooms & shops occupied in March 1933.
DeLisle Road.	28	1,975	29	2,662
Naigaum.	42	2,881	42	2,839
Worli.	48	2,911	49	3,036
Sewri.	12	813	12	793
	130	8,580	132	9,330

Out of 16,627 rooms and shops (16,206 rooms and 421 shops) 9,330 rooms and shops were occupied as against 8,580 in the previous year.

\* Annual Report on the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme for the year 1932-33. Bombay; Printed at the Government Central Press 1933. Price. Anna 1 or 1d. - pp.9.

Scale of Rents - Single Room Tenements. - The report points out that the scale of rents for single-roomed tenements in the four areas remained unchanged throughout the year, viz. DeLisle Road Rs.8, Naigaum Rs. 7, Sewri Rs. 7 and Worli Rs.5. per month. Re.1 extra is charged for corner rooms and Rs. 2 extra are charged for those rooms where additional water taps are provided at the option of the tenants.

Two and Three Roomed Tenements. - The rents fixed for these tenements remained unchanged. The rent of two roomed tenements varied from Rs.17-8-0 (top floor) to Rs. 19-0-0 (per month), and that of three-roomed tenements at Rs.27-0-0 (per month).

Rent Collections. - The amount assessed ~~xxxx~~ for the year was Rs. 727,425, as against Rs. 696,253 in the previous year, and the recoveries including arrears, during the year came up to Rs. 723,078. The amount due from absconders was Rs. 12,285 as against Rs. 13,163 in the previous year. The amount recovered was Rs. 4,005-9-6.

Amounts Written Off. - The total amount written off was Rs. 9,621-1-9 as against Rs. 130,402-12-6 written off in the preceding year. The actual amount written off during the year on account of its being found irrecoverable from the absconded tenants is only Rs. 7,582-4-9 and the rest, i.e.Rs.2,038-13-0 were written off the accounts under Government orders on account of the loss of rents defalcated by one of the Chawl Superintendents at Naigaum during the period of 1928-29. The total arrears of rent recoverable and irrecoverable on 31-3-1933 was Rs. 26,052-6-3 as against Rs. 31,560-12-9 on 31-3-1932.

Vital Statistics and Sanitation. -

Locality	Approximate population.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 approximately.
Naigaum ..	13,985	312	22
DeLisle Road	10,235	256	25
Worli ..	14,830	260	17
Sewri ..	3,830	45	11.7
Total	42,880	873	20

During the previous year the specific death-rate was 20. As the figures of the population of the Development Department Chawls as found at the last census are not still available, the average number of inhabitants per room has been taken as five for the purpose of calculating the specific death-rate. In spite of the virulent epidemic of small-pox that prevailed in the City during

the year, the average death-rate was the same as of the previous year, which testifies to the satisfactory arrangement of sanitation of the Development Department Chawls areas.

Maternity and Child Welfare Work. - The Bombay Presidency Infant Welfare Society and the Baby Health Week Association have provided best medical relief available at the doors of the Bombay Development Department Chawls tenants by way of opening centres for maternity homes and creches.

(The report on the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, for the year 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 61-63 of the August 1932 report of this Office.)

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Women and Children.

Care of Destitute Children:

Recommendations of the Starte Enquiry Committee, Bombay. ✓

At page 55 of the March 1933 report of this Office, reference was made to the Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay to examine questions connected with the care of destitute children and young offenders and to the terms of reference of the Committee. The Committee has issued the first part of its report dealing with the first five of the points referred to it. The report makes several recommendations, the more important of which are briefly referred to below.

Creation of a Juvenile Branch. - The principal recommendation of the committee is the creation of a juvenile branch in charge of a Chief Inspector under the Backward Class Officer to administer all work in connection with juvenile destitutes and delinquents up to the age of 16 throughout the Presidency.

Extension of the Children Act. - Another important recommendation is that the Children Act, which is at present in full operation in Bombay city, in partial operation in the Suburban district and in theoretical operation in Lonavla, should be applied throughout the Presidency and that the Reformatory Schools Act and the Apprentices Act should cease to apply to this Presidency. There would then be two Acts in operation, the Children Act applying to children up to 16 and the Borstal Act applying to young men and women of between 16 and 21.

It is proposed that the Children Act should be amended to provide for probation until an All-India Act comes into being. The probation officer would, if possible, be a salaried worker and be under the general advisory control of the Chief Inspector.

Institutions for Destitutes in Districts. - The Committee suggests that every district should have its organisation to deal with juvenile destitutes and delinquents, and this, it is suggested, should be in the hands of the head-quarters juvenile court magistrate, who is considered a necessity in any case. In the large urban areas like Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Poona and Hubli, a local society is recommended to administer the remand home, probation work, investigation, certified schools and after-care work. The committee is also of opinion that the great demand on local institutions may be diminished by repatriating the children who drift into Bombay from other provinces.

Girl Delinquents. - According to the report, the most serious



drawback in <sup>the</sup> present arrangements is the absence of any reformatory school for girls. The committee suggests that where home treatment under supervision is possible, that should be adopted, but an institution on the cottage home type for the whole presidency should be provided, and should cater for girls under 16 and girl-offenders between 16 and 21 and for boys under seven.

Industrial Training. - The committee admits that the main training in the Reformatory School must remain industrial, but facilities for agricultural training should be extended. The Yeravda Reformatory School should remain predominantly industrial and a new agricultural training school should be started. When boys are due for release suitable assistance to settle them in agriculture should be given. The committee suggests that the provision of a training ship should be examined.

Organised After-Care System. - One of the most urgent needs, the report states, is the development of a well organised system of after-care. The committee proposes to secure this by making the juvenile court magistrate of each district chairman of the Managing Committee of the district Borstal After-care Association and in Bombay by the formation of a City After-care Association composed mainly of influential employers. The 'raison d'etre' of the proposal is that the association should largely function as an employment bureau.

It is understood that the committee proposes to report on the important matter which forms the last of its terms of reference subsequently, namely, to consider the subject in its relation to the beggar and "mawali" (rowdy) problems in Bombay City and to make recommendations.

(The Times of India, 20-9-33).

8th Madras Constituent Women's Conference, Madras, 1933. ✓

The eighth annual session of the Madras Constituent Conference of the All-India Women's Conference on educational and social reform was held at Madras on 21-10-1933 under the presidency of Dr. Miss McDougall. In the course of her presidential address, after paying a tribute to the work of the late Dr. Anne Besant for the social uplift of women, Miss McDougall stressed the necessity of women in India fighting for securing non-communal electorates and

the complete enfranchisement of women. The Conference passed a large number of resolutions concerning the social, economic and political problems of women in the presidency. The following are a few of the more important of the resolutions adopted:-

Education. - This Conference reviews with great joy and satisfaction the opening of the Lady Irwin College for Home Science at Delhi and regards this as the most important step forward in the educational progress of the whole of India and calls upon the women of India to give their whole-hearted support and to assist this college in every way, viz., (a) by giving wide publicity to the aims and objects of the college; (b) by sending students to it; (c) by influencing educational bodies to secure posts for the graduates from this college, and (d) by providing adequate endowment funds for the College.

(2) This Conference urges upon the Government the great need of Education for the masses and strongly recommends the immediate introduction of compulsory Elementary Education for both boys and girls, as well as the creation of greater facilities for adult education.

(3) This Conference strongly recommends that a training for efficient citizenship should be instituted as a course of studies in all educational ~~instituted as a course of studies in all educational~~ institutions.

Protection of Children. - 1. Whereas in Madras City little boys of 5 years old and upwards are engaged in Beedi factories under deplorable conditions in small dirty, over-crowded and unventilated rooms for about 12 or 13 hours a day for which they receive about 1 or 2 annas, this Conference calls upon the Government to immediately pass a Bill forbidding the employment of children under 12 years of age in these factories.

(2) This Conference calls upon the Government to amend the Madras Children's Act of 1920 Section 29 Clause I, A and D by adding the words "Cruelty" and "Immorality" respectively as a cause for depriving the parent or guardian of the custody of the Child. This Conference wholeheartedly supports the "Girls Protection Bill" now before the Assembly.

Social Reform. - (1). This Conference reiterates its former resolutions appealing to all concerned to remove the social disabilities of the so-called Depressed Classes.

(2) This Conference strongly protests against the Bills now before the Legislative Assembly seeking to amend and repeal the Child Marriage Restraint Act and recommends that representatives of organised Women's Associations should be invited to express their opinion on these Bills.

Encouragement of Indigenous Industries. - This Conference reiterates its former resolution that while placing on record its appreciation of the work already done, it calls for increased effort in the support of indigenous industries (Swadeshi) such as hand-spinning, weaving, and all other cottage industries.

(The Hindu, 21-10-1933).

Education.

Overhaul of Primary Education in Delhi City:

Raising of Age Limit and Industrial Training. ✓

The need for a thorough overhauling of the present primary education system <sup>in Delhi city</sup> was apparent to the municipal authorities for a considerable time and a request was made to the Punjab Government some time ago to lend one of their education officers to inquire into the present system of primary education and to make suggestions for improving it. The Education Sub-Committee of the Delhi Municipality, which had already made a preliminary survey of the field, has found that the present four years' course of primary education was not of much help to the boys unless it was continued for at least two more years and suggested that the present age-limit of 6 to 11 years should be raised to 6 to 12 years which is believed to meet the requirements. The Sub-Committee also suggested that instead of the instruction being confined to the three R's in the primary classes, it should be combined with some sort of industrial education which would help the boys to make a living after they leave the schools. It was also felt by the municipal authorities that the quality of the teaching staff should be improved wherever possible. It may be recalled that compulsory primary education is now enforced in three-quarters of the city.

The Delhi Municipality appointed on 9-9-1933 Mr. Leech Wilson, Inspector of Schools, of the Punjab Education Service to conduct the proposed enquiry and to report in three months' time. It is expected that as a result <sup>of the report</sup> an industrial bias will be given even in the primary stage and that the tone of education in the Municipality would generally improve.

(The Statesman, 10-10-1933).

K.

Education Reforms in Travancore; Vocational & Industrial Bias Emphasised in Statham Committee Report. ✓

Reference was made at page 62 of the report of this Office for June 1933 to the appointment of an Educational Reforms Committee in Travancore. The Committee which had for its Chairman, Mr. R.M. Statham, I.E.S., was appointed to enquire into the present educational system in the State and advise the Government as to the reforms to be effected in it. After an elaborate enquiry commencing from 22nd December 1932, and examining nearly 250 witnesses and visiting some of the principal institutions in the State, the committee have recently issued their report. In respect of educational progress, Travancore occupies first place among all the Indian provinces and States, and naturally the incidence of unemployment among the educated population is also very high in Travancore. The reduction of unemployment is one of the most important objects sought to be achieved by the inquiry and, therefore, the recommendations made by the Statham Committee are of special interest. The following is a brief summary of the more important of the recommendations:-

Administrative Changes. - 1. The revision of the Education Code and the preparation of an Office Manual for the Office of the Director of Public Instruction. 2. The publication of quinquennial surveys. 3. The establishment of an advisory Board of Education.

Collegiate Education. - The main objects sought to be achieved in this sphere are:- (a) the abolition of supernumerary educational institutions, (b) restriction of college education to those who are really fit for such education and have the means for it, and (c) the encouragement of technical education. The principal recommendations are:-

1. The opening of a college of technology.
2. The increase of fees in colleges and the restriction of admissions.
3. The closure of courses of study in the Government colleges already well provided for elsewhere.
4. The laying down of a policy for collegiate education

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which will gradually lead to the disaffiliation of the colleges in Travancore from the Madras University.

English School System. - 1. The reorganisation of the English schools so as to establish pre-university classes with a departmental entrance examination at the end of the fourth form. (Matriculation = VI Form). 2. The introduction of alternative courses in agriculture, commercial subjects, shorthand, type-writing, etc., and the introduction of bifurcated courses in industrial arts above the fourth form. 3. Carpentry and gardening to be compulsory in all schools. 4. Admissions to the pre-university classes to be restricted, and no student who has twice failed to be selected. 5. The introduction of instruction through the medium of the vernacular at the option of the schools. 6. The introduction of the teaching of civics in all schools. 7. The restriction of fee concessions to poor pupils of more than average ability. 8. The reduction of fees in forms one to three.

Vernacular School System. - 1. The abolition of vernacular middle schools and their reorganisation as vocational bias schools. 2. Vocational bias schools to consist of eight classes with a public examination at the end of the eighth class. 3. The primary stage to be lengthened to five years, and all primary schools to consist of five classes. 4. The abolition of the distinction between boys' schools and girls' schools at the primary stage. 5. The complete revision of the primary school curriculum and the use of the project method. 6. Medical inspection for primary schools. 7. Primary education to be free up to and including the fifth class. 8. The gradual withdrawal of Government from the direct management of large numbers of primary schools. 9. The establishment of local bodies for general purposes and for the management of primary schools. 10. The raising of an education cess. 11. The introduction of compulsion after a period of time. 12. The appointment of local attendance committees. 13. The provision of adult educational classes.

Technical and Professional Education. - 1. The opening of a college of technology with intermediate classes in engineering and diploma classes in technology. 2. The attachment, to the college of technology, of industrial workshops for research and manufacture. 3. The provision of a limited number of scholarships for higher technical study. 4. The establishment of technical schools and alternative courses in industrial arts in the high schools. 5. The award of stipends to industrial apprentices in factories. 6. The replacement of the vernacular middle schools by vocational bias schools. 7. The restriction of admissions to the Law College. 8. The establishment of a Medical School at Trivandrum.

Unemployment. - 1. The undertaking of an industrial and economic survey. 2. The development of technical education at all

stages. 3. The introduction of vocational bias schools and of practical work in the ordinary schools. 4. The diversion of pupils, by examination at the end of the fourth form. 5. The restriction, by examination and by the raising of standards, of the number of students in pre-university and university classes. 6. Separate entrance examination for all grades of Government clerical employment and the prescription of a maximum general education qualification for each grade of service. 7. The raising of the minimum educational qualifications for menial employment under Government. 8. Full encouragement to be afforded to the Rural Reconstruction movement. 9. The provision of land by Government for the establishment of more agricultural colonies. 10. The enforcement of the rules regarding the employment of children in factories. 11. The establishment of an employment bureau.

(The Hindu, 9-10-1933).

## Agriculture.

### Rural Reconstruction: Bombay Governor's Scheme. ✓

While progressive industrialisation is considered as a legitimate goal for India, in recent years increasing recognition has been accorded to the problems of rural reconstruction. The conviction is growing that, though greater strides towards industrialisation, will be made by India in the near future, the country for many years to come will remain preponderantly agricultural. Strenuous efforts are, therefore, now being made to improve rural life, to develop village economy and to make the village-worker a more efficient agent of production. In the Bombay Presidency, rural reconstruction problems have been receiving greater attention than in the other provinces. Below is given a brief account of a scheme outlined by the Governor of Bombay for rural development in the Presidency. The scheme is to be carried out by official and non-official agencies working in rural areas.

Every Village - A Model Village. - The centre for every form of practical work to be undertaken will be the village. The method used in the past has been the development of model villages. Existing model villages sometimes have the weakness that their improvement is dependent on a single person's enthusiasm. The ideal in the future is to be that all villages should work towards becoming model villages, that they may be a help to each other.

Agencies of Improvement. The scheme provides for bodies to be entrusted with uplift work in the village, the taluka, and the district. In the village such bodies will be (i) the panchayat or the sanitary board or committee; and (ii) the co-operative society of the "better-living" type; in the taluka (i) the taluka local board; and (ii) the taluka development association; and in the district, (i) district local board, and (2) district development association.

Government's three-fold part. - The forces of Government are expected to play a three-fold part in the scheme, coordinating technical and specialist. The subject of rural development will become a subject definitely allotted to the Revenue Department.



But in addition, certain technique or methods will have to be evolved particularly - (i) Methods of organisation, including forms, records, reports and statistics, rewards; and (ii) Methods of publicity including speeches, wireless and any new developments which may be evolved, such as touring uplift vans, etc. It will be for the revenue officers to administer the funds provided for the work.

Programme of Work. (a) Public Health. - The Department of Public Health will endeavour to ensure for every village immunity from small-pox (Every villager - man, woman and child - to be regularly vaccinated. Keep a register therefore and possibly form a league for this purpose), from cholera and guinea-worm, from plague (every villager should sleep on a charpoy. Rats should be regularly killed. Granaries and houses should be made rat-proof), and from malaria. The health of children at school should be specially watched and medical advice sought at once when there is any sickness or disability especially in the case of eye troubles.

(b) Education. - If the village has no school, the panchayat can build ~~one~~ a good one. (ii) If the village has a school, the object must be that every scholar stays in it till he is literate. (iii) To start a village library and to get a village gramophone ~~and~~ and encourage the richer inhabitants occasionally to provide suitable records. Before long, if experiments are successful, village broadcasting may be introduced.

*litigation* (c) Litigation. - (i) To form a league of villagers who undertake to limit their expenditure on marriages, etc. to a low figure. (ii) To persuade the villagers by every means to abstain from incurring unproductive debt. (iii) To form a co-operative society and see that no one takes loans for a larger amount than he can afford.

(d) Agriculture. - The main planks of the agricultural programme are (1) improvement of the out-turn of crops, (2) increase of the milk supply, (3) prevention of erosion of fields, (4) enhancing egg production, and (5) prevention of fragmentation of holdings.

(The Times of India, 2-10-33).

Rural Reconstruction in the Punjab;

Mr. F.L.Brayne's Appointment. ✓

The Government of the Punjab has recently been taking active steps for the promotion of rural reconstruction work. It has been felt that a strong drive and a coordinated campaign are essential for awakening the villager and persuading him to set about improving his conditions of living and farming. At the same time it has been felt that Government cannot help the villager if he does not wish to help himself and that the best that Government can do is to show the villager what is wrong and how (can it) be put right and then ask him to put it right himself. If Government set about cleaning a village, it would cost a thousand rupees. If the villagers set about cleaning it themselves, they can do it in a few days at no cost at all. The same is the case with every thing. The inspiration and guidance must come from Government and the hard work from the people themselves.

In order that the efforts of Government on behalf of the rural people may not be wasted and that the maximum value may be got for the money expended by the various departments that operate in the villages, the Punjab Government has appointed an officer on special duty to coordinate its rural work and initiate schemes of rural reconstruction. Mr. F.L. Brayne, <sup>J.C.S.</sup> Commissioner, Multan division, has been selected for the appointment. On 17-10-33 a meeting of heads of departments was held with Mr. D.J. Boyd, C.I.E., as president to discuss future plans. It was generally agreed that the coordination of the departments of Government and well-organised publicity are the two biggest needs at the moment. Every department of Government has its contribution to make to rural welfare and it is difficult to exclude any department from the scope of a campaign of rural reconstruction.

(The Leader, 27-10-1933).

UK.

Maritime Affairs.

Administration of the Bombay Port Trust, 1932-33.\*

Income and Expenditure. - The actual receipt of revenue for the year 1932-33 amounted to Rs. 23.078 millions and the actual expenditure to Rs. 24.603 millions.

Import Trade. - The cargo handled at the docks and bunders amounted to 4,689,000 tons, a decrease of 449,000 tons as compared with the volume of the previous year. Imports accounted for about 59 per cent and exports 41 per cent of the total tonnage. The decrease in tonnage was equivalent to 9 per cent. Imports declined by 1.1 per cent and exports by 18 per cent. The heaviest decreases in imports were recorded under cotton (156,000 bales), petrol (924,000 gallons) and packed kerosene oil (1,065,000 gallons). The importations of bulk petrol, which had risen to the record figure of 22 million gallons in 1929-30, fell from 19 million gallons in 1931-32 to 18 million gallons in 1932-33.

Export Trade. - The export declined from 2,323,000 tons in 1931-32 to 1,905,000 tons during the year under review. There was a heavy falling off in cotton (323,000 bales), groundnuts (93,000 tons), seeds (34,000 tons) and iron (41,000 tons). Increases in exports occurred under piecegoods (30,000 bales and cases), and petrol (506,000 gallons).

Vessels in Harbour. - Vessels which entered the docks or were berthed at the Harbour Walls (excluding ferry steamers) totalled 1,836 with an aggregate tonnage of 4,691,183 net register as against 1,866 vessels with a tonnage of 4,588,577 in the preceding year. The dry docks were occupied during the year by 134 vessels as against 137 vessels in the preceding year 1931-32. The total tonnage decreased to 496,985 tons, being 10,737 tons less than the previous year.

Total Staff. - The approximate total number of staff employed during the year under review was 8,451 as compared with 9,342 during 1931-32. Of these, 171 were permanent staff receiving salaries over Rs. 300 per mensem; 655 clerical staff and 1,067 outdoor staff receiving salaries from Rs. 50 to Rs. 300 per mensem; 434 permanent inferior staff receiving salaries below Rs. 50 per mensem; 751 temporary staff getting between Rs. 50 and Rs.300, 2,462 temporary staff getting below Rs. 50 and 2,911 who were daily paid workers.

Housing Conditions. - 325 of the 1,893 permanent superior staff, 96 of the 434 permanent inferior staff and 2,885 of the 5,124 temporary staff were housed by the Port Trust during the year

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\* Bombay Port Trust. - Administration Report, 1932-33. - pp. xxix+55.

under review. This represents a total housing of 39.1 per cent of the total staff by the Port Trust as against 37.8 per cent during the previous year. In consequence of curtailment of the capital programme, no further expenditure was incurred during the year on staff housing.

Retrenchment in Staff Expenditure. - The emergency cut on the pay of the permanent and temporary staff drawing over Rs.84 per mensem was continued during the whole year under report. The cut effected a saving of about Rs. 175,000. Further retrenchments were effected during the year of a few posts surplus to present requirements. With a view to further economy in staff expenditure, the Trustees sanctioned full leave and gratuity benefits to any permanent employee volunteering for retirement with the permission of the Board. 46 superior employees and 15 of the inferior staff availed themselves of this offer. As a further measure of economy, the Trustees directed that the pay of an officer proceeding on leave of any kind should in no case exceed the full pay admissible in his substantive post at the time of taking leave.

*and* Fires and Accidents in Docks. - There were 5 fires at the docks, wharves and sheds and on board vessels and craft while in the docks. None were serious or involved loss of life. The number of accidents to persons in the docks was 378, of which 5 were fatal, 28 serious and 345 slight. Of the fatal cases, 2 were caused by falling into dock basins and 2 by breakage of a sling. One accident occurred to a vessel in the docks during the year. The Port Trust official concerned was exonerated from blame.

(The Report of the administration of the Bombay Port Trust during 1930-31 is reviewed at pages 84-85 of our October 1931 report and that for 1931-32 at pages 70-71 of our October 1932 report)

Plea for Removal of Restriction on Employment of Indian

Seamen in Cold Latitudes; Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Reference was made at pages 67-68 of our January 1933 report to the representations made to the Government of India, through resolutions passed by the Indian Trades Union Federation, Bombay, (vide page 36 of our July 1932 report) and the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay, requesting the removal of restrictions on the employment of Indian Seamen in cold latitudes and to the views of

the Bombay Chamber of Commerce on the subject. In forwarding a copy of the Indian Trades Union Federation's resolution to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Government of India stated that they will be glad to learn the views of the Chamber on the point whether, and if so what, safeguards should be provided in the lascars Articles of Agreement, in the event of the prohibition in question being removed, in order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements shall be made for the comfort of the lascars and for the protection of their health whilst being employed in excessively cold areas. The following are the views of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the subject:-

The matter was considered by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in consultation with shipping interests, and in reply to the Government the Chamber stated that they are in agreement with the Indian Trades Union Federation that the prohibition of employment of lascars in certain northern latitudes should be withdrawn. In the opinion of the Chamber Committee, crews signing on foreign articles should undertake to serve in any waters as required by the Master or the owners of the vessels on which they may be employed. With regard to safeguarding the interests of the seamen, it was suggested that a clause should be embodied in the Articles of Agreement of crews engaged in foreign trade requiring the Master to supply lascars with sufficient warm clothing for the intended voyage, and to make proper provision for the sufficient heating of their quarters in the event of the vessels proceeding beyond the limits in which Indian crews are now permitted to serve.

(Summarised from the Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for 1932).

Migration.

Statistics of Indians Overseas; 1931 Census Figures.

The following information about the number of Indians abroad is taken from the 1931 Census Report:-

Indians Abroad: Total 2 1/2 millions. - In spite of the fact that circumstances are against emigration from India, the Census Commissioner estimates that 2,500,000 Indians were resident abroad at the time of the Census in 1931. Nearly all of these were resident in other parts of the British Empire.

Emigrants during 1921-31. - Those who have not emigrated during the decade 1921-31 are estimated at 1,000,000. The following table shows the figures of their distribution as it has been possible to collect from the different parts of the British Empire:

Malaya .....	510,000
Ceylon .....	365,000
Fiji .....	15,000
Portuguese East Africa .....	4,000
United Kingdom .....	4,000
Elsewhere .....	12,000
Total.....	<u>1,000,000</u>

Repatriation Figures. - The above figures represent the position in 1931, when the repatriation of Indians from Malaya had already taken effect since the depression in rubber production had led to a reduction of wages and employment as early as the end of 1929 both in Malaya and Ceylon; from the former some 78,000 Indians including infants had been repatriated by the end of 1930, and a further 56,000 followed in 1931, while from Ceylon 11,000 were repatriated in 1931. There are over 75,000 Indians in Fiji, an increase of about 14,500 since 1921, against repatriations to the extent of 11,351 of which 4,435 were Madrasis.

Provincial Share in Migration. - Emigrants from the United Provinces have increased and the increase is still more marked in the case of Punjabis (mostly Sikhs), whose number has quadruppled in the decade - it was 450 in 1921, and of traders from Bombay and the Western India States, whose ratio of increase has been much the same. These were approximately 325 in 1921. Precise numbers are not available as the census due in the Fiji Islands in 1930 did not take place. The Bombay traders travel backwards and forwards more often and bring a higher proportion of women than other immigrants.

Indians in Fiji. - Probably more than two-thirds of the Indians in the Fiji Islands depend on the sugar industry, holding some 63,000 acres, either as tenants of the sugar company or otherwise, and producing annually cane worth Rs. 50 or 60 millions. Demands for repatriation have declined very markedly, having fallen

from 1,180 in 1926 to 502 in 1930.

Effect of Emigration Act of 1922. - During the decade under review Indian emigration has been controlled by the Emigration Act of 1922 under which the emigration of unskilled labour is prohibited except to such countries and under such conditions as may be specified by the Governor-General-in-Council, whose notification under the Act must be approved by both chambers of the legislature. The quantity of skilled labour which emigrates is very small. The effect of the Emigration Act has been to put an end to the emigration of unskilled labour to any place outside the Indian Empire except Ceylon and Malaya. Even to British Guiana, where the climate is not unlike that of Ceylon, and where the officer (Sir Maharaj Singh) deputed to report on conditions found that the conditions of education, of medical assistance and of the standard of living generally were higher than those of rural India and that no political disabilities of any kind attached to Indian settlers, emigration, stopped on account of mortality on the voyage many years ago, has not been renewed.

South Africa & Repatriation Policy. - From South Africa the tendency has been rather for a return to India, which is assisted by the Union Government by a bonus of £20 per adult and £ 10 per child, with free passage and free railway fares at each end of it. Thus while 791 emigrants from South Africa returned to Madras and Calcutta in 1930, 1,707 returned to these ports in 1931. The total number of Indians returning from South Africa to India in 1931 was 1,961, more than half (988) of whom were colonial born. The general position, therefore, is that in spite of a rapid and heavy increase in population during the decade there has been even less relief by emigration than in previous periods.

Emigration to Malaya. - The two most important countries for Indian emigration at present are Malaya and Ceylon, as indicated above. Recruiting of Indian labour to Malaya was stopped in August, 1930, on account of the fall in tin and rubber, and the considerable repatriations have been already mentioned. None the less, the 1931 census of British Malaya found 624,009 Indians in that country. Of this population, 222,839 (153,408 males and 69,431 females) were engaged in agricultural pursuits, 30,214 (29,596 males and 618 females) in commercial pursuits and 19,415 (18,280 males and 1,135 females) in industry. The remainder were of miscellaneous, including administrative, personal or professional service (133,898 males and 11,845 females), or of non-productive occupations (85,846 males and 119,952 females).

Emigration to Ceylon. - In the case of Ceylon recruitment of Indian labour for rubber estates was stopped in 1930, but otherwise emigration continued, though it appears that the absorption of Indian labour in that country has nearly reached the saturation point. A complete census of Ceylon was not taken in 1931, but the figures available show "natives of India" for Colombo and to these must be added nearly 300 others who are obviously of Indian races including "Afghans" a term used in Ceylon for Balochis, and about

50 Burmans. Enumeration by religion was likewise incomplete, even for such figures of Indians as we have, but it is easy to allot the different classes of Indians to their main religions with a fair certainty of accuracy, and the result according to religion is shown in the marginal table. The most important Indian elements in Ceylon after the Tamil labour population are Malayalis, of whom Cochin and Travancore States contribute some 2,500 and 4,000 respectively, Nattukottai Chettiyars, Bohras, Baluchis, Mappillas and Memons, about 500 Bengalis, and 200 Parsis, but 95 per cent of the whole Indian population in Ceylon are Tamils, in round numbers 739,000.

Economic Benefits. - Some idea of the economic value to India of the emigration to Malaya may be gathered from the fact that land held by Indians in the Straits Settlements alone was estimated as worth Rs. 24,501,059; Savings Bank deposits held by Indians in Malaya amounted at the end of 1931 to the equivalent in dollars of Rs. 3,558,614 an average of Rs. 146 per depositor, while remittances by Indians from Malaya to India during 1931 came to a total of Rs. 3,883,065 - an average of Rs. 69 per remittance. In Ceylon, however, the indebtedness of Indian labour is a troublesome problem still unsolved. Emigrants returning in 1929 from Fiji, Mauritius and Trinidad combined brought back a total of Rs. 511,147 between 2,174 men, women and children, working out at over Rs. 234 per head, children included.

Emigration to other parts of British Empire. - The Indian communities in other parts of the British Empire are no longer reinforced by any emigrants from India except the very small numbers of skilled workmen who come and go to them. Strictly, therefore, they are outside the scope of Indian emigration as well as of the India census. The following table shows the number of Indians overseas in all parts of the British Empire:

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Indians Overseas in British Empire. - Total - 2,300,000.

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Countries.	Number.
Ceylon ..	778,170
Malaya	624,009
Mauritius	268,870
S. Africa	165,500
Trinidad.etc.	138,667
British Guiana	130,540
Fiji	75,117
Kenya	26,759
Tanganyika	23,422
Jamaica	17,599
Zanzibar	15,246
Uganda	11,613
England & Wales	7,128
British Isles (elsewhere)	2,115
Hongkong	4,745
Elsewhere	10,500
<b>Total.</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>



Indian Emigrants outside British Empire. - The following table shows the distribution of Indian emigrants outside the British Empire:-

Indians Overseas outside British Empire - Total 104,000.

<u>Countries.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Dutch East Indies ...	25,000
Dutch Guiana ...	35,000
Madagascar, etc. ...	7,500
Portuguese East Africa...	5,000
U. S. A. ...	5,000
Persia ...	3,900
Iraq ...	2,362
Elsewhere ...	20,238
Total.	104,000

2nd Session of Indian Overseas Conference, Ajmere-1933. ✓

The second session of the Indian Overseas Conference was held at Ajmere on 18-10-33 under the presidentship of Mr. Chandkaran Sarda, Advocate. Many delegates from Mauritius, Trinidad, South Africa, Kenya, Fiji, Malaya, etc, were present. The following are among the more important resolutions passed by the Conference.

Support to Indian Emigrants. - The Conference appreciated and admired the bold stand taken by the overseas Indians in the colonies in facing the oppressive and prejudicial policy pursued by the various Colonial Governments, and declared that Indians would always stand by them in their political, religious and other struggles.

Indians in Kenya and South Africa. - <sup>A</sup>The second resolution drew the attention of the Government to the present position of Indians in Kenya and South Africa, and urged that the interests and privileges of Indians should be safeguarded against the unjust demands of the White settlers.

Common Electoral Roll in Fiji. - <sup>A</sup>~~The~~ third resolution agreed

with and appreciated the just demands for a common electoral roll of the Fiji Indian colonists, and requested the Colonial Government to grant the principle of a common franchise.

Refusal of Pass-ports. - <sup>A</sup>The fourth resolution condemned the action of the Government regarding the refusal to grant permission and pass-ports to Mr. Sri Krishna Sarma and Swami Bhawanidyal Sanyasi ~~to~~ to the colonies in Fiji and South Africa respectively, and demanded reconsideration of the matter.

~~The Hindu 19-10-1933xxx~~

(The Hindu, 19-10-1933).

Commenting on the resolutions adopted at the Conference, the Leader, Allahabad, in an editorial article in its issue of 22-10-33 observes:-

That Kenya and South Africa owe much of their present prosperity and advancement to the labours of Indians has been admitted by a number of Englishmen themselves (who could claim to speak with authority on the subject. That at one time Indians were encouraged to migrate to those countries is also well known. That one of the charges brought against Germany which was deprived of her overseas possessions was that she ill-treated the non-German population is also within the knowledge of everybody who has been following contemporary events. Why, however, the same British people who encouraged the entry of Indians into those countries, who admit the great services done to the overseas Empire by ~~the~~ Indians and who could not allow the Germans to ill-treat ~~the~~ Africans, should allow ~~the~~ Indians to be ill-treated by white settlers has not been satisfactorily explained. And it remains to be seen how long more the present deplorable state of affairs is to continue.